

medical

We have s<sup>d</sup> that the doctrines contained in the writings of Galen were received & implicitly followed by all the Physicians of Asia, Africa & Europe for more yr. 1400 years. For he was supposed to have brought every part of medicine to perfection, his system thought infallible, and universally appealed to as an oracle. a son of Galen, being synonymous with that of a learned Physician.

We mentioned that the ancients, and by antients we mean all those physicians & philosophers who lived prior to the dark ages of gothic & ecclesiastical barbarity) were unacquainted with the properties of the H. System w<sup>c</sup> was in a great measure overlooked until the time of D Thomas Willis who gave lectures at Oxford in England in 1650. We s<sup>d</sup> that Haller had made a catalogue of the medical book w<sup>c</sup> have been written from the days of Hippocrates to 4<sup>th</sup> century: a period of nearly 2000 years. That of these there were not more than 30 volumes w<sup>c</sup> at this day merit perusal. To read the rest w<sup>d</sup> encumber the head with a jumble of words, and burthen the memory to no useful purpose.

We might have mentioned Themison, who founded the sect of physicians called Methodists. He practised at Rome, and is mentioned by Jovencel, and other classic writers.

writers. He was a cunning, ~~and~~ artful man, and professed to have discovered a short & easy method of attaining medical knowledge by reducing all Diseases to two classes, viz those from tension, and those from the opposite fault relaxation. This doctrine has been revived by the late Dr. Brown of Edinburgh, who has reduced all Ds to two forms, viz he calls sthenic, and asthenic; the former signifying an excess, and the latter a defect of the vis vitæ, or invigorating principle, or nervous energy. Here the Materia medica is reduced to but two classes, namely Tonics and Relaxants. Thepsalans a disciple of Themison carried this doctrine still farther, and by declaring that he could abridge the study of medicine to six months, gained many pupils from among those who wished to acquire of an extensive science, without the trouble of study or pains of thinking; he nevertheless wrote more books on the art of Medicine than could be read in that time!

We mentioned some innovations made by the Arabians who introduced Chemistry into Medicine. We were indebted to these Mohammedans for the use of Sugar, for that form of medicines called Syrops, & Electuaries. for manna, for Senna - for distilled waters, and spirits. We might have added that they first described the small  
107-

S-pox and the Measles. We s. that it was by following these chemists that hot or sweating medicines were first introduced into practice in Fevers, to the dishonour of physic and the destruction of millions —

— We s. that D Sydenham was the first who had the sagacity to discern the absurdity of this practice and the courage to adopt a directly opposite one, both as to cooling remedies & free circulation of air. We s. he was the Father of our present Nosology, or arrangement of Ds. into Clases. orders — genera. & species — and that the diaries of the weather & histories of epidemics, now closely pursued by all the learned societies of Europe must acknowledge Sydenham as their parent. And altho Sydenham's book contains some fanciful theories and is overloaded with prescriptions it nevertheless contained new doctrine when Boerhaave first saw it; which will in part account for what B. tells us, that he read the works of Sydenham 14 times through! — We mentioned the state of medicine when Boerhaave began to teach, and might have added that besides his great learning he knew how to recommend truth by eleg

elegance of language, and to embellish philosophy  
with polite literature. He knew (says his Biographer) that  
those authors who w<sup>d</sup> find many readers, or those Teachers  
who wished for attentive hearers, must endeavour to please  
while they instruct. Nor was he one of those Physicians,  
who think obscurity contributes to dignity of learning, and  
that to be admired it is necessary not to be understood.

We hasten now to give you a sketch of the  
Callenic theory.

HMS 216.4

Coldness. - a sensation of cold between the shoulders, as if wind came upon them thro' a crevice, or as if cold water was poured down all along the back, is more severe, & continues for a longer or shorter space of time in proportion to the severity of the fever: - so yt. we can form a pretty good judgement from this symptom, as to the quality of the fever & magnitude of the danger. -

Pain. In the mixed, or putrid fever the head-ach is more oppressive & violent. It is commonly felt as if seated in the bottom of the skull, resembling that h. ach often experienced in a heated, crowded assembly. It is worse in an erect posture. -

Tongue. An attention to the appearance of the tongue in fevers is of more importance y<sup>r</sup>. even the pulse. The tongue points out the quantity, degrees of the disorder in the juices of the Stomach, bowels, the salivary, gastric & absorbent vessels, & of all the chylopactic viscera. A young practitioner should view the tongue in perfect health, or he will never be able to distinguish its' changes when diseased. He sh<sup>d</sup>. attentively consider the point, the sides, the middle, and back part, since all these are variously affected according to the state of the blood & juices & period of the fever.

The effect of anxiety on the tongue is curious: in half an hour the delicate pale & moist red of the whole tongue, changes into a whitish glare. Remove the cause of anxiety & the tongue returns to its' natural colour. In the putrid, bilious, or petechial fevers, there is no symptom so explanatory as the tongue. When there is a great effusion of Bile, the tongue is from yellow, brown, to black.

It shall be of a damask red in lower degrees of putrefaction. -  
at other times it is red with a tendency to black & the tongue covered  
w<sup>th</sup> a horny substance. In this state it trembles & the patient forgets  
to draw it in again, it centres the B. highly disordered & the fever  
very alarming.

When the tongue is of a brown colour, or black, scored like a  
broiled gizzard, quite dry, & out of the power of the patient to ex-  
-tend it, the juices are in the highest degree of putrefaction & it  
is commonly a mortal symptom.

When the tongue appears like raw beefsteak, you will generally  
find apthae in the mouth. The appearance of the teeth sh<sup>d</sup> be attended to.

Urine. The state of the U. is of great consequence in fevers  
In slow nervous fevers the U. is pale. Sometimes it is thick full  
of scales & of a whitish color. This bran-like appearance marks  
a long D. and a severe struggle. The kidneys are so con-  
-structed as to cleanse the blood from what is useless, or per-  
-nicious; & they furnish us with a just idea of the state of our  
juices. The change in the state of the urine points out very  
clearly that remission of the symptoms of fever denominated  
the crisis.



