

Bartholomew's, in the out-patients' department, literally in hundreds; calomel and jalap modulating the tune into the key of gamboge, black draught, jalap and balsam. Oh, that sorrowful black draught, "senna and what purgative drug"\* to purge these humours out. Calomel, jalap, gamboge, black draught—there's a catalogue black indeed! I do not here draw at all on my fancy; ask the patients themselves—there lives are nearly drenched out of them, often by persons who are not medical men at all. Then, on the second day following the first visit to the chemist, or to his apprentice, the patient is ordered to come again, and he has more purgatives, a strong seidlitz powder, blue pill, &c., perhaps to get a full action of the bowels, already exhausted; he is usually ordered also cooling medicines. Then as to diet—I look upon it as perfectly monstrous. I hold it, that gleet if let alone for ten days will get well, especially if the man keeps up the tone of his system. Many of the patients with whom I have to do in the better walks of life have their pint of wine a day at dinner, their ordinary meat twice a day, at least, and perhaps a glass or two of ale, especially with their luncheon or supper. I am not quite sure that a glass of brandy and water is not often taken, involuntarily also to be sure, with that odious pipe of tobacco, out in the garden or up in the attic. We have these young men, sons of bankers, young barristers, rich shopkeepers' sons, &c., all living very well, but let any one of them contract a gleet—for I look on gleet as the essential disease, not gonorrhoea—then, forthwith, water gruel and water diet, with starvation, are added to the purgatives. The discharge continues, more profuse than before; at the end of three weeks, there it is still; at the end of six weeks, yes, there it is; but it is now changed—it is now less sero-purulent, and more purulent; two and three months elapse, there is the discharge. But now the patient is ordered turpentine, or balsam, or a half-drachm of cubebæ, ter in die; or copaibæ guttæ, *al.*, with injections of the sulphas zinci, *gr. iv.*, in an ounce of water (a sort of caustic application); or it may be, all these are changed for sulphate of copper or sulphate of alum. Now this is what I meet with every week; it is the old plan of the new books, but I believe it to be very bad treatment indeed—about the worst that rational men could adopt. I would beg of each of you, as you are getting into practice, to act honestly to your patients, and avoid antiquated routine in a new shape.

Now, what is gleet? You perceive I repeat the question that we left only half answered. Well, my answer is that in gleet the exhalants of the urethra pour out an abnormal amount of fluid from a specific exciting cause, and we have—I wish you to remember the phrase—a dropsical condition, or dropsy of the urethra!

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\* Macbeth.