

from a patient lying horizontally. "The depressing agency of depletion is two-fold—the one more speedy, and at first more powerful, but, on the other hand, more transient, acting through the brain and *me.ulla oblongata*, and producing an effect like that of sudden concussion or shock;—the other, more gradual, but more persistent, arising from the abstraction of the vital stimulus." Dr. Barlow recommends in those cases where faintness occurs before much blood is lost, to take it slowly from the patient in a recumbent position. In this we disagree with him; for we think it will be found that those who cannot bear a moderate loss of blood in the erect or semi-recumbent position, are precisely those in whom bleeding is contra-indicated, no matter what may be the name given to the disease for which the remedy is employed. It cannot be too prominently kept before the mind of the practitioner that bleeding is as powerful for evil as for good; "that, on the one hand, it is capable of cutting short the inflammation, disposing to a favorable termination, or so modifying the character of the inflammatory effusion as to favor its absorption; on the other, it may dangerously, or even fatally, depress the powers of the patient, or so modify the character of the effusion as to promote its degeneration and decay, and consequently render it incapable of being either organized or absorbed."

In all works on medicine we find it stated, that bleeding is better borne by persons residing in the country than in towns. Some of our country confreres, however, are beginning to find that inflammatory diseases, even of the lungs, do not demand active blood-letting. In this number, Dr. Gilbert draws attention to the "change which has occurred in the character and requisite treatment of inflammatory diseases of the lungs within the last four or five years in the Eastern Townships." From this paper we learn that the rural population do not bear blood-letting any better than the inhabitants of the cities. We are of opinion, moreover, that the change which Dr. G. recognises has existed longer than five years, and that others have seen elsewhere the necessity of extreme caution in the employment of the lancet. In the majority of cases of inflammatory affections; indeed, in every case, excepting two, which has come under our treatment since the commencement of our practice we have never felt warranted in bleeding generally. Local depletion, and that to a limited extent, is what we have practised. We may add, moreover, that we have never yet had cause to regret having adopted this course.

Dr. Barlow's object in this work has been to lay before his professional brethren, more particularly students and younger practitioners, a system of medicine based upon the etiology, or what he would venture to call—the natural history of disease.