

more, however, it was found necessary, from the recurrence of the diseased symptoms, to repeat venesection in about the same quantity even to the sixth time, (the blood invariably exhibiting criteria of highly-marked arterial excitement,) when steadiness of the pulse, and return of health, began to appear; and convalescence slowly supervened. During this train of formidable symptoms, much pus was coughed-up, with mucus of a strongly saline taste, and occasionally streaked with blood. The sputa were copious and purulent.

The parents and anxious relatives of both these young ladies for a season considered their cases perfectly hopeless. I have the pleasure to add, that I have had an opportunity, within these few days, of enquiring after their welfare, and am assured that not a vestige of disease remains.

It may be right and candid to confess, that the parties persevered in the diligent use of every means recommended, and submitted with readiness to every salutary discipline.

Queen-street; August 6th, 1819.

FOR THE LONDON MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL JOURNAL.

Botanical Characters of the Asarum Canadense.

IN the case of tetanus successfully treated by Dr. Firth, related in the last number of your Journal, a decoction of *asarum canadense* was given to the patient, amongst the other remedies. I believe the botanical characters of that plant have not been given at any time in your Journal; if it be so, you will perhaps be pleased with the following for insertion.

London; Sept. 8th.

PHILOPHYTON.

ASARUM, cl. *dodecandria*, ord. *monogynia*, LIN. Cl. v. *dicotyledons*, ord. *aristoloches*, JUSSIEU. Cl. *apétales*, sect. i. TOURNEFORT.

Gen. char.—Calyx three or four cleft, superior; corolla none; anthers growing to the middle of the filaments. Capsule coriaceous, crowned.

Spec. char.—Leaves two, reniform; calyx woolly, cleft to the base; its segments spreading at top. Grows in old woods and mountainous tracts. Flowers from May to July. Michaux styles it “*vix distinctum ab Europæo*,” with regard to form; but its taste is somewhat different, being intermediate between that of ginger and the *aristolochia serpentaria*. In its qualities it appears to resemble the latter.