

**Miscellaneous remarks on Mr. Clare's new method of applying mercury, in the ways of prevention and cure; with letters from several gentlemen of the Faculty, recommending this practice, and assigning their reasons for preferring this to any other mode of administration.**

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MISCELLANEOUS  
REMARKS  
ON

Mr. CLARE's  
NEW METHOD of applying MERCURY,  
IN THE WAYS OF  
PREVENTION and CURE;

WITH  
LETTERS

FROM SEVERAL  
GENTLEMEN of the FACULTY,  
Recommending this Practice, and assigning their  
Reasons for preferring THIS to any other  
Mode of Administration.

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*Suaviter in modo, fortiter in re.*

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L O N D O N:  
Printed for the AUTHOR of A NEW and EASY  
METHOD of CURE, &c.

M, DCC, LXXXII.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

**M**Y new method of administering mercury having met with the greatest approbation from several Gentlemen of the Faculty, I was unwilling that the public should lose the benefit, or myself the credit, arising from their candid opinions and attestations, I therefore resolved to collect their detached communications and to present them at one view to general inspection. Some of the testimonies produced in the follow-



ing pages are anonymous, the rest have their respectable and proper signatures—these will undoubtedly claim the greatest attention, but no less regard ought to be paid to the others, when the observations and experiments are founded on the basis of reason and facts.

I have translated into French Dr. Hunter's remarks and as many of Mr. Cruikshank's as seemed necessary to give foreigners, unacquainted with the English language, an idea of this practice.

*Chancery-Lane, March*

25, 1782.

Dr.





Dr. H U N T E R's  
R E M A R K S  
O N

Mr. C L A R E's

*New Method of introducing Mercury into  
the Circulation.*

**A**S the *external* surface of the body  
(says the Doctor) is every where  
bibulous, so is the internal. There can  
be no doubt of absorption taking place  
on the inside of the mouth, of the *pre-*  
*putium*, of the *labia*, &c. and any fine  
powder, capable of being absorbed there,  
will, no doubt, be more readily absorbed  
when mixed with a watery fluid. When  
mixed with oil, and applied to wet  
surfaces, it may be presumed that it will

B

be



be kept at some distance. It is likewise very probable, that, when the calomel is rubbed upon the surfaces of the mouth, what gets into the stomach is carried down so gradually, and diffused over so great a surface, that it will stimulate the *primæ viæ* much less; and people with very tender bowels may therefore bear it much better than when given in pills, boluses, &c.

The Dr. adds, it is reasonable to suppose, that watery fluids will, in general, be more readily absorbed, perhaps even when applied to the outward surface.



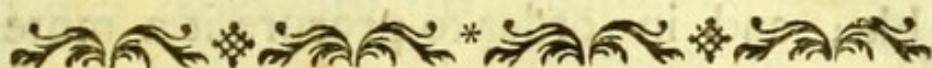
*Remarques de Docteur Hunter*  
 sur la Nouvelle Methode  
 d'introduire le Mercure dans  
 la Circulation du Sang, de  
 PIERRE CLARE, Chirurgien.

“ **C**OMME toute la surface exte-  
 rieure de notre Corps est absor-  
 bante, l'interieure l'est de même. Il n'y  
 a point de doute que l'interieure de la  
 Bouche, le prepuce & les labia &c.  
 n'absorbent, & toute poudre fine capable  
 d'y etre absorbée, le fera toujours beau-  
 coup plus facilement quand elle aura etè  
 melée avec un fluide aqueux. Quand  
 melée avec de l'huile, & appliquée aux  
 surfaces mouillées, on peut presumer  
 qu'elle sera tenue à quelque distance. Il est  
 bien probable aussi que, quand le Calo-  
 mel est frotté sur les surfaces de la



Bouche, ce qui entre dans l'Estomac est introduit si graduellement, & repandu sur une surface si large, qu'elle agatera les *primæ viæ* beaucoup moins, & des personnes ayant des Intestines fort foibles, le peuvent mieux endurer, que quand il est pris en pilules, ou en Bolus &c. Et, il est raisonnable de supposer que les fluides aqueux seront généralement absorbés plus promptement peut-être même, étant appliquée à la surface externe.”

REVIEW



R E V I E W  
 OF AN  
 ESSAY *on* ABSCESSSES, &c.

“**T**HIS Essay contains several judicious observations in surgery, tending to evince the superiority of lenient applications, to those of an irritating nature, in the cure of ulcers. But what chiefly merits attention, is, a new method of introducing mercury into the circulation, for the cure of the lues venerea. This is performed by the patient’s rubbing with his finger, moistened with saliva, three or four grains of calomel every day on the inside of the cheek. Mr. Clare is convinced from experiments, that this method of introducing mercury is practica-



ble; and in order to procure it a more favourable reception from the public, there are added a few remarks on the plausibility of the proposal, by Dr. Hunter, and a variety of similar observations by his anatomical coadjutor, Mr. Cruikshank, in a letter to Mr. Clare. As Mr. Cruikshank appears to have considered the merit of the practice with great attention, we shall present our readers with some of his pertinent remarks.

‘ The absorption of calomel from the inside of the mouth, in your method, appears, from the testimony of many of your patients, undeniable. For if your patients rub three grains of calomel every day on the inside of the mouth, and it does not gripe or purge; and if the common effect of three grains, taken into the stomach, is, that it certainly gripes and purges; then we must conclude, that the three grains, given in your way, have  
not



not gone into the stomach, whilst their producing evident effects on the disease, for which they were exhibited, shews, that they have certainly got into the habit; or, in other words, that they have been absorbed by the surface to which they were applied. One of your patients informs me, that he saw you weigh eight grains of calomel, that he employed all this quantity, in your way, at once; and that he went through this process three succeeding mornings without being sick, griped, or purged. On what other supposition, shall we be able to say, why these eight grains of calomel did not purge or gripe, but that, having been absorbed from the mouth, they became milder in their operation, in the same way as we know the divided quicksilver becomes milder when absorbed by the skin.

‘ If calomel may be absorbed in your way, it must be the most eligible method,



because it is less apt to irritate the stomach and intestines, and, by purging, to destroy its proper effect, than it would be if its first action was to be immediately on these parts. There are some preparations of mercury which may be taken into the stomach without irritating too much, provided opium is exhibited along with them; but there are many constitutions which will not bear opium; and if mercury cannot be exhibited properly without it, patients possessed of such constitutions must be extremely unfortunate, especially if to the former peculiarity of habit is joined another viz. an antipathy in the skin to every thing oily. How many, originally vigorous, deduce their present weak bowels, and crazy constitutions, from the mischief occasioned by the action of mercury on the primæ viæ! Now, whether the calomel is here absorbed from the mouth, or not, supposing it actually goes into the stomach,

but



but that the circumstance of its being given in a liquid form, diffuses its particular stimulus, or that this stimulus is blunted by its ropy vehicle the saliva, and that thus only it becomes milder in its operation: still the fact is, that it really is milder, and of course, as the medicine is allowed to be equally efficacious, this method is to be preferred to any other mode of exhibiting mercury internally.

‘ With those who believe that the calomel is actually absorbed from the inside of the mouth, and that it does not pass into the stomach and intestines, there will be still less doubt with respect to the propriety of employing this method rather than the giving calomel, or indeed any other commonly prescribed preparation of mercury, in form of draught, bolus, or pill; for though these preparations, taken in the stomach and intestines, may



may sometimes be absorbed from their internal surface as well as from any other, yet, from the greater irritability of these surfaces, the stimulus of the calomel, or of the other preparations, is more likely to prove too great; to produce sickness, griping, and purging, and to occasion their being hurled out of the body, before sufficient time has been allowed for their absorption. In this way the remedy runs a greater risk of being entirely lost, and of producing as little effect on the disease, for which it was exhibited, as the Peruvian bark would do on an intermittent, if, instead of staying in the stomach, it was constantly running off by stool. Or though it should not actually purge, yet, from its particular stimulus, the digestive organs, with whose state the functions of the body are so much connected, are more apt to be thrown into disorder; during which period, the attempts of nature to relieve herself against



against any disease, if not altogether prevented, must, at least, be extremely imperfect. On the contrary, if calomel is rubbed on the inside of the mouth, it is applied to a surface, which happens to be alternately exposed to heat and cold, and to considerable friction in chewing our food and cleaning our teeth ; of course to a less irritable surface, and capable even of bearing moderate friction. The calomel will here be mixed with the saliva during the friction, will be diffused over the whole mouth, and absorbed from the inside of the lips, surfaces of the tongue, roof of the mouth and fauces, as well as of the cheeks. Thus, its first effects will not be in the way of stimulus on the primæ viæ, but it will be gradually and equally applied to the general system.'

We cannot dismiss this article without acknowledging that Mr. Clare has discovered



covered a method of administering mercury, which affords the strongest reason to expect that it will be productive of great advantages in practice; and the singular modesty with which it is recommended by the author, entitles it to the more candid examination.

*Critical Review for March 1779.*

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*Extrait de la lettre de Mr.  
Cruikshank à l'Egard de cette  
nouvelle Methode, &c.*

“ **L**'Absorbtion du Calomel de l'interieur de la Bouche, selon votre methode, paroît par le temoignage de plusieurs de vos malades, incontestable. Car si vos malades se frottent tous les jours avec trois grains de Calomel l'interieur de la Bouche, et que ces trois grains n'agacent ni purgent, & si le commun  
effet



effet des trois grains introduit dans l'Estomac, est qu'ils pincent & purgent certainement, alors il faut conclure que les trois grains administré de votre façon ne soient point entrés dans l'Estomac, pendant que produisant leur effets visibles dans la maladie pour laquelle ils étoient appliqués, cela demontre clairement qu'ils sont entrés dans la Circulation ou autrement, qu'ils ont été absorbés par la surface à laquelle ils étoient appliqués. Un de vos malades m'informa qu'il vous vit peser huit grains de Calomel, qu'il employoit toute cette quantité, selon votre méthode, à la fois, & qu'il continua ce procédé pendant trois matins sans être indisposé, pincé ou purgé; sur quelle autre supposition pourrons nous dire pourquoi ces huit grains de Calomel ne le purgerent ni le pincerent, mais parce qu'étant absorbés de la bouche ils devinrent plus doux dans leur opération, de la même manière comme nous savons que



le vif Argent séparé devient plus doux, quand il est absorbé de la peau? Si le Calomel peut être absorbé selon votre méthode, il faut qu'il soit le procédé le plus à choisir, parcequ'il est moins sujet d'irriter l'Estomac & les intestins, & par la purgation à détruire son propre effet qu'il seroit si sa première Action devoit être immédiatement portée sur ces parties. Il y a quelques préparations de Mercure que l'on pourroit prendre dans l'Estomac sans l'irriter trop, pourvu que *l'Opium* y soit administré, mais il y a beaucoup de Constitutions qui ne peuvent pas supporter *l'Opium*, et si le mercure ne peut pas être appliqué proprement sans *l'Opium*, il faut que les malades d'un tel tempérament soient bien malheureux, tout encore si à la première particularité de Constitution y soit jointe un autre, c'est à dire, une Antipathie dans la peau à tout chose qui est huileuse. Combien des gens autre  
fois



fois vigoureux, derivent leur Intestins foibles tendres & leur Constitution infirme, du mal occasioné par l'Operation du Mercure sur les *primæ viæ*. Or, le Calomel est il ici absorbé de la Bouche ou non; supposons qu'il soit actuellement porté dans l'Estomac, mais que la circonstance de l'y étant administré en forme d'un liquide repand sa qualité piquante particuliere: ou que cette Qualité piquante adoucit par la viscosité de la Salive, et qu'ainsi elle devient plus modérée dans son Operation; neanmoins le fait est que le Calomel est actuellement plus doux, & par conséquence comme la medicine est approuvée d'être également efficace, cette methode doit être préférée à tout autre mode d'administrer le mercure en dedans. Quant à ceux qui croient que le Calomel soit actuellement absorbé de l'interieur de la bouche & qu'il ne passe dans l'estomac & les intestins, il y aura encore moins de doute



à legard de la propriété d'employer cette methode plutôt que de donner le Calomel ou, vraiment aucune autre preparation ordinaire du mercure en maniere de mixture Bolus ou pilules ; car quoique ces preparations recués dans l'estomac et les Intestins pouissent quelque fois etre absorbés de leur surface interieure aussi bien que de toute autre partie, non obstant de la plus grande sensibilité de ces surfaces, l'irritation de Calomel ou des autres preparations pourroient probablement devoir trop grande, à produire l'Indisposition, la Colique & la purgation, & pour causer à les jetter hors du corps, avantqu'il y eût un tems suffisant pour leur Absorption ; dans ce cas il y a grand risque que le remede ne soit entirement perdû, & qu'il produiroit si peu d'effet sur le desordre pour lequel il etoit administré, comme la Quina feroit dans une Fievre intermittante, si au lieu de rester dans l'Estomac, il passeroit continuellement  
par



par en bas : ou, quoiqu'il ne purgeroit pas actuellement, néanmoins par son irritation particuliere, les Organes de la digestion avec l'état desquelles les fonctions du corps sont si étroitement jointes, sont plus sujettes d'être jettées en desordre, pendant quelle periode les efforts de la nature pour se débarasser d'aucun desordre, s'ils ne sont pas prevenus tous ensemble, il faut qu'ils soyent extrêmement imparfaits. Tout au contraire, si le Calomel est frotté sur l'intérieur de la Bouche, il est appliqué à une surface qui est alternativement exposée au chaud et au froid, et à un frottement considerable en mâchant nos Aliments, & en nettoyant nos dents ; par consequent à une surface moins sensible, et même capable à supporter une friction modérée ; le Calomel sera ainsi mêlé avec la Salive pendant la friction, il sera repandu dans tout l'intérieur de la Bouche, et absorbé du dedans des levres, des surfaces



de la langue, & du palais de la Bouche & des mâchoires, aussi bien que des joues. Ainsi ses premiers effets ne seront pas en forme de *Stimulus* sur les *primæ viæ*, mais ils seront graduellement et également appliqués au Systeme general.

P. 104 le 1<sup>t</sup>. Ed.—187 le 2<sup>de</sup>. Ed.

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A N  
E S S A Y  
O N T H E  
CURE *of* ABSCESSSES, &c.

UPON former occasions of reviewing medical and chirurgical publications, we have expressed our sentiments with respect to the utility of such communications, it is therefore needless to repeat them, and we shall only observe that Mr. Clare, a gentleman eminent in  
his



his profession, who served his apprenticeship to the celebrated Mr. Pott, senior surgeon of St. Bartholomew's hospital, in the pamphlet before us, plainly demonstrates that great improvements have been made of late years in surgery by the English surgeons, so that they may now claim that superiority which was given to the French in the former part of the present century. It is an indisputable fact, that all the operations of surgery in practice amongst the ancients, and even with the moderns till of late years were excruciating, tedious, and aukward—in comparison of the lenient methods which now prevail in England. With respect to abscesses, the first subject of Mr. Clare's attention, they were generally opened by the knife in England and in France; in the latter it is still the prevailing practice. Corroding medicines were likewise applied to the *fungus*; but this practice is also laid aside, and lenient dressings



dressings substituted. “ Formerly, says Mr. Clare, whenever any enlarged glands appeared in wounds, it was the practice to attack them with the most powerful escharotics, and where these failed, recourse was had to extirpation by ligature or the fingers. These glandular appearances are considered by modern surgeons as no unfavourable symptoms, and often form the basis of a cure, when treated with lenity.” The remarks on precipitate and other dressings, are very judicious, and discover great tenderness, sensibility, and humanity for those who have the misfortune to stand in need of chirurgical operations. Some extraordinary cases are related to shew the power of nature in aiding the cure of wounds when left a little to herself, and also of the balsamic quality of the blood for the same purpose, and Mr. Clare has the candour to recommend the greatest attention to these circumstances, though  
 against



against the interest of his profession. Instead of Fryar's balsam, and other painful applications, we are informed, that pressing the lips of the wound together, and closing it, to preclude the air, is sufficient in common cuts.

But we must now introduce the principal subject of this pamphlet, which contains a discovery of a very important nature for the ease of venereal patients, who abound in this metropolis. Being induced from observation to think this disease is best subdued by the salivary discharge, and convinced that chemical preparations of mercury given internally in pills, boluses, &c. vellicate and injure the stomach and intestines, Mr. Clare determined to make trial of another method founded on the principal of absorption. No surgeon will deny the absorption of mercury into the blood, when applied in powder to a sore; a part which  
has



has lost its covering, the external skin. This led him to order his patients to rub with the finger, moistened with saliva, three or four grains of *mercurii dulcis sexties sublimati* (calomel) every day on the inside of the cheek, on and round that part where the *salivary duct* opens into the mouth, and the diseases were cured. One or two grains rubbed in behind the *preputium* or the *labia*, will sometimes give a mercurial breath, and a slight spitting; and he thinks it may act in this manner as a preventive more to be relied on, in our opinion, than those that are daily advertised.

The nasty dreadful practice of mercurial frictions by unction in some cases, or what is called laying down in a salivation, is avoided by this new method; it is a fortunate circumstance for Mr. Clare, that he has communicated this improved method, to gentlemen of the profession,  
of



of the most liberal sentiments, who have generously supported him by their opinions in favour of it. To Dr. Hunter and Mr. Cruikshank, he and his patients are greatly indebted, the sensible investigation of the absorbent system by the latter, forms a valuable appendix to this pamphlet, and is one of those rare instances seldom to be met with out of Britain, of disinterested friendship, and regard for the welfare of mankind, taking the place of those mean passions, envy and rivalry.

*Impartial Review of New Publications;  
in the London Magazine, for March,  
1779.*



A Letter from Dr. KROHN,  
Member of the Royal College  
of Physicians in London, and  
Physician Man-Midwife to  
the Middlesex-Hospital.

To Mr. CLARE, Surgeon.

DEAR SIR,

ON reading your publication on  
*Mercury*, to be conveyed into the  
constitution by absorption, with more ad-  
vantage and equal success, &c. I was so  
pleased with the idea, that I determined  
to try it the first opportunity which should  
offer itself, strictly following your mode,  
prescribed.

In the beginning of October last a par-  
ticular friend of mine from the country  
came to me, then about a month ill of a  
virulent



virulent *chancre*, to such a degree, that the ulcers of various sizes, deeply seated, had almost destroyed the *frænum*. Desirous of my advice, I prescribed your mercurial liniment, the benefit of which he very soon experienced, by recovering within the space of a fortnight, perceiving not the smallest inconvenience from it's use. He on the contrary found his bowels perfectly free from any attack on them, the usual attendant on former methods of treatment, which he had frequently experienced previous to this trial. No kind of wash or application whatsoever was used for the ulcers, which notwithstanding grew gradually better and healed. I saw him but very lately, when he informed me that he had not had the smallest return of the complaint in any shape.

It afforded me the more pleasure, as he, from peculiar circumstances, was

D

obliged



obliged to visit much, and to go into companies, where a reservedness in his manner of living amongst his friends must inevitably have raised such suspicions as would have proved prejudicial.

Two other cases of the like complaint have since occurred to me, in both sexes; where I was certain of ITS FULL AND GOOD EFFECT.—And what is more *surprising, is*, that *this mode* seems to *agree better* with people who are debauchees, having had a most essential proof of this assertion in the one, a man who drank all kind of strong liquors, was scarcely ever in bed for a week together, and that at the break of day, and much exposed to cold, damp and moist air.

If these little observations, made by me in consequence of your disinterested publication, can afford you any satisfaction, I will in future do myself the pleasure

fure



sure to communicate what shall fall under  
my inspection, with the utmost candour :  
Till when, I remain with much esteem,

DEAR SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

HENRY KROHN.

*Southampton street, Covent-garden,*

*March 1, 1782.*

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OF THE  
VENEREAL DISEASE.

VARIOUS attempts have been made  
within these thirty years to improve  
the method of cure in the *Lues Venerea*.  
Some practitioners have affirmed that the  
disease may be totally extirpated without  
the use of mercury; but excepting in very  
slight cases, it appears from the most ac-  
curate observations that this grand spe-  
cific



cific is indispensable. Salivation, however, which was formerly so much used, is now almost generally exploded, on account of its severity. The solution of the corrosive sublimate, which has been recommended upon the authority of **BARON VAN SWIETEN**, was for a few years greatly employed, but as its reputation had not been established upon just and accurate observations, it has since lost all its celebrity. It was seldom ever found to perform a radical cure; and the frequent use of it proved in many cases highly prejudicial. It has been succeeded, in practice by **PLENCK's** remedy, which consists of quicksilver extinguished with gum arabic, to prevent it from salivating. The method of curing this disease by *fumigation* has lately been much recommended in France, but seems not to meet with great encouragement. The most recent proposal for the cure of the venereal disease, is that of **Mr. CLARE**,  
and



and consists in rubbing a small quantity of mercury on the inside of the cheek; by which means we not only avoid the inconveniencies of unction, but the purgative effects that are often produced by this medicine, when taken into the stomach.—See Dr. MANNING's *Practice of Physic*.

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One of the Surgeons to the Liverpool Infirmary informs me that he has lately cured *an inveterate Corona Veneris* very expeditiously by my process; that this was the only opportunity he had had of using mercury in this way, and that he intended to make further trial of this easy and agreeable method.

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A Physician at Edinburgh, distinguished for his medical abilities and accurate observations on the nature of diseases and their cure, has lately done me the honour of acquainting me by letter, that he has



made a number of experiments in the public Infirmary there, to ascertain the merits of my mode of administering mercury ; that those which he had made were in favour of my method ; and I am happy to say that the experiments, and the conclusions to be drawn from them, will in due time be submitted to public inspection.

I return my sincere thanks to this and other medical gentlemen, my worthy friends and correspondents, at different times for their obliging and useful communications, which I shall carefully preserve, and shall reflect always with pleasure on these honourable testimonies of disinterested regard and love of science.

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I take this first opportunity of making my public acknowledgments to the ingenious Mr. Sheldon, Teacher of Anatomy, for the use of a curious preparation of  
of



of the *Villi* of the lips, an Engraving of which is to be had with the Third Edition of my Book, printed for T. Cadel in the Strand.

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A Letter from Dr. BUCHAN,  
Fellow of the Royal College  
of Physicians at Edinburgh,  
and Author of *Domestic  
Medicine*.

To Mr. CLARE, Surgeon, Chancery-Lane.

DEAR SIR,

**I** Thank you for the present of your  
Treatise on the Venereal Disease,  
and likewise for the honour you have  
done me in addressing to me, your letter,  
containing *Observations on the Nature and  
Treatment of the Variolous Abscess, with  
Remarks on the Modern Practice of Inocu-  
lation*.



*lation.* You are justly entitled to the esteem and thanks of the public for the pains you have taken to alleviate the sufferings of mankind in two of the most dreadful diseases incident to human nature. The small-pox sweeps off one fifth of the human species in the state of infancy ; while the *lues venerea* commits its silent ravages on the flower and vigour of youth. Yet dreadful as these calamities are, they admit of more relief from the medical art than any other diseases with which we are acquainted. For the venereal disease we are in possession of a specific remedy, which if properly applied, will seldom fail to perform a cure ; and the small-pox, every one knows, may by inoculation be rendered so mild as hardly to deserve the name of a disease. To extend the practice of inoculation, and to point out the most safe and efficacious method of exhibiting mercury, must therefore be considered as two of the greatest



greatest benefits that can be conferred on mankind.

Of all the various modes of exhibiting mercury that which you recommend seems to me the most safe, and I have no doubt but it will likewise be found the most efficacious. A false opinion has long prevailed that every medicine ought to be taken into the stomach. This has done much mischief. Many people have such an aversion to medicine of all kinds that they will suffer any thing rather than swallow a single dose. Others have such a debility of the *Vfera*, that though they can swallow mercury, yet it tears their stomach and bowels to pieces. Of this every medical practitioner must have seen many instances. There are few persons who have been so unfortunate as to take large quantities of this mineral in the usual way, who do not exhibit melancholy proofs of its baneful effects on the stomach  
and



and bowels. By your mode of administering mercury these effects are obviated, while it is much more cleanly and agreeable than the common method of applying it to the skin.

With regard to your remarks on the modern practice of *Inoculation*, I have only to observe that they entirely coincide with my own sentiments on that subject. Inoculation can never prove a blessing to mankind till the practice becomes general, and that will never be the case while it remains in the hands of the faculty. Every attempt therefore to render this operation easy and familiar, and to shew that it's success does not depend upon medical skill and address, either in preparing the patient, or treating the disease, must be highly laudable. Indeed your whole pamphlet breathes a spirit of liberality and candor, which will not fail to place your name high in the list of those  
generous



generous benefactors of society who have assisted in extending the advantages of this important discovery to mankind.

Wishing you all success in your endeavours to lessen the miseries of human life,

I remain,

DEAR SIR,

Most sincerely your's,

W. BUCHAN;

*Norfolk street, Strand,*

*Oct. 15, 1781.*

Observations



Observations on the Nature and Treatment of the variolous Abscess, with Remarks on the Modern Practice of Inoculation, and a Review of the principal Writers on that important Subject.

**T**HIS small tract is thrown into the form of a letter to Dr. Buchan, author of that useful and well known book intitled, *Domestic Medicine*; and very properly, because it pursues the same line of public utility, being calculated to facilitate the management of a disease, so common, that few families are without it, and in the treatment of which domestic skill and attention are frequently more requisite than medical prescriptions. Mr. Clare, in his former publications, has shewn himself to be the disinterested



terested friend of Nature, a sure indication (in a medical professor) of a liberal mind. Upon the present occasion, he expands the benevolent principle, by a rational attempt to deliver young children and other persons from the fatiguing, complicated preparations by diet, mercurials, and purges, which many eminent medical writers have judged necessary before inoculation. Baron Dimisdale among others. Dr. Buchan, on the contrary, has asserted—"that they know very little of the matter, who impute the success of modern inoculators to any superior skill either in preparing the patient, or communicating the disease. And, that whoever is possessed of common sense and prudence may perform this office for his children whenever he pleases, provided they be in a good state of health." Mr. Clare having been long of opinion, that preparation is not necessary, and having observed, that it sometimes



did mischief, was willing to strengthen his own authority by that of Dr. Buchan, and both combined, we imagine, must carry great weight with the unprejudiced. Baron Dimisdale and Dr. Buchan agree in giving the preference, as to the time of inoculation, to the ages of from two to five years; but as the former has hinted, that those who were inoculated under those ages *all did well*, and Dr. Buchan says, he has no objection to inoculating infants at the breast, Mr. Clare takes some pains to shew that this practice is attended with many advantages. He also expresses himself in strong terms against the pernicious effects of purgatives in the early stages of the distemper, and against all repellents, which prevent suppuration. There are many other judicious directions supported by the best authorities, such, for instance, as Dr. Mead, and by the practice of St. Bartholomew's hospital, during seven years, when



when Mr. Clare, attended it; tending to shew, that Nature should be permitted to do her own work, and that little or no medicine ought to be administered either preparatory to, or during the progress of the disease. The practice of inoculation under these circumstances, is likewise strongly recommended as a national benefit.

*Impartial Review of New Publications,  
in the London Magazine, for October,  
1781.*



SINCE the publication of my letter to Dr. Buchan I have been favoured from various parts of the country with accounts of the increasing and successful practice of Inoculation, and I am happy in an opportunity of assuring the public from the same authority, that the *preparatory process* is every where daily losing ground in this kingdom. DISPENSARIES are now established in several capital towns\*, and meet with the greatest success. In defiance of the want of judgment in some and the narrow prejudices rooted in the minds

\* In autumn 1781 a plan was submitted to the public in Liverpool for the general inoculation of the poor.—The faculty proposed to perform it *gratis* at half yearly periods, viz. March and October.—Their first trial was made in October last, when *out of four hundred and sixteen inoculated, only one was lost*.—Of these one hundred and forty-six were under one year old, ninety-one between one and two years, one hundred and seventy above two years but under puberty, and nine adults.



minds of others, daily experience evinces that these institutions are practicable, safe, and highly beneficial to the community. For these benefits, particularly the last, the public are indebted to the benevolent and indefatigable labours of Dr. Lettsom, the first institutor of them in this city, and to Drs. Buchan and Black, whose printed communications on this important subject will perpetuate their fame.— With respect to *preparation*, the dangerous evils of which practice have been repeatedly set forth, it's warmest advocates finding the ground untenable, have no longer the confidence to defend it against the accurate experiments of Dr. Watson, the weighty arguments of Drs. Black and Buchan, and the common sense of mankind.

PETER CLARE.



## ERRATA.

Page 20. line 4. *for de, read du.*

25. — 19. *for principal, read principle.*