AN

# INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON THE

## THEORY AND PRACTICE

OF

# EMETICS.

SUBMITTED TO THE EXAMINATION OF

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BY


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# THE THEORY.

TO treat on any ſubject advantageouſly, it is not only neceſſary to begin *a radice*, but alſo to produce or call forth to our aſſiſtance, whatever may appear uſeful to enlighten our ſubject, or the conception of our readers; and this is more eſpecially proper, when we better underſtand the auxiliary, than we do the ſubject under treatment. For the above reaſon, I intend, before proceeding to treat of irregular actions, to touch upon the regular actions or phyſiology of the ſtomach; having premiſed as much of the anatomy as our ſubject requires.

## Of the Stomach.

THE ſtomach is formed by ſeveral coats; the internal part may be called its ſurface, (which is formed by what is called the villous coat) from its analogy in property to the cutis, the univerſal ſurface of our body. Like the cutis, it is a defenſive covering to more delicate parts over which it is ſpread. It is full of papillæ and pores, which tranſmit or ſecrete a fluid; and it is ſpread upon a cellular membrane. Beneath this cellular membrane, muſcular fibres run, chiefly in two directions, longitudinally and circularly; theſe fibres appear to originate from the œſophagus; they form a coat which is enveloped in the manner of the other abdominal viſcera by the peritoneum, which forms the laſt coat of the ſtomach.

AS our ſubject does not require great accuracy about the ſhape or ſituation of the ſtomach, it will ſuffice to ſay, that the ſtomach is of a curved conical figure, the baſis of which lies about the left hypochondrium; and the loweſt part (which is not the apex) with the apex in the epigaſtrium, thus having a diagonal ſituation.

THE cardia and pylorus, the two orifices of the ſtomach, are ſituated on the ſmall or ſuperior arch of the ſtomach, at about three-fifths of the ſtomach's length diſtant from each other. The conſtant contents of the ſtomach, viz. air and gaſtric fluid, together with the neceſſary ingeſta, and the action that theſe indirectly produce, are the exciters of action proper to the ſtomach: heat is common to every part.

THE air is a ſtimulus by its diſtending power, eſpecially as it antagonizes the preſſure around; and if we may judge from the effects of air admitted into wounds, or natural cavities of the

body,

body, we ſhall ſurely conclude it to be a ſtimulus in its intrinſic quality.

THE gaſtric fluid is too ſmall in quantity to give diſtention to the ſtomach, but by its quality it gives a ſtimulus, which is proved by the ſenſation of hunger depending much upon the ſecretion of it, as well as by its effects when applied to an ulcer.

OUR ingeſta when well choſen (taken aggregately) act as a ſtimulus both by body and quality, and the action of the ſtomach ſerves to perpetuate itſelf by diſturbing the ſtate (viz. reſt) which is beſt ſuited for the nerves to retain their ſubtle moveable contents.

THESE powers, though they are not inſtruments of motion, yet they are as neceſſary to the producing motion in the ſtomach, as blood is to the continuance of the action of the heart. In an anonymous eſſay which I publiſhed laſt fall, on animal motion, I endeavoured to define the property of that principle which we call life in the moving ſtate, and from its property being to condenſe or contract, and ſuch a power being a ſufficient agent for every action in the ſyſtem, (for every action may be reduced to contraction and relaxation, the latter the effect of an eſcape of that principle which produced the former) I concluded that the vital principle was the ſole agent of motion, and that every other power in the ſyſtem, as far as they concerned motion, was only for the regulating or conducting the principle of life or motion.

HENCE the action of every part, *cæteris paribus*, is juſt equal or agreeable to the quantity of vital principle determined into it, as the determination is equal to the ſtimulus applied.

THESE things I have thought neceſſary to mention, becauſe, upon ſuch principles I mean to explain my ſubject. By the operation of the ſtimuli, a quantity of the vital principle is determined into the coats of the ſtomach, ſufficient for its action, which does not conſiſt in the ſimple contraction and then a relaxation of the whole ſtomach, but in what is called a periſtaltic motion, which is thus performed: Some of the upper circular fibres contract, and then thoſe inferior to the firſt, whilſt the firſt give way; during this action in the circulars, the longitudinals contract and then relax again. Such an action is well adapted to expel the contents of the ſtomach into the inteſtines.

IN a ſtate of health, when the ſyſtem is well regulated, I ſuppoſe the diſtribution of the vital principle to the ſtomach to be exactly anſwerable to what the animal œconomy can ſupply, without depriving other organs of their due, and equally well ſuited to what the ſtomach requires. With this I finiſh what I have to ſay on regular motion, and now proceed to irregular action, or

## Vomiting.

THIS appears to be the immediate effect of an overplus of the moving power determined into the muſcular coat of the ſtomach, the

the abdominal muſcles, and the diaphragm; with theſe many other muſcles are convulſed alſo, as thoſe about the throat; but they rather retard than promote vomiting.

By the violent contraction of the fibres of the ſtomach, the pylorus is perfectly conſtricted for a while, ſo as to deny any paſſage that way, and alſo hinder the deſcending motion proper to the ſtomach and inteſtines, whilſt at the ſame time the diaphragm is contracted to a plane and the abdominal muſcles are drawn into a concavity. By this violent preſſure which the ſtomach now ſuſtains, the contents, if any, are urged ſo as to overcome the conſtriction of the œſophagus; this aſcending direction of the contents, together with the conſtriction of the pylorus, effectually invert the natural action, ſo that now it aſſiſts in expelling the contents.

It is ſomewhat difficult to ſay how the muſcles ſhould be convulſed by medicines applied to the ſtomach, and eſpecially thoſe in particular which aſſiſt in vomiting. But if we conſider the great connection of the nervous ſyſtem, and the mobility of its contents, with the eaſe that an action can be excited in many parts, eſpecially in the muſcular ſyſtem, it will appear almoſt impoſſible to excite a ſolitary action: and as to theſe particular muſcles it may be obſerved, that they are ſome of the moſt capable of action of any in the body; that their unceaſing natural action ſhew them to have, or require, a large, free, and conſtant ſupply of the principle of motion; and laſtly, that being both voluntary and involuntary, they muſt have a very ready, eaſy determination to them: hence they are not only excited by medicines applied to the ſtomach, but alſo by irritations applied to the noſtrils, the trachea, or the lungs, as in ſneezing and coughing.

The exhibition of an emetic appears to carry the ſyſtem through three ſtages, in the following order:

1. A state of languor and liſtleſſneſs.
2. A state of irregular excitement: and
3. A state of general, equal, deficient excitement or temporary relaxation.

As I am treating of the Theory, I look upon it to be my duty to give ſome explanation of the above appearances, which I ſhall do in the following correſponding numbers.

I. A state of perfection in the ſyſtem does not depend alone upon a ſound and ſufficient ſet of ſolids and fluids, but alſo upon proper diſtributions of the moving principle.

This proper diſtribution produces ſuch actions in the animal, vital, and natural organs, as taken together we term Health, from common ſenſe or idea of ſuch a ſtate: As then ſome parts of our ſyſtem are more ſuited for action than others, ſome more neceſſary to the immediate welfare of the animal œconomy, and finally, ſome more dependant than others; it follows of courſe, that a preternatural diſtribution of the moving power, without any increaſe or deficiency of itſelf or of ſtimuli, may ſhew or produce

produce a ſtate of leſs or more general excitement than is to be obſerved at the point of health. In the ſtage under conſideration, there appears a leſs general excitement, even with the addition of ſtimuli, admitting the emetic to be of the ſtimulant claſs.

THE vital principle appears to be with-held from the ſurface: hence the languor, a common ſymptom of a relaxed cutis and feeble pulſe; hence the diſcharge of ſaliva from the relaxation extending over the tongue and fauces; and hence the paleneſs which is dependant upon the action of the extreme arteries; theſe having ſuffered with the cutis, with which they are intimately connected.

II. THIS ſtage depends upon a proceſſion of the ſame unnatural diſtribution of the vital principle as the firſt ſtage, but now the ſtomach, the diaphragm, and the abdominal muſcles are carried from a prediſpoſition into exceſſive action. By the above means, a conſiderable mechanical preſſure is given to the venous ſyſtem, which keeps up the languiſhing heart during the effort of vomiting, and immediately that is over gives it a temporary increaſe of action.

THE redneſs of the face that attends violent ſtraining is not owing to any increaſe of action in the arteries at that time, for their action is almoſt ſuſpended, but to the preſſure of the muſcles about the neck, hindering the return of blood by the jugular veins.

III. WHEN the ſtimulus is removed that cauſed the above ſtates, then the natural ſtimuli receive each their proportional demands of the moving power, and of conſequence a natural diſtribution is made; but as exceſſive action exhauſts the principle of motion in an uncommon degree, there will be a proportional deficiency throughout the ſyſtem: hence the general relaxation and temporary loſs of excitement which conſtitutes the third and laſt ſtage.

BY attending to the above, we may know how to apply our emetics to more advantage, as ſome diſeaſes indicate one ſtage, and not the others to be applied. It is by inducing theſe different ſtages, that the uſe of emetics is ſo extenſive.

## Of the Powers that produce Vomiting.

THEY are, 1ſt. Medicines that act variouſly on the ſtomach. 2dly. Mechanical diſtention and friction. 3dly. Various powers that act primarily upon ſome other part: this I have added to the two former, rather to make the ſubject complete, than becauſe it is uſed.

## Of MEDICINES.

IT is very certain that all emetic medicines do not have their effect by an identical *modus operandi*, for medicines of quite oppoſite qualities are found to have this ſame effect. Although I am unable to diſtribute emetic medicines into their proper claſſes, yet

yet I think there is a ſufficient foundation for making three different claſſes: as, the Irritating,—the Stimulating,—and the Sedative :—on each of which I ſhall ſay a few words.

## Of the Irritating.

Under this claſs I conſider ſuch medicines as determine the vital principle, to the parts which we diſcover to be principally excited in vomiting, with great celerity, compared with the natural determination: their effects are, quick and powerful vomiting. This determination they may bring about by having an immediate attraction for the vital element, or by having an attraction for the components of the ſtomach, (as eſcharotics have) which will not fail to have a powerful effect on the nerves there inſerted.

## Of the Stimulating.

To this claſs belong ſuch emetics as have but little more attraction for the vital element than ſome of the natural ſtimuli have: they produce active, though not harſh vomiting, at ſome diſtance of time after being taken. Such an effect they may have from the ſame cauſes as the former, only being milder; eſpecially in the latter caſe, for theſe never deſtroy the ſolids though they may have a tendency, and thus have conſiderable power on the nerves.

## Of the Sedative.

Such medicines have a place in this claſs which have no direct tendency of themſelves to excite the vital principle, yet by an indirect means they produce vomiting: as by relaxing the internal coat of the ſtomach, and thus allowing the natural ſtimuli to act upon ſuch parts as they were naturally excluded from, and thus produce an uncommon determination that way. Such medicines may relax by having a power to ſolve the ſolids, as for inſtance, warm water, oils, &c. and probably there are other means which are not ſo well underſtood.

## Mechanical Diſtention and Friction.

As motion in all parts of the ſyſtem exhauſts the moving power, it is evident that it alſo muſt keep up an afflux of that ſame power to the different parts.

As that then is the caſe, it is eaſily conceived how diſtention (which in fact is the ſame operation) ſhould be attended with a like effect, and cauſe a determination equal to its degree: bodies of water are what we generally apply for the purpoſe: over-eating acts this way.

Friction differs little from diſtention in its mode. In this the diſtention affects the whole fibres immediately; in that only the eminentiæ are diſtended which communicate their action to the

the parts in conjunction. Friction, though it is ſometimes applied accidentally to the ſtomach, yet it ſeldom or never is applied purpoſely for vomiting to any other part than to the œſophagus.

## Of the various Powers that act primarily on ſome other Part.

These I think may be juſtly divided into two claſſes; 1. Such as induce or conſiſt in an evident increaſe of action in ſome contiguous, connected or ſympathizing part; 2. Such as conſiſt in a defect of action over a large ſhare of the ſyſtem. Of the firſt claſs are inflammations, ſpaſms, or irritations in different parts of the ſyſtem, which by ſoliciting an increaſe of the moving power to themſelves, do it alſo to other parts which being more capable of action, ſhew the effects more evidently than the primary affected parts; this may be done either by contiguity, or by affecting the nerves leading to the ſtomach and parts concerned in vomiting.

Of the ſecond claſs are, great debility, violent ſhocks, fear, diſguſt, &c. all of which induce a ſtate of debility over the corporeal ſyſtem; by which means vomiting is produced, in the ſame manner, as is done by ſedative medicines.

In ſuch caſes as the above, the ſtomach or the arterial ſyſtem conſtantly re-act, as being more ſuited or capable of re-action than any other parts. With this I conclude what I have to ſay on the Theory.

# THE PRACTICE.

I. I SHALL begin with the moſt ſimple, and probably the moſt original uſe of emetics, which is to evacuate ſuch ſubſtances as will prove noxious in the ſtomach. When ſuch a ſubſtance has been taken, and it be adviſeable to uſe vomiting, we are to proceed to it immediately.

If an inſtantaneous evacuation is required, we had beſt try friction to the œſophagus with a feather, but if it admits of delay, we may uſe ipecacuana, which may be given on any ſubſtance and with any antidote, without fear of a decompoſition. However, there are ſome caſes which require rather more ſpeedy evacuation than ipecacuana is ſuited to give; in ſuch caſes the zincum vitriolatum may frequently be uſed to advantage.

The doſe of zinc. vit. is from two grains to thirty. The doſe of ipecacuana from ten grains to thirty.

II. Inflam-

## II. Inflammatory Fever.

SUCH a fever in its higheſt degree, uncombined with topical affection, is a rare diſorder in this country; and in ſuch caſes, probably, emetics might not have a place; but in thoſe of leſs magnitude, and eſpecially when children or youths are the ſubjects of it, as is moſt commonly the caſe, emetics are proper medicines, and ſhould in general be uſed with or without bleeding, as the circumſtances of the patient's age and degree of affection may direct. For this we have the advice of many eminent practitioners.

ANTIMONIUM tartarizatum is one of the beſt; and to render its effects permanent and more general, it ſhould be given in doſes of about one third of a grain, every eight or ten minutes, and continued till it vomits ſufficiently. As the taſte of it is diſagreeable to ſome people, it may be diſſolved in apple-water, which effectually deſtroys the taſte.

BY this medicine, the primæ viæ is excited *ab ore uſque ad anum;* the ſurface is relaxed; and often a permanent ſweat is produced, by which a perfect victory is gained over the fever.

## III. Putrid Fever.

ALTHOUGH vomiting is frequently ſpontaneous at the beginning of moſt putrid fevers, yet it does not contra-indicate emetics; for it is the product of a debilitated primæ viæ, excited by a quantity of offending ſordes; to diſcharge which, excite the ſtomach to a proper action, and rouſe the vital ſyſtem, emetics are properly ſuited. They ſhould be given at the commencement of the diſeaſe. Only the gentler kinds are to be uſed, as ipecacuana; vinum ipecac. from a dram to half an ounce, vinum antimoniale, from twenty to one hundred and twenty drops; or a combination of ipecacuana and tartar emetic; as eight grains of the former, with half a grain of the latter; theſe are ſeldom or never to be repeated.

## IV. Nervous Fever.

THIS fever appears to have a greater claim to obſtructions, as a cauſe, than any other: to remove which, break the peculiar actions which conſtitute the diſorder, and rouſe the actions of the ſyſtem, emetics are well adapted. For this purpoſe a gentle emetic of ipecacuana is often of ſervice when given in the beginning.

## V. Remittent Fever.

IN ſome caſes of this fever it becomes neceſſary to ſtop the ſpontaneous vomiting. In ſuch caſes it would not be adviſeable to exhibit an emetic; but in moſt caſes, where there is only nauſea and vomiting that is troubleſome from continuance, rather than exceſs, a gentle emetic, properly adminiſtered, will

be found to put a period to it, by evacuating the bile, and remitting the violence of the fever. James's powder, in doſes of five or ſix grains, every twenty minutes, repeated according to events, or ſulph. au. ant. in doſes of two grains every hour, are ſuch as have proved uſeful.

## VI. Intermittent Fever.

The ſtated returns of intermittents, *ad punctum temporis*, clearly diſcover to us, that an identity in the ſtate of the ſyſtem, is requiſite to their recurrence, and the continuance of them after the removal of the remote cauſes that induced them, as plainly ſhew the power that habit has in their returns and continuance. Under theſe circumſtances, I may enquire what promiſes ſo fair, and at ſo little expenſe to the ſyſtem, to interrupt that peculiarity, break in upon a wrong habit, and relax the ſpaſm that forms the firſt ſtage, as emetics?

Reason and experience both concur in directing the emetic at the acceſſion of the cold ſtage.

The antimon. tart. given in the manner directed in II. is the moſt effectual, and ſhould be preferred except in very irritable ſtomachs, where ipecacuana will be ſufficient.

## VII. Cynanche Tonſillaris.

We ſhould not expect, *a priori*, that emetics would be either uſeful or admiſſible in this affection, but experience ſpeaks the contrary. In the beginning is the time of adminiſtering the emetic. By it, a free perſpiration is opened, upon the obſtruction of which the diſorder is founded, and by the action of the ſtomach a determination is made to that, and conſequently from the ſeat of the diſorder, whilſt the ſmall action of the muſcles about the throat is inſufficient to counteract the ſalutary actions of other parts. The emetic ſhould be more or leſs powerful, and continued, according to the neceſſity of the caſe, and the patient's habit.

## VIII. Cynanche Trachealis.

This is almoſt peculiar to children, and in ſome meaſure, from their inability to diſcharge the collecting mucous from the trachea. To throw off this, to give the ſecretions another determination, and to excite the torpid primæ viæ, emetics are ſo uſeful and ſtrongly indicated, that many phyſicians uſe nothing more. From the great inſenſibility, powerful and repeated emetics are requiſite. Scarce any leſs than four grains of tartar emetic can be expected to operate ſufficiently on a child of two or three years old; and when this is given we may proceed to ſomething elſe, if requiſite. For a ſecond medicine the zincum vitriolatum

may

may be uſed, one grain every fifteen or twenty minutes for four or ſix times.

## IX. Peripneumonia Notha.

Doctor Cullen recommends emetics in this diſorder. They certainly are indicated to looſen and diſcharge the tough phlegm with which the patient's lungs are generally oppreſſed; and they will be uſeful in putting an end to the nauſea with which the ſtomach is much affected. From the ſtate of patients affected with this diſorder, the vomiting ſhould be gentle and of ſhort duration; hence ipecacuana, vin. ipecacuanæ, vin. ant. and oxymel of ſquills are thoſe in uſe. The latter is preferred by ſome, but upon no ſubſtantial reaſon. The doſe is from half a dram to two drams, and that of the powder of ſquills from one to three grains.

## X. Gout.

Emetics are preſcribed as an incipient medicine to remove the dyſpeptic ſymptoms, which often return, and are very troubleſome to thoſe who have been much afflicted with the gout. The gentle ſtimulating kinds are ſuch as are uſed: none anſwers better than vinum ipecacuanæ.

## XI. Scarlatina.

Some would have this diſorder to proceed from the ſame cauſe as the cynanche maligna, and it is poſſible that it may; but it differs from that in ſymptoms, nearly as much as this does from the cynanche tonſillaris.

By the ſcarlatina, I mean a diſorder that has much more inflammatory action, leſs putreſcency, and a ſlighter affection of the throat than that affection which conſtitutes a cynanche maligna. Some have directed bleeding as an incipient preſcription, whilſt others order the bark immediately; but probably, a better way than either is to begin with a gentle emetic; for the ratio of which I refer to what I have ſaid in III. and VII.

## XII. Phthiſis Pulmonalis.

The uſe of emetics in phthiſis is pretty well known. It is only the incipient phthiſis that indicates them; and even here they are not always admiſſible, which is to be directed from a knowledge of the cauſes. Dr. Reed, who has written on this diſorder, ſpeaks highly of them. I cannot adopt his theory of the diſorder or the cure; but had rather ſuppoſe, that the action of the ſtomach induced by vomiting, interrupts or ſuſpends the morbid action of the lungs.

Ipecacuana in doſes of eight or ten grains repeated ſeveral times, is a proper medicine. If it be continued in very long, it will

will be apt to do more injury to the ſtomach than good to the lungs.

## XIII. Menorrhagia.

When this is of the active kind, it is always ſupported by a particular determination to the affected parts.

In ſuch caſes, emetics in nauſeating doſes ſhould have a place; as being medicines extremely well ſuited to take off that determination, and relax the arterial ſyſtem.

Either antimonials or ipecacuana may be uſed, as the collateral ſymptoms may indicate one or the other.

## XIV. Amenorrhœa.

When this depends upon a checked perſpiration, or what is termed taking cold, emetics are proper.

By them the headach, nauſea, ſluggiſhneſs, and every bad ſymptom is removed, together with the obſtruction on which it depends. Such an emetic ſhould be uſed as will prove active, and yet not operate rough: as eight grains of ipecacuana with a grain of tartar.

## XV. Catarrh.

There are two ſpecies of catarrh; one proceeding from contagion, uſually called *influenza*, the other from uncommon expoſure to cold, eſpecially after being heated. The former appears in ſuch different ſtates, that what is requiſite in one caſe would be pernicious in another; that is, with reſpect to reducing the ſyſtem. But in all caſes emetics may be ſafely employed at one time or another; and in general they ſhould be the firſt preſcription. I am a witneſs of their good effects. They perfectly interrupt the morbid ſecretions or determinations, and they put a period to the moſt diſagreeable ſymptoms and ſenſations of the diſorder.

In the Edinburgh commentaries, where emetics are highly ſpoken of, a combination of the ipecacuana and tartar emetic is recommended. In many caſes of common cold they are uſeful to the ſame end as above.

Here ſome prefer oxymel of ſquills; but their uſe does not warrant a better effect than is to be obtained from ipecacuana.

## XVI. Dyſentery.

In this diſorder, the ſyſtem labours under a conſiderable pyrexia, ſuperadded to a topical affection of a part of the inteſtinal canal; but although that be the caſe, the ſtomach is uſually in a collapſed ſtate, and hence, in the early ſtate of dyſentery, is uſually affected with nauſea. By giving ſmall doſes of emetics, and repeating them according to the neceſſity, the action of the primæ viæ is rendered more equal, and cleared of its offending

contents;

contents; whilſt the fever, which adds much to the affection, is counteracted, and reduced by the ſame medicine and at the ſame time.

This practice beſt ſuits the beginning of the diſeaſe, when it is moſt plainly indicated.

Some are in favour with the cuſtom of giving one, two, or three grains of ipecacuana twice a day; while others direct three or four grains of tartar emetic to be diſſolved in a quart of warm water, and taken in ſmall portions, ſo as to be conſumed in the courſe of a day. James's powder in ſmall doſes is alſo a favourite medicine.

## XVII. Apoplexy.

Emetics have been preſcribed by ſome in this diſorder, particularly by Dr. Fothergill. It is the apoplexia ſeroſa that they are uſed in. They muſt operate by their equalizing properties; and as having ſuch properties, they may have a like good effect in the apoplexia atrabiliaria, and apoplexia cataleptica of Dr. Cullen. An emetic of quick and conſiderable action ſhould be thrown down at once; for which end twelve grains of zincum vitriolatum may be given at once, diſſolved in a little warm water: or any other proper emetic.

## XVIII. Palſy.

The cauſes of palſy are numerous; ſome admit of no removal, others have no indications for ſuch changes as emetics could produce: but there are ſome few caſes that are ſaid to depend upon ſuch obſtructions, as are removeable by a proper agitation of the ſyſtem. In ſuch caſes, it will in general be prudent to try the effects of vomiting. To this end, half a dram or a dram of muſtard may be given, which promiſes to give an additional ſtimulus to that of vomiting, and if its effects are favourable, let it be repeated *pro re nata*.

## XIX. Epilepſy.

There are ſome caſes of epilepſy, which depend upon a peculiarity of conſtitution that admits of a repetition of the paroxyſm upon very ſlight changes. The ſlight changes that the lunar revolution effects, are ſuppoſed to be ſufficient to excite them. If it is not, it admits of no doubt that they are apt to return at nearly ſtated periods, and hence when we diſcover the prediſpoſition, a clear indication is offered to make ſome change in the ſyſtem, to interrupt the morbid proceſs, which a ſmart emetic at that time is found to do, with the advantage of ſubverting the threatening paroxyſm, and doing the ſyſtem no injury of itſelf. By this means an opportunity is gained of altering that ſtate of the ſyſtem upon which the diſorder depends.

XX. Chorea.

## XX. Chorea.

Vomits are here preſcribed, both to break up that determination of the nervous principle which conſtitutes the proximate cauſe of the diſorder, and to reduce the ſyſtem which is laid down as an indication to check the prediſpoſition. The emetic ſhould not be rough, but ſuited to the age and habit of the patient.

## XXI. Aſthma.

I have known a gentle emetic, given at the acceſſion of a fit of the aſthma, ſo to interrupt it, that a ſlight fit of half the uſual length was the conſequence. It is perfectly ſafe, and ſcarce ever ſhould be omitted when the prediſpoſition takes place.

## XXII. Dyſpnœa.

There are ſeveral ſpecies of dyſpnœa where emetics may be uſeful, and ſome where they may be hurtful.

The dyſpnœa catarrhalis appears to indicate them more clearly than any of the other ſpecies, whilſt there is no place for them in the dyſpnœa pinguedinoſa, the dyſpnœa thoracica, or the dyſpnœa extrinſeca.

## XXIII. Hooping Cough.

Almost every practitioner preſcribes emetics in this complaint, for the ratio of which I refer to what I have ſaid in XX. They ſhould be of the gentler kinds, and repeated frequently. The quantity is to be adjuſted to the patient's age.

## XXIV. Hyſteria.

An irregularity in the primæ viæ, which depends upon a collapſed ſtate of it, appears to be the foundation of hyſteric ſymptoms. To put an end to them ſpeedily is a deſirable object; and I am informed from good authority, that a doſe of ipecacuana, or any other ſuitable emetic, will have that effect. As white vitriol is a proper medicine in theſe caſes, excluſive of its emetic property, and alſo acts very ſpeedily as an emetic, it is probable that a few grains may be better adapted to this caſe than any other emetic.

## XXV. Mania.

Emetics have been preſcribed in mania, with benefit. It is the mania corporea of Dr. Cullen that indicates them. It is certain that mania ſometimes alternates with other affections of the ſyſtem; and hence it is poſſible that it may yield to an inſtituted inoffenſive action.

XXVI. Dropſy.

## XXVI. Dropſy.

From the ſucceſs of Dr. Home (vide Clin. Exp.) in ſeveral caſes of anaſarca hydrothorax and aſcites, with emetics, they are well worthy of a trial. The peculiar circumſtances of the caſe are to direct us in the uſe of them.

No benefit can be expected in a caſe of hydatides; nor can we hope for much more in that ſpecies termed hydrops ſaccatus. Emetics give a determination of action and ſecretion to the ſtomach, and thus at once may aim at the cauſe, (if that be exceſs of action) and the diſorder. Dr. Home uſed ſquills, but they may not be better than ipecacuana.

## XXVII. Jaundice.

In that ſpecies of jaundice called icterus calculoſus, it is probable that emetics may be often ſerviceable to expel the calculus from the duct into the duodenum; but in caſe they do not effect that, they may prove hurtful by urging the calculus into or along the duct, faſter than the duct can yield, and thus bring on an inflammation, to the great diſadvantage of the patient. As we can never know, *a priori*, the ſize of the obſtruction, we ſhall always be at ſome riſque; and therefore ſhould try only the gentle emetics.

## XXVIII. Hernia Humoralis.

Mr. Falc, who has written exceedingly well on the gonorrhœa and its attendants, recommends in this caſe an emetic of ipecacuana and calomel, as a ſpeedy and ſure relief. Many other phyſicians have alſo recommended them. Swedeaur has ſhewn, that it will alternate with the affection of the urethra, and why may it not yield to any other action?

## XXIX. Ulcers.

The blue vitriol was ſome time paſt uſed among the common people as an univerſal noſtrum. It was tried for old ulcers, and certainly proved uſeful in ſome deſperate caſes. They took from ten to eighteen grains at a doſe; and from their own information given me, it always proved a gentle emetic, vomiting without producing the common antecedent nauſea, as other emetics. However, I ſhould never recommend above two or three grains. In venereal ulcers the gratiola has been greatly praiſed, which generally vomited: Its doſe is from ten to thirty grains.

## XXX. Anorexia.

In the anorexia humoralis, as well as in the anorexia atonica, emetics are an excellent remedy; their uſe is ſo well known, that the patients generally propoſe the medicine themſelves: a gentle emetic

emetic is ſufficient. By the action of vomiting, the ſtomach regains its due action; the loſs of which is the foundation of the complaint.

HERE I beg leave, to prevent ſeeming contradiction, to inſert what appears to be a law in animal motion; which is, that when any organ below a due excitement, not depending upon a primary laxity of the ſolids, is thrown into a conſiderable action, it uſually retains a conſiderable ſhare of action compared with what it did before; but when an organ poſſeſſing its proper action is preternaturally excited, it is left in a ſtate of lower excitement than natural, provided it has not been carried to an inflammation or ſpaſm.

WITH this I chooſe to conclude my THESIS, leſt I fall into the common error of ſtraining the ſubject; truſting, that I have omitted few caſes where emetics are plainly indicated; or, where though not plainly indicated, yet have been found uſeful from experience.