

tained opinion, and in our estimation the best, completest, fullest monograph on this subject in our language.

Any observer, and doubtless there are many such in our noble profession, who has carefully watched the practice in syphilis during the last fifteen or twenty years must have been struck with the incongruity which it presented. Surgeons became divided into two sects, the mercurialists and the anti-mercurialists, the advocates of both systems indefatigable in their labours, both endeavouring to prove their opponents wrong. Our army medical authorities took the matter up, and the most strict injunctions were issued to its medical officers to have the non-mercurial treatment fully tested. And assuredly no better field could have been selected, none in which the comparative merits of the two systems could have been more fairly tested. These results have been placed before the medical world, and they go to prove that the treatment without mercury is in general the most salutary, and equally if not more beneficial to the patient than the mercurial treatment. In the early part of our own career, we would have considered ourselves as doing an injustice, nay a positive injury to our confiding patient, had we withheld the five grains of Blue pill from him night and morning. And we might mention many an unfortunate victim to this then indiscriminating practice, a practice however pursued with the best intentions in accordance with the then condition of our knowledge, a practice which we are sorry to say, has consigned to a premature grave, numberless individuals, the effects of whose mercurialization had been mistaken for the constitutional effects of syphilis, and which were daily, hourly, aggravated by persistence in the very treatment which evolved the symptoms under which the unfortunate sufferers laboured. Thanks to Carmichael who in 1814 uttered the first unimproved hint; thanks to Ricord who closely followed it up, but especially thanks to Bassereau, a pupil of Ricord's, who has established the fact, that there do exist two kinds of chancre, the hard and the soft, the former of which is invariably followed by constitutional symptoms, the latter never; and hence is explained the success attained by the anti-mercurialists, for as cases of the latter most fortunately enormously preponderate over the former, and as they are curable by the most simple means, so is the success which the advocates of that practice obtained, explained. The fact is now established beyond all question, that in practice we are apt to meet with two distinct varieties of this disease, both contagious, yet the one and severer form being characterized by an indurated base, and certain to be followed by constitutional symptoms, to which the mercurial treatment is alone applicable; the other without induration, attended by no consequences, except possibly a bubo, but curable by the application of the most simple means. On this important point we will make the following extract from the work, taken from Mr. Bassereau's "*Traité des Affections de la Peau Symptomatique de la Syphilis.*"

"There can be no question of the fact that there are chancres which may be treated by the most simple remedies without the employment of any mercury whatsoever, and yet never be followed by the symptoms of constitutional syphilis. Any one may convince himself of this truth by inquiring of old men, many of whom will state that they had chancres several times in their youth, which were treated with simple cerate,