

in a short time. There was no diarrhoea in either case. The peculiar constitutional effect of diffused inflammation of the mucous lining of the intestines and air passages, in lowering the vital functions, as indicated by the state of the pulse and skin, and prostration of strength, is well known. It is often manifested in malarious fevers, when accompanied, as they often are, by such affections, and generally increased by the peculiar state of the secretions. The combination exhibits many of the appearances of congestion worthy of particular attention, which will be noticed when speaking of hepatic flux, and the combination of epidemic influenza with malarious fevers either of an inflammatory or intermittent character.

Every day's experience must convince the observant physician of the truth of the maxim, that it is his duty to treat, and not to cure, fevers; and though in those of a malarious origin the effects of remedies be more certain and immediately apparent, than in the exanthemata or typhus, he will, even in them, find that he can only assist nature in her efforts, and can by no means control the disease at his pleasure.

The first effects of malaria on the human constitution, I look on to be those described by Dr. Johnson; and as fluxes and fevers of various grades develop themselves, we find the intestinal secretions and the discharges from the bowels and stomach to depart further and further from a natural state; while the only symptoms of improvement, at all to be relied on, are the return of natural discharges from the bowels, and the function of digestion, with a desire for food.

With these views of such diseases, my indications of cure must be very few. 1st, to restore the secretions to their natural state; 2nd, to prevent local

inflammation, and suppress it when it does appear; and, 3rd, to meet those affections included in the congestive variety of fevers, in the manner experience has shown to be most advisable in individual cases; still keeping in view that the great cause of the symptoms is the alteration of the secretions from their natural state, and that it is only in a return to this state that perfect health can consist.

To counteract any change in the system, or repair any accident to the human body, we have the *Vis Medicatrix Naturæ* at work; and, if not counteracted, possessed of great restorative powers. Many of these fevers, if left to themselves, will, after a time, get well: the art of medicine consisting in finding out the mode in which nature acts, in aiding her efforts, and consequently shortening the disease, and lessening its shock to the constitution.

We have many febrifuge remedies, calculated to relieve particular symptoms as they arise; but those having a direct control over the intestinal secretions, and capable of lessening their deleterious effects on particular organs and the general constitution by their entering the blood, and of assisting nature to recover her usual tone and action, are exceedingly few, and may be included under the heads of Purgatives, Mercury, and Peruvian Bark; in the proper understanding of the effects of which remedies, and the mode of administering them, would seem to consist the proper mode of treating malarious fevers, so far as the exhibition of medicines is concerned.

The effect of calomel on malarious fever, and complaints of the bowels attended with increased discharges, is, at last, too obvious to be denied by the most prejudiced. It relieves the symptoms of fevers even when its peculiar