

'Come fraught with blessings; Stranger to care'—p. 20.

'That feeds and tends thee; alive to shame;'—p. 7.

'Saturate with odours; echoes the lute,'—p. 48.

A few grammatical oversights might also be mentioned. A remarkable instance of sober deliberate extravagance, occurs in the notice of Lee Boo's departure from Pelew:

'How swell'd the surges with the briny tears!' p. 8.

Of the smaller pieces, very little needs be said; the versified tale of Theodosius and Constantia seems to indicate that Mr. S. would have succeeded better with his principal poem, if he had attempted it in rhyme. One article is, a complimentary note sent to a lady, since deceased, which is remarkable for three things: 1, that it confounds "thou" and "you;" 2, that, being simple prose, it is inserted as one of the "other poems;" 3, that the gift which it accompanied was, not a single copy, as is customary, but a whole "edition of Rogers's Pleasures of Memory, neatly bound in white calf!"

The Notes, consisting chiefly of extracts from various popular authors in prose and verse, form somewhat more than half the work. Five engravings, of uncommon beauty, by Schiavonetti, one from Guido, the others from Masquerier, contribute to the splendour of the volume, which is printed by Bensley.

Art. X. *Observations on the Nature and Cure of Gout; on Nodes of the Joints; and on the Influence of certain Articles of Diet, in Gout, Rheumatism, and Gravel.* By James Parkinson, Hoxton, 8vo. pp. 182. Price 5s. bds. Symonds.

NO disorder probably has occasioned more ill-temper than the gout, notwithstanding its supposed connection with the sanguine temperament, good-fellow-ship, and convivial enjoyments. Medical men, ever since the time of Hippocrates, have anxiously investigated the nature of this disease; but their exertions have obtained very little success. The anguish of the arthritic is certainly not very favourable to the due estimation of the claims, which their zeal, however unavailing, has upon him: his contortions betray the inefficacy of medicine, his impatience and disappointment reproach it; the faculty is reviled, the science is depreciated, and the gout is anathematized as the *opprobrium medicorum*. Physicians, on the other hand, have retaliated; excusing their ill success by their ignorance of the true nature and cause of the disease, and palliating that ignorance by reciting the fruitless inquiries and discussions of their predecessors for so many centuries, they have at the same time charged the whole chief at once upon the patient, ascribing his torments mis-
to in-

dulgent ease, or luxurious excess, and persuading him to the adoption of an abstemious regimen, as the only method of relief. The customary want of resolution to persist in a daily conflict with inveterate habits and predominating appetites, furnishes the patient, of course, with new twitches and invectives, and the physician with new reproofs and exhortations. The natural imbecility of reason, in such a conflict, requires, however, some stronger reinforcement than a conviction that the adviser knows nothing of the source of the malady, or a discovery that, while the formation, collection, and discharge of gouty matter, are frequently mentioned and canvassed, the nature of this matter remains entirely occult, and its very existence is disputed and unproved.

To manifest the existence, and ascertain the nature of this matter, is the object of Mr. Parkinson's publication, which peculiarly demands our attention, not only from the subject, but from the sensible manner in which the author has conducted and developed his inquiries. A sufferer himself from arthritic affection, and enabled in the course of extensive professional practice to accumulate facts, he was also well qualified, by a familiarity with physiological and chemical studies, to deduce theoretical results; his work therefore combines, in a very pleasing degree, the reasonings of science upon the nature of this disease, with the dictates of experience for its cure. A brief sketch of his opinions we shall now lay before the reader.

Having witnessed the beneficial effects of the caustic alkali, in a case of gout, and having carefully attended to the discoveries of Scheele, and the complete analysis of arthritic concretions by Dr. Wollaston, Mr. Parkinson is induced to submit the following, as the proximate cause of gout:—
“A peculiar saline acrimony existing in the blood, in such a proportion, as to irritate, and excite to morbid action, the minute terminations of the arteries, in certain parts of the body.”

When we observe, says he, in a person who has been long subject to this disease, a prodigious quantity of matter separated from the system, forming many of the smaller joints into white, and apparently cretaceous nodules, we are naturally led to the opinion, that the blood must have been preternaturally charged with this matter, or with the principles of which it is formed; and Dr. Wollaston having clearly ascertained that the matter of these concretions is the urate of soda, Mr. Parkinson infers, that, in similar cases of gout, the urate of soda, or a peculiar saline acrimony favourable to the formation of the uric acid, is present in the system.

The origin of this morbid acrimony, he imputes to the weakened state of the stomach, and the excessive use of acid and acescent substances, for food. In those who have lived too freely, as well as in those who have been much devoted to study, or have unhappily been the prey of anxiety, the stomach becomes disordered, digestion is impaired, and a morbid acid is generated in the stomach. The acid thus generated has usually been considered as the acetous; but Mr. Parkinson advances several arguments to prove that this acid ought to be considered as an animal acid, *sui generis*, and should be distinguished as the *gastric acid*.

Unable to trace this acid regularly from the stomach to the actual formation of the gouty concretion, or of the calculus of the bladder, he endeavours to trace it in its intermediate states, and to discover what provision has been made in the human economy to secure its discharge, when superabundant. The red sediment of the urine, named by Proust the rosacic acid, is first noticed, as one of the forms in which this excess of acid appears, when discharged from the body in an excrementitious state. Here we should remark, that Mr. Parkinson would have done well, as it strikes us, to introduce the excellent experiments of Dr. Wilson, in his *Essay on Febrile Diseases*, in which the connection between this red sediment in the urine, and the taking of acid and acescent substances into the stomach, is clearly pointed out.

The author adverts to the sour sweats of the arthritic, particularly during the fits of the disease; and concludes, from this acid having been supposed to be the uric, that the skin joins with the kidneys in performing the depuratory office, by which this acid is separated from the blood. Future experiments, we think, and farther observations, must be required for absolute proof, that the formation of the uric acid depends on the abundance of the gastric acid. The observations here offered, as well as the experiments of Dr. Wilson, to which we have alluded, render this opinion very probable; but we cannot admit it to be, at present, fully established; nor would we yield to the very natural desire, after so long a period of useless disquisition, to evade the suspense of uncertainty, and the labour of thought, by adopting too hastily a plausible theory.

In demonstrating the strict conformity of the acknowledged occasional causes with the supposed proximate cause of this disease, Mr. P. dwells particularly on the injurious effects, in gouty habits, of drinking *Wine*, particularly low, new wines, which are ready to run immediately into a state of acidity. *Beer* which hangs about the glass with some degree of viscosity, is the beverage which he is disposed to recommend for the purpose

of exhilaration: but even the drinking of beer is also considered as a frequent cause of this and other diseases. The author pays much attention to this particular; and we shall extract his remarks on a subject of so much public interest:

‘ It becomes necessary to state the reason, why this liquor is placed among the substances likely to become an exciting cause of this and of other diseases. It must however have already appeared, that the hurtful powers tending to the production of gout and gravel exist only in this liquor, when, from mismanagement or age, it has acquired a degree of acidity; and much is it to be lamented, that the laborious poor in general, at least, in and about the metropolis, obtain this liquor, generally, in this its most noxious state.

‘ The nearer any fermenting liquor approaches to the completion of its fermentative process, the greater is the quantity of alcohol it contains. Experience has taught this to the drinkers of strong beer, and particularly to those who indulge in porter. Not finding their cordial too powerfully fraught with malt and hops, they have sought to obtain it in that state, in which its exhilarating powers manifest most influence. Hence they have discovered, that beer possesses the most strength, not whilst the more silent and efficacious part of the vinous fermentation is yet going on, during which period it is termed *mild beer*; but when a slight degree of acidity manifests the vinous fermentation to be completed, in which state it is called *stale beer*. Thus have the drinkers of strong beer been led to seek constantly for this test of the strength of their beer; and thus gradually have been induced, by habit, to consider a slight degree of acidity as a necessary part of the flavour of good beer. But as every depravity of taste necessarily demands a regular increase in its gratification, so most porter drinkers, unless they have been able to ascertain the injurious effects it sometimes produces, are disposed to drink their beer in that state in which acidity is very predominant.

‘ It is much to be feared that this taste cannot be indulged, unless the virtues of this most useful and salubrious liquor be impaired, in a considerable degree. Porter which is brewed of a sufficient strength would not, preserved, as it always is, in properly closed vessels, acquire that acidity, which characterizes stale beer, for a considerable time. But it certainly cannot be expected of the porter brewer, with whom the quickness of the return of his immense capital must be an important consideration, to hoard up his beer to its deterioration, and to his own serious injury. A more expeditious method, it is said, is sometimes adopted, by which sourness is substituted for strength. But should the brewer consider it to be his duty *not to mix new beer with old*; yet this is not the case with the tapster, who, impelled to please the palate of his customers, may often find himself under the necessity of mixing beer, actually acid, with that which is in itself sound and good.’ pp. 42—44.

The connection between gout and gravel is earnestly asserted by this writer. His conjectures, we think, on the dependance of the gravel also on a superabundant acidity, would have derived considerable support from the excellent paper of Dr. Egan, on the nature of gravelly concretions in the human

subject, published in the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy.

The mode of cure recommended in this work is such as will be obvious from the theory suggested; and has been sanctioned by successful practice; it consists principally in the rigid abstinence from every thing likely to generate acidity in the stomach, and the correction of acidity there, and in the system generally, by occasional exhibitions of the carbonate of soda (soda of commerce.) So simple and harmless a system of cure will undoubtedly interest every unfortunate sufferer to give it the trial; while the philosophic and rational cast of speculation will ensure the theory a fair examination among professional men. We are inclined to place a good deal of confidence in Mr. P.'s deductions, and certainly consider his work as a real accession to the history of this disease.

One of the chapters is devoted to the account of a disease only noticed hitherto by Dr. Heberden, and, just before the publication of this work, by Dr. Haygarth, (Ecl. Rev. vol. ii. 426) who calls it "Nodosity of the Joints." This disease is an enlargement, chiefly of the smaller joints, and particularly those of the fingers, which differs, in several respects, from those which proceed from diseases hitherto described.

Our author "conjectures," with equal modesty and plausibility, that this affection arises from a state of the system similar to that which he assigns as the cause of arthritic symptoms; supposing, however, that "the morbid matter exists in less abundance, and that the periosteum, the ligaments, or the ends of the bones themselves, may, in these cases, assume the office of slowly secreting from the system, and of depositing that matter which, if allowed to accumulate, would, perhaps, demand for its removal the more violent and more extensive action which constitutes a fit of the gout." This malady Mr. P. at first supposed, contrary to the observation of Dr. Haygarth, to be most frequent among the aged poor: it is so afflictive in its severest attacks, and has been so little observed, that we subjoin the summary of his successful mode of treatment.

‘ The assumed indications on which the removal of these tumours *were* [was] attempted are,—1st. To diminish the increased action of the vessels in the part, by which the secretion of the morbid matter is performed. 2dly. To promote a free perspiration of the part affected: and 3dly. To correct the prevailing disposition to acidity in the *primæ viæ*, and in the system in general.

‘ The means which it has been thought proper hitherto to employ, for the accomplishment of the first of these objects, has been the application of one or more leeches, to the tumefied part; the number of leeches being determined by the extent of the tumour and degree of the disease. To

obtain the object of the second indication, the part has been surrounded by a plaster of equal parts of simple diachylon and of white soap, the adhesion of which to the skin becomes in a few days so slight, as to admit the free exit of the perspirable matter through the skin which, hindered from escaping farther, condenses on the surface of the plaster. By this application the part is kept continually moist, frequently so strictly so, as to appear on the removal of the plaster, after two or three days, as if it had been so long soddened in hot water. To fulfil the third indication, a due attention has been advised to the mode of living, by avoiding acid and acescent matters, and particularly such fermented liquors as have begun to manifest marks of acescency: in a word, the regimen here particularized, as appearing to be best calculated for the gouty, has been enjoined. To neutralize that acidity which, being present in the stomach, would secure its increase, by acting as a ferment, the soda has been given in doses from five grains to ten or fifteen in the day.' pp. 79—81.

The work concludes with the relation of several illustrative cases, and a severe reprobation of the refrigerant practice of Dr. Kinglake, or the application of cold water, which our author considers as founded on false principles, and as fraught with considerable mischief.

Art. XI. *Household Furniture and interior Decoration*, executed from Designs by Thomas Hope. Imperial Folio, pp. 53. Plates 60. Price 5l. 5s. L. P. 10l. 10s. Longman and Co. 1807.

ELEGANCE is not confined to those more obvious instances which strike us in the stately edifice or the royal dwelling. This nation has lately seen the principles of decorative skill directed to the improvement of nearly all its productions, and has thus fairly obtained a superiority over all her rivals, in the opinion of the most competent judges. We remember when the French taste was prevalent in England; of late, the English taste has been prevalent in France, and that supercilious people has condescended to derive its fashions from an island, which was the butt of its affected ridicule. Mr. Hope, a gentleman of ample property, conceived that on the subject of household furniture there was still an opportunity for considerable improvement—not so much in utility, for after all a chair, whatever form it boasts, is only a chair—but in adaptation, form, and ornament. Utility and comfort are certainly of the first consequence in the furniture of our apartments: after which elegance and beauty may follow, to accommodate those wealthier individuals who desire to possess them: they afford additional gratification both to the eye and to the imagination. Mr. Hope has a further design to answer; for he observed, with regret, that the Continent received commissions from England, for articles of this description, and in return, very often sent merely the refuse of foreign manufactures: or if the choice specimens