

in the form of the joint, but at one part, between the heads of the tibia and fibula, it was tender to the touch. This indicated the presence of a degree of chronic inflammation, to relieve which I advised the application of a blister, a remedy by which I had often observed extraordinary relief produced, from the symptoms which so often continue after joints have been sprained or dislocated, and which no system of depletion subdues. In this case, accordingly, a blister was applied, and had the desired effect. It created considerable irritation, which required the patient to keep the joint tranquil for a few days, after which he completely recovered.

months in a lady who is now under my care, and who has been treated with opium, quinine, carbonate of iron, &c., without obtaining relief. The *Tr. Belladonnae*, in doses of from twenty to twenty-five minims, has been taken the last few nights on going to bed, and once or twice has been repeated a few hours after, and she is now nearly convalescent.

I believe the tincture, according to the above formula, is kept by Corbyn and Co., and if a fair trial be given to it by any of your readers, I should feel obliged by the result of their experience being communicated to me.

Yours, &c.

W. T. ILIFF.

Newington, Dec. 12, 1834.

BELLADONNA IN NEURALGIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It has been observed “that more real service may be rendered to medicine by the illustration of what is already known, than by any attempt to promulgate new theories, or new modes of practice.” I am, therefore, induced to call the attention of your readers to a remedy, which, although recorded as valuable, I do not find by any means commonly employed. I allude to the internal exhibition of belladonna in those painful affections of the head and face, which prevail more particularly about this period of the year. In the year 1818 a very interesting pamphlet on this subject was written by a very respectable practitioner of Harwich (Mr. Bailey), in which the author establishes the use of belladonna by the result of his experience. Some years previous to this, he had noticed the subject in the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*. Mr. Bailey’s formula for the tincture is as follows:—

℞ *Belladonnae foliorum exsiccatorum*,
uncias duas;
Spiritus tenuioris, octavium. Macere
per dies viginti, et cola.

The dose of the above is from twenty to forty minims. Of the extract he begins with gr. j, and repeats it every four or six hours.

To say that my experience has been extensive, would be incorrect; however, I made some of the tincture a few years ago, from the above formula, and have from time to time used it, and I am happy to say with success. Violent pain in the left side of the face, occurring at about one o’clock in the morning, and lasting during several hours, has existed for nearly three

RHEUMATISM.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIAN-RUBBER CLOTH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You possibly may consider the subject of this letter sufficiently important for introduction into the columns of THE LANCET. It relates to that prevalent, most painful, and perplexing disease, Rheumatism.

It was, unfortunately, my fate to contract chronic rheumatism at the commencement of last September. It affected at first chiefly the muscles in the front of the thigh, ultimately extending upwards to those around the hip-joint and lower lumbar vertebræ and downwards, involving the extensors of the foot and the plantars.

When the disease had continued five weeks, the circumference of the lower portion of the thigh was nearly three inches less than its fellow, while the skin was dry and loose. The usual routine of practice was complied with. Warm-baths at 108° degrees afforded relief during immersion, but exasperated the pain for the next forty-eight hours. Blisters over the most painful portions of the limb rendered the pain bearable, but only while they remained open. At the end of two months I found no abatement of my sufferings. I hobbled with a stick in the streets, and ascended stairs by climbing.

I discovered, at the onset of the malady, that the affected thigh never perspired while in the bath, and though for some time afterwards the whole of the body perspired profusely, no perspiration could be detected on the diseased limb, although its temperature was even greater than that of its fellow. The application of dry heat at a