

For the Pearl.

A LESSON ON BURNS.

The frequency and evil consequences of those accidents, which are the effect of extreme degrees of heat, applied to the surfaces of the human frame, external or internal, demand a share of attention, not merely from those men who make therapeutics their study and practice, but from all persons, in whatever situation and circumstances; particularly the superintendents of families, and other collective bodies of persons, whether of adult or infant age. The attention I speak of is a practical acquirement of considerable utility; enabling the possessor to employ innocent and efficient means for the prevention, cure, or at least relief, of some of the worst calamities which our feeble nature is heir to. In order that I may be serviceable in eliciting and fixing a few ideas on the subject of burns, which may prove serviceable to your readers, I proceed to offer a few remarks on this subject.

Water, at or near to the boiling heat, heated metals and inflamed clothes, are the most common occasions of sores of this description. The parts most frequently injured are the extremities, and the face; but from the latter course severe burns are frequently common to nearly the whole skin; and when one falls into a large containing vessel of heated liquor, the burn may be more unlimited in extent, though not so severe and replete with danger.

When heat has by any medium been communicated to the skin, so as to occasion injury, it will frequently happen that there is little uniformity in the appearance of the burn. Parts of it will be distinguished by a deep crimson blush, with very little swelling, but considerable tenderness: other parts will discover a separation of the cuticle from the skin beneath, and a collection of fluid, (pellucid or milky,) resembling a common blister, as produced by the plaster, while other parts will manifest an eschar of dried integument of a brown or black colour, devoid of life. These several appearances are sometimes descriptive of the entire sore; indeed the greater number of burns agree in character with the first mentioned. The danger attendant on a burn depends not altogether on its extent or severity, but much upon the state of the nervous system at the time of its occurrence, and other circumstances regulating the degree of fright occasioned; and in ordinary, more is to be apprehended from the consequences of such fright, than from the simple burn. Various species of fever, with nervous and mental derangement frequently resulting. I have known the decease of the patient to occur under such circumstances, when it had happened that the burn had been of but little extent or severity; and even the healing process had gone on favorably. A bad state of health from any cause, is farther to be regarded as greatly enhancing the liability to danger from burns.

The cure is to be attempted as early as possible, by means well calculated to remove the morbid effects of heat. I say as early as possible; for inferior means applied early, will do more good than superior ones after the disorder has had some scope. The means must be, 1st,—those of local application, to remove the partial effects; and 2d,—of constitutional, to remove those which are general.

In regard to the first, a vast variety of ointments and plasters have been recommended, in the most pertinacious manner, but in my opinion with no measure of propriety. My reason for placing so general an objection against them is, that they do not promote, but rather oppose exhalations of water combined with heat, from the diseased surface, which is the very process by which the cure is best promoted. Free applications of dry materials, as carded cotton, wheat flour, or chalk powder, have been sometimes adopted; but such things are objectionable, as standing in the place of better remedies, as being cumbersome and excitant of pain, and as carrying the sore a stage beyond what the case itself requires: viz. to suppuration. The principal means of cure have been evaporating fluids, as water, or water containing vinegar, alcohol, or salt, or in the form of vegetable juices, infusions or pulps. Of the last variety, scraped potatoes have been very popular; essential oils, as that of turpentine. The principle of application for all these is just, but the mode thereof is not. The principle is that of conveying the excess of heat out of the burn by means of a vapour formed at the expense of that heat, and the fluid brought into contact with it. But the mode is deficient, as comprising fluids of an acrid or excitant quality; which are not ready in general for the purpose; and which are procured by tedious and expensive processes. These too are always applied cold, and thus, by a revulsive agency, produce changes of too abrupt a nature; and a complication of diseased and healthy actions in the system, mostly productive of a sympathetic fever; a fever in many instances fatal, not merely to the comfort, but to the life of the sufferer. Such being the difficulties of practice, when a burn of any kind is done, what course shall we take? What method of relief shall we adopt? I will, in answer to these enquiries, endeavor to point out a method not open to the foregoing objections; a method that shall be easy, prompt, and effectual, to secure the desired end. Warm water is the efficient instrument of the cure. If the patient is so burnt as to cause

any adherence of the clothing to the skin, let it be freely applied by means of saturated flannels to the parts, (whether but a small spot, or the greater part of the surface of the body;) until without any force you can separate the one from the other. This being done, wherever the skin is destroyed or broken, line it with Jaconet muslin wrung out of warm salad-oil, but if this is not at hand, any other kind will serve the purpose, or even lard or butter. Next cover the whole surface of the burn, and a little beyond it, with flannel wrung out of water that is blood warm, after which the patient is to be enveloped in a blanket, and laid in the most easy position. From this period the lining of the sore is to be kept constantly wet with the proposed remedy: warm water being as often as is necessary (to secure this state) sprinkled or, poured upon the surface of the flannel. *This proceeding is to be persisted in until the patient is free from inflammation and pain;* which will usually take place in a few hours; and is commonly expressed by saying, "the fire is out of it." The state of the parts may now be examined, without any of the dragging, peeling and excruciating of the sensible surface which commonly takes place, and this procedure repeated in all its particulars: by means of which a happy cure will shortly crown the exertion. If, however, there are parts which are burnt to any considerable depth, they may at the second dressing have an emollient poultice applied to them; instead of the muslin, composed of wheat flour 2 measures, olive oil 1 measure, water 2 measures; all warmed apart, then mixed in this succession and directly laid on in sufficient quantity to keep moist enough forty-eight hours. This useful application needs no substitute until the sores, however bad, are perfectly healed: or at least, filled up, so as to permit a return to the use of the oiled muslin, or dry lint, under which the skin will be recovered in an unblemished state. This method, simple as it appears, will accomplish a cure with ease, and expedition, and as we may say in reference to such matters *Experimentia est magister optimus*, and as the liability to such casualties is considerable, I have thought it a proper subject to introduce to the notice of your readers.

For the prevention of burns the following maxims will be found useful.

1st. Never permit children to play with, or close by the fire; or to take a drink from the spout of a tea-pot or teakettle, or to have any thing to do with the mantle shelf.

2nd. Adopt as a mode of punishment the plunging of a hand or foot, in water as hot as it can be borne without injury—this will give them a proper sensation and dread of the fire.

3rd. Permit them in winter to wear frocks, &c. of woolen manufacture.

4th. Instruct each, if it should catch fire to lie down on the ground, and roll over and over, and if another child have caught, to roll the hearth rug, carpet or blanket round it, and to ensure presence of mind, catechise them as follows.

If your frock was to catch fire, what ought you to do?
Why would you not run to the door, and call for help?
If your sister caught fire, what would you do to her?
Why would you wrap her up in this manner?
Why would you leave her head out of the wrapper?
Why would you not wrap her in a sheet or counterpane?

If there was no carpet or blanket at hand, what would you do?

5th. In mixing hot and cold liquids cleansing, or brewing, &c. always pour out the latter first.

6th. In visiting stores, stables, &c. at night, always make use of a lantern.

TEULON.

ENGLAND AND HANOVER.

Among the important political changes arising from the decease of our late beloved monarch, the disseveration of the continental dominions of the British crown from the rule of the present sovereign is not the least remarkable. In consequence of the *salique* law prevailing in the kingdom of Hanover the empire of Victoria I. does not extend to that country, and the rights and duties of its monarchy have already devolved on the Duke of Cumberland. That intimate connexion which has prevailed between Great Britain and Hanover since the accession of George I. has now, for the first time, ceased, and all the probabilities are against the return of both nations under the same head. It is only in case of the Queen's dying without issue that the union would again take place. Ernest I. of Hanover would then become King of Great Britain, though the authority of our young queen could not, in any case, extend again to Hanover, the son of the king being the legal heir to that throne. The Duke of Cumberland, now Ernest of Hanover, is the first king of that country independent of a foreign power; and it is not a little remarkable that, while, as a subject of this realm, he took the oath of allegiance to the queen to-day, he may, in the interests of his new subjects, be in a condition to declare war against Great Britain at some future period. In taking that oath he has followed the example of George II. who, when his father was elector of Hanover, and he heir, as second in succession, to the throne of England, came

to this country to be created Duke of Cambridge, and to swear allegiance, as a British subject, to Queen Anne.

How far the influence of Great Britain on the continent of Europe may be affected by the separation of these two crowns is a matter of opinion, on which many will differ. Some will consider that we are happily relieved from an obligation that was often a source of great annoyance, and generally unproductive; while others will contend that the right to interfere on behalf of Hanover was a matter of great moment, amply compensating for minor inconveniences. We are certain that the influence of Great Britain on the continent is derived from much higher sources—its wealth, its power, its integrity—and that, whatever benefits have heretofore arisen from the Hanoverian connexion will still be continued by the affection which the illustrious personage who has now assumed the sceptre will ever entertain for his native country. —Morning Post.

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1837.

By the Pictou, New York papers have been received in town, containing English dates to the 24th of June. The most important items we give below.

FRIGHTFUL SCENE IN PARIS.—Some 300,000 spectators were assembled in the Champ de Mars, to witness the military spectacle, got up in honour of the marriage of the Duke of Orleans. The *Champ de Mars* is a vast enclosure, surrounded by a ditch, the entrance to which is only through large iron gateways. The centre is a low open plain, rising from which the ground has a gradual and gentle slope, until it attains the level of the surrounding streets. The open space is without trees, the slope and elevation are shaded with very fine ones. On this slope and elevation, and among the trees, were collected 300,000 persons, while the troops manœuvred below, and went through a sham fight. During this, some of the rockets and other fire works, taking a wrong direction, wounded some of the spectators, and in part of the field two men fell from a tree and were killed on the spot. It was not, however, until the breaking up of the spectacle, about 10½ o'clock, that the main catastrophe ensued. The crowd, anxious to disperse, rushed to the gates. At first the exit was easy and regular, but as soon as the mass from behind pressed impatiently on, the jam became terrific—alarm seized upon the crowd—men, women and children, uttering frightful cries, were trampled under foot—and for more than a quarter of an hour, especially at the gate of the Military School, this horrible scene was continued, and the crowd got out only by passing over the bodies of the dead and the wounded.

Twenty-four persons, 12 men and 12 women, were killed on the spot, two women carried to their homes, expired almost immediately, and there were more than one hundred and fifty wounded! of whom 40 very seriously. It is feared that in addition to this list, others at the lower end of the enclosure, and in passing out at the bridge of Jena, may have been precipitated into the Seine, as there had been many inquiries for persons missing, who are neither among the wounded nor the dead.

The Gazette de France mentions a report, that it was in contemplation to establish a professorship of Protestant theology in the University of Paris. This of course is connected with the protestantism of the Duchess of Orleans.

Steamboats between England and Portugal.—Quick Work.—The steam-packet *Iberia*, belonging to the Peninsular Steam Navigation Company, left Falmouth with passengers on the 22d May last, and landed them at Oporto, in the space of sixty hours. The steam-packet *Braganza*, belonging to the same line, left soon after for Falmouth, where she arrived on the 28th of May, after a passage of seventy hours, bringing many letters from passengers by the *Iberia*, which were received by their friends in England, announcing their arrival at Portugal, one hundred and thirty-five hours after their embarkation at Falmouth. The man who had predicted such a result of steam navigation ten years ago would have been deemed mad.—*Journal du Havre*.

SPAIN.—The victory of Baron De Moer is confirmed. Don Carlos, at the head of a Corps of 4000 men, had fled precipitately towards Solsona.

Great discontent prevails in the Spanish army, among the English Legion; and much dissatisfaction is expressed at General Evans' leaving the Continent. A large meeting of the officers was held at St. Sebastian on the 8th, to devise means to make the Spanish Government pay the balance of wages and salary due to them.