

be regulated by the constitution. Commonly, half an hour is the extent, keeping up carefully the temperature of the bath. But when the patient is spare, highly nervous, and irritable, he may be kept so immersed for many hours. If there be any disposition to determination of blood, refrigerating the head while in the bath is not only a safe but beneficial practice.

“According to Poggius the Florentine, in his time the insane were placed in baths to the knees, waist or higher, as the state of the disease required. Pomme treated maniacal patients by employing the warm bath for eight hours every few days, and applying cloths constantly wet with cold water to the head during the whole time. He even kept them in the bath for twenty-four hours.”

“Sometimes mania and melancholia were treated as distinct diseases; but the best authors, as Aretæus, Cælius Aurelanus, and Alex. Trallianus bear evidence to their identity, admitting, however, varieties. Aretæus aptly remarks, that there are many kinds of insanity, but only one genus, and Trallianus coinciding, alleges, that the incipient attack may be mania succeeded by melancholia, and vice versa, or that they may alternate and interchange with each other with the greatest degree of rapidity. Cælius Aurelianus declares that both affections may be synchronous, and that the precursory symptoms are similar. Paulus Ægineta seems to entertain the same opinion, nor has he thought fit to treat of them as distinct diseases.

“Thomas Willis, Morgagni and Boerhaave especially refer to the affinity of the two affections, and their interchanges, observing, also, that it is difficult to pronounce under which a patient labors. Hoffman not only refers both mania and melancholia to one species, but alleges that they have one common origin and cause; viz., from an excessive afflux of blood to a weak brain: he maintains that the only difference is in degree and time of invasion, and that they are not only apt to change one