

**A collection of all the papers, relative to the alleged adulteration of the Cheltenham waters : without comment or observation, leaving it entirely to the dispassionate reader to make his observations thereon : containing Dr. Neale's letter ... . To which is added a reply by James McCabe.**

### **Contributors**

McCabe, James, active 1810-1839. Reply to Dr. Neale's pamphlet, respecting the nature and properties of the mineral wells of Cheltenham.

Neale, Adam, -1832.

Williams, George Arthur.

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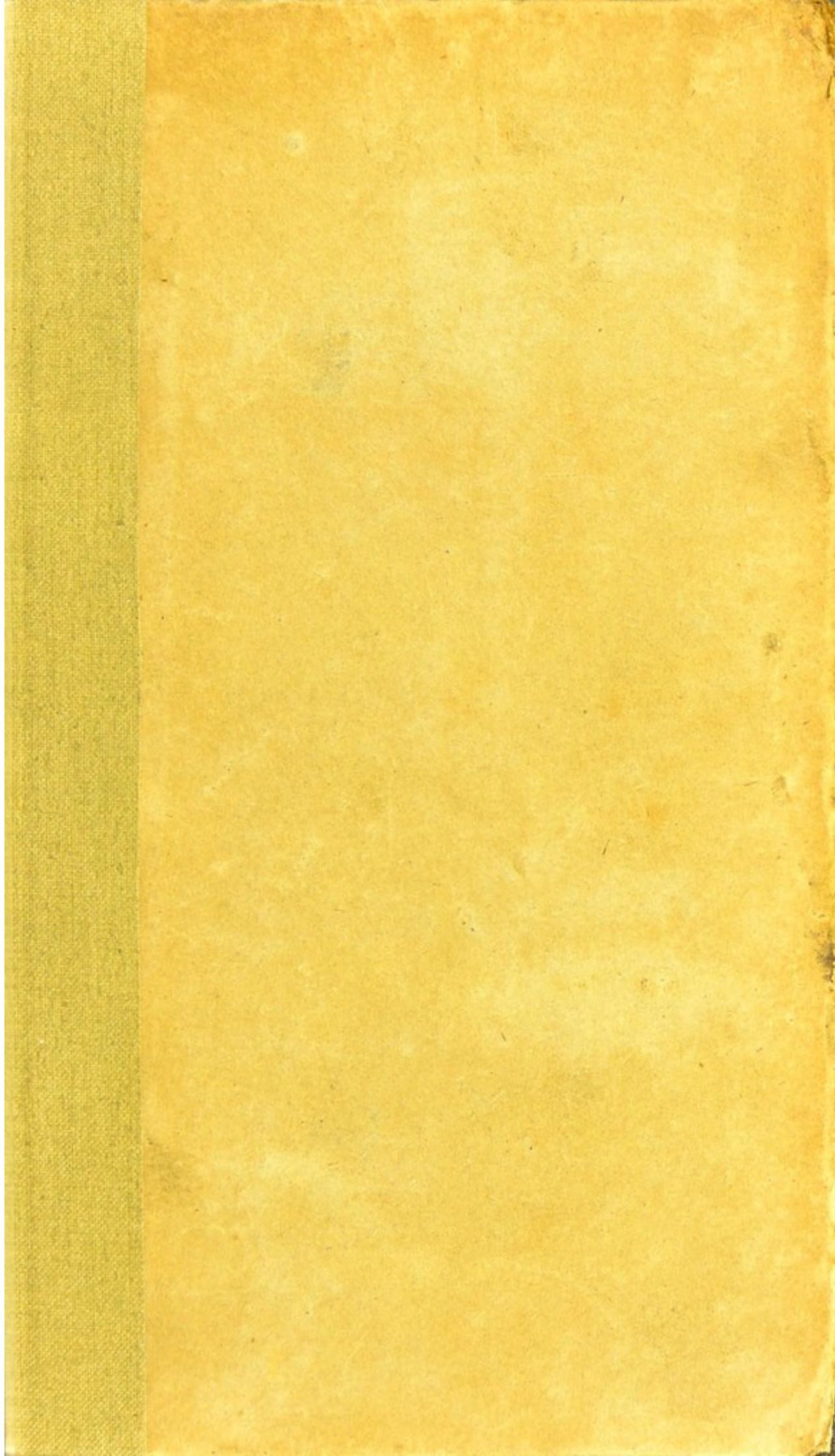
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..... May ..... 1939

SHELF

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D.A.



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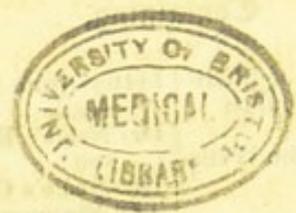
THE ALLEGED ABUSE OF THE

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REPORT BY JAMES MCCABE, M.D.

OF THE

OF THE

PRINTED FOR G. A. WILLIAMS, LONDON

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Printed by G. A. Williams, London

SHELF

D.A.

TO THE PUBLIC.

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IN collecting together, and publishing in one small volume, the following pamphlets, and other documents, the Publisher has been actuated by two motives ; the first to meet the wishes of many of his Subscribers, who have expressed a desire to see in a connected form, the series of facts elicited by, and developed by the publication of Dr. Neale's pamphlet ; the other, to place on record, in a tangible shape, and at a moderate price, a transaction which is likely to be remembered long in the local history of Cheltenham. The Publisher has found by experience, that many have casually heard of some part of the transaction, and not being acquainted with all the particulars, have adopted partial or perhaps erroneous ideas of the whole. Under these circumstances, he has thought that he could not better discharge his duty to his Subscribers, and to Cheltenham, than by presenting to the public the present publication. He is aware that there

may be some who entertain a different opinion, and who think that the subject should now rather be permitted gradually to die away ; but to such as may entertain this opinion, he begs to say, that where every thing is fair and honourable, concealment is not only unnecessary, but injurious. It is better that all the facts connected with the transaction should be placed on record, from which every one may be enabled to judge for themselves, than that partial or interested representations should leave the public in doubt, or leave room for conjecture where certainty is required. With these views, the present publication is submitted to the public, and as the object of the Publisher has been to enable the public to decide for themselves, from the facts which he has here laid before them, he abstains from comment or observation.

G. A. WILLIAMS,

*LIBRARIAN.*

Cheltenham, October 18, 1820

# A LETTER

TO A

*PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE,*

IN THE

University of Edinburgh,

RESPECTING

THE NATURE AND PROPERTIES

OF THE

MINERAL WATERS OF CHELTENHAM.

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BY ADAM NEALE, M. D.

Graduate of the University of Edinburgh; Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of London; formerly Physician to the British Army in the Peninsula, and to the Embassy at Constantinople; and one of the Physicians of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent,  
&c. &c. &c.

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“ Si liberius forte locutus sum adversus impostores, qui artis nostræ veritati et dignitati imponunt: detur quaso hæc licentia philosophicæ libertati et animo veritatis studioso.”

“ Il y’a des occasions où l’on ne peut pas se taire, ou il seroit même criminel de garder le silence. Celle ci est une, d’autant plus que la verite dans notre profession est la chose du monde la plus essentielle. Il y va de la vie des hommes, cette seule reflexion nous engage a declamer contre ceux qui travaillent plutot a la detruire qu a la conserver.”

*G. Patin, M. D.*



## ADVERTISEMENT.

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**T**O those who resort to a watering place merely for the sake of amusement or fashion, or who, in the language of our poet Burns, are in the habit of bowsing “drumly German water, to make themselves look fair and fatter,” it must be a matter of little consequence to be informed that the fluid whereof they partake is stimulating or sedative, beneficial or injurious, factitious or natural. But to the real invalid, to the man who returns with a shattered constitution, from a long residence in a foreign and unhealthy climate, to spend the evening of life, amongst friends and relatives, for whose sake, perhaps, he is anxious to prolong the close of even a feverish existence; to such a man, I hold it to be of some little moment, that he should be warned against a blind confidence in an equivocal remedy, because he believes it to be a natural one.

The late Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart. who like all old and experienced physicians, became, in his latter days, very sceptical, as to the benefit to be derived

from the more violent class of medicines, in the cure of chronic ailments attending the decline of life, was anxious to impress on the minds of his young friends a distaste to tampering too much with such cases. And often have I heard him declare, that, to his certain knowledge, many a valuable life has been abridged by over drugging and over drenching;—whereas if the patient had but borne his ailments with patience, and his physicians given a little more fair play to the powers of nature, all might have gone on well for several years. This amiable and accomplished physician died himself but lately, in his 83d year, a striking example of the truths of his own doctrine.

Reflecting on this subject, and applying myself to consider the effects of purgative mineral waters in certain cases, I have thought it might be useful to the public to call their attention to a point, whereon much of the safety or danger attending their use may occasionally hinge; being satisfied myself that those waters which contain an excessive quantity of sea salt cannot be used with advantage, I would say, hardly with safety, by a particular class of debilitated invalids. The presence or absence of iron has seemed to be hitherto the criterion upon which medical men have fixed their reasoning, as to judging of the stimulating powers of mineral waters; but I am now

well assured that they have been in error ; and that, as in the mineral waters of Cheltenham, for instance, the giving of six-tenths of a grain of iron daily, or even more, cannot be half so important as the taking or not taking, one drachm or more of common sea salt, on a fasting stomach, in a pint of water for weeks together. In cases of insipient schirrus, it has been well proved and established that iron is beneficial ; whereas the application of sea salt, to the irritable villous coats of the stomach and small intestines, will, we know, aggravate the complaint. For this reason, I have judged it of some importance to call the attention of my Medical Brethren to the comparative analysis of the two principal spa waters of Cheltenham ; and I will add, that if the object is to pour brine into the circulation, let us rather send our patients to the sea shore, than to an inland mineral water :—but if the intention be to stimulate the peristaltic motion of the intestines, let that particular water be advised which contains the greatest proportion of alkaline sulphates, and the smallest of muriate of soda ; and for that reason, rather let our patients drink the original spa water of Cheltenham than that of Harrogate, because the first contains the smallest quantity, and the latter the largest quantity of sea-salt, known to exist in any mineral water in this island.

Another point, to which I would call public notice, is the custom which has crept in of late, of transferring mineral waters to cisterns, instead of drawing them fresh from the wells, and delivering them in their natural state. Surely, if we expect any benefit to be derived from the gases which they contain, we must relinquish all hopes of retaining them, after having been so treated; and I, for one, beg to enter this my public protest against racking off mineral waters into cisterns, to suit the sole convenience of their proprietors. If, however, the impregnation, or non-impregnation, of gases be a matter of indifference, then be it understood that we ought not to advise our patients to undertake long and expensive journeys to mineral springs, since we can furnish them with dilute solutions of neutral salts, as Sancho Panza has it, "dry shod, and in our own country."

One word more. In looking into Brande's Chemistry, in the table of the analysis of mineral waters, I observe that he has admitted only three of the mineral waters of Cheltenham, namely, the Sulphur Spring, the pure Saline, and the Chalybeate; and, as he omits all notice of the others, I should be glad to know if the public are to conclude, that *he* disbelieves in the existence of the other three. Certain it is also, that he takes no notice of that spring which was

analyzed by Dr. Fothergill, which is, in my mind, of more value and moment than all the rest; and I should be glad to know *why* he has passed that in total silence. I shall just add, that I have the authority of one of the proprietors here to assure my readers, that the soil around Cheltenham only produces *three* mineral waters.



TO

DR. \* \* \* \* \*

*M. D. F. R. S. &c. &c.*

Edinburgh.

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MY DEAR SIR,

**I**N your last letter you inform me, that several of your friends and patients, who have returned from visiting this place, have been rather dissatisfied with the result of their journey, and that some have even expressed their doubts as to the genuine quality of the water served out to them at some of the wells. In consequence, it is my wish to furnish you, and some other of my friends who reside at a distance, with such a comparative view of the nature of these springs, as may enable you to elucidate to your patients, before they leave home, the cause of some failures and disappointments, and thereby direct them, so that they shall not be misled on their arrival here, to the injury of their health.

The brilliant reputation which these waters possess has arisen chiefly from this circumstance, that the visitors of former times were invariably supplied with water taken from what is now called the old well, or the original spa. For until within a few years there was no other. However, the spirit of commercial aggrandizement having prompted an opulent individual to make a large purchase of land in the vicinity, and to bore the ground repeatedly in search of mineral waters, he at length succeeded in discovering some weak brine springs; and having built a new pump room, and laid out walks and plantations, and had these waters analyzed by two respectable chemists: some ailing friends, fond of novelty, then exalted their good qualities, and thus succeeded in a great degree in bringing them into vogue—while the old well having been leased out, and placed under the management of a female, who did not understand the arts of competition and *manœuvring*,—Fashion! (which perhaps you know, guides every thing at a watering place,) carried away the tide of visitors to the new pump room, and the new springs!!

This speculation thus having succeeded in producing lucre to its projector, in a degree far beyond what could have been imagined, other individuals, prompted by similar motives, have attempted since the same sort of schemes; so that now this place pos-

assesses no fewer than *three* saline aperient, and *three*  
*chalybeate spas*. The waters of some of these, how-  
 ever, seem to me to be so essentially different, and  
 inferior both in qualities and power, that such of the  
 visitors as follow more the caprices of fashion than  
 the dictates of reason, and repair to these new wells  
 instead of the old one, after some weeks residence  
 here, and ringing out all the changes upon them, (for  
 by the way I should tell you, that they have been  
 numbered, one, two, three, four, five, and six, as if  
 they were a set of musical bells to jingle in the ears  
 of the public rather than cure their diseases;) many  
 of these visitors, I repeat, have, to my own knowledge,  
 returned to their homes in distant counties, with their  
 health but little improved, and their faith most mi-  
 serably shaken as to the virtues and efficacy of the  
 (Cheltenham Waters. Yet, upon making accurate in-  
 quiries, I have frequently found, that most of those  
 disappointed invalids had drank of every water but  
 the real one, and that very few had ever repaired to  
 the original fountain. So that, like some of the un-  
 fortunate heroes of the Iliad, recorded by the poet,  
 they had indeed seen the plains of Troy, but had  
 never tasted of the waters of the Xanthus.

But to return to our subject and make this fact  
 more apparent, I shall now briefly lay before you a  
 comparative view of the analysis of the principal wa-

ters, as ascertained by Drs. Fothergill and Jameson, and Messrs. Brande and Parke. For I am not vain enough to think that my own chemical knowledge could produce more accurate results. Nay, even if I distrusted the facts already published, I should prefer using them on this occasion, to referring to my own notes, for several obvious reasons.

The original spa contains, then, in one pint of water, sixty-nine and three-tenth grains of salts or solid contents, while No. 1 of the Montpelier spa contains seventy-four grains. But we will place them in parallel columns, for the sake of more accurate comparison.

<i>Original Spa Water.</i>		<i>Montpelier Spa, No. 1.</i>	
One Pint.		One Pint.	
	Grains.		Grains.
Sulphate of Soda . . . . .	} 60,0	Sulphate of Soda . . . . .	} 22,7
Sulphate of Magnesia . . . . .		Sulphate of Magnesia . . . . .	
Iron . . . . .	6	Soda and Iron Carbonates . . . . .	1,5
Muriate of Soda . . . . .	6	Muriate of Soda . . . . .	41,3
Sulphate of Lime . . . . .	5,0	Sulphate of Lime . . . . .	2,5
Carb. & Muriate of Magnesia . . . . .	3,1		
	<hr/> 69,3		<hr/> 74,0
<i>Gaseous Contents.</i>		<i>Gaseous Contents.</i>	
	Cubic Inches.		Cubic Inches.
Carbonic Acid . . . . .	3,7	Carbonic Acid . . . . .	2,5
Sulphuretted Hydrogen . . . . .	1,8		
	<hr/> 5,5		

From the above tables, then, you will observe, that the Montpelier spring differs most materially from the original well. The quantity of aperient salts, or alkaline sulphates, which it holds being not one half of what is kept in solution by the old spa, while the proportion of muriate of soda, or common sea salt, is *forty times greater!* But the muriate of soda does not act on the bowels. To produce the same effect, therefore, it is necessary to take at least double the quantity of the water of the Montpelier spring; while in doing so the drinker must, of necessity, at the same time, swallow *eighty times as much common salt!!* Therefore the stimulating or heating quality of these two springs may be stated as nearly eighty to one; while it should not be forgotten that the stomach must be twice as much distended, before the aperient effect can be produced by the new spa water.

There being, then, such a glaring difference between these two waters, it must doubtless appear very astonishing to you, that none of the medical men, residing here for years, should have publicly noticed and commented upon the fact. However, if you will reflect for a moment, you will be aware that, in our profession, those at the head of it have generally but little time, and far less taste, for controversial statements, so that, either from want of taste, or

of courage, or from self-interest alone, such ungrateful tasks are generally left to any casual labourer in the vineyard, who, like myself, may choose to take them up from a pure love of truth.

This being premised, I will now add, for your information, the analysis of the other Montpelier springs, from which you will perceive that they all, with one exception, No. 5, contain a redundancy of sea salt.

*No. 2, or Strong Sulphuretted Saline.*

	Grains.
Muriate of Soda.....	35,0
Sulphate of Soda .....	23,0
Sulphate of Magnesia .....	5,0
Sulphate of Lime .....	1,2
Oxyd of Iron .....	,3
	<hr/> 6,45

GASEOUS CONTENTS.

	Cubic Inches.
Sulphuretted Hydrogen.....	2,5
Carbonic Acid.....	1,5
	<hr/> 4,0

*No. 3, or Weak Sulphuretted Saline.*

	Grains.
Muriate of Soda.....	15,0
Sulphate of Soda .....	14,0
Sulphate of Magnesia .....	5,0
Sulphate of Lime .....	1,5
Oxyd of Iron .....	,5
	<hr/> 36,0

## GASEOUS CONTENTS.

	Cubic Inches.
Sulphuretted Hydrogen .....	2,5
Carbonic Acid.....	1,5
	<hr/> 4,0

*No. 4, Pure Saline.*

	Grains.
<i>Muriate of Soda</i> .....	50,0
<i>Sulphate of Soda</i> .....	15,0
<i>Sulphate of Magnesia</i> .....	11,0
<i>Sulphate of Lime</i> .....	4,5
	<hr/> 80,5

Scarcely any traces of Iron.

No Gaseous Contents.

*No. 5, Sulphuretted and Chalybeated Magnesian Spring,*

	Grains.
Sulphate of Magnesia .....	36,5
Muriate of Magnesia.....	9,0
Muriate of Soda.....	9,5
Sulphate of Lime .....	3,5
Oxyd of Iron .....	3,5
Loss.....	1,0
	<hr/> 63,0

## GASEOUS CONTENTS.

	Cubic Inches.
Sulphuretted Hydrogen.....	1,5
Carbonic Acid.....	4,0
	<hr/> 5,5

*No. 6, Saline Chalybeate.*

	Grains.
Muriate of Soda .....	22,0
Sulphate of Soda.....	10,0
Oxyd of Iron.....	1,5
Loss .....	,5
	<hr/> 34,0

The cases which are generally sent to Cheltenham, are, as you well know, either people who have resided a long time in warm climates, and whose livers, and chylopoetic viscera have been injured by the influence of fevers and tropical heats; or such as have never travelled out of Great Britain, but whose abdominal organs have suffered from excessive stimulation, from various causes. In neither of these two classes of patients, according to my experience, does a water, containing muriate of soda, in excess, produce beneficial effects. In both, there is a tendency in the blood vessels to be rapidly and greatly excited into inordinate action, and many a torpid liver, which might have remained for years in a quiescent state, comparatively harmless to its possessor, has been speedily thrown into violent inflammatory action, succeeded by suppuration, and the patient been hurried into the grave sooner by some years than would have happened, had he not been put upon a course of these stimulating waters. If this is sometimes their effect, in cases of diseased liver, you can easily conceive that the consequences are frequently more rapidly fatal in those plethoric subjects, with large heads and short necks, who are, by nature and habit, prone to apoplectic attacks; and as one instance, I may mention, that, only last year, I well remember a gentleman of this description, who had prescribed for himself four half-pint glasses of one of the springs every

morning, and who, during the hot weather, having taken his usual allowance, which did not pass off by the bowels, was so stimulated and oppressed by it, that he tumbled down in an apoplectic fit, after breakfast, and expired. Another circumstance I would mention is, that in their clumsy attempts to render these waters more aperient, the mixers of the waters appear to have no fixed rule, nor measure, in adding "*the saline solution;*" so that some of my patients, last autumn, complained to me that they never could discover the *same taste or effect, for any two days together*, in the water which was handed to them. But again, I must observe, that this can hardly occur at the old well, because the quantity of aperient salts contained in these waters is, in general, quite adequate to produce the effect required on the bowels; I say in general, because extreme cases will certainly occur of very torpid bowels, where some aid will be found requisite, and I always recommend such patients to see the *solution of Glauber's salt* measured out, and added to the tumbler in their own presence.

But still, you will naturally be prompted to inquire from which of these springs it is, that most benefit is derived; or what is the water which is most employed, in a general way? To answer this query I ought to tell you, that, of every hundred persons who drink here, I find that ninety-five, at least, take the

Pure Saline, or No. 4; because its operation on the bowels, as they will tell you, is most expeditious and certain. But seeing, from its analysis, that this water contains neither gas nor iron, shall we not be warranted in drawing this inference, that all these people might have been equally benefited by drinking a solution of Glauber and Epsom salts at home, provided they had confidence and patience enough to persevere steadily in such a course for a fortnight or three weeks, and rise every morning and walk for an hour or two before breakfast? Scotland, as well as Ireland, can boast of a variety of mineral waters, equally efficacious as those of Cheltenham, Leamington, and Gloucester, provided they were administered in the same manner. And I cannot see why those invalids, who might be so easily cured at Pitkaithly, Moffat, St. Bernard's Well, or even Strathpeffer, should be permitted, by their physicians, to abandon their homes and native country, in search of mineral waters, while they possess so many, equally good, so much nearer home. The only point in which you are deficient, is in the knowledge of "*a little management*;" and, in order to elucidate these mystic words, I will here subjoin a correspondence which lately took place between myself and an old school fellow, who resides at \_\_\_\_\_ Farm, in \_\_\_\_\_shire, on your side of the Tweed.

TO DR. ADAM NEALE.

MY DEAR SIR,

IT is now some years since we last met at Ciudad Rodrigo, after the battle of Salamanca, and it is only within these few days that I have learnt your present residence. Presuming on our old acquaintance, I hope you will favour me with your advice and assistance, in regard to a measure which is of great moment to me under my present circumstances.

A small landed property has lately fallen to me, by the death of a near relation, upon which I have retired to spend the remainder of my days in peace and repose. My health, as you may recollect, was very indifferent when we last met, so that I have been obliged to quit all the scenes of active life; and with the scanty half-pay of my commission, as Surgeon to the Forces, and the income of my farm, I am educating my family, which is now rather numerous. On my land are some mineral springs, which were formerly held in great repute throughout the adjoining counties, and were leased out, at the yearly sum of—pounds, to a worthy man who resided on the spot. However, to my great grief and mortification, it has lately been discovered that the spas have been losing their repute, and some

of the neighbouring gentry, who used to frequent them have abandoned them, in order to repair to your English watering places; so that my old tenant has declined renewing his lease, unless I will consent to an abatement of half his rent. On inquiring more minutely into particulars, I have found that our water-drinkers hereabouts, who used to swallow down some five or six tumbler's-full, very contentedly, before breakfast, and as many in the course of the forenoon, allege that, by *going south*, as our phrase is, they can meet with mineral waters so much more powerful, that two half-pint glasses suffice to produce the desired effect; whilst my luckless springs, although they abound with saline matter, and iron, sulphur, and gaseous fluids, are yet so dilute, that the patient must needs take at least two or three English pints for a dose. While musing on this sorrowful prospect, of a deficiency in my ways and means, a ray of hope has entered into my mind, on hearing from an old friend, just returned from England to this neighbourhood, that the owners of your English spas have found out some happy means of *managing* their waters, whereby they can double or even triple their purgative effects; and that your English waters are not, in fact, one jot stronger, *by nature*, than those of our Scottish fountains. Now, my dear Sir, if such be really the case, and you can acquire for me this desirable information, pray impart it, and you will confer a lasting benefit

on myself and family, and even on the race of Mac-  
d——e's yet unborn, &c. &c.

My answer to this was as follows:—

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I CANNOT rejoice that it is really in my power to answer your letter so speedily, and put you in possession of all that information which you desire, on a subject which, I am free to confess, I feel must be of vast importance for you to know; while, at the same time, I am patriot enough to think, that in giving it publicity, it may eventually tend to diminish the number of Scottish absentees, and detain in our poor country some thousands of pounds annually, which would otherwise find their way to this richer portion of the island. You have indeed been rightly informed, that our southern neighbours do possess a secret manner of adding to the strength of their mineral waters, and thereby reaping a rich harvest from the credulity of their visitors; and if you, or your tenant, can but screw up your consciences to employ the same means, which, however, I cannot say I think to be very legitimate, you may certainly put in your claim to retain your old customers at the spas of Benbibere.

Know then, my good friend, that your first business must be to procure a few tons of Glauber and Epsom salts from the nearest manufactory, where they will cost you at the rate of about fourteen pounds sterling per ton; which accomplished, you must next endeavour to procure a constant supply of the pure element from some rapid torrent or deep well—be it mineral water or not—for that is of little moment; you must then fill a few quart bottles with your spa waters and salt them to your taste, as Mrs. Glasse would say, but of various strengths remember; and having duly sealed them up, send them to the chemist of the greatest repute in your part of the world, to be analyzed. These bottles you had better number one, two, three, four, five and six, *ad libitum*; but, I should suppose, you need hardly extend it to the Pythagorean number, “seven,” as *six* will be quite sufficient for all your hydraulic purposes. This done, and your analysis having been returned, duly signed, sealed, and delivered, you must next look out for some complaisant Editor of a Monthly Journal, Philosophical, Literary, or Medical, to insert these Analytical Essays, with some enticing preface; as, for instance, “We congratulate the public on the great discovery lately made on the lands of Mr. Macd——e, of a rich variety of Mineral Waters, whereby those who repair to the fountains of Benbibere, may henceforth be ac-

“ accompanied with all sorts of waters, saline, aperient, chalybeate, or sulphuric, according to their several fancies and necessities.” A spacious pump room, of the form and dimensions of a Greek temple, must next be built; beneath the flooring of which you must excavate several tanks, which are to be filled every night, by means of leaden pipes, laid under ground all the way from your well or fountain head, where you brew the mineral waters. And, lastly, to prevent the prying curiosity of your visitors, you must not neglect to build a sort of pigeon house, or Martello tower, over your fountain head, large enough to contain a stout forcing pump, and a large trough for your Glauber and Epsom salts, a few barrels of which you can stow there for use upon all occasions. This Martello tower you must place at some distance in the rear, and let a lawn, or hedge, or paling, intervene; clap a cannon on the top of it, to repel invaders; or, if you are afraid of using powder and shot against the king’s lieges, thatch it well at top, to conceal its importance, and stick upon it a board, painted to this effect, “ Take notice, that this is *no thoroughfare*, but a private road only, to *Hoaxall* farm; and whoever trespasses on this ground shall be prosecuted according to law.”

All around your pump room you must lay out plantations and walks, with shady trees and flowering

shrubs, and, having procured a band of pipers and fiddlers, with bass drums, &c. to titillate the auditory nerves of your visitors, while your waters are stirring up their great and small intestines, you may throw open the doors of your pump room to all hypochondriacs and true believers, who will assuredly flock by hundreds, and tens of hundreds, to the new spas of Benbibere, to seek the Goddess of Health, a statue of whom, for the sake of classical allusion, you had better place over your pump room, with a Latin motto beneath, from one of the old poets, as for instance,—*“ Utilis albo fluit, utilisque crumenæ ;”* or, in plain English, I hope this will be as good for your bowels, as it will be to my purse. I must not omit to mention that the waters, as required, must be forced up from the tanks beneath by a forcing pump, to pour it into small troughs some feet above the flooring, from whence it must descend into syphons, terminating in crystal stop cocks. This will make it hiss and sparkle in the cup, to the admiration of the drinkers, so as to deceive them with the appearance of strong gaseous impregnation, just as a knowing waiter plays off his stalest table-beer, by pouring it from a flaggon elevated over his head. One thing more you must not forget, which is, to have some of your water heated in coppers behind the pump room, to mix up and take off the chill from the cold waters for the sake of your more delicate female visitants.

When you have succeeded in bringing the spas of Benbibere into full fashion, you may then build a manufactory for the preparation of salts from your own springs. For this purpose, you must lay in a proper store of Glauber and Epsom salts, together with a quantity of Sal Polychrest, (the salt of many virtues, of the old chemists,) the sulphate of potash of the moderns; not, indeed, that this was ever yet found in a mineral water since the days of the deluge, but it has this good and notable quality, that it communicates a solidity and most singular form of crystallization to your salts, which cannot be attained by any other mode; and which serves to puzzle all the apothecaries and chemists, at home and abroad, who will never dream of finding *vegetable* alkali in the salts of a *mineral* water. And, besides, you may then persuade the world that the salts from your wells are of so marvellous a nature, that you are warranted in charging them at about twelve times their real value; and thus you will obtain eight or ten shillings per pound for *that* salt which any of the manufacturing chemists of Wolverhampton will be glad to furnish to you, wholesale, at the rate of sixpence or eightpence. To be brief: the best proportions for your new salt you will find to be, one part of sulphate of potash, six parts of Glauber's salt, and two of Epsom salt, with half a part of sea salt, which last will render it *more palatable*. This compound salt you may dry,

and grind, and twist up in all sorts of forms, and baptize it the real Benbibere effloresced, magnesian, chalybeate, alkaline salt. Put it up in strong glass bottles, labelled with directions for use; and be careful not to omit pasting regular stamps over the stoppers, lest the Excise-office should pounce upon you.

Pursuing these plans, my dear Macd——e, for a few years, you cannot fail to realize a magnificent fortune; and if you can but carry on the farce with due perseverance, and avoid shewing all symptoms of fear, whenever you may hear of the sudden deaths of any of your new customers, and not neglect, moreover, to breed up one or two of your sons to be writers to the signet, or attorneys, as we call them here, to threaten with legal actions all those who may venture to write against the *orthodoxy* of your waters, you may, I think, live long enough to buy up the estates of half the spendthrift young lairds of your county. The greatest danger, and indeed almost the only risk that I can anticipate to your plans, is, lest, peradventure, in after years, some saturnine physician of the Scotch school, should set himself down, like a plain matter-of-fact man, to practise his profession honestly in your village, when, if he should discover the cunning game you have been so long playing off on the public, and of which he also has been the dupe, then “*the Lord have mercy upon you;*” for I should think

it very likely it will fare with you, as it did with an impudent fellow in Spain, who employed an ecclesiastic to perform the funeral service of the Catholic church over the carcase of a dead donkey, by telling him he was interring a rich old miller; for the priest, having discovered the imposition, from the impulse of honest indignation, had the hoaxer consigned to the dungeons of the Inquisition, where he soon after died, from being forced to banquet on his own water—a mode of punishment, as you may have heard in Spain, not unknown to that humane body, and which, indeed, was threatened against the rebellious Jews in the Old Testament.—Farewell.

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[As soon as this Letter was made public, the following Answer, by an Oxonian, appeared;—no part of the money transaction, or subsequent confessions, being at that time known.]

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it very likely it will turn out you as it did with an  
 important fellow in Spain, who employed an Italian  
 native to perform the funeral services of the Catholic  
 church over the corpse of a dead soldier, by telling  
 him he was suffering a rib old soldier; for the purpose of  
 having the corpse the reputation, from the nature of  
 honest indignation, but the being considered to the  
 dangerous of the position, when he soon after died,  
 from being forced to depart on his own water-  
 mode of punishment as you may have heard in Spain,  
 not unknown to that humane body, and which in  
 deed, was threatened against the rebellious Jews in  
 the Old Testament. — Historically.

The first of these is the case of the Jews in Spain,  
 who were expelled from that country in 1492, and  
 who were afterwards expelled from Portugal in 1496,  
 and from France in 1530. The Jews were expelled  
 from England in 1290, and from the Netherlands  
 in 1492. The Jews were expelled from the  
 Kingdom of Castile in 1492, and from the  
 Kingdom of Aragon in 1492. The Jews were  
 expelled from the Kingdom of Sicily in 1492, and  
 from the Kingdom of Naples in 1492. The Jews  
 were expelled from the Kingdom of Hungary in 1492,  
 and from the Kingdom of Poland in 1492. The  
 Jews were expelled from the Kingdom of Bohemia  
 in 1492, and from the Kingdom of Moravia in 1492.

The second of these is the case of the Jews in  
 Portugal, who were expelled from that country in  
 1496. The Jews were expelled from Portugal in  
 1496, and from the Kingdom of Castile in 1492.  
 The Jews were expelled from the Kingdom of  
 Castile in 1492, and from the Kingdom of  
 Aragon in 1492. The Jews were expelled from  
 the Kingdom of Sicily in 1492, and from the  
 Kingdom of Naples in 1492. The Jews were  
 expelled from the Kingdom of Hungary in 1492,  
 and from the Kingdom of Poland in 1492. The  
 Jews were expelled from the Kingdom of Bohemia  
 in 1492, and from the Kingdom of Moravia in 1492.

HINTS  
TO  
A PHYSICIAN,  
ON THE  
Opening of his Medical Career,  
AT  
CHELTENHAM.

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AS you are now settled with a view of practising in Cheltenham, allow me to offer you a few hints as to the measures you ought to adopt, in order to ensure that success, which even your talents and conciliatory disposition could not absolutely command.

I need not remind you that it is highly advantageous in your profession, to publish something, no matter how trite, as a genteel method of advertising yourself to the public, in fact, as *a peg to hang your name upon*.—Now, if this common-place way of making yourself known be found useful, surely some production, which might have the merit of originality, although indeed it had none other, would be doubly so.

The first consideration then will be, on what subject you are to write. Oh! of course on the Cheltenham Waters.—I must confess it will not be easy to write any thing new of them, if you handle the subject as others have done before you. What think you then of decrying them? There will be something novel in that; and every discussion of their efficacy will naturally, therefore, be an introduction to *your* name. Be careful, however, that you are not too dashing in your assertions. Recollect that your wings are only waxen; they will not bear to be exposed to the powerful beams of candid investigation; and if you should fall, your name may perhaps be attached to these waters in as disagreeable a way as that of poor Icarus to the Ægean: “Icarus Icarias nomine fecit aquas.”

Do not imagine, however, from what I have said, that I recommend you to decry the waters of *all* the spas indiscriminately; by so doing you would overshoot your mark: for if you could expect that the public would pay any serious attention, or attach any weight to your observations, you must also expect that the natural consequence of the ruin of these spas would be the desertion of the town for some other mineral springs, which may perhaps faintly resemble these, and which may happen to be in the more immediate neighbourhood of the invalid.

It might not, perhaps, under the remote probability of your having this influence on the public mind, be amiss, *en passant*, to flatter the national prejudices of your different readers by reminding them of their own national springs: "Are not Abana and Pharphar, waters of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?" This may assist you in ingratiating yourself with some of your readers, and will perhaps benefit Leamington, Gloucester, or Melksham; which may not be amiss, as, in the event of a failure at Cheltenham, they will be so many more strings to your bow.

I submit this to your consideration, but should suggest, that it would be better that you should allow there is *one* well at Cheltenham which has some efficacy; for this will not only be sufficient to save the credit of the place, and yourself from the blankets of the inhabitants; but may perhaps induce the proprietor of the favoured well to establish a reciprocity of patronage, as an acknowledgment to you; or what think you of his presenting you with an urn, with such an inscription as this?—

—————"Iterum inter omnes  
 "Fons meus præstat, velut inter ignes  
 "Luna minores."————

Suppose, for instance, that you adopt the old well, you may give Dr. Fothergill's analysis of it as it

was upwards of thirty years since, as it seems to have been at that time somewhat different from what the Montpelier Spa is now. It is true, that since that time, in consequence of the well not yielding more than thirty-five pints in an hour, which was not sufficient for three hundred drinkers, the depth has been increased from about ten to seventy feet, and the contents of the waters are consequently changed, so that at present they are precisely the same with those of Mr. Thompson. This, however, *if* you know it, it is not *your* business to make public.

Having adopted your well, you may next add the complaints of some of your patients against the others, and attribute all failures to the circumstance of their not having drunk the one *real and inartificial water*. Do not be alarmed at the idea of speaking of your *patients*; you can hardly be brought to book for that; and it will look well, and lead *strangers* to believe that you **REALLY** *have some*.

With regard to the difference of the constituent parts of the waters, according to the analysis, to which I before alluded, you must find some great fault in the well you do *not* patronize. But be cautious that your eagerness to depreciate the other well does not lead you to deny to a substance its natural properties, merely because you do not like the whole, of which

that forms a part; as, I understand, has been done lately by some Gentleman, who asserts that “*muriate of soda does not act on the bowels.*” By the way, it is a chance if this does not raise a mutiny in the navy; for the sailors will never consent to eat salt junk again, every pound of which must contain nearly *an ounce of salt*, when they hear that a gentleman at Cheltenham died of an apoplectic attack, in consequence of having drunk four half-pints of a water containing only a drachm and a half of common salt. Beware how you make an assertion, the falsehood of which would be detected even by the Lady Bountiful of a country village, whose young hopeful, just returned to spend the midsummer holidays, might show his turn for quotation by exclaiming,

“*Quæ te felicia sæcla*

“*Moribus opponunt, habent jam Roma pudorem.*”

One word more. Should the proprietor of the other Spa fairly offer to allow you the means of analysing the water as it flows into the well, reject the offer in toto, as you will then not be obliged to know that you are saying the thing that is not.

With these cautions the scheme may not be amiss; but without such *management*, you may find that, like the giant in eastern story, you have hurled

a rock into the air, which will fall on your own head; and, as a bad advocate always weakens the cause he espouses, instead of ruining Cheltenham, which many will suppose to be your object, you will prove a Midas to this second Pactolus\*.

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\* Should your little boy happen to say, "Pray, papa, who was Midas?" you must tell him only a part of the story—That Midas was a Lydian prince, on whom Apollo had inflicted some severe punishment, and to whom Bacchus, in order to gild the pill, had, at the monarch's own request, given the power of converting all he touched into gold. Finding however, that this chrysopoietic property considerably inconvenienced his chylopoietic viscera, he prayed Bacchus to deprive him of it; to which the god assented, and to effect the cure, ordered him to bathe in the Pactolus, whose waters ever after rolled over sands of gold.—Should the child then ask, "But why did Apollo punish him, and what was the punishment?" you must evade the question, as it would be awkward, *in your circumstances*, to be obliged to relate, that the god adorned his head with an emblematic pair of *ass's ears*, in consequence of his having given an absurd judgment on the merits of a case brought before him.

*The following Handbill was issued by the Proprietors of the Montpelier, Sherborne, and Old Well.*

TO THE PUBLIC.

DR. NEALE having ventured, in a late publication, to insinuate without the slightest foundation, (and that, too, after declining a personal inspection of the wells, and the manufactory of salts,) that the proprietors of the Cheltenham Spas “possess a secret manner of adding to the strength of their mineral waters, and thereby reap a rich harvest from the credulity of their visitors:” and also to imply, that the waters are factitious. The proprietors feel called upon to offer a public refutation of this malignant and atrocious fabrication. They beg leave to invite the most public scrutiny of their several wells and establishments, by which the falsehood of the insinuation will become apparent, and they will feel obliged to any person who will have the kindness to examine them.

They also presume to suggest the propriety of a public meeting of the Visitors and Inhabitants, which they will be most happy to attend, and concur in any steps that may be suggested for the due investigation of this important subject.

JAMES MATTHEWS,  
HENRY THOMPSON,  
J. COSENS.

June 13, 1820.

*For Harward and Cossens.*

In reply to which Doctor Neale sent forth the subjoined appeal—

TO THE PUBLIC.

A PRINTED hand-bill having appeared this evening, bearing the signatures of three persons, styling themselves proprietors of the mineral waters of Cheltenham, wherein, after garbling and misquoting a passage in Dr. Neale's pamphlet, these persons gratuitously and spontaneously apply it to themselves, and charge Dr. Neale with having preferred a "*malignant and atrocious fabrication*" against them:—Dr. Neale hereby repels the charge upon its authors with the contempt and indignation it merits, and pledges himself to produce the most satisfactory evidence in support of his pamphlet, whenever, these three personages shall bring forward the question in a tangible form, to be discussed before a British court of justice, where only, as they well know, the whole truth can be fairly and properly investigated, and all the requisite witnesses examined upon oath.

ADAM NEALE, M. D.

Cheltenham, June 13, 1820.

This was followed up on the part of the proprietors by a requisition for a public meeting:—viz.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

The proprietors of the spas at Cheltenham request a public meeting of the Inhabitants and Visitors of Cheltenham and its vicinity, at the Assembly Rooms, this day, (Thursday,) at one o'clock, in order to take into consideration the recent publication of a pamphlet by Dr. Neale, tending to prove injurious to the reputation of the waters and salts of Cheltenham, and to adopt the most effectual means for investigating the actual state of the wells, and the manufactory for salts.

JAMES MATTHEWS,  
HENRY THOMPSON,  
J. COSSENS.

June 15, 1820.

*For Harward and Cossens.*

The following resolutions were the result of the meeting to which we have just referred.—Be it observed, that Dr. Neale was invited to attend this meeting, but did not appear.

At a Public Meeting, held at the Assembly Rooms, Cheltenham, June 15, 1820, for the purpose of taking into consideration the pamphlet published by Dr. Neale, Thomas Gray, Esq. having been called to the Chair:—

*It was unanimously resolved,*

THAT a paper be left at the bar of these rooms, at ten o'clock to-morrow morning, to receive the names of fifteen gentlemen visitors, who may offer their names for the formation of a committee to investigate the state of the mineral wells and salt manufactory of this place.

RESOLVED—That at the request of the proprietors of the wells, Dr. Neale be authorised to nominate eight persons more upon this committee, and that he be invited to attend any investigation that may be had in consequence of their proceedings.

RESOLVED—That these resolutions be published in the Cheltenham Chronicle.

T. GRAY, Chairman.

The chairman having quitted the chair, it was resolved, that the thanks of this meeting are due to him for his steady and impartial conduct therein.

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With the following affidavits we resign the Doctor to the public opinion.

Thomas Henney, of Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester, maketh oath and saith, that he has at-

attended the sinking of the wells, management and conducting of the Sherborne Spa, Cheltenham, from the period the wells were sunk to the present time; and that no Epsom, Glauber, or any other salts whatsoever, have at any time been put into the wells, introduced or brought into the Sherborne pump-room, for the purpose of mixing with the waters, and that whatever is drank therein, is the produce of the springs belonging to and adjoining the said Sherborne Spa; he further declares that the saline waters are not pumped into tanks the night previous to drinking, but are constantly running from the springs into the drifts and shaft beneath the pump room; and this deponent further saith, that he maketh this his affidavit without any equivocation, mental reservation or self evasion of mind whatsoever.

T. HENNEY.

Sworn before us, two of his Majesty's Justices  
for the county of Gloucester, this 20th  
day of June, 1820.

W. H. PRINN,  
JAS. CLUTTERBUCK.

T. Henney, as one of the proprietors of the Sherborne Spa, feels it right to publish the above affidavit, and considers the same, with the eminent benefit received by those who have used the waters, as a complete answer to any malicious design or invidious insinuation made against them.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

James Davison, assistant pumper at the Sherborne Spa, Cheltenham, upon his solemn oath, saith, that he hath been employed at the Sherborne Spa ever since the wells were sunk by the proprietors, and that he, this deponent, is quite positive, that the waters drank by the subscribers to the said spa, are pure; and that no Epsom, Glauber, or any other salts, or any thing whatsoever, has at any time been put into the wells, introduced or brought into the pump room, for the purpose of mixing with the waters, and whatever is drank therein is the produce of the springs belonging to and adjoining the Sherborne Spa, the pumps being entrusted to his care; he further declares, that the saline water is *not* pumped into reservoirs the night previous to drinking, but is constantly running from the springs into the drifts and shaft beneath the pump room.

JAMES DAVISON.

Sworn before me, one of the Magistrates for  
the county of Gloucester, this 16th day  
of June, 1820.

ROBERT CAPPER.

James Davison is in constant attendance at the Sherborne Spa, and will give the utmost information to any person desirous of making enquiries.

The following letter is worthy of attention; it was addressed to Doctor Neale, by Mr. Pearson Thompson:—

SIR,

Your friend Captain Smyth has shewn me this morning, the proof of a pamphlet, which I was told you intend publishing to the world in a few days. Having perused it very carefully, and being willing to imagine that you have asserted many things in it from hearsay only, and not from your own actual knowledge; I take this opportunity of giving you permission to examine all my father's wells, in any way you please; and you have perfect liberty to make any experiment on the waters that flow into them; his manufactory for salts will also be open to you, when you may see the water from which, and the manner in which, his Cheltenham salts are made. Also, all or any of the men now at work in and about his manufactory, as well as those who have been discharged from his employ, shall be sent to you, if you please, that you may examine and interrogate them in any way you may think proper, respecting their several occupations. These offers are made you, that you may not at any future time, when the truth of the contents of your work will be put to the test, offer by way of excuse, that an improper concealment of my

father's concerns has been made, or any information relating to them, withheld from you or the public. I cannot conclude this letter without assuring you, that it is not in your power, nor in the power of any individual, to prove one single instance of adulteration, either in my father's water or salts, for the best of all reasons, because none ever existed; and I shall be astonished indeed if your work on the Cheltenham waters and salts, of which so much has been said, ever appears before the public.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

PEARSON THOMPSON.

May 20, 1820.

#### DR. NEALE'S REPLY.

SIR,

The proof sheets of my pamphlet on the waters of Cheltenham were entrusted to my friend Captain Smyth to shew you, because it was intimated to me by Mr. Kingston, that it was your earnest wish to know the contents before the pamphlet was published. It was therefore a matter of courtesy on my part to permit you to hear them read. As the drift of my pamphlet consists in proving to my medical brethren that there is an essential difference between the contents of the spas in this place; and that their effects on the human

body must be co-ordinate thereto: and as my reasoning is entirely medical, of which I believe you are not a competent judge, I think myself warranted in concluding that I am not likely to be much enlightened by interrogating your father's workmen, or inspecting your eighty and four wells. As to the salts, I intend to prove to the world, that you can manufacture them at the cost of one shilling, or rather less per pound, and therefore that the charge of eight shillings is enormous; and lastly, that a solution of Glauber salts in pump water, is equally efficacious, and much more safe than your water numbered four; and that therefore it is highly ridiculous for any physician to send his patients from remote parts of these kingdoms to drink such a water which can so easily be prepared elsewhere.

As to your vapouring and threats of a prosecution, I hold them as cheap as I do the bolstering up of your vaunted eighty-four wells; and I hope that you will henceforth feel, that what belongs to my office, as a guardian of the public health, is completely at variance with your interest, as a vender of purgative salts, and mineral waters.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

ADAM NEALE.

May 20, 1820.

[*Here follows the Doctor's celebrated "CONFESSIO," which was wrung from him on being told by a friend, "that he must either prove his assertions, read his recantation, or be turned out of society."*]

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### TO THE PUBLIC.

The moment has arrived when I feel it due to my own character, and to the deference I owe to the public opinion, to declare openly and explicitly the whole circumstances which led to the publication of the pamphlet which has excited so much discussion.

On the 13th day of April last, I met Captain Matthews (then a stranger to me,) by his own appointment, at the house of Captain Smyth, and at this interview we held a conversation in the presence of Captain Smyth, as to a publication which I intended making on the nature and properties of the waters, and on the superior qualities which I had satisfied myself existed in those of the Original Spa, of which Captain Matthews was tenant.

Captain Matthews entered into a discussion of the subject without reserve, and declared to me, in the presence of Captain Smyth, that the soil of Cheltenham only produced three species of mineral wa-

itters, and that the water served out as number four was factitious, that is to say, that a quantity of Glauber salts was dissolved and added to it, in its passage from the well to the reservoir, where it was kept for delivery.

As from my previous conversations with Captain Smyth, it appeared to me, that the publication intended was a fair and legitimate discussion of the nature of the several springs, and that it would be to the ultimate advantage of the public to investigate the relative proportions of the contents of these waters, and state my own reason in support of the opinions I had adopted; moreover, as it seemed that this would be an auspicious commencement towards bringing back public opinion to that identical spa water on which the character of Cheltenham was founded, and as it was Captain Matthews's wish to retrace his own steps as to his having adopted number four, I readily coincided in promising my assistance. Certain advantages were held out to me, as likely to arise to myself, individually, from this undertaking, as all the expenses of advertising, printing and publishing the pamphlet were to be defrayed by Captain Matthews, as well as whatever expenses might arise, should I be exposed to legal proceedings from the revenge or resentment of the other proprietors; in short, I was to be borne out harmless in the affair, and was

offered, verbally, a subsequent interest to accrue, conditionally.

In the week following, on the 18th day of the month, Captain Matthews called upon me, to accompany him to his wells, and then led me round the grounds to taste the several waters. In so doing, he took me into a small orchard, in which was a pump, and the machinery employed in mixing up and preparing number four, and which I understood to be similar to that in use at the other spas. Next day Captain Matthews sent me four corked bottles, containing the waters of his wells, numbered from one to four inclusive. The pamphlet was commenced, and after several delays, in printing, revising, and altering, it was offered to Captain Matthews for his perusal, which he declined: meanwhile the pamphlet had been advertised in the Cheltenham newspaper, and a gentleman, who requested himself to be introduced to me, took an opportunity of stating, that he was a particular friend of Mr. Thompson, who was most desirous of having some idea of my pamphlet before it was actually published. This gentleman called repeatedly at my house, inquiring whether the pamphlet was ready, and when the proof sheets came down for correction; under the impression that this gentleman had been employed by Mr. Thompson confidently, I very imprudently permitted Captain Smyth to shew it to

Mr. Thompson, the younger, as a matter of courtesy. Mr. Thompson, it appears was violently enraged, and came the same day to my house, when being from home, he asked to see Mrs. Neale, with whom he wished to leave an angry message, threatening me with every sort of legal action, if I dared or presumed to publish the pamphlet. Mrs. Neale having declined receiving this message, Mr. P. Thompson the same evening sent me a letter couched in very imperious terms, which I answered in a similar, and not very conciliatory tone.

Two days after the pamphlet arrived in Cheltenham, a violent handbill was produced by the proprietors of the wells, and to my surprise I perceived the name of Mr. Matthews foremost in the list, denouncing me to the public as "a malignant and atrocious fabricator of insinuations against the waters." To this I replied, deprecating their having gratuitously and spontaneously applied my jocularities to themselves, and pledging myself to produce, in a court of justice, legal evidence in support of my pamphlet. A public meeting was called, to which I was invited, but which I of course declined.

These are, I believe, all the material facts connected with the affair, and I lay them thus candidly and openly before the public, in order that they may

form a judgment how far I was warranted in pursuing the line of argument and insinuation which I have followed in my pamphlet. Having been placed, unreservedly, in possession of so important a fact, as to the composition of number four, that water which is now drank by ninety-five people out of every hundred, and that too, most frequently without the advice or concurrence of any medical man on the spot, it secured to me an imperious duty not to conceal it.

Reflecting upon the whole transaction, and the motives for my own conduct, I cannot see any just grounds for the public outcry, which my friends inform me has been raised to my prejudice. With the feelings of a professional man, I was assured I could not in conscience lend myself to support any system, which had for its basis so palpable an imposition, and having had the whole matter so completely placed before my eyes, by one of the proprietors of the spa himself, to the conviction of every sense, and with the fullest powers to avail myself of it, and having good grounds for believing that the same operation was carried on at all the other wells, assured too that it was the wish of Captain Matthews, to retrace his own steps as to the management of the spa, it was my determination to make it public, whatever might be the consequences to myself, individually; persuaded that the reputation of Cheltenham, as a watering place, can

only be supported by fair and legitimate means, and that all spurious imitations or fabrications, so far from being innocent, must prove positively injurious in numerous cases; and convinced that all the best and dearest interests of society are united and promoted by a strict adherence to truth, I came forward as the friend of those interests, to enter my protest against a deviation so mischievous.

The welfare of families and individuals is deeply involved in so delicate a question, and I cannot coincide in the opinion, that the interests of any single town, or any body of men, are to be upheld to the positive detriment of the rest of the community. The public will soon feel, that the conduct I have pursued is calculated to do service, both to the town and society in general, and by removing, for ever, all doubts and misgivings (which I well know have existed for years in the minds of medical men residing at a distance,) that the character of the real Cheltenham waters will be more securely established.

Lastly, I do not conceive that any blame can be imputed to me for having permitted my own individual interests to be mixed up with a public duty, conceiving that they were not incompatible, and hoping that whatever of error may be imputed to me,

still that the benefit which I intended and hoped to have conferred on society, will prove an apology,

And remain,

With a firm reliance on the impartial decision of the public,

Their devoted servant,

ADAM NEALE, M. D.

Cheltenham, June 17, 1820.

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[*We leave the public to make their own comments on this extraordinary production:—And in order to preserve the regularity of detail, we shall here insert three additional affidavits.*]

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Thomas Manning, pumper at the Montpelier Spas, Cheltenham, maketh oath and saith, that he has been employed at the Montpelier Spas by Mr. Thompson, since the year 1808, and that he is positive that the waters drank at those wells are pure, and that no Epsom, Glauber, or any other salts, or any thing whatsoever, has at any time been put into the wells, or introduced, or brought into the pump room for the purpose of mixing with the waters, and

whatever is drank therein, is the produce of the  
 springs belonging to the Montpelier pump room, the  
 pumps being entrusted to his care. He also declares  
 that the solution which is asked for and given in a  
 memorandum to the company, is a solution of Cheltenham  
 salts made by evaporating the Cheltenham water, at  
 Mr. Thompson's manufactory, and not of Glauber, or  
 Epsom salts.

THOMAS MANNING.

Sworn at Cheltenham, this 19th day of June, 1820.

JAS. CLUTTERBUCK.

Samuel Bendal, maketh oath and saith, that he  
 hath been employed by Mr. Thompson, as a well  
 digger, from time to time, since the year 1809, that  
 he is quite positive all the waters that are drank at  
 the Montpelier pump room as well as the waters  
 which are conveyed to Mr. Thompson's manufactory  
 for salts, are pure, and the natural products of the  
 Cheltenham Spas, that Mr. Thompson has at least  
 eighty wells over an extent of two hundred acres of  
 land, the greater part of which he has himself assisted  
 in digging.

SAMUEL BENDAL.

Sworn at Cheltenham, this 19th day of June, 1820.

JAS. CLUTTERBUCK.

George Williams, maketh oath and saith, that he has been employed by Mr. Thompson since the year 1808, to superintend his manufactory for salts, that he is quite positive that all the Cheltenham salts that have been made by Mr. Thompson have been made wholly from the waters of his spas which are daily pumped into the manufactory by two men who are employed solely for that purpose and that no Epsom, Glauber, or any other salts have at any time been put into the Cheltenham water which has been sent down for boiling, or introduced in any way into Mr. Thompson's manufactory.

G. WILLIAMS.

Sworn at Cheltenham, this 19th day of June, 1820.

JAS. CLUTTERBUCK.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

Doctor Neale having published an address to the public, wherein he states, that "the moment has arrived in which he feels it due to his own character to declare openly and explicitly the whole circumstances which have led to the publication of his pamphlet,"—and having thought proper most grossly to

traduce me, I feel it due to my character—to my family—and to my friends—to declare yet *more* openly and explicitly, every thing that occurred between Doctor Neale, Captain Smyth, and myself, not only before, but since the publication of his pamphlet—and I pledge myself to the public, by the recollection of a long life of honourable reputation, for the incontrovertible truth of the following statements, which I persuade myself, will at once show to the world how far I have been the unsuspecting dupe of Captain Smyth and Doctor Neale.

In the month of March, during Captain Smyth's memorable canvass for the situation of M. C. I had some conversation with him, in the course of which he stated, that *he could be of essential service to the old well, if he were made some compensation for it*; that he would go to Bath, Clifton, London, and other places, and that he would send every body to the old well: that *he should be satisfied with five shillings in the pound*, upon the subscriptions that should be received through his recommendation, but that he would leave *any further recompense* to be given him as I pleased, at the end of the year.—To this I replied, that I did not think the plan would answer, for that the expenses would be greater than the benefit derived; but that, at all events, he had better stop till the election was over, and if he succeeded to

the office of M. C. he would not be in need of any such remuneration. In a few days after, I went to London, where I remained for three weeks, and on the day after my return I received a message from Captain Smyth, requesting, as he was lame, that I would call on him at his house; I accordingly called in the morning, when he stated, that "*as I had served him to the utmost of my power in his canvass, he now had an opportunity of returning the obligation, as there was a pamphlet coming out by Dr. Neale, which spoke favourably of the old well, and which would be extensively circulated in London, Dublin, Edinburgh, and other places which would be very expensive; and that Dr. Neale expected for his trouble, the sum of ONE HUNDRED POUNDS: and likewise a compensation at the end of the year, for all the patients he recommended to the old well.*"—This I positively affirm was the first intimation I ever had of Doctor Neale's intention.—Captain Smyth then said it was necessary that I should see Dr. Neale on the business as soon as possible; and I had better drink tea with him in the evening, when he would send for Dr. Neale to meet me there; to this I assented:—and in the evening, before Dr. Neale came, Captain Smyth said to me, "*the work is ready for the public, and no time is now to be lost; Dr. Neale is poor and wants money.*" I then asked what I should give, he said one hundred pounds *down*; which I promised

to give when I returned from town, where I was going a second time. On Dr. Neale's arrival, Captain Smyth informed him that he had made the proposal to me, and that I had consented to it; but it must be observed, that I knew nothing more of the contents of the pamphlet than that it was favourable to the old well;—nor did any conversation pass between Dr. Neale and myself as to the nature of the publication. Captain Smyth stated to Dr. Neale, in my presence, that he had agreed with me, as to the sum he was to have, and the further sum at the end of the year. Dr. Neale assented without asking any question, or in any way stating the contents of his book. We then parted;—but Captain Smyth afterwards waited upon me, and wished to have a private conference with me, which Mrs. Matthews prevented. After my second return from London, I waited on Dr. Neale, at his house in the High-Street, and gave him the promised sum of one hundred pounds, in ten notes of £10 each, of the Bank of Messrs. Turner and Co. *and stated when I gave it, that it was given solely because I had given my word to that effect, through Captain Smyth.* Dr. Neale took the money and put it under his writing-desk, and merely made some remarks on the analyses of Dr. Fothergill and Messrs. Brande and Parke, in favour of the old well.—Subsequently to this payment of £100, Captain Smyth told me that Dr. Neale ought

to have some further remuneration out of the profits arising from the patients coming to the old well through his recommendation, when I agreed that Dr. Neale should have half the receipts that exceeded the receipts of 1818.—I now declare that *I never promised in any way, even by implication, to bear Dr. Neale harmless in case of a prosecution brought against him by the other proprietors,—nor was I to be in any way responsible for the expense of the publication, nor did I ever see it before it was given to the world.* Neither did I at any time directly or indirectly assert to Dr. Neale or Captain Smyth, that the water, No. 4, of Mr. Thompson's spa, or any of the waters of the Sherborne Spa, were factitious. It is, indeed true, that I did, *at Captain Smyth's particular solicitation*, accompany Dr. Neale to inspect my wells and to taste the waters; but I most positively deny having said any thing about using Glauber or other salts in No. 4, of the old well: though I do admit, that I told Dr. Neale that concentrated Cheltenham water was put into the cistern to add to the strength of the water, but never into the well. With respect to Dr. Neale asserting that I had shewn him the machinery used for No. 4, I most unequivocally declare that assertion to be false; the proof of which is, that there never was any machinery whatever in use on my premises, unless the cistern

used for containing the water, in its way to the pump room, may be called machinery. Captain Smyth came to me some time previous to the publication of Dr. Neale's pamphlet, and said, "you have promised Dr. Neale half the receipts above the produce of 1818, in consequence of his exertions in favour of the old well, but *life is uncertain*, and Dr. Neale ought to have something secured for his services *after your death*. Have you any objection to sign an agreement to that effect during your lease?" Captain Smyth then produced papers from his pocket, and I firmly believe that one of them was an agreement to bind my successors to the conditions then proposed by him—but which I declined signing, or otherwise acceding to.—On Friday last, subsequent to the public meeting of the 15th inst. Captain Smyth called upon me to inform me that Dr. Neale was in danger of being arrested, and said, how was he to get bail? To which I replied, he knows that best himself.

I now fearlessly submit this statement to the public, with a reliance upon the justice of those amongst whom I have passed so many years of my life in credit and esteem.—I now defy my calumniators to controvert one assertion contained in this defence of my character;—and I have a confident hope that when every circumstance is taken into consider-

ation, I shall be entitled to the sympathy rather than the censure of the world.

J. MATTHEWS.

*Cheltenham, June 21, 1820.*

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STATEMENT OF MRS. MATTHEWS.

Mrs. Matthews asserts that on the second day after Captain Smyth lost his election as M. C. he met Mrs. Matthews in the Cambray Street, when he requested to have a private conversation with Mrs. M. in the course of which he stated that "in consequence of the connexions he had formed during his late canvass, and from his Irish connexions, he could materially benefit the old well, by going to Bath, Leamington, Clifton, and London, from which places he would send subscribers to the old well, and that as Captain Matthews had served him so essentially during the late election, he would not ask Captain or Mrs. Matthews for any specific sum, but would leave it to their consideration to remunerate him at the end of the year."—To which communication Mrs. Matthews merely replied that she would mention it to Captain Matthews.—He then said, that in the event

of any thing happening to Captain Matthews—it would be in his power to take the active part, and be of service to Mrs. Matthews in the management of the old well.—Mrs. M. replied “she hoped no such event was at hand, but if it should unfortunately occur, she had a brother to whom she could look for assistance.” Captain Smyth afterwards waited on Captain Matthews and wished to have a *private conference* with him, but which Mrs. Matthews prevented, and “insisted on knowing the nature of their private meetings, as she conceived he had introduced her husband to a man, who by writing against the Cheltenham waters, would ultimately ruin the town.—That to such people as Captain Smyth and Dr. Neale, who possessed no property in Cheltenham, it was a matter of no moment, but that she, Mrs. Matthews, considered the consequence of such publications as Dr. Neale intended, as very serious.” Captain Smyth replied, that Mrs. Matthews wished by her conduct to prevent her husband deriving that benefit from the publication which it would be productive of to Captain Matthews, in a very great degree. Mrs. Matthews then said that she wished to derive no benefit from sources by which others would be injured; and, especially, that neither Captain Matthews nor herself wished to injure Mr. Thompson’s well.—On which Captain Smyth observed “why should you be so tenacious of injuring Mr. Thompson, when he

has raised his fabric upon your husband's shoulders?" Mrs. Matthews concluded by saying the property purchased by Mr. Thompson, had been set up to public sale—and that as the proprietors of the old well had not thought it advisable to purchase it, Mr. Thompson was justified in making the most of it. He then said, that if he might not communicate with Captain Matthews *alone* and *not in the presence of Mrs. Matthews*, that he must look upon the business between Dr. Neale and Captain Matthews at an end. To which Captain Matthews replied "certainly—but that as the £100 had been promised, it should be given:—with respect to the pamphlet, if one sixpence would promote or retard the publication of Dr. Neale's pamphlet, he would not give it."

*Cheltenham, June 21, 1820.*

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Captain Matthews's statement appeared in the Cheltenham Chronicle of Thursday, June 22, 1820, which produced the following handbill from Captain Smyth.

"The public are requested to suspend their judgment on the statements of Captain and Mrs. Matthews, published this morning in the Cheltenham

Chronicle, until Thursday next, that Captain Smyth's answer may pass through the same channel, for the further information of the public."

*Cheltenham, June 22, 1820.*

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[Captain B. on seeing the above at Williams's Library, immediately pencilled the following impromptu :—

"Suspend your judgment, the gallant Captain cries,  
"Suspend *yourself*, good Sir, the town replies."]

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[*A wag having issued a Handbill immediately on the appearance of Captain Smyth's, stating that in his opinion "Suspension for a short time only would answer every useful purpose." This caused Captain Smyth not to delay, as intended, his Statement until the next week, but produced it forthwith.*]

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### TO THE PUBLIC.

After an acquaintance and friendship with Captain Matthews of some years standing, I feel it a painful duty to be forced to stand forward thus publicly to rebut his harsh charges and most *cruel* insinuations against my *character*.

For a long time Captain Matthews had been in the habit of conversing with me confidentially, as to

the affairs of his well, and I had offered him freely any occasional ideas of my own, as to improving its success; with which intention also I had recommended such of my friends as came to Cheltenham to subscribe to Captain M.'s well. In return, during my canvass and ballot for the M. C. Captain M. had exerted himself very warmly in my behalf, and thus we were living in a mutual interchange of good offices.

This being premised, I shall now mention in due order what points in Captain and Mrs. Matthews's statements are correct, and what erroneous. First then, I did offer my active co-operation and services in support of the well, as is correctly stated by Mrs. Matthews, but not on the terms of a *poundage of five shillings*, as mentioned by Captain M. but that I expected to be made a partaker of the benefits arising from the well, if I became a party concerned; but on Mrs. Matthews declining my services, I, from that moment, relinquished *all* views of participating in the concern; however I still continued, from feelings of gratitude and friendship, very anxious to render Captain Matthews my best services. It was with this view, *solely*, I introduced him to Dr. Neale, conceiving his *pen* and professional *abilities* might, if dedicated to Captain Matthews's interest, be of essential benefit. At which introduction, a conversation respecting the

soil and waters of Cheltenham took place, and Captain M. most distinctly stated, that only *three* species of water existed in the soil, and that the water No. 4, was factitious, which he explained by saying that a quantity of salts were dissolved and added to it; and on Dr. Neale asking him in my presence if all the waters No. 4, were prepared in the same way, he answered "certainly, it must be so, there being only three kinds of water to be procured from the soil." As to the sum of £100, it was a voluntary offer on the part of Captain M. to Dr. N. nor did I ever state that Dr. N. was a poor man, because I knew nothing of his circumstances; and in point of fact, the question of pecuniary remuneration proceeded entirely from Captain M. and not from Dr. Neale; and on Captain M. referring to me on the subject, and offering a portion of increased profits, Dr. N. waived his acceptance, as being *much* beyond what he considered any services of his might deserve. When the printed address to the public signed by three proprietors appeared, Dr. N. immediately brought it to my house to know my sentiments thereon, and I then assured him that I would not believe Captain M. capable of such tergiversation, and advised the Doctor to write a note instantly to Captain M. to know whether he acknowledged the signature. Captain and Mrs. Matthews hastened immediately to my house, and, he, Captain Matthews, then acknowledged to me that he

had indeed done it, but that it was utterly impossible for him to avoid it, for had he not done so, he would have been suspected of having employed Dr. N. to write. I then told Captain M. that he ought sooner to have cut his hand off than signed any such paper. Mrs. M. then said he had been well advised in what he did; and Captain M. added that he had been urged in vain for three hours, and that when at last he added his signature, it was sorely against his own feelings: which assurance I continued to rely upon, because after the public meeting on the 15th, when I saw Captain M. on the morning following, in the High-Street, he took me into a glover's shop, called the Cheltenham House, and then put into my hands a letter written from Mr. Harris, in London, to Mr. P. Thompson, containing the result of a conference with Mr. Campbell on the subject of an intended prosecution by the three proprietors against Dr. Neale, and which he, Matthews, was then carrying to the house of his own professional advisers; and this letter he requested me to show to Dr. Neale, in order to put his mind at rest relative to legal proceedings, as he, Captain M. declared he would not join them in signing any more papers; and as the contents of this letter proved that the Lawyers in London were strongly of opinion that it would be very unwise to commence proceedings, although such an action might lie, and quoting the instance of some porter

brewery bringing an action against a party who said they put other materials besides malt and hops into their beer; this letter I did in fact show to Dr. Neale, and thereafter returned it into Captain Matthews's hands, who was waiting for me at Miss Roberts' shop. The last and most material point, as affecting my character, and which I most solemnly and explicitly declare to be *altogether false*, is the insinuation of Captain M. that I carried him a paper, which he asserts he firmly believes was an agreement for him to sign to bind himself and his successors to some alleged pecuniary recompense for Dr. Neale; I *never* had such a paper in my contemplation, *far less* in my possession, nor did such an idea ever, at *any time*, enter into my mind;—I have thus fairly, and explicitly, and I must add with most severe and painful feelings, made my statement of facts to the public, and as I trust exonerated myself completely from the objectionable points that were attempted to be affixed to my character by Captain and Mrs. M.—In conclusion I beg to say, that this *shall* be my *ultimate reply* to *any invidious insinuations*, and I now add, that I am most ready and willing to appear before any committee of gentlemen that may be appointed, to make my solemn oath to the truths of the facts herein stated. Still I conceive that my bare assertions will not be the less credited, because I have never yet

committed any one act to forfeit the respect and confidence of my friends, or the general good will of the public; and I remain in full confidence, in the purity of my actions, your obedient servant,

J. G. SMYTH.

*Cheltenham, June 22, 1820.*

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TO THE PUBLIC.

My notice of Captain Smyth's statement of yesterday shall be short and conclusive. He has not denied the material facts alleged in my statement of Wednesday last, but at the same time he has endeavoured to invalidate some of my assertions. Firm in the consciousness of having adhered to the truth—and truth alone, I shall now content myself with vouching in the most positive and solemn manner, for the assertions I have already made; and submit the subject to the candid and impartial decision of the public, to whom I pledge myself, by the unsullied character I have hitherto maintained, for the veracity of all that I have advanced.

J. MATTHEWS.

*June 23, 1820.*

From a pamphlet in answer to Dr. Neale, entitled "FACTS v. ASSERTION," by Mr. Halpin, we extract the three following queries put to Capt. Smyth, and which remain unanswered.

"Did Captain Smyth ever state that 'he had repeated applications made to him to stop the publication of Dr. Neale's pamphlet, but he should not, though he knew it would injure the town—for that they had put *him* (Capt. Smyth) *out of two thousand a year*, and they might take the consequence?'"

"Did he ever tell a certain proprietor of land and houses that his property would be worth fifty per cent. less, in consequence of Dr. Neale's publication; or that Mr. Thompson ought to have bought it up, if it had cost him one or two thousand pounds?"

"Did he ever write a letter partially to that effect?"

"Will Dr. Neale please to state whether he ever said that his publication would reduce Mr. Thompson's property five-sixths?"

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(The following production was the last issued by Dr. Neale, previous to his leaving the place.)

## TO THE INHABITANTS OF CHELTENHAM.

Some designing men have attempted to injure my character, and have succeeded perhaps in persuading you to believe that I really intended mischief to your town.

But consider for a few moments, and pause before you give such an opinion:—Examine well what I have said.—Do I not recommend your old established Original Well, and place it far above all those of Harrowgate, Leamington, and Melksham? Have I not even stated that I presumed that a few who had returned not cured from this place, most probably did not use the Old Well springs? Have I not thrown in the form of a burlesque, a satire upon all those little lilliputian watering places, which have of late arisen throughout the island, and which attempt to rival your old and authentic Spas? Some of my medical brethren may think it strange that I should have neglected our own interests in recommending our patients not to take quite so many drugs nor so much physic. But I would ask you, do you not think my opinion well intended, and true in point of fact? Let those who have been doing wrong wear the cap, if it fits them: at all events it ought not to be put on nor worn by Cheltenham. I only meant to fire a blank cartridge or two to scare the smugglers and pirates,

while I protected the peaceful fishermen who were dragging their nets. Let us hope all success then to the fisheries of Cheltenham, and may our pilgrims continue to be as numerous as those who once resorted to the fountains of Mecca and Medina, in Arabia.

I remain,

Your devoted servant,

ADAM NEALE, M. D.

P. S.—One of my medical brethren, (whom I shall not call “*Re Fututor Effæctus*”) looked very justly on my little bantling, as being only a tit of a mouse; but some of you shouted as loudly on beholding it, as if it had really been a hippo-poto mouse.

*Saint John's Day, 1820.*

CHELTHENHAM.

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*The following Extracts are taken from Dr. Reece's  
Monthly Gazette of Health.*

“When we were at Cheltenham about three years ago, we examined the waters of all the wells; and it is due to Mr. Thompson, the proprietor of the Mont-

pelier Wells, and to Captain Matthews of the Old Well, to say that they were desirous to give us every opportunity of obtaining the information we were in search of; and the results of our experiments and observations convinced us most satisfactorily that *all* the waters were natural products, and of course that the assertions we had so often heard made, viz. that some waters were artificial and the activity of others was increased by artificial means, were without the slightest foundation."

"Some months ago we analyzed the waters of the Sherborne Spa, and from its carbonates, or rather supercarbonates, they were evidently *native* products, and from the proportions of the different salts they produced, we have no hesitation in asserting that they are superior to many, and inferior to none that has hitherto been found in Cheltenham or any other part of this country. Dr. Neale has been driven to admit that his publication was hasty and indiscreet. It also appears evident, by the declaration of Captain Matthews and Captain Smyth (the doctor's friend), that the doctor was either directly or indirectly interested in puffing off the *Old Well*."

"Dr. Neale is evidently in a dilemma, from which, we suspect, all his ingenuity and skill, even with the aid he may receive from Edinburgh, or a certain apo-

thecary of Devonshire, of onion test notoriety, he will not be able to extricate himself, with the character of a sound and considerate physician. We wish him, however, a happy deliverance."

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He was delivered, with his friend Captain Smyth, (in effigy) into the hands of the mob, who burnt them in the Crescent, amid the huzzas of between two and three thousand spectators. The town having thus become *too hot* for them, they took their departure.

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In addition to what we have here collected, there has been published a very able Refutation by Thomas Newell, M. D. Physician Extraordinary to the King, in a letter addressed to the "Editor of the Literary Gazette;" a Refutation by Thomas Jameson, M. D.; also Captain Smyth's Address, analyzed, by Captain Brisac; with the following very appropriate quotation from Shakespear:—

"I have flattered a Lady; I have been politic with my Friend, smooth with mine Enemy; I have undone three Tailors; I have had **FOUR** quarrels, and **LIKE** to have fought **ONE**."

And with the following Reply, by Dr. M'Cabe, (author of "Observations on the Cheltenham Waters,") we conclude.

A  
**REPLY,**

ſc. ſc.

REPLY

TO THE  
MEMORIAL

PRESENTED TO  
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

IN THE YEAR 1841

BY  
REPLY

TO THE

MEMORIAL

PRESENTED TO

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

IN THE YEAR 1841

BY

REPLY

TO THE

MEMORIAL

PRESENTED TO

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

**A REPLY**  
TO  
**DR. NEALE'S PAMPHLET,**  
RESPECTING THE  
*NATURE AND PROPERTIES*  
OF THE  
**MINERAL WELLS**  
OF  
**Cheltenham.**

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**BY JAMES M'CABE, M. D.**

Graduate of the University of Edinburgh; late Surgeon of the Royal  
York Rangers; Author of "Observations on the  
Cheltenham Waters," &c. &c.

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"ADHUC SUB JUDICE LIS EST."—HORAT.

**Cheltenham :**

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AND LONGMAN AND CO. LONDON,  
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# A REPLY

TO

DR. NEAUME'S PAMPHLET

1811

RESPECTING THE

NATURE AND PROPERTIES

OF THE

WATER OF SEACREST

BY

W. H. WELLS

BY JAMES MCCABE, M.D.

Professor of the History of Edinburgh; late Professor of the Royal  
Medicine; Author of "Observations on the  
"Essence of Water," &c. &c.

"I have read with interest the 'Essence of Water'."

W. H. WELLS

PRINTED FOR J. A. WILKINS, STATIONER,  
AND BOOKSELLER, AND FOR J. WILSON,  
BY T. AND J. BROWN, STATIONERS, Edinburgh.

## INTRODUCTION.

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To place any subject in a ridiculous point of view, is the most certain way to make it contemptible ; and the effect of ridicule will be found successful in proportion to the gravity or importance of the object against which it is directed. Health is surely a subject of very grave importance to every individual, yet we defy even an invalid to read the pamphlet, to which the following pages are intended as a reply, and to retain throughout his gravity of countenance ; although the object of ridicule, that is, the Cheltenham Waters, are perhaps essentially necessary to his recovery.

Such being the character of Dr. Neale's pamphlet, it is well calculated to injure the waters of Cheltenham, by directing against them the shafts of ridicule, particularly in the

estimation of those that have never experienced their beneficial effects, and who will not take the trouble to examine his arguments, or the assumptions on which they are founded. To direct attention to these circumstances, so as to enable the public to form an unprejudiced opinion, has been the object of the author of this pamphlet; and should he have succeeded, the family of the Macd—e's\*, neither in the present nor succeeding generations, will have any occasion to “baptize,” “effloresced,”—“magnesian,” or “alkaline salts,” nor to “titillate with music the auditory nerves of their visitors,” while drinking the waters of the spas of “Benbibere.”

*Cheltenham, 1820.*

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\* The name of the Doctor's fictitious Correspondent.

A

## REPLY,

*&c. &c.*

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**T**O have been the means of preventing even one invalid from using a remedy, by which the health of such invalid might have been restored, and by the omission of which, life may have been shortened, must to any one be a source of serious reflection. The visitors of Cheltenham we have heard estimated at thirty thousand annually; among these there are some whose constitutions have been injured by unhealthy climates, and who repair to Cheltenham to re-establish their health. There are numbers who have suffered equally at home by luxurious modes of living, sensual gratifications, or application to business, and sedentary employments. To deprive any or all of these of the benefits to be derived from the waters of Cheltenham, by misrepresenting their qualities, or endeavouring to shake their confidence in their me-

dicinal virtues, is perhaps to take from them a portion of a "feverish existence."

That such is the tendency of Dr. Neale's pamphlet, requires no extraordinary exertion of intellect to perceive, and although we do not think it equal to the production of so serious an effect, we shall endeavour to guard the public against its pernicious influence.

Time and public opinion are the best criteria of merit, whether of persons or of things; the celebrity which the Cheltenham Waters have acquired, affords more conclusive evidence in favour of their medicinal virtues than could be afforded by the most laboured panegyrics of the most eminent physicians. Had they not been found eminently beneficial they would never have been so extensively used. Visitors would not have resorted from every corner of the globe to Cheltenham, had not health been restored and recruited by its waters. It can only be for this reason that the colonists of Great Britain, in the remotest parts of her empire, expect that the inroads made on their constitutions by the unhealthy climates they inhabit, will be remedied by the waters of Cheltenham! In fact, the extent, the opulence, and the elegance of Cheltenham, as it now is, compared with what it was before these wells were discovered, speak volumes in favour of the efficacy of its mineral springs.

It should also be recollected that the mineral waters of Cheltenham had been used by the public, and their good effects extensively known, long before their chemical composition was ascertained by any analytical process. They were not first recommended by physicians because analysis had shewn that they contained impregnations, which they might consider useful in particular classes of diseases; but the experience of the public having first determined their utility, they in consequence became the subject of chemical investigation. It was not the knowledge of their chemical composition that first recommended them to the attention of the faculty, because their chemical composition was then unknown, but the cures that were effected by using these waters, first induced physicians to analyze their chemical contents in order to ascertain their active ingredients.

Having said thus much, to shew that the character and celebrity of the waters of Cheltenham must necessarily be the consequence of their real merit, as they had begun to acquire that character before chemistry had yet analyzed their contents, and the knowledge of their medicinal virtues had to the public long preceded the knowledge of their chemical impregnation; we shall proceed to consider what are the circumstances and statements contained in Dr. Neale's pamphlet, that are calculated to lessen the

confidence of the public in a remedy which has been raised into estimation by public opinion.

The following are the circumstances in this pamphlet, which would appear more particularly to challenge attention.

*First*,—An effort to raise into pre-eminent estimation, the well called the “Original Spa.”

*Secondly*,—An attempt to depreciate the other wells by condemning their constituent ingredients, and insinuating to the public that their waters are merely factitious.

*Thirdly*,—The assertion of the author, that he was the first that directed public attention to the comparative analysis of the different wells, or commented on their difference of chemical impregnation; and the implied censure on his “medical brethren” for this implied omission.

And lastly, his medical opinions respecting the medicinal effects of muriate of soda, iron, and seawater.

Under each of these heads, we shall make a few observations, following the above order of arrangement.

With regard to the first, should Dr. Neale, from a review of the analysis of all the wells, be of opinion that the water of the Original Spa is superior to the others in medicinal virtues, he not only might conscientiously, but even should, support it with all the weight of his recommendation. But as a physician, should neither be led away by rumour nor prejudice; we must suppose that in giving the preference to the Old Well, he was influenced by its chemical composition, and not by its greater antiquity, or because it is called the "Original Spa;" therefore, as it was merely an imagined superiority of one salt over another, it resolved itself into a matter of medical opinion. For although Dr. Neale might prefer sulphate of soda in all diseases, other physicians might, in particular states of the habit and system, give the preference to waters containing muriate of soda.

Here we wish we could stop on the subject of his preference for the Original Spa, and for the honour of the profession, we wish we could say after him that he had taken up the subject "from a pure love of truth," and that his preference of, and exertions in favour of one well, arose solely from a conviction of its superiority, and from a conscientious discharge of his duty to the public. But such was not the case. The public is already in possession of the circumstances connected with this transaction; but to such

as are not, it will be sufficient to inform them generally, that for the writing of the pamphlet, and his other exertions in favour of the "Original Spa," the proprietor has acknowledged that he had given him one hundred pounds; and that he was afterwards to have a contingent interest in the concern, that is, that he should have a share of the surplus profits accruing to the Original Spa, from the magical influence of his pamphlet! and the subsequent exertions of his pen!

In making these arrangements, we suppose the gentlemen amused their imaginations in reveries of pleasing anticipation. That they already contemplated with peculiar complacency, the abandoned walks and empty pump-rooms of the Montpelier and Sherborne Spas, where the gloomy and solemn silence that pervaded these elegant structures, once the resort of beauty and of fashion, was only increased by the distant and indistinct murmur of the company, now crowded to suffocation round the Original Wells. The prospect they contemplated was not such as Milton has described. It was not darkness visible, but it was silence audible, that reigned in the abandoned and dreary pump-rooms, where we will suppose just sufficient of the buzz and bustle of the company at the Original Spa was wafted by an unfavourable breeze, to make Mrs. Rous miserable at the

Montpelier pump-room, by recalling to her memory her former importance.

To return from this reverie, in which we suppose the gentlemen to have indulged themselves, and which we believe to one of the parties at least, is the only benefit that has, or ever is likely to accrue from the arrangement, we shall draw a veil over the whole of the transaction, and offer for the parties the apology of the poet.

.....“ Auri sacra fames,  
“ Quid non mortalia pectora coges?”

To descend from persons to things, from the author of the pamphlet, and proprietors of the Original Spa, to the Original Spa itself. This well should not suffer in the estimation of the public, because injudicious attempts have been made to ascribe to it, exclusively, medicinal virtues. The proprietor tells us himself that he has been in the habit of increasing the strength, of No. 4, by adding to it concentrated water. That is some of the water of his wells that has been exposed for a time to the action of heat, by which the salts are reduced into a smaller compass by the process of evaporation. But if he has been led to imagine, that by concentrating the waters he increases their medicinal efficacy in the same ratio that he increases their purgative quality, he should be informed

that such is not the case, and that the trouble and labour attending the concentration of the waters are, at least, both useless and unnecessary. The analysis of the Old Well shews that it contains salts sufficiently active, and the effects of which on the system will much oftener require to be moderated, than to be increased, by reducing them into a smaller compass by evaporation. Besides unnecessarily increasing the strength of the water, evaporation decomposes the original combinations, and expels all the gases, and thus converts into an artificial, a natural remedy.

In order to replace the Original Spa in its relative station, with regard to the other wells, we shall finish what we have to say on this head by introducing an extract from a work on these waters lately published by the author of this pamphlet, where it will be seen he has endeavoured to point out the particular circumstances of habit and constitution, by which we should be influenced in giving the preference, to either the Original, or Montpelier Spas; and as the chemical impregnation of the Sherborne, approaches nearly to that of the Montpelier Spa, although not mentioned in the following extract, it may be included in the same general reasoning, which is there applied to the water of the Montpelier Wells.

“ Which, of all the varieties of the Cheltenham

Waters, is preferable in affections of the biliary system, is a question which scarcely admits of solution. So many modifications present themselves, according to the habits and constitutions of individuals, that nothing but general rules can be given. The muriate of soda or common salt, which as may be perceived by the analysis, is the most abundant ingredient in the Montpelier Wells, is an active and powerful stimulant, and combined as it is in some of these waters with carbonate of iron, might produce too great an excitement in some constitutions, predisposed to inflammatory action. On the other hand, the water of the Original Spa, consists of salts more decidedly purgative, the sulphats of soda and magnesia, or rather, as I am given to understand by Mr. Hume, an eminent chemist, a magnesio-sulphat of soda, that is, a sulphat consisting of two bases. The active energy of this salt, if long persevered in, might produce much exhaustion in debilitated constitutions. As sensations and symptoms are more easily comprehended by every individual, than the names by which they are designated, the following remarks, perhaps, may in some degree serve to direct the choice. When the habit of body is full and plethoric, with a sensation of weight in the head and eyes, and throbbing about the neck and temples, the bowels constipated, or having a tendency to constipation; when the tongue is white and furred, particularly in the mornings, with a sensation

of heat, frequently rising to a feverish irritation, and the pulse is increased by exercise or eating, the active salts contained in the Original Spa may be expected to produce the most beneficial effects. On the other hand, where the habit is emaciated, the skin and features dry and constricted, the pulse weak, the stomach irritable, particularly in the mornings, when slight causes excite nausea; in a word, where the individual is aware that a long course of high or intemperate living has weakened the organs of digestion, and the vessels of the biliary system, the stimulus afforded by the muriate of soda, in No. 4, of the Montpelier Wells, will be attended with the most decided advantage. In states of the health, intermediate or compounded as it were of these two extremes, either of the saline waters may be used according as it approaches the one or the other: or perhaps it would be better to commence with the active purgative of the Old Spa, and afterwards have recourse to the gentle stimulus afforded by the water of the Montpelier Wells."

With regard to the next general head, which we have adopted in our division of the subject. Although Dr. Neale does not assert in so many words that the other wells are factitious, there is no one that reads his pamphlet, but must see that he intended they should be thought so. His pamphlet professes to

treat of the "nature and properties of the mineral wells of Cheltenham," and to his assumed or fictitious friend, he gives directions for making factitious mineral waters, from information which he professes to have acquired there. The Original Spa he exempts from the charge, as far as his assertion can be considered exemption, and as only the Montpelier and Sherborne Spas remain, the application to these becomes inevitable. Besides, he has indirectly described them by so many characteristic "signs and tokens," that not to make the application would be either quibbling or stupidity.

Let us see on what foundation he brings forward this charge; he tells us in a printed address to the public, subsequently to the publication of his pamphlet; that the proprietor of the Original Spa had told him, that he himself had made some addition to the strength of the water of his own wells, in making what is called No. 4. Dr. Neale, therefore infers, that as this is done at one of the wells, it must also be done at the others; but as the inference does not follow from the premises, the assertion must be considered an unfounded accusation. With such as may have thought that he had taken up the subject from a "pure love of truth," this assertion, though illogical, must have had considerable weight; but when it is known that his interests had dictated the charge, his assertions and opinions become justly suspicious.

It has been frequently the subject of philosophical speculation, by what inherent principle of our nature, we are led to feel, if not greater gratification, at least a greater desire to hear and read invective and detraction, than praise or panegyric. We shall not enter into this abstruse question; but we are of opinion, that had Dr. Neale's pamphlet been written in praise of the waters of Cheltenham, instead of containing an invective against them, it would not have been so generally sought for, nor so extensively circulated. It is only on this principle we can account for a notice of it, which has appeared in rather favourable terms, in a periodical journal, the "*Literary Gazette*;" although a work, certainly more conspicuous from size, (being a good sized octavo volume) published by the author of this pamphlet, some months ago, entitled "Observations on the Cheltenham Waters," &c. has never appeared in that journal—has never been honoured with a place in its columns. We mention this circumstance, not with any intention of imputing to the Editors of that Journal a wish to give greater publicity to a work, injurious to the reputation of the Cheltenham Waters, but as an exemplification of the general position before advanced, respecting the facility with which detraction is circulated. Detraction or calumny, in its origin, proceeds somewhat like the cannibal desires of the crew, described by Lord Byron, in his "*Don Juan*;" it is, as it were, a feeling or sentiment, which having been expressed

by one individual, meets correspondent feelings in the minds of others.

“ At length one whisper’d his companion, who  
Whisper’d another, and thus it went round,  
And then into a hoarser murmur grew  
An ominous and wild and desperate sound.  
And when his comrade’s thoughts each other knew  
’Twas but his own suppressed, till now he found,  
And out they spoke of lots for flesh and blood,  
And who should die to be his fellows’ food.”

And having once had its origin, its progress may be represented by the description which Virgil has given of the progress of rumour or fame,—

.....“ Parva metu primò; mox sese attollit in auras,  
Ingrediturque solo, et caput inter nubila condit.  
Illa Terra parens, irâ irritata Deorum,  
Extremam (ut perhibent) Cœo Enceladoq; sororem  
Progenit; pedibus celerem et perniciousis alis:  
Monstrum horrendum, ingens: cui quot sunt corpore plumæ,  
Tot vigiles oculi subter, (mirabile dictu)  
Tot linguæ, totidem ora sonant, tot subrigit aures.”.....

To return to the charge of adulterating the waters. The proprietors of the Montpelier and Sherborne Spas have cleared themselves, and their wells, of this imputation, as far as this can be effected by the sacred testimony of an oath. The proprietors, the pumpers, and other persons employed about the

wells, and who should best be acquainted with every thing connected with them, have severally sworn, and their affidavits have been submitted to the public, that the water served out at these pump rooms is the genuine produce of the springs, and is neither factitious nor adulterated. This is certainly very strong, and we hope is, and we think may be sufficient to satisfy the public; but as this charge or accusation admits of being refuted by demonstrative evidence, we would prefer having recourse to it, as we are of opinion that the sacred evidence of an oath should only be resorted to where the subject does not admit of physical demonstration, or of any other kind of convincing proof. In this case, we would advise, that the proprietors of the Spas should apply to some chemists of character and celebrity; and were we to suggest any, we would name Brande and Parke. Several of the wells should be pumped dry in their presence, and by waiting a very short time, as much water would soon filter from the sides of the wells as would be sufficient to be submitted to chemical analysis. This water they would be satisfied to be the genuine product of the springs, and if it presented the same results with chemical re-agents, or the same ingredients, by evaporation, as the water served out at the pump rooms, and such was certified by these chemists, the public would be satisfied that the waters are genuine.

The existence of so many kinds of water in the same pump room, which has been ridiculed by Dr. Neale, has to many appeared difficult to conceive, and has consequently added some weight to the accusation. But when they are told that the materials by which the water is impregnated, are distributed with great irregularity in the soil surrounding the wells, they will easily conceive that the water in different places may acquire different degrees of impregnation. And as these different degrees are represented at the pump rooms, by different numbers, we are satisfied, that if every shade of difference were represented by a different number, nor the musical "chime of six," nor even the "pythagorean" number "seven," would be sufficient to represent all the varieties.

We come now to the third general head which we have assumed, and of which, as it regards the profession more immediately than the public, our notice shall be very brief. This is Dr. Neale's assertion, that he was the first who directed public attention to the comparative analysis of the different wells, or commented on their difference of chemical impregnation. The extract which has already been introduced, from a work of the author of this pamphlet, will shew that he has been mistaken. In that extract, as well as in many other parts of the work, it will be

seen, that in recommending the waters of the different wells, the author was entirely guided by their respective analyses; and he imagines that no physician has ever recommended either of the wells, or any of the numbers at the different wells, merely as a matter of course, or without having some reasons for such recommendation, arising either from a consideration of the disease and constitution of the patient, or the chemical impregnation of the water. Nor can we think that any physician has availed himself of the means which the wells afford, of varying his prescriptions, by “ringing changes” on the different numbers; unless, perhaps, where some disease, real or imaginary, that has resisted the common rules of art, required to be exorcised by the aid of “musical chimes,” or the force of mystical numbers!

We are now come to the last division of our subject, Dr. Neale’s opinion respecting the medicinal effects of muriate of soda, iron, and sea-water, and here we must premise, that as all that can be said on this head is merely matter of opinion; and as it is known that “doctors will sometimes differ,” no one has a right to deliver their opinions as incontrovertible dogmas. He says, that “muriate of soda does not act on the bowels,” and that it produces more febrile excitement than the water containing iron. With regard to its effect on the bowels, we shall leave that question be-

tween No. 4 of the Montpelier wells and the public. That water contains a greater proportion of muriate of soda than any of the numbers of the Montpelier wells, or than any of the other wells, the Sherborne, perhaps, excepted; and as the water of No. 4, is so extensively used, its effect must be extensively known. With respect to the unfortunate gentleman who tumbled down in an apoplectic fit, after having taken his usual quantum of this salt, we can only say, that many have unfortunately died of apoplexy, who have been more in the habit of drinking wine than of drinking salt water. Of the effect of iron on the system, the following quotations from the work already mentioned, will shew the opinion of the author. "Iron, in all its variety of forms, has a tendency to increase the frequency of the pulse, and induce an inflammatory diathesis; or in the language of an elegant and enlightened writer, Dr. Parry, of Bath, "It increases the momentum of the blood." And again: "The saline waters of themselves are calculated to lower the action of the sanguiferous system, and remove feverish irritation, while chalybeates have the effect of increasing vascular action, and of producing general excitement."

The following fact which came under the author's observation, strongly contrasts the effect of the chalybeated and saline waters. "We have been led

into the above remarks on the saline chalybeated waters, by our knowledge that No. 1, of Mr. Thompson's Spa, had been prescribed for a gentleman labouring under a paralytic affection, and whose constitution was greatly debilitated. This gentleman, there was reason to think, had been accustomed to intemperate living, and besides the paralytic affection, he appeared to labour under visceral obstructions. After using No. 1, for a few days, he became feverish and restless, and instead of acquiring strength by the use of the chalybeates, his debility increased, in consequence of the feverish excitement they occasioned. His physician, however, having directed that No. 4 should be substituted, the feverish excitement and restlessness ceased, and he became comparatively better."

Although Dr. Neale says, "that if the object is to pour brine into the circulation, let us rather send our patients to the sea shore, than to an inland mineral water:" he must be perfectly aware that no analogy exists between the waters of Cheltenham and sea water. Besides muriate of soda and other salts, sea water contains a considerable proportion of muriate of magnesia, or what is commonly known by the name of "bittern," a salt, nauseous, sickening and unhealthy; and the presence of which in the mineral waters of another watering place of less note, in England, con-

constitutes the principal difference between these and the Cheltenham Waters, in which there does not exist the smallest portion of this salt. The phrase "to pour into the circulation," excites a train of laughable ideas, by reminding us of a proposition of a French physiologist, to cure all diseases, and even to prevent the advances of old age, by a remedy which he termed "transfusion." That is, he proposed to fill the flaccid and empty blood-vessels of the sick and sickly, with good and healthy blood, directly from the veins of such as could spare it; so that by a mutual communication of good offices, the public might be kept in perpetual health; as he sagely calculated, that as many would be found overstocked with blood, as would require a supply of the vital fluid!

We have now briefly adverted to such parts of Dr. Neale's pamphlet, as would appear most likely to affect the credit of the Cheltenham Waters, and by the impartial and unprejudiced, we think it must be seen, from what we have stated in reply, that all his insinuations are groundless. To those who view the subject through the medium of prejudice, it is in vain to offer either proofs or arguments, for where the judgment is shackled, by pre-conceived opinions, the intellect is clouded, and even the evidence of the senses would fail to carry conviction to the mind. If any who have been in the habit of drinking the Chel-

tenham Waters, and from a disordered state of the stomach and organs of digestion, have occasionally imagined that the water at different times had a different taste, to hear it said that the wells are adulterated, produces such associations, and so satisfies them of their own penetration and discernment, that even were they to see the water filtering from the bowels of the earth, and to find it in this state, possessing the same physical properties, as what they had been in the habit of drinking at the pump-room, their suspicions would not be removed.

To such as take the trouble of thinking for themselves, and carefully appreciate the weight of self-interest, in determining the actions of men, it will add not a little force to the evidence already adduced, to be informed, that with respect to the proprietors of the wells, their interests are not at variance with their honesty: but on the contrary, that both should impel them to give rather the natural product of their springs, than water factitious, or adulterated. Can any one imagine that the proprietor of a mineral spring, the water of which has long been established in public opinion, will incur the expense of procuring salts, to add to that water, for which the public is satisfied to pay him without such an expensive addition? We cannot imagine dishonesty, without an adequate motive; but here we can find none. And as the adulte-

ration of the wells of Cheltenham, would not only be attended with the risk of detection, but would occasion a positive expense, without any prospective advantage, we are satisfied there can be no adulteration.

Having now finished what we had to say on the subject of Dr. Neale's pamphlet, we have to remark, that a great deal of the misapprehension respecting the Cheltenham waters would appear to arise from the use of what is called the "solution," in the different pump rooms. The name itself carries suspicion on the face of it. In general, it consists of concentrated water, but to such a mixture, the term made use of is totally inapplicable. The term "solution" necessarily implies a previous state of crystallization, and consequently cannot, with propriety, be applied to the concentrated Cheltenham waters. In fact, whenever solution is mentioned, we associate with it the idea of crystallized salts; and although the salts used in making the solution are Cheltenham salts, still to many it suggests an opinion of a factitious combination.

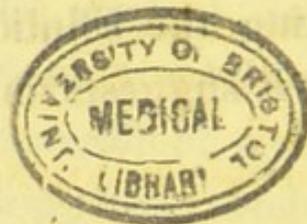
The addition to the Cheltenham waters, either of concentrated water, or of a solution of Cheltenham salts, is a very unchemical addition; as the affinities in these are very different from what they are in the original waters; which are thus converted into an

artificial combination. As the medicinal utility of the "solution," is as doubtful as its chemical propriety, perhaps it would be well if the proprietors would discontinue its use altogether; and by thus removing every cause for introducing salts of any kind into the pump rooms, they would more effectually establish the genuineness of the waters.

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*Finis.*

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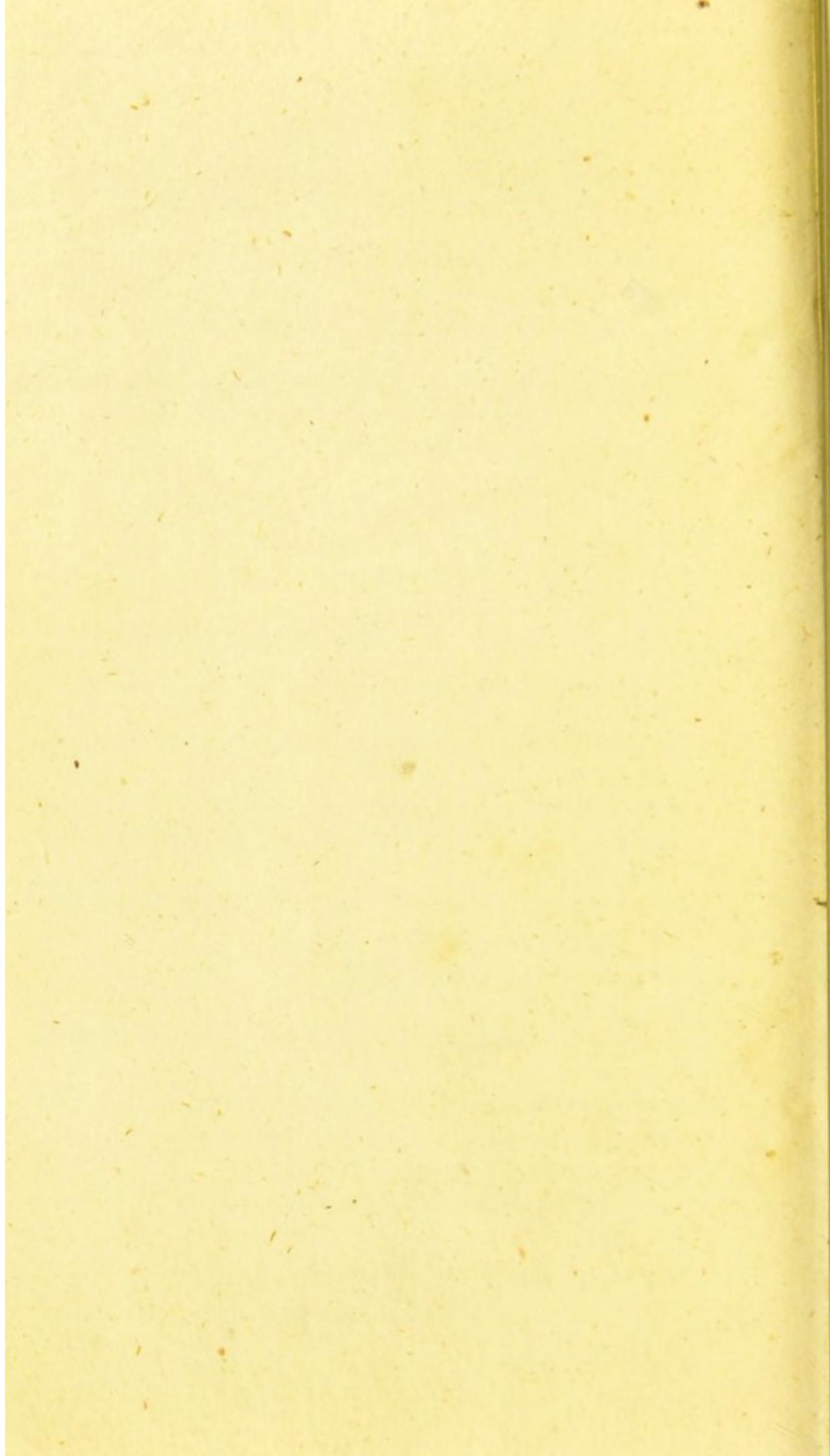
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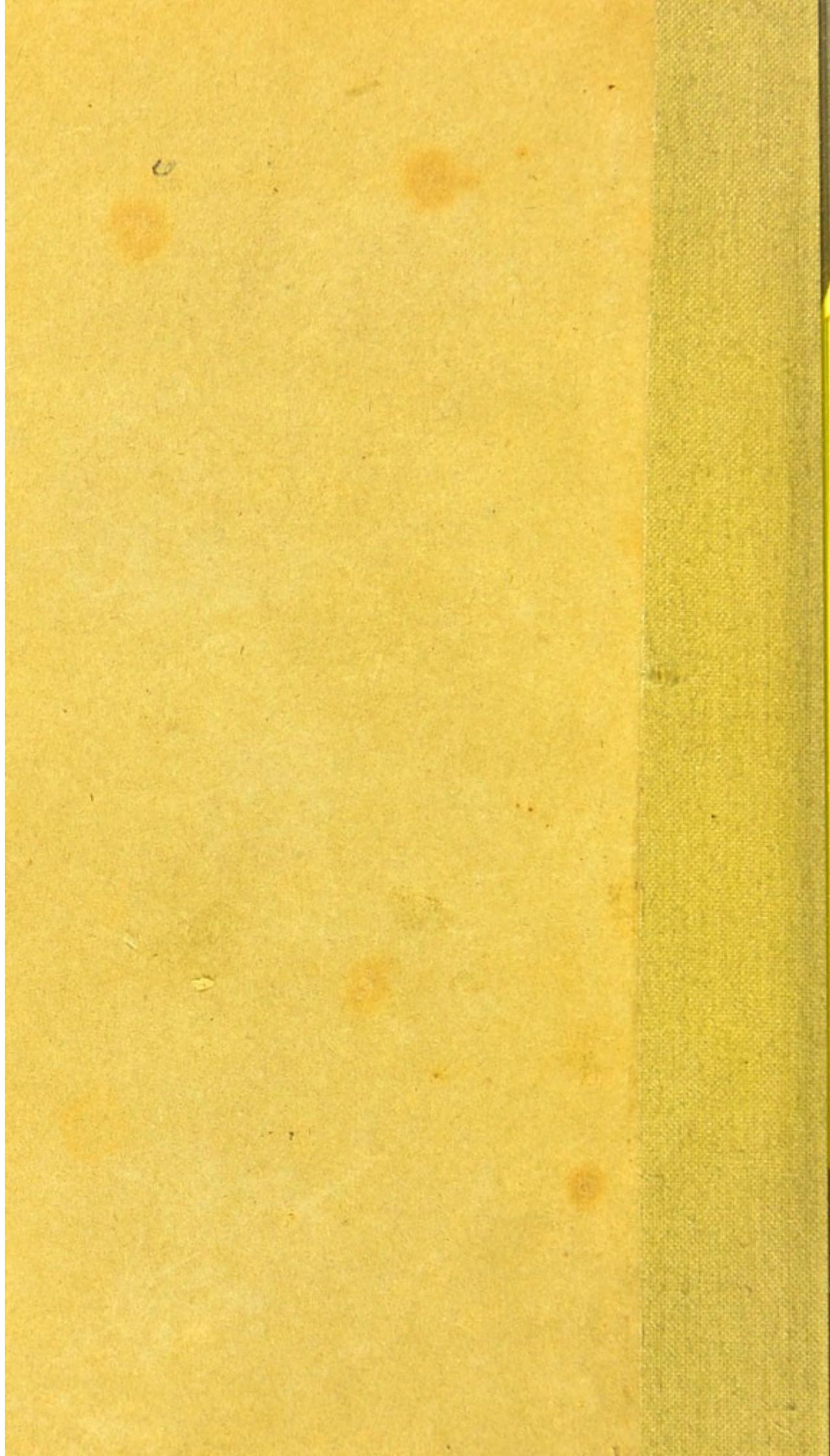
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