and Mr. Harris, surgeon of the *Magnificent*, after Rodney's victory in April 1782, used it in the same way with a tetanic patient that recovered. But, whether the cure of Sylvest is to be attributed to the warm-bath, and oil frictions,—to the artificial heat, and profuse perspiration,—or to the effects of the tobacco fumes ;—or whether it might have been owing to a particular state of the patient's constitution,—or an unusually pliable form of the disease, which, by the bye, was not to be expected from the cause,—or from a combination of some or all of these circumstances, I cannot pretend to determine.

I have detailed the case as it occurred. I have given my reasons for walking out of the beaten path ; and, from the success of this, I shall feel myself authorized in repeating the experiment.

Before concluding this subject, I may observe, that a boy, about eight years of age, the orphan of a clergyman of this island, and at present in Edinburgh for his education, Daniel Mactair, recovered from the same disease, brought on by cold, under the use of the warm-bath and unctuous frictions, with a very small proportion of laudanum internally. And, a few weeks ago, I knew an infant, of seven days, recover from the trismus infantum, by the warm bath only.

[*Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal.*]

On the Oil of Turpentine in Epilepsy. By DAVID LITHGOW, M. D. Coleraine, Ireland.

A NEW field has lately been opened for discussion, by the introduction of the oil of turpentine in epilepsy, by Dr. Percival, a physician of great eminence, who, from his situation in the hospital for incurables, has the best opportunity of making improvements in his profession. The action of this, like that of many other medicines, is unknown. Dr. Percival draws a conclusion from his cases in the following words : " The only specific action of that drug was apparently emmenagogue ; a hint not undeserving of application in other cases." From the three cases related by himself, and one by Dr. Latham, in the 36th Number of this Journal, and also from the following case, which occurred to myself, I was led to form the same opinion.

SARAH GRAY, ætatis 23, of a robust habit of body, was subject to attacks of epilepsy for six months. The paroxysms occurred

at intervals of a month, during the beginning of her complaint, but latterly she has been much oftener seized, once, and occasionally twice in a week. She is affected during the night, and, in a state of insensibility, is violently convulsed for upwards of ten minutes, the fits leaving her in a tolerably good state of health. Bowels regular; catamenia regular, but in small quantity; knows no cause for her complaints. I ordered her an aloetic purge, after which she began to use the oil of turpentine. The second day she had a slight attack; the menstrual flux was increased in a quantity, and she never had a return of her complaint.

From this, and the four cases above alluded to, (all the subjects being females) I was led to agree with Dr. Percival in opinion, and to think, that how valuable soever the discovery might be to the female, the male sex were to lose all the benefit arising from it. But, from a further employment of it, I changed my opinion, and concluded, that although its power was great as an emmenagogue, it was an unknown effect which produced the ascendancy over the epileptic attack.

JAMES BOOTHE, ætatis 28, of a short stature, and plethoric habit, has been subject, for these ten years, to attacks of epilepsy of a severe kind. Dates the origin of his complaints from a severe fright, since which time he has had regular attacks every month, and sometimes frequent fits for the course of eight days. For a short period after the cessation of these fits he is in a state of mental derangement; during the paroxysms he is quite insensible. Bowels costive, and occasional headachs. I had first recourse to the use of purgatives; afterwards a number of the more powerful anti-epileptic remedies were tried in vain; when I began (February 15th) to use the oil of turpentine, in the quantity of four drachms, diffused, by syrup, in a pint of peppermint-water, a wine glassful was given four times a-day. A week after he had a return of the paroxysm, but in a slighter degree; at the usual period of return he had a few attacks, so slight that they were scarcely perceptible; since which time he has remained in perfect health. In the course of his recovery he made use of upwards of two pounds of turpentine, without any sensible effect. He sometimes complained of a sense of pricking throughout his whole body, with occasional vertigo.

[*Edinburgh Journal.*]