

without fear of accidents when they are properly administered, and also, that it is often the only remedy to oppose to the psoriasis *inveterata*. This opinion is not grounded on specious theories, but it is the positive result of a great number of facts.—(Cazenave and Schedel, *op. cit.* p. 263.)

“These reproaches, although they have been recently repeated in a work, where they would not be found if it was based upon practical researches, are wholly destitute of foundation. These preparations, like all heroic remedies, are capable of producing accidents if they are imprudently administered in immoderate and repeated doses; but the same may be said of a multitude of remedies introduced for a long time into the materia medica: mercury, sulphate quinine, and tartar emetic, for example. We, who have seen them employed a great number of times, and who might have collected more than one hundred analogous facts, can affirm that the results are as follows:—1st. In the greater number of cases, a complete cure of the most obstinate and inveterate diseases. 2nd. Sometimes slight symptoms, arising from a gastro-intestinal irritation, which disappear at the end of a few days, and permit recurrence to their use. 3rd. Never those fatal symptoms that have been proclaimed, by a cowardice that is the more culpable, as it tends to deprive medicine of precious remedies, without their rejection being the result of any positive fact. We will also add that we have several times seen the same patients re-admitted into the hospital of St. Louis\* months, or even a year, after their cure without presenting any symptom of derangement of their constitution from these remedies.”—*Intro. to work of Case. & Sche. p. 23.*

In the opinions expressed in the two last quotations, most medical men of observation and experience concur; and as far as my own practice is concerned (and in diseases of the skin, it has not been so limited as not to afford me ample opportunities of judging), they are fully borne out.

While I am persuaded that such conflicting opinions are little calculated to lead the young medical practitioner (who may yet be unacquainted with, or have little experience in, the management of inveterate skin diseases), to a proper and successful course of treatment, and at the same time are very capable of misleading and filling the mind of the student with embarrassment and distrust, still I have thought it expedient to present these opinions with the remarks which I have taken the liberty to make, as necessary preliminary or introduction to the two cases given below, and to the somewhat peculiar mode in which they have been treated. I am aware that before now mercury has been used, even to the extent of producing salivation in the treatment of psoriasis *inveterata*, and that during its treatment (either before

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\* The hospital under the able management of M. Briett, at Paris.