

The utility and importance of fumigating baths illustrated, or, A series of facts and remarks, shewing the origin, progress, and final establishment (by order of the French Government) of the practice of fumigations for the cure of various diseases, of the joints, paralytic affections, gout, rheumatism, bilious and nervous disorders, all complaints of long standing, and diseases of the skin / by Jonathan Green.

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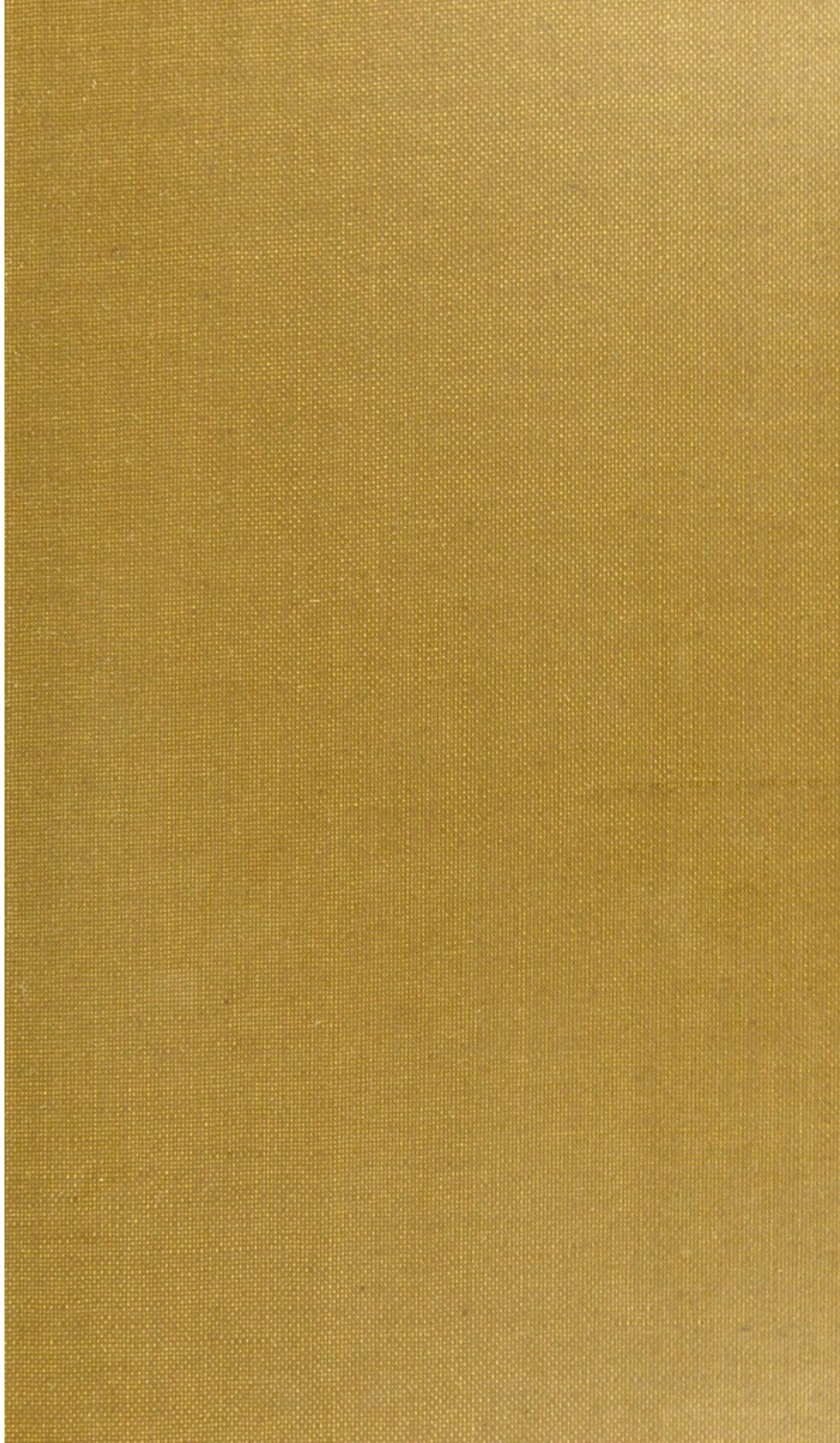
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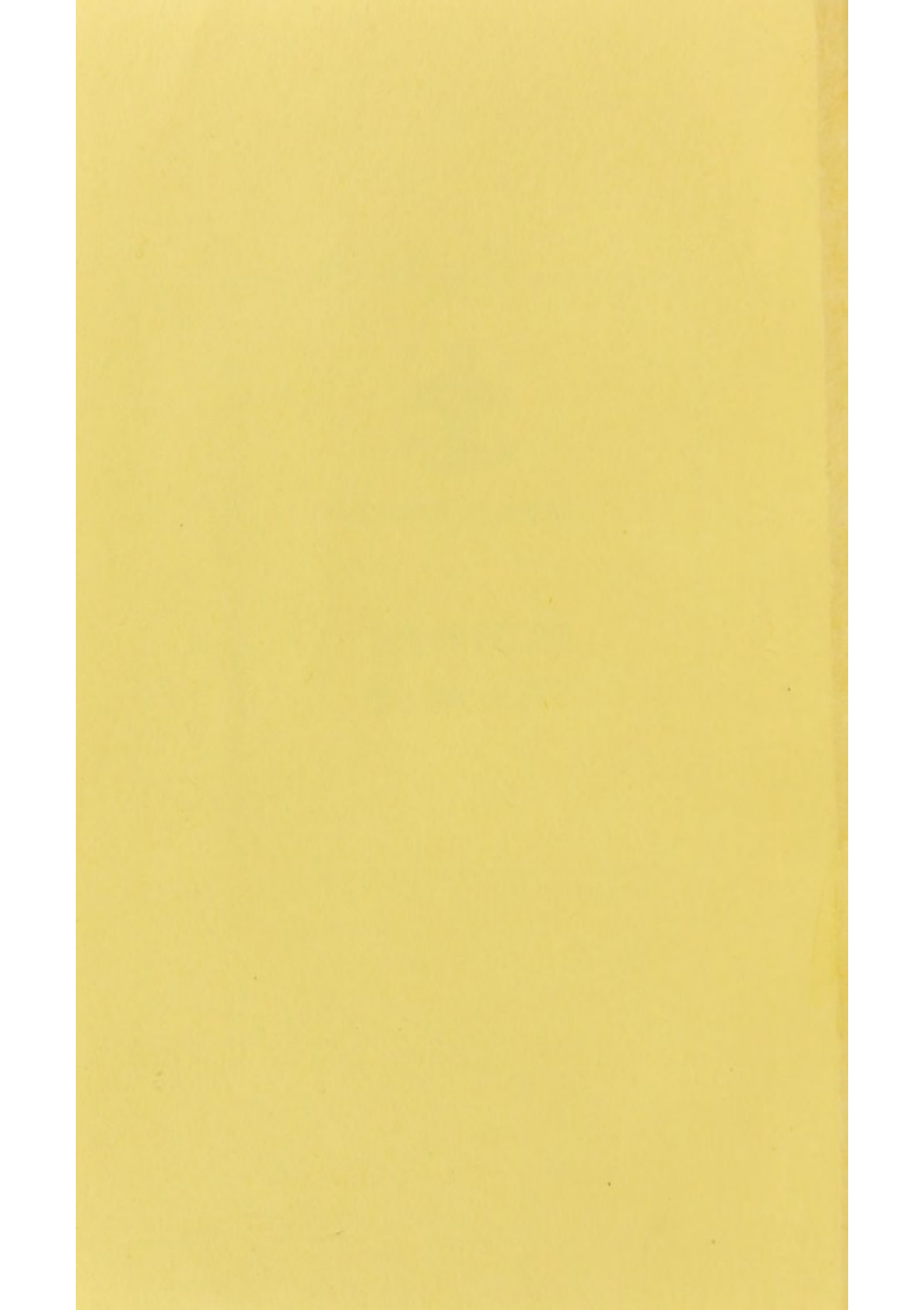
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THE
UTILITY AND IMPORTANCE
OF
No. 400
FUMIGATING BATHS

ILLUSTRATED:

OR,

A Series of Facts and Remarks,

Shewing the

ORIGIN, PROGRESS, AND FINAL ESTABLISHMENT,

(By Order of the French Government,)

OF THE

PRACTICE OF FUMIGATIONS

FOR THE CURE OF VARIOUS DISEASES

OF THE

JOINTS, PARALYTIC AFFECTIONS,

Gout, Rheumatism,

BILIOUS AND NERVOUS DISORDERS,

ALL COMPLAINTS OF LONG STANDING,

AND

DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

BY JONATHAN GREEN,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, LONDON, AND LATE
SURGEON IN HIS MAJESTY'S NAVY.

London :

PRINTED BY J. AND C. ADLARD, 23, BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE;
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1823.

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MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, PARIS.

LONDON:

Printed by J. and J. ALLEN, 25, PATERNOSTER ROW, CLARE
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1825

P R E F A C E.



It is not my intention long to detain the reader with prefatory detail not immediately connected with the subject discussed in the following pages.

A near relation of mine, who had been long an *invalid*, received such immediate and permanent relief, from the use of the Fumigating Baths, as to occasion me much satisfaction, and also great desire to investigate more minutely, the principles and rationale of the remedial powers of these baths. I could no where better apply for that information than at the fountain-head, Paris; where this remedy was generally resorted to, and where it had its origin.

I became more impressed with the utility that might arise from such investigation, from having had so frequently occasion to lament, during my private practice of fifteen years, the too frequent inefficacy of the remedies usually prescribed by practitioners,

for the cure of many prevailing chronic complaints in this country, and especially for those diseases called cutaneous.

I hope the object of my pursuit will, in the end, be as satisfactory to me, as, I trust, it will be beneficial to the community: so efficacious a remedy, in judicious hands, cannot but be successful; and I leave the reader to judge what must have been my pleasure and astonishment on witnessing the great variety of diseases, to which I found, during my stay at Paris, this INTERESTING remedy was so *safely, pleasantly, and powerfully* applied! The very great alleviation of pain, and production of comfort, in cases most distressing, and the very many cures that came under my observation, which were effected by this remedy alone, could not but make a lasting impression on my mind, since these cures were, in many instances, effected after the diseases had been treated by medical men of acknowledged eminence, and according to the best modes of modern medical practice, without permanent good effect; and which cases must have been added, had it not been for these baths, to the list of almost hopeless complaints, which frequently attach themselves to the invalid for life. Such results, arising out of a remedy so easy in its nature, so safe and pleasant in its application, and so particularly calculated for the removal of the *prevailing diseases* in

England, was sufficient to make me diligently apply myself to the acquisition of all the practical knowledge requisite for conducting an establishment with this auxiliary remedy, whenever I returned to my native country.

On arriving in London, and consulting my medical friends, particularly those who had formerly been my teachers, their encouragement fixed my determination. To them, and to many others, I now avail myself of this opportunity of making my grateful and respectful acknowledgments for the deliberate and candid manner with which they entered into my views. To them, also, I would offer an apology, or at least an explanation, for not having earlier carried my intentions, and their recommendations, into effect; but circumstances, immediately connected with the future welfare of my family, to which I need here only briefly allude, have retarded the completion of the undertaking.

In bringing under review the *origin*, the *progress*, and the *effects*, of the practice of *Fumigations*, it may, I hope, afford sufficient data to encourage the reader to form his own opinion on the advantages which are likely to attend the more general introduction of this improved practice. Should it be the means of influencing the faculty in favour of its adoption, these pages will be, to myself, a source of

unspeakable gratification ; as the object which I had proposed would be accomplished more fully than even my hopes had allowed me to anticipate. But this publication, notwithstanding the numerous imperfections of an inexperienced writer's first essay, will perhaps, in some degree, operate as an additional stimulus towards the adoption of a remedy, which, although of such acknowledged utility, and so much resorted to on the continent, has not yet been fostered in this country in a way that its merits certainly deserve.

In furtherance of my design, and the public good, I have opened an establishment for the administration of this remedy, replete with every convenience, which, I trust, will, at no very distant period, ensure to me the honour of public approbation.

40 Great Marlborough Street.
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London.

INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS.

THE valuable remedy, which is the subject of the present publication, though it is spoken of by several medical writers, by Hippocrates and Celsus, by Glauber and Boerhaave, was first practised to any useful extent in France. So beneficial, so astonishing, were its effects in that country, that they awakened the attention, procured the aid, and secured the protection, of its vigilant government ; but that aid and protection were not obtained until it had passed through a slow and strict ordeal, which was intended, according to the results of the investigation, either to overthrow its claims to praise and to adoption, or to establish its merits and utility on a solid foundation, and on proofs and conclusions which were decisive and unequivocal. That the result was extremely favourable,—that the testimony which this ordeal afforded, was highly satisfactory, the statements and extracts, introduced into the following pages, will be sufficient to shew. In

confirmation of them, the original documents, which have been published in France, and have excited among its medical men a very strong sensation, may be appealed to and consulted.

The remedy was first resorted to in a very inconvenient mode, for the cure of that simple, though frequent, troublesome, and contagious complaint, *scabies*, or itch, which it invariably cures, without the aid of any other remedy, either external or internal. Every improvement in art or science must have its origin, and frequently in circumstances that seem at first trifling,—thus the laws of gravity originated in the fall of an apple, and Britannia's power may be deduced from the culture of the acorn. Though the remedy here considered has long been under the consideration of the faculty, it is to Dr. Galès that the public is indebted, as chiefly instrumental in bringing it into general and useful application. His mode was, at first, attended with many inconveniences, such as would arise from medicated fumes, more or less powerful, affecting the organs of respiration; but as these objections, from the exercise of ingenuity and practice, were gradually overcome, the government of France judged it right to grant him a pension of 6000 francs per annum, and the exclusive privilege of having several private bath-houses in the city of Paris. Dr. Galès likewise possesses many valuable presents received from the allied sovereigns, and persons of the first distinc-

tion, who witnessed the curative process of these baths at his house. This remedy, however, notwithstanding its acknowledged importance and growing celebrity, might, from the inconveniences attendant on the employment of it, have fallen into disuse, had it not been for the interposition of Dr. D'Arcet, a man of science and ingenuity, who succeeded in inventing an apparatus, by which all the former obstacles were removed; and even the face, in his improved apparatus, may be submitted to the medicated fumes, the patient breathing at the time through a tube terminating in the external air. The apparatus, indeed, is now so complete as to leave nothing more to be desired; and it is acknowledged, that, whilst Dr. Galès* has the merit of having brought this desideratum into general practice, Dr. D'Arcet† has the praise of having invented the best mode for its application. This remedy, which was at first awkwardly applied, and which was confined to an inconsiderable complaint, is now, from a more correct knowledge of its merits and effects, and from a *perfect arrangement of parts*, conve-

* See *Memoire et Rapports sur les Fumigations Sulfureuses Appliquées au Traitement des Affections Cutanées et de plusieurs autres Maladies*, par J. C. Galès. Imprimer par l'ordre du Gouvernement à Paris, 1816.

† *Description des Appareils à Fumigations, établis, sur les Dessins de M. D'Arcet, à l'Hopital Saint Louis, en 1814, et Successivement dans plusieurs Hopitaux de Paris.* 1818.

niently applied, and found to be, under judicious application, a pleasant, a safe, and in numerous instances a certain remedy for various diseases, which no one could have anticipated at the time of its being first brought into notice.

Diseases of the skin are so numerous, and assume such varied appearances, as to produce much perplexity with respect to their classification. The physiology and pathology of diseases of the skin, when compared with our knowledge of other diseases, are allowed by the best informed men in the medical world to be in a very backward state. For reasons difficult to explain, medical men have not given to that class of diseases the attention which their frequent occurrence demand. When the obstinacy and contagiousness of these diseases are considered, it will, perhaps, seem inexplicable. Dr. Willan was the first, who had the ability and inclination to break through the apparent apathy, in his valuable and elaborate work on Cutaneous Diseases, which will be to him a lasting monument of fame; and to this succeeded the valuable Synopsis of the much revered Dr. Bateman. The latter was, indeed, anxiously alive to the importance of the introduction into this country of the remedy here spoken of. Their very meritorious publications, on this neglected subject, have been followed by a costly and very comprehensive work, written by Dr. Alibert, physician to the

present king of France, and to the hospital of St. Louis.

Dr. Galès, upwards of twenty years chief apothecary at the hospital of St. Louis,* in Paris, was the principal person who promoted the establishment of the mode here treated of for curing diseases of the skin.† But its useful application did not here terminate ; for patients, who were suffering variously, from *sciatica*, *palsy*, *rheumatism*, *glandular obstructions*, and from other diseases, at the same time with complaints of the skin, for which they took the fumigations, were found to be not only cured of the latter, but frequently of their former complaints, which had before been considered hopeless. It was this circumstance which first arrested the attention of some of the faculty of physic, at Paris, and which afterwards occasioned the French government to issue its directions.

Dr. de Carro, of Vienna, was the next person who became much interested in propagating this remedy. Hence it is as fully established in Germany as it is in France. Edinburgh has the honour of having contributed to the education of this indefatigable and learned physician, who introduced so effectually the discovery of the late Dr. Jenner into Germany, where

* This hospital is appropriated almost exclusively to the treatment of diseases of the skin.

† See *Memoire et Rapports sur les Fumigations Sulfureuses Appliquées au Traitement des Affections Cutanées et de plusieurs autres Maladies*, par J. C. Galès, M. D. Imprimer par l'ordre du Gouvernement à Paris, 1816.

vaccination is never spoken of in the indeterminate manner with which many speak of it in this country.

That this publication may not be swelled to too large a size, the writer will adduce only a few cases illustrative of the practice. These will, he trusts, be for *the present sufficient*: otherwise he could quote cases almost without number, which have been already published, and which carry conviction with them, having been written and approved by the first *civil and medical authorities in Paris*, as well as in other places. Of the latter there are eighteen or twenty of the professors of the medical schools of Paris, and upwards of forty physicians and surgeons of the first eminence, and most of them public teachers; of the former, as will, indeed, in some degree appear in the present publication, many personally attended,—so powerful an interest did the new remedy excite.

This practice commonly renders a tedious course of internal medicines unnecessary. Thus, the coats of the stomach and bowels, which are so important to the present ease and the future health of the patient, and which will have so great an influence on his length of life and amount of enjoyment, will be preserved from deterioration and injury; at the same time, that his expences will be diminished, his convenience consulted, and his avocations facilitated.

In some cases, and those by no means of unfrequent occurrence, such as syphilitic cases, where a

long continued use of medicine has proved totally unavailable, a few of these fumigating bathings seem to call forth, in the constitution, new powers; and the patient's immersion in a short series of fumigating baths appears, in many instances, an excellent and efficacious substitute (a substitute which happily can be rapidly resorted to without the delays, the risks, and the formidable expences of a protracted journey,) for his introduction into a warmer and more genial climate. In France, in Germany, and some adjoining countries, these fumigating baths have been found to possess a high and admirable degree of efficacy; but in Great Britain and in Ireland, where the climate is more damp and often more cold, where the pores of the skin are consequently more frequently closed, and where animal food is more extensively used, their efficacy will be found to be still more decisive.

The effect which these fumigating baths will have in connexion with the subject and use of *medicine*, constitutes another of the principal boasts, and of the most gratifying recommendations, attendant upon their employment. In an infinite variety of cases, they will be found to supersede the necessity, and to preclude the expediency, of employing medicines; and, where the contemporaneous or subsequent use of medicine is proper, which will also happen in a vast variety of instances, of which a skilful physician or apothecary will be the best judge, they will be found to facilitate their operation, and to ensure

their efficacy. Thus, these fumigating baths will prove to be, in innumerable cases, a most suitable accompaniment and a most powerful auxiliary to a judicious course of medicine. Medicines, which before were the source only of inconvenience and expence, and which baffled the skill of the physician, and disappointed the hopes of the patient, because they were inert, and would not affect the system, after the preparatory or concomitant use of these bathings, often operate with facility, and even when they are administered in doses, which are small, and, therefore, both safe and convenient.

No medical truth has, indeed, received more general assent than the inefficacy of medicines, taken inwardly, for the cure of cutaneous complaints. External remedies stand much in the same predicament; and it was not until the discovery of the application of medical gases, that these diseases have been combated with success.

This great desideratum became of double value, on its being ascertained, with what great efficacy it could be applied to some of the most obstinate and perplexing diseases, to which the human body is liable.

But the previous statements, weighty as they are, will impart only an imperfect idea of the importance and utility of fumigating baths. They may be made not only a preparative to the efficacious employment of medicine, but also may be used as a medium for

its introduction into the human body. When it is considered how extensive is the surface of the human body, how numerous are its pores, and how capable they are of receiving and imbibing beneficial influences in an imperceptible and invisible way; they being, in fact, so many minute inlets into the interior of the system, how deeply is it to be regretted that so long a succession of centuries have been suffered to pass away, without any extensive and important use having been made of their capabilities and powers!

This active, penetrating, and pleasant mode of administering medicines in the gaseous form is obvious; and, as it is now become usual to administer aqueous vapour in the first instance, by means of the same apparatus, and thereby to dislodge all obstructing particles on the surface, the medicines come in immediate contact with the open pores of the skin, and its efficacy is soon developed.

The writer does not hesitate, indeed, to affirm, that, during the whole time he has been collecting practical knowledge, he has never met with any remedy, during nineteen years, so deserving of his approbation, and so generally efficacious. His experience has taught him, that it is not to local diseases only that it is applicable, but that it is serviceable more particularly with respect to those diseases the most inveterate, which length of time has forced us to denominate *constitutional*. Nay, even those called the

hereditary, it has very frequently been known completely to eradicate.

The class of medicines called Alteratives it would seem almost to supersede, but he trusts this assertion may not be received with an *empirical* interpretation.

Sulphurous fumigations are so little known in this country, that to descant, or particularly dwell, on their uses and general effects, might by some be construed into enthusiasm; and thus afford a convenient cause for the illiberal to decry it.

Facts and time prove the truth or falsehood of all assertions. Only seven or eight years have elapsed, since fumigations were first used with much advantage; and that period has served to present to the world numerous facts, declarative of the beneficial effects of this new method; and, as its powers become more developed, conviction of the greatness of its value and high rank as a remedy, will be impressed on the minds of all those persons who are engaged in the management, or interested in the result.

Sulphurous fumigations, even in the very name, have almost given offence to the feelings of some individuals among my acquaintance, and have served, in some instances, as a basis for ridicule. Sulphur, they have said, is a disagreeable medicine; and the principle and practice of fumigation implies the idea of being smoke-dried. But these objections have no solid foundation: they admit of an easy, a

brief, and a satisfactory reply. Sulphur thus administered, with aqueous vapour, loses its disagreeable smell, and assumes one not dissimilar from that arising from the fumes of æther; and, with respect to the objection of being smoke-dried, this remedy has, from its very nature, decidedly the contrary effect. It relaxes and opens the pores of the surface whilst the patient is in the bath; thereby carrying off the effects of the increased heat of the system, with the seeds of disease; and it generally leaves the body invigorated and the mind cheerful.

Sulphur itself has, indeed, from time immemorial, been a medicine of good repute as an alterative, an aperient, a sudorific, a purifier of the blood, and a tonic: these are virtues which have been, and still are, allowed to it, by the community at large, and by medical men; the latter, however, are not so decided in their opinions, and it was not until this gaseous mode of employing it for cutaneous affections was discovered, that its efficacy and claims to more particular notice have secured to it due attention, and more fame than it has hitherto had, or will now easily be deprived of.

This medicine, converted into gas, and thus conveyed into the system, together with the caloric and vapour, is an ingenious combination of principles for the removal of many diseases; as, for example, for the relief of debilitated and stiffened joints.

When pains have existed in the joints for a length

of time, they are generally attributable to a lurking inflammation in the membranes of the ligaments surrounding those joints, constituting the disease called rheumatism. The parts being, by this remedy, relaxed by the aqueous vapour, lose the aridity, heat, and stiffness, which accompanies this complaint ; and the pains become lessened, so as to permit the application of rubbing and pressure, in various directions, with the hand and fingers, on and round the parts affected. The medicated gas is then thrown into the chamber of the bath, and, by its stimulus, occasions an increased circulation in the small cutaneous vessels, the quantity of blood in the inflamed internal parts is lessened, the circulation is more in equilibrium, the pained parts become more soft, pliant, and comfortable, and, on coming out of the bath, the patient feels a general glow of heat, is cheerful, and altogether invigorated.

A custom not very dissimilar to this is much resorted to in Turkey and some parts of India, named *shampooing*, which has been found so grateful and beneficial to the feelings of some travellers, as frequently to occasion it to be mentioned in terms of the highest encomium. It is considered one of the oriental luxuries, of which few persons in this country have even a conception. Savary and Lady Mary Wortley Montague have given interesting accounts of the Turkish method of bathing.

A person in health taking one of the fumigating baths is first sensible of the increased heat, the pulsa-

tion becomes more distinct and firm, the countenance is rendered more florid and lively, and an astonishing quantity of extraneous perspirable matter is thrown off from the surface of the body. If the heat is now increased, there is a sensation of pricking on the skin, but which is not always needful to produce: before the patient leaves the bath, the heat is gradually diminished, and, on coming out, the patient is made dry. When patients are weak, they are directed to lie down until they are cooled. Those who have no great degree of weakness will follow a right plan if they take exercise for a quarter of an hour. These easy precautions having been used, the body becomes much less liable to cold after the use of these baths, since the skin is strengthened in the performance of its natural functions, the suppression of which is the most common cause of cold.

As the pores, (those innumerable important inlets of the human frame,) have been thus cleansed, opened, and invigorated; and as the body, which, as far as its general surface is concerned, is sometimes left for years in a neglected and unassisted state, as if it were a machine of little value and little liable to decay, is thus powerfully assisted in the throwing off of disease; the numerous cures of gout and chronic rheumatism which have been effected by the judicious and persevering application of this gas, when impregnated with the medicinal virtues of which it is susceptible, (cures which have appeared to most per-

sons to be wonderful, and to others to be altogether inexplicable and almost miraculous,) are, in a great degree, explained and accounted for. Those diseases are frequently attended with much inflammation; but their existence principally depends on a debilitated state of the constitution, which not being able unassisted to throw off disease, local and partial determinations of the complaint are the consequence.

The tonic effects of the fumigating process is attended generally with unprecedented success in the cure of paralytic affections. When they prevail, inflammation is not commonly a symptom, but they usually depend on general or partial debility.

It must be gratifying to practitioners, to have such a remedy as this to resort to in those anomalous herpetic complaints, which seem to owe their origin and existence to too great a quantity of mercury taken into the system, or to a cold having been taken when the body was under the influence of that active medicine. A frequent mode of attempting to cure these complaints has been that of administering a regular course of mercury, and such complaint has seldom been relieved, but is not unfrequently aggravated, by such mode of treatment. These patients have been submitted to sulphurous fumigations, and they were attended with the greatest success. The general health was considerably improved; and, although the latent disease was not, in some instances, completely removed, it was greatly amended; a short

mercurial course has been again resorted to, and then the disease was quickly cured.

These facts are very important. It has appeared, indeed, not unfrequently, to those gentlemen who are in the daily habit of directing the application of this remedy, that, in those cases, where it has seemed at the time to have little beneficial effect, yet shortly after it has been left off, the constitution has seemed to undergo a complete and favourable change, the disease has vanished, and the health become strong without other medicine having been given. This change has been attributed to the baths ; and, since I have left Paris, I am informed, that in those pseudo-syphilitic cases above named, where the medicine has been taken for a length of time, and has run off by the emunctories without affecting the constitution, the patients recover by the use of these invaluable baths, without a second administration of the mineral.

In long continued cases, which are most commonly attended with great debility, the further use of mercury, under such circumstances, seems to have no *beneficial* effect. On the *contrary*, and it is now pretty generally acknowledged, the medicine, which runs off through the different secreting organs of the body, increases the relaxation of the whole system, without acting on the disease itself, and produces a disease, *sui generis*, adding more and more to the debility and unsightliness of the sufferer.

This is commonly the consequence of the very many ill-cured cases of *syphilis* so frequently met with.

In these cases, the best plan is to totally discontinue the farther administration of that medicine, and to substitute the best indicated tonics ; and those patients who have, in such cases, resorted to sea-bathing, as a strengthener, will immediately recollect, that, from such time, they have seldom passed a night free from distressing pain and remorse. To these patients I would recommend a generous light diet, warm clothing, a careful approach into moist cold air, and the avoiding of any sudden transitions, with three or four glasses of good wine every day, according to circumstances or the habits of the patients, together with the use of sulphurous fumigations, than which medicine nothing has so speedily the effect of neutralizing the too active effects of mercury ; to take internally bark and other well indicated tonics ; and, after some time, (when the system has resumed some of its wonted vigour,) if there should remain any symptoms of syphilitic origin, I would recommence, in a mild form, the administration of the remedy, and should expect the disease to yield to such treatment.

In cutaneous affections, which are all more or less contagious, from psora, ring-worm, and scald-head, to leprosy, this remedy is particularly valuable, not merely because it is a powerful curative process, but because, from the commencement of its use, the contagiousness of the disease diminishes, and linen, clothes, and other articles, by being hung up on

hooks within the apparatus, are no longer capable of conveying the contagion.*

* It is said by some persons that, for the good effects arising from the general adoption of this remedy, the public are materially indebted to Napoleon Bonaparte. His sudden landing in France, after his escape from Elba, happened during the time that the first special medical jury were conducting their experiments, to prove or disprove the efficacy of fumigations. He had no sooner assembled a few regiments, and marched them off towards Flanders, when the sick list of two of these regiments was numerously filled with invalids afflicted with psora. As two regiments were, at that time, of material consequence to the projects of Napoleon, and he could not afford to lose their services, he ordered a muster of the medical officers, and began his interrogations with,—“Have you no remedy for the itch?” “Yes, your Majesty,” was the reply, “a certain one.” “What is it?” “Sulphur,” was the answer. “How long will it take to cure these men?” Answer, “A fortnight or three weeks; in some cases, perhaps, a month.” This, for a moment, at such a crisis, placed the emperor in as great a dilemma, as if the disease had been pronounced incurable: two regiments were of importance to him; but to march them on would have been likely to have infected the rest of his army with the same disease. Suddenly he turned round again, and asked if they had no better remedy than that which would require three weeks to eradicate so trifling a disease. They then said, they were investigating a process for its cure, that they believed was more speedy in its effects, namely, fumigations with sulphur; but that they had not concluded their experiments, and consequently could not recommend it. “Fumigation, fumigation!” muttered the emperor, “how is it applied?” “By exposing the bodies of the patients to the fumes of sulphur, with the exception of the face, which remains open to the atmospheric air.”—Without waiting the concluding word *air*, he demanded, “Can it do harm?” and was answered, that they had not yet become acquainted with any bad effects from its application. “Put them in a room, make holes through the wall for their faces, and fumigate them all,” was the immediate command of the man, whose fertile imagination was never at a loss for an expedient.

In all cases of glandular obstruction in *chlorosis*, in anasarcaous swellings, and incipient dropsy, fumigations have been found equally serviceable, first, by their power of evacuating the quantity of fluid, and, afterwards, by their tonic and constringing effects on the skin, which prevent its reaccumulation in a much greater degree than most of the remedies in the pharmacopœia. Although we have many medicines highly serviceable as evacuants for such cases as these, yet it is to be regretted, that we have few to prevent its reaccumulation, and that even to evacuate this fluid, a diligent and long-continued use of such remedies is indispensably necessary. The stomach and bowels, from such repeated medicinal potions, become disturbed in their functions, the appetite becomes impaired, and the patient gradually sinks into that state of debility, from which he seldom recovers; for the immediate cause of the complaint is *debility*. Hence an abundance of medicine is particularly mischievous.

For diseases of the joints, and for the dispersion of tumours, this remedy is well calculated. These complaints are mostly constitutional affections, and not unfrequently require the application of the remedy to the whole surface of the skin, and general medical discipline; but, when the body is otherwise in a good or fair state of health, it is only needful, in such cases, to direct the application of the gas to the parts affected only. This is done with equal facility.

INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS.

In addition to that high recommendation of this remedy, *its acknowledged and well-ascertained efficacy, its very extensive applicability to the removal of disease*, constitutes one of its chief praises. From an examination of the authentic documents and observations, which will be introduced into a subsequent part of the present publication, as copied from the trials and testimonies of the medical men of France, it will be evident, that the propriety of using sulphurous fumigations, or sulphurous gas, is indicated, particularly, in gouty affections of the atonic or weak kind, in rheumatism, lumbago, sciatica, and in all cutaneous affections,—in ill-cured cases of syphilis, in palsy, chlorosis, and hæmorrhoids, in glandular obstructions, and in bilious affections.

For some complaints, mercurial fumigations have been substituted. When, indeed, from peculiar circumstances, the exhibition of mercury in the stomach and bowels is found to be prejudicial, as in debilitated and almost exhausted constitutions, this method will prove a most desirable acquisition in the hands of a skilful practitioner.

The practice of fumigation is particularly applicable to the most powerful articles in the *materia medica*; and three of these articles are sulphur, mercury, and opium. Accordingly, many persons have been much benefited by the administration of opium, conveyed in the form of gas, who found themselves inconvenienced by that medicine, when

taken into the stomach. This is indicated in spasmodic diseases ; and opium, when it is necessary, may be combined with camphor, æther, and various other medicines of acknowledged repute.

To those persons who are advancing in years, and who resort to the bath, simply as a tonic, or as a preventive or alleviative of aches and pains, it is usual to administer the aromatic gas ; sometimes the simple vapour is sufficient for the purpose.

Of the latter remedies, the writer has not hitherto had so much experience as of the two first, sulphur and mercury ; the diseases for which they are applicable being more numerous, and every day to be met with.

That sulphurous fumigations are highly beneficial to the diseases alluded to, has so completely been proved, as to carry conviction even to the incredulous ; and, it also happens, that they are the very diseases to which the people of England are most subject ;—witness the number of rheumatic patients in every street, I might almost say in every family, from our moist ever-varying climate. Gouty cases, which are distinguished for their obstinacy, are little less frequent. Repeatedly, too, the constitution of such patients has suffered very materially from pain, and physical weakness, and this without expectation of relief. The simple vapour-bath, in such cases, is, in my opinion, preferable to antimonials, to Dover's powder, to

James's powder, and indeed to any of the medicines comprised in the class of sudorifics.

On the efficacy of vapour, I will adduce only two cases, taken from Sir Arthur Clarke. "A seaman, aged twenty-four years, a native of Sweden, residing at Drumeondra, had been troubled with sciatica for seventeen months; he had been twenty weeks in the Hospital of Sir Patrick Dunn, where he had taken a variety of medicine; he had been blistered several times, and had a caustic issue in the back, which was kept open for eleven weeks. He was discharged from the hospital in April, 1814, and recommended to try country air. On the 4th of September following, he applied to Surgeon Carmichael, who ordered him calomel and James's powder combined, and blisters, without any apparent benefit. On the 29th September, he was carried to me, recommended by Mr. Carmichael; *his lower extremities were paralyzed, the pains in his loins and hips excruciating, and his body greatly emaciated.* I ordered him into the vapour-bath at 120 for half an hour: on coming out he felt free from pain. He continued the bath daily for a fortnight, at the same temperature, and walked home from it every day; and, at the end of that time, he was restored to the perfect use of his limbs, free from pain, and sufficiently strong to return to his ship."

This case having been a remarkable instance of the efficacy of the vapour-bath, and having excited

the attention of Surgeon Carmichael, who witnessed its effects, the managing committee of Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital, have, at the suggestion of the physicians, fitted up a vapour-bath at that institution subsequently to the above period.

“ Patrick Reilly, aged twenty-five years, by trade a carpenter, had a swelling pain and stiffness in his knee and ankle-joints, for eighteen months, which confined him, and rendered him unable to work at his trade during that period, and had resorted to a number of remedies, which he tried in the country, both internally and externally. He resided at Dunshoughlin, and was carried to town on the 1st of September, 1814, to get into the Hospital: he was directed by one of the medical men to try sea-bathing, which he did for a fortnight, but, finding the pain and stiffness increased by it, he gave it up. On the 1st of October, he was advised to try warm bathing, and applied at the baths. I had him put into the bath for twenty minutes; after the first bath, he was able to walk home, a distance of a quarter of a mile, with ease. He continued the bath every day for a week, and every second day the week following; when he was free from pain, stiffness, and swelling; and returned to the country, perfectly recovered, at the end of a fortnight.”

“ In scirrhus tumours of the breast, in glandular swellings of the neck, and in enlarged mesenteric glands, it has been used with advantage.”

Many more cases, equally corroborative, could be adduced in favour of vapour-bathing—a remedy too little resorted to in this country: and I am glad to find the opinion of some medical men coincide with my own as regards sea-bathing, which now seems resorted to by many persons, of their own accord, for diseases so dissimilar in their nature, that to benefit one must aggravate the other. To indiscriminate sea-bathing, I feel little hesitation in saying, many chronic diseases owe their continuance.

But it is not to sea-bathing, or to simple vapour-bathing, that I am particularly solicitous to draw the attention of the reader,—it is to the various kinds of fumigations that I would wish his attention to be directed. In them we have a remedy combining all the advantages to be derived from the simple vapour-bath, in a more convenient form, and with tonic effects peculiarly its own.

All this has been tried, proved, and the practice determined on, in a country, where those diseases are seldom so aggravated in their nature as we have them, and where they do not prevail to half the extent that they do here.

The cases, for which it is so particularly indicated, are those that mostly prevail in this country; but, as the remedy may be said to be of French manufacture, national feelings may, perhaps, for a while impede its adoption. But John Bull, with all his industry and prejudices, is yet alive to his

comforts, and will in time be sensible of this additional one ; and, though imported from France, it will not long be despised on that account. French brandy is not a little palatable to some, to others its effects are little less than poisonous ; and, to obviate those effects, we possess, from the same source, a remedy. We thus have the bane and its antidote.

Under careful and judicious management, no ill effects have ever been known to arise from the administration of this remedy ; but such management is indispensably necessary for its success.

Fumigations of tar have, within the last few years, engaged the attention of some of the faculty of England, as forcibly recommended by *Sir Alexander Chrichton*, for the cure of consumptive cases.* The writer begs to observe, that his experience of that remedy will not permit him to say much in its praise. When that disease is once formed, its regularly progressive fatal effects can barely be palliated by our utmost efforts ; yet he is inclined to infer that tar-fumigations, when employed under proper precautions, and resorted to in the early stages of the disease, after the local inflammatory action in the chest has in great measure been subdued, and the quick hardness of the pulse has, by bleeding and other appropriate remedies, been removed, may be used with a prospect of success. In chronic and

* See his work, published in 1816, and second edition in 1822.

habitual catarrh, they are also likely to be advantageous ; but his inexperience in the use of this remedy will not permit him to say more of it.

Independently of the accomplishment of those great and important desiderata, the alleviation of pain, the diminution of misery, and the conquest of disease, effected by the extended introduction of this happily discovered remedy, it will be eminently serviceable to charitable institutions. Since its application will assuredly hasten the cure of many of these protracted diseases, which are so frequent in their occurrence, which are often so formidable in their nature, and for which it is so particularly adapted, it will shorten the the period during which patients will have occasion to remain in those institutions. Thus there will be a most important saving of time and medical attendance, of provisions, of linen wear and washing, and of medicines ; an edifice of any given magnitude will be able to accommodate, in the course of the year, a much greater number of patients ; and any given sum of money subscribed will be adequate to produce a larger proportion of benefit and amount of good. Dr. De Carro has, therefore, said, with great justice, that “ *the impulse being given, the government, encouraged by the physicians, can no longer remain indifferent to so salutary an invention, in favour of which they are urged as much by interest as by humanity.*”

It will, indeed, be evident to the understanding of all

persons, who will take the trouble of referring to and reading the different facts and observations comprehended in these pages, that no small revolution in the practice of medicine is likely to be occasioned by the introduction of medicated gases for the cure of diseases. This mode of treatment, and this method of alleviating pain and dispelling disease, is pleasant, safe, and powerful; it only needs to be yet more investigated, to be better understood; when better understood, it will be more practised and approved; and, when it has become more an object of practice, and more open to enquiry, its utility will become more conspicuous, and its fame will be more diffused.

THE
UTILITY AND IMPORTANCE
OF
FUMIGATING BATHS,
ILLUSTRATED.

PREVIOUSLY to the introduction of this mode of treating diseases, *which was established by order of the French government*, the success attendant on Dr. Galès's practice in the cure of cutaneous diseases excited the attention of Dr. Delaporte and of Mons. Ruffin, at that time physician and surgeon to the Hospital of Saint Louis, at Paris. In this hospital Dr. Galès had been chief apothecary subsequently to the year 1792. In August, 1812, he commenced, under many disadvantages, his mode of curing *scabies*, by means of blankets saturated with fumes of sulphur : between that time and March, 1813, he cured, even under this awkward mode of treatment, 335 patients, without the use of any internal medicine or a recurrence to any other external aid. A register was kept by Drs. Maury, Fayette, and M. Troccon, then resident pupils at the hospital, and its

authenticity verified by Drs. Delaporte and Ruffin; and attested by M. Bailly, then resident agent at the hospital. Out of this large number, one only returned; and, as a considerable time had intervened, it could not be ascertained, whether this was a fresh infection or a relapse.

These results excited the attention of men of science, and the members composing the Council for the administration of the affairs of hospitals.* Dr. du Chanoy, one of the members of the administration named, and inspector of the hospital of St. Louis, having, with great assiduity, observed the practice and results of Dr. Galès's method, became convinced of its important advantages, and resolved to authenticate it, and officially make it public. Accordingly, on the 16th of October, 1813, he caused a series of experiments to be commenced, with a view of comparing the advantages of this mode of cure with the remedies then in general use: and it was decidedly acknowledged, that Dr. Galès's method, *though at that time so imperfect*, had the superiority. The experiments which were made for the purpose of ascertaining the correctness and efficacy of Dr.

* It is, perhaps, advisable here to state, that the hospitals in France are all placed under the direction of, and paid by, the government, which appoints a general council for the administration of their affairs; an inspector, perhaps, to about every two or three hospitals, and a resident agent at each, besides the medical officers.

Galès's practice, were made in the presence of Dr. Duchanoy, administrator of hospitals, (*chargé spécialement du service de santé*,) the physician and surgeons of the hospital, Dr. Leroux, dean of the faculty of physic at Paris; Villars, dean of the faculty of physic, of Strasbourg; Professors Pelletan, Thillaye, Petit-Radel, Dumeril, Dupuytren; Bosc, Olivier, Treille, Patrix, and of the illustrious Pinel, who, though advanced in years, was still zealously interested in his thirst after improvement, and in his enquiries after truth.

The particulars of these processes were drawn up by the physicians and surgeons charged with the management of them, and the whole was daily under the observation of Dr. Mourgue, member of the Superior Council for the affairs of hospitals, and especially charged with those of St. Louis.

In consequence of the result of these experiments, M. Mourgue caused a *special medical jury* to be selected from the members of the *general* Council for the administration of the affairs of hospitals; and requested that it might be composed of men of science, whose very names should carry with them a sense of profound knowledge and impartiality. In consequence, a jury, composed of chevalier Pinel, the Baron Dubois, Esparron, Tartra, and Bouillon la Grange, were appointed for this purpose.

Their report, dated the 18th of May, 1813, details fifty-eight cases, arranged under different

heads, which were submitted to their experiments. These heads were the age and residence of each patient, the nature of the disease, the mode of treatment, the length of time under cure, the number of baths used, and the result, with remarks on each case.*

As the Report, with the detail of cases, would occupy too much space, I shall not transcribe the whole of it here, but satisfy myself by giving the conclusion only; more especially as the substance of it will be readily understood as the reader proceeds, and as a more particular account, together with the authenticated documents continued to the present time, will shortly be prepared for the press.

CONCLUSION OF THE REPORT.

“The Jury conclude, from all the experiments which they have seen made on the treatment of irruptive and chronic maladies, psoric affections, &c. by the fumigations, that the efficacy and safety of this mode of treatment is sufficiently substantiated.

“That it merits the preference, in most, if not in the generality of cases, to all other remedies, and ought to be admitted into practice.

* By this time, an apparatus, somewhat like a pulpit, had been contrived, in which the patient sat, surrounded by the medicated fumes, the face only being exposed to the atmospheric air; and each application was called a *bath*.

“ That it ought to be made known, propagated, and established in hospitals, at least as an auxiliary for the treatment of cutaneous eruptions and chronic disorders, especially for the cure of psoric affections ; to teach persons of the art what aid it will afford them in the treatment of those kind of cases ; and also to establish it in ships, camps, armies, prisons, and barracks.

“ That it is desirable that a public establishment be formed for the administration of this remedy, that every possible advantage may be derived from its extended use.

(Signed)

PINEL,
DUBOIS,
TARTRA,
ESPARRON,
BOUILLON LA GRANGE.*

Seen and approved,

MOURGUE, *Member of Council.*

“ 18th May, 1813.”

These experiments commenced the 1st of April, 1813, and were concluded the 18th of May following. Dr. Tartra conducted the experiments, and was secretary and reporter for the Jury.

* Chevalier PINEL, member of the Institute, physician of the Hospital de la Salpêtrière, and professor of the Faculty of Medicine ; Baron DUBOIS, professor of the Faculty of Medicine ; TARTRA, first physician of the first Dispensary ; ESPARRON, first physician of the third Dispensary ; and BOUILLON LA GRANGE, doctor of medicine, and professor of chemistry ; are the gentlemen who were appointed to compose the *select Jury*, and were chosen by the General Council for the affairs of hospitals.

This report was submitted to the General Council for the administration of hospitals, which was to determine what proceedings should be taken on the subject.

On the 8th of June, M. Mourgue presented the report to the General Council. One copy was ordered to be placed in the archives of the administration for the affairs of hospitals, and another to be sent to the Prefect of the Seine, requesting it might be forwarded to the Minister of the Interior.

The Council for the affairs of hospitals ordered, also, that twelve of the baths should immediately be put up in the Hospital of St. Louis, where the experiments had been conducted.

The Council, likewise, by letter to Dr. Galès, signified its satisfaction to him, and its high sense of the services he had rendered mankind by his discovery.

The remedy had already occasioned so much sensation and investigation in Paris, amongst the medical men, that they selected commissioners from among their members, the dean, and professors, to deliberate on the merits of this remedy. Two reports were the consequence ; one signed by MM. Halle, Dubois, and Pinel ; the other by MM. Percy, J. J. le Roux, Dupuytren, and Richerand, fully corroborating the report of the Select Jury.

Members of the profession, high in estimation, as will be here seen, such as Le Roux, Halle, Tartra,

L'Erminier, Lucas, Delaporte, Demangeon, Ruffin, Dubois,* and Dr. Galès, selected sixty from among their patients, afflicted most severely with palsy of the limbs, hemiplegia, rheumatism, atonic gout,† sciatica, and the whole range of dry, moist, and ulcerated diseases of the skin, who were submitted to the remedial powers of these baths, and were, with few exceptions, cured. Most of these cases, being under the immediate observation of Dr. Le Roux, are recorded by him. Some are given by the medical men who had selected them, and were forwarded to M. Mourgue; who, together with the report of the Select Medical Jury, carried them to the Prefect of the Department of the Seine, to be officially submitted to the consideration of the Minister of the Interior.

The Prefect's letter to the Minister, with his answer, I shall here insert, as they will best show the estimation in which this remedy was held by the highest authorities.

The Prefect of the Department of the Seine, to his Excellency the Minister of the Interior.

“ MY LORD,

“ I have the honour to address you, conformably

* All professors and public teachers in Paris.

† This remedy was found particularly calculated to cure those lamenesses arising from enlarged, stiffened, and weak joints, in consequence of gout; and more particularly when of long standing.

to the wish expressed at the deliberations of the Councils for the administration of hospitals, on the 9th of this month ; and to transmit, for your examination, the different documents relative to the experiments made at the Hospital of St. Louis, for the purpose of establishing the method proposed by M. Galès, doctor of medicine, and principal apothecary at the said hospital, for the treatment of cutaneous affections by the use of sulphurous fumigation.

“ Your Excellency will remark, without doubt, among the papers, the report of the Medical Jury, named by the Council to pursue the experiments which he had acted upon, composed of MM. Pinel, Esparron, Tartra, Dubois, and Bouillon la Grange.

“ From this report it appears :

“ That the safety and efficacy of Dr. Galès’s method is substantiated.

“ That every species of psora, even the most inveterate, are cured by this method.

“ That this remedy acts very powerfully on diseases of the skin, eruptive and chronic,—such as all the various kinds of darts,* pustules, syphilitic prurigo, tinea, or scald-head, &c. &c. ; and that this

* *Darts* : under this general term the French comprehend most of the diseases of the skin, from leprosy to those less severe, and, although very dissimilar, in appearance they resemble each other much in their nature.

method ought, at least, to be considered as a valuable auxiliary in the treatment of these disorders.

“ That, to cure psora, it is only necessary to repeat the remedy, without any internal or external medicines, or particular regimen; and may be used without interruption to the patients in their usual occupations, or requiring them to remain in the hospitals.

“ That it is of importance that this treatment be made known and propagated,—to establish it in hospitals, ships, camps, the rear of armies, prisons, barracks, &c. &c.

“ And, lastly, that a public establishment for the application of this remedy should be formed, in order that every individual may have the advantage of its use.

“ A like judgment, held by men whose opinions have such great weight in matters of this kind, ought to cause the plan of Dr. Galès to be considered as a great improvement of a similar treatment, vaguely spoken of by some authors; or, at least, as an important application of that remedy,—a happy development of many indications which have been given by these authors, without their having produced, until this moment, any result worthy of observation. Besides, Dr. Galès, with much disinterested zeal, has made public all its details, the result of his labours and discoveries, in the study of which he has spared neither trouble nor expence.

“The Administration of Hospitals, which has ordered an establishment to be formed at the Hospital of St. Louis, for the treatment of out-patients afflicted with cutaneous affections, &c. by fumigations, will express, without doubt, their acknowledgments for the service which has been rendered to it by the reviver of this practice, by raising him, in the hospitals of Paris, to the rank which this improved discovery gives him in science. But the happy effects of the treatment proposed by Dr. Galès should not be confined to these establishments, they ought to be extended throughout all France; and it remains for your Excellency to propose to his Majesty the recompence which may be due for the services rendered to the state.

“Whatever that may be, you will judge, without doubt, my Lord, that too much publicity cannot be given to a remedy which offers so certain and effectual a cure for *several prevalent* diseases, very contagious, and widely extended. You will also, perhaps, with this view, judge it proper to print and distribute the annexed Memoirs, with the Report of the Jury, and the papers thereto belonging, as a work completely instructive to persons of the art, in all that is necessary to be known, in order to practise the proposed method.

“Your Excellency will appreciate what might be the advantages of this publication, if you will cast your eyes on the Report annexed to these papers,

made by the surgeon of the Mendicity of Taro to the director of that establishment. On the simple and most imperfect construction of two apparatus, after the one used by Dr. Galès, nine patients were treated at Borgo San Domino by the fumigations, and all the nine were cured: the time did not exceed four days for each patient.

“ I have the honour to salute your Excellency, with profound respect,

My Lord,

(Signed)

“ CHABROL, *Prefect of the Seine.*”

“ *Paris, June 1813.*”

It appears the Minister did not take public notice of this letter till the 17th of July, 1813; when he addressed himself to the Faculty of Physic of Paris :*

“ *To the Professors and Doctors, composing the members of the Faculty of Physic at Paris.*

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ M. Galès, doctor of medicine and principal apothecary of the Hospital of St. Louis, has, by his stu-

* This delay took place, in order, it appears, that the remedy should not even yet be received in practice, until it had gone through a still stricter ordeal; that its merits (if it had any,) should be duly acknowledged; or, if it had not, that it should be decried.

dies and researches, brought into use sulphurous fumigations for the cure of cutaneous chronic diseases.

“ After the first essays on the success attending this method of treatment, the Council of Administration of Civil Hospitals of Paris thought it their duty to nominate a *special Medical Jury* to pursue these experiments, and substantiate the effects of this new remedy. This Jury was composed of Drs. Pinel, Dubois, Esparron, Tartra, and Bouillon la Grange; and they have pursued with the *greatest care*, for two months, the experiments made by Dr. Galès, upon about sixty individuals afflicted with psora, and other cutaneous and prurigonous disorders.

“ Almost all the patients submitted to these experiments were completely cured, and the Jury has given the most favourable conclusions of the advantages to be derived from this mode of practice.

“ The Council of Administration of Hospitals, after receiving this report of the Jury, determined that there should be established, at the Hospital of St. Louis, an apparatus for out-patients to be treated with fumigations for the cure of cutaneous diseases, &c.; and, in addressing to me this Report, and the Memoirs of Dr. Galès on his proceedings, the Prefect of the Seine has begged me to solicit the favour of government in behalf of this physician. He has, at the same time, proposed that the memoirs of Dr.

Galès, and the papers thereto belonging, should be printed, in order that the treatment which he has acted upon should be extended to all parts of the empire.

“ *However great our confidence ought to be in the results substantiated by such men as composed the Jury*, and who have followed up the experiments on the method of Dr. Galès, I would not, Gentlemen, give to these proceedings, and to the success that has attended them, the publicity proposed to me, before I also KNOW YOUR OPINIONS on the advantages of this method, and the conclusions which you have drawn from them.

“ I, therefore, herewith, transmit to you the memoirs of Dr. Galès, and the report of the Jury, with the sundry papers belonging to it, which have been addressed to me; and I invite you to present me with some detail, *your opinions and advice*, on the sundry advantages to be attributed to this mode of practice by Dr. Galès, and on the claims which this physician has to the favour of government.

“ I shall be much obliged if you will hasten, as much as possible, your work on this subject.

“ Receive, Gentlemen, the assurance of my distinguished sentiments.

(Signed)

“ MONTALIVET, *Minister of the Interior.*”

[“ July 17, 1813.”

The return of Napoleon, however, arrested further investigation at that time ; for the hospital of St. Louis, where the apparatus was erected for conducting the experiments, was converted into a manufactory of arms, and filled with soldiers, in lieu of patients ; and, as it is well known, the country became in so disturbed a state as to prevent the assembling of the Faculty of Physic, who had already appointed a committee from its members to pursue the required investigation, but they were not able to make their report till August, 1815.

Medical practitioners, however, when opportunity offered, from what had already been elicited, were induced to send those patients whom they thought were likely to be benefitted ; and not a few, I have been informed by Dr. Galès, of the most obstinate, and seemingly desperate cases, were subjected to this treatment, with the most surprising success.

On the 22d of August, 1815, the Faculty of Physic made the following Report, which was published on the concluding day of that month.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY OF PHYSIC OF PARIS.

“By a letter, dated the 17th of July, 1813, his Excellency the Minister of the Interior charged the Faculty to occupy themselves with positive experiments, and to make known to him the advantages in the healing art to be derived from the different new methods proposed by Dr. Galès.

“The Faculty named a committee, which has pursued their experiments on these methods, and compared them with other remedies.

“The fumigations which Dr. Galès first brought into use to heal diseases of the skin, is a remedy which, in most instances, has been attended with more efficacy than all others which have usually been employed up to the present time,—such as the juices and apozems to which we give the name of depuratives,* the internal and external use of mercury, the various preparations of antimony and sulphur, internally or externally, or natural or artificial sulphurous baths or drinks, &c.

“This new method, moreover, presents two important points in the practice of physic, as it respects *herpetic affections*; for *hereditary diseases have been cured by it*,—even those *hereditary scorbutic complaints which had existed from earliest infancy, and seemed to be incurable from the long continuance of the disease, and its adherence to the economy of the patient's constitution*. Some of these patients had been treated by a great number of remedies, and had despaired of recovery,—yet were completely cured by this method.

“This remedy, which appears to convey an exciting effect to the lymphatic system, has been employed

* In no country have vegetable decoctions been so much resorted to for the cure of various complaints as in France.

to counteract such affections as seem to depend on a *want of tone in the system*,—as *scrofulous and certain other swellings*.

“This remedy has also been employed in gout, rheumatism, palsy, and many other diseases,* and often with *the greatest success*.

“We have, however, witnessed that the effects of the fumigation has not been so constant in the cure of gout as in other diseases: a great number of gouty patients have, however, found relief from its use, and many have been radically cured.

Dr. Galès has by his method readily cured *rheumatic affections*; more especially, as in gout, when the disease has been of a chronic nature.

“The success of the fumigation has appeared more uniform in the cure of *palsy*, even when this affection has succeeded apoplexy.

“In stating the result of our observations, as well as from the avowal of Dr. Galès, we fear not to assert the inefficacy of the fumigations in some cases; but the constancy of the effects which we have experienced from it in curing diseases of the skin, and the advantages which have already been derived from the practice in the treatment of other diseases,—advantages which time and new experiments may yet extend,—all conjoin to dispose us in favour of the

* See Note, page 39.

remedy. We ought, however, to observe, that, if the success attending its use has not always been the same, its application has never been attended with any prejudicial consequences; and we merely state these circumstances, resulting from its immediate effects, that every practitioner may be enabled to form a true judgment of their nature.

“The many advantages derived by Dr. Galès from this method engaged the attention of Dr. Duchanoy,* member of the committee of Civil Hospitals, charged with the service of health, to make experiments, and substantiate, in an authentic manner, the success obtained by this new mode of treating diseases. The comparative experiments were made with the ordinary remedies.

“Dr. Delaporte, and M. Ruffin, chief physician and surgeon of the hospital of St. Louis, were convinced, after the experiments made, that the fumigations had the superiority.† The result of these experiments was submitted daily to M. Mourgue, member of the Council for the Administration of Civil Hospitals, charged especially to superintend that of St. Louis. After his report, addressed to the General Council,‡ it was determined that a Medical Jury, composed of Drs. Pinel, Dubois, Esparron, Tartra,

* See certificate of Dr. Bailly, May 3, 1815.

† See certificate of Chamsru, Prat, &c. May 1, 1815.

‡ See Report of M. Mourgue, June 8, 1813.

and Bouillon la Grange, should pursue these experiments, and substantiate, in an authentic manner, the result and conclusions of their observations ; and which were all to the advantage of Dr. Galès, as much by the *efficacy*, as the *simplicity*, *safety*, and *economy*, which his method presented. This remedy was represented, by these gentlemen, to be very advantageous in the treatment of various diseases of the skin, &c.* M. Mourgue transmitted the report of the Jury to the Council for the Administration of Civil Hospitals ;† and the Council addressed it to the Prefect of the Seine, requesting that it might be laid before his Excellency the Minister of the Interior ; and, finally, it was resolved to give the greatest publicity to this method, and call to it the attention of Government. His Excellency then sent all the papers to the Faculty, requesting them to give the greatest possible attention to this subject.

“ We have given it our most deliberate attention, and urge that it should be used in hospitals and great establishments.

“ The Committee think it their duty not to be silent on the advantages of this method, which cannot but be applicable, also, to the service of the camp and of the army.

“ Done at a meeting held this 22d day of August,

* See Report of Medical Jury, May 18, 1813.

† In contradistinction to such hospitals as are military.

1815; signed by members of the Committee, as under :

LEROUX,	HALLE,	} <i>Professors and Doctors of the Faculty of Physic at Paris.</i>
DUBOIS,	PINEL,	
DUPUYTREN,	PERCY,	
RICHERAND,*		

This report was published August 31, 1815; and, in consequence, the MINISTER of the INTERIOR addressed the PREFECT of the DEPARTMENT of the SEINE, observing, that M. Galès appeared to him worthy of a recompence for having rendered such services to the hospitals and to humanity; and required the Administration of Hospitals to name him physician to the Hospital of St. Louis, and to grant him a pension of six thousand francs per annum.

Fumigations, thus sanctioned after so strict an ordeal, were now universally adopted in Paris, and apparatuses for administering them were immediately put up and established at the different hospitals:

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- * M. LEROUX, Dean of the Faculty of Physic;
 - M. HALLE, Professor of the same Faculty;
 - Dr. le Baron DUBOIS, Surgeon to the Maison de Santé, Professor of Midwifery, and of the Faculty of Medicine;
 - M. PINEL, Member of the Institute, Physician to the Hospital Salpêtrière, and Professor of the Faculty of Medicine;
 - M. DUPUYTREN, chief Surgeon of the Hôtel-Dieu;
 - M. PERCY, Professor of Surgery;
 - Le Baron RICHERAND, Surgeon of the Hospital of St. Louis.

among others, at the Hôtel Dieu, Maison Royale de Santé, Maison d'Accouchement, Hôpital de la Charité, and the Hôpital Saint Antoine; and at the military hospitals, by order of the Minister at War. Time, instead of diminishing confidence in their usefulness, has caused the government of France to be more and more convinced of their importance; for, in 1816, it considered itself called on to order Dr. Galès to publish a Memoir, describing his method, and issued a Circular to the PREFECTS of the different Departments of France, for the purpose of encouraging its adoption throughout the whole empire.

COPY OF THE CIRCULAR.

“M. THE PREFECT,

“J. C. Galès, doctor of medicine, and formerly apothecary of the Hospital of St. Louis, at Paris, has been led by his researches to apply a new process in the treatment of cutaneous and chronic affections.

“The happiest success has crowned the labours of Dr. Galès. Juries, composed of many distinguished physicians of the Faculty of Medicine at Paris, have successively examined, with peculiar care, the effects of this method; and the Commissioners composing the Jury have declared that, for the cure of cutaneous and chronic diseases, it appears *infinitely superior, in respect to efficacy, innocency, and economy, to all*

those methods previously resorted to till the present time.

“I have, in consequence, M. the Prefect, thought it my duty, to cause to be printed a Memoir by Dr. Galès, describing his method of cure, as well as the reports and observations to which it has given rise; and I have the honour to forward to you copies of this collection.

“It is much to be desired that the method of Dr. Galès be adopted in great hospitals and other establishments,—such as dépôts of mendicants, houses of detention, &c. where it is necessary to treat cutaneous and chronic diseases.

“There is every reason to believe that there would result from it a very great saving of expenditure in the treatment of such diseases.

“You will, therefore, please to distribute the copies which I send you, to the administrators and to the physicians of establishments of this kind which are in your department, and to prevail upon them to establish in their houses apparatus proper for the administration of this remedy.

“I freely authorize you, M. the Prefect, to defray the expences which may result from the purchase of these apparatuses, either out of the funds of these establishments which shall think proper to procure them, or, if you please, out of the funds of the casual expences of your department.

“I have the honour, M. the Prefect, of offering

you the assurance of the most distinguished consideration.

(Signed)

BECQUEY,

Secretary to the Minister of the Interior."

"Paris, May 17th, 1816."

After the promulgation of this Circular, and the publication of the Memoir, the invention was received with universal acclamation; and, thus finally established in the French empire, it soon began to extend itself in every direction over the continent of Europe; and, wherever used with *attention* and *discrimination*, the results have been not less consoling to humanity, than honourable to the cause of medicine and to the country which perfected its application.

From the deliberations of a General Council, assembled on the 17th December, 1817, it appears that it was agreed this remedy should only be resorted to under the direction of a physician, and administered under the immediate care of a medical man. Dr. Galès, the gentleman who first brought this important remedy into extended use, was at that time chief apothecary at the Hospital of St. Louis, where he had distinguished himself ever since the year 1792. His private bath-houses were visited by the allied Sovereigns, when at Paris, and other distinguished personages, many of whom have left him testimonies of their approbation. He was, however, denied his request of being made physician to the Hos-

pital of St. Louis, notwithstanding the Faculty of Medicine were requested to do so by the Minister of the Interior; the Faculty assigning as reasons, first, that the physicians of the hospital attend, and ought to attend, themselves to the administration of the remedy at St. Louis;—secondly, because Dr. Galès had had no medical practice, having been the apothecary; and, thirdly, because he had been privileged with the exclusive right of several bath-houses in the city: that that circumstance alone was a sufficient obstacle to his being appointed physician to St. Louis, though he should possess the necessary medical knowledge; and that this mode of treatment should be entrusted only to able *physicians*, and that this appointment could not, consequently, be granted to him; that they consider him entitled to his retiring pension, which it did not become them to fix, and also to a reward.*

It was impossible, that the advantages arising from the use of these apparatuses should not be anxiously sought after throughout the whole continent. At Vienna, they excited as much attention as they had done at Paris; and it will perhaps be anticipated, that De Carro,—a man as renowned for his philanthropy as his medical skill, whose zeal had spread through Germany the benefits emanating from the

* See a Report made to the General Council by M. Mourgue, on the respective rights of Drs. Galès and D'Arcet, Feb. 28, 1816.

discovery of our own illustrious Jenner,—would feel a very strong conviction of the value of this improvement in medicine. Perhaps he has done as much towards propagating the knowledge, and promoting the establishment, of this remedy in Europe as even the French government itself,* notwithstanding the greatness of its power, the importance of its patronage, and the decisiveness of its commendations and directions.

Whilst Dr. De Carro was investigating the efficacy of various medicines thus conveyed, in the gaseous form, through the pores, into the system, the attention of distant medical men became fixed; for, on the pursuits and application of this physician, rested an assurance of importance and of improvement; and, as he previously gave notice of his intention, and that he should at certain stated periods make known the results of his observations, and as so much had already been elicited in France, these results were awaited for with a proportionate anxiety, and received in a way that acknowledged their importance and worth.

He alone, at the request of different physicians of high repute, sent off forty-eight of these apparatuses, in a very short period, to be established at different places; and, among other cities, to Breslau, Odenburg, Hermansdt, Presburg, Cassovia, Brunn, Lem-

* See his work on this subject, published at Vienna, 1819.

burg, and Prague; to Warsaw, Cronstadt, and Petersburg; to Sassari, Trieste, and Venice; to Parma, Padua, Rome, Odessa, &c. “The results of the employment of fumigations are,” says the enlightened Dr. De Carro, “confirmed more and more by experience, and this method is propagated with a rapidity, of which the history of useful inventions offers few examples.”

To calculate on the extending benefits arising from this discovery, would be difficult, if not impossible. Applied, at first, with a view only of curing a most frequent, and, at the same time troublesome, disease—Psora, it was, “to the surprise of all engaged in the administration of the remedy, found that patients afflicted with rheumatisms, lamenesses, enlargements of the joints, lumbago, sciatica, &c., as well as with the other complaint, were cured of both.” This was not lost on Dr. De Carro, who seized the curative powers of this remedy for other diseases, and has occasioned the application of it to an extent little known in this country. The French, at first, applied it only to the one first named: Dr. De Carro’s practice, with this interesting auxiliary remedy, has been as surprising as it has been satisfactory.

Having shown the origin and progress of this discovery, and supported my statements by some of the authenticated documents, I do not feel it necessary to go deeper into the subject at present, but shall show by what distinguished authorities the practice is ap-

proved of in this country, though this seems almost the last European country which will extend towards it encouragement and patronage.

That very skilful, scientific, and ingenuous member of the surgical profession, Mr. Abernethy, speaking, in his *Physiological Essays*,* of mercurial fumigations, introduced by him at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, almost after the same method as had been before practised by a Parisian physician, the Chevalier Lalouette,† says, "I have witnessed so much comfort, as well as benefit, arise from it, that I think, if the peculiar advantages were generally known to practitioners, they would be much more frequently employed. I beg leave, however, to observe, that the term mercurial fumigation is apt to excite wrong ideas of this method in the minds of surgeons. The effects are produced in a much shorter time than by giving the medicine internally or otherwise, and will affect the constitution when other means have failed." With regard to the process, he farther observes, "that the feelings of the patient during its administration are not at all unpleasant: on the contrary, they are pleasant, provided the heat is properly regulated; that there is nothing uncleanly or disagreeable in it; and that all who have had an opportunity of comparing it

* Published in 1793.

† Mr. Abernethy appears to have been induced by this physician, who published a work on Fumigations in 1776, to make a trial of mercurial fumigations.

with the usual method of employing that medicine, have been highly pleased with the superior advantages attending it. I have heard it objected, that fumigation cannot be depended on, but I never knew it fail; and, under proper management, I have no doubt but mercury, employed in this manner, will be found adequate to the cure of every variety of the disease."

The results of this now pretty general practice on the continent fully confirm Mr. Abernethy's early opinions.

Having alluded to Germany, and said so much respecting France, I must now turn the attention of my readers to what has been done in this country, with the view of diffusing the benefit of this invaluable remedy. It was not until the autumn of last year, on my arrival in England from France, where I had been on purpose that I might witness the improved method of practising and applying this remedy, that I was, for the first time, made acquainted with the very useful institution which had been established, in 1819, for the cure of cutaneous diseases, in Marlborough-street, on the plans of Drs. Galès and D'Arcet.* This was, I found, patronized by

* From an appeal made to the Minister by Dr. D'Arcet, on February the 28th, 1816, it appears that Dr. Galès has the full credit of having brought this plan into practice; but that his method was so imperfect as to be attended with insuperable inconveniences until it had been perfected by Dr. D'Arcet, who has the credit of the invention of the bathing-box.

some of the first personages in the kingdom, at the same time that it was aided by some of our first medical men, who evinced at once their zeal and philanthropy, contributing to it a portion both of their time and of their money. Their admirably written Address, which I shall here introduce, will shew the importance which they attached to this remedy, and the estimation in which they held its proper administration.

ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

“ When we reflect on the numerous charities with which this metropolis abounds, it may appear, at first view, that means of relief for the poorer classes of society, and the opportunities for professional men to study and improve the treatment of diseases, are so abundant, that no necessity of adding to their number exists. It will most readily be granted, that, when the support of the public is claimed for one new in its nature and objects, it is fairly entitled to a full explanation of the benefits expected to result from its establishment. The following statement will, it is hoped, prove satisfactory to those benevolent Noblemen and Gentlemen who have already come forward in its support, and also induce others to contribute to defray the expences which must necessarily be incurred.

“ Some months since, when the establishment of

an Institution in this metropolis for the Treatment of Cutaneous Diseases was first contemplated, a prospectus, containing a short view of the objects and the benefits expected to result from it, was submitted to the public. The countenance and support given to the undertaking by some of the first personages in the kingdom, and the approbation of many of the most distinguished members of the profession, encouraged the Gentlemen to whom the want of such an institution had been suggested, to exert themselves among their friends to procure funds, in order to form an establishment similar in its object to the celebrated Hospital of St. Louis at Paris. The utility of institutions for the exclusive treatment of particular diseases, has been experienced in so many instances, that it may be superfluous to point them out on the present occasion. The relief afforded to the poorer classes of society, which no industry or economy could enable them to procure, is evident; but it may not be thought irrelevant to mention the opportunity which such institutions alone afford to medical men for improving the treatment, and to students for acquiring a knowledge, of certain diseases by which all ranks of the community must ultimately benefit. Cutaneous diseases, as they have been confessedly, till of late, more neglected than any other class, are, perhaps, those with respect to which the above advantages can be most effectually obtained by a public institution.

“It may appear extraordinary that Dublin should have preceded the capital of the United Kingdom in forming an institution similar in its object to that for which the support of the public is now claimed : but such is the fact ; for, in the year 1817, an institution was formed under the immediate care of the Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, by whom Lectures on Cutaneous Diseases had previously been given in Trinity College ; and so much was the plan approved of by the profession and the public at large in that city, that the Governors of Sir P. Dunn’s Hospital generously gave permission for patients to attend and receive treatment in that building, till sufficient funds were collected to maintain a distinct establishment. It was in consideration of the above-mentioned circumstances that the gentlemen alluded to, supported by a number of friends and public-spirited men, who had come forward to second their views, were induced, in February last, to call a meeting at the Thatched-house Tavern, at which Lord John Russell presided.

“At that meeting certain resolutions were passed,* and donations and annual contributions subscribed for, which exceeded in amount the expectations of the most sanguine friends of the establishment. If there was one circumstance more than another which pro-

* See Address published in 1819.

mised to ensure success, it was the advantage likely to be derived from the able assistance of Dr. Bateman, whose attention to cutaneous diseases is well known.

“ At the meeting above alluded to, and a subsequent one on the 1st of March, the care of the institution was entrusted to a treasurer, two physicians, two surgeons, and a secretary, who were to act with and under a committee of management, selected from the subscribers. Since the period above alluded to, the committee have been anxiously employed in making known to their friends and the public the objects of the institution, in soliciting subscriptions, and in procuring suitable premises, in order to carry them into execution. It was not till after considerable difficulty they were enabled to accomplish the latter purpose, with respect to situation and the funds of the institution; and they trust the premises which have been taken will meet with the approbation of every subscriber. The erection of baths of the various descriptions necessary for such an establishment, has occupied their attention; and, although they cannot expect at present to vie in the extent of their means of affording relief with the magnificent establishment in Paris, they trust, though on a limited scale, no means essentially necessary to the cure of cutaneous diseases will be found wanting; and the reflection that some of the most splendid charities of this metropolis have risen from very small beginnings, encourages them to hope for that support

from a generous public the importance of this may seem to demand.

“ Were an estimate made of the misery produced in the world by the various diseases the human frame is subject to, it would be found that those of the skin bear a very considerable proportion ; for, though they seldom affect life, they often render it miserable in the extreme ; yet, strange to say, that, till Drs. Willan and Bateman took up the subject, there did not exist any classification or arrangement by which even medical men could comprehend the various terms and definitions made use of by authors. Hence arose the greatest confusion and mistakes. But, though much has been done in arrangement, and though the nomenclature has been considerably improved, little has been effected in the means of cure ; nor could, indeed, these be expected to attain any great degree of perfection without an institution affording opportunity to professional men to make those observations, and acquire that experience, without which all practical improvement must be looked for in vain. In a city so well supplied with water as London, the difficulties experienced by persons, even in moderate circumstances, in procuring the means of ablution, are to be lamented : to the poorer classes they are absolutely unattainable, but through the medium of charitable institutions ; and how necessary and various such means are for the proper treatment of cutaneous diseases, need not be

pointed out. Considerable expence will necessarily attend the construction of the fumigating, vapour, and other baths, which have been found serviceable in the cure of cutaneous diseases; and, as the most economical mode has been resorted to in their erection, the committee rely on such support as will enable them to ensure all the wished-for benefits to those objects recommended to the charity.

“ It may be proper here to mention that, in due time, a regular system of instruction for students, by means of lectures and the practice of the institution, is contemplated; so that the benefits of it will be experienced, it is hoped, by the higher ranks of society,—for none are exempt from this tormenting class of diseases. To what cause the neglect of cutaneous diseases has been owing, we stop not to inquire; every part of medicine must be esteemed equally honourable to the professors of it, but, till the time of Dr. Willan, the pathology of the skin was confessedly much confused in this country, and the treatment of its diseases, from the extraordinary neglect of men of science, was generally in the hands of empirics, and in many instances still remains so. Hence the most fatal prejudices and cruel practices,—the administration of the most powerful internal remedies for diseases of the surface, little, if at all, connected with the constitution,—and the application of equally active ones externally, for the cure of eruptions con-

nected with, and relieving diseases of perhaps vital parts.

“That the diseases of the *skin* (which, by a late writer, has justly been said to be as essential to the individual as the bark is to the tree, serving at once for the ornament and preservation of man,) are of great importance, will not be denied, whether we consider the sympathies which exist between the surface and the internal parts, or merely the appearance of those infirmities which render one human being disgusting to another. Whether we consider the health or comfort of mankind, we shall find the state of the surface intimately connected with them, and to this the ancients paid much more attention than we do. That they were very subject to cutaneous diseases, however, we have the fullest evidence from their writings; but certain it is that little information can be collected from them, for the accounts handed down to us are so confused, that it has been doubted whether Hippocrates himself has not described the small-pox. Such being the state of our knowledge with regard to these diseases, an establishment for their exclusive treatment and investigation cannot but be regarded as highly interesting, and, if properly conducted, as useful to the public. We have seen that one of the largest and best supported Hospitals of Paris, is dedicated to their treatment, where are to be found in perfection the expensive but

necessary means of cure. Such till now was a desideratum in this metropolis ; and, to give some idea of the extent and utility of the Hospital of St. Louis at Paris, it may be stated, from Chaussier's Report, that from 1804 to 1813 no less than 56,934 persons had been admitted, and 700 beds are set apart for the treatment of one cutaneous disease alone in its different stages and combinations.

“ We are struck with astonishment when we reflect on the variety of diseases the skin is subject to ; some affect the whole surface, others only particular organs ; some are only to be dreaded once during life, while others never cease to torment us ; some are attended with the most formidable derangement of the whole system, while others are developed without the least disturbance of the vital functions ; some are totally unconnected with life and the circulation, have merely a borrowed existence, and destroy the body as parasite vegetables cause the strongest trees of the forest to decay. Common as the disease called the Itch is, it is astonishing how many diseases of the skin, which possess not a single characteristic except external resemblance, are confounded with it ; so that nothing is more common than a difference of opinion on so simple a malady ; though the itch is strictly a contagious disease, though the animal which causes it has been classed by naturalists, and the means of cure which are effectual in it only aggravate complaints which are mistaken for it. The

relations between the morbid appearances of the surface and the internal parts have been too much neglected. The causes of many cutaneous diseases are involved in great obscurity. Some kinds of food, as salmon, muscles, or improper mixtures, in certain constitutions, produce an instant eruption on the surface, which must at first be sympathetic;—long continued, these become confirmed. In short the diseases of some internal parts are so strikingly demonstrated by the morbid changes produced on the surface, that they could not escape observation; such as the association of the cutaneous vessels of the face with a diseased liver, &c.

“The affection called a Surfeit, often caused by cold fluid taken into the stomach when the body is heated, is of the same nature; it causes, in this organ, indigestion and flatulency, which is relieved by the eruption on the face. Repellants, incautiously made use of, are known to be attended with the most dangerous consequences, which is a corroborating proof of these connexions. As these associations are admitted, and palpable, it is extremely probable that future observations will discover similar ones, and that many diseases of the surface, which are now looked on as irremediable, will, by being traced to their true source, yield to appropriate remedies. It would far exceed the bounds of an address of this nature to make use of all the arguments which might be brought forward in support of an establishment

for the *exclusive Treatment of Cutaneous Diseases*; that they have been unjustly neglected till of late years is admitted, and that great room for improvement in the treatment still exists, will readily be confessed by those best entitled to give an opinion. *The treatment indeed of some of the most troublesome and offensive diseases the surface is subject to, is in the hands of EMPIRICS, who not only use remedies unnecessarily cruel and painful, but often such as are productive of diseases, from which their unfortunate patients suffer for the remainder of their lives. To rescue these from the hands of ignorance and empiricism, will be one service rendered by this Institution; and, by scientific arrangement and investigation to improve the treatment and extend the knowledge of diseases of the skin, will, it is hoped, soon appear to have been another.*

“Committee.—John Bent, Esq. M.P.; Albany Saville, Esq. M.P.; John Gladstone, Esq. M.P.; John Thomas Thorp, Esq. Alderman and M.P.; Henry Fauntleroy, Esq.; John Weston, Esq.; Edward Wright, Esq.; T. H. Call, Esq.; and the Physicians and Surgeons to the Institution.

“Patron—His Royal Highness the Duke of York, K.G. G.C.B. &c.

“Vice Patron.—His Royal Highness Prince Leopold, K.G. G.C.B.

“President.—His Grace the Duke of Wellington, K.G. G. C. B.

“Vice Presidents.—The Marquis of Huntley; the Earl of Huntingdon; Lord John Russell, M.P.; Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. G.C.B. P.R.S.; General Sir George Beckwith, G.C.B.; Sir William Inghilby, Bart.; G. E. Graham, Esq. M.P.; John Bent, Esq. M.P.; John Gladstone, Esq. M.P.; John Thomas Thorp, Esq. Alderman and M.P.; Sir James M'Grigor, F.R.S.; and John Webb, Esq.

“*Treasurer.*—Henry Fauntleroy, Esq.

“*Consulting Physician.*—Dr. Bateman, Bloomsbury-square.

“*Physicians.*—Dr. Thomson, M.D. Conduit-street; and Dr. Emerson, M.D. Brompton.

“*Surgeons.*—J. C. Carpue, Esq. Dean-street, Soho; and William Wadd, Esq.* Park-place, St. James's.

“*Secretary.*—James Hodgson, Esq.”

Having proceeded thus far, I should not do justice either to my subject or to such distinguished persons, if I did not shew what was their more mature opinion, after they had given the plan a trial of two years; and, if I did not inform my readers how far their wishes to ameliorate the sufferings of the community had been accomplished. This object will be best effected by a transcription of their own report.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT,

HELD MAY 14, 1821,

SIR JAMES M'GRIGOR IN THE CHAIR.

“The committee have the satisfaction of reporting to the meeting that, since the institution of the Infirmary, *three hundred and forty-five* cases have been admitted, of whom above *three hundred* have been cured, or materially relieved; and, encouraged by the advantages which have been proved to result

* It was to the zeal, activity, and intelligence of this distinguished surgeon, that the public were, in a considerable degree, indebted for the institution of this excellent charity.

from the establishment in many distressing cases of long standing, they feel themselves called upon to solicit the continued support of the public, for the only institution of this nature in the kingdom. In doing this they do not think it necessary to enter at large upon the objects proposed on the formation of the institution, which since that time has received the support of some of the first characters in the profession. The committee have to lament the loss the institution has sustained in the late Sir Joseph Banks, one of its founders and zealous supporters; as also that of Dr. Bateman, who anticipated the most important benefits to science and society, from the opportunities which such a concentration of the varied appearances of cuticular diseases would afford for the further investigation of their characters and treatment.

“On this occasion the committee have to express their great satisfaction at the manner the objects of the charity have been forwarded by the medical officers; and they readily concur with those gentlemen in soliciting the co-operation of the profession, from which they have already experienced much valuable assistance in prosecuting the study of cutaneous disease.

“In stating this desire of the medical officers, they think it due to those gentlemen to add, that, so far from wishing to separate the study or treatment of

these diseases from general practice, they consider that the opportunities offered by this institution must necessarily tend to render them objects of common interest to the student and practitioner, for which purpose every facility is afforded.

“To the public the committee return their best thanks for the liberal support hitherto received, and in particular to those members of the profession who have not only come forward with pecuniary aid, but who have contributed in a high degree to forward the objects of the institution, by sending many cases of the rarer forms of cutaneous disease.

“This institution is at present the only one in the kingdom which affords the advantages of the Sulphurous Vapour Bath to the poorer classes of society; and the committee entertain sanguine hopes that the liberality of the public will enable them also to provide the means of Tepid Bathing, the benefits of which to the poor in this country are almost unknown, though of incalculable importance.”

As an additional evidence of the high estimation, in which this remedy is held by some of those who belong to the most enlightened part of the community, I add a list of the Donors and Subscribers to this Institution.—

LIST.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| Ashburner, Dr. | Gardener, Abraham, Esq. |
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| Fauntleroy, H. Esq. | Peregrine, J. P. Esq. |

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Saunders, R. Esq.	Wadd, Wm. Esq.
Seaton, James, Esq.	Wadd, Thomas, Esq.
Saville, Albany, Esq. M.P.	Ward, H. Esq.
Scott, William, Esq.	Webb, Sir John
Shapter, Dr.	Weston, John Webbe, Esq.
Speidell, Rev. T.	Wilson, Thomas, Esq.
Stronge, Lady	Window, J. Esq.
Tierney, Sir Matthew, Bart.	Wood, B. G. Esq.
Thomas, Leigh, Esq. F.R.S.	Wright, Edward, Esq.
Thomson, Dr.	Wright, Charles, Esq.
Thomson, Henry U. Esq.	Young, Sir William.

After my previous statements, and the introduction of this perspicuous and ably written Address and Report, I think it, at present, unnecessary to introduce many more observations in corroboration of the advantages which are to be derived from a more general use of the apparatus spoken of, with its contingent remedies.

I must not, however, omit to add, that this is the only institution of the kind in England; that it is confined to the treatment of complaints of the skin only; that, as it is a charitable institution, persons in the higher ranks and in the middle classes of society are prevented from resorting to it, though the highest ranks are not exempted from this tormenting class of complaints; and that, although this remedy was at first expected to cure only that troublesome

and frequent complaint, *scabies*, it was found as efficacious in many other diseases, and a valuable auxiliary in most complaints. In illustration of this remark, I may appeal to the great number of patients who were submitted, in the Hospital of St. Louis, to the fumigating apparatus, in the single year 1816, although, at that time several apparatuses had been put up in different hospitals and public charities in Paris.

Number of Fumigations administered in the Hospital of St. Louis, in the apparatus erected on the plan of the ingenious Dr. D'Arcet :

Years.	Fumigations.		Total.
	Sulphureous.	Aromatic.	
1814	4,280	604	4,884
1815	19,876	1,552	21,419
1816	20,701	1,578	22,279
1817	10,595	7,309	17,904

In the apparatus introduced at the Military Hospital of *Val de Grace*, there have been administered, from the 1st of May, 1817, to 1st January, 1818 :—

Simple Fumigations.....	686
Alcoholic	351
Aromatic	274
Mercurial	245
Sulphurous Hydrogen	3550
Total.....	5106

(Signed)

MOURGUE,

THE DUKE OF LA ROCHEFOUCAULD,

Reporter.

As the multitude of afflicting cases, which have been completely cured or greatly alleviated, have been authenticated in France by some of its first official characters, and by some of its most eminent professors, physicians, and surgeons; and as the employment of this great, and little-known remedy, has been stamped by the approbation, and sanctioned by the recommendations, of the leading medical men in England, and has received the disinterested patronage of many other distinguished persons in our own country; no unprejudiced inquirer can entertain a doubt, that its benefits ought to be extended to the higher and the middle classes of society in England, and that they ought not to be confined to the poor alone. But hitherto, I believe, no regular practitioner has set up a fumigating apparatus in the metropolis; or, indeed, in any part of England. Wishing to remedy this extraordinary deficiency, and convinced that this has become in this country, and in the medical world, a great desideratum, I have devoted particular attention to this interesting subject, with a considerable degree of expence and labour; and have recently formed, in BURY-STREET, ST. JAMES'S, (No. 5), an establishment of this nature, which, though it is on a moderate scale, will, I trust, from its novelty, its applicability to numerous disorders, its central situation, and the attention which will be given to the varying cases of different patients, prove a source of much utility to others, and of no small degree of sa-

tisfaction to myself. Zealous for promoting the progress of this most beneficial line of practice, aware of the great diversity of cases to which it is applicable, and convinced that most decisive and important advantages may be derived from a further subdivision in the medical and surgical professions ; I have, after mature deliberation, and with the hope of becoming the instrument of no small degree of usefulness, determined to confine my attention to the management of this establishment, and to those disorders which may, in consequence, be brought before my observation. The remedy is pleasant, when applied with discrimination ; and I shall not, from a regard to my own credit, and for the honour of the remedy, which I appreciate so highly, submit any patient to its influence, unless it has either been prescribed by a physician, or respectable medical man, or unless I can myself confidently anticipate relief to the patient.

Persons may be inclined to infer from the term sulphurous fumigations, that sulphur only is exhibited. But, in fact, the most efficacious medicines, as opium, æther, camphor, mercury, and all gases, either simple or compound, are exhibited by this mode ; and sulphur itself, when thus volatized, communicates no unpleasant smell.

But I must not be altogether silent respecting the *Rationale of the Remedy*. Gases, particularly when combined with aqueous vapour, by their extreme dif-

fusibility, are rapidly received into the system by the absorbent vessels of the skin; and any medicine, thus held in suspension, is by this mode pleasantly conveyed into the system. When it is considered, that there is an immediate sympathy between the skin, the mind, and the stomach,* or other internal parts, that the skin is a most important evacuant to the body; that any enlargement, obstruction, or congestion, of the internal parts, will immediately bring on *fever, more or less, with a dry unperspirable skin, increased heat and thirst; and that many complaints owe their existence entirely to its functions being improperly performed, it will at once appear* what a very important remedy we have in the Caloric and Fumigating Bath. By this remedy we can, in the space of seven, eight, or ten minutes, bring on a general relaxation of its pores and consequent *perspiration*, and can thereby relieve all that train of complaints, occasioned, or aggravated, by its healthy functions being retarded or suppressed. This remedy occasions, at the time that the patient is in the bath, an increased circulation of the blood, which is *regulated at plea-*

* Witness the consequence of fright, which almost immediately brings on perspiration and a diuretic effect; the latter, too, is greatly increased from cold externally applied, which impedes its functions by contracting the capillary or extremely small vessels of the skin, thereby preventing that discharge of aqueous fluid, which is needful to keep up the equilibrium necessary for maintaining the standard of health.

sure ; by which means, the pores of the skin being open at the time, Nature is enabled to perform her own kind offices of throwing off disease herself. On coming out of the bath, the patient invariably feels exhilarated and cheerful. The effects are sometimes tranquillizing ; they are never unpleasant. But, independant of the power of these baths in curing diseases, their tonic efficacy is unequalled.*

I shall next enumerate some of those complaints, for which the remedy is adapted, and shall detail some cases of each class of disease, which have been authenticated.

The complaint for which it was first applied, it effectually cures, in every case, and without other internal or external medicine.

A common cold, if not attended with inflammation of the lungs or parts adjacent, it effectually cures ; and in very few instances is any medicine required.

It is applicable to all diseases of the skin, to the complaints to which females are subject, to obstructions, rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago, hæmorrhoids, and incipient dropsy ; to glandular and other swell-

* See the testimonies of Sir Gilbert Blane, physician to his Majesty, physician to the Fleet, and afterwards to St. Thomas's Hospital ; of Dr. Thomson, professor of Surgery at Edinburgh ; of Sir Arthur Clarke, physician to St. George's Dispensary, Dublin ; of Dr. James Johnson, surgeon to the Duke of Clarence, in his work on Tropical Diseases ; and of Dr. Faithom, on Liver Complaints ; together with the testimonies of many others, among whom may be mentioned Drs. Thomas, Bancroft, Moseley, Jameson, and Jacques.

ings, to inactivity of the stomach and bowels, to bilious complaints, to the disorders called nervous, to cases of debility, and to all cases requiring mercury.

A common vapour-bath is, by the aid of this apparatus, more conveniently and pleasantly administered than by any other method. There need be no apprehension of taking cold from its use ; but, on the contrary, it prevents much of the liability, and is quite safe. Both children and pregnant females can use these baths, if they are administered judiciously. Each occupies from half an hour to an hour, and does not interfere with the usual occupations.

The cases about to be adduced were selected by different medical gentlemen of Paris, several of whom had composed the Medical Jury. These cases were treated at the Clinical Hospital,* at the instance of Dr. Leroux, Dean of the Faculty, and recorded by Dr. Le Roche :—they should be considered distinct from those recorded by Dr. Tartra in the Report of the Medical Jury.

* Dr. Leroux, Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Clinical Medicine, having known the advantages derived from fumigations, caused two temporary apparatuses to be fitted up at the Clinical Hospital, in 1813, after the one invented by Dr. Galès, to convince himself more fully of the efficacy of this new treatment. This establishment, where so much care and attention is paid to the patients, presented a certain opportunity of meeting this end. The patients, who were to be submitted to their use, were removed from all causes which could intermeddle with their treatment, that regularity might be observed, and a more just result given to the observations and effects of the fumigations.

The remedies were prescribed, the progress observed, and the whole authenticated, by the signatures of the following Professors and Teachers: Pinel, Leroux, Dupuytren, Demangeon, Richerand, Dubois, Tartra, Bouillon Lagrange, De Laporte, Ruffin, Halle, Esparron, &c.

Palsy of the Side.

Peter John H—— was afflicted with hemiplegia on the right side; after this he had a strong apoplectic attack, which was treated as such at the Clinical Hospital; he there used fifteen fumigations, and went out perfectly cured.

*Treated at the Clinical Hospital at Paris,
by Drs. LEROUX and HALLE. Re-
corded by Dr. Le ROCHE.*

*A Rheumatic Affection, accompanied with serious swelling of the Elbow-Joint and Sciatic Gout.**

Monsieur Dusorbier, doctor of physic and surgeon to the artillery regiment of the extra guard, twenty-eight years of age, of a sanguine temperament and strong constitution, was attacked, during the campaign of 1814, with rheumatic pains in the muscles of the left arm; about the month of April, of the same

* See the opinions of the Medical Jury, in their report as regards its effects in gout.

year, a considerable swelling of the elbow-joint, on the same side, came on, accompanied with excruciating pains, so as totally to prevent sleep. This swelling diminished in about fifteen days by the application of emollient cataplasms; and the pains which remained yielded to a lotion composed of opium, camphor, and brandy. The patient thus consoled himself in having got rid of a disease which he had been afraid would affect him during the remainder of his life: he enjoyed the pleasure of this idea, but it did not long remain; for, in a short time, the pains of the arm and elbow-joint returned, during some wet and damp weather. A few days after the return of these symptoms, Dr. Dusorbier was obliged to come to Paris. Towards the end of June, his sufferings became more and more intense, and he determined to apply blisters to the arm; these abated the pains, but they again returned; perpetual blisters were applied to the elbow, which, with sulphurous baths, eased the pain; and the patient, after some time, was able to extend his arm as usual,—in fact, no traces were left of the disease.

In the beginning of October, Dr. Dusorbier took a violent cold, and the pain returned as before, and likewise in the legs, particularly in the right one, where it was so intense that he was unable to move it without the greatest suffering. The intensity of these pains continued; and at about the end of fifteen days, they extended up to the right arm, and fixed in the poste-

rior muscles of the neck, and the contraction of them was so great that his head was continually bent on the left shoulder, from which he could not raise it. In November the pains had extended to the left shoulder and arm; the pains in the neck continued very severe, accompanied with considerable swelling of the vertebra, of a gouty nature.

The application of perpetual blisters to the arms and neck, with sulphurous baths, and drinks, gave the patient some temporary and slight relief. Several friends of the patient, seeing that he continued to suffer so much from the disease, advised him to adopt the use of the fumigation then practised by Dr. Galès, Dr. Dusorbier consulted Drs. Halle and Leroux, Professors of the Faculty of Medicine, on the propriety of it; and, by their advice, he submitted himself to the remedy about the 15th November, 1814. After the sixth application his sufferings had become still more troublesome than before he began their use; the seventh fumigation gave the patient slight relief; from that time till the use of the twelfth fumigation, he perceived each day an alteration for the better; and on that day, 27th November, there no longer remained any rheumatic pains or gouty affection, except the swelling of the joints, which still remained, but without pain; and the motion of the head was performed without difficulty.

The treatment had given such a tonic effect to the whole animal economy of the patient, that nothing

remained but that he should exercise his strength. He endeavoured to walk at times, but the muscles of the calves of his legs were frequently involuntarily contracted.

After the twenty-sixth fumigation, the swelling of the articulations of the bones of the neck had entirely disappeared, and all motion of the arm could be performed with the greatest facility.

From the beginning of December until February, 1815, Dr. Dusorbier had not found any return of the complaint under which he had so long suffered.

Palsy of the upper and lower Extremities.

Monsieur Dody, a Swiss, 54 years of age, confidential servant to Madam de —, residing in the Place de la Ville l'Evêque, Paris, in consequence of a long illness, had been for two months afflicted with complete palsy of the upper and lower extremities. After consulting Dr. L'Erminier, physician of the Hôtel Dieu, and Dr. Tartra, surgeon of the first Dispensary, he, by their advice, commenced the fumigations, on the 12th October, 1814. This man had all his life-time been subject to very violent headache, and his sanguine habit had been exasperated by the immoderate use of spirituous liquors. His face had become as red as claret, and frequently inflamed; he suffered much in his constitution, and had obstinate rheumatism: the latter had attached

itself to the whole of the lower extremities. What, perhaps, contributed most to the derangement of his health, was the great inquietude he laboured under, and the chagrin he had met with, from the circumstance of the revolution, and the persecution which his mistress had met with. About the middle of 1814, he began to find a marked debility in the abdominal region and viscera, which increased by degrees, without any known physical cause, accompanied with a sensation of ice (if the expression may be allowed) in the loins, hips, and all the lower extremities, extending to the feet: the upper extremities did not fail to become affected in a similar manner. He could move his arms, but was unable to open his tobacco-box, or take up a pen to write, neither could he hold a knife, fork, or spoon, and was totally unable to move himself.

Dr. L'Erminier, who was charged with the care of this patient, conceived, from some particular symptoms he was afflicted with, and on which the other symptoms more or less depended, that the exhibition of mercury was first needful, and he prescribed it accordingly; but the palsy in the extremities was not at all diminished. He was then treated with the use of various and the best indicated tonics, amongst others, the spirit of mindererus, internally, in large doses; volatile alkali, camphor, &c.

In the beginning of October, three months after the invasion of the disease, the palsy having every day

since made rapid progress, Dr. Tartra called a consultation, when it was proposed, either to employ a very active treatment, by the reiterated application of blisters, synapisms of mustard, and other analogous applications, together with the use of the most powerful tonics; or else, to try the *fumigations alone, without any other remedy*. The consultants were well aware, from experience, that, with regard to the first method, it had very seldom arrested the progress of palsy; and that it was equally disheartening to themselves, and the patients, who were frequently discharged not cured. On the other hand, the salutary effect of the fumigations in many *cases of palsy, hemiplegia, extreme weakness of the limbs, and in rheumatism*, of the most dangerous and inveterate nature, was to them well known; and they therefore determined on the use of the latter remedy. They conceived the fumigations, of which the uniform effect is to produce copious perspiration, might be extremely useful to this patient: in fact, a sensible amelioration of the symptoms soon took place; and it was but the twenty-third day, when the patient could raise himself out of bed, to place himself in the apparatus; at the same time, he had recovered the use of his fingers, and could readily open his snuff-box. The beneficial use of the fumigations was carried to the number of seventy-five;—the first day he only used one, of about three quarters of an hour, afterwards two per day, and continued in the apparatus

for an hour and an hour and a-quarter at a time. The patient made use of no other curative means whatever. He has since pursued his ordinary occupation ; his health continues good, and appears to improve by time.*

Dry, Scaly, Cutaneous Disease.

Monsieur John Lewis L——, forty-five years of age, of a bilious temperament, and strong constitution, second lieutenant of the first regiment of light infantry, had been afflicted, for ten years, with a disease of the skin, which was the cause of his retiring from military service.

This herpetic affection was characterized by red vivid blotches, which extended over the whole body covered with very small pustules, adhering closely the one to the other. They were unaccompanied with any moisture, and itched intolerably the moment the patient became warm in bed. The internal functions were undisturbed ; his appetite and digestion good ; and he could sleep well after the first few hours he went to bed.

This patient was submitted to the fumigations August 9, 1814: the eight first times without any benefit ; after the tenth, the scales began to detach

* This patient has been perfectly restored to health, ever since the 25th March, 1815.—Attested by Drs. Leroux, Halle, Lucas, and Tartra.

themselves with ease, and the itching ceased. This state of amelioration remained stationary till the nineteenth fumigation, when the desquamation of the skin began to be more abundant, and all appeared to be in a fair way. The fumigations were continued to the number of one hundred and sixty. The scaled parts had all peeled off, and the cure was complete. This patient has been since repeatedly examined by Drs. Leroux and Halle, who have substantiated the good state of his health.

Hereditary, Moist, Scaly Disease of the Skin.

Madame M——, residing at Meuil Amilet, near Dammartin, thirty-one years of age, of a scrofulous nervous temperament, and feeble constitution. Her mother had suffered much from disease of the skin, and she has lost one sister of a cachectic constitution. From her most tender infancy, Madame M—— has been tormented with a viscid moist eruptive disease. This had, at various times, flown to different parts of the body, and, at length, to both ears, the head, &c. and had spread itself over all the vertebræ of the spine, the seat, the abdomen, and external parts of the —— of ——, and the breasts. These eruptions, except on the ears, where they were crusty, or dry, were all of a running nature; they presented a red appearance, of the colour of blood, especially on being separated, and were irregularly formed at their

edges. The ——— was ulcerated and destroyed. The pains of this general disease were severe; and the patient had herself occasioned much ulceration from rubbing the various parts affected. These ulcers had run into each other, so as to occasion a difficulty in ascertaining where they had at first commenced. The patient constantly suffered great pain, and had, for a considerable time, lost her appetite and sleep. A little coffee and cream, which she took in the morning, was her only nourishment during the day. An extreme wasting of the flesh came on by degrees, the result of the severe symptoms; and also extreme dejection, from the horror of the disease, and a fear that she should never be cured.

Madame M—— had been pregnant seven times,—of course her health had been often wavering,—the children which she brought forth were all vitiated with diseased skin, which she had transmitted to them, as she herself had received it from her mother.

The fumigations presented the only means to triumph over this formidable disease, which hitherto had resisted all other remedies. The difficulties to encounter a disease, which had so affected ———, added to a transmission of the constitutional herpetic disease, appeared to us to be very great. The fumigations were commenced May 10, 1813, and terminated on August 1. The recovery of the patient was slow, but, when once begun, it went on rapidly; she began to get lusty, fresh-coloured, and gay; the

—— of ——, which had been so considerably affected, healed, and resumed in a considerable degree their natural state. Ever since the 1st August, 1813, Madame M—— has always enjoyed perfect health, and has had no repetition of the complaint. The state of this disease, and cure of it, have been several times substantiated by many of the faculty, and, lastly, by the Dean Dr. Leroux, and Professor Halle.

This lady, since the re-establishment of her health, has had one child, presenting no signs of disease of the skin.

Rheumatic Gout.

Joseph Jacques, aged thirty-one, submitted himself to the direction of the medical gentlemen of the Clinical Hospital, in June 16, 1815, with swelling and pains in each ankle, particularly in the left: his general health was very indifferent; he almost constantly suffered from severe head-aches, loss of appetite, impeded digestion, and costiveness, with pains in the back and left shoulder, aggravated when in bed so as to prevent sleep till towards morning, when he awoke unrefreshed. At times, all these symptoms were increased, and, when they were, swelling at the ancles took place, and put on the rosy appearance of gout; the urine depositing a lateritious red sediment. He was generally left better for six or seven weeks

after these attacks ; but, during this interval of amelioration, he was a great invalid, and his ancles so weak and painful, as almost to prevent his walking. His head-aches had become now constant, with imperfect vision, and was sometimes excruciating. On the 21st June, after previously giving him two doses of aperient medicine, he was submitted to the fumigations ; at first, one a day. It was remarkable, the man said that that was the remedy which *was sure to cure him*. He continued to take one a day until eight had been administered, during which time, his appetite and spirits improved ; he had no occasion for aperient medicine, and the strength of his legs returned with the subsiding of the swelling.

August 6.—He has had no return.

Palsy of the Side.

Mary B——, a widow more than fifty years of age, was attacked with apoplexy, the early part of February, 1815, which was soon succeeded by palsy of the right side. General and topical bleeding, bathing the feet with strong synapisms, *an emetic*,* blisters to the neck and affected parts, were resorted to, to rouse the patient from lethargy. Moxa on the left parietal region, friction, with strong ammoniacal

* This practice still has its advocates in France, though discontinued in England.

lineament, appeared to be the only remedies which had any advantageous influence over the disease ; but the palsy of the side remained, and the patient was admitted into the Clinical Hospital, on the 21st of April following, to be submitted to the fumigations. The following symptoms then presented :—distortion of the left side, and of the mouth and tongue ; difficulty in articulation, loss of memory ; indeed, the whole intellectual functions were deranged ; a tumefaction and complete loss of motion of all the right side, with contraction of the fingers into the palm of the hand. After the use of thirty fumigations, the leg was reduced to its ordinary size ; she began to use her fingers tolerably ; the articulation was still interrupted. At the thirty-fourth fumigation, she could lift the hand to the head ; and, from this time to the 7th of August, the day she left the Hospital, nothing particular occurred, unless it was a severe pain in the lumbar region, to which fomentations were applied. It appears this pain was critical, and the prelude to the cure of the patient. The memory and intellectual faculties returned with the motion of the limbs, and she was discharged cured, after using between seventy and eighty fumigations.

Nodes, complicated with Gout.

Anthony Nicholas C——, aged twenty-two, had been, ever since the age of fifteen, afflicted with rheumatic pains. He endured the campaigns of 1812,

1813, 1814, and bivouaqued often, during the siege of Magdeburg. In 1812, he contracted gonorrhœa, with ulcers, for which he was treated at the Hospital, at Lisle, with the usual medicine. In September, 1814, he again contracted this disease, with ulcer; these he treated with slight remedies, and they left him. On returning to his native place, Paris, by the abuse of spirituous liquors and excess at table, the original disease reappeared. At the end of that month, pains of the legs, and particularly in the calves, became very violent; these pains soon increased, extending to the joints, and he was admitted into the Hospital des Vénériens. On the 4th January, 1815, three months from the commencement of this illness, he was assailed with the following symptoms:—extreme pain, accompanied with inflammation of the joints, particularly in the shoulder, clavicle, and elbow, and in the hand of the right side; nodes, the size of a pigeon's egg, existed on the joints of the wrist and hand; the same symptoms affected too the lower extremities, particularly in the calves and heels. The pains were much aggravated during the night, especially when the patient attempted to move himself in bed; from thence till the 20th January, the patient made use of sudorific drinks, and rubbed the painful parts with volatile liniment. These means seemed, at first, to alleviate the pains, but they soon returned with aggravated violence. This day, they began to administer the solution of Van Swieten. On the 31st,

the pains and swelling had considerably diminished; in a few days, however, they returned, accompanied with violent pain in the back part of the head. Early in March, the swelling of the feet disappeared in part, by the use of the warm baths, and the pains diminished; this, however, was but temporary, for they soon returned with more severity. *On the 27th of March, the patient was for the first time submitted to the fumigations*, and it is worthy of remark, that, from the first application, he could move his fingers with more ease. On the 31st of March, the swelling of the joints was much lessened; on the 3d of April and day following, the pain of the calves of the legs and several of the joints had considerably diminished; the motion of the fingers and of the ancles became more free, and the swelling of the parts much abated.

On the 22d April, after the *eighteenth fumigation*, of an hour each, the joints of the hands had resumed their natural size; the patient could move all his fingers, and took exercise every day, without experiencing *any pains*. He was discharged from the Clinical Hospital, on the *29th of April, perfectly cured*. He had used thirty-two fumigations. The nodes had also disappeared.

Scrofulous Swelling of the Right Knee, and Scaly Complaint over the whole Body.

L. P. M——, born at Chaumont, thirty years of age, a guard of honour belonging to the first regiment,

of a scrofulous constitution, was, in February, 1814, attacked with the typhous fever. After his recovery, indolent tumours appeared on the thighs and right leg: openings had been made into these swellings by means of blisters, and a considerable discharge was kept up for some time before they were suffered to heal. Scars would remain for some time. A scaly disease now developed itself over the surface of the whole body, followed by a scrofulous swelling of the right knee, on the outer side, which prevented the patient moving the limb; the swelling continued to increase in size, and all motion of the joint was entirely suspended.

This patient was admitted into the Hospital of St. Louis, on the 15th June, 1814, and was immediately submitted to the fumigations: at the fourth, the itchings were greatly diminished, and the patient was enabled to move the joint a little. On the eighth fumigation, he quitted the use of one crutch; and, by the fifteenth, he was able to leave off the other. At the twenty-third, the swelling of the knee disappeared; and after the thirtieth, he left the Hospital perfectly cured, pursuing his usual avocations without pain or inability in the motion of the limbs.

Pustulous Psoric Affection.

A negro servant, of the Duchess of Montebello, aged 22, was afflicted with a pustulous psoric affection over

the whole of his body; his arms and hands were considerably swelled, attended with deep fissures or gashes under the scales, and acute pain. On the first of May this patient commenced the fumigations: even at the second fumigation the itchings had ceased, but the hands remained much in the same state, and he had great difficulty in moving his fingers; after the twelfth fumigation, he was submitted to an examination, when he was found to be much better; the right hand was swelled, though the motion of it had returned; the left had resumed its natural size, and, in two days more, the right was the same. Twenty-two fumigations had been used from the 1st to the 13th of May, and the cure was completed.

Palsy of the Side.

Madam M—, 68 years of age, residing No. 16, Rue St. Martin, was afflicted with hemiplegia on the right side. In the month of October, 1815, the patient began the use of the fumigations; after submitting even to the first, the motion in the fingers and hand was partly re-established, and that of the leg returned after the tenth application. At first, Madam M— was obliged to be carried into the apparatus, but she could now get into it herself. After the thirty-seventh, the whole paralytic side exhibited a healthy state; notwithstanding this, the fumigations were carried on to the fiftieth, in order that the cure

might be complete. This lady used the baths twice a-day, and she has remained perfectly cured ever since.

Rheumatic Gout.

Francis M—— was admitted into the Clinical Hospital, April 28, 1815, for the cure of rheumatism, which he had been afflicted with for two years. The disease more particularly existed in the joints, and the pains were always increased in the night, and with change of weather.

This patient was submitted to the fumigations on entering the hospital ; they at first rather augmented the swellings of the joints ; but, after the eighth, both the swelling and pains were diminished. The symptoms thus ameliorated, continued so till the fifteenth fumigation, when the swelling of the joints only appeared. Emollient applications were now used with the fumigations ; these were followed by abundant perspiration, and disappearance of the swelling. He was likewise ordered, before he left the Hospital, to use four common baths ; and, from the 20th July, the day on which he left the Hospital, he has not had the least return of the complaint.

In order that the applicability of this remedy to the effectual cure, or the material relief, of a variety of diseases, may not rest alone on the testimony of all

France, I shall here introduce four cases from the interesting publication of Dr. De Carro, of Vienna, whose vigilance and indefatigable zeal, as evinced in many circumstances connected with the improvement of the art which he professes, have made his name known and revered not only throughout Germany, but by many of the medical men of this country.

Case of Rheumatism.

A female, aged twenty-seven, mother of three children, and of a very weak constitution, but a well-formed chest, from chagrin and misery, and living in damp lodgings, had had general rheumatism, for two years, in her arms and legs. No fever, and periodical health regular, sleep disturbed, appetite good, but without the means of satisfying it, confined to her bed from excessive weakness, not able to raise a spoon to her mouth, and walked on crutches with the greatest difficulty. Her weakness was so great that I was very unwilling to undertake the treatment, conceiving that she would not be able to support herself in the apparatus, and bear the fumigations. The case being desperate, I undertook, (June 22,) with innumerable difficulties, to place her in the apparatus, when she was soon attacked with fainting and vomiting. In short, on account of her weakness, it was not possible to exceed six fumigations. Not expecting her return, my

astonishment was great on hearing from her husband that, notwithstanding the debility during the fumigations, their effects were, that she had already begun to rise from her bed, to walk without crutches, to be able to use a spoon to her mouth, and to knit. She was then encouraged to recommence the plan ; and, after having taken ten baths, she was able to come to me on foot, without the aid of crutches, from a distant part of the suburbs, although the walk took up almost an hour. Her face had assumed the appearance of health ; and the progress of her recovery is as rapid as astonishing. She has taken in all thirty-six fumigations.

Dr. DE CARRO, *on Sulphurous Fumigations*, 1819,
page 164.

*Torpor of the Bowels, with its attendant Symptoms
of Head-Ache, &c.*

A man, reduced to an extreme degree of weakness, aged upwards of sixty, who has been a sufferer nine years, had been under the care, particularly during the last three years, of many celebrated physicians ; he was scarcely able to walk a step ; he had, only every five or six days, with the assistance of purgatives, small hard globular stools, preceded by a discharge, though small in quantity, of puriform matter ; he never slept without opium ; scarcely ate any thing ; and experienced excessive pains in the

abdomen, in the extremities, in the shoulders, and particularly in several tumours of the size of an egg, that he had in various parts of the body;—yet this man, to my great astonishment, was freed from his pains after four fumigations. The three first seemed to render his state worse, and increased his discouragement. He then began to have regular stools every morning; the puriform evacuation ceased; all the pains left him; and, at the end of twelve fumigations, he took leave of me in good health. After having passed so many years in misery, his cure appeared a miracle, and created the greatest sensation in the country.

*Letter from Dr. CRANTZON to Dr. DE CARRO,
in his publication.*

Gouty Affection.

A man, aged forty-four, strong in constitution, habituated to much and various kinds of exercise, might be considered in perfect health, had he not had frequent attacks of violent pains in the hip, heel, and toes; these had occurred for the previous twelve years, sometimes moving to the contrary side; for the last six years these attacks had so much increased in frequency and violence, as to become almost insupportable, and his spirits had become much affected. He had resorted to various remedies, both internal and external, but without any permanent relief: a mercurial course had been likewise resorted

to, but without just reason. Opium sometimes calmed his pains; but even a small dose was apt to bring on vertigo. He conceived himself better when the atmosphere was moist than when clear and dry. On using the fumigations, four occasions a great abundance of perspiration, the pains became less acute, and afterwards occasioned him no more distress: he took only ten, between the 29th November and the 8th December.

This patient I have often had an opportunity of seeing for eight months subsequently to the application of the remedy: he assures me, that he has not had any attacks since it was left off, except, very rarely, those of short continuance, and very supportable.

Dr. DE CARRO, *page 30.*

Rheumatic Gouty Affection.

A patient, the first who used the apparatus you sent me, had been afflicted with a rheumatic gouty affection in the right arm and neck; he had not the least voluntary motion in the arm, nor could it be moved for him from the trunk, even a few inches, without giving him great pain, and it immediately fell to his side again as a paralytic limb, which was much reduced in size, even to a third. His right knee was also attacked with swelling and pain, so as quite to prevent an attempt to walk, and the articulation was filled with a quantity of fluid, which,

however, soon became absorbed. From the first fumigation, he was able to move his arm a little, which went on progressively mending till he had had the twenty-fifth: by that time, voluntary motion was easily performed for slight purposes, and the size of the arm was much increased; the progress of amendment in the neck was not so constantly regular or rapid as in the arm. During the next fifteen days, the pain in the knee returned, and it filled again with lymph; a cautery was applied to the leg, the fumigations were continued, and the cure of arm and leg proceeded so regularly, that the use of the medicated vapour, in this case, whilst restoring two parts attacked in the highest degree, resolved, as it were, the combination of evils under which the patient laboured,—at once relieving him of effects and cause.

Letter from Dr. LOUIS, of Odessa, to Dr. DE CARRO, p. 216-17.

As the cases, here cited, have been corroborated by men so respectable as those whose signatures are attached to them; and as this remedy has passed through so strict and protracted an ordeal, previously to its receiving this sanction; these circumstances would, it may be supposed, be alone sufficient to establish a conviction of its merits. A multitude of cases, which came under my own observation, might be here adduced, but those already given being thus satisfactorily attested, and being accompanied by symptoms thus unequivocally marked, will impress

the public mind with a more favourable conviction of its great importance, as an improvement in medical practice, than any statements and details, which should proceed exclusively from myself.

But let not my readers altogether lose sight of the difficulties which have in some degree checked the progress, and retarded the triumph, of this great remedy. Indeed, every new remedy, which materially differs from the common modes of thinking, and the customary routine of practice, has formidable difficulties to contend with ; and will, when first introduced, be opposed by the prejudices of some, by the accustomed feelings of others, and by the determined resistance of many. But, happily, this is an enlightened and discriminating age and country ; and a broad line of distinction will be drawn by a discerning public between the boasts, the promises, and the fictions of empirics, and the correct details and disinterested recommendations of men of genius, enquiry, reputation, and veracity. Accordingly, in our own country, this great remedy has rather been neglected and overlooked by the great majority of medical practitioners, than called in question and opposed. Still, however, the warm and enlightened approvers of this remedy are numerous. We find, if we turn our attention from England to France, that, in that country, the obstacles which I have just alluded to, rather than enumerated, were rapidly overcome. Prejudice, interest, resistance, all subdued by the important facts which were elicited ; facts which

arrested the attention of all medical men ; facts which became more convincing the more they were investigated ; till, at last, it was thought worthy of submitting this practice to the attention, patronage, and protection of government. And government, before it permits its seal of sanction to be applied, re-submits the remedy to the deliberate consideration and persevering investigation of the whole of the Faculty of Physic, at Paris. The result of this further inquiry served only to substantiate the previous opinions delivered on this mode of treating many diseases. Time, the grand test of medical remedies, and the destroyer of most, has, on the contrary, here contributed to prove, more and more, the efficacy of this mode, which combats successfully some of the most teasing, obstinate, and frequently dangerous complaints to which the human frame is liable.

Such numbers as are seen, in page 76, submitted to the effects of fumigations, must alone carry with it considerations of its importance, and more particularly so when it is recollected that at that time the same remedy was being resorted to at the different Hospitals and at most of the charitable institutions, not only in Paris, but throughout France.

Of that great ornament of the medical profession in Germany, Dr. de Carro, I have already repeatedly spoken ; but I should not properly avail myself of his labours and merits, in connexion with the subject, if I did not bring forward a few more of his statements and sentiments.

This eminent physician says, "he became acquainted with the method of fumigation in 1817; and that, from the first time he began to read, with the intention of employing, for the benefit of his fellow species, those improvements in the art which appeared to him of great importance, he had found nothing so *deserving* his utmost attention since the *discovery of Dr. Jenner*. From the time named, he immediately procured baths, and erected them in his own dwelling-house, for the treatment of those maladies for which he thought this mode applicable; he gave notice of the test he himself was going to put this remedy to, and likewise, at the expiration of every two months, that he would detail the results.

In his fourth report to the medical gentlemen and the public of Vienna, he thus expresses himself—"My experience in this remedy has taught me, that, with few precautions, easily taken, it may, with benefit, be resorted to at all seasons: the advantage of this must be evident, as applicable to diseases too serious to await a course of medicines till spring.

"I hereby confirm every thing I have previously asserted, as regards the efficacy of fumigations in gouty affections, particularly those which are frequently called weak or imperfect, in lumbago, sciatica, and other chronic diseases of this kind, in scabies, and all cutaneous affections.

"I again repeat, that, to those diseases to which this remedy is applicable, the failures are so few as not to bear any comparison with the numerous

successful cases. I wish to be understood, that this remedy is not infallible ; yet I do not fear to affirm, from my experience of eight months, that the healing art never possessed one more active or more efficacious.

“ My experience is not sufficient for me yet to determine with precision those kinds of inveterate syphilitic diseases of the eruptive or arthritic form, in which fumigations can be employed with advantage, alone or combined with other remedies. But, be that as it may, I have not yet administered them in recent affections ; that they may be useful in diseases *caused by the abuse of mercury*, and that they even advantageously prepare the system for the administration of that remedy, I feel much inclined to infer ; and in those cases, the diagnosis of which is so difficult to determine, that this remedy rouses the system into new action, and medicines, to which the body had been accustomed for a length of time, till their effects became almost inert, will act with their former efficacy, after using the fumigations but a few times.”*

The corroborating testimony of such an acute and candid observer as Dr. de Carro, was invaluable ; the attention of medical men throughout the continent became fixed on this remedy ; and, from various towns on the continent, applications were made to him to forward apparatuses, which he did, in an amazingly short time, to the amount of forty-eight.

* See Dr. de Carro's work, published at Vienna, 1819.

His *Observations Pratiques sur les Fumigations Sulfureuses*, were published in August, 1819, in which he details the history of the first two hundred cases, in the order in which they occurred to him; some cases simple and well defined, others complicated; with the result of each case. These establish a code of evidence at once as conclusive as valuable, on the efficacy of fumigations; not only fully corroborating the statements of the special Medical Jury of Paris, and of the Faculty of Medicine there, but confirming its importance as an inestimable auxiliary in the cure of rheumatism, of arthritic and obstinate syphilitic complaints, and of other diseases.

Dr. de Carro, not from mere theory, but from practical observation, became convinced of its value as a remedy; and, although enjoying the esteem of all good men, exalted to the highest degree in his profession, yet so anxious was he for the introduction of this remedy, that he thought his time well bestowed in forming models, and constructing apparatuses, formed under his own inspection, to be in readiness for those physicians who might be induced to give the newly discovered remedy a fair trial.

How gratifying must it have been to the feelings of this distinguished and persevering physician! What a tribute to his talents and his zeal! and how honourable to the profession will it appear, when it is considered that his example and advice were sufficient to arrest the attention and decide the practice

of eminent physicians, situated in such widely separated kingdoms ! What renders his publication more valuable, is the extreme candour with which it is written : he seems to dwell on, and to detail with more precision, those cases in which the remedy was unsuccessful ; certainly they bore no proportion with the others, and some of these patients recovered afterwards from the efforts of Nature, she having, by the previous fumigating baths, been strengthened, and enabled to throw off disease. The bodily powers appeared, indeed, to have received a new, invigorating influence, which had not immediately shown itself.

There are two effects not unfrequently the consequence of the use of fumigating baths ; first, that of its occasioning a desquamation or peeling off from the skin, such as takes place after a severe attack of *fever* or *measles*, during which process new skin is, as it were, perfected under the old one.

Another effect is that of its sometimes occasioning small pustular appearances on the trunk of the body, similar to those produced frequently by the use of the Bath waters, and sometimes by artificial sulphurous baths : in neither instance, are they much regarded, as abstaining from the cause is generally all that is needful to remove the effects. When either desquamation or the pustular appearance is the consequence of the fumigating baths, a little laxative medicine may be given, but these appearances are hailed as ominous of good, and that the baths are producing effects *highly salutary*.

Sometimes these appearances will take place after the patient has been submitted to the influence of only two or three of the fumigating baths ; on other occasions, they have been observed after the remedy has been left off *some weeks*. The reasonable inference to be drawn from this is that it accounts for the *apparent* inefficacy of the fumigating baths, in some of the details here cited, at the time of using them, and at the same time *unquestionably proves that the economy of the patient's constitution is under the beneficial influence of this* INTERESTING REMEDY, *even for a considerable period after its use has been discontinued*. Sometimes this mode of treatment requires considerable perseverance, and it frequently astonishes us by the promptitude of its effects ; those spots, called *freckles*, occasioned by the heat of the sun, disappear with the greatest facility.

The precision, with which these cases are detailed, is alone sufficient to stamp the whole with truth, even if we overlooked the authority from whence they came.

The Faculty of Medicine at Paris, as will appear by referring to their last Report, for reasons there detailed, would intrust the administration of this remedy only to medical men of science and discrimination ; and Dr. de Carro observes, that the due application of this remedy requires *continual care, much cleanliness, and the greatest precision in all its details*. Without these requisites the remedy stands

in jeopardy, and we are, indeed, obliged to acknowledge, that the medical men of this country have not yet given to it that attention which it so eminently deserves, and that it is principally in the hands of empirics.

The indiscreet application, or indiscriminate use, of a valuable remedy, not unfrequently occasions its loss to the public. A good apparatus is the first requisite here ; a sufficient judgment in its application, and a sound discrimination with respect to those cases for which it is indicated, are the only things needful to be observed, to ensure to this remedy that credit which has so decidedly been given to it. The non-existence of these advantages may occasion it to sink into disrepute, and occasion it sometimes to be prejudicial ; nay, its effects, if these requisites are wanting, may sometimes be dangerous.

Vapour-bathing, beneficial as it is allowed to be, and as it really is, was a long time before it was acknowledged to be of that practical use, which now is generally admitted. It is taking its turn in the changes of fashionable remedies, and will for the future, continue to be conspicuous as an improvement, when applied in the aid of medicine, or used as a preventive of disease. Its utility is now more generally acknowledged ; and the simple vapour-bath can by no other means be administered so easily, so conveniently, or so pleasantly, as by the aid of the apparatus here alluded to.

To persons advanced in life, who have not any particular complaint, these baths are extremely serviceable, preventing in a great measure the effects consequent on the approach of age; and one fumigating bath, taken once, twice, or thrice a-week, is not less conducive to the comforts of elderly people than it is beneficial to the constitution. It only needs to be known more generally, which time will effect; and the facts attending its successful practice will enable this remedy to overcome all the opposition of its enemies, and the sophistry of the disingenuous.

When complaints can be removed either by internal or external means, the latter should, and always will, have the preference.

Independently of the comparative pleasantness of a fumigating bath, the remedies applied by this method in the gaseous form to the surface of the skin, which they penetrate through the pores, soon show themselves by their effects on the disease of the patient.

By many it may be thought, that so many observations and detailed facts were not required, for the purpose of exciting the attention due to this remedy. But, perhaps, they will appear necessary, or, at least, expedient, when the reader is informed, that, in consequence of the inattention of some practitioners to the particulars, which have been named, this remedy, valuable as it is, had nearly been brought into discredit very soon after the period of its discovery, and that this inattention, together with the imperfect and

inconvenient manner by which it was applied, almost occasioned its loss to the public. The latter objection to its use has now lost all its force: the apparatuses now made are as complete as need be wished.

The heat of the bath is regulated at pleasure, so that it can be increased or diminished to the degree necessary, according to the facility or difficulty, that exists in producing perspiration in different constitutions.

The prejudices against this mode of bathing have begun to subside; and it is hoped that the present observations may assist in promoting the same effect. Time, however, which proves the deceitfulness and the demerits of most popular and newly-introduced remedies, will alone be sufficient fully to substantiate the virtues, and firmly to establish the general acceptance and adoption, of this inestimable remedy. In connexion with this remark, I may ask, whether, during a few years of the present century, it has not been almost daily found to be more and more acceptable and useful; and whether it has not been discovered to be applicable to a diversity of diseases, with respect to which, at the period of its first introduction, its usefulness and capabilities were not even suspected,—as much to the surprise as to the satisfaction of the numerous afflicted and often despairing individuals, whom it cured, and under circumstances most grateful to the feelings of the medical men who had advised its application?

The good effects of this remedy, in such various disorders, will carry with it too general an application to be separately named; but, after proceeding thus far, I will again enumerate some of those diseases for which it is particularly indicated. These are *all gouty affections, rheumatism, palsy, and every kind of cutaneous affection, female obstructions, glandular obstructions, liver complaints, hæmorrhoids, indigestion, head-aches, weaknesses of the joints, and white-swellings*. It is necessary, wherever there is a determination of blood to the head, that some previous remedies should be advised and resorted to, such as an aperient dose or two of medicine; or, if the plethora is great, the abstraction of blood from the arm is sometimes requisite.

From its efficacy in regulating the equilibrium of the circulation on the surface of the body, and in its internal parts, it is particularly indicated in those diseases which are owing to, or which are aggravated by, the want of that due balance of circulation, which is absolutely needful for the due maintenance of health. Thus, it is particularly applicable to *chronic inflammations of the liver, to chronic catarrh, to local diseases, and to venereal affections of the skin*; in all which cases there is an irregular circulation. Nor must I omit to mention its efficacy in *habitual constipation of the bowels*, which is frequently attributable to too great an internal heat in the general system, and which this remedy wonderfully relieves

by duly regulating the functions of the exhalant or perspirable vessels of the skin.

In concluding these remarks, I may be allowed to say, that what has been advanced has been dictated by my strong conviction of the merits which this great remedy is entitled to claim, although it is almost new to this country. Of one thing, at least, I am certain, that I have not attributed to it that *degree* of excellence ascribed to it by the medical men of the continent; and I would rather underrate it, than assign a value to it not really its due. My own successful administration of this interesting remedy will also, I trust, enable me to present, in no long time, to the public *a selection* of cases, authenticated by the cured or relieved individuals belonging to our own metropolis or its vicinity. What I have written has not originated in any wish of recommending a theory or discovery of my own; much less has it been generated by any feeling of empirical delusion; but it partly had its birth in Paris, where I admired the efficacy of this remedy, and was gratified and astonished by its very diversified and powerful effects; and it has partly arisen from the subsequent solicitude which I have felt. I trust to this laudable solicitude, that I may become, in some degree, instrumental in remedying a great medical deficiency, which has hitherto existed in the practice of my own country; and that I may, by my communications through the medium of the press, but still more by my personal

practice, and through the medium of the fumigating bath, assist in arresting the progress and removing the causes of disease, and in more widely diffusing the blessings arising from the happy discoveries and the meritorious example of other medical men, who belong to distant countries and climes.

P.S.—When these baths are not directed by a physician or respectable medical man, it will, as has already been observed, be the writer's practice to administer them to those patients only, for whom he can confidently anticipate relief. It will be necessary, in order that the patient may not be disappointed, that an hour's previous notice be given, as they may otherwise be found occupied. But, if notice shall be sent the day before, that a fumigating bath will be wanted, and the hour shall be named, delay and disappointment will always be avoided.

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