

Report of the effects of the acid fumigation tried in Scotland, during the prevalence of the epidemic Cholera; and the causes which prevented it from being every where known and adopted, &c; / James Sanders.

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REPORT

OF THE

Effects of THE ACID FUMIGATION tried in Scotland,
during the Prevalence of the Epidemic Cholera ;
and of the Causes which prevented IT from being
every where known and adopted, &c.

TO THE

RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT MELBOURNE,

Secretary for the Home Department, &c.

MY LORD,

THE Asiatic Cholera has not entirely disappeared ; to act, then, as if it could never resume its diffusive propensity, were a signal instance of fatuous improvidence. On the contrary, all the facts which reason, observation, experiment, and experience have approved, should be collected, and every man, who can add to the stock, ought, without delay, to furnish his contribution.

I have devoted, as you know, much time to this investigation. In my progress, I could not avoid adverting to the state of the medical profession, and to the dispositions of the Boards of Health. I request it, however, to be recollected, that in whatever I say, or may have said, it is not persons, but principles, that are my object.

It would be great injustice indeed, to pronounce a universal anathema ; among us there are medical men who adorn human nature ; on the very question which engages us, not a few have maintained that unbending integrity which is innate in the true cultivators of science.

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In my letter of 16th November 1831, I presented to the London Central Board what I believed to be a correct induction from all that had been ascertained in relation to this disease. I thence predicted, that the authoritative regulations for its treatment would prove not merely abortive, but injurious; I affirmed, that the dominant notion of its personal infection, or contagion, had no other basis than prejudice; that its cause was a peculiar intemperies of the atmosphere; that unless this were corrected, skill could do nothing to impede its career, and but very little to assuage its mortal fury;—and, finally, to attain this end, I suggested fumigation as the only eligible means.

On 5th January 1832, when the horrific gorgon first appeared here, I proposed to our Board, and also, to that of London, a specific fumigation; pointed out the materials, and explained the method and manner of using them. Both Boards, at least *ostensibly*, treated the proposal with the same neglect.

Besides, I implored them to re-examine all the information which they had obtained, or might obtain, respecting the Cholera, and to subject all their own opinions, doctrines, and prescriptions to the most scrupulous revision: they would not; and, that they would not, is deplored by millions, who depended upon agriculture and commerce, together with a countless host of widows and orphans, thereby doomed to pass their lives in penury and desolation.

Meanwhile, every opinion which I offered has been verified, every prediction fulfilled, every statement confirmed; and, what is of more importance still, the efficiency of that system for the annihilating of the disease, which I proposed, has been triumphantly demonstrated. These things will satisfy you, that I am not disposed to obtrude myself inconsiderately, and ensure me, I trust, on the present occasion, a favourable reception.

The plan of operations ordered by those whose business it was to provide for the public safety, at the public expense, altogether failed, and the people could not see without dread

the uncontrolled sway of the destroyer. They expected other means to be devised, and were surprised, that any rational suggestion should not meet with earnest attention. When any sentiment becomes general, some persons always rise up of sufficient spirit to give it animation and action ; consequently *the fumigation was put to THE TEST, and the VERY FIRST TRIALS SUCCEEDED to admiration.* Surprise then gave place to indignation, when the opposition to the new process increased in proportion to the accumulating evidence of its utility. At this time it became necessary to counteract the exertions cunningly and hypocritically made, to conceal these experiments, and thus to deprive mankind of an invaluable addition to the means of self-preservation. The best method seemed to be, to bring, as it were, into a focus, all the information extant, with regard to the purification or melioration of the atmosphere. With this design, an essay was to be composed, comprising succinctly every thing deemed worthy of being communicated, as follows :

1st, A view of those phenomena, which taught the propriety of endeavouring, on special occasions, to improve the condition of the surrounding air.

2d, An account of the various means adopted for this purpose from the earliest ages, among which were conspicuous the fumigations to destroy pestilential epidemics.

3d, The introduction, within the last fifty years, of acid fumigations.

4th, Founded upon the information thus acquired, a plan of fumigation for the extermination or annihilation of the Asiatic Cholera, which plan was already in no small degree corroborated by the recent experiments with the chlorine gas.

This undertaking being finished, we resolved, that it should, if possible, be made available through the supreme authority ; therefore, in the form of a letter signed Euphemizon, it was, in October last, addressed and sent to your Lordship, as Secretary for the Home Department, to whom I have now the

honour to relate the continuation of these experiments, performed upon such a scale, in such a manner, and with such results, as will convince the most sceptical, that when the dis-temperature shall return, it may be promptly and for ever extinguished.

The experiments were made from the beginning of January to the end of November 1832. The cities, towns, and villages, or the localities in each, which were the scene of operations, are specified.

When not otherwise qualified, *fumigation* and *to fumigate*, here refer to the evolution of THE CHLORINE GAS; and all words implying disease, to THE ASIATIC CHOLERA.

When Boards of Health are mentioned, two are meant exclusively, viz. the one called the London Central, and the other called the Edinburgh Board; and my remarks are only applicable to their leading or influential medical members.

EDINBURGH—*Adam Street*. Here, 2d January 1832, occurred the first case; the patient collapsed twice or thrice, and was ultimately restored to health. The building is capacious, of six floors, with poor families on each. The fumigation was kept up during four weeks; no other case was detected in the immediate neighbourhood.

Parkside Street.—House of five floors, with families on each. The patient collapsed and recovered: the same means were used with the same result.

Nicolson Street, Reikie's Court.—An area surrounded with buildings densely inhabited, and containing the workshops of William Miller, Esq., type-founder to His Majesty. When the malady was approaching his premises, he ordered the chlorine gas to be raised in the open court. The common people resemble the ordinary medical practitioners, they will not deviate from their usual routine. Mr Miller left town; his workmen neglected the process; several of them, and of those in the adjacent houses, were seized; deaths ensued; the fumigation was resumed, and persevered in for about five weeks; during this time one person died;—the eradication was permanent.

Leith Street, Catherine Street, Union Place, Haddington

Place, &c.—The whole of this range, extending from Edinburgh nearly half-way to Leith, was cleared almost as soon as contaminated. On 9th September, in a dwelling at the top of a very high and large building, 15, *Catherine Street*, a man exhibited very suspicious symptoms; the chlorine exhalation occupied his apartments instantly, and without intermission, while necessary. This patient in a short time returned to business; his numerous family received no injury. I advised that the tenement should be fumigated from below, and saw the operation begun; but returning in a few days, I learned that it had not been continued; in a day or two more, several of the tenants or occupiers were seized, and three or four of them perished; now the fumigation did its duty; for which we are indebted to William Child, Esq., Senior Magistrate.

This is given as one instance out of many, proving, that the fumigating of an upper floor protects only that part; but if the gas is disengaged from below, it soon diffuses itself throughout the building, removing the cause and the malady at the same time.

Union Place.—In No 16, a property belonging to the Commercial Bank, on 19th September, Mr George Thomson, gun-maker to His Majesty, died. His wife and two of his servants had the characteristic symptoms. The fumigation was vigorously carried on for several weeks. The three patients soon got well; this and the contiguous buildings remained intact.

High Street.—In October there were two deaths at the Netherbow, in a tenement forming the north boundary of a square of houses belonging to Messrs Oliver & Boyd, where they have the most extensive printing and bookbinding establishment in Scotland. These gentlemen had the building fumigated a long time from below, and also in the open court they kept a barrel from which the gas was incessantly ascending. The tenement here mentioned is of seven floors, and contains twenty-one or twenty-two poor families: one man, who fled out of it, died; the rest were preserved.

Shakspeare Square was infested; not a few deaths were reported. In the Theatre-Royal, which occupies its centre,

immense volumes of chlorine gas were formed twice a-week : within eight days from the commencement of the fumigation, the Cholera bade this quarter a final adieu.

Grass-market and West-bow, probably the most populous district of our city, was considered the stronghold of the enemy ; it had never wanted cases and deaths, from the month of February till about the middle of October, when L.14 were collected, with which were purchased tar barrels, common salt, and sulphuric acid. The houses were filled with the chlorine gas, and the barrels were burned in the open spaces during twelve or fourteen days. At the beginning of the fumigation one person died, and just when it had ended, two persons came hither unwell and died ; thus the evil terminated. So that the Board, expending L.500 or L.600 per week, did not accomplish in nine months, what the inhabitants effected in a few days, at the expense of L.14 !

Canongate, a vassal burgh, and large part of the ancient capital. Here the fumigations were equally successful ; and also in *Canal Street* and *Rose Street*, where there was one case, but no death, after the process began.

Five miles east of Edinburgh, is the town of MUSSELBURGH, containing between 7000 and 8000 inhabitants. From the beginning of the year, the disease committed great havock in that part of it called *Fisherrow* ; about the middle of February, at the request of Henry Raeburn, Esq. of St Bernards, the fumigation was there set into full operation in the streets and lanes. The calamity was forthwith mitigated, and in less than a week extirpated.*

Portobello, almost a suburb of Edinburgh, populous, about a mile long, and half a mile broad. Here, towards the middle of February, in a dirty lane called Pipe Street, there were many sick, and in one afternoon, seven deaths. The fumigation was now resorted to, and continued in the open air, and within the houses, for three days ; the sick all recovered ; but after a cessation of nearly three weeks, the disease reappeared

* This Burgh was rescued at the expense of £21, the half of which was paid by Mr Raeburn.

in different parts. Many of the inhabitants used the gas, each in his own house, and all of these enjoyed exemption. The fumigation was undertaken at the request, and partly, I believe, at the expense of John Baxter, Esq., and this gentleman himself gave an admirable lesson. In a piece of ground behind his residence, and nearly in the centre of his property, which is of considerable extent, he kept the fumes of chlorine exhaling night and day, as long as the malady prevailed. Close by his gardens, there are the hovels of the lowest class, and a little farther off, there are very handsome streets; in all this division never even one case occurred.

DUNFERMLINE, a royal burgh and chief town in the western part of Fife, situate on an extensive eminence, stretching from east to west, about 270 feet above the level of the sea, and containing from 3000 to 10,000 inhabitants, was attacked on 3d September; the onset was fierce, after which the new cases varied in number from 10 to 18 daily, till the 23d October, when the chlorine gas fumigation was put into practice in all the streets, lanes, and avenues, within and round the town; on the very first day, the number of new cases was reduced to 6, and in five days the plague was annihilated. Total number of cases from 3d September 462; deaths 163.

One thing which occurred here merits notice: A gentleman who has a very numerous family, as soon as the disease threatened, had recourse to the acid fumigation. His house is part of a continuous line of buildings, and in the dwellings next his, on either side, there were deaths; one morning at his own door he stood and counted thirteen different windows admitting light to apartments in each of which there was one "Cholera corpse." He persisted in the use of the fumigation until the danger was over, and not one within his domicile, ever suffered in the slightest degree.

Gorgie, a small village a little more than a mile west of Edinburgh, was attacked towards the end of September. Tar barrels were burned, but the disease went on, till towards the end of November. At this time there happened four deaths, and many persons had the symptoms of the first stage. John Cox, Esq., one of the members of our town council, gen-

erously supplied common salt and sulphuric acid in abundance; a cloud of muriatic acid gas enveloped the village seven or eight successive days; there were no more deaths; the disease vanished.

These examples establish incontestably the power of fumigation, but it ought to be known, that from the time of the experiment made in Fisherrow, the process was more or less employed throughout this country, and that, from this time also, if we reflect how widely the contamination was diffused, as shown by the number of places assailed, we shall find, that in no nation of the world, has this scourge been attended with so little fatality as in Scotland.

At length it became the common opinion, that much evil might have been averted, had the fumigation been adopted when first proposed, or even when its disinfecting properties were first evinced; hence the obstinate resistance of the authorities was a theme of loud animadversion and complaint, when the letter signed Euphemizon appeared in the Caledonian Mercury, assisted by a few admonitions in the clear and animated style of its learned and able Editor. Silence could no longer be maintained, the Board was put upon its defence, and consequently there appeared in the Courant, 22d October 1832, the following exculpatory evidence, which was every where received *cum notâ*:

“ In reference to a notice which appeared in the Caledonian Mercury of Saturday last, ‘ On the Extermination and Annihilation of Cholera,’ we have been requested to state, that the chloride of lime, which has been so extensively employed by the Board of Health, has been invariably used along with sulphuric acid, for the purpose of disengaging the oxymuriatic acid or chlorine gas, which is recommended as the proper means of fumigation in the letter to which that notice refers. This mode of acid fumigation has been employed by the Board from the very commencement of the epidemic, not only *over the infected parts of the town generally*, but regularly in every room, house, passage, and common stair, in which cases have occurred. A set of men, at present amounting to eight, have been employed for this

“ purpose exclusively since the month of January last, and
 “ in no instance, that has come to the knowledge of the
 “ Board, have these means been neglected. We regret to
 “ find, however, that although this extensive system of fumi-
 “ gation has probably contributed, as much as could reason-
 “ ably be expected, to restrain the diffusion of Cholera in this
 “ city, the fact is, that the disease has in many instances con-
 “ tinued its ravages in the same localities, and even in the
 “ same stairs, and the same houses, in which this acid fumiga-
 “ tion had been carefully and repeatedly employed.”

At this statement every person was astonished; “ *over the*
 “ *infected parts of the town generally*” forsooth ! no one had
 ever smelled the Board’s chlorine gas fumigations. It was
 well understood that our systems were not the same either in
 theory or in practice. I inculcated the melioration of the at-
 mosphere ; they, the intercepting of infection from clothes and
 persons. My operations were chiefly in the open air ; theirs,
 in confined apartments. Mine were as notorious as the light
 of day, and the effects as obvious ; theirs were never heard of,
 and the effects were imperceptible. Every one said, if the
 Board adopted the gaseous fumigation, why was its author,
 in their name, loaded with opprobrious epithets ? If they
 found it useful, as they admit, why did they never give
 advice or directions relative to it, in any of their instructions
 or other public documents ? If they think this contrivance of
 theirs will allay discontent, they are egregiously mistaken ; it
 will only excite contempt and derision. Yet, as we shall see,
 there was something in the story ; and a very good commentary
 on the procedure of our Board in this particular, may be read
 in the Sanitary Circular, issued by the London or Central
 Board, on 9th August 1832, in which among other things it is
 enjoined, “ That the room or apartment in which he (the pa-
 “ tient) may have been attacked, and from which he may have
 “ been removed, should be purified by fumigation by heated
 “ sulphuric acid and common salt with black oxyde of manga-
 “ nese.” Both Boards were thus moving with cautious step
 and slow towards the very goal, whence I had entreated them
 to start, twelve months before.

I was quite aware, that the effects in Adam Street had not been overlooked, for from this time the servants of the Board did disengage *quietly* the chlorine fumes in the apartments of the dying and the dead ; and an advertisement, that the Board had succeeded beyond expectation in repressing the disease, showed me, that they believed, they had made a great acquisition ; but it is not to be imagined, that, lest they should seem to have taken any hint from me, they kept to themselves what that acquisition was. Good men confer benefits in secret, and nothing hurts their ingenuous modesty so much as vulgar applause.

Let both Boards then have their due, “ nothing extenuate,” for their means, they say, were slender ; “ nor set down aught in malice,” for that would be depriving them of their own ; we only aver, that they did not practise the fumigation in the open streets and lanes, and in the interior of the infected houses, as was done at Fisherrow and the other places here enumerated ; the friends of the Board will not assert, that this was done ; but if they should, we have just to state, that *in the very localities in which this body, with its numerous assistants, had during many dreary months wasted, I would not say the money of our citizens, but their own labour, the pestilence never resisted the proper method even one week.*

We remarked, “ that the Boards were moving towards the “ goal whence we had wished them to start ;” we may now announce, that in consequence of *accelerating command*, the London Board has arrived at the very point ; they declare, though with equivocal circumlocution, **THAT THE CHOLERA IS NOT CONTAGIOUS !**

This act of abjuration was expedited shortly after I was honoured with the thanks of your Lordship, for the letter explaining the system of fumigation. To impart an idea of the unexpected event, the following extracts are inserted from a letter of 6th November 1832, which this Board issued *privately*, and “ submitted,” as they say, “ *by the desire of the Lords of the Council*, to the favourable consideration of the “ Governors of the several public Hospitals in London.”

“ *That it has been proved, that cholera was not found to*
 “ *spread amongst the other patients in the public hospitals*
 “ *in which some cases of that disease were treated during*
 “ *the late epidemic.*

“ That, under these circumstances, it becomes matter of
 “ consideration, important to the public health, whether spor-
 “ adic cases of cholera might not be admitted into the public
 “ hospitals, in the same manner as cases of any other disease.

“ The Central Board of Health, therefore, under the full
 “ conviction, that the cleanliness, ventilation, and general good
 “ arrangements established in the public hospitals of the me-
 “ tropolis, are found sufficient to prevent the spread of ty-
 “ phus fever, recommend the adoption of the above sugges-
 “ tions with reference to sporadic cases of cholera ; a measure
 “ in favour of which humanity would plead irresistibly, in the
 “ event of any cases of that disease occurring, and being car-
 “ ried to the door of the hospital, as the only place of refuge,
 “ after the breaking up of the local Boards of Health and
 “ their parish hospitals.*

“ (Signed) W. MACLEAN, *Sec.*”

“ Every body in nature,” says Newton, “ maintains the
 “ state in which it is, till it be driven from it by a superior
 “ force,” and he might have added, that this force is often
 the sum of repeated impulses. Here we have a law not
 more powerful in the physical than in the intellectual world ;
 this is a wise and a natural cause, which, by rendering the mind
 averse from the ready admission of new ideas, precludes wild
 innovation ; but truth would soon overcome, were causes of a
 different kind not called into action ; the sinister passions,
 avarice, selfishness, and envy, are roused, which, like the demons
 of antiquity, assume the form and array of virtues, professedly,
 to warn mortals against the vice of speculation, but really, to
 overwhelm every man who consecrates his existence to the acqui-

* The London Medical and Surgical Journal, Saturday, December 15,
 1832,—p. 633.

sition and extension of knowledge ; this is the most formidable obstacle to the well-being of society.

Whichever way we turn, amidst the busy scenes of life, we see and feel this demoralisation, and in no class of men is it more evident, or more to be deprecated, than in that exercising not the *reality*, but the *profession* of medicine ; its practitioners being entitled by their diplomas, and not by their acquirements, find it convenient to summon other arts to the aid of the art medical ; the mass is divided into factions, each formed and managed to serve one or two individuals ; accordingly, what does not seem to have emanated from these chieftains must, if the whole race of man should perish, be circumspectly suppressed or strenuously opposed ; further, they must be represented as possessing superlative genius, science, and skill ; their wily manœuvring must appear as the active solicitude of pure friendship ; their well-timed reserve, as the bashfulness of superior worth ; their palpable failures, as proof positive, piously acknowledged, of the inadequacy of all human means ! *but the darling object is not yet attained* ; the well-directed breath of their party must make their names resound to the echo, and at the same time waft their bark full sail into the harbour of golden favour. Would it not be marvellous, in this discerning age, if, by such devices, these men became physicians of the first resort, *archiaters* to majesty, members of boards, and professors of universities ! and if such things were, could we wonder at the ruin of the public health, and the subversion of our schools ?

The moral condition of the profession just glanced at, not only affects our national institutions, but occasions great discomfort and anxiety ; nay, mourning instead of joy, in private families. Even when life or death is the alternative, an upright opinion cannot be obtained ; a consultation is proposed ; the diplomatist in attendance, equivocates ; the person named, he allows, is very clever, but—then with “the shrug, the hum, or ha !” these petty brands that calumny doth use,” he insinuates, that he would rather have one of his own choosing ; out of delicacy he is yielded to, and of course, he prefers the leader of his party ; thus creatures mutually dependent meet,

the fate of their victim is sealed, and friendly collusion cozens the patient and his relations with preconcerted deception. These things demand an immediate remedy, and I am firmly persuaded, that the first step towards it, must be an examination of the charters, and an exposure of the usurpations of the fraternities called Colleges.

Hostility of every kind, however, has been so far defeated, that the paramount efficacy of the fumigation can no longer be questioned, by any person who will attend even to the following summary observations:

Edinburgh had the Cholera from the beginning of January to the end of November, during which time no great portion of the city or suburbs escaped. If it broke out on one floor, the fumigation expelled it, though it might travel through the abodes on the other floors; if the exhalations were raised from the ground, the whole building became safe, though the disease continued in the neighbouring buildings, where no such means were employed. If a part of a district was fumigated, it there ceased, though still manifesting itself all around; if now the remainder was fumigated, the whole district was freed, though it might be increasing in the rest of the city.

If the fumigation was given up too soon, or while the vicinity was unsound, the disease might recur, not otherwise; free communication with infected districts was quite innoxious.

From the month of October, when the disease threatened to spread far and wide, the inhabitants had recourse to fumigation, some in private houses, and others in the open air and in private houses simultaneously, throughout several large portions of the city; and the extinction was always coextensive with the fumigation.

There is one uniform and interesting effect,—That, wherever the gas was raised in the open air a few days uninterruptedly, not only did the disease depart, but, whatever change of weather intervened, the atmosphere, as if reformed and endowed with a repulsive power, continued to exert a protecting influence.

We have given above the claim preferred in the name of the Board; let merit be measured by deeds. They had used

all diligence, even *legal diligence*, for ten months, and expended, it is said, from L.20,000 to L.30,000; still the Cholera defied their costly efforts; at last the disappointed inhabitants, within about as many days, at an expense which, I believe, did not amount to L.150, achieved their own deliverance.

There are still, however, sporadic cases of Cholera, and in not a few instances, its hideously characteristic features are blended with the symptoms of our ordinary diseases; we cannot, therefore, believe ourselves secured against another, and perhaps a more disastrous irruption; but we have the means of safety, if we will use them; and I hope that His Majesty's Government will be prepared with a well-digested system of fumigation, to be put into execution by scientific, honest, and energetic men.

Your Lordship must have observed, that the people are dissatisfied with the transactions of the Boards, and that even their motives are arraigned. It is asked, why they listened with avidity to every tale, and thanked politely, the parasitical scribbler of any foolish or romantic diatribe, in favour of the doctrine of contagion, while they discouraged every inquiry which tended to dispel that baneful hallucination? They forced into circulation the subservient and worse than insignificant epistles of Drs Barry and Russell, while they withheld, aye, lost the invaluable communication of Dr Hamett from Dantzic, which would have at once rescued the nation from boards, quarantines, and all that panic which preceded or accompanied the epidemic. In like manner, in Edinburgh, an illiterate, crude, and puerile medley of sayings and doings, mixed up by Dr Abercrombie, and printed for the benefit of the Board, was, to the amazement of every man of common understanding, hailed with acclamation, and its author extolled as a Daniel, a second Daniel.* Mark now, what occurred,

* Suggestions submitted to the Medical Practitioners of Edinburgh, on the Characters and Treatment of the Malignant Cholera. By John Abercrombie, M. D. Published for the Benefit of the Board of Health.—7th Edition, 1832.

when assiduous toil and intrepid zeal produced truths most beneficial to nations, but destructive of the contagious mania. Professor Lizars having published his pathological researches, in which all these qualities were prominent, was invited to a conference with the Board, and there treated, not with thanks in the name of his country, as he well deserved, but with language of the most severe reprehension.

New methods of treatment, and painful, hazardous, and useless experiments were sanctioned, while the means demonstrated to be safe, speedy, and completely effectual, were passed by as unworthy even of a "reference." Were the vigilant Boards not informed of the cause of the sudden disappearance of the Cholera from Fisherrow in February 1832? and if they were, why did they not proclaim, that this incomparable good was effected by the acid fumigation? What are we to think of those men who remained silent, when by a word they could banish want, consternation, and death? What is he guilty of, who refuses that which would save the life of his neighbour? In fine, any combination to prevent the knowledge of those means by which the Cholera might be annihilated, is, in effect, nothing less than a conspiracy to aggravate human misery, and perpetuate the indiscriminate destruction of human life.

What a contrast between the part taken by our medical guides, and the sound and salutary decision given by the chief physicians of France! We cannot compliment our Boards in the language addressed to the medical men of the Hôtel-Dieu of Paris.

"GENTLEMEN,—Your labours have enriched our science;
 "your knowledge has added dignity to our profession; your
 "liberal conduct has held out an example to all. You have
 "never persecuted a professional brother for publishing his
 "investigations.

"You have, by banishing the demon Contagion, preserved
 "the commerce of your country; and, what is still more
 "grateful to your feelings, you have ensured the uninterrupt-
 "ed exercise of those private sympathies, charities, and good

“ offices, which sooth calamity, and strengthen the bonds of
 “ society.”

As applicable in our country, it grieves me to confess, that we must prefer a quotation taken by the same author from the *Prisca Medicina* of Hippocrates.*

“ Most medical men seem to me, to be very like unskilful
 “ pilots, whose errors escape detection, while the sea is calm
 “ and the wind favourable, but when the storm and tempest
 “ overtake them, wreck and ruin ensue, and instantly their
 “ ignorance is made manifest to all ; so, in ordinary seasons,
 “ when the prevalent diseases are generally so slight, that the
 “ patients recover in spite of bad treatment, the obsequious
 “ herd of knavish practitioners win the confidence of the delud-
 “ ed public, but should a pestilence arise, then their craft and
 “ their incompetence become fatally conspicuous, and their
 “ well earned punishment is at hand.”

Be assured, my Lord, that the dissatisfaction, which I have attempted to depict, is not overcharged in the colouring, nor was the government itself held to be blameless in this matter, till the work of Dr Hamett appeared under the patronage of the Lords of the Privy Council. I respectfully submit, therefore, whether the conduct of the Boards ought not to be made a subject of parliamentary inquiry.

I have the honour to be,

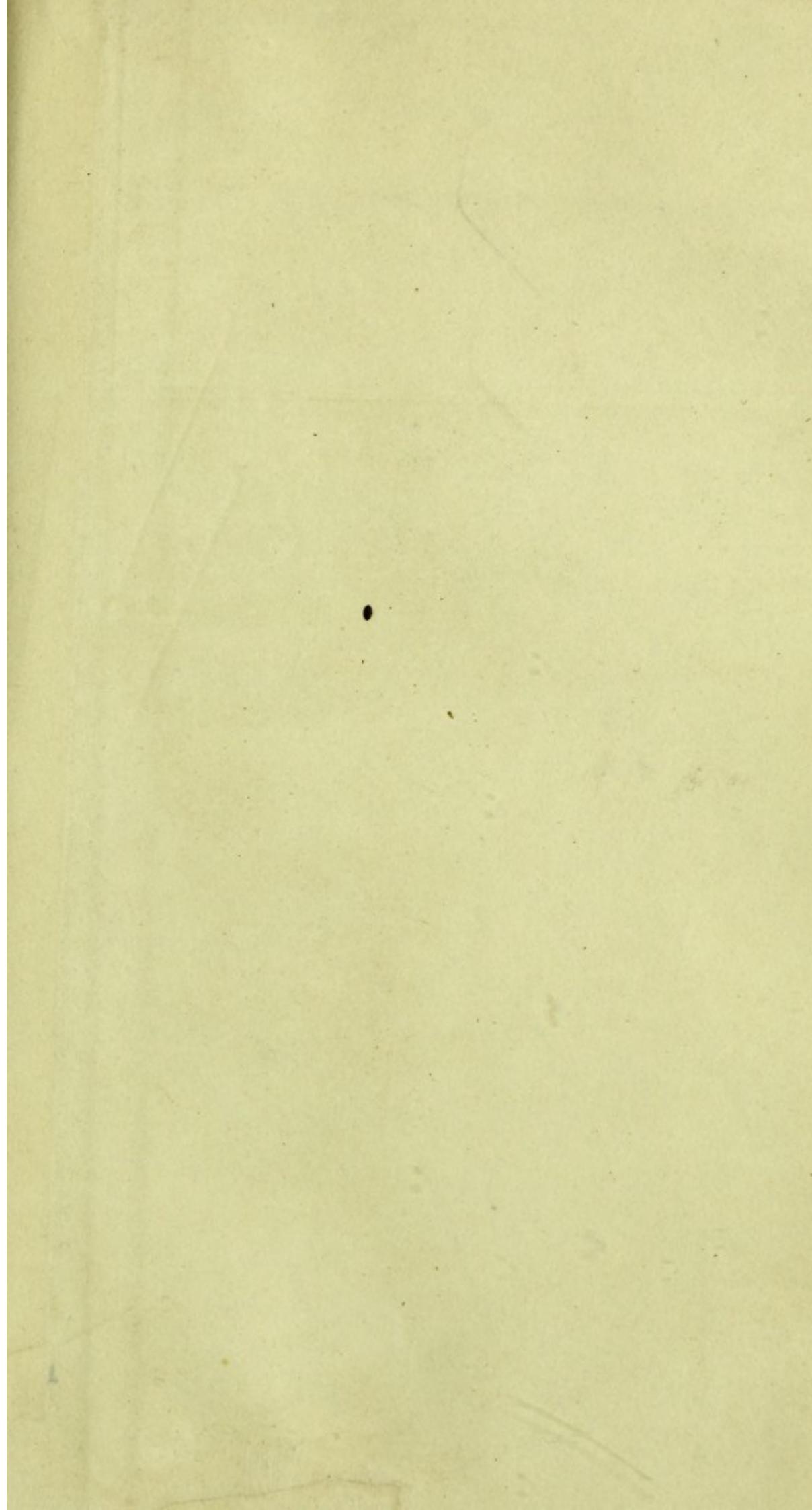
With the highest consideration,

Your Lordship's obedient,

JAMES SANDERS, M. D.

Edinburgh, March 1833.

* Remarks on Dr Abercrombie's Suggestions on the Characters and Treatment of the Malignant Cholera. By a Young Physician. 1832.



GLASGOW and SUBURBS

