

were often fatal, by producing a state of collapse, similar to that of cholera; and so susceptible were the fever patients of that season of this remedy, that I was obliged to discontinue the practice of administering it in small doses, as a diaphoretic, with calomel and opium or other purgatives. The same effects often follow its use during the sickly months, though much more in some seasons than in others.

Purgatives are always indicated, and at the commencement of every form of the disease may be used with advantage. The usual saline cathartics and castor oil, though producing free discharges, yet afford little immediate relief; and the free use of any of our vegetable cathartics will seldom arrest the disease in limine, or carry it off without the use of bark or other specifics for periodical diseases. It is to mercury, particularly calomel, combined with our vegetable or saline cathartics, that we are to look for the full effects of purgatives in these affections, and by which the secretions will be restored to a natural state, and the development of the periodical attacks of fever either prevented, or when they have already occurred, arrested, and health be produced.

In the various forms of biliary derangements and agues, a course of free purging, with these remedies, ought at once to be commenced, and regularly kept up at short intervals, until the secretions be restored to a natural state. When the bowels are freely acted on, the prostration of strength and tendency to irregular fever will subside, and the improvement after each successive dose will be marked. The effects of such remedies ought not to be kept up on the bowels by too frequent repetition; every dose should be sufficient to produce full purging, which should be allowed to subside, and a period of rest to intervene before it be repeated. A combination of calomel with the extract of colocynth or the purgative gum resins, in the formula of the mass of many of our official pills, is well adapted to such cases, and a dose of from four to eight grains of calomel, with six or eight of the extract of colocynth, may be repeated every second night, and followed by a dose of sulphate of magnesia or a black draught on the following mornings. In the usual state of patients, pills will be found a more convenient and more agreeable form in which to administer cathartics than in that of powders; and it is also an object of consequence that the doses be repeated as seldom as possible.

In the various forms that more fully developed fevers assume, the state of the secretion will still demand our first attention, and the free use of calomel and cathartics remain our most certain remedies. We will find the unnatural discharges from the bowels, the state of the tongue and skin, and the recurrence of fever so mixed up together, that it would be difficult to assign any one of them as the cause of the others, were not the facts daily seen that the action of our medicines, in carrying off these discharges, and