

cising an immediate influence on the condition of the blood. Wines, spirits, and beer, should be avoided in the more acute forms of this disease, but they become necessary to maintain power in the more advanced stages.—*Analysis of the Blood and Urine*. 2d ed.

24. *Headache accompanied with Alkaline Urine*.—Dr. SHEARMAN describes in the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal* (Aug. 20th, 1845), a peculiar form of headache which he states is “accompanied with alkaline urine, of the specific gravity of from 1.015 to 0.130, depositing *triple phosphates* and *phosphate of lime*; and a *deficiency of urea*. The headache is described as a dull weary pain, affecting the memory and imagination; there is uneasy sleep, often conjuring up very unusual sensations and ideas. The appetite continues good; bowels regular; tongue clean; pulse quick and often feeble; but a great feeling of debility attends this form of headache.

“I imagine,” says Dr. S., “in this disease, there is *just sufficient urea circulating in the blood to derange the brain*, which is the *sole cause of the headache*; and as soon as the kidneys return to health, and separate the whole of the urea from the blood, *the pain ceases*.

“Instead of giving purgatives, using local bleeding, and blistering the back of the neck, &c., I think the best mode of treating this is to give animal food, good sound porter, light tonics, with nitric and muriatic acid; merely attending to the secretions and excretions, without using any decided alterative course of medicine. I have met with several such cases, which have soon yielded to this simple mode of treatment, and I think this is the class of headaches, cases of which are sometimes quickly cured by tonics and stimulants, prescribed at random, after the failure of an antiphlogistic mode of treatment.”

25. *Action of excessive doses of Mercury on the Pancreas*.—A case is related by Dr. COPLAND which strikingly illustrates the morbid action which mercury, taken in excess, occasionally exercises upon the pancreas, in common with most of the other secretory glands. “A female, 29 years of age, contracted syphilis, for which she was treated by means of corrosive sublimate. Violent pytalism took place, four pounds of saliva being excreted in the twenty-four hours. As this secretion diminished, diarrhoea appeared and increased. Soon afterwards, the patient complained of anxiety and heat, with a fixed, obtuse, and deep-seated pain at the epigastrium; loss of appetite, nausea, tension of the abdomen; of great thirst and dryness of the throat, and rapid pulse. These symptoms were aggravated when the stomach was full. During five days some amelioration was remarked, but bilious vomiting supervened, and the pain and diarrhoea increased. The frequency of the calls to stool became remarkably great; a watery yellowish fluid, resembling saliva, being voided. The deep-seated pain above the umbilicus prevented the patient from lying on her back and left side, and was increased by a full inspiration. Some days of relief followed, after which a violent increase of fever appeared, with a return of the diarrhoea, an acute pain at the epigastrium, and orthopnoea. Blood-letting was prescribed. The following morning the parotids were hot and painful; the mouth was burning, the pulse small, and the stools were suppressed. Mercury, camphor and opium were ordered, and leeches, blisters, &c., to the parotids. Towards evening, the breathing became stertorous, the anxiety extreme, the pulse thready and intermittent, the extremities cold, and the face hippocratic. She expired in the night. The pancreas was found red, swollen, and somewhat more consistent than natural. It weighed eight ounces; and the blood ran freely from it upon dividing it. The duct was dilated. The parotids were also inflamed.” We apprehend that practitioners generally have failed to observe the probable dependence of the diarrhoea of children in whom mercury has been given to excess, in part to a disordered state of the pancreas and its secretion.—*Dictionary of Practical Medicine*.

26. *Danger of Mercury in Bright's Disease*.—MR. HARRISON presented to the Reading Pathological Society, the kidneys of a female in the middle period of life, atrophied to the last stage of Bright's disease. The urine in the bladder was one mass of albumen. For the last ten months she had been complaining of a