

syrup of foxglove with this, it most effectually cures consumptions. I have done such great cures with it thus given in consumptive people, and such as have been given over as incurable, as have put me into an amazement. But then it is to be given for some time till it is manifest that the obstructions causing the consumption are perfectly removed and the patient evidently regains flesh and strength." Z.



DESCRIPTION OF A SUBSTITUTE FOR LEECHES.

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[Extracted from the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal.]

IN a late pamphlet on cupping, by Mr. Mapleson of London, it is affirmed, that the adroit performance of the operation continues to be confined to a few individuals in that capital. I never witnessed the operation by any of those gentlemen, but it has been minutely described to me by a person, who had undergone the operation himself and seen it repeatedly practised upon others. The neatness and expedition with which they abstract even large quantities of blood, fully justify the frequent recourse which is had to their assistance in London practice; and notwithstanding the great number of scarifications, inflicted by three or four applications of a scarificator, containing sixteen lancets, the pain, I am assured, is so inconsiderable, that patients readily submit to the operation. Mr. Mapleson's professed object is to instruct surgeons in the most approved method of cupping; but it may be doubted, whether any directions, however explicit, or even the occasional performance of the operation with the apparatus now in use, can enable surgeons in general to rival, in any degree, the dexterity of those who practise this operation exclusively.

I have long been in the practice of procuring a discharge of blood both from scarifications and the bites of leeches, by means of cupping glasses, originally intended to be used with an air-syringe, employing merely suction with the mouth; and I can with much confidence recommend this, probably the most ancient mode of cupping, as the simplest, the most certainly effectual in the hands of those not much accustomed to the operation,

not liable to the obstructions, which apply to the air-syringe, and capable of wholly superseding the spirit of wine-lamp, in the use of which alone the dexterity of the professional cupper is admitted to consist.

As the brass cap and screw with which the cupping glass used with the air-syringe is mounted, render it rather inconvenient for suction by the mouth, I have lately had some formed entirely of glass, of the ordinary sizes and shapes, except that they have a cylindrical mouth-piece, about an inch in length, projecting from their apex. On the superior aperture of the mouth-piece, a valve is formed, and at any time very easily renewed, by tying on a small bit of smooth bladder. It might perhaps add to the neatness of the operation, to have the tubular part of the glass of a much greater length, by enabling the operator to keep his head further removed from the patient. But this, in some situations, might prove inconvenient and would render the glasses less portable and more liable to accident.

These cupping glasses may be had at Messrs. Boogs, cutlers, Edinburgh, with whom one is left as a pattern; and any gentleman, without proceeding to the operation of cupping, may satisfy himself of their simplicity and effect, by merely dipping the edge of the glass in water, applying it to the palm of the hand, and employing a little suction; or by sucking the air from it, inverted upon water, when it will be found, that it may be entirely exhausted by two moderate inspirations; and that the valve completely excludes the air upon the suction being discontinued. This facility of exhaustion suggests the necessity of caution, not to carry it too far in cupping, which, as Mr. Mapleson observes, impedes the flow of blood, by compressing the cutaneous vessels.

The scarcity of leeches for some years past, appears to me to impose it as a duty upon surgeons to become more familiar with the practice of cupping, more especially among the lower orders, who must otherwise, from not being able to obtain leeches, often forego the advantages to be derived from local blood-letting. When, from timidity of patients, or other reason, leeches are preferred, instead of the tedious and often ineffectual fomentation of the bites, a sufficient quantity of blood may, in general, be obtained in a very short time with these glasses, particularly if the leeches have been applied in groups, so that each glass may include four or five bites.