

that it was a mistake to give such large doses, and that it is a specific for that disease in doses of one or two grains, frequently repeated.

Some declare that death never takes place in fever and dysentery when salivation has been excited; others, that it often does, and that a state of pyalism is neither a preventative of attacks of these affections, or of cholera, nor a means of safety when it comes on during the treatment of them.

The result of all this sufficiently shows that calomel is an important remedial agent in the whole of these affections;—that, in the use of it, the profession has seldom been guided by any general principles, and that its effects, and the proper doses, are not yet adequately understood.

It is now said that calomel, in small doses of five grains and under, is an irritant; but in doses of a scruple, though repeated two or three times a day, it is a sedative. Let us apply this axiom to bilious diseases, with that state of the secretions in the primæ viæ from which these affections originate.

In cases of fever, with little sickness of the stomach, small doses will give little immediate relief, and seldom or ever purge, unless combined with, or followed by some cathartic; when vomiting, or bowel complaint is present, its effect will be about the same. In fevers, large doses will usually relieve the uneasiness of the stomach, quiet the bowels, and render the use of subsequent purgatives more effective; should vomiting or bowel complaint be present, it will generally allay both, and give almost instant relief, and the discharges produced from the bowels by subsequent cathartics will be of a different appearance and character from those that took place before the calomel was administered.

Mr Annesley gives calomel in these diseases to fulfil two indications. “1st, To diminish the irritability of the stomach

when it exists, and depends on an increased vascularity of the villous coat. 2nd, To correct and promote the discharge of the secretions on the internal surface of the digestive canal and large secreting organs, which are generally deranged in this class of diseases,” and for these purposes gives it freely in the bilious affections of India. His general treatment of such affections, and fevers in their early stages, was by large doses of calomel, repeated every night, or every second night, and followed by a cathartic draught in the morning, to be kept up until the secretions assumed a healthy character; bark being then used to throw off the remittent or intermittent type of the fever.

He applies the same principles of treatment in cases where the type is continued, and observes,—“By this plan of treatment, put in active operation during the acute stage of the disease, the subsequent state of exhaustion is generally prevented; but when the disease has advanced to this latter stage, and the typhoid symptoms are present before the patient comes under treatment, the secretions are then much more vitiated, and accumulated to a much greater extent than in the former stage. The fuliginous coating of the tongue, teeth, fauces and lips, and the appearance of the motions, sufficiently prove this; but it is evident that while these remain in the primaria, cordials and tonics can avail but imperfectly. The obvious intention is to procure their expulsion from the body, by such means as will effect the object most readily, without lowering the energies of life. With this intention, from five to ten grains of calomel, in conjunction with rhubarb, aloes, or jalap, should be prescribed, and repeated according to circumstances; whilst the energy of the system must be supported with wine and beef tea, or other appropriate means, carried to an extent which the state of the patient requires, attending also to his wants and wishes in the choice of them.”