Observations on the properties of the air-pump vapour-bath, in the cure of gout, rheumatism, palsy, etc. : with occasional remarks on the efficacy of galvanism, in disorders of the stomach, liver, and bowels, with some new and remarkable cases / by M. La Beaume.

Contributors

La Beaume, Michael.
Hope, H. P. (Former owner)
Royal College of Physicians of London

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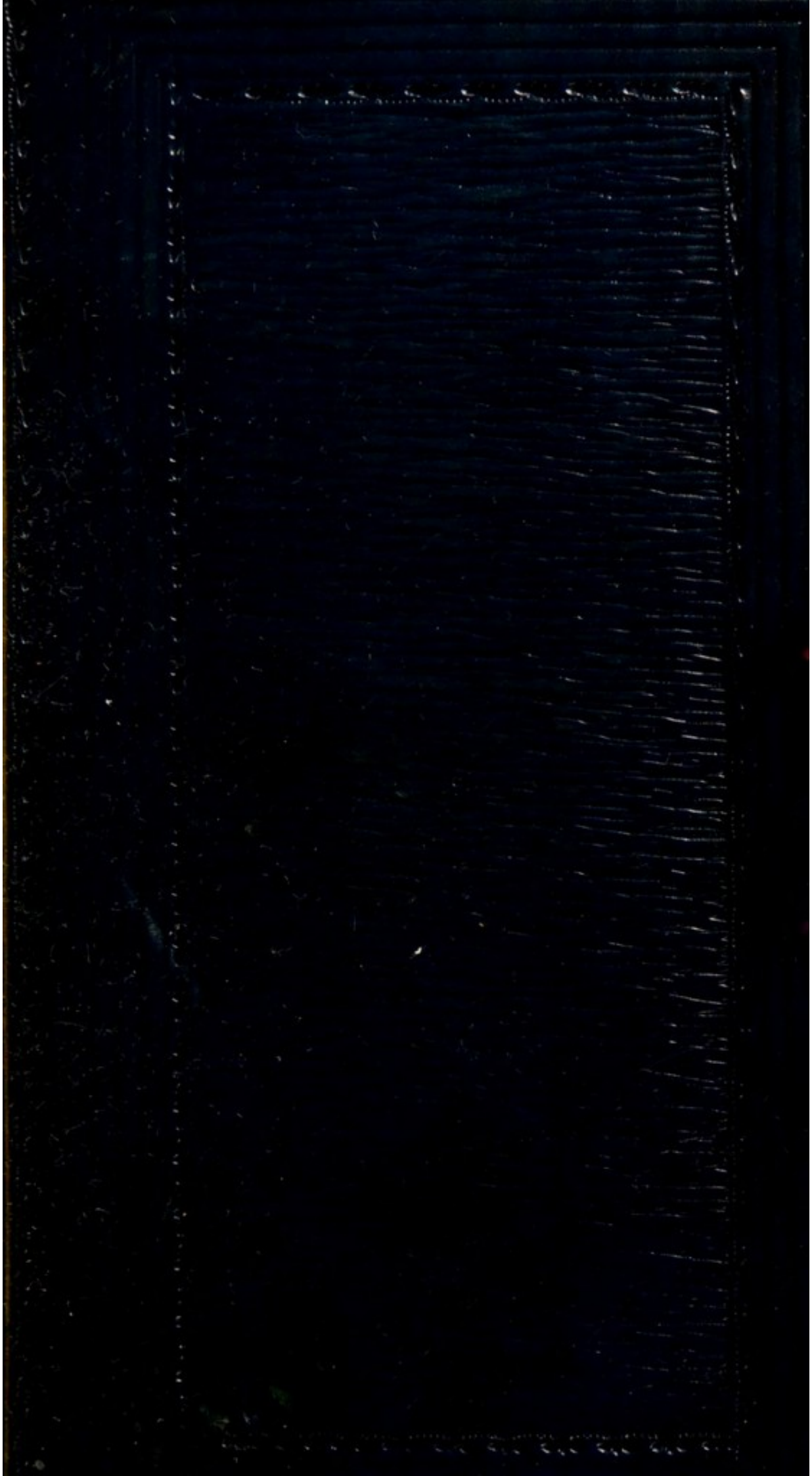

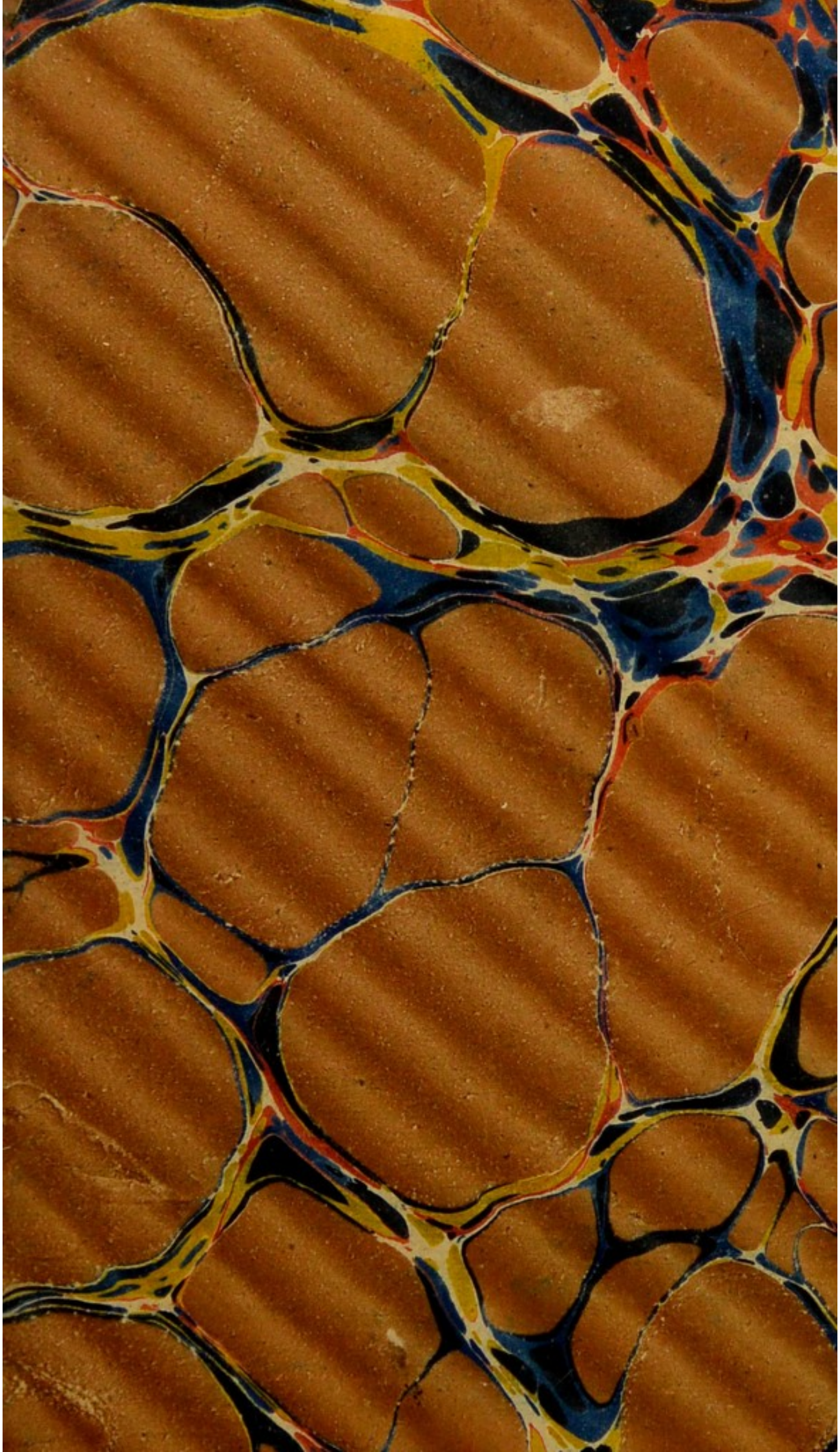

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H. P. Hope Esq
from the author
with his best Respec

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE PROPERTIES OF THE

AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH,

IN THE CURE OF

Gout, Rheumatism, Palsy, &c.

WITH OCCASIONAL REMARKS ON THE

EFFICACY OF GALVANISM,

IN DISORDERS OF THE

Stomach, Liver, & Bowels,

WITH SOME

NEW AND REMARKABLE CASES.

By M. LA BEAUME,

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ELECTRICIAN, F.L.S. &c.

SECOND EDITION GREATLY ENLARGED.

London:

Printed by F. WARR, Red Lion Passage, Holborn.

Sold by HIGHLEY and SON, Fleet Street; RICHARDSON, Royal Exchange; and COLBURN, Conduit Street.

Price Six Shillings in Extra Boards.

1819.

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ALSO

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and CHILDREN, Dean Street.

Price Six Shillings in Extra Boards.

1819.

DEDICATION.

TO those Persons of both sexes, who have been under my care, and who by a happy experience, in their own Cases as Patients, have been taught the efficacy of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath as a Medical Remedy,—who are of all others the most competent to confirm the facts contained in the following pages, this work is respectfully dedicated by their

very obliged,

humble Servant,

Sept. 1, 1819. *M. La Beaume.*

31, *Southampton Row,*
Russell Square.

ANALYTICAL

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—— 43, — 12, *read* post *for* port.
—— 45, — 4, *read* atonic *for* antonic.
—— 46, — 21, *read* symptomatic *for* symptoniatic.
—— —, — 24, *read* lithiat *for* lethat.
—— 60, — 5, *read* Cullen *for* cullen.
—— 155, — 12, *read* alvine *for* albine.
—— 157, — 6, *read* it *for* him
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PREFACE

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

IN compliance with a custom, long sanctioned by the greatest authorities, I think it not improper to submit to a candid public, the following exposition of my motives, for producing a second Edition of this Pamphlet. When I first published my observations on the properties of the AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH, on the improved state of MEDICAL ELECTRICITY, and particularly GALVANISM, I had neither vanity nor avarice to gratify by such an undertaking. Vanity in such

a case, I could have none—for I was merely attempting to revive and to diffuse a general knowledge of important improvements in Medical Science, to the discovery or merit of which, I never pretended to have any sort of claim. On the other hand, if avarice had been my object, the course I took in the distribution of the first Edition of my Pamphlet, was, of all others, the least likely to answer such a purpose—for, most of the 500 copies were gratuitously circulated among Medical Practitioners, with the *sole* view of drawing the attention of the profession to a subject, which I conscientiously deemed of the utmost importance to the Healing Art, and to the cause of humanity.

With many of the enlightened members of the Medical Profession, it has met with a reception worthy of *their* character, and equal to *my* hopes. There are a few

practitioners, however, who from contemptible prejudices, not perhaps wholly unmixed with feelings of selfishness, have by significant shrugs and scarcely articulate murmurs, contrived to convey their dissent from the opinions promulgated in the Pamphlet, in which I felt it my duty to allude to the known inefficacy of the *Materia Medica*, in a variety of human maladies—a truth, but too well attested by the ravages of disease, and the hopeless wailings of suffering humanity, to be concealed from even the most superficial observer. Yet an exposition of the inaptness and inefficacy of the remedies in common use, would have been of little or no benefit to mankind, unless I could at the same time, have produced a *succedaneum*, that would be of greater advantage to the afflicted. This was my chief object, and this I endeavoured to accomplish, by recommending the *Air-Pump Vapour-Bath*, *Medical*

Electricity, and *Galvanism ; not as infallible Specifics in all cases*, but as *efficacious substitutes* for *remedies in common use, in a certain and enumerated class of disorders.*

The tone in which I addressed the public and the Medical profession in my Pamphlet, was one, as far removed from presumption and egotism, as from diffidence and doubt. With the feelings of a man, strongly alive, to the vital importance of his subject, I endeavoured to impress on the minds of the afflicted, the great probability of complete recovery, and the certainty of relief, in many cases generally deemed hopeless, by the adoption of my remedies. Nor did I venture this opinion upon light or chimerical grounds, but in doing so, felt fully warranted by the surest of all guides—the results of extensive practice in a long course of experi-

ence. Having had (as I still have) a distressing class of cases continually under my eyes; and with numerous patients seeking relief from my remedies, I naturally felt satisfied of the utility of my system of treatment, and therefore spoke with confidence. More than sixteen years experience of the safe but astonishing powers of *Medical Electricity*, and particularly *Galvanism*, had completely taught me, that no injury whatever, in any case, could possibly result from their *judicious application;* and that the chances of relief and recovery which they held out in certain disorders, when compared with those to be expected from the *Materia Medica*, would be found, incalculably great and consolotary. These interesting truths having in some degree become known, were not of a nature to be confined within narrow limits—They propagated themselves, and soon reached the ears of many of the

most eminent professors of the healing art. These gentlemen, with a disinterested liberality characteristic of superior minds, yielded to their honest convictions, and have done me the honor from time to time, to recommend to my care a number of patients whose cases had resisted all the ordinary means of relief. To their testimony, therefore, and to that of their patients who have experienced my treatment, *I can appeal with confidence*, for proofs of the *success* attending my practice. There were, however, a few of the faculty, who are always to be found in the ranks of bigotry and prejudice, and who of course, *could see no benefit* likely to result from any improvement int he healing art. From such practitioners as these I neither expected liberality nor justice: the cause of their opposition and enmity has been already alluded to, but to be clearly understood it requires a more detailed statement. After

fifteen years of successful but gratuitous practice in the administration of *Electric* and *Galvanic* remedies, I was induced to commence this department of medical science as a profession. In forming this determination, the moderation of the fees I have since taken, is a tolerable proof that gain was not originally, nor is now, the chief object I had, and still have in view.

Finding my sphere of action rapidly enlarging, and anxious by every possible means to lessen and remove the sufferings of the afflicted, it happened at the time referred to, that my attention was particularly drawn to a small work of *Dr. Blegborough's*, on the *Air-Pump Vapour-Bath;* when I was forcibly struck, with the new combination of powers which that machine exhibited. I knew that the principles on which the machine was constructed, were philosophically just and true, but I was

not left to rely on its principles alone—I had the satisfaction to find that its salutary powers had been demonstrated in a variety of cases recorded by Dr. B., whose judgment and veracity were unquestionable. From subsequent information which I have obtained, I can now venture to assert on undoubted authority, that it had been successfully applied to one of the Royal Family, by order of his Majesty himself, after a medical consultation had been held on the subject.

It would be needless to notice here, the causes that had for years retarded the practical usefulness of the *Air-Pump Vapour-Bath*; it is sufficient to observe, that I saw clearly the important benefits it was adapted to confer, and therefore resolved to revive its use by employing it in my professional practice. Under these circumstances, it was thought by many of

my private and professional friends, that a small publication descriptive of the design and uses of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, accompanied with well authenticated cases of its efficacy, would revive its credit, and bring it into general notice: at the same time I was urged to include in the pamphlet, a clear but concise description of the powers and properties of Electricity and Galvanism, together with a brief synopsis of the diseases to which they were applicable, and in which they had been successfully used. I had no sort of predilection for book-making, but had a particular aversion to tax the curiosity of the public, without being able in return for the levied contribution, to provide something new and important; this, however, after the numerous works, both philosophical and medical, that had appeared on the same subjects, scarcely could to any extent be expected. This consideration kept me for

some time in doubt and suspense, but finding my practice daily increase, and conscious that I had made some important discoveries in the applicability, as well as the *Modus Operandi* of Galvanism, in Dyspepsia, Chronic Hepatites, and Asthma, I yielded to the solicitations of my patients and friends, and published this work, written chiefly on the *powers* of the *Air-Pump Vapour-Bath*, but containing also cursory and explanatory observations on other subjects.

When I sent the first edition of this pamphlet to the press, it was not so much from my own experience of the beneficial powers of the Air-pump Vapour-Bath, that I so strongly recommended its use: but chiefly from a thorough persuasion, that the extraordinary cures cited in the work alluded to, were of themselves quite sufficient, to entitle it to rank among

the most important discoveries of modern times. Since that period, however, I have had abundant opportunities of ascertaining by experience in a variety of cases, the salutary effects produced by this remedy; but it is much to be regretted that a delicacy of feeling should operate so powerfully with most patients, as to render them extremely reluctant to allow publicity being given to their cases, a conduct which though I have no right to condemn, I have reason to lament. The additional cases which are here published for the first time, have all of them recently occurred, having been treated under my own immediate direction; and are collected from others, to demonstrate the utility of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, by practical illustrations of its safe but extraordinary powers.

Should the afflicted find from this publication, a ray of hope to dispel from their

minds the gloom of despondency, and by the employment of this efficient remedy, be restored to perfect health, and the vigorous use of their corporeal powers,—the Author will then have received his highest reward—the consciousness of having been of some use to mankind in his day and generation.

M. LA BEAUME,

31, *SOUTHAMPTON ROW*,
RUSSELL SQUARE.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH, &c. &c.

IT has been often and justly remarked of *Medical Science*, that, till of late years, few discoveries of general practical utility had marked its progress. It was indeed always believed by the wise, and assented to by the pious, that divine wisdom and goodness had provided abundant store of adequate remedies, for all the maladies incident to humanity; and had endowed man with such intellectual powers for research and investigation, as would enable him to seize and apply them to the beneficent purposes for which they were intended. This impression, so strongly and almost univer-

sally felt, was for many ages, by the prejudices of practitioners and the weakness of their patients, rendered of little benefit to mankind. The former, bred up in the study of a system, sanctioned rather by the authority of great names of former times, than by its intrinsic wisdom and excellence, were content to seek reputation by passive acquiescence in the judgment of those who had gone before them, and a servile imitation of their practice. The comparative ease with which fortune and even fame could be acquired by following in a beaten track, seems to have prevented the professors of the healing art from perceiving, that any system of medicine, of mere human origin, however specious and profound, which attempted to fix bounds to knowledge, and limits to discovery, must ever rely for its chief support, on the power and bigotry of prejudice.

This sluggish, selfish, and stagnant feeling among medical men, appears, with few exceptions, to have continued for ages;

and sufficiently accounts for the science of medicine having so long remained apparently stationary. The inadequacy of the remedies in various disorders to which they were applied, was daily detected by failure and miscarriage; but still, such was the power of indolence, or force of prejudice, that any deviation from prescribed rule—any attempt at improvement, was deemed a dangerous and unpardonable innovation.

This defect in the practice of regular medicine, held out an irresistable temptation to empirics of all descriptions, who, in the absence of medical education of any kind, supplied the want of skill and experience, by ignorance and presumption. This active and enterprising class of practitioners having secured a footing, soon began to pour forth a profusion of infallible nostrums, for the cure of every human complaint. Though they promised every thing, and performed nothing, or worse than nothing, their success in the participation of fees, was equal to their arrogance.

Nor was this to be wondered at—health, the choicest gift of heaven, and without which all the other enjoyments of life are insipid, has ever been held too precious to be parted with, while there remains a solitary twig on which the dejected can hang hope. Credulity and incredulity are alike the offspring of ignorance, and from a natural but strong desire of life in the afflicted, the quacks, who promised to still all their wailings, got possession of a vast portion of medical practice, while the regular physician who adopted only the recipes of former times, and knew no other healing stores than such as were to be found in the national pharmacopoeia, frequently failing in the application of his remedies, lost ground in private opinion, and public confidence.

The labours of the quacks, however, were not wholly unproductive of advantage to mankind; Though destitute of all the qualities that distinguish accomplished physicians—such as learning, various and

profound, a thorough knowledge of the animal economy, extensive medical experience, combined with mild and soothing manners; yet the quack sometimes blundered by accident on something, that had at least the appearance of a cure, and which, however delusive, acquired him at once profit and reputation. This rapidly increasing race of interlopers, at last roused the regulars from their contented slumbers, —the latter said, "*Fools rush in where angels fear to tread;*"—but, what was still worse, they had the cutting mortification to feel their own influence on the wane; and, to crown their misfortunes, their gains daily diminishing. Stimulated, therefore, by a sense of interest, and at the same time ashamed of the triumph of an inglorious rival, the regular practitioner was at last compelled to think for himself—to explore new sources of information—and, of course increase the general stock of medical knowledge. Thus even quacks, with all their ignorance and presumption, contributed to the advancement of science.

Such, or nearly such, was the state of medical science in general, at the commencement of the present reign. Since that period, however, what with the knowledge acquired by *propitious accident*, and by the spirited efforts of independent and superior minds, the dominion of science has been vastly enlarged, and a flood of light has been poured upon the world.

It is not within the limits of my design even to enumerate the various scientific discoveries which recent times have brought to light, and which have led to an improved system of philosophy, teeming with benefits to the human race. Sixty years ago, who could have believed that air and water would be found to be compound bodies, the constituent principles of which, might be rendered applicable to so many useful purposes?—About the same period, who could have conceived the vast and various powers of the steam engine, now so fully developed, and so generally known?

These discoveries may be deemed the fruits of inquisitive research, directed by sound judgment, and ardent feeling ; but, though we are indebted for these, and many other important improvements in science, to the persevering efforts of superior minds, released from the restraints of prejudice—yet there are still some, equal at least in magnitude and utility, the knowledge of which we owe to chance, or rather, in the language of rational piety, to Providence. The knowledge of the vaccine disease, a discovery which has conferred more benefits and blessings on suffering humanity, than almost any other to be found in the records of time, had no other origin. This is a fact that the ingenious, the patient, and benevolent *Jenner* himself, does not hesitate to acknowledge. His indefatigable industry, his perseverance " through good report and evil report," while they establish his title to the character of a benefactor of mankind, prove him at the same time, to be pre-eminantly qualified to diffuse a knowledge of

this important discovery, over the whole habitable globe.

The discovery by *Galvani*, of a new principle in animal Electricity, which opens so wide a field for philosophic improvement, and which promises in its practical results to be as beneficial to mankind as the vaccine system ; we owe to the same cause which produced the latter. So far we are wholly indebted to Providence, for discoveries of vast importance to the world. These phenomena in nature, however, had a powerful tendency to awaken curiosity, to stimulate enquiry, and rouse to exertion. The philosophic of all countries, as if by a common impulse, started in the race of discovery, and hence may be traced those amazing improvements in electricity, which form the chief boast and pride of modern times. The great *Franklin*, for philosophical and moral purposes, first taught the world, by his discoveries in Electricity, to subject the thunder of heaven to the power of man. Since his time, a whole host of eminent

physiologists scattered over Europe, have contributed to throw new lights on every branch of this important science.

The general result of all these recent and astonishing improvements in Electricity, it would be difficult to sum up in few words. The uninformed, however, may form some tolerable idea of their own, from the following summary. It appears then to be a fact, established by a thousand experiments—that there is a fluid far more subtle than air, which is every where diffused through space, which surrounds the whole earth, and which pervades all, even its minutest parts. Such is the extreme fineness, velocity, and expansiveness of this active principle, that all other matter seems to be only the body, and this the soul of the universe. It produces and sustains life, throughout all nature, as well in animals, as in vegetables.

But among the great purposes, Electricity answers in the general economy of

nature, both in the production and preservation of animal and vegetable life, its medical powers in the cure of a vast variety of human maladies, is, of all its other properties, the one most beneficial to mankind. "It gives and preserves," says a celebrated physiologist, "a proper tone to the vessels. It promotes all secretions, keeps every part in motion, it pervades the whole animal system, producing great variety of effects—numberless vibrations in the solids, and fermentations in the fluids." Indeed it would not be any extravagant hyperbole to assert, that Electricity seems to be the grand *Desideratum* in physic, from which we may expect relief, when all other remedies fail.

The Invention, the beneficial effects of which, in the treatment of many diseases, it is the intention of the following pages to point out, will, when generally known, prove of no little consequence to mankind, as its object is of the last importance. The apparatus of the *Air-Pump Vapour-Bath*,

comprehends, and, for the *first time*, unites the effects of *fomentation and the cupping-glass*, two of the most powerful external means that have ever been resorted to, for acting on disease. Water and air, which till lately were thought simple and undecomposable bodies, are the means by which its powers are put in action. The first is made the vehicle for conveying the matter of heat into the system, and *increasing the force of the circulation, for relaxing spasmodic contractions, and removing obstructions; and at the same time, for giving tone to the vascular system.* The medical cases to which air may be applied are extensive beyond calculation, whether regard be had to the circumstances of the temperature, or of an increase or diminution of its natural pressure. It is certain that the removal of the atmospheric pressure, is in many cases attended with the most salutary effects, and the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath is, beyond all doubt, the most powerful agent of the kind that has ever been used. Indeed it is founded on the unerring

principles of nature, clearly supported by reason and philosophy, and has therefore made its way in the world, unaided by any of the arts of finesse, or the tricks of chicanery.

One of the most obvious properties of air, is its *elasticity*. This property might be exemplified by innumerable experiments. A very easy and convincing one is, merely to squeeze a full blown bladder between the hands, to which the enclosed air offers a very sensible resistance, while it is at the same time reduced into a smaller volume; but when we cease to compress the bladder, it immediately recovers its original figure, being expanded by the elasticity of of the air within. The air exerts its elasticity equally in all directions, as is evident from the spherical figure of soap bubbles, blown from the bowl of a tobacco-pipe—an experiment, which though frequently the amusement of boys, will not appear trifling when it is recollected, that it afforded to the immortal *Newton* no incon-

siderable aid in his investigation of the theory of colours. The same globular figure is assumed, and for the same reason, by melted glass when inflated by the breath, blown through a long tube. Hence bottles, especially when blown thin, would be spherical, if different shapes were not given them by the resistance of the moulds in which they are cast; and for particular purposes they are sometimes allowed to retain their natural figure, under the appellation of glass globes.

To what extent the air is capable of *compression or expansion*, has not been with certainty ascertained. *Dr. Hales*, by employing a press, forced it into the 38th part of its former volume; and by enclosing some air along with water in a hollow ball of cast iron and exposing it to frost, which most powerfully dilates water while changing into ice, he reduced the air into 1838 times less space than it occupies in its ordinary uncompressed state. Now since air is about 830 times lighter than water, it

must, in the experiment just mentioned, have had more than twice the specific gravity of water—that is, a cubic foot of air thus compressed, must have been more than twice as heavy as a cubic foot of water, and must accordingly have weighed above 125 pounds.

The expansion of air in consequence of its elasticity is no less surprising. *Mr. Boyle*, in one of his experiments, found that it occupied 8000 times its former volume; and on another occasion, that great experimental philosopher brought it to expand itself into no less than 13680 times as much space as it originally filled. This effect was produced merely by including a portion of air in a pneumatic apparatus, and removing the pressure so as to allow it to expand by its elasticity. But by the addition of heat, this quality of the air is much increased, as may be easily proved by holding a bladder partly inflated before the fire; for no sooner is the included air affected by the heat, than it begins to

expand itself, and to distend the bladder. According to the experiments of Sir George Shuckburgh, this expansion is increased at the rate of about the 440th part of its volume, for each degree of heat applied, from that of temperate, on the scale of Fahrenheit.

Air, when combined with water and exposed to heat, forms steam or vapour, which by employing great degrees of heat, has its elasticity so much increased as to become one of the most powerful mechanical agents in nature ; a fact familiar to persons conversant in the management of steam-engines. At the heat of boiling water, steam is above three times rarer than common air, and possesses about the same elasticity as that fluid.

Air being a material substance, must of course possess *weight* and *consequently pressure ;* but philosophers before Galileo and Torricelli, could not precisely ascertain the quantity of that pressure. The former of

these ingenious Italians made many interesting experiments on water-pumps, whose operation depends entirely on the pressure of the atmosphere; and the latter was so happy as to devise that brilliant experiment which gave rise to the barometer, and is often dignified with his name. This valuable discovery gave a new and decisive turn to pneumatical enquiries; for Torricelli found on filling a tube, closed at one end with mercury, and then stopping the open end with his finger, and inverting the tube in a bason of the same fluid, that the mercury was kept at the height of about 30 inches in the tube, by the air pressing on the mercury in the bason. *Now a cubical inch of that ponderous fluid weighs nearly half a pound avoirdupois; consequently a column of mercury thirty inches high, and one inch square, must weigh about* 15 *pounds, which is therefore equal to the pressure of the atmosphere upon every square inch of surface.*

Hence will appear the indefinitely va-

rious degrees of pressure, which we can employ in the application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. The surface of an ordinary man's body may be estimated at about 2160 square inches, which multiplied by 15, gives 32400 pounds, or nearly 14½ tons. This enormous pressure would crush us in an instant, if it were not exactly counter-balanced by the spring of the air, or other elastic fluid, diffused through every part of our bodies; just as the pressure on the outside of a full blown bladder is sustained by the re-action of the air within; or to give a still more apposite instance, as the pressure on the surface of a shrivelled apple, is accurately counterpoised by the elasticity of the air contained in its pores. But now if this full blown bladder and shrivelled apple be placed under the receiver of an air-pump, we shall find that as the air is exhausted, the bladder will be more and more expanded till it burst, and the wrinkles on the apple will gradually disappear, and its surface become plump and turgid. As an instance perhaps still

more in point, we mention a common experiment. If an egg punctured in the small end be placed in a wine glass with the pin hole downwards, and subjected to the action of an Air-pump, the elasticity of the air naturally enclosed in the egg, will force its contents through the perforation; but on re-admitting the air into the receiver, its pressure will drive the contents back again into the shell. Thus also it is with a small part of the human body subjected to the operation of the syringe cupping-glass, which will illustrate our meaning better than the ordinary one. In proportion as the air is exhausted by the syringe, the fluids rush towards the small portion of surface from whence the atmospheric pressure is removed, with such force as to occasion a tumor, and thus the blood flows through the wounds previously made by the scarificator. From these facts and the reasons assigned for them, the transition to the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath is natural and easy. For, except with regard to the use of the scarificator, which

is rendered unnecessary from the extent of surface included in the apparatus, its effects are exactly similar to those of the cupping-glass, with the additional advantage of fomenting the part.

With regard to animal, vegetable, or mineral poisons, though opportunities of judging are happily rare, it is clear from the obvious power and properties of this apparatus, that if early applied, much dependance may be placed in its efficacy for their removal. If, as has been often maintained, sucking a poisoned wound with the mouth has had an effect, how much greater must the power of this apparatus be? to say nothing of the danger incurred by the person whose mouth is applied to the part. On the important subject of suspended animation, as the principal mean of restoring the vital functions is the application of heat, it would be difficult if not impossible, to point out any method, by which it can be thrown through the system so completely, or in so gradual a manner as by this apparatus.

Many of the preceding and succeeding remarks on the powers and properties of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, are taken from the excellent treatise of *Dr. Blegborough*, now out of print. That gentleman was the first who addressed the public on the subject, and I have his permission to make what use of his ideas I may deem most conducive to the general good, it being his ardent wish to diffuse as wide as possible the knowledge of a discovery, which he has ever considered of the greatest importance to mankind.

That gentleman in his letter to *Dr. Bradley*, on the subject of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, thus expresses himself, — "This apparatus, if I am not greatly deceived, is calculated to produce excellent effects, *in changing the action of diseased parts*. Indeed I have little doubt but it will rank among the first of the modern improvements in our art; and that under the superintendance of professional men, it will prove a powerful mean not only

of alleviating, but frequently of removing many diseases which have been hitherto considered as incurable. As the apparatus comprehends, and for the first time unites the effects of fomentation and the cupping-glass, two of the most powerful means of acting on disease, and that on a plan more extensive than was ever before thought of, what effects may we not be led to expect from so extended a combination ?—every day's experience is proving to us its efficacy in gout, rheumatism, palsy, contractions of the muscles, cutaneous and other diseases, particularly of the chronic kind. The peculiar construction of the machine is adapted to the leg or arm only, but the principle extends much farther, and can be applied to any part of the body, by the intervention of glasses or otherwise. When then we consider, that by such means the pressure of the atmosphere might be removed from so large a surface, every square inch of which sustains a weight of 15lb, the effects on the vessels circulating the fluids in such parts, are too evident to need

insisting on in these pages. A very obvious one is, that the consequent *temporary expansion* of those vessels, from so great *a pressure* being removed, must give an opportunity *for obstructions to give way*, while at the same time the progress of inflammation is arrested. In this manner we avoid the misery arising from symptomatic fever, &c. and not unfrequently the destruction of parts, consequent on suppuration."

The following letter from *Dr. Hamilton*, physician to the London Dispensary, addressed to the proprietor, is quoted by *Dr. Blegborough*.

"DEAR SIR,

"I have often, since the time I examined your machine for conveying a Vabour-Bath to diseased limbs, and for taking off the pressure of the atmosphere, considered it and its probable effects with much attention; and my opinion is, that it is likely to be of the greatest use to

mankind, in helping obstructed vessels to unload themselves. *The mode in which it must act is certainly agreeable to sound theory; and the more it is put in practice, the oftener will facts occur to confirm what I now say.* I not only view it as valuable to remove local affections of the extremities, but also to afford relief to other parts of the body, where obstructions may have taken place. There are some complaints which would often be greatly mitigated, if not always removed, by its power in producing a general and copious sweat over the whole frame, such as in the diabetes, dropsy, and other maladies, where the skin is parched, dry, and hard. In general, it will be well to pump out the air gradually, and to see the effects of a partial exhaustion of the machine; for its being done too suddenly, would allow the air in the circulating fluids to exert its spring with too great force, producing acute pain, &c. The machine by having a condensing pump fixed to it, might be used as a bracer, and that with beneficial and powerful effects.

Was I not so far advanced in life, and so much engaged in other avocations, I would with gladness have devoted my time to the use of it; thoroughly convinced that it would prove useful to the distressed, and honorable to myself. Wishing you, dear Sir, the favour of God, which is better than life, and all that life contains.

I am, &c. JAMES HAMILTON."

It would be an unpardonable vanity in me to suppose that any thing I could say would add weight and consideration to the suffrage of so able a judge, whose respectable testimony has since been corroborated by the favorable opinions of some of the first physicians and surgeons in this metropolis. The late learned and ingenious *Dr. Garnett*, in particular, was so much struck with the value of this discovery, that on hearing of it, he immediately procured one of the machines, which he forthwith exhibited and explained in the lecture on Gout, which made one of his interesting course on Zoonomia, printed

at the press of the Royal Institution, for the benefit of his orphan children.

Such were the opinions of these eminent physicians, some twenty years ago, on the beneficial effects to be expected from the use of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath; at a time too when the invention itself was, comparatively, little known. Since that period, it has not only received various and important improvements, but its extraordinary powers and efficacy in the relief and cure of many of the most dangerous disorders that can afflict humanity, have induced some distinguished members of the faculty not only to *recommend it to their patients*, among whom are to be found personages of the first rank in the kingdom, but to have *applied it to themselves* with the greatest benefit. Indeed, by a widely extended practice, there is scarcely any thing connected with the subject now left to doubt or conjecture.

As a brief description of the *Air-*

Pump Vapour-Bath will enable the reader the better to judge of its adaptation to its end, and may be useful to the interests of science, as well as gratifying to the afflicted who may wish to try its powers, the following account of its construction, will, it is presumed, prove generally acceptable. The apparatus consists of several parts—a metallic cylinder or vessel into which the diordered limb is placed; at the extremity of which a bladder is attached to prevent the steam from escaping, and the air from rushing into the machine, during the process of exhaustion. At the other end of the vessel is placed a stop-cock and tube, to which a small boiler containing water is affixed—the steam from thence passing into the machine through the stop-cock, and the fluid evaporated by a spirit-lamp placed under the boiler, together with a thermometer to show the temperature of the fumigation, and to regulate the degree of heat: here an Air-Pump is firmly attached for the purpose of exhausting the machine when the fumigation has continued the proper time, and also an escape-

valve, with which is connected a flexible pipe, adapted to convey off the vitiated air occasioned by the nature of the complaint sought to be remedied. There is also another stop-cock used, to prevent the valves of the pump being injured by the hot vapour, in its passage from the boiler.

Mr. Smith of Brighton, the inventor of this ingenious and portable machine, was a man, whose eminent mechanical abilities, were in his day, well known to the world. The idea of sucking poison from wounds, first suggested to him the possibility of finding mechanical means which, on the same principle, would prove a much more certain, powerful, and efficacious remedy—and by the construction of this excellent apparatus, he has fully accomplished that, as well as other equally important objects.

Here, it may be proper to observe, that each application of the apparatus, takes up generally about an hour. The

sensations experienced by the patient during the process of fumigation, are of the most agreeable kind. Even in painfully acute disorders, the feelings, while under the operation, are actually soothing, exciting gradually and gently an inclination in the patient to sleep. The exhaustion, when carried to its fullest extent, awakens no other feeling, than a sense of weight, and of a distention of the limb, on which the operation is directed. When this is experienced, the application is terminated, by the admission of air into the body of the vessel, which affords instant relief. The mode of employing the powers of the machine, must, in a great measure, be regulated in all cases, by the discretion and skill of the practitioner. In short, the effects produced on the patient by the application of the *Air-Pump Vapour-Bath*, will be found to be at once mild, safe, and efficacious—and the apparatus admirably adapted to afford relief in the very worst forms of disease, even after all other remedies have been tried in vain.

Remarks on the Diseases in which the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath is beneficially applicable, with Cases illustrative of its Efficacy.

GOUT.

THE numerous authors who have written on this disorder, have differed materially respecting its cause, nature, and cure. That this disease prevents others, I cannot believe; that it disposes to many, there is no doubt.

Gout is generally produced by improper and premature application of those powers, which when duly balanced, sustain life; as heat, the ingesta, the blood—the powers of the mind; as sensation, passion and thought.

From the moment that life commences every period of it demands the exertion of

its appropriate degree of those exciting powers, and the system is in a low, high, or exhausted state, in proportion as they are applied in defect, excess, or in a too uniformly excessive degree. Gout is then generally the consequence of the latter, arising from an unduly exhausted excitability, which induces debility and relaxation of the solids, destroying their tone and rendering them unfit to resist the action of the vascular system. Thus are the fluids pushed beyond their proper channels, not to be returned but by an effort, at the expense of the whole system. Among the causes the ingesta acts most powerfully, for it induces the greatest part of the rest, even the most inordinate affections of the mind. The use of *alcohol* in whatever shape is beyond doubt, an active agent in producing the disease, as it *most effectually debilitates the functions of the stomach*, on which the due performance of all the other functions of the body much depends. *It particularly disturbs those of the liver, a torpid, irregular, or obstructed state of which im-*

portant organ is generally the immediate cause of severe paroxysms of the disease. High seasoned food and all other causes, act their parts subordinate to that already mentioned. Sedentary habits, indolence, inactivity, checked perspiration, and the *depressing passions*, also powerfully contribute to the formation of this disease, the foundation of which is often laid in early life, before we are in the least aware of it. Excessive venery and the state of *collapse port coitum*, also peculiarly predisposes to it, and its severest paroxysms often immediately succeed immoderate indulgences of this nature.

Gout, except when the hereditary predisposition is very strong, conjoined with many exciting causes, seldom attacks before the age of thirty-five. At this period of life, if the resisting and contractile power of the animal fibre be weakened, and its tone lost by debauchery and indolence, the disease will often make its appearance even without the hereditary predisposition.

That the gout is not incurable, is a fact which greatly imports all gouty persons to know. The contrary idea, as erroneous as mischievous, has without doubt much increased its martyrs. The late *Duke* of *Portland*, and *Dr. Gregory* of *Edinburgh*, who in early life were both attacked by the disease, and whose fathers both suffered severely from it, were perfectly cured of that disorder, *by a persevering attention to regimen, air, and exercise.* We cannot then pay too great attention to the state of the digestive organs; for whatever overloads or heats them, gives rise to an unnatural excitement of the whole system, and induces that *species of debility*, without which, the disease cannot exist. In proportion as the strength of digestion diminishes, the parts more essential to life become affected; and the powers of the system not being adequate to the establishment of a regular fit of gout in the lower extremeties, as formerly, the head, stomach, lungs, heart, &c. begin to suffer in turn; and giddiness, determina-

tion of blood to the head, intellectual confusion, spasms, asthma, palpitations, faintings, and very often sudden death succeed. The regular antonic, retrocedent and misplaced gout are distinctions, on which too much stress has been laid.—They ought only to be considered as advanced stages of the disease.

The cure of gout is not to be expected from a pill or a potion ; charms or amulets will avail nothing. It may require considerable time to eradicate a disease, which has been a long time in establishing itself. This object is to be obtained by relieving the paroxysms when present, by removing their causes and preventing their recurrence, during the intervals of the fit. The first of these intentions is chiefly effected by topical applications. That no irritation ought to be added to the system during the paroxysms of gout, is a point entirely agreed on among physicians ; but it is also agreed, that any remedy calculated to moderate the violence

of the inflammation is beneficial. The application of cold, may in some cases produce good effects, but *the experiment is hazardous*, and has done *much mischief* in a variety of instances. The inflammatory spasm of the parts affected, is unquestionably best and more safely subdued by a proper application of warmth, in the form of vapour, regularly and uniformly applied at a proper temperature. Vapor, while it produces all the good effects of warm bathing, does not debilitate or relax, but seems uniformly to produce tonic effects, and by the operation of the Air-Pump, the atmospheric-pressure is removed, and the diseased parts take on a *new action*, which powerfully promotes *that* of the absorbents. The capacity of the vascular system, and the propelling power of the *vis a tergo* are at the same time increased. The violence of the pain, and of course the symptoniatic fever, are abated ; and the excitability suffered to accumulate. Large portions of the *lethat of lime* or gouty matter, which often collects in such quantities as to bol-

ster up the joints of the toes and ancles so as to render them completely anchylose, is also during the process *frequently removed, and would be prevented from forming* by a timely application of the Air-Pump Vapor-Bath, which could not be effected by any *other means* with which we are acquainted.

The paroxysms are also placed at a greater distance, and thus a second intention is powerfully aided by the application. The action of the disease is suspended, while all the other remedies may be employed in turn. The principal one is a radical and systematic change of that mode of living which originally induced the disease. The patient must retrace his steps gradually, and with great caution ; a steady adherence to abstemiousness and regular course of diet, a due and minute attention to the *state of the bowels*, and regular and moderate exercise, seems to be the only plan to be depended on for a radical cure of the gout.

While debauchery and inactivity are the sources from whence this disease often springs, temperance and activity never fail to prevent and frequently cure it, even after repeated attacks of the complaint.

Life is no longer desirable than while it can be enjoyed with satisfaction and comfort. The great rule towards acquiring this is to avoid excess in eating and drinking, sensual pleasures and mental exertions, to cultivate a cheerful temper and an even flow of spirits. Regularity of hours, early rising, a due proportion of sleep, pure air, wholesome food, warm clothing, and moderate exercise, are of essential importance. But to expect a radical cure of gout without regard to these rules, is as absurd, as to suppose that life can be preserved without food, or that a vigorous state of health can be enjoyed, without either action or respiration.

CASES

OF ACUTE & IRREGULAR GOUT.

THE cases here cited were selected from among others, because the parties were at that time least difficult of access.

CASE I.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. SEARS, Surgeon, Half Moon St. Piccadilly, dated May 31, 1802.

Seeing in the Medical and Physical Journal a letter of yours respecting a machine for conveying a Vapour-bath to diseased limbs, I could not possibly think of withholding my testimony of its *beneficial effects in gout;* I can speak of it feelingly and with gratitude, having experienced such relief from it myself, in a most violent attack of gout in the extremities.

" In the winter of 1799, by being thrown out of my chaise, I received a violent contusion on the left foot, which terminated *in a most severe paroxysm of the gout ;* it confined me a considerable time, and rendered me unable to pursue my professional avocations ; the dread of a future attack may be readily conceived. The following winter confirmed my fears, and *I was visited by another paroxysm, with increased violence ;* for great as my sufferings were before, they were trifling indeed compared with what I suffered then. Fortunately, by mere chance, I heard that a gentleman at Pimlico, whom I knew, had received the greatest benefit from the application of the machine. I sent therefore to Mr. J. the proprietor of it, to hear from him the principles of its operation : and as it appeared to me to *be perfectly innocent*, I was willing to embrace such a mode as would be likely to relieve my pain, and enable me more speedily to prosecute my professional duties. It succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations, as

on the evening previous to its application, I could not *bear* my feet to touch the ground: after the machine had been applied, I could *press* on them without pain. The succeeding application was still more gratifying, as I could shortly afterwards *walk* with very little assistance about the room; and the next day I suffered only from stiffness, and the fear of reproducing an attack by any blow I might receive on the parts. This, however, subsided, and I was enabled *in a day or two to attend to business*. Grateful for the benefit I have received, I could not withhold giving you this hasty sketch. Without apologizing for its imperfections, I hope this, with other documents, will tend to make the machine more generally known, and I trust approved.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's obediently,

G. M. Seares "

Mr. Seares, after an interval of two years, during which he has enjoyed an un-

interrupted state of good health, was on the 23rd of September again attacked with another fit of the gout. He immediately had recourse to the machine; four applications of which were made on the 25th, the 26th, the 28th, and the 30th. After the third application he was enabled to resume, and has since continued, his usual activity in his profession. He is now (October 15,) entirely *free from all* appearance of the complaint.

After the above statement of Mr. Seares, little further is necessary to be said on the acute stage of the disease, I shall therefore but mention one other case.

CASE II.

Mr. Smith, No. 47, Oxford Street, on the 20th of March, was labouring under a most severe *paroxysm of the acute gout.* He has been subject to frequent returns of its attacks, which always continue for some

time. The application was made on the 20th and 22nd, under some disadvantages, and irregularities, in point of exercise; but on the 23rd and 25th it was applied again, under more favourable circumstances, and the *paroxysm entirely remitted;* since which time he has continued very well, having *entirely escaped the debility* which never failed to succeed former attacks, that were suffered to run their course under patience and flannel; and he resumed his business immediately. It may not be amiss to add, that Mr. Smith considers the application, independent of its utility, as *no inconsiderable luxury.*

CASE III.

I AM happy in having rendered Mr. MORTLOCK of Cambridge, much service in a complaint which comes under the above description. There seemed a strong general gouty diathesis—his stomach was much

affected, and he was taking a quantity of ginger every morning; a practice I could by no means approve, though much extolled by a certain worthy baronet. I gave him some general directions respecting regimen, and enforced the use of milk. The machine was applied fifteen times to his leg and arm. It seemed first to determine the affection to these two points, and soon to remove it altogether. He left town much improved in general health, as well as nearly cured of the particular affection. I went to make him a visit at Abington, near Cambridge, a fortnight after; a considerable thickening and hardness of the ancle had then given way, and he was much better in general health.

RALPH BLEGBOROUGH.

CASE IV.

CAPTAIN RUSH, No. 25, Nottingham Place, New Road, Mary-le-bone, was relieved from a most violent affection of

the bladder of long standing. The *constans mingendi cupido* was so severe, that he declared life was not worth the tenure. From the quantity of mucus discharged, the inner coat of the bladder must have been entirely abraded. It would be presumptuous in me to hazard an opinion respecting the causes, as various ones had been assigned by a number of gentlemen who had been consulted; stone and *gout* among the rest. The affection, however, entirely ceased after a few applications of the machine, to a trial of which *Dr. Fraser*, who was attending at the time, did not object.

Farthinghoe, June 5, 1802.

" DEAR SIR,

It is with much pleasure I inform you of the continuance of the great benefit I received from the application of your Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. To have given so much relief in so short a time, and that in a case the most unfortunate that ever man

was afflicted with; a case that the first assistance could scarce give me any relief from, certainly discovers a power from which, under your directions, every good may be expected. It has been recommended and introduced as giving relief in gouty cases; but, although, as in my case, the gout formed a part of my complaint, yet be assured, Sir, that the other part of my complaint (inflammation of the neck of the bladder) was the cause from which my great sufferings proceeded.

"As my physician, *Dr. Fraser*, who is one of the most liberal of men, attended me, during the application of your remedy, and to whom I explained its effects in progression, I cannot do better than refer you to his testimony. Accept Sir, every good wish from

Your very obedient servant,

GEORGE RUSH."

On what principle the application of the apparatus assisted in the above com-

plaint, I shall not take upon me to affirm. Some will no doubt conclude that the affection was spasmodic. Whatever it was, it is certain that it had continued, with very little intermission, for several years. I merely give it as a fact; and think it necessary to state further, that a recurrence of the symptoms, which were rapidly and daily increasing, has been checked by the same means ; one of the machines having been sent to Farthinghoe for that purpose. And the Captain writes to me again, that he is perfectly free from the complaint.

REMARKS ON RHEUMATISM.

OF this disease there are two species, the acute and chronic. The acute rheumatism is a phlegmasia or inflammatory affection, chiefly in the joints; most frequently occurring in that temperament, which inclines to the sanguine. It depends on an increased action of the vascular system; while the secretion through the skin, and the capacity of the larger superficial vessels themselves are diminished; a spasmodic constriction of the minute ones at the same time supervening.

Rheumatism then, is the consequence of heat more or less suddenly succeeding to cold, so as to make its stimulant effects on that account more powerful; and does not, as has been supposed, arise from the appli-

cation of cold succeeding to heat. It is well known that the person who, when heated, suddenly exposes himself to cold, generally receives little harm, so long as he remains in the cold. It is the return to heat which produces the mischief. We scarcely need observe, that we do not intend to carry this reasoning to that degree of cold, by which persons are frozen to death. The violence of this disease, is proportioned to the degree of diathesis. Persons between the age of twenty and thirty-five, when the vigour of the system is greatest, are the most liable to rheumatism, and the greatest sufferers from its attacks. Considerable pyrexia accompanies the commencement of this disease, and generally precedes all inflammation. The large joints, as the hips and knees of the lower, and the shoulders and elbows of the upper extremities, being the most covered with muscles, are more subject to be affected by rheumatism than the smaller, or than the intermediate parts of the limbs, because the vessels which pass over them are less

defended by cellular substance. A phlogistic diathesis takes place, and is to a certain degree communicated to the whole system.

Though rheumatism comes nearest to the *synocha* of cullen, yet there seems to be something specifically different from what takes place in ordinary inflammatory diathesis; whether we consider the obstinacy with which the disease continues, or the frequent recurrence of its action, when once induced. This has given rise to an idea, with some, that rheumatic inflammation is not a primary affection, but that, as in the gout, it owes its origin to *a previous torpor of some deeper seated part of the body*. Though this complaint seldom or never terminates in suppuration, which seems much to favour the supposition just mentioned; yet I must own that it does not appear to be a cause sufficiently evident, to be accounted the principal one; while the others seem fully adequate to produce the disease. Instead of

suppuration, a quantity of mucus or coagulable lymph is thrown out upon the joints of rheumatic patients. To *promote the absorption* of this fluid, is the most ready mode of curing the affection, and the only mean of relieving the excruciating pain, which depends on the tension of the ligaments, when in an inflamed and irritable state. This pain often shoots along the muscles from one joint to another; and is always much increased by the action of those destined to move the affected joints. In general it is most successfully subdued by the use of the partial Vapour-Bath, or of warm bathing and subsequent friction with stimulating applications. Affections of this nature in most cases of this disease, supersede all necessity for venesection, which has often been carried to an unwarrantable length. By repeated use of the lancet, however high the diathesis may have seemed to run, the spring of the vessels has been so weakened as not unfrequently to prevent them from taking up this extravasated matter completely; and

thus the foundation of the chronic stage of the disease has unfortunately been laid. In this country, the CHRONIC RHEUMATISM is most frequently met with, and though it be generally produced from *improper treatment* of the acute species, yet, it is sometimes brought on by causes, which would not have produced the acute, as sprains, bruises, &c. and has sometimes taken place even where the latter had been treated with the greatest propriety. The topical inflammation having been removed, the parts may remain stiff; and frequently put on all the appearance of *palsy*. In this state the complaint is free from pyrexia, is of a sluggish nature, and the cure of it always a work of time. Thus do these two modifications of the disease, as well as their intermediate degrees, require very different methods of treatment, with regard to external remedies; nor are bleeding, diaphoretics, purges, brandy, bark, opium, mercury, guaiacum, volatile alkali, antimony, and a variety of other remedies, to be used indiscriminately, with impunity.

In counteracting the acute part of the disease, the first object of the practitioner has been to diminish the activity of the system, and to break the impetus of the circulation, particularly in the affected parts. This has chiefly been done by bleeding, purging, and sweating. The first of these remedies, however, as has been before observed, ought to be used with great caution, though the diathesis should run considerably high. Every diathesis is always greater in some parts of the system than in others, which is remarkably the case in rheumatism; being much more powerful on the surface, than in the deeper seated parts. Hence, after repeated and large bleedings, the affection often obstinately returns; the activity of the circulation ceasing much sooner in the deeper seated vessels, than in those more superficially situated.

The advantages to be derived from purging, in acute rheumatism, depend very much upon the quantity of fluid evacuated

with as little irritation as possible. This is best effected by means of the neutral salts, as the kali vetriolatum, the magnesia vitriolata, &c. which also act as refrigerants, and thus chime in with the general intention. Diaphoretics are useful after evacuations, and when the patient has been for some time kept on a spare diet. Perspiration is most easily induced, and most likely to prove beneficial, after the pulse has been brought below 100. Dover's powders is deservedly accounted the best remedy for producing this effect. If given very freely it is frequently attended with nausea and vomiting, and often when thrown up, produces a copious diaphoresis notwithstanding. This remedy is very much aided by fomenting, and applying warmth to the legs. There is little need, however, of much general external heat, by bedclothes, &c. Diluents should be given sparingly at first, but freely when the sweat has begun to flow. It may be proper to remark here, that after much perspiration, the disease is very liable to return upon a

very slight exposure to cold; in which case it frequently becomes chronic. The other remedies mentioned above, as bark, volatile alkali, &c. are only applicable in the chronic stage of the disease, or when the activity of the system shall have nearly subsided. A variety of stimulants which promote perspiration are here admissible. A flannel shirt in the beginning of the complaint is very useful, and a very rational precaution. Warm bathing, particularly a current of warm water or steam, is frequently very beneficial. Friction with the flesh-brush or with flannel, though tedious in its operation, has often been attended with very good effects. *Electricity and Galvanism* are powerful and efficient remedies. The use of cold, encreasing it gradually, even as far as that of the ordinary shower-bath, has not only sometimes been found serviceable in the cure, but also a great preservative against the disease. The internal exhibition of essential oils does not seem to produce the good effects, we have been led to expect from them. Exercise

of rheumatic limbs, if persevered in, though accomplished with great difficulty at first, is generally in two or three months, found amply to repay the trouble of the exertion. Guaiacum, mustard-seed, and horse-radish, are of very doubtful efficacy ;—and aconitum, hyosyamus, digitalis, cicuta, are, in my opinion, still less to be depended on.

From what has been said on chronic rheumatism, we are led to conclude, that an atony of the blood-vessels and muscular fibres of the parts affected, with a degree of rigidity, and constriction of the latter, frequently combine to produce the disease; and that loss of voluntary motion, amounting to a state of paralysis, is sometimes the consequence. The principal object of cure then, must be *to restore the impaired action of the part*, which is most effectually done by encreasing the tone of its moving fibres by restoring the nervous energy of the parts, and consequently promoting a free circulation through the blood vessels. *All these objects are obtained* by a proper

application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, which seems at the same time *to remove the acute, and prevent the chronic state of the disease.* By this powerful agent, the *stagnant fluids* of the part affected are *put in motion*, and *new action and vigour supplied.* The muscular torpor and rigidity of the chronic state, seem *particularly to require* the application of this apparatus. By combining *three great objects*, namely, the *removal of atmospheric pressure*, the conveying *heat strongly to the part*, and at the same time *powerfully relaxing it*, this machine appears better suited to the cure of the disease, than *any other remedy that can be employed:* nay, experience authorises me to say, that such are its powers in the generality of cases, as almost *entirely to supersede all other remedies.* The use of diaphoretics must be regarded as acting against the disease only in an indirect manner, and through one medium; whereas the external application here recommended possesses so extensive an influence on the system, as, *even in the acute*

stage, to *supersede* in a great measure the *use of the lancet*. Another *great advantage* of this application is, that it can be made under the clothes of the patient's own bed, from whence it is unnecessary that he should be afterwards removed:—add to this, that the degree of heat can be regulated so as to affect the part *topically*, or the system *generally*, to any necessary extent. Thus as a bath, it exceeds every thing of the kind, that has hitherto been proposed. Its other property of removing the atmospheric pressure, and the consequence of this removal in restoring the balance of circulation, are so sufficiently stated in other parts of this work, as to render further elucidation superfluous.

CASES OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

CASE I.

On the 20th of January, 1802, Mr. Clark, No. 18, Somerset Street, Portman Square, had been so severely afflicted with rheumatism for many months, as not to be able to move without the most excruciating pain. It affected his breast, shoulders, and joints, and the muscles about the breast, so much that he was incapable of breathing without considerable difficulty; nor could he by any means stoop to take any thing from the ground, or bring himself perpendicular; but was under the necessity of inclining forward at an angle of about 45 degrees. On the above date I first saw him; he had been under the care of regular men, and all ordinary means had been used without effect. He had visited

Bath, and nothing seemed to have been omitted which promised relief. His pulse was quick but small ; tongue white ; skin dry, parched, and hard ; considerable thirst, and no appetite.

I directed him to take half an ounce of Epsom salts, with half a drachm of magnesia, in two ounces of peppermint water ; and took ten ounces of blood from the arm, ordering the application of the machine the following day. On the 22nd in the morning, I found him much relieved. The blood shewed the inflammatory buff. There seemed a much greater freedom of circulation, and the pulse was more full and not so frequent : but the most remarkable change had taken place on the skin, which had become soft, moist, and perspirable. The patient could turn in bed, and his latitude of motion in other respects was much more considerable. The machine was applied in the evening of the 22nd, and again on the 24th, on which day I ordered eight ounces more blood to be

taken from the arm. The operation was mismanaged, and only two ounces were procured. On this day he repeated his draught, and on the following was so well as to induce me to inform him that he need not use the machine any more; as he could now bend his body almost as easily as in the natural state, and was entirely free from pain. He, however, of his own accord, chose to have another application which was made on the 27th; since which time he has remained remarkably well.

I shall state another case, as bleeding was employed in the above, though to a very small amount, yet it may, on that account, be objected to by some as not a fair one.

CASE II.

Thomas Pearse, a poor bricklayer's boy, Ward's Field's, New Road, Mary-le-bone, on the 13th of May last, had been

confined to bed for eight weeks with this disease. I saw him at the request of a medical gentleman. He was unable to straighten his knees, which were much contracted and enlarged. His legs and thighs were literally worn to the bone; and such was the general debility, that little hope was left of its being possible that he should spring from the disease by any ordinary means; all of which had been duly administered. His left hand and arm had much of the appearance, and all the inutility, of a paralytic limb, except round the joints, which were greatly enlarged. The application was first made to the left leg twice, with considerable relief; then to the left arm twice; and afterwards to the right leg and arm, each once. His lost appetite began to return in proportion as the pain, &c. subsided. I found it necessary to regulate the porter he drank; but left him at liberty to eat any animal food they could procure for him. He gradually recovered, and called on the 28th, at the houses of two medical gentlemen to return

them thanks ; the one for recommending the machine to him, the other for his care and humanity towards him prior to the use of it. I have seldom met in practice with a circumstance more pleasant to my feelings than this last case ; that I was instrumental in restoring to this poor boy the use of his limbs, and to society an useful member, otherwise lost for ever, I firmly believe; nor shall the united scepticism of the world persuade me to the contrary.

REMARKS ON PALSY.

A Deprivation, or diminution, of the power of voluntary motion, or sensation in one or more parts, of the body, is what constitutes Palsy.

This disease, in which the muscles of the part affected become disobedient to the power of volition, arises from too high a state of excitement, having been suddenly induced, and succeeded by too rapid an exhaustion of sensorial power. These alternate changes not allowing time for the parts to accommodate themselves to such sudden transitions, induce torpor of the nerves, which consequently are unfit for transmitting the decisions of the mind to parts, formerly, through their means, subject to its immediate influence.

The causes of this disease need not be detailed at length, as most of those, which produce the gout, under peculiar idiosyncrasy and susceptibility of habit, produce this disease also; particularly the depressing passions of the mind. Palsy is also sometimes the consequence of both the former diseases. Partial paralysis of the hands have frequently occurred from handling metals and other cold substances, as is but too often experienced by iron-mongers, smiths, &c. Plumbers and painters are additionally exposed to the peculiar poison of lead. Hence the colica pictonum, painters cholic, and millreck; and, as Doctor Percival with much probability conjectures, the disease known in the West Indies, by the name of the Dry-belly-ache.

It is certain that both apoplexies, and palsies, have of late been more prevalent than formerly, in this metropolis. Can any part of this melancholy effect, arise from the leaden pipes through which the por-

ter, the common beverage of its inhabitants, is drawn by the hydraulick machines, which have been for some years used for that purpose? Some part of the liquor will certainly remain all night in contact with the lead, and, I much fear, must be attended with danger to the first morning customers of public houses; especially if their depraved taste lead them to prefer stale beer, or that which is fast advancing to a state of acidity.

Though some parts of the body may become inert, with respect to that peculiar stimulus which had originally exhausted them, yet, they may in many cases be rendered susceptible again, by the application of others.

The judicious application of heat, seems to have more power in restoring the languid state of excitement in the muscles, than any other; while, at the same time, it relieves the torpor which generally gives rise to the disease, and which frequently

occasions its continuance. It seems to produce the happiest consequences in this affection, by increasing the activity of the absorbent and secreting system, and by inducing a more equable and free circulation through the affected parts. It also supplies tone and elasticity to the nerves, and promotes a powerful determination along their course. It invites a return of the powers of the mind, and of their influence over the muscles of the affected parts.

Whatever internal remedies may be resorted to in cases of palsy, the deficient circulation and loss of heat in the parts, point out the propriety of the immediate and active application of this machine. The nerves and blood-vessels we find always to pursue the same course; and from the circulation a something is derived to the nerves, essential and necessary to their healthy state. If this then be the case, which daily observation seems to indicate, a power acting so strongly on the

circulation, as the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, must unquestionably influence the state of nervous energy ; particularly, if the nerves as is alleged, transmit a fluid, and act by means of that fluid.

Many circumstances appear to confirm this. The brain resembles some of our glandular organs in its appearance ; and does not this similarity of structure afford a strong presumption of similar functions ? hence palsy, may arise from morbid changes in the course of the nerves, rendering them unfit to transmit this fluid, or secretion, or whatever else it may be, without a morbid change in their origin, the brain ; and in all such cases, an active power operating on the part and removing this local impediment, may completely overcome the disease, and produce a permanent cure.

As the most beneficial auxiliary to the means already alluded to for the cure of this complaint, *electricity* and *galvanism*

are of the first importance, and should be perseveringly tried and long continued. The application of this remedy should be made in the early stage of the disease, before a change of structure takes place; but if it be deferred beyond the proper time for employing the electrical excitement, very little benefit can be obtained from its stimulating powers.

CASES OF PALSY.

CASE I.

John Rouneberg, No. 11, James Street, Brook Street, a patient of the Mary-le-bone dispensary, who, after having been formerly under the care of Dr. Thornton, physician to that establishment, and used among other things, the vital air without benefit, was sent to me by the late Dr. Garnett. He had been paralytic for two years, which led me to expect very little

from the machine; nevertheless, at the request of the Doctor, it was tried. The effect was very considerable; for after six applications, he had so much more use of his arm, that he could lift it over his head, without the help of the other hand; could grasp any thing firmly, and carry a large pitcher of water, which he was unable to do before; a general state of excitement, however, had pervaded the whole system; so that I deemed it prudent to desist from the application at that time. This general excitement, I had little doubt, was produced from the local one of the arm, by the increased circulation and capacity of the vessels of the part. As soon as it should have subsided, which was nearly the case, I intended to proceed, keeping in view the maxim, *Festina lenté;* and hoped I should be enabled hereafter to give a still better account of a case, which, at that early period, I could not omit noticing without calling in question the judgment of Dr. Garnett, to which I owed the utmost deference.

The patient, however, gave me the slip, and got a situation somewhere in Somersetshire, as a cook, which had been his business before his misfortune, so that I heard no more of him. There was every reason to expect, from the progress which had been made by six applications, that I should have been able to have given a very good account of the case by this time; but there is the less cause of regret, as I have it in my power to lay before my readers, the following still more apposite case.

CASE II.

October the 12th, 1802, Richard Jacques, No. 6, little Mary-le-bone Street, about eighteen months ago, lost the use of both his hands: of the two, the right seemed most affected; on the back of it, there was a large ganglion-like tumor, which, with other circumstances, made the case resemble that species of paralysis,

which succeeds the painters cholic ; though we could not discover that he had been exposed to the influence of lead. He had been a patient of the Mary-le-bone Infirmary, for six months, and of the Middlesex Hospital for three : of course, all the common remedies had been skilfully applied, but unfortunately had not produced the desired effect. He was not at the above date, any more than he had been during the whole existence of the affection, able to exercise his occupation, that of a shoe-maker. In the two months, preceding the above mentioned date, the application had been made two and twenty times. He received no great benefit with respect to motion, for the first twelve times ; though the tumor on the back of the right hand had been gradually decreasing. At this period, however, different sensations took slace. The susceptibility of the parts had become much more considerable. He was seized with *Cholera morbus*, a disease at that time prevalent; after which, the bowels, hitherto in a torpid state, became more

naturally irritable. His countenance lost somewhat of its leaden paleness. The secretion of bile seemed evidently more considerable. A degree of painful itchiness in the affected parts, and considerable fever took place, exactly as happened in the case of Rouneberg ; which, as in that case, was the cause of suspending the application for ten days. The amendment, however, was such, as to make the poor fellow solicitous to persevere in the use of the means. He has now so far recovered the command of his hands, as to be able to make three pair of women's shoes in two days ; and there is every reason to hope, that he will be able eventually to finish the same task in one day ; as he was in the habit of doing, before he was seized with the disorder.

ON CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

OF all the diseases to which mankind are liable, none are so little understood by practitioners as those of a chronic kind, which affect the skin. They give much solicitude to the patient, and every means of relief is therefore applied to, which ignorance or artifice suggests. They are on this account a most fruitful source of empiricism.

The appearances of these complaints are so various and so difficult to be discriminated, that little or nothing of importance can be collected from the ingenious authors who have treated on the subject; so that it is not easy to point out any very rational or promising mode of treating them.

To trouble the reader with a detail of the numerous species of these complaints, would ill accord with the intention of this work; all that is here proposed being to give such a description of those of an herpetic nature as may by analogy, be extended to the rest.

Though these complaints are equally the production of a hot or cold climate, the *Herpes exedens*, is by far the most common in this country, and perhaps the most distressing. It consists of broad itchy spots in different parts over the skin, which, at length become gregarious, and discharge a thin serous fluid.

This appearance is succeeded by scurfy scales, which peel off, and leave the surface red; while a successive series of the same appearances are renewed, till the penetrating acrimony of the discharge has destroyed the cellular substance, and in some cases the muscles themselves. This fluid has been observed by some patients to be of a remarkably saline taste.

There is little doubt, I think, that this kind of eruption, as well as *Tinia capitis*, and many others, is inserted in different parts of the body by the nails of the patient's whilst scratching themselves. A general constitutional acrimony will at length supervene; though in the early stages of the disease, there can be little doubt that it is entirely confined to the skin, and depends on a peculiar irritation existing only in the affected part.

While the general health is in other respects sound, it evidently appears an affection, which extends not beyond the surface; and it is only by a general alteration in the state of the skin, that a complete and permanent cure can be effected. The spring is the most common period of this disorder; and the female sex, in whom the surface is most irritable, are most exposed to its attacks. There seems to be a diminished absorption of the subcutaneous mucus, as well as an increased secretion of that fluid. Practitioners have fallen into

a great error, in supposing this disease to be in the least connected with a scorbutic tendency ; as it depends on a plethoric, or inflammatory state of the system, which of all others is perhaps the farthest removed from what takes place in scurvy.

The method of cure commonly employed is, to stimulate the extreme vessels, in order to remove the obstructions affecting them, and of course the peculiar acrimony generated in the parts, in consequence of their deranged circulation.

These objects, have generally been attempted either by applications of mercury or the vitriolic acid; and where the disease has been extremely obstinate, by internal remedies of an alterative nature : supposing such remedies to act through the influence of the general circulation. That internal remedies may sometimes be useful, or even necessary I will not take upon me to deny, but that they ever prove so, in the way commonly imagined, by

changing the state of the mass of fluids, seems to me extremely improbable: nor do the good effects, which sometimes appear to take place during their exhibition, prove, that cutaneous affections are at all connected with a general diseased state of the habit. In various diseases of the skin, antimonials are used with considerable advantage. This is entirely owing to the determination they occasion to the surface; and thus we generally find that such remedies are efficacious in proportion only, as they are more or less powerful in keeping up a free perspiration. But when all the means that have ever been proposed for the cure of these affections are critically examined, and the nature of the affections themselves duly attended to, how very ineffectual must they prove, and how very tedious in their operation, compared with the mode now recommended. Indeed as a proof of it, the cure is generally begun with the assistance of the common warm bath; and if this, in its simple form, be found such an effectual auxiliary, how very

complete must be its success, when its powers are so much extended by the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. By the application of this apparatus alone, the *most obstinate forms of Herpes* may be removed without any other remedy; and thus the *constitution* will not be subjected to a course of medicine, which must be *generally injurious* in a certain degree, and which from the history of the disease, does not seem *indispensibly necessary* to its removal.

CASE OF CUTANEOUS DISEASE.

Miss Nicholls, No. 26, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square, authorises me to state that she was completely cured of the most inveterate herpetic ulceration I ever saw, which succeeded the small-pox, and had been of many years standing. The affection occupied the whole of the right leg, the discharge from which was excessive. The arms, face, and many other

parts of the body were affected; all of which were well before the leg, the part alone to which the apparatus was applied. Twelve applications were made between the 30th of June, and the 2nd of August. No medicine was given, except one grain of Ipecacuanha three times a day, and that but for a small part of the time. The cure was progressive and complete; for the parts affected, remain perfectly free from the least appearance of irritation, and are now covered with a fine healthy skin.

CASE OF ULCER OF THE LEG.

About the middle of April last, I was desired by *Dr. Sandiman* to see a Mrs. Bell, from Hull, with an ulcer on the leg. It had all the appearance of that sore which generally attends carbuncle. It was very extensive and throwing off large sloughs. The then circumstances, as well as the history of the case to that time, ex-

actly corresponded with what takes place in carbuncle. It had commenced with a doughy swelling of a dead pale redness, implying want of power. The pain had been obtuse and burning, and the throbbings indistinct. There was great anxiety and prostration of strength. From the appearance of the sore, it would not have surprised me to have seen the arteries give way, as they were completely exposed, and the ulcer was rapidly increasing in depth and extent. Under these circumstances, I did not think myself warranted in depending on the effect of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath alone, though some cases of a similar nature since, have proved to me that I might have placed more dependance on it than I did. I conjoined with its application, which was made six times, between the 20th and the 30th of the month, the following plan, which I had often used before in similar cases, but never with the same speedy effects. I wrapped up the leg after it came out of the bath, in a poultice of linseed powder mixed with common

pepper, in the proportion of a pound of the former to a drachm of the latter, giving it a proper consistence with porter and lard. The system at the same time was invigorated with wine, bark, and opium. I never saw half the change produced on a similar sore, in ten days, by the same means, (without the bath) though I have often used them in such cases. In the two first applications, the exhauster was not employed, lest the blood vessels should have given way. It was on the third application used slightly, and increased every time afterwards. By the 2nd of May, the mortified parts had all separated, and it had become a healthy sore, discharging good pus. The patient now thought herself able to return home, and what was the ultimate event of the case I know not.

Many diseases are attended with local changes of a critical nature, which terminate in ulcerations of particular parts. This is frequently the case in the plague, and sometimes of the common typhus of

this country, in which an anthrax or carbuncle is formed. The treatment of this ulceration is frequently attended with the greatest difficulty; and till the local derangement be somewhat changed, general remedies are often found of little effect; nay, not unfrequently even to increase the mischief. By the use of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, the treatment of the sore, can be made to keep pace with the general treatment of the system; and thus it will be found of the greatest benefit in all such cases.

This mode of treatment induces a speedy change and separation of diseased parts; and by restoring a full and regular circulation, disposes to the renovation and healing of them.

SEVERE PAIN OF THE BACK AND HIP.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. DODDS, Surgeon, &c. Dorset Street, Portman Square, January 8th. 1803.

I beg leave to send you some particulars concerning a case, which accidentally occurred to my notice, and which I think highly deserving attention.

"Mrs. Miller, No. 3, Buckingham-place, Fitzroy-square, an acquaintance of mine whom I sometimes visit, though not in my professional capacity, had been severely afflicted with a constant and most excruciating pain in the back and the left hip, for the space of a fortnight. Though Mrs. Miller was at that time attended by Mr. Coates of Howland-street, yet seeing her in such extreme pain, I took the liberty to suggest, that, in my opinion, the tepid bath might tend to relieve her; but at the

same time begged that the sanction of Mr. Coates should be first obtained. This, however, could not be had, and for this good reason, that in the opinion of that gentleman it would be dangerous to use so much exertion as would be necessary to place the patient in the bath ; for he had observed that the symptoms were always extremely aggravated by the least motion. I now heard for the first time of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, which had been recommended to the patient, and approved by Mr. Coates. Six hours after the first application, the pain almost entirely abated, nor has there been any violent return of it since. The application was made twice afterwards, within the course of the three days subsequent to the first on which it was used, and it has not been since necessary.

I do not know what are the sentiments of Mr. Coates respecting this case, but I have little doubt, from what I saw and heard of the degree of the pain, that had

it not been soon relieved, Psoas abscess might have been the consequence, which I own I much apprehended, as the pain was accompanied with a strong inflammatory *diathesis*, and so severe that at that time, the lady could not move or suffer herself to be moved in the bed.

You are at liberty, Sir, to make any use you please of this information, and assure yourself, that with every good wish for your success in establishing a plan of treating many diseases, the principles of which I much approve,

I remain yours, &c.

A. Dodd,

AN ELBOW-JOINT CASE.

November 15th, one M. Ferries, a poor man, No. 14, Buckeridge-street, St. Giles's, came to me with a diseased elbow-joint of an incredible size, which had the

appearance of proceeding from a cold œdematous defluction. The hand and arm, which were much enlarged, had also an œdematous appearance: but the pain, which was excruciating, was confined to the joint. The affection had suddenly commenced two months previous to my seeing him, while he was in bed; for upon awaking one morning, he perceived the enlargement and inability of moving the limb. The habit of the patient was most characteristically strumous. Appearances indeed, altogether, were such, that I had set it down as a case so hopeless, that the Apparatus or even any other mode of treatment, was not likely to obtain credit. I, however submitted to the entreaties of the poor fellow that it should be tried two or three times; and as after these applications, the pain was almost entirely removed, we were induced to go on. The enlargement diminished daily; and there is now every appearance of a perfect cure.

GENERAL DEDUCTIONS

Arising in some measure from the Facts just Stated.

When we contemplate the human frame, and attentively consider its wonderful self restoring powers; though we can assign no good reason, why it should not continue for ages the same as at any given period, nor point out distinctly the causes of its progress to maturity, or of its waning to decrepitude; yet we cannot be surprised, from the intricate delicacy of its structure, that it should frequently be thrown into disorder, and that obstructions should take place in some of its minuter parts. That this should be the case, will appear the less surprising, when we reflect on the secreting and absorbing systems; the trans-

mission of fluids through the vessels of the eye; the *vasa vasorum* which supply the coats of the blood-vessels, and are in their turn supplied by others so very minute as to escape the nicest inquisition of our sight, even when assisted by the best glasses: the glands too, placed as trusty sentinals to oppose the admission of particles unfit to be received into the mass of circulating fluids, conspire with the other wonders of the microcosm of man to heighten our admiration into astonishment!

Obstructions in such parts give rise to the diseases, a description of the treatment of which, has been attempted in the preceding pages, on a plan eminently useful; though by no means entirely new, except in what regards the comprehensive extent and scientific combination, which, I may venture to say, has now been given to it.

Whoever reflects on the manner in which the circulation of the system is carried on, cannot fail to be struck with the

superiority which this treatment in many diseases must possess ; and wonder that a mode of application so useful should not sooner have been invented ; especially considering our long acquaintance with the cupping-glass. In a state of health, the internal and external systems of vessels may be considered as preserving a proper equilibrium. This however, is always exposed to be changed by the action of external causes on the surface. The effect of this alteration is as we formerly observed, to produce obstructions, the most common consequence of which is simple inflammation, occasioning a tense, painful swelling of the affected parts, with increased heat and all the common symptoms of inflammatory fever. Should one of the large joints be attacked, we are presented with an object of attention, the more interesting on account of the complicated structure of the part, and the mischief, which inflammation, if suffered to continue any length of time, generally induces on such a part. From whatever cause the affection may

have arisen, and however simple and unmixed at first, if not soon removed, it is always liable to take on a specific action, modified by any disease to which the system may be disposed ; as scrophula, gout, rheumatism, &c. This change from a simple idiopathic, to a specific affection, is often sudden and imperceptible ; and white swelling, rigidity of parts, and anchylosis, frequently the unexpected consequences. The elbow, but more particularly the knee joints, which from their structure and slight covering of cellular membrane, exhibit a greater variety of morbid appearances, and are more liable to suffer severely from the transitions of temperature, than almost any other part of the system. These affections are in general not more severe, than tedious and difficult of cure ; and were any thing necessary to give an additional stimulus to our attentions to them, we need only mention that the other sex, both from their peculiar irritability of system, and from the present fashion and general flimsy texture of their dress, are more fre-

quently subject to these affections.* Upon these accounts, they constitute a most important class of diseases, which require to be managed with the utmost address and attention, from whatever cause the particular attack was first induced. To anticipate such complicated mischief, as obstructions in the above parts are frequently attended with, every mean which gives hope of relief ought to be early resorted to ; and none promises to be more effectual than the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, which by removing atmospheric pressure, enlarges the obstructed vessels, and allows them to un-

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* In the Statistical account of Scotland, article Kirk-patrick Juxta, the substitution of cotton fabrics, for the former domestic woollen manufactures of the country, is assigned as one cause of the late extraordinary prevalence of rheumatic and pulmonic affections in that district. We suspect the same unnatural preference of cotton, which at the same time that it greedily absorbes moisture, suffers the natural heat to dissipate, may be assigned as one great cause that such complaints have become endemic throughout the greater part of this Island. For we find Mr. Buchannan in his Account of the Hebrides, stating that, though the unfortunate people called *Scallags* in those Islands, suffer every kind of hardship, yet the rheumatism is almost unknown among them; a fact, which he attributes to their general use of wollen shirts.

load themselves; while all their anastomising branches become capable of circulating a greater quantity of fluid. The activity of the lymphatics of the part, thus relieved, must be greatly increased; and hence the finishing hand is put to an obstruction, the consequences of which, if not speedily removed, must be obvious to all.

The worst kinds of these affections are generally modifications of scrofula; because in those countries, where this disease seldom occurs in the forms of inflammation and obstruction of the mesentery, &c. *before*, and of the lungs and liver *after*, the age of puberty, white-swellings also rarely appear. In no country that I have heard of, is this disease so common as in this kingdom; and the joints already mentioned are most liable to its attacks. The first symptom is generally a pain diffused over them, particularly increased on motion, with a gradual stiffening of the tendons and enlargement of the affected

part. The exterior veins at last become varicose, and a soft elastic feel and sense of fluctuation take place in the tumor, when pressed by the finger. The farther progress of this affection it is unnecessary to detail; as nothing has hitherto been found to check it in the stage of which we are speaking.

The Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, however offers a mean of cure powerful in its nature, capable of restoring the balance of the circulation and of removing that perseverance of obstruction which keeps up the affection: but to be completely successful, the application ought to be frequently made, to be suited in degree to the state of the morbid parts, and to be succeeded by the cautious application of friction and stimulants. Blisters and the local detraction of blood are applicable with the greatest propriety, during the incipient stage of such affections, while the existence of inflammation is most obvious and certain.

When the cure has made considerable progress, friction is to be used, and stimulant and astringent applications made to the part, as well as tonic and invigorating remedies supplied to the general system: in order to correct the vitiated state of the habit, and to prevent a recurrence of the disease. To remove that irritability which never fails to accompany the first stage of these complaints, nothing is more essential than good air.

Such is the general outline of the treatment which I have seen very successful in the cure of affections of the knee and elbow-joints; and in every view of the subject, there is little doubt that the apparatus I recommend is, in almost every stage of them, a powerful mean of relief. In incipient cases I am of opinion it will seldom fail, if managed with that skill and address which must occur as necessary to the minds of *skilful practitioners, in whose hands alone such a valuable acquisition to our art ought to be placed.*

It must not be dissembled that it has in some cases appeared to fail;* but when we take into account, that it has sometimes been under the direction of persons totally ignorant of the laws of the animal economy, and destitute of that spirit of perseverance, generally necessary to overcome chronic affections, the wavering state of mind of irritable patients, and the general prejudice in all ranks of people against every thing new; we shall not be surprised that it should not on all occasions, have obtained the credit it deserves. In many cases,† however, in persons of good sense, who submitted to proper management, it

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* Two cases of an affection of the knee-joint, characterized by an unusual relaxation of the ligaments, with a preternaturally increased latitude of motion, occurred to me. In one of them, the natural swell of the *vastus internus* muscle above the knee-joint, seemed entirely shrunk. In neither of these cases had the Apparatus any effect, though properly persevered in. This affection happily is not of a dangerous tendency; nor do other remedies seem more successful in removing it. See Russell on the Knee-joint, page 158.

† Aware of the delicacy necessary in mentioning names on such occasions, I have ommitted their insertion; but have the privilege of making personal references to several, whenever I may find it necessary.

has undeniably performed such cures, as to have left a very favorable impression on the minds of several of the faculty, who have witnessed them. A remarkable case of a young lady, who had eight openings round the elbow-joint, from a scrophulous affection, got entirely well by a strict perseverance in the application of the Apparatus: this case, as well as other remarkable ones, had a happy termination, under all the disadvantages above alluded to, except perseverance *both* in the attendant and patient.

Mercury is not thought a worse remedy in syphilis, by those who know how to manage it, so as to cure that terrible malady, because it generally fails in the hands of ignorance and empiricism.

With the last observation, I shall dismiss the above subject, and endeavour to pursue one, which it has naturally presented to my mind.

PTYALISM.

ONE of the most troublesome consequences attending the exhibition of mercury, we find to be Ptyalism, or a morbid discharge of saliva. This, in some constitutions, comes on unexpectedly; and often without regard to the quantity of the medicine used; and when once begun, it continues for a great length of time, in spite of our efforts to stop it. Various methods have been recommended, but none hitherto have seemed to possess the power of even adding to the comfort of the patient, in this most shocking situation. The nitrous acid, and even borax, cannot be depended on. Blisters for this purpose have by some practitioners been much extolled, and by no means on erroneous principles, except in so far as regards the irritation they often produce. The Air-

Pump Vapour-Bath, by its more powerful influence in restoring the balance of the circulation, at the same time that it removes irritability, assists wonderfully in taking off this morbid determination; which has been known under some peculiar circumstances of habit, to have been induced to such a degree, by four or five grains of calomel, as to occasion death.

If this be the case, which I have many reasons for believing, the inference is surely not a strained one, that the apparatus may be made subservient to a more due and equable regulation of the action of mercury upon the system—that is, that a greater quantity may be more safely thrown through it in a given time, and a more uniform impression kept up upon it, than can possibly be induced without the apparatus. This consideration lays open a wide field, but having had so large a one already for practice, I have not had many opportunities of making observations in this; I shall therefore leave it to some future occasion and

hasten to subjects, on which I can speak with a greater degree of confidence.

CHILBLAINS.

This troublesome complaint, which may be classed under the head of cutaneous diseases, is very frequent in this country. Chilblains are inflammatory swellings attacking the fingers, heels, and toes arising from extreme cold, and attended with heat, redness, shooting pain, and great itching. They generally attack children and more especially those of a delicate, irritable surface; and who, in consequence of one attack, are always liable to suffer a repetition. The treatment of this complaint consists in inducing a gradual change of temperature, and then applying stimulants in various forms, according to the degree of local derangement in the affected part. From the very nature and cause of this disorder, an obstruction and its conse-

quences form the whole of it; the superiority of the apparatus for its immediate removal cannot be doubted, from the very principle of its operation. Indeed it will be here found to act like a specific, and the affection cured by a few repetitions, without incuring the danger of ulceration, which so often takes place under the common mode of treatment.

LEPROSY.

This is the most formidable of the numerous tribe of cutaneous diseases, and often baffles all the powers of our art. It is most frequent in warm climates, and though generally treated of by authors seperately from Elephantiasis; yet they may be regarded, at least so far as concerns our present purpose, as the same individual complaint. It consists of a peculiar eruption of white branny scales, with yellowish and sometimes blackish spots on the face,

arms, and legs; where the skin loses its hair, and becomes thick, scabby and hard. The scales, which we frequently meet with on the head and arms of some drunken people, seem to be of this sort. The parts affected are disfigured with blotches, and generally lose their sensibility entirely. The perspirable matter in this disease, is rendered too viscid by an inflammation of the subcutaneous vessels; and thus an acrid mucus is left adhering to the skin. As the disease advances, the general health begins to suffer; and at length the constitution becomes deeply affected. Glandular swellings are conspicuous in different parts; ulcerations arise as the consequences of these; and the wretched sufferer often falls a victim to the loss of some of the extreme parts. From the dreadfully infectious nature of this disease, it is shunned more than the plague, in those climates where it makes its appearance, and the wretched victims are generally abandoned to their fate by their nearest friends. Its

first attack, therefore, is too often concealed in the most guarded manner.

Persons of melancholy temperament, it is observed are most frequently attacked by it; a circumstance which may lead to some explanation of its nature. In this constitution, an original debility and rigidity of the extreme parts are conspicuous. There is, as it were, a want of expansion in the vessels appropriated to the minute circulation; and the powers of life seem to be concentrated in the larger vessels. Any peculiar acrimony being then superadded to the debility of the system, will of course operate with increased power. The small vessels will come to be obliterated, and all the consequences of obstruction will ensue. As this mischief extends, the affected parts proportionably suffer; and in its ultimate progress, so complete is the annihilation of the circulation, or occlusion of the small vessels, that the fingers and toes have been often known to drop off. From this view of the disease, if

tolerably correct, as I should apprehend it is, the plan of treatment is evident. Physicians have proceeded on the idea of connecting an acrimony with leprosy, while in truth this acrimony would appear to be only an accidental and additional cause. Hence the means of cure have generally proved abortive, and sometimes have encreased the affection ; while the warm-bath considered then merely as an auxiliary, ought to have formed the chief dependence for its removal. If this be the case, which every circumstance in the history of the complaint seems to confirm, the superiority of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, as affording a certain, safe, and powerful mean of restoring the minute circulation, must at least infuse *hope* into the minds of practitioners, that its application will render the *oprobrium medicorum*, no longer formidable in its appearance, or fatal in its consequences. The extent of its application, of course, must be regulated by the individual circumstances of patients, and the progressive experience of practitioners. When a

complete constitutional change is requisite, the practice must be uniform, gradual, and continued; and, as the disease remits, the acrimony, the next object, must be attended to; though this attention, I think, by no means essential in the first instance.

ULCERATION OF THE HANDS AND FEET.

Besides the leprosy under a tropical climate, peculiar ulcerations are found to to affect the extremities, particularly the feet; and either are the consequence of other diseases, or arise at times from peculiar and unknown causes. One of the most common of these ulcerations is that which attends the yaws, or rather succeeds its termination. I have been told that they generally affect the feet, and frequently render the patient lame for life. The common treatment consists in the use of escharotics and astringent applications.

These however often fail, and no known means of cure can be depended on. In such circumstances, there cannot be a doubt of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath being of the utmost service; if we consider either the principle of its action, or the nature of the disease. Other ulcerations, affecting the same parts, will admit a similar treatment; and if any specific acrimony is connected with the disease, the use of internal remedies, of an alterative nature, may at the same time be conjoined. It will on all occasions expedite the cure of such local affections, if it should not of itself prove completely effectual.

TETANUS.

This disease, which when it occurs in this country, as fortunately it seldom does, is equally fatal with palsy, affects the tropical regions with destructive frequency. It consists in an obstinate and almost un-

conquerable spasmodic contraction of different parts of the body, particularly of the jaw, and hence is termed the Locked-jaw. The symptoms, when they extend to different parts of the body, are intolerably painful. They distract the wretched sufferer without intermission; and, compared with the numbers attacked, the recoveries are extremely few. Spring and autumn in this country, are the most frequent periods of attack; and, where not arising from local injury of a nerve, damp and cold succeeding excessive heat are considered as the origin of this disease. As the morbid state here consists evidently in a permanent spasm of muscular parts, no remedy offers such a certain mean of inducing relaxation as the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. To be effectual, however, it will require, I conceive, the *vacuum* to be made more complete than is necessary for most other diseases; while the degree of heat should also be as great as the patient can well bear, and continued for a considerable length of time. The frequency, continu-

ance, and degree of temperature and exhaustion, must be regulated by the morbid circumstances; and, in a disease of such fatality, experience alone can decide to what length the application should be carried.

The latest opinions of practitioners, considering debility as the cause of this disease, enjoin a stimulant and tonic plan of treatment. That a debility exists, there can be no doubt; but it is a debility of a peculiar kind, and not to be removed by the ordinary stimulant remedies. The internal system, on dissection, appears no way affected. It is the external moving powers which form its seat, and these are to be acted upon more readily, and powerfully, through an external medium, than in any other way. As this is consonant with common sense, and the obvious nature of the disease, no external means can offer such certain relief, as a combination of the two great powers of heat and moisture, aided by the removal of whatever can obstruct

their operation. With much confidence therefore may this Apparatus be proposed to West Indian practitioners; as at least a powerful auxiliary to the other remedies employed, if not of itself more effectual than any of them. These very natural and obvious reasonings have had much weight added to them in my mind, by applications from many West Indian practitioners for the Apparatus, and by frequent conversations with them on the subject.

AMENORRHŒA.

The suppression of the menstrual discharge is a disease attended with many symptoms of pain, and gives rise to much inconvenience to the sex. This suppression commonly affects their general health. It is induced by a variety of causes, and by none more frequently than by a rigidity of the uterine vessels. Where this is the case, the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath will be supe-

rior to every other means of restoring the evacuation. In these cases it has been common to employ the warm-bath, and to assist its action by the occasional use of emetics; and where the disease has continued and proved obstinate, residence in a warm climate has even been found necessary to accomplish a cure. I never understood that pressure on the femoral artery proved successful, and though at one time much recommended, I believe it is now seldom used. The Air-Pump Vapour-Bath affords a powerful mean of relief without acting on the general constitution on the one hand, or requiring a long continued application as a remedy, on the other. Indeed so considerable an influence has it over the vessels affected in amenorrhœa, that I am frequently under the necessity of desisting from the use of it, on this account, when making the application for other diseases.

DROPSY.

This disease may arise from a variety of causes; but is in general either the consequence of obstruction in some part, (commonly a principal organ) or of general debility of the habit. In cases of mere debility, the application of the Apparatus, succeeded by friction, will be found an efficacious mode of cure: for by the former, the enlargement will be greatly reduced, and the latter, joined with the usual remedies, will give a tone and vigour to the system, which will prevent any future accumulation. Even in cases where this disease arises from obstruction, much advantage will be derivedfrom the use of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, as a palliative, in taking off the distention of the parts; thus suspending the progress of the disease, and giving time for the action of remedies to remove its cause.

In closing my remarks on this part of the subject, I have great pleasure in again acknowledging my obligations to Dr. Blegborough, for his permission to make what use I thought proper, of his valuable observations on the powers and properties of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath; and on the diseases to which that philosophical remedy is applicable. In this second edition, I have not only freely availed myself of that indulgence, but have again introduced the cases which were originally communicated by the Doctor to the Editor of the *Medical and Physical Journal*, when he first drew the attention of the faculty and of the enlightened portion of the afflicted public, to this invaluable remedy. By a personal superintendance in the administration of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, together with an extensive practice in its application, he was fully justified in asserting its unequalled efficacy, in many of the most distressing disorders, that can afflict humanity. When the opportunities the Doctor then had of making observations, and his unquestionable capacity to appreciate

their value, are duly considered—it is but justice to observe, that, as no man was less likely to be deceived himself, or to mislead others by a premature opinion, so none was more eminently qualified, to pronounce a sound judgment on the subject.

Though for reasons that will be noticed, the Doctor has not for a considerable time employed the AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH in his medical practice, and though it has not been adopted by any others of the faculty, it has not on that account lost any of its sanative powers: nor have the *Laws of nature*, on which *its principles* are founded, undergone any change, to render that agency, *inert* and *useless*, that was once *active* and *efficient*. Among the reasons urged against the AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH, the principal one appears to be, that of its having been originally a proprietary remedy. As this objection is directed solely to the *name*, without any reference whatever to the *merits* or *demerits* of the thing proscribed, it may indeed excite a

smile, but, is much too *absurd*, to deserve serious refutation. Our venerable sovereign thought otherwise, and held so high an opinion of the value and importance of this very invention, that his Majesty, without any solicitation, most graciously pressed upon the inventor the *free grant* of a patent. This high recommendation, however, seems to have had little influence on the regular practitioners, who, fancying the invention to be a species of quackery, still declined to introduce the apparatus, as an auxiliary aid in their ordinary practice. This conduct was the more extraordinary, as the effects intended to be produced by the AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH, were obviously similar to those, long known to result from the application of *dry-cupping* and *fomentation*.

The benefits expected to result from the application of the AIR-PUMP VAPOUR BATH, having been thus prevented from taking place by *professional prejudice*, the machine fell into the hands of the survi-

ving proprietor who enjoyed its exclusive monopoly, and who obtained very considerable sums, for granting permission of its use to others. The little attention however, this man paid to the proper employment of the apparatus—his ignorance of its medical powers, led Dr. B. also to abandon its use, very justly conceiving, that the machine when *injudiciously applied*, would not only defeat its sanative powers, but eventually bring its character into discredit. About the time alluded to, Dr. B. gave up the practice of surgery, and having become a member of the College of Physicians, could not consistent with the rules of that body, continue the administration of a remedy, which was cried down by the illiberal part of the medical community, as empirical.

Passing over the clamor which was then raised against him, and which *even now* has hardly subsided; Dr. B's, letter to me, received since the publication of the first edition of this pamphlet, will fully

explain his reasons for discontinuing to employ the AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH. I give his letter, accompanied with an interesting case, which affords a striking illustration of the beneficial effects of this remedy, and strongly confirms the high opinion he still entertains of its value.

SIR,—I have perused the little work you have sent me, and am flattered by your statement that it was the first copy received from your printer.—I shall value it as the *primitias* of your pen, and hail with satisfaction your present attempt to do justice to those principles, and to that mode of treating many diseases, which probably through my too feeble attempt at developing them, have been so much neglected.

You certainly had, Sir, as you state, my permission to make any use of the matter contained in my little publication of 1803, (now out of print) you please. Allow me, however to say, that had you submitted your manuscript to me, I should have objected to the flattering terms in which you have been pleased to express yourself with regard to me and my little work.

I claim no merit from that publication be-

yond having told a plain unvarnished tale, concerning principles *truly philosophical, neatly combined*, and *importantly calculated* (I *speak confidently*,) to remove many of the most formidable and distressing diseases, which "*flesh is heir to.*" I thought, Sir, I had performed a great duty to mankind, in candidly, fairly, and honorably submitting to their consideration, what *primâ facie* evidence had led me to suspect, and subsequent experience had taught me to believe, was very important. After the lapse of fifteen years, I am at a loss to account for how little the *real merit* of the AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH is understood. Perhaps, Sir, the Public thought, that, as I ceased actively to superintend its use, my opinion of its value was altogether changed. This, Sir, I stated to you as well as to other respectable professional gentlemen, who have lately called on me on the subject, equally strangers to me with yourself, *was not the case.* My opinion respecting its merits now soberly and seriously given, after much experience, is equal to what it ever was, and I am desirous of availing myself of this opportunity of stating to the public through you, that the sole reason of my not continuing to patronize its use more actively was, that through the operation of the *then* patent and agency of some other circumstances, I was not unfrequently placed in situations a little deroga-

tory to the feelings of a man of education. Having declared thus much, I will now attempt to detail to you as well as I can from recollection, the circumstances of the case of Mr. Temple, the son of Lady Temple, then residing in Brompton-grove, Knightsbridge, than which, in the whole course of my experience, I know nothing of greater *practical importance.*

In the year 1803, during the time that my little work above alluded to was in the press, there was issuing from the same types, a small mathematical pamphlet on the hanging of gates, by Mr. Parker. Mr. Temple, who was a gentleman of great mathematical and philosophical attainments, had, with the expectation of somewhat beguiling a most afflicting and constantly excruciating pain in the hip-joint, undertaken to superintend the printing and correction of his friend, Mr. Parker's work.--As good fortune would have it, one day by mistake a portion of my copy found its way to Mr. T. along with a portion of that of Mr. Parker's work; this was sufficient on perusal to call and fix the attention of a gentleman of Mr. T's acquirements. I was sent to, and the application made with immediate benefit, for after the fomentation had been continued the usual time, the exhaustion had not been long put in effect, before the pain seemed to shoot from

the hip down the limb, and entirely disappeared. About the third day from this, there was a slight recurrence of pain, which submitted to another application, when to the best of my recollection it never again returned.—The affection was originally occasioned by exposure to cold, while assisting his infant son in flying his kite in a damp meadow. I ought to add that it continued many weeks, nay months, during which it had rendered the patient bed-rid, though he had had the advice of many eminent men on the occasion. I long retained this gentleman's confidence after this in consequence, though I have not now heard of him for some years; and was frequently urged by him to make his case known to the public. Mr. Anderson, his surgeon, who I believe still resides in that neighbourhood, was in attendance and I have no doubt well recollects all the circumstances of the case. I could, if necessary, call to recollection other striking cases; but suffice it in the words of Dr. Hamilton, which my mind entirely goes along with, to say—"*That the mode in which it must act is certainly agreeable to sound theory; and the more it is put in practice, the oftener will facts occur to confirm what I now say.*" Perhaps Sir, my testimony, entirely disinterested will *now* be better received. It only remains therefore, while I congratulate the Public on their being likely to have such a remedy

faithfully administered, to caution you to superintend as much as possible the administration yourself, and wishing you all the success you deserve.

I remain Sir, &c.

RALPH BLEGBOROUGH.

New Bridge-st. June 25, 1818.

The following Reply was made to Dr. B's polite Communication.

SIR,—The favor of your Letter of the 25th inst. has confered on me both honor and obligation. The opinion expressed of you and your publication, to which you would have objected, had I summitted the manuscript to your inspection, is the honest conviction of my mind—the just ascription of praise, due to integrity, talents, and usefulness. Feeling as I ever did, (and I hope I ever shall do) an *independence of mind which cannot stoop to servile adulation*—I am conscious of the correctness of my motive—and I may confidently add, I am *not singular* in the judgment I have deliberately formed.—Accept my best thanks, Sir, not only for your obliging and unsolicited communication of Mr. Temple's interesting and striking case, which speaks volumes on the subject, but also for the important intimation you have given me " to superintend the administration of the AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH, myself."—As I *combine interests with none*, and have commenced this undertaking, *not as a speculation to make money, but to afford benefit*, I shall most scrupulously attend to your friendly suggestion, and never put so formidable an agent into the hands of any, who from ignorance of its principles, powers, and operation, may bring discredit on an invaluable remedy.

Permit me Sir, again to acknowledge my great obligation to you, for your polite attention, and *disinterested kindness*, and

Enough has been said of my decided conviction of the extraordinary efficacy of this philosophical remedy, but that such opinion may receive a practical illustration, I now subjoin a few cases, selected from many others, in which I have employed the AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH, with the greatest success. From these instances, where I have myself superintended its administration, I have drawn such satisfactory proofs of its singular powers, that I can confidently recommend its use in a variety of cases.

As this publication will most probably fall into the hands of the *afflicted* part of the public, many of whom are unacquainted with the *phraseology of medical science*, and as it is my particular wish to be *clearly understood* by all classes of society, in detailing the statement of cases ; I shall *stu-*

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to those gentlemen also who have honored me with their confidence by their past recommendation, and *their spontaneous promises of future support*.—I am, &c.

M. LA BEAUME.

31, *Southampton Row, Russell Square.*

diously avoid the use of those sort of words which may *not be intelligible* to non-medical readers. I shall give the statements in the language of the patients themselves, where I can do it with propriety; and at all events I shall strictly confine myself *to facts*, without philosophising on the operation of a remedy, the effects of which will speak more to the purpose, than all the reasonings I could advance in support of its utility.

On the perusal of these cases, I must request the candid reader to bear in mind, that I do not recommend the AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH, as a *panacea* for "every ill that flesh is heir to," but only as a safe and admirable remedy for some distinctly specified diseases. In such cases, if it fails in uniformly producing a permanent relief and radical cure, it will at least be found an innocent and soothing process, that can in no instance do the slightest injury to the constitution of the *most feeble* and *infirm*.

CASES

OF GOUT, RHEUMATISM, PALSY, &c. &c.

CASE I.

In June 1818, I was requested by a Physician in my neighbourhood, to employ the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath to a gentleman who had been for some time past in an ill state of health, and who had recently experienced a severe attack of *Gout*, in both feet. With this complaint, less or more violent, he had then been more than a month confined to the house. His medical attendant, by the application of leeches, and various other means, had partly succeeded in subduing the acute inflammation. The affection under which this patient then laboured, was an unremitting and gnawing pain in the great toes, and in

the upper part of both feet, with such considerable rigidity of the joints affected, that it was with the greatest difficulty, he could ascend the stairs to bed.

In this stage of the complaint, various local applications were tried without the slightest advantage. In consequence of a series of failures, this gentleman, was urged by his medical friend to try the effects of the AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH, which he was assured, if it did not succeed, could at least do no harm. The application was made while the patient was in bed, and the foot most affected, was placed in the body of the machine. Soon after the process of fomentation had commenced, he felt a most agreeable sensation of warmth, not only in the leg and foot, which were immediately subjected to the heat of the vapour, but also in the other limb, the same feeling to a certain degree was experienced, by a sympathetic communication of parts. In twenty minutes a general glow was diffused throughout his whole frame—pers-

piration succeeded the equalization of the animal heat, an immediate relief from pain followed, and he was enabled to move the toes of both feet, without any sense of stiffness or contraction.

The patient made this statement to his medical adviser who witnessed the operation, and who observed with not a little surprise the effectual relief, so suddenly and unexpectedly obtained. As the benefit produced by the VAPOUR-BATH, appeared to be so decisive, I left this gentleman in the fullest confidence that the relief would prove permanent, and that the further application of the remedy would be unnecessary. The report made to me on the following day was—that the patient, from a profuse perspiration, had experienced a sleepless night, and some debility—but on the second morning after the application, having had a previous sound night's rest, he awoke refreshed, was enabled to go out on business, and to walk with perfect freedom, from pain, stiffness, or contraction.

I need not add that the relief was in this case, as complete as rapid, and that I had no occasion to employ the VAPOUR-BATH a second time.

CASE II.

Mr. J. G. of Fleet Market, was recommended to me by some of his friends, and by a respectable surgeon who had previously attended him for a painful and tedious complaint, under which he had laboured for ten months past. He was about fifty years of age—of a florid complexion, of sanguine temperament, and of regular habits: he had, prior to his late illness, enjoyed a tolerable share of good health. The tongue had become rather furred, and the pulse languid. He complained of a loss of appetite, indigestion, acidity, flatulence, spasms in the stomach, and other symptoms attendant on dyspepsia. He had also been subject to sudden transitions from acute to obtuse pain in different parts, particularly in the

smaller joints. At one time the knees were most affected, at another the ancle and the small bones of the feet, but particularly the instep and soles, which he generally felt acutely painful.

Having for a short time, on one occasion, inadvertently sat in damp shoes, he was siezed with violent spasms in the stomach, and with alarming pain and fulness in the head, from which he was in some measure relieved by the return of his usual sensation in the feet. He was also unable to walk any distance from the painful feelings which he experienced in his feet, and which occasioned a considerable degree of lameness. He attributed his disorder to checked perspiration, and to his being too long on his legs in the day, prosecuting his usual avocations.

The ordinary remedies had been in his case judiciously employed, without however producing any beneficial results; and he was therefore strongly urged to avail

himself of the means I used to obtain relief in such distressing and complicated disorders. With a view to excite the functions of the liver, which by the alvine and urinary secretions, appeared to be indicated as in a torpid state; I commenced the treatment of this case by the application of GALVANISM to the region of the liver, and then to that of the stomach. This process in a few days produced the desired effect of improving the appetite, correcting the acid fermentation, expelling flatulence, and producing copious evacuations from the bowels. The pain in the extremities was now partially relieved, and the GALVANISM was discontinued.

I made the first application of the AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH, on the 7th of November last (1818.) which produced no other material alteration in the patient's case, than an increased perspiration. A few days afterwards, the BATH was again administered, which occasioned greater perspiration than before, and he felt con-

siderable relief from pain. I then waited to observe, what favourable alteration the second application might in a short time produce, when I found his case required a repetition of the remedy. It was therefore again applied on the 18th of the same month, after which he described himself to feel much improved—both the pain and contraction being then considerably diminished. Finding the patient was making rapid progress towards perfect recovery, I deferred the use of the machine for some days, and then applied it with such decided benefit, that any further application was rendered unnecessary. About a fortnight after the last administration of the Vapour-Bath, the patient called on me to say, that he was quite free from his complaint, except a slight degree of tenderness in his feet, but this was of so trivial a nature, that in a few days, it gradually subsided, and he very soon recovered the perfect use of his limbs and feet.

I have repeatedly seen Mr. G. since

he was under my care, and I am happy to add, that he has from that time enjoyed an uninterrupted state of good health; and though he has been frequently exposed to those exciting causes which first induced the disease, he has not experienced the least return of his complaint.

CASE III.

Mr. W. Bowen, Linen Draper, now residing at 144, Ratcliffe-highway, was recommended to me by an eminent surgeon at the west end of the town, who requested that the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, should be tried in his distressing case. The patient was about twenty-two years of age, and of a full habit. He complained of a most violent pain in the small bones of the wrist, extending occasionally down to the fingers, and which had totally deprived him of the use of his hand and arm, both of which were much swelled, without any appearance of inflammation. As he had been for some time unable to get his arm

into the sleeve of his coat, it was suspended in a sling, but still the least motion of the limb aggravated the gnawing and acute pain, he felt at the wrist. The countenance of the patient indicated the agony he endured, as well as the despondency of his mind. The tongue was much furred, the pulse full, strong, and quick; the skin constricted, and partially covered with a scaly eruption. He stated that he had been in the habitual enjoyment of good health, untill a short time prior to the attack of this complaint. It is to be regretted, that he had not been sufficiently attentive to the state of his digestive organs, to afford me much information on the origin or progress of his complaint—he only recollected, that immediately before his illness, he had taken cold from an imprudent change of his clothing, and that very soon after, he was seized with cold shiverings, head-ache, and other distressing feelings, which confined him to his bed for a week. During this time he had considerable fever—and the feet became inflamed, with violent

pains in the small joints. This affection was soon relieved by the application of leeches, under the direction of his apothecary. About a week after this relief had been obtained, he had another violent attack of the complaint—the foot and the ball of the great toe became much inflamed and he describes the pains he then experienced—"as if the joints were stretched and broken to pieces." The leeches were not repeated, but he bathed the parts affected with cold lotion—an expedient which he deeply regretted, as it proved one great cause of his subsequent sufferings; for very soon after this application, the acute pain he felt in the lower extremities, suddenly shifted to the left hand and fingers, and then fixed itself in the wrist. On the following day, he was copiously bled, and had eighteen leeches applied to the affected part, but without experiencing any abatement of his sufferings. Various medicines were afterwards administered, which proved equally inefficacious. At last he became so exceedingly weak and exhausted,

that he was obliged to keep his bed for some days. Speaking of the torture he endured during this confinement, he says "it was so excruciating, as almost to drive him mad."

After a month's continued and undescribable suffering, he consulted a medical friend, who advised the use of a liniment to rub the affected part—but this application only aggravated the pain, and increased the swelling to an alarming degree. These repeated failures, induced him at last to place himself under an eminent medical gentleman, from whose treatment he derived considerable benefit, as to his general health, but no relief whatever as to his local sufferings.

This medical gentleman, with a liberality becoming his deserved reputation, recommended the patient to my care; when I saw the latter I gave him no very sanguine hopes of being of much use to him, as I had not before applied the Bath, in a case so

apparently hopeless. He was however so anxious to try the application, that I consented to make the experiment, though from his having complained of heat, as constantly aggravating the inflammation and painful feeling of the joints, I was a little apprehensive the process of fomentation, would increase the morbid excitement of the affected parts.

I commenced the application of the VAPOUR-BATH, at nine o'Clock on the evening of the 27th of June, 1818. It was with the greatest difficulty, that I could place the limb in the body of the machine. The aperture was large enough to admit the leg and thigh of an ordinary sized man; but the hand and arm of the patient being so much swelled, and tender to the touch, the most gentle movement gave him exquisite pain. I observed the time when I began the operation; and, without making any particular enquiry as to what he felt, I left it to himself to describe his own sensations. The fomentation had continued for

twenty minutes, when I observed the countenance of my patient brighten, and when, with a look of delight he exclaimed—"It is now Sir, for the first time these six weeks, that I have been free from the dreadful pain I have suffered; but, from the relief I now feel, this Bath *will* certainly cure me." He immediately became very drowsy, and would have fallen asleep, if I had not kept up his attention till the exhaustion of the vessel; and I confess, I was myself not a little surprised to find so great a good, had been produced by the conveyance of heat to the part. A few minutes after the AIR-PUMP was set to work, the patient became very hot—a copious perspiration then ensued, such as he had never before experienced. He described the sensation he then felt as a blunt pain, something like the cramp, shooting down his arm. It remained stationary a few moments at the wrist, which he felt as if wedged; and then suddenly passed to the ends of his fingers, when he experienced a tingling over the whole of the limb, which sensation was

succeeded by perfect relief from pain or stiffness.

On removing the machine, he drew out his arm without any assistance, and moved it about in different directions, with the greatest ease. The arm itself assumed an appearance much altered—it had lost its paleness, the balance of the circulation was restored, though the swelling had not abated. He then fell into a profound sleep, and never once awoke during the night. On the following morning, he was repeatedly called before he could be roused, but on being awoke, and taking a hearty breakfast in bed, he rose refreshed, and with exhilirated spirits, decended the staircase with a tread so light as to surprise all present. When asked how he felt himself, he said he was quite free from pain, but that he felt his arm still weak.

Fearing lest a return of the pain, should damp his expectation of perfect recovery—and doubting the permanence of

the relief he had experienced, I suggested to him the propriety of another trial of the remedy, if the complaint again should affect him. I saw nothing more of him for two days—his appearance then was considerably improved, but he had felt, he said, some sudden shootings of the same kind of pain in different parts of the arm, but particularly in the wrist, hand, and fingers. He requested to have recourse again to the BATH, which I administered to him with equal success as I had done at first, and he obtained in fifteen minutes, perfect relief from both the pain and stiffness. When I had finished, he immediately fell asleep; and after continuing the whole night in a state of profuse perspiration, awoke so much recruited, that he felt a vigor, he had never experienced during the whole course of his illness.

After this period he was absent some months in Wales, his native country, and on his return recently, he called on me to say, that he had perfectly recovered the use

of his hand and arm, but that two joints of the fingers were a little enlarged and contracted, from a deposition of gouty matter, a complaint, however, which gave him no great inconvenience. This apparently fixed affection, I am well persuaded, would have been prevented, if the patient had not neglected to have recourse to the VAPOUR-BATH, after the removal of the acute pain. But he was strongly advised to go into the country, for the benefit of his native air, and did not return to town, till it was too late to employ any local remedy, to restore the action of the joints.

CASE IV.

An eminent Surgeon at the west end of the town, in December, 1818, recommended a patient to my care, the particulars of whose case, well deserve attention. With an hereditary predisposition to gout, he had from a very early period of life, been subject to bilious disorders; and, while living under the influence of a hot

climate, had experienced several severe attacks of acute inflammation of the liver. Since however his arrival and residence in England, he had been troubled with only a chronic affection of that organ—the secretions of which, were always *irregular* and *vitiated.* He had also been subject to *indigestion*, and a whole train of affections, arising from a deranged state of the stomach and bowels, which obliged him to have *daily recourse* to purgatives of the most *active kind*, for the removal of *habitual constipation.* The tongue was generally much furred, and the pulse *always irregular*, in strength, fulness, and velocity; the head frequently affected with pain and vertigo, the breathing occasionally difficult, and the lower extremities often subject to gouty attacks, with disturbance of the abdominal viscera.

In this deplorable state of suffering, a period of *twenty-five years* had passed away, being the better half of his life—during which he had availed himself of

the advice and attendance of the most eminent physicians. To secure every possible advantage from their medical aid, he had *strictly and perseveringly adhered to every plan of treatment* prescribed, without deriving any other advantage, than *transient relief*. For the last two years he had been under the care of the medical gentleman who recommended him to me, and who, from the first, gave it as his decisive opinion, that his case was one of *misplaced gout*.

Judging that *Galvanism* would restore the digestive functions, I commenced its administration on the 15th Day of December, and continued it daily until the 19th. The patient soon found the greatest advantage from its employment: still, however, he occasionally experienced sudden transitions of pain in different parts of his body, as well as in the extremities; and as he was anxious to have a regular paroxysm of gout in the feet, under the idea of his being by such means released from his

other ailments, I employed the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath for the purpose of removing the spasmodic constriction of the skin, of restoring insensible perspiration, and with a view to bring on a fit of the gout. The first application of this kind was made on the 15th of the same month, which produced no other effect than an increased warmth through the frame, and a very slight degree of moisture, which soon subsided.

Before I repeated this remedy I advised the patient to try the usual medical means to restore perspiration—he did so, and under every advantage, for the doses were skilfully dispensed to him by his medical attendant, but with no better success than the Bath. On the second trial of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, the beneficial effects were more perceptible, than on the first; but on the third time a copious diophrisis was produced, which continued for some time, and afforded him considerable relief. He was now fast improving in

health, but still without any paroxysm of gout, and with only some occasional pains about the foot and the great toe. This gentleman desisted for a short time from the use of Galvanism, and for the fourth time had recourse to the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath on the 15th of January last: on this occasion he in some measure realized his wish—the right foot became inflamed, the toe considerably swelled, and the soles of both feet extremely tender. He was lame for a few days; and with a view to keep up the irritation of the extremities, I also applied electricity to the affected parts; but this slight paroxysm soon remitted, and both the patient and myself abandoned the attempt of *dictating to nature what course she should take*, and he became contented with the *enjoyment of health without a regular fit* of the gout, which he had so ardently desired.

When the digestive functions were tollerably restored, and some portion of corporeal vigor acquired, I left him to the

management of his own good sense, enjoining him to pay the strictest attention to regimen and exercise. With the exception of casual indisposition he felt himself exceedingly well for about three months, but while in the enjoyment of *the highest state of health*, he was suddenly attacked by a severe paroxysm of gout in both the feet, and toes, which confined him for about three weeks. Having recovered from this disorder, he went into the country for the benefit of the air, and on his return to town, favoured me with a call to give me the pleasing information that he found his health greatly improved, and his strength increased.—I am now happy to add from a subsequent communication, that this gentleman is nearly restored to that state of health, which he enjoyed before the much wished for attack of the gout.

CASE V.

On the 20th of April last, Mr. D. a respectable tradesman in the city, paid me

a visit in a coach, in a state of severe suffering, from acute pains in his lower extremities. His object in calling upon me, was to make a trial of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath—a remedy, which had been strongly recommended to him, by a gentleman who had formerly been one of my patients. To procure my opinion on his case, and on the applicability of the remedy, he stated to me the following particulars. He had from a very early period of life been subject to very serious attacks of disease in the head, stomach, bowels, and lungs; he also had, for a great length of time, been subject to such acute gouty pains in the upper parts of his feet, that, at his then age of thirty, he suffered a "martyrdom from gout."

He had from time to time consulted a number of medical men both in town and country, who all agreed in pronouncing his case, misplaced and atonic gout. He had also been placed under the care of some of the most eminent physicians of the

metropolis, and it appears, that no patient could have paid more strict attention to their injunctions, than he did; but still without deriving any advantage from their treatment. The regular practitioner having failed to be of use, the patient had next recourse to a variety of empirical remedies, with as little success.

During the whole period of his illness he complained of the state of his stomach and bowels—he suffered from every symptom of dyspepsia—the albine secretions indicated high bilious action—his tongue was much furred—his pulse was quick, full and strong; and his perspiration obstructed. His life had been regular, and he had used much exercise for the purpose of diminishing his bulk. From walking however he derived no benefit, but riding was an exercise that agreed with him.

After hearing this detail I gave him but little hopes of permanent relief from the application of the Air-Pump Vapour-

Bath, but held out the probability that the operation would be so far beneficial, as to bring on a regular fit of gout in the extremities, which he much wished; as, from the opinion of all the medical gentlemen he had consulted, it was expected to be productive of great advantage. He importuned me to administer the remedy that night, and in consequence of his extreme suffering, I consented to his proposal. Before, however, I reached his house, he had been seized with such acute pains in the joints of his right foot, that I found him in a state of distraction. He was highly feverish, and from the agonies he endured, was incapable of moving his leg. Perceiving his condition, I proposed to defer the appplication of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, till another day. To this he was averse, and assured me, that, though he felt pangs not to be described, when he made the least effort to move his leg, he could nevertheless, bear any pressure on the affected part.

Being thus urged, I consented to commence the operation immediately. On strictly observing the leg by candle light, I saw no external inflammation or swelling; and with a little assistance, after some difficulty, we got him into the bath. At the commencement of the application, he described the pain in the instep and hollow part of the foot to be so intense, that he felt as if dogs were gnawing and tearing the parts in pieces. I requested him to describe his sensations during the process, being anxious to know when any particular effect was produced. In about the space of ten minutes after, he remarked that he felt a glow about the foot, and that the pain had become less acute, being then removed from the instep to the heel. In twelve minutes more it suddenly shifted to the upper part of the foot; and before the expiration of half an hour, it had darted forwards to the ball of the great toe, and then entirely left him. But on the following day I received a communication from him, informing me, that, in about ten

minutes after I had left him, the perfect relief he had obtained, was succeeded by a violent attack of gout in the foot, and in the toe which had been subjected to the operation.

I saw him about a week after, when he informed me that he had been confined ever since the operation. He expressed a strong wish to have another application, but as I disapproved of defeating the efforts of nature, I declined complying with his request, and left him to let the disorder run out its course under the superintendance of his medical attendant. The result of this gouty paroxysm, was a confinement of the patient to his bed for about a month. So far I had gained an important point. The patient since then, has had other slight attacks, but they have fallen on the extremities, and he is now in tolerable health ; living under a strict attention to that kind of regimen, so necessary to a person, who has been subject to such distressing complaints.

CASE VI.

The Rev. C. B. on the 28th of July last, consulted me on the propriety of employing the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath in his case, which I shall briefly state. This gentleman was in the prime of life, of dark complexion, of athletic form, and of a spare habit—his tongue was not much furred, though his pulse was disordered. For some months past he had felt a rapid declension of health, from stomach and biliary derangement. He had been previously accustomed to enjoy all the benefits of pure air, much healthy exercise both on horseback and on foot, and since his illness had received the best of medical advice. He was at length seized with a most severe bilious attack, which confined him for some time. Mercurials in different forms were administered to him without much benefit. He was perfectly aware himself, that the obstruction of bile occasioned the greatest part of his sufferings; and he could well remember the time when he felt immediate

relief, from a free flow of bile—the bowels then acted freely, and the digestive powers were greatly improved.

Soon after this hepatic ailment, and while amusing himself in his farm yard, a sudden movement of the right leg gave him an exquisite degree of pain in the whole of the limb, as if from a sprain. He was immediately taken ill, and confined to his room for some days. His family apothecary was called in, who, on examining the parts, found that the foot was exceedingly swelled and inflamed. The usual remedies were employed to alleviate the pain and to obtain a cure of the complaint: but, while these means were in trial, and only a few days after the attack, the inflammatory action was transferred from the extremities to the hip-joint, where it became acutely painful, and where it remained for some time stationary. From this fulcrum point of the disorder, the whole of the muscles and tendons of the limb suffered, and lameness to such a

degree ensued, that he was unable to walk even a short distance.

This affection of the hip-joint, I considered as one of *translated gout*, occasioned by a derangement of the digestive functions, and not a hip case, as he was led to suppose and greatly to fear. On stating my opinion to him, and the grounds on which that opinion was formed, he consented to the employment of galvanism in the first instance, and then to have recourse to the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. After the second time I had administered galvanism to the patient, though no increased action of the bowels were produced, yet the painful and distressing affection, which had been so stubbornly fixed in the hip-joint, *was removed* to the lower part of the thigh near the knee; and he was certainly not quite so lame, nor in so much pain in the limb.

Having so far succeeded, I thought it advisable to apply the Air-Pump Vapour-

Bath, which I did, for the first time, on the 31st of July. This operation produced the usual effects—a sudden transfer of the pain from its former lodgment to the ball of the great toe. Two days afterwards galvanism was again applied about the region of the liver, but without producing any particular sensations. The patient now became extremely apprehensive that he should have a paroxysm of gout in the foot; and, though I could not ensure him against such a result, yet I gave it as my opinion, that it was very probable, by another application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, this slight affection would be perfectly relieved.

Naturally anxious to obtain freedom from a disorder, which had very much reduced him, and brought on a state of great nervous debility and irritation, he made another trial of the machine. I did not see him till the second day after this operation, when he informed me that he had received the greatest benefit from that

application. Indeed I readily perceived in him a very favourable alteration, for he not only did not drag his leg after him, as he did formerly, but was able to walk without difficulty. Finding, however, he had still some little remains of the disease, he proposed to have a third application of the Air-Pump Vapour Bath in a day or two, as he was very desirous of leaving town before the end of the week. However, to my great satisfaction, I soon after received a letter from him announcing his recovery, and stating himself to be so well as not to require any farther aid from galvanism, or the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. He has since taken his departure from London, to resume his clerical duties in the country.

CASE VII.

On the 21st of July, 1818, an officer of rank in the royal navy was recommended to my care—When I first saw this patient he informed me that he had been a great

sufferer from rheumatism for the space of ten years, which not only affected both his loins and hips, but even extended down to his feet. This complaint, of course, occasioned considerable lameness to the sufferer, which prevented him from taking requisite exercise. His medical attendant wished the patient to try the effect of electricity, and supposing him to be under the care of that gentleman, I complied with his request to try the course so recommended.

On account of the extreme susceptibility of the patient, I employed the electric agent in the mildest form of excitement, and pursued this plan for several days with very little benefit from the application, except the perspiration produced by the force of the acting stimulus. Finding myself disappointed in the efficacy of the remedy, I suspected, from the appearance of the patient, that his painful affections might arise from a bilious derangement. I enquired of him, whether he was then under

the care of his professional friend. He answered in the negative, declaring at the same time that he had been wholly transferred to me, and that he should now be entirely directed by my judgment, and submit to any treatment I might choose to adopt.

Being thus at perfect liberty to pursue my own course, I required of him to give me as particular an account as he could of the supposed origin and progress of his disorder. The history he gave of his case fully confirmed my previous suspicions, and the following facts left no doubt on my mind of the source of his complaint. He had at an early age entered into the service of his country, and for the greater part of nineteen years been actively engaged in foreign stations, particularly in the West Indies: during the time he resided in that hot climate, he had several attacks of the fevers common to that country: he had also been the subject of many severe fits of illness, of a bilious kind, and after

one of these, he became a constant invalid. I found that the liver of the patient was affected with chronic inflammation, that his secretions were defective, and his bowels costive. Lumbago and sciatica had ensued as alternate maladies, from one or the other of which, he was seldom free.

On his return to England, the torpor of the liver increased to such an alarming degree, that his life was rendered completely miserable. Various were the distressing sensations of which he complained —his head, his sight, his stomach, right side, bowels, &c. were all less or more affected. The abdomen was considerably enlarged, and the evacuations had the appearance of a morbid affection of the rectum. The tongue was thickly coated with a yellowish fur—the pulse very languid—the extremities cold, and his corporeal powers sunk into a state of the lowest debility. In this stage of the disease, he had continued for some time "dying," as he said, "a lingering death."

He was, however, not wanting in duty to himself, and therefore had recourse to all the remedies usually applied in the ordinary treatment of liver derangement, under the direction of the most eminent men in London. Mercury in every form had been so abundantly administered to him, that he had actually taken some hundred grains of that mineral without affecting his mouth—salivation *was never produced;* and he was constantly obliged to employ the strongest purges to move the bowels. Stomachics, nervines, and various other medicines, only afforded him temporary relief.

In this case as well as many others, I conceived nothing could relieve the patient of the *subsequent disorder*, until the *visceral disease* was first removed. I therefore advised him to try Galvanism, as a constitutional remedy. This process he commenced on the 8th of August, 1818, and continued it till the 19th of the same month, making in all nineteen applications.

By this time the liver *regularly performed its office*—the *bowels required no excitement*—the *secretions had become healthful*—perspiration restored—appetite regained—digestion well performed—the distension of the abdomen removed; and the *bulk diminished in an extraordinary degree.* But as the pain in the back continued at times to be troublesome, especially *in damp* and *wet weather* — and as the lameness this complaint produced, prevented the patient from taking that share of exercise which he certainly required, I now resolved to employ the Vapour-Bath ; this I did with the happiest results. The satisfactory effects produced were an increase of perspiration in the body and warmth in the parts affected—the left leg and foot felt more comfortable, and he enjoyed a perfect freedom from pain. Indeed the benefits he obtained were so very great, as to render the use of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath no longer necessary. The sensations of the patient, as he described them, during the process of fomentation, was a soothing

feeling, strongly inclining him to sleep; but that of the exhaustion an obtuse pain, suddenly shooting from the thigh down to the toes.

On the following morning, he declared himself free from any remains of his complaint, and took leave of me as a patient. This gentleman having soon after imprudently exposed himself to the chilling damps of a night air, in an open carriage, he experienced a slight return of his rheumatic complaint; I employed the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath once more, for his recovery, which was a second time happily and fully accomplished; I have been since this event frequently favoured with his visits, not only to assure me that his recovery was complete, but to recommend several respectable individuals to my care as patients, who have *all* derived the greatest advantage from my treatment.

Captain P. soon after took a journey into the country for the purpose of visiting

some of his family connections in a remote part of the kingdom, and on his return to London a few weeks back, called on me to communicate the gratifying intelligence, that *every distressing symptom* under which he had so long laboured, were *entirely gone*, and that he had, since he left me, enjoyed an overflowing state of health—that he had long ago thrown aside every restraint of diet, and had, during his stay in Scotland, been exposed to a northern climate, and heavy rains—yet neither the Lumbago nor Sciatica had ever attacked *him*—that his leg and foot had ever since been free from the sensation of pain, deadly coldness, and extreme debility, that formerly oppressed him—and that he continued to take the most vigorous *foot exercise*, without the least feeling whatever of fatigue.

CASE VIII.

On the 8th of February last, J. B. Esq. an eminent solicitor in Somerset-

shire, called on me to request the application of galvanism, with a view to obtain relief from a violent rheumatic attack, under which he was then suffering a great degree of acute pain. He was attended by a gentleman who supported him on one side, while he assisted himself by a stick, on the other. The patient was robust, of a sanguine temperament, and about fifty years of age. In accounting for the cause of his complaint, he stated, that he had lately come to town on urgent business, and having been disappointed of an inside place in the mail-coach, had been obliged to ride on the outside. Having been thus exposed to a cold sharp air, he found himself, on his arrival in town, siezed with a severe pain in his left hip and thigh, the same as he had experienced three years before, from a similar cause.

It appeared however that his tongue and skin indicated biliary obstruction,—besides, there were distension of the stomach, flatulence, and a disproportionate

bulk. I ventured to assure him that electricity would probably relieve him from his disorder. The application was accordingly made, from which he derived transient relief. On the day following, however, all his distressing feelings returned, particularly the cold and benumbed sensation of the leg and foot. I repeated the application, and again sent the electric vibrations from the spine and hip along the course of the sciatic nerve to the lower extremities; but still he felt a deadly coldness throughout the limb. To convince the patient that there was something wrong in the digestive organs, I requested him to observe his sensations when I varied my application, and sent the electric fluid through the stomach and bowels. In a few minutes he exclaimed "I am now in a glow indeed! the whole of the limb, from the hip to the foot, is in a great heat." He appeared much surprised; but from the relief he had so suddenly and unexpectedly experienced, he was perfectly convinced that my suspicions were well founded. I then ap-

plied galvanism to the stomach, and the region of the hepatic ducts, which soon produced the benefits I had anticipated, for on the same evening the obstruction of bile was removed, and he had thirteen or fourteen copious evacuations, which naturally brought on some degree of debility.

I now desisted from galvanic applications for a few days, and administered to him the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, for the first time, on the 10th of February, at the Grecian Coffee House, where he then resided. By this operation he was considerably relieved—perspiration was restored, and the activity of the bowels kept up. In three days, the machine was again used with such decided advantage, that he did not again require the repetition of its powers.

I heard nothing further from this gentleman for some time, as he returned immediately after into the country. By a letter, however, I have lately received from

him, dated the 28th of July, 1819, I am happy to say, that he had perfectly recovered; and though he attributes this change more to the agency of Galvanism, than to that of the Air-pump Vapour-Bath, I am myself perfectly satisfied, from the effects which were immediately produced by the operation of the latter, that the use of the machine was no inconsiderable auxiliary towards a radical cure.

CASE IX.

Mr. H. now living as porter in a Nobleman's family, came to me on the 25th of August, 1818, in the hope of obtaining relief from a sciatic complaint of ten years standing. This patient was about sixty-five years of age—of a short stature, of a sanguine temperament, and of regular habits. The account he gave me of the origin of his disorder, led me to conclude, that he had experienced an attack of acute rheumatism, which terminating in a morbid affection of the sciatic nerve, had produced

the extreme lameness, under which he had laboured for a great length of time. The hip joint was painful, and such were sometimes the acute sensations that darted to the inner part of the thigh and down to the knee and foot, that he could not bear to stand even for a minute on the left leg, and always found the greatest difficulty in rising from his seat. The night was the dreaded period of his worst sufferings—his rest was constantly disturbed, and the gnawing sensations at the hip-joint, were always considerably aggravated by the increase of heat from the bed-clothes. His walk evidently pointed out a contraction of the muscles of the leg and foot—the thigh was cold and apparently much wasted —and the flesh flabby. A feeling also of numbness pervaded the whole limb, and the foot was always in a state of damp chilling perspiration.

This individual, after having had recourse to the advice and prescriptions of regular practitioners without benefit, was

at last tempted to apply to an unprincipled empiric, whose patent infallible medicines, had no other effect than that of convincing him of the knavery of the quack, and the inutility of his boasted drugs. On making minute enquiries of this patient, as to his general health—he stated, that he was quite well in that respect—that he had a good appetite, and should have no cause of complaint, but for his diseased limb, and disturbed rest.

I recommended to him the application of electricity, and commenced the operation, by directing the vibrations of that fluid through the hip-joint, spine, knee and foot, along the course of the sciatic nerve. In a few minutes I desisted, in order to know what the patient felt from the progress of the operation.—He said, the relief he had then experienced, was far more than he could have expected; and as a practical proof of the truth of his account —he rose from the chair in which he was placed, with comparative ease. He con-

tinued to derive great benefit from the electrical excitement, for more than a fortnight ; during which time, I varied the mode of employing it, increasing the power in the ratio of his increased re-action, and capability of enduring a stronger stimulus. The relief, however, he had experienced at the end of three weeks, though considerable, did not equal my expectations, and being anxious to adopt the most effectual means for speedily restoring to him the use of his leg and foot, I proposed to him a trial of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. This plan being approved of, I administered that remedy to him at different times with very great advantage, but still somewhat short of the benefits I had anticipated.

A few days after the last of these operations, the patient having called, I questioned him very minutely on the state of his bowels. He told me he had for many years been very costive, and that his stomach had at times been much disordered —that he had been greatly subject to asth-

matic breathing during winter, and that having then also a cough, he expectorated much frothy mucus. From this information I judged it proper to have recourse to Galvanism, which I applied to the region of the stomach, liver, bowels, and occasionally to the spine, for the space of a week, and with such happy results, as to excite the greatest surprise throughout the noble family in which he resides.

In another week every symptom previously described was giving way, and health began to beam in his countenance. I again applied the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath with greater benefit than at any former time, and finding he had now attained to a condition of health, strength, and spirits, I advised him to desist from the further use of this remedy for a few weeks, and attend strictly to regimen, and to keeping up a constant action of the bowels by very small doses of an aperient, to be taken when necessary. For this however he had rarely occasion, for when I

saw him lately, I had the pleasure of hearing from himself that he was completely recovered, and that he now enjoyed a better state of health than he had ever done before, though he occasionally feels a degree of stiffness about the knee and foot. I am inclined to attribute the continuance of this remaining affection, to his being constantly on a stone floor, in a spacious hall, and exposed of course to a strong current of conflicting airs, entering by different passages.

CASE X.

In May, 1817, an eminent Solicitor in the city, with whom I was personally acquainted, was confined to his house, by a severe attack of rheumatism. I found him in so much pain, and so lame, that he was not able to rise from the chair. He told me, that his health had declined, from too intense an application to professional duties: but in tracing the cause of his complaint, he particularly noticed his having

inadvertently sat in a window-seat, which admitted a strong current of air, through an aperture in the wall, while attending on a committee of the House of Commons. He almost immediately felt a great degree of coldness in the thigh, and was soon afterwards seized with so severe an attack of acute rheumatism, as confined him to his bed. Though he was soon afterwards, so far recovered, as to be able to sit up on his sofa, yet, he had the regular attendance of his physician for three months. Among the usual remedies employed, during his confinement, a blister had been applied to the parts affected, without affording him any relief; and he very much regretted that leeches had not been recommended, which he thought might have produced beneficial effects.

While in this condition of suffering, I offered him my friendly services, and urged him to try electricity—assuring him that I had recently employed it very successfully in cases of sciatica, similar to his

own complaint. But the trial of this remedy was objected to by his medical attendant, and as he did not get better, he called in an eminent surgeon, at the west end of the town. He experienced considerable benefit, as to his general health, while under the direction of this practitioner; but little or no alteration for the better, was effected in his particular complaint. The patient underwent the process of rubbing one hour daily for *some months*, which failing to be of much use to him, he was advised to try the Bath waters, which he did, but without receiving any benefit. He then went to the Sea-side for the purpose of hot salt-water bathing, a remedy which eventually proved equally unsucessful.

On his return to town, he called on his medical friend, to communicate the result of the means that had been employed, and in consequence of the uniform failure of them all, he was recommended to me for electrical operations, as the *dernier resort*,

in these stubborn cases. At the time this gentleman became my patient, the symptoms which most distressed him were—a constant aching pain in the lower bone of the hip, and along the course of the sciatic nerve, sometimes extending to the knee and foot—a contraction of the muscles and tendons of the whole limb—a considerable difficulty in stooping, and a sense of extreme fatigue if he stood on the leg only a few minutes, though no weariness was felt while he continued to walk. Rising from his seat always gave him much pain, and a great wasting of the thigh, had previously taken place.

These and other indications, clearly pointed out the character of his disorder. I commenced the course of electricity about the latter end of October, 1817, and continued it daily till the latter end of December, and occasionally for about three weeks longer, till the patient was perfectly relieved from the disorder. This gentleman continued to enjoy a good state of

health, and freedom from the complaint, till a few weeks ago when he had experienced a return of his rheumatic affection, and called on me to request the administration of electricity again. Finding his digestive organs were in a state of derangement, I administered galvanism to him three or four times, which produced the desired effect of exciting the bowels, and then recommended to him a trial of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, as the most effectual means of removing the complaint. He agreed to make the experiment, and I applied the machine to him after the third application of galvanism. He felt the operation of this remedy very sensibly at the time, and for some days after—a copious perspiration, and relaxation of the limb was produced. This single application was effectual, in completing the cure—very soon after the complaint gradually subsided, and he was perfectly restored to his usual health, and corporeal vigour. He now (the 10th of August) enjoys a perfect freedom from his distressing disorder.

This case, therefore, fully illustrates the superior powers which the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath possesses over electricity, as a remedy in rheumatic, and sciatic disorders.

CASE XI.

The Rev. C. Martin, Winchester Row, New Road, applied to me on the 16th of Oct. 1818, to know if I thought I could be of use to him, by the application of the Air-Pump Vapour Bath, in a rheumatic complaint, from which he had suffered severely for more than ten years. It appeared from his statement, that this chronic affection had resisted every remedy, which, by the advice of the most eminent of the faculty, had been tried. This patient was seventy years old, and in addition to the infirmities inseperable from so advanced an age, had to contend with a disease which, by having almost wholly deprived him of muscular and nervous power, confined him for years at home, and of

course prevented him from performing his ministerial labours.

This gentleman had also been subject to frequent biliary attacks. The whole of the alimentary canal was more or less affected. The eye indicated a torpid state of the liver and great debility, the consequence of a diminished state of excitement in the nervous system. At the first, I conceived that the Vapour-Bath would not be so beneficial as the galvanic influence, a trial of which, on my recommendation, the patient made, and derived from it very considerable advantage. The Air-Pump Vapour-Bath was afterwards administered, on the 27th of the same month, but with such extraordinary effect as to surprise me more than any experiment of the kind I had ever witnessed. The sciatic affection instantly left the patient, nor did he feel the least symptom of its return for a whole fortnight, when, on a sudden, he was siezed with a sharp but momentary sensation of this excruciating complaint; and

which, with the velocity of thought, shot down from the hip to the feet, passed off, and never afterwards paid him another visit.

The cure of this case is deserving, on many accounts, of particular notice—it was in itself complete, after the disease had been of long standing—it was performed on a patient of a very advanced age, and of an emaciated constitution—where a protracted confinement for years, had produced extreme debility from the deprivation of air or exercise—and yet the disease was removed by the application of a remedy only administered to him ONCE.

CASE XII.

Mr. F. from Stockport, Cheshire, while in town on business, came to consult me on his case, which he called a rheumatic affection of the right shoulder and arm, with which he had been troubled for several months. This gentleman ap-

peared to be much emaciated, and in a state of great nervous debility. His habits had been studious, and his professional pursuits compelled him to lead a sedentary life. He was forty years of age, and of an athletic form, but his disease had so completely enervated his mind, as well as his body, that his memory was greatly impaired, and his coporeal powers, sunk into premature debility. His countenance was sallow—his pulse low and slow—the skin dry—the urine turbid, and his bowels costive. His appetite was defective—his digestive powers impaired—his head affected with giddiness—his sight and hearing weakened; and the nervous system so deranged, that his dreams were distressing, and his sleep unsound.

In this condition he had dragged on, he said, a wretched existence for many years, during which he had tried various medicines in short, used every means that promised relief, and yet in vain. Though he had consulted some eminent physicians,

he began to lose all hopes of recovery; but being possessed of much good sense, as well as an amiable temper, he patiently resigned himself to the will of heaven, and managed himself as well as he could, by an attention to regimen, air, and exercise. This constitutional derangement of the system, terminated at last in a local disease of his shoulder, arm, and hand. Extreme debility and trembling of the limb, attended with excruciating pain in the upper joint of the arm, extending down to the wrist and fingers, formed part of his sufferings; the fingers were indeed so weak, that he was unable to write; a calamity which to an accomplished scholar and professional man, was cause of much affliction. My philosophical patient, however, being acquainted with the powers of galvanism, sought, from the employment of it, the relief he could not obtain from any other means, which, from time to time, his medical attendants had recommended. He therefore began the application of this remedy on himself, with an apparatus of

his own contrivance, sending the galvanic shock through the arm and hand. This mode of application he continued for some weeks, without producing any other effect than that of irritating the parts.

On becoming acquainted with this part of his proceeding, I told him that his attempts to obtain relief by a local application must fail, as the disease under which he laboured, was not only a painful affection of the part, and a loss of muscular power, but a *complete derangement* of the digestive functions, and the nervous system. This seemed to depress him—he said he was obliged to return home in a few days, and could not therefore, at present, go through a course of galvanism. But agreeable to his wish, I made a trial of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, as a palliative for the evil of which he particularly complained. I gave him also a few operations of galvanism, more with a view to instruct him in the proper mode of applying it to himself, than for any other purpose—being

confident, from his *knowledge* of that agent, he would do himself no harm.

But to my surprise, on the second day after the application of galvanism, he felt himself considerably improved in health—after the third operation, the biliary secretion was increased—the bowels acted freely, and the tongue, pulse, and complexion, indicated a very favourable change. The digestive powers were improved, the spirits exhilerated, and the appetite regained.

The Air-Pump Vapour-Bath was now administered to him—the fumigation was particularly agreeable, and the exhaustion of it produced very great effect, both in the sensation, as well as in the appearance of the arm and hand—he perspired profusely—slept soundly, and rose refreshed. He called on me early on the following day, to inform me how much better he found himself after the operation—he said, he seemed to have *gained a new arm;* at least, it was not like *the same*, which, but a few days

ago, gave him so many distressing feelings. After taking one more application of galvanism, he bid me adieu, lamenting the necessity that compelled his immediate return, and assuring me, that he had derived greater benefit from the efficacy of those remedies I had administered to him, than from all the combined powers of medicine, employed for the same purpose, during a period of more than ten years. I have not heard any thing further of this gentleman, but from the signal benefit which he received, by only *four* applications of galvanism, as a constitutional remedy, and only *one* of the Air-Pump Vapour Bath, I may, I think, now safely venture to prognosticate his perfect recovery, if he attend to the directions I gave him with respect to the use of galvanism, regimen, and exercise.

CASE XIII.

Mr. H. about forty years of age, of a sanguine temperament, and of re-

gular habits, had been afflicted with a violent pain in the right shoulder and arm, for more than *four years*. The affection was originally an attack of acute rheumatism, for which his Medical attendant tried bleeding and other means, without producing any beneficial effect. The chronic form of the disease, with little intermission, continued to harrass him, and from which he suffered great torture, especially at night.

This patient also suffered from a disordered state of the digestive organs. He commenced a course of galvanism, on the 29*th of May*, 1818, from which he soon derived greater benefit, than he had done under the treatment of two eminent physicians, the first of whom prescribed *calomel*, and the other the *blue pill*—After the recovery of his general health, I tried electricity; but it produced no permanent effect. I then urged him to submit to the application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, of which he entertained a strong but silly

dread. This remedy completely produced the desired effects, *relief from pain* and the *removal of the contraction*. In three applications of the Bath, these important ends were answered—and he afterwards rapidly recovered his strength, and was able to use that arm, from which he had suffered so much, as well as he ever did in his life.

CASE XIV.

Mr. George Henry, a respectable tradesman, residing at Chapel-place, Oxford-road, came to me from the recommendation of a lady, who had been under my care for deafness a few months before. He then laboured under an acute rheumatic affection of the right shoulder and arm, which occasionally extended down to the wrist. This complaint greatly diminished the power of moving his affected limb, and he complained of its being so much contracted, that he was prevented from shaving himself, or using his hand at meals, without great difficulty and pain.

This gnawing and acute pain was sometimes succeeded by a benumbed sensation, as if he had received a blow at the elbow—the circulation was irregular, the affected parts being cold and hot by turns, and always most distressing when the arm was covered in bed.

This affliction commenced at Christmas, 1817.—He had, under the direction of his medical attendant, patiently tried the effects of the ordinary treatment in such cases, without the least advantage. He had also consulted several eminent men of the faculty, but none of their prescriptions contributed in the smallest degree to remove his disease. He was then advised to go to Bath, so much boasted of for the cure of his description of disorders; but though he remained there about a month, using regularly the means prescribed, he left it without experiencing any alteration for the better.

On his return to town from Bath, in

July 1818, he consulted me on his complaint, which, from the symptoms he described, I was led to suspect was occasioned by an obstruction of bile. I therefore suggested to him the propriety of trying galvanism, and though he had but little hopes of advantage from that kind of agency, he readily consented to make the experiment. I accordingly applied this remedy to the region of the liver, which greatly excited the patient's surprise, as he expected I would direct the galvanic influence to the shoulder and arm, where the acute pain of which he complained, was seated. On the two first applications he found but little advantage—After the third he gave up all hopes of relief, for the biliary obstruction being then removed, he vomited and otherwise evacuated an immense quantity of bile, which at first quite alarmed him, but afterwards afforded him the greatest relief.

The subsequent use of galvanism, produced a regular biliary secretion, and returning health. But, as the complaint

in the arm continued still to annoy him, the circulation weakened, and the contraction unyielding, I had recourse to electricity, which however, merely afforded temporary relief, and only palliated the more painful sensations.

Failing thus to restore the full use of the limb by such means, I administered the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath to him, for the first time, on the 14th of August, 1818. The usual good effects were produced by this application—perspiration—a genial glow of warmth on the parts—diminution of pain, and of course, greater freedom of motion. The patient continued to improve, and about the middle of September following, I once more applied the machine with decided benefit. From this time, the patient made rapid progress, and with the aid of galvanism as a local stimulant, his cure was happily effected before the latter end of the month. I have since had the pleasure of seeing him from time to time, as well as of hearing from him frequently,

and it affords me great satisfaction to be able to add, that he has not only enjoyed an excellent state of general health, but is now completely exempted from rheumatic complaints.

CASE XV.

A Lady about sixty years of age, of a very corpulent and plethoric habit—who had a long time laboured under constipated bowels, but in other respects enjoyed good health, was about four years ago, suddenly seized with an attack of hemiphlegia or palsy, on one side of the body, while seated at dinner. The left hand became first benumbed and lost its power—this feeling extended to the whole of the side. The head became confused, giddy, and painful, and a feeling of faintness ensued. A physician was called in, who, by ordering immediate bleeding, relieved the more urgent symptoms, and by a course of medicine, with occasional cupping, the patient partially recovered of her complaint. About

two years ago, she was sent to me by her family surgeon, for the purpose of availing herself of the benefit of electricity. After a month's trial of that remedy, the patient retired into the country, much benefited by the means used. The numbness of the side was relieved—the coldness of the limbs was succeeded by a genial glow, and an equalization of animal heat, The muscles of the hand and arm were more obedient to the will; yet, the stiffness and rigidity of the parts affected, were not quite subdued.

This lady came again to me in the following year, for another course of electrical operations, with a view to increase her nervous and muscular power. She stated, that she had made great improvement in her health together with the limb, and she therefore felt much encouraged to renew the application. She then remained under my care for about three weeks, after which, I advised her to go again into the country—to pay particular attention to her

general health, and to have herself cupped again, when she felt particularly affected in her head ; which, from too great fulness of blood, might probably happen.

This patient visited me for the third time on the 14th of May 1819, and though the infirmities of age were rapidly advancing upon her, yet she declared she was considerably better. What she chiefly complained of, was, the tendinous and muscular contraction, which paralized the power of the muscles in voluntary motion. In order, therefore, to remove this obstacle to her recovery, I strongly advised her to try the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. Respecting this proposition, she consulted her medical friend, who concurred with me in thinking, that it was likely to be useful.

The first application was made on the 19th of the same month, and the result was such, as to confirm me in the opinion I had previously formed—relaxation was produced—perspiration increased, and the

bowels rendered excitable. The Bath was tried a second time, on the 22nd with still greater advantage: but, after the third time I had employed the apparatus, on the 27th, perspiration was so copious, and the relaxation of the rigidity so great, that I deemed it proper to desist from its further use. A few electrical operations were subsequently performed, with evident advantage; and the patient took her leave of me in much better health and spirits, than she had enjoyed from the commencement of her afflicting disorder.

CASE XVI.

In the month of November, 1818, a lady called on me in a coach, with a view to try the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, from the efficacy of which she had previously formed the most sanguine expectation of benefit. As she was unable from extreme lameness, to move from her seat, I went to the carriage in order to hear from herself the statement of her complaint, before I

would venture to give any opinion. Finding that the constitutional malady, which had accompanied the loss of voluntary motion in the lower extremity, was still in full operation, I strongly advised her to abandon the idea of using the apparatus for the present, and urged to her the importance of placing herself under the care of a medical practitioner, till the system was brought into a state to be benefited by the employment of the remedy she sought. She, therefore, called in a physician of eminence, who, from having attended her before, knew her habits and constitutional temperament. Shortly after I was favoured with a letter from the medical gentleman whom she had consulted, which, for its liberality and candour, deserves my acknowledgments.

Agreeably, then, to the wish of the patient, and that of her medical adviser, I employed the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath for the first time, on the 23rd of November, 1818. Besides the usual effect of produc-

ing a genial glow through the frame, and increasing perspiration, a change to which she had been so much a stranger—she expressed her astonishment at the peculiar sensations, produced both by the fumigation and exhaustion. The three subsequent applications, which took place *within a fortnight*, produced much *beneficial influence* on her *general health*, and increased the *excitability* of the bowels, but she experienced *no relief* from her extreme lameness.

A few weeks after, she expressed great anxiety to employ again the Air-Pump Vapour Bath: when I then gave it as my decided opinion, that she would not receive much benefit from that machine, until the constipation of her bowels, could be relieved. The patient having long suffered from torpid liver, and frequent congestion of the bowels, agreeably to the direction of her physician, I proposed a trial of galvanism as the proper remedy. She readily complied with the advice; and, in a few

days after the employment of this agent, the biliary secretions became redundant, and the copious evacuations, indicated the powerful excitement of the hepatic system. I then again employed the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, four times more. The progress this patient made towards recovery, was surprising. Before the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath was first applied, she felt her limbs cold, but this state was succeeded by a restored circulation, and a kindly glow of heat. The limbs were so much improved, that she very frequently moved them without the aid of her attendant, which she had not before *done for years*. She continued to recover rapidly, and at last was able to *stand on her legs without any difficulty*.

As her complaint, however, in some degree, still remained stationary, I was led to suspect the existence of an unknown counteracting cause, and on making particular enquiry as to this important point, I found that the patient, had for some time

been labouring under an affection of the *uterine system*, which from motives of delicacy, she never named, but which when it came to my knowledge, induced me to discontinue the use of the machine, till that disorder was removed. I recommended her again to place herself under the care of her physician, and she complied with my advice. I have lately seen the brother-in-law of this lady, who informs me, that she continues to enjoy a much better state of health, than she had done before—that she is nearly cured of the malady last mentioned, and intends shortly to resume the use of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath—and that she had derived more benefit from its employment, than from all the other means she ever tried.

CASE XVII.

An officer of high rank in the Army, had an attack of apoplexy about four years ago, during his residence in one of the worst climates of India. That his

system had been roused to the greatest degree of excitement, from high living, and a predisposition to this disease, was pretty apparent from the formation of his person. It was supposed by his medical attendants, that a sudden translation of gout occasioned the attack. Venesection was attempted immediately, but no blood was obtained from the arm—cupping was then resorted to, and scarificators applied to the nape of the neck, which produced a copious flow of blood. It was deemed unfortunate that the jugular vein was not opened, as according to the opinion of some physicians whom he subsequently consulted, such an operation, would have prevented the palsy of the side, which immediately followed. It is somewhat remarkable that neither the *intellect* nor *memory* of the patient, *suffered* in the least from this formidable attack.

Ever since this illness, the General was particularly attentive to low regimen, and the bowels had been constantly solu-

ble, without the aid of medicine. He had resolutely persevered in the use of a vegetable diet, with the greatest advantage to his general health. On my first interview with him, I was of opinion, that he would derive little advantage from the employment of any stimulus, as there was evidently too great an excitement of the system. His form was robust—his pulse, full, quick, and strong, and his complexion highly florid from plethora. As he was recommended to me by a lady who had been a patient of mine, and not by a medical practitioner, I considered myself at full liberty to direct the use of such means, as I judged would be most conducive to the relief which he sought. I therefore in the first instance advised him to be cupped, which was performed with benefit.

I then proposed a trial of the Air-Pump Vapour Bath to the leg, which was much *contracted* with a *slight distortion* of the foot; having previously and ex-

plicitly stated my opinion, that the *utmost* which could be expected, would be merely an *alleviation* of the disorder, which was of a nature seldom to be perfectly cured by any means with which we are yet acquainted. The left hand, however, which had also been much paralized, gave some encouragement to proceed, for I am happy to add, that by the topical employment of galvanism for about three weeks, this patient had almost *recovered the use of his hand and arm.* This favorable change far exceeded my expectation.

As I did not find it necessary to employ the Air-Pump Vapour Bath to the hand and arm, I confined its use to the leg and foot only. The first application was made on the 21st day of June 1819. The immediate effect was what I had contemplated—an increase of perspiration, and greater vascular action of the parts. The exhaustion of the apparatus produced a spasmodic affection of the leg—he felt a tingling sensation through the limb, and

thought the contraction was not so great. In the mean time, before I again resumed this application, electricity was used to keep up the action of the stimulus. Strong vibrations were borne without painful feeling. The torpor of the nerves appeared to be great, from the quantum of excitement he required, to give an equal susceptibility to the diseased, with the other parts of the system.

The Air-Pump Vapour-Bath was again repeated on the 24th of the same month with similar results; and after two subsequent applications, the good effects produced were such as I could not have expected from a long continued course of electrical operations. Though the muscular and tendinous contraction was not much lessened, yet the *increased sensibility* of the parts was so great, that the mildest administration of the electric fluid, produced the most decided effect. The balance of the circulation was fully restored, and the nervous power augmented—the

movement of the *leg was less awkward*, the *tread more firm*, and the *walk more natural*. This gentleman soon after left London for the country, fully satisfied that he had derived greater benefit from the means I had used than he could have anticipated. On his return to town, he intends again to resume the treatment, from which he has already derived so much advantage.

CASE XVIII.

G. M. Esq. forty years of age, of a sanguine temperament, of a robust form, and of a plethoric habit, was recommended to me by a surgeon of the first eminence in the metropolis. His was a case of liver disease, combined with various other affections, in which I had employed galvanism with the greatest advantage. Soon after the patient applied to me, I perceived he had some eruptions about his wrist and between his fingers—I observed the irritation he felt and the strong desire he had to scratch the parts, which appeared rather inflamed.

Upon his observing that my attention was attracted by this circumstance, he requested me to look at his wrist and arm, which was almost covered by this cutaneous eruption.

Supposing this affection of the skin was a consequence of the hepatic disease, and an effort of nature to relieve herself by the skin, I made no remarks then on the complaint—but on hearing his account of its commencement, I recommended to him a trial of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, as an experiment, which I assured him would promote perspiration by removing the constriction of the skin, if it did not contribute otherwise to his relief.

He told me that he first perceived this appearance of the skin on his voyage from India. It was subsequent to the use of a cold bath which was daily administered to him, while he was on board of ship. The mode in which he had received this kind of application was commonly practised at sea.

Immediately when he awoke in the morning he went on the deck, where one of the sailors poured a bucket of salt water on him, after which he returned to bed again. This he supposed did him good. He had, however, been so troubled with this disagreeable affection for twelve months past, that he had been obliged to obtain medical advice; the result of which led him to suppose that he had got that loathsome complaint, which nothing but sulphur and mercury can cure. Under this impression he had recourse to these means, and had rubbed himself at different times, but fortunately for him no mischief ensued. The case was entirely mistaken. The eruption was not the itch, though it strongly resembled that disorder.

On the 3rd day of August, 1818, I administered the Vapour-Bath, applying it to the right leg, it being then evident the eruption had affected all the extremities. The sensations experienced by the patient during the operation, were of the most

agreeable kind. He afterwards enjoyed a comfortable night's repose and arose invigorated, when he sent to inform me of the perfect removal of the eruption from the leg, of the improved appearance of the skin, and the complexion of the face. I administered the Vapour-Bath again to him on the 8th—when I placed the left leg in the vessel. The same agreeable feelings were produced as in the other leg, and similar beneficial results obtained—indeed the lower extremities were found to be free from every appearance of the disorder. The third time, on the 12th, the machine was used to the right arm of the patient, who could not keep awake, but slept during the greater part of the operation. On the following morning he reported to me the total disappearance of that affection on the right arm also. The fourth and last time I employed the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath was a few days after, with a success which I must acknowledge surpassed my own hopes.

This gentleman was anxious to persevere in this treatment a little longer, but as I saw no further necessity for its continuance I dissuaded him from such a course. Some time after he had obtained the cure, he called on me to say that he had observed a few small pustules about the breast, which he feared would annoy him, and he therefore requested to have recourse again to the Vapour-Bath. As the evil, however, complained of was so trifling, I advised him to wait a little first, for as the functions of the skin and bowels were now restored to a healthful state, I was convinced that he would soon find he required no further aid.

This assurance, it seems, did not tranquillize his mind, and harassed by apprehensions of his complaint returning, he had recourse to the Vapour and Sulphurous Baths of an establishment not far from my residence. He continued its use for a fortnight to no purpose, when he again called on me, to request that I would re-

commend to him something to prevent the return of a disease so disagreeable at any time, but particularly now that he was just going to take a journey to visit his friends. To dispel his gloomy apprehension, I presented a lotion to him, expressing at the same time a hope that he would have no occasion for its use, but should it be otherwise, that he would in that case write and let me know the effects it had produced. I heard nothing more of him for about eight months, when he called with a friend, and informed me that he was perfectly free from *every complaint*, and that ever since he left London he had enjoyed an uninterrupted state of good health.

CASE XIX.

Rebecca Sharpe, an unmarried female about thirty years of age, of a slender form and delicate state of health, residing at 22, Gerrard Street, Soho, was recommended to me by a medical practitioner, who may be justly ranked among the

philosophical physicians of the age. The patient gave me the following history of her case. About twelve months ago, while residing as cook in a family where this gentleman visited, she had a serious attack of liver complaint. From which after a considerable time she was relieved, by the judicious means which he employed.

About a year had elapsed subsequently to her recovery, when she met with a trifling accident on the 23d of August, 1817, while she was scouring the kitchen floor. She received a slight bruise in her left knee, and felt a sensation somewhat similar to a benumbing blow given to the elbow. As the uneasiness soon after subsided, she paid little attention to her knee, but on the following day she felt a great stiffness in it, with a sensation resembling that produced by the cramp. She however made a shift to walk to the market on her usual business, but it was with the greatest difficulty she could reach home. On her arrival the pain was so acute that she could not walk

up stairs, but dragged herself up backwards, and got into bed immediately.

The affection of the knee becoming so distressing that she could not bear the bed-clothes to touch the part. An eminent surgeon was called in, who ordered leeches, poultices, and fomentations, together with aperient and other medicines. This kind of treatment was continued a fortnight, but the swelling, livid appearance, and pain of the knee, remained unimproved and unabated. Dr. —, to whose generous kindness she had already been greatly indebted, advised her to go to St. George's Hospital, and procured her an admission. She was conveyed thither in a coach, taken out in the arms of an attendant, and removed to the ward assigned for her reception.

The surgeons who attended her, ordered fomentations constantly during the day, and a lotion at night, a mode of treatment which was continued for a fortnight, without affording the smallest relief. On

the Saturday following the knee became considerably enlarged, with a sharp throbing pain. The part was then lanced which discharged a great deal of thick yellow matter, and poultices and fomentations were again resumed. Nine days afterwards a second operation took place, and another abscess was found formed in the inner bend of the knee, which produced a very considerable discharge of matter ; not so thick indeed as the last, but so profuse as to penetrate through the bed and mattress to the floor, which greatly alarmed her, as she fancied she was bleeding to death. Fomentations and poultices were still employed for a fortnight longer, during which the discharge was great, and when it subsided the dressings, plaisters, and bandages were continued about a month.

At that time she left the hospital, having been there about two months. She was completely lame and on crutches, her ancle being much swollen and her general

health greatly impaired. After three weeks the knee improved and she returned to her former place of servitude ; but was too ill to resume her avocations, from the pain and stiffness of the diseased joint. She was then advised to go into the country, and to use a particular liniment. She continued out of town for six weeks, and on her return the local disability continuing, was sent by her medical attendant to be electrified at a public dispensary. This process was daily made for more than three months, each application occupying about twenty minutes. From these operations, she stated that she derived no benefit whatever—though I am persuaded, if the mode in which this agent was employed had been different, she would have obtained some relief. She then by the advice of her physician, used a strengthening plaister for three months longer, but it had no other effect than that of keeping the part warm.

Having been thus disappointed of

obtaining a cure from the various means which had been tried, she was sent to me by her friendly physician, accompanied with a polite note from him requesting that a trial might be made of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. Previously to my application of that machine, she gave the following account of her state. She said, that she felt herself extremely weak and languid, and had so great a contraction of the muscles and tendons that she could scarcely walk, and an excruciating pain which almost wholly deprived her of rest. On examining the knee I perceived a considerable enlargement of the joint—the parts above and below it were much wasted, and the flesh cold and flabby—the heel elevated from the ground, and her walking indicated great debility in the action of the muscles of the leg. Though her health was much improved, her complexion, tongue, and pulse, were sufficient indications that the system was still in a very deranged state. But as she was under the care of her physician, I did not feel myself at liberty to

employ other means than that which had been advised.

The first application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath was made in August 1818, while the patient was in bed, which produced the usual comfortable feelings, of warmth generally, as well as a great glow in the left knee and foot of the leg on which the operation was performed. She perspired profusely, and slept exceedingly sound during the night, for the first time since the attack of her complaint. As she appeared from the operation to be greatly debilitated, I desired her to wait a few days and then call on me again, which she did, and stated that she had been daily improving but the complaint was not removed. The Air-Pump Vapour-Bath was applied a second time about nine days after, which produced similar effects but in a much greater degree. She began gradually to recover strength in the limb, the pain having been relieved, and the contraction lessened. A few days after, she said she was greatly

surprised and somewhat alarmed by a very peculiar sensation in the left thigh and leg. She suddenly felt, a benumbed and then a tingling pain, which instantaneously shot from the knee to the toes of the foot, and immediately afterwards she experienced an astonishing improvement in the limb—a glow succeeded, an increased power of action was produced, and she continued rapidly to recover, till she was quite well in her general health, and the use of the leg and foot were perfectly restored. About nine months after she called on me to state these facts, which I have now related from notes taken at the time—acknowledging the benefit obtained, and confidently attributing it to the influence of a remedy which was administered to her only TWICE.

CASE XX.

Mr. B. about thirty years of age, of a melancholy temperament, of pale and sallow complexion, and spare habit, called

on me on the 11th of January last, to procure the application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, for relief from an affection of the hip and thigh. His mind seemed wholly absorbed by the uneasy sensation which he said he always felt on the side affected. On observing the tongue, it evidently appeared that some derangement existed in the digestive organs. The evacuations were always scanty, and the pulse indicated great debility, yet this gentleman supposed himself to be in perfect health, because his appetite was good, and his sleep sound ;—some stupor of head, lassitude of body, and the affection of the hip, were the only things which seemed to distress him. His habits of close application to business in a confined air, he thought added to his ailment.

Having by many questions obtained sufficient information to lead me to some conclusion, I gave him to understand that the Vapour-Bath was not the remedy he then required, and that until he could cor-

rect the state of his stomach and bowels, the application of it would be of little use to him. On making this statement he seemed surprised and disappointed, and then asked whether the employment of galvanism to the limb would not remove the complaint—my answer being in the negative, he said he had tried electricity without any benefit. As I found he had taken the *blue pill* and other *mercurial remedies*, which had not produced any effect on the hepatic system, I recommended to him a trial of galvanism internally, with a view of stimulating the liver, giving tone to the stomach, and increasing the nervous and muscular power.

Wishing to know my mode of applying galvanism in such a case, he sat down and received the operation without much susceptibility of its action. He then took his leave, promising to call again in a few days. I saw no more of him, however, for five months, when he again paid me a visit. He told me he repented of his folly in not

following the advice I had given him. "I am now, Sir," added he, "*fully convinced* of the existence of a fact which I could not before credit—that I have laboured under a constitutional disorder for many years, and that my unpleasant feelings in the hip and thigh were occasioned by the state of my digestive organs. I have all along foolishly supposed that some topical application to the parts, was the only thing that could afford me relief. I have made many experiments, and since I saw you last, I have been thirty times in the Turkish Vapour-Baths, and I am now no better than when I called here before."

Having heard this declaration, I told my patient that if he chose to submit to my treatment, he must leave it to me to employ galvanism as I judged it proper; and also the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, should I think an application of it necessary. In a fortnight the most decisive effects were produced—the patient made a rapid recovery—his *digestive functions* were

perfectly restored—the bowels acted with a regularity which he had never before experienced—his spirits were raised to a great degree of exhiliration, and his muscular strength much increased. Notwithstanding the singular benefit he had derived from the galvanic influence, yet the uneasy sensations from the hip and thigh, which were still much wasted, continued to harass his mind occasionally.

I then thought it proper to employ the Vapour Bath for the first time on the 29th of June to the part affected, or rather to the right leg and thigh. The usual beneficial effects were produced by this and three subsequent applications on the 10th, 12th, and 15th of July. The balance of the circulation was soon restored in the affected part, the peculiar feelings which particularly distressed him were removed, and in a fortnight he was perfectly relieved from the local malady. A few days before he left me, he said, he expected to dine with the medical gentleman, whom he had

from time to time consulted in his affliction, and that he should relate to him the steps he had taken to recover his health. Having some knowledge of that gentleman, I desired my patient to state to him the opinion I had formed of the case, and my reasons for having applied galvanism. On the following day, when he again visited me, he said Mr. L. had fully agreed with me as to the cause of his disorder, and had pronounced him then to be in a perfect state of health. Mr. B, then left me, fully sensible of the benefits he had received from the use of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, which had been applied to him only *four times.*

CASE XXI.

A gentleman, about sixty years of age, apparently strong and healthy, was recommended by a relation of his to apply to me for a trial of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, in a complaint of long standing. The affection under which he *then laboured* was

a bruise on the knee and a sprain occasioned by a fall he had a few months before, while stepping over some timber. The right knee suffered, which had been in a diseased state for more than ten years past by a white swelling.—He had the advice of one of the most eminent surgeons in England, who plainly told him, he would never recover from that complaint. This invalid, however, unwilling to despair, tried a variety of means for many years, but without any benefit whatever. On looking at the knee, I found a considerable contraction and an apparent thickening of the membranous investments, which, among other effects, produced a mechanical obstruction to the action of the muscles. I observed to him that I had no doubt of his being soon relieved from the effects of the accident, but how far he would be benefitted in the old complaint was a doubtful point.

The patient being anxious to make the experiment, I applied the Air-Pump

Vapour-Bath to him for the first time on the 1st of June 1819. This application afforded him some relief in the parts affected—the bruise was less painful, and the contraction somewhat diminished. On the 5th of the same month the operation was repeated, and the patient derived still greater benefit. On the third application, he was so greatly improved that every painful feeling occasioned by the accident, *was wholly removed*. The patient was then desirous to continue the use of the Vapour-Bath, with a view of relieving the original affection of the knee joint. He complained chiefly of a gnawing pain in the inner part of the knee, always increased by pressure. The rigidity and contraction about the joint, together with an elevation of the heel, very considerably affected his walk. In three applications more of the machine, he obtained the desired relief. During this treatment I learnt from him what had been improperly withheld on my former enquiries—that he had been subject to frequent and severe biliary attacks—that he

had been often confined to his bed, and considered by his medical attendants as dangerously ill, and that he annually visited Cheltenham, from the waters of which he derived great benefit. He was fully sensible, however, of the advantages he had obtained from the use of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, which had been of greater service to him than *all* the remedies he had employed for years before.

CASE XXII.

A lady about seventy-five years of age, was urged by her brother (a Surgeon then under my care) to try the effects of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, for the cure of an affection in the hip-joint and knee, under which she had laboured for some years. I was informed by this gentleman that the general health of his sister had for some time been exceedingly bad. Her digestion was much affected—her bowels constantly confined, and her strength greatly reduced. She had also been subject to various at-

tacks of rheumatism and anomalous gout, together with regular paroxysms of the latter. The limbs were affected with pain, and she was so lame, that she could not walk across her bed-room without the assistance of a stick. Indeed her brother remarked, she was so much a cripple, "that she walked more on her hands than her feet." The soles of the feet being painfully tender, she could not bear to rest on them—the heel of the left foot was so much elevated, that the weight of her body pressed on the extremities of her toes. But in addition to all this the patient had likewise hernia.

The statement of her case led me to express some doubts as to the benefit she might receive from the application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. But the advantage which her brother had himself derived from its operation, determined him to have it tried also on his sister. The first time I saw her was on the 13th of June last, when I attended to try the application of the

Vapour-Bath. She appeared to me much emaciated and enfeebled, and complained of an extreme coldness in the whole of the limb, particularly in the hip-joint, and also of a gnawing pain there and in the knee. The process of fomentation continued for a considerable time before any warmth was produced in the limb, and the hip afterwards, remained both cold and painful. The skin was relaxed, and a perspiration obtained—the exhaustion of the machine was attended with the usual sensation of distension, and a tingling feeling throughout the limb. On removing the leg I observed a great improvement in the appearance of the limb.

Having expressed an anxiety to know the result of this first application, the patient's brother called on me early on the following morning, and stated that his sister had experienced surprising relief from the operation—that she arose invigorated—that the contraction of her heel was lessened, and that she was enabled to walk

across her bed-room with some ease to herself. Perspiration had been kept up during the night, and her general feelings were greatly improved. As this gentleman was very desirous that his sister should have another application before his return into the country, I again employed the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath on the third day after my first visit. Such beneficial results were produced by this second application, that the patient was fully satisfied she had derived much greater advantage from these operations, than from all the other means she had been trying for many years.

The patient was obliged to go out of town immediately, but soon after her return, she resumed the use of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. It was on the 19th of last July she underwent a third operation, when she informed me she had made some progress in recovering the strength and command of her leg. These operations were repeated six times within the fortnight, and galvanism too, as an auxiliary, was

employed at the same time to great advantage. The painful affection in the hip and knee had ceased to distress her—the sensation of warmth through the limb was fully restored—the contraction of the muscles of the leg was in a great measure removed,—she was enabled not only to bring her heel to the ground, but to walk a short distance without her stick : and her appearance, and the improved state of her stomach and bowels, gave the most cheering promises of a rapidly returning health, notwithstanding her age and natural infirmities.

CASE XXIII.

This is a case of that interest which will be found to merit the reader's particular attention. Mr. S, the husband of the patient, called on me about the middle of October 1818, to enquire if I thought electricity would be beneficial to his wife, in her very peculiar and distressing case. He observed to me that a friend of his, had

attended a lecture on electricity, and being much prepossessed with an opinion of its medicinal powers, had urged him to consult the physicians who attended his wife, on the propriety of trying its efficacy in her case, This proposal was not only acquiesced in, but the physicians were also pleased to recommend that she should for that purpose be placed under my care.

This lady was about twenty-four years of age, and the mother of several children. During her last confinement, she was from premature exposure to cold, siezed with a loss of feeling in both feet, to which hot bricks were applied—a remedy that so far succeeded as to restore sensation, but which unfortunately, produced a singular affection in the right leg and foot, of which she afterwards became lame and suffered severely. The state she was reduced to afterwards, was held to be in the last degree dangerous, and she attributed the saving of her life to the skill and attention of those gentlemen, who were called in at a time

when little hopes were entertained of her recovery. As this case has already met the public eye—having been communicated to the editors of the *Gazette of Health* by D. Wilson, esq. a respectable surgeon of great practice, late of Leatherhead, but now of Cawthorn, Yorkshire; I shall here give it in his own words.

June 16, 1819.

"During my residence in town, and my occasional attendance on Mr. La Beaume, I was informed of his successful application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath in an interesting case. As he referred me to the party, accompanied by a medical friend, I waited on the lady to hear the account of her sufferings and recovery. She informed us that she had been extremely ill for some time and had been attended by two eminent medical men, who had advised her to go into the country to try the effects of change of air; and that she had on her return home, found herself no better for it. She applied to Mr. La Beaume about the middle of October last,

(1818) when she placed herself under his care, at which time she was suffering much from a stomach and bowel complaint. Her tongue was white, furred, and parched; she had no appetite, but a constant disposition to sickness, with a sense of rising in the throat, throbbing in the head, great depression of spirits, restlessness, extreme debility, and other symptoms attendant on a disordered state of the digestive organs.

"The lady had also lost the use of her right leg, from a white swelling of the knee, which occasioned considerable muscular and tendinous contraction, elevated the heel four inches above the ground, and left a very great soreness of the ancle and foot. The pain, she described as excruciating; which prevented her from sleeping either night or day. She had therefore taken large doses of opium, combined with calomel, to allay the irritation, and correct the habitual sluggishness of the bowels, from which latter symptom she had suffered much. The ordinary remedies of

fomentation, leeches, blisters, &c. were applied to the part without any benefit. Her lameness was extreme—she was obliged to go on crutches for some time; and being exceedingly enfeebled, could not support herself on them without assistance. The treatment Mr. L. B. employed was judicious and effectual. Galvanism was adminstered for three weeks; and she was at first conveyed to his house in a coach, with considerable difficulty in getting her in and out. The progress she made during the first week was remarkable, every painful symptom was alleviated; and before the third week, her appetite, digestion, spirits, sleep, &c. matured into a state of perfect health. This point, of the first importance, having been obtained, Mr. L. used the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, an apparatus he generally employs on similar occasions with the greatest advantage.

"After the first application of the remedy, which was on the third of November last, the contraction was lessened, the

heel lowered one inch, and two days after she was enabled to walk across the room without help. After the second operation on the sixth of November, her heel lowered another inch, and she could walk out with one crutch only. On the nineteenth of the same month, the Bath was repeated with more decided benefit:—as perspiration, warmth, and freedom from pain were produced to a greater degree than before, the heel almost touched the ground; she acquired a firmness of step, and could walk with a stick only; and on the two subsequent applications, the contraction was removed; the heel touched the ground; and she was enabled with ease and comfort to herself, to walk to Southampton Row and back again to her residence, a distance of two miles, without either crutch, stick, or any assistance. Having recovered the use of her leg, and feeling no inconvenience from exercise but an occasional tenderness at the sole of her foot when she walked too far, she had again recourse to the Vapour-Bath to remove this last symptom of the

disease, which fully succeeded, and the result was complete success. She stated that since her recovery, which was about six months ago, she has enjoyed perfect health, and the vigorous use of her leg and foot; and that she will be happy to give every information on her case to any person Mr. L. may send to her."

I have only to add that the sister of this lady, who was nearly of the same age, was soon after her accouchement, seized with a similar disorder in her knee and foot, which confined her to bed for some time. She suffered most severely from the disorder, and though she had the very best advice and assistance that could be procured, the limb gradually got worse, and the case proved fatal at last.

P. S. I am now at liberty to give the address of the lady. She is the wife of Mr. SENIOR, a respectable gentleman in the profession of the law, residing at No. 2, Johnson Street, Somers' Town.

CASE XXIV.

Miss P. an unmarried lady about forty years of age, pale and sallow complexion, and of a gouty habit, was recommended by a medical friend of mine to apply to me, which she did on the 10th of July, 1819. She said that she had been in a very bad state of health for several years, and frequently confined to her bed from very severe and dangerous attacks of bilious disease. The stomach, liver, and bowels had been always more or less affected. The head also suffered from vertigo, and the feet from pain, circulation became languid, and she felt by turns all the distressing symptoms of dyspepsia, chronic affection of the liver, translated gout, and other maladies. The right side of the abdomen was considerably enlarged, while the other parts of the body indicated a defective nutrition, and great laxity of muscular fibre.

After a few trials of galvanism had

been made, which produced all the effects I could have expected, it was proposed to have recourse to the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath to promote the secretions of the skin, as she had always complained of great heat on the surface of the body. She was so much a stranger to perspiration, that she only recollected once when she derived any benefit from that source of relief, and then it saved her life. The attack just alluded to, was an inflammatory affection of the lungs, from which she began to recover immediately after that salutary discharge had taken place. To obtain therefore relief from perspiration, she had frequent recourse to hot and tepid fresh and salt-water baths, and all other medical means which had been recommended to her; but every attempt not only failed of producing the desired effect, but added to her irritation, by increasing the feverish heat of the skin. From this great constitutional difficulty under which she had laboured for more than twenty years, I informed her that I was apprehensive the Bath must be

repeated three or four times before any advantage could be obtained.

In this opinion however it turned out I was greatly mistaken, and had very much underrated the powers of the machine. The application was made to this lady on the 16th of July. The leg most affected with heat and irritation was placed in the machine. In twenty minutes a gentle moisture became perceptible about the chest—a genial glow was diffused through the frame immediately after, succeeded by a profuse perspiration, which continued during the night and the next day, and which confined her most of the time to bed. This salutary discharge was kept up without the aid of medicine, and from the feelings of the patient, a medical friend of mine, who visited the lady with me, concluded she must have passed gall-stones very soon after the operation of the remedy employed. When she called on me the week after, I observed a decided improvement in her skin, complexion, and general health.

CASE XXV.

Mrs. H. was recommended to me by her Surgeon Apothecary, for a course of galvanic operations. This lady was a native of the West Indies, and had for a long period suffered severely from diseased liver. During her residence abroad she had been frequently attacked by the yellow fever, inflammation of the liver, and other disorders incidental to that climate. She had repeatedly been given over by her physicians, but such was the extraordinary power of her constitution that she survived all these shocks, and had so far recovered as to be able to bear the fatigue of a voyage to England, for the benefit of her health. One of the principal causes of her present suffering, she attributed to the exhibition of immense quantities of mercury at Jamaica. Since her residence in England she had been under the care of several practitioners of note in different parts of the kingdom, from whom she received little or no benefit.

Since her arrival in London she had greatly improved in her general health, under the care of the gentleman who recommended her to me, but she still continued to labour under a diseased liver, and a disordered state of the stomach and bowels. Head-ache, sickness, and extreme coldness in the lower limbs, distressed her much. The tongue was foul, the pulse feeble and quick, and the skin dry, parched, and hot. After a reasonable trial of galvanism, I was led to fear that this lady would derive little benefit from it, unless the secretions of the skin could be restored, to effect which, the most powerful medicines were administered to her for several days without success — producing only nausea and sickness.

Her medical attendant then concurred in my wish of trying the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, with the view of removing the constriction of the skin. That gentleman met me on the occasion, in order to witness the employment of the machine, and the

results of the application. Prior to the commencement of the fumigation, the pulse was about ninety, and the patient complained that she had been exceedingly hot and feverish through the day. Before, however, the expiration of a quarter of an hour, a copious perspiration succeeded a general and diffusive heat of the system—the pulse fell to eighty-two, and at the conclusion of the operation the perspiration had become profuse; and increasing in the morning, it compelled her to keep in bed till a late hour. Indeed for several days afterwards, the moisture on the skin continued to afford her the greatest relief.

A surprisingly favourable change in her complexion was now visible to all her friends,—the most decisive advantage too, was subsequently gained from the galvanic excitement—the biliary secretions became regular, and constipation was gradually removed. From the benefit the patient had already received, she was anxious to have another application of the Air-Pump

Vapour-Bath, and though we scarcely deemed it necessary, yet her desire was complied with, and it was administered on the 28th of July, with the same happy results as before — perspiration was more abundant, and continued longer—the galvanism now acted with increased power, and she made such a rapid progress in the recovery of her health, that the use of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, was happily rendered no longer requisite.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

IF the best test of utility is to be found in practical experiment, these cases will sufficiently speak for themselves. If the remedy has been hitherto but little known to the public, its efficacy and powers can now no longer remain a matter of doubt or conjecture. In those cases where the success has not been equal to what could have been wished, the failure may always be traced to powerfully counteracting causes, either in the habit, in the treatment, or in the age of the patient. In marking the beneficial effects of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, I can truly assert, that in cases of GOUT, I have not met with a *single instance* in which the sufferer has not derived at least considerable advantage. In numerous cases of RHEUMATISM, the operation of the remedy has produced

the best effects: and even in the worst cases of *Sciatica*, where only a few trials have been given, the patient has uniformly been more or less relieved. I have however to lament, that a few instances have occurred where a *feeling of impatience* has led the afflicted to discontinue the use of the machine, because the relief they had too eagerly anticipated, had not been realized in two or three applications; and this too in some cases, where favourable symptoms clearly indicated its beneficial influence on the system.

Among the numerous cases of PARALYTIC DISORDERS which have come under my treatment, I have had occasion to employ the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath in only three of them. This may perhaps in some measure be accounted for, from the ignorance of many medical practitioners of the powers and utility of this machine; but whether from that, or from prejudice, or both, certain it is that the patients who have been recommended to me, were ordered to con-

fine themselves to trials of Electricity and Galvanism. I have therefore administered these subtile agents in all such cases, and with considerable success; but not with that decided advantage, which I am well persuaded would have been obtained from the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. Though this apparatus may be expected to afford relief in cases of Paralysis, originating in any cause, yet where that afflicting disorder has been occasioned by defective energy in the nervous system, or in the total loss of nervous and muscular power, it will be found eminently efficacious. It would be particularly useful in cold phlegmatic temperaments, when Palsy is induced by a constitutional predisposition, or any accidental causes, where a tonic treatment is required. It is my intention to communicate ere long to the public, the results of future trials in these distressing cases, from which I anticipate the happiest effects. With a view however to facilitate the progress of improvement, I shall feel greatly obliged to medical men or others, who

will recommend to my care patients of this description.

Though I have only had one case of CUTANEOUS DISEASE in which the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath has been employed, yet in that single instance it has been attended with such extraordinary success, that it will be found to deserve particular attention. This stinted experience in a class of disorders so common, may in a great degree be traced to the causes I have just alluded to. But the want of knowledge, though with the multitude it may be only a misfortune, can form no apology for medical men, who are the appointed guardians of public health. Here, as the great moralist observes, "If knowledge be a duty, ignorance is a crime." In the treatment, however, of that solitary case, the powers and efficacy of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath have been sufficiently developed to cheer the hopes of the afflicted in cutaneous disease, and to procure for it the character of an easy, safe, and effectual remedy.

On Diseased Joints, I have met with no instance in which benefit, less or more, has not been obtained; but I have been particularly careful in the selection of those cases for employment of the remedy. If a change of structure to any great extent has taken place, and such an affection has destroyed the moving power of the joints by the deposition of matter, so as mechanically to obstruct their action, the case is unquestionably unpromising—but in all recent affections, the obstruction has been removed, and the muscular power, partially or fully restored.

In every instance except one, in which I have employed the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, one of the most important and beneficial results has been obtained—I mean *perspiration*. The case in which I failed, only two trials of the machine were made. It was a case of dropsy, where a tumefaction had taken place to a degree so great, that the leg and thigh were as hard as a board. Before the machine was used, I

gave it as my opinion to the patient, that he would not experience the benefit he fondly anticipated, as he was then labouring under a serious visceral disease, to the cure of which I urged a trial of galvanism, instead of the use of the Vapour-Bath.

The importance of obtaining a free and copious perspiration is often of inestimable consequence: medical practitioners are well aware of this fact, and therefore their attention is always directed to the functions of the skin, as well as to the hepatic and intestinal secretions. In many dangerous diseases, opening the pores of the skin has saved life; and in most of the serious as well as trivial maladies, the restoration of perspiration *alone*, has produced a cure, which no other evacuations could effect.

In *Febrile diseases* this apparatus is of the first consequence, and I hope the time is not far distant when it will be introduced into hospital and dispensary practice, as a

powerful auxiliary to the ordinary means there employed. In short, that the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath is an efficient remedy in a variety of other cases beside those in which I have tried its powers, can admit of no doubt. It is not liable to the objection urged against the hot and general vapour-baths, which have been deemed by a late writer, the most valuable discovery of modern times. The shampooing system, which has recently been introduced as a fashionable process, has failed in *numerous instances*, where the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath has *completely succeeded.* It is by far, more efficacious than the Russian-transition-baths, the sulphurous fumigation-bath, and as pleasant to the feelings, as the boasted luxuries of the Turkish-baths. Indeed I am confident, not only from the judgment of scientific and philosophical physicians, with whom I have conversed on the subject, but from what is of more importance than mere opinions of any kind —from the failures that have attended the fair trial of such remedies, and the subse-

quent success that have followed the application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath in these very cases. I shall state a few of them on a future occasion, and also point out the superior power of a remedy, which I advocate from principle, and the most unquestionable evidence of its utility.

I have briefly alluded to a few instances in which the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath has not produced satisfactory results, that the judicious reader may be the better able to judge of its applicability to his own case. But let it never be forgotten that, in *any particular case*, *which cannot be decided on general principles*, it is unquestionably the safest mode for the afflicted, to consult the individual whose *constant practice* in this branch of medical science, enables him to speak with more precision than a mere theorist—who, however skilled in the ordinary treatment of diseases, is at best, but ill qualified to offer a correct opinion, on such a subject. This intimation cannot be thrown away, while

it is necessary to apprize the Public *that a spirit of hostility against the employment of any philosophical means, is known to exist among a certain class of medical men, with whose narrow views and selfish prejudices, improvements of any kind, but ill accord.*

While I thus honestly express my undisguised sentiments on the sordid motives of the mere "*fee hunting and trading practitioner,*" I have particular pleasure, in proclaiming to the world, that *there are to be found in the medical profession, men of strict integrity, liberality, and honor; whose constant exertions are directed purely to the good of mankind.* To *many* of these gentlemen, I am greatly indebted, for the recommendation of *those very patients*, whose cases are here recorded. From *motives of delicacy* I have not published *their names*, nor the *names of some patients;* but as I can give a reference for the *authenticity of my statement*, I HAVE IT ALWAYS IN MY POWER TO REMOVE ANY

SCEPTICAL DOUBTS, that may arise in the mind of the reader.

It too often happens that mystery, in medical as well as other sciences, is used to veil ignorance, and give importance to trifles:—this is a failing from which I trust I may justly plead exemption. I have on all occasions, with unreserved frankness, stated to medical and other gentlemen the principles on which my treatment is founded. I seek no countenance from the partiality of friendship, and so far from deprecating the strength or even severity of sound criticism, it is to complete investigation alone that I shall hold myself indebted—it is by such a scrutiny that the value of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath will be made manifest, and its merits, as one of the most useful means that has ever been introduced into medical practice, be acknowledged.

Though in an extensive practice like mine, universal success was not to be ex-

pected, yet it is no slight satisfaction to myself to know, that I have in no *one instance done harm* by the administration of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath. Here, however, it is proper to acknowledge, that an indiscriminate and injudicious use of that apparatus, may be attended with disagreeable, if not dangerous consequences. It requires in the practitioner a thorough previous knowledge of its powers—of the nature and stage of the disease to which it is applicable, before it can be administered with advantage. Medical science, and a philosophical knowledge of its properties, are essential requisites to its proper use—without these, the operator may pay dear for his ignorance and temerity, and the patient may be made to suffer severely, either from deficient or extreme heat of temperature ; or what is much worse, from too slight an exhaustion, or a too great vacuum in the apparatus than ought to be produced.

I consider this advice as a necessary

and seasonable warning to the afflicted, as there are to be found in this vast metropolis a *swarm of adventurers*, who, without reputation or principle, skill or conscience, speculate on the credulity of their fellow-creatures; and who by their artifice and assurance, lay disease and calamity under contribution to their avarice. With such characters, I can have no possible intercourse or connection; but I shall with great pleasure *co-operate* with medical men of *science* and *integrity*, in *any plan* calculated to diffuse the benefit of this valuable machine to the afflicted, and to bring it into use in ordinary practice.

Much as I detest empirical and desperate remedies, I am scarcely less averse to those which are *inefficient*, because their very *neutrality* gives a *truce* to the *inroads* of disease, before a barrier can be raised to oppose the ruin of the constitution. I am therefore in candour bound to state, that prior to the first edition of my "Observations on the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath,

Factitious Airs, &c." I met with some works on the utility of oxygen and other gasses, as efficient medical agents in the cure of various diseases, and those too which came more immediately within my line of practice. These philosophical remedies being strongly recommended by high authorities, I determined to make a fair trial of their efficacy, and with that view provided myself with every necessary apparatus for the purpose. I had, however, very soon after, the mortification to find from the statement of the patients who came to consult me, and who had for a considerable time inhaled the oxygen gass, under the direction of those who were fully competent to judge of its applicability, that they had derived no benefit whatever from its administration. On the whole, after repeated trials of the medicinal airs, and in cases too in which they were most likely to prove efficacious, I lament to say that the experiments wholly disappointed my expectation.

Of the judgment of those philosophical and philanthropic physicians who first introduced the medical gasses, and still maintain their utility, I would in any doubtful matter speak with great deference; but I regret to say that I have in fourteen months past, seen only one *single instance* in which the vital air used alone has afforded relief, but in none permanent benefit. I have indeed both read and heard of many cures which have been ascribed to the medical gasses, but on making the *strictest* enquiry, I am now warranted in asserting, that the most *efficient medicines* were administered to the patients in conjunction with the vital air—and thus, the merit of cures performed by the *skill* of the physician with the aid of ordinary remedies, has been *solely* attributed to a mere doubtful auxiliary.

Under these impressions, it is impossible, that *I could honestly recommend* the factitious airs as an *efficient* remedy. If, however, any of my patients have still a

prediliction in their favour, I am willing to make further trials of them, as an auxiliary to aid the means I employ,—they may procure these gasses in their purest state at a reasonable price, from the Medical Hall, Piccadilly—those who cannot afford to purchase them, may receive instructions from me for preparing them by a simple process, with very little trouble, and at a trifling expense.*

Frequent allusion, in the preceding cases, having been made to the employment of Electricity and Galvanism, I can-

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* Since I wrote the preceding remarks, which are intended to give to every medical agent its real share of merit and not to extol one remedy at the expense of another—I have read the following statement in the Gazette of Health, of Sept. 1819. "We have met with many cases of dropsy, chronic difficulty of breathing, and general debility, in which Oxygene inhaled to the extent of two gallons daily, has speedily restored the Patient to health." I cannot question the correctness of this statement, but I presume the Vital Air was used in these cases as an auxiliary to other Remedies. Whether it was so or not, I am happy to find it has been successfully employed under the direction of some *medical men*, and not abused, as it has often been, by the *mere vendors* of that article "puffed off by them to attract attention *as baits* to entrap the credulous and unwary."

not close these remarks, without observing that in many instances, where these powerful agents have disappointed the hopes of the patient, it has been chiefly owing to the indifference of medical men, who have abandoned this remedy to automaton operators, wholly incompetent to the task—and who have brought discredit, on two of the most valuable, and important discoveries of modern times.

From the long and extensive experience I have had of the Electro-Galvanic influence, in my mode of its application, and in cases of the most distressing and hopeless kind, I may safely venture to assert, that it bids fair in many diseases, to rival any other agent in practice. I regret that I cannot now fully enter into this important subject, having already extended the work much beyond the limits I had at first designed: but I subjoin the following letter, as sufficiently explanatory of the principles on which my practice is founded.

Copy of my Letter to JOHN ALDINI, Esq.*
Professor of the Imperial University of Wilna, and of the Academies of Turin, Bologna, &c.

My Dear Sir,

As you are anxious to have some account of my professional practice, I shall cheerfully comply with your request; but being so fully occupied, you must for the present I am afraid, be satisfied with a very brief statement of the mode in which I employ Galvanism in the treat-

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* This Gentleman is the nephew of the celebrated Galvani, and the able illustrator of his discovery. I believe he was one of the first persons who introduced the knowledge of Galvanism into this Country, and made many experiments in London, on the dead bodies of criminals. These have been lately imitated by the professors of Glasgow and Cambridge, and seem to have answered no other end than to shock the feelings of humanity, and to terrify the weak and timid minds of many nervous persons.

ment of various diseases. It is now near *eighteen years* ago since I first directed my attention to the powers and properties of Electricity and Galvanism, and with a friend of my own, a member of the faculty, employed them as medical agents in a variety of diseases with the happiest effects. In the progress of my practice, the very beneficial results I had in many instances the pleasure to witness by their administration, naturally increased my confidence in their sanative powers, and led me to conceive the design of attempting to render them more generally beneficial to mankind. It was not, however from the cure of ordinary disease alone, that I felt so much encouraged to proceed; but chiefly from the inexpressible satisfaction I had in finding, that even in many of those desperate cases, where every other means had previously failed, the administration of these powerful and subtile fluids, was attended with success that often exceeded my hopes. It was, therefore, the experience of the benefits resulting from these remedies, that

finally determined me to make their administration a professional pursuit, as a distinct and important department of the healing art.

When I entered on this undertaking, I was well aware of the *prejudices* and *illiberality* with which I should have to contend, but when I knew I should have it always in my power to *silence ignorance* by *demonstration*, and *affected scepticism by practical results*, I was not, by *such opposition*, to be deterred from my purpose. My success in practice to the present time, has in most cases equalled my hopes; and in many of those diseases in which Galvanism had been before tried without benefit, I have the real satisfaction to assure you, it has exceeded my most sanguine expectations.

I need not inform you, Sir, that medical men have hitherto applied Galvanism in local and secondary diseases only, which indeed I have repeatedly done myself with

advantage, as in *Gutta Serena*, *Deafness*, *&c.* But in some of these kind of cases, it must be acknowledged that the hopes of the patient as well as the practitioner have been disappointed, not from the inefficacy, but from the unskilful application of the remedy. The great defect in ordinary practice, hitherto has been, that of directing the Galvanic fluid to the *effects* instead of the *cause* of disease. A very slight knowledge of the animal economy will convince any one that a *whole train of minor disorders*, may be traced to a *derangement of the system*, as their *spring* and *source*. I have therefore, from opinions *carefully* and *deliberately* formed, adopted a mode of treatment very different from the general practice of medical electricians; being perfectly convinced that the mechanical operations of Electricity and Galvanism can do very *little good*, much less produce any permanent benefit, unless *directed* to the *primary causes* of disease.*

* I came to this Conclusion, not from the opinions laid down by a great authority, but from the results of experience;

The history of human disorders has in all ages but too lamentably proved, that in healing only an affected part, you may give to the patient a transient and hectic bloom of health, at the very moment, while disease, like a vulture, is gnawing at his vitals, and threatening his instant dissolution.

In my practice I have employed Galvanism to Dyspepsia, to Biliary Complaints, and a long train of afflicting maladies, which arise from the diseased functions of those important organs—the stomach, liver, and bowels. In disordered respiration, in habitual asthma, in nervous debility, in paralysis, in deafness, &c. the most salutary and extraordinary effects have been produced. In the painful and delicate diseases of females, particularly of the young and middle aged, remarkable cures have been effected, *solely* by my *adminis-*

I call no man master in this or in any other respect—my determination has ever been to deduce Theory from Facts, and not to make facts subservient to systems.

tering Galvanism instead of *medicines.* Numerous too are the cases which have recently occurred, where sound and permanent benefit have been produced by Galvanism, after the failure of repeated courses of *mercurials*, the *nitro-muriatic acid-bath*, and the employment of *every other* means which were supposed likely to effect a cure.*

I by no means, however, contend for Galvanism being a *panacea* for *all* disorders, or that it has been equally efficacious in every case, even where its powers were adapted to grapple with the disease. In a few instances Galvanism has failed, but these were cases that had baffled the skill of the most eminent of the faculty, and when examined, the failure will be found to have been not a little owing to relaxed perseverance on the part of the patient, sinking under the languor of disappointed hope. Galvanism, however, with fair and

* The various medicinal waters, oxygen gas, &c.

full experiments, under my cautious directions, has performed such wonders as no other means could be found to produce, especially in *chronic affections* of the *liver*, and in *asthma*. So much am I convinced of its efficacy in these distressing disorders, that could I confine my practice to any particular cases, I should *select these* for the purpose, from the *whole formidable* list of human maladies. Several of my patients, who have laboured under these complaints for more than *twenty years*, have been *relieved* and *cured*—results which have proved beyond all doubt, the sanative powers of Galvanism, when judiciously and carefully employed in those almost hopeless diseases. These are *facts well known* to *many of the faculty;* and through the reports of the *patients relieved and cured*, as well as from those of their connexions, are now known to a *great part* of the public.

As to the mode of directing this subtile agent, I have varied the plan according to the constitution of the patient, and the

peculiar character and state of the disease, in which it has been applied. Sometimes I have directed a stream of Galvanism through the diseased organ; and sometimes, interrupting the course of the Galvanic current, and thus producing a gentle vibration, and only a genial glow of heat on the region of the stomach, liver, and bowels. In the topical application to the eye and ear, the latter method has been adopted, as the former would produce vertigo, sickness, &c. but in general the Galvanic stream is to be preferred.

As to the length of time in which the patient is subjected to the operation of this remedy, that too must depend on the susceptibility of the patient, and the immediate and subsequent effects produced on his feelings. On the average, fifteen or twenty minutes, I find sufficient for each person; but, in gutta serena, and deafness, the stimulus is not applied for more than five or ten minutes.

From my experience of the efficiency of Galvanism as a *constitutional Remedy*, and of the benefits it is calculated to afford in the cases here enumerated, I consider a month's fair and uninterrupted trial, a reasonable course for full experiment; and therefore should *no change* for the better take place in that time, the case may then be deemed hopeless. I must conclude this hasty but brief communication with one observation, but one, which the friends of humanity and science cannot too attentively consider, or too *seriously ponder*. It is this—that Galvanism is too *powerful* an agent, either to be *incautiously* used, or *injudiciously* applied. Its success will in a great measure depend on the selection of proper subjects, and on the *modus operandi* being directed by a *knowledge of the seat of disease*, by the *peculiarities of the malady*, and the *constitutional susceptibility of the patient*. Unless these things are properly attended to, Galvanism, with all its *invaluable utility* to mankind, may be brought into *disrepute* by the clamours of

interested opponents, and the ignorance of *pretended friends*. Enough of prejudice exists already against this invaluable remedy, and therefore the *greatest caution* is required in its administration, to gainsay all its opposers, and to establish its just claim to the character of being one of the most important discoveries in medical science, and one too, the most beneficial to mankind, known to modern times.

I am, &c.

M. La BEAUME.

That the knowledge of these important remedies may be more generally diffused, I beg to inform my readers that I intend to publish as soon as possible, a second edition of my remarks on the history, philosophy, and medical properties of Electricity and Galvanism, pointing out the *use* and *abuse* of these subtile agents—particularly developing the efficacy of GALVANISM as a remedy in disorders of the stomach,

liver, and bowels—ASTHMA, and various local diseases, as DEAFNESS, BLINDNESS, &c. originating in a derangement of the digestive organs, illustrated with numerous, striking, and authentic cases.*

I now conclude with these observations—that there are among the professors of the healing art, many gentlemen, who are alike distinguished for talents, integrity and goodness, I am happy to acknowledge: to purchase the good opinion of any man by flattery, or to obtain his recommendation by gifts are contrary to my principles—and will *never* be my practice.—There are many members of both colleges whom I much respect, and others to whom I am greatly obliged; but that I might avoid giving offence to any, I had resolved not to clash with their ordinary practice, but confine myself wholly to the philosophical department of medical surgery, and yet I

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* A few of these cases have been published in the Gazette of Health.—See No's. 36, 38, and 43.

have experienced a secret opposition from some who had previously promised me their co-operation and support;—others also, who had from time to time sent to me several desperate cases which had been successfully treated, have now desisted from their friendly services.

It is however to be lamented that so pitiful a feeling as professional jealousy, should attempt to impede the progress of medical science, or to oppose the course of an increasing and successful practice that *interferes not with their own.* But these *covert* and insidious attempts, to *counteract* my endeavours to benefit the afflicted, will, instead of *damping* my ardour, only *animate* my zeal. Indeed, I have little cause to complain—from the beginning I laid my account with meeting from selfish and illiberal men, *envious counteraction* under a courteous treatment, and I have not been disappointed. I felt however, in adopting that practice as an honorable profession, which I had

for more than eighteen years pursued as a pleasurable amusement, I had not degraded my character as a gentleman; and the prospect of being useful in this extensive field of action, afforded me a satisfaction, which all the puny efforts of envy could not diminish. In the same spirit of independance, I shall *zealously persevere* in the paths of duty, and as much as I can lessen the sum of human misery.

SEPT. 1, 1819.

31, Southampton Row,

Russell Square.

At home daily from Twelve to Four o'Clock—Sundays excepted.