

tion, in some places they were tinged of a deep red color ; in others of a livid or leaden color, but without any change in their structure."

He informs us in case LX, " that a man aged sixty, while perspiring profusely, drank two quarts of cold beer ; and during the following night he was attacked with severe pain and sudden distention of the abdomen, accompanied with a loud noise in the right hypochondriac region. On the next day the symptoms continued unabated, with the addition of vomiting, and various purgative medicines were given without effect, being almost immediately rejected. On the third day an enema produced several copious bloody stools. It was repeated on the 4th when it brought off only blood without any appearance of feculent matter. On the 5th no relief—on the 6th day of the disease, his strength was still more exhausted, without any change in his other symptoms, and he died early in the evening.

" INSPECTION.—The small intestines were much distended and were filled with a fluid of a yellow color, similar to that which had been vomited. They were externally much injected with some adhesions. In their substance they were easily torn, giving way even when gently handled. The lower end of the ileum and the caput coli were of a deep red or of a port wine color. The great intestines contained chiefly gas, and a small quantity of fluid feces, and no appearance was discovered of any contraction or obstruction, except what arose from a slight narrowing of the ileum near the ileo-colic valve. At this place there existed an ulcer which extended quite round the circumference of its inner surface, and was about an inch in breadth. It had gangrenous edges and the bottom of it seemed to be bounded only by the peritoneum, the mucous and muscular coats being destroyed. The man had enjoyed perfect health up to the period of the attack."

These cases distinctly prove, that in ileus we may have great and general distention of the bowels, accompanied with inflammation of particular portions, proceeding to a fatal termination, without the existence of contraction.

And if the principles enunciated in the preceding pages of this paper be correct, the great distension was produced by the gas confined within the cavity of the bowels. 1st, If the gas had been expelled from the bowels with as great rapidity as it was formed, distention could not have taken place. 2nd. It was the over distention that weakened and impaired the muscular power, rendering the bowels incapable of performing their function. 3rd. This was still more increased by the inflammation attacking portions of the tube. 4th. Inflammation was not the cause of the distention, but commenced after it, for inflammation produces soften-