

pain at the epigastrium, which was always referred to the same spot, and accompanied by great thirst; a slight discharge of mucus at intervals ensued. About four p.m., the above-mentioned symptoms gradually disappeared, and were succeeded by great and universal prostration of strength; two very copious, bilious stools were passed. In the evening, after taking some warm tea, a profuse perspiration broke out, which appeared to be the last effect of the medicine; passed, on the whole, a comfortable night, although sleep was often interrupted; awoke in the morning refreshed, and without any feeling of uneasiness.

Experiment 7.—E. T., a female servant, during a slight relapse from simple fever, produced by cold, and when suffering from heat of skin, headach, and thirst, with pain in the back, quick pulse, and restlessness, took two grains of tartrate of antimony in $\frac{3}{4}$ j. of water, at seven p.m.; immediate nausea; vomited, in about an hour and a half afterwards, a considerable quantity of mucus, mixed with dark, bilious secretion. At eleven o'clock, took one grain in $\frac{3}{4}$ ss. of water, after having felt for some time quite easy; immediate nausea produced by this second dose; vomited, in an hour and a half, a considerable quantity; had a large basin of warm gruel with the second dose. At the termination of two hours and a half, sickness and nausea ceased. At two a.m., had gr. j. in $\frac{3}{4}$ ss.; felt nausea, but no vomiting; had no gruel, or other drink, with this dose. At five o'clock, a copious perspiration broke out, which served to relieve the sickness, but she had a little increased headach, and pain at the pit of the stomach. At six a.m., took grs. ij. in $\frac{3}{4}$ j., and soon after about an English pint of gruel; felt slight nausea at seven, but no vomiting; continued copious perspiration till eleven o'clock. At this period the febrile symptoms became more moderate, and she was perfectly recovered in the course of two or three days. From the hours at which she took the antimony, no opportunity was afforded of ascertaining whether any change was produced on the pulse by it.

Since the period at which these experiments were performed, I have frequently given two scruples of antimony in the course of twenty-four hours. In one case it was continued in that quantity for three days, without producing vomiting, pain in the abdomen, or any effect whatever on the pulse; these were cases of severe pneumonic inflammation.

Many of your readers will recollect, that these experiments were performed in consequence of an erroneous statement made by a gentleman in the Royal Medical Society, who assured all present, that he had

frequently seen a drachm of the tartrate of antimony given for a dose, on the Continent, by Laennec; and they will also remember, how angry the gentleman was made by questions put to him, as to whether he might not have been deceived! We are now better acquainted with Laennec's practice, and the gentleman alluded to had only made the trifling mistake of a drachm for a grain.

31, Albany Street, Edinburgh,
14 June, 1827.

THE PUNCTURED RECTUM AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S.—MR. CASWELL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Relying implicitly on the impartiality of your disposition, permit me, in allusion to the *punctured rectum* case at this Hospital, that appeared in your valuable Journal, a short time ago, and in addition to what was subsequently announced to your correspondents regarding the expression, under a *mistake*, attributed to Mr. Caswell, most unequivocally to state, that when a certain individual (whose name you have mentioned) said, "let's hush it up; it had better be hushed up—it had better be hushed up." Mr. Caswell observed at once, "why hush it up? Why should you do that? Why should you attempt such a thing; because I shall have to state the fact before the coroner, and then it will go through all the papers."

Mr. Caswell, too, insisted before the coroner, contrary to that gentleman's feeling, that the enema, if not the immediate cause of death, greatly hastened it.

In complete justification of that gentleman, I flatter myself you will give a corner to these few lines, especially when I conclude by observing, that I have the most satisfactory evidence for believing, and I shall be greatly astonished if ever I have occasion to alter that sentiment, that Mr. Caswell falls completely within the description of the *sect*, to which I have the honour of belonging, at this end of the town, namely,

A LIBERAL,

And yours most obediently.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital,
12th July, 1828.