

Mr Annesley concludes his observations "on the effects of calomel on the mucous surfaces and secretions of the alimentary canal," with a detail of its effects on the diseases of children in India, which, in their course and symptoms, closely resemble those arising in this country from the effects of malaria. He says,—"In marasmus more particularly, and, indeed, in the majority of the diseases of children, the stools are often green, slimy, dark brown, and variegated; and even when they are of a healthy appearance, as respects color, they will be found on a closer examination viscid and tenacious. Sometimes they have a clay-like appearance, at other times they are like glazier's putty; occasionally they contain shreds of coagulated lymph, giving rise to the suspicion that the mucous membrane is coming away in places; and not unfrequently they even resemble the green matter which accumulates on the surface of stagnant water. Whenever motions of the kind now noticed are observed, whether they occur in marasmus or other diseases, calomel, in the manner recommended, is obviously indicated."

In the early stage of these bowel complaints, we generally find absorbents, astringents, and opium, worse than useless; while a dose or two of calomel, by changing the appearance of the discharges, will at once suppress the purging; and a repetition of the same medicine, joined with a properly regulated use of cathartics, will be the best mode of preventing the fatal consequences of such attacks.

It is exceedingly difficult, considering the contradictory reports of professional men, to regulate the quantity of calomel required to effect any particular object. I have seen, in European fevers, the dose dwindled down to a grain, even half, or the quarter of a grain, and frequently repeated, and in malarious fevers and dysentery, scruple doses, given three or four times a day, for a week together—the one

party supposing the dose could scarcely be too small, and the other that the disease could only be carried off by "pushing the calomel," which must be given in quantities commensurate to the severity of the diarrhoeas. Recoveries have taken place under both systems.

In malarious diseases, a small dose of calomel is not to be depended on, either in producing its purgative action, or the peculiar effect of the medicine on the secretions; and it is doubtful if the effect expected from the scruple doses, so frequently repeated, might not have been procured from a smaller quantity of the mineral.

With a prejudice against the remedy, increased by the reckless and apparently unscientific manner in which I have seen it pushed, I have seldom been able to discover any bad effects from the practice; and it requires no small degree of practical experience and tact to select the cases, rapidly tending to a fatal issue, in which no advantage will accrue from the frequent use of the calomel.

The forms of purgatives previously mentioned, will be found most useful in our common fevers; but should the effects of calomel on the secretions or constitution be desirable, in the remittent or continued forms, from three to five grains, combined with opium or ipecac might be given three or four times a day, with a cathartic draught every second morning. Should these small doses irritate the bowels, or purge, the quantity may be doubled in each dose, and the intervals between them prolonged. In cases attended with remitting and bowel complaint at the commencement, these had better be checked at once, for which, ten grains of calomel, either with or without opium, will generally be sufficient, but this must be followed by a dose of oil; and when such a state of the bowels shows a disposition to continue, the dose of calomel must always be large, and may be combined with opium