

practitioners should, I think, not be deterred from giving it a trial in a disease in which, as the friends of Dr. Sharkey's patients expressed themselves, death, should it follow, would be preferable to its continuance; and when we further consider, that though some of that gentleman's patients seemed alarmingly affected by the medicine, yet that none of them died, we have, I think, good reason not to dread, greatly, its effects.

In the case just related, every remedy that the most experienced practitioners could suggest was tried previously, and it will be observed that the dose exhibited was considerably (and probably unnecessarily) stronger than any given by Dr. Sharkey.

Broadstairs, Oct. 1831.

PRODUCTION OF PUSTULES ON THE TONGUE

BY THE EXHIBITION OF LARGE DOSES OF
TARTRATE OF ANTIMONY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have, in inflammatory affections of the lungs, been in the practice of prescribing, upon the Italian and French plan of treatment, the tartrate of antimony, in very considerable doses; viz. from ten to thirty grains in the day, in solution, generally with good effect. My opportunities of observation are numerous, as inflammatory diseases of the chest are frequent in this city from the excessive atmospheric moisture that prevails at almost all seasons, and as the duty of attending all acute diseases, with very few exceptions, requiring gratuitous aid, devolves on the dispensary to which I have been attached for the last five years, my practice has been extensive. After some days use of the antimonial, I have occasionally met with pustular eruptions of the tongue and lining membrane of the mouth, of the character, to all appearance, of the pustules produced on the skin by the application of the ointment of the tart. ant., and that without any previous excoriation. In the last case in which I observed it, the tongue only was affected; the medicine was discontinued and the pustules healed in two days; but the inflammatory action still going on, the use of the solution was resumed, and again pustules were produced.

My object in this communication is, to elicit the observations of others more practised and more competent. I have not seen

the circumstance noticed in any writers on the subject.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. FLEMING PORTER, M.D.

One of the Physicians to the Cork
General Dispensary.

Cork, September 24, 1831.

EXTERNAL APPLICATION OF THE CHLORIDE OF SULPHUR IN CUTANEOUS AFFECTIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your inserting the following outlines of cutaneous affections cured by the external application of the chloride of sulphur, a remedy scarcely noticed as a therapeutic agent. The beneficial effects resulting from its use for these fourteen months, induce me to intrude upon your valuable pages as the best means of giving it publicity.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. PELHAM BUCKLAND.

20, Great Trinity-lane, Oct. 1831.

CASE.

A young gentleman, who suffered severely from a periodical psoriasis for many years, consulted me, September 29, 1830, for the above disease, which had attacked him six weeks previously; during that time he employed several means to eradicate it, without effect; the leg was entirely covered with scales and deep fissures pouring out an acrid discharge; the thigh and arm were in a slight degree affected. I ordered him alterative doses of the pilul. hydrarg. with gentle saline aperients, and to rub the parts affected with an ointment composed of ʒi of the chloride of sulphur, to ʒi of simple cerate; he continued this treatment for a week, when he was completely cured, and remained so until the beginning of September in the present year, when he used the ointment for a few days, and is again quite recovered.

In December, 1830, a medical friend sent me a young woman, affected with lepra vulgaris, on purpose to try the effects of the chloride of sulphur. The case was one of six years standing, but had never during that time been completely cured; she was an in-patient in several hospitals, and obtained other professional advice, sometimes with relief for a few weeks; her head, face, and every part of the body, were entirely covered with the eruption: she used the ointment of the chloride of sulphur for six weeks, and was completely cured.