

proved abortive, if not frequently detrimental. Suffice it to say with the author, "that it is impossible to refuse patients, under the worst and most advanced stage of consumption; the consolation of trying a new remedy," when it has some probability of success. The work is divided into eleven chapters, nine of which are devoted to the different varieties of consumption, but as they contain nothing but what has been observed by all the writers on phthisis, we shall premise in the first place, *by considering the method of employing the tar vapour, and the best temperature of hospitals and houses for the recovery of the consumptive*, which are the subject of the tenth chapter, and which we will lay before our readers in the words of the author: after which, we shall enter more largely into the merits of the work in question.

"The best tar for the use of the consumptive is that which is used in the navy and by cable manufacturers. Whether that which is obtained from all the species and varieties of the pine tribe of trees be equally good, experience has not yet determined. Tar as it comes to market, is generally found to be contaminated with more or less pyrotigneous acid which is hurtful to the lungs. For this reason, the tar, before being brought into the bedroom of the sick, ought to be boiled for a few minutes in the open air, and then, to every pound of it, ought to be added from one to two ounces of the subcarbonate of potass. I generally order the potash and tar to be well mixed together, then a little water to be added, and the tar, potash and water to be again mixed. In dry weather, the evaporation, in the chamber of the sick; of the watery solution which collects on the top of the tar, if not in great quantity, has appeared to me to do good. The tar to be employed, should always be chosen as liquid as possible.

"Whenever a visible whitish vapour arises from the tar while boiling, it is a proof, either that too much heat is applied, or that the tar contains impurities. In the first case, the heat must be moderated, and in the second, the tar must be thrown away. If a white smoke arises from the tar from over boiling, a violent fit of coughing is generally produced, and therefore the tar ought merely to simmer or boil with the