

ed at the head of this department of his profession, was found to patronize an improvement, that appears to be a *fine quæritur* in Inoculation. Sutton, as far as I know, always gave some preparatory medicine; yet I am much inclined to believe it was oftener given to amuse, than with an intent to produce any change in the constitution, or to influence the subsequent disease: at least, I am certain this was the case with some of his pupils, whose practice had very great success. The favourable termination of a number of cases, where no preparatory medicine had been used, has induced many practitioners to entirely lay aside every medicine of that kind, as at least useless †. Having often heard of the inutility of preparing by medicine persons for Inoculation, I was determined the first opportunity to give it a trial. That opportunity occurred in February last. Being at that time engaged to inoculate 150 persons, of various ages and constitutions, I gave (without selection) to 50 of these the preparatory medicine, exactly as recommended by Baron Dimsdale: and the remaining 100 had the disease without taking any medicine. From the minutest observations I was able to make, the only difference to be remarked was, that in the 50 the time of the eruptive fever's appearance after the insertion of the variolous matter was not quite so certain, and in its duration not so regular, - neither, did the pustules mature so kindly as in those who had not taken the preparatory medicine.

From this it should appear, that the medicine had a tendency to disturb the natural course of the disease: I say a tendency, because the deviation from the natural progress of the disease was not so great (though sufficiently evident) as to endanger the life of any of my patients. In regard to diet, and exposure to the atmospheric air, the same precautions were observed with those

† The celebrated Professor of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh says, 'I cannot deny that mercurial and antimonial medicines may have some effect in determining to a more free perspiration, and therefore may be of some use in preparing a person for the Small-pox; but there are many observations which render me doubtful as to their effects. The quantity of both these medicines, particularly the antimony, commonly employed, is so inconsiderable to produce any effect. It is true, that mercurials have been employed more freely; but even their salutary effects have not been evident, and their mischievous effects have sometimes appeared. I doubt therefore, upon the whole, if Inoculation derives any advantage from these pretended preparatory courses of medicine.'

CULLEN'S First Lines, 609.

who took and those who did not take the medicine. The disease was equally mild in the 100 as in the 50; and the only apparent difference, as before observed, was a tendency to an anomalous appearance of the disease in those who took the preparatory medicine. They all recovered. The result of this experiment is in favour of Inoculation without preparation by medicine; for those who were not prepared in that way passed through the disease with as little inconvenience as those who were: the disease was likewise in them more regular in its different stages, and the pustules proceeded to maturation more kindly. I would have it understood, that what I mean by preparative medicine, is all given previous to the accession of the eruptive fever, whether taken before or after the insertion of the variolous matter.

The intention of the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Stuart to persuade the parish of Lutoa to adopt annual Inoculation, can never be enough praised; and it is to be wished every Rector in the kingdom was influenced by the same spirit of humanity that dictates this gentleman's conduct. If annual Inoculations were adopted throughout the kingdom, the effect produced would be nearly equal to an extermination of this dreadful disease. But as long as conscientious scruples remain, and such scruples there will be as long as there are preachers to raise doubts and promulgate fatal errors amongst their ignorant hearers, such a useful regulation cannot take place in the extent every friend to society must wish. The resistance Inoculation meets with from the pulpit, is at present I believe confined to the Dissenting Clergy. But amongst them, the more enlightened are well-wishers to it; it is only those who from the plough, or the meanest mechanical employments, have become preachers, that decry its use. But while such men have hearers, they will have power to persuade numbers that Inoculation is a heinous sin. This evil is not ideal; for the other day I had an opportunity of hearing a mechanic preach on the sin of Inoculation: by his discourse numbers of his illiterate hearers were persuaded to think on the subject as he did; and some of them, in consequence, fell victims to the natural disease. The only probable method of restraining an evil which so materially affects the lives of mankind, is in the hands of the more enlightened teachers of the different religious sects with which this country abounds. It is in their power only to give their illiterate fellow-labourers in the gospel harvest a true idea of the moral and religious nature of Inoculation.

R.

ORIGIN