

feeble and indistinct; the skin quite cold; the breathing less perceptible; the speech and the powers of mind gradually vanished; and, finally, he died like one in a trance:—he fell, without an effort, into the sleep of death!"

289. MARCH, 1823.

A case from Mr Bampfield's Essay which stands as the first article in this number, is given in another place.

Art. VI. *Case of Acute Rheumatism translated to the heart.*
By A. ARMSTRONG, Esq.

The patient, a young man of slender form, was admitted to the hospital November 7th, with acute rheumatism. Active treatment was used. 9th, Symptoms a little milder, though still urgent. 10th, Complained first of cough. 11th, Cough more frequent accompanied with pain in the left side. 12th, Pulse strong and full to a degree never before noticed by the medical attendants. Bleeding to the extent of 40 ounces, and a perfect antiphlogistic course, were followed neither by syncope, nor hardly a perceptible difference in the pulse.

'On the 13th, he had passed another sleepless night, from the violence of the pain in his arms. His cough, and the pain in the left side, which he referred exactly to the situation of the heart, had also increased. His bowels were again disposed to be confined, and the arterial action was but little diminished. A purging enema was thrown up, and he continued the use of the mixture, to which forty drops of the tincture of digitalis was added. He previously took another cathartic.

'At the evening visit, the disease was evidently gaining ground. He complained more of the pain of the left side, and his pulse was as hard and full as ever, vibrating most powerfully under the finger. Thirty-six leeches were applied to the left side, with instructions to encourage the bleeding; and the dose of the digitalis was increased.

'On the 14th, he was considered rather better, and hopes were entertained that there was still a chance of his recovery, as the pains in the arms were milder, and he complained less of the pain in his side. These hopes were, however, of short duration: he was seized with fainting-fits whenever his head was raised from the pillow, and in one of them he expired, at two o'clock P.M. on the sixth day of the disease.

'*Dissection.*—On opening the cavity of the chest, the imme-

diatè cause of his death, as we had conjectured, was clearly ascertained to be inflammation of the heart; that viscus was considerably enlarged in size, and the surface every where covered with a layer of coagulable lymph, so loosely adhering as to yield to light pressure with the finger. The liquor pericardii was more abundant than usual, and of a turbid reddish colour. The inflammation had not extended to the lungs; and all the other viscera, both in the abdomen and the thorax, were apparently healthy?

Art. VII. *Remarks on Abortion.* By H. W. WARD, Esq.

Mr Ward with Dr D. Stewart believes that the death of the foetus is frequently owing to irritation of the bowels, and that to prevent it is to remove this irritation by opium used either as a suppository, or given by the mouth. This irritation is manifested by diarrhœa, and it is to the diarrhœa Mr W. attributes abortion. He gives a case in which abortion had occurred three successive times. He was called in at the fourth. It was the fifth month of pregnancy, and it was at this period the other abortions had occurred. No pains were present which seemed to warrant any idea of labour. She was suffering much from diarrhœa which had now existed four days. An opiate mixture was given, but without checking the discharges and in eight hours a dead foetus was expelled.

He was called again to the same patient with similar symptoms, and in the fifth month of pregnancy. An oleaginous mixture was given, and afterwards suppositories of opium. These produced no relief, and large and repeated doses of laudanum were now given. The bowel complaint soon yielded and the woman went her full time, and was delivered of a living child. Cases are next alluded to, in which all ordinary exertions will be foiled. These cases may be dependent on syphilitic taint, inaptness in the uterus to the development which the growth of its contents requires, or in some state of the uterine vessels which prevents a due supply of blood to the foetus.

There are one or two circumstances in Mr W.'s case which deserve a moments consideration. It appears abortion occurred with great regularity as to the period of pregnancy, the fifth month, and that it was attended and as he thinks was produced by diarrhœa. Now how are we to explain this periodical occurrence of diarrhœa with its attendant irritation of the bowels. Mr W. seems to think that this was an idiopathic affection, and that to relieve this was to prevent the abortion. Is it not however a little probable, that this diarrhœa was an