I. The Practice of Purging and Vomiting Medicines, according to Dr. Cockburn's Solution of his Problem; with Tables shewing their Doses in particu-lar Ages and Constitutions. Inscribid to the Learned Dr. Garth. F. R. S. by W. Cockburn, M. D.

Phil. Trans- Y my Solution of the Problem for determining the act. No. 303. Due Doses of Purging and Vomiting Medicines, in all their Cases, it is manifest in general, that these Medi-Postul. cines operate either upon the account of their being mixed with the Blood, or by their stimulating the Stomach Schol and Guts: 2. That this their Operation is more or less according to the Quantity and Thickness of Blood, b. e. Cor. 1. a greater Quantity, and the thickest Blood require the greatest Doses: And 3, that when the Quantities of Prop. I. Blood are the same, the Doses of Purging and Vomiting Medicines are in a duplicate proportion of the Bloods As also, that in every case these Doses must be in a proportion compounded of the Quantity of Blood Prop. 2. and those Squares of its thickness.

Now fince the Operations of Purgative and Vomitive Why the Do-Medicines depend so much on the Quantity and Viscidity les of these Medicines so of the Blood, which have not been duely consider'd before; it is no wonder that the Practice of Phylick in these hard to be Evacuations has been fo uncertain, and that the most exfound. pert Physicians, from their most accurate Observations. could never determine the true Doses of Medicines, which alter so much according to the various Subjects they work upon; they not being acquainted with the true Method of determining either the quantity of the Blood, or the degrees of its thickness.

Because

Because Experience is equally the Foundation and Touchstone of all reasoning in Physick, we will here submit our Solution to common Observations, and try whether every thing proposed in it, does not exactly answer Matters of Fact, and the visible Operations of Nature.

First then, it plainly follows, that these Medicines al The different ways purge best and most constantly in a liquid form effects of these because they are more easily convey'd into the Blood, Medicines and can stimulate more paris, and that upon the account count of their of this their Fluidity; whatever may be the way that forms. Purges and Vomits work, or whatfoever their Nature may be. This explains very eafily a very common Obfervation, hitherto very difficult to Physicians, about the different Operation of the same Medicine in different forms: Why, viz. the Infusion of a due quantity of a Purging Medicine produces its effects sooner and more constantly than a like quantity of the same Medicine in a Powder, tho' still more constantly in a Powder than a Bolus, tho' still sooner and more constantly in a dry Bolus, than if it be given in Pills made into that form with Gums that do not purge; and this difference in Purging shall even be notable, according to the dissolubility of the Gums.

From whence it follows, that the Evacuation made by such Medicines, is in proportion to the quantity of those Medicines that happens to be distolv'd, and not to the quantity administer'd.

Secondly, That purging by Draughts is the most ex- Their effects cellent form, and will always have the most constant different, because of the

The next Consideration is, that a certain quantity of thickness of any purging Medicine affects us after a different manner, Blood. according to the different Quantity and Constitution of the Blood, or its thickness, and it was shewn in the Solution, that if its thickness were the same, the Dose. should

should always be as its Quantity, but the Blood differing likewise in thickness, the Doses of Purging and Vomiting Medicines must be augmented on account of its thickness. This is perfectly well confirm'd by daily experience; where we find, that People fick with a manifest thickness of Blood, as in Dropsies, the Jaundice, &c. take far greater Doses than they did at any other time when they were not fick, or in that manner.

By a further Disquisition into this matter, we find that the Doses must not only be greater where the thickness of Blood is greater; but that they must be encreas'd in a duplicate proportion of their Viscidity. This is evident by the Tables in Cassia. viz. 9:83::4:33, 19, 13 1gr. and therefore alternando 9:4::83:33, 19, 13 \frac{1}{3} gr. Therefore the Doses are as the Squares of the Constitutions. So likewise 9:83::16:143, 13 fgr. and alternando 9: 16::83:143, 13 1 gr. b. e. the Doses are as the Squares of the Constitutions.

The same is true in any other Constitution besides the mean: For Example, in the lowest and highest 4:16:: 212 $\frac{1}{3}$ gr: 852 $\frac{1}{3}$. So that by this means we are not only led directly to a right use of these Medicines, and are able to find the true cause why the ordinary Doses produce so very different effects in different Constitutions; but like-A Problem. Wise, The Quantity of Blood in any Person being given

together with the ordinary and extraordinary effect of a Dose of a Purging Medicine, the Change of that Persons Constitution, and the Nature of that Change may be determin'd.

This Doctrine conform to Nature.

It cannot but be a great satisfaction to the mind to find true because a Doctrine sounded on a few simple Experiences leading us into the cause of many more that are very complext, difficult, and obscure; which is sufficient to prove its conformity to Nature. But my present endeavour being to rectify the common Practice of these Medicines by this Doctrine, I shall frame, by this Method, Tables of the Purging

Purging and Vomiting Medicines in present use; better adapted to Experience than are hitherto to be found.

The Method of framing such Tables, is by setting off How they are the practicable Constitutions in the different Ages that I made. have observed to take notable Quantities of Purging and Vomiting Medicines; so that by comparing these Constitutions with the Ages, we have the different Doses in all those cases, which is all that is required for a better practice; tho a more proper occasion may produce a more nice and exact division of Constitutions, very much to the advantage of the Practice of Physick in all Diseases.

The Ages wherein these different Doses are taken, I find to be four; when a Man is about 16 or 20 Years of Age, and weighs about 12 Stone, he then takes the common Dose: One of nine Years takes three quarters of that; one of fix the half, and one of three Years a quarter. Moreover, it having already been shewn, that the nota- £con. anim. ble healthy Constitutions are but three, as also the nota-oth. Anatom. ble Pulses of each of these: Let then these Constitutions p. 1124. be as 2, 3, 4. That of the most fluid Blood as Tom. 2. the first number, and so on; in that case, the Dose of any Person will be found by multiplying the common Dose for his Age into the Square of his Constitution and dividing by the Square of the middle Constitution. For instance, If 3j. Cassie is the common Dose, or the Dose of the middle Constitution, Ziij. Dj. and gr. 13 ; is the Dose of the first Constitution, and 3xiv. gr. 13 1 that of the groffest or last Constitution; and so proportionably for every Medicine in all the Ages, as appears by the Tables.

This Method seems to answer so exactly, that there is Only excepnot any thing necessary besides, except a Person is more tion. Loose or Costive than ordinary (which may be known from the Patient or otherways) it is to be reputed the same, as if he had taken an equivalent quantity of a Medicine proper to produce these effects. Any Physician, who has consider'd this case in some People after Flux.

ing, will allow the justness of this Exception.

The Doses of Vomiting Medicines

As Vomiting Medicines have the same common Doses. with those that Purge, they admit also of the like divided Doses; which, therefore may be found by the same Tables. Only, as People that are more Costive than ordinary require a proportionable greater Dose of a Purging Medicine: So they require their Dose of a Vomiting Medicine to be confiderably less, as is very very well. known in hot Countries.

Note I.

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But it must be observed, that in the Tables, Age stands instead of Quantity of Blood; because they encrease pretty equally, and it makes the practice more easie to such as are not accustom'd to Weights and Numbers.

The more Skilful are desir'd to observe, that the mean. Ages multiply'd into the mean Constitutions, give Doses

more nicely.

The TABLES.

Some Instances shewing the Defects of the present Practice, and how mended by the foregoing Tables.

The Doses of the foregoing Tables, arising from Calculation, agree perfectly well with the common Observation of the best Authors; the their Observation is very general and ill made, if we except the very first Steps. Authors Co-For instance, Authors of all Countries, English, Dutch. py, but do German, Italian and French, reckon the Doses after the not Observe. same manner; whereas, if they had been observ'd, they must have been different as are the Constitutions of Men. in the different Countries.

> II. The defect of their Observation is manifest by the disproportion'd Doses of some Medicines, their high Dofes being sometimes double and sometimes triple, and

more of their low Doses, which is not conform to Nature; for, let the low Dose be what it will, the high Dose of one Medicine must always bear the same proportion to the high Dose of another, as did their low Doses, viz. even in Manna, they reckon it from 3j. commonly to 3iij. and ziv. If it is faid that the first Dose is the lowest Dose that is taken by a Man of a due Age, it is neither true in fact nor conform to their own way of reckoning: For instance, Rhubarb is said to be taken from 3j. to 3ij. No body will fay that this is the lowest Dose taken by a Man of a due Age as formerly; because it is not in fact true. nor that the high natural Dose is 3/s; for, as I said before, if 3j. of Manna and 3j, of Rhubarb are the respective low Doses, then 3iv and zij.cannot be the respective high Doses. As to what concerns some extraordinary Doses given by themselves, and far exceeding the ordinary Dose, is easily accounted for by the Solution. are many Examples of this Nature: Turbith, viz. is commonly reckon'd among them from 3j. to 3ij; yet Marg. gravius, and good Authors, have given it to Ziv. So Co. locynthis from gr. vi. to gr. xij. and Fulgin. Fernel. Duncan. say they have given it to 38.

III. Authors have been far from being exact; for they They have have only dos'd these Medicines for People of full Age; only given but have left the Doses of the different Ages in silence; Men at full nor have they told us at what time a Man takes his high-Age. est Dose, or how that alters in the Growth and Decline of Age, which is still a very great difficulty for the most experienc'd Physicians to manage.

IV. Their general Method is founded in a Mistake; Their may of their lowest Dose being really the common Dose taken determining by the generality of Men, which produces a multitude of Errours in the Practice. This is manifest in their dosing every Medicine.

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V. The mentioned Case is more manifest by these Ta-This Thewn particularly, bles, and it is two to one but that a Physician over Purges or under Purges any Person in Health; and if more Cases in Sickness are suppos'd, the odds will encrease proportionably. Experience confirms this exactly: For if the middle Dose is given to one of the lowest Constitution, and the middle Dose is to purge 7 or 8 times; in that case, the Person of the lowest Constitution is purg'd near twice as much as he ought to be; and if given to one of the highest Constitution, he is purg'd but half of what he should be. But if the Dose of the highest Constitution is given to one of the middle Constitution, he is purg'd twice as much as he ought to be; and if given to one of the lowest, he is purg'd four times as much, or about thirty times, as we find true by daily Experience. But if the Quantity of Blood, the Age, or Sickness contribute to the Errour, it may prove fatal. If this Consideration were illustrated by a proper number of Exam-

These Tables Lastly, We may easily account, by these Tables, for show the the Doses of Children over purging some People of good dren may o. Health, and of due Age; a Phanomenon so surprizing, ver purge that the smallness of the Dose is commonly thought a People of full good Excuse for the Mistake.

these Tables.

ples, we should find some hundreds of, otherways unavoidable, Mistakes now prevented by the Practice of

TABLES, herving the Dofes of purging and v according to the Solution of D. Goof

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d vomiting Medicins OCKBURN'S Problem.

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TABLES, — page 50. Sherving the Dofes of purging and vomiting Medicins according to the Solution of D. CockBurn's Problem.

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