

of his dependants would be amputated, but for a chieftain, nothing less would suffice than the strangling of a child.

Mungo Park describes the *Saphias* or charm used by the Africans in the cure of disease. It consists in writing the charm on a board, and drinking the matter of the words when it has been carefully washed off.

Hesselquist reports on the authority of an eye witness, the mode of curing an Ague in Morea: "The patient has merely to lean against a peach-tree during the fit; the Ague is cured, but the tree is killed."

Evidence in favour of Nature's ability to cure diseases is found in the history of travellers and shipwrecked persons, thrown upon uninhabited coasts, surviving the severest diseases and accidents without treatment.

The "*Expectant system*" of treating disease, affords another example of the power of nature. A system followed to a great extent—even by medical men—in Europe. The patient is placed in bed, and potions and ptisans, possessing no medicinal power whatever are given, in other words the case is left to nature. And what is the result of such treatment? No doubt deaths that might have been prevented, take place, and oftentimes the duration of the disease has been prolonged. But also many recoveries from even the severest diseases have been recorded.

Commencing with Edward the Confessor, and ending with Queen Ann, the Monarchs of England were in the habit of "*Touching*" those brought to them for the cure of Scrofula. William the Third discontinued it, but Ann resumed it. The process consisted in placing the hand upon the head of the patient, after which the Monarch hung a piece of gold around the neck by a piece of white ribbon.

Cases are related of persons who had been blind for months, yet recovered their sight immediately upon being "Touched," so as to be able to walk away without a guide. So widely diffused was the belief in this power, that Charles the Second "Touched" nearly 100,000 persons in 12 years.

Dr. Wiseman, the best surgical writer of that time, says: "I myself have been a frequent eye-witness of many hundreds of cures performed by His Majesty's "Touch" alone, without any assistance of chirurgery; and those, many of them such as had tired out the endeavours of able chirurgers before they came hither. It were endless to recite what I myself have seen, and what I have received acknowledgments of by letter, not only from the several parts of this nation, but also from Ireland,