

cula of Celsus." The indication in the first stage, says the author, is "to bring on the sanitary processes of the constitution;" and with this view he recommends blood-letting, emetics, and cathartics; at the same time, he observes, that the surgeon is seldom called to the patient until vomiting and purging (the second stage) have commenced.

Dr. Kennedy objects to the use of the warm bath in the stage of collapse*; he recommends friction with oil, in which a little wax has been dissolved, with a small quantity of camphor and opium, and he considers this unguent to have an effect in checking the colliquative cold sweat.

In the second stage, we are informed, that "the indication is, to moderate the inordinate action, and to endeavour to check the unnatural secretions of the bowels, by inducing their healthy and usual evacuations," at the same time keeping in view the necessity of supporting the constitution. The remedial measures to be adopted in order to fulfil these intentions, are, the abstraction of blood in reference to the strength of the patient, and the administration of castor oil with laudanum; a blister applied to the scrobiculus cordis, camphor and opium to allay spasms, and, finally, *exciting*, but not *intoxicating* or *acrid* stimulants.

In respect to blood-letting in the second stage, the author has the following observations:—

"In my hospital practice, I have never made the pulse at the wrist the criterion for bleeding; but the question of its necessity has depended on whether the vomiting and purging have been of long continuance, and accompanied with copious evacuation; for where such is the case, a real and positive exhaustion of vital powers is induced, totally independent of the apparent debility of the collapse; respecting which there is no

necessity of stopping to argue that it is not actual weakness, but a symptomatic syncope of the animal powers."

As regards the treatment of the third stage, it is observed, that in ordinary cases there is nothing more than a simple state of febrile excitement, which readily yields; but in other cases great danger is to be apprehended from inflammation of the lining membrane of the bowels, requiring energetic treatment.

It is remarked, that the "calomel practice is nearly discontinued," having been superseded by the use of the lancet and opium.

But here we must conclude, having already, we fear, exceeded our limits. We have endeavoured to present a fair and impartial analysis of the author's opinions and facts; our readers may, therefore, in a great measure, themselves judge of the book. In our estimation it contains valuable matter, and is written with much freedom, spirit, and elegance.

DR. FORBES AND MR. GUTHRIE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I send you, in reply to the statement you thought fit to publish in your journal of the 8th March last, the Resolutions of a Special Committee of the Royal Westminster Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye, summoned for the purpose of investigating certain parts of it.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. J. GUTHRIE.

2, Berkeley Street, April 5th, 1828.

ROYAL WESTMINSTER INFIRMARY FOR
DISEASES OF THE EYE.

Wednesday, 2d April, 1828.

At an adjourned special meeting held this day, present—

Lord Grantham in the Chair.

Vice Presidents.

George Byng, Esq. M. P.

Sir John Swinburne, bart.

Sir James M'Grigor.

Sir William Franklin.

Archibald Campbell, Esq.

* The sudatorium, or vapour bath, is not mentioned. We have seen it highly useful in the stage of collapse, which ushers in many diseases, and it possesses many advantages as compared with the water-bath.