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XV. *Of a remarkable Cure effected by the Use of Carbonic Acid Gas, communicated in a Letter to his Excellency Prince Demetrius de Golitzin, Minister of the Imperial Court of Russia at the Hague. By M. D. JANSSENS of Oosterhout. From the New Transactions of the Imperial Academy of Sciences at Peterburgh, Vol. I.*

Oosterhout, Nov. 23d, 1778.

IN the conversation I had the honour of having with your Excellency on the medical virtue of carbonic acid gas, or fixed air, I promised to give you an account of the effects it might produce in the putrid fever, by being injected into the rectum; but though in the following case, which is certainly very uncommon, I have not exactly followed the method pointed out by your Excellency, having been obliged to give as much of the cinchona or Peruvian bark as possible, I however believe that it greatly contributed to the cure.

The wife of a bargeman at G. Berg, named N. Swart, aged thirty-two, of a sanguine temperament and a sound constitution from the time of her birth, was attacked, after her third natural delivery, according to every appearance a favourable one, which happened on the 6th of October at two o'clock in the morning, with a fever that began on the 8th. It may be right to premise, that on the 6th she was exceedingly well, and her evacuations were perfectly free.

On the 7th they flowed less, and she began to complain of lassitude, a great heaviness in all her limbs attended with a loss of appetite, and the disappearance of milk from her breasts. At the commencement of the third day the evacuations were stopped, and the fever came on by cold and successive fits of shivering with retching and pain in the head, which was not acute, but accompanied with a sensation like that of a weight pressing on the cranium, and from which she suffered less when in bed than when sitting up. These symptoms were followed by a great heat, with vomiting of a bilious, greenish, highly corrupted stuff: her tongue
was

was covered with a viscous matter of a yellowish colour the two first days, but it was afterwards brown till the 6th.

Her breathing was short, oppressive, and accompanied with a fetid smell. The pulse, which was weak, beat from 90 to 94 in a minute. The heat was not examined by a thermometer. The urine was red and fetid, without sediment. The patient had a violent thirst, and drank a great deal of whey with lemon juice.

On the second day of the fever she was affected with delirium, coma, restlessness, and a dread of death. On the third all these symptoms increased. On the fourth there was an involuntary discharge of urine, &c. On the fifth there came on a diarrhoea of a bilious and putrid matter; and the delirium being then continual, she suffered every thing to escape her. On the sixth the symptoms were no better. On the seventh the tonsils were white, and this thickened secretion, at length, covered all the parts of the mouth; deglutition became difficult, there was subfultus tendinum, and the patient with her trembling fingers picked the blankets. On the eighth all the symptoms were as before, with vibices half an inch in diameter, which rose in small blisters, and appeared on the breast, the hands, and other parts of the body. On the ninth these blisters discharged blood, for the most part thin and corrupted, the ground of which was in some a brown purple, and in others red. The cheeks were also of a brown purple colour, the eyes hollow, and the pupils much dilated. At last a cold sweat broke out on the face, the hands and feet; the mouth quivered, and the cheeks, lips, and all the members of the body were slightly convulsed.

All these bad symptoms gave reason to be apprehensive for the life of the patient; but the pulse continuing regular gave me some hope. While the patient was in this condition, being called in to consult with the physician who had treated the case according to the rules of the art, I advised the application of carbonic acid gas by the rectum, together

gether with the following decoction : Twenty-five grains of salt of tartar (carbonat of pot-ash) dissolved in five ounces of a strong decoction of bark. I gave five ounces of this decoction, in which I had put as many drops of spirit of vitrol (sulphuric acid), to extricate the fixed air.

This injection was given twice the two first days, and only once daily for the three following.

In regard to medicine, the patient took every hour, in a cup-full of tea, the following decoction : Cinchona or bark in a coarse powder, four ounces, digested in a sufficient quantity of common water for three hours, till reduced to two pounds. I dissolved in a pound of this decoction a grain of salt of tartar, to which I added the other pound, into which I had put as many drops of spirit of vitriol as were necessary to saturate the alkali, and disengage the carbonic acid gas*.

On the tenth day all the symptoms were the same, except that the sweats were less cold. On the eleventh they were still less so ; and perspiration proceeding equally from every part of the body, the tonsils began to look better, deglutition was not so difficult, and the delirium was not so continual. From time to time the patient was collected, and called for the urinal.

The twelfth and thirteenth she was still much better ; the colour of the cheeks was almost natural, and the vibices became of a brighter red ; the convulsions ceased, and all the other symptoms had almost disappeared. On the fourteenth a perfect crisis took place in regard to the urine and perspiration. On the fifteenth the patient felt no more fever, and had no symptom of disease except great debility ; so that on the twentieth day she was perfectly reestablished.

During the course of the disease her breasts were flaccid and very small, without milk ; but having visited her on the

* This does not appear to be the best method that might have been devised for introducing the carbonic acid gas. In fact, the greatest part of that extricated from the carbonat would be thrown off at the moment of joining the ingredients. EDIT.

tenth of November, I saw milk issue from her breast ; and, as she had almost recovered her strength, I advised her to let her infant try to suck, and the milk was restored.

I have been particular in detailing this case, that your Excellency, from the circumstances both of the nature of the disease and of its cause, which was probably a stoppage of the floodings after delivery, might the better be enabled to judge of the medical virtue of carbonic acid gas ; and, at the same time, to see the reasons I have had for varying the application. I was afraid of a putrefaction or universal gangrene ; against which I prescribed bark ; and as the latter could not prevent the extrication of the carbonic acid gas, I added the substances necessary to produce it.

XVI. *Extract of a Memoir on the Fossil Bones of Quadrupeds. By Cit. CUVIER. From Bulletin des Sciences, No. XVIII.*

THE author's object in this memoir was to collect, as far as possible, every information respecting the various kinds of fossil bones hitherto found, whether seen by himself or described by others ; to examine the skeletons, and to compare them with those of animals now existing on the globe, in order to determine how far they are similar or different. The following are the kinds which he examined :

1. The bones and tusks called by the Russians the bones and horns of the mammoth. Such fossil remains are found in various parts of Europe. This animal is a kind of elephant nearly resembling that of Asia, but differs from it in the alveoli of its tusks being longer ; that the angle formed by its lower jaw is more obtuse, and that the laminæ of which its grinders are composed are thinner. A living animal really analogous to it is not known, though it has hitherto been considered as a common elephant.

2. The