

be contemned or disregarded. It is from individual observation, and the just appreciation of it in others, that all practical knowledge must be derived; and our science in particular will ever, more or less, be marked by a certain cast and character of empiricism.

In the early stage, this disease bears no other uncommon feature, than that of dry cough, with some degree of dyspnoea and puffiness of the eyes, and which generally lasts for several days. More advanced in its progress, it assumes a spasmodic, *crowing*, form, and is only relieved by strong efforts to throw off from the bronchial cells a quantity of thick milky mucus. These paroxysms are as frequent during the day, as night. This second stage also proves so powerful in its invasion, as to threaten suffocation to infants under twelve months, and even in many cases to those much beyond two years, (much depending upon the previous state of health.)

In the third and last stage, the inspiratory action is generally attended with a peculiar r le and sonorous noise, and moaning during sleep. The lips and eyes become encircled with a bluish appearance, and not unfrequently the tongue is found bearing the same choleric tinge. The cough is rapid, soon running into the spasmodic, and convulsive strangulating *crowing*; and unless soon removed by the expulsion of the congestive and adhesive matter, now filling the bronchial cells, suffocation is greatly to be dreaded. Sometimes, such is the violence of the convulsions, and such are the exertions, in throwing off this offending secretion, that blood vessels are ruptured, and considerable hemorrhage ensues through the mouth and nostrils.* This is the most distressing and perilous stage, and often terminates the short career of our little sufferers.

In the premonitory stage of the disease, (the dry cough,) a variety of domestic remedies are strongly recommended, among which, the frequent administration of the syrup of the common garden turnip, stands pre-eminently popular. It is prepared by cutting the vegetable into slices, and covering them with Canadian (maple) sugar; and another, is the common black pepper, about an ounce of which is placed in a quart of water and boiled down to a pint; to this decoction, as much of maple syrup is added. A few spoonfuls—one or two, may be taken during the day, say three or four times,

* But a few days ago, 10th September, such had been the violence of the convulsive cough, that my attendance was called to a young woman (æ. 17) in the sixth month of pregnancy, sinking under great flooding—the waters had been evacuated three days before. I lost no time in effecting the delivery of a living child—it was her first.