

## **Certificates of the efficacy of Doctor Perkins's patent metallic instruments.**

### **Contributors**

Perkins, Elisha, 1741-1799.  
Green, Samuel, 1768-1859  
National Library of Medicine (U.S.)

### **Publication/Creation**

New-London [Conn.] : From S. Green's press, [1796]

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/t9hn6wwp>

### **License and attribution**

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by the National Library of Medicine (U.S.), through the Medical Heritage Library. The original may be consulted at the National Library of Medicine (U.S.) where the originals may be consulted.

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Perkins  
Hammell  
184528

Warr

THE PUBLIC

Ref

46-a

# CERTIFICATES

OF THE

## Efficacy

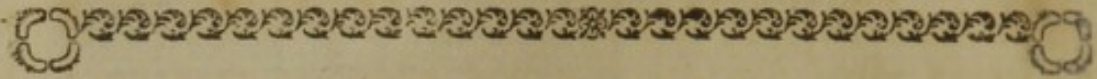
OF

## Doctor PERKINS'S

### *Patent Metallic Instruments.*

NEW-LONDON:—FROM S. GREEN'S PRESS.

Pigeon Hole's Office  
3233  
Washington, D.C.



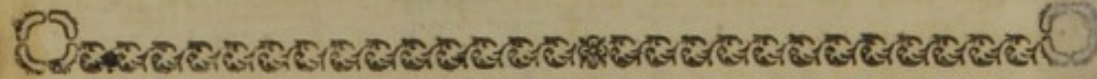
TO THE PUBLIC.

---

**S**ENSIBLE that every attempt at improvement in any of the useful arts, ever has, and probably ever will meet with opposition, either from interested or *certain* other motives, which in a greater or less degree influence the generality of mankind,—the subscriber takes the liberty to cite a few among very many cases in which his method of removing pains, inflammations, and spasmodic affections from the human body, has been attended with success. The novelty and apparent simplicity of this practice, may possibly induce some, before they have attended with candor to the subject, to treat it with ridicule. That the public may be more satisfactorily informed as to its utility and importance, he publishes the following certificates, as received from several respectable characters.

ELISHA PERKINS.

PLAINFIELD, August 12, 1796.







## C E R T I F I C A T E S, &c.

---

GEN. TYLER, AND MR. LORD.

---

**I** JOHN TYLER, of Preston, in the county of New-London and state of Connecticut, hereby certify, that on or about the 17th day of June last, I was confined by a wound, which I had before that time received, by cutting my right leg transversely, in which I had taken cold; and at that time the sore was in a high state of inflammation, and gave me great pain, to such a degree that I had been obliged to keep my leg in a horizontal position, in a chair, the most of that day,—when Doct. *Elisha Perkins*, of Plainfield, called on me, and having operated on me a few minutes with his patent metallic instruments, the pain in my leg wholly ceased, and the redness and inflammation of the wound entirely disappeared. I was free from pain that night, and indeed the pain and inflammation both ceased from that operation, and never returned again.

And I further certify, that my wife at that time was sorely afflicted with rheumatic pains in her hip, which had been upon her a number of years, and had affected her to such a degree as to render that side shorter than the other, and to make her unable at that time to raise herself from her chair without the greatest difficulty, or to walk across the room without leaning on her staff, and with that support, not without the greatest inconvenience; and Doct. *Perkins* operated upon her a few minutes, when she declared herself free from pain, and immediately rose from her chair, without any assistance or apparent difficulty, and walked



several times across the room without her staff, or any other support, and has continued to this time able to walk in that manner; not having complained of, or been troubled with pain in the night (of which she had much complained before;) and has truly been to all appearance, a different person, as to the use of her limbs, from the time of that operation, from what she had been for years before.

JOHN TYLER.

*Preston, July 29, 1796.*

I THE subscriber was present at the time of the above operation, and fully concur in the above statement of facts by Gen. Tyler.

JAMES LORD.

MR. NATHAN GLOVER, & MR. AMOS SIMONS.

I NATHAN GLOVER, of Plainfield, in the county of Windham and state of Connecticut, certify, that for seven years past, I have been frequently visited with severe turns of the *Quinsy*, which (notwithstanding the application of internal and external means, administered by the most skilful neighboring physicians) have never left me within eight or ten days.

About the first of July, 1796, I was again severely attacked by this disease, and in about twenty-four hours, my throat became very much swelled and inflamed, and extremely painful. I was at this time visited by Doct. Perkins, who operated on the diseased part, with his patent metallic instruments.

The pains after two or three operations, wholly left me, and the inflammation entirely disappeared; the swelling did not mature and break as it had usually done,—but in about twenty-four hours wholly subsided, and my throat became perfectly well.



The turns of the quinsy which I have heretofore had, though not more severe in their first attacks than this, have never left me short of the term of eight or ten days ; whereas this continued but two : And I have no doubt but it would have lasted as long as the others, had not Doct. *Perkins* operated with his instruments. I believe the cure to be effected wholly by his means.

NATHAN GLOVER.

*Plainfield, August 9, 1796.*

I THE subscriber was residing at the house of Mr. *Glover*, and was present at the above operation, and perfectly agree with him in his statement of facts.

AMOS SIMONS.

---

CAPT. JOSHUA BOTTUM.

I JOSHUA BOTTUM, of Plainfield, in the county of Windham and state of Connecticut, certify, that I have been troubled with a *rheumatic pain* in my arm for four months, which was often extremely distressing. Having heard much of the surprising efficacy of Doct. *Perkins's* patent instruments, but being myself an unbeliever in this method of removing pains, in consequence of the suggestions of his enemies, I neglected using his means, until on or about the 15th of July, when I myself operated on my pained arm about six minutes, and to my utter surprize, the pain entirely ceased, and has never returned. I have every reason to believe that a radical cure was effected by that one operation.

JOSHUA BOTTUM.

*Plainfield, August 5, 1796.*



MR. AND MRS. SNOW.

I ELIZABETH SNOW, of Plainfield, in the state of Connecticut, certify that in the month of June, 1795, I was sorely afflicted with pains in my ancles, which had settled there after a severe fit of sickness, and had troubled me to such a degree that I became very weak and emaciated. In this unhappy situation I continued about three months, until in the month and year above-mentioned, I applied to Doctor *Elisha Perkins*, who visited me and operated on the pained part of my ancles, with his metallic instruments. Immediately the pain ceased and has never since returned. I am persuaded a radical cure was at that time effected.

ELIZABETH SNOW.

*Plainfield, August 3, 1796.*

I THE subscriber fully concur with my wife, in the above statement of facts.

ABRAHAM SNOW.

MRS. STEARNS.

I HEREBY certify, that I have been troubled with a pain and weakness in my wrist, for upwards of six years, attended with a tumor, which had become hard and protuberant, about the size of a walnut.

In November last, Doctor *Elisha Perkins* operated on the part affected, with his metallic instruments, which gave an immediate relief; and I have experienced no pain there since. The tumor very soon subsided, and my wrist is in all respects as well as ever.

RACHEL STEARNS.

*Plainfield, August 2, 1796.*



MR. DAVID MOORE,

AND

MAJ. PERKINS,

Physician, and Member of the Medical Society of the  
State of Connecticut.

THIS may certify that I have for many years been occasionally subject to rheumatic pains, which have at times confined me to my house for some weeks, and that I was some time past seized violently with a pain in my back, loins and hips. I called two different physicians to my assistance, and followed their directions, but with no apparent benefit. In four or five days from the first attack, the pain removed into my feet, particularly into my great toe joints, which swelled and inflamed, and became extremely painful, and remained in that situation several days, giving me little or no rest. Having heard of the effects of Doctor *Elisha Perkins's* metallic instruments, I was induced to try them. I accordingly had them applied in the mode prescribed. It was in the evening I thought I felt relief, and in the morning when I awoke, my pains, to my very great surprise, had wholly left me, and have never returned. The swelling and foreness gradually abated, and in two or three days I was well, excepting a weakness which I suppose was in consequence of so much pain.

DAVID MOORE.

*Norwich, August 12, 1796.*

THIS may certify that I was knowing to the above case; also, to several others, where these instruments have been used with success, and am of opinion, that they promise important benefit to mankind.

JOSEPH PERKINS.



DOCTOR RUFUS JOHNSON,  
A Member of the Medical Society of the State of  
Connecticut.

I CERTIFY, that in the course of my practice, a few months past, I have made frequent experiments with Doctor *Perkins's* patent instruments, and have with but very few exceptions, succeeded to my great astonishment, in removing *rheumatic pains*, head-achs, agues in the face, cramp-convulsions, and inflammatory swellings of the throat.

The pains, after being once eased, have in but few instances returned; and then by a repetition of the operation, have been wholly removed.

From my own practice, and from what I know of the practice of others, I esteem Doctor *Perkins's* method of removing pains, a very important and useful improvement in the *healing art*; and wish that his instruments may be generally dispersed, that mankind at large may have it in their power by these simple means, to ease themselves of most of the bodily pains which so many experience.

RUFUS JOHNSON, Physician.

Canterbury, August 10, 1796.

DOCTOR T. BACKUS,  
Member of the Medical Society, of the State of  
Connecticut.

I THE subscriber was called on the 4th instant, to attend a patient, by the name of *James Crawford*, who for the term of nearly five years, has been frequently troubled with a species of epileptic fits.—When I first saw him, he had experienced in the course of the day, about twelve, each of which usually held him nearly fifteen minutes. At the commencement of one of them, I took from him about fourteen ounces



of blood ; but discovering no happy effect, I applied Doctor *Perkins'* patent metallic instruments to his right leg, in which he usually experienced the first attack of his fits. The whole leg immediately became limber and free from spasms, and he soon revived without suffering a general convulsion. About twenty minutes after, I being out of his room, was informed that the symptoms of another fit appeared, and before I could operate on him, he was universally convulsed with an entire loss of reason. I then applied the instruments to his right leg, six or eight strokes, when the spasms immediately ceased, and he recovered his reason. In a short time, he was seized with another, which was removed very much in the manner of the last, the instruments not being applied until a general convulsion had taken place. I then seated myself on his bed, that I might be enabled to apply the means more seasonably. Here he very soon discovered the symptoms again, but by applying the instruments, the symptoms immediately disappeared. Several others at intervals, commenced with their usual symptoms, by so contracting and cramping the right leg, that the utmost exertions of two men were scarcely able to straighten it, each of which were, in less than a minute removed by four or five strokes of the instruments, before they had extended to the other parts of the body, the leg almost instantaneously becoming perfectly lax.

By the request of a number of gentlemen, who were then present, when the symptoms of one appeared, I ceased to operate, that we might determine whether the above operations had prevented the general convulsions, which before the applications of the instruments, had always succeeded the first attack in his leg. Immediately he fell into a very severe fit, which appeared in one universal spasm. In this situation, I suffered him to continue a few minutes, when by



applying the instruments to his leg again, in less than one minute he was entirely free from any kind of spasm, and immediately recovered his reason. I still continued by his side, and prevented several other general attacks by operating with the instruments at the beginning of the symptoms. About one hour and a half after the first operation, the fits entirely subsided. He became easy and experienced none of those disagreeable sensations, which he ever had after former attacks of this kind. He informs that he had usually been afflicted with these fits except at a few intervals, about twenty-four hours from the time they first commenced, and it is presumed the application of the metallic instruments, not only shortened the fits, but lessened their number, as at this time they continued not more than nine or ten hours from their first commencement, and about an hour and a half after the first application of the instruments. He further observes, that he has discovered none of that debility which had universally succeeded his former attacks, and continues to this day enjoying better health than usual.

THOMAS BACKUS, *Physician.*

WE the subscribers were present at the above operations, and fully agree with Doctor *Backus*, in his statement of facts.

CHARLES MILLER,  
JOHN LESTER,  
PHINEHAS KINDAL,  
JOHN PIKE,  
RECOMPENCE HALY.

*Plainfield, Aug. }*  
9, 1796. *}*

DOCTOR JAREB DYER,  
Member of the Medical Society of the State of Connecticut, and Surgeon to the 21st Regiment.

I CERTIFY, that for seven years past, I have been troubled with almost a constant *rheumatic pain*,



in my left shoulder. For the two last years it has gradually increased till it became very distressing, and has been attended with a stiffness, to such a degree that I could not raise my hand to the top of my head without great difficulty. On or about the 18th of June last, I myself operated on my shoulder when it was in extreme pain, with Doctor *Perkins's* patent tractors.—The pain, to my great surprize, wholly left me within six minutes, and my shoulder was soon freed from its former stiffness, so that I could move that arm and shoulder with the same ease that I could the other.—The pain has but once returned, and then very lightly, in consequence of severe exercise: It was immediately removed by applying the tractors.

I further certify, that I have been afflicted with a pain in my head for twenty years past. It has usually come on in the fore part of the day, and continued ten or twelve hours. Has often been very distressing. About the time of the above operation, I applied the instruments to my head, when in severe pain. I was in a few minutes eased, and the pain has not yet returned.—For three years before this operation, I do not think I have been three weeks at a time free from this complaint. From what I have experienced, and heard of the efficacy of Doctor *Perkins's* instruments, I doubt not but they will prove of great utility to mankind.

JAREB DYER, Physician.

Canterbury, August 11, 1796.

---

DOCTOR EBENEZER ROBINSON.

**I** HEREBY certify, that I have been acquainted with Doctor *Perkins's* method of removing pains and inflammations by pointed metallic instruments, for near a year; that I have frequently operated myself, and have generally had success in removing pains and inflammations of various kinds, among which, are



pains of the head, burns, and rheumatisms, that I have full confidence in the efficacy of the means, and that it is a very valuable discovery.

EBENEZER ROBINSON.

*Plainfield, August 10, 1796.*

---

CAPT. CYRUS SPAULDING.

**I** CYRUS SPAULDING, of Plainfield, in the state of Connecticut, certify, that from the month of May, to the month of July, 1795, I was in a feeble, debilitated state, and was afflicted with almost a constant pain across the small of my back, which at times was very severe. In the month of July, I applied to Doctor *Elisha Perkins*, for physical aid: He proposed removing my pain with his metallic instrument, without any internal application. As I was far from having any faith in such apparently simple means, I treated them with ridicule. However, I consented to his operating on the affected part; when in a few minutes, to my great astonishment, the pain wholly left me, and has never since returned.

CYRUS SPAULDING.

---

REV. JOEL BENEDICT.

**I** JOEL BENEDICT, of Plainfield, certify, that I was present at the time that Capt. *Cyrus Spaulding* was eased of pain by Doctor *Perkins*, as certified above; and that I have also myself several times removed pains of different kinds by his patent metallic instruments. Cures performed in this way appear to me as real, and no more liable to a relapse, than those by any other means. The cure of an accidental scald, I have myself experienced. The pain was relieved in



a few minutes, and the soreness soon left it and the cure was entire. I am persuaded that the invention is important, and will be of great benefit to mankind.

JOEL BENEDICT, *Pastor of*  
*a Church in Plainfield.*

*August 10, 1796.*

REV. WALTER KING.

**T**HIS may certify, that the subscriber has been present, in sundry instances, where pains have been apparently removed by the application of metallic instruments, invented and improved by Doctor *Elisha Perkins* of Plainfield, and that the use of said instruments appears to me, to promise extensive benefit to society.

WALTER KING, *Pastor of the*  
*second Church in Norwich.*

*Norwich, August 12, 1796.*

REV. SOLOMON MORGAN.

**I** HEREBY certify whom it may concern, that I have had opportunity of making use of Dr. *Elisha Perkins's* tractors, in cases of pain in the head, and burns, and have succeeded to the relief of the patients; and from what I have heard from others, I believe that said tractors are useful to the removing of many of the pains to which we are subject; and think that a more general use of them, may be for the benefit of mankind.

SOLOMON MORGAN, *Pastor*  
*of the first church in Canterbury.*

*Canterbury, August 10, 1796.*



## REV. ELHANAN WINCHESTER.

**I** CERTIFY that on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, 1796, I saw Doct. *Perkins's* method of cure by pointed metallic instruments, tried with success, upon several patients in the poor-house or bettering-house in Philadelphia;—especially upon a man who was unable to lift his right hand to his head, as was tried before-hand; but who after a few minutes operation, was able to remove it at pleasure, and in my sight, put it with ease on the top of his head and back of his neck, and in all directions.

Nearly the same effects took place upon a woman; and all that I saw treated, professed that their pains ceased after being treated a short time: And several came voluntarily, and in my hearing, thanked the Doctor for cures he had performed on them about eight weeks before, in removing pains from them, which they declared had not since returned. So that from what I saw with my own eyes, and what I have heard, I have great hopes that this method will greatly tend to alleviate the miseries of mankind.

ELHANAN WINCHESTER.

*Philadelphia, April 4, 1796.*

## REV. MICAIAH PORTER.

**I** MICAIAH PORTER, of Voluntown, in the county of Windham and state of Connecticut, certify, that I have myself made repeated experiments with Doctor *Perkins's* metallic instruments, for removing pains and inflammations; that I have almost invariably succeeded to my own astonishment, in curing headaches, teeth-aches, rheumatisms and burns: In other complaints, I have not had opportunity for trial: But I am fully convinced, from my own experiments, and from what I have known of others, that this me-



thod of removing pains and inflammations from human bodies, is a very important discovery, and that it must contribute very much to alleviate the distresses and infirmities to which our frail bodies are so liable.

MICAHIAH PORTER, *Pastor*  
of the first church in Voluntown.

August 9, 1796.

WE the subscribers certify, that from a variety of cases, which have occurred, not only in our own practice, but in that of our neighboring physicians, we are *fully convinced* of the utility of Doctor Perkins's patent metallic instruments, in removing various pains, spasms and inflammatory affections from the human body, and that the discovery is of importance to the healing art.

* JOSEPH BAKER,	}	Fellows
* JONATHAN HALL,		of the
* ELISHA LORD,		Medical
* JOHN BREWSTER,		Convention.
THOMAS HUBBARD,		
Member of the Medical Society.		

\* Doctors Baker, Hall, Lord and Brewster, with the author of the metallic discovery, are the five representatives from Windham county to the Connecticut Medical Convention.

MANY other certificates might have been inserted relative to the discussion of biles and fellons, cures of gouts, &c. but it is presumed that enough is here exhibited to convince an unprejudiced mind, that the metallic instruments have performed radical cures.

Measures have been pursued that the means of removing pains, &c. may be obtained in various parts of the United States. The following is a list of the names and places of a-



*Index of some who have the transfers and patent instruments  
for sale.*

**D**OCTOR Thaddeus M'Cartey, Keene, New-Hampshire.

— Smith, M.D. Dartmouth College, do.

Rev. John Smith, Dighton, Massachusetts.

Doctor Joseph Trumbull, Petersham, do.

Doctor Seth Field, Brookfield, do.

Mr. John Ruggles, Berry, do.

Doctor Thomas Babbit, Brookfield, do.

Mr. Samuel Satterlee, Williamstown, do.

Rev. — White, Bristol, Rhode-Island.

George Burrill, Esq. Providence, do.

Doctor John Aldrich, Hopkinton, do.

Capt. Ladd, Newport, do.

Doctor Daniel Coit, Norwich, Connecticut.

Doctor Jonathan Hall, Pomfret, do.

Doctor Thomas Hubbard, do. do.

Doctor Joseph Baker, Brooklyn, do.

Doctor Penuel Hutchins, Killingly, do.

Doctor Joseph Coit, Thompson, do.

Doctor Asa Spaulding, Stonington, do.

Doctor Samuel Willard, Stafford, do.

Doctor Ripley, Norwich, do.

Doctor Thomas Backus, Plainfield, do.

Doctor Jareb Dyer, Canterbury, do.

Doctor Rufus Johnson, do. do.

Doctor Lee, jun. Windham, do.

Doctor John Pierce, Lebanon, do.

Hon. Nathaniel Niles, Esq. Fairlee, Vermont.

Doctor Aaron Kinsman, Newbury, do.

Doctor Joseph Lord, St. Johnsbury, do.

Amasa Dingley, M. D. New-York.

James Clark, M. D. and Son, do.

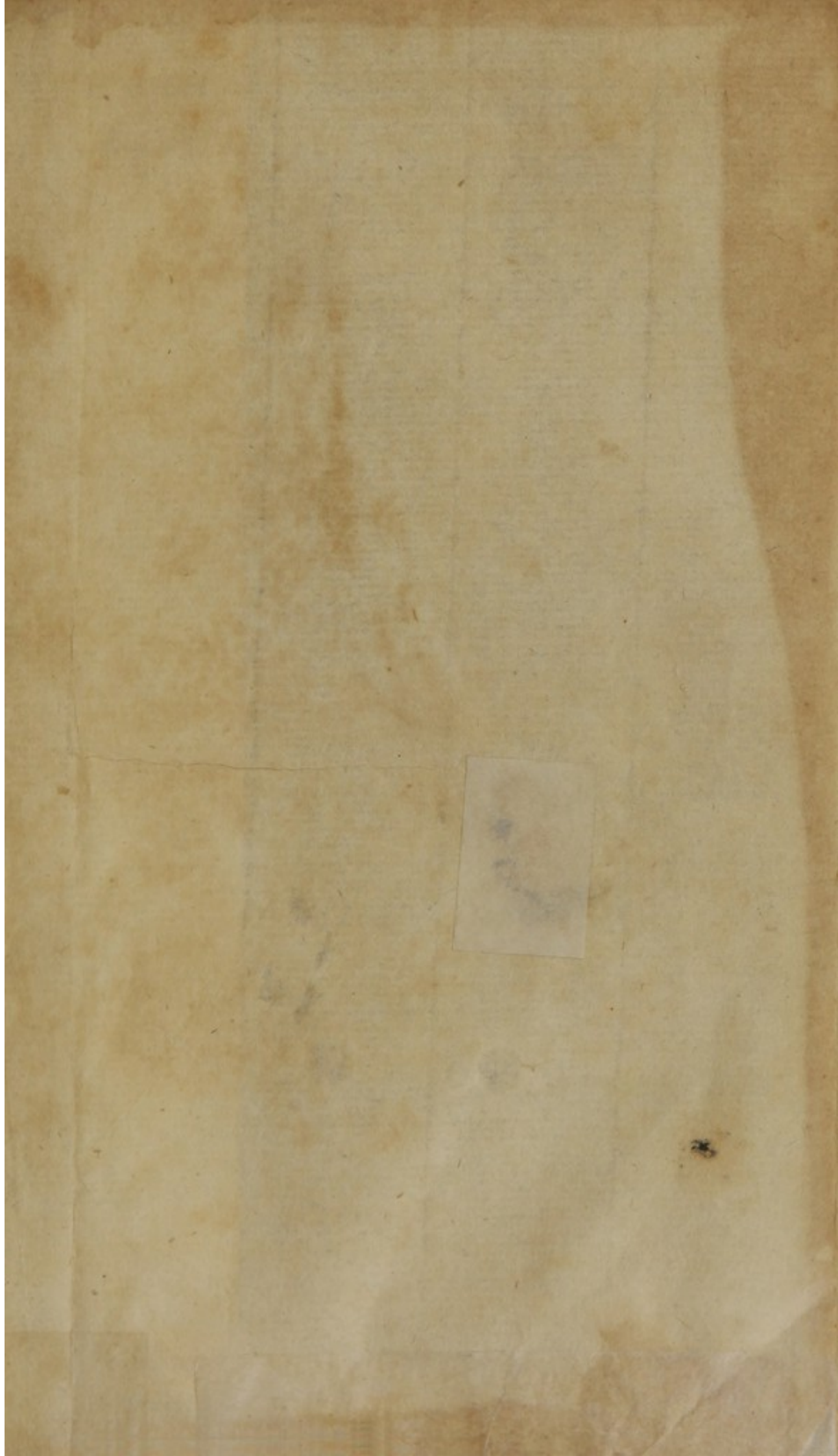
Doctor Samuel Nesbit, jun. do.

Doctors Wilson & Prentice, do.

Elijah Perkins, M. D. Philadelphia.

James Tilton, M. D. Wilmington, Delaware.







Manchester Certificate  
Philad: 1796