

Experiments with the metallic tractors : in rheumatic and gouty affections, inflammations, and various topical diseases; as published by surgeons Herholdt and Rafn, of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Copenhagen / translated into German by Professor Tode, physician to his Danish Majesty; thence into the English language by Mr. Charles Kampfmuller: also reports of about one hundred and fifty cases, in England; demonstrating the efficacy of the metallic practice, in a variety of complaints, both upon the human body, and on horses, &c.; by medical, and other respectable characters[.] Edited by Benjamin Douglas Perkins, A.M. of Leicester-Square, London, son of the discoverer. London.

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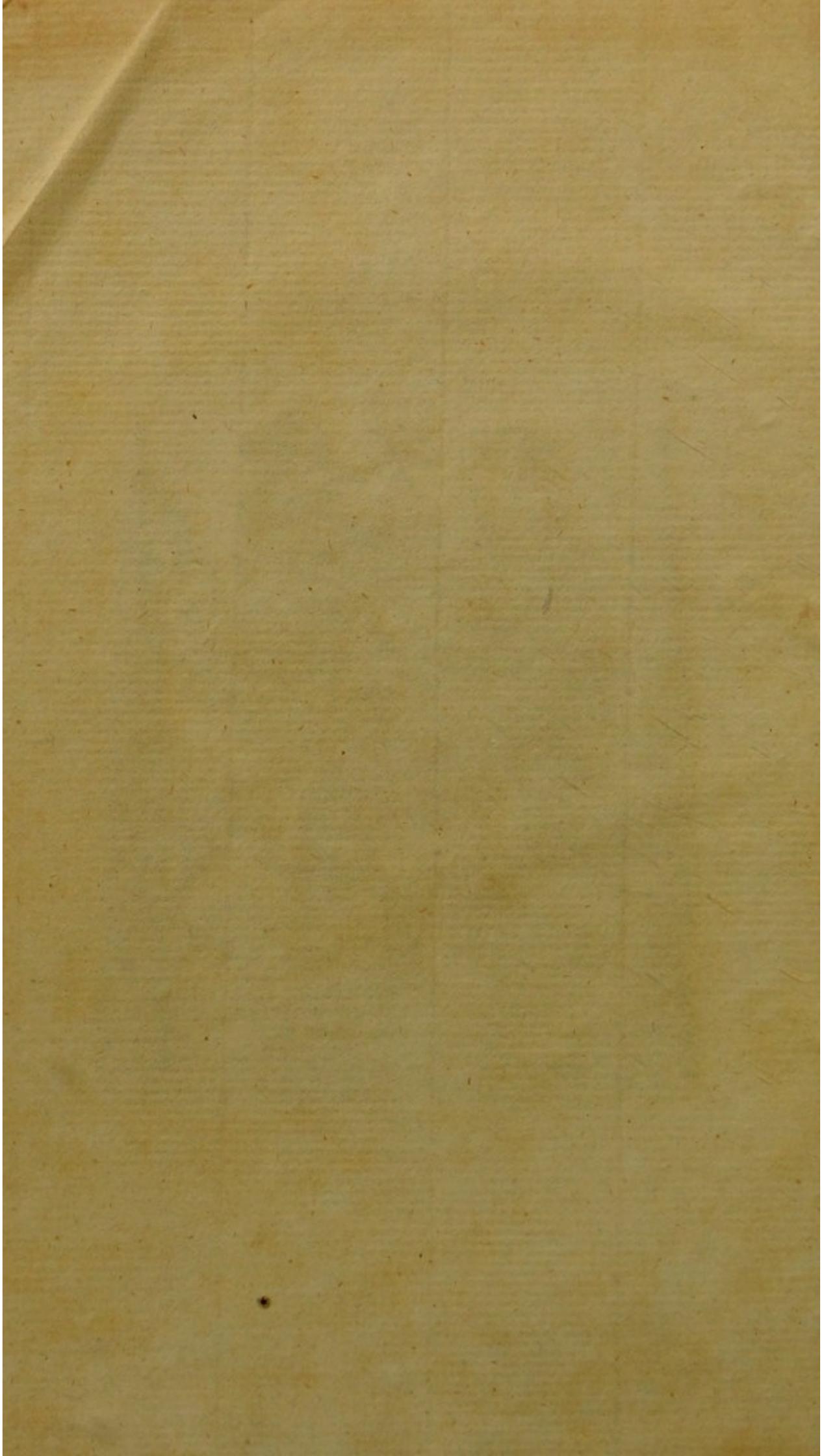
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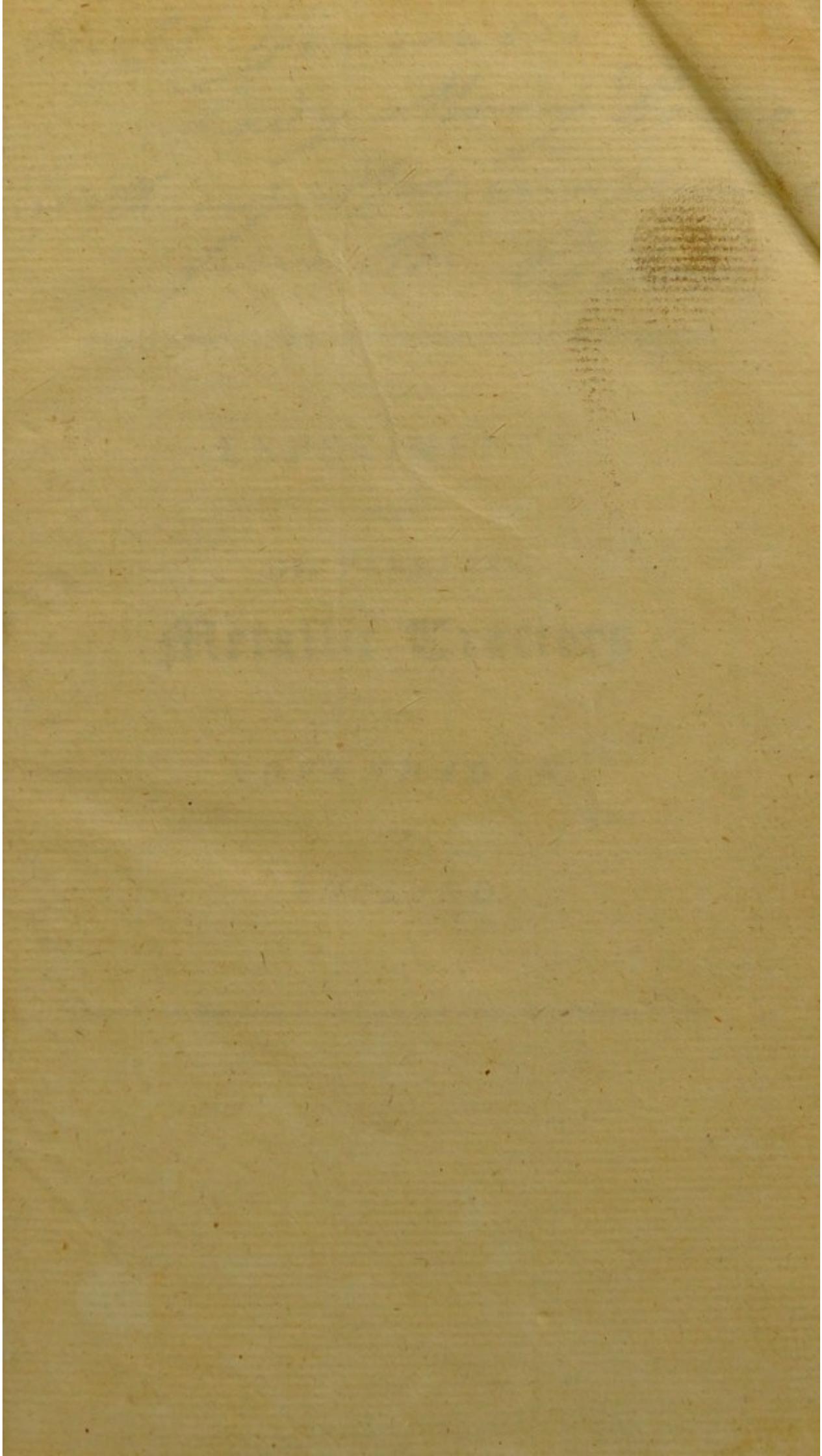
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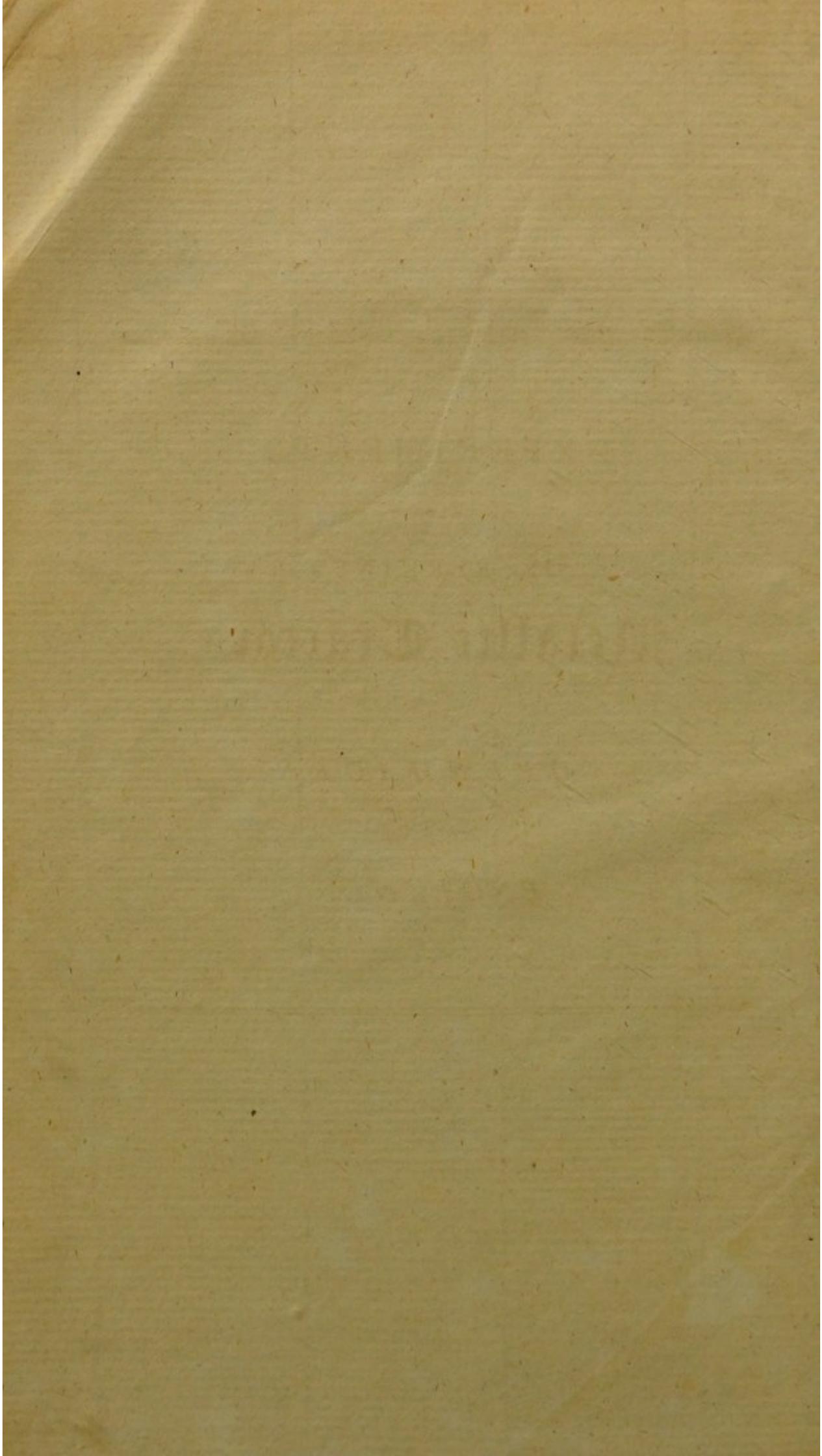
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Bright Honorable
Lady Mary Howe,
with respectful compliments,
from the Editor—

EXPERIMENTS

WITH

DR. PERKINS'S

Metallic Tractors

IN

COPENHAGEN

AND

ENGLAND.

EXPERIMENTS

WITH THE

METALLIC TRACTORS

RHEUMATIC INFLAMMATION

GOUTY AFFECTIONS

THEORY AND PRACTICE

BY DR. FERRISS

Metallin Tractors

REPORTS

COMPILED

BY DR. FERRISS

London, 1850

BY THE AUTHOR

BY DR. FERRISS

BY DR. FERRISS

BY DR. FERRISS

EXPERIMENTS
WITH THE
METALLIC TRACTORS

IN
RHEUMATIC AND GOUTY AFFECTIONS, || INFLAMMATIONS,
AND AND VARIOUS
TOPICAL DISEASES;

AS PUBLISHED BY
SURGEONS HERHOLDT AND RAFN,
OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, COPENHAGEN;

TRANSLATED INTO GERMAN
BY PROFESSOR TODE, PHYSICIAN TO HIS DANISH MAJESTY;
THENCE INTO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
BY MR. CHARLES KAMPFMULLER:

ALSO
REPORTS

OF ABOUT ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY CASES,
IN ENGLAND;
Demonstrating the Efficacy of the METALLIC PRACTICE,
In a Variety of Complaints,

BOTH UPON THE
Human Body, AND ON Horses, &c.

BY MEDICAL, AND OTHER RESPECTABLE CHARACTERS.

EDITED
BY BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, A. M.
OF LEICESTER-SQUARE, LONDON,
SON OF THE DISCOVERER.

LONDON:
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EXPERIMENTS
ON THE
METALLIC TRACTORS

BY
JAMES H. HOLT, M.D.
OF THE
COUNTY OF ...

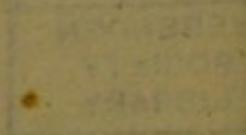
THESE EXPERIMENTS
WERE CONDUCTED AT THE
LABORATORY OF THE
COUNTY OF ...

REPORTS

ON THE
NATURE AND
CHARACTER OF THE
METALLIC TRACTORS
AS OBSERVED IN
THE ...

BY
JAMES H. HOLT, M.D.
OF THE
COUNTY OF ...

THESE REPORTS
WERE PREPARED AT THE
LABORATORY OF THE
COUNTY OF ...



TO
THOSE
WHO HEAR, READ, AND JUDGE
WITH IMPARTIALITY,
THIS WORK
IS RESPECTFULLY ADDRESSED.

TO THE READER.

IT will be recollected, by those who have perused the second edition of the Tract on the "*Influence of Metallic Tractors,*" that an intention was there suggested of presenting the Public with a translation of Surgeons HERHOLDT's and RAFN's publication on PERKINISM. In this work was to be introduced the results of various experiments in England. As a promise was there made, and afterwards repeated, by advertisements in the Newspapers, that the book would be published at a much earlier period, its delay to the present time requires an explanation.

As soon as the translation could be completed, which indeed was very seasonably executed by Mr. KAMPFMULLER, it was put to press; during the printing of which, that no time might be lost, the Editor was industrious in communicating with those gentlemen who had given the Metallic

Practise the most extensive trial, to procure statements of the result of their experience. In the course of a few weeks, he was accordingly supplied with a great variety of cases, sufficiently numerous, indeed, to fill a moderate folio. The few of these which compose what appear in the following pages were given into the hands of the Printer, and the work was in great readiness to be published at the time proposed, when a circumstance occurred which caused an irremediable impediment;—this was a sudden attack of a tedious and distressing illness.

The whole copy not being at that time written out, and the Editor totally incapable, from the severity of his fever, of giving the book or the practice any attention, all further progress was totally arrested, until his recent recovery. These particulars it becomes necessary to mention, as many, to whom the book had been personally promised some time since, might otherwise have entertained an opinion unfavourable to his punctuality.

Among

Among the immense mass of communications of cases, detailing the success of the Tractors, with which the Editor was supplied, it has been his object to select those which come from persons who have given them an extensive and varied experiment. These persons are most competent to decide on the real merits of the Discovery. Reports of this class, indeed, were preferred even to such as were received from characters of rank, or of the medical profession, who had seen less of the Practice.

It would have been the Editor's wish to have inserted a greater number of the cases, with which he was favoured; but the few he has introduced, and his concluding remarks, so swelled out the work, that he was apprehensive it was already too bulky to be insured of a faithful and attentive perusal.

PART I,

of this book, which is devoted to the Danish cases, will be found more interesting to medical readers, than to those who
have

have not so intimate a knowledge of technical terms; yet the NOTES, which, it will be observed, are attached to these cases, will, he apprehends, be of no inconsiderable use to every possessor of the Tractors. These Notes, as pointing out the errors of others, are perhaps better calculated than any other method which could be adopted, for explaining the manner of using the Tractors, and, what is equally important, for pointing out the class of diseases most subject to their influence.

Most of the cases which appear in the Danish publication, were made under circumstances so unfavourable for *fair trials*, that many persons who perused them in the manuscript, before they were sent to the press, thought it but doing an injustice to the Discovery to give them an insertion in this work; the Editor, however, has determined otherwise. For want of the necessary instructions for using the Tractors, the Physicians of Copenhagen failed in numerous instances; but as the causes of these failures are extremely evident, and
 very

very easy to be explained, he rests assured that those who are disposed to respect the truth will appreciate them as they merit.

PART II,

in which are included about a hundred and fifty cases, that have occurred in England, will be found more interesting and satisfactory to the generality of readers. The applications here were made by persons better acquainted with the practice, and consequently were attended with greater success. To these cases, therefore, the Editor begs leave to refer those whose object is to ascertain to what extent, and in what diseases, the new remedy may be successfully employed.

IN PART III,

are introduced several experiments on brutes, as horses, &c. upon which species, it is fully ascertained, the Tractors are as efficacious as on the human body. The results of the trials on horses
offer

offer to the opposers of this Practice an occasion for a further display of their ingenuity, in inventing other arguments against it, than that of the effects being produced by any action on the imagination.

The observations under the head "CONCLUSION," it is conceived, will not be regarded as unimportant. A persuasion of their utility and interesting nature to those in possession of the Tractors, induced the Editor to dwell on them at considerable length. Of the merits of the subject treated of in the Appendixes, N^o II. and N^o III, the reader must judge.

To facilitate the reader's search for the effects of the Tractors in particular diseases, there has been arranged at the close of the book an INDEX OF THE CASES in alphabetical order. By adverting to this, the enquirer can immediately learn, whether any disease he may have in view is applicable to the Metallic Practice, and if so, by turning to the page mentioned, he will see the effects of the Tractors in such disease described.

This

This volume is presented to the Public not without great diffidence. Much of the latter part of the book was written during the Editor's convalescence, and many inaccuracies must thereby have undoubtedly been committed; but those, to whom alone it is addressed, will, he flatters himself, not withhold all reasonable allowances. The language he has employed, and the truths he has been compelled to declare, in some parts of the work, have partaken too much of the nature of *censure*, to have afforded him any pleasure in the detail. The shafts of interest and malevolence having been aimed against him, he conceived he was excusable in attempting to repel them. If in this however he has erred, he must regret the misfortune, which indeed will not be a little alleviated in his own breast, by reflecting that he has endeavoured well.

IN this place it is proper to suggest the Editor's intention of carrying into effect, the

the ensuing winter, a Plan which he hopes may be the means of rendering this discovery still more useful to the Public; and this is, establishing an

INSTITUTION FOR RELIEVING
THE POOR.

It has occurred to him that such an institution, under proper arrangements, might be productive of beneficial effects. Those extensive and useful classes of inhabitants, under the denominations of servants, artificers, labourers, soldiers, &c. from their necessary exposure to the vicissitudes of the weather, are perpetually subject to those diseases which are most readily cured by the new remedy. The sufferings of these people, from rheumatisms and other acute diseases, are much greater than is generally known by those whose fortune it is to move in the more easy and elevated spheres of life. The patient will here possess an advantage which is not to be had at other private medical
§ dispensaries.

dispensaries. Several physicians in London, are in the habit of devoting a few hours of the day, once a week, to the benevolent purpose of giving advice gratis, but the medicine is not also given away, and the expence of this is no inconsiderable thing for the indigent sufferer. Here no expence will be incurred. If, on the first examination, their complaints shall be found suitable to the Practice, their names may be entered on the books, and permission given them to receive the application daily, for as long a time as shall be deemed necessary. Appropriate and extensive apartments will be procured, and three hours each morning devoted to superintending the applications, either by the Editor himself, or a medical assistant. During that time a great number of patients will be enabled to receive the benefit of the operations, as they may be instructed to use the Tractors on each other.

To prevent those impositions and idle applications, which an unlimited permission of admittance would give rise to, it
will

will be found necessary to circulate Invitations, among persons of respectability, to recommend, at all times, such poor persons as they shall conceive to be suitable subjects. To none could the Editor, with greater propriety, bestow these invitations, and by none indeed may the indulgence be more justly claimed, than those who have purchased the Tractors. It will, therefore, be his care, that those who reside in this metropolis, and with whose addresses he is favoured, be seasonably notified on this head. If it shall be found that so great a number of patients, from the recommendation of purchasers alone do not apply, as can with convenience be attended to, the same indulgence will be extended to some others.

Of the place for this establishment, and other particulars, necessary to be mentioned, notice will be seasonably communicated. It will not be opened, for the reception of patients, until the approach of cold weather, when the complaints, suitable for this Practice, begin to prevail. During the warmer months of the year, the Tractors are comparatively

paratively of little use, as the body is generally covered with perspiration, and the proper diseases are scarcely to be met with.

The Tractors, with printed Directions for their use in families, may be had of the Editor, at his house in Leicester Square, price Five Guineas the set.—To prevent frauds and impositions, every genuine set of the Tractors is stamped with the words “PERKINS PATENT TRACTORS;” and to the paper of directions, attending them, is subjoined a Receipt for the Five Guineas, numbered and signed in his hand-writing; thus, “Benjamin Douglas Perkins.” The hours of attendance on Patients at home, are from Nine to Three o’clock in the Morning. The remainder of the day is devoted to Patients abroad.

Leicester Square,
September 24th 1799.

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Will the Reader have the Goodness to correct with a Pen the following
ERRATA.

Page 3. line 26. from top, for "author," write *editor*—p. 26. l. 22. for "leave," *leaves*—p. 29. l. 12. erase "gouty"—p. 137. l. 6. for "lady," write *person*—p. 139. l. 9. for "cured," *relieved*; in line 11. for "was perfectly cured," *considerably relieved*; in line 15. for the "relicks of," *after*; and in line 16. for "he had been confined to his bed," *by which he had been confined*—p. 147. l. 8. for "Stafford," *Stratford*—p. 178. l. 16. for "seemed to have," *seemed to a bystander to have*—p. 285. l. 15. for "edical," *medical*—p. 299. l. 21. for "splenetic maniacal," *splenetic and maniacal*.

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P A R T I.

EXPERIMENTS

WITH

DR. PERKINS'S METALLIC TRACTORS,

AT

COPENHAGEN.

PREFATORY to the following translation of Surgeons Herholdt's and Rafn's work on PERKINISM, it may be proper to observe, that the cases there introduced, having been communicated by medical men, were drawn up in medical language. Indeed there seemed among the writers a greater attachment to technical terms, than is usually met with in similar publications, in this country. With a view of rendering these more intelligible to the

B

common

common class of readers, the plain English language is substituted, and the original Latin terms retained in brackets. In one or two instances, where an uninteresting and tedious detail of a case was given, it was thought proper to abbreviate it, rigidly adhering however to the meaning of the writer.

The critic will undoubtedly observe some of the native German idiom, which, in elegant translations, it is ever an object to avoid. This must not be imputed as a fault of the Translator, Mr. Kampfmüller, who is a man of letters and abilities, but to the Editor's earnest injunction, that more attention be paid to giving the meaning of the original literally, than elegantly. The Editor's remarks, which indeed will only be met with in one or two of the first pages, can readily be distinguished from the translated matter. The title of the work in question is as follows :

VON DEM PERKINISMUS, ODER DEN METALLNAD-
DELN DES D. PERKINS IN NORDAMERIKA, NEBST
AMERI-

AMERIKANISCHEN ZEUGNISSEN, UND VERSUCHEN
KOPENHAGENER AERZTE. HERAUSGEGEBEN VON
DEN HERREN DIVISIONS CHIRURGUS HERHOLDT
UND ASSESSOR RAFN. AUS DEM DANISCHEN UBER-
SETZT UND MIT ANMERKUNGEN BEGLEITET VON
D. JOHANN CLEMENS TODE, DER ARZNEYWISSENS-
CHAFT ORDENTLICHEM PROFESSOR UND KONIG-
LICHEM HOFMEDICUS.

TRANSLATION.

“ ON PERKINISM, OR THE METALLIC TRAC-
TORS (*a*) OF DR. PERKINS OF NORTH AMERICA;
WITH THE AMERICAN TESTIMONIES, AND THE
EXPERIMENTS OF PHYSICIANS AT COPENHAGEN.
PUBLISHED BY M. HERHOLDT, SURGEON OF DI-
VISION, AND M. RAFN, ASSESSOR. TRANSLATED
FROM THE DANISH INTO THE GERMAN, AND
ACCOMPANIED WITH NOTES (*b*), BY DR. JOHN
CLEMENS TODE, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, AND
ROYAL PHYSICIAN. WITH ONE PLATE. COPEN-
HAGEN, PRINTED BY FREDERIC BRUMMER 1798.”

(*a*) This is translated in the German “NADELN,”
but we shall retain the English term TRACTORS.

(*b*) These *Notes* of Dr. TODE are of a very extraor-
dinary nature, and shall be noticed at the close of the
Danish experiments.

The Author regrets that he has not been able to
procure the original Danish edition of Messrs. HER-
HOLDT and RAFN; having only received the German
of Dr. TODE.

Surgeons HERHOLDT and RAFN address the public as follows :

“ Doctor Perkins, of Plainfield, in North America, is the discoverer of a new and singular remedy for pains, inflammations, and many nervous diseases. This remedy we believe is entirely unknown in Europe. As we have been so fortunate as to procure, not only the necessary instruments, but also the pamphlet which Dr. Perkins has published in America, concerning this discovery ; and as several physicians in Copenhagen and its neighbourhood are now repeating his experiments, we conceive an account of it will be acceptable to our readers.”

After describing the shape and appearance of the Tractors, which they exemplify by an engraving, they next proceed to give a translation of the *printed Directions* for using them. Of these, with very great propriety, they complain, as being too concise

cise and insufficient for affording the instruction necessary for a proper comprehension of the diseases, in which this remedy is to be employed, and of the mode of its application. This indeed is much to be regretted, as in the course of their experiments, the Tractors were often used in diseases which have been since expressly pointed out as not subject to their influence; and it is also the more to be lamented, as those several characters, who carried on this enquiry, possessed in so eminent a degree the abilities as well as candour requisite for an impartial investigation. Possessed of proper documents, they would have been much more competent for coming to just conclusions on the merits of the practice.

The success which attended their experiments, notwithstanding these embarrassments, may give some idea of what would have been the result, had they been provided with the *necessary instructions*.

tions. The Directions which they received were the same which the discoverer made public on first announcing the Tractors in America; and as his practice at that early period was quite in its infancy, it could not be expected that so ample and complete instruction should then be given, as after it had met with a more extensive and varied experiment. It is proper to mention this, as it will appear hereafter that the failure of success in several of their experiments was owing to a want of due information on this subject. Examples of these, together with such other remarks as are thought important, will be seen in Notes.

After introducing the whole of the American pamphlet, Messrs. HERHOLDT and RAFN preface the Danish experiments with the following remarks; acquainting the public by what means the Tractors became known at Copenhagen:

“ The

“ The lady of Major OXHOLM, having been lately in America, had seen and heard much of the great effects of PERKINISM (c). Influenced by a most benevolent disposition, she brought these Tractors and the pamphlet with her to Europe, with a laudable desire of extending their utility to her suffering countrymen. My friend FREDERIC SNIDER, hearing of this circumstance, and being in the habit of communicating to me [HERHOLDT] every thing which occurs to him that is interesting to science, obtained permission of the Major’s lady to acquaint me with this discovery, and to supply me with the Metallic Tractors. For this favour we acknowledge great obligations, not only on our own part, but also in behalf of science.”

(c) On the first mention of the term PERKINISM in the Danish pamphlet, M. HERHOLDT has this note: “ *Ad modum Galvanismum,*” viz. That like GALVANISM, the term is derived from the name of the DISCOVERER.

PROCEEDINGS IN CONSEQUENCE.

“ Having perused the testimonies respecting the efficacy of the Metallic Tractors, and having seen it confirmed by so great a number of characters worthy of credit, some of whom are known to us, as enlightened physicians and of great reputation, it was natural that this should awaken in us a desire of trying the experiments. The impotency of medicine in most of the diseases mentioned, and the reflection that PERKINISM was neither troublesome, or a very costly remedy, and that it did not occasion the least inconvenience, but on the contrary was said to afford relief “ *cito, tuto, et jucunde,*” were all motives to increase this desire. This induced us to inform our practising physicians of the contents of the pamphlet, to engage them to procure the Tractors, and to try their efficacy. Here follows the result of the experiments, so far as they have been communicated to us, and made by ourselves.”

E X T R A C T
OF THE
REPORT OF EXPERIMENTS,
Made in the Course of February 1798, in the SURGEONS SIDE of
FREDERIC'S HOSPITAL,
WITH THE
TRACTORS,
AND VARIOUS OTHER METALS, AS
SILVER, LEAD, BISMUTH, ZINK, BRASS, IRON, AND COPPER.

Communicated by SCHUMACHER,
Professor and Surgeon of the Hospital. March 8th, 1798.

A.

CASE I.

TOFTEGAARD, aged 31, lying in the sick room, letter I, had, on the 13th February, an acute pain in the right knee. All these several metals, except the Tractors, were applied. On the application of some of them he felt a burning pain to the
toes,

toes, and afterwards relief. The points of ebony and ivory were tried; no such heat was perceived here. During the application there seemed some mitigation of pain, but it immediately returned. The metals were used again, and afforded evident relief; and on being repeated daily, until the present 8th of March, (23 days) the disease is almost entirely gone.

CASE II.

JENS LYNGE, also in let. I, aged 32, had a *white swelling* [fungus articuli] in his right knee, accompanied with continual pain, which at intervals was very severe. The 24th of February, when the pain had been for some time very violent, these metals were applied, and they produced a burning heat from the knee all the way down the *bone of the leg* [tibia]. The applications were repeated about ten days, and considerable benefit was obtained,

CASE III.

JOHN BOMGARDEN, also in let. I, aged 32, had a *stiffness in his right knee attended with some pain*. The experiments with the metals were begun on the 15th of February, and continued to the 28th, when the pain and stiffness had very much diminished.

CASE IV.

JOACHIM, in let. G, aged 52, had been for some time afflicted with the *gout in his left arm*. He was PERKINISED with the Metallic Tractors which came from America. During their application the pain very much diminished, and he recovered.

CASE V.

ELIZABETH, in let. C, aged 10, had *pains in the left side of the head*, from a blow she had received five years ago, and
beside,

beside, an *inflammation in the left eye*. The metal bismuth was twice applied, after which the watering in the eye increased, but she could with more ease look at the light, and the pain in the head was less. The Tractors were used, and the pain in the head ceased entirely, and has not returned since.

CASE VI.

GODFREY, in let. B, aged 40, had for some weeks a considerable *swelling* [ganglion] *on the great process* [trochanter] *of his right thigh*, which was accompanied with a pain that extended from the hip nerve [nervus ischiaticus] down to the leg. On the 2d of February, the Metallic Tractors from America were applied. During their application he felt a strong twitching in the muscles; the pain increased with burning, which lasted about two hours, after which it became easy. Various other compositions of metals, as lead, zink, and bismuth, were then tried. These produced
some

some effect, but the twitching was not as before observed. On the 12th, the Tractors were repeated, during which the pain, as formerly, increased, with burning, and continued near two hours and a half. The usual pains afterwards were diminished remarkably, and they left the patient entirely in a couple of days.

CASE VII.

PETER ALSING, in let. B, aged 71, had a *violent pain in the region of his right elbow*. Silver and zink were tried upon him without much benefit.

CASE VIII.

SIDZE, in let. E, aged 25, had a [Pterygium inflammatorium] *an inflamed film on the left eye, with pains in the face, but more particularly in her head*. The various metals before mentioned were applied, from some of which she experienced benefit. On a trial of the points of ivory (*d*) and ebony,

(*d*) The opposers of the Tractors in America, at first asserted, that their effects were ascribable to the

ebony, the eye was for a moment easier, but soon it *swelled*, which was not observed on the application of the metals.

imagination; but on ascertaining that infants and persons in epileptic fits, where no imagination existed, were alike relieved, then it was said they were owing to the *mechanical irritation* of the points of the instruments. Relief they urged could be given by unconducting substances, as pointed ivory, &c. This mode of explanation proved equally erroneous; for, on enquiry, these patients were always found to be weak-minded and credulous, and their complaints of a nature that could not afford *ocular proof* of an alteration. On trying such pointed substances in acute inflammations, as in erysipelas, burns, scalds, inflammations of the eyes, &c. it was found that the disease, instead of being diminished, was increased. As in the inflamed eye above, the patient might be induced to say it was for a moment easier, yet the parts soon swelled, and became worse from their irritation. Thus the pains in the knee also, in Case I., (a) is said to have been mitigated, but it soon returned, and was afterwards cured by the metals. The influence of fear is well known from the common occurrence of the

(a) This case has been inaccurately stated by a very respectable literary Journal in this country, from an error in translating; and though it was corrected among the *errata* in the number for the next month, it has several times been quoted. Instead of stating that the pain soon returned in the knee, and was afterwards cured by the metals, it said "the ivory points cured the knee."

CASE IX.

LUIS PAULSEN, in let. S. S, aged 38, had a violent pain in the left side and the back part of his head. He was PERKINISED with the Tractors only once, and the pain ceased, though some soreness remained a short time afterwards.

cessation of pain in a tooth, when the terrific instrument for extracting it is presented to the view of the *alarmed sufferer*. This, however, is only observed in complaints unattended with acute external inflammation; when, therefore, experiments are made to ascertain this point, they should not be tried on pains which may be *frightened away*, but in *real inflammatory diseases*.

B.

EXPERIMENTS OF M. KLINBERG.

CASE I.

A lady, 36 years of age, had been, during four weeks, afflicted by a *most violent rheumatic pain* [malum ischiaticum accutum] *in her left hip*, and extending to the thigh of the same side. Mercurials mended her situation so far, that she was not exercised with very great pains, except when she moved her knee or attempted to walk. She was therefore obliged to keep all the lower extremity extended without moving. As the stiffness had continued for some weeks, notwithstanding the above remedies, I was curious to see the effects of PERKINISM: I made the first experiment on the 2d of March in the evening. During the application she did not perceive any alteration, but a quarter of an hour afterwards a very violent pain seized her

her

her, all over her leg and foot. In this situation she remained the whole night, and the pain by paroxysms affected all the lower extremity on the right side.

The next day, on their application, the pain ceased a little, and the stiffness in the hip, had, according to the patient's declaration, something diminished. 4th, her night had been comfortable: PERKINISM was applied in the evening, after which she had again an attack of pain, but not so violent as the last. It was remarkable, that the pain drew this time towards the arms and back, where, during all her sickness, she had never felt any.

The 5th, they diminished the pains again, and the stiffness in the hip was now remarkably lessened. PERKINISM was applied the following days until the 8th, morning and evening, without any considerable alteration, except that immediately after the application she felt an

acute pain in different parts of the body, which however went off in a couple of hours. The former stiffness, on the contrary, is now almost entirely gone, so much that she can tread upon the ground, and even walk some steps, which she had not been able to do for nine weeks before (*e*).

(Signed)

W. KLINGBERG,

Surgeon of Reserve in the Navy,
and Candidate at Frederic's
Hospital.

9th March 1798.

(*e*) The Tractors in this case, and indeed in all others of pains in the hip, should have been extended quite to the toes. So long a time would not have been necessary for giving that relief which was obtained, and the pains would not have thus scattered about the body, had they been conducted off at the extremity.

C.

MR. STEFFENS'S EXPERIMENTS.

Agreeably to your request, I send you an account of the effects I have seen of PERKINISM. I have employed it upon some without material benefit; with others, on the contrary, the pain was instantaneously removed. Three cases are particularly remarkable.

CASE I.

A man, who for some time had been afflicted with *flying gouty pains*, was PERKINISED for a *hip gout* [malum ischiaticum] with which he had been afflicted for some weeks. I conducted the points of the Tractors from the large process of the thigh bone [trocanter major] to the large muscle on the rump [musculus glutæus]. When I had given about fifty strokes, he felt the pain where the Tractors terminated. I then continued them from that place downwards, and soon after he was seized with a pain in the *upper part of the foot* [tarsus] of

the same leg, where, at different times, he had felt uneasiness before he was attacked with the *hip gout*. He was no further operated upon the first day, but they have been daily used on him since, and the pain was always alleviated for a couple of hours (*f*).

CASE II.

I applied the Tractors to a lady for a migraine, as it is called, or *nervous headache*, from the temple to the angle of the lower jaw: the migraine ceased, but she felt some pain in the lower jaw the whole day.

CASE III.

PROFESSOR SCHUMACHER applied the Tractors upon myself for a *nervous headache*. I will therefore, as well as I can, describe to you my sensations during the operation, and the effects I felt from it.

(*f*) Here again a permanent cure was not effected, in consequence of the Tractors not having been conducted quite to the extremity.

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The Professor conducted the Tractors from the temple to the hinder part of the head ; after some minutes, it seemed to me as if the pain spread over the whole head. It centered afterwards in the frontal region ; on applying the Tractors there, it changed into a heavy pain over both eyes, and in a quarter of an hour it entirely left me.

I have applied PERKINISM for the *tooth-ache* (g) to patients, which constantly relieved them, yet only for a time. All felt pain on the spot where the strokes ceased. I have not had opportunity for making many experiments, but if I should discover more remarkable effects from this operation, I certainly will not omit to inform you of them.

(Signed) N. C. B. STEFFENS,

Candidate to the Frederic's
Hospital.

Frederic's Hospital,
March 9th 1798.

(g) These, in all probability, were *carious* or *decayed*.
Perfect cures of them must never be expected.

D.

EXPERIMENTS MADE WITH PERKINISM,
ON THE PHYSICIANS SIDE OF FRE-
DERIC'S HOSPITAL.

CASE I.

JENS, a peasant lad from the country, aged 23, was received into the hospital on 25th of November 1797. He had for nine months *flying gouty pains* in all his limbs. Different remedies for the gout were made use of in vain ; but during the use of mercurials the pains ceased, yet came again afterwards, and fixed particularly in his loins. PERKINISM was tried at different times with success. The patient was dismissed from the hospital on the 3d of March, and advised to continue the use of the Tractors.

CASE II.

B——, aged 32, had felt for about fifteen months *gouty pains*, which, at his reception into the hospital, principally affected one knee and the back. To both places PERKINISM was applied. An insupportable cold sensation in the back prohibited a further use there; the patient, on the contrary, felt a considerable heat in the knee, after which the pain in a moment ceased, and was partly felt in the opposite foot. The experiments were twice repeated there, but as the pain very soon returned they were given up. It has been discovered since that a *syphilitic affection (h)* was at the bottom of his complaints.

(h) The Tractors have often given temporary ease in those *old syphilitic or venereal affections*, but never any permanent benefit. See this particularly mentioned in the printed Directions which attend the Tractors, and in my former publication on “The Influence of Metallic Tractors.”—Published by JOHNSON, St. Paul’s Church-yard.

CASE III.

MARIA, aged 29, had for more than a year *gouty pains*, which were increased at night, and a *preternatural excrescence* [exostoses] on both shins. After having applied, in the course of four weeks, mercurials, internally and externally, and at last the *hunger cure* (*i*), the pain confined itself solely to the exostosis in the shins, where it was almost insupportable. PERKINISM was tried, and during the operation the pain was considerably increased, but ceased almost entirely, half an hour after. The experiment has been repeated four times with the same success, and also a great abatement of the exostosis.

(*i*) " I am not acquainted with this HUNGERKUR, but presume it is some system of starvation in use in Copenhagen; as it has been asserted formerly, that a strict adherence to a plan of this kind would cure the venereal disease." Translator.

CASE IV.

ANN, aged 26, after a *paralytic weakness* (*k*) in the right and left leg, felt a considerable pain both in the right and left foot. In both parts, during the application of the Tractors, the pains ceased, but as they increased very much after their use, which was thrice repeated, a further trial was given up.

CASE V.

Lieutenant VON HAGERDORN, aged 34, came into the hospital the 15th of September with a pain in his right knee, which, as the patient said, originated from a violent cold. The pain extended after-

(*k*) This belongs to a class of diseases which is pointed out in the Tract on "The Influence of Metallic Tractors," as deriving no benefit from the metallic practice. Those pains that arise from a diminution of the nervous energy, or are founded in debility, will obtain no relief from this application.

wards

wards up to the hip, and then to the other knee. Different remedies for the gout, and also the hunger cure, were employed, as it appeared, with a little amendment. The Tractors were applied five times, and at first it seemed with a little diminution of pain, but afterwards without any apparent benefit (1).

(1) Throughout the whole of the Danish experiments, there is not, in any one instance, mention made of their previous caution to have the parts thoroughly cleansed from *oily* and *greasy substances*, which, in diseases of this nature, are so frequently employed in the form of *embrocations, calaplasms, plaisters, &c. &c.* In this particular case, it appears that various remedies for the gout were employed; and if the Tractors were used at the same time, which was no doubt the fact, the parts must have been in a very improper state for receiving the metallic application. If the disease, as the patient supposed, arose from cold, and if there was no *serophulous taint* or *venereal infection* in the constitution, which the using of the *hunger cure* leave a suspicion that the physician thought there might be, and all extraneous substances had been removed, so that the Tractors could have met with a fair experiment, I most certainly should have expected success in this case. For the obstacles which *oil* presents in giving relief by the Tractors, see the pamphlet, "Influence of Metallic Tractors," page 21, and the printed Directions for using them.

CASE VI.

SOREN, aged 40, had a *sciatica* in his left hip, which had continued twelve days. PERKINISM was twice tried, after which the pain, and particularly during the operation, dispersed; but as the parts were extremely tender, it was not continued.

CASE VII.

JOSEPH, aged 49, came into the hospital the 10th of February. He had *violent pains in the left hip*, which extended all over the exterior part of the leg and thigh, and were so insupportable, that the patient could not put his foot on the ground. They always increased at night; but the first cause of his illness he ascribed to an effort in lifting.

Without

Without employing any other remedy (*m*), the Tractors were tried. From the commencement of the experiments, the patient was eased; and with the constant daily use, the pain at last disappeared entirely in the hip, and descended to the leg and foot, where, according to his declaration, it continues to diminish so far that he can very well walk about. The places in the hip and the thigh, which the Tractors touched, turned quite white, and with this change of colour the pain went off.

CASE VIII.

GODFREY, aged 40, came the 21st of February into the hospital. This patient had been before under the care of Professor SCHUMACHER during two months and a half; but at last, on trying the Tractors, he was, according to his own

(*m*) Here no *oily* or *greasy* applications were at the same time used, which could counteract the influence of the Tractors.

account,

account, entirely cured. On this he left the hospital; but two days after he was attacked more violently than before. On examining, we found a *node (n)* on the trochanter major, which the patient said had come again after it was almost entirely gone: we have notwithstanding continued the use of the Tractors daily, but found no benefit.

C A S E IX.

WENGSTEEN, aged 36, had, for almost a whole year, ~~gentle~~ *pains* from a *syphilitic* cause. After having undergone the *hunger cure* for about eleven weeks, the pain fixed in his left shoulder and arm, where it rendered motion extremely difficult. He had made use of a

(*n*) Thus we see how liable the Tractors are to be brought into discredit, by not paying a proper attention to the kinds of diseases for which they are recommended. Had not Dr. BANG discovered this mark of old venereal infection, the disease would have been called *rheumatism*, and in consequence been considered a fair case.

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vapour bath at different times. The Tractors have now been five times applied, but the patient cannot decidedly say whether the experiments (*o*) have contributed any to diminish the pain and stiffness.

C A S E X.

BOLLE, aged 53, came into the hospital on the 12th of January, with pains in all his limbs, which he had suffered for eight days. At the end of a month the pains settled principally in the right knee, and the ball of the left foot.

The Tractors were twice applied. The pain during the operation grew less; but returning soon after, and the patient being fatigued, asked to have blisters applied; so they were not repeated (*p*).

(*o*) No doubt they have not; and had they been continued until this time, as the disease had its origin in the *venereal*, no benefit should have been expected.

(*p*) If no oily applications were at the same time employed in this case, a frequent use of the Tractors would no doubt have cured the disease.

CASE XI.

CHRISTIANA, aged 20, came into the hospital on the 14th of February. She had been severely afflicted with violent pains in her left knee. PERKINISM was tried three times, but the pain increasing (*q*) during each application, it was not continued.

(Signed) F. L. BANG, M. D.

Professor and first Physician in the
Frederic's Hospital.

Copenhagen,
March the 13th, 1798.

(*q*) I have very seldom met with an instance, where an increase of pain took place on the diseased part during the time of the operation, but that on a *proper* application of the Tractors a cure was eventually effected. In these cases, particularly, the Tractors, should be carried away to a considerable distance from the part affected, and the application should be very frequently made.

We have here an opportunity of noticing a very egregious error throughout these Danish experiments. Among all their cases, there is mention made of only two instances in which the Tractors were applied more than once a day; whereas they should be used, in all fixed pains, at least three times, and continued for a week or more.

This

This circumstance is particularly interesting to hospital practice with the Tractors, where the great number of sick persons renders it extremely difficult for the surgeon or attendants, to bestow that time and attention to each patient which is so easily done in private families. It is no great task for a nurse or valet in a family to devote half an hour, three times a day, to making the application; but this cannot be accomplished in an hospital, unless it possesses many sets of the Tractors, and these placed in the hands of the patients to practise on each other. Some of the hospitals in America have provided themselves with several sets for that purpose.

E.

EXPERIMENTS (r) COMMUNICATED BY
MR. BLEEK.

CASE I.

A lady, aged 36, who had for many years been afflicted with a *periodical pain in one side of the head* [hemicrania] which attacked

(r) We shall now be presented with some experiments, not made on hospital patients, and which in consequence are every way far more satisfactory. Patients of respectability, who are attended in private practice, are more to be depended upon, and are much fairer subjects for experiment than the poor miserable objects which usually compose the sick in an hospital. These are generally persons of whose character and course of life the physician has no knowledge, and who often are afflicted with complicated maladies; which it is impossible for the most skilful of the faculty to understand. Whoever has been in the habit of examining these patients, on their admission into an hospital, need not be informed how extremely difficult it is to obtain from them a just statement of their cases, and how prone they are to conceal those disorders which are the consequences of *immorality*. To the Metallic practice this fact is particularly interesting,

attacked her weekly, and usually continuing for some days, desired me to try Dr. PERKINS's Tractors. I complied with her request, and to my great astonishment, in the space of five minutes all pain was gone. During the operation, I observed that her pulse beat faster than usual, her hands, which were always cold, grew hot, red, and swelled, and began to perspire to such a degree, that drops hung upon the points of her fingers. She has to this day, which is three weeks since the operation, not felt the least symptom of pain, which before tormented her so constantly.

as a very great proportion of pains which are often called rheumatisms, and treated as such in *military hospitals* especially, have their origin (as appeared in many of the experiments last communicated, and as must also have been observed by every experienced practitioner) in *sypilitic affections*.

In these cases also of Surgeon BLEEK, it does not appear that any other applications were at the same time employed, so that no extraneous matter could have been present to counteract the usual influence of the Tractors.

CASE II.

Another lady, aged 17, I cured of a rheumatic tooth-ache by the same operation. During the application, various red spots of different forms and sizes shewed themselves suddenly on the neck. She has not felt any return this last fortnight, though before she had every week many sleepless nights occasioned by this pain.

CASE III.

The mistress of an eating-house, upwards of 30 years of age, for the term of two months had never been a day entirely free of a *partial head-ache* [hemicrania]. It became at length so violent, that each attack occasioned a kind of convulsive twitching in the neck and arm of the same side. I applied the Tractors; the pain ceased in five minutes, and has not returned. It is now a fortnight since the operation.

CASE IV.

An old goldsmith had been afflicted for many years with a violent gouty headache, which never left him, notwithstanding the application of the most approved remedies. I applied the Tractors of Dr. PERKINS. The pain moved during the operation from the forehead and the temples to the lower jaw ; when I afterwards drew the Tractors over this part, the pain disappeared entirely in the space of ten minutes, so that only a heaviness in the head remained. Three days afterwards, when I visited him again, he was quite free of the head-ache.

(Signed) BLEEK,

Surgeon and Assistant to
Professor TONE.

F.

EXPERIMENT COMMUNICATED BY
MR. HAHN.

CASE I.

An elderly lady had, for about eight days, suffered much from *rheumatic pains* in both her shoulders. By my prescription, Dr. PERKINS'S Metallic Tractors were applied to her by a girl, and the pain was so much lessened, that she has not since required any medicine.

(Signed) HAHN,

Surgeon of Division.

REMARKS ON THE THEORY OF
PERKINISM.

Communicated to Surgeon HERHOLDT, by Professor
ABILDGAARD.

You wish for an account of my experiments with Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors. Those which I have hitherto had time and opportunity to make, are so few in number, and so little instructive, that they scarce deserve to be noticed. I shall therefore first communicate to you my thoughts on the physical importance of this discovery, and the reasons which determined me, on becoming acquainted with its merits, to consider it as a subject deserving a fair investigation; and not to be rejected, because we cannot immediately see the connexion between the cause and effect in this operation.

But not to be misled by too great zeal for every thing which may contribute to the improvement of human knowledge, and
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particularly to that which enables us to alleviate the pains and diseases of suffering humanity, we ought (s) not yet to be too confident in our belief that Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors, considered as medical remedies, will acquire that great and important value; or whether they will possess the merit of being much more than a palliative to diseases. But even if we consider this discovery merely in a philosophical view, it deserves the thorough attention of medical men, and particularly that of physiologists.

It is singular, that in physic many remedies are daily employed, the good effect of which is no otherwise warranted, than that they have not *hindered* the cure of the patient; and though it is notorious, that in

(s) We cannot suppose that the Professor, by this observation, meant to convey the idea, that in order to a proper investigation of a new doctrine, one should absolutely be prejudiced against it; but only that some caution is necessary, that we do not subscribe to its merits before they are thoroughly proved.

many diseases the sum of twenty or thirty rix-dollars is often expended for *medicines*, which altogether have not so much effect upon the human body as one *good dinner*; and that though we scarce know the true physical cause of the effect of one of the thousand remedies which are employed, yet we are in general so unreasonable as to use new medicines, solely because they agree, either in reality or imagination, in some measure with those hitherto known (*t*).

As we are accustomed to employ *roots, herbs, salts, &c.* as remedies, nothing more is required to put all the physicians of Eu-

(*t*) It is a very common thing for some medical men, to affect not to employ any remedies in their practice, unless they understand their *modus operandi*; when at the same time, as Professor ABILDGAARD justly observes, the manner of the action of a great proportion of medicines in daily use is totally unknown. As satisfactory an explanation can be given of the physical operation of the Tractors in removing pains, as of *mercury* in curing the *sypphilis*, &c.; and yet many will reject the former, even in opposition to facts, because they cannot comprehend the *theory* of their action!

rope in motion, than that a new root, herb, or salt be recommended, as particularly efficacious in some disease; and yet repeated experience teaches, that very little would be lost if all the new remedies of *that kind*, which have come into use these last thirty years, had remained unknown.

These considerations, however, carry me beyond what I proposed at the present time; I shall therefore stop, and communicate to you, in a few words, my thoughts on the physical effect of Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors on the animal body.

It is known, that all bodies which evaporate become electrified, generally negatively, but sometimes positively; and that the vapour is in the first case positively, and in the last negatively electrified; consequently it must be the same with the animal body, where the exhalation is constant, though, for well known reasons, it
cannot

cannot be observed, but by artificial and very nice experiments.

Hence it follows, that if a person holds the point of a Metallic Tractor against the surface of the body of another person, and they are both at that moment either negatively or positively electrified, no effect is produced; but if they have electricities opposite to one another, then the electricities will be either removed or diminished in both, and therefore in both an alteration will happen.

Now suppose, for example, that a person who has the gout in a part of his body, through a want of perspiration in that part, it becomes positively electrified, while in the mean time the other perspiring parts of the body are negatively electrified; it follows, that this diseased part would have its equilibrium of electricity restored, by means of the distribution of the negative electricity in the body to the positive,
which

which is the part diseased: or, supposing the negative electricity of the body had so much intensity that it could communicate its overplus to the diseased part, the gout would probably be removed.

Supposing, again, that a person in health, who is negatively electrified, holds the point of a Tractor towards this diseased part, which was just said to have its equilibrium of electricity restored, yet, without touching it, he will by this excite positive electricity in the diseased part; but if he touches the part with the Tractor, he will communicate to it his own negative electricity, and thus in both cases excite electricity in the part diseased. This is in brief my opinion of the matter.

Against this explanation of the cause of the effects of Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors may be objected, that as the animal body is a conductor, it could not become electrical unless it was insulated: but against
this

this objection I shall only alledge three phenomena, which are partly known, and partly very easy to try, and which invalidate entirely this objection.

One is, that in water itself, which is an excellent conductor, electrical fish can produce very strong electrical shocks.

The second is, that in the Galvanic experiments, where two pieces of metals are put upon a naked muscle, no effect is produced until these two pieces of metal either touch one another immediately, or are brought into conjunction with a fourth conductor. Here the animal body is not a sufficient conductor.

The third instance is, where a piece of zink is put upon one surface of the tongue, and a piece of gold or silver on the other, and brought either immediately into contact with one another, or through the medium of a third metal, the strong electrical

cal

cal taste, as known, is perceived on the tongue ; but, on the contrary, if the finger be used as a conductor between the two metals, the electrical taste is not perceived, even if the finger be wet.

I have besides made another experiment, which deserves to be remarked, and which proves, that Dr. PERKINS's Tractors, even in consequence of their *form*, act differently from metals of any other shape. If in the known experiment to excite a flash in the eye, by putting a *plate* of zink between the cheek and teeth, on one side of the mouth, and a silver or gold *plate* on the other, and bringing them into immediate contact, you make use of zink of the *shape of a Tractor* on one side, and one of gold or silver on the other, instead of the *plates*, and bring them into contact, no flash is produced. It is also the same when you bring two plates into contact with one another, by means of the *Metallic Tractors*.—If, on the contrary, you employ for the experiment a

plate

plate of zink on one side of the mouth, and a gold, silver, or iron, of the shape of a *TraCTOR*, on the other, and bring them into contact, only a very slight flash is perceived.

It is evident how much knowledge we still require to be able to determine, what in each given case can and must happen in regard to the change of electricity in the human body. Too little attention has hitherto been paid to the important part which electricity acts in the animal œconomy. It is undoubtedly possible to obtain, by suitable experiments, more light on this interesting subject; but for this purpose another *SONTORINUS* is necessary. Among many other things, one would, without doubt, also learn, that our beds have an effect upon the body, which is not indifferent, and which has not hitherto been duly considered. They have an influence on the functions of the body, not only in so far as they keep it more or less warm, but

even in regard to electricity. He who sleeps or rests on a feather-bed, or hair-mattress, is in an insulated state, if the bed and linen are perfectly dry: the contrary takes place if they are damp.

Here follow my Experiments with Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors.

I.

If the point of these Tractors is held towards the tongue of different persons, yet without touching it, they generally declare they feel a partly sour and partly metallic taste.

II.

In passing the point of the Tractors over the face of different persons, without touching them, some feel a kind of crawling, others a prickling sensation, and some are not acted upon at all.

III. I di-

III.

I directed the point of the Tractors towards different parts of the face of a lady of a very irritable habit, whose eyes were blinded, and she could always tell me near which part of the face the Tractor was. Two others, of less sensibility on whom I made the same experiment, did not so distinctly perceive this effect.

IV.

I am subject to a pain in the knees, after sitting still for a long time. I have three times removed this pain, first from one, and then from the other knee, by sticking Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors through the breeches, one on each side of the knee, so that the points touched the skin.

V.

A married lady, aged 29, who had been the whole winter subject to *rheumatic pains* in the head, and tried different remedies
without

without success, begged me to try the *sticks*, as she called them. I held the iron coloured Tractor, without touching her, towards the temples, where she then felt the pain, and after some minutes she assured me, with great joy, that it was gone; yet a quarter of an hour after she felt it in the eye of the same side. I moved the point of the Tractor only for a minute over the eye, when that was also gone.—Later in the evening she complained however again of some pain in the temples, but in a much less degree.—The next day she still felt some remains of it, and wanted to try again the effect of the Tractors. They were now drawn over in contact with the part, and it ceased.—Four days have since passed, and she has been mostly (*u*) free from pain, and only had sensations of it in a much slighter degree than formerly.

(*u*) She no doubt would have been *entirely* free, if the experiment had been *repeated* agreeably to the directions.

E

I have

I have applied the Tractors, in two cases, for the tooth - ache, where the gums were swoln (*x*), without much benefit (*y*).

(Signed)

P. C. ABILDGAARD, M. D.

Professor and first Lecturer at the
Veterinary College.

(*x*) The Tractors have very seldom given relief to what are usually called "*gum boils*."

(*y*) Electricity and Galvanism are now just enough involved in mystery to afford an ingenious theorist an ample field for expatiating on the principle of this metallic operation. Much more, I apprehend, might be advanced in support of this theory, the outlines of which the learned Professor has here communicated, and some objections also, no doubt, might be suggested.

As theories, on almost every operation in nature, are generally as various as the individuals who give them, I shall at present confine myself to what I conceive of more importance, viz. to *establish the facts*, and leave it with the philosophic reader to gratify himself with *theorising* as much as he pleases. While facts remain, it is hoped that some few may be found, who allow the metallic practice to possess a *little merit*, if the principle of its operation is not yet thoroughly developed.

H.

SURGEON RAFN'S EXPERIMENTS.

Among the various experiments I have made in PERKINISM, one on my own person is very satisfactory.—After having been three days tormented with a *rheumatic pain in my back*, which daily increased in violence, I determined to try the effects of Dr. PERKINS'S Metallic Tractors. The application was made in a room of the temperature of between ten and twelve degrees of Reaumur, and at a time when my pain was very violent. After having operated with them for five or six minutes, partly with each of the Tractors alternately, and partly with both at once, the pain disappeared entirely, and I have not felt any since.

This rheumatic pain produced a sensation like a contraction in the cellular membrane. I could observe at each stroke of the Tractors a kind of relaxation and yielding in the places where they touched. I did not perceive the usual burning, but only a titillation from their irritation. The skin, however, grew red, and much warmer than the other parts of my body, yet without sweat. I neglected to observe the degree of heat by the thermometer.

Three weeks after I repeated the same operation for as long a time, and on the same place, which was quite well, and free from pain. The skin neither grew red, or warmer, nor did I feel that relaxation in the cellular membrane, which I observed on the first trial. The pain also, in the former experiment, became evidently greater in the place where each stroke of the Tractor terminated, but in this case nothing of that kind was observed. Other persons, on whom I have applied

applied the Tractors, have had the same sensations (z).

I have also employed PERKINISM with success in *gouty* and *nervous head-aches*. In *rheumatic tooth-ache* the Tractors gave no relief in my hands. I must, however, observe, that the patients have seldom had the patience to subject themselves to the operation for more than two or three minutes (a).

Against

(z) This takes place in most cases of acute pain. In whatever course the Tractor is drawn, the pain usually follows. This first suggested the propriety of conducting them from the more vital parts towards the extremities.

(a) This is a circumstance which very much interests the metallic practice, and which might be enlarged upon with much advantage to those who are in possession of the Tractors.

In consequence of relief having, in many instances, been obtained in a very few minutes, most persons have an idea, that no benefit is to be expected from extending the time of their application: but this is an egregious error. Daily experience teaches the necessity of continuing their use at least half an hour; and in fixed

Against deafness (*b*) and ringing in the ears, I have not been able to produce any effect with the Tractors.

(Signed)

CHARLES GODLOB RAFN,

Affessor General in the Economical
and Commercial College.

diseases of any duration, they ought to be employed not less than three times in the day. This fact I have, perhaps, not urged sufficiently in the Directions which I have published in this country for using the Tractors.

The extremely simple appearance of the Tractors, will often at first view excite the disgust of the patient; and from having no confidence in their efficacy, he will consequently seldom be disposed to give them a faithful trial. As the operation is *very innocent*, it should seem that, on a moment's reflection, one might devote a little time to a remedy, which, as far as testimony in its favour can recommend, presents a fair prospect of affording relief.

(*b*) No benefit may be expected from the Metallic Tractors for *deafness*, or *ringing in the ears*, unless these complaints are accompanied with *pain*.—There is no mention of any pain in this case.

I.

SURGEON HERHOLDT'S EXPERIMENTS.

From the trials I have made, I find PERKINISM, like all other remedies, is indeterminate and relative in its effects. I have often seen the Metallic Tractors alleviate and remove *inflammatory, rheumatic, and gouty pains*. In similar diseases and similar subjects, they have very often not produced any benefit; for as the pains in these cases increased (*c*) from their operation,

(*c*) Numerous instances of this kind occur, in which the Tractors are laid aside, from a supposition that they are doing no service, when at the same time this very action on the disease is a sign that the application is taking effect, and if sufficiently persisted in, will terminate the complaint. It is, however, not surprising that patients, entirely unacquainted with the effects of so new and so singular a remedy, should be alarmed at any little temporary increase of their pains,

tion, the patients would not suffer a continuance of the remedy.

Nusquam tuta fides. The practical physician, in the present state of our experience, cannot *with certainty* (d) predict the event of every application. A circumstance favourable to PERKINISM is, that if it is

and prefer resorting to remedies whose effects have been longer known.

Surgeon Herholdt, however, as appears from what he afterwards observes, discovered that the Tractors could do no injury to the patient, if they rendered him no service.

(d) It has never been pretended that the metallic practice, unlike every other remedy, is an *infallible specific*. Enough is known of the obstinacy of many diseases to render even such a suggestion ridiculous. Indeed the reports, which M. Herholdt and the other Danish experimenters have made, considering the embarrassments under which they laboured, for want of the necessary instructions for using the Tractors, are as favourable as might rationally have been expected. Had they known the obstacles which *oily* and *other extraneous applications* present to obtaining relief with the Tractors, and indeed had they been possessed of more complete Directions, a greater number of their experiments would, no doubt, have been attended with success.

not attended with success, it appears to be incapable of doing harm.

I shall quote of many only a few experiments.

C A S E I.

A girl, about 19 years of age, had for some days a *fixed gouty pain in the hand and fingers*. I applied the Tractors. In a quarter of an hour the pain was gone, and the fingers as pliable as her other hand. She sat immediately down to sewing, and, to the astonishment of many persons, has been able from that time, which is now five weeks since, to use her hand as well as ever.

C A S E II.

A feeble (*e*) sickly lady, about 30 years of age,

(*e*) We have had occasion to notice in the preceding pages, that benefit is not often to be expected in cases of this description.

Pains, accompanied with debility, or a diminution of nervous energy, and more especially *constitutional weaknesses*, are not suitable subjects for this operation.

age, had a *flying pain in both hands*. PERKINISM was applied four times by different physicians, but she found no amendment.

CASE III.

A girl, 19 years of age, *burnt* her fore arm so that a blister had risen, attended with an *erysipelatous tumefaction*, which extended as far as the elbow. The slightest touch of the Tractors caused the most insupportable pain; she could not in consequence be persuaded to make a proper trial of their effects (*f*).

(*f*) It can very easily be conceived, that the part may have been so extremely inflamed by the joint action of both the burn and erysipelas, that the points of the Tractors, drawn immediately over it, would have given very great pain, and probably done more harm than service. But in this case, as in all cuticular inflammations, which are very tender, they should have been drawn round the edges of the affection. After three or four applications in this way, that extreme tenderness would, in all probability,

CASE IV.

A man, 45 years of age, on the 4th of March, in the night, was seized with a fixed pain in the nape of the neck, which would not permit him to move the head. In the morning his wife applied Dr. PERKINS'S Tractors, and in half an hour he was perfectly cured.

CASE V.

Another man, 30 years of age, had a *gonorrhœa*, the discharge from which was checked by bad treatment, and he suffered from a *strangury*. I advised him to draw the Tractors lightly on the skin along the urethra. During the application the matter flowed freely, and in a quarter of an hour the pain very much diminished. He

bility, have been so far removed, that they could have been conducted with advantage *very lightly* over the place most affected.

was afterwards cured of the gonorrhœa by the usual remedies.

[If PERKINISM has no influence in venereal diseases; and if, on the contrary, it appears by various experiments, that it mitigates the symptoms of a common gonorrhœa, this might perhaps be another proof against the identity of those two poisons.]

Besides these experiments, to which I have myself been witness, I am authorized to state, that Dr. J. BANG, Physician at Soroe, with two hundred strokes of the Tractors, has cured, to the joy and astonishment of many, a gentleman of rank, who was afflicted with a *violent gouty pain in his hip.*

(Signed)

J. D. HERHOLDT,
Surgeon of Division.

K.

EXTRACT OF EXPERIMENTS OF PERKIN-
ISM IN THE COMMON HOSPITAL AT
COPENHAGEN.

[Communicated by M. JACOBSON, Surgeon of the Hospital.]

PETER PETERSON, aged 50, had been in the hospital from the 12th of December (about three months) and without any benefit had tried various remedies for *gouty pains* in the right knee, which extended towards the hip. The 24th of March, different metals were tried, as brass, iron, &c. A redness appeared where they touched, which extended to the leg, but the pain did not diminish. They were daily continued to the 2d of April, without benefit.

CASE II.

ANN WOLF, aged 62, on the 23d of March had the erysipelas in the face. She
had

had taken an emetic and a camphire mixture. The Tractors were now applied, and on the first and second experiments there appeared an increase of some of the symptoms, but on continuing the means daily until the 28th (five days) the swelling diminished, so that her eyes were opened, and the skin peeled from her face. She grew so much better, that on the 30th we ceased to apply the Tractors.

CASE III.

JACOB MATTHINSON, aged 30, had *pains in the left shoulder*, particularly in the upper part of the joint, for which various remedies had been applied without success.

March 21st. The Tractors were drawn from the part affected down the shoulder, without alteration.

The 22d. During the operation, the pain drew towards the elbow.

The

The 23d. At evening the pain returned back from the elbow to the shoulder, where, on examining, we found an *enlargement on the left collar-bone* [clavicula].

The 24th. We found a similar though not so large a swelling on the other collar-bone; that on the left shoulder was painful to the touch, but there was no appearance of external inflammation. The Tractors were again applied.

On the 26th, 27th, and 28th, the swellings were without alteration.

29th. As the pain always followed the course of the Tractors towards the elbow, this afternoon they were drawn along the shoulder and fore arm to the hand, when the pain fixed more in the joint of the hand. At night, however, it went back to its old place in the shoulder.

The

The 30th, he felt pains on the right side of the neck. The Tractors were now daily applied to the shoulder, and drawn down as far as the fore arm until the 4th of April. The same symptoms as above mentioned always followed, and no permanent relief was given to the shoulder (g).

From

(g) This case is important on two accounts. It affords us an example of the embarrassments, under which most of the experiments at Copenhagen were made, for want of the necessary instructions for applying the Tractors; and at the same time we have presented to our view, an *undeniable action* of the metals on the disease, although they did not wholly remove it.

The Tractors here, as in all cases of pains in the shoulder, should have been drawn quite to the ends of the fingers, and then the pains would not have stopped at the elbow and joint of the hand, as did regularly take place from their not being extended further than those parts. It is impossible for us to know certainly what this complaint was. If it was a rheumatic affection, and no *oily* or *greasy* application was used at the same time, and if the patient was free from any *scrophulous* or *venereal taint*, I should not have hesitated to declare, that the Tractors, if properly applied, would have cured it. But if there was any defect in the bone, as an exfoliation, the metallic practice could give it no permanent relief, and must have served only as a palliative. From its resist-

ing

We have since applied blistering plaisters to this day, 14th of April [ten days] and he seems to think himself a little better.

CASE IV.

FREDERIC KURSHAGEN, aged 30, had *pains in the left shoulder*, which extended to the elbow, particularly in lifting up the arm. Sometimes also he had pains in the right arm. Various remedies had already been employed without effect, yet during the use of mercurials the pains had somewhat, though very little, diminished.

The 21st of March the Tractors were applied to the *shoulder* without alteration.

22d. The pains in the shoulder decreased a little, and drew more towards the elbow.

ing the various remedies which had been used, from the enlargement being tender to the touch, without displaying external inflammation, and from its attacking the clavicle, which is so often the seat of *syphilitic nodes*, we can scarcely doubt but the disease was something more than a muscular affection.

The 23d and 24th. The pains followed the Tractors as before.

25th. The pains in the shoulder diminished, but those in the elbow increased. He could move his arm better, and indeed raise it, so that he put his hand on the back of his neck, which was impossible for him to accomplish before.

26th. Without further amendment.

27th. In consequence of the pain always drawing after the Tractors towards the elbows, they were, until the 4th of April, continued as far down as the fore arm, the shoulder remaining still the chief seat of the pain; and PERKINISM, not having produced further amendment, was laid aside (*a*).

CASE

(*a*) The same instruction, as it respects the mode of application, can be drawn from this case as from the last. The Tractors were never extended down but a little below the elbow, consequently the pain was not conducted further than that part. This case, from its statement,

CASE V.

GERTRUDE MARY HOJER, aged 63, had *pains in the right eye*, without any particular exterior appearance. The Tractors were applied once on the 29th of March, and the pain was removed. She has been perfectly well to this day, April 14th.

CASE VI.

CHARLOTTE SOPHIA JONES, aged 28, had *pains in the right shoulder*, which extended up to the neck. She had besides an *eruption* on the arms, and afterwards on the face and shoulder.

The 21st of March, the Tractors were applied without alteration.

ment, appears more like a rheumatic affection than the complaint in CASE III. and the application seems to have taken more effect.

22d. They drew the pain towards the elbow. PERKINISM was daily continued until the 4th of April, and no other important benefit was derived than the curing of the eruption on the skin. The pain, some hours after each operation, returned from the elbow back to the shoulder (*b*).

CASE VII.

BARBARA, aged 34, had an *epileptic fit* some years since, on seeing a great fire, with which however she had not been attacked again until the 25th of March, when, in consequence of another fire, which she saw through a window, she was seized a second time. Since this she has had several convulsive fits in the hospital, and which indeed always came on whenever she saw another patient in convulsions.

(*b*) Patients afflicted with pains of this description must never expect to be cured, as we have often had occasion to observe, unless the Tractors are drawn quite to the extremities. We are not told here that no *oily* applications were at the same time used. The curing of the *cuticular inflammation* in this case must however have been a desirable object.

March

March 30th. She complained of a violent [hemicrania] *pain on one side of the head*, and also *a pain in the left armpit*. The Tractors were applied down along her cheek. During the operation she felt a moving of the pain after the Tractors, and it became less violent. In the afternoon the pain had considerably increased, and lasted till midnight, accompanied with a perspiration,

The 31st, the Tractors were applied from the *armpit* down as far as the *fore arm*, because she complained of a very violent pain in that part. She immediately found relief there also. Towards evening again the pains increased (*c*), and were attended

(*c*) Here an egregious error was committed, by not repeating the use of the Tractors at evening, when those severe pains came on. Although she was perfectly cured after three days application, she would not have had occasion to use the Tractors, even the second day, had they been faithfully applied on the first evening, and extended along the arms to the ends of the fingers, and especially to that thumb in which they had caused a numbness.

with a numbness in the thumb, and profuse sweating, after which however she was easier.

The next day, 1st of April, PERKINISM was repeated. The relief then given was permanent, for since that time [fourteen days] she has not complained of the least pain.

To one person attacked with a *very violent epileptic fit*, PERKINISM has been applied without any benefit. The Tractors were used in the following manner, and no visible alterations of the symptoms appeared during the application: Four hundred strokes were given from the head downwards, one hundred with the brass, and one hundred with the iron-coloured Tractors, and the other two hundred with both at once (*d*).

OBSER-

(*d*) There is a species of epileptic fits, in which the Tractors have very seldom produced any benefit. Of this kind is the *epilepsia cerebialis*, or such as attack the
 2 whole

OBSERVATIONS OF THE DANISH EDITORS,
SURGEONS HERHOLDT AND RAFN, ON
PERKINISM, RESULTING FROM THE
FOREGOING EXPERIMENTS.

These are the most important experiments, which to our knowledge have been made in Copenhagen, and the opinions of our first philosophers on this remedy.

The general attention which it attracted, not only of physicians but other characters also conversant in natural history, and the desire we observed in both to obtain a knowledge of the effects the Tractors had produced in America, prompted us to whole body with great violence and very suddenly, without giving any previous *warning* of its approach.

Those, on the contrary, which commence with the *epileptica aura*, or other particular action on some one of the limbs before the whole body is convulsed, will in almost every instance obtain immediate relief, if the Tractors can be soon applied to that part where such symptoms of the approaching fit are perceived.

From the statement of the case above, it is probable, by the violence of the attack, it was of that description in which the Tractors have not often been successful.

publish immediately what we knew of the subject; otherwise we should have waited patiently for the time, when a greater number of experiments, and a more thorough investigation, could have brought the subject to still greater maturity.

Through this early publication, we gain so much at least, that medical men will be better instructed in the manner of using the Tractors; and obtain a hint in what diseases PERKINISM, either in America or Denmark, has been most efficacious; and from these statements they will be enabled to judge with more correctness of the real merits of this remedy.

On the whole, PERKINISM derives an advantage from this, that our experiments have not been made with a view of confirming any favourite theory, or of supporting an invented hypothesis.

We do not find it possible to apply with any justice against PERKINISM, the arguments

guments and doubts which have been raised against MAGNETISM ; for instance, those in M. DAVIDSON'S letter to M. BIESTER, the Librarian at Berlin, against the recent experiments of Dr. PEZOLD, contained in REIL'S Archives of Physiology.

If the experiments at Copenhagen have not all had that complete success which attended those in America, *they have however demonstrated to our satisfaction, that there is a great deal of reality at bottom, and that PERKINISM is of importance to the Physician*; and, as ABILDGAARD has justly observed, “ merits particularly the thorough attention of the Physiologist.”

The Editors next make some desultory observations on the theory of this metallic operation, which they think, all will agree, must be explained on the principles, either of *mechanical stimulus, electricity, galvanism, or imagination*; but that from the infant state of the practice, the *modus operandi* is not yet *completely* developed.

They

They however remark, that “ the observations which PROFESSOR ABILDGAARD has communicated, induce us to find the theory, which with his usual sagacity he has given, extremely probable. The effects which he produced,” say they, “ cannot be ascribed to a mechanical irritation, as the Tractors did not come into contact with the skin. That a mechanical impression on the nerves might be attended with some effects, under certain particular circumstances, appears possible; but the Professor’s experiments, and others, prove that PERKINISM does not act merely by its irritation.”

REMARKS OF THE EDITOR.

HERE ends Surgeons HERHOLDT’s and RAFN’s account of the experiments and observations of many of the first medical characters at Copenhagen, on Dr. PERKINS’s discovery.

The

The reader has seen a *candid* and *honourable* attempt to ascertain the truth of those pretensions, which have for their object a great discovery in Medical Philosophy. Influenced by no other motive than that of *searching out the truth*, these several characters, and more especially the learned Editors, have been actuated by that benevolent philosophy, which characterizes only the real promoters of science, and the advancement of human happiness. Considering the embarrassments under which they laboured for want of many *necessary documents*, their reports are very favourable to the metallic practice (*e*).

The

(*e*) Some of the Editor's friends, who had perused the translation of these Reports, before they had been put to press, conceived that "most of those *hospital experiments* were made under so many unfavourable circumstances, that it would be doing but an injustice to the discovery to introduce them into the present tract. It was suggested, that many *malevolents*, who in this early stage of the practice would gladly grasp at any pretext to injure its credit, could insinuate, that in Copenhagen it did not appear that the Tractors were *universally* successful."

However

The Editor has been attentive to point out in NOTES the causes of the failure of some of their experiments. This he has done with a view of assisting those who are engaged in the use of the Tractors in this country, to comprehend the kinds of diseases for which they are efficacious, and the mode of their application, but not to complain of *improper intentions* on the part of the Danish physicians. Here the writer would wish to *impress on the minds*

However well intentioned may have been this council of my friends, yet the Editor has never had any hesitation on the propriety of introducing the *whole*. Indeed there exist motives for noticing those *hospital cases*, which do not apply to the others, and which weigh in my mind as important. They have afforded an opportunity for pointing out some errors, into which many of the purchasers of the Tractors in this country have been led, by not attending sufficiently to the rules for using them. There are persons, no doubt, who would gladly improve any opportunity to injure the credit of this or any other innovation, which affected their interest; but there are fortunately many also, who are possessed of too much discretion not to observe, that the merits of the metallic practice, even in these *half made* experiments, are fully substantiated.

of

of those who possess his Tractors, the *necessity* of observing the rules pointed out in those Notes, or their practice also will very frequently be attended with similar results. *The inefficacy of the Tractors in venereal and scrophulous affections; the obstacles which oily applications and previous perspiration present to obtaining relief; the necessity of drawing them quite to the extremities; of repeating their use at least three times in the day, &c. &c.* it is hoped will claim particular attention.

It is not surprising that the gentlemen at Copenhagen did not practise more judiciously with the Tractors, when it is observed that they had to grope their way through an *untrodden path*, without a compass to direct them. An instance may possibly occur, among all those cases in which the Tractors did not produce their usual effects, where the causes I have assigned for their failure did not exist, yet I apprehend these will not be frequent.

The

The Author of this discovery, whatever his enemies have injuriously represented, has never pretended that the Tractors, unlike all other remedies, *are ever infallible in their operation.* It is hoped, that those who are acquainted with the laws which regulate the animal œconomy, and the numerous ills to which it is unavoidably exposed, will not pass so severe a censure upon his understanding, as to believe that suggestion. Such a remedy never existed, but in the advertisement of an empiric, or in the brain of an alchemist. Perhaps mercury, as a specific in the syphilis, approaches nearer to such a thing than any other example we can give; yet how many constitutions are ruined and lives destroyed by that disease, although mercury is administered by the most skilful and experienced physicians. The bark is called a specific in an intermittent fever, yet what physician has not seen numerous instances of its failure.

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This however, Dr. PERKINS has declared, and to the satisfaction of very many medical characters of high reputation has proved, that the Metallic Tractors, *if properly applied, in certain diseases, are more safe, agreeable, expeditious, and efficacious in their operation, than any other remedy.* From the advantages which the public now has, for subjecting their merits to the test of experiment, and from the increasing reputation which the discovery is in consequence gaining throughout Europe and America, the intelligent world will very soon coincide with him in this opinion.

Any further observations from the Editor, on the experiments at Copenhagen, are unnecessary. Having fully presented them to view, and pointed out the causes of their failures, the reader is competent to a due estimation of their importance, as they relate to the point in question.

THE EDITOR'S
REMARKS

ON

DR. *TODE*'S NOTES.

I HAVE next a subject to notice, which though perhaps not very interesting to English readers, yet is particularly so to some others.

As an egregious error is now circulating through Germany and Denmark respecting this discovery, it becomes necessary that the Editor, who alone has the means of correcting it, should devote for that purpose a few pages of the present tract. This task is imposed upon me, from a respect due to many high personages in America, and to the discovery itself.

In a note in the early part of this work, it is mentioned that Dr. *TODE*, the translator

lator of the Danish pamphlet into the German, has published notes of a very extraordinary nature on the American testimony, which was adduced in support of the Tractors. The first information given me of these proceedings at Copenhagen, was communicated by a very respectable and literary gentleman on the continent. He writes, " Dr. TODE has published some severe comments on the cases brought forward in America in favour of the metallic practice. These appearing in the same book, and indeed prefacing the Danish experiments, must serve materially to prejudice the reader against the credit of the discovery. If his translation of them is correct, those cases are certainly very exceptionable, and will do your practice no credit on the continent, especially after what Dr. TODE has advanced concerning them. Although, however respectable may be the reports at Copenhagen, and however favourable they may be to the practice, yet our opinions on its merits will naturally be some-

what influenced by the reputation in which the discovery is held where it originated.”

It may well be conceived that my surprize was great on receiving this intelligence, as it has been generally acknowledged, that the success of the practice in America was substantiated by as full and respectable testimony as has ever been deemed necessary to establish any medical facts.

Not long after the receipt of this letter the work itself came to hand, and before I had compared the original American edition with the German translation to ascertain its correctness, I was not a little surprized at the strictures of Dr. TODE on the American experiments. Contrary to the sentiments of many men of science, with whose opinions I have been favoured, and contrary to the remarks of most of the Journals and Reviews which have noticed these testimonies in this country, he

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condemns

condemns them, and conceives them entitled to little or no respect. A more critical examination explained the mystery, and it was found that Dr. TODE's *severe remarks*, which in many instances appeared little less than the grossest absurdities, arose generally from an incorrect and imperfect translation.

The widely different degrees of credit which is attached to the American testimonies by Surgeons HERHOLDT and RAFN, editors of the Danish edition, and of Dr. TODE, of the German, is explained by the Doctor's "not having (as he tells us in the course of his notes) seen the original English edition," but only an imperfect translation. The opinions of the former gentlemen the reader has had occasion to notice, (see page 8.)

Being in possession of the original American edition, and of a very correct translation of the German, I shall adduce a few

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examples

examples of the deviations referred to, and that writer's comments. From these an opinion may be formed of the whole.

To give them all is unnecessary and improper; for, in order to have a full comprehension of them, it would be necessary, at the same time, to adduce the several experiments to which these notes relate. This would extend the present pamphlet to an unreasonable length. As the greatest part of them are already published in this country (see *Influence of Metallic Tractors, &c.*) the reader can easily examine them himself.

The first observation that strikes forcibly, on perusing the German edition, is, that the *titles* at the head of each communication designating *professions*, are in almost every instance omitted, and that at the same time the chief ground of complaint with Dr. TODE consists in urging, "that they are from persons of no note or character, and consequently entitled to

no credit." This is indeed the amount of the whole which he has advanced against these statements.

The first communication in the American pamphlet is from JOHN TYLER, Esq; of Preston, in the state of Connecticut, a magistrate in the county of New London, and late Brigadier General of the militia in that state. The American pamphlet, after placing the name and military title [General] of this gentleman at the head of his statement, gives his account of two cures performed in his family by Dr. PERKINS. The first relates to the removal of the pain in an *incised wound* in his leg, the latter is as follows: " My wife at that time (17th June 1796) was afflicted with *rheumatic pains* in her hip, which had been upon her a number of years, and had afflicted her to such a degree as to render that side shorter than the other, and to make her unable at that time to raise herself from the chair without the greatest difficulty, or to walk

across the room without leaning on her staff, and with that not without the greatest inconvenience. Dr. PERKINS applied the Tractors, and she declared herself free from pain, and immediately arose from her chair without any assistance or apparent difficulty, and walked several times across the room without any support, and has continued to this time able to walk in that manner, not having been troubled with pain in the night, of which she had much complained before, and has truly been to all appearance a different person, as to the use of her limbs, from the time of that application, to what she had been for years before." In the German translation the whole of this statement is correctly given, excepting with the *omission of the general's title*, and Dr. TODE's comments on it are as follows: "This puts one in mind of the numberless crutches which are kept near medicinal springs, as proofs that the sick can go from them without assistance." Had the Doctor known the rank and respectability

respectability of this gentleman, we might have pronounced this a species of *raillery*, which, *every* philosopher, who has *truth* in pursuit, however favourable his talents, would not have adopted.

The second case in the American pamphlet relates to the cure of a *quinsy* on Mr. GLOVER, of Plainfield, who, in describing his case, says, "that during the last seven years he had been frequently visited with severe attacks of the quinsy, which, notwithstanding the first medical assistance, never left him under eight or ten days," &c. &c. The German translation of this says, "*from which I have never been free more than eight or ten days together.*" Here is fine game for Dr. TODE, and he improves it as follows: "By this person's statement, he had the quinsy in the course of seven years at least eighty-four times. If at each attack it had broke open before it was cured, his throat must

have been cut to pieces in a curious manner." All this requires no reply. The reader will see what grounds there were for his objections to the *eighty-four times; throat cut to pieces,*" &c.

Here follows a communication from Dr. EBENEZER ROBINSON, of Plainfield, Connecticut. The American pamphlet, after mentioning this gentleman's name and *professional title*, states his observation as follows;

" I have been acquainted with Dr. PERKINS's method of removing many *painful and inflammatory diseases* by his Metallic Tractors, for near a year. I have frequently had success in removing pains and inflammations of various kinds, among which are *pains in the head, burns and rheumatism*. I have full confidence in the efficacy of the means, and that it is a very valuable discovery." The German edition has given a correct translation of this, but
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takes the liberty of *omitting the title, designating the profession* of the testifier, and then Dr. TODE *ingeniously* objects to it for the following reason: "This is one of those testimonies, which prove least, and does not deserve any credit, as the witness is *not a professional man*, and only makes use of general assertions."

CALVIN GODDARD, Esq. of Plainfield, Attorney at Law, and a Member of the Legislature of the State of Connecticut, communicates a cure of a *phlegmon or boil*, which he himself witnessed [*See Influence of Metallic Tractors, page 63*]. The American pamphlet, after placing his name and title at the head of his letter, gives his statement as follows. "I have lately been eye-witness to an experiment with your Tractors, which appeared to me a little singular. A rough hardy labourer had a very bad boil upon the outside of his ankle: the limb was much swelled from his knee to his toes, and appeared as if the skin was ready to burst.

burst. The foot was in a high state of inflammation, and the pain which extended to his hip was so severe, as to deprive him of sleep the night preceding. I drew the instruments repeatedly up and down his leg without any visible effect or decrease of pain, until I was almost discouraged. At length, however, he pulled off his coat and flung it aside. It was one of those cold nights in the beginning of this month. The leg was on a sudden wet with perspiration; indeed the sweat instantaneously burst from all its pores. The inflammation upon the foot subsided, and the swelling abated. The man declared himself free from pain, went to bed, slept well, and I have heard no further complaint. As I had never known of this sweating effect, I thought the case worth reporting to you."

The German translation *omits the title* as usual, but gives the statement correctly. Thus follows the Doctor's remarks. "Who may this Mr. CALVIN GODDARD be, that

we should so implicitly give him credit ; yet it is the fashion with all those physicians, who trumpet forth their cures, to bring witnesses who have no other credentials than their names. But the more extraordinary is the cure, so much the more necessity is there for our being made acquainted with the *rank* and condition of the witness ; and it is also the more required, that he should have a certain *notoriety*. How can a person in Europe trust to such witnesses, when they certify to things so extraordinary.”

In this opinion I perfectly agree with Dr. TODE, and will beg leave even to extend his argument further, and observe, that in cases of this description, “ *the more necessary is it* ” that he should have procured a *faithful* translation, in order that the public may know “ *who may this Mr. Calvin Goddard be ;* ” and that the physician, who in this instance “ *trumpets forth his cures, DOES bring witnesses, who have other credentials than their names.* ”

In the American pamphlet is the following statement from NATHAN PIERCE, Esq; Governor and Manager of the almshouse at Newburyport, [See *Influence of Metallic Tractors*, page 60.] “ Dr. PERKINS visited the almshouse of this town yesterday, and performed operations with his Metallic Tractors on three persons, viz. one woman and two men, severely afflicted with the *rheumatism*; and from the best observation I have been able to make in so short a time, they all appear to be much relieved of their complaints.” This is translated correctly in the German, yet Dr. TODE objects to it as follows: “ This testimony is not very conclusive, as the reader sees; a circumstantial narrative is wanting, and one may observe that nothing is proved by it, but that three persons believed themselves to be cured of their rheumatism by the above operation.” Why Dr. TODE complained of this statement, because “ three persons *believed* themselves to be cured,” requires ingenuity

nunity to discover. No mention is made of the word "*believe*" in the statement, or any thing which suggests that the opinions of the patients were taken at all. But supposing they were questioned on the subject of their pains, it should seem that they were at least as good judges of their own feelings as another person. I can offer no explanation of the Doctor's meaning in this criticism.

The Rev. LEVI HART, Fellow of the university of New Haven (*See Influence of Metallic Tractors, page 75.*) states in the American pamphlet, after the mention of his professional title, as follows: "I have been a witness to the successful application of your Metallic Tractors, in removing *rheumatic pains and head-aches*. In repeated instances I have seen *excruciating pains*, occasioned by *contusions*, removed in a few minutes by the same application. From personal observation, and the information of others, I am fully satisfied of
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the utility of your discovery for the relief of human distress in various complaints." The German pamphlet, as usual, gives no title to this gentleman, but has described the communication correctly. Dr. TODE says, "Against Mr. LEVI HART I have no other objection, than that we do not know how far he may be entitled to bear witness in this affair."

I could go on and give a number more of the Doctor's remarks which are in a similar strain, and which have just the same grounds for complaint as those I have adduced, but I apprehend the reader will not take much interest in their perusal.

Dr. TODE is said to be a physician of some eminence, and had he not been deceived by an imperfect translation, he most undoubtedly would not thus have exposed his character. Surgeons HERHOLDT and RAFN had seen the American pamphlet in the original edition of the English language,

guage, and consequently, as they tell us in their prefatory remarks, they found the testimony in favour of the Tractors of a very respectable nature. Dr. TODE "never saw the American edition," and as by some accident it seems most of the titles were omitted in the Danish translation, he has extended the same error to the German, and founded his objections upon that omission. Though, however ill he may have thought of the American cases, it is hoped he will entertain a different opinion of those published at Copenhagen, for, among all the Danish experiments, none were more successful than those of his own colleague, Surgeon BLEEK. (*See page 33.*) As his comments were undoubtedly written before the experiments at Copenhagen were made, he might very naturally, from the simple appearance of the Tractors, conceive them a fit subject for ridicule.

As Dr. TODE's erroneous account of the American cases is now circulating in Germany, and other parts of the continent,
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I have confidence that the reader will indulge me a little further on this subject, and give me leave to mention the number and professions of the several characters whose names appear in that pamphlet.

Of those who have individually stated cases, or who have presented their names to the public as men who approved of this remedy, and acknowledged themselves instrumental in circulating the Tractors, are fifty-six in number; THIRTY-FOUR OF WHOM ARE PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, and many of these of the first eminence; thirteen clergymen, most of whom are doctors of divinity, and connected with the literary institutions in America; among the remainder are two members of congress, one professor of natural philosophy in a college, &c. &c.

The tract on "The Influence of Metallic Tractors," has a considerable proportion of the communications which are contained in that American pamphlet,
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but which however, in consequence of its appearing at a later period, presents to the public an account of some new experiments, which at that early season had not been communicated. This work has already been noticed in several literary journals in this country. The respectability of the characters who have attested to the efficacy of the Tractors in America, can better be learned by extracts from some of these journals.

The ANALYTICAL REVIEW for June 1798, remarks that "This pamphlet contains the result of many experiments made in the United States, by gentlemen of high respectability and literary talents."

The MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL REVIEW for November 1798, says, "The evidence adduced, respecting the powers of the remedy here recommended, is apparently so strong, both in nature and extent, that no inconsiderable importance attaches to the
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subject, and we are led to give a more extended account of it than we might otherwise have deemed necessary." In another place it observes, that "The testimonies adduced in their [the Tractors] support, are at least honourable if not decisive. Many come from persons—not of the medical profession, but who nevertheless seem competent on the present occasion; for the subject is, for the most part, an appeal to the common senses. Others of the facts are vouched for, by members of the medical profession of high and distinguished character." After a very long extract of upwards of twenty-six pages from the book, they observe, "We have thus thought it our duty, to go much at large into the evidence which has been brought forward, in support of the alledged power of the Metallic Tractors, for, unquestionably, if there be no error or misconception of facts, the importance of the discovery is great indeed. Where the proofs are so many and so strong, it would be unreasonable to question them on any other
other

other grounds than cautious and fair experiment."

The CRITICAL REVIEW for February 1799, observes, " Dr. PERKINS applies the new science of Galvanism to various diseases of the human body. The effects of his Metallic Rods in America appear to be well supported by evidence, and we have heard persons in this country speak of them with commendation."

The PHILOSOPHICAL MAGAZINE, another valuable record of the literature of the age, has also treated the evidence adduced in favour of the Tractors, as no less deserving respect.

PART II.

EXPERIMENTS

WITH THE

METALLIC TRACTORS

IN ENGLAND.

IN conformity to the original design, the remainder of this work will be devoted to noticing the experiments and observations of persons who have been most engaged in the Metallic Practice in this country. In the view of many, these will be more satisfactory, as the authenticity and correctness of the statements can be more easily ascertained.

That which claims our first notice is the practice of a gentleman, who has had more experience with the Tractors than any person (myself excepted) in England.

His thorough knowledge of the subject has of course enabled him to employ them with great success. The person to whom I allude is Mr. C. C. LANGWORTHY, surgeon, Bath.

It may be proper to observe, that this gentleman, after having completed his regular surgical education in England, made a tour to America, where he heard much of Dr. PERKINS's discovery, and saw some of his practice. From what he learned there, and from some cures performed on board the ship, in which he took passage for England, Mr. L. was induced on his arrival here to provide himself with a set of the Tractors. These he was ever attentive to try, whenever any suitable subject offered, and at the same time kept an accurate memorandum of every case. An account (*f*) of these he presented to the public in September last.

(*f*) See "VIEW OF PERKINEAN ELECTRICITY, OR AN ENQUIRY INTO THE INFLUENCE OF METALLIC TRACTORS." Published by Johnson, St. Paul's Church-yard, and Cruttwell, Bath.

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The great success attending his experiments, so fully confirmed him in the importance of the discovery, that he resolved on making it the subject of his sole attention ; and with a view of giving publicity and currency to the Metallic Practice, he afterwards established himself at Bath.

Most of Mr. LANGWORTHY'S experiments were made at Bristol Hotwells, during a short residence at that place to attend on a sick relation. The diseases, in which he found the Tractors most efficacious, were, *painful topical affections, as chronic and inflammatory rheumatism, inflammatory gout, quinsy, erysipelas, tetters, tumefactions from contusions, scalds, burns, inflammations of the eyes, head-aches, and pains on various parts of the body.* The substance of some of these cases, and such other things as may be thought worthy of particular notice, shall briefly be given.

CHRONIC RHEUMATISM.

“ Mrs. ARBUTHNOT, widow of the late JOHN ARBUTHNOT, Esq; Inspector General of the Linen Manufacture in Ireland,” says Mr. L. “ had for six years been afflicted with a *chronic rheumatism*, attended generally by a coldness and torpidity in all her limbs, and frequently with *nervous affections*, of so very distressing a nature, that her life was considered in great danger. She had consulted several medical men in Ireland to little purpose, and in the beginning of the present year came over from that kingdom, and resorted to the waters of Bath. Receiving no benefit from these, she removed to the Hotwells of Bristol, the waters of which were alike inefficacious. I advised her to try the Tractors, and having instructed her how to use them, left a set with her that she might operate on herself, or get some female friend to do so, when the pains were most violent. The Tractors were applied several successive mornings,

mornings, during which the pains gradually abated, and in three weeks from the commencement of this practice they were entirely removed. Some time after this, on taking a tepid bath, her rheumatic pains and nervous affections were brought on again as violently as ever. She had recourse to the Tractors a second time, and in the space of a fortnight the pains were entirely removed, and her nervous complaint subsided."

Mr. BIRD, of Sion House, or Upper Hotwell, had been subject to violent *rheumatic pains* for upwards of ten years, which attacked him at various periods of the year, and sometimes rendered him incapable of walking or using his limbs. About two months before Mr. L. saw him he was seized so severely in his right arm, from his shoulder to the wrist, that he could not move it without violent pain, and was obliged to absent himself from duty that day as member of the Bristol volunteers. Mr. L. applied
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the Tractors, and in a few minutes the pain descended from the shoulder to the hand; in less than a quarter of an hour he could lift his arm to his head, and move it in all directions with perfect ease. A slight pain remained in his wrist, which however in a few hours went gradually off, and he felt no return. In his former attacks the pain had generally lasted for several weeks; and it was evident that the progress of the disease was stopped and removed by the Tractors."

ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

Mr. WHEELER, the book-keeper of the Rummer Tavern, had been afflicted with a violent *acute rheumatism* for six weeks, which confined him to his bed. He had tried various applications without effect. "I visited Mr. WHEELER," says Mr. L. "in company with Dr. O'CONNELL, and found him in very violent pain in all his limbs, and incapable of moving his right arm to his head, or taking up the cup in which his wife

wife usually administered to him his drink. I drew the Tractors over his right shoulder, extending them along the deltoid muscle, down his arm, in the course of the nerve, to the end of his fingers, which were tumefied but not inflamed. At the expiration of fifteen minutes, he declared that the pains were entirely removed, and to his great astonishment, as well as that of his wife and Dr. O'CONNELL, he could move his arm in every direction, and taking up the cup, he exclaimed, "Look, look, I can lift it to my mouth with perfect ease!" He had also violent pains in his right thigh, on which I operated about as long a time as on his arm, when he said he was entirely free from pain, and expressed a desire to walk, which he did with great ease. The next day when I called on him again I found he had slept well, which he had not done from the period he was first taken ill to the time I saw him. The pains had not returned in his right arm nor right thigh, but his left thigh

thigh had been for two hours so painful, that he was incapable of moving it in the least degree. I operated on it for twenty minutes, when the pain was entirely removed, and he walked about the room nearly a quarter of an hour with perfect ease. The next day he told me he was much better, but the pains had not entirely left him. I applied the Tractors to all his limbs, and left him quite easy. Two days after I called on him again, and found that he was gone out, was free from pain, had a good appetite, rested well at night, and had no other complaint than debility. When I had done with him, he washed himself in linimentum saponis. He has since gained strength and flesh very rapidly, and is now quite well, and follows his usual occupation as book-keeper at the Rummer-tavern."

Mr. COWARD, Book-keeper, at the Bush, Bristol, was attacked with an *inflammatory rheumatism* in his foot, which had continued
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three or four days, and gave him much pain, inflammation, and swelling. The flannel in which his foot was wrapped being removed, the Tractors were applied for about a quarter of an hour, when a perspiration came on all over his body, and he felt quite easy. The inflammation disappeared, and the second day he put on his stocking and shoe, and has felt no return of pain since. It is two months since the application."

A cure of an *inflammatory sore throat* and a *scald*, are next mentioned; after which Mr. LANGWORTHY gives an account of his attendance on a patient in St. Peter's Hospital at Bristol, for many years afflicted with complicated maladies, often appearing like the symptoms of the *atonic gout*, and which had baffled the first medical skill.

He commenced his operations on the 20th of July, when all her limbs were affected. Her knees, wrists, hands, and
fingers

fingers so tumefied and stiffened, that she could make but little use of them. The applications were daily made until the 7th of August, when she was much relieved from her complaints. Every operation was attended with some sensible improvement.

In Mr. LANGWORTHY'S pamphlet, is introduced an account of some experiments by Mr. ELFORD SPARK LANGWORTHY, a surgeon of Brixham, Devonshire. The Communication is as follows:

“ Dear Brother, August 30th, 1798.

“ ——— The Cases I have met with have been but few, but in those few the applications have been attended with considerable benefit.

Case 1st.—A boy, 14 years of age, about a year and a half since was attacked with a *fever* of the *typhus kind*, which in a few weeks terminated in a confirmed *sciatica*.

Stimulants

Stimulants were applied to the part affected; sea-bathing was also had recourse to, and a variety of medicines given internally. But all these means proving unsuccessful, he was admitted into the Exeter hospital, where he remained for some time, but received no benefit. Since he was dismissed from the hospital, he has continued to bathe in the sea, by which his general health has been somewhat mended, but the lameness continued nearly the same.

He is by trade a thatcher, and his situation in life compelled him to pursue it in the best manner he could. His method of getting his reed upon the house or stack which he had to thatch, was, by dividing the bundles into several parts, which he placed on a ladder, one at a time, just high enough to be able to support it with his head, while he held fast by the ladder with both hands, in order to bring up his leg. This was the only way that he could ascend. I ought to tell you, that
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the diseased limb is nearly an inch and a half shorter than the corresponding one, and considerably smaller; and that he was subject to violent pains on every change of weather.

During the first four or five days, he perceived no material benefit from the Tractors, otherwise than that they produced a great degree of heat on the skin, which gave him more feeling in the limb than he had before. At the end of ten days or a fortnight he was considerably better, and is, at the time of my writing (which is three weeks from the commencement of the application) so much recovered, that he now carries his reed in whole bundles upon the house, holding them with one hand, while he supports himself up the ladder with the other. Before the application of the Tractors, he could not reach the ground with his hand without throwing the diseased limb behind him, but he can now

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broke out all over her face and neck, attended with a considerable efflorescence on the skin, in the fore part of her neck; as soon as I had finished the application, she sat down and made a hearty breakfast. The next morning the pain returned in a slight degree, but after drinking a little warm tea was easy, nor had I any occasion to apply the Tractors a second time.

“ The third was a case which happened about ten days since, in the practice of my father-in-law, Mr. Hoyles, surgeon, of Dartmouth, to whom I had lent the Tractors. About three o'clock in the morning he was called up to a young woman in the town, who was labouring under a violent *pain in her side*, attended with difficulty of breathing; she had been bled for the same complaint some days prior to this attack, with some benefit, but the complaint had now returned with redoubled violence. Having heard me say that the

Tractors

Tractors (which he had then in his pocket) had been found serviceable in similar cases, he sat down by the bed-side of his patient, (with, I believe, but little expectations of finding any good effects from their application) and applied them as I had directed him, when, to his great astonishment, as well as that of his patient, she was in five minutes much easier, and in ten minutes more she was perfectly relieved, and has remained well ever since.

“ Another case occurred to me on Sunday last:—A woman had been afflicted with a *violent rheumatic pain* in her head and face for six weeks. The first application procured her a good night's rest, (which she had not experienced during the whole of her illness before) and a second removed the complaint entirely. In neither of the above cases has any kind of medicine been administered.

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Should you think these cases, or either of them, worth inserting in your pamphlet, you are at liberty to make what use of them you may think proper.

Your's affectionately,

ELFORD SPARKE LANGWORTHY.

The following communication, from a gentleman of rank and high respectability, Mr. LANGWORTHY publishes in his pamphlet.

“ Bath, December 24th, 1798.

“ SIR WILLIAM BARKER presents his compliments to Mr. LANGWORTHY; he has not the least objection to have his name inserted with those who have received benefit from the use of the Metallic Tractors.

“ He has been afflicted with *violent rheumatic pains* in each of his knees, at different
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times, for upwards of ten years, and in his hips and back ; he has tried a variety of medicines, and both sea bathing and Buxton waters, with little or no effect. He could not walk a street's length when he came here (some months since) without suffering great pain, but is now able to walk over the whole town with little or no pain, which he attributes to the use of the Tractors."

In a subsequent part of his work, Mr. LANGWORTHY says, " I am singularly happy to adduce the testimony of a gentleman of high professional character, Mr. LYSTER, formerly senior surgeon to the Dublin hospital, and for many years an eminent surgeon in Bath, has given me leave to publish, that he has cured several *active inflammations* of the face with the Tractors ; and has succeeded in one remarkable case of a *whitlow*, even after he thought

suppuration had taken place. The following case of *rheumatism* fell under his observation. A servant applied to him who was quite a cripple, and had laboured under the most excruciating *pains in his back, legs, and arms*, eighteen months, never having received ease from the many things he had taken. From the first application of the Tractors, this poor man received great benefit, and to make use of Mr. LYSTER's own words,—“ At the expiration of three weeks, by operating daily, he could walk as well and as upright as any man in Bath.”

Mr. LYSTER makes mention of many other cases of rheumatism, and *topical inflammatory complaints*.

“ The Tractors,” says Mr. LANGWORTHY, “ hold a very distinguished rank in the cure of a very general complaint, viz. INFLAMMATION OF THE EYES. My present multiplied avocations prevent

prevent me from entering into a particular detail of cases that have occurred, but I can confidently aver, that my practice in these has been attended with the most complete success."

Mr. L. has a case of a most uncommon *head-ache* of several years standing, cured by the Tractors. He states it as follows :

" A lady consulted me, some months since, for a *violent head-ache*, which had afflicted her for a number of years. Wearied with a variety of medicines, and the application of leaches and blisters at different times, to no purpose, she asked me if I thought her case came under the PERKINEAN PRACTICE. Her pain extended from the forehead to the top of the head, and down the nape of the neck. I was fearful, from the constant pain she experienced, and slow fever, that matter was forming on the ventricles of the brain ; in consequence of this apprehension, I did not express a desire

to try the Tractors, but informed her, that in case the pain should at any time increase, I would apply them with pleasure.

“ Two days after this, when I called on her, I found her confined to her bed, and the pain in her head had become so violent as to produce a *delirium*. Her eyes were violently inflamed. Conceiving that no time was to be lost, I applied the Tractors, in different directions, to her head, and in less than ten minutes she spoke, and informed me that she was quite easy, and had great inclination to sleep. A profuse perspiration followed. In the evening I visited my patient again, and to my surprise found her up, and her head free from pain; the turgid redness and inflammation of her eyes entirely removed, and from that time to this she has enjoyed perfect health, not having experienced the least return of her excruciating pain.”

Mr.

Mr. LANGWORTHY has a case of a *sprain*, which is not unimportant, and which he states as follows :

“ I have permission of Dr. FELLOWS (g) of Bath, to state the particulars of the treatment of one of his servants, who *sprained his ankle*. The Doctor, expressing at different times his wishes to be informed of the success of the Tractors, I called on him for that purpose. An opportunity immediately offered. One of his servants had a few hours before *sprained his ankle*. A violent inflammation ensued, with great pain and swelling. I applied the Tractors for ten minutes, when he fainted and was extremely sick ; which symptoms I have frequently remarked to be the effect of the application of the Tractors, when the cure is about to fol-

(g) Physician Extraordinary to his Royal Highness the Prince of WALES.

low.

low. Half an hour after, he was operated upon again, which entirely removed the pain and inflammation. It is six weeks since the accident happened, and he has had no return of pain. I beg leave to add, that Dr. FELLOWS, with the spirit of liberality always attendant on science, directed by the testimony of his senses, freely gave me leave to use his name on this occasion."

"JOHN MOODY (distributor of the Bath Chronicle) had, from April 1798, been afflicted with *violent pains in his head*, attended with giddiness and night sweats. He had been in the infirmary and dispensary for six months without finding any benefit, and in that hopeless state was recommended to me by his master. I applied the Tractors daily to his head for upwards of a month, and am happy to say that he is quite well. For these last six weeks he has been engaged in his usual occupation. Much might be said of this man's case,

case,

case, but Mr. CRUTTWELL will, with pleasure, relate the cure to any one who may call on him for that purpose."

Mr. LANGWORTHY'S publication contains many more cases, equally evidential of the efficacy of the Tractors, but the few I have quoted will serve to give some idea of the general success of the Metallic Practice in his hands.

The causes of his failure were similar to those which have been remarked, by all who have made nice observations during their practice with the Tractors.—The presence of *oily, greasy, or perspirable* matter was an insurmountable obstacle to success.

It will not be a subject of surprize with the reader, that Mr. L. after all these cases, should entertain a favourable opinion of the merits of the Metallic Practice. This may be given in a few words: "I believe," says he, "a new discovery in the
 œconomy

œconomy of nature to have been made, which is capable of being converted to the happy alleviation of human affliction ; and my most ardent, and I will say my only wish is, that the truth or fallacy of the doctrine may be ascertained by others."

After expressing his wish to meet medical men with this view at all times, to adopt whatever mode they may chuse, in order to come to a true knowledge of the merits of this remedy, he concludes :

" After witnessing the efficacy of the PERKINEAN practice in the cases I have stated, and after what I have written on the subject, *my own faith* in the science cannot be doubted. But having thus offered my pretensions to the eye of philosophy, and the test of experiment, I am fairly before the public ; and with all the deference due to it from one of the humblest of its members, confident of its candour, I patiently await its decision."

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The Reader, it is believed, will not peruse the publication of Mr. LANGWORTHY without giving him much credit for the liberal and honourable proposals which he makes to scientific men, to come and examine the merits of this practice.

With a view of inviting them to the investigation, he observes :

“ I propose to operate on all persons afflicted with any of the diseases here enumerated, in the presence of such physicians, surgeons, or others, as may be desirous of witnessing the operation ; and I thus publicly invite them to procure such patients for the purpose, as may come within their knowledge.

“ The numerous hospitals, infirmaries, alms-houses, and other charitable institutions, must at all seasons furnish fit subjects for my practice ; and I will readily and

I 7

willingly

willingly attend the directors and physicians who have the care of them, and make my experiments in their presence.

“ All such poor persons as come to me will be relieved gratis, if their cases fall within my practice; and the doors will be open for medical and other gentlemen, who will bring such persons, either for the purpose of ascertaining the truth of my pretensions, or gratifying their curiosity.

“ But while I offer proposals so convenient to the poor and necessitous, it is necessary to observe, that I expect the regular fees of my profession, from patients who may be able to pay them. In this respect, however, I shall conform myself to moderation, and the circumstances of the applicants, as far as the charges of my education, and the expences of my undertaking and situation in life will permit.

“ In

“ In drawing up this manual, I am not conscious of having mistated facts, or that I could have made a more candid proposal for bringing my pretensions to a proper test. And all I can add is, that if any assemblage of medical or other gentlemen, will offer a plan, more likely to obtain the end desired, I shall hold myself bound in honour and in duty, as well as inclination, to co-operate with them in any way in my power.”

Only a part of the experiments of Mr. LANGWORTHY has, in these quotations, been presented to the public. The perusal of the work itself, which is a tract of about an hundred pages, would afford much satisfaction and instruction to those who wish to gain information on this practice. To that alone the Editor would have referred them; but, consistent with his original design of noticing the experience of those who have practised most with the Tractors in this country, Mr. LANGWORTHY'S merited a particular detail.

EXPERIMENTS OF MR. JOHN GRANT, OF
LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDFORDSHIRE.

When Mr. GRANT possessed himself of a set of the Tractors, he expressed, in his letter, a determination of giving them a fair and extensive trial, among the afflicted poor and others in his vicinity, and, whatever should be the result, of making that public. This resolution, which the Editor would be gratified in seeing in all others, induced him, after the expiration of a few months, to write to Mr. G. soliciting to be favoured with an account of his practice. His report, as it is believed will be the case with every person, who practised with the same judgment and perseverance, was not uncreditable to the discovery. "I have great pleasure in informing you," he writes, "that with very few exceptions, I have found them extremely efficacious, and to answer the purpose for which they are recommended.

"I began

“ I began with noting down in a little book the cases as they occurred; but my practice with them increasng, and having other business that occupies my attention of late, I have been obliged to decline it.

“ I find the Metallic Tractors equally useful on the BRUTE ANIMAL as on the HUMAN SUBJECT, and I think they are more active on the HORSE than on those which chew the cud, as sheep, cows, &c. My limits will not allow me to enlarge on this head at present, and shall therefore proceed to give thee one or two cases from my minute-book, which I think are very demonstrative of the efficacy of the Tractors.

CASE II.

PAIN AND TUMEFACIION FROM A PUNCTURED WOUND,

“ EDWARD DAWSON received an injury on his knee, from an iron instrument running into it, a little below the joint, and which he supposed had penetrated into the

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substance

substance of the bone. The Balsamum Traumaticum was applied immediately. However, in three or four hours from the accident, a *violent pain* and *tumefaction* of the surrounding parts ensued, for which emollient poultices were applied. The pain notwithstanding was violent all night. The fomentations, &c. were renewed in the morning, but his pain still continued intense. As soon as I saw him I ordered the poultices to be taken off, and, as some greasy matter had been used, I had the surrounding parts washed with warm water, and wiped clean with a linen cloth. I applied the Tractors to the seat of pain, drawing them down the *tibia*, and in fifteen minutes he was much relieved. I continued this use about twenty-five minutes, when he declared himself quite free from pain.

“ Fearing some injury done to the ligaments near the joints, I ordered him to bed, but feeling himself to be free from pain he lay only about two or three hours, then

got up and pursued his usual business. In consequence of this, in the afternoon the pain returned with inflammation. Used the Tractors as before, and with the like good effect. He went to bed, obtained a good night's rest, and has not felt the least inconvenience since.

CASE V.

VIOLENT INFLAMMATION OF THE EYES.

“MARY DAWSON had been affected for eight or nine weeks with the most violent *inflammation in the eyes* I ever beheld. Many applications had been made by the faculty without any good effect. The eye-lids were very much tumefied; the white of the eye a mass of *inflammation*; the uvea and pupil very dim, and the cheek so discoloured that it resembled a ripe nectarine. I almost despair of success in this case, yet this 15th of the ninth month have made trial of the Tractors, and am pleased to observe that the first application has abated the inflammation on the cheek and eye-lids. Re-

peated it at intervals of six hours : every succeeding trial promises success.

“ 16th. A very bad night from violent pain in the eye. The external appearance much better : used the Tractors as on the preceding day. The pain during the operation shifted sometimes to her ears, face, &c. but at last from a long application it was wholly removed. At night they had so much abated the inflammation, that she was able to open her eyes.

“ 17th. The first salutation she gave me this morning was, “ that she thought herself nearly well.” She had experienced a good night, and was able to dress herself. On examining the eyes, there is yet to be seen considerable inflammation. Used the Tractors as before, at intervals of eight hours, continuing each application full half an hour. At evening the inflammation is very nearly removed, and she can now look on a lighted candle, though three days since was unable to open her eyes.

“ 18th.

“ 18th. The inflammation has almost disappeared, and she thinks herself cured. The Tractors were never used after the 18th, and at this instant of writing she continues well. This case was under the inspection of a gentleman of the faculty, who forbore any application during the use of the Tractors; so that their effects were incontrovertible,

“ I thought myself amply compensated for their expence, by the pleasure derived from giving relief in this case alone, as it was one of the most distressing I ever beheld. I most sincerely hope that a generous Public will reward the Author of a discovery, which promises so extensive benefit to mankind. Thou art at liberty to shew this, if thou desire it.

Thy assured friend,

JOHN GRANT.”

About a month after the receipt of the above letter I was favoured with another, in which Mr. G. observes, “ I continue

using the Tractors as before, and with the like good success. *I have cured two horses that were nearly blind.* I conceive the Tractors essential to be possessed by all persons who have interest in cattle, particularly horse-dealers, graziers, &c.

“ I don't find that they afford the least relief in *scrophulous subjects*, as I have been baffled in two or three instances lately, where I at first thought the cases were fair, but have since found that the want of success arose from a *scrophulous habit*.”

This remark of Mr. G. affords us a proof of the very correct and judicious observations he has made in his experiments with the Tractors. The Metallic Practice has never given any relief in the scrophula, and indeed so little is it subject to the metallic influence, that rheumatic pains on persons who have the least tint of *scrophulous habit*, very seldom derive any benefit from the application of the Tractors. This fact,

tingling sensation follow the point of the Tractors, and was so much relieved as to be able that night to get out of bed without help, though I had been unable for the week preceding to turn myself without the most excruciating pain. In the course of the next day the pain returned, though with less violence. Continued the use of the Tractors four days, and took in the interval some tincture of gum guaiacum. At this instant, the 16th of ninth month, am free from the complaint.

(For Case II. *see p.* 129.)

CASE III.

A PHLEGMON OR BOIL.

“ Ninth month, 10th.—A person had a *very bad boil* on one of the knees, extremely painful and inflamed. The Tractors were applied about fifteen minutes around the inflamed part, without much apparent effect at the time. By the morning the inflammation was gone off, and the
 progress

progreſs towards ſuppuration arreſted. In twenty-four hours it was well, no ſuppuration having taken place.

CASE IV.

ERYSIPELAS.

“ Ninth month, 11th.—A lady was troubled with an *eryſipelas*, chiefly affecting her left eye. The inflammation was not attended with much tumefaction. The Tractors were applied, and relief experienced in a few minutes. About four hours after this, on repeating the ſame application the inflammation was wholly removed, and the complaint ſubſided.

(For Caſe V. ſee p. 131.)

CASE VI.

PAIN IN THE FACE.

“ Ninth month, 17th.—A perſon had a violent pain in her face; was very unwilling
I ſhould

I should apply the Tractors, but after much importuning submitted to the operation. In about twelve minutes she acknowledged herself much easier. At evening repeated the operation, and she was cured,

CASE VII.

STING OF A WASP,

“ Ninth month, 17th—A person was *stung* on her arm with a wasp. The part was inflamed, swelled, and attended with intense pain. Applied the Tractors fifteen minutes, when the pain, inflammation, and swelling, were all removed.

CASE VIII.

PAIN AND NUMBNESS.

“ Ninth month, 18th.—A person had a singular sensation in her wrist and fingers, attended with alternate fits of *pain and numbness*. The fingers in particular were
often

often so painful at night as to deprive her of sleep. Judging this a case in which the Tractors might be useful, I applied them along the affected parts. Their effect was soon felt by producing a tingling sensation in her fingers. She was much relieved by the first operation. Repeated the same three times a day. The pains usually experienced in bed were cured the first night. The applications were continued, and she was perfectly cured.

CASE IX.

INFLAMMATION OF THE EYE.

“ JOHN CARPENDER had a violent *inflammation* in his right eye, the relicks of a fever : he had been confined to his bed three weeks. The usual remedies of the faculty had been employed, without affording any benefit. Conceiving this also a suitable case for the Metallic Practice, I used the Tractors on the evening of the 18th. In the morning he complained of more
 pain,

pain, but they had lessened the inflammation. The next morning, used them again twenty minutes. He derived so much benefit, that on this day, the 20th, his eye is as well as usual.

CASE X.

STING OF A WASP.

“ Ninth month, 22d.—A person was *stung* on the arm with a wasp. It was attended with intense pain and inflammation. The Tractors effectually relieved it in twenty minutes, no pain having been felt since.

[Here follows several cases on animals, which shall be noticed hereafter.]

CASE XVI.

STING OF A WASP.

“ Another person, *stung* with a wasp, was relieved from every effect of the sting by one application of the Tractors.

CASE

CASE XVII.

A SLIGHT PARALYTIC AFFECTION.

“ PERCY KING, aged 76, was attacked with what was thought a slight *paralytic affection* of one side, or hemiplegia. The right arm and side were rendered almost incapable of motion. Sudorific medicines and gentle cathartics were used. Stimulating embrocations were also applied to the benumbed parts, but from all these no alteration during four days was perceived. After cleansing the parts of all the greasy substances, by washing and wiping them clean, the Tractors were applied from the shoulder to the fingers for half an hour, without the least sensible effect at the time. The same was repeated at the end of three hours, only varying the direction of the Tractors, by drawing them over the shoulder down the vertebræ. At the finishing of this operation, he complained of violent pain in the shoulder and arm. Used the Tractors at intervals of three hours,
drawing

drawing them principally from the neck over the shoulder, and extending them to the ends of the fingers. The arm still continued useless, but on the third morning, while making the application, he felt a sensation of heat at his fingers ends. Every succeeding trial gave relief, and gradually restored the limb to its former strength and healthy state. At the end of three days, he was so far recovered as to be able to go out on his usual business. This man was first affected in his knee, which gradually extended over all that side till it became incapable of voluntary motion.

CASE XVIII.

ERYSIPELATOUS ERUPTION.

“ A child of this place was affected with an *eruption in its face*, attended with violent itching and inflammation. So general about the eyes in particular, as to close them together. I was at a loss how to
 apply

apply the Tractors in this case. However I drew them as well as I could gently over the parts most affected. From the refractoriness of the child it was difficult to conduct them in any particular direction. Notwithstanding this uncertain mode of applying the Tractors, the inflammation was very much abated, and in two days it was nearly gone. The scab on the face gradually came off.

CASE XIX.

VIOLENT PAIN FROM A PUNCTURED WOUND IN A JOINT.

“ The wife of a labourer called on me with a very *violent pain in the knuckle, from an injury received by a thorn running into the joint.* That finger was rendered useless; the hand was also very painful, and much swollen. The Tractors were applied twenty-five minutes, when the pain was removed, the inflammation ceased, and the patient experienced no further trouble.

CASE

CASE XX.

SPASMODIC AFFECTIONS.

“ A married woman, of a very delicate habit, had for many years been subject to very alarming *spasmodic affections*, so very violent sometimes in the stomach as to threaten her immediate dissolution. During one of these violent paroxysms, the Tractors were applied to the region of the stomach, and drawn up the sternum and over the clavicle. Relief was soon experienced in the stomach, but the spasms attacked other parts of the body, as the head and arms, &c. On applying the Tractors to these parts, relief was almost instantaneously produced.

“ On this patient the efficacy of the Tractors has since been experienced in a variety of nervous affections, particularly in *violent pains of the head, face, and teeth*.

“ Here-

“ Heretofore during the paroxysms, various antispasmodics, as opium with camphire, have been given in large doses. After the use of these remedies, the patient has been frequently left in a very debilitated state, and confined for a week or more, before she acquired her usual strength. On the contrary, after the application of the Tractors, she did not experience any debility, when the paroxysm was past, and her health was restored in a surprising manner.

CASE XXI.

INFLAMED AND PAINED HEELS.

“ A person had *inflamed heels*, and very painful to the touch, supposed to have been occasioned by the frost. The Tractors were applied twice with good effect; the inflammation went off, and occasioned no further trouble.

CASE XXII.

QUINSY.

“ANN WHEELER, for several years has been frequently troubled with the *quinsy*, or an *inflammatory affection of the throat*. The tonsils were very much tumefied, and the complaint seldom went off without sup-
 puration. Her life many times has been in danger. On the 1st of the first month, 1799, she was seized in the evening with symptoms more violent than any she had ever before experienced. Without any other applications, the Tractors were used that evening, full half an hour, when they evidently abated the pain. On the ensuing morning there was a considerable degree of fever, and the glands of the throat much enlarged. I was concerned on finding they had discontinued the use of the Tractors in the night. I however had them applied in the morning, and repeated at intervals of three hours, which produced evident

amendment. Continued their use three days, and the complaint was completely subdued without a suppuration. No internal or external application was made but the Tractors alone.

CASE XXIII.

CONTUSION.

“ JOHN STAFFORD, a labouring man, aged 35, received a very *violent contusion*, by a cart-wheel falling on his thigh. At first it was thought the bone was fractured. The parts were swelled prodigiously, so much so, that it was necessary to split his breeches in order to take them off. The inside of the knee was very much bruised and discoloured. I saw him about half an hour after the accident, before any application whatever had been made. A medical attendant present assisted me in giving the Tractors a fair trial, and we used them in concert half an hour, when the pain and swelling had very much abated. I ordered him to

bed, and called on him again in the evening; he told me he had no pain, and I found the inflammation nearly gone. Used the Tractors about fifteen minutes longer, and by the next morning there was no appearance of disease remaining. He has not had the least pain since."

Excepting some experiments on ANIMALS, these compose chief of the cases noted down in Mr. GRANT'S memorandum-book. It will be observed, that the names of all the patients, on whom he used the Tractors, are not mentioned. Some persons, from motives of delicacy, having an unwillingness to present their names to the public, as connected with any medical subject, Mr. G. conceived a propriety in omitting them. Indeed, whoever is acquainted with that gentleman, will not consider their insertion necessary to substantiate the facts.

Should any, however, desire more particular information on this head, Mr. G. has
obligingly

obligingly assured me, that he will with pleasure satisfy them; and as the persons, on whom his experiments were made, live chiefly in his own neighbourhood, references can be easily given.

Since the receipt of the above cases, Mr. G. has informed the Editor, in a letter dated third month, 10th, that "I could fill thee a volume of cases, but many perhaps would be of less moment than those thou hast received. I find the success of the Tractors much depends on a due perseverance in their applications," &c.

The Editor has dwelt considerably on the practice of Mr. GRANT, as he considers his observations of more moment than those who have seen fewer experiments, and who have also employed this remedy with less judgment and attention. His very benevolent and humane custom of attending both rich and poor, *gratis*, while it afforded him an opportunity

nity of making numerous experiments, at the same time, “ gave him the satisfaction of relieving a great number of his suffering fellow-creatures.”

COMMUNICATION FROM MR. DAVID
OGILVY, JUN. BOOKSELLER, HOL-
BORN, LONDON.

London, August 2, 1798.

“ Sir,

“ Agreeably to my promise, when I purchased a set of your Tractors, I shall do myself the pleasure of communicating to you the result of my experiments. The curiosity naturally excited by a remedy so novel, and, as one might infer from your late publication, so interesting to humanity, has led me to place myself, as much as possible, in the way of procuring proper subjects for the Tractors, and of noting with attention their effects; that I might there-
by

by have an opportunity of convincing myself of the truth or fallacy of the doctrine from my own experience. The ultimate success of these trials, I take great pleasure in declaring, has exceeded my expectations.

GOUTY HEAD-ACHE.

“ The first experiment I made with the Tractors was on my Mother, for a very *violent pain in the head*, and the case proved suitable for the Metallic Influence. It may be proper to observe, that this pain was the remains of *gouty affections*, with which she had been troubled for several years. By the advice of her physician she had recourse to the Bath waters, about three years since; soon after her return, the disease, which before at times affected her whole body, became stationary in her head. I can only say, that upon applying the Tractors agreeable to your directions, when she was in violent pain, her head-ache, which had afflicted her very severely and

almost incessantly for upwards of two years, was in about ten minutes completely relieved. The application has been once repeated, and however extraordinary the fact, she has never experienced the pain since. It is now about four months since the application.

CONTUSION.

“ I have lately had occasion to use them in a case of a *bruise*, which afforded me much satisfaction. My infant child by accident fell against the edge of a chair, and received a very *severe blow in the forehead*. The child appearing in great pain, I applied the Tractors as soon as possible, before the part had swelled to the extent that it doubtless would, if left to itself: she very soon stopped crying, and the swelling and inflammation in a few minutes were hardly perceptible, and nothing remained of the wound but a small scar.

SWELLING

SWELLING IN THE FACE, AND BITE
OF A GNAT.

“ I have twice had occasion to use the Tractors on myself, once for a *swelling in the face accompanied with pain*, and once for the *bite of a gnat*. My face, in consequence of a cold a short time since, became very much swelled, and in considerable pain; one single experiment removed the pain and swelling. The bite from a gnat was in two places, the one above, and the other just below the lid of one of my eyes; the parts became very soon so much swelled as to completely close the eye, and on using the Tractors a few minutes the pain was removed, and the swelling subsided soon after.

“ I have applied the Tractors with equal success in many other cases, once for a *rheumatic gout*; for *common head-aches*, &c.; but it would be tedious to detail every case, and indeed they do not all now occur to my mind.

“ You

“ You will not infer from the above statement, that I have invariably succeeded in all my experiments ; probably from not paying sufficient attention to the directions accompanying the Tractors, which point out the diseases subject to the metallic influence, I have often, no doubt, applied them improperly. And here give me leave to observe, that you ought to spare no pains in instructing your purchasers in the mode of using the Tractors, as well as to discriminate between the diseases subject to their influence, and those that are not ; otherwise this practice, like every other, when injudiciously used, may lose credit unjustly. Wishing you success in your practice, which the discovery undoubtedly merits,

I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

DAVID OGILVY, jun.”

In addition to the above communication, Mr. OGILVY has since favoured the Editor with the following :

“ Dear

London, April 1st, 1799.

“ Dear Sir,

“ If any further attestation from me, respecting the efficacy of the Metallic Tractors, than that I sent to you last summer, would be acceptable, you are at liberty to state in your intended publication, that I have continued using them, and with similar success. As I have always been ready to operate *gratis* on all who applied, you may suppose that I have not wanted opportunities for seeing their effects very often.

“ To detail every case would fill up a moderate volume, and as you probably have numerous communications from all parts of England, a lengthy letter from me would be uninteresting. I cannot but still be of the same opinion, respecting the necessity of your purchasers having a strict adherence to your directions for using the Tractors, and particularly to what is said on the presence of *oily, greasy substances, perspiration,*

ration, &c. The influence of these, in resisting the action of the Tractors, I have often had occasion to notice, and am persuaded that very many cases must occur, where success is prevented from these causes. Those who are in the habit of using your Tractors cannot be too attentive to these circumstances.

CONTRACTION OF THE HAND.

“ I must state one cure, which you may act your pleasure about inserting in your book. My mother, in addition to the complaint in her head (which however yet continues well) as stated in my former letter, about two years since received a wound in the palm of her hand, by falling on a broken glass bottle, which parted an artery. When this wound healed her fingers became so contracted, that she could scarcely make any use of them. At times there was much pain in that part of the hand where the wound had been. The idea struck me, that the Tractors might be of benefit

benefit in removing the contraction, by drawing them from the back and palm of the hand to the extremities of the fingers. I made the experiment, and the stricture gradually gave way, and in a few minutes she could use that hand as well as the other. Since that application, which is now several months, the contraction has three or four times returned, but on using the Tractors it has always been removed in the course of five or six minutes.

“ Not having observed, among the experiments you have published, many trials of the Tractors in contractions, I have been more particular in singling out this case, from the numerous others in which I have employed them with equal success.

“ Your most obedient and

“ humble servant,

“ DAVID OGILVY, jun.”

COMMUNICATION FROM MR. JAMES
MATTHEWS, BOOKSELLER, STRAND.

“ Sir,

“ Hearing of your intention to publish some cases relative to the use of your Metallic Tractors, in the removal and cure of several diseases, I conceive it a duty I owe to you and the Public at large to bear my testimony in their favour. Since I have been in possession of a set of them, I have applied them in several cases of the headache, rheumatism in the face and elsewhere, and inflammations in the eyes, with complete success.

RHEUMATIC TOOTH-ACHE.

“ A lady, who had been in extreme agony seven days from a rheumatic tooth-ache, was relieved in ten minutes by an application of the Tractors. The soreness which she felt in her cheek was also removed in a few hours after.

INFLAM-

INFLAMMATION IN THE EYES.

“ A gentleman, who had a swelled face and great inflammation in his eye, permitted me to apply the Tractors. In about eight or ten minutes the tumefaction in the face subsided, and the eye was relieved from weakness and pain. The blood-vessels, which were turgid and distended, gradually discharged themselves, and in the course of the next day the inflammation wholly disappeared.

CHRONIC PAIN FROM A SPRAIN.

“ A gentleman, from some exertion in his garden, about Midsummer last, sprained his shoulder, since which he has not been able to raise his fore arm higher than an horizontal position from his elbow. He was not able of course to put on his cravat or coat, and, if he attempted to lift up his arm, it was always attended with extreme pain, even so as to make him cry out. His wife, hearing that I was in possession of the
Tractors,

Tractors, desired that I would perform an operation upon him. Happy in an opportunity to try their effects in such a peculiar case, I called on him for that purpose, on Wednesday evening, Nov. 14th. My first precaution was to have his arm, from his shoulder to the extremities of his fingers, washed with warm soap and water, to cleanse it from the greasy and oily substances which were present, and I likewise took care that my own hand, as an operator, should be free from those substances also, which I find to be necessary in all cases where the Tractors are applied. I then proceeded to draw the points of the Tractors alternately (using each about three minutes) from the shoulder to the extremities of the fingers, and in less than ten minutes he found the arm much relieved from pain, and on continuing their use half an hour, I had the gratification of seeing him put on his cravat and coat without assistance, which he had not done for four or five months before. The next morning he
lifted

lifted a heavy chair with the same arm, and carried it from one side of the room to the other, and that without pain, to his very great astonishment. A gentleman, who was present during the operation, knowing how long he had been troubled with this complaint, was so convinced of the utility of the Tractors, that he afterwards purchased a set of them to take into the country with him, from a philanthropic spirit to do good to the afflicted in his vicinity.

SCALDS.

“ My wife has been twice scalded. The first time with hot tallow on both her wrists, and upon the immediate application of the Tractors, after the removal of the grease, the inflammation ceased, and the apparent progress of vesication was arrested. The second was occasioned by boiling coffee accidentally flying upon her upper lip. The Tractors were applied, and the same effect, as in the case above, took place.

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A CON-

A CONTUSION.

“ Another case occurred in my own family. A boy in beating books was accidentally struck by one of my men, who was beating with him, with a hammer of nearly fourteen pounds weight, upon the upper part of his eye-lid, which produced a wound three-fourths of an inch in length. Having blotting paper at hand, I immediately soaked up the blood with it, and applied the Tractors. The tumefaction was prevented from taking place, which was very surprising after so severe a blow. I applied a rag with a little Balsam only, and used the Tractors once more. In three days his eye was perfectly well, there remaining only a small scab and a little blackness below the eye.

“ These, with several other similar facts which I have witnessed, fully establish the virtue of the Tractors in my estimation, and should they fail in any instance of producing the desired effect, I believe it is because the case is not of the description
for

for which they are recommended, that they are improperly used, or not applied as frequently as is necessary. Wishing you success in your endeavours to promote the public welfare, by bringing this important discovery to England,

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ JAMES MATHEWS.”

Strand, No. 18,
January 8th, 1799.

The following favour the Editor received from a gentleman, much attached to philosophical investigations.

Mr. TEED, OF LANCASTER-COURT,
STRAND,

Purchased a set of the Metallic Tractors in May last. On the 13th of October he obliged me with a communication on the subject of their effects, of which the following is an extract :

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“ In

“ In England, which has long boasted its great and enlightened men, there prevails as much prejudice and scepticism on any innovation which opposes former opinions, as in countries where science and philosophy have made less progress. When LUNARDI gave out, a few years since, in the public papers, that he would certainly ascend into the air by means of a balloon, many sensible men, but who however did not understand the doctrine of gases, thought it impossible, and ridiculed those who entertained a different opinion. You will not therefore be surprized that persons of this class should, in the year 1798, equally disbelieve and ridicule your father's discovery, and even declare the practice an imposition on the public.

“ With a view to inform such characters, and to the relief of my suffering fellow mortals, I submit to you, for insertion in your next publication, the following cases :

SPRAIN.

SPRAIN.

“ About a fortnight since, a person in my family sprained her foot. It swelled, grew black, and was very painful. I applied the Tractors, which I purchased of you; the pain was removed. I repeated the operation that evening and the next morning, when she was every way much better, and by the evening of that day well.

TOOTH-ACHE.

“ My servant had a bad tooth-ache, which proceeded from a rotten or carious tooth. I directed my little daughter to apply the Tractors, and relief was given in a very few minutes. As the tooth was much decayed, the pain has many times since returned, but has always been relieved by the application of the Tractors.

“ The above are some of the cases which have come under my own inspection. There is an old and vulgar maxim, that “ seeing is

believing, but feeling is the naked truth.”
“ On the day of the last illumination for our brilliant victory over the French fleet, I was very suddenly affected with a violent pain in the small of my back, or what is commonly called the

LUMBAGO ;

It came on in the afternoon, and I was so ill as to be obliged to lay on the bed until five o'clock. I could not walk across the room, or stand upright without very great pain. The Tractors were applied, and in less than ten minutes, though however extraordinary it may appear, I was relieved, and could walk about as well as ever. I do not say I was completely cured by that one operation, for there was some pain the next day, but by no means so violent, and in a few days, by constant use of the Tractors, it entirely left me.

“ If it will at all contribute towards establishing a doctrine, entirely new in the
researches

researches of this country, you are at liberty to make use of the name of

Your humble servant,

“ RICHARD TEED.”

Lancafter-court, Strand,

13th October 1798.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REV. DR.
TROTTER, OF HANS PLACE, KNIGHTS-
BRIDGE.

This worthy and respectable gentleman demands, both from the Editor and the afflicted, every acknowledgment. The former is indebted to him for the candour with which he has carried on his investigation of the merits of the Metallic Practice; and the latter for his assiduous attention to them, and his sacrifice both of time and convenience to afford them relief from their sufferings. It need not be mentioned, that this gentleman, who is so well known for his humane and charitable disposition,

M 4

disposition, attends the sick without any other recompence than that, which is above estimation, the exertions of a benevolent mind. During his experiments with the Tractors, the Doctor was attentive to keep an accurate memorandum of each case, and in consequence is now much more competent to decide on the real merits of this practice. His report is as follows :

Hans Place, March 29, 1799.

“ Dear Sir,

“ In answer to your question, “ What is now my opinion of the Metallic Tractors ? ” I can with confidence say, that after six months candid trial, I am equally astonished and pleased. The instruments and the operation are so simple that they promise nothing, but the effect is so remarkable and generally so sudden, that it seems more like a miracle than the usual course of nature, though till of late undiscovered. When I first perused your late Publication, giving an account of your father’s cures by his Metallic
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tallic Tractors, attested by well-known respectable characters in America, as a friend to humanity I called upon you, to make further enquiry about a discovery that promised to be so useful to mankind. Your goodness in conducting me to St. Martin's work-house, gave me an opportunity of satisfying myself of the efficacy of the Tractors, in the cure of two women, both of whom declared in my hearing, with apparent pleasure and gratitude, that they were by these relieved of their complaints; one of a *painful acute rheumatism in the ankle*, and the other of a *gouty affection* attended with *a contraction in the hand and fingers (a)*.

“ Soon after this, I was possessed of a set of the Tractors, and resolved to omit no occasion of using them for the relief of the afflicted. On looking at my minute-book, I find a particular account of twenty-one

(a) These cases shall be noticed in the subsequent pages.

cures performed under my own inspection ;
 viz. FOUR OF THE RHEUMATISM ; TWO OF
 INFLAMED EYES AND HEAD-ACHE ; ONE
 ERYSIPELAS ; FIVE OF THE TOOTH-ACHE ;
 THREE OF SWELLING IN THE MOUTH ;
 THREE OF INFLAMED SWELLING IN THE
 FACE ; ONE OF AN UNCOMMON PAIN IN
 THE HEAD OF A YOUNG WOMAN SUBJECT
 TO THE EPILEPSY, AND WHICH WAS THE
 USUAL SYMPTOM OF AN APPROACHING
 FIT ; ONE OF THE STRANGURY, AND
 ONE OF A SORE THROAT. The particulars I
 will readily communicate to any enquirer.

“ Upon the whole, I must, in justice to
 (what I shall call) Dr. PERKINS'S INVA-
 LUABLE discovery, acknowledge, that I
 myself have never applied the Tractors,
 without some sensible effect, and that
 in a few minutes ; and *from my own ex-
 perience* can say, that metals do not more
 certainly attract the electrical fluid, than
 the Metallic Tractors (if properly used) act
 in attracting and removing certain pains,
 inflammations, and inflammatory swellings.

I have

I have no doubt of their making their way in a short time over Britain, as they have done in America, and are now doing in Denmark and Germany. So *safe*, so *pleasant*, so *ready*, and I will add so *cheap* a medical assistant, few ladies or gentlemen will choose to be without in their families. Believe I am, with esteem,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Your very humble servant,

“ JOHN TROTTER.”

P. S. Since writing the above, I have operated on a gentleman's left eye-brow, which was painful and a little swelled, though without inflammation. I drew the Tractors over it in different directions, for the space of half an hour, without the least sensible effect. Upon enquiry I found the disorder to proceed from the stomach. Hence it may be inferred, that no relief can be expected from the Tractors when the complaint is merely symptomatical; but when it is topical, though ever so violent, a cure, from what I have witnessed, may be depended upon.

J. T.

COMMUNICATED BY MR. MANT, SURGEON,
OF SOUTHAMPTON.

The cures mentioned in the three first cases adduced below, it will be observed, were not witnessed by Mr. MANT personally, but in his letter accompanying them he says, "that having the account from so sensible a man and so respectable a character, I cannot entertain the smallest doubt of the facts, especially as they are corroborated by the testimony of the patients themselves whom I have examined."

The gentleman to whom Mr. MANT alludes is WALTER TAILOR, Esq; of Potfwood Green, Southampton, well known to the public as a scientific character, and for some very valuable and useful improvements relating to several new applications of the mechanical powers. He was one of the early purchasers of the Tractors, and

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from having had them in his possession nearly a year, is now well qualified to make a proper report on their merits. The two last cases occurred in the practice of Mr. MANT himself.

CASE I.

A PERIODICAL PAIN IN THE HAND.

“ Mrs. TAILOR, above Bar, Southampton (no relation to the above mentioned gentleman) had for 13 years past been attacked, some time in the course of every night, with a very acute pain in one of her hands, for which she had recourse to many medicines and applications without effect. About four months since the Tractors were first applied, and she soon began to experience benefit from them. It is worthy of observation, that this happening in the night, they were never applied when the pain was present, but acted as a sure preventative of its return. She has since been attacked by it only very slightly, and a few minutes application

plication of the Tractors always relieves her, but she sometimes passes two or three weeks together without the least return of pain.

CASE II.

SPRAIN AND CONTUSION.

“ WALTER TAILOR, Esq; of Potswood Green, Southampton, the gentleman above mentioned, met with an accident in descending a flight of stairs, by which his leg was bent under him, and sprained in such a degree that he was unable to rise: the most violent pain in the muscles ensued. His servants having supported him to a sofa, he immediately had the Tractors applied, which he purchased of you, and, to use his own expression, “ after continuing the operation fifteen minutes, the pain seemed to leave me as if I had taken it off with my stocking. It appeared to descend lower and lower, till at length I, as it were, shook it off my
“ toes.”

“toes.” He immediately got up and walked, never having found any inconvenience from the injury since.

CASE III.

A SCALD.

“The gentleman, mentioned in the last case, employs a number of men in a foundry, one of whom let fall some melted metal on his leg, and scalded it to a large extent. On applying the Tractors twice, the effects of the scald were removed, and the man enabled to return to his work the next day.

CASE IV.

A PAINFUL INFLAMMATORY SWELLING
IN THE ANCLE.

“I was called to a young lady on the 23d instant [March] who, without any knowledge of having been the subject of a sprain or contusion, was affected with an inflammation and tumefaction in one of her ancles,
attended

attended with acute pain on the slightest motion, particularly if she attempted to ascend stairs. Not recollecting the Tractors at the moment, I directed her to apply a poultice to the part. About five hours after I visited her again, and then used the Tractors for about twenty minutes, which produced a slight diminution of the swelling. They were again applied for the same space of time, about an hour after, and used at intervals. The next morning she was so much better as to be able to walk out, without experiencing but little inconvenience, whereas the day before she could not move two steps without very great pain. On the succeeding day, 25th, she rode thirty miles into Suffex, and her ankle to this time [March 31st] remains perfectly well.

CASE V.

INFLAMMATION IN THE EYES ATTENDED
WITH VIOLENT PAIN.

“ RICHARD LEE, of North Shields, Captain of the ship Brothers (a transport at this port to carry troops to Portugal) was seized, March 27th, with an intense pain and inflammation in one of his eyes, which he said was increased by washing it with brandy and water. On the 28th, he called on me for advice; I immediately applied the Tractors. After fifteen minutes he said he was better, and in twenty exclaimed with joy that “ he was perfectly easy.” Having discontinued their use, he afterwards had a recurrence of pain. The operation was again had recourse to, and in a few minutes he was perfectly relieved. The inflammation had in some measure subsided. When I drew the Tractors across the eye-lid towards the temple, he assured me he felt the pain follow it to the exter-

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nal angle, where it ceased, after applying the Tractors an hour in the whole. He remained perfectly easy, and went away. Being obliged to weigh anchor immediately, I am unable to obtain any further knowledge of the case.

“ I should not neglect to mention a circumstance, which I think merits observation. I directed this man to open his inflamed eye, indeed my assistant and myself held the lids, while I drew the Tractors (about half an inch distant) over the pupil and cornea of the eye. The second time of doing this he started up, and exclaimed he could not bear it, as it occasioned such violent pain, and seemed to have an effect exactly similar to an electric shock; but the patient never having received such a shock, and being entirely uninformed on the subject, could only give me an idea of it, by saying it felt as if I had plunged a knife into his eye.”

Mr.

Mr. MANT, with that prudence which becomes every medical man, determined on not suffering his name to appear, as vouching for the authenticity of any case, to which he had not been *himself an eye witness*. When he favoured the Editor with the three first cases, not having been in possession of the Tractors but a few days, he had *seen* no experiment, and consequently observed, "I cannot by any means consent that my *name* be mentioned as having forwarded them to you;" and in concluding his letter repeats, "I must again beg my name may not be made use of, until I have myself had opportunity for investigating the properties of the Tractors."

In his last letter, with his own cases, he observes, "I am now perfectly convinced of their very great efficacy; and I shall do every thing in my power to promote your interest, and that of society at large, in causing it to be possessed of so desirable a remedy against so numerous a train of diseases."

COMMUNICATED BY MR. JACKSON, SUR-
GEON, SLOANE-STREET, CHELSEA.

February, 26th 1799.

“ Sir,

“ About three months since I first heard of the success of your Metallic Tractors, and was strongly urged to turn my thoughts to the practice. I will candidly acknowledge that it appeared to me in as unfavourable a light as the visionary schemes of Mesmer; but in consequence of hearing that my neighbour, the Rev. Dr. TROTTER, had done considerable good by using them, I was determined, on the first proper occasion, to give a fair trial to so novel a mode. On Thursday, the 17th ultimo, such an one offered. One of the long stage-coaches from Battersea was upset near Charing-cross by an axle-tree breaking, and some of the passengers were severely hurt. Among them was Mr. WINPENNY, a gentleman well known at the Stock Exchange; he
was

was thrown by the shock to the opposite side of the carriage, and received

A SEVERE CONTUSION IN HIS FACE
AND EYE.

“ By favour of Dr. TROTTER, I was supplied with the Tractors that evening, and used them with success. The next morning, 18th, the cellular membrane about the eyes was so turgid with blood, that I determined to apply leeches in the evening; but to my pleasure, as well as surprize, on using the Tractors again, the swelling so much subsided that no other remedy was necessary.

“ 19th. They were applied twice with the most decided good effect. 20th, Used them in the forenoon only; and on the succeeding day, 21st, after their application, he went into the city to business, and in two days more was quite well.

“ Without entering at present into any discussion of the principle on which the Tractors act, I can truly assert my conviction, that under the best mode my experience would have dictated in such a case, Mr. WINPENNY would not have been able to return to business in less than a fortnight.

ERYSIPELAS.

“ I have to add another instance of their good effects. Mrs. P. an elderly person in this place, who had been previously ill with asthma and fever, was attacked with as violent an erysipelatous inflammation all over her face as I ever saw. The heat, pain, and tension were so distressing, that I determined to use the Tractors. After applying them ten minutes she declared herself easy, and could open the eyelids, which were closed before I began. The application was persevered in, and in six times she was perfectly recovered.

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The only medicine used was an opening draught.

“ As I am now in possession of a set of the Tractors, I shall continue in the practice, being convinced that many sufferings of humanity will be removed in a short space of time, and with the most absolute certainty of the innocence of the remedy.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ JOHN JACKSON.”

The Editor is authorized to state, that since the receipt of the above communication, Mr. JACKSON, from holding himself in readiness to attend every applicant to receive the benefit of this operation, has employed the Tractors with very great success, in numerous instances, among his patients. Persons in his vicinity, desirous of employing this remedy, will do well to apply to Mr. J. for that purpose.

MR. SMITH, CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST,
IN THE HAYMARKET.

Since this gentleman became possessed of a set of the Tractors, which is about six months, he has had many opportunities of applying them, and from his knowledge of the properties and operations of medicine, his report is rendered (particularly in the two first cases) important and satisfactory. His communication is as follows :

“ Haymarket, 2d 4th Month, 1799.

“ Esteemed Friend,

“ Having understood it was thy intention to publish some cases on the effects produced by the Metallic Tractors, I thought I could give thee an account of several experiments which are not unimportant ; at the same time freely acknowledging, when I first heard of them, even from some of my particular friends, I was a sceptic, and
until

until *ocular demonstration* proved to me their beneficial effects, I was led to conceive the whole arose from the influence of the imagination and was nearly allied to Animal Magnetism. Perhaps the following cases (or as many of them as thou may'st apprehend it right to make use of) will not be unacceptable.

CASE I.

VIOLENT PAIN IN THE REGION OF THE LIVER.

“ About the middle of the tenth month last, having just returned from the country, where I had several opportunities of *seeing* the Tractors made use of with great effect, I had an inclination to try them on a young man, my apprentice, who seemed rapidly going into a decline. For many weeks he had been incapable of attending to business, had a true hectic pulse, seldom less than an hundred and twenty, and as in such cases very irregular; there was
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a continual violent pain in the region of the liver. A physician of skill and judgment, who attended him, prescribed the usual means to obtain relief; and among other remedies, blisters and frequent topical bleeding were had recourse to, but with little or no sensible benefit. Seeing it a desperate case, determined me to make trial of the Tractors, and to my great surprize and satisfaction, after continuing their use about a week, the pain in his side was removed, and in a short time he was so far recovered as to be able to attend to his business. He has some times since had returns of pain, but only in a slight degree, and which the application of the Tractors has uniformly relieved. His health is now nearly re-established, which he, as well as myself, conceive to be solely from the use of the Tractors.

“ In addition to the above I may add, that a friend of mine, who had a liver complaint, attended with similar symptoms, and

and who purchased a set of the Tractors from thy Agent in Bath, where he had been for the benefit of the waters, without success, has from the metallic practice received so much relief, that very little pain now occurs, and when it does, is removed by the application of the Tractors.

“ It certainly must be a matter of much importance in cases like the above, where medicine but too frequently proves ineffectual, that even a palliative to pain, nearly amounting to a cure (and which in time may probably prove so) should be obtained with so little trouble; and that the disease itself be so far subdued as to occasion no greater inconvenience.

CASE II.

VIOLENT PAIN IN THE VICINITY OF THE KIDNEY.

“ A Relation of mine had in the course of the last year been afflicted with a pain in
her

her back, which confined her to her room for some months. She was often affected so violently as not to be able to leave her bed, and for a considerable time incapable of walking without crutches. The medical person who attended her treated the complaint as a lumbago.

“ The 11th month last she solicited my advice. Upon hearing her symptoms I apprehended her case had been mistaken (*h*), and that the kidneys were the seat of the disorder, the excess of pain being only in these parts. I prevailed upon her to have the Tractors tried. On the first application she nearly fainted several times, but found relief. In two days she was able to

(*h*) It is very much to be regretted, that, from motives of extreme delicacy, patients should in any instance withhold information respecting their complaints from their medical attendant; by so doing they will often lose the advantages that might result from the administration of proper remedies, as well as sometimes cause undeserved reflection on his judgment.

walk

walk up and down stairs, and by continuing their use (several times) daily for a week, all pain was removed. She has ever since been able to attend to her family concerns.

CASE III.

ERYSIPELATOUS ERUPTION IN THE FACE.

“ My Daughter, a child about four years of age, had for several weeks a disagreeable eruption in her face. A variety of medicines were employed both externally and internally without effect. The humour was of a very acrid nature, tending much towards an erysipelatous inflammation, a thin watery ichor exuded from under the scabs. My wife drew the Tractors lightly over the parts affected. After the first application the inflammation considerably abated, and in two days nothing but dry scabs remained, which in a very short time were removed, leaving the skin

as

as smooth as usual. The Tractors were not used more than three times.

“ I have seen the Tractors used in several cases of erysipelas, and with the most decided benefit.

CASE IV.

VIOLENT INFLAMMATION IN THE EYE.

“ A young Woman had so violent an inflammation in her right eye, that she could not bear the light without experiencing excruciating pain. There appeared a film over the greatest part; the pupil completely. On the first application of the Tractors she was with difficulty kept from fainting, not on account of the pain, but from a sensation she could not describe. The operations were continued for three weeks, during which she was daily receiving benefit, and at the end of that time the inflammation subsided, and the film also was entirely removed.

CASE V.

RHEUMATISM.

“ A Friend of mine, about two months since, was attacked with a very violent rheumatic pain in the back part of his head, reaching a little way down the spine, and terminating near the scapula of the left shoulder. He had a good deal of fever, and had kept the house for several days. He made use of embrocations, and took guaiacum and laudanum, which gave temporary relief, but the pain continually returned. The Tractors were then applied, which immediately gave him ease, and on continuing their use a week the complaint was removed.

CASE VI.

ANGINA MALIGNA, OR ULCEROUS SORE

THROAT.

“ A few weeks since I found myself exceedingly ill, with symptoms of approach-
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ing fever, which in a few days terminated in a complaint, to which I have of late years been much subject, viz. an ulcerous fore throat. As it had usually been a tedious disorder with me I became low spirited, which the nervous fever that then attended me rather promoted. My tongue was covered with a thick brown crust, the tonsils and fauces much inflamed. Though I had so frequently made use of the Tractors to others, the probability of their being useful to myself escaped me for several days. It however occurring at last, I tracted myself for about ten minutes, and obtained relief both from soreness and pain. In the course of the day I felt a slight return, but which on the application of the Tractors was removed in a few minutes. In two or three days I was well enough to leave the house, and attend to business.

“ Some days after this my Wife, who I suspect had caught the infection from me, was attacked in the same manner, but the
timely

timely application of the Tractors prevented the disorder from proceeding to any great height, and she was favoured to recover much sooner than I had ever known any to have done in a similar complaint.

CASE VII.

TOTAL NUMBNESS IN ONE OF THE EXTREMITIES.

“ A young man, about six weeks since, called on me, to request I would recommend something that might relieve him from a serious and alarming complaint, with which he had for some time been affected, viz. a numbness and entire want of feeling in the right arm, from the shoulder to the fingers ends. The arm and hand had a livid appearance, and from some cuts he had on the fingers which could not be healed, there evinced an obstruction in the circulation. After I had used the Tractors for a few minutes, he exclaimed with much satisfaction, “ that his feeling began

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to

to return, and that he felt the points of the instruments very sensibly!" In a few minutes more, he said " he perceived a warmth and a glow in his hand and arm;" and we observed, an evident change from a livid to a healthy appearance. He was traſtored about half an hour. In the evening of the ſame day, the operation was again performed, and with ſo much ſucceſs, that he ſaid his arm was as well as ever. I have ſeen him ſeveral times ſince, and he has repeatedly told me that he has experienced no return of the complaint.

" In addition to the above caſes, I can inform thee, I have found the Traſtors of ſingular uſe in my own young family, who have been bruifed by falls, or running againſt the corner of tables, &c. I have been much entertained in minutely obſerving the *inflammation*, *tumefaction*, and *blackneſs* gradually diſappear, and this in a variety of inſtances.

" If

“ If the Tractors were of no other use, I should be perfectly satisfied in having purchased them for these purposes alone.

“ I have used them in several cases of pain in the head and teeth, but in these I have been sometimes unsuccessful, which, I suppose, must be accounted for, from the circumstance that pains in, and about the head are so often symptomatic, and arise from affections in other parts of the body.

“ Thou may, if thou thinkest proper, make use of my name, and if necessary refer those who wish to obtain information on the subject to me.

“ I remain with esteem,

“ Thy assured friend,

“ FREDERIC SMITH.”

COMMUNICATION FROM JEFFERY O'CONNELL, M. D. BATH.

This gentleman having been accidentally present at an application of the Tractors in a most severe case of rheumatism, [*see page 106.*] was so much struck with the instantaneous benefit derived, that he determined on giving the subject further attention. The principle of the metallic influence being unknown to the venerable authorities of the old school, was not with him an argument against withholding his assent to its existence, if it could be substantiated by evidence resulting from the testimony of his senses.

“ Sir,

“ I am happy to have it in my power to communicate to you the particulars of a case, which I presume to think cannot be deemed unimportant by any physician or professional person, who, in the course of his observation, must frequently witness
3 singular

singular variations and anomalies accompanying particular disorders.

CASE.

SYMPTOMS OF APOPLEXY TERMINATING
WITH AN UNCOMMON CRISIS.

“ M. RICKETTS, statuary, aged 54, enjoying a tolerable state of health, and not of a full habit of body, being in his workshop on the 13th January last, fell down suddenly in a fit, with a total loss of sense and motion. The lower part of the *occiput* hitting against the edge of a packing-box, occasioned a considerable laceration, and a profusion of blood. In the space of half an hour he recovered himself in some measure, but without any recollection of what had happened. He was then put to bed, and instantly complained of a most intense head-ache, for which he was bled, and had leeches applied to his temples. An eminent physician visited him, who prescribed according to his judgment, but there was

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experienced no diminution of pain. Eleven days elapsed in this alarming state.

“ He thought of the Tractors. Mrs. RICKETTS implored me to see her husband. From her statement of the case, I was not warranted in supposing it within the probability of their *sphere of action*, naturally concluding a great pressure on the brain, perhaps extravasation. To comply with her ardent wishes I went, but determined, for obvious reasons, not to use the Tractors: it was about nine at night. An inflammatory diathesis appeared to prevail, particularly in his eyes. His pulse full and tense. No symptoms of delirium, but the pain was inexpressible. I remarked that he more particularly was rubbing the orbit of his left eye. “ Here,” he said, “ my greatest pain lies. This is *torture*. I feel pain over all my head, “ but it is bearable compared with this “ part.” On a closer inspection, I found that he puffed up in some measure the eyelid,

lid. This circumstance struck me forcibly, having sometimes seen and experienced myself such a sign to attend an intermittent ophthalmia (*i*). I thought more favourably of his case, and as he still wished a trial of the Tractors I consented to their application. I moved them in a circular direction over the left orbit in contact with the skin. In about eight minutes his countenance suddenly cleared up, and he exclaimed, "Now, now I am in heaven!" I continued the application a quarter of an hour, when he no longer felt pain, but with the composure of a person in perfect health put on his cap. In the mean time observing *symptoms of flatulence*, I was led not to

(*i*) A complaint in the eye, recurring daily at a stated period, and principally owing to a morbid state of the stomach. This is more frequent in the south of Europe than in our northern climate. During some years residence in Lisbon, I met with several cases of the kind, and experienced myself a regular succession of them every spring for six years; as in regular tertian agues, they yielded to emetics and the bark.

J. O'C.

apprehend a preponderance of inflammation, but rather to rely on that symptom as a *diagnostic*. I thought the Tractors acted as a *good compass*, and I began to be sure as it were of *my latitude*. I entertained some expectations that the case might terminate in an intermittent: they were realized. For three successive mornings the pain affected him, though in a slight degree, from four o'clock until about nine. I operated on him afterwards very superficially; but as the stomach appeared now evidently in fault, I was convinced nothing could effect that part of the cure but one or two timely emetics, and, if necessary, afterwards the bark. He followed my instructions. The *sordes* was immense in consequence of the emetic. He has not experienced the slightest return of the head-ache, and is now in perfect health. It appears to me evident, that the Tractors alone stopped the dreaded apprehension of delirium, and imminent danger.

“ I beg

“ I beg leave to add a reflection. As the very intense symptoms which accompanied this case did not, during the course of eleven days, yield in the least degree to the usual mode of treatment, may we not reasonably infer, that the Tractors possess a very considerable sedative power in some febrile cases, which has not hitherto been suspected. An alleviation of the most alarming symptoms might thus be obtained; greater light reflected on the new principle of the action of metals on the human frame, and unexpected truths arise for the advancement of medical science and the benefit of mankind.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your very obedient servant,

“ J. O'CONNELL.”

Bath, March 1st, 1799.

EXPERIMENTS WITH THE TRACTORS IN
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

The Editor has next to notice some experiments with the Tractors in several of the hospitals, and other charitable institutions in London and its vicinity. These it becomes the more necessary to detail in the present tract, as from the unfavourable circumstances under which many of the experiments were made, misrepresentations of the facts, from certain persons not remarkable for candour and liberality, have been *insinuated* to the public. How far the inefficacy of the metallic practice is proved from a *fair* statement of these experiments, the reader shall judge.

It is proper just to observe, that the Editor, from having ever shewn a disposition to perform his operations in the presence of men of science, where the truth or fallacy of his pretensions could be more easily deter-

determined, has often been invited to make his experiments in several of the public hospitals and poor-houses in and about the metropolis. These invitations have ever been most cheerfully and eagerly complied with.

The first visit made at a public charity was at the poor-house of the parish of St. Pancras. As some of the gentlemen who attended have very kindly favoured the Editor with a statement of the results of the experiments in that house, it may perhaps be more satisfactory to the reader to be presented with the report itself, which is as follows :

COPY OF THE REPORT OF THE REV. WARRING WILLET, A. M. DOMESTIC CHAPLAIN TO THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DUNMORE, RECTOR OF THE PARISHES OF LISTON AND STANFORD LE HOPE, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, AND MINOR CANON OF ST. PETER, WESTMINSTER; AND NEHEMIAH SPICER, ESQ; OVERSEER OF THE INFIRMARY OR POOR-HOUSE, IN THE PARISH OF ST. PANCRAS, MIDDLESEX.

Delancey Place, Hampstead Road,
May 17, 1798.

“ Being desirous of obtaining ocular proof of the efficacy of Mr. PERKINS’s Tractors, we some time since requested him to accompany us and some other gentlemen, for that purpose, to the poor-house of the parish of St. Pancras, where were a number of persons afflicted with various diseases. The Tractors were applied in
our

our presence with success upon a soldier who had the

G O U T

in both his feet. The severe pain and inflammation were removed in a few minutes.

“ Among others who found relief, the case of Mrs. LANFESTER, who had been confined in this poor-house with the

RHEUMATISM

for several months, deserves particular notice. For some weeks previous to the application of the Tractors, she had not been able, in consequence of debility occasioned by the extreme pain in her limbs, to bear her weight on her feet. Her arms were so affected that she could not raise them sufficiently high to feed herself, the nurse being obliged to assist her in putting her food to her mouth. The knee and elbow joints were much tumefied and inflamed,
and

and from her extremely emaciated state it was believed she could not long survive. In this helpless and distressing situation Mr. PERKINS applied the Tractors to her right arm, which then appeared to be in most pain, and in about ten minutes the pains in that arm were wholly removed, and immediately she raised it over her head, and could move it with perfect ease in any direction. As the experiment was only performed on one arm, and the complaint extended to the legs as well as to the other arm, the pain in about twenty-four hours returned. The Tractors being then purchased by the second of the undermentioned, he visited the Poor House and applied them himself to her knees and arms. After four or five applications daily, she so far recovered as to be enabled to walk down stairs, and into the adjoining yard. She continued gaining strength, and is now restored to health, and discharged from the house as cured.

“ Mr. SPICER has used his Tractors successfully in other cases since he possessed them. Among these a person of his own family, who has been subject to the

RHEUMATISM

for years, had a few weeks since a severe attack in the ankle and foot. The parts were much swelled, inflamed, and in extreme pain, so that the foot could not be placed on the floor. The Tractors were used several times during the day, and the pain and inflammation were wholly removed, so that the person could walk with ease. In the ordinary attacks of this disease it has usually continued several days.

“ (Signed)

“ WARING WILLET.

“ NEHEMIAH SPICER.”

Here

Here the reader has had occasion to notice, what he has often seen in the Editor's comments on the Danish cases—*the necessity of frequently repeating the applications*, especially on subjects so long and dreadfully afflicted as Mrs. LANFESTER. Had not Mr. SPICER's humanity and judgment led him to renew the operations on that poor woman, when she had a recurrence of pain, the benefit from the first trial would not have been permanent, and the termination of the complaint would doubtless have been fatal to the patient. Discredit is but too frequently brought on the metallic practice, by neglecting to pay proper attention to this point.

Since the date of the above report, Mr. SPICER, from having the Tractors in his possession, has employed them with success in numerous other instances.

As the Editor has determined on noticing every thing which to his knowledge has occurred in Public Institutions respecting the Tractors, he must not fail to mention a visit, which he made to Guy's Hospital; although, as nothing decisive occurred in that place, it may not appear to bear much reference to the point in question.

Dr. SAUNDERS, senior physician, with that liberality which distinguishes this eminent character, kindly invited me to try the effects of the Tractors on any of his patients, whom I should conceive to be suitable subjects for experiment. In compliance with this invitation, about the first of June 1798, I accompanied some medical friends to that hospital, with the hope of meeting with proper cases; the patients, however, who were presented on that day were all of a different description. One woman, with an highly inflamed
P eye,

eye, appeared at first to be a subject not unfavourable for the Metallic Practice, but, on further examination of her complaint, other symptoms evinced her case to be of a complicated nature, and that she required a different mode of treatment.

To gratify however the several medical gentlemen present, by shewing the method of applying the Tractors, they were drawn a short time over this person's eye, and, as I had previously apprehended, with no considerable effect; she thought she could see more distinctly, but from the nature of her case she undoubtedly did not receive much benefit from the application. Not having seen the patient afterwards, the result of her case is unknown to me (*k*).

(*k*) My professional avocations, and a distance of three miles from Guy's Hospital, have precluded the possibility of my since availing myself of Dr. SAUNDERS' indulgence for prosecuting my experiments in that place. To do justice to the practice, the Tractors should be applied three times in the day, and in many cases be continued for some weeks.

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A short time after the visit at Guy's Hospital, by the politeness of Dr. PEARSON, whose liberality is equalled only by his reputation as a Philosopher and a Physician, the Editor was invited to use the Tractors on any of his patients at St. George's Hospital, if proper subjects could be found among them. On enquiry, one *rheumatic case* presented. This was a labouring man, about 45 years of age, an out-patient of the hospital. He had for several weeks been troubled with pains between his shoulders, for which blisters, embrocations, and other external applications had been used. These various remedies had given no other relief than changing the seat of the complaint, which was now confined to the shoulders alone. As the parts were yet in a greasy state, from the oily applications which had been used, no considerable advantage was to be expected from the Tractors. However, they were drawn over one of the shoulders and down the arm for

about ten minutes, when the pain in that shoulder was conducted into the elbow.

The application was then made for the same term of time to the other arm, and the same effect was produced ; the pain in both arms being removed to the elbows, leaving the shoulder tolerably easy.

Conceiving that nothing *effectual* could be done in the present unctuous state of the parts, the patient was ordered to apply again to the hospital, if he experienced any further pain ; but as he never presented himself afterwards, it may be presumed that he had no further occasion for the Tractors.

On the 20th of June 1798, the Editor again availed himself of the kind indulgence of Dr. PEARSON, and visited the hospital a second time. Among other patients who presented themselves on that day, was a woman, who complained of a violent pain in the breast, and one of her arms, extending to her fingers. This being
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ing an in-patient, the case was necessarily reported by Dr. PEARSON in his CLINICAL LECTURES (1), one of which is delivered every Saturday morning to the class which attends his other medical lectures.

The following is an abstract from my notes of Dr. PEARSON'S report of the case referred to, from the Clinical Lecture, delivered June the 23d, three days after the application of the Tractors :

“ TAMUR METCROFT, aged 28, had pains in her right arm, shoulder, and breast, so severe in the latter place as to affect her breathing very much. Her pulse was one hundred and fifteen in a minute. The Metallic Tractors were applied to her arm, and the patient declared she was somewhat relieved; but on further examination of her complaint in the evening, when the same application was to have been repeated, it

(1) In these *clinical lectures* an account is given of the diseases of all his in-patients of the hospital, of the remedies employed, and the progress of their complaints.

was found that the disease was more general, and deeply seated than was at first supposed; and as the Tractors are chiefly employed in topical complaints, the case was thought not a fair one for the Metallic application, and it consequently was not repeated."

The reader will form some further idea of the nature of this case, by the subsequent report delivered in the Clinical Lecture, August 10th, about seven weeks from the time she began with other remedies.

" It will be remembered that TAMUR METCROFT was not thought a proper subject for the Metallic Practice, and we accordingly adopted a different mode of treatment. This case was very obstinate. I ordered six leeches to be applied, and gave three grains of opium and calomel divided into three doses every day. On the 9th of July, her arm appeared a little better, but the pain in her breast was as bad as ever. I ordered twelve leeches and three blisters, which
were

were successively applied to the chest and neck. On the 16th, the breast was better, but her arm was become very painful again. On the 20th, the pain returned to her breast again, but not quite so violent as when she first came into the hospital. There seemed to be some affection in the breast of this patient, which was not easily to be removed. 3d August, she was free from all her pains, but her arm was extremely weak, so much so that she could with great difficulty raise it up."

On the 18th of July, a day for admitting patients, the Editor again accompanied Dr. PEARSON at St. George's Hospital. Among the patients then presented was SARAH COX, aged 27.

On the following Saturday, 21st, we had the Doctor's Clinical Lecture, which reported this case as follows :

" This woman, on examination, reported, that for the three last months she had

been troubled with *rheumatic pains* all over her, and which at this time chiefly affected her arms, hands, knees, and feet; likewise between her shoulders; the tongue was white, pulse one hundred and thirty, and skin cold.

“ This was thought to be a case in which the Tractors might be beneficial, and they were accordingly applied to her legs and arms. In fifteen minutes she said she was relieved, and her skin was much warmer. The same application was repeated in the evening, and she again found benefit. In the morning the Tractors were again used, and she reported that her arms were free from pain. It was however then observed, that she *coughed* considerably; and on more particular enquiry she acknowledged, that for three months she had been severely afflicted with a cough, and during that time had not been able to lie on her left side! On this discovery the Tractors were laid aside, and I advised remedies for her pulmonic complaint, as bleeding, &c.”

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A subsequent report on the issue of this case, will show what grounds there were for expecting a cure from the Tractors.

Clinical Lecture, July 28th, 1798.

“ The case of SARAH COX, which was reported in our last clinical lecture, deserves particular attention. It will be recollected, that from her statement of the symptoms, it was supposed she had no other complaint than the *rheumatism*, but that on further enquiry we found she had concealed from us the symptoms which related to an affection in her breast. I first ordered her to be bled, and then to take some expectorating pills composed of gum ammoniac, JAMES’S powder, opium, and squills. In three or four days after, she again complained of the pain in her limbs. I then ordered her an anodyne ; bled her a second time, but the blood was not buffy ; pulse one hundred and twenty, and small. In ten days she was confined to her bed ;
her

her breathing became very short, and she was extremely weak; on the following day she died without a struggle.

“ We often have great difficulty in judging right of the diseases of many patients, who present themselves to an hospital. They come under the influence of great prejudices. This person, when she was first examined respecting her complaints, did not acquaint us with her pain in her breast, in consequence of having been told that no *consumptive* patients could gain admittance into the hospital.

“ This case deserved further investigation, and we accordingly after death examined the lungs. In the right lobe we found a few tubercles, but no inflammation. On the left side, the parts were very much diseased; nearly a quart of water in the cavity of the breast, and about two ounces in the *pericardium*. The left lobe was highly inflamed, and full of tubercles, which probably

bly had been forming for six months past. In this side also were two large *vomicæ*: a piece of this lobe sunk readily in water.

“ After seeing the situation of this patient’s lungs, it will not be a matter of surprize that she was not cured by the Tractors, nor by the treatment which was afterwards adopted. Before she applied to the hospital, she was undoubtedly beyond the reach of human assistance.”

In addition to the above extracts from Dr. PEARSON’S lectures, it may be proper barely to observe, that the second patient, TAMUR METCROFT, during the application of the Tractors, was entrusted to the care of the late Mr. HAWKINS, the apothecary to the house. He was requested to repeat the application in the evening, and again at about eight o’clock the next morning. The patient was of course to take no medicine in the mean time. On visiting her at one o’clock the next day, I learned
that

that the Tractors had not been used in the preceding evening nor that morning, for the reasons which Dr. PEARSON had suggested. Mr. HAWKINS, having in the evening perceived the complaint to be different from what the patient had represented at first, immediately had recourse to other remedies. As she was now under their operation, it was improper to use the Tractors with a view of ascertaining their effects. Although Mr. HAWKINS's determination in that case met with my fullest concurrence, yet had this been a patient in private practice, where some domestic in a family had leisure to bestow that attention to the application which is necessary to ensure success, I should not have hesitated to promise a cure; but in the hospital, where an hundred others have an equal claim to the attendance of the apothecary, he could not have been able to employ the Metallic Practice with any prospect of real advantage.

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That decisive method, which Dr. PEARSON adopted to ascertain the nature of the disease in the case of SARAH COX, and which that learned Lecturer, as on all other occasions, was attentive to report, for the instruction of his numerous pupils, has fully evinced that her situation was beyond reclaim.

These compose all the experiments the Editor made in St. George's Hospital. They are partly irrelevant to the object of our present enquiry, as they do not afford any decisive evidence in favour of, or against the Metallic Practice. They have, however, confirmed what has often been observed in the remarks on the Danish cases, viz. the unfitness of *hospital experiments* for ascertaining the merits of the Tractors.

Conceiving that further experiments in the hospital would be liable to circumstances similar to those just adduced, the
 Editor

Editor discontinued his practice in that house.

Ever desirous of subjecting the merits of the Metallic Practice to the test of experiment in public institutions, where, whoever pleased could make enquiry on the subject; it occurred, that the Poor Houses were better calculated than Hospitals to afford the advantages required. There the characters and mode of life of the patients, from their long residence in those places, must generally be better known, and as much medicine is not usually employed, the effects of the Tractors must be more unequivocal. Under the influence of this opinion, an invitation from some of the Overseers of the Poor in St. Martin's Parish, to use the Tractors on the sick paupers in their Poor House was readily complied with. This being situated near my place of residence, I have been enabled to give more frequent attendance, and to see that the applications were properly and fairly made.

About the 1st of August last (1798) accompanied by some medical friends, I first visited that house. In ward, No. 23, we were presented with the following case, the previous history of which shall be given as related to me by Mr. PIPPIN, the apothecary to the house, and by the patient herself.

CASE I.

GOUTY AFFECTIONS.

MARY SCOTT, aged 51, had for about twelve weeks been afflicted with what Mr. PIPPIN called *gouty affections*. She was first attacked with a severe pain in the left elbow. The parts soon became much inflamed and swelled, and which continued to extend until the whole hand was tumefied. Several medicines were administered, after which the complaint attacked the right knee and foot, both of which swelled and became also very painful. At length it returned to its first seat in the elbow, and gradually settled in the hand and fingers. When I saw her, the fingers
were

were so contracted, that she was unable to straighten them, or indeed to use them at all. There was much inflammation and considerable pain. No medicines had been given for six weeks.

I had no hesitation in promising a cure, and began by drawing the Tractors over the hand, extending them along to the ends of the fingers for about twenty minutes, when she said the pain was much relieved, and that she could move the fingers easier. The inflammation was evidently much subsided. A glow of perspiration, which often takes place on the parts where the Tractors are applied, moistened the whole hand.

The Tractors were left with her that night, with orders to be used three times before the middle of the next day. On visiting her at that time, I found that she had applied them as directed, and that her pains were entirely removed; the inflammation was nearly subsided; and the middle

dle finger, which before the application of the Tractors was most affected, was now so much better that she could contract and open it without any pain. I ordered her to continue using the Tractors three times in a day. At the end of five days she was so far restored as to take her place in the needle room, which she had been obliged to vacate for twelve weeks, not having been able to hold the cloth with this hand while she used the needle with the right. She has ever since, which is now about nine months, been able to sew and use that hand with perfect ease, having had no symptoms of the complaint in any part of the body, and enjoying her health in every respect. This patient has lived in the Poor House upwards of two years, is a person of a very good understanding, and is distinguished as an industrious woman.

CASE II.

ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

A few days after the experiments above mentioned, accompanied by the Rev. Dr. CLARKE (*m*), secretary for the library and chaplain to his Royal Highness the Prince of WALES, I went to the Poor House again, with a view of meeting with more subjects for experiment.

In ward No. 20, we were presented with the case of JUDITH SYMPSON, aged about 50, a mantua-maker. This woman has been in this house five years. About four weeks before we visited her she was attacked with an acute pain in her left ankle, which soon began to swell and inflame. These continued to increase until the time we saw her, when she was unable to bear any

(*m*) Author of that very able and eloquent defence of the Union, entitled, "*The Political, Commercial, and Civil State of Ireland.*"

weight

weight on that foot. The whole external ankle and foot were enlarged to nearly twice their ordinary size. The inflammation and pain were very severe, which were evinced by the turgid state of the vessels.

I did not hesitate to promise speedy relief to this poor woman, and began by drawing the Tractors, from about three inches above the complaint, lightly over the inflamed part, and conducting them to the toes. In about five minutes a profuse perspiration seemed to burst from every pore in the foot, so that the water actually trickled along after the points of the Tractors, and if not wiped away would have dropped on the floor. After effectually removing the perspirable matter with a cloth, the points of the Tractors were conducted over the parts for a few minutes as before, and the same flow of perspiration followed. A similar effect took place a third time, after which she declared she was perfectly relieved. She then put her foot on the

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floor,

floor, and could bear her weight on it with but very little inconvenience.

I ordered her to use the Tractors three times before twelve o'clock the next day. On visiting her at that time, I found the swelling reduced at least two-thirds. The inflammation was hardly perceptible, and the patient had been walking about the room. The perspiration, though in a less degree, had taken place on each application. This, it is proper to observe, was not at any time produced on other parts of the body, but was an action of the Tractors on the diseased part alone. She continued using them three times a day, and in about a week was perfectly cured. Since that time, which is now more than nine months, this woman has never had the least symptom of the rheumatism in any part of her body, and has enjoyed perfect health.

Having shewn the above to the Rev. Dr. CLARKE, with a request that he would
inform

inform me whether my statement of the effects produced by the first application, agreed with the facts according to his recollection, I was obliged with the following reply :

“ Sir,

“ I have been favoured with your note, and can feel no backwardness in complying with what I conceive to be but justice to you, and duty toward the public.

“ Having observed, in the course of my reading, that some discoveries had been made by different men in different quarters of the globe, and all tending to one point, I was happy in an opportunity of personally enquiring into what now begins to be termed by writers of great eminence abroad, *a new discovered law of nature*. I was also anxious to learn, how far the application of this discovery might really tend to diminish the catalogue of human sufferings. When I did myself the pleasure of waiting on

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you

you for this purpose, you frankly accompanied me to the Poor House of St. Martin's. Not then aware that I might be called on to testify the experiment which you made in my presence, I did not take notes of it; but as far as I can charge my memory with the fact, which was an impressive one, it was as follows:

“ A woman, whose ankle was extremely swelled, and who long complained of severe pain, submitted to the operation with the Tractors. On their application, large drops of sweat issued from the pores of the part affected. This *visible effect* took place thrice in the space of ten minutes, after which the woman declared she was relieved from pain.

“ I am, Sir,

“ With great truth,

“ Your obedient servant,

“ THOMAS B. CLARKE.”

Great Quebec-street,
Portman-square,
May 13th 1799.

The

The Tractors, from being owned by this Poor House, have been used for the relief of several others. Mr. CONNO, the Governor, to whose care they are entrusted, holds them in readiness to be applied to any whom he shall conceive to be proper subjects. Among others they have cured Mrs. HARRIOT, the Mistress of the needle room, of an

ACUTE INFLAMMATORY AFFECTION

on one of her hands. This came on very suddenly, was attended with a sensation of great heat. A quantity of ichor collected under the cuticle, and produced a vesication very similar to a scald. An application of the Tractors for half an hour entirely removed all appearances of the complaint.

Some other cases of rheumatism and painful swellings in the face, have also received singular benefit from the use of the Tractors; but as it is not the object of the Editor to enter into a detail of cases, which

he has not himself witnessed, he will decline adducing such cases at present.

Several gentlemen, from a desire of learning the merits of the Tractors, have accompanied the Editor to this Poor House, with a view of *seeing* these cases. The Rev. Dr. TROTTER's visit will be noticed in his communication [*see page 169.*] Among others might be mentioned those patrons of humanity, Sir RICHARD HILL (*n*) and his brother the Rev. ROWLAND HILL.

The recent death of Mr. PIPPIN, the late medical attendant at this Poor House, deprives me of the opportunity of procuring his statement of these cases.

(*n*) Sir RICHARD, who owns a set of the Tractors, has informed the Editor of his having removed, among other complaints, an obstinate inflammatory tumor on one of his domestics. The candour with which this worthy and respectable character has treated the Metallic Practice, claims from the writer the sincerest acknowledgment.

In the month of August last, the Editor was invited to meet some of the officers of the parish of Clerkenwell, to use the Tractors on the infirm paupers in their Poor House.

The first patient that presented was a young woman, about 24 years of age. This poor object had been for about three years extremely afflicted with some constitutional complaint affecting her whole system, during which time she had been in some of the London hospitals, and under the care of several of the most eminent physicians, without receiving the least benefit.

It being the wish of some of the gentlemen present, that the Tractors might be drawn over this person, I complied, though with a previous declaration that she must not expect much benefit, as her disease seemed to be a nervous complaint, equally affecting her whole body. They were accordingly used a few minutes on one of
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her arms, and no other effect was produced than a motion of the pain after the points of the Tractors.

On examining the apartments of the men, we found a person, aged about 60, who had for a number of years been troubled with a

RHEUMATIC PAIN

in his shoulders. For the nine months preceding he had not been able to raise up his right arm sufficiently to put on his waistcoat without help. To this patient I promised benefit. After drawing the Tractors over his shoulders, and down to the end of his fingers, for about ten minutes, he was so much relieved as to be able to raise his arm over his head, and put on his waistcoat without any assistance, and this he effected with great ease. When we left the house, about an hour and an half afterwards, his arm remained very supple, so that he could easily move it in any direction.

The next case was that of a man, aged about 65, who had been troubled for many years with a

PAIN IN THE HIP,

which had proceeded to that degree, that one leg was shorter than the other, and he could walk only by the assistance of crutches. The Tractors were applied to him about ten minutes, when he put his foot down flat upon the floor, and stamped with considerable force, without giving him any pain. This he said he had not been able to do for many years before. We left him free from pain, and walking about the room without any support.

In the women's apartment we met with a

PAINFUL CHRONIC AFFECTION IN THE
HEAD,

upwards of twelve years duration, in a subject about 60 years of age. When we
began

began using the Tractors the pain was violent, but after about twelve minutes application she was rendered perfectly easy.

As the Tractors were never used a second time on any of these patients, there must necessarily have been a gradual recurrence of their complaints. The three last mentioned persons, by a *proper* application of this remedy, might in all probability have been greatly relieved, if not cured, and thereby rendered useful members of society. Chronic affections of this description require a long perseverance in the practice, and when this is *faithfully* attended to, but few cases will occur, where a cure may not be eventually effected by the influence of the Tractors.

The Editor having requested Messrs. BLETCHLY, BOUND, and COWLAND, Churchwardens of the Parish of Clerkenwell, and the Rev. WILLIAM VIDLER, all of whom were present during these applications,

plications, to oblige him with their sentiments on the foregoing statement, has been favoured with the following :

Clerkenwell, May 17th, 1799.

“ We have examined Mr. PERKINS’s statement of his experiments with the Metallic Tractors in Clerkenwell Poor House, which were made in our presence, by request of some of the officers of this parish, and find it to be perfectly correct.

WILLIAM VIDLER (<i>o</i>),	} Church- wardens.”
MICHAEL BLETCHLY,	
WILLIAM BOUND,	
WILLIAM COWLAND (<i>p</i>),	

(*o*) The Rev. Mr. VIDLER, who has himself, recently performed some cures with the Tractors after acknowledging the correctness of the above statement, adds in his note, “ I wish the efficacy of the Tractors was more known. They would then be in general use.”

(*p*) Mr. COWLAND also informs of his having cured himself of a very *severe burn*, and a servant in his family of an *acute rheumatism* in the leg, which was highly inflamed and swelled.

About

About the middle of December the Editor was honoured with an invitation to the Regimental Hospital of his Royal Highness the Duke of GLOUCESTER, by Mr. CHARLETON, the surgeon of that institution, but not meeting with any proper cases for the Metallic Practice, the Tractors were not used.

On the 20th of January the Editor made some experiments in the Regimental Hospital of his Royal Highness the Duke of YORK, commonly called the Coldstream Hospital. Mr. KNIGHT, Surgeon to the Households of their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of YORK and CLARENCE, who presides over that establishment, and to whose politeness the Editor is indebted for an invitation to use the Tractors in that place, selected three subjects for experiment. On examining
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aming the first of these, suspicions were entertained that the man was an impostor. On ordering him to raise his arm, which he said was in great pain, he declared his inability to move it, yet soon afterwards, when taking off his coat, during our presence, he was caught raising his arm by accident to an horizontal position, and without making any complaint. This and several other circumstances which had been previously observed of this person, rendered the deception so evident to Mr. KNIGHT, that we did not continue the applications upon him, but had recourse to some other patients who could give ocular proof of their diseases. The first of these was a German, who had been confined to his bed for several days with an

ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

When we saw him the pain was chiefly in his shoulder, and was so considerable as to prevent him from raising his right arm to
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his head. After drawing the Tractors over this shoulder, and down to the ends of his fingers, for about twelve minutes, he raised his arm over his head without giving him but very little pain. Before we left the house he was so much benefited, that he put on his coat without any assistance, which he had been unable to effect since the commencement of his illness.

The next case was that of a person severely affected with the

ACUTE RHEUMATISM

in both shoulders and arms, the least motion occasioned very great pain. This patient was distinguished as a steady and intelligent man, and better educated than the generality of soldiers. His account of the effects which he should perceive on the application of the Tractors, Mr. KNIGHT very judiciously observed, would be more satisfactory to him than the declaration of persons with whom he had not been previously acquainted.

The Tractors were drawn over the shoulder of this man, and conducted to the ends of his fingers, for about ten minutes, when he remarked that the pain was lessened, and on attempting to move it, he found he could raise it over his head, which he was unable to do before. The operation was then performed for the same term of time on the other arm, and the same favourable change ensued. He was now able to raise both arms over his head, and move them with greater ease in every direction.

The Editor's avocations not permitting him to visit this Hospital to repeat the use of the Tractors on these two persons, which, to have completed a cure, should have been done three times in the day, and continued for three or four days, there was necessarily, on the next day, a recurrence of the symptoms.

The evidence of the efficacy of the Tractors, arising even from these partial
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experiments, was sufficiently conclusive to induce the Rev. ROBERT LOWTH, son to the late Bishop LOWTH, who attended during these applications, to get a set of the Tractors, for the benevolent purpose of extending their usefulness to the afflicted poor in his neighbourhood.

Ever scrupulous that my experiments might be given with the utmost correctness, the above was shewn to Mr. Knight, who authorized me to say, that he had examined the statement, and found it perfectly correct.

On the 3d of April 1799, the Editor was apprized by LUKE IDESON Esq., Clerk of the Vestry of the Parish of St. James's, &c. &c. of the desire of the officers of that parish, to ascertain the efficacy of the Metallic Tractors *by experiment*, and if approved of, to provide their Poor House with a set of them. This request was

of course cheerfully attended to, and he accordingly met some of the officers of the parish, viz. Mr. Dawes, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Cater, Mr. Holme, and some others, at the Poor House, to give the Tractors a trial. On examining the sick wards, and those appropriated to infirm paupers, two rheumatic cases were selected as subjects for experiment.

The first of these was CHARLOTTE HAYNES, 30 years of age, who had been afflicted for many years with the

RHEUMATISM,

and which was often so violent in her limbs as to render her unable to move them without much pain; at this time the shoulder was so much affected, that she could not move her arm behind her, or raise it to her head.

The Tractors were drawn from her shoulder to the extremities of her fingers for about 12 minutes, when she was so much relieved as to be able to raise her arm over her head, and to move it behind her without pain. She perceived a great degree of heat during the application, and which she represented as a *burning sensation*.

The next case was that of MARY MANNING, 48 years of age; who was also severely afflicted with the

RHEUMATISM ;

her shoulder had likewise been in violent pain for several days ; the hand, and particularly the joints of her fingers, were highly inflamed and swelled, but the greatest pain was in the shoulder ; she tried in our presence to raise up her arm, and to move it behind her back, neither of which could she accomplish. The Tractors were then drawn over her shoulder and downwards, for
about

about 12 minutes, when she was so much relieved as to be able to raise her arm over her head, and even moved it far enough behind to lace her stays. The other shoulder was also in some pain, to which we also applied the Tractors, and gave relief as in the last instance. After these trials, the Editor was invited to meet some of the same gentlemen again to see these patients, and make further experiments in five days afterwards.

On visiting the Poor House at the time appointed, the two patients on whom the Tractors had been used were strictly examined, in presence of Mr. FREEMAN and some of the other gentlemen, who witnessed the former experiments. CHARLOTTE HAYNES had experienced some return of the pain, but was still able to raise her arm, and move it as when we left her last. The Tractors were now drawn over this arm again, and the same sensation of heat ensued, after which she was rendered easy.

The other person, MARY MANNING, had had no return of pain in the shoulder, and was still able to move her arm without inconvenience. The hands, and joints of her fingers, to which the Tractors had never been applied, continued as before tumefied, inflamed, and painful. The Tractors were drawn over them about fifteen minutes by the woman herself, when the pain was relieved in those parts. The stiffness was also sensibly diminished. This patient recovered, and has since been discharged from the house.

The case of ELIZABETH LEWIS, 22 years of age, was now presented to us. This woman had a very

PAINFUL INFLAMMATORY TUMOR

over the whole exterior angle of the right foot, which had made its appearance in that place a short time after she had lain in. Several external applications had been made to this without success, and
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from its obstinacy it was apprehended that it probably might be a *syphilitic affection*. There was an appearance of an exfoliation taking place. However, as the pain was excruciating, and the patient nearly exhausted in consequence, I was willing to try the effect of the Tractors, and accordingly directed them to be drawn over the parts, by one of the nurses, about half an hour. The relief she experienced from their use was very great. The throbbing pain of which she at first complained was totally removed, the swelling was sensibly diminished, and the inflammation abated. The patient put her foot on the floor with very little inconvenience, which she was before unable to accomplish without great torture.

It will not be a matter of surprize, that these experiments were considered sufficiently satisfactory, to induce the gentlemen officers to provide the Poor House with a set of the Tractors.

Among others who have since been cured by them, and whose cases I am authorized to publish, is Mrs. ELLIOT, the laundress. This person, after severe exercise and fatigue, was attacked with a

VIOLENT PAIN IN THE FOOT.

The parts swelled to a considerable extent, and became highly inflamed. She applied the Tractors herself, and in about ten minutes the pain wholly subsided, and the swelling and inflammation were in a very short time hardly perceptible. She has experienced no return of the complaint.

Another case has occurred on the same person, in which the singular efficacy of the Tractors has been rendered extremely evident. Mrs. ELLIOT, has for many years, been subject to sudden and severe attacks of a

PAIN IN THE STOMACH,

which is supposed to be of the nature of
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those flying pains, which are common in gouty constitutions. Her life has often been threatened from the severity of these attacks. Being a few days since seized with one of them, she immediately had recourse to the Tractors, and after drawing them over the stomach for about ten minutes, the pains were wholly removed, and have not returned since.

A case of JANE BOND, servant to the matron, is also worthy of notice. This person had a very

INFLAMED AND PAINFUL TUMOR

a little above the knee. She found great relief of the pain, inflammation, and tumefaction, from about ten minutes use of the Tractors, and was enabled to move the joint with a degree of ease, which was before impracticable.

The Tractors in this house are directed to be left in the hands of the matron (a person

person of excellent sense, and well instructed on medical subjects) who holds them in readiness to be used whenever occasion offers.

The above statement was shewn to the gentlemen overseers, who gave permission to have it published, and authorized a reference to the Matron of the Poor House for a confirmation of its correctness.

The reader is now competent to judge how far these experiments, upon a *fair* statement, may tend to prove the inefficacy of the Metallic Practice. Many of the cases, and some other circumstances adduced, it will no doubt be observed, bear so little reference to the point in question, that any notice of them was unnecessary. As such the Editor would have regarded them, and in consequence passed them over in silence, had he not been taught to know that the clamours of *interest, ignorance, and*
prejudice,

prejudice, which have ever been exerted against important innovations, were not unemployed on the subject of many of these experiments. Several of the foregoing experiments, from motives the most base and dishonourable, have been misrepresented and tortured into every shape to discredit the Metallic Practice. It has been the Editor's utmost care, that the facts be stated in as plain and impartial a manner as possible. If on enquiry they prove otherwise, there are those who will gladly grasp at the opportunity of correcting them, and giving them a *different* complexion.

It is hoped the reader has not been led to suppose, after what has been repeatedly suggested, that these experiments in public places have been adduced and offered to the public, as the most conclusive proof which could be advanced in favour of the Metallic Practice, or that they constitute even a considerable proportion of the cures which have been performed.

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In private practice, where the applications are made under proper advantages for *fair trials*, the results have been almost universally successful. But to give publicity to these, and thereby expose the names of patients, for very obvious reasons would have been highly improper. The numerous families of the Nobility and others, whom the Editor has had the honour of attending, and by whom the Tractors are owned, are competent to speak on their merits; and as those characters are in number too considerable, and for philanthropy too distinguished to withhold through conversation, and the various other channels of communication, the benefit they have derived, the necessity of publishing them is in part superseded.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AMERICA.

As the object of the present work was in some measure to continue the history of the Metallic Practice, it perhaps will be expected that something should be said of its progress in America.

Of the origin of the discovery, and of the introduction of the Metallic Tractors to the public, the Editor in his former Tract [*see* INFLUENCE OF METALLIC TRACTORS,] has already treated at sufficient length. Since the date of that work, from a correspondence in various parts of the United States, accounts of the increasing reputation of the discovery have been uniformly received. It would be improper to swell the present work with details of further testimonies or publications from that side of the Atlantic, when a sufficient number could be procured in this country, which

which to an English reader must be more satisfactory, to compose a moderate folio.

I hope, however, to be excused for taking some notice of a very recent report of a gentleman, which will afford much satisfaction to those who have a knowledge of his character. The person referred to is the Rev. Mr. HOMER, of Newtown, Massachusetts, a gentleman of superior science, and equally distinguished as a philosopher and divine. Mr. HOMER has been in possession of a set of the Tractors nearly three years, which was about the time the discovery was first announced to the public. Being resolved on giving the Practice a fair trial, he determined on receiving no recompence for his trouble in attending on patients, and by this means had very numerous opportunities for trying the merits of the Tractors. He begins by acknowledging his obligations to Dr. ROBINSON for his assistance in prosecuting his experiments, and then proceeds to give a particular account of 24 cases,

cases, which afforded *positive evidence* of an *action* of the Tractors independent of the powers of imagination. In many of these there was observed a sensible change in the appearances of the parts affected, when the Tractors were used, and in others the complaints were of a nature which precluded the possibility of the mind having produced the effects that were observable on the application of the Tractors. The diseases in which he was most successful, consisted chiefly of RHEUMATIC and GOUTY AFFECTIONS, PLEURISIES, and CUTANEOUS ERUPTIONS. Among other cases is mentioned an application on “a child of the Honourable ELBRIDGE GERRY (one of the late Envoys Extraordinary from the United States to France) 18 months old, who had some complaint in the leg, which rendered her unable to move it. The leg was exceedingly painful when in bed. Ever since the use of the Tractors the child has been able to move the leg with ease, and has complained of no pain.”

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Among other complaints he says, "General JACKSON applied to me in great distress from the GOVT in his hand, which was removed, and has never returned."

The cases in which Mr. HOMER failed in giving relief, are of the same nature as those which have been observed by all others who have had much experience in the Metallic Practice, and as have been pointed out in many of the preceding pages. He says, he "has observed great advantages from continuing each application a much longer time, and repeating them more frequently, than has been generally practised, and, he believes, many persons have failed in effecting cures in consequence of not persevering sufficiently."

From Mr. HOMER's extensive success with the Tractors, it will not appear extraordinary that he should draw conclusions very favourable to the credit of the discovery. He observes, "that hardly any consideration
" would

“ would induce him to be without a set of
 “ them in his family.”

The Editor hopes to be further indulged in noticing an extract of a letter, dated Boston, New England, Feb. 8th, 1799, from the Rev. Dr. SAMUEL STILLMAN of that place, Fellow of Rhode Island College, &c. &c. to his literary friend and correspondent the Rev. Dr. JOHN RIPPON, of Grange Road, Borough, to whom we are indebted for liberty of making it public. Much of the letter relating to subjects foreign from that before us, we shall only notice his remarks respecting the Metallic Practice; which are as follow :

“ The Metallic Tractors, invented by Dr. PERKINS, have already proved an important blessing to mankind. I have not time to inform you of the surprising cures I have wrought with them, in cases of RHEUMATISM, GOUT, CONTRACTIONS, PAINS IN THE HEAD, EYES, FACE, &c.

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but be assured they are many. Mr. PERKINS's residence in London, will no doubt induce you to embrace the opportunity of giving the subject the attention it merits."

The literary reader will not need to be informed respecting the worthy character who writes this letter; his excellent sermons, and other writings, render him well known beyond the limits of his own country.

It would be ungrateful in the Editor not to return his acknowledgements to Dr. RIPPON, for the philosopher-like candor with which he has treated the Metallic Practice, and expressed his conviction of its efficacy, since he has had an opportunity of witnessing its effects, in giving relief to a man severely afflicted with the ACUTE RHEUMATISM in the hand and foot.

PART III.

EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS.

THE salutary effects of the Tractors on the human subject, must naturally suggest, to reflecting minds, the probability of their being also useful in many diseases of the brute creation.

In America, where this discovery originated, the experiments on animals were not so numerous as perhaps might be expected, from the controversy which was there maintained by its advocates and opponents. Dr. PERKINS, from the time he first announced the discovery, has been constantly employed in the Practice on the human subject, and, excepting in a few accidental cases, he had no leisure or opportunity to give experiments on animals the attention they merited. The few trials, however, that were made on that side of

the Atlantic in some topical complaints of horses, attended with pain and inflammation, were in most instances completely successful. **SPRAINS** and **CONTUSIONS** were cured in a very short time by the **Metallic Practice**.

The small, but very painful tumours, which often arise under the saddle, vulgarly called **SADDLE BOILS**, were also very readily removed by this application. One case of

A SPRAIN IN THE PASTER, N,

which came under my own observation in America, is too important to be omitted. An horse, by some accident in the stall, received a severe sprain in the pastern joint, which rendered him extremely lame. From the intense heat of the hoof on that foot, and the peculiar actions of the animal, he was supposed to be in great pain.

I began by drawing the Tractors from about five inches above the pastern, and conducting them

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them down to the hoof, taking care to bear on the points of the Tractors sufficiently to keep them continually in contact with the skin. In a few minutes the hot hoof was reduced to about the same temperature as the other. From being scarcely able to put his foot to the ground, he became so much better, from the use of the Tractors, that in about twelve minutes a gentleman mounted him and rode him away, scarcely perceiving his lameness.

The numerous avocations necessarily attached to my other practice since my residence in this country, have totally precluded the possibility of doing justice to any experiments on animals, and in consequence I have not attempted them; for the same reason I have not been able personally to comply with an invitation from the ingenious Mr. MOORCROFT, surgeon of the Veterinary Hospital, to use the Tractors in that place, though, very contrary to my

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wishes.

wishes. A few other gentlemen, however, more at leisure, have tried the Tractors in several cases. These experiments they were the more readily induced to make, from a wish to ascertain the validity of a *hacknied* argument, which the enemies to the Metallic Practice, with more zeal than discretion, have urged against it, viz. that many of the cures ascribed to the influence of the Tractors, could be effected by the imagination. The relieving of a horse it should seem would be conclusive on this head, unless these ingenious sceptics can also prove that that quadruped possesses, in common with mankind, an equal brilliancy of imagination, that his *intellectual endowments* are not inferior to our own, and that the *anima rationalis*, hitherto considered as one of the distinguishing attributes of man, is also equally apparent in the brute.

Some of the following pages shall be appropriated to such experiments as have been communicated.

IN Mr. LANGWORTHY'S Tract, which we have already had occasion to notice, we have some observations on this subject, and an account of one experiment at Bath, which he introduces as follows :

“ From the morbid affections to which man is by nature liable, the transition is natural in the eyes of the philosopher to such animals as contribute to the use and comfort of society. No one can doubt of the excellence in this respect of that noble animal the horse. If a more rational and methodical treatment of this quadruped has engaged the attention of the first characters of the nation, who have lately patronised an hospital establishment at Somers Town, near London, is it not natural, by fair induction, to endeavour to ascertain how far this animal can be affected by our Metallic Powers. The following instance will probably appear to deserve the attention of many.

“ A HORSE of N. A. VIGORS, Esquire, of St. James's Square, Bath, in landing from one of the Holyhead packets, some months since, received from the pully-ropes

AN INJURY IN HIS GAMBRIL,

which produced a great degree of swelling, extending from that part down to the pastern, and up to his belly. This swelling took place notwithstanding he was put under the care of skilful farriers in Bath, who applied various ointments without any effect. At length Mr. VIGORS purchased a set of the Tractors, and immediately applied them, in the presence of many spectators, who, in a few minutes, expressed their surprize on seeing the swelling abate. The Tractors were used five times only, when the swelling was entirely removed. He has continued well ever since, and has performed his regular hunting. It is now six weeks since the Tractors were first applied.”

The following statement, which the Editor has received from a character of great respectability, will be very satisfactory to those who have the honour of his acquaintance. The gentleman alluded to, is JOHN DICKENSON, Esq; of Leighton House, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

SEVERE CONTUSIONS.

“ A hunter of mine was discovered one morning, about the middle of September last, to have broken one of the reins belonging to her halter. She was much bruised about the head. In many places the hair was rubbed off, her hocks were much swoln, and she was very stiff and lame. It was concluded, that in rubbing her head with her hind-foot one of the reins had been caught, so as to draw her legs together; that from the natural exertions of the animal to liberate herself, the rein, which was new and strong, broke,
and

and that in consequence she fell with great violence against the pillar of the stall, by which the hocks, and the muscles on one side leading to the back (which perhaps I do not describe scientifically) were severely bruised.

“ I applied spirits of wine and Goulard, equal parts, without any apparent effect. In three days there appeared two large swellings, one above the hip-bone near the tail, and the other upon the rump, each as large as my two hands, and so hard as not to yield to pressure. I applied the same mixture again, and hot fomentations, without any effect. The next day another swelling, equal in size to those before mentioned, arose on the stifle, which was also much inflamed and swollen. The mare seemed to have so considerable a degree of fever, and heaved so violently in the flanks, that it was supposed she would die. We then tried bleeding, from which she was somewhat relieved, but we could not observe

serve that the swellings were at all abated on the following day.

“ Having witnessed the good effects of the Tractors on the human body in cases of inflammation, I determined to try them on this animal. They were accordingly applied to the diseased parts, and drawn to the extremities; in the course of twenty-four hours we observed a very great reduction of the swellings. On the second day, I attended the operations myself twenty minutes, during which time, I *could perceive* the swellings subside, and the parts became cooler. My groom, as may naturally be supposed, had but little faith in the efficacy of two small pieces of pointed metals, nevertheless he expressed his surprize and conviction of the cure that was gradually performing by the Tractors.

“ After continuing their use three times a day for four days, the swellings were entirely reduced, and in the place where the
largest

largest was, above the hip-bone, there appeared a loss of flesh nearly equal to the former extension. In a fortnight this began to fill up, and in three weeks after the accident happened, the mare performed a journey of one hundred and fifty miles in four days, and has been perfectly well ever since.

“ It may be proper to observe, that from the time the Tractors were first used, all other remedies were laid aside.

“ JOHN DICKENSON.”

Leighton House;
18th November 1798.

Since the date of the above report, Mr. DICKENSON has informed the Editor of two other cures performed by the Tractors on his horses; but not having received from him a written account of these cases, the reader must be contented with the brief mention which is made of them in the following communication.

Mr. GRANT, whose experiments on the human body the reader may already have had occasion to notice, has also made several trials on animals, the result of which he has obligingly communicated to the Editor. The experiments of this gentleman having been made with much judgment and accuracy of observation, his reports are rendered particularly interesting.

The following is an extract of a letter, dated

“ 4th Month 20th, 1799:

“ Respected Friend,

“ In a former letter, I intimated my intention of communicating to thee the result of some experiments on animals, which have fallen under my own observation. I have now an additional inducement for executing my promise, from a conviction arising from the best of evidence, that, on a *proper* trial, this Metallic Practice will be found

found of extensive utility, to dealers and those who have an interest in cattle.

“ My first trial among my own horses was for

AN AFFECTION IN THE EYES

in a three years old colt. The near eye appeared to be failing very rapidly ; indeed I apprehended it had already advanced to that state from which it could never be reclaimed. I drew the Tractors along on the edge of the eye-lids down the cheek for twenty minutes. The effect astonished me. The inflammation abated. A film, which covered nearly the whole eye, was in the course of a few days removed, and the eye became clear. Not long after this the other eye failed. The Tractors were applied as before, and with the same success.

“ There is a natural defect in the eyes of this animal, which no remedy will remove, and which may eventually terminate
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in blindness. It is now three months since these applications were made, and the eye yet remains good. The effect produced in this case is certainly worthy of notice. If the use of so important an organ as the eye of a valuable animal, can be prolonged for only one year by so easy a remedy, it is surely worth our trial."

A WOUND IN THE EYE FROM A BLOW.

" One of my waggon horses had a stroke in the eye with the lash of a waggon whip. I at first apprehended the eye was lost. This however appearing not to be the fact, we drew the Tractors around it, as in the former case, and with only two operations the horse was cured."

" A gentleman of this town had the Tractors tried on one of his horses, which was very lame from a

SPRAIN IN THE BACK SINEWS.

After using them three or four times, and
devoting

devoting about thirty minutes to each operation, a perfect cure was effected."

A PUNCTURED TENDON.

" Another horse belonging to the same person, received a wound in a tendon, from a thorn running into it, which occasioned much inflammation, pain, and lameness. This was also cured by the application of the Tractors."

" I have witnessed the good effects of the Metallic Practice in several other cases, where partial inflammations had fallen on various parts of the body of horses, particularly the legs, thighs, &c. occasioned either by improper feeding or want of exercise, and termed by farriers, "*humours.*" I have seen inflammations abated, and tumours reduced so effectually in these cases, by drawing the Tractors over the inflamed and swelled parts, as to supersede the necessity of fomentations, embrocations, &c. &c. the usual remedies on such occasions.

Should the horse be of a full habit, I would not omit bleeding. I have further noticed their good effects, when applied near the sides of wounds. The foul appearances I have observed to become changed, and a disposition to heal facilitated. I could relate a variety of these cases from my own minutes, and corroborate them with similar ones observed by my friends and acquaintances.

“ My principal object in furnishing thee with these particulars is, that a remedy so innocent in its operation, so convenient, and which my experiments authorize me to say so efficacious, might be more generally known, and that others might only make the trials and judge for themselves. So fully am I convinced, from what I have witnessed, of the preference they claim, as a remedy for recent sprains, contusions, inflammations, &c. to the means which are usually employed in those cases, that I have no hesitation in recommending them, firmly believing they will be found to answer our

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most sanguine expectations, provided they are applied with judgment and *perseverance*. The simplicity of the application has often induced me to place them in the hands of a rustic lad, who, I have found, can use them as advantageously as myself.

“ I am sorry I cannot inform thee, that equal success has attended my experiments on some other animals, on which I have tried them. For several diseases of SHEEP I have applied them without any effect. In the complaint termed by the shepherds the *joint evil*, I have never been able to observe the least advantage from the use of the Tractors. In two or three cases however of inflammation of the udder, we have observed a diminution of the inflammation from their use. The inefficacy of the Tractors upon sheep, was at first a matter of much surprize with me. It seemed very extraordinary, that a remedy, whose effects in the diseases of the human species and the horse are capable of being made so extremely evident, should not also have the same

same influence in the diseases of sheep, more especially as it is found in the Galvanic experiments, that all animals are subject to the influence of metals when applied to their denuded nerves and muscles. But after reflecting much on this subject, the cause of this difference has at length occurred to me. Provident nature has very bountifully supplied the body of the sheep with an *unctuous* and *oily* fluid, doubtless to promote the rapid growth of the wool, and defend it from the wet. This animal, justly esteemed one of the most valuable in the world, is yearly robbed of its wool, and as the second growth of this covering is supported by the oily matter, a greater quantity becomes necessary for that purpose. Now we find from experience, that all unctuous bodies resist the Metallic Influence. Even pomatum applied to the hair, it is well ascertained, prevents the Tractors from relieving pains in that part of the head over which the pomatum is used: we therefore can easily conceive that the body of the sheep, which is con-

stantly clothed with this oily matter, cannot be acted upon by the Tractors. In the inflammation of the udder of a sheep, where this fluid is not so abundant, the Metallic Practice we find was thought to be of use, by abating the inflammation, and this I apprehend would have taken place more effectually had the udder been previously washed with warm water, and wiped clean, a practice which I would recommend previous to all operations with the Tractors. In many cases I have found the perspirable matter issuing from bodies, prevent any effect from the Metallic application, and on removing that obstacle, relief would be immediately obtained.

“ How far these facts coincide with those which have been noticed by other persons, who have given the Tractors an extensive trial, thou wilt be best enabled to judge. As my remarks are the result of considerable experience, and pretty attentive observation, I have no objection to their being made public, if thou thinkest they may be of use,

use, by inducing others to make similar trials, and thereby enable them to judge for themselves.

“ With my best wishes for a continuance of thy success, in alleviating the sufferings of humanity, I remain thy assured friend,

“ JOHN GRANT.”

Previous to the receipt of Mr. GRANT'S communication of his experiments on animals, it was the Editor'S intention to have made particular mention of the inefficacy of the Tractors on SHEEP, and to have assigned the same reasons which Mr. G. has adduced, but his observations totally preclude the necessity of enlarging further on that subject at present; it may however be proper merely to add, that other ingenious and observing persons, who have tried the Tractors on Sheep, have represented that their success has not been so great on that animal as on horses, whose bodies are dryer, and less liable to be covered with unctuous matter.

MR. THOMAS KEEN of Warwick-street, London, who has also made trial of the Tractors on his horses, has favoured the Editor with the results, as follows:—

London, 7th Mo. 24th, 99.

“ Esteemed Friend,

“ I can have no objection to thy publishing my experiments with the Tractors on horses, if it can afford thee or the public any advantage. My first trial was upon an aged horse, that for many years had been subject to

SEVERE INFLAMMATIONS ABOUT HIS
ANKLES AND FEET.

“ The Tractors were used, when the parts were in a high state of disease, the whole surface, from some inches above the hoof, being extremely inflamed and tender, and there was very evidently produced a considerable abatement of the inflammation.

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This relief was given, notwithstanding the weather, at the time when the application was made, was extremely cold, and of course very unfavourable to the complaint. Being obliged to send this horse into the country, I had not an opportunity of continuing the practice, and effecting the cure.

“ But the case which afforded the most decisive evidence, occurred in a waggon-horse, that received a

VERY SEVERE CONTUSION

in the lower part of his *Sternum*, or his breast-bone, from a fall. The parts became highly tumefied, and the animal in consequence extremely lame. A farrier was employed, who made use of several remedies, but without any reduction of the tumefaction or lameness. In this state of the complaint, the Tractors were had recourse to, and after cleansing the parts from the oily and greasy substances, which

had been used, they were drawn over the swelling, and extended down the arm of the leg. The effects of their application were very soon perceived, both by the removal of a great part of his lameness, and by the reduction of the tumor. As the use of the Tractors was repeated, the horse continually derived benefit. Matter being already formed, when they were first applied, the tumefaction could not be entirely dispersed, until this was discharged. The horse has been in perfect health ever since. We think we can observe a little stiffness in the leg which was lame, but this is not so considerable as to injure the animal, and indeed it is hardly perceptible,

“ The success of the Tractors in these cases, has induced me to commence a course of experiments on a valuable horse of mine, in danger of losing both his eyes from great inflammation and weakness. The complaint had been coming on for a long time, and the eyes were already nearly lost. As I
have

have just began, I cannot yet inform thee of the result, but I have a pleasure in saying, the prospects are favourable. The eye upon which I have applied them most is evidently amended.”

The Editor has been made acquainted with several other trials of the Tractors on horses, which have been attended with equal success to those already cited; but as written statements of these have not been communicated for publication, he cannot take the liberty of detailing them.

One case in particular of

AN ENLARGEMENT AND LAMENESS IN
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of a horse, in the possession of an Honourable Baronet, is very important, and he regrets that the absence of the owner, who performed the cure himself, deprives him of the opportunity of presenting his statement to the public. This
lameness

lameness and enlargement had been of six months duration, and was cured in four days by the frequent use of the Tractors.

As far as the experiments have gone, I am authorized in declaring, that the Metallic application has proved equally efficacious on horses as on the human body. Those, who may be disposed to extend the benefit of the Tractors to the brute creation, will undoubtedly see the propriety of discriminating between diseases which are proper for the Metallic Practice, and those which are of a different description. On this head, the operator will be best instructed by attending to what has already been said on the diseases of the human body. Such as correspond with these may expect similar effects.

Those complaints that arise, as it were, from an hereditary disposition, as is the fact in some horses, it is hardly necessary to remark, will not find a permanent cure in
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the Tractors: but recent topical affections, attended with great pain, will be found most subject to the Metallic Influence. The judgment of the operator must be employed in ascertaining the presence of pain. In this he will be assisted by remarking the peculiar actions of the animal, and particularly by observing, whether there is an unusual degree of heat, and a turgidness of the blood vessels on the parts. If the disease is seated in the limbs a lameness generally attends. Too much attention cannot be paid to cleanliness, and rendering the part, which is destined for the operation, perfectly free from all oily and greasy substances. As sheep are generally covered with unctuous matter, we must not expect to do them so much service as other animals. When performing the application, unless from extreme inflammation the parts are very tender, the Tractors should be drawn harder over the skin than on the human body, always observing, that the point of the instrument be introduced through the hair.

CONCLUSION,

IN the preceding sheets, it has been the Editor's endeavour to present the public with the result of various trials of the Metallic Practice, in several diseases of the animal œconomy.

The subject, it is hoped, has been treated in so plain and intelligible a manner, that few, on the perusal, will be incompetent to judge of the merits of the Tractors. Some of the statements in the latter part of the work, it may be observed, are not from persons of the medical profession. This, however, in the mind of the intelligent reader, will not lessen their weight. Men of science and of good understanding, do not require to go through the forms of a regular medical education, to enable them to describe any change, which may be produced

duced in external affections, when such changes are evinced by *ocular demonstration*: of this description, in fact, is a great proportion of the diseases which are found to be subject to the influence of the Tractors. Those who have given this Practice much attention, have coincided in this remark.

The MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL REVIEW, a work which has entered more fully into the subject than most others, when noticing the evidence adduced in our former tract on “the *Influence of Metallic Tractors*,” observes, “Many of the testimonies come from persons not of the medical profession, but who, nevertheless, seem competent on the present occasion, for the subject is, for the most part, an appeal to the common senses.”

After ascertaining that the brute creation is equally subject to the influence of the Tractors as man; that infants and persons

sons in epileptic fits are also equally acted upon by them, and that oily and perspirable matter is a barrier to the action of this Metallic Influence, my time would, perhaps, be unnecessarily employed, were I to enter into an elaborate defence of the Practice against the suggestions of those, who would ascribe its effects to the influence of imagination. That the human mind is capable of producing considerable effects on the functions of the body is abundantly evident, and may be realised in the daily occurrences of life; but, if we examine the fact, we shall find, that as the Metallic Practice is usually employed, this power of the mind is not called into action.

I will not pretend to say, but that the Tractors, or a stick of wood, or a quill, or any thing else, might be so managed as to produce all the effects of *Amulets*, *Charms*, *Mesmer's Animal Magnetism*, &c. &c. Select an hospital for instance, which is generally composed

composed of the most unlettered and credulous class of society, and with any of these substances, it will not be a difficult matter to make three out of four acknowledge they have received benefit from the wonderfully efficacious remedy, which they suppose to have been employed; but the spell will soon be broken; the relief will be of short duration, and if the complaints are of that description, which, if really benefited, would afford a by-stander *ocular* proof of the change produced, this by-stander will not be gratified in *seeing* the benefit which the patient may fancy he has received—he will not *see* inflammations abated, tumors reduced, perspiration arise on the part alone affected, as may generally be observed on an application of the Tractors.

When making experiments in public institutions, it has ever been my custom to select those cases that can afford another species of evidence of the real effect which

is produced, than the mere declaration of the patient, viz. ocular proof to the spectators. If cases of this description could not be met with, and a chronic rheumatism for instance was the subject, I have ever endeavoured to impress on the patient's mind, that we were making a simple experiment, and knew not whether he would receive the least benefit; that we wished him to describe his feelings exactly, and if no benefit was derived, by no means to pretend it.

This is undoubtedly the fairest and surest way to come to a knowledge of the *truth*, but after all, every application on this class of people, in such complaints, is extremely fallacious. The replies of the patient are equivocal; he will endeavour to answer, as he thinks will coincide with the sentiments of the physician.

In the ordinary method of employing the Tractors, the patient, instead of being inspired

inspired with confidence in their efficacy, is very often so prejudiced at their simple appearance and mode of application, that he is, with much difficulty, persuaded to submit to the experiment, and yet this person is not deprived of any of the advantages which arise to others from the application of the Metallic Influence under any other circumstances.

We are often told of instances, where persons severely afflicted with the gout, have, by a sudden impression of fear, as from a cry of fire, &c. immediately leaped from their couch, and taken leave of their pains; but none will pretend, that any thing like this alarm takes place when the *simple appearing* Tractors are produced.

In the common mode of administering Medicine, the patient is really as much liable to be influenced by his imagination, as in the practice we are treating of. When exhibited under the sanction of an M. D. of high reputation, the precious
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draught will be taken with the confidence of success; the very presence and professional importance of a Physician, holds forth to the patient's mind a conviction of his superior skill, and his power to arrest the fate, which he imagines is impending. On the contrary, with the Tractors, the mind is under all the uncertainty naturally resulting from the making of an experiment, and will necessarily be guarded against any delusion.

In short, when it shall be proved, that *brutes*, like men, are endowed with rational faculties, and possess an imagination capable of producing changes on their bodies; when it shall be proved that infants and persons in epileptic fits can also be influenced by the same power, and that a little oily or greasy matter effectually destroys this wonderful power of the mind, and renders it totally inert, then shall I readily acquiesce in the sentiment, that what has been ascribed to the Metallic Influence is wholly a fallacy, and that
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the imagination alone is entitled to the credit of doing all the good that has been unjustly attributed to the Tractors.

It is well known, that the reputation of most new discoveries has been materially injured, and the credit of many useful remedies brought into disrepute, from having been held out to the world as *panaceas*, or as being useful in diseases in which they had really no efficacy. The practice before us has not escaped this general misfortune: both its zealous friends and implacable enemies have alike contributed to produce this error in the public sentiment. The former, from witnessing its great success in some cases in which it has been employed, imagined it useful in more diseases than the author of the discovery has conceived; and the latter, from knowing the impossibility of a *panacea* existing in nature, have with much assiduity propagated the opinion, that the Tractors were recommended for all dis-

eases, and have advised their use in complaints, in which there was an absolute certainty of their failure.

Indeed, it is a circumstance by no means favourable to establishing the credit of the Discovery, that the selecting of the proper diseases is entrusted to the judgment of all those who have the Tractors in their possession, and whose want of Medical knowledge must necessarily subject them to numerous errors. From the acknowledged innocence of the operation in all cases, it can be easily conceived, that the Practice will very frequently be employed, where there is not the smallest reason to hope for success, and yet it must not be expected, that sufficient allowance is always made for the necessary failure in such applications.

Had the credit of the Metallic Practice, rather than a wish to extend its utility as much as possible, been the object of the discoverer, he would have retained the
Tractors

Tractors in the hands of a few professional men, and directed them to be used in no cases but such as they were absolutely certain of relieving; but his entire confidence in their efficacy, and his desire of rendering his discovery subservient to the important purpose of lessening the sufferings of humanity, have induced him to give them unlimited circulation. The obloquy of opposition he has never regarded; if his practice possesses the merit ascribed to it, he rests under the conviction, that notwithstanding the unfavourable circumstances under which it comes before the public, these merits will eventually be acknowledged.

After what has been repeatedly urged in the foregoing pages, on the necessity of a due attention to the rules for employing this remedy, it will be superfluous to say much on that subject at present. The paper of directions, which attends the Tractors, is perhaps too concise to afford

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every person the information which is requisite for a thorough knowledge of that subject, but as nothing can be better calculated for exemplifying on this head, than the notes on the Danish cases, in the preceding sheets, I have to solicit the reader's strict attention to them for that purpose.

One circumstance, however, which was not then mentioned, should not at present be omitted, and this is, that when performing the operation on parts which have been previously kept warm, by cloathing with flannel, &c. great care should be taken that they be not exposed to too cold air. In the winter, the application should in all cases be made in a room of moderate temperature, or near the fire; by not observing this caution, some have taken cold, and their complaints of course have increased, which has been improperly attributed to the effect of the Tractors,

Much

Much has been said on the necessity of *perseverance* in the practice, especially in chronic cases, and which, it is hoped, will claim particular notice.

If proper attention be paid to this Practice, agreeably to the rules laid down, the possessor of the Tractors will find in them a valuable species of property and inheritance as it were in his family, for the numerous ills of which, they are so well adapted and recommended; but if on the contrary he does not adhere to these rules, but attaches to them the idea of an universal and infallible remedy, he will deceive others as well as himself, and lose both his labour and money.

The Editor has seen too much of the disposition of mankind, and of the histories of all new and useful discoveries, especially those which affect *interest* and *deep-rooted prejudices*, to expect that this would not meet with assailants.

Every person has an undoubted right to entertain his opinion on matters of science, but when a writer presents his sentiments to the public, and in support of them has recourse to misrepresentations of the most extraordinary nature, it then becomes the duty of the party aggrieved, to correct the error by apprising the public of such abuses.

Those, who have not been attentive observers of subjects of this nature, can form but imperfect ideas of the acrimony with which some will commence their attacks. The MONTHLY REVIEW for April 1799, in its remarks on the former tract on the "*Influence of Metallic Tractors,*" has afforded us an example.

If that Journal was read only by those who have seen the book, which it reviews, no observations would have been made here on the subject. The intelligent reader himself would have judged of
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the extent of its reasonableness and impartiality. But Reviews are read by thousands, for the purpose of learning the merits of the work treated of; and without ever seeing the work itself, or taking the trouble of further investigation, the critic's opinion is often implicitly adopted. The Editor would introduce the whole of these remarks, and pass them over without a single reply, leaving the decision of their merits to the public; but his pages, which he could wish to meet the eye of delicacy, without incurring a blush, must not be filled with *a sentiment*, with which the critic has thought proper to grace the pages of the Monthly Review.

As the attack is founded upon what is presented as an extract from the book, I must request the reader's attention to this extract, and see with what *fairness* it is given.

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“ In one case, page 43, (says the Review) a patient was cured by the Tractors in *two* minutes; but he had been bled *thrice* before the application.”

Here follows the statement to which the Review refers, communicated by JOHN VAUGHAN, M. D.—M. P. M. S. Fellow of the Medical Society of Delaware.

“ I have operated in a few cases only with your Tractors, for but few have offered since I possessed them. One case of *nervous* or *hysterical head-ache*, perfectly cured; a case of *Odontalgia* relieved; the third, a young man who had fallen nearly fifteen feet on the edge of an open-ended hoghead, and received a considerable contusion in the umbilical region with tumefaction. I bled him three times *to little purpose*; but after about two minutes operation with the Tractors, he exclaimed in ecstasy, ‘ I am well—I am well—my pain is gone.’ *The pain however returned in a less degree,*
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but in thirty or forty minutes went off entirely, and he went to work as usual."

Where the critic found that the man was *cured* in two minutes, when Dr. Vaughan *in the same sentence* says, the pains did not entirely leave him until thirty or forty minutes; where he discovered in that book reasons for an *insinuation*, which he makes in another place, that the Tractors are recommended for "*internal inflammations*," so that no "outward and visible sign might be afforded" of the relief given, when, on the contrary, external complaints only are mentioned in that book, as suitable for this practice; where he found cause for using the *hardy* epithets of "*juggler*," and "*white witch*"; and where he saw reason for calling all those who have attested to the efficacy of the Tractors "*liars, dogs, &c.*" and to say many other things in the same splenetic maniacal strain, I earnestly request the intelligent reader will have the goodness to examine the book, to determine,

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We should be wanting in respect to the very eminent professional character, who is the writer of the communication in question, were we to admit even the most distant probability of the bleeding having given the relief, after his declaration, (and who, by being the attending physician, is most competent to judge) that the bleeding “was to little purpose,” or were we to attempt to defend his reputation against the attacks of a writer, who appears insensible of the impropriety of misrepresenting his statement, and of charging him with being the author of sentiments which he never hinted at or expressed,

After these remarks on the Editor's pamphlet, the critic notices the publication of Mr. LANGWORTHY, some of the contents of which may be seen in the preceding pages. No quotation is adduced from this book, upon which the objections might be founded, but the following is given as the substance of the work :

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“ The most material information to be gained from this pamphlet, and its title page, which an American would stile *lengthy*, is, that Mr. LANGWORTHY sells Tractors at Bath, by commission from Mr. PERKINS, the original manufacturer in London.”

It strongly occurs to me, that whoever reads the publication of Mr. LANGWORTHY, will see *something else* than a mere advertisement that he has the Tractors for sale. Every Review, however, which has noticed it, has expressed a different opinion. One, which, in a former instance, shewed no inconsiderable degree of scepticism on the subject of the Metallic Practice, remarks on Mr. LANGWORTHY'S publication as follows :

“ Mr. LANGWORTHY is a staunch advocate for the Perkinian electricity, or for the use of the Metallic Tractors, invented by Dr. PERKINS ; uses the same arguments
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in favour of them, that Mr. PERKINS had before advanced, and adds a considerable number of cases in which they are said to be employed with advantage. Mr. LANGWORTHY is settled at Bath, and with a view of giving opportunities to the Medical practitioners of that place, to estimate the real value of the instrument, he offers his assistance to any paupers in the hospitals, and proposes operating in the presence of their Medical attendants. This is certainly candid, and it is right to observe, that several of the cases here published, are attested by the signatures of the patients, who are, in general, persons of such credit, as entirely to preclude all suspicion of an intention to deceive."

British Critic, April, 1799.

The Editor has always held himself in readiness to meet any persons, to assist and do every thing in his power which could promote an investigation of the merits of
this

this discovery, either by the unerring rule of fair experiment, or any other method which should be conceived equally proper; but he must be excused if he declines having any communication to that purpose, with those who feel no repugnance in assuming the liberties we have instanced.

It will, perhaps, appear to some, that the Reviewers animadversion has been dwelt upon longer than was necessary, but for reasons too obvious to be mentioned, it has been judged necessary in the present instance to notice the subject more fully. If the reader is desirous of knowing the sentiments of other periodical writers, he will find them in pages 97, 98, and 99 of this book.

It is due to the enlightened nation and country in which the Editor resides, to acknowledge, that many men of respectability

bility and real science, have treated this discovery with great candour. Such as have had opportunities to see the effects of the Tractors, have frankly acknowledged their merits, and have contributed to extend their beneficial effects, by procuring patients for the Practice. This remark, however, must not be supposed to comprehend every individual of the Medical profession. On all discoveries, there are persons, who, without descending to any enquiry into the truth, pretend to *know*, as it were, by *intuition* that newly asserted facts are founded in the grossest errors. There were those who *knew* that HARVEY'S report of the circulation of the blood, was a preposterous and ridiculous suggestion, and in latter days there were others who *knew* that FRANKLIN deserved reproach, for declaring that points were preferable to balls for protecting buildings from lightning.

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This dogmatical attachment to old practices, which is generally to be found most among those who have taken shallow draughts at the Pierian Spring, is the bane of useful improvements. It is only the real philosopher, who, sensible of the extreme limitation of our knowledge, suspends his opinion on newly asserted facts, until they can be subjected to fair investigation.

On the Theory of this Metallic Operation, little need be said. That the Tractors act on the Galvanic principle (q) is very generally

(q) For a knowledge of the wonderful effects which are produced by the application of metals to the nerves and muscles of animals, or by what is called the GALVANIC EXPERIMENTS, see the works of VALLI, VOLTA, FOWLER, MONRO, CAVALLO, VONHUMBOLT, &c.

CAVALLO, whose numerous philosophical investigations have been so universally honoured by the approbation of the learned world, after summing up most of the important facts which have been discovered relating to this subject, comes to the following conclusion :

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generally believed by those who have given the subject much attention : but I shall not consider

“ The principal phenomena of animal electricity, viz. the property of being put in motion by a Metallic communication being made between the nerve and muscles, is not peculiar to a few animals only, but seems to be a property of all ; a law of nature which admits of few exceptions, and even these exceptions are of a very doubtful nature.

“ The experiments have already been tried with a great variety of terrestrial, aerial and aquatic animals.

“ The human body, whilst undergoing certain chyrurgical operations on its recently amputated limbs, have been convulsed by the application of metals. From the ox and the horse down to the fly, the effects of Metallic applications have been repeatedly and unequivocally observed : with some the power lasts longer than with others ; the movements also are more or less evident and powerful, according to the various nature and disposition of the animals.

“ The leg of a recently dead horse was agitated so violently by the application of a shilling and a bit of tin-foil, that the strength of a robust man was unable to check the blow. Several animals, which some time ago were thought not to be affected by the contact of metals, have been lately caused to contract, in consequence of the discovery of more active metallic combinations, or of some of their more sensible parts.

“ The preceding pages contain all the remarkable facts that I have been able to collect, relative to a subject which
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consider it any disparagement to the Practice, if I admit that the present knowledge of the laws and properties of that principle is so limited, as not to allow of our giving of the *modus operandi* a complete and satisfactory explanation. The rational enquirer will not hold in less estimation a remedy, whose utility can be proved by the unerring test of experiment, if the manner of its

is likely to become of great importance. Those surprising effects of an unknown cause, generally inexplicable, and sometimes contradictory, seem to admit of no theory sufficiently probable or satisfactory; nor can we yet see how they may be applied for the benefit of mankind. An attentive consideration of the subject, will naturally suggest some doubts and queries, which can only be answered by future experiments and discoveries. In what manner does artificial electricity affect the muscles? Does it act as a mere stimulus, or otherwise? Where is the animal electricity generated, and by what mechanism is it transmitted from one part of the body to the other? Does it proceed from the brain, or is every nerve actuated by that generating power? What reason can there be for the necessity of using two different metals? And after all, are these phenomena the effects of electricity, or of some other unknown fluid, *sui generis*." *Complete Treatise on Electricity, vol. iii. page 69.*

operation is unknown. The most valuable medicines in the materia medica, act on principles of which we are totally ignorant. None have ever yet been able to explain how opium produces sleep, how mercury cures syphilis, or how bark cures intermittent fevers, and yet few, it is hoped, will be so absurd as to desist from the use of those important articles, because they know nothing of the principle of their operation. The navigator will hardly be disposed to lay aside the use of the mariner's compass, and think it of no value, because he is unable to explain the phenomenon of magnetism, and to assign reasons for the polar attractions.

When we find that the nature of many diseases, the proximate cause of fever, for instance, has engaged the attention of such characters as BOERHAAVE, CULLEN, BROWN, DARWIN, GIRTANER, &c. and drawn forth from them severally theories, which they conceived to be satisfactory, but

but which at this period, have left the subject as obscure as ever, it should seem that men would rest contented with possessing the means of cure, without running into laborious and unprofitable conjectures, which only serve to mislead and deceive the practitioner. An elegant writer, (see Dr. Moor's Medical Sketches) remarks, "The fate of every theory hitherto invented to explain the proximate cause of fevers, might, one would naturally think, deter from an attempt in which so many have failed; yet so partial are we to what we conceive to be our own original ideas, so natural are such investigations to the active and inquisitive mind of man, and so necessary are disquisitions of this nature to those whose profession it is to lecture to medical students, that it is probable a new theory will always be founded on the ruins of the last that is overset.

"The experience of ages has proved, that the great and ultimate object of

the art of medicine, *the power of curing diseases*, is more effectually attained by diligently observing the course and symptoms of distempers, and the effects of the means used for their relief, than the most plausible reasonings on their supposed nature and causes."

On the action of the Metallic Influence, we have, in the former part of this work, (see page 38) a theory from Professor ABILDGAARD, the Secretary of the Royal Academy of sciences at Copenhagen, a philosopher, (r) whose discoveries in electricity, and whose investigations in physiology, and other branches of science, rank him among the first literary characters in Europe. The Professor's explanation of the phenomenon of the operation of the

(r) A foreign Journal has recently announced, that Professor ABILDGAARD has lately obtained from Greenland a fossil, which, on analysis, he discovers to contain alumin in combination with fluoric acid; a mineralogical phenomenon not before met with.

Tractors

Tractors is extremely ingenious and plausible, but it may be said of this, as of most other theories, that some hypotheses are employed, and of course it cannot be reduced to actual demonstration.

After ascertaining that there exists in the whole animal creation a subtile *principle*, call it a fluid or whatever else you please, which is so extremely susceptible of the influence of metals, as to be excited to powerful action by their application, and to such a degree indeed as to be made to evince motion, and other symptoms of life, after vitality is apparently removed, it will not be an irrational conclusion, that the effects produced by our Metallic Application in diseases, are to be ascribed to some *attracting* action on this general and all pervading power.

It is agreed, by both the advocates and opposers of the Metallic Tractors, that their effects *must* be explained on the Gal-

vanic or electric principle, or on the imagination, and indeed we may add mechanical irritation. On the three former of these I shall say no more than what has already been advanced, and the improbability of the latter renders perhaps any observations on that head unnecessary. No men of tolerable understanding, I am disposed to think, have ever *seriously* urged this in explanation of the principle of the Metallic Operation. Some who had taken a violent part against this discovery in America, after having failed in proving that the Tractors cured through the medium of imagination, attempted to produce a prejudice in the public mind, by suggesting that the relief given was owing to the mechanical irritation of the points of the instruments; but the absurdity of this idea was soon detected. It did not require an immoderate share of penetration to infer, that any irritation, especially such as would arise from the *scratching* of a sharp pointed instrument, on tender cuticular inflammations,

tions, as in erysipelas, tetter &c., instead of giving relief, must do a material injury. Let those who are disposed to ascertain the validity of this mode of explanation, try the scratching of a stiff brush, sharp pointed quills, or any other hard pointed substances, and see if a tender inflammation will subside. All trials for this purpose, in pains unattended with external inflammation, especially on unlettered females and subjects of feeble minds, are undecisive.

The learned Dr. VAUGHAN, whose ingenious paper on this practice met with the approbation of the Medical Society (s) of
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(s) The following letter was addressed to Dr. VAUGHAN, by JAMES TILTON, M. D. President of the Medical Society of the State of Delaware, on his consenting to have the Dissertation published: [For some extracts from this Dissertation, see "*Influence of Metallic Tractors*," page 90.]

" Dear Sir,

" I am glad you have at length overcome the restraints of diffidence, by giving us your thoughts on Electricity, in explanation of Dr. PERKINS's Metallic Operation. That some general principle exists, which
gives

of the state of Delaware, before which it was read, has some observations on this subject.

gives metals a powerful influence on the animal œconomy, is now universally acknowledged by philosophers the most candid and best qualified to judge. Instead of involving Dr. PERKINS in the disgrace of MESMER, I apprehend we ought rather to contrast the *honest man* with the *rogue*; for, without art or affectation, Dr. PERKINS barely discloses useful facts, by means the most simple and easy.

“ It must be confessed, however, that many reject our general principle: like infidels to the gospel, they admit of no mysteries, and refuse to believe what they do not readily comprehend. Others, who acknowledge that a general principle pervades the animal œconomy, on which the metals have influence, nevertheless dispute about what this notable power may be. Both these classes of men ought to thank you. To the one you have given a reason they did not apprehend, and the other should wish for the best account known or well understood. For my part, I frankly confess, I shall be satisfied with the principle of ANIMAL ELECTRICITY, until the phenomena are better explained by means of some other.

“ By publishing to the world the thoughts you have digested and arranged on Animal Electricity, and the manner in which it explains the Metallic Operations, you will at least invite discussion, and may profit with the rest of your brethren by the event.

“ With great respect, I am, dear Sir,

“ Your friend and humble servant,

“ JAMES TILTON.”

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“ It is argued by some (he says) who are opposed to the Metallic Operation, that the efficacy of the Tractors depends merely on a counter irritation produced by friction. I would ask these dogmatists, how metallic friction cures burns or topical inflammation? Does not the least impression on an inflamed part produce pain, and would not friction augment the evil? Phlegmons, and some other topical inflammations, may often be removed by exciting a counter irritation with blisters, &c. but blisters seldom answer any valuable purpose in local inflammations, accompanied with excessive action of the arterial system, until the fever is previously diminished.”

Against this Practice, indeed, one other argument has been advanced in this country.—Perhaps some of my readers may conceive any attempt at its refutation an impeachment of their justice and understanding; but, as every one may not be of
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this sentiment, I must be indulged in noticing it. It has been said "to be a suspicious circumstance against this practice, that its introducer *has taken out a Patent* for the discovery, and offered the Tractors for sale." The wise and venerable legislators of this and every other nation, which so liberally promote the advancement of science and the useful arts, have thought proper to grant, as an encouragement to the exertions of genius, the exclusive right of enjoying, for a limited time, the advantages and emoluments which any discovery or invention may produce. In strict conformity to these laws, founded on the most equitable principles, have I acted. If this is determining otherwise than the most philanthropic and best members of society are daily in the habit of doing, I will subscribe to the guilt, and acknowledge the heinousness of the offence, even to the extent which those who have thought proper to suggest the objection would carry it. To have traversed the Atlantic, and to have suffered

ferred the expences which attend the propagation of this new practice, against hosts of prejudice and interest, without a compensation, were more than my finances would allow, or than a just and reasonable people would require.

Among patents for every species of invention, none have to encounter more opposition, and, in consequence, subject the introducer to greater expences, than those which relate to improvements in medicine. It has long been a maxim with many (t) of the faculty to set their faces against every remedy, the *exclusive* right of using which has been granted to an individual *by patent*. The abuses of empiricism are held out as the ostensible motive for this, and, to a degree, the maxim is undoubtedly a reasonable one. To the Metallic Practice, however, none

(t) God forbid I should here, or in any other part of this book, mean to censure, or speak disrespectfully of the profession indiscriminately, for there are belonging to it men of great candor and philanthropy.

of

of the objections which are raised against quack medicines can with justice be applied; the *innocence* of the remedy alone must silence every clamour on this head. But much penetration is not required to develop the cause of this *persecution*. Men, by entering into the medical profession, are not necessarily divested of any of those passions or inclinations which are so universally implanted in the human breast. That principle, which we are told "acts the soul," it would be absurd to pretend, does not influence any particular class in the community. Will the medical man, who has spent much money and labour in the pursuit of the arcana of physic, and on the exercise of which depends his support in life, proclaim the inefficacy of his art, and recommend a remedy to his patient, which the most unlettered in society can employ as advantageously as himself? and a remedy, too, which, unlike the drops, the pills, the powders, &c. of the *materia medica*, is *inconsumable*,

consumable, and ever in readiness to be employed in successive diseases ?

From the same source whence sprang the above complaint, comes another, viz. “ that the price at which the Tractors are sold, should be an objection to adopting the practice.” I beg leave to ask how many visits does he (u) usually make for the sum at which the Tractors are offered for sale ? or rather may the question be put to any of his London patients, how many instances have occurred, to their knowledge, in which he has declined receiving *his guinea* per visit, or for each daily sacrifice of the five minutes which he devotes to writing his prescriptions, from a *conscientious compunction* that he was more than adequately rewarded, and in cases indeed, where his visits have been daily continued, for weeks,

(u) The medical character, here alluded to, is in possession of a practice as *lucrative*, as his treatment of the *Metallic Tractors* has been illiberal and unmanly.

without

without affording any relief? It were reasonable that men, before they offer to take away the *mote* from the eyes of others, should remove the *beam* from their own.

But this kind of response, although provoked by an attack of the same strain, is unworthy to be adopted here, and must not occupy more of these pages. Whoever has fairly examined the merits of the Tractors, by the test of experiment, and rated their value by their usefulness, has never pronounced them dear; and those who know the sacrifices attendant on all attempts at so considerable innovations, cannot *honestly* grudge the price.

This discovery is the result of many years laborious and painful investigation. The numerous, expensive, and variegated experiments, which Dr. PERKINS, of America, instituted in the prosecution of his object, and which he pursued, to the total neglect of his other professional calls, for a
length

length of time previous to the present perfection of his practice, so involved his affairs, that the happy issue of his investigations alone, rescued himself and a numerous family from the consequent distressing embarrassment.

The wealthy confessedly have the advantages of the practice in their power; and the poor, so far as individual exertion can extend the same to them, are not deprived of its benefits. Both in this country and America, they have ever had *gratuitously* the personal attention of those concerned in the propagation of the discovery; Dr. PERKINS, on the other side of the Atlantic, ever held himself in readiness to attend to their calls, and received no other compensation than the pleasure of relieving their sufferings, which indeed was to him an ample reward. The Editor has done no less in this country. Those who know his bounties to several institutions for the reception of the poor, and to

Y

individuals,

individuals, humanely disposed to attend to and relieve the pains of the afflicted, and his own assiduous attention to sick paupers in various and distant parts of this metropolis, without receiving a pecuniary compensation, will withhold from him their censure or complaint.

But on this head it is unnecessary to enlarge. The several subjects hinted at in these concluding remarks, have already extended this work to an unreasonable length; such remarks shall therefore be discontinued, but not without reiterating the Editor's willingness, and even earnest desire, to afford every assistance to those who may be sincerely disposed to investigate the merits of the Metallic Practice *with candour and impartiality*. To do this he regards as his duty to mankind, to the Discovery, to its Author, and to himself.

APPENDIX. (No. I.)

THE Editor is indebted to Mr. LANGWORTHY for the following communications, to whom it will be seen they are addressed; Mr. L——'s book having been published before they were received, necessarily deprived him of the opportunity of giving them a place in that work.

Several persons of distinction, friends to Mr. LAMBERT (the worthy and respectable character who was instrumental in procuring the Tractors) having a knowledge of those cases, and conceiving them too important to be withheld from the public, have intimated a desire of seeing them in the present work. This affords an additional motive for inserting them.

THE REV. THOMAS DAVIES of SHER-
RINGTON, to MR. CHARLES C. LANG-
WORTHY, SURGEON, BATH.

“ SIR,

“ I feel a pleasure in communicating to you what I have witnessed of the influence of the Metallic Tractors in relieving the afflicted, in the two following cases especially; besides several Instances of TOOTH ACHE, HEAD-ACHE, &c. in which their efficacy was also fully proved.

“ The first case, which I shall here but just mention, is that of MISS GAUNTLETT, a young woman of my parish, of whose extraordinary complaints and sufferings you have had already, I find, some knowledge, by report; but that which the Tractors were now immediately applied to was,

A PARALYSIS OF THE ŒSOPHAGUS,

which had, for more than a year and a half, entirely deprived her of the power

of taking any sustenance, but by the means of a proper tube; which, wonderful as it may appear, was, by the use of the Tractors, restored. Of the particulars of this case I here forbear making further mention, as Miss GAUNTLETT is about to send them to you herself, and to which I shall beg leave to refer you.

“ The other case, in which a complete cure was effected by the Tractors, and that by only three applications, for about half half an hour each time, was an

ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

“ The patient was a widow woman of this parish, upwards of fifty years of age, and had been for several years grievously afflicted in almost all her joints and limbs, but which at last was confined to both her knees. These were inflamed and swelled to that degree, that she was unable to

move or stir without all the pains and tortures usually attendant on such complaints.

“ Should the publishing of the above cases in any measure contribute towards removing the prejudices which may prevail against so useful a discovery, you are at liberty so to do.

I am, Sir, with due respect,

your very obedient humble servant,

THOMAS DAVIES.”

Sherrington,
January 22d, 1799.

Here follows the statement from Miss GAUNTLETT, the lady mentioned in the last letter, addressed also to Mr. LANGWORTHY.

“ Sir,

“ Being informed by my brother, the Rev. Mr. GAUNTLETT, that you are desirous of receiving from me a statement of the relief I experienced from the application
tion

tion of Mr. PERKINS's Metallic Tractors, I will accordingly give you a brief account of the case. I cannot, indeed, think of enumerating all my complaints, and stating my case at large, as that would be the work of a volume, having laboured under a complication of very extraordinary disorders for more than eight years ; but of the complaint, from which I have been relieved by the Tractors, the following are the particulars :

“ In the beginning of June 1797, in addition to my usual afflictions, I was seized with a violent pain in my side, and some other complaints, which were supposed to be dangerous. About a month after this attack, I was frequently in a state of insensibility. In this situation liquids were often put into my mouth, which would not pass the throat, and when I became sensible, I found

THE POWER OF SWALLOWING WAS
TOTALLY LOST.

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“ At

“ At this time I was attended by Mr. BOWLE, a Surgeon of Market Lavington, who applied blisters, electricity, &c. but without any effect. After continuing in this state about twelve days, Mr. BOWLE thought of the expedient of supporting me with liquids through an elastic tube, put down the throat into the stomach; and this contrivance, I have reason to believe, was the providential means of preserving my life.

“ In this manner was I supported till June 1798, when I was taken with a violent sickness. Nature made many efforts to throw off the offending matter, but was for a long time prevented by the paralysis of the throat. At length, however, a vomiting commenced, which continued for four or five hours, and a large quantity of coagulated blood and matter was thrown off my stomach. The act of vomiting in some measure restored the power of action in my throat, so that I was enabled, though
with

with difficulty, that night and the next morning to swallow some small quantities of liquor, without the use of my tube; but in the course of the day the power was totally lost again. After this I had two or three returns of the power of swallowing, similar to that mentioned above, but always of short duration, so that I was obliged to continue the use of the tube. But from this extraordinary complaint, about six weeks since, I was wonderfully relieved by the application of the Tractors.

“ EDMUND LAMBERT, Esq; of Boyton, a very respectable and well-known gentleman and magistrate, purchased a set of the Tractors, which he recommended me to use. The Rev. Mr. DAVIES, the rector of Sherrington, who is well skilled in the theory of medicine, was so obliging as to apply them. I submitted to the operation, but with little expectation or hope of any relief. In about the space of fifteen or twenty minutes, I felt a great tingling and
heat

heat in my throat, which was afterwards followed by a gentle perspiration. After this tingling and heat, I found the action of my throat so far recovered as to be able to swallow the saliva. I then called for a glass of water, which I drank without any great difficulty. After a few hours the power of swallowing was again lost, and in the manner already mentioned, was again restored the next day by the use of the Tractors.

“ In less than a fortnight, by the repeated use of the Tractors, the action of my throat was perfectly restored, and I have been able to support myself from that time to the present without the use of my tube. The above is a statement of facts, and if you think them important, you are at liberty to publish them.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your humble servant,

“ ELIZABETH GAUNTLETT,”

Sherrington, near Heytesbury,

Wilts, Jan. 21st, 1799.

LETTER FROM EDMUND LAMBERT, ESQ.
OF BOYTON, TO MR. LANGWORTHY.

“ Sir,

“ Having been informed that some persons are prejudiced against the use of Dr. PERKINS'S Metallic Tractors, in justice to them, I state to you what I have experienced of their efficacy. I purchased a set of the Tractors about two months ago, at that time, with a view of immediately lending them to my neighbour, the Rev. Mr. DAVIES, of Sherrington, who made use of them with the desired effect in two or three cases, the particulars of which I understand will be communicated to you. I shall therefore confine myself to the proofs I have had of their efficacy in my own family. Besides being effectual in removing in several instances the TOOTH-ACHE, there are two cases which particularly merit notice, one of which respects myself.

“ I have

“ I have been for many years, severely afflicted with

THE GOUT,

and usually had violent fits of it every four or five weeks. Since, however, I have been in possession of the Tractors, I have had nothing like a severe paroxysm, having applied them at the first symptoms of a return, and found them effectual in *drawing off* the inflammation : so that the name (x) which Dr. PERKINS has given them is, in my apprehension, characteristic of their action, and notion, that some ignorant persons have imbibed, of their *repelling* the gout, fully refuted. The last attack was about three weeks since : I was seized in the night with a violent pain in my right knee, and had all the usual symptoms of an approaching severe fit. The Tractors were applied three times on the following day, and at evening I had the happiness to find all my fears dispelled, the pain and inflammation being entirely drawn

(x) From the Latin verb *Trabo*, to draw.

off, and nothing remained but a small degree of stiffness, which was removed the next morning, by ten minutes use of the Tractors, and, I thank God, I have been perfectly well ever since.

“ The other case to which I alluded, was that of a servant of my brother-in-law, Mr. SEYMOR, of Hanford, Dorset, who, in coming to my house, had the misfortune, by a fall, during the late frosty weather, to

BRUIZE THE KNEE,

near the patella, in such a manner as to produce a great inflammation, and totally prevent his walking. Upon the application of the Tractors the inflammation abated, and, in less than half an hour, to the man's great astonishment, he was able to walk as well as ever, and has had no symptoms of the injury since, though his knee remained discoloured by the bruise a long time afterwards.

“ I have only to add, that, in every instance in which my set of the Tractors have

have been tried, they have been found to answer the desired end. If you think this letter will be of any service in establishing the deserved reputation of Dr. PERKINS'S Discovery, you are at liberty to publish it.

“ I am, Sir,

“ your obedient servant,

“ EDMUND LAMBERT.”

Boyton, near Heytesbury, Wiltshire,

January 23d, 1799.

These cases alone, were no other adduced, ought to satisfy the most determined sceptic of the efficacy of the Tractors. Their action, in the dreadful complaint of Miss GAUNTLETT, is decisive. The Lady “ submitted to the operation with little hope or expectation of any relief,” which precludes the possibility of the change having been produced by any influence on the imagination.

As this affection in the throat undoubtedly arises from some constitutional infirmities, there is too much reason for apprehending recurrences of the symptoms. This is rendered the more probable, as it seems

to

to be of a paralytic nature, which class of diseases, especially when dependant on some constitutional debilities, are, above all others, most liable to relapses, and indeed, in time, to become even unsusceptible of the powers of the same remedies, which, at first, operated efficaciously.

The circumstance to which Mr. LAMBERT alludes, respecting the false opinion of some persons, that the gout may be *repelled* by the Tractors, affords an instance of the mean artifices employed to discredit them. So successfully, indeed, has this story been propagated, that the Editor has several times had occasion to answer queries on this subject from his correspondents in the country, many of whom were deterred from using them in the gout, from apprehension that their effects would be injurious. Determined opposers seldom yield a controversy for want of resources with which to combat. First, it is declared that the application of the Tractors is totally nugatory, and that what is asserted of their efficacy is
unfounded :

unfounded: This position being proved to be false on experiment, it is next alledged, by the same persons, that their effects are *deleterious*, and, of course, should not be employed!

On this subject I shall merely observe, I have never seen or heard of an instance in which harm accrued from their application in the gout. The circumstance, which must have been observed by every person who practises with them, of the pain following the course of the instruments, as they are drawn towards the extremity, alone proves their *attracting* influence. It is always proper to avoid exposing any part, and especially those affected with the gout, during the application, to a cold atmosphere, as a *metastasis*, or a transferring of the disease from one part to another, may thus very easily be produced. From not paying due attention to this caution, injury may have arisen, and improperly attributed to the Tractors.

APPENDIX. (No. II.)

AFTER the preceding pages were printed off, the Editor, by accident, read the following Title-page of a Tract, published by Mr. C. H. WILKINSON, Surgeon, Administerer and Practiser in Electricity: —“ *The Effects of Electricity in Paralytic and Rheumatic Affections, Gutta Serena, Deafness, Indurations of the Liver, Dropsy, Chlorosis, and many Female Complaints, &c. Illustrated with a Variety of Cases which have occurred at the Medico-Electrical Rooms, No. 10, Leicester-street, Leicester-square. To which are added, some Observations on the Inefficacy of Metallic Tractors.*”

After adducing thus much of the Title-page, no apology for briefly advertng to
 Z this

this publication can here be required: And first, to shew the reader how the “*inefficacy of Metallic Tractors*” is here proved, the contents of the work shall briefly be given. The author commences by advertising the public of his having “fitted up, at No. 10, Leicester-street, Leicester-square, an appropriate and extensive apparatus; and, to accommodate those who prefer the administration of electricity at their own houses, Mr. W. has arranged a number of portable electric machines, which he equally superintends. Terms for attendance; to be electrified every day at the Medico-Electrical Rooms, one guinea per week; to be accommodated with an apparatus at their own houses, and there attended daily, two guineas per week.”

To these succeed, after the Preface, the “*variety of cases*,” which amount to TWELVE in number! as follows: Two of Hemiplegia, the first patient cured in two months,

months, and the second much benefited; one of Gutta Serena, nearly cured in five weeks; two Scrofulous Tumours, the first cured in a month, and the second in six weeks; one of Menorrhœa; one of Paralysis of the Bladder, cured in six weeks; one of the Paralysis of the Vesiculæ Seminales, cured in a fortnight; two of the Enlargement of the Testes, the first cured in a month, and the second, after having electricity applied two months, “from further perseverance it is probable he might have been cured;” two of Rheumatism, the first cured in nine weeks, and the second in a few days. In many of the above cases, it is proper to add, that medicines were at the time administered, and that electricity was used daily.

After this “*variety*” of proofs of the efficacy of electricity, and some observations on the cases, follows a brief account of the Discovery of GALVANI, and the subsequent improvements by others; the author

then concludes, by devoting a page to *proving the inefficacy of the Metallic Tractors*, which is done as follows :

“ Dr. PERKINS seems to suppose, that in the human frame there may be local excesses of electricity : such an hypothesis requires many proofs to its support. Even allowing this, the metals thus combined possess no power of equalization, they produce no alteration in the state of electricity in the animal frame ; the whole change which is induced is between themselves. Metals, as already observed, applied to the skin, have no influence. If then the gentle irritation of these Tractors is any ways beneficial, it must either be by acting on the imagination of the patient, or by the pleasing mechanical stimulus. Dr. ——— assured a medical society in town, by the request of Dr. PERKINS, he tried the Tractors on a poor woman, who complained of pains in both arms ; he applied the Tractors to one arm ; she felt herself immediately

immediately relieved. To ascertain whether the relief was dependant on this, he drew a wooden skewer over the other arm; the woman experienced similar relief, which demonstrates that it no ways depended on any peculiar properties of the Tractors! I have tried them frequently on those whose minds were not so easily worked upon, and have never perceived the least effect. I prepared Tractors of tin, zinc, copper, and brass, in every proportion; have never found this to produce any other effects than what might be procured by a common nail."

I must now be indulged in one or two remarks. In the first place, respecting what the writer is pleased to call Dr. PERKINS's opinion of the "local excess" of electricity, I beg leave to state, that no opinion whatever of Dr. PERKINS's has ever been published on that subject. In my former Tract [see *Influence of Metallic Tractors*, pages 83 & 84] this circumstance

was expressly and particularly mentioned: “ It is a favourite maxim with Dr. P. that the judicious physician leaves the flowery path of speculation, for the more arduous one of experiment ;” and, from a conviction of the delusive tendency of theories, “ he has hitherto forborne publishing his ideas relative to the causes of the phænomena produced by the Metallic Influence.” That many others, however, of *high authority*, have adopted this mode of explaining the effects produced, is a fact; and they have not done so without adducing weighty arguments in its support.

The Electrician, when committing his remarks to paper, was perhaps not apprised of the sentiments entertained by those literary men who have *impartially examined* this practice, or, it should seem, this declaration of the “*want of proof*” would have been made with less positiveness. In the early part of this book will be seen the opinions of characters, to whose researches and investi-

investigations the world is indebted for a part of what little is at present known of the laws and properties of Electricity, and whose names (x) and discoveries have not passed unnoticed, even by this writer himself. These men, Electricians for fame, *but not for profit*, declare, that “the operation of the Tractors may be explained on the principle of Electricity;” that “the Discovery is of importance to the healing art, and merits the thorough attention of physiologists.”—[See page 73 of this book.]

Next, “that metals applied to the skin (in a state of health, I suppose, is here meant) have no influence,” is, in truth, a

(x) Mr. W. has quoted the following from Professor ABILDGAARD, whose theory on the Tractors will be seen in page 38 of this work: “Dr. ABILDGAARD has shewn, by repeated experiments, the consequences of sending shocks through the head; in those cases, he endeavoured again to rouse the vital powers by sending slighter shocks in the same direction, yet without effect; but immediately the animal was restored, by passing shocks from the sternum to the vertebræ.”

substantial argument in favour of their having a specific operation in diseases, for in a diseased state of the skin an effect is produced ; for proofs of which, see at least fifty cases, in the preceding pages, of the removal of inflammations of the skin, and so rapidly too, in many instances, as to render the change evident to the by-standers. But now, see what is offered as an inference from the above:—" If, then, the gentle irritation of these Tractors is any ways beneficial, must either be by acting on the *imagination* of the patient, or by the *pleasing mechanical stimulus*." After what has been shewn of the effects of the Tractors on horses, it is unnecessary to notice the former of these explanations ; and of the latter, which seems to be employed as a *corps de reserve*, I beg leave to be informed, what *pleasing* mechanical irritation is there to be found, in drawing the *sharp points* of the Tractors over a *tender burn* ? Or, which is more to the purpose, what mechanical irritation was there in the experiments

periments of Professor ABILDGAARD, who unequivocally proved their action on persons blindfolded, and gave relief, without the Tractors coming into contact with the part?

Respecting what has been said to have been reported to a medical society in town, and of the Tractors being “ applied by request of Dr. PERKINS,” I must observe (if I am the Dr. PERKINS alluded to) I have no knowledge whatever of the case; nor do I believe I have ever heard a word on the subject. It is not meant by this declaration to arraign the veracity of any person, but we must suppose some mistake was here unintentionally committed. It is a pity the final result of this experiment is not mentioned, and that the case is not reported like those in the preceding pages, which state *whether* and *when* the *cure* was performed. It would have been gratifying to those who wish to ascertain the merits of this Discovery, to know how this “ *poor woman’s*” complaint progressed. Are we
to

conclude that she was "*relieved*" for only half an hour, for a day, or that she was quite cured? or, are we to suppose that one arm recovered much sooner than the other? I have had occasion, more than once, in this work, to mention the fallacy of all experiments where no *ocular proofs* of the disease exists, especially on patients of that description; and I shall ever hereafter regard and treat similar cases as unworthy of notice, and irrelevant to the subject. A professor of animal magnetism would make nine out of ten of *this class of people* acknowledge relief, without using either Skewers or Tractors,

In reply to the last paragraph, with which Mr. W. *rounds off* his observations on the inefficacy of Metallic Tractors, I have only to request the reader will confront his solitary results with those of about two hundred others, which appear in the foregoing pages, and with the thousand
similar

similar cases, which might be adduced, if necessary,

As the arguments of many against this Practice, like those we are speaking of, are often founded upon objections to the *theory*, (which, however, the Discoverer never advanced) it is proper here to observe, that the Editor, as its advocate, shall never throw the gauntlet in so indecisive and unproductive a contest. He hopes never to be classed with those speculators, whose mad schemes and visionary flights have done incalculable mischief to the cause of true and genuine philosophy. His pursuits are *plain facts*; articles more *substantial* in their nature, and *useful* in their tendency.

I shall not, in the true spirit of a modern medical controversy, return the assault, by endeavouring to detract from the reputation of the Practice which Mr. W. professionally employs, and assert that Electricity has acquired a reputation undeserved
and

and unfounded; nor shall I enlarge upon the *conclusive* evidence which might be adduced, that, if the imagination has such mighty power in curing diseases, that Practice, which holds up to the patient's view, and even *attacks him* with the thunder and lightning of an electrical apparatus, is of all others the most eminently calculated to call this power into action. Nor shall I dwell on the correctness of the motives which must have influenced the Electrifier in adopting that *monopolizing* mode of investigating this subject, and (unlike what one would have supposed a real philosopher, who had *truth* in pursuit, would have done) avoiding conferring with me, desiring any information or assistance in carrying on the enquiry. The readiness which I have ever expressed, both in my publications and conversation, to afford every assistance in my power to any man, seriously and *candidly* disposed to ascertain the merits of this Discovery, and my earnest wish to be present at any experiments
made

made for that purpose, it should seem, would have been sufficient to have insured me an invitation to have witnessed these singular results; and yet, although the distance between our houses is but a few yards, not even a hint of these proceedings was known to me, until the title-page of the book was accidentally presented to my view, two months after its publication.

Many of the diseases in which Mr. W. administers electricity at his rooms, it will be observed, are of the same class to which I apply the Tractors at mine; and as we are near neighbours, it may well be conceived that the same patients have possibly attended us both. This, indeed, is the fact; and the circumstance has often afforded me the pleasure of curing, in the course of a few days, the complaints of several, who had tried electricity for months without benefit.

These remarks on Mr. WILKINSON'S "Observations, &c." have been extended
further

further than was at first proposed ; but the Editor has been induced to dwell longer on the subject, from an earnest wish that those who are in the pursuit of the *truth*, and who are desirous of ascertaining the real merits of this Practice, should be apprised of such necessary hints as would enable them to appreciate properly those reports that are industriously circulated, by uninformed, and, in some instances perhaps, designing and interested persons, against this Discovery. Other proceedings on this Practice, similar to those here adduced, have come to the Editor's knowledge, and though he does not know of their having found their way into print, yet they have been circulated with that avidity in conversation (a mode more favourable for *individual embellishing*) which has rendered any other manner of publication unnecessary.

The Editor is sensible that the censure and language he has been obliged to employ,

ploy, in several parts of this work, but which it was both his duty to himself and the world to comply with, will expose him to hosts of assailants. He is but a Tyro in the field of composition; and, therefore, were the decision or the controversy dependant on the ability and skill of those who may engage in it, he would shrink from the vain attempt of withstanding so unequal a contest. For support and protection he relies on the justice of his cause. As this has generally prevailed in other cases, he feels a perfect willingness in thus resting the subject. If diseases are really removed, as those persons who have practised extensively with the Tractors declare, it should seem there would be but little doubt of their being generally adopted; but if the numerous reports of their efficacy which have been published are forgeries, or are unfounded, the Practice ought soon to be crushed.

A P P E N D I X. (No. III.)

THE subject of this Appendix may, perhaps, be regarded in that light, by many of my friends and acquaintances, which will induce them to censure me for bestowing on it the least notice.—It must, however, be briefly adverted to.

Just as this work was about coming from the hands of the Printer, I was favoured with the view of a book, entitled, “*Lectures on Diet and Regimen,*” addressed to mothers and guardians—by DR. WIL-
LICH *, a native of Germany, and now resident in London.—In the table of contents I observed the following notable words: *Perkins’s Metallic Tractors ex-*

* This person is an assistant conductor of a Medical Journal in London.

ploded,”

ploded, pages 144 and 145.”—On advert-
ing to these pages, where one might expect to
see this proposition proved, Reader, be-
hold, the *demonstration!!!*

“ The hosts of empirics and mounte-
banks to be found in our great cities, and
the tinctures, essences, and balms of life,
so much in vogue with even the polished
classes, the celestial beds, the enchanting
magnetic powers lately introduced into
this country by Mesmer and his numerous
disciples; the prevailing indifference to all
dietetic precepts; the singular impositions
practised on many females, in persuading
them to wear the inert acroamatic belts;
*the strange infatuation of the opulent to pay
five guineas for a pair of Metallic Tractors,
not worth sixpence*; the tables for blood-
letting, and other absurdities, still inserted
in popular almanacks, sufficiently evince
that this is far from being the “ *Age of
Reason.*”

To the words *Metallic Tractors* a note is
adduced, in the margin, presenting a charac-

ter of this Discovery, from the *Monthly Review*, the false quotation, &c. of which, we have already had occasion to notice, [see page 296 of this book] and which attack upon this practice, from its kindred nature to what is here exhibited, it is not improbable, was written by the same author !

I hope none will be found so egregiously mistaken, as to suppose me so lost to a sense of my own dignity, and a respect for many worthy characters (among whom it must be known *Royalty and literary men of high standing* are here equally splashed with the daring charge of “*infatuation*”) as to condescend to enter into any discussion with the author of this ungentlemanlike and unfounded attack.

This unwarrantable mode of offering *assertion* for *proof*, so unauthorised and even unprecedented, except in the condemnation of a Galileo, the persecution of a Copernicus, and a few other acts of inquisitional authority,

thority, in the times of ignorance and superstition, affords but a lamentable instance indeed of the correctness of one of his remarks, *viz.* that, “ this is far from being the *Age of Reason.*”

The motives, which must have impelled to this attempt at classing the METALLIC PRACTICE with the most paltry of empirical projects, are but too thinly veiled to escape detection.

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I N D E X

TO THE

CASES in the preceding Pages, in which the
METALLIC PRACTICE has been employed with
Advantage.

ANKLE, painful swelling in the, *page* 175, 246.

Burns and scalds, 109, 161, 175.

Contractions, 156, 257.

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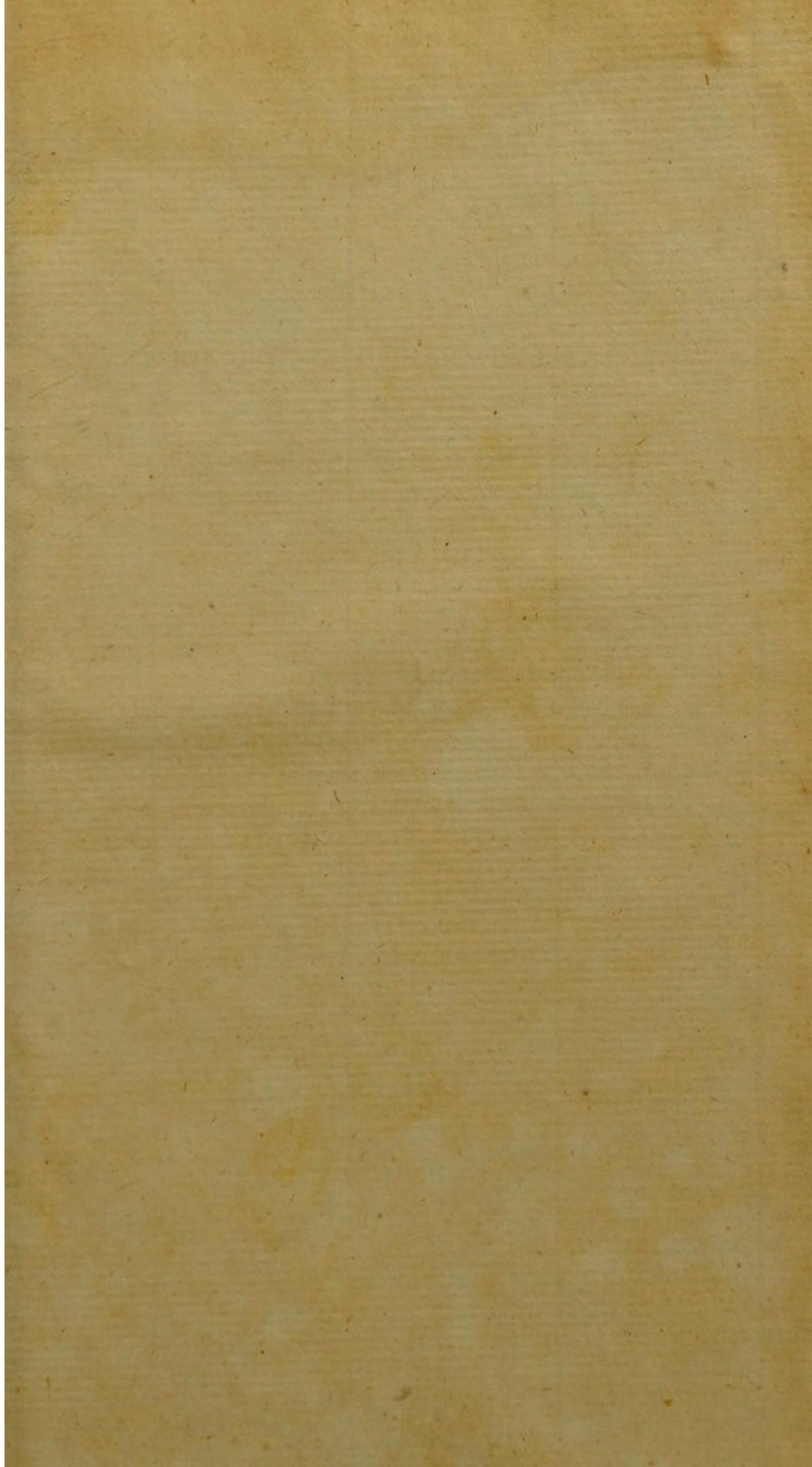
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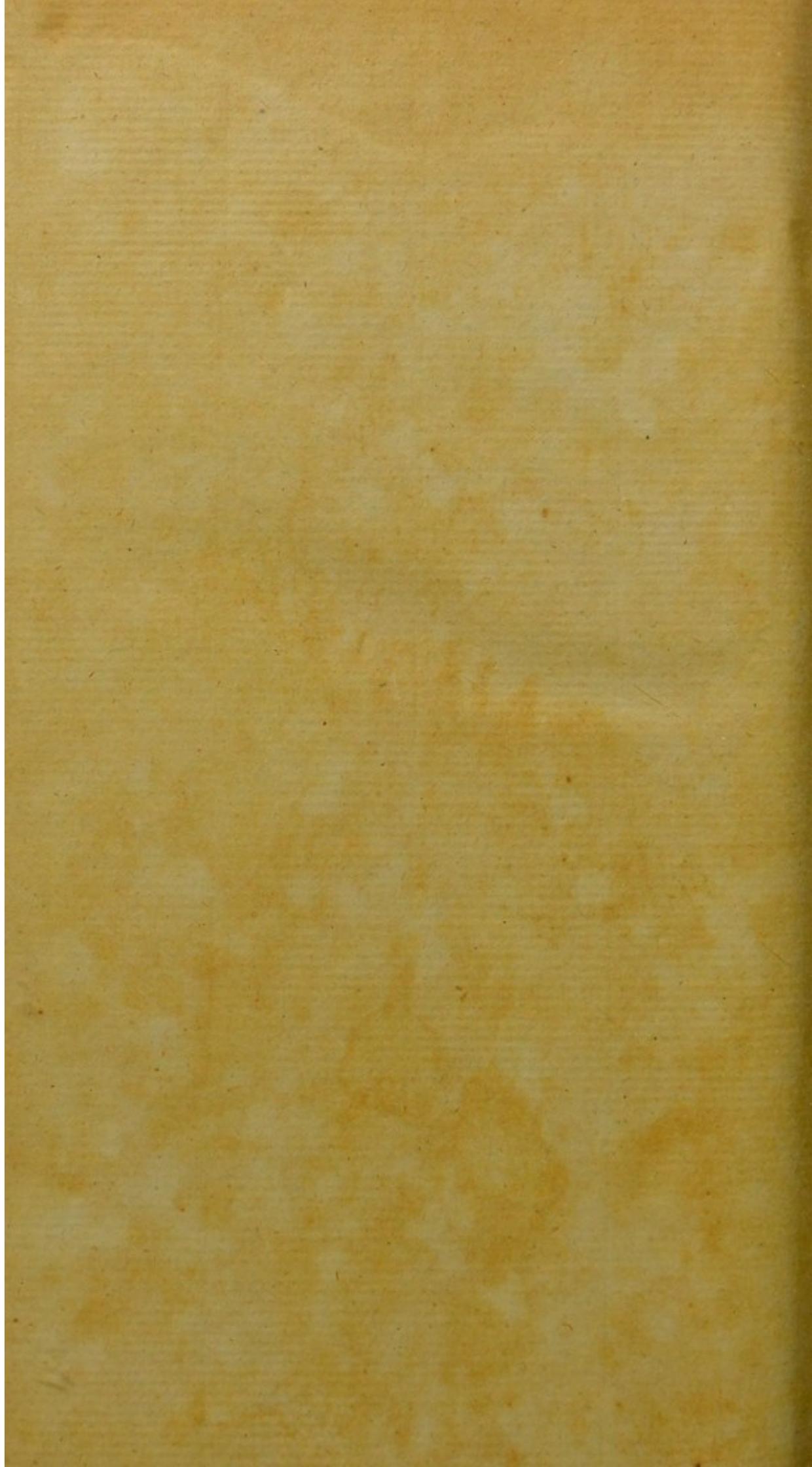
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