CASE III.—I was consulted by a gentleman who had been suffering for some time from a sore throat of undefined character, but whose health in other respects did not appear to be much impaired; but having lost two brothers, in both of whom an affection of the throat was one of the earliest symptoms of disease, which ultimately terminated in consumption, his friends became greatly alarmed for the event. I did not see either of the former cases, but I understood that although they commenced with sore throat the disease did not differ from ordinary consumption. An accurate investigation of all the circumstances induced a suspicion in my mind that there existed some venereal taint, which was strengthened by observing a hard tuberculated swelling about the size of a small pea on the penis. On questioning my patient closely on this point, he assured me that he never had any venereal sore in his life, but admitted that four years before he had contracted a slight complaint which was pronounced not to be venereal, which, speedily got well under simple treatment, and that he had never had the slightest symptom of disease since. I recommended the same plan of very mild mercurial friction, which had been so successful in other cases, as the only probable means of cure. To this, however, both the patient and his friends objected, partly on account of his being of a scrofulous habit, but chiefly in consequence of the deliberate opinions of two deservedly eminent surgeons, who had stated that such a course would in all probability be fatal. So confidently, however, did I anticipate a different result, that I urged him to adopt the plan, and by steadily persevering in it for six weeks he was completely restored to health, and several years have since elapsed, during which he has never experienced the slightest return of his former complaint.

I have witnessed several similar cases in which the practice has been adopted with the same success.

Bridge-water, Oct. 1842.

EPILEPSY FROM PROTRACTED LACTATION.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—If you think the subjoined case of epilepsy, resulting from protracted suckling, of sufficient importance, I shall feel obliged by your insertion of it in your Journal. It is by far the most protracted instance which I have witnessed, and, so far as I remember, I have never seen any case recorded where lactation was continued for such an unwarrantable length of time.

Your obedient servant,

JAMES ORWIN,

Surgeon to the Worcester Ophthalmic Institution.

Worcester, Sept. 29, 1842.

Mrs. W., aged twenty-seven, was confined in September, 1838, of a daughter; her health had been previously good, and she recovered favorably after her confinement. She continued to suckle the child for a period of about three years and a quarter, when I was requested to see her, and found her suffering from the following symptoms:—extreme debility with loss of appetite, so that she had not the least inclina-

tion for food; tongue coated; bowels rather relaxed; pulse quick and feeble, with severe and frequent pain in the head; for the last four or five months she had had an almost constant sanguineous secretion from the uterus, and before this appeared she had had a copious leucorrhœal discharge. About a fortnight before I saw her she had an attack of epilepsy, and experienced several returns of the fits.

As I considered the protracted lactation to be the principal if not the sole cause of the symptoms under which she was suffering, I desired that the child might be immediately weaned; but I experienced considerable difficulty in inducing the mother to consent to this. However, after much persuasion, she at length yielded. I ordered six leeches to be applied to the head, and prescribed small doses of blue pill with extract of hyosciamus, to be taken twice a-day. She had two or three attacks of epilepsy after she came under my care, but they were not so violent as before she discontinued suckling.

The pain in the head having subsided, I prescribed the following mixture:—

Citrate of iron, one drachm;

Water, six ounces. Two tablespoonfuls to be taken thrice a-day.

She began to improve under this treatment, in conjunction with a nutritious diet, and her appetite and strength slowly returned. She subsequently went into the country, where she remained a few weeks; she returned quite well, and has continued so up to the present time.

DIAGNOSIS OF CHOLERA.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—In the observations “On the Diagnosis of Indian and English Cholera,” which Mr. Salter, of Poole, has so ably addressed to you, I perceive that he refers to two cases of the malignant form related by me in some late numbers of the “Provincial Medical Journal,” and appears to entertain some little doubt as to the correctness of the diagnosis, merely, I presume, from the reason, that cases of a similar nature had not occurred in this town, or fallen under his observation during the prevalence of the late epidemic. Now I am not at all anxious to enter into a controversy on the characteristic symptoms of Indian and English cholera, but beg to say, from all I have ever read, heard, or seen, of English cholera, that it is seldom or ever attended with such violent and distressing symptoms as occurred in the two cases I thought proper to relate, and which did not leave the least shadow of doubt in my own mind as to the true nature of the disease. In conversation with a highly respectable and talented practitioner of a neighbouring town only a few days ago, I learned from him that he had met with two or three cases of cholera, one of which had terminated fatally during the consecutive fever and another in the state of collapse before he could arrive at the house. I also observed in the “Lancet,” of September 10, three other cases, by Mr. Edwards, of Lansaintffrais, Montgomeryshire, who says, “Having noticed in the ‘Provincial Medical Journal’ the report of a case of malignant cholera, attended by Mr. West, of Poole,

I beg to call your attention to the fact, that three cases of cholera have occurred in my neighbourhood, which is an agricultural district on the borders of England, and remarkable for the general healthiness of its population." Being, therefore, corroborated by the practice of other medical men, that such cases have occurred in extremely healthy situations during the prevalence of the late epidemic as well as in Poole, I trust your readers will still place faith on the truth of my assertions, and acquit me of an attempt to publish that which is incorrect.

Yours obediently,

JOHN WICKENS WEST, M.R.C.S.L.

Poole, October 10, 1842.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1842.

To every rational and well-disposed person nothing could be more convincing, nothing could more clearly establish, not only the inefficacy, but the absolute danger of the water system, when *exclusively* applied, than the case published by Dr. Hastings in the "Provincial Medical Journal" a few weeks ago. And yet it is to be feared that the perusal of it will have but little beneficial effect upon the mind of the public in general. There is, to the unprofessional reader, too much novelty about the system which it exposes, to receive, as yet, any permanent check from the details of a case, however good may be its authority, however honorable the source from which it springs. No, there are two things wanted before hydropathy will be deemed a byword in this country. The one is time, to wear away its apparent novelty; the other is the introduction of a fresh system, which will urge its claims to our support, from bringing with it that never-failing charm which the one we are now permitting to sink into oblivion has lost, and from the unheard-of wonders which its champions will promise to perform. It is not that we wish to speak disparagingly of water, or doubt its efficacy as a remedial agent, when judiciously and cautiously applied. It is its adoption, to the exclusion of all other remedies, which we find fault with and condemn.

To one of the most salubrious and delightful spots in England—the village of Malvern—has lately repaired one of the advocates of the water system, where he conducts an establishment upon the same plan as that of Priessnitz, in Germany; and, attracted by the reports of wonderful cures, thither flock "the halt, the maimed, and the blind." The same assurances of success are alike held out to all—to the gouty and well-fed alderman—to the poor, wan, and dejected creature, rapidly sinking beneath the strides of consumption—to the little infant, "mewling and puking in the nurse's arms"—to him who has attained "second childishness and mere oblivion"—to the un-

fortunate being who has never heard from his birth the sweet and varied sounds of nature, or whose heart has never been gladdened by the blessed light of day.

That this water doctor performs many cures, we do not for a moment doubt. But, on the other hand, we do not hesitate to affirm that the wholesale adoption of this remedy in indiscriminate cases has and will continue to be productive of the most serious and extensive mischief. And, in the first place, if we look to the instances in which hydropathy makes its most frequent cures, they will be found to be old chronic cases, for which the medical man previously in attendance recommended strong exercise, fresh air, bathing, nourishing and wholesome diet, with entire abstinence from all beverages of an exciting or inflammatory nature. But, the fact is, a physician finds it a very difficult thing to get his patients to do this. It causes too much trouble or expense, and they think that, in all probability, they shall recover without the adoption of such rigorous measures. The disease, however, is of a nature which will not admit of this; and so, if they do not get worse, at least they make no advances towards recovery. Then they hear of the *wonderful cures* of the water doctor, and away they go to his establishment. Here they are compelled to do that which was before recommended, for it is part of the system which builds its success solely upon a rigorous application. They rise early, walk the Malvern hills before breakfast, returned home with the skin in a warm, healthy glow, eat sparingly, and drink nothing but water. Can anything be more beneficial than this to a person who has been a martyr to the gout, or to one who, from imprudence and intemperance, is frequently suffering from indigestion? Certainly not. But from its efficacy in one class of diseases is not to be assumed its efficacy in all. Can this same treatment be adopted in fever or consumption, where, perhaps, the patient's malady is increased by the slightest exposure to cold, or his sufferings aggravated by the least exertion? Perhaps the advocates of the water system will reply in the affirmative, and say that Priessnitz has published cases of people in a confirmed consumption having recovered from this dreadful disease by the adoption of the binding and undeviating system, which he imposes equally on all who may consult him. We answer, that the fact of Priessnitz having published these cases, is no proof at all of their ever having occurred. That he thought them consumptive cases, we are willing to allow; but that they really were so, we have reason to disbelieve. Is the narrator of those cases fully qualified to judge of medical facts, their accuracy, and their relations? It is one thing, be it remembered, for a man who has received no professional education whatever, to assert that his patient is suffering from a violent cough; but it is quite another