

## **The stomach and its difficulties / by Sir James Eyre.**

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*Dr. Abraham*  
*Surgeon.*

THE STOMACH

AND

ITS DIFFICULTIES.

VITA BREVIS, ARS LONGA;  
OCCASIO PRÆCEPS, EXPERIENTIA FALLAX,  
JUDICIUM DIFFICILE.

HIPOCR. *Aphor.* 1.



# THE STOMACH

AND

## ITS DIFFICULTIES.

BY SIR JAMES EYRE, M.D.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON;  
CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO THE ST. GEORGE'S AND ST. JAMES'S DISPENSARY;  
AUTHOR OF "PRACTICAL REMARKS ON SOME EXHAUSTING  
DISEASES," SECOND EDITION.

"In primis valeas benè; nam variæ res  
Ut noceant homini, credas, memor illius escæ,  
Quæ, simplex, olim tibi sederit: at simul assis  
Miscueris elixa, simul conchyliæ turdis,  
Dulcia se in bilem vertent, stomachoque tumultum  
Lenta feret pituita."

HORAT. Sat. L. ii. 2, 71-75.

Fourth Edition.



LONDON:

JOHN CHURCHILL, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

MDCCCLVI.

THE PLYMOUTH

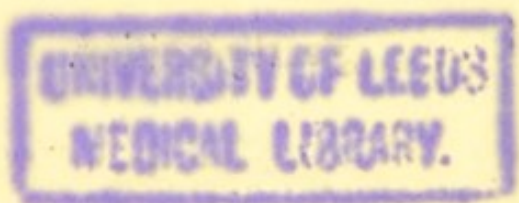


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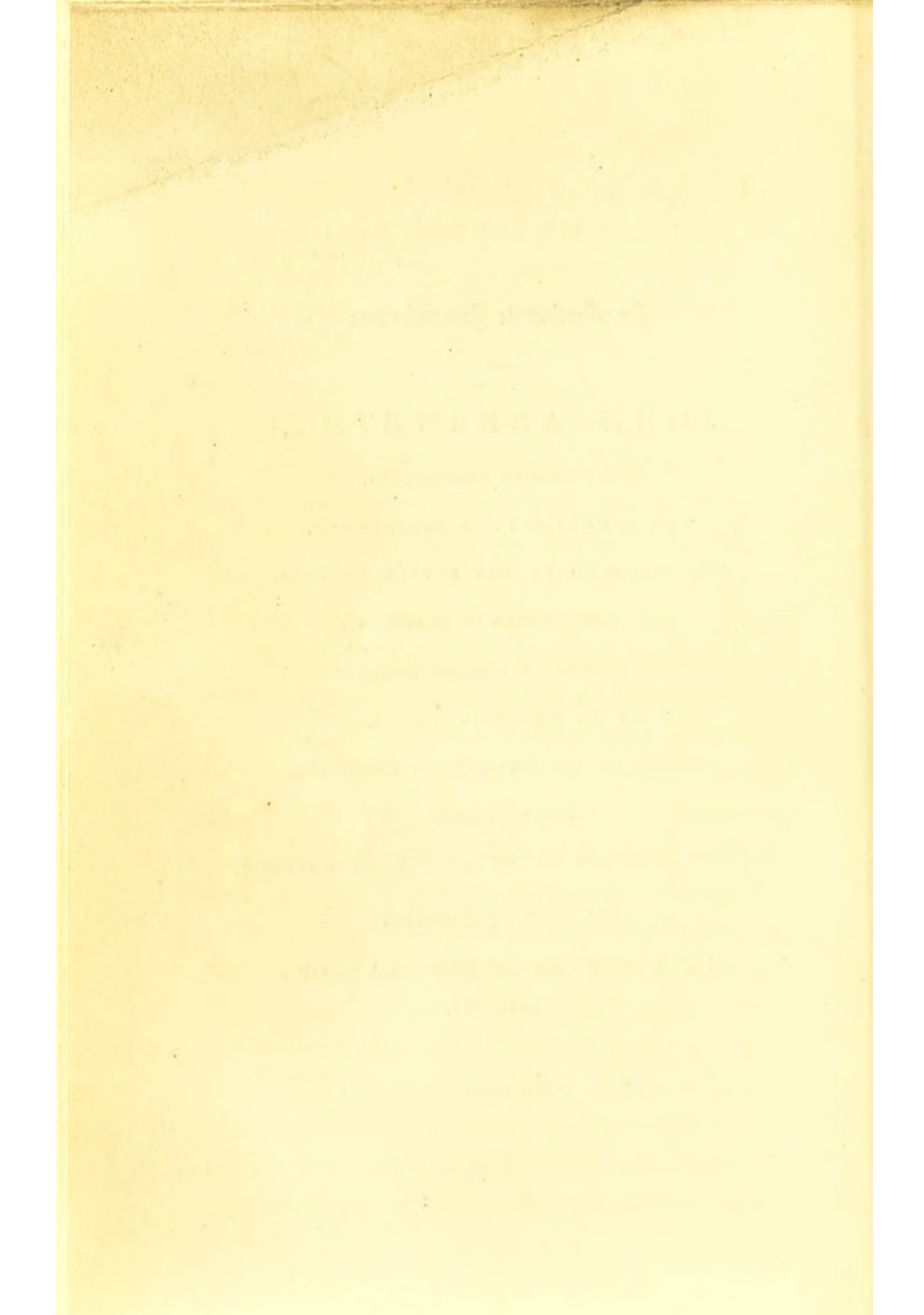


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In affectionate Remembrance  
OF  
JOHN ABERNETHY,  
THE PROFOUND PHILOSOPHER,  
THE HIGHLY-GIFTED INSTRUCTOR,  
THE BELOVED OF HIS PUPILS IN LIFE,  
THE REVERED IN DEATH,  
THE FOLLOWING CURSORY REMARKS  
ON HIS FAVOURITE SUBJECT,  
FOUNDED ON HIS ENLIGHTENED PRINCIPLES,  
AND CONFIRMED  
BY THE RESULTS OF EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE,  
Are dutifully Inscribed  
BY A MEMBER OF HIS\* CLASS OF  
1812—13.

\* See Appendix.







## PREFACE.

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It is long since I promised to give to the public the result of my observations on the Digestive Organs; the study of which has been always, to me, replete with deep interest; and having at length nearly renounced all nocturnal professional avocations, I am thereby enabled, with undisturbed study, and calm reflection, to watch the ever-varying phases presented by that important organ, the Stomach;—which, when it duly furnishes its pure functional secretions, is, like Fire, invaluable,—as a Slave, but otherwise it becomes a dangerous, because too powerful Despot! It is either, like the “vernal airs” that usher in the “gentle Spring,” mildly, but munificently, refreshing and revivifying the earth; or else it resembles the rude violence of elemental strife, devastating by its impetuous fury all that impedes its disastrous course. Be it then still my daily study to minister to “The Difficulties of the Stomach”—that Pandora’s



Box—the *fons et origo*—the source of so many of our corporeal and some of our mental susceptibilities! Let me not, however, be understood as meaning to herald these Practical Remarks, in deprecation of severe criticism, by unfelt declaration of humility and unfitness for the task I have undertaken. On the contrary, I have come forward to offer in all truthfulness some of the results of a diligent observation and inquiry during a long life, for the consideration of the profession to which I have the honour to belong, totally free from any anxious misgivings as to its reception; for I anticipate a *second* kind and cordial welcome from my brethren,—founding my expectation on the full assurance that they love Truth for its own sake; and will be pleased to see, in this performance, not a mere exhibition of the lucubrations of others, dapperly arranged and paraded for display, but of those which have been, in fact, gathered and carefully garnered for *use*—being the fruits of my own gleanings at the bed-side or in the consulting-room—following therein, though *haud passibus æquis*, the example of my first surgical Instructor, Sir Benjamin Brodie; who, when I expressed my opinion that his Lectures were greatly prized by my fellow-pupils even forty years ago, replied,



“ I have *myself wondered* that, with so little experience as I then had, my Lectures *should have been popular* with the students. I believe the explanation is, that, although I had not much information to give, what I did give was drawn chiefly from my own written notes of cases, so that I communicated my *own* knowledge, and not that copied from books.” It may be said that the *style* of my work is not sufficiently *grave*; and that the introduction of a lively anecdote is hardly defensible, when treating on the serious subject of human disease, and also that the *rules* which are here laid down for the preservation of health are so stringent, that it will be impossible to carry them *into practice*. To the first objection I would reply, that that man’s nature must be changed, before he who is daily and hourly “thankful for being (physically) not as some other men are,” can not only think, but speak and write from the impulse of his contented, nay, cheerful mind. And be it remembered that happily, in medicine, the age of wigs and canes (gold-headed) has long since passed away! And, well I wot, if there be not capacity, beyond the ordinary calibre, in the Physician, he will soon be distanced in this stirring go-ahead era; and although tricks and



traps for the unwary were never more rife, and quackery and shameless pretension more successful than in the present generation, such can, we may hope, only prevail for a season; while honesty, plain dealing, truth, and consistency, will stand forth triumphant to the last. To those persons who talk of *impossibilities*, I would only say, that the sooner the word is expunged from the Medical vocabulary the better for the weal of mankind. And I hesitate not to affirm, that all which I enjoin may, though not without effort, be attained, more or less, by every one,—and is entirely and unmistakeably within the power of *many*. ONE great fact, at least, I have ascertained (which of itself might constitute the reward of a life of labour),—namely, that Stomach Complaints are, for the most part, curable; that permanent deliverance from misery may be promised, and the engagement punctiliously fulfilled. I must also be allowed to say that the present work has *really* originated in the desire to again agitate that *vexata questio*, the marvellous qualities of the oxide of silver—a medicine which *I myself* have introduced to the profession; for I shall ever, with undiminished confidence, declare that a more safe and efficient remedy for certain diseases does not exist, and which opinion, in this my



fifteenth year of widely extended experience of its merits, I unflinchingly maintain, utterly regardless *now* of any counter-statement *from what quarter soever*. This preparation, I must be allowed to say, has done far more good, even *alone*, in many cases, than, with my most sanguine expectations, I had anticipated; but yet not so much as I have since found it capable of effecting, when *combined* with some suitable *adjuvant* such as the nature of each particular case may require. That the Oxide of Silver will ere very long be in extensive use, I am as sure as that I am writing these words. But that I shall *see* this happy result of my exertions is more than can be expected in the few years of usefulness which may yet be granted to me. Medical men, those of England even, are a class of persons slow to take advice from any but their paid and privileged Teachers. This may, with most, be owing to their timidity and conscientious carefulness: but with *some* it may arise from jealous conceit, and repugnance to be taught, even when taking the lesson from mature age and undoubted experience. That this disinclination *to stir*—this tardy reluctance to make even a timely move on their parts—arises from apathy, I will not do my brethren the injustice to imagine. Happily, however, there



already exists—as will be seen in the following pages—a daily increasing friendly phalanx, who *do* believe a professional Associate, when he declares that he has travelled and laboured, *sought and found* for them an inexhaustible *mine*,—and who desires nothing in return but that he may retain their confidence and affectionate regard; which, next to self-approbation, is worth more to him than all the mines of California! Whether this shall be the last time of the author's appearance in print, will mainly depend on the public's reception of the present performance. But if, as on several previous occasions, he should be again so fortunate as to satisfy the expectations of his medical brethren, and also obtain the approval of those candid Critics, whose former encouragement to him, as an Author, was cherished as the breath of his literary life,—he will then have nought left to desire! To all such *fautores existimationis suæ benigni* he tenders his grateful thanks, and desires, for the present, to conclude, with addressing them, most cordially, in the words of the Venusine Bard,

VIVITE (*sodales*) VALETEQUE!

*Lower Brook Street,  
January, 1852.*

ADVERTISEMENT  
TO THE  
FOURTH EDITION.

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My Publisher has again, for the third time, apprized me that another edition of my Book is called for, the circulation being so quick that it will be difficult to carry it through the press in time to supply the constantly increasing demand for copies. Foreseeing, indeed, from the quick circulation of the Third Edition, from its very issue, that this would be likely soon to take place, I had already commenced, and have now completed such a careful revision as will, I trust, leave nothing further to be done for this little unpretending "common-sense" production, so as to render it not unworthy of the marked approbation it has experienced from readers both professional and non-professional, as attested by the rapid disappearance of the last Edition. In effecting this final revision, I found scarcely



anything to add, almost nothing to curtail, and very little to alter, except by such changes as should impart greater perspicuity or render the style of what had been written, *currente calamo*, just as the calls of a practical life would allow, more adequate to the purpose of the subject-matter, which, at any rate, was the result of long thought and deep reflection, not bestowed, I trust, in vain. Accordingly, everything essentially necessary being done in the way of revision, nothing now remains for me but to make my bow of acknowledgment to the public for its kind and continued patronage.

15, Lower Brook Street, Grosvenor Square,  
September, 1856.



# THE STOMACH

## AND ITS DIFFICULTIES.

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It may be considered by superficial observers, that the subject of Dyspepsia, or Indigestion,—according to Dr. Armstrong, a most fruitful source of Consumption,—has been exhausted, and that little, if anything more remains to be said, so many books on Stomach Complaints, from which most persons suffer at one time or other, having been written by able men. The opinions of those who may do me the honour to read these remarks will be, I trust, of an approving and, consequently, encouraging character; and I hope they will agree with me, that it is the almost imperative duty of every Physician, whether of the rich or of the poor, to keep a faithful record of his experience, from day to day, and from year to year, especially if it be considerable;—since it is impossible for any one, with however excellent a memory, to recol-



lect, as one of our ancient medical writers has observed, the particulars of more than two or three years of his practice, a few very interesting cases excepted. It would be well if every member of the profession would keep a *journal* (as I have done during many years) of any practical points which may seem to be worthy of notice, when glancing over the medical contributions of the day, or while engaged in his more studious readings; for he would find, at a time when the anxiety of the medical friend to relieve is only exceeded by the desire of the afflicted patient for relief, how intensely gratifying will be the feeling when administering the cup of health, to reflect that he has taken it from his *own* repository; which, inspired by a sense of duty, he had been induced to treasure up. This has been, this will be, more or less, the lot of him, who has thus hoarded his experience, and husbanded his strength, for the hour of need! He will feel, also, as I have done, the craving desire to add, if possible, something to the constantly accumulating mass of medical *facts*, sincerely wishing to benefit the great family of man, before he goeth "whither he shall not return," to the dark valley, which to all, but certainly to a Sexagenarian, cannot be very far distant.



The importance of the Stomach in the animal economy can hardly be exaggerated: it was called at one time the seat of the Soul, and by Haller was figuratively designated "the conscience of the body," though of all the organs belonging to human nature the most ill-used! It shall be the first object of my present occupation, to describe, however briefly (otherwise a link in the chain would be wanting), the structure, situation, and functions of the Stomach, although this part of my duty will be to some almost a work of supererogation, these things being so well known, at least to all medical men. My principal object is to direct attention to not only a careful and truthful arrangement of what is *old*, but a communication of something that will be found to be *new*, in relation to the treatment of the organ in question, both in health and under disease. A "great book" being justly considered a "great evil," the main purpose should be to condense, that which must be said, to acceptable dimensions, and to round off the angular points which present themselves, while examining inquisitively the vitally important subject of human digestion. The Stomach is placed on the left side, or *hypochondrium*; and, as anatomists are fond



of comparison, is very like in shape to the Caledonian bagpipe, having its larger end to the left, and its smaller to the right, of the body. It varies much in size in different individuals; it is a continuation of the *œsophagus* or gullet, that tube which passes down in front of the spine, and behind the windpipe, and ends at the *duodenum*, or pit of the stomach, as it is commonly called, the commencement of the first or small intestines, into which it transfers its contents. The Stomach has three coats or coverings, the *mucous* or innermost, which begins at the mouth, lining the whole of the alimentary tube, between thirty and forty feet in extent, the highway of the body. The second tunic is the *muscular*, which, by the contraction of its fibres, is constantly moving the various matters while under the process of digestion. The third, or outer one, is the *peritoneal covering*, which envelopes and protects, not only the stomach, but the other important parts which are tributary to, or connected directly or indirectly with, that organ. Its nerves are *cerebral*, *ganglionic*, and *spinal*. It is plentifully supplied with blood; and hence endued with a high degree of vitality.

Man is an omnivorous animal, as is shown by



his teeth and the structure of his digestive apparatus. It is true that many instances have occurred of individuals who have lived to old age without ever tasting meat—the late Sir Richard Phillips, Sheriff of London, Dr. Lamb,\* and others. John Hunter, it is recorded, fed an eagle entirely on vegetable, and a sheep on animal food; and yet life and apparent health were sustained. Rabbits, if kept fasting a long time, will eat meat greedily. The teeth, however, were no doubt intended by our Creator to be our main guide on this point. Animals which are destined to be supported by aliment of a mixed character have teeth adapted to the minute division of flesh; and also such as belong to the vegetable-eating tribes. It would seem best, therefore, to adopt the evident design of our structure, and acquiesce humbly in the course pointed out by nature, and justified by common sense;—inasmuch as the food, whether animal or vegetable, or both, requiring much commixture for its due digestion, there are salival manufactories, so to say, established, one on each side of the face and under the jaw, which abundantly

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\* The doctor died, prematurely, as I must believe, at eighty-three.



liquefy the mass as it passes down the œsophagus into the stomach; that organ being duly prepared for its reception, and forming the grand alembic of health and hilarity, the mainstay of bodily comfort, and the happy precursor to mental perception. On the instant that the admixture arrives at its destination, a second fluid is simultaneously secreted from the mucous membrane, which is called gastric, (the word juice having been formerly employed,) and which is so well adapted to break up and prepare the heterogeneous masses with which it has to deal, that it rarely fails to pass them on in an improved condition, the product for further treatment; but, if unusual matters be presented,\* *muscular* power—the Special Constable—is called upon to eject or transfer the intruder into that tube which ends finally in the *cloaca*—the *omnium gatherum* of all clean and unclean bodily things! This gastric fluid, abundant in quantity and pure in quality, when not secreted from a vitiated source, contains an acid, the *hydrochloric*,—or that which was heretofore known as the *muriatic*,—partly derived from the food and partly from the blood, and essential to the production of

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\* As a hat, for instance.



that nascent fluid which is eventually to nourish the system during the wear-and-tear of our work-a-day lives.

After this commingling of food and gastric fluid, the mass passes through the *pyloric* or lower end of the stomach into the *duodenum*, the first portion of the small intestines, which is comparatively very short, but both long and broad enough to receive the all-important contribution of the liver towards a second process of digestion, in the shape of an alkaline fluid, *the bile*, which is destined to neutralize the acid proceeds from the Stomach.

The *pancreas*, also an important glandular organ, which occupies a position near to this laboratory, lying across the spine, transmits by a tube to the duodenum a copious bland secretion, similar in quality to the saliva, as its contribution to the all-important process in question.\*

The two next portions of the intestinal tube, the small intestines, (called *jejunum* and *ileum*,) furnished, as has been said, with an inner delicate secreting membrane, and, like the stomach,

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\* Dr. Baillie said that the pancreas was the least liable to disease of any of the internal organs.



with one of a muscular texture, pass the prepared fluid on through their long tabulated structure, and are supplied by another description of vessels which permeate the canal; and these marvellously, (but *all* is marvellous!) by their selective property, absorb from the stream as it flows its most nutrient and valuable portion; they then convey it to a receptacle by the side of the spine, and, finally, this new purified product is distilled drop by drop into a vein which conducts it to the heart and lungs, that it may, by the action of the oxygen of the atmosphere, be perfected into blood, the grand vital fluid of the body, from which all the various secretions are formed!

This description, condensed to the utmost, is, however tedious, unavoidable in a work which treats on Indigestion; since the normal or legitimate process must be first detailed in order that the variations therefrom may be presented, regulated, and removed. Brevity, indeed, is *demande*d by the professional reader, who so well knows these functional qualifications; yet even *that* must be "in measure due," since there are others, non-medical persons, who laudably seek to understand some of the wonders of the animal machine; and to comprehend, though



necessarily imperfectly, the striking succession of changes which occur in their bodies, where *chance* has no place, and where, as in all things, *design* is the *Alpha* and the *Omega* of the beautiful whole.

To advert to my *object* in the following pages: it is firstly, to point out how we may best *prevent* Indigestion; secondly, to indicate some of the means which will assuredly *remove* it, or at least *alleviate* its annoyances, such evidence being herewith adduced as may satisfy those whose confidence alone one would most wish to possess: and lastly, it is my intention to conclude the subject by recording a few *facts* and opinions thereunto relating, the result of the inquiries of a truth-seeking mind, elicited by a memory naturally good, but infinitely improved as drawn out in practice by constant use.

A dissertation on the qualities of food suitable for each individual would occupy volumes, and I can only, therefore, give a very subordinate share of consideration to this part of the subject. The *sources* of nourishment are infinite, and the *organs* of assimilation, though usually accommodating *à merveille*, are sometimes, as it were inherently, wayward and



capricious. The first part of the digestive process—namely, *mastication*—demands attention at the very threshold of our inquiry, for on its due performance, or by an operation analogous to it, the health of man or woman, and especially of children, depends; and of the last-mentioned a few words must, *in limine*, be said. None but foolish incapable *nurses* ever give solid animal food to infants not having the child's number of twenty teeth, after which period legitimate eating really begins; and the most watchful care is necessary, on the part of parents and guardians, to see that these said teeth are duly employed or that the substitute—namely, ample artificial comminution—be insisted upon. How indeed can we expect habitual obedience from a wayward, inexperienced, ignorant offshoot of humanity, acting on strong impulse,\* while those who are ripe in

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\* In this place let me solemnly caution parents and guardians (having so often seen the direful effects of forcing the minds of children by excessive early pressure) to abstain, and not work the brain of the sensitive infant prematurely, defeating thereby the intention in view. Shakspeare, Walter Scott, Sheridan, Goldsmith, and Dean Swift, are said not to have been clever as boys; and they lived to a



age, endued with sound sense and much resolution, perpetually take those things which they know to be unsuitable, if not unsafe, and who require a keeper much more than the mannikin alluded to. And while on this part of my subject, I must advise that it be made a strict injunction to children to take salt\* with their food, so necessary for digestion, as helping to supply that wholesome acid the hydrochloric, without which the process *cannot* efficiently be carried on and perfected. Sugar in abundance is an abomination to the stomachs of young

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good age; whereas Tasso, Pascal, Kirke White, and some others, who all ripened precociously, were urged onwards, and died young. That the mother supplies the mental faculties, and the father the corporeal, I am quite satisfied: almost every clever man, living or dead, has had *an intellectual* FEMALE parent. Of great men who had clever mothers, I may name, for exemplification, Lord Bacon, Sheridan, Schiller, Sir William Jones, Sir Walter Scott, Napoleon, Curran, Dr. Samuel Parr, and the Kembles.

\* Some silly, misguided persons rail insanely against the use of salt, which has been recommended strongly by Physicians in every age. There is a very striking case mentioned by the late Dr. Hugh Ley in his work on *Laryngismus Stridulus*, p. 205, where the life of a child was evidently saved by leaving off sugar, and taking salt instead.



people. Water as a beverage, or very light beer, is, in all cases, the fittest for persons under the age of fourteen or fifteen, unless other fluids are medically ordered; also one substantial meal of animal food in the twenty-four hours is amply sufficient. The lithic, another acid, but of a hurtful character, is secreted by the digestive organs when either naturally weak, or made so by bad management (stuffing in particular), and is a source of great trouble to those under puberty, by day and *sometimes by night*; and also to adults, who have passed the middle period of life;\* and, without great caution, continues to injure and render miserable those whose constitutions are disposed to secrete in abundance this acid. Nor is this the only evil produced by the irritated and outraged organ, since even the oxalic acid is sometimes eliminated; and how destructive to the constitution the absorption of this must be, can easily be imagined. The liver, as is well known, is situated under the ribs, chiefly on the right side of the body: its office is to furnish an alkaline fluid, *the bile*, which is in a manner solicited

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\* A great change takes place between forty and fifty in the constitutions *both of men and women*, requiring, at that period, a little medical, and other care.



for commixture in the *duodenum* by the pure, healthy, mild acid of the stomach; but when this becomes rank, and strong,—as it were *overproof*,—and poisonous, then the liver is overtasked, and excited to produce an overflow of bile, and this often not of good quality, and then the evil begins; Pandora's box is opened; impure blood is formed (from heterogeneous, hostile, incongruous elements); in children especially. Hence Diarrhœa, Eruptions, Hydrocephalus, and Convulsions arise; but even escaping these, Scrofulous affections and Calculous disorders, more slow, but more dangerous, because creeping insidiously, enter the system without warning: and though *these* evils may not occur to adults by the mismanagement of themselves, others of a not less dire and refractory character arise—such as miserable, spirit-breaking *Dyspepsia*, forbidding the proper enjoyment of a single comfortable meal—Gout, Gravel, and premature old age. Our allotted time on earth would be easily attainable by man, if he did not follow the blind guidance of his own wilful nature; but indolence and self-indulgence are his bane, who might fully enjoy most of his Creator's gifts, both mentally and corporeally, under defined and reasonable restrictions. But no: suction and cramming have now changed



places; drinking is out of fashion, and gluttony is *in*; man rushes on heedlessly to the goal, and compensates himself with his plentiful platter, far more perilous than the heart-cheering, laughter-provoking, temperate cup, and as surely commits self-destruction, as the poor coward who accomplishes it by the razor, the river, or the rope! But if he will be persuaded,—though by a stranger, yet a *friend*,—and it be not too late,—he may obtain abundance of aid from one who has been long, very long, gleaning in the field of observation, and who will drop into his ear much useful counsel, and teach him how to remove many of the thorns and brambles which impede his present errant and hazardous course.

But *eating in excess* is the vice of the present day, and so well managed, that even religious persons will not see its sinfulness\*—*sinful*, as absorbing and wasting so much more food than

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\* Is drunkenness a sin and gluttony not? Is it not a sin to make but one meal a day?—namely, to eat all day long. Those who refrain entirely from wine and spirits (in perverse opposition to ancient and modern, profane and scriptural authority) generally eat twice as much as other persons, since water alone fails to satisfy the due demands of the stomach.



the body requires, and which so many absolutely need; and *unwise* regarding it in the lowest point of view, as lessening the enjoyments of appetite by inordinate use. Thus these sensualists dig their graves with their teeth, and surely march thereto by the slow but certain steps of premature decay. But as our constitutions bear not bold and sudden changes, the snaffle-rein must be added to the bridle of common sense thus recommended, and thus the victory over superfluous feeding may be gradually obtained. Great caution, too, must be employed, especially at the period of convalescence from severe illness, many having been killed by gastronomic errors, not only as to quality, but quantity also, at that critical juncture.

These may seem hard words, but they are advisedly employed; and they are used especially to warn those who are yet able to listen and obey, and not to those who have all their lives been outraging that most long-suffering of all our bodily organs, and who will find it so much more difficult to submit to medical authority, than that part of the community who have not as yet recklessly indulged in habitual insubordination.

Nothing can be more difficult than the judicious practice of the medical art, because each



case when presented to our notice, as physicians, must be studied in all its individual peculiarities;—so much does the same complaint vary in its aspect in different persons and also in the same patient at various times; and hence the necessity for the first inquiries being minute, studiously careful, particularly made and attended to. And invalids would do well to remember that they are in the presence of their medical director and friend, and that there must be no mental reservation, otherwise the doctor is defrauded of his best reward, and, what is far worse, the patients cheat themselves. “His best reward!”—what is that? I answer, it is the pleasure of feeling that, as humble instruments merely, our skill has been permitted to prevail; and to see, in such cases, the parent restored to the family, the wife to the husband, the husband to the wife, the child to the parent, the friend to the friend, and thus to see the eye brighten again, beam anew, and overflow with the grateful tear of happiness. It is then that the heart of the faithful physician beats blithely at the joyful consummation mainly resulting from the patience and skill of him, the confessedly undoubted, though secondary, cause.\*

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\* Much twaddle has been prattled, and from time



And here may I interpose a word of advice to the Physician, who should withdraw his services when he perceives the slightest want of confi-

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to time offensively written on "the religious principles of medical men." I, for one, indignantly deny that any imputation can be justly made against the Profession in the present day on that head. We can only judge of a tree by its fruit. I who have freely mixed, during half a century, with my brethren of every grade, from the lowest to the highest, in France, and in Italy, in Scotland, and in Ireland, and, above all, in dear old England, in town and country, hesitate not to declare that I know no such disinterested philanthropists as medical men. We do not make comparisons, but we claim equal companionship, as Samaritans, (as a privilege only, not as a ground for boasting,) with the Clergy of each and every denomination. We are lavish of our time, our money, and our pity; for "having the poor always with us," we must not, and we do not, as a body, heap up riches for ourselves: we are *their* privileged protectors—at least, in sickness—and never refuse to them our advice. Witness the thousands and tens of thousands who are yearly assisted gratuitously by the medical practitioners of this great city, and also by the Poor-law and other medical officers in the provinces, who work without a thought of obtaining what would be called, in any other grade of life, just remuneration! If the conduct of medical practitioners be not universally Christian-like, it has always appeared to me to par-



dence on the part of his patients,—for there should be as entire a feeling of trustfulness on the one side as the desire to relieve on the other,—and it is certainly the more dignified course for him, whose authority ought to be absolute, to make the first move.

Patients, particularly those who suffer from Stomach complaints, must be told, that though gorging, from the cradle to the grave, is the chief cause of Dyspepsia, yet neglect, and inattention to nature's requirements,\* are also very frequent causes. There are persons who have much misery to contend with, who nurse their

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take so much of that character, that I have never yet been able to see the difference.

The transactions of life are so different in *reality*, and when inquired into, to the *aspect* which they bear on a first and uninquiring view,—as, for instance, it would seem surprising that that august and learned Body, the College of Physicians, should go to *Paris* for a President, and Her Majesty's talented first Physician to *Holland* for a consultation in the case of a Royal Valetudinarian; but the probability is, that neither of the Bodies alluded to could have properly adopted a different mode of proceeding.

\* Though, as the French say, “l'appetit vient en mangeant;” the same as to thirst, &c.



troubles, who will not see that this life is a training-school, *and who will scarcely forgive even their MAKER for afflicting them*,—or who will not behold the beautiful, the cheering resplendent blue sky so nearly touching the dark cloud of their distress!—these often shun their meals, or for solids substitute inefficient *liquid* nourishment, and thus add bodily infirmity to mental disquietude. But such persons will in vain consult medical men until their grief shall have somewhat subsided.\* But there is another and a large class of individuals, who are free indeed from mental anxiety, but who will not inquire, and who forbear to *use* that common sense with which they are gifted; these will take no sustenance whatever, not even a cup of milk or of coffee, on first rising from bed in the morning, before taking a long walk. Others, again, who are sane on all other points, will take an early breakfast, dine at a very late hour, eating nothing in the interim. To such I would say, and especially if destined to close mental ap-

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\* That talented Physician, the late Dr. Baillie, always avoided prescribing for those who were in deep affliction, full well knowing that his medicine at that time would be entirely inefficacious.



plication, Take a biscuit, a crust of bread, or some other light article of diet, at least, or you will, when age advances, assuredly suffer from the stomach having been kept empty so many hours every day, and this perhaps during many years. The Liver invariably undergoes pain and general derangement of its functions, from mental affliction and depression; which sometimes originate, and always aggravate, Dyspeptic disorders. But the patient who has no real trouble may be duly directed as to daily habits, the selection of food, as to quality and proper quantity; and, having received earnest injunctions on the subject, will find a reward in the cure of his Indigestion, which will be more or less perfect, according to the extent of his obedience.

As a general rule, it may be laid down that every man ought to have seven hours' sleep in the twenty-four, but more especially those who have much bodily labour or mental occupation; a woman requires eight hours, and a child still more. I quite agree with Dr. Baillie that so long as sufficient sleep be obtained during the night, it matters not *which* of the five, six, or seven hours are selected for the purpose; there is no harm in *talking* about "beauty sleep"



before twelve. | Good sleepers are good workers, but light sleepers, as they are called, may always be permitted to doze during half an hour or so after their great meal, as also those who have weak digestion; but more on this subject anon. That vexatious tendency to sleepiness so tormenting to active-minded persons, which especially occurs in men, for the first time, between forty and fifty, can only be obviated by temperance in eating and drinking, refraining from malt liquor (except bitter beer), using much walking exercise, *and not allowing the excretions\* to remain long in the body.* An in-

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\* The bowels and the bladder, *as receiving the most hurtful excretions of our bodies*, ought not only to be emptied when they crave relief, but a wise man waits not for this; and I would implore all of either sex to remember, through life, that they ought to *anticipate*, whenever they may be able, the call to evacuate the intestinal canal, and especially to get rid of the *last-named* poisonous product; for this, of all others, is the most dangerous to our health to retain, even when composed of its legitimate qualities; and how much more ruinous must its retention be when loaded with albumen, or with one or other of the various acids which so often oppress and harass its containing receptacle! It will be well, at any rate, for us to be able to satisfy ourselves, which we can do by the following test of



valid should never be out of bed after ten o'clock, at any period of the year; he should never go to rest with cold feet; and should rise as early as he comfortably can, from the middle of May till September or October, particularly in a large city, where the consumers of oxygen are shut up in their bed-rooms for their ten or twelve hours, breathing, over and over again, the same vitiated and pestilential atmosphere! A ventilator here is absolutely necessary, or an inch of open window, in the summer months at least, for those who will not rise early, but who have abundance of courage for all other things. Daily walking exercise, in cases of dyspepsia, must be insisted on as a *sine quâ non*. I have myself often removed a beloved friend, by gentle violence, from the indulgence of a bed, with the

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Dr. Bence Jones—namely, that the excretion under consideration is natural, in order that, *if not*, medical assistance should be sought:—"The renal excretion, when of a healthy character," the Doctor says, "never gives a precipitate, after having been boiled, that is not soluble in a drop or two of nitric acid." Those who chiefly live on vegetable diet make much water; and those who will eat inordinately of meat should indulge largely in weak potations, to diminish, as much as may be, the substantiality of their over-nutritious diet.



happiest results. Every one, whether afflicted with Indigestion or not, should walk, and that *every day*, in as pure an air as he can find, till he begins to experience a sense of fatigue.\* A long room or passage may be used as a substitute, however sorry, in inclement weather; which will rarely, for a whole day together, prove obstructive to a health-seeking individual, of common energy of character. Horse-exercise is next in value; and where both these can be obtained, medical services will be at a discount. Carriages change the air and the scene, and, so far, are not to be despised, especially by those who have the inclination, but not the power, to accomplish all that they would; but Driving is not deserving of the name of Exercise.

*The want of a covered well-ventilated place, but free from draughts, for delicate invalids to resort to in winter, is a serious evil in this otherwise greatly-improving Metropolis.*

As the *number of times* in the day that we should eat is of great importance, and the most *fitting hours* for it is not much less, that subject

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\* Liebig remarks, "One great objection to *excessive* exercise is, that it causes us to take too much food."



shall come next in order. And first, in regard to the number of times. This must depend, as also the quantity and quality of the aliment, on the labour that is about to be performed; for all who study health ought diligently to employ both body and mind, whether they live by their own labour or by that of their deceased friends. The following rule I would write in letters of gold: *According to our mental and bodily employment, so should we eat.* But there is a large number of persons in the world who do nothing, who never did do anything, and who never will exert their faculties, even for the promotion of health, unless frightened at the thought of death. Such are persons who will not believe that they are *Stewards\** of their time and property, and *act* upon that belief; accordingly, they become mere locusts and cumberers of the earth. Yet these eat and drink to the full as much as those who know and feel hourly, that by the steady use of all their faculties they have

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\* The late Rev. Robert Montgomery once, while preaching a sermon in order to raise a fund whereby to build a church, startled some of his congregation by saying to them, in conclusion, "Put the money on the plate: *it is not yours!*"



the *mens sana in corpore sano*, which offers the best guarantee for a long and a healthy life.

And here it occurs to me to give a serious caution to those of either sex who are small in stature, constantly to remember, not to take much food, or, in other words, so much as those of larger corporeal dimensions. These individuals, however, whom I would thus restrict at table, may be comforted by the full assurance that, if long life be desired by them, they will have a much better prospect of attaining it than a tall person would have. The stomach may *receive*, but the body must *entertain* it. The same rule of abstemiousness applies to those who have had the misfortune to lose a limb. These especially should consider—but they do not—that there is the same quantity of blood formed as heretofore, but *not* the same *space* for its circulation; hence such individuals are usually plethoric, gross, over-nourished,—and thus in an unsafe state, as always travelling on the brink of a precipice! And if they should have lost a *lower* limb they will not only be less inclined, but less fit, for taking salutary exercise. In inflammatory disorders the judicious Physician orders the abstraction of blood according to the bulky or the diminutive stature of his (adult) patient. The



same precaution is observed by the legitimate practitioners of medicine on corresponding occasions, in bearing in mind the *ages* of sick children. Neglect of bleeding has killed many, but rash, violent, opposite treatment has destroyed more, at every stage of life, either by a *coup de main*—as in attacks of palsy, for instance, or of epilepsy.\* Those again who scarcely ever perceptibly perspire are the most difficult to treat when they are ill: such are found, I think, chiefly among the gentler sex;† and therefore, the great safety-valve of the skin being all but

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\* While my epileptic patients are under treatment by the oxide of silver (the very best medicine we possess for Epilepsy), I desire each of them to wear, just below the tie of the cravat, a card with these words written thereon, *Don't bleed me*; as a protection for them, while insensible, against any active minded Sangrado, who might be summoned at the time of seizure, and otherwise possibly commit irreparable mischief.

† To such I have found warm bathing and the flesh-brush of great use, so grievously neglected in England; and, if they wear flannel, as every one in this changeable climate should (next to the skin, if they can bear it), it must not, *in their case*, be taken off at night, even in the summer; the stomach and the skin sympathizing so much with each other.



closed, *they should eat little*. Lastly, young persons, on account of growth, require much food as well as much sleep; and the question of *amount* need not be considered here, as exhaustion will seek reparation, and the young, having the key to the hearts of their parents, will always eat, and drink, and sleep, as much as they require.

The *time of day* for eating is of more importance than is generally supposed. Of this I entertain no doubt at all, that the earlier in the day the great meal of the whole can, by possibility, be taken, the better. The Stomach, and all the other important organs which are concerned in digestion, are the most vigorous after sleep, and therefore most able then to encounter and master the repast, *par excellence*, of the day; but the artificial state of society in which we live absolutely mocks the sanative advice of the Physician, and even a man's own endeavours to help himself; for how is it possible for those who are anxiously engaged in important pursuits to possess clear heads (medical persons not excepted), whose minds and bodies are wearing away by incessant over-exertion, always by day, and often, in addition, by night? Yet much, very much, may still be done by those who are



disposed to hearken to reason ; for, although the breakfast cannot and ought not to change places with dinner, a two o'clock *luncheon*, particularly in the case of ladies, may be substituted ; this it is always quite easy to do, and, indeed, many of my fair friends are in the habit of *dining* in reality at two, making believe only at seven or eight. Thus those who will listen to the voice of experience, and will accept friendly counsel, will go as far as they can in the right way ; and in proportion to their conformity will they reap that *practical benefit*, which, having fairly earned, they may reasonably expect to enjoy. I advise, then, that the breakfast, as a meal, be not eaten till the appetite for the day shall have arrived ; and those who do not feel hungry (though most lively, active-minded persons do so on rising) should, however, if able to walk, first take a cup of milk, coffee, or cocoa, and then promenade for an hour, at this the best portion of the day. Those who have the great privilege of being able to dine at two, or not later than three, will at six or seven in the evening seek that refreshing beverage “which cheers, but not inebriates,” after which a very slight repast—suppers being abolished—will suffice (a biscuit, or some almost nominal *placebo*, to amuse the



stomach till "balmy sleep" shall come); and this is the code of the health-seeking, sensible man, for he will treat his Stomach exactly as he would a pet animal (not a two-legged one), which ever makes a grateful return for judicious kindness.

*Diet* is a large subject, and demands the lion's share of our task; embracing the important question as to what substances, whether solid or fluid, we should supply to that insatiable applicant, *the mouth*, which seems never to be tired of saying "give;" but be it my province, and that of my fellows, to say *withhold*; for to give, as is ordinarily given, is to destroy; but to furnish half rations at times is to insure the perfect zest for those creature-comforts which are so abundantly supplied, in such vast variety, for our legitimate present use, as well as the prolongation of our existence, in which many have undoubtedly much enjoyment after seventy, or even eighty, years of age.

Although other and far different maladies arise from the prandial pranks of the present day, they are not so soon developed as the effects of post-prandial debaucheries of not very distant times, now, thank Heaven, gone by, let us hope, for ever!—times when free agency for



a soberly-disposed man was almost out of the question; when vinous potations were indulged in, in quick succession, from glasses without pedestals, often with locked doors (that a certain fixed quantity might be consumed); till, at length, those two and even three bottle men would, one by one, fall under the table, to be swept away with the rest of the refuse, by the domestics of these habitual sots. The toasts and the conversation after dinner among these so-called gentlemen of that day are frightful to reflect upon. Early escape from such pollution could only by decision and firmness be accomplished. But how often have I heard with grief of a young man, endued with all that delightful purity of mind which we often see in early life, being first introduced, as a manly privilege, to the society of these drunken debauchees, and then, ere long, the trail of the serpent has passed over *him*! And there still are too many young men, who, as yet, having had no contact with vice, appear to be hardly of this world,—yet gradually and insensibly by evil communication give up one virtue after another, till they become at length lost in the common herd—left only to *look* wistfully *back* on the state of paradisiacal purity they once



possessed, but which, alas! only at rare and transient intervals can they ever experience more! But now, happily, an intoxicated man, is rarely to be met with: *a drunken gentleman never.*

In consequence of the present cautious shyness as to the bottle, Gout and Gravel,—both of which arise from the same cause,—are comparatively of rare occurrence among men; while women—perhaps from not drinking to excess—are almost exempt from these two disorders, and which men really *need* not have. Another compensation, too, the gentle sex enjoy for their numerous miseries, mental and bodily, is the being less liable than men to consumption. But if men *will be sick*, the miserably painful maladies of stone and gravel seem to absorb, like Aaron's rod, all others, and enable their possessors, who have duly graduated in brandy and port, to hobble out painfully pre-eminent as "Grand Compounders" of their Year. And here let me say, in regard to Port Wine, that where my patients have had the resolution to renounce it as a *habit*, and drank good full-bodied claret, with Scotch or Irish whisky-and-water occasionally, their old enemy has invariably left them. Sherry agrees with the majority

of persons better than Madeira, and assimilates better with that seducing tempter—Champagne; which never having been seen formerly, excepting at the tables of the rich and the great, is now found everywhere. The dietetic Physician cannot say much in its commendation. A single glass even would cause the cheek of the Emperor Napoleon to become red;\* but then, though a great sufferer in other respects, his stomach was *his* weakest organ. An “outside barbarian,” a remnant of the olden time, will be seen occasionally to venture upon a jorum of John Barleycorn, or even a glass of port, with his cheese,—an article of diet which, being only eatable with the aforementioned liquids, is rapidly losing caste. Ale and porter with the middle and higher classes, are now rarely introduced at table, their use with wine, excepting with sherry, being incompatible. Malt liquor is now prescribed by Physicians, but in certain suitable cases only. The lower grades of society prescribe it for them-

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\* Whenever the cheeks become rouged after dinner, it is a sure sign of feebleness of the digestive powers, and is a hint for the employment of reparative means.



selves empirically, and without consideration. Breakfast, in this country, consists of tea and coffee, with eggs, meat, and sometimes fish : in Scotland, of all these, and, in addition, an abundance of marmalade and other preserves. In France and Italy, the cup of coffee\* (the best in the world, inasmuch as, in the former country especially, the coffee is not grudged, as in England) is taken immediately on rising, and *le déjeuner à la fourchette*, in other words the *first* dinner, at eleven o'clock. Monsieur, after the large stock which at this time he lays in, can very well wait till five, when he eats as much as he can ; and this usually concludes (as he generally retires to rest early, that he may rise in good time) his gastronomic feats of the day ; so that, in fact, he takes but two meals in the twenty-four hours, whereas those persons in England who are unwisely advised to take

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\* The way that I was taught to make coffee for myself during a twelvemonth's residence for purposes of study (in Paris), was as follows : Use it fresh roasted, immediately after being ground ; allow half an ounce of the berry to each person ; and, instead of water, pour over the mass of coffee a boiling decoction of the coffee of the preceding day.



“little and often,” make but one, for they carry out the idea faithfully, and eat all the day long. The Stomach does not know what to do with such people. In ordinary statutable cases, that wonderful receptacle\* always disposes of the previous meal before it engages with the next; but those who make feeding their hobby, and who are, therefore, fit for little else, ungratefully give their best bodily benefactor no quarter at all; which, as well as the too long abstinence which has been already touched upon, will be equally resented, nay, avenged, later in life. Persons do not, though they should, well consider what, as a matter of fact, is the character of their constitution, and of

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\* Who has not heard of the experimental philosopher, who fed a rabbit first on oats, and, after a certain time, gave the animal a meal of parsley, and, suffering a proper interval to elapse, killed it. The stomach had nearly digested the oats, but had not attacked the parsley. The same experimenter fed another rabbit, reversing the order of these two articles of food, and, destroying the animal, as in the preceding case, found that the digestive organs had been employed with the parsley (the first meal), but the oats were as yet unacted upon; their turn had not arrived! Would that we would deal as justly by the *stomach* as that abused friend does by us!



their habits. A man or woman who is plethoric, and makes blood fast, should not eat meat for breakfast;\* an egg, or two, would be the extent of my allowance to them; or, perhaps, should there be mental or bodily employment in prospect, some dried fish. Corpulent persons, again, who have already taken too much sustenance, in whom the accumulation of years is hoarded up in the shape of fat, may well perform quarantine, and rest a little from their toil.†

It is a great mistake to suppose that stout

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\* Persons who are full of blood, and are above the average size, secrete much lithic acid. Fat in them, too, is stored up, and nourishes them when ill, and when food cannot be taken. Haller mentions a man, who weighed eight hundred and twenty-five pounds. Daniel Lambert and Bright could only boast each of a load of seven or eight hundred. It is a wise plan, and adopted by many who are corpulent and make blood fast, and who resort frequently to feasts, to dine on fish *alone* when at home, with a very sparing allowance of butter on the subsequent day to the feast. As an inducement to perform this penance, let them be assured *that obesity, especially in men, tends much to the abridgment of life.*

† They should also make it a rule to take a warm bath twice or thrice every week, *for them* a needful act of purification.



people do not eat as much as those who are thin ; their puffing and panting, one would think, might give them warning, as also their profuse perspirations, particularly by night. Let such avoid the sugar-basin and the butter-boat as much as they have hitherto sought them, and eschew oily food and malt liquor, unless it be of the pale and bitter kind ; but when individuals say—as I once heard a corpulent gentleman declare—that “he would drink ale if it cost him his life,” what can medical authority avail with a madman of this kind ? Although patients who have a weak digestion do not get rid of aqueous fluids well, I have yet found that black tea for breakfast, as well as in the evening (never hot, but strong, and in moderate quantity), is the best beverage for all. Toasted bread is the most wholesome solid for either the first or last meal of the day, either with rye or without, as it may agree. Baker’s bread is objected to, on account of its containing alum.\* The

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\* Dr. Ager (who lectured with Dr. Hooper, my early teacher, in Cork-street in 1811) was accustomed to tell us a story relating to a friend of his—a Physician, who, suspecting that his baker took the liberty of putting alum into his bread, had some powdered, cut a slice from a loaf, sprinkled the alum



recent researches of the *Lancet* have shown that this is the fact; but how few can have bread baked at home? Hot cakes, rolls, muffins, new bread, &c., must never be introduced into weak stomachs. Bacon need not be refused, it rarely disagrees; its constituent parts are so different from those of other meats. When sea-bathing is desirable, *after breakfast* is the best time for it; but with those whose circulation is feeble, the water should be tepid at first, that the shock\* may not be too great. I do not recommend the shower-bath to persons who have weak nerves, for the same reason: sponging is better for them. This also is the fittest period of the day for eating fruit, which, when thoroughly ripe, especially raspberries, strawberries, and gooseberries (not currants), suit marvellously well most stomachs, as do some other products of the garden or hothouse; but this kind of additional indulgence must be

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upon it, and then sent for the offender, and showed it to him, who, taken by surprise, said, "Why, good dear me, sir, there is enough there for a whole batch!"

\* This is more applicable to men, for the gentle certainly bear cold much better than the rougher sex.



attained by the patient's own careful experience. No luncheon is required, excepting the dinner be late ; but all *meats* should be avoided at luncheon, unless sanctioned by medical authority.

And now, sitting down, at length, to discuss the main repast of the day, I would address, and, if possible, *influence*, those who wish to be directed ; and who, I really believe, from the care which I have seen them exercise, desire not to be guilty of prandial excess. Such will accept as a guide one who has well considered the subject in all its bearings, and who has not, he trusts, burthened his book with irrelevant or gratuitous observations.

*Quantity* of food is of much more serious importance than quality ; for although every man is *not* a fool or a Physician at forty, he will have generally found out, at that period of his life, what articles of food may be taken by him, and those which may not ; for there are few—who live in towns, at least—who can eat of everything that is to be found in the culinary list. These will, therefore, take care, nay be somewhat cautious, as to *quality*, but will probably indemnify themselves in the other respect ; it being perfectly true what Mr. Abernethy was accustomed to say, that when eating four times



as much as we ought, a quarter *supported* us, and the remainder we had to keep, at our own risk!—and this is now the less to be justified, because, in these halcyon days, in more respects than one, there is perfect liberty conceded, both in eating and drinking. It may be remembered by some of my readers how pressing to take more was commonly practised formerly, not only on those that needed it, but on those who needed it not—on myself,\* for example. Yet let it be an axiom never to be forgotten, that the Stomach must have, at least once a day, a certain portion of animal food, which, if not properly digested, assistance must be sought to ascertain the cause, and enable it so to do. The taking of soup or broth (*potage*) is by no means of the same value as meat; an ounce of the latter is more valuable than a pint of liquid

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\* I once escaped, at table, the well-meant persecutions of the kind-hearted wife of a medical friend, from whom, ever and anon, came the inquiry of what I would take next. This had been so often repeated, that I had begun to look round, fearing that my character, *as a teacher by example*, might suffer, and replied that, “If she pleased, I would take *breath*.” It was saucy and ungrateful, but it was good-naturedly received and understood.



nourishment. Fluids, as we have said, are absorbed almost as soon as taken, but solids require the action of the muscular tunic, or coat of the stomach; and every one knows that by use all muscular fibre becomes stronger—witness the legs of pedestrians, and the boy-blacksmith's arm. If the inherent properties of our nature be not kept up by healthful habit, they languish, and, languishing, die! Soups are *not forbidden*, but are not to supersede the solid substantial nutriment. Man's *character* is much influenced by the aliment which sustains him.\*

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\* The effect of different modes of life on the human frame and human character is strikingly instanced in the cases of the hunting Indians of the Prairies, and those of the piscatory tribe on the Sea Coast: the former, continually on horseback scouring the plains, gaining their food by hardy exercise, and subsisting chiefly on flesh, are tall, sinewy, well-formed, and have a bold and fierce deportment. The latter, lounging about the river banks, or curved up in their canoes, are generally low in stature, ill-shaped, with crooked legs, thick ankles, and broad flat feet. They are inferior also in muscular power and activity, and in *game* qualities.—*Washington Irving*.

Again, good teeth are seldom to be seen among tribes west of the Rocky Mountains, who live chiefly on fish.



Of fish, the *white* kind is the best, and, if boiled, agrees with most invalids; those who can digest salmon and fried fish, may encounter all other dishes without fear.

Our next question is concerning *meat*, which, as the French say, is the *point d'appui*, not after, but before all. Beef\* takes the lead for first-rate digestion, beginning with the fillet, or the inside of the sirloin. Venison, game, and mutton are far more acceptable to the invalid than chicken, &c. Pork is not desirable, unless when long fasting is anticipated.†

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\* Roasted meat is more nutritious than boiled.

† The veal in Paris and on the continent being the only kind of meat which in general is superior to that of this country, I was induced to make an inquiry of a London butcher (selecting a young one), "if the atrocity of bleeding poor calves to death, *gradually*, is still practised in this metropolis?" He said, "Yes, by many butchers, but not by all." (The custom is more prevalent in the country.) On being asked "how the torture was inflicted?" (which that admirable act of Mr. Humanity Martin has not reached,) he said, "We bleed 'em every day for about four days, take a little out of them the first day, and more every day afterwards, when on the last of all they are made to faint, and then, some hours after this, killed!" And we who know of this plan of whitening veal, eat it so whitened, and call ourselves Christians!



Veal is always at the bottom of the list; but not even mutton, any more than any other food, can be taken continuously, without the occasional intervention of some other viand, of which I had a striking proof very recently. A young man was fed by his employer on mutton five days in seven; he was ill in consequence, and could get no relief till a change was made. A striking instance of idiosyncrasy occurred at the Hôtel Dieu in Paris: a woman was uniformly made ill when under the age of fourteen by eating crabs. A great change in her constitution took place (prematurely) at thirty-two; and again the inability to eat this kind of shell-fish returned. Another patient (a young lady) was always sick after eating animal food. Dr. Stark, of Edinburgh, lost his life by subsisting partially, if not entirely, on cheese. Dr. Prout records the case of a patient who could not take mutton in any way without being ill, though introduced into the stomach surreptitiously in pills.\* I know an instance of a gentleman who cannot eat a single strawberry

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\* This patient should have lived in Rome, where they have no mutton at all during several months in the year; and on my inquiring the cause, was told that it was then *out of season*.



with impunity. Another whose head would be frightfully swollen whenever he was imprudent enough, being well aware of his infirmity, to eat the smallest portion of hare. A third who will certainly have an attack of gout a few hours after eating fish. I have a patient who has during the last nine months been relaxed in her bowels whenever she has taken a cup of black tea; another, when she drinks a glass of cold water, as she does every morning fasting, is similarly affected. And while on this subject, I may mention a fact, to show that green tea, though so agreeable, may not be so harmless as it is supposed to be by some. A medical man of my acquaintance can drink it made strong, and in almost any quantity, unless in a morning, after he has been out of bed all night professionally; and then, on taking it, his hands always shake violently, as if he had palsy. These peculiarities prove stumbling blocks (both in regard to food and medicine) to the course of the physician. Meat being so much more easily digested than vegetables, is another reason why the stomach should be accustomed to its moderate use, even in preference to other diet. In addition to the practical experience of us all, that of Dr. Beaumont, the



American surgeon, must always occupy a place in a professed work on Indigestion, who, in the case of his young patient, Alexis, who had been wounded in the side, and an aperture, or window, being left two and a half inches in diameter, all the arcana of digestion were exposed to the prying eyes of the Doctor, even for years, so that the order in which the food passed the Pylorus (which we know means janitor or door-keeper) was recorded, and by the curious may be seen in print. Suffice it to say, that rice, trout, venison, eggs, &c., took the lead, while pork, salted meat, veal, &c., were always "stopping the way."

If Valetudinarians would confine themselves, while under medical care, to one kind of meat on each day (ringing the changes occasionally), with wholesome stale bread, taking brandy-and-water, or sherry-and-water, as beverage therewith, how greatly would their cure and their ability to indulge in other things be expedited; but they must clamour for unwholesome puddings and vegetables, and even (to them) poisonous Pastry.\* Of some of these two former, a

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\* What a blessing a cook would be—always the most dangerous person in the house, who could not make pies and tarts!



selection can always be made ; but one of the greatest annoyances which medical men meet with, is the cuckoo cry from the friends, (?) not the patient, of “What may we give him to eat, Doctor?” not knowing, and therefore not considering, that where hundreds have died from starvation, millions have perished from stuffing.

Rice, vermicelli, tapioca, sago, and prepared barley\* puddings, may be allowed to dyspeptics. Oysters are very nutritious, and easy of digestion, but they should be stewed. The best vegetables are mealy potatoes *roasted*, young peas, asparagus, Sea-Kale, Spinach, Brocoli, Cauliflower, and Onions, which last are highly nutritious. When a salad can be digested—which the stomach ever delights in, on account of the acid—the cure may be said to have been effected. *Sufficient bread is not eaten by the English at dinner*; we may take a lesson from our French neighbours in this respect, as we may a warning against their habit of mixing so much water with their *vin ordinaire*, thereby diluting the gastric fluid, and rendering it less able to subdue the mass of aliment with which twice daily they overload their stomachs, and

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\* Excellent ; and to be had at all the seed shops, with directions for its use.



weaken their power. Fewer bad effects, however, arise than might be expected, from their being so much an out-of-door nation; for it is impossible to state too often, or rate too highly, the value of abundance of pure air in promoting digestion.

For one case of *Dyspepsia* occurring in the country, there are twenty in London—a fact which only those who have lived much in both localities can well account for. Who ever hears of this miserable malady while travelling in their holidays,—while viewing beautiful Scenery,—scaling Mountains,—and when every muscle of the body is performing the office for which it was originally created? An extract from a most interesting work (the best) on California, which has just been published by the Rev. Walter Colton, of Philadelphia, well exemplifies our subject. He says, “The Californians eat meat, and that beef, generally three times a-day—at breakfast, dinner, not at tea, and again at supper. A pig is quite a rarity; and as for chickens, they are reserved for the sick. The constant\* exercise of the people of this country,

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\* Gentle exercise assists digestion; if violent, it retards it.



on horseback, gives them the digestion of the ostrich." In speaking of the management of children, a caution has been already given, that, especially till they have effective teeth, their food should be comminuted for them. But what shall we say of our transatlantic American brother, who, eating animal food three or four times daily, positively *bolts* it,\* and as notoriously is grievously afflicted with indigestion? It is the curse of that country, and the more lamentable, because self-imposed. But patients are not docile, generally, when able to leave the house, and are not *watched*. Those, however, who have once experienced the horrors incident to Indigestion—the pain of the Stomach after a meal—the headache—the lowness of spirits—and all the other miseries arising therefrom, will gladly live as has been indicated, and will consent to follow some other rules which have yet to be laid down. They may then anticipate, from the consciousness of having vanquished

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\* On my admonishing a patient on one occasion (who winced under it), for his supposed habit of eating too fast, and telling him that *bolting* the food was a *bar* to digestion, he said, "You speak *ironically*, doctor!"



an enemy, an endurable, and even an enjoyable, state of existence. But before proceeding further, I would in this place implore those of my medical friends who are teachable, and will hearken to the words of experience, not to treat lightly, as if unreal, the sufferings of their Hypochondriacal patients. Their miseries are distressing and real *to them*, and are greatly alleviated by commiseration and sympathy, combined with hygienic and other curative means; but to him who has once been afflicted himself, this advice will be superfluous, like those who, being one degree removed from poverty, are ever seen most promptly to bestow relief, because they themselves practically know where the pressure is most grievous. The same rule, too, applies to *Insane* persons, the best mode of treating whom—next to isolating them from all their present associations—being to affect, at least, to enter into their megrims and prejudices, and thereby obtain their confidence, which ensures half the victory over their malady.

It is easy to say and to feel that no sorrows are really deserving of the name, excepting those which arise from loss of character, loss of health, or loss of friends; but there are in this Babylon those who worship no other God than Plutus, to



whom filthy lucre is everything, and all things else nothing;\* whose hearts are in their banker's cheque-book. These—especially if they shall have neglected or abused their digestive organs—will, on a wrong turn of the scale, become at once prostrate, though all the blessings of this world, to a highly-regulated mind, are still attainable by them in all perfection. They claim, too, our pity and our aid. Our *advice* they must have—not Hygienic alone, for to that they are by right entitled—for the Physician who acts on the golden rule of ‘doing to others as he would they should do unto him,’ has *other* means and appliances at hand of a more elevated character, far more potent than the pill or the potion. The kind and encouraging word is ever ready from a commiserating and feeling heart. Occasionally we meet with persons whose appetites, though good, are very soon satisfied. In them, perhaps, the Stomach may be itself small,

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\* One of these devotees to mammon once received a lesson from a humble follower, who did not seem to pay to him, the possessor of the purse, sufficient homage, and said, “Do you know, sir, that I am worth a hundred thousand pounds?” “Yes,” said the irritated, but not broken-spirited, respondent, “I do; and I know *that it is all you are worth.*”



our several organs\* varying so much naturally in different individuals—some there are with whom Madeira agrees better than Sherry, in which case it must be allowed; others again, who have all their lives fared generously, appear to be unable to leave off Port. It would be better that such persons should be *restricted*—if they be docile—rather than forbidden; *for it is a dangerous thing rudely to break off the habits of perhaps half a life.*

Water, or barley water, acidulated a little with lemon juice, and flavoured with the peel, is the best beverage at dinner. Ice I never allow at dessert to Valetudinarians, for the Stomach when weak is for the time paralysed, as it were, by the frozen liquid; reaction does not take place readily with them, and digestion, for which warmth is needed, is thus partially or wholly impeded. A small tumbler of *warm* weak brandy-and-water or old whisky-and-water is

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\* Dr. Beattie has told us that Lord Nelson had one of the smallest hearts ever known; and I myself knew an instance of a distinguished lady, one of great notoriety, whose liver, not unhealthy, weighed five pounds, the usual weight of that organ, in a man, being between three and four.



allowable instead.\* Some can take a cup of Coffee after their principal meal with advantage ; and it is the only time when I should be inclined to permit the use of it to one who is really an invalid. Let those who love to indulge in lengthened post-prandial potations remember the observation of that experienced Physician, the late Dr. Babington, namely, " that a pint of Wine daily was hard drinking." After a late dinner, anything of a solid kind is rarely required. I am acquainted with an excellent cheerful old Scotch lady, who has abundance of common sense, and is nearer eighty than seventy, who has never taken anything, during many years, in the place of tea and supper, but a glass of cold water every evening, and is in perfect health. If Ice must be taken, the latter part of the day is the best time for its enjoyment. But, although the Intestinal Tube is the grand *cloaca* for the trash which, either twice or twenty

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\* But the best promoter of digestion is a contented mind ; this is the *spirit* that is required to help on the great meal, exciting the joyous joke, and all the hearty amiable feelings. Those who are wealthy should keep a jester for after-dinner use as formerly ; he would be well worth his keep, and his salary too, if he were a clever fool !



times a day, we turn into our stomach, the skin and the kidneys constantly come to the rescue. Hence the necessity of wearing flannel next to the body by all persons, and also of taking abundance of tea, or some other diluent, to keep the renal functions in action. Many of the directions of medical authorities are irksome to follow by headstrong man—as disagreeable as the potions which we inflict upon him. And this may account for that which, if not ingratitude, is so like it, that the difference is not perceptible, which he so generally shows after he has, through medical agency, been restored to health. Hence the favour which the *Homœopath* obtains: he who, not having succeeded in his career of legitimate medicine, takes up the Lilliputian system as a *pis aller*. *He* gives no disgusting draughts; *he* never bleeds in inflammatory ailments, without which death must inevitably ensue; *he* kills no one; *he* only stands by, and suffers the disease to do it, which Mr. Abernethy was accustomed to vow HE never would. I myself have been repeatedly called in by a Physician, now no more, of no small note in the small-dose department of medicine, to various patients, to his own family, and even to himself—but a *consultation* with him was, on my part,



never thought of. I gave him credit for seeking information when he could not see his way to a knowledge of the nature of the disease, and thus to forget himself and his system in his desire to do his duty to his patient. My reply, on being asked by this gentleman why *I* did not become an Homœopathist, was, that I could not afford to throw away the experience of forty years, and begin again *de novo*. But there are some who, it is said, will treat their sick by *either method*. Now, as *both* systems cannot be right, a designation for such a practitioner one should not be long in finding in Johnson's, or any other Dictionary. Allopathic, or legitimate medicine, is become altogether far different to what it was a very short time ago. Much less physic is now prescribed than heretofore by Physicians, diet and management being more considered than it used to be; and the general practitioner is allowed to charge a moderate sum for his visits, so that he is not driven to look for compensation for his services by the justly offensive method of huxtering in a daily cargo of *drugs*.\* That able

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\* The rebellion against this practice, however, laid the foundation, as I believe, for the ridiculous quackery of homœopathy.



practitioner, Dr. Armstrong, said that he could judge of a man's abilities by the simplicity of his prescriptions, for as the science of medicine improves,—and what magnificent strides has it not made in the last half century!—he who sees his way will not multiply\* his curative means. I once saw a formula for a mixture, by a late distinguished Physician, with thirteen incongruous articles in it.†

A lady, who was very ill, on being asked why she did not seek relief from Homœopathy?‡ said “that she could not wait.” It is an overwhelming fact, that of all the Physicians of this

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\* I have often taken my *honorarium* when I have contented myself with laying down rules for diet, &c., and not written a prescription at all; and the patient, a sensible person, has been well pleased thereat.

† Like a soldier going into action armed with every known weapon, instead of the musket and bayonet, the old well-accustomed settlers of strife!

‡ I look back with much satisfaction upon an instance where (being medical director, that is, Physician, for there was no other examiner, during eight years, at an Insurance office) I refused the life of a nobleman of high rank, *because* his medical man was an Homœopathist, and my brother Directors concurred with me unanimously.



great Metropolis, men second to none in the world for their judgment, or for their honesty—men quite independent of their profession in their worldly circumstances—not one medical man of note has yet thought fit to entertain and adopt homœopathy. But to return from this long digression: pure air, abundance of oxygen, by day and by night, is absolutely necessary for good digestion; but those three thieves—the Candle, the Lamp, and the Fire—rob us of it during half the year; Ventilators, however, one of the blessings of the present age, will compensate much for these thefts. Variety, too, in food must be sought in all allowable measure, man, as we have said, being an omnivorous animal. The more *various* the description of aliment that the stomach *can* be induced to tolerate, the better; and as that organ, when healthy, *enjoys* vegetable acids, the citric and acetic, especially the latter, the patient may *train* it by degrees, as convalescence advances, to return to the moderate use of acescent drinks. Again, though to live one day as another is in the main most desirable, yet an occasional outbreak, always keeping within statutable limits, is recommended, as has been before said, by both ancient and modern authority. This I



consider to be the legitimate reading of the *toujours perdrix* story of the licentious monarch of France and his spiritual Director, on a totally different subject. The reason why women\* live so much longer than men, as Insurance Offices show, by allowing the latter more interest on money sunk, is on account of their temperance, and their not eating and drinking like the rougher sex, and also from their greater freedom from turbulent excitement, and from their indoor habits in inclement weather. Sufficient importance, as it seems to me, is not attached to the living one day as another, especially as to dining at the same hour, going to rest, &c. We are all creatures of habit, natural or acquired; and the power of *living long*—by secondary

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\* I knew a lady most intimately, who sunk a sum of money on her life, at eighty, at an Insurance office. She enjoyed, during nearly fourteen years, eighteen and a half per cent.; and on expressing her satisfaction at her good fortune, was told, that had she been of the other sex she would have had twenty-two per cent.

In the last census it was recorded that there were 111 men in England, Scotland, and Ireland, who had lived from 100 to 119 years, while of aged women there were 208.



causes—seems to be very much within the grasp of mankind in general. Of one fact I am quite certain,—and am anxious to give it in the shape of advice to elderly persons,—namely, that by living very temperately—nay, at times abstemiously—and by never, on any pretence, frequenting feasts, they will prolong their lives, should they wish to do so, for years. The Greatest Man of our age, who ennobled his nobility by the dignified consistency of his character, owed his good health, next to his belonging to an exceedingly long-lived Family, to his universally known Temperance in eating and drinking, and also by his early rising, thus adding virtue to virtue—thus crowning a long and glorious public career by setting an example in private life to ill-judging *boys and girls* (in mind) of 60 and 70, and upwards! Who can have perused the preceding paragraph without seeing the exceeding desirableness of early rising—that secret of secrets—*la crème de la crème* of our subject—in thus seizing larger snatches of life (for what is Sleep but mimic Death?)—not to say that we insure an almost certain prolongation of our existence, when the sand of others shall have run out! But in enjoining the cultivation of this inestimable habit, it is right and fitting



to be *just*. All are not alike in these wakeful moods any more than in any other. The power to leave the nocturnal retreat with ease, is partly a gift; but the mind, be it but masculine, and the body not absolutely sickly, can be in a great degree disciplined to the task, but the earlier in life the better, so that there may be fixed upon the act the force of *habit*. There are, however, some to whom the desire for sleep seems to be almost a morbid affection, and who, if awakened in the night suddenly are totally bewildered, have no presence of mind, and appear to be intoxicated; and if this state arise not from over-feeding, such persons must be of those who probably *require* eight hours' sleep in the twenty-four—a third of their existence! Sleep must be sought, like food, in corresponding degree to the amount of wear and tear; and nature, in this respect, will assert her rights. Six hours' rest, as a general rule, to an idle person, are sufficient—seven to one who has fair employment.

I am acquainted with a sexagenarian who rises uniformly at five (in London) as long as it is twilight at that hour; after this, the whole of the remainder of the year, at six. He takes an hour more only when on the previous night,



being much in society, he cannot retire before twelve. This Gentleman is very rarely unoccupied, mentally or bodily; lives in all respects as here directed, and is in rude health; but this, to one who is contented to exist, and not to live, who has the outside frame, but not the spirit, of Man—the husk without the kernel—would be to die daily. Any efforts may be made by the steady exercise of the will, *de die in diem*. The plodders, who rise early, will beat the flashy members of the community. This was the opinion of Lord Eldon,\* and has been, and is, that of many other thinking men, living and dead. But though more disorders arise, as has been said, from eating than from drinking, still they do not destroy so quickly as those which arise from daily tipping up to the *verge* of intoxication, to a point which habitual indulgence

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\* Lord Eldon asked a medical friend of mine how many sons he had? The reply was, two—one very sharp and quick, the other slow, but sure. “What do you mean to make of them?” “I purpose making a lawyer of the sharp one, and a doctor of the other.” “Do no such thing,” rejoined his lordship; “make the clever one the doctor, the other the lawyer—I was never anything but a plodder.”



renders it most difficult to avoid. At length the resolution (good at first) is sapped, and disorganization of the delicate mucous membrane of the stomach takes place, and then decay of the liver, especially if spirits shall have been the poison imbibed. In this case, *Delirium Tremens*,\* or the drunkard's madness, presents itself; in which, as all medical men know, if sleep be not procured, a certain and often most

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\* I attended a lady of rank, many years ago, who, though possessed of the purest and most delicate feelings, had imperceptibly become a slave to the glass. I found her one day raving mad, *Delirium tremens* (not common with women) having presented itself. Sleep, without assistance, was quite out of the question; and remembering my old Teacher's axiom, namely, not to let the disease kill, and knowing the cause, I gave her a large dose of Hydrochloride of morphia every hour, anxiously watching its effects, as none but medical men can understand; *ten hours* had elapsed before the state of unconsciousness occurred. I allowed her to sleep ten hours, and then had her awakened, gave her some nourishment, and permitted her to sleep again, when she at length arose of her own accord, perfectly sane in mind, and so remained for several months, very grateful, as those of her sex always are, for the benefit that she had received while unconscious of her precarious and distressing condition.



tragical death is the result.\* In such cases, though by the aid of powerful medicine a state of somnolency is induced, an ultimate recovery very rarely occurs. I have never known but one confirmed male Drunkard who, by management and gradual steps, retired victoriously, with his face to the Enemy. I never knew an instance of a Woman's leaving off really drunken habits when once thoroughly established. What a warning, then, should this be to those who, in morals, and above all, in religious conduct, are, no doubt, so superior to the rougher sex, though it must be allowed they are not so much exposed to temptation. I knew a man who was wearing out his mind and body by intense excitement, who would take a tumbler of brandy at once—and, not seldom, send a second after it; but he died at forty-eight, and there was no inquest held. This poor fellow once lived most correctly, guided by high principle, but at length gave

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\* A very dear friend of mine committed suicide, some twelve years ago, when afflicted by this dreadful, though, generally, relievable malady. I have a patient who has had five or six attacks, and he is now well.



way to the tempter. If *such* persons break down, how can we wonder at the intemperate habits of those who, not internally feeling that they are Stewards of that time of which they will have to give an account, tittle on from day to day, and finally yield up their useless lives victims to solitary sensual abasement—the hopeless finality of drivelling drunken men! Excess in eating is rarely seen, for any length of time, combined with the reckless desire for liquor; but the two vices will occasionally run in couples for a season, till the desire for food is no longer felt by the outraged Stomach, and then the “beginning of the end” is soon set up—the period of nausea, repulsion, and disgust. But it is marvellous how much fluid of a vinous, or even spirituous nature, can not only be taken, but is really needed, in making inordinate bodily exertion, as in climbing Mountains, &c., or when the exhausted body is enfeebled by low or adynamic Fever,—where in the cases of habitually sober men, ay, and sober women too, the brandy which they consume comes to be reckoned by glasses and the wine by bottles, without which—such is then the craving of the constitution for support—death would inevitably occur, but by the bold ad-



ministration of which at the critical juncture, as all experienced practitioners know, multitudes of invaluable lives have been saved. If the liver be disordered or diseased, no kind of food can pass into the system to become his life, which his blood is, without this organ furnishing its large carbonaceous\* complement of alkaline fluid; so that I am inclined to attach more importance to the Liver than even the Stomach. We have great power over its ailments, however—Mercury in some mild form having specific influence, as much as Opium and Chloroform† have on the nervous system, as

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\* Eighty per cent.

† It is impossible to mention Chloroform without being deeply impressed with its immense value as one of the greatest discoveries of this marvellous age; great in a point of view which has not been noticed, as I am aware, for it not only arrests pain, one of Nature's most formidable evils, but it also tends *to equalize talent*. A Surgeon's judgment was often nullified, when about to perform an important operation, by his nervousness and over-anxiety; through which many, who would have been, from their anatomical knowledge, first-rate Operators, have broken down, owing to an excessive desire to do their work well, but who were inordinately distressed by the cries of the patient, happily now no



Rhubarb is said to have on the Duodenum, Aloes on the Rectum, and as much as Ergot of Rye and *Oxide of Silver* certainly possess over the Uterus. The unmistakeable signs of acute Hepatitis, unremitting pain in the right hypochondriac region, often extending to the shoulder, increased by inspiration and by pressure, must be first met by general and local bleeding, which, in such cases, will speedily relieve. But in the slow or chronic form, a more cautious abstraction of blood is demanded, according to the age and strength of the patient, and then Mercury either as a purgative or as an alterative, on alternate nights, or administered so as to affect the mouth, must be our sheet-anchor. But general observations only can be made on this section of our subject. This however I believe, that, from the great proportion of recoveries, under judicious treatment, in

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longer heard. Over-anxiety to do at least as well as other men, and no blue sky then to be seen, was the real reason why I myself abandoned the practice of surgery in 1831, and, unwilling to rust out in a comparatively constricted sphere of action, went to school again, and obtained, after three years' additional study, a qualification fitted for any locality whatsoever.



those who return invalided from India, absolute *disease* of the *Liver* is not so common a complaint as it was once supposed to be, and that, like its neighbour the *Stomach*, its disorders are generally curable. When really disorganized (of which emaciation is one of the diagnostic signs, more than in gastric ailments), there is cause indeed for alarm. I am one of those in whom early impressions are indelibly imprinted on the mind, and I cannot, therefore, forget how much importance Mr. Abernethy was wont to attach to the colour\* of the motions, which is also my own invariable guide; although my late esteemed friend, Dr. James Johnson, mentions *one* instance where they were healthy-looking, and yet the liver was found to be totally worn out by disease. Mr. Tytler, also, in the "Calcutta Transactions," and other trustworthy writers, have made the same remark as to the uncertainty of this sign. Their being almost scalding hot in their passage from the body is a sure indication of the acrimony of the Bile.

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\* He was so comically diacritical, that he even had coloured slips of turmeric-looking paper on his study-table, to assist his patients in their reports as to the appearance of their alvine evacuations.



How much, too, as is the case with the Stomach, so much is the Liver affected by emotions of the mind. How surely have some persons a pain in the right side on the occurrence of mental distress! Should the motions be light in colour, we must discipline the organ in question by the careful administration of the gentle grey powder, or the equally mild blue pill, in small doses, up to the Chloride, or even the Bichloride itself. *But no wise person will venture to take Mineral Medicines without their effects being regulated by medical care.* Nothing then, let it be remembered, damages the Liver so much as the daily imbibition of spirituous\* potations beyond a cautious extent. The evil results of this habit do not appear till some trouble comes, and then the mine explodes. It is my opinion that disease of the Heart is not more prevalent than formerly, though nothing is so likely to induce it as excess of eating; and irregularity in this respect does induce intermission of the pulse, which occurs in stomach complaints arising not from the real damage which the Heart has sustained, but is merely a functional

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\* Stimulants in excess hinder digestion, as the blood is thereby diverted to the head.



disturbance of that organ from the influx of impure blood. This is very often an inroad of Gout, and will be easily removed by Colchicum, &c. When the Bile is unable to neutralize the impure acid of Indigestion, the mass passes on into the bowels, causing griping, tormina, flatulence, &c., in the first instance, and secondly, as has been said, foul blood, &c.; *persons, however, need not have the gout if they will obey in all things their medical adviser.* But then a gouty man must, while suffering his torture, have a kind and tender nurse; and if he should have neglected at the proper time to have provided himself with a wife, a companion in health, and a sure refuge in sickness, how grievously does remorse tear him when he finds himself with a hireling substitute of the *Gamp* breed for a guardian Angel! Pseudo-selfishness prevents men often from marrying; they *will have* certain enjoyments (such at least to them), and distrust Providence,—and so do not wed, which any man may do; for he cannot fail to know that the sexes are born in nearly equal proportions, and having prudently selected his bride, and obtained her consent to enter into partnership, a small stock of love will suffice to begin with,—but this will grow into strong mutual affection,—as I



have often seen,—those cases always excepted where a wife, mistaking her  *rôle*  in life, and forgetting her marriage-vow, madly mars her happiness by striving to be  *master*  ; or where tyrant man puts ugly thorns and briars in the path of a gentle mate, of her who, though often smitten by stern severity, yet  *at the one kind word*  flies back, like the dove of the deluge, bearing the ever-verdant olive-branch of hope, of faith, and of joy ! But to proceed. Pulmonic complaints, being thoroughly understood by the physician of the present day, Changes of action, and Aberration of structure, are soon detected. Heart diseases, we often hear, are greatly more prevalent than formerly ; but those who make this remark overlook one fact—namely, the rapid increase of our population. Knowledge, too, is now so universal, and the veil with which medical gravity has so long covered itself is so often lifted up by prying hands, that it behoves all the followers of Galen and Hippocrates to obtain an insight into the important discoveries of modern times relating to the heart and lungs, and which medical men are now  *expected*  to understand ; otherwise, as Mr. Abernethy observed, when imploring his pupils (young and old) to learn thoroughly the anatomy of the eye,—non-



professional persons studying optics, as part and parcel of a liberal education, should they find their Doctor ignorant on a point upon which they could judge, would give him credit for nothing else, though he might really have an intimate knowledge of his profession in other respects. I agree with Dr. James Johnson in thinking, that far more disease of the heart originates from the liver than from the stomach.

*The Kidneys perform a much more important part in the animal economy than is generally imagined. They are employed, from the cradle to the grave, in removing poison from our bodies.* The researches of Dr. Bright, the late Dr. Prout, Dr. Bence Jones, and other eminent men, have now effectually cleared our course, while formerly we were laboriously groping for aid in the dark,—studying, as well as we could, the various phases of renal disorder and disease. The lithic-acid deposit (gravel, in fact) which most commonly excites our attention, appearing in excess, as has been already observed, before fourteen, and after forty—the gormandizing periods of life, the intervening portion is engrossed by other pursuits,—children ought to be controlled in their eating, as should middle-aged and old men, whose stomachs are the



masters *of them*. The stuffing and bolting common at those periods of life are most injurious. If gravel be the only result, abundance of sand will come away; and if not, it will settle into a calculus, and this, when large, will necessarily require an operation of a cutting nature for its removal from the bladder, the horrors of which I have often witnessed (both in England and in France), in the cases even of infants and up to octogenarians, before the introduction of Chloroform—that blessing above all price! Diet and Medicine will usually check the formation of gravel. When, however, a calculus *has* formed, there is no remedy but Lithotrity, when it is of a moderate size, or Lithotomy if large. Red sand is induced by too generous living—the white, by the reverse. Much pain is caused by it in micturition, but great relief is obtainable by the aid of the Physician. It is not, however, from starving or stuffing merely that calculi come. He who would take a large and comprehensive view of the subject cannot generalize in this manner. No one knows better than myself how remarkably free the inhabitants of Herefordshire are from stone and gravel. Many have thought, while searching for a cause for the comparative



immunity of that county from the scourge of Norfolk and Suffolk, and some other parts of the country, that it was to be attributed to the drinking of cider and perry; but it is quite impossible that such should be the case, as in some years they have scarcely any, or “a Hit,” as it is there called. Malic acid is then scarce, and beer is the ordinary beverage, as elsewhere; and this has been the case during several consecutive years. My opinion is, that the purity or peculiarity of the water is the main cause of the almost entire exemption of these Silurians from calculous complaints. The following extract from a letter written by Mr. Waudby, the house-surgeon of the Herefordshire Infirmary, to myself, dated August 30th, 1851, bears strikingly on our subject:—“My predecessor, Mr. Tully, does not remember a case of stone during the long period of his residence in the hospital.\* I have only seen two during the many years† of *my* official career. One of the patients was not even suspected to have had stone during life; the other, a child, had a lithic-acid calculus, which was removed by Mr. Cam. Stone cases,

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Cadij.

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\* Thirty-seven years!

† Elected June 9th, 1842.



therefore, are exceedingly rare in this county." During my own residence in Hereford as a Surgeon, from 1813 to 1831, I never saw a case of stone, or heard of but one, which was that of a physician, formerly M.P. for our county (father of the talented author of *The Diary of an Invalid*); but I have had patients who, having been afflicted with gravel previously to their residence among us, in a short time passed no more lithic-acid or other calculi; so that, although Indigestion is undoubtedly the main cause of these formations, and their frightful consequences, that cause alone is not sufficient to *originate* the evil, any more than in other complaints; and the same may be said of remedies tending to its relief. Specifics are indeed rarely successful; but medical power is great; and he who ignorantly despises it, and doubts the wonders that it works, may just as reasonably dispute the life-preserving qualities of meat and drink, as says the great Sydenham, "*Ars medica, si revera ars fuerit, et non solum nomine tenus, maximum est donorum omnium; quæ hanc vitam respiciunt tantoque omnibus, præferendum, quanto ipsa vita iis, quibus in illa gaudemus, præcellit.*" It is an art which is only to be acquired by patient perseverance and indomitable



industry, by not allowing one's own experience and opinions to be disparaged, yet gladly receiving instruction from any quarter which may strengthen us in our endeavours to mitigate the miseries of man. And then, how gratifying to us is it to be able to promise a cure, and having so promised, to perform it. Those who are martyrs to Indigestion do not, as may well be imagined, all present the same symptoms. Some suffer only after eating animal food, others at every meal; some bring up a tasteless fluid, several times a day have pain in the stomach, and a sensation of heat in that organ;\* occasionally the fluid is slightly acid,—this is denominated Heartburn, and is easily curable. Another form is where that which rises into the mouth is so intensely acid as to “set the teeth on edge” (so to say), in which case the constant pain, especially as there is Headache in addition, renders life a burthen; but a glass of cold water will often remove this distressing evil of intense acidity, and should always, in extreme suffering, be had recourse to. A confined state of the bowels is found in almost every case of Indigestion. Some

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\* Water-brash (Pyrosis), or more descriptively, in Devonshire, “the water-pang.”



persons experience eructation\* with scarcely any pain; others, again, have pain, but without headache, while a third class struggle with all the annoyances which have been enumerated—with, in addition, great sensitiveness on pressing the pit of the stomach. There will, too, be more or less of lowness of spirits, according to the strength of mind possessed by the patient, and the ability to endure—in which the softer sex so much excel creation's lords! so much so, that I have frequently said to the latter, when deserving such commendation, "that if he had been a woman, he could not have shown more fortitude!" The fact is, man has active, and woman passive courage—and how admirably, how heroically, she meets sickness in herself and others, none can tell so well as those who, like myself, in early life especially, have witnessed hundreds of times the surpassing, the marvellous patience, of the not, in this respect, feebler sex!†

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\* An individual who is really healthy neither eructates nor expectorates.

† Well may the male member of the Jewish religion thank God in his daily prayer, as he does, that he is not a woman. But what is the humble submissive theme of her, his spouse! She resignedly bends the knee, and says, "I thank thee, O Almighty Father, in that Thou hast made me as it seemed best to Thy good pleasure."



Lowness of spirits is sometimes morbid, and assumes the character of Hypochondriasis, as we call it, in which case the patient is truly to be pitied; and really, when we are angry with persons for being waspish and irritable, the sensitive stomach is probably the cause, and great allowance should be made for them. Not only day by day, but night by night, their enemy pursues them: they generally have horrible dreams; and, if they should have undisturbed sleep, the morning brings no blessing to them, so that their lives are really a hell upon earth! If they, however, have not indulged to excess in wine or spirits, they will assuredly get relief from all their miseries; but should they have gone as far as they could in the daily indulgence of tippling, without being absolutely intoxicated, they must do much in obedience to their physician, and in habitual self-denial, or else they will fail to obtain aid from medical skill.

Neither sex is exempt from this terrible affliction, but men, from living more unrestrainedly, suffer most. Our main point is to study the peculiarity of each constitution, every one having one or more weak points, the successful search after which having been accomplished, all afterwards will become easy; but this diversity must necessarily call for proportionably different modes



of treatment. For instance, Indigestion may be caused by improper food—that is to say, unfit for that particular patient's habits; and, on that account, even a little of it would be too much; or he may have been in the habit of fasting too long,\* or have eaten too frequently; or the air which he breathes may be unsuitable; or a woman may suckle a child when she ought not to do so—a fruitful cause of Consumption!†

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\* Who can doubt that Lord Byron seriously injured his health from his great dread of corpulency. His physician, Dr. Polidori, has told us, that he would abstain from food for days together, and then, to appease his hunger, would take a wafer, and a glass of brandy.

† I have seen many young mothers become consumptive from suckling beyond the time suitable for their constitutions. My rule always is, when I am satisfied that weaning is necessary, and the patient inclined to be rebellious, to refuse to prescribe, and thus starve them out. While on the subject of phthisis, I may say that long experience has fully convinced me of its being communicable from one to another: I have seen husbands follow wives, and wives husbands, who were, apparently, quite well previously; brothers, brothers; sisters, sisters; particularly if they have slept in the same bed together; so that under pretence—not to alarm the invalid—of too much heat being thus created, I



Again, either sex may be overworked, mentally or bodily; or may have some great trouble, causing them either to neglect food altogether, or inducing Indigestion of that which they do take; or, lastly, the appetite may be too keen, and restraint of it not considered necessary. Hence all the dangers arising from fulness of blood at a period when the stomach and its tributary organs have been damaged by over use; and thus disease, real disease, is established, which cannot with safety be disregarded.

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make it a point of duty, *invariably*, to separate the sound from the sick, knowing that otherwise death will unite them indissolubly. Mr. Roskilly, the eminent English surgeon of Naples, whom I saw in consultation in that city, in September, 1851, expressed his opinion to be the same as my own on this question, and added, that the Italians were so satisfied of it that they even burned the bed-clothes and garments of the dead. In Rome they put all the consumptive hospital patients into one ward, through fear of contagion. The same opinion, as to the communicableness of consumption, equally prevails in France. One cannot think upon this scourge of our country without being thankful for the discovery of the value of cod-liver oil, than which nothing in my remembrance has been so useful in arresting at least, and often for a long period too, the most fatal malady with which the inhabitants



Assuming, then, that there is no organic disease,—for I write only on *curable* Indigestion,—the first point to be insisted on is a daily evacuation of the bowels; which can always be accomplished; the means at our command, dietetic and medicinal, being abundant: *and from this dictum no appeal whatever can be allowed.* The best form for habitual daily use is a mild pill taken about twelve o'clock, either pills composed of ext. col. comp. and extract of hyoscyamus; or pilul. rhei. comp., or pilul. cambogiæ; or if these should not be active enough, a dessert

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of Great Britain have to contend. It is a remarkable fact, that in Russia and the East Indies, having the two extremes of temperature, consumption is very uncommon; and, in the former country, extreme longevity is rather the rule than the exception. The reason why young women are so unwilling to wean their children is, from the reasonable fear of having a family too fast. But too long suckling is far more injurious than the not supporting their offspring in the usual manner, which some really cannot do. While alluding to pregnancy, I may also state, as my positive opinion, founded upon much experience, that it is not at all an uncommon occurrence for the term of gestation in woman to extend beyond the customary assigned period of nine months. In quadrupeds it is unquestionably uncertain; there is abundance of evidence to prove this.



spoonful of conf. Sennæ with or without gr. v. pul. rad. jalapæ. *Liquid laxatives for purging are not allowed in dyspepsia* ;\* these may sometimes be necessary, but only as exceptions to the rule. I object not to a lavement every morning ; many of my patients not having omitted to use assistance of this kind during many consecutive years, with great benefit ; but then it should be remembered, that aperients are also occasionally required, lavements emptying only *the lower portion* of the intestinal canal.

Napoleon, who was a martyr to another complaint, when lavements would not relieve, always found laxative effects from taking a composition of milk and yolk of egg, sweetened with sugar. The whole passage relating to the subject, and to so celebrated a man, is worth the perusal :—  
“ Dans son état naturel de santé la constipation lui était habituelle ; c'était chez lui une incommodité de l'enfance qui ne l'avait jamais quitté. Quand elle devenait trop pénible, il avait recours aux bains et aux lavements ; parfois il était obligé d'y joindre des boissons adoucissantes, la diète et le bouillon aux herbes. Quelquefois même tout ce régime ne suffisait pas ; il était

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\* Broussais said, ‘ Fuge purgantia tanquam pestem.’



forcé de recourir à *son remède héroïque*. Cette préparation de lait, de jaune d'œuf et de sucre, produisait sur lui l'effet d'un purgatif doux qui le soulageait constamment. *C'était le seul remède dont il eût fait usage, en sa vie.*"\*

The lower intestines being only emptied by the lavement, this should be composed of soap-and-water only, and that as warm as can comfortably be borne, the quantity from a pint and a half to a quart. When it is considered that, quite irrespective of the mass of food which we introduce to the system, the delicate mucous membrane which lines the long intestinal canal is constantly secreting a fluid to shield it from harm; that the liver and the pancreas contribute their share of the accumulation; and that the secretion of the first of these is always of an irritating (particularly if long retained) and often of a rank and offensive character; this alone is sufficient to indicate to those who have common sense, that this, the legitimate *débris* of the constitution, ought, each twenty-four hours at least, before absorption of it to any extent can take place, to be duly and habitually expelled,

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\* Examen des Doctrines Médicales de M. Broussais, tome iii. p. 304.



or bad breath, offensive perspirations, drowsiness, and still worse evils, will arise. *My most healthy patients are those who have habitually two motions daily.* Happy are those who require not “peristaltic persuaders,” as Dr. Kitchener\* was accustomed to call them; and these are usually persons having light-coloured hair, dark-haired people being usually of a costive habit.† If, how-

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\* No one can regret more than myself the comparatively early death of Dr. Kitchener. He was bound to me, indirectly, by the ties of consanguinity; and, though an eccentric, was a truly amiable man: he was only forty-eight when cut off.

† To show the necessity of a daily persevering emptying of the intestinal canal, I may mention a case, related to me by my old friend, the late Dr. Blount, of Hereford, brother-in-law to Dr. Lamb, who, feeling sure (though the bowels of a patient of his were seemingly open enough) that there was some lodgment causing irritation, at last expelled the lodger, to wit, a piece of stringy ham, which the man had eaten six weeks before, and which had got entangled in one of the many folds of the alimentary canal. Friction of the abdomen, and that long-continued, in these obstructions of the bowels, should never be neglected; though it is, I believe, little practised. It is good for medical gentlemen (and this I say expressly) carefully to consult in concert over a case; for as the late Dr. Merriman, one of the brightest ornaments of the profession,



ever, where little food is taken, the bowels will, of necessity, become oppressed, how much more must injury to the body arise, unless systematically and frequently rescued by nature, or by art, when three or four meals a day are superadded? Early rising should be practised by *all* dyspeptics; the bed should be left in the summer at six, and in the winter at break of day, by those who desire a healthy old age; an hour after which, when some appetite shall have come, (as it will always do when once the good habit has been established,) the first meal should be taken, and that substantial or otherwise, according to the time allotted for dinner or luncheon, and according also to the work, if any, to be done. If much mental or bodily labour be in prospect, the large meal of the day should not be taken till this shall have been accomplished; in which case a

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once said to me, "I like to call in our neighbour, Dr. Chambers; he has too pure a mind to damage a medical brother by word or deed; and always brings me help in the shape of practical knowledge." In ordinary cases, a physician's treatment of his patients takes its tone from his own constitutional character, feeble and undecided, or rash and inconsiderate; or, what is far better, the steady middle course.



third of the principal daily repast may be had in the shape of a portion of meat at breakfast; and the stomach may in consequence be spared later in the day, *when unable to do much, the nervous and circulating powers having been by that time nearly exhausted.* Those pitiable individuals who rise day by day, and year by year, without occupation, or the prospect of any, will, if wise, take the chief of their nourishment at or before three o'clock. But let me implore those who are condemned, as millions are, to a strictly sedentary life, not only to seek, but to MAKE, opportunities for walking: this would be the best kind of exercise, even if it were not the cheapest. They must remember, however, that if they can only walk immediately before dinner, and have become heated much thereby, they must not take this, the principal meal, till they shall have become cool. Dancing, for all of suitable age, would be better even than walking; but the great good which this is calculated to accomplish, is nullified by these saltatory movements being performed in contaminated air, and at unreasonable hours; but ventilation\* is at last asserting

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\* The public are greatly indebted to Mr. Toynbee, the eminent aurist, for his incessant exertions,



her rights in the cabin, the cottage, and the palace, and the life-giving oxygen will, in this glorious age, be employed as the Giver of all good things destined that it should be, namely, for the absolutely needful daily and *nightly* revivification of man. But where shall we find a poet who could compose and chant an ode of a sufficiently laudatory character for an entire change of air—that is, the moving from one place to another for a time, as prolonged as possible, once at least annually! The poet-laureate himself could not satisfy me; and, of course, no one else could: so, in plain humble prose, I say, let all those having the power, who are obliged to live in large cities, take a tour, by land, or by water, or by both, annually, for as long a time, if men of business, as they

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philanthropically exercised, especially for the benefit of the poor of this metropolis, in introducing among them a *habit* of ventilating their close and confined dwelling-rooms; a fertile source of dyspepsia, consumption, adynamic fever, and other serious maladies, as London physicians well know. None but consumptive, asthmatic persons, and those who have weak lungs, should have a fire in their bed-rooms, at night, *but these should always have this in cold weather, if possible.*



can justifiably spare, *to as great a distance from home as they have courage to undertake*, and accompanied by those whose lives are dearer to them than their own. Let them escape from a locality where the work of a week elsewhere is often done in a day, thereby defying the doctor, and laying in a stock of health for the remainder of the year. Travelling *alone* is of little use. But alas ! there are those who cannot command even a single week in twelve months ; and of these the greater proportion are medical men, that unappreciated class, who daily run greater risks, a hundred times told, than he who once or so in his life may seek reputation at the cannon's mouth. Dr. Bence Jones well said, in his admirable lecture, Oct. 1st, 1849, at St. George's Hospital, on the opening day, we are angels while our patients are ill, and something else when they become well—we, who are conscientious, and honest, and just, and considerate, and Samaritan-like, through the whole of our lives, and dying, rarely, very rarely, leave anything deserving of the name of substance for our widows or our children.\*

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\* It will be conceded, that members of the medical profession succeed *best* in this great Babylon. I



It is a rule, too, with some, to talk wildly and at random about the inordinate gains of the Curators of the sick; this, too, is idle gossip. In London, the appearance to be kept up (not required of the other learned professions, *to the members of which I have not yet been able to see in what single respect we are inferior*) swallows up the larger income obtained through there being more people *here* congregated together. In the country, medical men never, or very rarely, receive anything worthy to be called remuneration for the slavery of body and harass of mind that they undergo. Having myself lived long in each locality, I can testify fully, truly, and undeniably, of these things. Below will be found an example of the old adage, that "all is not gold that glitters."\*

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have been, during many years, a Director of the excellent Society for the benefit of the Widows and Orphans of the medical men of London and its vicinity, an institution which almost all the first physicians and surgeons in the metropolis support. Now, will it be believed, that the widow of *one in four* of such leading men, with her children (it is found on the experience of years), comes for help to the Institution, not having 50*l.* a year, the *minimum* sum, which would disqualify her? *Many are entirely destitute!*

\* I called one morning on my neighbour and



Before quitting the subject of air without, and air with, exercise, I desire to offer one word of friendly advice to those, and they are many, who can devote but one day in seven to the enjoyment of both of these combined, namely, to be especially moderate\* in the use of such

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friend, the late Dr. Chambers, then the first Physician in London, some ten years ago, and congratulated him unfeignedly, on his being in the act of making a very large fortune; and, on his inquiring what I meant, I replied that I had *seen many* patients go to his house that morning. He said, "Listen. You may have seen as many as nine this morning; eight of them begged my advice on some pretext or another; the ninth gave me a fee, which I presented to the gentleman who has just preceded you, who is an honest doctor in distress." I know another London physician, who, during sixteen years, opened his doors every morning, the Sabbath included, to all who might desire his advice; he made a free hospital, as it were, of his house; but at length, having prescribed for many thousand persons gratuitously, and seeing how much his charity was abused, by persons sneaking in who, he knew, were able to compensate him, he laughingly said, that he had made up his mind at last (metaphorically, of course) "to carry the hat round," when, as happens after street-performances, all but the really poor and distressed, the maimed, and the cripples—fled!

\* I have had often, as patients, those who, having only one day in seven for recreation, have been



privilege, or they will injure rather than benefit their health, since the constitution will not endure extremes, particularly in this respect.

Having obeyed his Physician in all preliminary respects, the patient takes the first in order, but the second most substantial meal of the day. Would that it could be the first in reality ! Whether milk, tea, cocoa, or weak chocolate, be the liquid preferred, it will never be swallowed by sane persons scalding hot in temperature, reminding one of the ridiculous custom once the fashion,—for, alas ! there is fashion in physic, as in other things,—to drink after dinner a pint or more of water, as hot as it could be borne, by way of strengthening the stomach ! If meat be necessary, Brother Jonathan's plan of bolting it, for which he suffers grievously in his attacks of Dyspepsia, will not be adopted ; but mastication, or minute comminution,\* which will

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made ill by greatly over-taxing their strength on that day, and doing far too much at once ; not considering that, being all creatures of habit, the free use of their limbs in the open air, *with them*, was the exception, and not the daily rule, and therefore, to be only temperately, *because rarely, enjoyed*.

\* I am acquainted with a gentleman who lost all his teeth soon after fifty years of age, after



answer the same purpose. Do but *separate well* animal food, and the saliva and the gastric fluid will do the rest; and the peristaltic persuader (should there not have previously been a call to the temple of Cloacina), within the next two or three hours, is then to be dispatched on its special mission. If more exercise can now be obtained, by which walking is always meant, so much the better. If a late dinner should make a luncheon necessary, meat is then never required, be it remembered, at this, which should be merely an apology for a meal, mental and perhaps bodily work having afterwards to be done. Whether the dinner be taken at three, or at seven or eight, all the inconsiderate portion of man and woman kind will eat till they can eat no longer; and some will unblushingly say that they have done so, and in good society, too. Let such, if ever dyspeptic, eschew Champagne, at least, and indemnify themselves with Sherry instead: bread will supply the place of a superabundance of animal food; a moderate

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which, not troubling himself to masticate with his purchased grinders, he has invariably divided minutely his meat; and during thirteen years, has neither had indigestion nor any other inconvenience, being in rude health, and full of strength.



quantity of water will supersede beer ; and if ice be at last presented, the unhappy wight who labours under weak digestion will do well to pass it on to his or her neighbour.

The food, when the stomach is treated fairly, and due rest is given to it between each meal, begins, as I believe, to be digested in some strong persons immediately ; but even allowing it a brief period for preparation, *two hours, whenever possible, must be spent by every one after dinner in perfect repose.* Even the newspaper is not to be read, unless a short nap be desirable, and cannot otherwise be induced. But this entire state of repose will not, and by some *cannot* always be conceded to the just claims of the stomach, while engaged in its greatest diurnal duty, by toiling, care-worn man ! and this, I believe, is one reason why female dyspeptics (owing to their comparative exemption from the worry of business, or the consideration of exciting political and other questions) are more easily curable, as they certainly are, than those of the rougher sex. I have also said, that, especially for those who cannot sleep at night, a doze of half an hour is not only allowable, but even necessary. No description of nutriment whatever ought to enter the month after a late din-



ner, excepting perhaps black tea, with a small portion of stale bread or biscuit. But to invalids, to amuse the digestive organs till sleep should come, either gruel or sago, or arrow-root, or tapioca (with or without the flavour of brandy as a placebo), for the night, may be taken. Of the *medical* treatment of Dyspepsia *this* may be said, that without it the observance of every rule that has been laid down as to diet, &c., will be of no avail; but by attention to it, and that to no great extent, Indigestion, however severe and harassing, unless there be real disease, is generally curable—perhaps more certainly than almost any disorder that flesh is heir to. And next to the gratification of seeing a valuable life restored, by what we believe to have been our well-directed exertions, is the pleasure of comforting a timid valetudinarian by the assurance of the probability of his or her recovery. It is the Physician's best fee—his truest *honorarium*: and, although he does not, like the Empiric, promise a cure of all complaints to everybody (for this is the line of demarcation between the legitimate sons of Æsculapius and the irregular Guerillas of Medicine), he yet, by his experience, can so exactly estimate his power as generally to foretell that which may by the sick be con-



fidently relied upon. There is even *a look* in disease, which is recognised by a medical man of experience (often very early, and when invisible to the non-professional eye), and which tells him unmistakeably when there is no hope of a cure for his patient. This is indeed the greatest trial which humane practitioners of medicine experience, to know that the smoothing the way to the tomb is all the privilege which they are likely to possess. In a case of this kind two things appear to me to be incumbent upon us; the first, to tell\* the whole truth to the most

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\* I am aware that the propriety of our interfering in any but medical matters is questioned by some. To such I say, that it is not for us to decide whether a death-bed repentance will avail, or, to use the words of the late Rev. Rowland Hill, "whether the Almighty will accept Satan's leavings;" but I hold it to be the bounden duty of a Physician, should he see unmistakeable symptoms of approaching dissolution, to tell some one his opinion on this point, that, not interfering further, an opportunity be afforded for introducing a minister of religion: and those who may consider this extra-professional and intrusive, must look for help elsewhere than from me. In consumption, for instance, one of the *symptoms* of the malady being the expectation of recovery at a period when the medical adviser knows it to be impossible; then it is that the



sensible (supposed) friend of the invalid; and next, I hold it to be a rule no less sacred, not to torment, and distress, and harass our patient by tentative subjections, when we are *sure* that we cannot cure him. I say, tell the truth to a friend. Why so? Because the inability to bear the knowledge of his hopeless state is all but universal, either with Christians or others, such and so close is the clinging of the soul to her earthly tenement. And those of our Profession who have lived long and seen much, know that it is so, however much one would wish that the case should be otherwise. I had a most distressing instance in proof of this two or three years ago, which I will briefly mention. A tradesman, living in the Edgeware-road, for whom I had been prescribing occasionally, came one morning, and said, "Sir, I am very ill, and believe that I am in danger; you know whether I am, or not; and I am come

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relations of the patient at least must not be dealt unfairly by, but be told the real truth. In the cases of Catholics at Rome (as I was informed from high authority in that city), after the attendance of a physician upon a patient has been necessary three consecutive times, he is *obliged* to demand spiritual aid. Such is the decree.



to ask the favour of you to tell me if my disorder is likely to kill me, for I have a good wife and a bad son, and I wish to settle my affairs. You may tell me the truth, for I can bear to hear it." Distressing though it was (for I had never been asked the question so pointedly before), I replied, that my opinion was decidedly that he would not recover. (He had Cancer of the Stomach, not to be mistaken.) "I thank you, sir," he said. "And now, once more, how long do you think I may continue?" This question (as harassing as the other), I answered, by saying, "Some Weeks, or even Months." I found, however, that though he said he could bear it, he could not; the axe had been laid to the root of the tree, and he lived but a very short time afterwards.

Sick persons are generally not so straightforward and open when detailing their symptoms as they ought to be. They should then consider themselves as in the witness-box with a friendly Barrister, and wait to be asked questions; and when the Physician *appears* to have finished his inquiry, the patient may add any information which may not have been elicited, and which may be thought to be important. But how preferable is a taciturn to a loquacious invalid!



Nothing annoyed Mr. Abernethy so much as this, which led to his method, in one particular case, of spiking the cannon :\* he was facetious, and humorous, and loved a joke ; but he had too generous a heart,—as those who knew him best were well convinced,—to make personally offensive speeches to women,—however angry with them. The late Mr. Heaviside† on one occasion

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\* A very talkative Lady who had wearied the temper of Mr. Abernethy, which was at all times impatient of gabble, was told by him, the first moment that he could get a chance of speaking, to be good enough to put out her tongue. “ Now, pray, Madam,” said he, playfully, “ *keep it out.*” The hint was taken. He rarely met with his match ; but on one occasion he fairly owned that he had. He was sent for to an Innkeeper, who had had a quarrel with his wife, and who had scored his face with her nails, so that the poor man was bleeding, and much disfigured. Mr. Abernethy considered this an opportunity not to be lost for admonishing the offender, and said, “ Madam, are you not ashamed of yourself to treat your husband thus ? the husband, who is the head of all—*your* head, madam, in fact.” “ Well, doctor,” fiercely retorted the virago, “ and may I not scratch my own head ?” Upon this, her friendly Adviser, after giving directions for the benefit of the patient, turned upon his heel, and confessed himself beaten for once.

† Mr. H. had a patient, a very stout Lady, who



sadly forgot himself, and was punished accordingly. But who so enduringly patient as the pitying Physician, when real danger is present? and who seeks the dark cloud in the sky so soon as he? If he has a sympathizing heart, his feelings are tried every day; if he has not, he possesses not the magnet which belongs to his Glorious Vocation. But let him carefully avoid that Patient whose chosen subject is the abuse and vituperation of him by whom he had been previously attended; for it is useless to say to one of his description, that *all* medical men do their best, and if they fail to relieve, they themselves suffer next only in degree to him whom

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was everlastingly sending for him, and often unnecessarily. One morning the message came, "he was to go immediately." He regarded it not, finished the business in which he was engaged, went to visit some persons who were really ill, and then obeyed the summons of the morning. The Lady was in a towering rage, and said so much in the way of reproach, that the Doctor lost *his* temper, and *insisted* upon knowing, without more delay, what was the matter; and upon her saying that she had a bad pain in the small of her back, he asked her where that might be? and was thereupon immediately desired to leave the house, into which he never went again!



they would gladly, because it was their interest, have succoured. But no, says the vituperant; "He could have relieved me, but he would not." But, above all, let the Physician avoid, as he would a pestilence, the *brother*—and the race is not extinct—who has ever been known to say to the once patient of another—"It was well for you that you came for relief when you did; a few days more under that man's care would have proved your destruction!" Medical men, medical friends, ye who are gentlemen, eat bread and drink water all your lives before you condescend to meet a fellow like this in consultation, whatever be his station; having first satisfied yourselves that he had thus spoken of any legally qualified man,\* whether Physician or Surgeon; for one who is fit for *your* society could not, knowingly, rise on the downfall of another; since he would feel that, to die happily, he must live

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\* My dear Master, whom I can never be tired of quoting, was accustomed to say that "if dirt, in any quantity, were thrown upon an Angel, *some of it would stick*;" like a vile lie published on the eve of an Election (known to be a falsehood by the utterer), *specified early enough to do incalculable mischief, but purposely circulated too late to be contradicted.*



honestly, and that that, and that alone, would bring him peace at the last.

Although the Boa Constrictors of the human race do not usually eat Hats,\* Needles, or, as the veritable Boa did, a Blanket,† for a change,

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\* My old friend, Mr. Judd, Surgeon-Major of the Scotch Fusilier Guards, was once sent for to relieve a man who was said to have eaten a hat; on his arrival, he found a young man, a Soldier, exceedingly ill, and in great pain. Mr. J., not believing the hat-story, sent for the landlord of the public-house, where the fact was confirmed by the whole staff of the establishment, that the patient had really eaten a hat (cut into pieces and fried in butter!) for gold! Under suitable treatment this Cormorant recovered; but not immediately.—In the Museum, at the College of Surgeons, is a large bottle-full of needles, weighing many ounces, nay, more than a pound, which were swallowed by a woman, who could not have been in her senses; she lived many months afterwards, however, and instead of being emaciated, got fat! *Needles are, nevertheless, not recommended as an article of diet, for this was a case of post hoc, and not propter hoc.*

† See an amusing account in Dickens's "Household Words," giving a history of the Boa Constrictor in the Regent's Park, which, instead of eating two young rabbits, which had been put into the cage for his supper, (downright murder!) had, while poking about in the dark, as is supposed, got hold



there is quite enough of voracity chargeable to intellectual, intelligent man, whereby his stomach is everlastingly in trouble.

The Pulse must be watched in Dyspepsia, so that it be not too full and hard, or too rapid; when near to or above a hundred beats in the minute, all our care is required. It is the Storm at Sea, and there are breakers a-head. Tonics *then*, as all know, are out of the question: the commotion must first be allayed. When pain exists, as it usually does in severe Dyspepsia, and must be our main guide, eight or ten leeches, and these, perhaps, repeated once or twice, at the Scrobiculus Cordis, will almost always give relief, whether the cause be congestion or inflammation. The leeches may be followed, should the patient not be able to bear the loss of much

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of his blanket, the end of which in the morning (proof positive) was hanging out of his mouth! and the intended "Supper" alive, and well. It is believed, however, that this Patient did not die, but that *his* Patients did! It is impossible to mention the name of Dickens without gratefully acknowledging his noble and generous and *constant* appreciation of medical men, the much-enduring, never-tiring, unrequited benefactors of their afflicted fellow-mortals.



blood, by a Sinapism the following day, that excellent comparatively modern remedy, which, in the cases of children especially, so often supersedes blisters. When harassing annoying acidity prevails, the tongue being covered with a white coating, no curative means are so efficacious as some mild mercurial, pilul. hydrarg. for instance, in combination with pilul. rhei. co., every alternate night, followed the next morning by a seidlitz powder or a dose of ol. ricini, or a (*gentle*) old-fashioned black-draught; this to be repeated three or four times, interdicting animal food, and giving Liquor Potassæ, or Bicarbonate of Potash, with lemon juice, thrice daily. But what are we to prescribe, says my reader, when Mercury cannot be taken, which we know to be the case with some very few persons, who are quite aware of this Idiosyncrasy themselves, often to their sorrow; for the medical man (a stranger) who has been called in, may possibly have forgotten the golden rule which every one who writes for the sick should have in his mind, and the patient has thereby suffered, namely, *invariably to ask*, "Is there any drug which has been found to be hurtful to your constitution, the introduction of which your stomach has resented?" The answer will sometimes be, mer-



cury\* in any shape or degree, or opium, or rhubarb, or aloes, &c. I know of no medicine, when it is desired to act upon the Liver, and where mercury cannot be tolerated, so efficacious as a combination of nitric and muriatic acid

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\* One of the most annoying cases that ever occurred to me was the following. I was sent for to an hotel, to an American lady, the wife of a barrister, who was ill, from having neglected her Bowels. While writing my Prescription, I ascertained that she could not take even one grain of Calomel, and I therefore promised that no mercury should enter into the composition of my remedy. The lady was *enceinte*: In the night, I was roused from my slumber to go to the assistance of this patient, who had been afflicted with violent tormina, sickness, &c. An anodyne gave relief; and on calling upon the chemist to order something more, he said, "Sir, while I made up the medicine, yesterday, the gentleman waited; and when I took down *the blue pill*, he started!" And so did I! and requested to see my Prescription (in order to take it away), which contained ℞ij. of ext. coloc. co. and ℞j. ext. hyoscyami *only*, written sufficiently well—it was just a stupid mistake. It behoved me, however, to clear myself with the husband; but the Chemist never forgave me for not screening him at my own cost; though I made the Lawyer hold his tongue (no easy matter); for this careless compounder of medicine had seven children.



with *Taraxacum*, in large doses, but the following mixture of *M. Lugol* is also good:—*Iodinii*, gr.  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; *hydriod. potassæ*, gr. iss.; *Decocti Taraxici*, Oss. Fiat mist. One-fourth part of this Mixture may be taken at first daily, in divided doses, increasing it to three-fourths; at the same time eight or ten grs. of *pilul. rhei. comp.* in *pilulas xij.*, two on alternate nights, to be assisted off the next day or not, as may be required. I do not venture, where *Opium* cannot be borne,—a most unfortunate peculiarity, for it is the second-best medicine, next to *Mercury*, if not the best of all, that we have,—to prescribe *morphia*, but find *Hyoscyamus* or *Conium* tolerable substitutes. *Rhubarb* and *Aloes* will not be badly represented by *Jalap*, *Senna*, or *Castor Oil*.

Till acidity be removed, tonics and sedatives will not furnish their large share in the cure of indigestion. The following mixture is an excellent one:—*Potassæ bicarb.*,  $\text{ʒiss}$ ; *potassæ nitratis*,  $\text{ʒij.}$ ; *infusi diosmæ*,  $\text{ʒxv.}$ ; *tinct. hyoscyami*,  $\text{ʒiij.}$  Fiat mist. Quarum capiat cyath. vinarium ter quotidie. Some cannot take potash who will be benefited by soda, or magnesia, or sesquicarbonate of Ammonia. When the tongue (the sure index of the condition of the Stomach—for even, when dumb, it speaketh) is white,



flabby, and the impressions of the teeth remain on it, saline food, porter, and wine, and Iron, are indicated; and of the preparations of this metal, I prefer the Tinct. Ferri Sesquichloridi, especially when one of the gentle sex is my patient, (from ℥xv. to xxx. thrice daily, in a wine-glass of weak cinnamon water;) or the following mixture:—Acidi sulph. dil., ʒj.; Infusi Chirayitæ vel gentianæ comp., ʒviij.; tinct. auranti., ʒss. M. Sumat coch. tria ampla ter quotidie; or, if the Stomach be irritable, and has undergone much wear and tear, and constant sickness prevails, hydrocyanic acid may be tried three or four times a day;\* from three to five minims, in mint or other distilled water, for a dose; but till I had had more experience with a better medicine than any of these, *in certain suitable cases*,—for each, differing so much as we do in constitution, must be treated on its own merits, —I was accustomed to add to every dose of the

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\* In a case of incessant vomiting, the stomach refusing anything, Dr. Alison entirely nourished a patient by lavements of broth, yolk of eggs, port wine, &c., during forty days, who then recovered. I had myself a successful case so treated, where, during sixteen days, nothing could be retained in the shape of nourishment, *per vias naturales*.



above acid from one-sixth to one-eighth of a grain of Hydrochloride or Morphia. The preparation which I have alluded to is the Oxide of Silver,\* the best and the safest, because the most sure, medicine that we have in most, I do not say in all, cases of Dyspepsia. Having not only introduced but prescribed it more frequently than any other living Physician, once daily, generally much oftener, in various ailments during the last fourteen years (since July, 1841), and watched its effects with entire fidelity, aided by very many enthusiastic friends, any objection to its use, therefore, from any quarter whatever, passes by me as wind and vapour, against the deep conviction of positive indubitable experi-

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\* The mode of its preparation, which contains one atom of our second-best metal, with one of our most noble gas (oxygen), will be found *not in the London*, but in the "Dublin Pharmacopœia." This oxide is incompatible with calomel;—or conserve of any kind. I have invariably prescribed it, as I have said in my "Practical Remarks,"<sup>1</sup> in a fluid form, with a diluted mixture of acacia; if in powder, in combination with pulv. acaciæ, and a small quantity of pulv. glycyrrhizæ; or, if in pills, *cum micâ panis*.

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<sup>1</sup> Practical Remarks on some Exhausting Diseases more especially belonging to Women. Second Edition. Churchill. 1851.



ence. *Time will settle the question, and I desire no other arbitrator.\** Every observing medical man must have valuable information to communicate, which, neglecting to record, is lost to his brethren for ever; for myself, not writing for pelf, though loving employment, it is my intention, so long as I may live, to treasure up and chronicle from time to time, any practical points that I may have the good fortune to discern. Not to overload this work,—which has a general, and not a particular object,—I now purpose to record the written reports of my professional friends upon the oxide of silver on Dyspepsia, in an Appendix, but shall, *at the risk of being considered an empiric by those who know me not*, allow a few of my grateful patients—and I promise that they shall not be so numerous as

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\* If I am asked, which I have been many many times, and a very fair question it is—What are the bad effects, if any, arising from the employment of this medicine? I reply, really *none, if prescribed properly*, and for a reasonable length of time. I never had but one case among thousands where I had any doubt of its agreeing, I NEVER SAW THE SKIN AFFECTED, *but if it should be, I desire here to say, once for all, that the gaucherie of the Doctor alone will have been the cause, now that the Medicine is so well understood.*



to tire—to speak for themselves as to the good which *they* have derived from this medicine in their respective cases, one being that of a medical friend. Seven only will be given as an epitome of the rest; for whether seven be presented or seventy, the fact remains the same. The Oxide of Silver is a tonic, and a sedative of the first class, in Dyspepsia and Diarrhœa, especially with children; it is, moreover, the best astringent that I know in every kind of slow or chronic hæmorrhage, as I have reported; *and I shall do this again and again, so long as I may live*; for I have never said or written a word to my medical brethren respecting the pre-eminent qualities of this admirable Medicine, that I could not entirely justify; and whether they take it up generally or not, is of no consequence to me individually, so long as I feel that I have presented to them, with the purest intentions, a faithful report of my very large experience; but, as the *Times* of October 23rd, 1851, says, (in one of its grand sledge-hammer leading articles, which so often extort our admiration, whether we agree with the sentiments or not,) “Truth, in its simplicity, is too powerful a medicine for the great bulk of mankind, the mere creature of a thousand prejudices and habits.” My dear friend



and adviser, the late Dr. James Johnson, before he became satisfied of the superiority of the oxide, was accustomed to give, as he told me, from half a grain upwards *of the nitrate of silver even* (a very much stronger preparation), with the happiest effects, twice a day, for three months together. He it was to whom I submitted my "Practical Remarks," and who urged me to publish them, saying that *he* could testify to their truth. I do not prescribe more than two months at one time. When Dyspepsia is very obstinate, as it occasionally is, I suspect disease of the Kidneys. Mr. Abernethy was accustomed to say to us (after relating a case which did not end as he wished), "The patient died, gentlemen, *but he ought to have recovered under the treatment.*" This, my excellent master, was dotingly beloved by his pupils; but by some, who knew him not, he was considered unfeeling; he *was* irritable, and (like another great Surgeon,\* now living—another, to whose words of wisdom I had the privilege in early youth to listen,) would not *allow* his patients (men or women) to waste his time unnecessarily; but he had a generous affectionate heart; he

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\* Sir B. C. Brodie.



who has given a hundred pounds at once to the distressed young widow of a medical man, with a family of infants, as he has done, to my knowledge,—he who, after a long gratuitous attendance on a very poor lady, who pined in vain for sea air to perfect her recovery, had abundant means placed at her disposal by this her generous and pitying Surgeon,—by him who might have now and then been *brusque*, but the rough outside had a brilliant diamond, a *Kohinoor* of sympathy for real suffering, *set within*.

CASE 1.—This case is that of an eminent well-known Sculptor, who says, in a note addressed to myself—“With feelings of the deepest pleasure I recall to my recollection my introduction to you, through our medical friend, Mr. P——, and the immense benefit which I have derived from your mode of treatment. My case was severe Dyspepsia, with disordered Liver, from which I had suffered a martyrdom the last ten or twelve years, receiving comparatively but little benefit from among the many whom I consulted. I feel anxious to express the heartfelt satisfaction it would afford me to communicate fully to any sufferer the beneficial results to me of that ever-to-be-remembered Oxide of Silver, which has so entirely rooted out



my old enemies, water-brash, spasm, sickness, and all their accompanying agonizing attendants." Dated July 21st, 1845.

CASE 2.—Mr. —, principal clerk in a Savings-bank in London, thus reports to me:—"During two years, and especially within the last six months, I was troubled constantly with severe pain from Indigestion, which gave me the sensation of a ball, the size of an egg, at the pit of my Stomach. The Oxide of Silver prescribed by you has quite removed this supposed ball, and has also strengthened the Stomach very much, so that I can now eat, or even *drink* anything, instead of confining myself to water, as heretofore, though caution I find to be still necessary. My knees, which were very weak, are also greatly relieved; my other troubles are caused by natural infirmity, though only sixty-two last September."—Dated March 13th, 1848. This gentleman sent for me, the following year, to visit him at Southsea, near Portsmouth. He was then much improved in health; he had selected a country residence, a retiring salary having been allowed him.

CASE 3.—A Nobleman's Steward, near Town, thus addresses me:—"Nothing, I am sure, can afford us greater pleasure, myself as the receiver



of very great benefit at your hands, and yourself to have a testimonial from me to the effect, that I having suffered very severely from Indigestion, more or less, for several years, and having applied for your advice during the last summer, took the oxide-of-silver pills in gradually increased doses during two or three months; after which I received that permanent benefit which enables me now to say that my general health and digestion are such as I have been a stranger to for many years past.”—Dated December 27th, 1849.

CASE 4.—A gentleman, holding a high position at an Insurance Office, thus writes:—“My dear Sir: I owe you many thanks for your kind advice in my case of Indigestion; I continued to take for about three weeks the small dose of your medicine, and afterwards increased the strength of it; from that time I rapidly lost all the distressing symptoms of eructation of wind, and oppression. I enjoyed my stay in Paris very much, eating and drinking whatever came in my way, without feeling any the worse.\* Now

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\* It is a curious fact, but nevertheless true, that in the course of a long professional life I have *almost always* found convalescent patients, on the return of appetite (when asked what they would like to eat),



I have returned home I am obliged to be sedentary ; I am more careful of my diet, and continue quite well.”—Dated January 22nd, 1850.

CASE 5.—A lady from the country writes through her brother in these words :—My dear Brother : In answer to the inquiries which Sir James Eyre has been good enough to make as to the extent of the benefit which I have derived from the oxide of silver, I may make the following statement :—I used to suffer dreadfully from intense headache, which occurred so frequently that I lived in continual fear, and was almost afraid to eat or drink anything. I persevered in taking the pills in the manner directed, during one month, and after the lapse of a little time continued them for about a fortnight longer. It is now nearly four months since I had the headache, or, at any rate, not more than

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to name one of two things, either stewed eels, or bacon ! There is an exception, however, to be made in the case of invalids from the Land of Cakes, the Scotch having, in general, a great dislike to this description of fish, as is well known. A Frenchman might choose frogs as his dainty ; a Neapolitan, possibly, snails, of which I lately saw some fine lively specimens (horns and all) ! in the market at Naples, for table use !



one during that time, which I consider proceeded from a cold: and as I had tried so many other remedies (previous to taking the pills), which *totally failed* in affording me any relief, I can only attribute my improved state to the effect which this medicine had on my Stomach. I find my appetite very much improved, and am considerably stouter than I used to be. I have much pleasure in sending my doctor this favourable statement.”—Dated Cambridge, July 23rd, 1850.

Two months subsequently this lady told her brother that she had eaten of everything that she wished to do, and which she would not have dared to have done several months ago; and had not experienced the slightest return of her insupportable headache, which no doubt arose from the Stomach. The third and last report, *just received* from this patient, runs thus:—“I rejoice to tell you that I have been quite free from sickness and headache for several weeks. My Stomach is much stronger, and I am able to take a drive for a couple of hours; which I could not do before you gave me your medicine, which, by your permission, I will now discontinue for a time.”—Dated Brighton, Jan. 17th, 1852.

CASE 6, is that of a respectable tradesman in Piccadilly, about thirty years of age, married,



but without family, with whom I had been in the habit of dealing occasionally. I had not seen him during many months, and on my return to England from my autumnal holiday, about the second week in September, 1850, I called accidentally, and found him greatly altered, and miserably thin. He said that he had had jaundice in March; had been under excellent medical care, but that nothing would give him the least appetite. After asking him the necessary questions, I told him that if he would give me his confidence I would cure him in a month, for my own pleasure, and that his offering me any pecuniary recompence must be out of the question, for I saw that he was not able to give money for professional aid. He agreed, and by the steady use of the oxide, for which his case seemed especially adapted, and carefully attending to his diet, and other particulars, *I kept my word*—he could eat and digest as heretofore; and on the 16th of November, although I would not take gold, he forced upon me that which I dare not have accepted in coin of the realm, as being unprofessional—namely, a silver\* fee. I

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\* Not the portrait of our beloved Queen, but a permanent memento of a useful character, bearing on its surface a grateful inscription to me, his successful physician.



met him in the streets six months afterwards, and he was so stout that I really did not know him.

CASE 7.—From a surgical friend who thus writes:—"Now let me speak of the oxide of silver, which has become a great favourite with me. I suffered intensely for a long time from Gastrodynia, which resisted every mode of treatment, and caused me much anxiety, till I had recourse to the oxide; and I am happy to say that in three weeks I forgot all about my 'difficulty.' This medicine has answered admirably in many similar cases in my hands, and I have no doubt deserves all the praise that you give it. I have fancied sometimes that the oxide has not been properly prepared, for although I have procured it from the best laboratories in London—it has not had always that very dark colour which is superior, in my opinion. The effects, too, arising from its administration, have been equally uncertain."—Dated Essex, Feb. 14th, 1853.

I hope that I have not selected too many instances in corroboration of my fixed opinion of this elegant and perfectly safe preparation—safe *excepting it be administered by a wilfully careless prescriber*. I will not suffer my own sincerity to be doubted, but before leaving the subject, I



would make *one* remark as collateral evidence in part proof of it (I could have loaded this report with cases, had it been wise to have done so), but I desire to say, in concluding these seven little histories, that, being sure of my resources, *I volunteered my services in three instances* (the lady I have never yet seen), not seeking pecuniary remuneration (often unhappily necessary, and always distasteful), but simply from an ordinary sense of duty, and that I might, peradventure, obtain thereby the Physician's best and most dignified Reward.

In obstinate relaxation of the bowels, *always mismanaged by patients themselves*, and generally needing medical care, I know no medicine equal to the Oxide, but in these cases I deviate from my otherwise rigid rule, and add, for adults, a small portion of opium to each dose, as in the following gratifying case of chronic diarrhœa, purposely selected as a type from many others, first on account of its recent occurrence, and secondly owing to the result having been so abundantly satisfactory, both to the patient and her Physician. Miss S., of Kentish Town, aged about 30, consulted me July 4th, 1854. She had been afflicted nearly five years, had been under the care of various medical gentlemen, had taken



Opium in suitable doses, with the customary cretaceous and astringent additions, Diacetate of Lead, Sulphate of Copper, &c. &c. The intestinal evacuations took place three or four times every night, and generally as frequently by day. The distension and oppression from flatulence were almost unbearable, abundance of mucus, but mucus only, came away with each motion, which afforded good reasons for the hope that ulceration had not commenced. There was, however, much emaciation. The tongue was white and furred, the appetite capricious, and the legs had begun to swell. So worn was her aspect, that I imagined (she will remember) her mother to have been her sister, their ages appearing so nearly to approximate! Implicit obedience to my directions, *as a sine quâ non*, was insisted upon, and large conditional promises, made on my part (an essential provision in the curative treatment of this description of malady), the recumbent posture, in bed, or on a sofa, was first stipulated for, *from that day forward*. Next, that my patient's mind should never be irritated by disturbing impressions of any kind whatever. Stale bread, with farinaceous diet, to be taken *at stated intervals, and in very moderate quan-*



*tity*, four, or at most five times daily ; some solid animal food, mutton, chicken, rabbit, or game (as soon as in season) at the first or second meal of the twenty-four hours. Barley-water, with occasional weak brandy-and-water, *cold*, or iced if more agreeable, as beverage. No medicine whatever was prescribed, excepting the Oxide of Silver thrice daily, with a small quantity of Opium in each dose. This plan was steadily pursued *de die in diem*. In one week, even, there was evident amendment. The cure gradually and slowly, but surely advanced, and on October 16th, 1854, this lady writes to me thus —“Miss S— is happy to inform Sir J. E. that her health continues steadily to improve, and that, though a little tried by cold weather, she feels herself to be gaining strength every day.”

For previous earlier valuable results in chronic diarrhœa, see Cases 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 16, and 21, in the Appendix.

Varying from my practice at first, I now occasionally *combine* the Oxide of Silver with some other medicine, as the case may require, and with great advantage. I must also say that I have found this preparation of the utmost value in painful affections of the nerves, as many can testify. And it may be added, that where



chalybeates are indicated, then is the proper time for administering the Oxide, and never when the tongue is bright and red; but no *wise* person will take Silver, Mercury, Copper, Lead, or any mineral preparation, without consulting a medical man. The pulse, and of course the respirations, of children being so much more frequent than in adults,—which makes them more prone to disease,—is another reason why we should especially watch their diet and their habit, as has been so long my custom to do. They have, however, *one grand compensation* when ill,—and let anxious parents comfort themselves by this reflection,—that having no mental uneasiness, their ailments are bodily only, like those of a quadruped, and therefore a cure may the more reasonably be anticipated; and experience justifies the expectation. I, for instance, rarely give up a confident hope of the eventual well-doing of a child in acute disease, having seen, as have all my professional brethren, with delight, resurrections, or the counterparts of such, in the recoveries—the escapes, as they may be truly called—of the very young.

One other important subject yet remains to be considered—namely, the great abuse of tobacco



in these modern times. I am decidedly of opinion that cigar smoking in an age where it seems to be practised, by many, all day, and by some even during a part of the night, *is a fertile source of ruin to the stomach.* The taking of snuff, I believe, may safely be indulged in as a general rule, after dinner, but there are many who habituate themselves to its use from the first hour of the day, while others, it is said, busily occupy themselves with the powder of the fragrant weed even when in bed, at a time when all rational persons are seeking that repose which all our organs require. Snuffing, however, is by no means so injurious to the digestive functions as the excessive practice of smoking,\* that remarkable vice of the present day !

And now, at length, the bow must be made, though very much is yet striving for utterance ; but hoping, *Deo volente*, for more of such leave-takings, I shall soon begin to again hoard information for the youthful and the teachable,

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\* While on the subject I may mention, however, that a cigar or pipe smoked immediately after rising in the morning will insure, with many, a visit to the temple of Cloacina.



especially for those of my own noble profession. Some may think that there is a chasm in the course of my description—inasmuch as I have not touched at all upon some delicate subjects which influence both sexes far more than those we have made so prominent—but these I considered to be matters for personal friendly inquiry, and not for the prying, prurient eye of the idle and the depraved, to whose taste it is, in the present age, too much the custom to pander. For myself, I trust I may say, with Sir Walter Scott, that I have never knowingly written a line that I could not look upon with comfort and satisfaction in old age,—seeing that my medal of self-selected decoration, though only of silver, has around it the ever-present glorious halo of unalloyed and imperishable TRUTH.



## APPENDIX.

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HAVING, in the Dedication, referred to Mr. Abernethy's class of 1812-13, some explanation is necessary, which, involving a little personal history, could not with propriety be assigned a place elsewhere *than in a corner*. The pupils of St. Bartholomew's Hospital (I being one, and in my second year of study) resolved to present their Teacher with a tangible proof of their love for him, in a piece of plate, to the purchase of which, bearing a suitable inscription, seventy-five Students contributed; selecting me, for want of a better—a mere youth of twenty—as *Chairman* of their Meeting; and also to *present* the very handsome Vase (which I have seen lately, after a lapse of thirty-eight years) to our dear Master. This having been duly accomplished, a written answer from him was brought, and stuck up behind his lecturing chair, to the following effect—namely, that “Mr. Abernethy had received from his pupils a very elegant Vase,



as a testimony of their esteem and respect for him," and which he had lost no time in acknowledging; for he assured them that "it was the most gratifying compliment which he had ever received during the whole course of his life."

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## II.

One more Anecdote, in which I had the pleasure of being made the subject of a witticism, by Mr. Abernethy, shall have a place here. It so happened, that in the year 1830—and perhaps I may be excused for adding, entirely unexpectedly (on the spontaneous application of that excellent nobleman, John, the first Earl Somers), I was knighted by his Majesty William the Fourth, upon whose Accession *one other* chief magistrate (for I was then Mayor of the City of Hereford) was so honoured—namely, Sir George Drinkwater, the Mayor of Liverpool. (Our present most Gracious Sovereign, on her Accession, knighted Sir James Spittal, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, *only*.) About this time a patient who had indulged largely in creature comforts, and was very stout and plethoric in proportion, went to consult Mr. Abernethy, who, after having written a prescription for him, said, "Go away, and have always in your thoughts the names of the two

Mayors who have just been knighted—*Eyre* and *Drinkwater*—and you will soon recover your wind, and your shape too, I promise you.”

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## III.

Names of places in their order, in and near London, which appear to be more or less salubrious. Extracted from the Bills of Mortality.

1. Lewisham, Blackheath, and Sydenham.
2. St. George, Hanover-square.
3. Hampstead.
4. Hackney.
5. Camberwell.
6. Wandsworth.
7. Islington.
8. Kensington, Chelsea, Brompton, Fulham, and Hammersmith.
9. Mansion-House district.
10. St. James, Westminster.
11. St. Pancras.
12. St. Marylebone.
13. Newington.
14. Lambeth.
15. Greenwich.
16. St. Martin's-in-the-fields.
17. Stepney.



18. Clerkenwell, Bethnal-green, the Strand, Shoreditch, Westminster, Rotherhithe, St. George's, Southwark, Cripplegate, Leadenhall, Whitefriars, Holborn, St. George's-in-the-East, St. Saviour's, St. Olave's, and Whitechapel—the last having 290 deaths yearly out of 10,000. Some of the unhealthy localities drink Thames water.
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#### IV.

The *cautious* medical profession (who remind me of the man who said, that he never believed any thing that he heard, and only half of that which he saw) has already been furnished with other evidence (in my "Practical Remarks")\* of the great efficacy of the Oxide of Silver, in all the slow and long-persisting hæmorrhages: I now proceed, in accordance with my efforts, to *press* the knowledge of the above medicine (of which I am in my fourteenth year of large experience) upon the attention of my unwilling brethren, by recording in this place the testimony of many very dear friends, who *have* believed my report, and profited thereby. They are arranged according to their reception by me, in their

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\* "Practical Remarks on some Exhausting Diseases."  
2nd Edition. 1851. Churchill.

order, are chiefly on the subject of Dyspepsia, and are respectively from the late Dr. Boisragon, of Cheltenham (1) ; Dr. Cargill, of Newcastle-on-Tyne (2) ; Dr. Snow Beck, F.R.S., of Langham-place (3) ; Dr. Kelly, of Taunton (4) ; Dr. Philpot Brookes, of Cheltenham (5) ; Mr. Harris, Surgeon, of Gower-street (6) ; Mr. Hodgson, Surgeon, of Chesham (7) ; Mr. Stewart, Surgeon, of Torquay (8) ; Dr. Bull, of Hereford (9) ; Dr. Fenwick, North Shields (10) ; Mr. Whittell, Surgeon, of Birmingham (11) ; Mr. Stowe, Surgeon, of Buckingham (12) ; Dr. Eager, of Liverpool (13) ; Dr. Harrison, of Frome (14) ; Mr. Sankey, F.R.C.S., of Dover (15) ; Dr. Tunstall, of Bath (16) ; Dr. Osborne, of Dundee (17) ; Mr. Davidson, Surgeon, of Charles-street, Portman-square (18) ; Mr. Obré, of Lisson-grove (19) ; Dr. Thomson, of Hainton, near Burton-on-Trent (20) ; Mr. Bennett, Surgeon, of Gateshead (21) ; Mr. Wigan, Surgeon, of Erith (22) ; Mr. Judd, Surgeon-Major of the Guards (23) ; and the late Mr. Goodger (24), during many years Resident Medical Officer at the St. Marylebone Infirmary. Eight of the above-named gentlemen have each sent *two* reports.

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### No. 1.

Says—I have used the oxide of silver, *in preference to the nitrate*, extensively, in Epilepsy, and



some modifications of Gastric disease, and have almost invariably found its value in spasmodic and neuralgic affections. I have also used it in combination with the tris-nitrate of bismuth, in Gastrodynia and Pyrosis, with happy effect.

(Signed)

H. C. B.

*Cheltenham, April 25th, 1845.*

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No. 2.

I have long thought the oxide of silver a very efficacious agent in cases of Gastrodynia, and some other Stomach Affections. In these I have frequently used it with great success, and, in one instance, where I *prevailed* on a medical man to try it in his own case of Indigestion, which had resisted every remedy, he declared that it had quite cured him. This was three years ago.

J. C.

*Newcastle-on-Tyne,*

*April, 1845.*

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A Report, No. 2, from the same Physician, reads thus:—I continue to find the Oxide of great efficacy in Dyspepsia, accompanied by debility, and a low tone of the general nervous system. Of course it will not succeed where there is organic disease,

or where there is febrile action, with pain, and a red tongue. Again, in bilious derangement, indicated by symptoms of Jaundice, this must first be corrected, and then the Oxide of Silver comes in as a valuable restorative to the weakened powers of the Stomach. I have given two grains (six times your dose) during a long period, and never found any but good effects from its use. In Epilepsy, I have persevered with it for a long time in grain doses thrice daily, with evident suspension of the fits. In Diarrhœa, I have good reason to put great confidence in the Oxide, especially if combined with a very minute quantity of Opium.

J. C.

*Newcastle, July, 1850.*

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### No. 3.

When I received your book, I happened to have two patients, for whose symptoms the oxide seemed to be suited, and resolved to prescribe it. A woman, about sixty, living at Clerkenwell, (who, by careful industry, had raised herself to that position which may be justly called "well to do in the world,") was seized three months ago with sickness and vomiting of large quantities of sour fluid. She sought the advice of a Surgeon near, and afterwards



that of a Physician, both of whom failed in giving her any relief. She sent for me, at the instance of her son-in-law (whom I had successfully attended in a severe illness), and after giving her the saline medicine and small doses of calomel, to improve the secretions, I administered three-quarter-grain doses of the oxide of silver three times a day. It is now fourteen days since I first began with your medicine, and she has not been sick since the second day—although previously she had not been free from it twenty-four hours together—resisting all the skill of her medical attendants. The other, a young lady, in Burlington-street, had been suffering from obstinate Pyrosis and Epigastric pain after eating. I treated her in the same way as my other patient, first, by salines and mild mercurials, and then with the oxide. When I saw her to-day, she reported herself to have been very much relieved—though not cured—having taken the remedy about eight days.

T. S. B.

*London, May 14th, 1845.*

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A second note, from the same respected Friend, of a more recent date, after a lapse of five years, runs thus:—My opinion remains unchanged as to the efficacy of the Oxide of Silver in certain dis-

eases. Without entering on the question of how its good effects are produced, I am *certain* of its efficacy, and still continue to use it, somewhat extensively, in Sickness, and in Diarrhœa, which attend upon, or are the sequence of, uterine derangement. It is right to mention, that I assist the oxide by ordering the exhibition of an opiate Enema occasionally.

T. S. B.

*Langham Place,*

*June 6th, 1850.*

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No. 4.

I have not had much experience in the employment of the Oxide of Silver, but consider it of great use in cases of impaired nervous power. In two instances of this sort I saw a marked effect follow its exhibition at our hospital (Taunton). For instance:—A young woman, aged seventeen or eighteen, (Eliza Clewett,) in November, 1841, met with a Concussion of the Spine, by falling backwards, while walking upon ice. She gradually lost the power of all her limbs, and in May, 1842, took to her bed. She remained bedridden and helpless, (imperfectly paralysed,) up to the time of her admission, in November, 1845. She had undergone



a variety of treatment without benefit. Soon after her arrival, the oxide of silver was administered, in half-grain doses, three times a day, and a general tonic plan of regimen prescribed. She quickly showed symptoms of amendment, and steadily persevered with the remedy, increasing the dose to two-thirds of a grain, until she left the hospital in June, 1846, able to walk without support. In March, 1847, she reported herself as being able to walk half-a-mile at a time without fatigue, and progressive improvement was still going on.

The other case was one of Aphonia, in a nervous hysterical subject, which had long resisted remedies, but yielded at once to the oxide of silver.

W. M. K.

*Taunton, July, 1848.*

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No. 5.

I have given the oxide in cases of irritation of the mucous lining of the stomach with much success. It was only on the occasion of the late Epidemic here, that I prescribed it, where there was vomiting and purging, and in every instance with obvious advantage.

W. P. B.

*Albion House, Cheltenham,  
August, 1849.*

## No. 6.

I am most happy to add my testimony to the beneficial effects of the Oxide of Silver, which in certain suitable cases I have rarely found to fail. Last Autumn, in some very obstinate cases of Chronic Diarrhœa, which had resisted all other ordinary medicines, such as the vegetable astringents, also Lead, Copper, &c., your favourite medicine acted like a charm! The motions, which had been most frequent, and of a liquid character, became almost immediately natural. In this complaint, when chronic, (although with the knowledge of our remedy, it will rarely become so,) I consider the oxide an invaluable preparation. I give half-grain doses thrice daily, sometimes adding a little opium.

R. H.

*Gower-street, March, 1850.*

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No. 7.

I have used the Oxide of Silver in cases of Gastrodynia with great benefit, especially in instances of a Neuralgic character; in two of these, which had resisted a variety of treatment for several years, the oxide gave effectual relief.

J. H.

*Chesham, June, 1850.*



From the same Gentleman I received also the following:—I have only used the oxide in one other case since I wrote to you last; this was one of Gastralgia, for which the medicine seems so especially adapted. There was Pyrosis also, and great constitutional debility; and the relief given by the oxide, in a few days, was considerable.

J. H.

*Chesham, July, 1850.*

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No. 8.

I have tried the Oxide of Silver in several cases of Diarrhœa, and can speak confidently of its good effects.

R. S.

*Torquay, June, 1850.*

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I have not had any further opportunity of testing further the virtues of the oxide, excepting in one case of Pyrosis, in which I administered it in grain doses three times a day; it had an immediate effect in checking the watery discharge from the stomach, and after *four* days' use of it, the sickness ceased, and did not return.

R. S.

*Torquay, June, 1851.*

## No. 9.

I have used your admirable remedy very frequently, and with good effect in many cases of Epilepsy, and in one of chronic Angina Pectoris, also in Hæmaturia and hæmorrhagic attacks. It has succeeded with me when other remedies have failed; and if I have to add, that it has sometimes failed where I had expected benefit from it, it is only to state what must of necessity be the case with any one isolated remedy, so long as diseases spring from such various causes, and are so much modified by individual peculiarities. I think that you have done good service to the Profession, and to the Public, in pushing into notice this medicine in the persevering way that you have done.

H. J. B.

*Hereford, June, 1850.*

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No. 10.

This is a report, sent by Dr. Fenwick, of North Shields, to my friend Dr. Cargill, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, procured for me. "I have employed a person to look through my Case-books for the result of the exhibition of the oxide of silver; but the labour of wading through ten or twelve thousand



cases of disease has proved so great, that I fear I may not give the whole of my experience with the medicine. I will do my best, however, in drawing up a summary."

I have given it in the doses as recommended by Sir James Eyre, and have sometimes combined with it extract of gentian, but more frequently used bread-crumb only where the symptoms appeared to arise from congestion, inflammation, or ulceration of the mucous membrane. The disease having been of short duration, with a red and dry state of the tongue, I have not found the oxide suitable; but in the chronic state I have almost always found good effects to follow the employment of the medicine. In *all* cases of *Water-Brash* I have found this to be the best remedy. I have used it frequently in Epilepsy three or four months at a time, and have not found any ill effects from it; *which can only arise from continuing the preparation long after the cure has been effected*. In headaches arising from Indigestion I have found it of the greatest benefit.

S. F.

*North Shields, June, 1850.*

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Report No. 2, a year after, to myself directly, thus reads:—I first saw the oxide of silver tried in the Newcastle Infirmary, while acting as clinical

clerk to our mutual friend, Dr. Cargill, and was then much struck with the benefit which many of our Hospital patients appeared to derive from it. I have, since my entrance into private practice here, been in the constant habit of using it, and have found it to be most strikingly useful in some of the forms of Dyspepsia.

S. F.

*North Shields, July, 1851.*

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No. 11.

I can safely say that, so far as my experience has gone, I have found all that has been written in praise of the Oxide of Silver to have been amply borne out, by repeated trials of it. It is a remedy on which I depend more than any other in Gastrodynia and Hæmorrhage.

H. T. W.

*Birmingham, July, 1850.*

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In a second communication, a year afterwards, from the same gentleman, he says:—I have now seen enough to satisfy my mind that in Gastrodynia and also in Diarrhœa, this remedy (the oxide) is of



the greatest value. I have tried it in several cases of *tape-worm*, since I wrote to the *Lancet* on the subject, and have met with great success; and I have a friend who has a still better report to furnish than I have given in cases of *tænia*, of which I will endeavour to obtain particulars.

H. T. W.

*Birmingham, July, 1850.*

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No. 12.

You ask me to give you the result of my experience with the Oxide of Silver, and I willingly do so, in a general way; for the fatiguing life of a Country Practice does not allow one time to keep any but very special notes of Cases. In most of the complaints of women of a nervous or hysterical temperament, having their origin in Ovarian or Uterine irritation, and attended with serous, sanguineous, or muco-purulent results, the Oxide of Silver has a controlling effect. In some forms of Dyspepsia, also, attended by Gastrodynia, Spasms, or Pyrosis, I have seen great advantage from it. *I have never known any bad effects arise from its use.* The oxide obtained from different places varies in its external characters, and probably in its powers. It seems to have a soothing effect on the nervous

system, and to restrain undue secretions from mucous membranes. I have not prescribed it much among the lords of the creation, but am willing to add my testimony to its generally good effects with their ladies, who are often very anxious *to have some pills similar to those which I gave them before.*"

W. S.

*Buckingham, June, 1850.*

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In another letter, of later date, Mr. Stowe says—"I see that the *Medical Journal* speaks well of you and the Oxide, which will, no doubt, effect all that you promise for it. I *know* that it will do much. I had only yesterday a proof of its value—a patient of mine, who had been dosed by everybody, myself into the bargain. She had Gastrodynia, and other bad symptoms; had tried change of air, and, in fact, everything. It at last occurred to me to give her the Oxide of Silver. The effect in a week has been marvellous."

W. S.

*Buckingham, July, 1851.*

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### No. 13.

I have been prevented, until the present time, from making inquiries of my *confrères* in this



town regarding the employment of the Oxide of Silver in Dyspepsia. I find that those gentlemen who have tried it report favourably of it. With respect to myself, *I do not hesitate to say that you cannot speak too largely in commendation of it.*

J. E.

*Manchester, St. Peter's Square,  
Oct. 1850.*

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No. 14.

In reply to your inquiry as to my experience of the efficacy of the Oxide of Silver, as a Therapeutic Agent, I may briefly state that I had not tried it previous to the publication of your work in 1845, (first Edition.) The success of which you speak induced me to prescribe it, and being the only Physician in this Town, I have been able fully to test the character of the medicine, and can with confidence say, that in Gastrodynia, Pyrosis, and Dyspepsia, I have found the Oxide of Silver to be *almost infallible.*

T. S. H.

*Garstone House, Frome,  
Oct. 1850*

## No. 15.

Having tested the efficacy of that justly-esteemed remedy, the oxide of silver, in several cases, and in a variety of diseases, I have great pleasure in recording my testimony in its favour. In one remarkable case of great suffering, the strikingly marked alleviation in the patient's condition (a poor woman who eventually died) was, to me, quite conclusive in favour of the oxide of silver. She had been under treatment five years under different medical men; she had taken bismuth, the vegetable bitters, and everything that could be thought of, in the hope of relieving her, in vain. Her symptoms were strongly marked and urgent; nothing was digested, either of a solid or other kind; she was everlastingly sick, and the bowels confined. I saw her at the end of September, 1850. On the 17th of October she began with the oxide of silver, taking it three times a day. In a month, that is, on the 15th of November, she had greatly improved; her appetite was better; gastrodynia, pyrosis, &c., relieved, and strength increased; and she got up to breakfast, for the first time for three months; but about mid-day she was sick, brought up a pint of blood, and died suddenly. On examination, softening of the stomach was found, and three ulcerations through the coats of that organ. In my other case



(I have had several, but did not take notes till you asked me to do so), a young girl of seventeen had constant pain after eating, sickness, occasional purging, headache, nausea, &c. : she had tried antacids, creosote, hydrocyanic acid, and had by some of these obtained temporary relief. Began the oxide November 5th, 1850, and has been steadily improving ever since, gaining strength and appetite, and gradually losing the pain, no other medicine than the oxide being required, excepting a mild aperient occasionally.

W. S.

*Dover, Dec. 1850.*

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No. 16.

I have during the winter fairly tried the oxide, and with great success, as you shall see. Mr. B—, aged thirty-three years, tall, and of a lymphatic temperament, consulted me February 18th, 1850, for chronic Diarrhœa, which had resisted all ordinary treatment for two years; states that he had lost both his parents by Consumption, and fears a similar result in himself. His pulse is natural as to number, but weak, and slightly irregular; the stethoscopic examination showed no abnormal sounds, but there is a slight dulness on percussing

the infra-scapular region; there is a slight pain on percussing the pyloric end of the stomach, extending along the course of the small intestines: he adds, that the first portion of his motion is hard, succeeded by profuse Diarrhœa, causing great pain; this is augmented by eating, or mental anxiety. I directed him to confine himself as much as possible to a farinaceous diet, refrain from crude vegetables, and to take a mutton-chop for dinner, prescribing the oxide of silver thrice daily, in combination with gr. ij. extracti humuli lupuli, followed by  $\zeta$ iss, infusi chirayitæ. I saw him again on the 26th (in eight days): he said he was improved in every respect; has now only one tolerably healthy motion daily. He is stronger, the pulse improved in character and volume. On the 6th of March he called to report himself cured. I saw him accidentally on the 11th April, looking stout and well.

CASE 2.—A gentleman's servant, aged twenty-six, applied for advice at the Bath Dispensary, March 5th, 1851. He has suffered three years from Dyspepsia, with frequent attacks of Diarrhœa; complains of severe pains in the Stomach extending up the œsophagus, with acid eructations; has lost flesh rapidly lately, and is troubled with a cough. His pulse is weak and irregular, tongue white in the centre, appetite capricious, and he had an accession of fever towards night: directed to take gr.  $\frac{1}{2}$  oxidi



argenti twice daily, which he did up to April 2nd, when he was discharged cured. I relate the above short cases as types of many more which I have in my possession.

J. T.

*Bath, April, 1851.*

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No. 17.

In consultation lately with Dr. Bennett, of Gateshead, he spoke most highly of the oxide of silver, his experience of its beneficial effects coinciding with my own, for I have prescribed it during the last three or four years in gastrodynia and in the various hæmorrhages, and have good reason to be satisfied with the result. In several instances this result was immediately apparent. The first occasion on which I used it was with a view of relieving the urgent vomiting attending a case of cancer of the stomach (the diagnosis was afterwards verified by dissection), relief followed very soon indeed: a cure of course was not expected, but the sedative action of the medicine was clearly established. I have had many proofs of the value of this medicine.

G. M. O.

*Dundee, March, 1851.*

In another report Dr. Osborne says :—I am much pleased in observing that the oxide of silver is obtaining such an extensive trial in the country ; with the majority of practitioners, if they once try it, *they will be sure to go on.*

G. M. O.

*Dundee, May, 1851.*

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No. 18.

The Oxide of Silver I continue to prescribe, and I esteem it as highly as ever.

N. D.

*Charles-street, Manchester-square,  
June, 1851.*

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No. 19.

The most incredulous cannot withstand your Artillery of Evidence: I have kept notes of the very many cases of Dyspepsia and Gastrodynia which I have cured with the Oxide of Silver, it being with me a medicine of almost daily use. Many of my medical friends I know are prescribing it.

H. O.

*Grove-place, Lisson Grove,  
June, 1851.*



## No. 20.

I have only time to send you one good case in which the Oxide of Silver was prescribed by me: this occurred two years ago, but I will send you more, for I have several recorded, should you wish me to do so.

CASE.—Mrs. T., ætat 49, mother of five children, is pale and thin, consulted me April 15, 1849; suffers almost constant pain in the region of the Stomach, especially after venturing to eat solid food; lives chiefly in consequence on milk preparations. There is costiveness, the tongue not much furred, but dry; very much weakened every month, often every fortnight. I ordered the following:—*Oxidi argenti*, grs. iv.; *conf. arom.* ʒss.; *mico panis*, q. s., *ut. ft. pilul.* xvj. *Sumat j. bis die.* Also the following:—*Pilul. hydrarg.* grs. viij.; *extr. coloc. comp.*, grs. xvj. *Ft. pilul.* viij. *Quarum deglutiat ij. omni nocte.*—April 23: Slight improvement; desired to take half a grain of the oxide for a dose.—28: Much better in both respects; lost all pain, appetite and digestion much improved, bowels regular, tongue clean. May 7: Perfectly well.

S. T.

*Hainton, Burton-on-Trent,*  
*July, 1851.*

## No. 21.

Before I received your letter I had been speaking to Dr. Osborne, of Dundee, of the merits of the Oxide of Silver, and was delighted to find that he had, for some time past, been using the medicine very extensively. He considers it as valuable a therapeutic agent *as any in the whole materia medica.*

F. B.

*Gateshead, Durham,*  
*March, 1851.*

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Although the evidence in favour of the oxide in cases of epilepsy, chorea sancti viti, and all the slow hæmorrhages, has been recorded in my "Practical Remarks," I cannot resist adding in this place the testimony of two additional witnesses, which has been received while these observations were passing through the press. The following is from George Wigan, Esq., of Erith, Kent:—

"May I take the liberty to ask you in how large a dose you give the Oxide of Silver, how frequently, and how long its use may be persisted in? I am indebted *to you* for the speedy cure of some patients of mine who were afflicted with hæmorrhage.

"G. W.

*"Erith, Dec. 6, 1851."*



The second is from Mr. Judd, Surgeon-Major of the Scots Fusilier Guards, containing the report of the case of a Physician, a friend of his, who had not long returned to England from an eighteen years' residence in India. This gentleman had been afflicted with chronic Diarrhœa "for years." Mr. Judd first prescribed Oxide of Silver alone, with much benefit. He then gave a small dose of opium three times a day with the Oxide, and finally added grs. iij. extracti hæmatoxyli, with gr.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the oxide twice a day only; and this last combination perfected the cure in seven weeks. This was effected in July last, and the Doctor-Patient, in Dec., 1851, was quite well, and gaining flesh.

(Signed)

W. H. J.

*Maddox-street, Dec. 20, 1851.*

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No. 22.

In all the cases where I have prescribed the Oxide of Silver, I can vouch for there having been decidedly beneficial results. Neither have I ever observed any prejudicial effects from the remedy whatsoever.

W. F. G.

*Ladbroke-place, Notting-hill,  
Oct. 1852.*

## No. 23.

A. B., ætat. fifty, of a sanguine temperament, consulted me February, 1854. Being of very active habits, and having devoted nearly the whole day to business which required great exertion both of mind and body, and having been very irregular as to the time of taking his meals, his Stomach became affected in consequence. When I first saw him, he complained of dizziness, flushing of the face, slight pain in the epigastric region on pressure, occasional acid eructations. He had lost flesh, and occasionally was troubled with a slight cough. His pulse was weak but regular, tongue white and flat, retaining the impression of the teeth for some time, appetite varying, considerable flatulence in the stomach and bowels, and vomiting every five or six days of an acid glairy liquid occasionally mixed with bile; this vomiting was followed by an alleviation of all the symptoms for two or three days. His bowels were usually constipated; skin dry, but of its normal temperature. On examining his abdomen attentively, I found a considerable fulness in the right hypochondriac region, with slight pain on pressure, and as the patient had hæmorrhoids some time previously, which recently ceased to give him annoyance, I deemed it expedient to apply a few leeches before commencing the treatment by the oxide.



The result was favourable. The fulness quite disappeared, and he expressed himself of feeling much more easy about the abdomen. However, as the dyspeptic symptoms still continued, I resolved on giving him the Oxide of Silver three times a day, mixed with the Extract of Henbane, and before eight days a considerable improvement was manifest. I kept his bowels regular by emollient enemata; at the end of one month his convalescence was nearly complete, *without the aid of any other medicine*, and he is now quite well. With regard to regimen, I confined his food to mutton chops, farinaceous food, moderate exercise, enforcing thorough mastication, and the necessity of eating little at a time, with the complete exclusion, during the treatment, of spirituous and fermented liquors.

In one case of Epilepsy I have used your medicine with decided advantage. The patient, when he consulted me, had an attack two or three times a week, and at present he is so much better that he has not had a fit for five months.

J. E.

*Liverpool, April 11, 1855.*

THE END.

