

99. *Recovery from taking two drachms of Arsenic.*—Mr. TOOGOOD relates the following example of this. W. R. aged 17, swallowed two drachms of arsenic, which he coarsely bruised with the end of a bottle at nine, P. M., on the 2d of June, 1817, with a view to self-destruction. He repented, and made it known a quarter of an hour afterwards. Six grains of emetic tartar were immediately given and quickly repeated. Vomiting was soon excited, and briskly kept up, by copious draughts of warm water for two hours. Nothing was retained on the stomach during the night, and he complained of constant and severe pain in the stomach and bowels. He passed the night without rest, and on the following morning he complained still of great pain in his stomach and bowels, was very hot, with a frequent pulse and flushed countenance. He was copiously bled, and his bowels were relieved by injections, but nothing could be retained on the stomach until the evening after the application of a blister. Effervescing medicines, with opium, were then kept with difficulty, but he was not so much relieved until the fourth to make his recovery certain.—*Prov. Med. and Surg. Journ.* January 1, 1842.

MISCELLANEOUS.

100. *Animal Magnetism.*—After an interesting and judicious paper read to the Westminster Medical Society, by Mr. Longmore, condemnatory of animal magnetism, the discussion was much enlivened by the practical exhibition of the mesmeric treatment upon a susceptible subject, one of the members of the society, who was well known, and beyond suspicion. The subject of the experiment was a young gentleman of about nineteen years of age, of the sanguine-nervous temperament, robust, and healthy. Having taken a seat at the table, the chairman entered into conversation with him, obviously for the purpose of removing any agitation that might exist, that the experiment might be fairly conducted. The society was informed that one of the peculiar features of this case was the power the individual possessed of inducing upon himself the “*crisis*,” or the “mesmeric sleep,” without manipulation, or the intervention of a second party. Having taken his seat in the area, he showed the society how he could induce the “*crisis*.” He held a pen towards the point of his nose, and fixed his eyes (which necessarily squinted a little) upon the pen, but his *finger* he said would do equally well. Having continued steadfastly gazing, as it were, at the point of his nose for about forty or fifty seconds, he fell back upon the chair in a fit similar to that of epilepsy, with this difference, that the muscles of his face were not distorted, nor was there any foaming at the mouth. The muscles of the trunk and limbs were, however, rigid; his pulse quick and irregular; the pupils dilated, and the tips of his fingers ice-cold. When an arm or leg was raised, it remained out-stretched and rigid in the position in which it was placed, as in catalepsy. While sitting on the chair with his head much drawn backwards over the back of the chair, first, one arm was raised by an assistant evidently with some difficulty from the rigidity of the muscles, till the limb was at right angles with the trunk, when it remained fixed in that position. The other arm was then raised in a similar manner, and left fixed at a similar angle. It was proposed then to try the effects of lifting the legs. While the young man was still sitting with his arms projecting forwards at right angles, one foot was first raised till the whole lower limb projected forwards upon a level with the seat of the chair; the other foot was then treated in a similar manner, and the four limbs left in these awkward positions for a much longer period than could be maintained by any voluntary effort. He was aroused after some minutes by a smart stroke upon one of the outstretched limbs, and appeared much confused and bewildered, but soon regained his usual appearance. Soon afterwards the chairman tried upon him the usual manipulations, but with the *backs* of the *hands* instead of the *palms*; a process which is said to be entirely useless, or inadequate to produce, according to the adepts, any mesmeric effects what-