

The Dorton Spas, Bucks, chalybeate, sulphurous and saline : a treatise on the extraordinary effects produced by the use of the waters of Dorton, in eruptive, uterine, hepatic, dyspeptic and nervous diseases, attested by the clergy, magistrates, and medical gentlemen of the neighbourhood, with cases / by W. Willcocks Sleigh.

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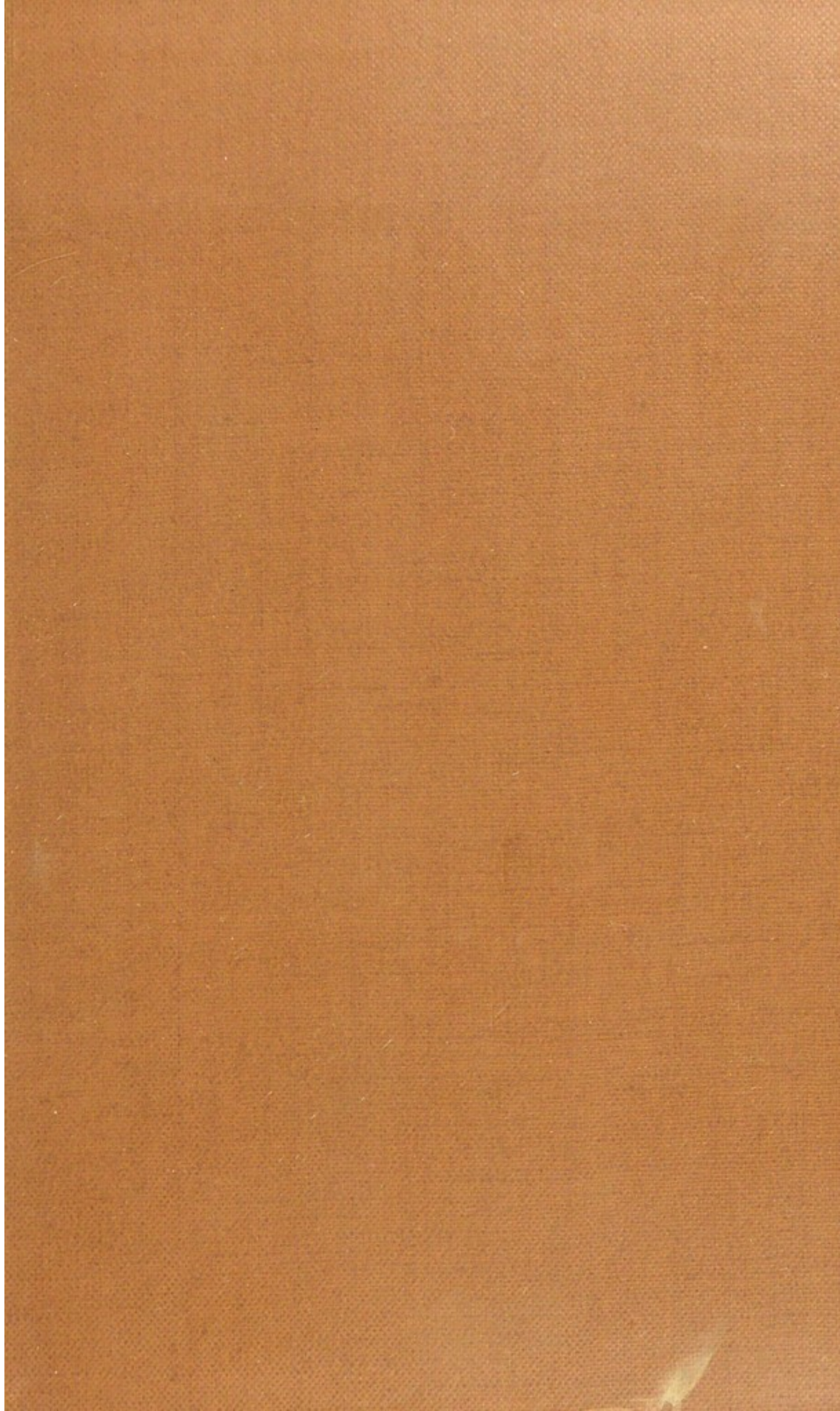
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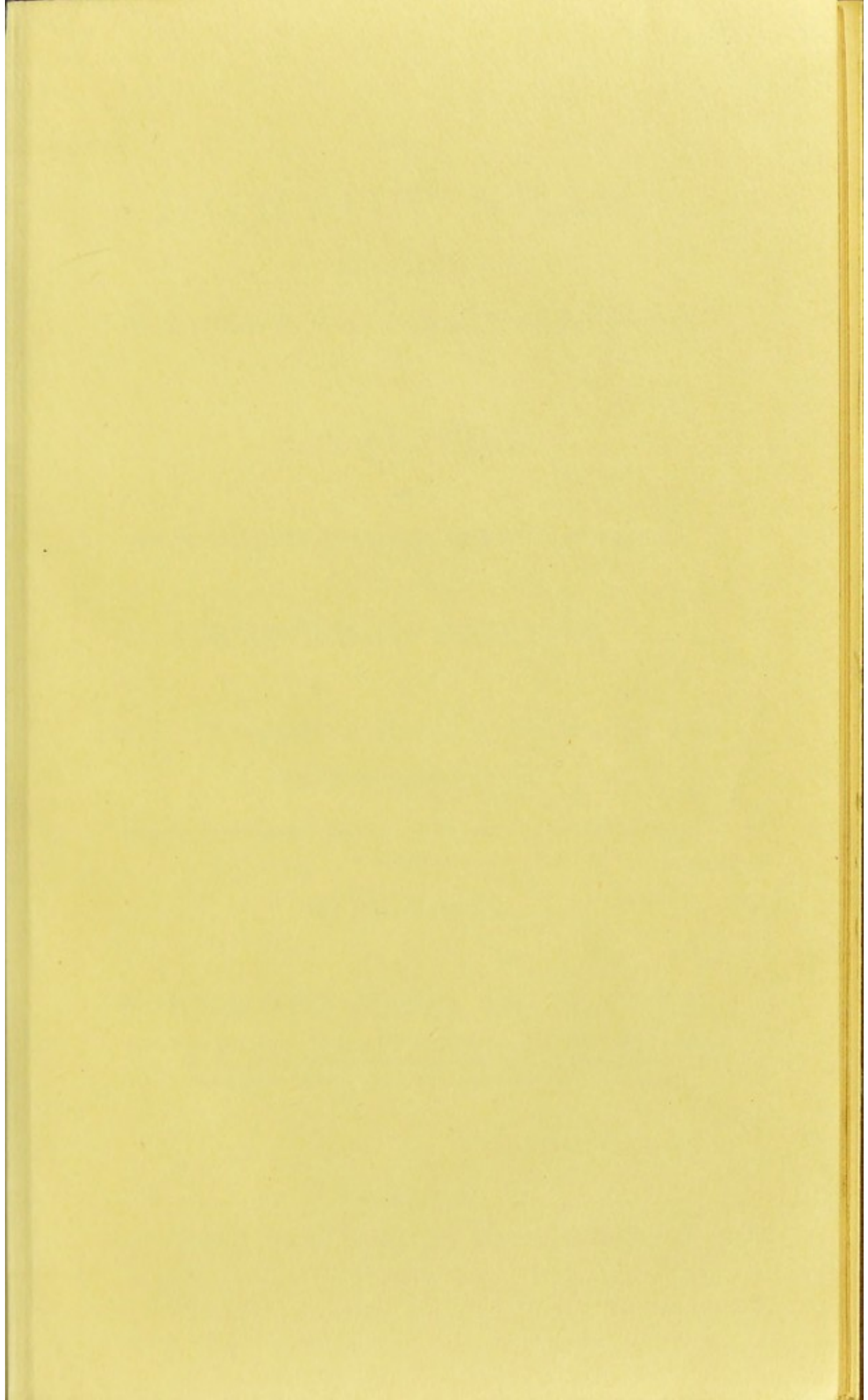
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THE
DORTON SPAS,
BUCKS,
CHALYBEATE, SULPHUROUS, AND SALINE.

A TREATISE
ON
THE EXTRAORDINARY EFFECTS PRODUCED BY THE USE
OF THE
WATERS OF DORTON,
IN
ERUPTIVE, UTERINE, HEPATIC, DYSPEPTIC AND
NERVOUS DISEASES,

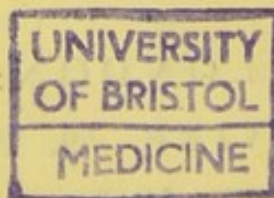
ATTESTED BY THE CLERGY, MAGISTRATES, AND MEDICAL GENTLEMEN OF THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD,

WITH CASES.

BY
W. WILLCOCKS SLEIGH, ESQ. M.D. F.S.A.

Mem. Roy. Coll. Surg. Lond.; Formerly of King and Queen's Coll. Phys. T.C.D. and Univ.
Edin.; Late Lecturer on Anatomy and Surgery; Hon. Mem. Encl. Sov. Univ. N. Y. C.
and W. Lit. and Scient. Institute; Author of "The Science of Surgery," &c. &c. &c.

LONDON:
JOHN OLLIVIER, 59, PALL MALL.
1842.



TO
CHARLES SPENCER RICKETTS, ESQ.
DORTON HOUSE, BUCKS.

DEAR SIR,

I know no one, who, by sacrificing not only the retirement of a splendid estate, but much time, and considerable capital, for the benefit and convenience of the afflicted, more justly merits public approbation and thanks, than yourself; and hence no one to whom this little book could be so properly inscribed.

Accept, therefore, this trifling tribute of respect from,

Dear Sir,

Your very respectful and faithful servant,

THE AUTHOR.

Brill House, Nov. 10th, 1842.

CHARLES SPENCER BRETHERTON ESQ

BOSTON HOUSE BURN

Dear Sir,

I know no one who by subscribing not
only the retirement of a splendid estate, but much
time and considerable capital for the benefit and
convenience of the afflicted, more justly merits
public approbation and thanks than yourself; and
hence no one to whom this little book could be so
properly inscribed.

Accept, therefore, this willing tribute of

respect from,

Dear Sir,

Your very respectful and faithful servant,

THE AUTHOR.

Small House, No. 100, 101, 102

P R E F A C E.

THE Author is induced to call the attention of the Public to the DORTON SPA, from a deep conviction of its value wrought in his mind by the vast number of cases of the most extraordinary and almost miraculous cures achieved by it—cases that challenge investigation ; and are of such a nature, and so indubitable, that they must banish all doubt from even the most sceptical. Moreover, he hesitates not to aver, after twenty-six years experience, many of which he spent in foreign countries, where disease occurs in all its various modifications, and where he was actively engaged in some of the most arduous and critical departments of his profession, that several diseases analogous, in many respects, to those cured by this Spa, have frequently resisted the combined skill and exertions of the most talented men in the Metropolis of this, and other Nations, and hence were deemed incurable.

The Author is much indebted to the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Knight, Surgeon, from whose interesting little work "*the Guide to Dorton*," he

has taken a summary of some of the most remarkable cases. This gentleman richly merits, for his labours and perseverance in advancing this laudable undertaking, the thanks and praise of the friends of humanity.

2 A, St. James' Square,
Brill House, Bucks.

Oct. 25th, 1842.

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*The Names and Description of those Diseases susceptible of
being Cured, or at least mitigated, by the DORTON SPA.*

1. Cutaneous, or Eruptive Diseases, unattended by Inflammation.
- 2 Female Weakness (*Chlorosis*), or that state of young Females dependent on, or connected with, imperfect Menstruation.
3. Chronic Rheumatism, and Rheumatic Gout.
- 4 Bronchocele, or Swelled Neck.
5. Consumption.
6. Dyspepsia, or Indigestion, from loss of tone in the Stomach.
7. Debility, and all affections dependent on weakness, or loss of tone in the System.
8. Nervous Diseases.
9. Scrofula in all its varieties.
10. Stomach—loss of tone in, from excess of drinking or eating.
11. Tic Douloureux, or Spasm of the Muscles of the Face.
12. St. Vitus' Dance.
13. Liver—certain affections of.

THE DORTON SPAS.

CHAPTER I.

WHATEVER pains some late writers may have taken to persuade the public that the effects of natural springs are to be attributed rather to change of air, and to other accidental circumstances, than to any specific virtues therein contained ; the fact, which no one can deny, viz. that innumerable cases of disease, which had baffled the skill of the most eminent members of our profession, and the use of the most powerful *artificial* medicines, have been permanently cured by Spas, many decidedly inferior in strength to those now introduced to the public, constitutes, it is presumed, an adequate refutation thereof.

It is freely admitted that the indiscriminate use of Spa Waters in general, their having been oftentimes used for the cure of diseases for which they were by no means adapted, and their not having been under the superintendence of those capable of directing their action, and of prescribing a regimen suitable to each peculiar case and constitution, have contributed not a little to shake public confidence.

But this has also been the case with the most important discoveries in the Healing Art. And when to this is added the fact that, recently, *fictitious* springs have been palmed on the public for *natural* ones, nothing but the indisputable evidence of hosts of cases cured by *natural* springs, could have rescued them from public contempt.

The *Dorton Spa* is then introduced to the attention of the public as one which, not only in its chemical qualities, but in its extraordinary and powerful effects in curing those diseases which *depend on a loss of tone in the system*, is equalled by none in this kingdom, and approximated but by one on the Continent.

It is one of the strongest Chalybeates known : and to the more than probable circumstance, that it also contains a small quantity of combined *iodine*, may be attributed its extraordinary effects on the absorbent system.

The saline and sulphureous waters in this neighbourhood are close to the *Dorton* ; the former is a pure *saline** one, containing the properties, and possessing all the virtues of those at *Cheltenham* : the latter is similar to the *Aix-la-Chapelle* and *Harrogate Spas*.

Thus are presented great advantages to those

* Correctly speaking all are *saline* ; but the public generally apply the term *saline* to those springs only in which the neutral salts predominate : such as the sulphate of Magnesia, sulphate of Soda, &c.

afflicted with disease ; there being three Spas possessing very different qualities ; and acting on the most important organs in the human frame.

SECTION I.

History of the Spa, and of its locality.

Although the *Dorton Spa* is, comparatively speaking, little known, yet the attention of the residents of the neighbouring country has been from time immemorial attracted to this spring by observing that diseased cattle spontaneously had recourse to it, and were rapidly cured ! Hence the discovery of the virtues of this water is attributable to that faculty in the brute creation which often surpasses that of intelligence in man—viz. *instinct*. The manifest advantages derived by diseased animals, soon induced the surrounding peasantry to use it, and many inveterate cases of human suffering became not only relieved, but permanently cured. “Of late years,” (says Mr. Knight,) “its fame has been widely spread in the surrounding country ; and the influx of visitors to the well became so great, and at the same time, the injury done to the fences and herbage of the park was so serious, that it was deemed advisable to restrain the peasantry, who flocked thither, to one path, and to inclose the well. By these precautions, from fifty to one hundred gallons have been *daily* supplied to

various applicants : consisting, be it observed, of a class of persons who would appreciate it *only in proportion to the benefit they derived from it.*

The proprietor of the land, Charles Spencer Ricketts, Esq. was by these circumstances induced to expend vast sums of money in erecting a magnificent building over the Spa, with hot, cold, and mineral Baths, a splendid Saloon, Pleasure Grounds, Lakes, Islands, &c. &c. thus giving the best possible evidence of the truth and reality of the foregoing facts.

The want of convenient residences so severely felt by the nobility and gentry who came here, will speedily be obviated, as an extensive hotel, detached cottages and villas, are now being erected.

These Spas are situated in the most picturesque part of Buckinghamshire : within 50 miles of London ; 10 of Aylesbury ; 12 of Oxford ; 14 of Buckingham ; and one of Brill. Aylesbury is reached by the Birmingham railroad from the metropolis in *two hours.*

The village of Brill is situated on a hill of its own name, in the northern part of the vale of Aylesbury. It commands one of the most extensive prospects in the kingdom, over a richly wooded and luxuriant country : reaching as far as Blenheim Park, the seat of his Grace the Duke of Marlborough, and embracing the magnificent and princely parks of Stowe and Wotton, the residences of his Grace the Duke of Buckingham

and Chandos ; Dorton park and house, the residence of the late Sir John Aubrey ; Ludgershall Manor, the property of the Rev. Thomas Martyn ; Boarstall Tower, famous for having been garrisoned, and having stood many sieges during the Parliamentary wars—the City of Oxford—the Town of Thame—Village of Crendon ; and the White Leaf Cross at Princess Risborough, &c.

The parishes of Brill and Dorton may truly be designated the Montpellier of England—presenting in the low lands an Italian climate, and on the hills, as pure and invigorating an atmosphere as can possibly be conceived, and *that within a morning's drive of the metropolis !**

Moreover it furnishes a rich and inexhaustible repast for the antiquarian and geologist ; having vast beds of sub-marine antediluvian remains, from the extraordinary ammonite to the common oyster and cockle.

Some idea of the extent of the prospect may be conceived when the reader is informed that, on a clear day, nine counties and forty-two steeples may be discerned.

Brill has been long celebrated for having been the residence of some of the most ancient kings of England. Here King Lud had his seat prior to the Christian era. In A. D. 914 it was ravaged by the Danes, in the days of Edward Senior,

* The author has often left Brill in the morning, and breakfasted at half-past nine, at his residence, in St. James's Square.

whose manor it was. It was a favourite residence of Edward the Confessor, and is mentioned in certain grants made by Stephen and the Empress Maud to the Monks of Frideswyde, &c.; there is little doubt but the Conqueror or his immediate successors resided here. The Sheriff of Bucks regularly accounted for the Manor of Brill till the reign of John. In 1160 and 62, Henry II. kept his court here with Thomas à Becket. Henry III. resided here occasionally. John was here 25th of October, 1205, and kept the ensuing Christmas here. In 1347 Edward III. granted a charter for a yearly fair. It was garrisoned during the civil wars. The old Manor House is supposed to have been built in the time of Elizabeth; and several embankments north of the church constituted part of the moat round the strong castle, which formerly stood near. Many old relicks have been found in them. The church was repaired in 1654, and enlarged in 1835. There are two National Schools here, containing on an average 200 children; they were established in 1815 by the present worthy and zealous Incumbent of Brill, the Rev. J. S. Baron.

SECTION II.

*The Chemical analysis and properties of the
Dorton Spa.*

The water, according to the testimony of Professor Brand, who analyzed it, contains in a pint—

Sulphate of Iron	.	.	10.0
Sulphate of Lime	.	.	11.5
Muriate of Soda	.	.	1.4
Sulphate of Alumine	.	.	2.1
Carbonic Acid	.	} a trace.	
Nitrogen Gas	.		
Sulphuric Acid	.		
Silica	.		

25 Grains.

An imperial pint yields on evaporation 25 grains of dry saline residue.

The omission of the quantity of gas, and that of iodine, is easily accounted for by the fact of the analysis having been taken at a distance from the Spa. Iodine being easily destroyed by light, would satisfactorily account for this omission. However, several practical chemists, upon testing the water, gave it as their opinion that it contains iodine.

A young lady who is at this time drinking the water, and who a year since had taken iodine in the metropolis, declares it has the same effect on her that the iodine had twelve months since. I have myself tested it with starch, and when much

diluted, it most unquestionably gave a blueish tinge ; the most certain sign, as is well known, of the presence of iodine. The very means adopted to extricate the other substances in this water would be quite sufficient to destroy its characteristics. Having now laid before the reader its chemical analysis, I shall proceed to notice its virtues : first, generally—and secondly, in detail.

That celebrated and indefatigable Physician, Doctor Anthony Todd Thomson, Professor in the London University, says, in his elaborate work on the *Materia Medica*, in reference to the effects of the preparations of iron on the system, that, “ they exert a powerfully tonic effect upon the living system. They increase the digestive powers of the stomach, stimulate the intestines, and being dissolved also in the gastric and intestinal juices they are taken up by the absorbents, enter the blood, and stimulate the whole system.” * * * “ They are of eminent service in all cases requiring tonics : their primary effect is displayed on the digestive organs ; whence their influence is propagated, rousing the nutritive faculty *in every part of the body* ; they augment the power of the secretory system, and by the moderate but permanent nature of the impression which they impart *to the nerves*, increase the tone and general vigour of all the functions.” * * * * “ Tone follows the use of iron in all its forms, and therefore its preparations are employed in every disease connected with relaxation or

debility, particularly of the chronic kind: dyspepsia, hysteria, amenorrhæa, leucorrhæa, scrofula, and chronic catarrh, are a few of the catalogue which chalybeates are calculated to benefit." * * * "In a weakened state of the uterine organs, causing a defective secretion of the menstrual fluid, the salts of iron are productive of the best consequences," —p. 533.

But it may be said, if the preparations of iron are so extremely beneficial as the Faculty say they are, why are not the same advantages derived from the use of those prepared by the chemists, and contained in the apothecary's shop? For this simple, yet cogent reason: because those contained in Springs are *natural*—are prepared and dissolved in water by Nature! while the latter are *artificial*. Although we often imitate Nature in her operations, yet we never can equal her. We have never, with all our advancement in science, been able to produce by art, substances possessing equally powerful properties in the same quantity to those prepared by Nature. We can make *artificial* sugar, and *artificial* gum; but the *natural* sugar and *natural* gum are three times stronger! Moreover, it is to be recollected that this Spa contains, independently of iron, no less than *seven* or *eight* other substances so nicely balanced and proportioned that their *union* no doubt contributes materially in producing its extraordinary and powerful effects. Although we know the properties of all those substances individually, and can separate each, one

from the other, yet all the power and art of man could not *make* an exactly similar combination! Some of them are actually *insoluble*, that is, cannot be dissolved in water by art, except in a very large quantity of water; yet Nature has in this Spa effected it.* And when we recollect that *only three* elements, viz. carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, enter into the formation of wax, sugar, starch, resin, olive oil, and gum; substances which, in their properties, so greatly differ from each other, and that this vast difference of properties depends *merely*, though essentially, on the very trifling difference in the *quantities* of the above elements, we need not be astonished at the contrast that exists between the effects on the human body of *natural* and *artificial* medicines. Finally, Nature may, in her operations, be imitated, but cannot be equalled.

When we reflect on the vast number of diseases which are produced by a disordered state of the stomach and bowels; and further that there is *no disease whatsoever* in which the stomach is not more or less affected;† moreover, that in the convalescent state from all inflammatory diseases, a debility of the system, proportioned to the degree of the previous inflammatory action, invariably supervenes, and that the salts of iron constitute, according to

* Who ever heard of equally beneficial effects produced by taking Glauber Salts as those produced by the Cheltenham Waters; yet one of the *principal* ingredients in that Spa is *Glauber Salts*.

† John Abernethy.

the testimony of the above mentioned experienced Physician, the most powerful and efficacious means of giving tone to the whole system, the value of this Spa must be manifest.

To say of *any* remedy or medicine that it cures all diseases, is to state that which the public may rely on is the most infallible characteristic of imposition and empiricism ; and what no man of science would venture to utter. This fact makes the Author reluctant to say all that could be said in favour of the *Dorton Spa*.

In the title page hepatic diseases are mentioned as those for which the use of this Spa will prove efficacious. It is not pretended to insinuate that inflammatory affections of this organ, no more than inflammation of any other part of the body, would be benefited by it ; quite the reverse. But, as is well known, there are affections of the liver dependent on a loss of tone in the digestive apparatus ; so, most indubitably, these secondary affections will be benefited by it, just as similar ones of the skin, uterus, &c. &c.

SECTION III.

The Connection between the Liver and Lungs.

The Liver, being an organ of vast importance in the animal economy, and one, a diseased action of which, depending on imperfect digestion, is, I am

persuaded, the cause of many diseases in the more remote parts of the body, demands particular attention. And in order to enable the *unprofessional** reader clearly to understand the doctrines about being advocated, I shall introduce some of my own investigations on the functions and use of the liver, published in a work of mine in 1825.†

“The use attributed to the liver by physiologists in general is, simply to prepare the bile from the blood, which bile is to assist in the process of digestion, in the way just related; but I am inclined to believe that this is not the only use of the liver—the largest gland in the body; nay, I would venture to assert that this use is only secondary; and that the primary use is, to assist the lungs in the process of regenerating the blood, by freeing it of its carbon and hydrogen; and thus to act the part of an auxiliary to the lungs.”

The process of respiration is considered by the majority of the profession, at the present day, to consist in the digestion, as it were, of the blood by the lungs; the lungs abstracting from it carbon and hydrogen, and supplying it with oxygen from the atmosphere. Some, however, deny that any oxygen is added to the blood by this process.

The analogy between the process of respiration

* The Author has endeavoured to render this treatise as little *professional* as possible.

† *Sleigh's Science of Surgery*, Vol. I. p. 48, Anderson, London, 1825.

and the formation of bile is remarkable: for the lungs and the liver have each two distinct sets of blood-vessels; one set conveying blood for their nourishment, the other set conveying it for them to act upon, and to digest. Thus the lungs have the pulmonary arteries carrying to them venous blood, in order to be converted into arterial blood, which is the proper secretion of these organs; while the liver has the vena porta conveying to it venous blood, which it digests, and from which it forms the bile. The lungs have also the bronchial arteries conveying to them arterial blood for their support, while the liver has also the hepatic artery conveying to it *arterial* blood for its nourishment. These are the only two viscera in the animal economy thus similarly organized.

The blood which is carried to the lungs by the *pulmonary* artery is loaded with carbon and hydrogen, principles which it acquired by its circulation through the body. It is of a dark purple colour, heavy, and a few degrees lower in temperature than the blood at the left part of the heart.

The blood conveyed to the liver by the vena porta is also peculiarly impregnated with carbon and hydrogen, which it acquired while circulating through the tortuous vessels of the intestines and spleen. For the vena porta is formed by the mesenteric and splenic veins; and appears from its very formation to be for the purpose of collecting from the system as much carbon and hydrogen as

possible. The vena porta thus formed, and conveying venous blood, enters the great transverse fissure of the liver, and distributes its branches through the substance of this gland; at the extremities of which the bile is formed, a fluid which abounds with carbon and hydrogen. In like manner the pulmonary arteries enter, and are distributed to the lungs; at the extremities of which the arterial blood is formed, and carbon and hydrogen given off.

In further corroboration of this hypothesis, I will call the attention of the reader to a few circumstances (otherwise unaccountable) in the economy of the foetal functions. First, the disproportioned and immense size of the liver in the foetus, although the process of digestion does not then take place. Now if the only use of the liver be to form a fluid which may assist in the process of digestion (as the profession believe), there should be no bile formed until this process required it; whereas, on the contrary, we find a considerable quantity of it formed before birth.*

But this circumstance appears satisfactorily explained, when we recollect that the blood in the foetus does not circulate through the pulmonary tissue, and consequently is not regenerated by the process of respiration, till the animal is born. This change in the blood is, till birth, accomplished by

* The meconium which fills the intestines in the foetus, consists principally of bile.

the liver and the placenta. The united powers then of these viscera, the placenta and liver, compensated for the inactive state of the lungs in the foetus. The former organ is divided into two distinct portions, the maternal and foetal placenta, between which there exists no direct communication, any more than there is between the bronchial and pulmonary systems in the lungs. The foetal blood is partly regenerated in the placenta by the maternal blood, and this process is completed by the liver. The only difference between the process in the placenta and lungs is, that in the former it takes place between two fluids, the maternal and foetal blood; in the latter, between a liquid and an aëriform body; the blood and the atmosphere. After birth, this is the only difference between the process in the liver, and in the lungs, except it be, that in the latter the blood receives a portion of oxygen gas: the possibility of the blood being altered without the assistance of the atmosphere, as in the placenta, establishes, I conceive, the probability at least of the correctness of my theory. That the liver secretes the bile before birth, only to keep this organ fit for use immediately after the child is separated from its parent, will by no means solve the difficulty: it is only cutting the knot, not untying it; for there are many organs which are in a perfectly dormant condition during the period that the animal is in the uterus, which are forthwith called into action the moment

after birth, viz. the lungs, kidneys, salivary glands, &c.

If the liver be only to assist the process of digestion by secreting bile, why is bile formed in a vast quantity for months before the process of digestion commenced? Why does an additional quantity of blood pass through the liver in the fœtus, when the umbilical vein might run directly to the vena cava, without giving a single branch to this organ? If the bile be merely to act on the food, why is it formed from venous blood? Could not nature produce bile from *arterial blood*, as well as she does *all* the other fluids in the body, whether saline, albuminous, oily, or watery, &c. Thus it appears that the inactive state of lungs in the fœtus is compensated for, by the peculiar activity of the liver, digesting the vast quantity of blood that at that time circulates through it; but the moment the animal breathes, the functions of the liver are proportionably diminished, the lungs then performing their duty.

It is admitted that the skin and kidneys assist the lungs in separating from the blood excrementitious particles; and I must confess that although I perfectly concur in the general opinion respecting the functions of these organs, yet I think we have far more reason to conclude that the *liver* is an auxiliary to the lungs.

An affection of the alimentary canal frequently produces an eruption on the skin: suppressed per-

spiration excites as often inflammation of the lungs or bowels. When the skin is injured, as in extensive scalds, and the functions of it consequently impeded, the individual perishes, with all the symptoms of difficult respiration. In hot climates, where the skin and liver take a very active part in the regeneration of the blood, they are perpetually the seat of morbid affections. It is the very reverse in cold climates, affections of the lungs being in these climates most prevalent.

From what has been said on this subject, I presume we may conclude that the lungs are assisted in performing their functions by many organs, particularly the liver, skin, and kidneys. The first by freeing the blood of its carbon and hydrogen; the two others, by taking from it various excrementitious salts. When one becomes morbidly affected, the others for a time supply its office, until overburdened, they struggle and frequently fail in their effort. There is a union between the liver and the lungs, greater than by a continuation of membranes, or a similarity of blood-vessels or nerves, not one made at the discretion of the anatomist, but by a far more important union—a similarity of function. However unimportant this theory of mine may appear upon first view, yet when we reflect upon the intimate connexion that must exist between these various organs, its importance must be manifest. If it be true that the lungs are assisted in performing their duty in the great animal machine

by other organs, as the liver, kidneys, skin, and large intestines, whenever any one of these is in a morbid condition, so that its activity is diminished, the others must necessarily have an additional duty to perform. In proportion to the inactivity of the affected organ will the burden be the greater upon the others ; so that whichever of them is either naturally the most delicate, or preternaturally predisposed to disease, that one will first exhibit symptoms of derangement. Thus we can satisfactorily trace morbid affections of the lungs, of the skin, and of the liver, modified according to the peculiar nature of the organ affected, to one and the same cause.

The process of digestion is of such vast and paramount importance in the animal economy, that it can scarcely be impeded without more or less deranging the whole system.

A morbid condition of the digestive apparatus affects the system in various ways, and attacks various parts. Sometimes it affects the head, and produces periodical pains. Sometimes it causes a deposition of fluid in the ventricles of the brain, as in hydrocephalus internus,* the bane of childhood ;—it affects the mind, producing melancholia, and hypochondriasis ;—it attacks the skin, producing various cutaneous affections ;—it lays the foundation, in many instances, for phthisis pulmonalis ;—it produces various local affections ;—and finally,

* See Hamilton on Purgative Medicines.

it so disorders the whole system, that it predisposes the constitution to innumerable morbid actions, augments the symptoms of any existing diseases, and retards the cure in all.*

When the process of digestion is retarded, or partially suspended, the blood is but imperfectly supplied with chyle; and all the organs being dependent upon it for nourishment, are consequently incapable of performing their various duties in the animal economy. The secretions are thus imperfectly produced, and are altered in quantity as well as quality; and all the duties which these secreted fluids had to accomplish, are proportionably deficient.

There exists such a chain connecting the digestive organs with all parts in the body, and such *action* and *reaction* are kept up, that what affects one of them, affects, more or less, them all: and as everything in practice depends upon the perfect understanding of this mutual co-operation of the animal organs, I shall endeavour to explain it.

The blood, which is in fact the vehicle for conveying throughout the system nutritious principles, depends for its due preparation *directly* upon the healthy action of two sets of organs, the respiratory and the digestive; and *indirectly*, upon the healthy action of those glands which secrete the excrementitious fluids; and thus prepared, it distributes to all parts of the body alimentary substances and

* See Abernethy on Local Diseases.

vitality, affording to them the materials for their development, and for the various duties they are destined to perform in the GREAT MACHINE.

Let us suppose the process of digestion to be only in a trifling degree affected, or its activity diminished ; the blood then is not duly supplied with chyle, because the chyle itself is not properly formed by the organs of digestion ; and as “*fluids properly prepared are the first requisite*” to a healthy state of the mind and body, all the other “*requisites*” depending upon it, are necessarily deficient,—solids cannot be duly formed from these imperfect fluids—the vital powers cannot exert any “*invigorating influence*” upon the system ;—and lastly, there is of necessity an unsound mind in this unsound body. This is disease—these are the effects of indigestion.

Particular organs then become affected, and *their* peculiar functions impeded ; these re-act upon the whole system, and increase the morbid state of the digestive organs, which originally disordered the whole machine.

The liver is one of the first which feels the baneful effects of indigestion : the blood upon which this organ acts in forming the bile, is brought to it by the superior and inferior mesenteric veins, which arise from the small and large intestines. If this blood be altered in quantity or in quality, as it always is more or less when the digestive organs are out of order, the functions of the liver are proportionably impeded ; and bile, imperfectly formed,

altered in *its* quantity or quality, is poured into the intestinal canal, and instead of promoting the formation of chyle, counteracts it; is then taken into the system, and becomes the cause of many morbid affections.

SECTION IV.

The Cause of Eruptive Diseases.

Chronic eruptive diseases constitute a large class of affections, which often baffle medical skill, which are extremely prevalent, and many of which have been permanently cured by the Dorton Spa. As I consider those diseases seldom primary, that is, are not produced by a disease originating from some cause existing in the skin itself, but more generally from a disordered condition of the digestive organs, including the liver; and to show that this is no new hypothesis recently adopted by me, to favour the cause of this Spa, I shall give an extract or two published by me, in the form of a Syllabus, many years before I ever heard of Dorton.*

“ That the blood contains not only the materials for the formation and growth, but also the wastes, of all parts of the body; and frequently *morbific* elements. In fact, it is a common reservoir (if the expression may be allowed) in which both recrementitious and excrementitious substances are

* SLEIGH on the Principles of a New and Scientific Method of treating Eruptive Diseases, &c. London. ODELL. 1832.

indiscriminately mixed together ; and when loaded with the latter, or, in other words, when not duly regenerated or freed from them, they derange the whole system, produce many diseases, the blood itself becomes incapable of supporting life, and death sooner or later is the inevitable consequence.

That the functions of the lungs, skin, liver, kidneys, spleen, mucous and serous membranes, are the *natural* means adopted in the animal economy for regenerating the blood, and for freeing it of those excrementitious and morbid substances, with which it becomes loaded during its circuit through the system.

That *eruptive* diseases, many ulcers, &c. are the *artificial means* adopted by nature to discharge from the system excrementitious or morbid matter, when any of her *natural* organs are ineffectual, and when this matter impedes the natural functions of the body.

That the truth of this hypothesis is most satisfactorily proved by the well known facts, that the majority of cutaneous diseases are preceded by constitutional disorder, and many of them by actual febrile symptoms : moreover when the eruption appears, and in proportion as it becomes fully developed, that is as nature is capable of discharging from the system by the eruption the morbid matter, the constitutional symptoms subside, and eventually disappear. But should any circumstance repel the eruption, forthwith the constitutional

symptoms re-appear, and continue till the eruption is again produced, when they again subside. Similar phenomena occur with ulcers and in many other diseases. Who has not heard of the fatal effects produced by suddenly healing on old ulcer? Or what medical man is not acquainted with the changes incidental to *menstrual ulcers*?

That when any one of the *natural* organs imperfectly performs its function, a superabundant duty, in proportion to the deficiency of action as well as to its rank in the animal economy, devolves on the others.

If in this case there be any one of these organs preternaturally delicate or predisposed to disease, and unable to support or carry on this increased operation, it sinks under its burden, and becomes the seat of morbid action. Thus in one person the lungs will become affected; in another the liver; in a third the skin, &c.

If the preceding statements be correct it necessarily follows, that in order to treat these diseases scientifically and with success, it is indispensably necessary in the first instance, to ascertain the organ whose imperfect action has produced the disease.

That in proportion as the organ *originally* affected, and whose imperfect action is the immediate though *latent* cause of the ostensible disease, be restored to its healthy state, will the disease itself be subdued: therefore that plan of treatment which is directed to the removal of the *causes* of disease in the first

instance, and to the removal of the effects *afterwards*, must be, upon every scientific and rational principle, the best calculated to succeed : while the inefficacy of the present method of treating these and many other diseases, as if they were *original* affections, or as if they arose from mere indigestion, is not by any means surprising.

That the pathological phenomena or symptoms as they are termed (to a number of which in the aggregate we apply the term disease), are nothing more than certain *exertions, struggles, means, or efforts*, produced by nature, in endeavouring to rid the body of morbid matter accidentally received into the system, or generated in it. And that a protecting agent (no consequence what we call it), exists in the animal machine, innumerable circumstances prove ; and that, notwithstanding the ridicule with which it is treated by some of our modern philosophers ; but in defiance of whom, the celebrated Richeraud says “ It is more powerful than many physicians in the cure of diseases.” (Elements of Physiology, p. 45.) Hence how important it must be in the treatment of disease, to watch nature, direct her movements, increase her powers, and follow her example.

Hence in the treatment of cutaneous diseases, they should be considered as only certain effects of a *latent* and internal affected organ, the restoration of which to a healthy state should be the *primary* indication.

That with as great propriety, may the gardener expect to prevent the growth of a poisonous shrub by cutting off its branches ; or the surgeon expect to cure an inflammation of the eye, while he leaves the splinter that produced it, unextracted, &c. as the physician to think of curing those diseases by attacking their effects. The gardener must first eradicate the root of the tree from the ground ; the surgeon must first extract the splinter from the inflamed eye ; and the physician must first restore the diseased *internal organ* to its healthy state, ere they succeed : then, and not till then, will their exertions be successful.

When the common and fashionable method of treating those and similar diseases is recollected, the man of science need not be at all surprised at their being termed *incurable* ! ”

SECTION V.

The inefficacy of the various methods adopted for the cure of diseases proved to arise from—

1st. The erroneous opinions entertained respecting their *nature* and *causes*.

2nd. From the pathological phenomena or symptoms which constitute disease, being generally mistaken for *causes*, instead of the *effects*.

3rd. From nature being often interrupted in her exertions to cure disease, by the unscientific and officious interference of medical men.

4th. From mistaking certain phenomena, which are often produced by an increased action of the deep seated capillaries, for the symptoms of extreme debility. *This is a common and fatal error.*

5th. From *chronic* diseases being frequently treated as if they were *acute*, by active remedies.

6th. From medical men in endeavouring to discard the errors into which the humoral pathologists had advanced, having themselves fallen into the opposite extremes.

7th. From the vital properties and laws being but little regarded in the treatment of disease.

8th. From the very important rule, "*remove the cause,*" being but seldom attended to, except in removing what is termed the *exciting* cause, while the *proximate* or *immediate* cause (*the pathological condition of the part affected*), is entirely disregarded.

SECTION VI.

Scrofula and Consumption.

The next condition of the system in which this Spa has proved efficacious, and which we shall briefly comment on, is *Scrofula*.

This has been commonly but erroneously considered a *disease*: it is no such thing; it is only a peculiar delicacy or fineness of the lymphatic system, predisposing many parts of the body to be easily disordered, or to have a diseased action produced in

them. Hence we say a scrofulous constitution predisposes to consumption—to white swelling of the joints—to tumors in the neck, &c. The general characteristics of a scrofulous diathesis are, a fine and fair skin, fine soft hair, thick upper lip, large blue veins : hence some of our most lovely and beautiful women are scrofulous.

No one can be astonished that this condition of the system, consisting essentially of delicacy or weakness, and all diseases depending on it, except when there is active inflammation present, should be benefited by this Spa. The diseases connected with it are numerous : Phthisis Pulmonalis, or Consumption, being that one which is not only the most prevalent disease in this country, but one which is almost always attributed to this condition of the system, I am sure the reader will pardon my giving another quotation on this important subject from the work alluded to in page 12.

“The lungs which perform one of the most important functions in the animal economy—that of regenerating the blood, are properly considered the most delicate organs in the animal. They are composed of innumerable air-tubes and blood-vessels, united together by, and imbedded in, cellular substance ; and covered over with a serous membrane termed the pleura. Some authors have described them as possessing an incredible number of air-cells, the internal surface of which, if we believe Lieberkuhn, is equal to 1500 square feet ; and the mem-

brane which separates these cells from the branches of the pulmonary arteries, and through which the important change in the nature of the blood takes place is, according to the investigation of Hales, only the one-thousandth part of an inch in thickness. Although the lungs of an adult are capable of containing one hundred and twenty cubic inches of atmosphere, yet only a sixth part of this is altered at each respiration, so that one hundred cubic inches of air always remain in the lungs even after death.

The alternate drawing into, and expelling from the lungs the atmosphere, take place in a healthy adult fourteen times in a minute, or once for five pulsations of the heart. The process which these organs perform is so absolutely necessary for the preservation of man and all warm-blooded animals, that they are commonly termed “the *vital organs*.” The process of digestion, although in itself of paramount importance to the general health of the animal, yet may be impeded or totally suspended for hours, nay for days, without actually *destroying* the individual; and so may all other functions in the animal machine; but the function of the pulmonary tissue cannot with impunity be suspended for one minute, and its suspension for two or three minutes is sufficient to terminate the existence of man.

The lungs are not by any means, abstractedly considered, more exposed to circumstances calcu-

lated *directly* to injure them, and impede their functions, than many other organs in the animal machine, nor by far as much exposed as some organs, viz. the digestive apparatus; yet very few die in this country in whom the lungs do not exhibit, more or less, a morbid appearance. What is the cause of this? It is generally attributed to the vicissitudes of the weather in this climate; but this reason will not stand the test of analogy; for who are more exposed to the vicissitudes of temperature than savages or men in a state of nature, and yet very few indeed die of chronic pulmonary affections:* I recollect but one solitary instance amongst the North American Indians, during my four years' residence in Canada, of pure pulmonary consumption; while vast numbers of the civilized part of the inhabitants, the Canadians of French extraction, died from this very disease. There is no country in which the vicissitudes of climate are more frequent and remarkable than in Canada, yet we find one class of the inhabitants (the uncivilized Indians) almost totally exempt from this malady, while another class (the civilized inhabitants) are very often attacked by it. Both classes are equally exposed to the climate; if climate therefore be the principal cause of pulmonary consumption, why is one class so much more afflicted with it than the other? Until this question can be satisfactorily answered, it cannot be thought odd that I should

* Pneumonia, or acute inflammation of the lungs excepted.

differ from the opinion of almost the whole medical world, and affirm, that I attribute the origin of consumption, in nine cases out of ten, to a deranged state of the digestive apparatus.

Out of the hundreds I have either opened myself, or witnessed opening, I am confident nine-tenths presented morbid alterations in the pulmonary tissue. These morbid appearances were not, I am convinced, produced by a disease originally in the lungs themselves, but arose from a morbid action in some of the auxiliary organs. These auxiliary organs, in consequence of imperfectly performing their duty, throw upon the pulmonary tissue a greater burden than it is able to discharge; and thus noxious and morbid fluids, which should have been separated from the blood by the other regenerating organs* become pent up in the lungs, producing morbid actions in these viscera, and frequently terminating in their disorganization.

Nothing is more common than when persons are attacked with a pain in the chest, and with a difficulty of breathing, which are considered by the majority of the profession as symptoms sufficiently characteristic of the existence of inflammation of the lungs, or of its membrane, to detract blood.

But will those same gentlemen invariably act upon the same principle? will they pronounce a person to be labouring under inflammation of the brain because he has simply a pain in his head, and

* The liver, skin, kidneys, &c.

is stupid? To be consistent they should; for if pain in a part, and imperfect action, be sufficient characteristics of inflammation in the one instance, they certainly should in the other.

But let us investigate the effect of detracting blood for a sympathetic pain in the chest and difficulty of breathing: blood is drawn—the symptoms increase—it is repeated—no diminution of the affection—a troublesome cough ensues—blisters are applied; the symptoms of pulmonary consumption supervene—anodynes are administered—in the course of a few weeks or months death closes the scene—the body is opened—the lungs are found diseased—and the physician says, “all the art of man could not have availed in this case.”

It may be asked, was not the affection of the lungs the cause of death in this case? and I will readily reply, certainly it was; but, permit me to add, only in the same sense that we say such a person died of hectic fever, although the hectic fever was only the consequence of a diseased joint or a lumbar abscess, which hectic of course would never have occurred, only for this or some other local affection.

It is the very same with respect to the former case: life was extinguished by the disorganization of the lungs, but the disorganization was only the effect of a *primary* derangement in other parts. The principal art in the treatment of hectic, consists in endeavouring to remove the

cause; and every attempt to save the individual's life, without attending to the cause, would be justly considered by the profession, as absurd, useless, unscientific, and injurious, doing more harm than good. Yet, strange to relate, we find the treatment recommended, and the practice most generally adopted, in pulmonary consumption, are calculated not only not to allay the effects, but actually to rivet the disease, and to diminish the chances of a cure. This practice I am not surprised at, when I recollect that the original cause is supposed to be in the lungs.

It is, I conceive, full time when the profession pronounce a disease *incurable*, as they have long since done "pulmonary consumption," to doubt, at the very least, the correctness of their theories, and the validity of their practice.

In my observations on the physiology of the liver, I adduced arguments sufficient I presume, to prove that this organ is a powerful auxiliary to the lungs, and that the due action of this important gland, depends directly on the healthy state of the alimentary canal, and the completion of the process of digestion; so that it is impossible for the digestive apparatus to be deranged without affecting, more or less, the liver. I also observed, that the principal causes of indigestion act by producing a debilitated state of, or a loss of tone in, the stomach and intestines; and that the methods we should adopt for the removal of indigestion, must be with the intent

of rousing them into action, of restoring them to their due tone, and of enabling them to perform their important duties in the system.

Let us suppose, then, the intestinal canal to be loaded with half digested matter, and with a quantity of those excrementitious fluids which are perpetually deposited in the large intestines ; the liver then becomes incapable of acting on the blood, so as to free it from its carbon and hydrogen ; the blood becomes then surcharged with these principles, and in this state is conveyed to the lungs, which organs, labouring under the burden, and struggling to compensate for the imperfect action of the liver, cause a difficulty of breathing or short respirations, and pains in the chest. Are these morbid phenomena to be wondered at, when we reflect upon the state of the lungs under this oppression ? Is not the above state of the pulmonary organs enough to produce a difficulty of breathing, &c. without any species of inflammation ? If the branches of the pulmonary artery be over-distended with *venous* blood, the more minute branches of the trachea and the air cells, (if there be any in the lungs) cannot be duly dilated so as to contain the natural quantity of air ; hence the difficulty the individual experiences in making a full inspiration.

The remote cause of this affection, is a debilitated or weakened action of the digestive organs ; the proximate cause of these *symptoms* (pains and difficult respiration), is a want of due power in the

lungs to compensate for the imperfect action of the liver, &c. The lungs having an over duty to perform in this case, require additional powers in proportion to the degree of the affection ; if blood be detracted, the difficulty of breathing may be temporarily relieved, but the remote cause (debility) is proportionably increased, and consequently the morbid affection in the end aggravated. Whatever tends to restore tone to the stomach, to remove from this organ the cause of its torpor, is calculated to remove the affection of the lungs ; but whatever tends to increase the weakness of the former, must aggravate the disease in the latter : this cannot but be obvious. When blood is drawn, the difficulty of breathing, although temporarily relieved, frequently gets worse after a short time, because the debility of the intestinal canal becomes increased, and the auxiliary organs are deprived of that power which they in this case *peculiarly* require. This method of practice is only attacking the effects and not the cause, and that by means which are calculated to render the cause more permanent ; for the strength which the lungs enjoyed previous to the blood-letting, and which enabled them to compensate, although with difficulty, for the imperfect action of the liver, &c. is considerably diminished by this means : hence that congestion of venous blood in the lungs, which at first gave rise to the difficulty of breathing, &c., and which depended upon a morbid action in other organs, becomes by the depleting system, the cause of actual disease in the lungs.

Scrofula, consisting merely in a peculiar delicacy of the lymphatic system, is no more the *direct* cause of tubercles in the lungs, than it is the *direct* cause of a *white swelling* of a joint, or of a lumbar abscess: it most unquestionably predisposes the system to these affections, but only in the same way that the delicacy of a female's constitution may be said to predispose her to the effects of damp weather, which the powers of a male's constitution enable him to bear with impunity.

If there be any one part of the human frame particularly weak, that part will be disordered from circumstances which will have no effect upon other parts. It is allowed that these tubercles are "*lymphatic glands in a diseased state.*" The desideratum is to find out what produces the morbid action in these glands. Scrofula certainly is not the cause—it only renders them preternaturally weak. It is true we cannot investigate actually the processes going on in these glands in the pulmonary tissue; but I conceive by analogy, by finding out the nature of those glands, by finding out the nature of those causes which produce similar morbid actions in other parts of the body, that we may come to a conclusion on the nature of those bodies in the lungs, which borders, at the very least, on moral certainty.

From the very best authorities, we have reason to believe that lymphatic glands, which are scattered all over the body, are similar to one another in

their structure, and that this structure is "*clusters of coiled vessels.*"

These glands form so essential a department in the animal economy, and perform so important a change on the lymph and on some other circulating fluids, that we find no lymphatic vessel entering the thoracic duct without first passing through one or more of these little glands. The coats of the lymphatics are thinner and weaker when they form a part of a gland, than in their course through the body; so that a fluid which will be conveyed with facility through one of these vessels before it forms a part of a gland, will become pent up in these glands, and sometimes will give rise to considerable irritation.*

* "The frequent congestions of the conglobate glands depend on the stagnation of the lymphatic fluid in their substance, and on the comparative weakness of the sides of the vessels in these parts. The influence of debilitating causes on the lymphatic system acts most powerfully on the glands, which are the weakest part of that system. In such cases, the vessels which enter into the composition of the glands act feebly, or cease to act altogether; the fluids, of which there is a continual accession, accumulate; the most liquid part alone penetrates through the glandular organ, the grosser particles remain, the humour thickens, hardens, and forms congestions of various kinds. If there is a tendency to cancer, such tumours, at the first indolent, become painful, the indurated matter being, in a manner, out of the influence of the vital power, since its vessels are in a state of complete atony, undergoes a sort of putrid fermentation, the consequence of which is a destruction and erosion of the cellular tissue, attended by inflammation of the skin and neighbouring

In scrofula, as I observed before, the whole lymphatic system is peculiarly weak, so that circumstances which would have but little effect upon a person who is not of a scrofulous diathesis, will easily excite the lymphatic glands of a scrofulous person to action. Thus, the measles, whooping-cough, change of weather, &c. very frequently produce a morbid condition in the lymphatic glands in the latter persons.

When the bowels are neglected in a scrofulous person, or when he has been exposed to the exciting causes of indigestion, and this latter affection is produced, the liver becomes unable to separate from the blood that quantity of hydrogen and carbon, which the system requires it should; the other auxiliary organs readily sympathize—the skin becomes hot and dry—the urine becomes scanty, and the bowels constipated: the whole burden thus falls upon the lungs, and these, the most delicate organs in the body, become so oppressed, that difficulty of breathing and pain are produced; and those fluids which should have been carried off by the liver, and by the other auxiliaries, are partly taken up by the lymphatic vessels, and produce in the glands of the lungs that altered condition in them which constitutes tubercles. When the indi-

parts. The tumour becomes an abscess, and discharges matter, rendered liquid by the process of fermentation, and so acrid and irritating, that it extends the affection towards all the parts with which it comes in contact.”—RICHERAND'S *Physiology*, p. 143.

vidual is afterwards exposed to some exciting cause of inflammation, these tubercles become inflamed and suppurate, and thus produce the morbid phenomena, to which, in the aggregate, we give the term pulmonary consumption.

The great advantage of the use of iron in certain stages of scrofula, and of pulmonary consumption, is proved not only by analogy, but also by actual facts, as appears evident from the following extract of a letter addressed by the celebrated *M. Coster* to the Royal Academy of Medicine.

“*It is possible,*” says this talented man, “even in the face of predisposing causes, to prevent the development of a tubercular diathesis. Even where the formation of tubercles has commenced, their progress may, *in a great number of cases,* be arrested by the use of iron.” He performed, two years ago, the following experiment. A number of dogs, rabbits, &c. were placed in the circumstances most favourable for the development of scrofulous diathesis. Thus many of the unfortunate animals were shut up in dungeons, without light, incapable of moving; and exposed to a moist cold, by means of wet sponges which were hung up in cages. Some of the animals placed in these conditions, were fed on their ordinary diet; others were fed with ferruginous bread,* containing half an ounce of the carbonate of iron to the pound. All the former became ill, the greater part tuberculous;

* Flour mixed with iron.

but not one of those fed on the bread containing iron, presented a trace of tubercles."

Dr. Elliotson, late Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine in the London University, says, in his talented work,* in reference to affections of the larynx, which are not only often mistaken for consumption, but not unfrequently actually terminate in it, "*In this disease, iron is by far the best remedy. I have cured every case which I have seen of it, by the exhibition of the sesquioxide of iron.*" . . . "*Where there is an organic disease (even consumption) iron appears to be the best remedy. Many cases, attended by cough and expectoration, which have been mistaken for phthisis (consumption) have given way to this remedy (iron).* Again, he says, in reference to consumption, "*that, of all tonics, iron is by far the best.*"

The reader may well ask the question, if the artificial preparations of iron are so beneficial in the treatment of these diseases, what must be the efficacy of those preparations of it made by *Nature herself*, as in the *Dorton Spa*?

* Elliotson's Principles and Practice of Medicine, p. 912. London, 1842.

SECTION VII.

The Nervous system, depending on a due supply of good and pure blood, for its healthy condition and vigour, like all other parts in the body, and the blood depending on the digestive and respiratory organs for its invigorating and nourishing properties, it necessarily follows that those diseases generally called *nervous* are referable, more or less, to an imperfection in the functions of these two latter organs, and that which would be calculated to give tone to these organs, must, proportionably, benefit the affections of the former.

Amongst these, “*tic douloureux*,” or that extremely painful affection of the face, is not the least remarkable. Of this disease the above mentioned celebrated physician says,* “Should no structural or mechanical cause, and no inflammation be discoverable, and should the disease be of the exquisite character, *then iron is the best remedy.*”†

* The reader is reminded that the author's object is not to write a treatise on disease ; but simply to prove,—1st. *theoretically*, that is, by the opinions of eminent members of the Profession respecting the properties, &c. of *iron*, and 2ndly, *practically*, that is, by actual cures, the unquestionable efficacy of the *Dorton Spa*.

† P. 733.

That very peculiar disease commonly called *St. Vitus' Dance*, has been repeatedly cured by iron. Dr. Elliotson says, "I have had forty cases in succession all cured by this remedy" (*iron*).

But, however efficacious this mineral may be in the cure of this, and numerous other similar diseases, yet it should never be lost sight of, that the cause must first be removed, whatever that cause may be : and then the powerful operation of this Spa, will be rendered manifest by the rapid restoration of the patient to health.

Any one anxious to ascertain whether this Spa is adapted to his case, may easily ascertain the same, by the answer to the following simple question :—

"Does my disease depend, directly or indirectly, on weakness or loss of tone in my body, or in any part of my body?" If so, he may confidently anticipate a speedy restoration to health by the use of the Spa ; *provided there be no inflammation, or organic affection present.*

The remarks made in page nine, on the infinite superiority of the preparations of iron, made by nature, as in the Dorton Spa, over those made by art, and kept in the Apothecary's shop, should not be lost sight of.

Chlorosis, the bane of young females, rendering that period of their existence, which is most interesting, and most valuable to themselves, a burden

to them ; and oftentimes laying the foundation for more permanent and fatal affections, is one than for which a more certain or infallible remedy cannot be recommended than the Dorton Spa.

This disease presents such numerous and diversified symptoms, that it is almost impossible to describe or enumerate them. But the following are amongst its most prominent characteristics. A general paleness, with swelling of the face and ancles ; weakness, sensation of tension about the legs and feet ; occasional difficult respiration ; palpitation ; the pulse quick, and easily excited ; that state of the mind commonly called "*nervous* ;" deficient menstruation. To these may be added, indisposition to exertion, languidness, listlessness, low-spiritedness, easily overcome by exercise, singularities of temper, occasional headache and giddiness, pain in one or both sides, imperfect faintings, &c. &c.

Respecting the treatment of this disease, the most eminent Physicians say, "*iron is the best remedy.*" In France it is strongly recommended ; and Dr. Elliotson says, "*No medicine acts so beneficially as iron.*"

CHAPTER II.

LETTERS IN TESTIMONY OF THE VIRTUES OF THE
DORTON WATERS, ADDRESSED TO THE AUTHOR,
BY SEVERAL CLERGYMEN, MAGISTRATES, &c.
RESIDING IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE SPA.

No. 1.—From the Rev. John S. Baron, Incumbent of Brill, and Magistrate of Bucks.

Brill Parsonage, August 9, 1842.

DEAR SIR,

From the several cures, known to me, that have been effected by the Dorton Spa, I have the highest opinion of its virtues. I believe, the general opinion of this very efficacious spring is similar to mine.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN S. BARON.

To W. W. Sleight, Esq. M.D.

St. James's Square.

*No. 2.—From the Rev. Thomas Martyn, Rector
and Magistrate at Ludgershall.*

Ludgershall Rectory, Brill, Bucks,
23rd August, 1842.

MY DEAR SIR,

In reply to your queries with respect to the virtues of the Dorton chalybeate water, I beg to assure you, that it has been used in my family as a tonic very successfully.

I have also understood, that it has been very generally used as a remedy in cutaneous disorders, and that, in the majority of cases, the result has been a complete cure.

I trust, therefore, that your efforts to make the virtues of the waters known to the public, may be successful, feeling confident that they have but to be known to be appreciated.

I remain,

Very faithfully yours,

THOMAS MARTYN.

To W. W. Sleight, Esq. M.D.
2, St. James's Square.

*No. 3.—From the Rev. J. O. Hill, Perpetual
Curate of Dorton.*

Parsonage, Dorton, Nov. 8, 1842.

SIR,

In reply to the information you have requested me to give you, of the chalybeate water at Dorton, I beg to state, that I was the resident minister of this parish, when the mineral spring was discovered. This gave me an opportunity of ascertaining the favourable opinions that were formed of its virtues.

Many persons, who at that time visited the Spa from a distance, had renewed their visits, which may fairly, I think, be considered an evidence of the benefit they derived.

Several cases of cure have come under my own knowledge, and many obstinate ones of an eruptive character, have been overcome by a persevering use of the water, under medical advice; and without such advice it should not be used.

It must be owing to the unusual quantity of iron, in combination with so many other purifying minerals of this uncommon spring, that even leprosy, has yielded to its searching power.

Hoping that the Spa may become more generally known, for the sake of those who suffer,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. O. HILL,

Perpetual Curate of Dorton.

To W. W. Sleight, M.D. &c. &c.

Brill House.

No. 4.—From the Rev. Thomas Hayton, Incumbent of Long Crendon.

Crendon Parsonage, Nov. 10th, 1842.

SIR,

Your polite note I hasten to reply to; and will take the questions in order.

The sanative influence of the Dorton Spa has been familiar to me for upwards of 23 years; an opinion of its great virtue is very prevalent in the neighbourhood, arising decidedly from the happy effects produced in many individuals; and, I have no hesitation in saying, that I believe such an opinion to be well founded.

Trusting that your publication, will give a more extended currency to the virtues of the Spring, and thereby human ill be mitigated,

Believe me, Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

THOMAS HAYTON.

To Dr. Sleigh, Brill House.

No. 5.—From an officer in the Royal Navy, who was himself cured this season by the Spa, and whose name and address are left with the Rev. Mr. Baron.

Brill, Nov. 8, 1842.

DEAR SIR,

Understanding that you are about publishing a work on the Dorton Spa, I feel it a duty I owe the public, to furnish you with a few particulars respecting my case, as one who has derived considerable advantage from its use.

I have been afflicted for the last five years with rheumatic gout in most of my joints, and particularly in my head, which was so bad that I could not stoop without the most violent pain, and an alarming giddiness. I have tried, in vain, the waters of Leamington, Cheltenham, Tunbridge-wells and Scarborough, and only derived a temporary relief. I have also consulted the most eminent medical men in the profession. About a month since, I accidentally heard of this Spa, and came here rather as a dernier resort, than with any great expectation of being cured. But I am happy to say, that now, after a month's use of the water, I am enabled to return home, having derived the most decided and unequivocal benefit from it; with a new energy throughout my frame, all my pains banished, and perfect motion of all my joints.

As I do not like my name to be published, I shall leave it and my address with the Rev. Mr. Baron of this village, to whom any person may refer.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

B— P— M*****.

To W. W. Sleight, M.D.

Brill House.

CHAPTER III.

SECTION I.

*Cases of Scrofula cured by the Dorton Spa.**

No. 1.—S. H. was a dreadful object from scrofula; the glands of both sides of her neck suppurated, broke, and discharged, which continued for some years in spite of the best advice. Her health becoming undermined, she hopelessly had recourse to this water. She took a pint daily, and its happy effects were soon apparent; for a very few months perseverance in its outward as well as internal use, restored her to health and soundness, which have continued so ever since, a period exceeding fourteen years.

No. 2.—M. S. was a martyr to scrofula, having suffered from a long standing ulceration, affecting the bones of the nose. Several portions of diseased bone were from time to time extracted, and there was no disposition in the ulcer to heal or granulate. The discharge from it continued very copious, and the constitution was evidently unable to bear up

* These cases were first published by Mr. Knight, as stated in my preface.

much longer against the exhaustion. At this period she commenced the use of the Spa, and in six months she was completely restored to health.

No. 3.—W. B. was actually a cripple from the repeated formation of lumbar, and other abscesses: he had been for eighteen months under the care of an eminent surgeon. At length he was advised to try the Dorton Spa, and having had recourse to it, his appetite in a short time became restored, and his strength rallied. Vigour was imparted to his whole system, the immoderate discharges abated, and continuing only for a few weeks, and that to a trifling extent, when healthy granulations filled up the openings, and entirely healed.

No. 4.—A child, ten years of age, was brought to Brill for the benefit of the water. She had a fistulous opening in the lachrymal duct,* from which there issued a considerable and purulent discharge, and had continued ungovernable for many months, to the perplexity of numerous surgical advisers. The use of the Spa effectually put a stop to it, and the child's health became completely restored.

No. 5.—Another child had for many months suffered severely from an enlargement of the glands of the neck, with a chronic inflammation of the eyes. By the use of the water, she, in the course of a few weeks, became completely restored to health.

* The canal which forms a communication between the orbit and the side of the nose.

SECTION II.

*Cases of Cutaneous or Eruptive Diseases and Ulcers
cured by this Spa.*

No. 1.—One of the earliest cases was a servant in the employ of the late Sir John Aubrey, who was afflicted with an obstinate hepatic disorder, and nearly covered with painful and unsightly blotches of ulceration and scales from head to foot. He had recourse to the best advice, but without any advantage, and his disorder gained ground so rapidly as to incapacitate him for service. In this extremity the poor fellow, aware of the effects of the spring on animals, betook himself to its use. He first applied the water externally, and afterwards took it internally, when in the course of a few months he experienced a complete cure.

No. 2.—A case similar to this attracted the attention of Sir Christopher Pegg, at that time the leading Physician at Oxford. The sufferer, who laboured under a decided leprosy, was, by his advice, induced to make very free use of tar, both taken in solution, and applied outwardly, without effect. As a last resource, he was ordered to seek relief at one or other of the mineral springs in the country; but, as a matter of course, his means being limited, he was forced to recur to the nearest. Repairing to Dorton, he experienced a complete

cure, and now, at the expiration of twenty years, he had suffered no return of his complaint.

No. 3.—A labouring man, at present residing in the village of Dorton, had been, for two and twenty years, afflicted with an indolent ulcer seated just above the inner ancle, for which he had, three several times, been admitted into a public hospital. When he commenced to use the water, the ulcer was so deep that a walnut might easily be buried in it. The ulcer rapidly healed, and has so remained ever since, during a period of four years.

No. 4.—W. —, the son of a respectable surgeon in large practice, on the borders of Oxfordshire, had been for years in a most afflicted state; the skin of the lower part of his body and limbs was continually ulcerating and scaling; his head was covered with a dry scurf, and had lost the hair, thick discharges were given out from behind his ears and eyelids; the glands of his neck had become enlarged, giving his disorder the character of struma, yet still not distinctly developed. The desquamation caused by the night perspiration from his body, was so considerable, that the bed clothes and side carpets in the morning, were absolutely covered with scurf. The disease appeared wholly confined to the skin and subjacent membrane; the scarf skin rapidly formed, but so tender, that the burning heat preceding the perspirations, caused it to crack, and it was readily moved by the intolerable itchings attending them. Thus affected he very

seldom left his room, or even his bed, and his health seemed entirely on the decline. His strength was evidently failing, his spirits appeared broken, and it was with great effort, that he attempted the gentlest exercise. His parent's exertions on his behalf (as may be supposed), had been indefatigable, and his opportunities for advice, among his professional connections were considerable ; yet, notwithstanding he enjoyed the advice of some of our most eminent surgeons, and had months for its trial, no impression could be made on the disease.

In this apparently hopeless state, he was brought to Dorton : when, after using the waters for about seven weeks, his appetite improved, and a great determination to the kidneys ensued.—The use of the water was discontinued for a week ; and in a month after he commenced to take it again, he became almost free from disease, and equal in point of strength to any exercise.

He is now at Grove House, Academy, and his movements are as easy, lightsome and gay, as those of any of his school-fellows : he has not even the slightest remnant of those affections, which this scourge of mankind generally leaves behind it.

No. 5.—A case still stronger than any yet cited, has just occurred at Horsepath, a village near Oxford. The individual is a farmer, upwards of sixty years of age, and laboured under an eruption of the skin, for nearly forty years. It was of a

pustulous character, and appeared on his face, as much as on any other part of his body : his medical advisers had been numerous, and he had long since despaired of being cured.

The extraordinary cures effected by this Spa, last season, round his neighbourhood, raised in him a faint hope ; and he accordingly commenced using the water ; which, in the course of a few months patient trial, effectually cured him ; for not a pimple is now to be seen on his skin.

No. 6.—A Mr. S. living at Watlington, had been for many years afflicted with what (he says) had been pronounced *White Leprosy*. It covered the lower part of his face, lips, and skin, and was in considerable patches on his arms and body. When he first presented himself at the Spa, last spring, he was the deplorable object just described ; and at the close of the season, was wholly free from the disease, and has continued so up to the present time.

SECTION III.

Case of Chorea, or St. Vitus' Dance.

An example of the efficacy of this Spa, occurred in the case of a very respectable young female, of Boarstall. She was so dreadfully afflicted with this disease, that it was thought to have the character of insanity, and required constant care. All

remedies failing, she at length was persuaded to make a trial of this water: she drank it daily in large doses; general improvement of her health was soon evident, and her cure was rapidly effected.

From the Parents of a child cured by this Spa.

Luton, Oct. 6, 1842.

DEAR SIR,

Having waited to know the result of the operation of the Dorton Spa waters upon our little boy, I hasten to inform you of the effect, and I doubt not, but that you will rejoice with us, when I communicate to you the beneficial results, that have arisen from the use of it. Our dear little boy is perfectly recovered; all those sores that were upon him are quite healed, and have totally disappeared; his skin, instead of being rough and scaly, is now quite smooth and soft, and all over him he is very clear; he sleeps remarkably well; for this last week, we have not been once disturbed by him.

With our kindest regards, &c. &c., we beg to subscribe ourselves respectfully,

Your most obliged Friends,

JOHN AND ANN COOKSON.

To ——— Esq.

SECTION IV.

*Extracts from the Provincial Medical Journal, of
last August.*

“Owing, however, to the purity of the air of Brill, and the dryness and exceeding salubrity of the place, but few cases have occurred among the inhabitants for a trial of its virtues. The case-book, therefore, mostly presents the names of strangers, many of whom, allured by the beauty of the scenery, have been tempted to prolong their visits here, and many more who have been brought by the increasing reputation of the waters from the remarkable cures they have already wrought. Mention need be made of only a few of the most striking cases, and the particular diseases in which the waters have proved most beneficial.

Among the more early cases presented for its trial, were two obstinate ones of lepra. They had been of years' standing. Both of them occurred in females. One, in her hopelessness of relief, repaired hither on her dismissal from the Middlesex Hospital. She manifested, on commencing the water, an inflammatory disposition, and the treatment with the chalybeate was necessarily accompanied for a time with salines. The former was at

length continued alone ; a perfect cure was effected in the space of five or six weeks. Baths of a high temperature were at the same time employed.

Another case, that of a tradesman's wife, from Berks, much more wretched in its appearance, and obstinate in its character, had been treated by Dr. Fergusson, of Windsor. The erect position caused the thick scales, which were as bands round her legs, to crack, and from their deep fissures, considerable hæmorrhage at times took place, so that existence under such a continued affliction had constrained her to prefer death to life. The daily desquammations of skin were astonishing. In six weeks a cure followed the active treatment of the chalybeate ; baths of 108° were likewise used. In impetigo, the success which has attended repeated trials of the Spa, encourages sanguine expectation. Late in the last season a striking instance presented itself from the neighbourhood of Islington, in the person of a lady, a patient of Dr. Hope. The saline treatment also in this case preceded the use of the water, but it had been tried from the commencement as a lotion with gruel. The improvement was not manifest till its active exhibition had been continued for a month, when a rapid progress to ultimate convalescence ensued.

“ It is deserving of remark, that, in all these cases, the water exerted a specific action on the kidneys, in exciting them to a healthy vigorous action.

“ In profuse menorrhagia its effects were signally

marked in two cases. The disease in both had proceeded to a great extent, denying the individuals the most trifling exercise, their breathing becoming so embarrassed, with great loss of tone in the whole system. Though these had been of years' continuance, yet rapid was the progress each made to a state of convalescence. A pint daily was the quantity taken; more was often borne without inconvenience.

“ A female, aged forty-six, of lax fibre, and long the subject of periodical and profuse hæmorrhage from internal piles, attended with procidentia ani, came from Aylesbury, five years ago, by the advice of Mr. R. Ceely, being then in a state of intense anæmia and advanced anasarca. In the course of five weeks, by the use of the water in the quantity of a wineglassfull *ter die*, a decided change for the better took place, and she returned to Aylesbury convalescent. Mr. Ceely informs me that this patient is now in excellent health, she having, from an early period, like other members of her family, been subject to profuse and frequent hæmorrhage, whereas now the hæmorrhage is only occasional, and in so slight a degree as to produce little inconvenience, and no interruption to health.

“ A young woman, aged 28, daughter of the above-mentioned person, very debilitated by intense suffering from periodic and chronic periostitic neuralgia of the tibia, the sequel of intermittent fever, which had been preceded by a severe remittent, was sent

at the same time by the same gentleman, who had subjected her to the most approved treatment for the neuralgic affection, with only temporary benefit. She took (for a period of five weeks) the waters in large doses, commencing with a wineglassfull *ter die*; it was soon increased from half a pint to a pint and a half, or more, in the course of the day, with marked and permanent benefit. In neuralgic affections, and in chorea, several cases might be cited to authorise its use where the carbonas ferri had failed.

“In chlorosis, a striking instance of its powers was shewn two years ago. The young lady was from the neighbourhood of Reading. Her emaciated, blanched appearance, increasing debility, &c. had filled her friends with the apprehensions of consumption (indeed, such was positively stated to have been the case); and in this apprehended hopelessness the celebrity of these waters reached their ears, and their peculiar adaptation quickly restored her.

“The daughter of a clergyman was recommended hither by Dr. Robertson, of Northampton; she had been suffering from obstructive disease of the liver, and the active measures which had been found necessary had so reduced her strength, and given such a blow to her constitution, that it was for a long time a question whether she would again rally. This state of things continuing, with tympanitis of the whole abdomen, she was brought hither to have a fair trial of this chalybeate; and though for months

previous the recumbent posture only could be endured, and was obliged to be maintained through her long journey hither, in a month she was enabled to bear horse exercise, and left perfectly restored at the end of two.

“Glandular ulcers and sinuses, occurring in scrofula, receive a marked benefit by a liberal external and internal exhibition of this remedy. One of the earliest indications of its service is an increased appetite; but, like all our available resources for this disease, it requires a lengthened trial to fairly judge of it. Instances in the neighbourhood are not wanting, both in the male and female, of its lasting benefits in this disease, and in one where sea bathing had had a patient trial the season previous.”

FINIS.



