

FOURTH BOOK.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE INTERNAL PARTS OF THE HUMAN BODY.

THUS far we have spoken of those kinds of distempers, which so affect the whole body, that no certain seats can be assigned to them; I shall now treat of those which belong to particular parts. Now, the diseases of all the internal parts, and their method of cure, will be more easily understood, when I shall have first given a short description of the parts they afflict.

The head, then, and what is contained in the mouth, are bounded not only by the tongue and palate, but by the external parts, which lie exposed to view. On the right and left side about the throat are large veins, which are called sphagitides (*σφαγιτίδες*); and arteries, named carotides (*καρωτιδες*), running upwards, which reach beyond the ears. And in the neck itself are placed small glands, which sometimes swell, and are painful. Then two passages begin, one of which is called the aspera arteria, or wind-pipe; the other the gullet. The wind-pipe is more external, and goes to the lungs; the gullet is more internal, and leads to the stomach. The former receives the breath, the latter the food. Their courses being different, where they meet there is something like a small tongue* in the wind-pipe at the entrance of the fauces; when we breathe, this stands erect; when we take meat or drink, it shuts the wind-pipe. Now, the wind-pipe being hard and cartilaginous, is prominent in the throat; and elsewhere falls back. It is composed of certain circles formed like the vertebræ in the spine, yet so, that it is rough on the external part, on the internal smooth like the gullet; and

* The epiglottis.

thus descending to the præcordia it is connected with the lungs; these are of a spongy nature, and, therefore, capacious of air; and behind being joined to the spine, they are divided into two lobes like an ox's hoof. With these the heart is connected, being muscular, situated in the thorax under the left breast; and it has what we may call two ventricles. But under the heart and lungs is the transverse septum, consisting of a strong membrane equally nervous, which divides the abdomen from the præcordia, many vessels also being dispersed over it; it separates from the superior parts not only the intestines, but the liver and spleen too. These bowels are next to it, but placed below it, the one on the right side, and the other on the left. The liver having its origin under the præcordia from the very septum itself, on the inside is concave, and on the outside is gibbous. This projecting rests gently upon the stomach, and is divided into four lobes. On the lower part, the gall-bladder adheres to it. But in the left side the spleen is not connected with the septum, but to an intestine; it is of a soft and loose texture, of a moderate length and thickness; and this proceeding a little beyond the region of the ribs into the abdomen, is chiefly covered by them. And these, indeed, are joined. But the kidneys are divided; which adhere to the loins below the last ribs,* and the sides next these are round, on the other they turn inward; they are both stocked with vessels and covered over with coats.† These, then, are the situations of the bowels. But the gullet, which is the beginning of the intestines, arises nervous from the seventh vertebra of the spine, and about the præcordia is united with the stomach. The stomach, which is the recepticle of food, consists of two coats,

* I have here translated according to an emendation proposed by Morgagni (ep. i. p. 32.), who would read, *Qui lumbis sub imis costis inhærent, a parte earum rotundi, ab altera resimi*. Where a small alteration renders the description just; whereas, in the way it stands in all the editions, *Qui lumbis sub imis coxis inhærent, a parte earum resimi, ab altera rotundi*, it plainly contradicts truth, as will be very obvious to any person the least conversant in anatomy.

† In Almeloveen, *Et venosi sunt, et tunicis super conteguntur*. Morgagni (ep. vi. p. 144.) informs us, that after the three first words, all his editions agree in inserting *Et ventriculos habent, and they have ventricles*; and it is not probable Celsus would take no notice of these; and to the same purpose speaks Hippocrates, *De Ossium Natur.* no. 8.

and is placed between the spleen and liver, each of these going a little over it. There are, also, some fine membranes, by which these three are connected together, and are joined to the transverse septum above-mentioned. After that, the lower part of the stomach, turning a little to the right side, grows narrower, till it meets the first intestine. This juncture the Greeks call pylorus (*πυλωρός*); because, like a gate, it emits into the lower parts, what we are to discharge by excrement. There begins the intestine jejunum, not much folded; this name (jejunum, *i. e.* fasting) is given to it, because it never retains what it has received, but immediately transmits it into the lower parts. Next to this is the smaller intestine, very much folded into sinuses; each of whose rings are by small membranes connected with the more internal, which being turned toward the right side, and ending at the right hip, yet still more the superior parts. Then this intestine is joined with another thicker, and running across; which beginning on the right side, towards the left is open and long; towards the right is not so; and, therefore, it is called cæcum. But that which is open is of large compass and sinuous, and less nervous than the former intestines, on both sides rolled different ways, but occupying more of the left and lower parts, it touches the liver and stomach; then it is joined with some small membranes, that come from the right kidney; and there turning to the right, it is directed downward, where it discharges the excrements; and, therefore, at that place it takes the name of the intestinum rectum. All these parts are covered by the omentum, which, on the lower part, is smooth and contracted, and, on the upper, softer. Fat also grows to it, which, like the brain and marrow, is insensible. From each kidney proceeds a tube of a white colour to the bladder; the Greeks call them ureteres (*ἔρησῆρες*), because by them they believe the urine to be distilled into the bladder. The bladder in its sinus is nervous and double; in the neck full and fleshy, and joined by veins to the intestine and to that bone, which is under the pubes; itself is loose, and more at liberty. It is differently placed in men and in women; for in men it is close to the intestine rectum, rather inclined to the left side; in women it is situated above their genital parts, and as it hangs, is sustained by the womb. Then in men the passage of the urine is extended longer and narrower from

its neck to the penis; in women it is shorter and wider, and shows itself above the neck of the womb. Now, the womb in virgins is very small; in women, when not pregnant, not much larger, than to be held in the hand. It begins with a straight and small neck, which is called the vagina,* in a line with the middle of the belly, then is turned a little to the right hip; then mounting above the intestine rectum, its sides are connected to the ilia of the woman. The ilia are situated between the hips and pubes in the lower belly. From which and the pubes the abdomen reaches upwards to the præcordia; on the external side the skin appears; on the inside it is lined by a thin membrane, which is joined to the omentum, and is called by the Greeks peritonæum (περιτόναιος).

CHAPTER II.

OF THE DISORDERS OF THE HEAD, AND THEIR CURE.

HAVING, as it were, presented these parts to view, as far as it is necessary for a physician to know them, I shall proceed to the remedies of the disorders of each, beginning with the head; under which name I now intend that part, which is covered with hair; for pains of the eyes, ears, and teeth, and such like, will be treated of elsewhere.

Of pains of the head, and a hydrocephalus.—Now, in the head, there is sometimes an acute and dangerous distemper, which the Greeks call cephalæa (κεφαλαία). The marks of which are a strong shuddering, relaxation of the nerves, † dimness of the eyes, delirium, vomiting, and withal a suppression of the voice; or an hæmorrhage from the nose, and with that a coldness of the body, and fainting; besides these, an intolerable pain, especially about the temples or occiput. Sometimes, too, there is a long weakness of the head, but neither severe nor dangerous, through the whole life. Sometimes the pain is more violent, but short, yet not fatal; which is contracted either by drinking wine, or crudity, or cold, or heat of a fire or the sun.

* *Canalis* is the word used by *Celsus*.

† *Resolutio nervorum* he commonly uses for a palsy, yet he cannot intend that here, but a languor or slight relaxation of the solids.

And all these pains are sometimes accompanied with a fever, and sometimes not; sometimes they afflict the whole head, at other times a part of it; sometimes the pain extends to a contiguous part of the face. Besides these, there occurs another disorder, which may continue long; where a humour inflates the skin, and it swells, and yields to the impression of the finger. This the Greeks call hydrocephalus (*ὕδροκέφαλος*).

I have already spoken of the treatment of the second of these kinds, while it is slight, where I laid down rules to be observed by men in health, troubled with a weakness in any part. What remedies also are proper, when the pain is attended with a fever, has been shown in that place, where the cure of fevers was considered. Now, I shall treat of the rest.

That which is acute, and that which rises to an unusual height, and that which proceeds from some sudden cause, and though not mortal, yet is very violent, demands venæsection for the first step in the cure. But, unless the pain be intolerable, that is needless. And it is better to abstain from food; if possible, from drink too; if not, to drink water. If the pain continues the following day, to give a clyster, to procure sneezings, to take nothing but water; for this discipline often removes it in a day or two, especially if the origin be from wine, or crudity.

But, if these methods afford small relief, it is proper to clip the hair close to the skin; then it must be considered, what was the cause of the pain. If heat, it is expedient to pour a great quantity of cold water over the head, to apply a concave sponge frequently dipped in cold water and squeezed, to anoint with rose-oil and vinegar, or rather to apply sordid wool dipped in these, or some other cooling cataplasms. But, if cold has brought on the disorder, it is proper to pour upon the head sea-water, or, at least, salt-water warm, or a decoction of laurel; then to rub the head briskly; next to embrocate it with warm oil, and to cover it. Some even bind it up; others clap on cervicalia* and clothes, and thus are relieved; others are assisted by hot cataplasms. And, therefore, where the cause is not known, it is proper to try, whether cooling things, or heating, give most

* *Cervicale* was used in a double sense by the Romans, either for a bolster, or a piece of dress resembling the neck-cloth.

relief, and to use those which, upon experiment, shall be found best.

But if the cause cannot be discovered, it is proper to pour over the head, first warm water, as has been prescribed, or salt water, or a decoction of laurel, then cold vinegar and water. The following methods are of general use in all inveterate pains of the head; to excite sneezings, to rub the lower parts briskly, to use gargarisms of such things as promote saliva, to apply cucurbital to the temples and back of the head, to elicit an hæmorrhage from the nose, to vellicate the temples now and then with resin, and, by applying mustard, to ulcerate those parts that are affected, first putting linen below, that it may not corrode too severely, or to make ulcers where the pain is, by hot irons, to eat always moderately, and drink water; when the pain is abated, to go into the bath, there to pour over the head first a great quantity of hot water, and then cold. If the pain is wholly removed, to return even to the use of wine; but ever after to drink water before any thing else.

That kind is different, where a humour is collected within the head. In this it is necessary to clip to the skin; then to apply mustard, so as to ulcerate it; if that does not prove effectual, the knife must be made use of. The management must be so far the same with dropsical cases, that the patient must be exercised, sweated, briskly rubbed, and take such food and drink as are powerful diuretics.

Of the cynicus spasmus.—There is a distemper incident to the face, which the Greeks call cynicus spasmus (κυνικός σπασμὸς). It comes on with an acute fever. The mouth is turned aside with a kind of grin, and therefore it is nothing else than a distortion of the mouth. There is also a frequent change of the colour in the face and the whole body, and a great propensity to sleep.

It is very proper to let blood in this disorder. If it is not removed by this, to give a clyster. If it does not yield even to that, to vomit by white hellebore. Besides, it is necessary to avoid the heat of the sun, fatigue, and wine. But if it is not cured by these methods, running must be used, and gentle and long friction upon that part, which is diseased; in the other

parts shorter, but brisk. It does service also to procure sneezings, to shave the head, and to pour upon it hot, either sea water, or at least salt water, with sulphur added to it; after this bathing, to rub again, to chew mustard, and at the same time to apply cerate to the parts of the face that are affected, and to the sound parts mustard, till it corrode them. The properest diet is of the middle kind.

Of a palsy of the tongue.—But if the tongue be paralytic, which sometimes happens of itself, sometimes is occasioned by another distemper, so that the pronunciation is indistinct; it is necessary to use a gargarism of a decoction of thyme, or hyssop, or catmint; to drink water; to rub briskly the head, mouth, and the parts under the chin, and the neck; to rub the tongue itself with laser; to chew the most acrid things, such as mustard, garlic, onion; to make strong efforts to articulate words clearly; to take exercise, keeping in the breath; to pour cold water upon the head often; sometimes to eat plentifully of radishes, and then to vomit.

Of a catarrh and gravedo.—A humour distills from the head sometimes into the nose, which is a slight disorder; sometimes upon the fauces, which is worse; sometimes even upon the lungs, which is worst of all. If it have fallen upon the nose, a thin rheum flows from the nostrils, the head is slightly pained, a weight is felt in it, and there are frequent sneezings. If upon the fauces, it irritates them, and raises a slight cough. If upon the lungs, beside the sneezings and cough, there is also a weight in the head, lassitude, thirst, heat, and bilious urine.

Another (though not very different) disorder is a gravedo. This obstructs the nostrils, blunts the voice, causes a dry cough; at the same time the saliva is salt, there is a sounding in the ears, the veins of the head move, and the rine is turbid. All these disorders Hippocrates calls coryzæ (*κορύζαι*). I observe that this is now by the Greeks appropriated to the gravedo; and catarrhs are called by them catastagma (*κατασταγμα*). These are common, and of short continuance; but if they be neglected, are usually lasting. None of them is dangerous, but such as ulcerates the lungs.

When we perceive any such symptom, we ought immediately

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