

sisting mainly of a distressing struggle for breath, coming on suddenly, and producing a flushed and swollen countenance, which becomes sometimes black, threatening suffocation.

The indications for treatment I will copy from Mason Good, of whose book it has been said, by a late President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and the most useful writer on surgery of the present day, "it is so excellent that no other system is, on the whole, half so valuable as the 'study of medicine.'" The indications are these:—To produce vomiting by an antimonial emetic; to cause perspiration by a warm bed, diluent drinks, and the same medicine; to excite the bowels by a purgative of calomel; to allay the irritability of the nervous system by giving laudanum in proportion to the age of the patient; and to produce counter-irritation by applying a blister to the throat.

This is a fair specimen of allopathic treatment; let us analyse it for a moment, bearing in mind that the age of the little sufferer is generally *only a few months*; and that the ailment is an affection of the upper part of the wind-pipe, producing such a contraction of it as threatens suffocation, *all the other parts of the body being healthy*. We cannot but be struck, in the first place, with the terrible severity of the treatment, which alone is sufficient, not only to expose it to just censure, but to demand its abandonment; and in the next place, with the fact that all the indications of treatment are direct and violent attacks upon the *healthy parts of the body*. "Produce vomiting by an antimonial emetic;" here is an attack upon the stomach, but the stomach was previously in health; why produce such a

commotion in it, in a baby three or four months old? "Cause perspiration by a warm bed, diluent drinks, and the antimony;" here the skin is assailed, and its natural secretions are to be unhealthily stimulated; the skin was previously in a sound condition; why interfere with and derange that state? "Excite the bowels by a purgative of calomel." The others were but the wings of the invading army, this is its centre. The poor bowels are always destined to bear the fiercest part of the "energetic" assault. And calomel, too; that destructive weapon in the bowels of an infant, and these bowels previously in perfect health. The liver does not escape; mercury, it is well known, acts powerfully on that organ. The calomel given in infancy, not unfrequently produces, as its secondary effect, a torpor of the liver, which lasts for years; it sometimes destroys altogether the constitution of the child.— "Allay the irritability of the nervous system, by giving laudanum in proportion to the age of the patient." The effect of opium is to stupify or deaden the sensibilities of the whole nervous system; if pushed far enough, to produce coma and apoplexy. In this case it must depress the vital powers at the moment when their vigor is needed to struggle with the difficulty of breathing. And why assault thus the whole nervous system, as yet remaining in health?

"Produce counter-irritation by applying a blister to the throat." Alas! poor baby, the unoffending skin is to be inflamed till it blisters! And this is the concluding blow, for the present, of a treatment which is called "judicious" and "active," because it is customary; but will it bear investigation?

Thus every *healthy* part of the body