

John of Gaddesden flourished about the beginning of the 14th century.

Amongst medical writers of that period it was the custom to drop the surname and attach the name of the doctor's birth-place. Thus we have Ricardus Anglicus, Alphredus Anglicus, John of Gaddesden, and John of Arden. Some of them latinized their English names, *e. g.* Andrew Borde became Andreas Perforatus.—*Mems. Maxims and Memoirs, by William Wadd, Esq., F.L.S., Surgeon Extraordinary to the King.—London, 1827.*

SUNDAY SICKNESS.—This alarming and prevalent malady was well known at the beginning of the century. It was described fully sixty years ago and unlike most of the acute diseases its type has remained unchanged. In the *Boston Medical Intelligencer* of 1821 the disease is described at considerable length under the name *Diei Dominici morbus*.

It is of an intermittent type and usually attacks the patient by violent paroxysms which return every seventh day. It may savour of superstition to mention it, yet it is an observed fact that these paroxysms return only on the Lord's day. On account of this periodicity, some have thought it to be a singular kind of ague, especially as it is attended with a certain degree of coldness, though the symptoms of shivering which are usual in that complaint are not present.

The paroxysms commence at different periods, but generally in the morning of the Lord's day. A coldness has first been noticed about the region of the heart and a dullness in the head. This is followed by yawning and a sort of lethargy.

This disease appears to stupefy those who are subject to it, so that however they may appear to suffer they are seldom if ever heard to complain. The author has known persons under other diseases mourn on account of their confinement from public worship, but the victims of this extraordinary disorder were never heard to do so.

Recovery is rapid. The next day the patient is as active as if he had never been subject to any kind of indisposition. He appears well until the approach of the next Sabbath; though most of the faculty agree that there is a low feverish heat to be perceived during the days of interval, which is called *febris mundi*, or the worldly fever. Those who are subject to this malady at times feel an access of chills, together with a most curious sensation of listlessness about the hours of secret retirement and family devotion.

There is reason to fear that it is contagious. Children have been known to receive the infection from their parents.

There is difficulty in finding a cause for these symptoms. On close investigation they have been found to have arisen from excessive indulgence, and feeding without reserve on the sour fruits of the flesh and the windy diet of the world. Persons who sit for many hours together in close rooms, with vain and carnal companions, are peculiarly liable to the malady. It has been observed that a great delight in cards and other games, a frequent attendance upon feasts, drinking clubs, and the circus, are among its certain forerunners.

As to treatment the writer was in doubt. He thought of prescribing draughts and boluses, but when he found his patients well and active in their business on the following day, he desisted from his treatment lest they should think he was forcing medicine upon them.

A SOUND IN THE ŒSOPHAGUS FOR THREE HUNDRED AND FIVE DAYS.—Krishaber reports a case of malignant disease of the œsophagus with stricture. In order to keep the passage open, an œsophageal tube was introduced and allowed to remain. The outer end was carried through the nose and attached to the forehead. After a time tolerance was obtained and the instrument was kept in until death occurred.—*Deutsch Med. Woch.*