

cool it down. The philosophic practitioner appeared to think that he had cooled the patient down too low, on the third day, and therefore prescribed some whisky-punch, by way of heating the fever up again, a little. The patient recovered from fever, calomel, and whisky at last,—thanks to an uncommonly good constitution.

It is a very common mode of accounting for every disorder of the stomach and bowels, which the doctor can neither explain nor understand, to pronounce it to be *bilious*. Now, this *biliousness* is as incomprehensible and inexplicable as the unknown disorder; but then it is a name to prescribe at. It is as certain that calomel is the remedy for biliousness, as that biliousness is the disorder. The medical logic runs thus. If it is not biliousness, what is it? If calomel will not cure it, what will? Therefore, give calomel.

In *tic douloureux*, a disease which is as painful as it is obscure to a mere medicine man, calomel is most successfully employed, on the strength of another medical syllogism. We do not know the cause of *tic douloureux*, nor do we know the mode in which calomel acts; therefore, calomel is the remedy.

In cholera, of which the doctors seem increasingly to know less, they have found that the best medicine is calomel, and that the best mode of administering it, is increasingly to give more. When they knew a little about cholera, they gave a few grains now and then. Now that they know much less, they give tea-spoonfuls; and, by the time that the disease comes again, we may expect, that, as, according to the law of progress, the old school will then know absolutely nothing, they will increase their remedy in proportion to their ignorance, and give table-spoonfuls. Decidedly, calomel is the remedy!

In diarrhea and dysentery, where the bowels are scoured until they are unable to contain their secretions, their constituent fluids, or even the blood itself, calomel is given because it is *ordered* to be given by the medical authorities. Do you ask why? Because of that self-sufficient spirit, which indulges in the

unhallowed license of reasoning. For apace, however, we stoop to answer the impertinence of a question, and we hope to answer it finally. Calomel is given, because—and we wish to *emphasize* our *because* with the importance due to its merits—because, *they do not know what else to give!*

In diabetes, where a great quantity of water passes away, and in dropsy, where scarcely any passes, calomel is equally useful. In diabetes, some organic change has taken place in the stomach, bowels and kidneys, whereby the food which is taken is converted into a low sort of sugar and water, and is passed off rapidly, leaving the body to emaciate and waste. Now, calomel is known to act upon the organization and produce a change in its composition. Witness the change of *bone* into *cartilage*, and even *pus*. If it change the composition of the stomach and kidneys, the diabetic symptoms cease. True, the stomach may be ulcerated, or the kidneys be absorbed; but what of that, the diabetes has been stopped. If the calomel do nothing, it is of no use. If it do more than is needed, it is only a proof of its great power.

In dropsy, the blood appears to be too fluid, lacking the elements necessary to solidity. Now, the experiments of Magendie conclusively prove, that calomel can act upon the blood, as well as on the solids. Moreover, that scientific disease, *salivation*, produced by the administration of mercury, sufficiently attests, that we have the power to inspissate the fluids of the body. The saliva, which, in the natural condition, is almost as thin as water, under the influence of mercury, becomes as thick as jelly. Why may not calomel thicken the whole of the fluids of the body? Try! You can but *kill* your patient, and he may *die*! How much better for a man to make his exit by science, than by disease. Give calomel!

In dyspepsia, or indigestion, when nothing goes right, and nobody knows why, it is a perfectly philosophical deduction that something is wrong. It may be the blood, it may be the solids, it may be the stomach, it may be the liver, it may be the spleen, it may be the brain.