
MEDICAL REPOSITORY.

VOL. VI.—No. I.

ARTICLE I.

An Account of an HEMORRHAGIC DISPOSITION existing in certain Families. By JOHN C. OTTO, M. D. of Philadelphia.

ABOUT seventy or eighty years ago, a woman by the name of Smith, settled in the vicinity of Plymouth, New-Hampshire, and transmitted the following idiosyncrasy to her descendants. It is one, she observed, to which her family is unfortunately subject, and had been the source not only of great solicitude, but frequently the cause of death. If the least scratch is made on the skin of some of them, as mortal a hemorrhagy will eventually ensue as if the largest wound is inflicted. The divided parts, in some instances, have had the appearance of uniting, and have shown a kind disposition to heal; and, in others, cicatrization has almost been perfect, when, generally about a week from the injury, an hemorrhagy takes place from the whole surface of the wound, and continues several days, and is then succeeded by effusions of serous fluid; the strength and spirits of the person become rapidly prostrate; the countenance assumes a pale and ghastly appearance; the pulse loses its force, and is increased in frequency; and death, from mere debility, then soon closes the scene. Dr. Rogers attended a lad, who had a slight cut on his foot, whose pulse "was full and frequent" in the commencement of the complaint, and whose blood "seemed to be in a high state of effervescence." So assured are the members of this family of the terrible consequences of the least wound, that they will not suffer themselves to be bled on any consideration, having lost a relation by not being able to stop the discharge occasioned by this operation.

Various remedies have been employed to restrain the hemorrhagies—the bark, astringents used topically and internally,

VOL. VI.

B