may find some apology for the commission of these cruelties by an Asiatic potentate of the present day in *the full exercise* of despotic power.

Baroda Camp, Oct. 9th.

P. STUART.

India Journal of Medical Science.

FEVER, WITH ULCERATIONS OF THE INTESTINES AND HÆMORRHAGE.

BY AMARIAH BRIGHAM, M.D. OF HARTFORD, CONN.

I AM induced to send for publication the following cases, accompanied by a few remarks, believing that it is only by the accumulation of facts that we can reasonably expect ever to solve the mystery that has for thousands of years enveloped the subject of fever.

Mrs. B., of this town, aged sixty-nine years, was attacked about the middle of September, 1835, with the symptoms of continued fever then prevalent in this city.

She was not at any time considered dangerously ill, and the sixth day of October was thought to be convalescent, when suddenly a profuse hæmorrhage from the bowels terminated her life in six hours.

No examination of the body was had.

About eight or ten days after this, Mr. Stuart, son of Professor Stuart, of Andover, 22 years of age, student of law, and a boarder in the house with Mrs. B., was attacked with the symptoms of the same fever, but of a mild character. He had slight chills at first, with headache, and complained of weakness. His tongue became coated, and he had some thirst. After taking laxative medicine, the headache diminished, and as he complained of no pain, but little was prescribed for him, further than to keep his bed, and pursue a moderately antiphlogistic course.

The evening of the sixth day of his illness he was considerably better, and appeared to be convalescent. His bowels had been gently moved that day, and he remarked that he thought himself on the recovery. He slept well until one o'clock of the same night, when he got up to use the close-stool, upon which, after a movement from his bowels, he fainted. He was placed in bed, and soon recovered from the faintness, and in a short time got up again, and again fainted in the same manner, and a third time he also got up and again fainted. At this time he looked so ghastly that his attendants became alarmed, and I was sent for. It was now discovered for the first time, that what had passed his bowels, amounting to two or three quarts, or more, was blood. I found him at four o'clock pulseless, nearly speechless, and apparently bloodless. After taking some hot stimulating and astringent remedies, he rallied a little—the pulse for a short time became perceptible, but it soon disappeared, and he expired at nine o'clock, eight hours after the first occurrence of the hæmorrhage.

In the afternoon of the same day, in company with Dr. Sumner, I examined the body. All the abdominal viscera externally, appeared pale, but perfectly healthy, with the exception of about three inches of the lower part of the ilium, which was of a darker color and thickened.

The mesenteric glands and veins near this portion were considerably enlarged. On opening the stomach and intestines, no disease was discovered at any other point, but at this part there were several round ulcers, with well-defined, hard, and elevated heads. One of these ulcers was twice as large as the others, being of the size of a ten cent piece, and was more elevated and rough. From this had proceeded the hæmorrhage, as the open mouth of a large vein was distinctly visible. There was also one ulcer in the caput coli, but this appeared to be healing, as did one or two of the others.

The day previous to the death of Mr. S., Mr. D., aged 22, a boarder in the same house, went to another part of the State, and the following day became sick with fever, and died in a short time. The particulars of his illness I have not learned, further than that his brain appeared much affected, and he died delirious.

One week after the death of Mr. S., a lad, aged 14, who lived in the same house, sickened with fever, and, after a protracted and severe illness, recovered.

I have known many cases of hæmorrhage from the bowels during fever, a few of which terminated fatally, while others have appeared to be benefited by the bleeding—but I have never witnessed a case when a fatal hæmorrhage occurred so soon after the commencement of fever as in the case of Mr. S. Abercrombie, in his *Pathological and Practical Researches on diseases of the stomach and intestinal canal*, relates one case strikingly similar in every particular to that of Mr. S.

That ulceration of the bowels occurs in fever, has been observed by Sydenham and the older medical authorities; and later pathologists have shown that it sometimes occurs in phthisis and other complaints, and very frequently in typhus and continued fever. Bretonneau says that ulcerative inflammation of the mucous glands of the bowels is generally found in those who die of fever. This ulceration is usually confined to the lower part of the small intestines. But what is the connection between this ulceration and fever? Is the ulceration a cause or a consequence of the fever? I am inclined to believe that all fevers called essential have a local origin, though I cannot agree with Broussais that they all result from gastro-intestinal irritation; but I am of the opinion that in the case of Mr. S., the ulceration was the cause of the fever; and other cases which I have witnessed, together with numerous ones reported by Abercrombie, Louis, and others, have led me to the conclusion that many, if not most cases of fever, arise from ulceration of the intestines.

Does not such ulceration of the bowels frequently heal? I have stated that some of the ulcers in the case of S. appeared to be healing, and M. Louis observed some that he thought were ready to cicatrize. I hope the physicians of this country will direct more attention than they have hitherto done, to the examination of the bodies of those that die of fever, and especially to the state of the intestinal canal. I am aware, from my own observation, that the state of the intestines has been frequently overlooked in examinations of the body, and the fever attributed to the lesion of the brain or lungs, or some other organ that probably was

secondarily affected, as we know that ulceration and irritation of the bowels is sometimes accompanied by, or appears to produce, violent delirium and disease of other organs. Sometimes ulceration of the bowels, accompanied by fever, suddenly terminates fatally by perforation of the bowels. Many such cases are recorded, in which there were no previous symptoms indicating disease of the intestines; at other times disease of the bowels was indicated by severe pain or diarrhœa. Many cases, however, of ulceration like that of S. were unaccompanied by pain, diarrhœa, or tenderness of the bowels, or by any symptoms indicating disorder of the abdomen, or that could distinguish them from cases of continued fever, that recovered.

I see no symptoms, in any of the four cases I have mentioned, but what may reasonably be attributed to ulceration of the bowels. The case of Mrs. B. and that of S. proved fatal by hæmorrhage; the delirium and affection of the brain in the case of D. might be secondary and caused by disease of the intestines, while that of the lad might be one in which the ulcers healed. These cases all seemed to originate from some common cause, as the individuals lived together, and their symptoms were similar at the commencement. I ought to observe, that, at the same time, there were an unusual number of instances in this city, where all or nearly all the members of a family had fever, one after another. The treatment of fever which has proved most successful would seem to justify the opinion, that, in many cases, the cause of the fever was disease of the mucous membrane of the bowels. I allude to the treatment by bleeding, leeches to the abdomen, gentle laxatives, demulcent drinks and quiet.

The practice of letting the bowels remain unmoved in fever, or only moving them by very gentle means in the commencement, has been adopted by many practitioners of experience in this vicinity, and though I have never adopted it myself, yet I have been surprised to see that very often those thus treated recover. But I cannot explain the recovery in such cases, without supposing the primary disease to be something like ulceration of the intestines, and by letting the bowels remain quiet this ulceration heals. Those who have adopted this practice have resorted to it, not from any theoretical views, but because they observed that moving the bowels frequently in fever produced diarrhœa and irritation of the bowels, which aggravated the disease, and often rendered it fatal, while, on the contrary, if the bowels were not moved, patients thus treated more frequently recover. Some who have adopted this practice have greatly erred, I think, in supposing that purgatives did injury by too greatly reducing the system, and have avoided other and necessary depletion by bleeding, and have often improperly resorted to stimulants.

I know that a powerful purgative in the commencement of fever sometimes appears to be serviceable, and this would no doubt be so in some cases, if the fever arose from ulcerative inflammation of the intestines, by its tendency to lessen the inflammation, and thus dispose the ulceration to heal. Still I am confident that frequent purgatives in fever in a majority of cases are injurious; their beneficial effect arises from the depletion they produce, and this can be effected far more safely by

bleeding. Guided by these views, I think I have found, when the symptoms would warrant bleeding, that the abstraction of blood in the commencement of fever, together with gently evacuating the bowels, followed by local bleeding, blistering, and cataplasms to the abdomen, with demulcent diaphoretic drinks, the avoidance of purgatives and stimulants, with complete quiet of body and mind, is the most successful mode of subduing fever. Sometimes, to be sure, symptoms arise, requiring the use of opium and other remedies. Sometimes calomel appears to be serviceable, and it would no doubt be so if the disease depended upon ulceration of the intestines. But my object is not to enter into detail respecting the treatment of fever, but to awaken inquiry, by calling attention to the fact, that ulceration of the intestines is a very frequent occurrence in fever, and may perhaps often be the cause of the disease.—*Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences.*

ON THE STIMULATING EFFECTS OF COLD WATER.

[THE following cases, though partaking not a little of the marvellous, are related as facts by Dr. Davidson, of Calcutta, in a late number of the India Medical Journal.]

I have lately read an account of a recovery from the effects of lightning by the application of cold water, in one of the numbers of your journal, and perhaps you will not object to the publication of the following circumstances, which may be relied on as perfectly free from exaggeration.

I was once called by my servants while at Asseergurh, to kill a large powerful snake that was seen on my farm yard. After a really desperate fight I killed a dháman six feet long, and, as I then thought, smashed its brains to atoms with a heavy solid bamboo. I took it up in triumph, and carried it to the front of my bungalow: as I wished to preserve it, and it had become very dirty, I poured a gharráh of water over its head, when, to my great surprise, it immediately began running down the hill, and I had to kill it over again. I believed that the re-animation had been caused by the application of the cold water.

Returning from Bombay in 1823, I passed through the cantonments at Jalná, then occupied by Madras troops. I called one morning on Dr. Alexander, who was attached to the Horse Artillery, and he told me that he had, in that morning's ride, rode down and killed a sickly wolf, with his hunting whip. I wished to see it, and was taken to the compound hedge, where the animal to all appearance lay dead. I said, "I'll make that wolf get up and look you in the face." Alexander laughed, and said that he had smashed its skull with the heavy brass end of his whip, and trailed it lifeless after him for a mile or two. I still persisted that I could re-animate it. At last he said, "Very well, try." Some cold water was procured, and on its being dashed over the skull, the animal got up, rested on its fore legs, and stared at us both with a most horrid glare! If Dr. Alexander be alive, he will probably remember his astonishment on the occasion.