

and the partial spasmodic contractions were much reduced in violence and frequency. At the end of the period above mentioned, the lead began to manifest its usual deleterious effects on the system; pains resembling rheumatism were felt about the shoulders and fore-arms, and a weakness of the wrist was apparent; costiveness, with pain in the bowels, likewise took place: On this account the lead was discontinued, especially as the returns of the spasms were now exceedingly slight and rare.

After a fortnight had elapsed, an increase of the spasms took place, and the patient appeared relapsing fast into her former state. The lead was again therefore had recourse to, and within a week was followed by the same good effects as at first, the disorder being much mitigated in violence, but not leaving her entirely, nor did it do so till the return of winter, when the symptoms altogether, though gradually, disappeared.

Although the use of the *saccharum saturni* was continued for upwards of two months, it did not now produce any ill effects on the system. I had an opportunity of knowing, that the disorder did not return the following summer; nor had any ill consequence succeeded the employment of the lead, which was never given in greater quantity than above specified. — I may add, that I have experienced the safety and advantage of this remedy in many other cases of spasmodic affection.

*To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

THE successful treatment of infectious Catarrhal Fever must be interesting to society at large; and more especially perhaps in naval and military service, wherein there are so many occasional causes occurring to its production. I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very humble servant,  
G. BELLAMY, Surgeon.

Spencer, Portsmouth Harbour,  
July 20, 1800.

An infectious Catarrhal Fever which existed with different degrees of violence on board His Majesty's ship *Bellerophon*, from the beginning of March to the end of April, 1797, I believe to have arisen from the following causes:

1st. The season of the year, which was particularly moist with raw coldness, and a bleak easterly wind, while we were fitting

fitting at Spithead for foreign service; shortly after which the disease took place.

2dly. The fatigue of the people in a hasty equipment, and the considerable addition of various stores, by which the ship was much crowded, preventing a free circulation of air, and assisting the ill influence of that from the atmosphere; which, whether it brought a disease *sui generis*, distinct in its form, and immediately acting on the body, predisposed for its reception; at least, acted as a debilitating cause, whereby the body became subject to fever, and marked by those secondary symptoms, of affections of parts of the body most easily influenced by the occasional cause, i. e. cold and moisture. Indeed, I rather think that at all times, though the catarrh be the prominent feature, that it is not the essence of the disease; and that it should rather be considered as fever with catarrh; that the former should be the object of treatment, and that the pulmonic and other symptoms should only be considered as of a secondary nature; that they should not contradict the treatment of the fever, only when they become violent, and point out the necessity of some sudden relief for the prevention of abscess of the lungs.

This was the almost uniform train of symptoms: The patients came in the morning, several together; complained of being taken ill in the night, some few of having gone to bed rather unwell; but always the alteration from health to sickness was sudden. Languor and despondency, nausea, sometimes vomiting; a sense of cold and exhaustion, (nothing like rigors succeeded by strong febrile heat); great pain of the head and loins; giddiness, almost drawing their limbs after them; obliged to be supported in the more severe cases; hollowness of the eyes, with blackness of the eye-lids; foetid breath, short cough, and pain of the chest; pulse quick and small, tongue whitish and trembling. When the fever was abated, or gone off, there was a long continuance of cough and debility; and in a few, the induction of chronic distempers; one of dropsy; the disposition to typhus was too plain. The indications of cure appeared to be:—First, The removal, or correction of the ostensible causes; for which purpose the different parts of the ship, wherever bad air might be confined, or generated, were emptied, fumigated with the nitrous gas; washed, dried by fires, and then washed with lime and vinegar. The lower gun-deck was also fumigated, as directed, with the nitrous gas, whilst the men were in their hammocks; and these measures were often repeated. The sick birth, and bedding of the sick, daily the same, unless when prevented by the violence of those pulmonic symptoms which the gas always provoked. The sick

were,

were, as much as possible, separated from the ship's company, and every care used that none but the nurses should attend them. And here is the strongest assurance of the infectious nature of the fever; for when all these occasional causes had been removed, and when even we had changed our climate by going to Lisbon, the number of sick did not lessen, though the violence of the disease certainly abated; therefore, the permanence of the disease, and the number of men who successively fell ill of it, must have been from contagion. The persons of the sick were also kept as clean as possible, and those who were confined to bed were put apart.

Secondly, After having evacuated the primæ viæ by a gentle emetic, and procured a stool or two, which removed so much offending matter, I gave, every six hours, four ounces of wine and one of lemon juice, as a cordial antiputrescent draught, and plenty of a pectoral decoction, which was also well acidulated. Where the oppression of the chest was violent a pediluvium; and at night promoted gentle perspiration by antimony and opium. In still more urgent cases, either of debility or pectoral affection, repeated blisters between the shoulders, and on the breast, from which immediate relief was experienced. When the pectoral complaints were abated, and debility considerable, tonics seemed to be indicated, but did not answer, as they always brought on pain of the breast, &c. with increased violence; and as I found the above draught very efficacious, I forbore the bark, &c. till a state of thorough convalescence, which was assisted by an addition of wine, gentle exercise, and regulating the bowels.

With any other disposition of fever venæsection would have been proper, where pulmonic inflammation was dreaded. In the case of those who remained long affected with cough, &c. when the fever was entirely gone, blisters and pectoral drinks were relied on, and proved equal to expectation, for I had the satisfaction not to lose a man.

*To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

I Do not remember in your valuable Journal, any discussion where death was occasioned by poison; if you think the following will assist your useful intentions, its insertion will much gratify your constant reader,

FREDERIC THACKERAY.

*Emanuel College, Cambridge, July 18, 1800.*