

A treatise explaining the impossibility of the disease termed hydrophobia, being caused by the bite of any rabid animal / by William Maryan.

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A
TREATISE
EXPLAINING THE
Impossibility of the Disease
TERMED
HYDROPHOBIA;
Being caused by the
BITE OF ANY RABID ANIMAL.

BY
WILLIAM MARYAN,
SURGEON,
ROTHERHITHE-WALL.

LONDON:
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J. MURRAY AND S. HIGHLY, FLEET-STREET; MESSRS. GALE AND
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CROWN-COURT, SOHO.
1809.

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ADDRESS.

THE frequency of canine madness during the late summer, and the fatal effects of it upon the human race, have influenced me to submit the following observations to the consideration of medical practitioners in particular, and to the Public at large, firmly convinced of their very great importance and utility.

A disease, which may be considered coeval with Hydrophobia, *witchcraft*, did once exist over the whole of that now enlightened part of the

world called Europe; but since the introduction of printing, the progress of the Arts, and the increase of learning in this quarter of the globe, that disease has been abolished; and, I have no hesitation in declaring it to be my firm belief that when the nature of the disease, to which I am now calling the attention of the world, becomes more generally understood, and more fully investigated, it will be found to possess as little foundation as that above alluded to.

Were any person, who had been bitten by a supposed rabid animal, to confine that animal during its malady; watch the progress of the disease; and, after death, observe the appearances; he would be amply recompensed, by receiving a proof of the fallacy of those dreadful opinions so generally, yet so erroneously, received by almost every one from childhood to

age; and by relieving his mind from all those horrors so universally attendant on persons in similar situations.

However opposite my idea of this disease, and of the treatment of it, may be to that of medical practitioners generally, I beg leave to assure those gentlemen that I, with great diffidence appear before them, hoping, most ardently, that I may have given cause for a fuller investigation of the subject; the result of which cannot but establish the practice of the opinions I entertain for the benefit of the afflicted, and the comfort and satisfaction of the whole human species.

In this Treatise I have endeavoured to follow nature and demonstrate truth; but the present subject evinces little more to guide us in our

researches than probability and negative proof. No person conversant with it can for a moment doubt the incapacity of dogs conveying madness to man. Hence then many conclusions are drawn.

My own experience has taught me that there is an allowance due to prejudice even in the best informed minds; and, that there is an absolute impossibility of arriving at truth in certain situations; should, therefore, these opinions, and this mode of treatment be favourably and generally received, it will afford me the greatest possible gratification.

It is hardly necessary to say that the mode of treatment I have recommended, founded upon the opinions I entertain, can possibly in no case

produce an injury, and must ameliorate the sufferings of the afflicted. The result, in most cases, must, therefore, be a radical cure, which is the earnest wish of

THE AUTHOR.

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THE AUTHOR

T R E A T I S E
ON
H Y D R O P H O B I A.

IT has been for centuries supposed that canine animals have the power of communicating the disease termed Hydrophobia to the human species, and madness to all genera of animals. A variety of cases are recorded where this (supposed) disease originated from the bite of a rabid animal, and at different distances of time.

The editor of the Medical Spectator observes, that “since the introduction of
“the cow-pox, it is clear, the diseases of

“animals may be communicated to the “human species.” Such ideas would, if generally received, increase the calamities of the human race, and introduce a theory of dangers where, in reality, none ever existed; and, prior to the propagation of *ideas* of an injurious tendency, I have thought it proper to adduce the following statement on *vaccination*, which will clearly demonstrate the impossibility of Hydrophobia being caused by the bite of a mad dog, or indeed by the dental laceration of any other rabid animal.

The cow-pox appears to have originated from a disease which the horse is subject to in his heels. This disease the farrier terms “*the grease*.” Now if the groom who dresses the horse, thus affected, has the *cutis* abraded on his hands, he is subject to inoculation from it, and local in-

flammation is produced thereby ; but, the animal economy does not seem to be more affected by it, than by blisters, or any other kind of stimulating application that would excite pain. When the binary compound is applied to the teat of the cow, it produces cow-pox; and when this ternary compound is conveyed to the human race, by inoculation, it secures them from that dreadfully ravaging, and often fatal, disease, the small-pox. I conceive these diseases to be both of the same genus, with this remark that the cow-pox is much milder in its operation and affection than the small-pox ; for, if two children were to be inoculated, at the same time, the one with small-pox, the other with cow-pox, and they were both warm in bed, I cannot believe that any person, with their eyes shut, would be able, on the 12th or 13th day after, by the sense of smell (the efflu-

via arising from their bodies would be so similar) to discover the difference, or distinguish the one from the other.

Cows are subject to pustulous sores on their teats, and horses to diseases on their heels; but neither of these, till compounded, are capable of affecting man:— And were this ichor conveyed to a variety of other animals, it would in all probability produce, and become, a compounded ichor equally malignant with the small-pox itself; and, as we are not acquainted with any disease, that, uncompounded, can affect the human species; i. e. solely from the juices of any single animal; therefore do I conclude, and I trust very fairly conclude, that there can be no possible resemblance between the cow-pox and the bite of a mad dog. It has been, however, generally supposed that the juices of a

dog, in a diseased state, were sufficient of themselves, uncompounded with those of any other animal, to decompose the juices of man, so as to render them unfit for the purposes of life, &c. and that madness and death would certainly ensue. But, in conceiving this erroneous, I reply, I never heard of a single person, whether coachman, carman, cowherd, or shepherd, who was fearful of becoming affected with any of the diseases of an animal that had even died under his care.

Dr. Hamilton has related a "case of a gentleman of veracity, who was bitten by a dog, and who, (from terror lest he should become afflicted with hydrophobia, though he had no certainty of the dog's madness,) really grew ill, and believed himself already under the influence of the disease. A physician of character was sent for, this was

about seven weeks after the accident; when he arrived, he found his patient affected with nervous symptoms, which a superficial observer would have immediately termed Hydrophobia, he treated it as such, at the same time using arguments to confirm the certainty and safety of the methods pursued."

Dr. H—— also relates a "case of Mrs. Bellamy, who had a favourite dog; he appeared ill for some time, and upon calling him to give him food, the little animal flew to her with seeming fondness, and fixed his teeth in her upper lip; Mr. Woodward, who was present, instantly exclaimed, 'I hope you do not bleed!' which, with the affectionate apprehension of all present, made her conclude the dog was mad, and that she should partake of the malady; she was, consequently, seized

with inexpressible horror; and, if she did not fear death, yet, she could not help being shocked to imagine him approaching with more than usual terrors."

"It is well known that dangers appear more in apprehension than in reality; and Mrs. B——'s fears upon this occasion confirm the truth of the assertion, for Mr. Bloomfield, who was sent for immediately, declared, that she felt infinitely more than if the salival affection had operated in its fullest force: And such a deep impression did this event make upon her mind, that, for several years after, she was in agonies on the anniversary of the day on which it happened."

Dr. H—— further relates a statement thus, he says, "Dr. Nugent, of Bath, confirms the idea of the effects of fear, in a

lady, who, from the time her apothecary advised her to use prophylactis, and go into the cold bath, (which was a fortnight after the accident,) suffered under considerable agitation of mind. We cannot doubt of her apprehensions being raised by his suggestions, and these increasing Hydrophobia, it is said, actually appeared. She trembled at the sight of a dog, nor could she touch one without the greatest emotion. The doctor says, she however got well, and could swallow, till a person told her that though she thought herself cured, she might be sure to die; and desired her not to feed herself up with vain hopes of an escape; at this, as might be expected, she was greatly moved, and, in an instant, all her symptoms returned as violent as ever; nor, was it without extreme care, and the exhibition of the same anti-spasmodics that they were removed. She

must have been thrown, by this alarm, into very violent hysterics, and, no doubt, had both a dread of liquids, and a difficulty of swallowing. Symptoms which this protiform disease does, and may, occasionally put on." *Vide Dr. Hamilton's Treatise on Madness.*

Mrs. Back, residing at Camberwell, hearing a noise among her poultry, went into the field adjoining her house, and saw a dog chasing the geese: she called to him, and immediately he saw her, he left following them, and flew to her, seized her by the arm, and, without having the power of extricating herself from his attack, was compelled to drag him up to the house still fastened upon her arm: Her cries soon brought some of the neighbours to her assistance, who choaked him off from her arm, and fastened him, by means of a chain, to a new out-

building close by. The dog was raving, he bit and gnawed at every thing within his reach, and appeared to eat wood, bricks, and mortar. The next day the dog was perfectly quiet, looked very dull, and in no way of a healthy appearance; he was killed in consequence, and, upon opening his body, the stomach was found filled with wood and mortar; the intestines were in a state of mortification; separation had taken place; and the *fæces* were protruded into the cavity of the abdomen.

Mrs. Back's arm was much bitten about the elbow. She went to the sea side and bathed, by order of her medical attendant; she afterwards placed herself under the care of a country practitioner noted for his success in the cure of the bites of rabid animals; she there obtained a perfect cure, and has remained well ever since.

*The Case of Mr. CASTLEMAN, of the Grove
House, Camberwell.*

Mr. Castleman was bitten by a mad dog in the spring of the year 1771, as he was attending his dogs to take the air in coupling time.—A large dog sprang upon one of his, from a hedge, with great fury: he ran to beat him off, when this assailant seized him fast by the leg, and severely lacerated it; being, however, at last disengaged, he returned home, and his mind became considerably alarmed for the consequences. The dog, which belonged to a farmer in the neighbourhood, was observed by his master, on his reaching home, who, fearful lest he might be going mad, had given orders for him to be secured by a strong chain; this was effected by fastening him to a tree in the orchard. Every thing within his reach became the subject of attack, and at the

expiration of two days he died. Three weeks had elapsed, when Mr. Castleman, finding himself getting worse, sent for a Physician, who resided in the neighbourhood, and who, on his arrival, enquired if Mr. C—— had been bitten by a mad dog; on Mr. Castleman replying in the affirmative, the physician concluded immediately that that was the cause and origin of his illness; Mercurials were therefore, both internally and externally, administered, to destroy the supposed *Virus*, Mr. C——'s spirits every day grew worse nor could he obtain rest, even at night; no—

“Tir'd Nature's sweet restorer,

“Balmy sleep——”

was a stranger to his eyelids; his appetite he lost, and irritability and debility had taken place of tranquility and health.

In this situation the physician of the adjoining village was consulted, in addition to the former one ; they were both of one opinion, viz. that the disease was occasioned by the bite of a mad dog.—Mr. Castleman now concluded that death must ensue ; but, hearing of Dr. Hamilton's " treatise on madness," he caused it to be purchased ; he there learned, that people had been affected, and that death had been the consequence, even though a space of ten or fifteen years had elapsed since the cause:—The perusal and study of Dr. Hamilton's treatise, very much increased his distress, and he gave himself up for lost. In this state did he continue for three years, continually and deeply impressed with the idea, that he should bite some one or other of his friends, and entail on them the dreadful calamities under which he was then suffering; the certainty that

this would be the case, was ever uppermost in his thoughts, producing in him the greatest despair that it is possible for human nature to picture or describe. It was in this stage of his disorder that a physician from London was consulted, in addition to, and in the presence of, those before mentioned ; he confirmed their opinion, that their patient was labouring under Hydrophobia. To ascertain this, a glass of water was brought, at the sight of which, Mr. Castleman declares, he was as much alarmed as if a highwayman had stood before him with a drawn sword, and was going to run him through the body ; from all appearances therefore, they concluded, not only that Hydrophobia had taken place, but that it was very far advanced. They retired to an adjoining room, to consult what was to be done. Mr. C, anxious to know their real sentiments, list-

cned to their conversation, and indeed,
 with the greatest attention and interest.
 He heard one of them observe, that he
 thought the medicine too powerful; and
 another, that in desperate cases, like the
 present, desperate remedies only would
 be likely to succeed. Mr. C—— himself,
 had but a confused idea of the word
 Hydrophobia, conceiving, that whenever
 it did take place, it would act something
 like a two-edged sword, and immediately,
 deprive him of existence. When the phy-
 sicians returned into the room, he enquired
 how the Hydrophobia would act when it
 attacked the patient. They informed him
 it would produce a dread, or fear of water,
 and added, which you seem to have on
 you, and if you could swallow a little
 water, it would be much in your favour.

The physicians left him, and when they
 were gone he reflected on their observa-

tions, and began to conceive he had no dislike to water; he sent for some, and found that he had no difficulty in swallowing it. When his medical attendants called the next day, he related the circumstance to them; they observed, it was a very favourable symptom, and if he could take liquids frequently, there would be no danger. Mr. C—— did take liquids frequently, and very speedily recovered; and he has since often declared that his recovery was owing to his being made completely to understand the meaning of the word Hydrophobia.

The painful sufferings of Mr. Castleman, which he endured uninterruptedly for three or four years, and his great partiality for dogs and sporting, have induced him to pay particular attention to the disease of the canine species, and, in no stage of

madness, in dogs, could he perceive they ever refused water, or had any difficulty in swallowing: he declares it, therefore, to be his firm opinion that dogs cannot convey any disease to the human race; he is further strengthened in this opinion by his having been since bitten, twenty times, at least, by dogs in the same disease, without its ever producing either mental or bodily complaints.

Mr. C—— has frequently attended people in the neighbourhood, where there have been mad dogs; and when any person has been bitten, he has always prevented any disease taking place by convincing the sufferers of the perfect safety of their situation; telling them that there was not any danger; acquainting them of the utter impossibility of dogs communicating disease

to man ; and by endeavouring in every possible way to dispossess the mind of fear.

Among numerous instances of this kind, Mr. Castleman relates the following case of Mr. Edmunds of New Cross, who, about four years ago, was bitten by a mad dog, which died a few days after. Mr. E——'s mind became considerably alarmed, his spirits got extremely low, his appetite had left him, and his sleep was constantly disturbed. In this situation he probably would have continued gradually declining, till death had terminated his earthly career ; but a Mr. Whitaker of Peckham, the friend of Mr. Edmunds, knowing the calamitous sufferings of Mr. C——— from the same cause, called on Mr. Castleman and requested he would pay Mr. W——'s friend, Mr. E—— a visit, to advise him what was best to be done ; Mr. C—— accordingly

went, and found him extremely low and dejected; Mr. E—— had, prior to this visit, sent for medical advice, the result of which was, a recommendation of the removal of the lacerated parts by excision: Mr. C—— advised him to the contrary, and requested him to forego any further medical aid, to which Mr. E—— consented. Mr. C—— then successfully persuaded him of the impossibility there was of his acquiring any disease from the dog: He (Mr. C——) had formed this opinion from experience, and if Mr. E—— had any doubt on the subject, he would convince him of the truth of his assertion, by putting his own hand into the dog's mouth. This may be called strong reasoning, and the result, happily for Mr. Edmunds, proves Mr. C—— right; for Mr. E—— followed Mr. Castleman's advice in every thing; he recovered his spirits, his appetite, and rest

returned, he remains free from any symptoms of the disease, and is a living monument of this fact to this day.

Dr. Bardsley of Manchester relates “ the case of John Lindsey, a weaver, of Fearn Gore, near Bury, in the county of Lancaster, aged 36, of middling stature, and spare habit of body ; of a temperament inclined to the melancholic, who was brought into the Manchester lunatic hospital, on Friday, May 16, 1794. He was immediately visited by Dr. Le Sassier, who obligingly communicated to me the following particulars. The patient expressed feelingly his sense of danger from the persuasion that his disorder proceeded from the bite of a mad dog ; he was desired to drink a little cold water, which, upon being presented to him, he rejected with every appearance of disgust and horror.

Being again strongly urged to drink, he made the attempt, and with great exertion got down a small quantity: He was perfectly rational, and appeared apprehensive of danger from the least noise, or approach of any person towards him: after being removed from the examining room into the hospital, he ate some bread and cheese, but with much difficulty, and requested to be permitted to drink some butter-milk; he attempted to swallow this liquid, and, in part succeeded, but not without the most violent struggling efforts, attended with distortions of his countenance, and which remained slightly convulsed for some time afterwards. A consultation, on this case was called, of the physicians of the hospital, by Dr. Le Sassier, and the presence of Dr. Percival (physician extraordinary to the charity,) was requested. The latter gentleman concurred strong-

ly in opinion with Dr. Le Sassier (the rest of the faculty being absent) that there was not the smallest doubt but that this patient was afflicted with genuine Hydrophobia.

“ The following particulars of this man, have been collected. He was industrious, sober and regular in his living, but subject to low spirits, from the difficulty he found, at times, of maintaining a wife and six young children: His exertions, however, were generally proportionate to his difficulties: But of late, from the depreciation of labour, he found that the most rigid economy and indefatigable industry were not sufficient to ward off, from himself and family, the calamities of hunger, debt, and most abject poverty; the anxiety of his mind now became almost insupportable: As the last refuge for his distress, he applied, a few

days previously to the attack of his complaint, to the overseers of his parish for their assistance to pay his rent, and thereby prevent the seizure of his goods; but obtained no relief. Overwhelmed with grief and disappointment, he yielded to despair, resigning himself and family to this wretched state: He was soon roused from this state of fancied apathy, by the piercing cries of his children, demanding bread. In a paroxysm of rage and tenderness he sat down to his loom on the Monday morning and worked night and day, seldom quitting his seat till early on the ensuing Wednesday morning. During this period of bodily fatigue and mental anxiety, he was entirely supported by hasty draughts of cold butter-milk sparingly taken, nor did he quit the loom until his strength was completely exhausted; he then threw himself upon his bed, and slept

a few hours; on waking, he complained of giddiness, confusion in the head, and a general sense of weariness over his body; he walked five miles that morning in order to receive his wages for the completion of his work, and on his return felt much fatigued, and troubled with a pain in his head; during the night his sleep was interrupted by deep and involuntary sighs, slight twitchings in the arms, and a sense of weight, and constriction at the breast, he also complained of much uneasiness at the light of a candle that was burning in the room. On evacuating his urine, he was obliged to turn aside his head from the vessel, as he could not bear the sight of the fluid without great uneasiness; being rather thirsty he wished for balm tea, but was unable to swallow it from pain and tightness, which he experienced about the throat; when the liquid was presented to him, he

suddenly exclaimed ‘ Good God! ’tis all over with me!’ and which exclamation immediately recalled to his wife’s recollection the circumstance of his having been bitten about twelve years ago by a large dog, apparently mad, which was flying from the pursuit of a number of people on the high road between Warrington and Manchester. His irritability increased till death put a period to his sufferings.”

Doctor B—— observed this case was decisively characterised: it appears from a variety of causes, his frame became debilitated, from want of renovation; his mind was alarmed to distraction at being left alone. He examined every thing with a timid and suspicious eye; at the least noise of a footstep in the gallery, he would beg in the most piteous and impressive manner to be protected from harm. It is

evident he would not have been importunate had he not conceived his mortal enemies were in the house.

It appears, therefore, that this man was bitten twelve years prior to his attack, and consequently we cannot attribute it to that cause, but to have arisen from a variety of the most dreadful ideas acting upon his mind, which had lost its energy, by his constitution being impaired for want of nourishment. It produced flatulency, which gave rise to a sensation in the throat (*Globulus Hystericus*) which he had been unaccustomed to feel; this brought back to his recollection what had happened at so great a distance of time; and so readily did he yield to the belief of this circumstance, that he, at once, gave himself up for lost.

This appears to have been one of the worst cases of Hydrophobia that ever occurred; and one, I conceive, that might have afforded much information. It is impossible to imagine what a reverse method might have produced, such as tranquilizing his mind, explaining the impossibility of any such disease existing; and at the same time assuring him of the welfare and comfort of his wife and children.

Mr. Lightfoot, a carpenter, residing at Denmark Hill, near Camberwell, was bitten by a small dog, that he supposed had strayed from some lady to whom he belonged; this supposition induced him to entice the animal to follow him; he did so, and succeeded in getting the little animal into his possession; he, upon his arrival at home, confined the dog in a room for

the night, and in the morning went himself to carry him some food. The creature no sooner saw a person approaching him than he ran at him, and bit him in the leg. This accident soon got known ; and the circumstances of its being by a little dog that had been found but the day before, caused the owner of the little animal, to whose ears the story had also been related, to apply for the liberation of the prisoner. The little creature was taken away, and after suffering for two days, he breathed his last. Mr. Lightfoot was advised to apply to some medical man for aid, and in consequence of such advice, applied to my father, who resides in that neighbourhood, to ask him if there was not a necessity for his going to the sea, to bathe? He informed him of the necessity, if he conceived it would relieve his mind;

for whatever would do that, viz. cause a relief of his mind, would prevent Hydrophobia. Mr. L—— seemed delighted at this information, went home comfortable and perfectly satisfied in his mind, and has remained free from any symptoms of the disease.

The case of John Smith, a schoolfellow of mine, who was bitten by a rabid cat, that died. His mother brought him to my father, who applied a little simple dressing, and informed them as he had Mr. Lightfoot. I have seen him many times since, and never heard of any thing occurring.

I have no hesitation in saying, that, I think, if the mother had been bitten instead of the son, from her extreme irrita-

bility, she would have had Hydrophobia ; nor would all the persuasions in the world, I conceive, have prevented it.

It may be supposed by many, that the animal, in these cases, was not in a rabid state. A dog that is naturally docile, if he become surly, dull, and snappish, leaving his home, and biting every thing in his way, will generally be allowed mad ; at least, he has, of course, lost his natural instinct. If a dog, in this state, bite a man, it awakens apprehension for the ultimate consequences, disturbs the action of the mind, and produces a train of symptoms in every respect similar to what would have taken place, had the true disease existed. Rest becomes disturbed ; unpleasant dreams ensue, accompanied with debility ; he arises with dejection, and not

at all refreshed. These circumstances produce a train of bodily evils; the secretions become altered, till he, every hour, conceives he feels some of those symptoms attendant on Hydrophobia.

Fear will render life insupportable; and we are all assured that ideal objects will produce the same effect as real ones. We not only consider death inevitable, but by frequently considering the subject, it becomes not only more familiar, but less terrible; till the idea arises that we shall not only die ourselves, but fear we shall sometime or other bite our wife, our husband, our child, or our dearest relative, and bring on some, or all of them, a premature death. For it is a too generally received opinion among the vulgar that the dog conveys its nature, and they partake

of it. The weapons of a man are his hands; I have never heard of one single person labouring under Hydrophobia, who ever threatened to attack another by those means; as they have supposed their nature to be altered to that of a brute, so they must use their offensive weapons, by biting every thing that comes within their reach. Ideas of this kind acting upon their mind are sufficient to produce all the regular attendant symptoms of *Hysteria*, *Hypochondria*, or *Hydrophobia*; not only have those bitten by a rabid animal to contend with what will be the effect of the bite, but a fear that some symptoms may arise which their medical attendants may deem it necessary to counteract by bleeding them to death or smothering them between two beds; for it is the supposed opinion that medical men have the power

of disposing of the lives of those who are suffering under the calamities of this disease. I have always found, when conversing on this subject, some one to declare that there are living witnesses to be produced to prove such fact. I need only, in reply to those groundless fears, produce the opinion of Sir Vicary Gibbs, who, I believe, has convinced the public that such a case never occurred; and added, that whoever could be capable of such enormities would be found guilty of murder.

Mr. Locke, I think, defines madness to be a state arising from some particular set of ideas acting upon the mind, which makes so strong an impression, as to banish every other. We have, daily, evident proofs of bodily and mental diseases pro-

ducing madness, witnessed in those who put a premature end to their existence, either from losses or disappointments. Our juries, much to their credit, return a verdict of lunacy almost in every case of those who put a period to their existence by their own hands; and I concur most cordially with them in opinion, that all such must be reckoned in the highest state of it.

I believe there are very few, if any, who voluntarily prefer death to life. Many become affected different ways by the same cause, owing, no doubt, to the difference in the constitution. Religion, (which should alone make the mind happy, the best and surest defence against the passions) if considered in a melancholic point of view, such as to those who consider

themselves not partaking of the Spirit of God, and that they shall be for ever miserable. Such ideas have often perverted the seat of reason, and given more inhabitants to Bedlam than any other cause whatever.

The bite of a rabid animal produces as much misery to the mind as any external object whatever; nothing can be more terrible than the idea of approaching death; the afflicted person has constantly this idea before him, for no one to their knowledge has ever escaped.

No historian has ever been able to give any distinct account of the origin of this disease. Upon tracing the morbid appearances of such dogs as died in a rabid state, I have not found them to vary, but

have found them to be of the same nature as would, had they occurred in the human species, have proved equally fatal, if neglected.

As we have such visible appearances of disease in dogs, after death, may we not expect, by paying a proper attention to them (such attention they undoubtedly claim, being the safeguard and companion of man) to relieve them from those sufferings which produce madness, nor should we then have one quarter of the number destroyed in that state.

The rage for canine madness has arrived to such a height, that these animals (dogs) not having the power of making known their sufferings, are, immediately, upon their being perceived to be ill, said directly

to be going mad, and must be prematurely killed to prevent the spreading of this horrid and mysterious disease, without a single moment's reflection of what might be the cause of their illness.

Mr. Castleman, whose case I have related, has paid, for many years, the greatest attention to dogs, when in this state, and has generally been capable of preserving them by the use of calomel and jalap, subjoined to *enemas*.

Supposing a dog to be mad, does he convey madness? Dr. Hamilton observes, "It has been generally thought that persons affected with this unhappy malady always die mad. This is a mistake. No madness attends it. The patients can converse as rationally as ever; during the time they are ill. This may be proved

from almost every case of the disease. All authors who have seen, confirm this, and generally note it down in the relation of their symptoms." If he convey not madness, what does he convey? It is supposed he conveys a *virus* which produces Hydrophobia. From my own observation, and that of Mr. Castleman, who has been a sportsman these forty years, I am bold to say that dogs in no stage of madness ever labour under this disease, which is attributed to them ; but will take water in preference to any thing else to the last hour of their existence. Lord Derby's game keeper has had six dogs tied up at once, and all have died at different times ; in none of them, however, could he perceive they refused water, or had any difficulty in swallowing. It must appear strange that a dog should be incapable of communicating a disease of which he dies,

and have attributed to him the power of communicating a disease he never was affected with, viz. Hydrophobia!

It is the received opinion that if a dog bite any of our domestic animals, such, for instance, as cows, sheep, geese, &c. they all go mad and die! yet not one in twenty of mankind have died from the same cause. If so small a quantity of this (supposed) *virus* is capable of assimilating to itself the peculiar property of destroying life, we must suppose all animals dying in this state to have their juices completely saturated with this (supposed) *virus*. How much more certain then must it be in those animals which feed upon those dying in this state? We are not acquainted with any species of animals that will, from choice, feed upon their own kind. If such were the case there

would soon be an end to all carnivorous, and a great diminution of granivorous animals, and, in time, an end to the animal creation. The Author of our Being has wisely kept all *genera* of animals and vegetables distinct, and this order cannot be inverted further than the production of a mule. We still find every *genera* the same as it ever was.

The question seems to be, whether there can be any *virus* conveyed from the dog which produces Hydrophobia? Or, whether it be not produced wholly from the principle of fear, by the frame being reduced, by long disease, by loss of estate, by loss of friends, by hard labour, or by the exhausted juices, not being properly renovated? in either case *Hysteria*, or *Hypochondria* will be produced; and should any one, subject to either, be bitten

by a mad dog, it would awaken such apprehensions in the mind, as would produce the immediate fear of death, of madness, of biting his friends, or that his medical attendants would order him to be put to death, as was the case with Lindsay and many others. These fears acting in conjunction, will produce Hydrophobia, and death itself.

I conceive, therefore, the disease may be accounted for, without any *virus* being received. We are not acquainted with any *virus* in nature which does not produce an immediate action; yet, that the tooth of a dog, which supplies the place of a lancet, shall be incapable of producing any such visible appearance on nature's part is contrary to any known law of the actions of an organized body; for a person, bitten by a rabid animal, will, I conceive,

become sooner, or later, affected with Hydrophobia, according to the irritability of the frame.

Dr. Hunter relates a case where "twenty-one persons were bitten by a mad dog, and only one of them became affected with Hydrophobia; he was not the first, nor the last, nor the most lacerated." I think it possible, nay, most probable, that this person was Hypochondriac. The doctor, in the same letter, observes, 'little more of this disease is known than was a thousand years back, and if any medicine had been given to these people, we should have said, we had found a specific that succeeded in curing twenty out of the twenty-one.' It appears we know not what this *virus* is (*if there be any*) nor of any specific to cure it. I believe there never was any existing. Positive proof of the existence

of the disease there is, and no way connected with the bite of a rabid animal, but then it is said to be less aggravated in appearance. Were we, in such cases, to add the horrors of the mind, we should produce a case as aggravated as that, before cited, of Lindsay.

Whenever I see a person who has been bitten by a mad dog, I inform him it is my belief that no infection can be conveyed to him from the dog, but that if he should think bathing in the sea, taking the Ormskirk Medicine, or any thing that will satisfy the mind—if he can do that, there is no danger; for that the idea of a dog being capable of communicating madness to him is erroneous, and without foundation; neither are the faculty permitted to take away his life; nor was there ever any instance of a person going mad from

a bite ; nor have we a probable instance of any of the human race having had the power of communicating it to another, so there is no fear of your biting any friend or relation. Dr. Vaughan has tried to inoculate a dog from a man in the last stage of the disease, which was supposed to have arisen from the bite of a mad dog, but without success. If you are satisfied, as I am, that no disease can be conveyed from the dog you are safe, as this disease is only a mental affection: if you are not satisfied, make use of such means as will relieve your mind from fear, for you never will be comfortable whilst that exists.

Were medical practitioners to adopt a similar plan, I think it would have the effect of mitigating the sufferings, if not of curing the disease. Should the constitution

be much reduced, and medicines be deemed requisite, it should be impressed on the mind of the patient, that medicines cannot prevent madness, for that cannot take place, but that they will act as a restorative.

Dr. Mosely, I believe, supposes madness in dogs to be epidemical, and Dr. Bardsley that it must be kept up by inoculation, from one animal to another. I do not see the necessity of either of the above propositions.

We find, when a country is invaded by an enemy, and the provisions are carried off; or, when a dearth arises from a bad harvest, (as the history of our own country affords, unfortunately, but too many instances) the effect upon the human race is dreadful. In the year 1801,

we had a scarcity, and a number of poor people could not obtain nourishment sufficient to renovate their juices ; the consequence was contagious diseases, and an increased mortality. If a farmer has more cattle and sheep than provision to feed and nourish them, the result is contagious diseases ; his stock will decay in proportion to the want of food and nourishment necessary for them : the same we find happen in the case of hogs, poultry, and every other species of animals ; for it is not possible any one can live and thrive for a length of time, when deprived of requisite food, and common nourishment.

Were we to suppose that dogs have the peculiar power of affecting the human species, or any other animal, with Hydrophobia, and remain insusceptible themselves ;

it would make them appear to be more favoured than even the human race.

There is not an instance on record where any of our domestic animals have ever had any of those malignant diseases to which the human species are liable.

Dogs are usually kept in kennels, consequently cannot obtain food but through the hands of their attendants, or keepers; and, being deprived of the free use of their instinct, if their keepers neglect to allow them sufficient food for the constant renovation of their juices, diseases of a malignant nature will be the consequence; this is evidently seen in dogs that have the mange, and which is communicated from one to another.

It is generally found that dogs deprived

of the free use of their instinct are more liable to madness than any others.

Nature has pointed out to all animals what will afford relief for those diseases which they are liable to. The Cooch Grass, which acts as an aperient and emetic in dogs and cats; when they cannot obtain this, and are any way diseased, will prefer any vegetable to other food: this must have been observable to any person who has paid the least attention to dogs.

Having nearly one-tenth part the number of foxes, that we have dogs in this country; and they being of the same genus, but having the free use of their instinct, it does appear to secure them from this disease; for we have no instance on record where any person has been bitten by one of these animals in a rabid state. Yet all animals are subject to contagious diseases but have

not the power of communicating them to man.

Various have been, and are, the specifics for the cure of the bite of a mad dog, but speaking generally they are without effect. Bathing in the sea has cured thousands, the Ormskirk Medicine tens of thousands, and Dr. Cobb's Specific equal numbers. An analysis of these various remedies, proves their nature to be totally different, but in many instances they have each had their desired effect: nor can there be a doubt of many of the cases having originated in the being bitten by some rabid animal.

With respect to the time a person becomes affected with the disease after being bitten, that, I consider, it is natural to conclude will depend upon the irritability of the frame.

I shall now conclude this subject with a few remarks; and, first, experience has taught us that there can be no dependence placed on mercurials, though they have been administered to the greatest possible extent, and this is evident from their debilitating effect upon all constitutions, which must certainly increase the miseries of the, already too-much, afflicted: this, I think, it is very clear, has been evinced to all, and does not require further proof.

The effects of fear have been clearly proved in the cases of Mr. Castleman and of poor Lindsay.

There are still extant many long and grave dissertations on the effects produced by the bite of a rabid animal, in which are numbers of groundless opinions and erroneous systems; this must render truth it-

self suspected, though it be founded on the strongest basis, that of clear and evident facts.

The generally received opinion, that dogs convey to man the disease termed Hydrophobia, I am confident is one of those fallacies that will shortly be overcome;—that dogs are themselves subject to madness is agreed by all medical practitioners, but that they have the power of communicating that disease to man, it has been my study to prove is impracticable.

Facts can only be ascertained by studying nature; this practice, aided by attention and minute observation, must force us from that darkness into which the ideas of curing this disease have, till now, plunged us. Nothing is left undone, when the mind is dispossessed of fear, and the patient is

made confident of the success of the means pursued; the idea of doubt must be totally effaced from the mind; for should a spark of that remain, and fear again resume the place of confidence of success, death in general is inevitable.

The salutary consequences, in cases of the belief of the impossibility of the disease taking place, I am happy to say, I have in many instances witnessed; and, for the satisfaction of any who may be inclined to investigate this subject more fully, there are now living all the parties whose cases I have related, and, who will feel pleasure in affording such information on this *supposed* disease, as cannot but tend to confirm my opinion; thereby adding to the domestic comforts of thousands of families, and increasing the general happiness of millions of the human race.

FINIS.



