

cratic method of curing diseases; but the wits called it the *Art of curing by expectation*.

DR. HOFFMAN.—He was professor in the university of Halle, when the doctrines of Stahl prevailed. But rejecting altogether the *Vires naturæ medicatrices*, of his predecessor, he introduced a new system, in which he blended the doctrines of nervous spasm, with the mechanical, cartesian, and chemical doctrines. These, however, he modified to suit his leading principle of disease, or spasm, evinced in his *Pathologia medulla cerebri et nervorum*. In these Hoffman placed the primary moving powers; and by considering their state and affections, he thought he could explain all the phenomena of the animal economy, in health and in sickness. Dr. Cullen says, we are indebted to Dr. Hoffman for putting us into a proper train of investigation. It was this theory which induced Dr. K. Boerhaave to publish his works, entitled *Impetus Faciens*, and Dr. Gaubius to give his pathology of the *Solidum Vivum*.

It was objected to Hoffman, that he did not properly apply his own fundamental doctrine, and that he intermingled the humoral pathology of the Galenists, and the plethora and cacochymia of Stahl; I wish I had done with these intolerable names; *De morborum generatione, ex nimia sanguinis quantitate et humorum imperitate*.

DR. HOERHAAVE.—He was a man of general erudition, in forming his system of physic, he seems to have studied diligently, all the writings of both ancient and modern physicians. He intended to be a careful, a candid and genuine eclectic. But alas! he too failed. He possessed a genius peculiarly systematic, and at first gained a high reputation. His system was more generally received than any former had been, since the time of Galen.

Cullen objects to this system; first, that in the course of forty years, he made in it neither additions nor improvements, except in the 755th Aphorism, where the words *forte et nervosi, tum cerebri quam cerebelli cordi destinati inertia*; and these did not appear until the fourth edition; 2d, he objects to his doctrine of the simple solids, and its erroneous composi-

tion of earth and gluten; 3d, his mistake respecting the structure of the compound membranes; 4th, his neglect of the cellular texture. From all these reasons, Cullen thought his system very imperfect, incapable of explaining the phenomena of the animal economy in health or sickness. Cullen thinks that on very few occasions, the simple solids are either changeable, or actually changed; and that out of ninety-nine cases in a hundred, the phenomena attributed to the change of the simple solids depends altogether on the state of the *solidum vivum*. To all these, Dr. Cullen adds, that Dr. Boerhaave's morbid acrimony, and lentor of the fluids; his hypothetical and humoral pathology, to the almost total neglect of the state of the moving powers of the animal body; are calculated to mislead in the practice of physic. In his aphorisms there are very few pages where error or defect does not occur; and therefore, Dr. Cullen concludes it ought to be set aside.

DR. LIEUTAND, a French physician attempted a system on a new plan, which he called the *synopsis universa medicinæ*. It was to consist of a mere collection of facts and observations from experience. But this also failed; and according to Dr. Cullen, he has only increased the confusion of medical subjects. These are *painful premonitions* to the adventurer in his dark and doubtful journey of physiology and medical science.

Dr. Cullen remarks: I have endeavored to form a system of physic that should comprehend the whole of the facts relating to the science; and that will I hope, arrange them in better order than has been done heretofore. The affections of the motions and moving powers of the animal economy, must certainly be the leading inquiry, in considering the diseases of the human body. I have assumed, says Cullen, the general principle of Hoffman, and I have avoided introducing the many hypothetical speculations of the humoral pathology, which have hitherto prevailed. There is within us, says the doctor, a strange mixture of the material and immaterial part, evinced by their operations; and these are liable to very great irregularities. Hence, the