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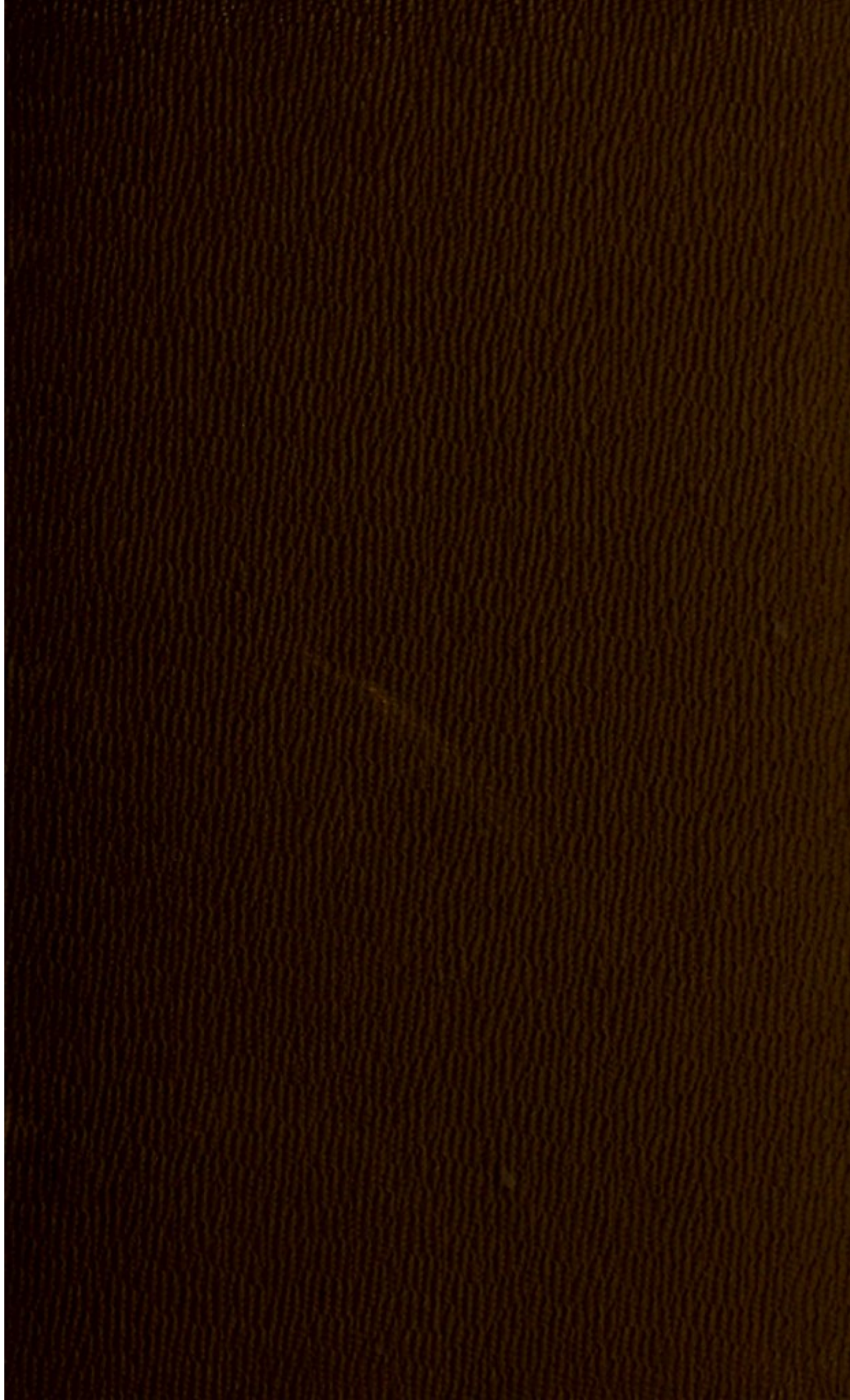
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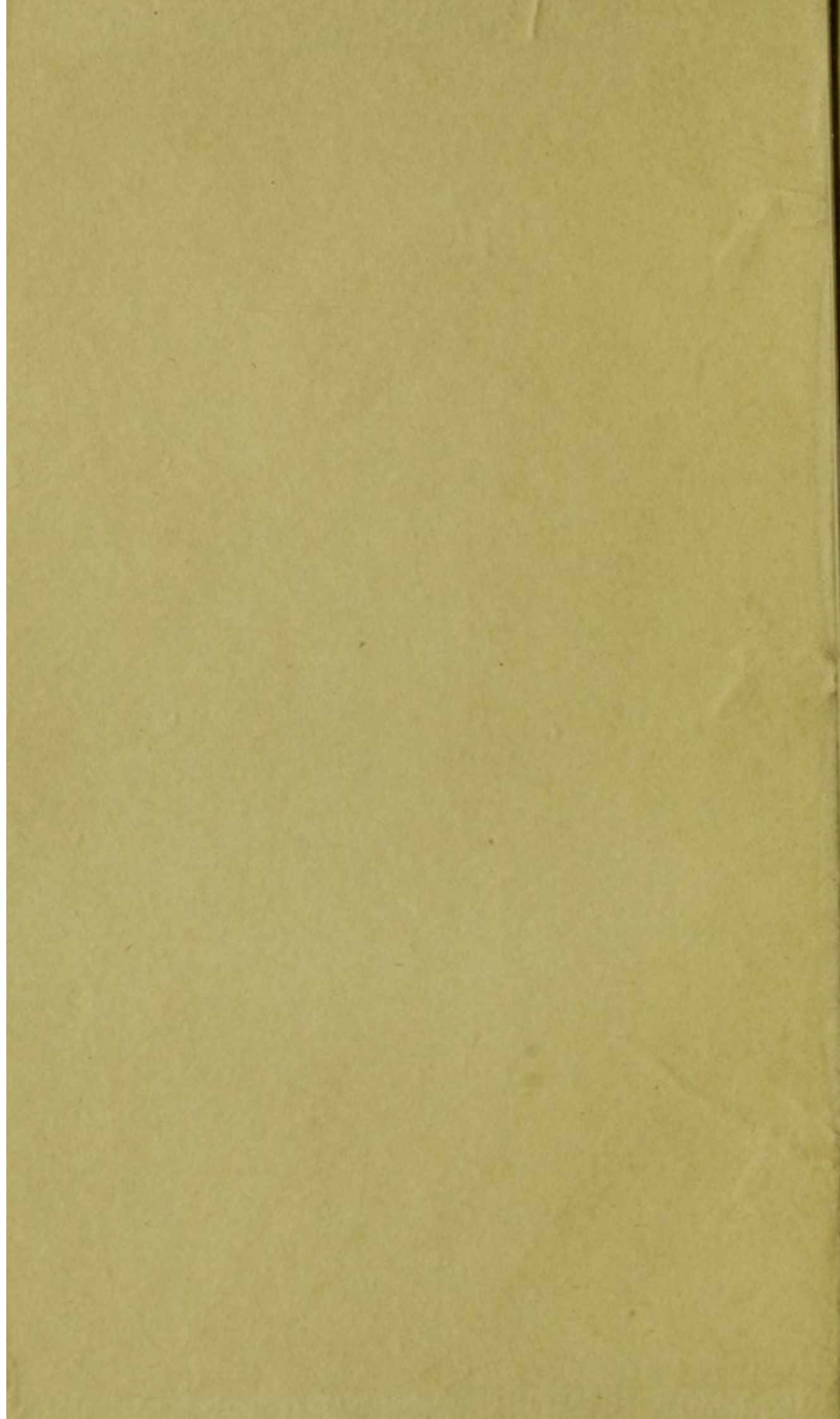
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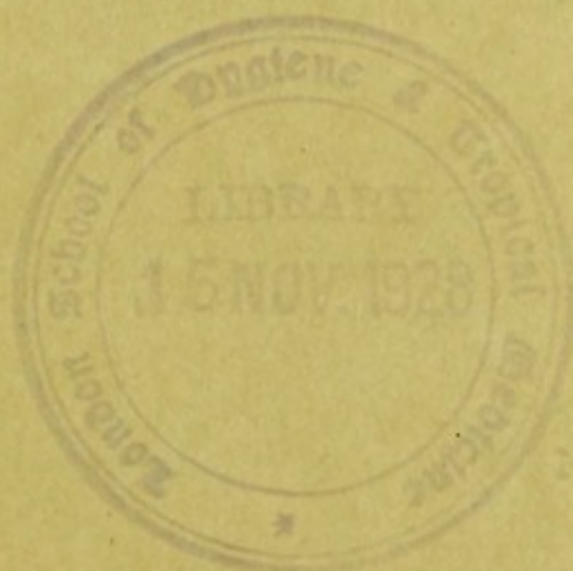
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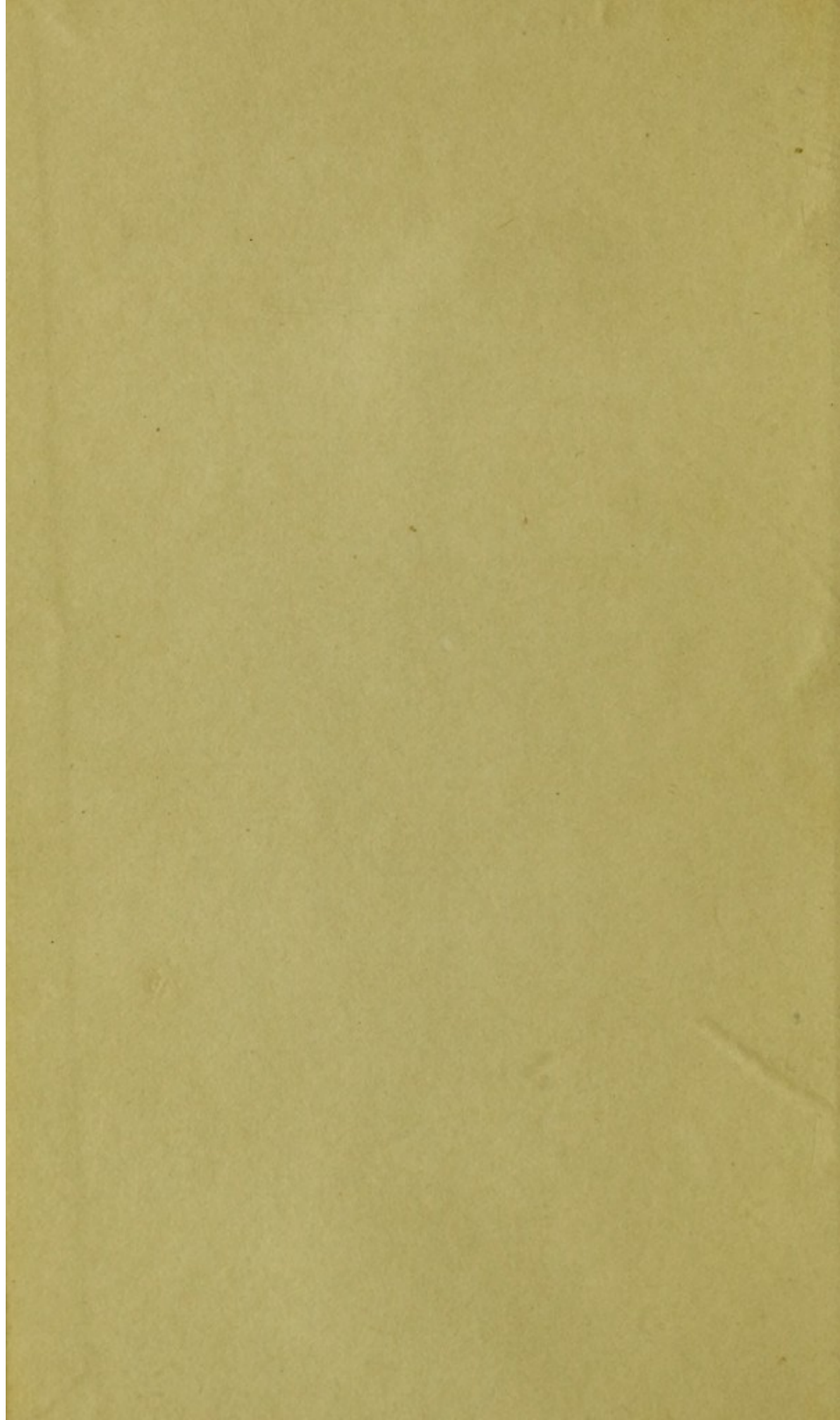


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W. M. Lucas

REMARKS

ON THE NECESSITY AND MEANS OF SUPPRESSING CONTAGIOUS FEVER

IN THE
METROPOLIS;

BY C. STANGER, M. D.

GRESHAM PROFESSOR OF PHYSIC,

AND

PHYSICIAN TO THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.

*Published for the Benefit, and at the Expence of the Institution for the
Cure and Prevention of Contagious Fever in the Metropolis.*

Pestis adest cui nec virtute resisti,
Nec telis armifve potest.

QVID METAM. Lib. ix.

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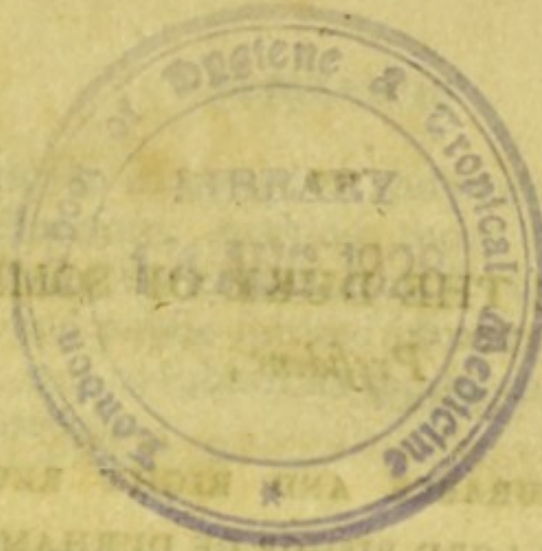
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OF MEDICINE



ON

Contagious Fever

IN THE

METROPOLIS.

TO
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF SOMERSET,
President ;

THE HONOURABLE AND RIGHT REVEREND
THE LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM,
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD SHEFFIELD,
SIR WALTER FARQUHAR, BART.
WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, ESQ. M. P.
LANGFORD MILLINGTON, ESQ.
THOMAS BERNARD, ESQ.

Vice Presidents ;

MR. RICHARD PHILLIPS,
Treasurer ;

AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL
COMMITTEE OF THE INSTITUTION FOR THE
CURE AND PREVENTION OF
CONTAGIOUS FEVER IN THE METROPOLIS.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

You are engaged in establishing a charity,
which every man of benevolence and patriotism,
who is acquainted with its importance to the com-
munity, must be anxious to promote, and which
a regard to personal safety strongly recommends.

In

In order to its complete and permanent establishment, therefore, nothing more seems necessary than to bring the evidence of its utility before the humane and public spirited inhabitants of the metropolis, and to submit its merits to the wisdom of the legislature.

Although several able works have been already published upon the subject, and the efficacy of the means, employed for suppressing contagion, has been confirmed in many of the principal towns throughout the united kingdoms, yet it is evident, from the deficiency of subscriptions in London, that a very great proportion of the inhabitants of the capital have not hitherto been made acquainted with the magnitude of the evil, and the certainty and comparative facility, with which it may be obviated.

It has been thought desirable, therefore, to have a comprehensive statement upon the subject, the extent of which should not however be an obstacle to its being generally read; which, from its size and form, might be easily distributed; and which might also admit of a large impression, at a moderate expence.

With this view, and in compliance with your wishes, I have endeavoured to point out the causes, the consequences, and the means of suppressing febrile contagion, in a clear, concise, and forcible manner, and to confirm every material assertion by the best authorities.

The printing committee have attended to the interests and circumstances of the charity in the publication of the work, and have added a plan of the institution, and a list of the subscribers.

Should what I have written on a subject which has engaged so much of your attention, meet with your approbation, I shall be highly gratified; and should it prove conducive to the success of the charity, you are so humanely exerting yourselves to establish, I shall participate with you, in the most grateful of all feelings, the consciousness of having been useful to mankind.

I am,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

C. STANGER.

Lamb's Conduit Street,

August 1, 1802.

REMARKS, &c.

IN populous towns, especially in this immense metropolis, the poor are exposed to a variety of wretchedness little known, except to those, who are obliged to witness their wants and sufferings.^a Continued labour exhausts their strength, whilst scanty and unwholesome food affords insufficient support. Air and light are, in a great measure, excluded from their habitations, whilst damp and cold frequently predominate. Human effluvia and exhalations from putrefying vegetable and animal substances, within and about their sordid dwellings, are constantly accumulating; and the atmosphere of one polluted cell is but exchanged, for that of another.^b

Such are often the miserable abodes, in which the labourer is reduced to take refuge from toil, and the mechanic to waste his strength. Decayed furniture, the harbour of vermin and filth, incumbers the narrow room, and imbibes and exhales the foul vapours. Insufficient, or threadbare and

^a Medical Memoirs of the General Dispensary in London, by John Coakley Lettsom, M. D. Introduction, page x.

^b Reports on the Diseases in London, by R. Willan, M. D. page 255.

ragged clothes, often loaded with moisture, but ill defend the poor from the inclemencies of weather, while the skin is clogged and galled by the accumulation of its own secretions as well as by external dirt.^a

What innumerable annoyances must be accumulated where houses are in contact, in almost every direction, and where every apartment, from the cellar to the garret, is occupied, often crowded by tenants labouring under the complicated calamities of poverty and disease? The body, impaired by fatigue, is, in these distressful abodes, deprived of nutritious food, of vital air, and the common means of cleanliness.

Whilst the frame is subject to physical circumstances so adverse to health, moral causes combine to irritate and depress the mind. The cries of children, the complaints of age, the lamentations of the distressed, the moans of the sick, the railings of the discontented, the quarrels of the passionate, the imprecations of the blasphemer, the riots of the drunkard, even the boisterous merriment of the gay, if mirth can here be found, preclude the possibility of repose. Intoxication, even to stupefaction, is considered a refuge from these incessant vexations, these concentrated evils. Spirituous liquor, that poisonous^b cordial of grief, inflames the passions, undermines the strength, and dissipates the hours of necessary labour.—Want is the inevitable consequence of habitual drunkenness in men; and women, reduced by necessity, and provoked by neglect and brutal treatment, are often driven to prostitution, whilst their deserted offspring are impelled to beg or steal.

^a Dr. Willan's Reports, page 303. ^b Ditto, page 132.

The very crouding together needy, ignorant, beings, ingenders and foments almost every kind of vexation, disorder, and vice; whilst, besides the depressing, debilitating, and depraving circumstances enumerated, it produces an evil of still greater magnitude, contagious fever, the most fatal scourge which afflicts mankind.^a Such have been the ravages of this disease that it has destroyed commercial and social intercourse, dissolved the obligations of duty, the bonds of friendship, and even the nearest ties of consanguinity.^b The plague and yellow fever have desolated towns^c and provinces. Were they unfortunately brought into this country, the terror, confusion, and destruction, of both property and lives, would be inconceivable.^d Scarce any sacrifice would be thought too great by individuals to escape, or by the nation to extirpate them.

^a A Letter to Dr. Percival on the prevention of Infectious Fevers, by John Haygarth, M. D. page 5.

A Description of the Jail Distemper, as it appeared amongst the Spanish Prisoners at Winchester, in the Year 1780, by James Carmichael Smyth, M. D.

Report of the State of Fevers, and other infectious Diseases, in the City of Cork, by John Barry, M. D. page 1.

Observations on the Diseases incident to Seamen, by Gilbert Blane, M. D. p. 229, 231, 244.

Memoires sur les Hopitaux de Paris, par M. Tenon, Preface, page 23.

Observations on epidemical Disorders, by James Sims, M. D. p. 249.

Observations on the Means of preventing epidemic Fevers, by Joshua Dixon, M. D. annexed to the literary Life of W. Brownrigg, by the same Author, p. 133.

^b A Treatise of the Plague, by Patrick Russell, M. D. page 306. Same Work, page 1 to page 70.

^c Opera Univerſa, Thomæ Sydenham, M. D. p. 106.

An Historical Account of the ſeveral Plagues, by Dale Ingram. p. 1.

^d ΛΟΙΜΟΛΟΓΙΑ, ſive peſtis nuperæ apud populum Londinenſem graſſantis narratio hiſtorica Nathaniele Hodges, M. D. pages 2, 15, 20.

The different species of contagious fever which are constantly prevalent here,^a though less malignant than the plague or yellow fever, are very often extremely fatal,^b and even when least virulent, from the constancy and extent of their action, and the combination of causes which counteract their cure, they are widely destructive. The circumstances which attend the communication of contagion, its progress and effects are peculiarly deplorable. It pursues its prey through all ranks of society, and through every channel of communication.^c The latent poison may be imbibed from the necessaries of life, the means of comfort, or the sources of enjoyment.

Account of the bilious remitting Yellow Fever, by Benjamin Rush, M. D. page 122—page 179.

A Discourse on the Plague, by Richard Mead, M. D. p. 26.

Opera Medica, Ricardi Morton, M. D. pag. 236.

On Fever, by John Astruc, M. D. page 255.

An Account of the principal Lazarettos in Europe, by John Howard, Esq. p. 40.

Observations on the Plague at Moscow, by Mertens, p. 84.

London's dreadful Visitation: or a Collection of all the Bills of Mortality for 1664.

^a Bills of Mortality.

Certificate from several Physicians of Hospitals and Dispensaries in London, dated April 9th, 1801, as to the prevalence of the Infectious Fever in the Metropolis.

Seventeenth Report of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor, page 55.

^b Dr. Willan's Reports, p. 254—162.

Medical Reports on the Effects of Water, cold and warm, as a Remedy in Fever and other Diseases, by James Currie, M. D. page 221—231.

Essay on the Causes and Cure of the usual Diseases in Voyages to the West Indies, S. de Monchy, M. D. p. 33.

Foster on the Crown Law, p. 74.

^c Dr. Dixons Observations, p. 174.

Dr. Russell on the Plague, 296—299.

John Howard, Esq. on Lazarettos, p. 32.

Letter to the Members of the weekly Committee of the Governors of the Infirmary, at Newcastle upon Tyne, by John Clark, M. D. and Letter from T. Beddoes, M. D. annexed.

It

It pervades the seats of business, the board of social intercourse, and is found lurking even in the haunts of pleasure. It is unwarily conveyed by the gay companion, the faithful domestic, or affectionate friend.^a Its unsuspecting victim is sometimes arrested whilst in the full vigour of health and elevation of gaiety. He is still oftener fatally assailed when debilitated or depressed.^b The rich are more liable to be infected and destroyed in consequence of the exhausting effects of indolence and excess; the poor from those of toil and want. Indulgence, repletion, satiety, the morbid sensibility and irritability, incident to refinement and luxury, predispose the affluent to infection^c and a fatal disorder. But the poor are obnoxious to every cause that can generate, diffuse, and perpetuate contagion, and almost to every circumstance which renders it destructive.^d Curtailed of the means which preserve health, deprived of the comforts which render life a blessing, harassed by all the vexations which gall the mind, depraved by vice, too often devoid of religion, and destitute even of hope, what power can they have of resisting and overcoming a poison, which preys chiefly on those who are most deficient in strength, and most bereft of the supports and restoratives of vigour. In the confined, crowded, contaminated, and disturbed dwellings of the poor, contagion frequently assails those who are half subdued, and wholly

^a Remarks on the Situation of the Poor, by T. A. Murray, M. D. page 11.

Dr. Willan's Reports, p. 259.

^b Dr. J. Sims on epidemic Disorders, p. 239.

Observations on the Means of preserving the Health of Soldiers, by Donald Monro, M. D. p. 233.

Dr. Mead on the Plague, p. 103.

^c First Lines of the Practice of Physic, by William Cullen, M. D. p. 81.

^d Dr. Barry's Report, page 9.

deprived of whatever can counteract its baneful effects.^a

The rich are generally removed from the districts of filth, vice and misery, where contagious fever originates, lurks, or rages. They have little intercourse with the infected, and are guarded by the ready means of alarm and precaution. In the airy situation of their mansions, in their spacious and well ventilated rooms, the poison is diluted. It is removed from their persons by ablution, by cleansing and changing their cloaths, furniture and apartments. Infection is counteracted by the respiration of pure air, by exercise without fatigue, by nutritious and antiseptic food, by tranquil occupations and exhilarating amusements. It is encountered by all that care, skill and medicine can supply. Yet, notwithstanding all these means of resistance and remedy, so numerous are its channels, and so subtle its approach, that contagion penetrates into the mansions of the most opulent and wary^b; invades those apparently most secure, baffles the greatest skill, destroys the most vigorous, and renders the happiest miserable.

In the circumstances under which the affluent imbibe contagion, it often lies dormant a considerable time, or imperceptibly undermines the strength of its victim; whilst he unwarily^c ex-

^a Account of Diseases in an Eastern District of London—Medical and Physical Journal.

Reports on the Diseases in the District of Finsbury—Monthly Magazine.

Dr. Willan's Reports.

^b Thoughts on the alarming Progress of the Jail Fever, by Sir G. O. Paul, Bart. page 38.

Report of the State of Fevers and other infectious Disorders in the City of Cork, by John Barry, M. D. page 19.—Dr. Ferriars Med. Hist. and Reflections, Vol. I. pages 140, 243.

^c Dr. Blane on the Diseases incident to Seamen, p. 234.

tends its action to others, or accelerates and aggravates its effects on himself.

The insidious and unrelenting enemy saps, by degrees, the health of the infected, * who grows weak and dejected; his countenance appears pale and sunk, his skin fallow, and his whole frame contracted. The head becomes heavy and painful, the mind inert, anxious, and confused. The heart is languid and oppressed, the circulation feeble, hurried, irregular. The lungs perform their function with effort; breathing is frequent and audible, and interrupted by groans and sighs. Alternate chills, flushes, and rigors invade the skin. The muscles feel weary, tender, tremulous, the joints burthened and aching. The saliva becomes viscid, the mouth clammy, the tongue white, and covered with mucus, the taste indistinct, mawkish, and disagreeable. Appetite fails, disrelish and loathing of food soon follow. The bowels participate in the weakened and disturbed action of the stomach, and are torpid or irregular. All the secretions are disordered and vitiated. The bile is increased, attenuated, rendered acrimonious. Sometimes it is accumulated and absorbed, at others, it regurgitates into the stomach, or inundates the intestines. A painful sense of weight and weakness oppresses the loins and kidneys. The urine, at first pale, limpid and copious, becomes high coloured, turbid, and scanty. The sick, though drowsy and oppressed, is deprived of rest; or, if he sleep, is agitated and disturbed, and wakes unrefreshed.

These symptoms fluctuate for a short time, but are gradually aggravated: pain in the head in-

* Observations on the Diseases of the Army, by John Pringle, M. D. p. 294.

creases, delirium and stupor ensue. The irritated heart accelerates its motions and exhausts its powers. The oppressed lungs rapidly convert the air they inspire into a hot, offensive, noxious vapour; the parched skin burns with an acrid consuming heat, or effuses partial, clammy, foetid sweat. Voluntary action is gradually abolished, involuntary convulsive motions succeed. The solids are relaxed, the fluids dissolved and effused; the tongue and mouth are parched or incrustated with fordid mucus. The stomach nauseates or rejects whatever it receives. The bowels accumulate indigested, foetid, putrid contents, with oppressive tension; or pour them out profusely and involuntarily. The urine is cloudy, dark, thick, offensive. The wan and fallow countenance becomes flushed, bloated, and by degrees muddy, lurid, and cadaverous. At length the blood retires from the extremities to the faint and palpitating heart. The chill of extinction follows its retreat. The breath struggles in its passage through the collapsed and obstructed lungs. The frame harrassed, oppressed, exhausted, sinks into dissolution.

Such is the picture of contagious fever, in its less virulent state, in which it often remains long unperceived, is slow in its progress, and frequently admits of cure.^a But this disease is sometimes so

^a Commentaria in Hermannii Boerhaave Aphorismos, Gerardii van Swieten, p. 423.

First lines of the Practice of Physic, by William Cullen, M. D. p. 8 vol. 1.

An Essay on Fevers by John Huxham, M. D. p. 62.

Observations on Fever, by John Clark, M. D. passim.

Observations on the Disorders of the Army, by John Pringle, M. D.

Observations on the Diseases incident to Seamen, by Gilbert Blane, M. D.—Medical Reports on the Effects of Water as a Remedy in Fever, by James Currie, M. D.

Dr. Haygarth's Letter. Dr. Willan's Reports, &c. &c.

malignant as to prostrate the strongest without warning,^a and cut him off almost without respite.^b Torpor and pain in the head, debility and aching in the muscles and joints, and rigor on the skin, are quickly followed by delirium and coma, intire loss of strength, and burning acrid heat.^c Inexpressible faintness, anxiety and oppression assail the sick.^d The panting lungs with difficulty transmit the blood, irregularly propelled by the irritated and convulsed heart.^e The vital stream hurrying through its channels, bursts its vessels,^f or, broken and dissolved, escapes into the cavities and from the outlets of the body.^g Diffused under the skin it disfigures the surface with livid spots, stripes, and blotches.^h The bile and other secretions, highly acrimonious, increase the disturbance in the circulation, obstruct the glands, discolour and vesicate the skinⁱ, irritate the stomach to in-

^a An Essay on Fevers, by John Huxham, M. D. p. 78.

An Essay on the Malignant Pestilential Fever, by C. Chisholm, M. D. p. 105 — Opera Thomæ Sydenham, M. D. p. 109.

Observations on the Diseases incident to Seamen, by Gilbert Blane, M. D. 405, 407.

^b John Howard, Esq. on Lazarettos, p. 40.

Dr. Mead on the Plague, p. 7.

^c Pestis narratio historica a Nathaniele Hodges, M. D.

^d De febribus, a Daniele Sennerto, p. 379.

Dr. Blane on the Diseases incident to Seamen, p. 350.

^e An Essay on Epidemic Disorders, by Joseph Rogers, M. D. p. 6.

^f Dr. Chisholm on Malignant Fever, p. 120.

Medical Inquiries, by Benjamin Rush, M. D. p. 70.

^g Observations on Diseases in Barbadoes, by William Hillary, M. D. p. 147 and 151.

Praxis Medica Lazari Riverii, p. 637.

^h Account of the Yellow Fever, by Benjamin Rush, M. D. p. 70.

ⁱ A Treatise on the Fevers of Jamaica, by Robert Jackson, M. D. p. 262.

cessant

cessant vomiting,^a and the intestines to pour out foetid putrid discharges.^b The urine becomes turbid, dark, sanguineous. The ghastly countenance, the disfigured skin,^c the convulsed muscles, the putrid foetor,^d give dreadful proofs of the malignity of contagion, which, in a few days, sometimes even in a few hours,^e extinguishes life, and converts the healthy frame into a mass of putrefaction.^f

Though this most direful state of contagious fever is not very prevalent in this country, it proves fatal to many in the obscure and loathsome retreats of poverty. There, death exalts the poison, prepares the victim, and hurries him to rapid dissolution; unobserved by the gay, the affluent, and even the humane; and too often unheeded by the timid, parsimonious, and unenlightened distributor of parochial relief.^g

It is to awaken the benevolence of the former, to enforce the duty of the latter, and demonstrate to all classes the wise policy of preventing and destroying contagion, and curing those infected, that this treatise is written. Objects, in the accomplishment of which, though the expence and difficulty be considerable, yet, compared with the di-

^a Dr. Blane on the Diseases incident to Seamen, p. 401.

^b Dr. Rush, page 72.

^c Tentamen Medicum inaugurale de febre flava, Samuel Curtin, page 2.

^d Dr. Chisholm on Malignant Fever, p. 128.

^e Observations on Fevers, by John Clark, M. D. p. 20.

^f Dr. Pringle on Malignant Fever, page 312.

^g Economical and Medical Observations, by Richard Brocklesby, M. D. page 205.

^h A Treatise on Tropical Diseases, by Benjamin Mosely, M. D. page 123.

ⁱ Dr. Wright on Yellow Fever.—Annals of Medicine for 1797.

^j De Aere & Morbis Epidemicis a Johanne Huxham, M.D. p. 135.—De febribus Daniele Sennerto, page 363.

^k Dr. Willan's Reports, page 259.

minution of misery and mortality, they are of trifling importance.

To those who can commiserate and relieve the sufferings of their fellow creatures, it will only be necessary to call attention to the horrors concentrated in the dwellings of the poor, where contagious fever rages.^b

Scantily subsisted by his daily labour, what must be the distress of the poor man, when unnerved by disease, when prostrated on a bed of sickness, and wanting aid from a starving family, whose support depends on his unremitting toils?^c What his anxiety, when he feels the rapid extinction of life, without the means of recovery, and is sensible that he communicates a fatal poison to those most dear to him, without the probability of their escape?^d Unsupplied with proper nourishment, remedies, or care, in a narrow crowded hovel, where every noise from without, and movement within, disturbs him; where clothes, furniture, and an atmosphere, at all times contaminated, are now loaded with contagion, what can be his chance of restoration? What must be the dread and danger of those, who consume the day in the same cell, almost in contact with the diseased, and waste the night on the same pallet of sickness and wretchedness?^e Let the unfeeling, or the voluptuous, for a moment, enter these receptacles of pestilence and death! Let him breathe the noisome vapours!

^a Account of the Institution for the Cure and Prevention of Contagious Fever in the Metropolis, by Thomas Bernard, Esq.

^b Remarks on the Situation of the Poor in the Metropolis, T. A. Murray, M. D. page 8.

^c Dr. Lettsom's Medical Memoirs, Pref. page xi.

^d Dr. Murray's Remarks, page 9.

^e Letter to Dr. Percival on the Prevention of Infectious Fever, by John Haygarth, M. D.

Let him hear the cries of want and pain, the mutterings of delirium, the groans of the expiring, the wailings of the survivors! Let him behold the sick, the dying, and the dead! Here a famished infant attempts, in vain, to drain the exhausted fountain of its nourishment. On the same bed are children shivering and burning; a mother raving in delirium, frantic or stupified with despair; a father breathing his last, or extended a loathsome disfigured corpse.^a Perhaps, some squalid daughter of poverty, careless of life, may administer the produce of rags in pawn; or some friend of humanity, absorbed in pity, or defying danger, may pour out the antidote, whilst he inhales the poison.^b Let the most unfeeling contemplate this scene of consummate wretchedness, and withhold, if he can, the tribute of humanity! If the inspection be too dreadful, or he doubt the reality of such scenes, let him inquire of those meritorious and ill compensated medical practitioners, who have the humanity and courage to extend their aid to the infected poor. Let him consult the reports of those who expose their lives^c

Report of the Sub-Committee, annexed to the Account of the Institution for the Cure and Prevention of Contagious Fever in the Metropolis.

Report of the Board of Health in Manchester, June 5, 1801.

Observations on the Jail Fever, by Dr. John Hunter, Medical Transactions, Vol. III. page 346.

^a Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories, Vol. II. p. 193.

^b Ditto, Vol. p. 195.

Letter from R. Cleghorn, M. D. of Glasgow to Dr. Clark, Newcastle, June 18th, 1802.

^c Three Physicians, friends of the writer of these remarks, have, within these few years, fallen victims to infection. One of these, Dr. Murray, will be ever regretted by his colleagues and those members of the Institution for the Cure and Prevention of Contagious Fever in the Metropolis, who were witnesses of his ability, zeal, and humanity, in promoting that Charity, and discharging the duties of Physician to it.

in these magazines of pestilence, and have their feelings harrowed by the complication and intensity of misery, and the insufficiency of medical aid, arising from the wants and obstacles they witness.^a

Whilst this tragedy is proceeding in one apartment, dismay and horror invade the whole dwelling. The sight, the smell, the hearing, appal the terrified inhabitant with the dreadful warning of dissolution. Contagion saturates the polluted air, and thus, aided by all that can depress and debilitate, extends to the adjoining rooms, and rapidly pervades the intire habitation.^b

When the fever has depopulated a building by death and terror, poverty and ignorance bring new inhabitants, who sicken and die, or linger and relapse; and, after being carried to the work-house, or the grave, leave the same pestilential apartment to their ill-fated successors.^c

From these pest-houses, concentrated contagion pours into the adjacent courts and alleys, and is wafted from door to door, from window to window.^d It is disseminated through the neighbourhood, by the frequent intercourse of the needy, who repeat and often multiply their visits in endeavours to supply each daily want: who are frequently reduced to beg, borrow, or pawn one article, to enable them to buy another.^e

By the dispersion of the property of the infected, however mean, through the medium of pawn-

^a Dr. Willan's, Dr. Webb's, Dr. Reid's, Dr. Walker's, Dr. Murray's Reports.

^b Dr. Murray's Remarks, p. 10.

Proceedings of the Committee at Newcastle, p. 14.

^c Dr. Murray's Remarks, pages 10, 12.

Dr. Ferriar's Med. Hist. and Reflections, Vol. I. page 136, Vol. II. page 183.

^d Letter from Dr. Haygarth to Dr. Clark.

^e Account of the Income, &c. of the House of Recovery at Waterford, for 1800.

brokers, old-clothes men, rag-shops, and by contact in a variety of ways, the poison is communicated where least suspected.^a But who is secure, when we consider how the different classes of society are linked together? Medical practitioners and nurses, when long exposed to it in a concentrated state, servants, tradesmen, mechanics, labourers, may convey contagion. Clothes, linen, furniture, and various articles deposited where it lurks, or transmitted by those who are infected, hackney-coaches,^b and other public vehicles imbued with it, extend its action. Religious functions, charitable offices, official duties, public spectacles and amusements, multiply the sources of infection, and may carry contagion from the cottage to the palace.

Its hidden nature, insidious approach, and innumerable channels interest the selfish, as strongly as its lamentable consequences call upon the benevolent to quell and extirpate this destructive pest.^c The safety of the former, who are aware of their exposure,^d will impel their co-operation in suppressing it, whilst the liability to infection, the sufferings and destruction of the poor,^e must, when known, irresistibly call forth the aid of all, who are susceptible of pity, and possess the means

^a Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories, Vol. I. p. 140.—Reports of the Sub-Committee of the Institution for the Cure and Prevention of Contagious Fever.

Memoires sur les Hopitaux de Paris, by M. Tenon, p. 200.

^b Dr. Murray's Remarks, p. 44.

^c Report of Board of Health in Manchester, May 30th, 1800. Dr. Barry's Reports, p. 19.

^d Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories, Vol. I. p. 241.

^e Report of the Sub-Committee appointed to direct the white-washing with hot Lime, of those Dwellings of the Poor in which Infection has lately subsisted, annexed to an Account of the Institution for the Cure and Prevention of Contagious Fever in the Metropolis, 3d Edition.

Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories. Vol. III. p. 49.

of relieving the calamities of their fellow creatures.

It is fortunate that motives of public economy likewise enforce this great object, since parochial and parliamentary assistance will both be necessary for its complete and permanent attainment.^a Let the statesman estimate the paralyzing influence of contagion, on the productive powers of the labourer, manufacturer, and mechanic ! Let the parish officer calculate the increase of rates, from this subtle, active, wide-wasting destroyer !”^b

The victims of fever are disabled before the disease is confirmed, and totally helpless during its continuance. They are long afterwards incapacitated from earning their subsistence, and liable to relapses, and to lingering and fatal disorders.^c The proportion of adults infected and destroyed, considerably exceeds that of children.^d The number of men who perish is much greater than that of women.^e Of a family exposed to contagion, the father generally suffers first.^f Their support fails with his strength. The mother, next disabled, leaves both husband and children dependent on the parish, for attendance as well as sustenance. Their children fall in succession, and frequently

^a Report of the Medical Committee of the Institution for the Cure and Prevention of Contagious Fever in the Metropolis, signed by Sir Walter Farquhar, Dr. Garthshore, Dr. Latham, Dr. Lettsom, Dr. Cooke, Dr. Willan, Dr. Murray, and Dr. Stanger, Nov. 17, 1801.

^b Bills of Mortality, Reports of Hospitals and Dispensaries, Registers of Workhouses.—Dr. Clark's Collection of Papers, intended to promote an Institution for the Cure and Prevention of Fevers in Newcastle, and other populous towns, p. 16—25.

^c Dr. Ferriar's Med. Hist. and Reflect. Vol. III. p. 50.

Dr. Clark's Collection of Papers papers, page 49.

^d Dr. Dixon's Tabular Statement of Contagious Fever, page 238, annexed to his Observations on the Means of preventing Epidemic Fevers.

^e Dr. Willan. ^f Ditto.

re-infect the recovering parents.^a If removed to a workhouse, with an atmosphere prepared to communicate, and inhabitants fitted to imbibe and sink under contagion, fever spreads rapidly and rages violently.^b

When a father dies under these circumstances, his family are, most commonly, left a burthen upon the parish, many years, for support and education. Discredited and debased by their situation, they must be afterwards apprenticed or placed, with a compensation, where they can learn the means of earning a livelihood. When a mother is lost, her children, from neglect and consequent disease, idleness and vice, often become a charge and a scourge to the community.^d

The public expence actually incurred, on account of the sick, disabled, and destitute, through contagious fever, applied to its speedy cure and prevention, would not only preserve the productive strength and save the lives of thousands, but that expence would also be greatly diminished. Every parish in the metropolis would find it a measure of economy to support an institution, for remedy-

^a Proceedings for promoting an Institution for the Cure and prevention of contagious Fevers at Newcastle upon Tyne, p. 23.

^b A Report delivered to the Committee of the Parish of St. Giles's and St. George's, Bloomsbury, by Dr. Carmichael Smyth, and Dr. Combe. March 26, 1800.

Observations on the Jail Fever, by Dr. J. Hunter, in the Medical Transactions, Vol. 3, p. 365.

Dr. Mead on Plague, p. 123.

Dr. Lind's Essay.

^c Parish Books.

Hints respecting the Distresses of the Poor. Vol. 1, p. 31, of Hints to promote Beneficence, Temperance, and Medical Science, by J. C. Lettsom, M. D.

^d Report of the Board of Health in Manchester, June 5, 1801.

Proceedings of the Committee at Newcastle upon Tyne, p. 23.

ing an evil, which loads them with numerous and heavy burthens.^a

Having given a faint sketch of the calamities which arise from contagion, and which cannot be fully developed, a more grateful employment remains; to shew that this merciless destroyer may be disarmed and subdued.^b

The following conclusions, deduced from ample experience, and the success which has attended preventive and curative measures founded on them, prove that this may be accomplished.

Contagion, which produces infectious fever, originates from the accumulation of human effluvia,^c and is multiplied by the disease which it occasions.^d It is communicated by the breath, by exhalations from the body, and from the excretions of persons infected and diseased, and by effluvia from substances imbued with this poison.^e It brings on

^a Thoughts on the alarming progress of Jail Fevers, by Sir G. O. Paul, Bart. p. 32—39.

Observations by Thomas Bernard, Esq. 17th Report of the Society for bettering the condition of the Poor, p. 281.

Dr. Currie's Medical Reports, p. 241.

Proceedings of the Committee at Newcastle upon Tyne, p. 22.

^b Report of the Medical Committee of the Institution for the cure and prevention of Contagious Fever in the Metropolis.

Report of the Board of Health. Manchester, May 26, 1797.

Dr. Currie's Reports, p. 222—235.

^c First lines of the Practice of Physic, by William Cullen, M. D. p. 70.

Dr. Haygarth's Letter, on the prevention of infectious Fevers, p. 45.

An Essay on the Nature and Origin of the Contagion of Fevers, by John Alderson, M. D. p. 6.

^d Reports of the Sub-committee of the Institution for the Prevention and Cure of Contagious Fever in the Metropolis.

Observations on the spreading of Contagious Fevers in Newcastle, with a Plan for checking its Progress, by Dr. Ramsay. October 1793.

^e Considerations on the Means of preventing the Communication of Pestilential contagion and of eradicating it in infected Places, by William Brownrigg, M. D. p. 7—8.

fever, with very few exceptions, when imbibed in a concentrated state^a from the above sources, but its virulence may be diminished, by dilution with air, so as to render it very generally innoxious.^b Substances which contain infectious miasms, may also, in most cases, be rendered harmless by exposure to air and by ablution;^c and where these are insufficient, heat and other chemical agents may be employed, in addition to them, with great certainty of success.^d Liability to be infected is increased by debility.^e The danger from contagious fever depends principally upon the diminution of strength previously to its attack, and the privation of pure atmospheric air, proper nourishment, medicines, cleanliness, and attendance, during its progress.^f These conclusions, confirmed by daily experience, prove that the production, infectious virulence, and communication of contagion, may all be exceedingly diminished, if not intirely obviated, by ventilation and cleanliness, which are also highly conducive to enable the human frame to resist and overcome its malignant influence.

Easy, however in their application, and effica-

^a Dr. Haygarth's Letter, p. 32.

^b Dr. Cullen's first lines, p. 71.

^c Dr. Haygarth's Letter, p. 38.

Account of the Plague, by M. Mackenzie, M. D. Philosophical Transactions, Vol. 54. John Howard, on Lazarettos, p. 34.]

^e Dr. Haygarth's Letter, p. 39.

^d Dr. Lind's Essay, p. 227—320—340.

Dr. Blane's Observations, p. 255—257.

Report of the House of Commons on Dr. Carmichael Smyth's Petition.

^f Dr. Murray's Remarks, p. 3.

Dr. Blane's Observations, p. 261.

Dr. Chisholm's Essay, p. 131.

^g Observations on Diseases in London, by the Physicians of the Finsbury Dispensary. Medical and Physical Journal, Vol. 4, p. 395—274.

^h Letter from J. Hunter, M. D. Physician to the Army, to Dr. Clark, August 13th, 1802.

cious as these means are, they never will be generally adopted, by the lower classes, without stronger inducements than a dread of that disease, which the neglect of them occasions and aggravates. The legislator and magistrate must co-operate with the philosopher and philanthropist to enforce the salutary employment of these antidotes to infection. Their joint exertions will scarcely be sufficient to overcome the influence of indolence, ignorance, habit, and necessity, which so generally prevent the attention necessary to preserve health, and prevent the generation of a fatal disorder.

In barbarous countries sloth and uncleanness cannot be counteracted. In such as have made some progress in civilization the sufferings and disorders, which these vices produce, are but little attended to. Even where wealth and luxury abound, that accumulation and confinement of individuals which arts, manufactures, commerce, and navigation occasion, are powerful impediments to ventilation and cleanliness.^a The difficulty of remedying this evil is also augmented, in proportion as the pressure of taxes and dearness of necessaries enforce toil and confinement, and diminish sustenance and accommodation.^b

From the concurrence of these circumstances, at present, in this country,^c the obstacles, against preventing the generation, and spreading of contagion, have not been so great,

^a Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories, Vol. 2, p. 176.

^b Address to the Benevolent and Humane, in easy circumstances, on the present Situation of the Industrious Poor in the Metropolis. Dr. Lettsom's Hints, p. 204.

Dr. Barry's Report, p. 7.

^c Letter from P. Colquhoun, Esq. to Dr. Lettsom, p. 179 of his Hints, &c.

Registers of Parishes, of Soup Societies and other charitable Institutions.

during a long period. Much however may be effected, towards rendering the habitations of the poorer classes of society more spacious and airy, by measures, the political wisdom of which cannot be doubted.^a Lanes and alleys may be widened, courts opened, yards and areas enlarged. The number of stories and rooms in the houses of the lower classes may be limited, and the latter augmented in size. The proportion, number, position, size, as well as the construction, of doors, windows, and chimnies, may also be regulated. Much security might be obtained by restricting the number of families, in each house, and of individuals in each apartment. The inhabiting of cellars, in which a considerable proportion of the lower classes dwell, immersed in darkness and damp, and in impure and stagnant air ought, more particularly, to be regulated, if not prohibited.^b By proportioning the space occupied to the number of persons employed in manufactories, maintained in work-houses, poor-houses, hospitals, and public charities, or confined in prisons, much danger might be obviated. As air, besides being the principal antidote to contagion, is essential to life, and light is necessary for earning subsistence, the labouring classes should not be restricted in the fullest enjoyment of both, which their confined habitations will admit. Their exemption from the window tax, would be a measure highly politic as well as humane.^c Wherever the atmosphere is

^a Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories, Vol. I, p. 245.

Dr. Currie's Medical Reports, 234.

^b Dr. Currie's Medical Reports, p. 223.

Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories, Vol. I, p. 245. v. 2, p. 178.

—193. v. 3. p. 48.

^c Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories, Vol. I, p. 246. V. 2, p. 182.

^d Ditto, p. 245.

Dr. Currie's Medical Reports, p. 234.

contaminated and consumed by numbers, necessarily confined in a narrow space, ventilators should be employed for its renewal.^a The labourer and mechanic should be encouraged and enabled to quit low, damp, and filthy situations, in which he is enfeebled, for an atmosphere, which may invigorate his useful strength. Next to renewing the air of habitations, personal and domestic cleanliness is most efficacious in dispersing the seeds of contagion, in counteracting its malignancy, and preventing its communication, when produced.^b Where individuals are crowded and confined together, the whole surface of the body should be frequently purified, by exposure to air, by friction and ablution. Whatever is worn next the skin, ought to be often washed, and every article of clothing aired and cleansed, in proportion to its contact with the body. Beds, bed-cloaths and curtains, which receive and confine so large a portion of human exhalations, and furniture liable to imbibe them, should undergo frequent purification. Apartments numerously inhabited or constantly occupied ought to be often scoured and whitewashed.^c Covering walls with paper should be discouraged, or prohibited in the dwellings of the poor.

These measures of domestic economy might be greatly promoted by the inspection of parish officers or persons of respectability, and still more by gratuitous assistance, and rewards of incon-

^a Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories. Vol. 3, p. 78.

Dr. Monro's Observations, p. 101.

Thoughts by Sir G. O. Paul, p. 17.

Dr. Dixon's Observations, p. 188.

^b Dr. Dixon's Observations, p. 186.

^c Proceedings of the Committee at Newcastle upon Tyne, p. 34.

siderable expence. Where these inducements fail, the measures recommended ought, for general security, to be enforced by penalties.

Cleanliness might also be greatly promoted by supplying water in abundance in the districts of the poor, and by erecting baths, which they might use without trouble or expence.^a Workhouses, which now frequently produce, preserve and disseminate contagion,^b might be made highly conducive to suppress it, by employing various means in their power, easily practicable, to promote cleanliness amongst the poor. These public charities, more especially, ought to contain baths for the benefit of their inhabitants, and of all the indigent parishioners. They might also contain machines and employ paupers, capable of working, in cleansing many articles of dress and furniture belonging to the poor, gratuitously, or at a trifling expence. Persons maintained by their parish, and not entirely disabled, might assist in white-washing and purifying the dwellings of the indigent; and inspectors should be employed to ascertain the circumstances under which these precautions are necessary. The strictest attention should be observed in removing putrid substances and other nuisances from the districts in which the lower orders reside; and the streets and passages should be well paved or flagged, and carefully drained.^c Manufactories which prepare, or employ largely, animal or vegetable substances in a putrescent state, should be prohibited in populous towns.^d Measures of this kind, pre-

^a Dr. Willan's Reports, p. 305.

Mr. Tooke's View of the Russian Empire, p. 258.

^b Dr. Lind's Essays, p. 3.

Dr. Clark's Preface to his Collection of Papers, p. 32.

^c Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories, Vol. II. p. 180; Vol. III. p. 216.

^d Dr. Dixon's Observations, p. 166.

Ditto, p. 142.

ventive of disease, might be easily and cheaply pursued, and would amply indemnify parishes by their salutary consequences.

The means, however, of civil police, most effectual for remedying the evil of contagion, by destroying its source, cannot be carried into effect, without overcoming considerable obstacles.^a Space, pure air, and cleanliness, sufficient for health, are wanting to the most numerous classes of mankind.^b The preventive measures proposed, of improving the situation and construction of houses, of limiting the number of inhabitants, of supplying the means and enforcing the practice of cleanliness, cannot be effected without interfering with the disposition of private property, and with domestic economy. Considerable expence must also be necessarily incurred. These radical means for preventing the generation of contagion cannot therefore be completely attained, without the aid of the legislature. Much, however, may be accomplished by the exertions of magistrates, and parish officers, under the existing laws, and, by the well directed efforts of enlightened philanthropists.^c Where these are insufficient, parliament will, unquestionably, assist in completing the wise and beneficent plan; for what can so strongly demand the attention of the legislature, as the health and strength of the great mass of the people, and the safety of all; objects to be attained by measures which are also conducive to private happiness and virtue, to public order and economy, and to national wealth and power?^d

^a Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories, Vol. I. p. 135.

^b Dr. Currie's Medical Reports, p. 222.

^c Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories, Vol. I. p. 136.

^d Letter to propose the formation of a Society for bettering the Condition and increasing the Comforts of the Poor, signed Thomas Bernard, W. Wilberforce, Ed. J. Elliot.

A committee, invested with reasonable power of controul, in every parish throughout the kingdom, which should superintend the circumstances and habits of the lower orders with respect to their health and morals, might be productive of an improvement in both, of the greatest national benefit.^a

From the progress of luxury and vice, the increase of taxes, the dearness of provisions,^b concurring with unsettled notions, disorderly habits, and dangerous examples, the health and virtue of the lower orders, at all times of the first importance, now peculiarly claim attention. They more imperiously demand it, in this immense metropolis, where physical and moral impurity and disease grow with its enlargement.

As political experience is augmented, and mankind become more enlightened, it is more obvious, and has been feelingly impressed by late events, that the tranquillity and security of nations are best preserved by the welfare and happiness of the people.

Physical ills must be obviated and remedied, moral and religious principles and habits inculcated and promoted. From a conviction of the importance of these measures at all times, and their urgent necessity at present, the alleviation of the wants, and improvement of the circumstances of the poor has been more generally and munificently provided for than at any former periods. Charitable donations and subscriptions have been general, and liberal beyond example.^c

^a Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories, Vol. II. p. 201.

^b Dr. Lettsom's Hints, Vol. I. p. 204.

^c Dr. Lettsom's Hints respecting the Distresses of the Poor, Vol. I. p. 72, 186.

But, what does more credit to the philanthropy and wisdom of the age, and is likely to accomplish the most solid and permanent advantages to this nation, a society has been formed for the express purpose of bettering the condition of the poor. Several patriotic and humane individuals, distinguished by ability, virtue, and piety, as well as by rank and wealth, have united in this important undertaking. Their comprehensive plan embraces the poor man's welfare here, and happiness hereafter. They endeavour, by education, example, approbation and reward, to train up and secure him in habits of industry, economy, order, virtue and piety. They instruct him in the best means of exerting his powers, of employing his property, and where his own efforts are insufficient, they assist him in providing for his wants and comfort.^a

This important system for improving the situation of the lower classes has been pursued with great energy and perseverance; and, if the spirit, which actuates the institutors of this society, can be generally diffused, virtue and religion, social order and public happiness, national wealth and security must, be incalculably promoted.

They have seen that amidst the wants, miseries, and diseases of the poor, contagion produces the most dreadful calamities and mortality, whilst it endangers every rank of mankind. Forcibly impressed with the magnitude and extent of this evil, several of the most distinguished members of the society for bettering the condition of the poor, have associated with men of similar philanthropy,

^a Letter for the Formation, and Plan; and Reports, of the Society for bettering the Condition and increasing the Comforts of the Poor; 17 Numbers of which are already published.

and formed a separate institution for its suppression.^a Many of the latter, uniting medical skill and experience with active benevolence, can attest, from actual observation, that its destructive consequences have not been exaggerated, and that they may be prevented.^b

The metropolis, though distinguished by its zeal and liberality in promoting works of humanity, has not opposed, however, the first barrier against this destructive enemy. But its future efforts will, without doubt, be commensurate with its affluence and accustomed munificence. The example and success of inferior towns, and the evidence upon this subject now diffusing, will animate the capital to pre-eminent exertions in providing for the safety of its inhabitants.

Chester enjoys the honourable distinction of having first established a systematic plan for the extinction of febrile contagion.^c That city and the world are indebted to Dr. Haygarth for determining, at least with very considerable certainty, the circumstances under which contagion produces fever, and for devising and executing the most efficacious measures for its suppression. His active humanity, firm courage, patient investigation, and persevering industry, in ascertaining the laws which govern the communication of contagion, intitle him to a high rank among the benefactors of mankind.

The evidence adduced by Dr. Haygarth leaves no doubt that a very small proportion of persons, fully exposed to contagion, escape febrile infec-

^a The first public Meeting in London, for this purpose, was held on the 1st of May, 1801.

^b Report of the Medical Committee on this Subject.

^c Fever Wards were established there in 1783.

tion;^a that few are infected if exposed to contagion only for a short period;^b and that, when considerably diluted with uncontaminated atmospheric air, persons may be frequently and long exposed to it with little danger.^c

These conclusions, which prove the necessity of separating the infected from the healthy, and placing them where they may be attended upon with safety, were the result of many years extensive experience and particular attention in Chester, a large town, where infectious fever was very prevalent, and where wards were exclusively appropriated for its cure.^d They have been corroborated by the experience of those medical practitioners who have had the most extensive treatment of this disease, and made contagion a particular object of investigation.^e

Encouraged by the success of Chester, and directed by the benevolent zeal of medical men, many other considerable towns have followed the salutary example. Liverpool, Manchester, Norwich, Hull, Dublin, Cork, Waterford, are amongst the number. They have adopted the measures pursued at Chester, and afford additional proofs, that, by the timely removal of persons infected, and the purification of substances imbued with infectious miasms, contagion may be prevented from spreading. They have also confirmed with most satisfactory evidence, that persons labouring under contagious fevers may be attended upon with little danger in well ventilated apartments, where strict cleanliness is observed, and unnecessary intercourse avoided, and that with these ad-

^a Dr Haygarth's Letter, p. 31

^b Same Letter, p. 38. ^c Ditto, p. 40. ^d Ditto, p. 9.

^e Letter from Dr. Wardell, Physician to the army, to Dr. Clark, July 3, 1802.

vantages the proportion of cures is very greatly increased.^a

On the most moderate calculation, the removal of one fever patient from situations where circumstances do not concur to promote its propagation, prevents the infection of three persons; but the removal of one from crowded and ill ventilated buildings may prevent the disease in a whole district.^b In houses of recovery, at least two thirds more are cured, than when left to struggle with the disease in their own dwellings.^c In the populous town of Manchester, where manufactories abound, where the poor are numerous, much confined and crowded together, and where infectious fever was formerly very prevalent,^d it has been astonishingly diminished by the establishment of one house of recovery. The number of fever patients, in a large district surrounding the house, was reduced in one year from four hundred and twenty-one to twenty-six. Those of the general infirmary were lessened one-fourth, and their other patients nearly one half; the number of deaths occasioned by the fever was also reduced from the proportion of one in nine to one in eighteen. In the same year there was a decrease in the bills of mortality at Manchester of nearly four hundred, and the number of coffins for deceased paupers was also diminished one third.^e In a statement

^a Reports of the Board of Health in Manchester.—Account of the House of Recovery at Waterford.—Account of an Association at Bury.

Report of the Committee for promoting an Institution for the Cure and Prevention of Contagious Fevers in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Section I.

^b Ditto. Section 4.

^c Account, &c. of the House of Recovery at Waterford.

^d Medical Essays, by Thomas Percival, M. D. Vol. I. p. 296.

^e Report of the Board of Health, May 26, 1797, Manchester. It appears that Contagious Fever has been, of late, more pre-
respecting

respecting the house of recovery at Waterford, for the year 1800, it is calculated, that in one year and five months after its establishment, there was a reduction in the number of fevers amounting nearly to thirteen hundred, and that about one in twenty only died in that house.^a Dr. Currie, who has had very extensive experience in the treatment of fever, and has displayed the most humane zeal in promoting an institution at Liverpool for its suppression, remarks, “ that a vigilant
“ exercise of all the means of prevention and of
“ cure might, indeed, in a short period, supersede
“ the use of hospitals for fever, by extinguishing
“ the disease.”^b

What a diminution of misery and mortality does such a prospect hold out to mankind ! A most destructive disorder, which constantly ravages this and almost every other country, may be suppressed, if not exterminated ! Even the plague and yellow fever, which carry desolation with them, and to which we are now more than usually exposed, may probably be subdued by the same means !^c Let the first metropolis in the world, the capital of a most humane nation, where the superior classes are highly enlightened, affluent, and liberal, and the lower orders are peculiarly

valent in Manchester ; but this only proves that without domestic regulations, enforced by a vigorous police, for promoting cleanliness and ventilation in the dwellings of the poor, Contagious Fever, though greatly diminished, cannot be effectually suppressed by the removal of the sick, and purification of their cloaths, furniture, and apartments.

^a Account of the House of Recovery at Waterford.

^b Dr. Currie's Medical Reports, p. 243.

^c Letter from John Haygarth, M. D. to Benjamin Waterhouse, M. D. published in the Boston Gazette, May 23, 1799. — Letter from Dr. Gregory, Professor of Medicine at Edinburgh, to Dr. Clarke of Newcastle, May 16, 1802, published in the Report of the Committee at Newcastle.

Preface to Dr. Clark's Collection of Papers, p. 24.

exposed to fever and aggravated diseases, surpass other places in its efforts to remedy this evil.

The benevolent persons engaged in this important charity have already provided a house, in a situation ^a eligible for the reception and cure of persons afflicted with infectious fever, and which, with the precautions observed, is not liable to endanger the vicinity.^b They have furnished it with every requisite, appointed officers and attendants, and have raised funds adequate for beginning an institution, which, they confide in the interests, as well as the humanity of the community, for perpetuating. They are now engaged in searching for, and removing infected persons to the house of recovery, where they receive all the aid that air, cleanliness, attendance, sustenance, and medicine can bestow. The most approved means are employed for purifying the houses, furniture, and clothes of the diseased, and such articles as cannot be rendered innoxious, are destroyed and replaced. Every measure that can relieve and obviate danger is begun.^c But it depends upon the liberality of the rich, the good sense and humanity of parishes, and the wisdom of parliament, whether the charity shall be pursued upon an extensive, efficient, and permanent plan, for which the present funds are totally inadequate.

^a Gray's Inn Lane Road.

^b Dr. Haygarth's Letter, p. 99.

Report of the Committee at Newcastle. Section 1, 5.

Letter from Dr. Gregory, of Edinburgh, to Dr. Clark, of Newcastle, May 16, 1802.—Letter from Dr. Falconer, of Bath, to Dr. Clark, June 3, 1802.—Certificate of the Physicians to the Manchester Infirmary and House of Recovery, June 8, 1802.

^c Reports of Dr. Murray, Dr. Dimfdale, and of the Sub-Committee, appointed to direct the white-washing, with hot lime, of those dwellings of the poor in which infection has lately subsisted.

Since the seeds of contagion exist in the exhalations of the human body, that accumulation and confinement, which render them infectious, cannot be counteracted in populous towns, even under an improved system of police, without constant vigilance and expensive precautions.

But, at present, contagion is not only rapidly generating from deficient ventilation and neglect of cleanliness, in the metropolis; but it is widely diffused and perpetually spreading from multitudes diseased.^a It lurks in every parish, and in many, the fever it produces is now alarmingly prevalent.^b In the most populous and indigent districts, the poison is so inveterately rooted, that it can scarcely be eradicated; even the destruction of houses might in some cases be expedient.^c

It is obvious then, that a new system of police for improving the situation, plan, mode of inhabiting, ventilation and cleanliness of the houses of the lower orders, and of places where they are crowded together, or confined, cannot for a considerable time hence produce the salutary effect proposed. This plan has been recommended as the only radical mean of remedying the evil, and will undoubtedly prove efficacious in proportion as it is accomplished. The necessity for houses of recovery may hereafter be in a great measure superseded by its adoption.^d But under the actual circumstances of this town, immediate active and extensive remedial measures must be employed.^e

^a Certificate from several Physicians of Hospitals and Dispensaries in London, as to the prevalence of infectious Fever in the Metropolis.

^b Reports of Dispensaries.—Ditto, of the House of Recovery in London, by Dr. Murray and Dr. Dimsdale.—Ditto, of the Sub-Committee for white-washing, with quick lime, dwellings of the poor in which infection has lately subsisted.

^c Dr. Willan's Reports, p. 256.

^d Letter from Dr. Blane to Dr. Clark. London, June 24, 1802.

^e Certificate from several Physicians of Hospitals and Dispensaries in London, as to the prevalence of the infectious Fever in the Metropolis.

Contagion must be sought in its source, traced in its secret channels, pursued in its lurking retreats, and exterminated wherever detected. Partial measures might confirm the evil by discrediting means, which are only sufficient to remedy it when fully applied.

A plan adequate to the suppression of contagion in this town, must necessarily include three objects ; its detection, the removal and cure of infected persons, and the purification of infected substances.

For the effectual attainment of the first, inspectors ought to be employed in every parish in the metropolis. They should obtain information from hospitals and dispensaries ; from jails and workhouses ; from public and private charities ; from manufactories and habitations of every description, where many individuals are crowded together. Their researches should extend to houses where more than one poor family dwell, and wherever contagion may be even suspected to exist. Cellars and garrets require their particular attention.^a Frequent enquiries should be made of medical practitioners, magistrates, clergymen, schoolmasters, parish officers, collectors of taxes, and of all whose pursuits may supply information respecting the health of the community. The public at large should be required to give the earliest intelligence of the appearance of fever to the charity, and rewards ought to be given for information.^b Upon the early knowledge of the existence of this evil depends the facility of its suppression. A strict and complete inquisition must therefore be instituted and preserved.

^a Dr. Ferriar's Medical Histories and Reflections, Vol. I. page 138.

^b Ditto, Vol. III. p. 215

For the reception and cure of the infected, houses ought to be provided in the vicinity of populous districts, where the poor chiefly reside, and in situations as detached and airy as local circumstances will permit. It is much to be desired, that they should be sufficiently numerous and spacious to receive all the poor, afflicted with fever in the metropolis, on its first discovery. This would, however, be attended with an expence too considerable perhaps to be attempted, as the number so diseased, under the present circumstances, probably exceeds forty thousand annually. The yearly average of deaths from infectious fevers, within the bills of mortality during the last century, has been three thousand one hundred and eighty-eight.^a In Liverpool, at a period when the population did not exceed sixty-three thousand, above three thousand patients, labouring under contagious fever, were annually admitted to the benefits of the dispensary.^b Accommodations for fever patients must therefore be proposed, which, though inadequate to the present exigency, may, by the measures pursued for diminishing contagion, become sufficient at no distant period. Four houses, each capable of constantly accommodating thirty patients, besides the necessary domestic establishment, may, by the removal of the diseased, and a very active system of purifying infected substances, together with a vigorous police for promoting cleanliness and ventilation, produce a rapid and efficacious suppression of fever. Each of these houses might admit from thirty to forty patients a month, or about five hundred a year, and, in the whole, two thousand annually. Such buildings should be appropriated for the purpose, as might accommo-

^a Dr. Willan's Reports, page 332.

^b Dr. Currie's Medical Reports, page 224.

date a greater number, or admit of enlargement, if the funds of the charity should permit.

If hospitals, in eligible situations, could be induced to appropriate wards, sufficiently spacious and airy, for the exclusive reception of fever patients, to be supported by the institution, and subject to its regulations, the expence arising from rent, taxes, repairs, officers and servants, might in a great measure be avoided. Besides the saving, which would accrue to the institution, and consequent benefit to the public, by the extension of the charity, the appropriation of separate wards for fever patients, would be attended with the most important benefits to hospitals themselves.^a Such a measure would be highly conducive to the cure of those cases of fever, which they do not or cannot exclude, and remove many powerful impediments to the recovery of patients labouring under other diseases.^b When promiscuously confined, as is now generally the case, the contamination of air, the defect of a proper temperature, the constant intercourse and mutual disturbance, the sources of disgust and alarm, must necessarily produce very pernicious consequences. The spreading of infection in hospitals would be prevented by this plan,^c and the safety of their medical officers and attendants be greatly promoted.^d

^a Dr. Haygarth's Letter, p. 288.—Account, &c. by Thomas Bernard, Esq. p. 10.—Report of the Committee in Newcastle. Section 2 & 5.—Ditto, Dr. Gregory's Letter.

^b Account of the Plan for the Improvement of the Infirmary at Newcastle, p. 22.—Letter from J. Hamilton, M. D. Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, to Dr. Gregory, June 15, 1802.—Letter from Dr. Cleghorn, Glasgow, to Dr. Clark, June 18, 1802.

^c Dr. Ferriar's Med. Hist. Vol. III. p. 52.—Dr. Currie's Med. Rep. p. 240.

^d In Dr. Haygarth's Letter, p. 92, 93, nine Physicians to Hospitals in London are enumerated, who have died of Contagious Fevers.—Out of the Faculty at large, a greater number perish there annually by this dreadful distemper.

Obvious however as its advantages are, the plan of admitting the patients of the fever institution into hospitals has been proposed without effect hitherto, and it is to be apprehended, that the obstacles, however contrary to the utility and real interests of these charities, will not be so easily overcome as the difficulty of obtaining the larger sum necessary for establishing and supporting distinct houses of recovery. No means, however, should be neglected to obtain accommodations in such hospitals as are well situated, and have spacious premises unoccupied from deficiency of funds, which is now the case with several.

In addition to the accommodations provided for fever patients, if a house for the reception of convalescents could be maintained, the success of the institution would be greatly promoted.

The extent of the accommodation must not, however, be suffered to diminish the establishment necessary for the due care of the diseased. Two physicians of approved skill, activity, humanity and courage, and who would devote a considerable portion of time to the arduous and indispensable duties of their situation, should be appointed to each house of recovery: upon their ability and exertions the success of the institution principally depends. The infected must be visited where they reside, to ascertain the disorder. When admitted, they must be frequently and minutely examined during the whole progress of this dangerous and fluctuating disease. Symptoms, and the effects of remedies, should be carefully observed and registered, to ascertain the most efficacious plan of cure, an object of the greatest public importance. For such frequent laborious and
hazardous

hazardous services, a remuneration ought to be given. The due discharge of these arduous duties will occupy so much time, that they cannot be enforced, nor even required, without some compensation. Much will still remain unrequited, except by the grateful feelings which result from acts of benevolence, in too many cases the sole reward which medical practitioners receive for their risks and labours.

An apothecary must be appointed to each house, which he must frequently visit, and near which he ought to reside. For the duties attached to his office an adequate salary must be given. One secretary may probably be sufficient for all the proposed establishments, but a compensation must be given proportionate to his services. A resident inspector will be required in each house, for the care of many articles, and discharge of many duties, both at home and abroad. A matron, and nurses in proportion to the number of patients, will also be necessary.

The above situations must be filled by persons well qualified, of humane dispositions, and not afraid to discharge their respective duties duly and assiduously, and their services must be properly remunerated. In addition to these, servants will be wanted for domestic purposes, and porters for conveying patients. Under the strictest system of economy, compatible with the ends of the institution, the officers and servants above-mentioned will be necessary.

The best medicines and provisions ought to be administered to the sick, and, in many cases, wine and other expensive articles. Clothes must be supplied to all the patients whilst they remain in the house, and given to many when they leave it.

it. Bed-clothes and other articles of furniture must also be frequently lent, whilst those infected are cleansing; and often given to replace such as it is necessary to destroy. Considerable expence will also be unavoidably incurred by the frequent purification which the houses of recovery, the furniture, the wearing-apparel, and every article they contain must undergo, and by the consequent wear and destruction of them.

After providing for the discovery and cure of infected persons, the purification of infected substances demands the most assiduous care. The benefits of the former would be temporary, partial and inefficient, without the latter. Matters imbued with contagion retain it long, and communicate it with greater certainty and virulence than even exposure to the diseased.^a Proper persons must be employed to disinfect, as speedily and completely as possible, whatever may have imbibed the poison. Where exposure to air, and where washing and cleansing are insufficient, heat and fumigation must be had recourse to; gaseous fluids and other chemical preparations, which have been or may be found useful, should be employed,^b and without regard to improvident economy, articles must be destroyed which cannot otherwise be rendered harmless.

^a Dr. Dixon's Observations, p. 171.—Dr. Clark's Collection of Papers, p. 28.

^b Dr. Monroe's Observations, p. 104.—Dr. Blane's Observations, p. 255, 257, 261.—Memoires, par M. Tenon.—Traite des moyens de desinfecter l'air par, Guyton Morveau.—Account of Lazarettos, by J. Howard, Esq.—An Account of the Experiment on board the Union Hospital Ship, to determine the effect of the nitrous acid in destroying contagion, and the safety with which it may be employed, by James Carmichael Smyth, M. D.—The Effect of the nitrous Vapours in preventing and destroying Contagion, by the same author.—Report from the Committee of the House of Commons, on Dr. C. Smyth's Petition, respecting his discovery of Nitrous Fumigation.

It must be obvious that the plan proposed cannot be carried into effect without considerable expence. On a moderate calculation, the expensiture of each house, having the establishment above stated, and supposing it capable of containing thirty patients, and to be generally filled, may be estimated at fifteen hundred pounds annually. The expence of food, clothing, washing, and medicine for thirty patients, at the rate of two shillings a day each, would alone amount to one thousand and ninety eight pounds a year. Six thousand pounds a year will therefore probably be necessary for the support of four houses of recovery. If one thousand more be expended for obtaining the earliest and fullest information where contagion exists, for rewarding poor families, who strictly pursue the regulations for preserving the rest from contagion, after those infected have been removed, for purifying whatever may have imbibed it, and replacing articles necessarily destroyed, a sum of seven thousand pounds a year will be necessary for carrying into effect the proposed plan. An additional sum of one thousand at least, will be wanted the first year, for preparing and furnishing the houses of recovery.

If three hospitals, one near the eastern, western, and southern extremities of London, could be induced to supply the place of three of the houses proposed, the above annual sum might enable the institution to enlarge and maintain the house already established, and to support a spacious house for convalescents farther removed from town, besides defraying the expence incurred, by such hospitals, on their account. By this measure the benefit of the charity might probably be extended to five hundred patients more annually for six thousand pounds a year.

a year, than in houses engaged exclusively for the purpose. Whichever plan may be adopted, the annual expenditure would diminish with the suppression of contagion, and it may be hoped with a rapid progress. In a few years half the sum proposed would probably be sufficient; and in proportion as the measures of police recommended shall be enforced, that moiety may be further reduced.

But who, that estimates the waste of strength, the bodily sufferings, the mental affliction, the destruction of life, that contagion occasions, would object to the expence of its suppression?

The enlightened friends of humanity, who have instituted the first house of recovery in London, have already, by their liberality and active exertions, demonstrated their conviction of the importance of the undertaking.

The opulent inhabitants of the metropolis will, no doubt, with their usual beneficence, augment the funds already advanced, in proportion as they shall be acquainted with the great benefit which may arise to mankind from such charitable donations.* It may be reasonably hoped that parishes, when aware of the advantages, will readily pay what they now expend upon fever patients in their own habitations and in workhouses, (where they generally linger, frequently die, and often spread the disease) to a charity which arrests its progress, and supplies every means of recovery.

A wise and benevolent minister, who, in the highest public situation, is anxious for the preservation and welfare of every branch of the community, has already patronized the institution. Its manifest national advantages, the saving of

* In Dublin, upwards of five thousand pounds were subscribed for this purpose within a month.

strength and lives must, when investigated, ensure the support of parliament.^a

Should any objection arise from the difficulty of extending parliamentary aid, for the suppressing of contagion throughout the whole kingdom, it may be shewn, not only that a parish-rate for this purpose,^b would be a measure of public economy wherever infectious fever is prevalent,^c but it may also be demonstrated, that the metropolis has peculiar claims. The labouring classes crowd to the capital from every part of the united kingdoms, and assemble there from every part of the globe. They are proportionably more numerous, more confined, more unhealthy and destitute than in other towns. They have very frequently no parish settlement, no resource, but in charity, when disabled by disease.

After the evidence in support of the plan shall have been laid before the legislature, if any doubt should remain with regard to the national utility of the measure, the sum necessary from parliament to ascertain its advantages would be inconsiderable. Should these advantages be confirmed by experience in the metropolis, a parish rate, which will then be manifestly a measure of economy, may afterwards be enforced, if private subscriptions should be found insufficient.

Such is the plan which appears necessary for the effectual suppression of contagion in London. The

^a Fifteen hundred pounds have been already granted for establishing a House of Recovery in the metropolis of Ireland.

^b The public spirited and humane inhabitants of Liverpool, have undertaken to erect a house of recovery, the expence of building which is estimated to exceed six thousand guineas, and its annual maintenance three thousand pounds; the whole to be raised by a parish rate.

^c Proceedings for promoting an Institution for the Cure and Prevention of contagious Fevers at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, p. 22.

friends of humanity engaged in the attempt, appeal to a benevolent and discerning public for the wisdom of the measure, with confidence that it merits their support.

They anticipate with the highest satisfaction, the united efforts of all ranks in subduing a subtle remorseless enemy, from whose attacks none are secure; who overwhelms the weak and overpowers the strong; whose progress is marked with tears, devastation, and death.

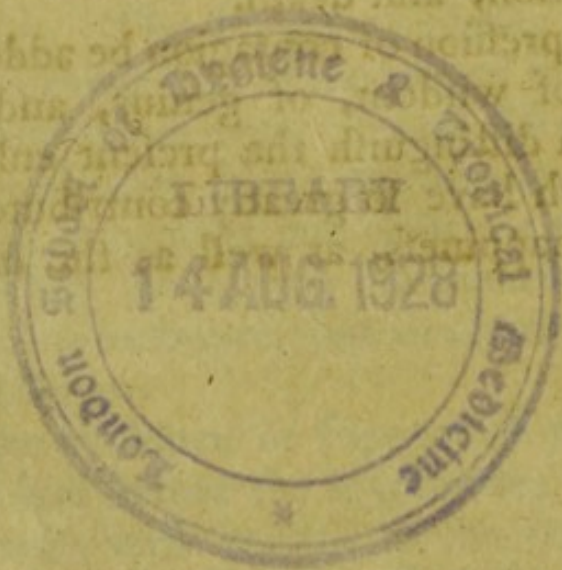
Let the suppression of contagion be added to the great works of wisdom, of genius, and philanthropy, which distinguish the present enlightened era, and which have so greatly contributed to the security and happiness, as well as the dignity of mankind.

FINIS.

friends of humanity engaged in the attempt to
lead to a benevolent and cheerful people for the
wisdom of the nation, with confidence that it
merits their support.

They anticipate with the highest satisfaction
the united efforts of all ranks in subduing a
common enemy, from whose attacks none are
secure; who overwhelm the weak, and over-
power the strong; whose progress is marked with
tears, devastation, and death.

Let the supplicants be added to the
great works of wisdom and humanity,
thrift, which shall be the great safeguard to the
poor, and which shall be the great security and
happiness of mankind.



P L A N

ADOPTED FOR

THE INSTITUTION FOR THE CURE AND
PREVENTION OF

CONTAGIOUS FEVER

IN THE METROPOLIS.

LONDON :

PRINTED BY W. PHILLIPS, GEORGE-YARD,
LOMBARD-STREET

P L A N

ADOPTED FOR
THE INSTITUTION FOR THE CURE AND
PREVENTION OF

CONTAGIOUS FEVER

IN THE METROPOLIS.

1. ALL Subscribers of one guinea a year, or upwards; or of ten guineas or more, in one donation, shall be *Governors.* Governors of this institution.

2. The Institution shall be under the direction of a Committee of 32, consisting of the President, six Vice-Presidents, *Committee.* the Treasurer, and 24 other Members, who shall be elected by the Governors.

3. All poor persons, labouring under infectious fever and residing within limits here-
Objects of this after to be assigned, shall be con-
institution. sidered as proper objects of this
 charity.

4. Houses of Recovery shall be provided for
Houses of recovery. the reception of those whom it may
 be thought necessary to remove from
 their own habitations. They shall be in airy situ-
 ations; sufficiently detached from other buildings;
 and in the neighbourhood of a populous district of
 the town.

5. As far as may be practicable the Houses
 shall be divided into separate apartments to be
 appropriated to patients in the different stages
 of fever.

6. Upon the recommendation of any one for
Mode of admission. relief by this Charity, notice shall
 be immediately given to the Phy-
 sician, and the patient may be admitted into the
 house by an order for that purpose signed by the
 Physician.

7. A chair, provided with a moveable lining,
Mode of conveying or some other means of conveyance,
patients. shall be kept at the House, in which
 all persons ordered by the Physician
 to be removed shall be carried thither at the ex-
 pence of the Institution.

8. Regulations

8. Regulations for the internal management of the House shall be prepared under the direction of the Committee, *Internal regulations.* with the assistance of the medical officers of the Institution.

9. When the Physician shall think the removal of a fever patient unnecessary, or *Means of destroying* when the fever shall have ceased in *contagion in the* a dwelling house, measures shall *houses of the poor.* be adopted for the purpose of checking the progress of contagion, or preventing the renewal of its effects. The apartments shall be cleansed and white-washed, and infected bed-clothes and apparel shall be purified or destroyed.

10. A stock of bed-clothes and apparel shall be provided, to consist of such articles as the Committee may direct, *Clothes for the supply of the infected poor.* from which the objects of this charity shall be supplied when it may be necessary.

11. A general meeting of the subscribers shall take place twice every year, viz. on the first Friday in May, and on the first Friday in November. *General meetings.* Special meetings of the subscribers shall be called by the President, at the request of the Committee, or of any seven Governors, seven days previous notice being given thereof and of the business to be transacted. At the

the general meeting in May, the President, Vice-presidents, Treasurer, and other
Election of the Members of the Committee, shall
Committee. be annually elected; eight of the thirty-two Members of the Committee being to go out and to be replaced by eight other Governors of the Institution.

12. The Committee shall meet on the last
Times of meeting Friday of every month, and at least
of the Committee. three Members shall be necessary to constitute a meeting.

13. The Committee shall appoint all the officers and servants of the Charity. They
Power of the Com- shall form temporary regulations
mittee. for the management of the House, which shall be in force until the succeeding general meeting, but no longer, unless then confirmed.

14. The Committee shall from time to time
Report of Institution publish a report of the state of the Institution.

15. The Treasurer shall receive all sums of
Treasurer. money paid for the use of the Institution, and shall give such security for the faithful discharge of his office as the Committee shall think sufficient. He shall make all payments sanctioned by the Committee, and shall lay before them at each meeting a statement

ment of his accounts, and the same shall be audited and balanced, and submitted to the General Meeting in May.

16. The Treasurer shall appoint a clerk for the purpose of collecting subscriptions, and shall be responsible for his conduct. The clerk shall receive such remuneration as the Committee shall think proper. *Collection of Subscriptions.*

17. The Committee shall at each monthly or other meeting, appoint Directors of each House, who shall continue in office until the next meeting of the Committee. *Directors.*

18. The Directors shall give orders for the purifying of clothes and apartments where the Physician reports it to be necessary; and when application is made for a supply of clothes, they shall give an order in writing for such articles as they may deem requisite.

19. They shall order a reward to such amount (subject to the regulation of the Committee) as they may think proper, to be given after the cessation of fever, on condition that the rules prescribed for cleanliness, ventilation, and the prevention of infection, have been faithfully observed. The reward shall be proportioned to the degree of previous danger, and the success of the measures by which it shall have been counteracted.

20. The Directors, before every meeting of the Committee, shall cause the bed-clothes and apparel belonging

belonging to the Institution to be examined, and shall report thereon to the Committee.

21. The Directors shall be authorised in all respects to aid the execution, and enforce the observance of the regulations of the Institution; and they shall notice and, if necessary, report to the Committee any irregularity or misconduct on the part of the servants or patients of the Charity.

22. The attending Physician shall, upon receiving an application in behalf of
Physician. any object of this Charity, ascertain the state of the sick person either by personal inspection, or by obtaining a satisfactory statement of the case from a physician or an apothecary. If it be necessary either on account of the extreme poverty of the patient, or of the crowded state of his habitation that he be removed to the House, the Physician shall give an order to that effect.

23. The Physicians shall visit each House at such times as may be deemed necessary by the Committee; and shall attend at their own houses those patients whom they may not think it proper to remove.

24. The physicians shall keep accurate registers of the cases of all in-patients admitted under their care, and of the remedies employed.

25. They shall also report the measures necessary to be adopted in places where the contagion subsists, or has appeared.

26. The

26. The Committee shall allot the portion of duty to be undertaken by each Physician.

27. An Apothecary shall be appointed for each House, and shall reside near the House, which he shall attend at *Apothecary.* least once every day, and at such other times as the Physician shall appoint, and on all cases of emergency.

28. He shall prepare the medicines for the patients, and shall attend at a certain hour for the purpose of delivering those ordered for the out-patients.

29. The Apothecary shall receive such compensation for his attendance as shall be fixed by the Committee.

30. The Secretary shall issue summonses for, and attend all meetings of, the Committee and Governors. He *Secretary.* shall enter in proper books an account of their proceedings, and shall do such other business as the Committee may direct.

31. He shall be entrusted generally with the care of the clothes and other things, belonging to the Institution.

32. He shall be under the direction of the Committee and Directors, and shall superintend the execution.

execution of the measures enjoined by them for cleansing and purifying clothes and apartments.

33. He shall report to the Directors the Physician's opinion as to the articles of clothing required, and shall deliver none out of his custody but in consequence of an order signed by the Directors.

34. He shall deliver wine only to those who produce an order signed by the Physician, specifying the name of the patient for whom it is ordered, and the exact quantity required.

35. He shall from time to time visit the apartments of any person to whom it shall have been found necessary to entrust bed-clothes or apparel, and shall ascertain whether they are applied to the intended purpose, and in case of any misuse of them, he shall immediately report the same to the Directors.

36. He shall lay before the Committee at each meeting an account of the articles of clothing, &c. in his possession, and a list of those lent, or given by order of the Directors, and of those returned since the preceeding meeting of the Committee.

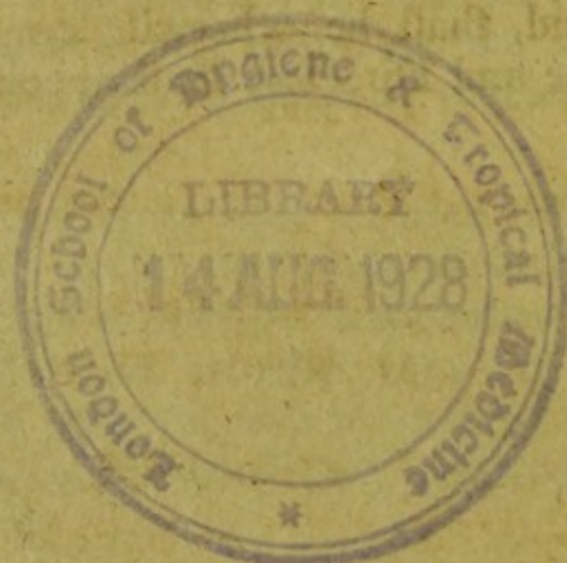
37. Before entering upon his office he shall give security for his good conduct to such amount as the Committee shall determine.

38. The

38. The servants of each House shall consist of a Matron who shall superintend the domestic concerns, and of so many *Servants of the house.* ordinary nurses as may be absolutely necessary, together with a porter, and such extra attendants as from time to time the Committee shall think requisite.

39. The porter of each House shall assist in carrying those whom the Physician *Porter.* shall have ordered to be removed to the House, and shall be otherwise employed as the Committee and Directors shall appoint.

LIST



LIST OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

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HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF SOMERSET.

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Christopher Stanger, M. D. Gresham Professor, and Physician to
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PHYSICIAN.

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APOTHECARY.

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Mr. T. Patrick, King Street, Covent Garden			1	1
Richard Pearson, M. D. Bloomsbury Square			1	1
John Pearson, Esq. Golden Square	-	10	10	
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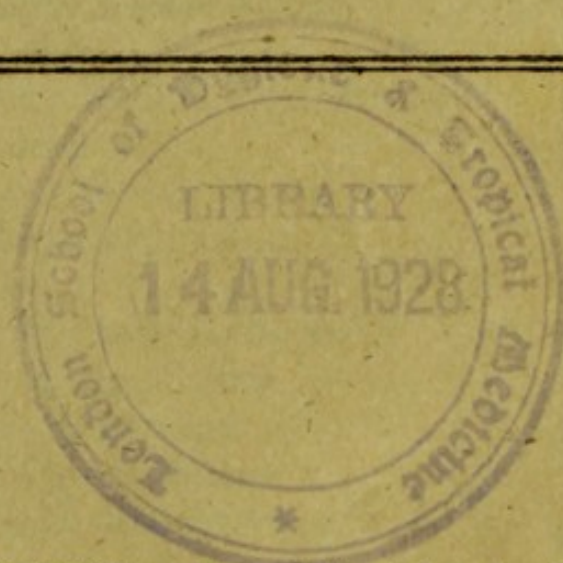
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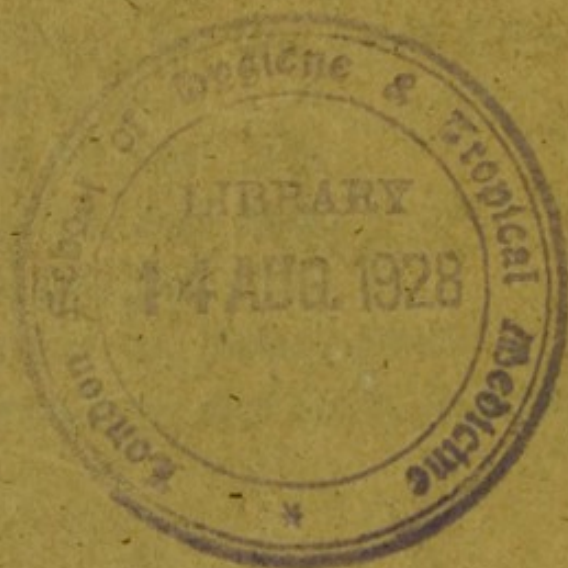
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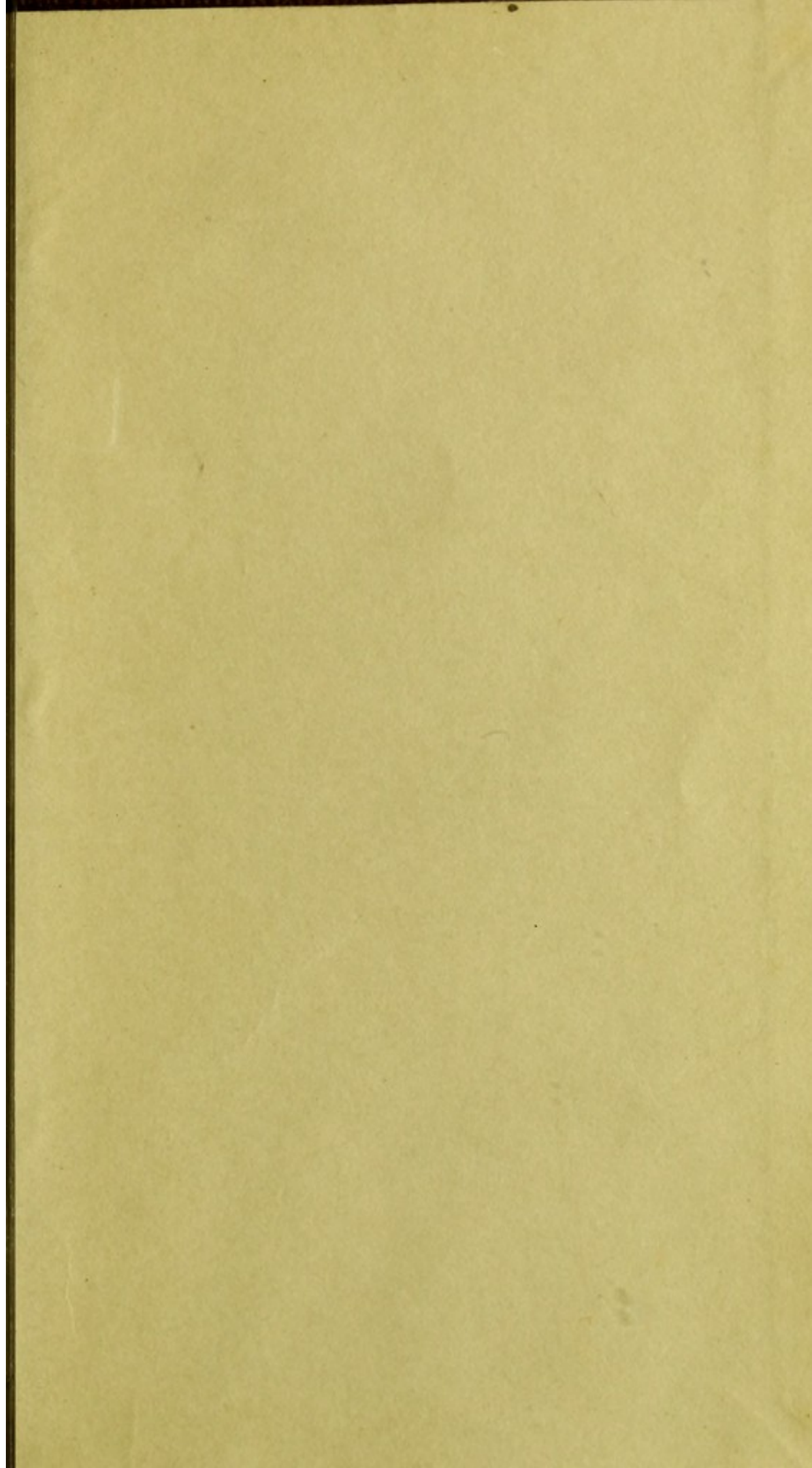
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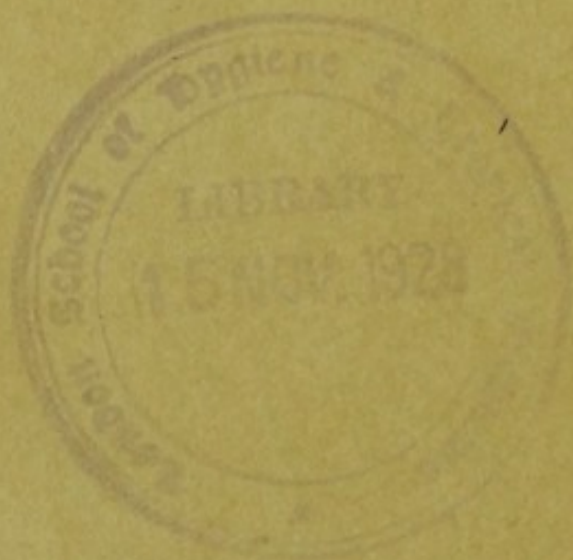
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