

in the least possible portion of muriatic acid, equal parts of the white oxide of antimony and phosphate of lime; after which, pouring this solution gradually into distilled water previously alkalized by a sufficient quantity of ammonia, a white and abundant precipitate will be produced, which, being well washed and dried, is the substitute he proposes for James's powder. A few observations are added on the theory of this combination; as also an assertion, that this powder, administered as a medicine, perfectly agreed in its general effects with James's powder, and the pulvis antimonialis, often prescribed in lieu of it, with this advantage, that being more mild, it may be given in larger doses, without producing the nausea or other stimulating symptoms that usually attend it.

*Case of a young Gentleman, who recovered his Sight when seven Years of Age, after having been deprived of it by Cataracts, before he was a Year old; with Remarks. By Mr. James Ware, Surgeon. Communicated by Maxwell Garthshore, M.D. F.R.S. Read June 11, 1801. [Phil. Trans. 1801, p. 382.]*

The subject of this case was the son of a clergyman in Somersetshire, who in his early infancy had every appearance of being a healthy, perfect child; but, when about a year old, was accidentally observed to be deprived of sight. A surgeon in the country pronounced that he had a complete cataract in each eye; and Mr. Ware, on being consulted, did not hesitate to decide that the only cure would be the removal of the opaque crystalline humour; but he added, that he did not think the child would be fit for the operation until he was at least thirteen or fourteen years of age. At the age of seven, however, the child's parents brought him to London, in order to enable Mr. Ware to form an opinion from his own observation. A recent case, in which this eminent operator had succeeded to restore sight to a youth about fourteen years of age, without extracting the cataract, but merely by making a large puncture in the capsule, so as to bring the opaque crystalline into free contact with the aqueous and vitreous humours, having induced him to retract his opinion concerning the necessity of extracting the cataract, he proposed to perform the above operation immediately on one of the eyes of this new patient. This he effected without giving much pain; and in a few days the child described without hesitation all the objects that were set before him.

The author now draws a comparison between this case of restored sight and those described by Mr. Cheselden in the 35th volume of the Philosophical Transactions; and finding a considerable deviation in the results, he is induced to form several conclusions, which differ materially from those of his predecessors. These are briefly, That when children are born blind, in consequence of having cataracts in their eyes, they are never so totally deprived of sight as not to be able to distinguish colours:—that they have likewise some perception of distances; and that hence, when they recover their sight,

they can immediately form some judgement both of colours and distances, and even of the outline of strongly defined objects.

That when children have been born with cataracts, the crystalline humour has generally been found, either in a soft or a fluid state; and that in these cases, if the capsule be simply punctured with a couching-needle, there is reason to expect that the opaque matter will sooner or later be absorbed, and the sight be restored, and that should any opacity in the capsule itself render this operation ineffectual, the other, viz. that of extraction, may still be resorted to with every prospect of success.

Lastly, that this operation of couching being much more easy than that of extraction, it may be attempted at a very early period; and that thus the benefit of education may be afforded to children much sooner than if they were to wait till the proper age for extraction.

Mr. Ware acknowledges in a note, that about a month after the above operation he couched the other eye of his young patient, but that he did not prove equally successful: this he ascribes to some opacity in the capsule, which was incapable of being absorbed. The eye, however, he adds, remained as fit as ever for another operation.

*An Account of some Galvanic Combinations, formed by the Arrangement of single metallic Plates and Fluids, analogous to the new Galvanic Apparatus of Mr. Volta. By Mr. Humphry Davy, Lecturer on Chemistry in the Royal Institution. Communicated by Benjamin Count of Rumford, V.P.R.S. Read June 18, 1801. [Phil. Trans. 1801, p. 397.]*

Those who have attended to the latest experiments on galvanism, will recollect that the combinations hitherto used in that curious process consist of a pile of successive pairs of two metals, or of one metal and charcoal, and a stratum of fluid between each pair; and that the agencies of these combinations have been generally ascribed to the different powers of the metals to conduct electricity. Our author in the present paper states some arguments founded on experiments, from which it appears that an accumulation of galvanic influence, exactly similar to that produced in the above-mentioned pile, may be effected by the arrangement of single metallic plates, or arcs, between strata of different fluids. What first led to the discovery was the observation that the galvanic effects were readily produced when the metallic pairs were alternated with acids or other fluids capable of oxidating one only of the metals of the series. Double plates, for instance, composed of silver and gold, produced galvanic action when placed in contact in the common order with cloths moistened in diluted nitric acid; and plates of copper and silver when nitrate of mercury was used. It was hence inferred that galvanic effects might be produced if single metallic plates could be connected together by different fluids, in such a manner that one of their surfaces only should undergo oxidation, the arrangement in other respects being regularly progressive.