Account of an Hemorrhagic Disposition.

reasoning upon what has been discovered to be useful in idio-
synecracies, and applying it to the general constitution of hu-
man nature, must necessarily be vague and productive of occa-
sional evil. In every case, however, a doubtful remedy is
preferable to leaving the patient to his fate. The sulphate of
soda has constantly succeeded when administered, but the
prescription being in the possession of the Shepherd family, the
descendants of Smith, and the cases that have been attended
by physicians not being very numerous, it is impossible to as-
certain the various states of the system in which it has been
given, or to form any correct conclusions respecting its man-
er of acting. No experiments have been made on the blood
to discover if any or what changes take place in it.

It is a surprising circumstance that the males only are sub-
ject to this strange affection, and that all of them are not liable
to it. Some persons, who are curious, suppose they can
distinguish the bleeders (for this is the name given to them)
even in infancy; but as yet the characteristic marks are not as-
certained sufficiently definite. Although the females are ex-
empt, they are still capable of transmitting it to their male
children, as is evidenced by its introduction, and other instan-
ces, an account of which I have received from the Hon.
Judge Livermore, who was polite enough to communicate to
me many particulars upon this subject. This fact is confirmed
by Drs. Rogers and Porter, gentlemen of character residing
in the neighbourhood, to whom I am indebted for some infor-
mation upon this curious disposition. When the cases shall
become more numerous, it may perhaps be found that the fe-
male sex is not entirely exempt, but, as far as my know-
ledge extends, there has not been an instance of their being at-
tacked.

The persons subject to this hemorrhagic disposition are re-
markably healthy, and, when indisposed, they do not differ in
their complaints, except in this particular, from their neigh-
bours. No age is exempt, nor does any one appear to be par-
ticularly liable to it. The situation of their residence is not
favourable to scurvy affections or disease in general. They
live, like the inhabitants of the country, upon solid and nutri-
tious food, and when arrived to manhood, are athletic, of
florid complexions, and extremely irascible.

Dr. Rush has informed me, he has been consulted twice in
the course of his practice upon this disease. The first time,
by a family in York, and the second, by one in Northampton
county, in this state. He likewise favoured me with the fol-