

Purton Spa : with a brief account of the history, properties, uses and effects of it's [sic] bromo-iodated & sulphated spring.

Contributors

Royal College of Surgeons of England

Publication/Creation

London : W.G. Bunting, 1881.

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PURTON SPA;

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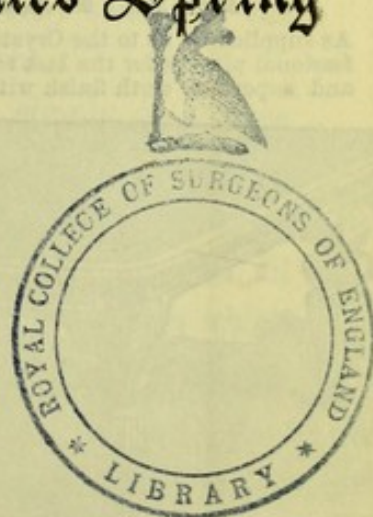
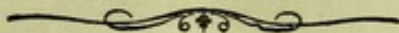
BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE

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Bromo-Iodated & Sulphated Spring



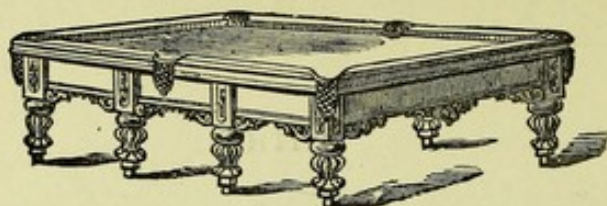
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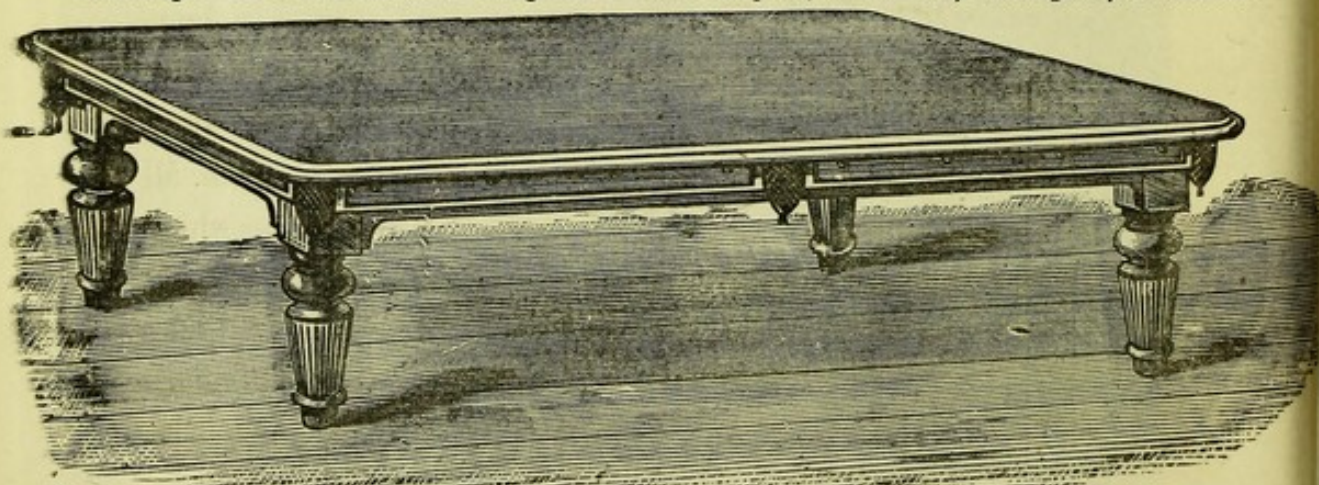
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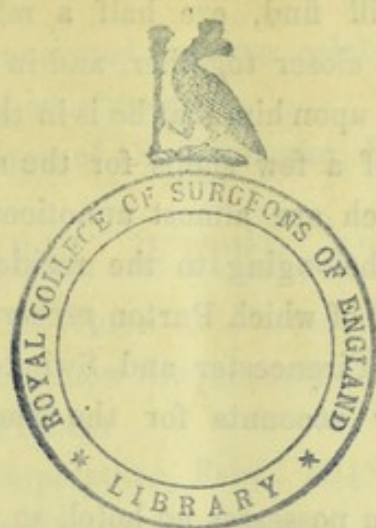
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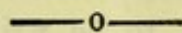
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PURTON SPA.



PURTON, a picturesque and healthy agricultural village in North Wiltshire, is situate on the Cheltenham Branch of the Great Western Railway. It's precise locality is some six miles from the better-known town of Swindon, and some 14 miles from Cirencester.

The Great Western railroad runs through the very centre of the village of Purton, which boasts a station of its own.

The object of the last prefatory sentence is simply to at once call the attention of all whom this pamphlet is likely to interest to the easy means of access to this health-giving village in the Wiltshire Hills, which is now rapidly springing into public favour with all classes of invalids, and those whose minds need the solace which only perfect rest from the harassing cares of busy every-day life can give.

It is only 81 miles from London, and a ride of a couple of hours by the comfortable trains of the Great Western line, will place the traveller on the platform of Purton Station.

The village is situated on a hill gently rising from the Great Western Railway Station, which may be said to nestle at the foot of the eminence yclept Purton.

The village commences with a few straggling cottages, as one leaves the station by the *down* side. A stranger proceeding to

ascend the hill will find, ere half a mile has been traversed, that the houses are closer together, and in such regular order, that the fact soon dawns upon him that he is in the main street of Purton. The village boasts of a few shops for the sale of drapery, grocery, and provisions, which are almost unnoticeable amongst the large number of houses belonging to the resident gentry, professional classes, and farmers, of which Purton *proper* really consists.

The proximity of Cirencester and Swindon, where there are excellent shops, fully accounts for the small number of Purton tradespeople.

At present Purton possesses no hotel, so visitors can adopt none other course than that of hiring private lodgings.

Having in these few preliminary remarks spoken of the village of Purton, it now behoves us to call attention to the main object which caused them to be written, namely, the SPA which supplies the PURTON SULPHATED AND BROMO-IODATED SALINE WATER.

Purton Spa or Spring is about two miles from the village, and is really situated at a place called Purton Stoke.

The virtues of the Purton Mineral Water were long ago known by tradition, and also by the personal experience of some of the oldest inhabitants. The well had been closed up for many years, and it was only in the September of 1860 that it was re-opened. Since then the proprietor has erected a convenient pump room for the use of persons coming to drink the waters.

The water itself is clear and bright, and in appearance resembles ordinary spring water. It possesses scarcely any odour or taste whatever. A thirsty individual might easily swallow down a glassful without perceiving anything different in flavour from ordinary spring water.

When slowly sipped it's flavour will be found to be slightly saline and alkaline, but not to such an extent as to render it in any way disagreeable. In this respect it possesses a great advantage over most other mineral waters, and one which is, of course, duly appreciated by those who have drank the waters at other Spas, both in England and on the Continent.

The Purton water resembles more the springs of Pyrmont than any other. The presence of iodine and bromine, however, which

are non-existent in the Pyrmont water, form the distinctive character of the Purton springs.

The water has been analyzed by two celebrated chemists, who agree as to it's chemical constituents.

Subjoined is the analysis of Dr. VOELCKER, F.R.S.

THE MINERAL WATER AT PURTON.

Analysis of the Mineral Water at Purton, late the property of S. C. SAILER, Esq., but now the property of Messrs. HIRST & Co., by Dr. VOELCKER, F.R.S.

Temperature, Fahr., $58\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$

Specific gravity, 100.45.

Analysis by Dr. VOELCKER in an Imperial Gallon.

Iodide of sodium	·066
Bromide of magnesium	·092
Sulphate of Soda	112.239
Sulphate of magnesia.....	77.208
Sulphate of lime	83.873
Sulphate of potash.....	1.916
Carbonate of potash	28.880
Chloride of sodium	34.297
Oxide of iron, alumina, with traces of phosphoric acid	·280
Soluble silica	1.280
Organic matter and water in combination	8.750
Total solid residue per gallon.....	348.723
Free carbonic acid, in cubic inches	50.4
Sulphuretted hydrogen	A trace

AUGUSTUS VOELCKER.

Before this analysis was completed, Dr. Dundas Thompson, the eminent chemist, who had some of the Purton mineral water sent him by a friend who had derived great benefit from it's use, and who was consequently desirous to have his opinion as to it's chemical properties, wrote him as follows:—"I have tested the Purton water, and found many valuable salts in it. Should not the owner have a full analysis of such an important water?"

Dr. Marcet, F.R.S., Assistant Physician to the Westminster

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Hospital, after perusing Dr. Voelcker's analysis, pronounced that this water if properly administered must be very valuable.

In consequence of a visit to the Purton Spa, R. H. Bakewell, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; published the following remarks on the above analysis and the water itself.

"The ingredients whose presence is thus revealed have a large range of action. Not to go too minutely into their therapeutic action, which would only weary the non-professional reader, it may be stated that the neutral sulphates are aperient and diuretic, the alkaline carbonates of course are antacid, while the iodine and bromine are powerfully alterative—a convenient medical term invented to conceal our ignorance of the *modus operandi* of some drugs, of which we only know that they act on the system in some mysterious way, and change, or *alter* it. The carbonic acid gas, of which it contains a larger quantity than any other English mineral water, is of use by its direct action on the stomach and nervous system, and also by giving the water a pleasant briskness, and thus taking away what would otherwise be the unpleasant taste of the saline ingredients. It is therefore essential that those who obtain the water should keep the bottles tightly corked, so as to prevent the escape of the carbonic acid gas. If anyone wishes to ascertain by direct experiment the value of this gas in improving the taste of the water, let him pour a small quantity into a tumbler and allow it to stand for a few hours in a warm room, then let him taste it, and he will find the water will possess a bitter saline and alkaline taste.

"I was shown some of the water which was undergoing spontaneous evaporation in a glass. It had a very strong smell of iodine and bromine—much more than I should have thought would result from the presence of such a minute quantity of these elements as appears by the analysis. Possibly during the process of evaporating some gallons of the water (as is necessary in order to enable the test to act) some portion of these very volatile elements may be driven off in the form of vapour. However this may be it is certain that even a small glassful of the water, when allowed to evaporate spontaneously to half its original bulk, possesses a very powerful and characteristic odour of iodine.

"The use of iodine and its compounds in scrofulous and skin

diseases has long been known and recognised by the profession. 'There are few remedies in more general use, or more highly valued by medical men.'

An historical account of the discovery and characteristics of the Purton Mineral Water, published in "Bell's Messenger" some years back, is worth quoting.

"At Purton, a pretty and healthy village in North Wilts, situated on the Cheltenham branch of the Great Western Railway, is a field which time out of mind has been called 'Salt's Hole.' This field, with some other property in the parish, formerly belonged to several joint proprietors, but some years back it became the property of the present owner, S. C. Sadler, Esq., J.P., &c., for Wilts, who at that time caused it to be drained, in doing which a well of water from which the field took its name, was filled in and destroyed. This circumstance, it appears, at the time gave rise to much murmuring and dissatisfaction on the part of many of the poor people in the parish, who stated that when they were ill they could always be cured by drinking the water; and one old man in particular, now alive and well, aged 92, had given such fabulous accounts of the diseases cured in olden time by the water from Salt's Hole, that the owner, was induced to search for the *locale* of the well, which was, after some trouble, found indicated by a slight sinking of the earth, the surface of which had a white efflorescent appearance. A small excavation being made, the water quickly came bubbling up, and by its smell and taste, gave unmistakable evidence that it possessed some extraordinary properties. The news spread through the parish and neighbourhood like wild-fire, and the sufferers from various diseases, some of long standing and deemed incurable by all other remedies, came and sent for the water, and by a short course in the use of it became perfectly cured; the most remarkable fact being that, notwithstanding many of these diseases were quite opposite in character, they were nevertheless removed by the singular effects of this water, thus confirming the truth of the statements of the old people before alluded to. In consequence of these surprising results some of the most eminent analytical chemists were engaged to investigate the matter, whose analyses (just now completed) show that this water is rich beyond all precedent

in the number and combination of valuable salts, consisting of sulphates, carbonates, chlorides, phosphoric acid, iodine, and bromine, with sulphuretted hydrogen, and a very large amount of free carbonic acid gas, and that a similar water is unknown in England or the Continent. A well has been scientifically constructed, and a pump-room and pump erected to satisfy the immediate requirements of the public, who are in increasing numbers flocking to the Spa for a supply of this healing mineral water."

According to well-founded testimony it is certain that the virtues of this mineral well or spring were known and resorted to at a very remote period. One inhabitant, by name Isaac Beasley, when in the 94th year of his age, and being still in possession of extraordinary powers of memory and great physical strength for his years, avowed that all his life he had been in the habit, when out of health, of drinking this water, and it was certain to put him right. He remembered his father took this water as a physic, and that large numbers of folks in his youthful days took the water from Salt's Hole for all manner of diseases, and it mostly cured them. He had heard his father say that often a great man came down from Oxford, with a coach and four horses, to get the water from "Salt's Hole." These facts carry back the reputation of the Purton Springs some 150 years or more; and when we take into consideration that analytical chemistry was but poorly and imperfectly understood at that period, and, moreover, that the water was chiefly resorted to by the poor people in its vicinity, it is not to be wondered at that no accounts of its extraordinary properties were published in a readable form.

Regarding the analysis of the Purton water, Dr. SADLER himself says:—

"The generality of English and many of the Continental mineral waters contain a very large proportion of muriate of soda, or *common salt*, combined with so small a proportion of the aperient sulphated salts as to render them unfitted, if not injurious, to the morbidly sensitive stomach of the dyspeptic. Also, in constipation, which so often accompanies dyspepsia, the aperient sulphated salts being alone beneficial, it cannot be a matter of surprise that disappointment is experienced by the numerous invalids who still hope (after pharmaceutical remedies have failed) to find relief in a course

of these brine waters, and that, as a natural result, there should be a growing want of faith in the efficiency of mineral waters in general. And to show the importance of the high proportion of sulphated salts existing in the Purton waters, it is only necessary to state that at least nineteen-twentieths of the diseases to which the human body is subject are consequent upon a deranged state of the digestive organs. The Purton water is essentially a sulphated saline; the sulphated salts, as will be seen by reference to the foregoing analysis, preponderate in quantity, as well as in number, over the muriated [common salt] in the proportion of eight to one by weight. The sulphate of potash, an extremely valuable diuretic and alterative salt, does not, I believe, occur in combination with the three remaining sulphates—namely, sulphate of soda, sulphate of magnesia, and sulphate of lime—in any of the other mineral waters of England, and it is but rarely found in those of the Continent. The carbonate of potash is another rare and valuable salt in the Purton water, and it cannot, from a medical point of view, be over-estimated; for in gout and rheumatism, stomach and liver affections, and their numerous complications, skin diseases, &c., it and the sulphated salts alone form a valuable prescription. The combination of iodine and bromine with these sulphates is as remarkable as it is singular and valuable, and it is hoped, with much confidence, that in the union of these powerful and special alteratives with the aperient and diuretic sulphated salts, the great *desideratum* may be found—an efficient remedy for the prevention and cure of consumption, bronchial affections, enlarged glands, scrofula, &c. The iron, phosphoric acid, and sulphuretted hydrogen, follow in all but delicate traces, and by their tonic, stimulant, and alterative properties, even in homœopathic proportions, are important and valuable adjuncts to the other constituents.

“The proportion of free carbonic acid gas in the Purton mineral water, viz., 50.4 cubic inches to the imperial gallon, is, I believe, in great excess of that of any other English mineral water. In this respect (although not so highly charged with the gas), in temperature, viz., $58\frac{1}{2}$ degrees Fahrenheit, and in holding four similar salts, the Purton mineral water, as before stated, resembles the springs of Pyrmont more than any other.

“Carbonic acid gas, in general, is an element which is deficient

in the English mineral waters. It is a very important constituent, not only as affording to the water the chief agent in the complete solution of the salts, whereby they are made acceptable to the stomach, but in giving a piquancy to the water, rendering it pleasant to the taste; it also affords a gentle stimulus to, and increases the vigour and power of the system.

“Those conversant with such facts will have recognized in the properties of the Purton mineral water a rare combination of the most valuable agents in the treatment of a numerous class of diseases, and will readily account for the great and beneficial effects resulting from its use.”

Dr. SADLER furthermore remarks, “that although so recently re-discovered the facts connected with its traditionary celebrity, spreading far and wide before any analysis had been completed, brought to Purton Spa a large number of applicants for the water. This at once afforded him special opportunities of watching the effects of the waters in several different kinds of diseases.”

It is of course, impossible in a pamphlet, to give the full particulars of every case attended to, but the following cases from Dr. SADLER'S OWN experience will amply demonstrate generally the beneficial effects of the Purton water in the different forms of disease which came under his personal observation. The cases referred to are chiefly those of patients who had previously failed to find relief by other means, more especially skin diseases in their varied and most obstinate forms, some of which had resisted pharmaceutical treatment for twenty years and upwards; others referred to were of shorter duration, but equally difficult and stubborn. In these cases, without exception, the judicious and persevering use of the Purton water effected most satisfactory and decisive cures. So extraordinary is the effect of the Purton sulphated saline water in cutaneous affections, that in very many instances a few weeks only have sufficed for the thorough eradication of these troublesome diseases.

The Purton water has also been taken for ulcers of the leg, both of the scorbutic and scrofulous character, with perfect success, the ulcers having soon assumed a healthy appearance, and healed simultaneously with the most marked improvement in general health. In cases of this kind, after the healing of the wounds, the

occasional use of the water is recommended, particularly to persons of advanced years, and those who have been subjects of these discharging sores for lengthened periods.

A variety of stomach and liver affections, chronic diarrhœa, constipation of the bowels, piles, chronic cough, with shortness of breathing, &c., &c., have been most successfully treated by the Purton water. The majority of these cases also had previously resisted other remedial means for periods varying from five to eighteen years. The subject of one long-standing case, "*congestion of the liver*," often stated that "the doctors" whom he had consulted (and they were legion), after the failure of their medicines to afford him relief, generally dismissed him by observing that "nothing could give him a new inside." This patient drank the water for three months, with brief intermissions, at the end of which time he enjoyed the most perfect health, which he preserves at the present time. The other cases were equally successfully treated.

In cases of scrofula and consumption which have come under treatment, as might be expected from the iodine and bromine contained in the Purton mineral water, the most marked benefit has been derived; and in many cases of scrofula, cures have been effected.

In consumptive cases, so decided is the improvement in the symptoms, evidencing that the progress of the disease is arrested, that the most favourable results are anticipated, and it is hoped with reason that in the Purton mineral water will be found the most effective remedy for the prevention and cure of this dire scourge of mankind.

Kidney diseases, also, have derived special benefit from this water. One case, in particular, of nine years' standing, accompanied with dropsy, was cured within a comparative short period. The patient to the present time has had no recurrence of the disease, and is now in perfect health.

Of gout and rheumatism, particularly that distressing form of the latter, *tic douloureux*, many remarkable cures have been effected. This may be readily understood when it is borne in mind that in the Purton water are combined the most valued remedies for giving tone to the dyspeptic stomach and correcting the vitiated

state of the secretions, the primary causes of these frequent and distressing diseases.

Diseases of the scalp of the head have been cured by the Purton mineral water; one of these of twenty years' duration, attended with ulcerated sores upon the whole scalp, of such severity that the hair of the patient was entirely destroyed, and he himself was compelled to wear constantly a skull cap, is well worthy of notice. In six months from commencing the use of the water the whole head was perfectly free from disease, and a crop of short hair covered it. The simple falling off of the hair, without any disease of the scalp, has been most singularly stopped, and the hair thickened by the use of this water.

Children have taken the Purton sulphated saline water, and in some cases of eruptive diseases when at the breast, and in irritability and convulsions from teething, this water has been given, a tablespoonful or more according to age and often repeated, with entire success.

A great number of patients have taken the Purton water for trivial ailments, characterized in their own expressive words as being "unhinged." In these cases, also, the beneficial effects of this water are soon apparent in the re-establishment of the healthy balance.

In using the Purton mineral water, or, indeed, any other remedy for the cure of skin diseases, it will be necessary to bear in mind that diet must be carefully attended to. Most of these cases have their origin in irregularity or impropriety of diet—it may be defective in quality or excessive in quantity—but whatever may be the case, it will be well for the patient to obtain medical advice as to the most suitable diet for the particular disease before commencing the use of the water.

The ordinary dose of Purton Mineral Water for adult patients is a half-pint tumbler at bed-time, and the same, or more, one hour before breakfast the following morning; in some cases, in addition a wine-glassful two hours before dinner daily, beginning with a little less, increasing to a little more, according to the effects produced, &c.

It will now, perhaps, not be out of place to quote for the benefit of intending visitors the following notes on Purton, culled from an interesting little work, well worth reading, entitled—"Six

months at Purton Spa, under treatment by its Bromo-Iodated Water," published by Messrs. Harmer & Co., of Cirencester. Says the author of this admirable little *brochure*—

"Visitors to Purton* will naturally enquire what there is to be seen within an easy walk or drive. The following notes may therefore be of use. Observing that the village is situated on a kind of table land, and taking the Post-Office as a starting point, the extensive view looking due north over the station will be the first thing to arrest attention. The square tower, about four miles off, is that of Cricklade church. To the left of this is Cirencester Agricultural College, marking the commencement of the Cotteshill hills. Following the narrow lane to the left, and crossing a large field, brings the visitor to the parish church. Observe a well-built Elizabethan house on the left, just before the church.

"The Church is of the Decorated period with Perpendicular insertions. It has two towers, a west and a central one, the latter being surmounted by a spire. In the chancel are sedilia and a piscina. There are remains of fresco paintings, but nearly all obliterated by the usual iconoclastic whitewash.

"Instead of the lane to the left, by taking the main road to the right of the post-office, a considerable part of the village will be passed through. The newly-erected schools form a picturesque object on the left a short distance from the road; and at about 150 yards from the post-office, is the milestone, marking four miles from Cricklade, and four from Wootton Bassett. A house on the right now called the College Farm, because it belongs to Worcester College, Oxford, was purchased, *temp.* Henry VIII., as a residence by Mr. Hyde, father of the Lord Chancellor, Earl of Clarendon. The Chancellor was not born there; but in 1625, being a student in the Middle Temple, he was seized with an illness, and his friends, fearing consumption, sent him down to Purton, where he recovered. It contains a fine carved wood chimney piece, which some Vandal has painted white. In the enclosure wall is a small Tudor doorway, now blocked up.

* Purton ought to be spelt *Pirton*, as it is a pure Saxon name, *Pirton* meaning the pear-tree enclosure; and it is always so spelt in ancient deeds.—*Vide Wiltshire Archæological Magazine*. No. XX., p. 139.

"Proceeding onwards, and passing several cheerful modern private houses, the next conspicuous object is the Union Workhouse on the left and a bifurcation of the road with a turnpike. Before pursuing one of these roads, a fine view may be obtained by going a few steps down a lane on the right, by the Methodist Chapel. In dry weather the lane itself will be an agreeable walk, and will lead to a level crossing over the railway.

"Selecting now the right-hand turnpike road, in about ten minutes a fine view is reached looking east and north-east. These extensive views are parts of the vale of North Wilts, celebrated for its dairy farms and its bacon. If the left hand fork is taken, the visitor will come to Restrop, or Red-street, just one mile from Purton, where a picturesque Elizabethan house will arrest his attention. Five minutes' walk down a lane to the right, leads to a very fine Roman Camp, called Ringsbury, consisting of a well-defined ditch and embankment, enclosing a large quadrangular piece of ground. Contiguous to the camp are fields bearing the names of Shooter's Hill, Battle Field, &c.

"Returning to Red-street, a walk of three miles will lead to Wootton Bassett, which is the first railway station after Swindon on the main line to Bristol. The Church is remarkable for a row of columns down the centre, bisecting it longitudinally. In the Town Hall are the remains of the cucking-stool, formerly used as a punishment for scolds. It consisted of a wooden arm-chair at the end of a long beam, in which the woman (having been legally convicted and sentenced) was placed; the machine was then brought to a pond and so placed that the chair was over the water, when by raising the opposite end of the beam the culprit was three times ducked.*

"Lydiard Millicent is about twenty minutes' walk from Purton; this parish is so called after the Christian name of a lady of the manor, *temp.* King John, to distinguish it from Lydiard Tregoz, situated a mile further on. This latter place derives its name from Sir Robert Tregoz, who obtained it by marriage, in the time of Richard I. The splendid monuments of the St. John family, and the high decorations of their part of the church, have earned for it the popular name of Fine Lydiard. There is much stained glass in

* A perfect specimen may still be seen in Leominster church.

the chancel windows, a painting on panel of Sir John St. John and his wife, &c. Lord Bolingbroke's house and park are close to the church.

"Cricklade, four miles from Purton, has two churches; the principal one, dedicated to St. Sampson (a Welsh saint, born A.D. 496), is a very fine large structure, still being put into complete repair. The other, St. Mary's, is small, and has a Norman chancel arch, the rest being pointed of various periods. It has just been thoroughly restored. In both these churches the chancel is not on the axis of the nave, but somewhat inclined. This is supposed to be symbolical of our Saviour's head being "bowed" when "He gave up the ghost." (St. John, xix. 30.)

"Swindon, four miles by rail, consists of the New Town close to the station, and the Old Town on the hill, more than a mile distant. The latter contains some good shops and a handsome new church. A market is held every Monday. The New Town was built by the Great Western Railway Company, and consists of their engine manufactory, with houses for the accommodation of the numerous workmen in their employ. The mental recreation of the men has been amply cared for by the erection of an institution containing a library and a hall that serves for a lecture room, a theatre, and a music-hall for the Choral Society. All honour to the Company who have thus provided intellectual amusement for their employés and rescued them from the debasing influences of the ale-house!

"Cirencester is fourteen miles from Purton by the railway, and well worth a visit. The junction with the Cirencester branch (four miles long) is at Kemble; and here within a few yards of the station, between the tunnel and the bridge, is a remarkable geological *fault* in the cutting on the down side. By some extraordinary convulsion of nature, before the historical period, the stone, which up to this point lies in regular courses, as if laid by a mason, suddenly and vertically disappears, and its place is supplied by a totally different stratum."

There is nothing more to add—excepting the appended testimonials—beyond the fact that in bringing this account of the Purton Mineral Water before the public, the author is firmly convinced that a most extraordinary curative agent is supplied by the health-giving spring at Purton Spa.

Orders for the Waters can be sent either to the London Depot, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. , or to the Spa, Purton, Swindon, Wilts. To be had in cases containing one dozen bottles, or more. Price 15/- per dozen, including case, &c., free to any railway terminus in London. All empties, &c., to be returned free to the Purton Spa, and will be allowed for in full, if received in sound condition.

EXTRACTS, TESTIMONIALS, ETC.

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Dr. ALTHAUS says in his Standard Work *The Spas of Europe*.

"The 'Purton Spa' although long known to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood has only quite recently been brought under the notice of the Medical Profession. This Mineral Water is peculiarly valuable, and it is a matter of surprise that up to the present time it has been so little used. The Purton Spa has for the last few years been used in diseases of the skin, certain abdominal affections, and other diseases in which a mild purgative and diuretic, which is well borne by the stomach and does not weaken the system, is generally appropriate."

(Page 360.)

FINALLY—"The Bitter Waters, especially those which contain not only Sulphates, but also a somewhat considerable amount of Chloride of Sodium have proved eminently useful in Scrofula, especially in swellings of the cervical glands, tumours of the cellular tissue, chronic inflammation of the mucous membranes, and eruption of the skin."

"There are but two Waters (the Purton Spa being one) of this class in England, which deserve a far more extensive trial at the hands of the Medical Profession of this country than has hitherto been given them, as they are by their chemical composition admirably suited for the treatment of many cases of disease, and may perhaps even prove superior to the Continental Spas of this class."

Extract from the *Medical Times and Gazette*,

"PURTON SPA WATER IN PSORIASIS.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE MEDICAL TIMES AND GAZETTE.

"SIR,—I have just had my attention directed to a letter in the *Medical Times and Gazette* of the 24th of January last, from the pen of Dr. Moriarty, giving the history and treatment of a case of psoriasis inveterata,

in which the following passage occurs :—‘ From long observation I have come to the conclusion that the only medicines deserving of a trial in this disease, as well as lepra, are Fowler’s solution and quinine.’

“ Having lately had a case of psoriasis inveterata, or lepra vulgaris (which I prefer to call it), under my care here, which I have successfully treated by the Purton sulphated and bromo-iodated saline water, it may be interesting to Dr. Moriarty and many of your readers if I briefly relate the history of the case, which I prefer to do in the words of the patient himself, who is a gentleman of high position and scientific attainments :—‘ I am fifty-eight years of age, and have always enjoyed pretty good health. I have never suffered from dyspepsia. It is twenty years ago that I first observed some red, scaly spots on my arms, and some months after this they appeared on my legs and thighs, and subsequently on my back, particularly my shoulder blades and buttocks. The scalp of my head then became involved. It has gone on spreading, but more particularly during the last twelve months, and now the greater part of my person is affected with this scaly eruption. From the commencement of the disease till I came to Purton I have had the best of Medical advice, in France as well as England, without deriving benefit. I have taken sarsaparilla, then on to dulcamara, arsenic, with vegetable tonics, arseniate of potash, and soda, iodide of potassium, chloride of mercury, oxy-sulphuret of antimony, etc. I was advised by H. W. Rumsey, Esq., of Cheltenham, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., &c., &c., to go to Purton and try the mineral water, which I commenced to first do in June last, and by the middle of the month of December the disease had entirely disappeared; and I am pleased to say that I remain well at the present time.’ He has just written a pamphlet, entitled, ‘ Six Months at Purton Spa, etc.,’ published by Hamilton, Adams & Co., London.

“ I am, &c.,

‘ Purton, Swindon, Wilts.

“ SAMUEL C. SADLER, F.R.C.S.”

Extract from the *Medical Times and Gazette*.

“ EFFICACY OF THE PURTON SPA WATER IN HEPATIC COLIC.

“ Letter from Mr. W. BOXALL.

“ TO THE EDITOR OF THE MEDICAL TIMES AND GAZETTE.

“ SIR,—Some twelve months ago I perused a copy of Mr. Sadler’s pamphlet on the properties and analysis of the ‘ Purton Sulphated and Bromo-Iodate Saline Water,’ and I resolved to employ it on the first occasion. It appeared to me, by the analysis of Dr. Voelcker, that the ‘ Purton Mineral

'Spring' presented a most valuable addition to our *Materia Medica*, and one which would, at no very distant period, hold a distinguished and deserving position in the catalogue of therapeutics. A trial-case was soon found ; and to test the efficacious properties of the 'Purton Mineral Water,' I gave special instructions that no other medicine, under any circumstances, should be had recourse to, and which, I believe, were faithfully carried out. The case, according to my diagnosis, which was supported by a Medical friend of great experience, was a long-standing chronic disease of the liver, attended at times with violent spasmodic pain in the epigastric region during the supposed passing of biliary concretions—severe vomiting of yellow-greenish bile-coloured looking matter,—which after each attack rendered the patient most prostrate and debilitated. About the middle of January, last year, I was called in to attend a married lady, 46 years of age, having a family, residing at New Swindon, who had been supposed to be perfectly incurable, and to be suffering from cancer of the stomach. I found her in a state of collapse, and almost pulseless ; incessant vomiting for many days had been, and was going on ; a violent lancinating pain at the pit of the stomach had been, and was still complained of ; countenance sallow, somewhat dusky, exceedingly sharp and anxious ; pulse feeble and fluctuating ; head very light at times. These alarming and dangerous symptoms soon yielded to my medical treatment, and the patient, in the course of a fortnight, became free from pain, etc. About three weeks after I had been first called, the old symptoms again set in, which were overcome by active depletory treatment and suitable diet. Having an opinion that biliary concretions had produced the symptoms, and that the liver, which had been affected for some ten months past, was the disease, I prescribed the use of the 'Purton Mineral Water,' which was persisted in for a long time, and with very good results, inasmuch as the patient has not had, up to the present time (February), any return of the pain, vomiting, etc. ; and she believes, and states, that her apparent recovery is mainly, if not altogether, attributable to the use of the 'spring.' The *modus operandi* of this mineral water in the case above narrated, I conjecture to have been that the diseased liver was stimulated by the peculiar cholagogue properties of the 'water' to put on a more healthy action—that the bile thus became less inspissated and irritating,—the spasmodic affection of the biliary ducts was not any more produced by the obstruction which had been caused by concretions. It is highly interesting and satisfactory to know that during the many months this 'water' was being drank by the patient, an aperient had neither been required nor taken, but that a daily and comfortable action of the bowels was the concomitant.

"Whilst writing this report, I am informed by the lady that her bilious ailments now no longer continue to distress her, but that she is again able to discharge the duties of her household with comparative ease.

"I am, &c.,

"Swindon.

"W. BOXALL."

The late Sir Wm. LAWRENCE, Bart., Physician in Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen, wrote—

“The Purton Mineral Water has been most beneficial in the case of General — who may consider himself very fortunate in having such health and activity as he now enjoys, after fifty-two years' service in India. He is indebted for these advantages to this Salubrious Spring. The irritability of the bladder is lessening, and may be still further diminished, by the continued use of the Water. I am happy to hear that the Purton Water is becoming better known, and that you find it necessary to build for the accommodation of increasing numbers.”

From the late Dr. BRINTON, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., &c., &c.,
late Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital.”

“From the composition of the Purton Water by the analysis of Dr. Voelcker, I have no hesitation in expressing a strong opinion as to its Great and *exceptional* value, in various maladies of the digestive organs.

“Series of cases of course are not at my disposal, but from my limited personal experience the above *a priori* view is certainly substantiated as far as that experience goes.”

From Dr. LEADHAM,

“I have found the Purton Mineral Water very useful. How sadly you want a quiet Hotel or Boarding House contiguous to the Spa itself.”

From J. B. BROWN, Esq., F.R.C.S., (Exam.)

“I have much pleasure in expressing my opinion of the Purton Mineral Water. One of my Patients has lately derived decided benefit from taking it, and I am convinced it only requires to be well known to be very generally used by the Medical Profession.”

From Dr. MARCET, F.R.S., formerly Assistant Physician Westminster Hospital, and President Edinboro' Medical Society, &c., &c.

"After having prescribed somewhat extensively the *Purton Mineral Water*, I can state that I have obtained very satisfactory results from it, and feel assured it is a *very important therapeutical agent*."

From the late Sir RANALD MARTIN, Bart., F.R.S., F.R.C.S., Physician to Secretary of State for India in Council, &c., &c.

"My anticipation of the Purton Spa 'is that it might prove on careful and extended trial a valuable alterative and depurant. That these great properties are being proved in your experiences, and in those of other observers, is to me a matter of *high satisfaction*, both on account of the public and as supporting the accuracy of our views as to the actions and uses of this 'Spa Water' in the cure of disease."

From the late Dr. RUMSEY, of Cheltenham, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., Hon. Member Metropolitan Association Health Officer, &c., &c.

"I have now seen the beneficial effects of this Spa in several cases of chronic skin diseases, in hepatic torpor and congestion; also in erratic gout and rheumatism, and in those conditions of stomach and blood which add to the two latter cognate disorders. There can be no doubt of the *very* decided effect of the Purton Water upon the blood and secretions. This effect has been most marked and *rapid* as far as I have observed in the urine.

"One great advantage of the Purton Water is that it does *not purge or exhaust*; on the contrary, while it improves the secretions, it strengthens the digestion and raises the tone of the system generally."

FROM DR. WALTER BRYANT, F.R.C.S., &c., &c., &c.

"It has been reported to me that you are about to make some arrangements to render the Purton Spa more residential. As one of your earliest Patrons, after a great experience in the efficacy of the Waters in the cure and relief of many disorders, I earnestly hope you will not hesitate, but at once do all you can to accommodate our patients. In many uterine disorders I have found their use of the *greatest* benefit; in fact, many of my patients, who have been in the habit of resorting to Kreuznach, now rely entirely upon your Spa. In chronic disorders of the stomach and liver, and in several Cutaneous diseases, marked benefit has followed their use. I have ventured to trouble you with this detail, hoping it will urge you and other promoters to make the Purton Spa Waters more known to the public and our profession."

The following is extracted from an article which appeared in
The Leisure Hour, No. 488

"Several paragraphs had caught my eye in the local papers (Somerset and Wilts), stating that a valuable water had been discovered near Purton, a village and Station five miles from Swindon, on the Cheltenham branch of the Great Western Railway. These paragraphs stated that the water had been submitted to some of the most eminent of our Analytical Chemists, whose analysis showed that 'this water was rich beyond all precedent in sulphates, carbonates, chlorides, phosphates, iodides, and bromide, with sulphuretted hydrogen, and a very large amount of free carbonic acid gases, and that a similar water is unknown in England, or the Continent.' I determined to visit the place without delay, being only moved thereto by a desire to spread the good news, if it should be found by evidence collected on the spot, and from disinterested sources, to be a really powerful remedial agent; or, if no remarkable results appeared, then to combat a delusion which might be propagated for mercenary motives. I took a return ticket from Bath, where I live, and devoted a whole day to the inquiry."

"I might mention various cases of cure, of long-standing and severe diseases, which I had from the lips of the patients themselves. I interrogated those who came to the pump-room while I was there, some whom I saw in the fields and roads, and others at their cottages. I wrote down on the spot the very words used by the sufferers themselves, and whose recovery, vainly sought in other ways, assuredly followed the use of the water. Whatever be the share which the water itself had in the happy result, these persons, one and all, attribute their several cures to the Purton Mineral Water, and to nothing else. But the details of medical cases would be out of place here. I was told that a neighbouring doctor jeered at the imputed

efficacy of the water, saying : ' Such a one had faith. We know all the ingredients, and can readily compound the same ; in fact, we administer the same every day.' Such was the language held. But we may reply : the ingredients may indeed all be known, but the marvellous virtue lies in the combination, and we may safely defy the skill of mortal to produce the same compound, or to produce the same effects.

" I take leave, therefore, to believe in the great virtues of the Purton Spa, and I thank you for allowing me to introduce it to the knowledge of your readers. Purton is very accessible, being centrically situated, and having the convenience of a railway station within a mile and a half of the Spa."

Messrs. TWINBROW & SON

Has to inform the Medical Profession and the Public that they have completed their new premises at 80, Wigmore Street, which are supplied with every requisite of modern times.

The Dispensary is the most complete of its kind, and all Patients are entirely excluded from the shop.

Every prescription is submitted to the inspection of a second person, whereby all mistakes are avoided.

None but qualified assistants are employed.

None but the purest drugs and chemicals are used.

Their list of prices has been revised to meet the requirements of the times.

Medicines can be obtained at any hour of the night.

The practice supplied with all Medical and Surgical Instruments at whole sale prices.

Messrs. TWINBROW & SON are appointed Sole West End Agents for Purton Mineral Water, and request that all orders may be addressed to them.

W. TWINBROW & SON,

Chemists to the Queen.

80, Wigmore St., Cavendish Square.

And 71, Westbourne Grove, W.

CHEMISTS TO THE QUEEN.



H.R.H. PRINCESS OF WALES,
H.I. & R.H. THE CROWN PRINCESS OF GERMANY,
H.R.H. THE PRINCESS LOUISE OF HESSE.

Messrs. TWINBERROW & SON

BEG to inform the Medical Profession and the Public that they have completed their new premises at 80, Wigmore Street, which are replete with every requirement of modern times

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