

scarcely believe that, if the Province had then as bad a sanitary character as now, so well informed and sagacious a Monarch as Charles the 5th would have chosen, after his resignation, to pass the rest of his life in Estramadura.

The writer has witnessed much of this malaria, and its consequences, in the south of Spain. The river Guadiana, which runs past Merida and Badajoz, is a sluggish stream, with low banks, for the greater part of its course, and its marshy shores, and the neighbouring country are, in the warm autumnal months, very unfavourable to human health. After the Battle of Talavera, in 1809, the British army lost 5000 men by remittent fever, in August and September; when quartered on the line of the river, between Merida and Badajoz. And it is painful to see children, as well as adults, affected, and to feel induration and enlargement of the liver and spleen in these poor little patients.

In the treatment of those fevers, during the peninsular war, arsenic not unfrequently succeeded, when peruvian bark failed. It is true we did not then possess quinine, as it was yet undiscovered. Since its introduction, the writer has no recollection of any failure of this kind, in remittent or intermittent fever, when uncomplicated with organic disease.

The Tagus, in Spain, is generally a rapid river, and its banks are healthy. Yet, some of its main tributaries, even with a considerable current, run through a malarious country. Of this description, are the Allagon and the Gertes; the former passing by the city of Coria, and the latter Placencia and Galisteo, in Estremadura, and joining the Tagus near Alcantara.

In the spring of 1813, when quartered with his regiment in Galisteo the men suffered much from intermittent and remittent fevers, with a strong tendency to become continued. The hospital, and a couple of supplementary hospitals, were full, many officers, women and children were attacked, and the doctors had plenty of work and little sleep.

Under these circumstances the writer contracted tertian intermittent, and notwithstanding bark, Fowler's solution of arsenic, and other medicines, he had an attack at noon, every second day, for more than a fortnight; the medicines, apparently, possessing virtue enough to prevent the intermittent assuming a worse type, but not sufficient power to cure it.

This was unpleasant, and provoking besides, the disease, as it were, flying in the Doctor's face; and the Patient taxed his ingenuity to dis-

* In all marshy European countries, autumn was of old, as it is still, the unhealthy season. The lines of Horace, to this effect, have been often quoted.

"Frustra per autumnos nocentem
Corporibus metuemus austrum."