

fluence. We have an analogous example in the case of mercury, of which moderate quantities, judiciously exhibited, are sufficient to cure the venereal disease, provided the mercury is given when venereal symptoms are present, and only in the quantity necessary to control these symptoms. If it be given by way of prevention, when these symptoms are not present, or in too great quantity when they are, the system in either case becomes saturated with the mineral, but is not protected from the further ravages of the venereal disease. The second mode of treatment which I adopted was calculated to avoid the inconvenience already pointed out. This method consisted of giving the quinine for four successive days, and intermitting it for the six following days, thus embracing the interval comprehended in three fits. By these means it was hoped to keep the system sufficiently under the curative influence of quinine, while we avoided rendering the constitution too familiar with the medicine; the six-day interval preventing it from becoming saturated by the quinine. This method of treatment seems to have been eminently successful, and under its influence the disease abated in violence, the frequency of the attacks decreased, and the long interval of one hundred and thirty-six days was at last obtained. Finding, however, that, though it had broken the violence of the disease, it had not extinguished it, I tried another on the third plan, which was to give no quinine until a well-marked fit or shadow of a fit occurred, and then at once to use the medicine in large doses, so as to stop the fits as soon as possible. The moment this object was accomplished, the medicine was omitted, and was not again given until the paroxysms recurred, when they were similarly treated. This, on the whole, appears the best method, as it stops the paroxysms speedily, and keeps the medicine in reserve until they appear."

[Dr. Graves gives a long table to show the different days on which the medicine was given, and the doses. From this table it appears that the dose was varied from ten grains in the day to sixty. At the commencement, the doses each day were fifteen or thirty grains in draughts of five grains, but at last they were sixty grains daily, in doses of five grains each.]

#### CASE OF MALIGNANT PUSTULE.

By W. L. Sutton, M.D.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

AUGUST 4, 1840, I was called to see William Jalyers, aged 21, who had been complaining for several days of pain and swelling of the right arm, with some sickness of stomach. To-day he has suffered immensely with distress and a sense of sinking at the præcordia—so much so, that the family feared his speedy dissolution. There is over the inner side and lower end of the radius a pustule about the size of a dime, dark-brown, and surrounded by a vesicular margin, altogether very much like a vaccine pustule at maturity. The hand, fore-arm, and part of the arm, are very much swelled, red and painful; pulse moderately full; tongue

a little furred. Bled to  $\frac{3}{4}$  xv. R. Ipecac.,  $\frac{3}{4}$  ss. immediately ; to be followed at night by calomel,  $\frac{1}{2}$  j. Bandage the arm to the shoulder.

5th. Emetic operated pretty well, which together with the bleeding, gave relief for a few hours ; but he has suffered as much this morning as ever. Arm more swelled. Made a crucial incision in the pustule to the depth of half an inch, which produced no sensation. Applied actual cautery, an iron rod about one third of an inch in diameter, at nearly a white heat. When the rod had penetrated about an inch, the patient complained of pain, and the burning was stopped ; the arm freely rubbed with volatile liniment ; a bandage applied, and over that an emollient poultice. R. Ol. ricini to purge off the calomel. After this, friction with the liniment and bandaging were the only remedies used.

After the general tumefaction subsided, there remained a slight tumefaction on the lower part of the fore-arm, about four inches in diameter ; at first red and hard, afterwards it appeared to contain a small quantity of pus. He refused to have it opened. He was directed to rub it with the ointment of stramonium, which appeared to remove the swelling.

When first questioned about having handled any dead cattle, he said that he had not ; afterwards, however, he said that some time before he had skinned a dead cow.

If this was, as I thought, a case of malignant pustule, it was the first I had ever heard of in this section of country. I have since understood that several cases occurred in the county of Harrison, in this State. They were represented as very severe, and I think one or more deaths. I know nothing as to the treatment pursued in those cases.

In the case which I saw, there was a type of disease decidedly more inflammatory than appears to have characterized those which have been reported in Europe. The gastric distress appears to have been as great, and very much of the same character. It is yet doubtful whether the case above reported, occurred idiopathically, or had a connection with the skinning the dead cow. From the time which had elapsed, I am disposed to think the former was true—although I do not know of any case on record, which could be considered of similar origin.

*Georgetown, Ky., Sept., 1846.*

## THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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*Forest Trees of America.*—If it is ever allowable to make a departure from the strict, legitimate purposes of medical journalizing, no better object could draw us aside than the interests of a department of rural life, which refines the moral sentiments, while it instructs the mind, viz., *arborculture*. With a growing taste for the beautiful in nature, as it exists in trees, shrubs and vines—especially in this part of the United States,