
DIRECTIONS
CONCERNING
BLEEDING.

OF ALL the Remedies recurred to in relieving the diseased Part of Mankind, there are none of such general Service and Advantage, as that of BLEEDING; as there is no one, on the other Hand, attended with more pernicious Consequences, when indirectly and injudiciously ordered. A Number of Illnesses are absolutely owing to too great a Quantity of Blood; in which Cases there is ever of course an indispensable Necessity for proportionably draining this Fluid. Though, in the preceding Work, there is pointed out a Variety of Occasions, where Venæsection is indicated previously to, or along with, this or that particular Medicine; yet, perhaps, it may be no disagreeable Task I perform, in the Opinion of the Generality

rality of my Readers, in thus collecting those scattered Directions. In all inflammatory Distempers, it is next kin to a Sacrilege to omit it; as it is, on the contrary, exposing the Patient to the utmost Hazard, to injoin it in a low, languid, depressed State, where the Spirits before were too much exhausted, and Nature, consequently, unable to support the least Evacuation. Hence, it ought to be constantly directed, and repeated according to the Exigency of the Violence and Duration of the Malady, in pleuritic and peripneumatic Disorders, during the first few Days of those painful Attacks. But it is in vain to expect any Resource from thence, when once Suppuration is begun, and the morbid Matter is only to be thrown off by Expectoration, which Bleeding must necessarily retard.

Again, in apoplectic and epileptic Disorders, a Dysentery, or Bloody-Flux, and irksome Heat of the Bowels, we must bleed in Proportion to the Illness; which we must likewise generally do in the Beginning of Fevers, and as religiously abstain from drawing away Blood on their Decline; as, from being inflammatory,
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they are often at this Period degenerated into the nervous Kind, when the Chief of the Affair is to be transacted by a liberal Application of Blisters.

Bleeding, again, ought to be directed in large Abscesses, where there is an excessive Turgency from the Flux of Humours, and a great Oppression of Nature from immoderate Heat. For in that Case, by drawing away some Blood, the Suppuration is happily performed, both in point of Time, and the compleat Discharge of the morbid Matter.

In the Small-Pox also, (for the Communication of which Experience we are obliged to Dr. MEAD, to whose Treatise on that Subject I refer the Reader,) Bleeding, and that repeated in some Cases, may be advantageously ordered in plethoric Habits at any Period of that Distemper, except in Children under Twitchings of the Nerves before the Eruption; it being, in respect to these, found by frequent Trials, that the Taking away Blood in that Situation renders the Disease mortal.

In a Word, wherever prevail sore Eyes, a Sciatica, a dry, husky Cough,
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an Head-Ach, Inflammations of the Womb, or Bladder, a virulent Gonorrhœa, Cordee, Buboes, Venereal Stricture, inflamed Piles, hot Rheumatism, Dry-Gripes, Sore Throat, an Asthma, Colic, Strangury, Gravel, nephritic Pains, Hæmorrhages, an inveterate Itch, and the like, the Opening of a Vein is of peculiar Service. But in Dropsies, a Jaundice, the Gout, and all Illnesses derived from too great a Relaxation of the Vessels, or Obstruction of them, Remedies adapted to the respective Complaints must be sought for from other specific Quarters, without the least Thought of increasing those Disorders by abrupt and preposterous Bleeding.

