

**Cases of indigestion, from disorders of the stomach, liver, and bowels, and other complaints : as asthma, gout, blindness, deafness, lameness, etc. ; cured by galvanism, etc. ; with a lithographic print of the thoracic and abdominal viscera / by M. La Beaume.**

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### **Publication/Creation**

London : Highley and Son, 1827.

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ga2nhk6h>

### **Provider**

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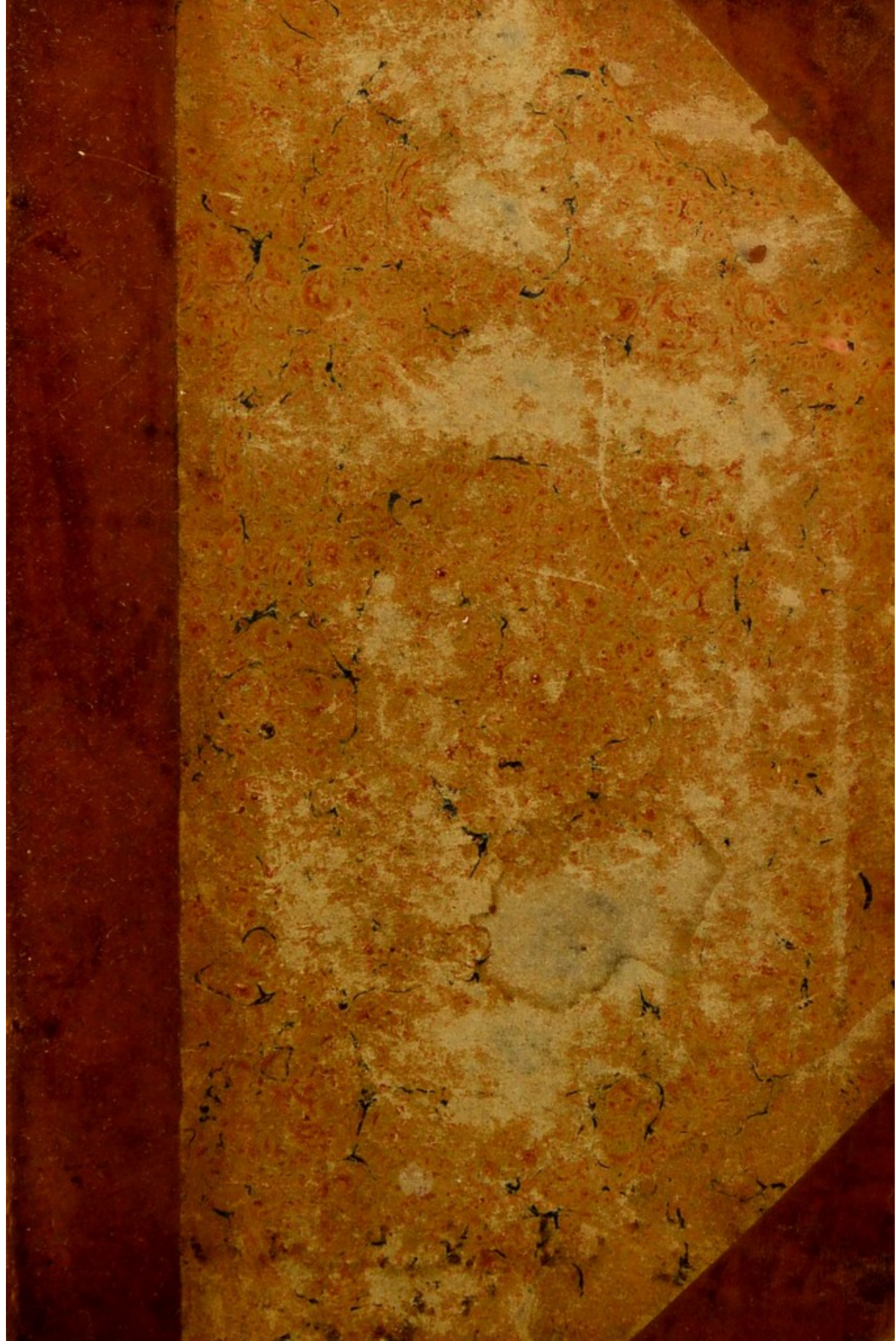
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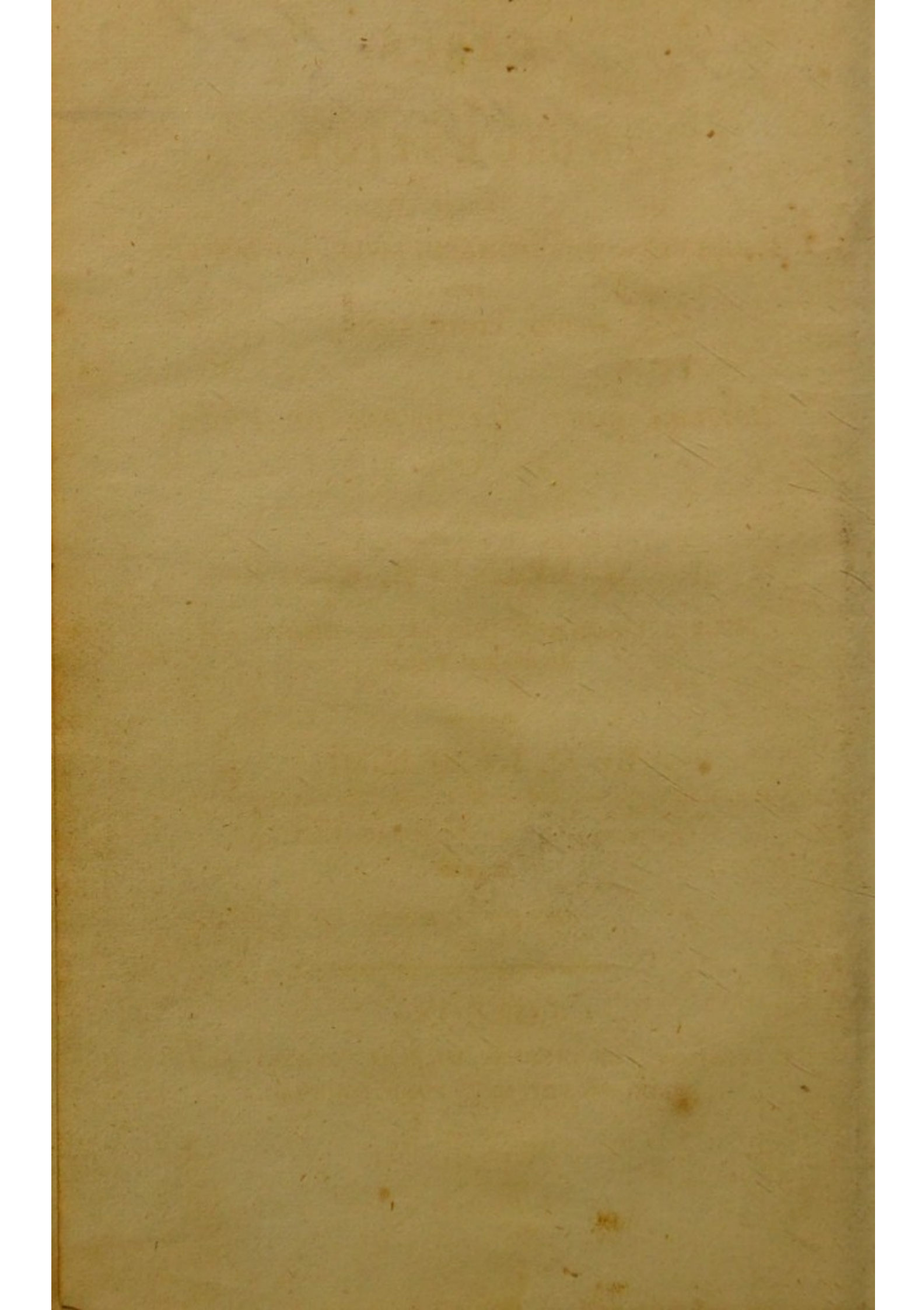
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Mrs. Genl. Eaton Monier  
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Inscribed by the author.  
(see next leaf)







CASES  
OF  
INDIGESTION,  
FROM  
DISORDERS OF THE STOMACH, LIVER, AND BOWELS,  
AND  
OTHER COMPLAINTS;  
AS  
*ASTHMA, GOUT, BLINDNESS, DEAFNESS,  
LAMENESS, &c.*

CURED BY  
*GALVANISM, &c.*

With a Lithographic Print of the Thoracic and  
Abdominal Viscera.

---

BY M. LA BEAUME,

Medical-Galvanist and Surgeon-Electrician, Consulting Ditto to the  
London Electrical Dispensary, and Electrician to the  
Bloomsbury and Northern Dispensaries, F.L.S., &c.

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SECOND EDITION.

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LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY HIGHLEY, 174, FLEET STREET, AND  
WEBB STREET, MAZE POND, BOROUGH.

HEBERDEN  
SOCIETY  
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1827.

Price 3s.



PRINTED BY F. WARR,  
RED LION PASSAGE, HOLBORN,  
LONDON.

The annexed lithographic Engraving of the Thoracic and Abdominal Viscera is given to enable patients, who are unacquainted with the anatomy of those parts, to form some idea of the relative situations of the vital organs, and to perceive their mutual connection.

This Plate will also render patients more capable of ascertaining the precise situation of the painful feelings, occasioned by the disease of any portion of the upper or lower cavity of the body.



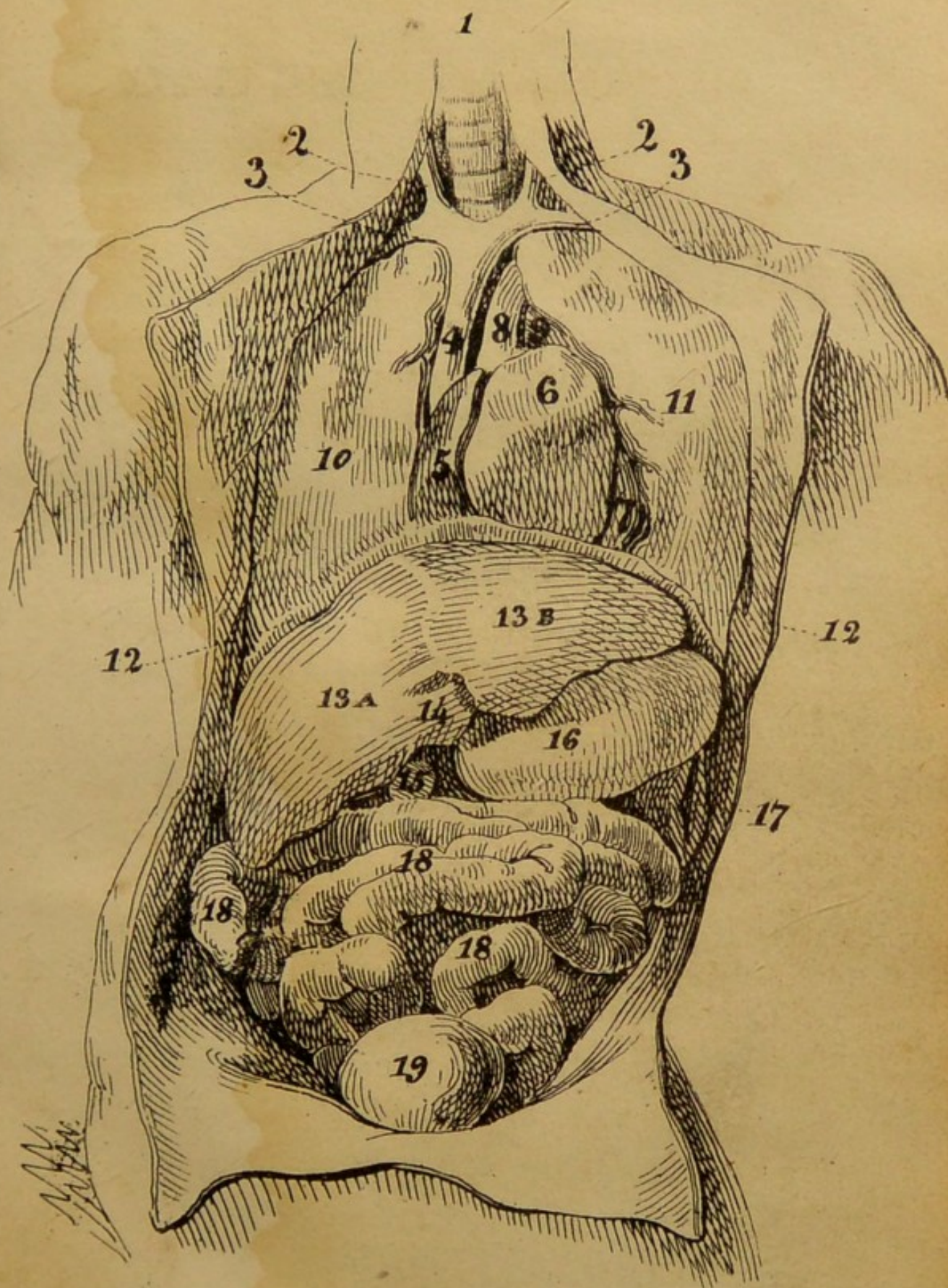
## DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATE.

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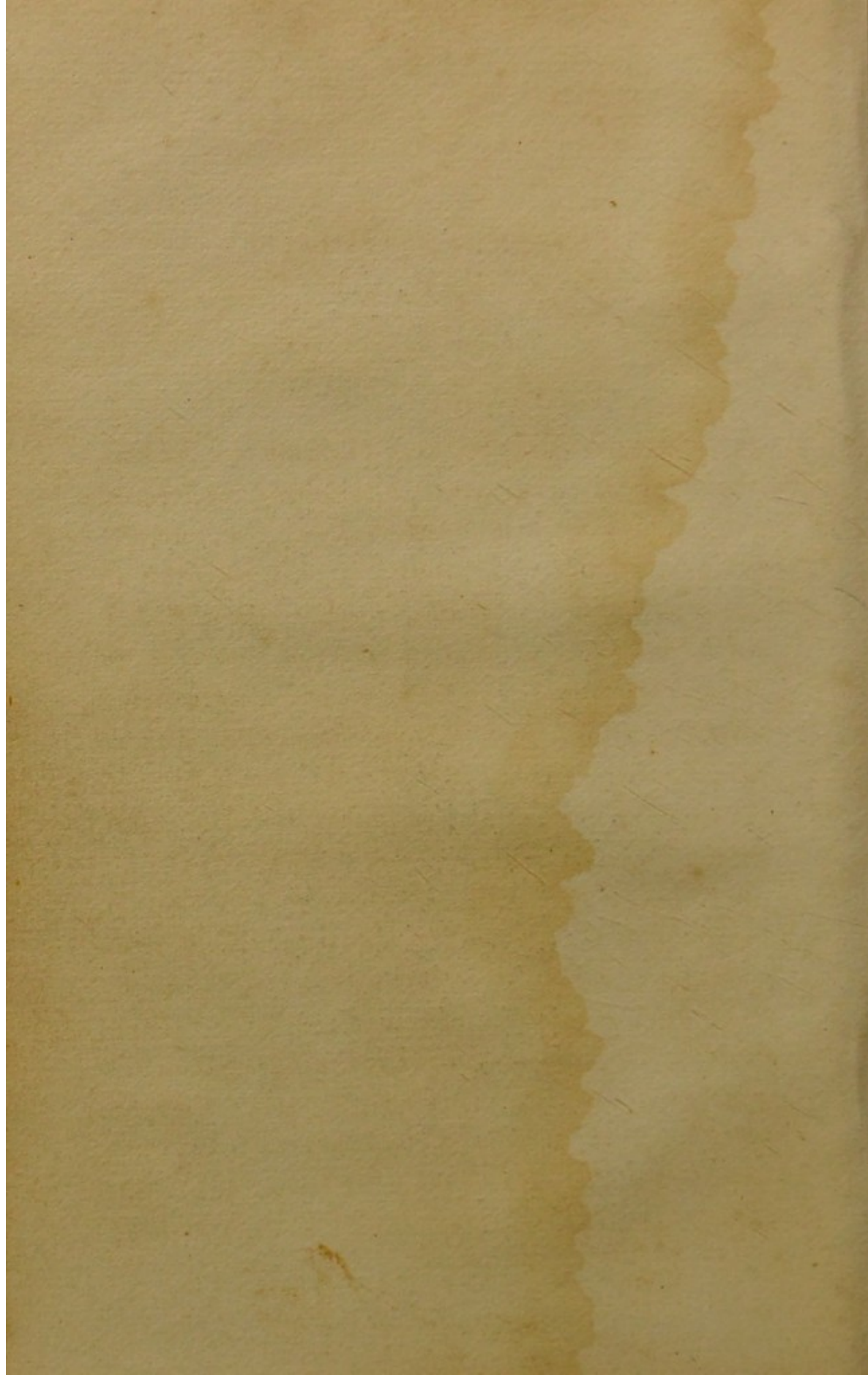
1. The Larynx.
  2. The Internal Jugular Vein.
  3. The Subclavian Vein.
  4. The Vena Cava Descendens.
  5. The Right Auricle of the Heart.
  6. The Right Ventricle.
  7. Part of the Left Ventricle.
  8. The Aorta Ascendens.
  9. The Arteria Pulmonalis.
  10. The Right Lobes of the Lungs, part of which is cut off to shew the great Blood Vessels.
  11. The Left Lobe of the Lungs.
  12. The Diaphragm.
  13. *a.* and *b.* The Right and Left Lobes of the Liver.
  14. The Ligamentum Rotundum.
  15. The Gall Bladder.
  16. The Stomach pressed by the Liver towards the left side.
  17. The Spleen.
  18. The Intestines.
  19. The Bladder.
  20. The Pancreas.
  21. One of the Kidneys.
- } Situated behind the Liver  
and Stomach.



# THE THORACIC AND ABDOMINAL VISCERA.









## INTRODUCTION.

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AT the particular request of Professor Aldini, about eight years since, I publicly addressed him, and gave him an account of the successful results of my constitutional treatment of various disorders by Galvanism. In that letter I expressed a decided opinion, that though the *local* application of Galvanism in secondary diseases, as gutta serena, deafness, etc., had in my practice been attended with great advantage, yet the ordinary practice of directing that influence to the effects instead of the causes of disease, had often disappointed the hopes of the patients as well as that of the mechanical operator; and that the advantages of Galvanism, as a topical remedy, are infinitely less than those derived from its constitutional application to the primary causes of disease. Even a slight knowledge of the animal economy may convince any one, that a whole train of minor ailments may be distinctly traced to a derangement of



the system; and that, by healing an affected part only, a patient may obtain a transient and hectic bloom of health, while an occult disease may be insidiously undermining the constitution, and be preparing a certain, though slow and unperceived dissolution. I also stated to the professor that the disorders, in which I had most beneficially used the galvanic influence, were the complaints of the stomach, liver and bowels, nervous debility, paralysis, deafness, blindness, etc., and that the most remarkable recoveries had been effected in the worst cases of these maladies, after the failure of repeated courses of mercurials, nitro-muriatic acid-baths, chlorine, and all other means which were likely to effect a cure: and that several patients, who had laboured under various chronic diseases for twenty years, had been relieved and even cured; which proved beyond all doubt that galvanic agency, when medically employed, possesses sanative powers that are really extraordinary. These important facts were even then well known to some of the faculty, and, through the connections of the patients, to a large portion of the public. From a successful though at that time a short experience of the efficacy of Galvanism, as a constitutional remedy, I fully expressed my conviction, that great benefit would



result from a more extensive trial of that agent as a medical remedy; that it was too powerful to be either indiscriminately or incautiously applied; and that its successful administration must depend on a knowledge of the seat of the disease, the peculiarities of the malady, and the constitutional energy of the patient: for, unless these things were properly attended to, Galvanism, with all its invaluable utility to mankind, would be brought into disrepute by the clamours of *interested* opponents and the ignorance of pretended friends. It will now be seen by the perusal of the subjoined cases whether or not my anticipations of benefit from galvanic agency be realized, and whether or not the galvanic influence be justly entitled to the character of one of the most important and beneficial branches of medical science discovered in modern times.

Having already given a full statement, under the respective heads of various diseases, in my recent work on "Galvanism," I shall now detail some of the most remarkable cases, as practical illustrations of the remedial powers of Galvanism, and of the auxiliary remedies which I employ in my practice. Some of these cases, with the names and residences of the



parties, have been long before the public, and have stood the test of the strictest inquiry; and the others, of a more recent date, will equally prove the efficacy of my treatment. Though I have been requested by many respectable patients to publish their cases with their addresses, I decline doing so because it is unnecessary, as I can at any time prove the correctness of my statements by a reference to the parties; and because I wish to avoid giving unnecessary trouble to those individuals, whose names and residences I have already published; and, moreover, I consider that neither my professional nor personal reputation requires individual testimonies to verify the additional cases which I shall communicate in the following pages.



CASES  
OF DISORDERS OF THE  
DIGESTIVE ORGANS.

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*Extract of a Letter from D. W—, Esq.,  
Surgeon, late of Leatherhead.*

“U. W—, a middle-aged and unmarried female, of a spare habit, sallow and emaciated, for almost twenty-five years had been constantly ill, and during the greater part of that time had been under medical care. She had consulted the most eminent practitioners in town, and had strictly attended to their directions, without receiving any permanent benefit. The following were the symptoms of her disorder:—loss of appetite, flatulence, acid eructations, sickness, lowness of spirits, coldness of the hands and feet, disturbed sleep, and great weakness of the limbs. She had also been jaundiced twice; since which she had felt great



pain in the right side and violent spasms in the stomach. Her bowels were always confined; and, during the whole period of her illness, she had suffered much from irregularity and obstruction. The tongue appeared white and furred, the pulse was feeble, and the skin dry without perspiration."

The effects produced by Galvanism were extraordinary. She experienced a most agreeable sensation of warmth after the first and second application, was much exhilarated and walked home to the Minories, feeling no fatigue from the exertion; she slept well and awoke refreshed. The spasm was relieved, the appetite improved, and she felt generally warm and comfortable. On the third visit she was not so well; the fatigue of walking from the Minories and back again was too much for her. She rested two days to recruit her strength, and after the fourth application of Galvanism, she made rapid progress and perfectly recovered. She continues to enjoy such a state of health and spirits as she has not had for the last five and twenty years. She was galvanized but six times, and the only medicines she had recourse to were a little rhubarb and magnesia, which never before acted on the bowels,



but became powerfully purgative after she was galvanized; since the discontinuance of which, she never had occasion for any medicine whatever.

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A married lady, of fortune, who had from her childhood laboured under dyspeptic affections and disordered respiration, had been for five months labouring under anasarca dropsy; the digestive organs were in a state of the greatest disorder, the stomach could retain no food, and she had for several days constantly vomited every thing she ate and drank. The alvine secretions indicated the absence of biliary action. The tongue was foul, the pulse quick and feeble, and the whole system seemed to be rapidly sinking under the accumulated load of disease; nausea, vomiting and faintness, with restlessness and the urgent paroxysms of acute pain in the limbs, were symptoms of which she complained.

After the first application of Galvanism the lady immediately felt greatly relieved, and the vomiting ceased. The second application having removed nausea, she ate with appetite and digested her food. After the third application,



she slept soundly and was refreshed by rest ; her bowels became active ; she no longer had any faintness, but was able to take carriage exercise for several hours in the day without fatigue. The few subsequent visits I made her afforded me the greatest pleasure in observing the extraordinary good effects of the galvanic influence in restoring the tone of the stomach and bowels, and in producing a rapid recovery of the digestive organs without the aid of any medicine whatever.

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In March, 1822, a nobleman, who was under the care of an eminent physician, was sent to me for a trial of Galvanism. This patient was about thirty years of age, of a very pale complexion and nervous temperament, and had been for a considerable time suffering from indigestion, costiveness and laborious breathing, and other dyspeptic symptoms. He also complained of sharp pains about his breast, to which a blister was applied : his tongue was much furred ; his pulse feeble and quick. Galvanism was administered for ten days, after which the patient made progressive recovery ; and its further continuance for a week produced



very decided results. The stomach and bowels freely performed their functions; the breathing became perfectly easy; the pains of the breast left him; he fully regained his health and continues well.

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P. C——, esq. barrister at law, late of the Inner Temple, in the month of September, 1822, applied to me for relief from a very great derangement of the digestive organs, attended with an extraordinary prostration of strength that unfitted him for the least exercise of walking. His stomach was in a state of great irritation; he had a craving appetite that was, as he expressed it, never satisfied; and every thing he ate turned sour and occasioned heartburn. The bowels were most obstinately confined; the evacuations pale to a degree, indicating defective secretion of bile; the urine was also colourless; he required two ounces of castor oil as an aperient to produce even a gentle motion; his pulse was extremely feeble and variable, and his system was in a state of such complete disorder, that he was unfit to pursue his professional duties, not only from extreme depression of corporeal strength and animal spirits, but also from the confused state



of his mind, loss of memory, and incapability of fixing his attention to the subject matter of his professional avocation. His disorder, though of short continuance, had increased rapidly, and threatened fearful results.

The means of cure were, mild aperients with an alkali, a generous diet, and the application of Galvanism which was made daily for about a fortnight, and afterwards occasionally. From this treatment the patient began to recover rapidly; the morbid irritation of the stomach was subdued; the liver performed its functions with increased activity; all the secretions became natural and healthy, and the pulse strong and full; the nervous irritation ceased; the strength was regained, and the animal spirits returned with an equal flow; while the mental capability was perfectly restored in the period of about six weeks. Since the middle of January, 1823, he has never had occasion to take any aperient medicine; and, notwithstanding he has been much in society, has made a liberal use of luxurious dishes and choice wines, his health has been perfectly re-established, and he is gone out to Madras to practice as a barrister.

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J. H——, esq., about fifty years of age, of a full habit of body, had, from a long residence in a hot climate, frequently experienced acute liver disease, which at last terminated in a chronic affection of the organ, attended with torpor of the abdominal viscera. The stomach was disordered, the bowels confined, and the head affected with vertigo for which he had been frequently cupped. The peculiar complaint for which he sought my aid was a constant head-ache in the evenings, and which had never remitted even one day for ten years.

I commenced the galvanic course as a constitutional remedy, having first freely evacuated the bowels. In one week the head-ache left him, and in about one month's occasional use of Galvanism he lost all his dyspeptic and hepatic symptoms. He continues to this day to enjoy the benefits he had derived from Galvanism about seven years ago.

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A middle-aged married lady had for twelve years, without the exception of a single day, suffered severely, for some hours in the course of every day, from a dull, heavy pain in the



right side in the region of the liver. This peculiar ailment was attended with habitual constipation. Her appearance was healthy, and neither the pulse nor tongue indicated any material derangement of the system. All the medical means had for years been employed under the direction of the ablest physicians in the metropolis.

Ten applications of Galvanism removed the pain from the side, and gave a new action to the diseased parts. The liver then freely performed its functions, the bowels acted with perfect regularity, and the use of all aperient medicines was superseded. The patient has ever since continued to be free from the disorder and enjoys a sound state of health.

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A young lady, of plethoric habit, for four years suffered greatly from a disordered state of the liver. Her digestion was ill performed; her bowels occasionally very relax, at other times very costive. Sometimes the chronic inflammation of the liver assumed an acute character, and at other times the biliary secretion was defective or vitiated, as appeared from the



discharges of the bowels. Various acute flying pains in different parts of the body afflicted the patient; the tongue was highly furred, the pulse quick and irritable. She felt an extreme soreness in the regions of the stomach and liver, and had repeatedly experienced violent spasmodic attacks from obstruction of bile.

In the first instance I directed the application of leeches to the parts affected, which afforded considerable relief. I then employed Galvanism for seven operations, which not only removed every sore and tender feeling in those parts, but restored the action of the liver. The constipation was removed, and every painful and uneasy feeling immediately subsided.

I have lately seen these patients, and have had the satisfaction to learn from them that they continued perfectly well.

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A middle-aged Lady, of a robust form and of a sanguine temperament, had for several years laboured under a disordered state of the digestive organs. The stomach was greatly



affected by violent pains, flatulence, spasm, nausea, and vomiting. The biliary secretions were frequently obstructed, vitiated, and defective, while the bowels required the daily aid of powerful purgatives to assist their action. The alimentary canal being extremely deranged, a long train of nervous affections ensued; such as lowness of spirits, head-ache, and determination of blood to the head. The uterine system also suffered from obstruction, and she became hysterical.

She had, for some years, been constantly attended by a very respectable practitioner, and had had the advice of physicians. Under their direction, mercurials, purgatives, tonics, etc., were administered, and for some time the daily use of the *vital air* inhaled, without producing any other effect than that of mere temporary relief; in short, she obtained no decided benefit from the treatment which had thus, for so long a time, been employed. Judging from her general appearance, the state of the tongue and pulse, and the presence of most of those symptoms which she named, I employed Galvanism, about seven years since, with alkalines, mild aperients, and the occasional use of a foot-bath. The good



effects of this plan were prompt and decisive. After fourteen applications of Galvanism, the process was discontinued. The tone of the digestive organs was restored in a few days after her first attendance. The bowels performed their functions with healthy regularity. The obstruction was completely removed, and the nervous system invigorated, and she was freed from the morbid sensibilities which had long oppressed her. Several months after the cure, I was favoured with a letter from this lady, communicating the pleasing intelligence of her renovated health, in the most *positive* and flattering terms, and she still continues to enjoy excellent health.

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Mr. R. L——, became my patient on the 13th of May, 1818. He said, that in the year 1811, being then forty years of age, he began to feel many disagreeable symptoms of indigestion. His disease soon after rapidly increased, and his stomach became constantly oppressed with acidity, flatulence, sour eructation and hiccup, accompanied also with violent pains in the right shoulder and side, breast, and spine, and a variety of other distressing



feelings, which he could not easily describe; shortly after he was suddenly attacked by a palsy of the right side. In this state he called in medical aid, and a judicious active treatment relieved the paralysis; but all the subsequent means to restore the *tone* of the digestive organs failed of success. Mr. L. then consulted several of the most eminent physicians, who unanimously pronounced his case to be a liver disease, and put him on repeated courses of mercurials, in various forms, which only produced an aggravation of his stomach complaint, and an extreme irritation of his nervous system. Having continued some time in this precarious state of health, and despairing of a cure by the remedies in common use, he consulted me on the applicability of Galvanism to his case. When I first saw him he appeared extremely sallow. He complained of indigestion, habitual costiveness, pains in the region of the liver and kidneys, and other symptoms attendant on dyspepsia and chronic hepatitis. Judging that Galvanism would prove beneficial, I commenced its application on the 18th of May, 1818, and continued it regularly for seventeen days, with the occasional use of a little rhubarb and magnesia; and at the expiration of that time



I dismissed the patient, when I found his appetite was fully regained, his stomach free from disordered feelings, the liver performing its office, the bowels being quite regular, all pain removed, and every ailment eradicated. I have repeatedly seen him since, and last, on the 16th instant, when he assured me, that, from the time he had desisted from the Galvanism, he has had no return whatever of his complaints ; but, on the contrary, that he had acquired a higher degree of health and spirits than he had ever before enjoyed. Thus, after a lapse of more than *nine years*, this patient bears testimony to the *permanence* of the benefit he has derived from the treatment I adopted. He declares, that, after having had recourse to other medical advice of the best description, during the long period of *seven years of severe indisposition*, without obtaining any decided relief, he was restored to perfect health by the remedies I had administered, in the course of *seventeen days*, within which time he had only *thirteen* applications of Galvanism.

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A Gentleman, about thirty years of age,



for more than ten years, suffered extremely from a torpor of the liver and constipation of the bowels. The stomach too had been in a state of chronic inflammation, and the whole train of dyspeptic symptoms was experienced by the patient from time to time. The tongue was white and furred, pulse low and slow, extremities exceedingly cold, and the skin constricted and irritable.

Every thing that medicine and diet could do, had been tried without any benefit. He had also made several long voyages for the removal of his complaint, but without success.

The first application of Galvanism produced immediate benefit. This remedy was repeated for three weeks with the greatest advantage—purgatives were discontinued after the first week, as the biliary secretions and a regular state of the bowels were effected by galvanic agency. At the end of this short period, the patient went into the country for a month, and then returned to town in a state of perfect health.

A too great corporeal and mental exertion, a change of habit by no means favour-



able to the re-establishment of health, and exposure to cold, brought on a slight obstruction of the bowels. He then called on me again, and was induced to employ the Galvanism for a few days, which fully restored the tone of his digestive organs, and he now continues to enjoy perfect health.

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T. F——, Esq. was recommended to me by an eminent country practitioner, with the following statement of his case, dated 28th July, 1820. “Mr. F. has not been in good health for years, having always more or less of stomach derangement, indigestion, irregular bowels, vitiated appetite, and affected with wandering pains and misplaced gout. In November, 1819, he became very feverish, with oppressed breathing and great uneasiness in his right side, and symptoms which pointed out inflammation of the liver, for which he was bled freely, and such means were used as I judged efficient and proper in his case. After the inflammatory diathesis had subsided, he went through a regular course of mercury, with a proper attention to the excretions of the bowels, by judicious purges; and this was



particularly necessary, as the excretions were always faulty and clay-coloured, and the urine highly coloured, and what is commonly called bilious. The use of mercury brought on a complete attack of gout in his feet, and the ankle joints suffered much from the inflammation and deposit of lymph, etc. Mr. F. has still great stiffness and weakness in the ancles, and cannot take his usual exercise, neither does the liver at present secrete any active bile. He is now recommended horse and walking exercise, attention to diet, and the regular discharge from his bowels is secured by a pill composed of the blue pill and rhubarb, in equal parts. All the minutiae of his disease he is well able to describe to you, and I have here pointed out only the leading features of his case. I have recommended him to consult you upon the propriety of the galvanic stimulus to the liver and the neighbouring parts subservient to digestion, and the Air-pump Vapour-bath to his crippled ankle joints. He is quite willing to follow your directions, and in your hands I leave him, in full confidence of your skill."

This patient was about sixty years of age, and of a sanguine temperament. I judged that the



employment of Galvanism would be productive of great benefit in the improvement of his general health, as well as in the removal of his gouty affection. In this I was not mistaken, as appeared by the result of a short trial. In the first instance he had recourse to a dose of castor oil; and the galvanic excitement frequently repeated, from the 1st to the 29th August, with the occasional aid of rhubarb and the carbonate of soda, fully restored the tone of the stomach, produced a regular action of the liver and bowels, without any other medicine whatever, and the strength of the ankle joints was regained, without having recourse to the local application of the Air-pump Vapour-bath. The benefit obtained by Mr. F. was not transient; for, several months after he left me, I received a letter from him, giving me the pleasing information that his digestive functions were quite restored, that his liver and bowels were brought into perfect regularity, that his gouty pains had altogether left him, and that he continued to enjoy a robust state of health. I have recently seen him in town, when he again confirmed the fact of his continued enjoyment of health and strength.

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S. M——, Esq. about forty-three years of age, became my patient on the 21st of April, 1824. His case was indigestion and torpid liver, attended with loss of strength and spirits amounting to a high degree of melancholy. This complicated disorder he had laboured under about eleven years, during which period he had attended some of the leading physicians and surgeons, without experiencing, as he stated, "the slightest relief." After having tried various medical remedies, visited the different watering places for change of air and scene, and after trying the most active mercurial treatment in vain, he was strongly recommended to me by a gentleman residing in the Borough, attached to one of the hospitals, who had been a patient of mine, and had recovered by my plan of treatment. On Mr. M.'s first visit to me, he appeared to be in a most desponding state. The mind had lost all hope, though he was of a sanguine temperament, and he had a strong and quick pulse. His spirits were depressed beyond measure, the tongue was much furred, and the bowels always costive without medicine, to which he was obliged to have recourse in order to obtain any relief; his appetite was impaired, his complexion sallow, his skin



parched, and his perspiration checked; the urine was turbid, depositing a red sediment: in short, from the appearance of the contents of the bowels, with other secretions, there was every indication of a premature decay, and a speedy termination of his days. In this case I employed the galvanic influence, with the occasional aid of a little rhubarb and soda; and in the course of three weeks and three days the patient perfectly recovered. He regained his general health, was restored to his wonted flow of animal spirits, and acquired a greater degree of corporeal vigour than he had ever before experienced. Mr. M. has, ever since he attended me, enjoyed perfect health; and, in February, 1824, he called on me to acknowledge, personally, the great benefit he had received, after having written to me the following letter:—

“ January the 19th, 1825.

“ Dear Sir,

“ I cannot help laying before you the particulars of the benefit I received from your treatment of Galvanism. Having laboured under an inflammation in the chest, with a turbid liver, and all the symptoms of debility attending such a case, I continued



upwards of ten years without obtaining the slightest relief, though attended by a celebrated physician and an eminent surgeon, together with my own family apothecary. I am fully satisfied that these gentlemen did every thing in their power to afford me relief, though without effect. They recommended my travelling, for the benefit of different air. I accordingly visited, I believe, all the watering places in England, but did not reap the smallest benefit. Having returned home in December, 1822, I was confined to my house for nearly three months, and, after that time, finding myself able to venture abroad, I dined with a friend in the Borough. A gentleman present, seeing my distressed situation, strongly recommended me to make trial of your mode of treatment, he having been perfectly restored to health from a similar disorder. On the 21st April, 1823, I waited on you, and you told me that mine was a case which you thought might be relieved by Galvanism; and after being under your care to the 17th of May following, which was the last time you deemed it necessary for me to attend you, I went to Brighton, where I remained for six weeks; and, thanks to God and you, I am now able to undergo any fatigue, and



am as well or better than I have been for the last twenty years.

“ I beg to remain your obedient Servant,  
S. M.”

I have heard from this Gentleman a few weeks ago : he has continued to enjoy uninterrupted health ever since he obtained recovery from the course of Galvanism.

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*Copy of a Letter from Wm. M——, M.D., of the Royal College of Physicians, London, to Mr. La Beaume. (Published in a Medical Journal.)*

Dear Sir,

I willingly send you the details of Mr. R——’s case, with such hasty and imperfect observations as my present numerous occupations enable me only to give you. I will, on some future occasion, give you my observations more at large upon the interesting subject, accompanied with such further remarks on the excellence of your galvanic treatment, as may, I trust, contribute to bring it into such notice as to secure that patronage and reputation which it so eminently deserves. In much haste,

I remain, Sir, your’s faithfully,  
November 3, 1818. W. M——.



“ W. R——, Esq., aged about forty-four, returned from the East Indies, eighteen years since, with a morbid affection of the liver, which he had contracted in that country.

“ He had used mercury largely, with the ordinary treatment of the country in similar cases, but with little or no advantage ; and on his return to his native air it was again recommended to him by his medical attendants, as the only probable means of effecting his recovery.

“ During the space of two or three years, the enlarged state of the liver was somewhat abated and softened ; but a considerable degree of torpor remained in that organ, accompanied with loss of appetite, flatulency, and the ordinary train of dyspeptic symptoms, of which the most troublesome was a constant and very obstinate constipation of the bowels, whose functions required to be continually excited by rhubarb, aloes, and other aperient medicines.

“ It was about this period of the disease that I first saw him. There was a return of the tension, and pain of the right hypochondrium,



the latter following the course of the phrenic nerves, and extending itself to the shoulders, which, together with the neighbouring muscles of the chest, were continually more or less painfully affected.

“According to the system of Dr. Girdlestone and others, the most eminent authors on the subject of hepatitis, I again had recourse to mercury, accompanied by stomachic medicines, which were used, for a considerable time, with no greater advantage than the palliation of some of the more urgent symptoms.

“The torpid state of the liver seemed to be unchanged, and the indolent condition of the bowels resulting from it still required the constant repetition of opening medicines, without the aid of which the functions of the alimentary canal seemed to be perfectly suspended. This torpor appeared to extend itself to the lymphatic system of vessels, of which there was sufficient evidence in the general emaciation of the body, and the debility necessarily produced by defective nutrition.

“These general palliative means continued to be adopted with unequal but partial, and



always temporary relief *only*, till towards the summer of the present year, when business called me into Scotland, and, for a time, I lost sight of this interesting and alarming case.

“About the period above alluded to, Mr. R. was advised to try the application of the Galvanism, as administered by you; and I am informed, that very little medicine was used during the progress of these operations for the space of six weeks, under your immediate superintendence, the effects of which have been little less than marvellous.

“Upon my return from Scotland, a month since, I found Mr. R. in a state, which, compared with that in which I had been in the habit of seeing him for a series of years, and in which I left him nearly a year before, might be pronounced to be a state of robust health. The enlargement of the hypochondrium has totally disappeared, together with the pains of the shoulder and chest; his appetite is completely restored, and his digestion is perfectly well performed; while the constipated state of the bowels, which had resisted with extraordinary obstinacy all other means, has been so per-



fectly subdued by the galvanic operation, that their functions are now performed with perfect regularity, so that no laxative medicine has been required since the first three or four weeks of its salutary application.

“ It would exceed the limits which I have prescribed to myself in relating the history of this extraordinary case, as well as the very remarkable and unexpected favourable termination of it, were I to enter into observations upon its details. This will be the subject of some future communication, when I shall have more time to render it the justice which is due to it: in the mean time, sufficient has been said to announce the very favourable opinion which I entertain of the operation of Galvanism, when judiciously applied in similar cases; and, indeed, of its great superiority over all the other means, which a practice of more than thirty years in all the climates of Europe has enabled me to observe.

“ W. M——.”

“ P.S.—I heard with great satisfaction, a few months ago, that Mr. R. continued well.”



*Extract of a Letter from Mr. H. M—, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, to Mr. La Beaume, published in a Medical Journal.*

“ Dear Sir,

“ Mr. J. W—, about forty-five years of age and of regular habits, first came under my notice in June, 1815, when he reported himself to have been ill twenty years. The history of his disorder he very imperfectly related, stating only that its commencement was insidious, and not traceable to the operation of any known cause. At the period of my first visit, he complained of extreme pain in the right hypochondria extending towards the left, and travelling more or less over the whole interior part of the abdomen, which was tense and painful to the touch, unattended, however, by any acceleration of the pulse, general increased heat of the skin, or altered appearance of the tongue; there was no disposition to vomiting, and the bowels had answered very freely to the exhibition of the calomel pill. The evacuations from the bowels were extremely offensive, knotty, and of a dark complexion; whilst the urine was scanty and highly coloured. He complained likewise



of an acute pain in the head, occasioning at times a great confusion of intellect. This assemblage of symptoms, which continued several days, gradually declined, leaving a dull pain in the head, and also in the right hypochondrium, as well as a sensation of tightness across the abdomen. He then displayed a capricious appetite, complained of restless nights, a costive state of the bowels, a prevalence of acid in the stomach, a feeling of weariness, and great general debility. After a short time the same distressing train of symptoms recurred. Being in affluent circumstances, Mr. W. has sought every source likely to afford a remedy for his disease, and he had placed himself under the care of eight of the most eminent practitioners, and paid the most scrupulous attention to their dictates.

“ To enumerate generally the means employed, it may be sufficient to mention the warm bath, local bleedings, perpetual blistering, salivation, and continued purging; whilst among individual medicines it may be worth while to notice opium, musk, sub-nitras argenti, oxidum bismuthi, and the nitro-muriatic bath, of these the warm bath appeared to do the most good; local bleeding relieved



a little, whilst blistering proved inefficient; salivation impaired his memory to an alarming degree, without altering the morbid actions, and purging only increased his debility; opium aggravated the symptoms, musk was useless, the sub-nitras argenti appeared to lengthen the intervals, whilst the oxyd of bismuth and nitro-muriatic bath were perfectly inert.

“ Believing that the symptoms of Mr. W.’s case were supported by a torpid condition of the chylopoietic viscera, and finding that the diseased actions did not yield to the measures which had been adopted, I was induced to recommend the more powerful influence of Galvanism, in consequence of your having communicated to me several cases of a similar nature in which you had employed that remedy with extraordinary advantage. I therefore transferred Mr. W. to your care, and was much pleased to observe, that in the space of three weeks he derived that benefit which medicine had failed to produce. It may not be improper to state, that, during that period he received fourteen applications of the Galvanism. Two months have now elapsed since Mr. W. ceased to receive the galvanic process, and when I saw him a few days since, he was in a state of



perfect health. Such is the history of Mr. W.'s case, and I trust I have not omitted any circumstance of importance which occurred to me during the period of my attendance.

“ I remain, dear Sir, your's truly,  
 “ October 25, 1818. H. M——.”

This patient, I am happy to say, has derived permanent benefit, and continues in excellent health.

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*Extract of a Letter from the Rev. C. M——,  
 to Mr. La Beaume.*

“ My dear Sir,

“ My best acknowledgments are due to you for your's of the 2d. instant. The high professional abilities you have evinced to the most intelligent part of the public, and the sound principles by which I am persuaded you are actuated in applying those abilities and principles to practice, are above any eulogium of mine. I have no doubt but all your patients, with whom I have conversed during my attendances, are ready to come forward and acknowledge the essential benefits they have derived from your operations. As to my own case,



viz, *sciatica*, and *torpor of the liver*, it is a duty I owe both to you and to society, to set forth such details as you may judge worth inserting amongst others; though I have already communicated my own and other important cases of cure, on every occasion, by letters into different parts of the country, and verbally near my own residence, having met with many persons like myself, who had not so much as heard of you. You cannot but recollect the cause of my first interview with you was, that I accidentally mentioned to Mr. Henry's brother, that I was going to enquire after a remedy strongly recommended to me for what was termed a rheumatic gout, under which I had suffered for many years, when that gentleman put into my hands your pamphlet, accompanied with an assurance that Mr. H. had been cured by the author. This induced me to call upon you immediately. During my fortnight's visit for the galvanic operations, I accompanied in the stage many very respectable neighbours, one gentleman in particular almost every time, who observed the progress I made, for at the beginning of my attendances I had great difficulty in climbing the steps of the coach: one day in particular, the passengers were so obliging as to exert their strength in assisting



the coachman to raise me. I had reason to believe, that a few more galvanic operations alone might have perfectly relieved me of the sciatica, had it not been for the constitutional difficulty I have generally experienced of exciting perspiration in the usual way, whenever I have taken cold: you, therefore, considered it expedient to use the aid of the Air-pump Vapour-bath, to produce that salutary discharge, of which I have felt the benefit ever since, for I feel to this day a genial glow and gentle perspiration never known to me before. Had the fine dry weather continued to permit me to persevere in attending your operations, I have no reason to doubt but a complete cure might have been effected. My sciatica, however, has left me; my liver and bowels perform their functions, and I am now as well as I can expect to be, on just approaching the age of seventy.

“December 4, 1818.

C. M.”

I saw this patient about a fortnight since, and he continued as well as when he left me.

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About the 7th of February, 1824, Mr. D., surgeon, Judd-street, Brunswick-square, requested me to see a patient of his, who was then labouring under a chronic disease of the liver, which had resisted *three* courses of mercury, and which had reduced her to a state of extreme debility. I accordingly accompanied that gentleman to her residence, and, after investigating her case, I gave it as my opinion that Galvanism was the most probable means of removing her disease. Miss B. was then consigned to my care by Mr. D. with a liberality of feeling which did him honour. On the 13th of the same month she paid me the first visit. Her state was then such as did not afford very sanguine hopes of a speedy recovery. Her complexion was extremely sallow, tongue white and furred, pulse feeble and slow, the countenance expressed the extreme languor and depression under which she laboured: she also complained of loss of appetite, and great oppression after eating. She slept very ill, because, on lying down in an horizontal posture, she felt a great pain about the region of the liver and bowels; she also suffered much from costiveness, and was constantly obliged to take aperient medicine to obtain relief. The evacuations indicated great disease of the liver



the last four years, and suffered much from the complaint.

After the first application of Galvanism, she found considerable exhilaration of spirits. A few succeeding operations restored her appetite, which she said became very keen. The bowels began and continued to perform their functions; the pains ceased in the region of the liver; her rest became refreshing; perspiration was restored; her complexion improved in appearance; the glow of health returned on her cheeks; the tongue became clean; the pulse strong and vigorous; and, on the 13th of March, I dismissed her, as she was restored to perfect health and strength.

Miss B. was galvanized but thirteen times, and no other means were adopted, except two or three doses of mild aperients at the commencement of the course. During this curative process, her medical attendant watched her case with great attention and witnessed the progress of her recovery. The following letter was written by him, and addressed to me, as a testimonial of the utility of Galvanism in similar cases.



“ Sir,

“ I send you the previous history of Miss B.'s case, and you have my full consent to use this communication in any way you think proper. The use of Galvanism will in a great measure supersede the immoderate use of mercurials, which is carried to an excess most hurtful to the constitution, and frequently produces consequences more injurious than those it is intended to subdue. As far as I have directed my observations, I am fully satisfied that Galvanism has an action both local and constitutional ; by which means it has the power of balancing the circulating fluids, and lessening the increased afflux of blood to any part of the viscera ; and in Miss B.'s case the immediate application of your philosophical remedy removed, in a most striking manner, that congestion which supported a torpid condition of the chylopoietic viscera, and established the natural and healthy functions of the liver. Having had various opportunities of witnessing similar diseases, from a long residence in a tropical climate, more especially the local and contagious fevers, which have both the same tendency to produce a great determination of blood to the liver or organs contained within the abdominal cavity,



and to terminate in a derangement of their functions with altered and vitiated secretions, attended alternately with diarrhœa and constipated bowels, sciatica, and a general emaciation of constitution arising from chronic inflammation ; I have not the least hesitation in declaring, as my most candid opinion, that the application of Galvanism in those diseases will be found most beneficial, and generally available in the maladies incidental to Europeans from a long residence in hot climates. Without further preface I proceed to the details of Miss B.'s case.

“ On the 16th of December, 1823, I was requested to visit Miss B——, of Pentonville, aged eighteen years, of a phlegmatic temperament and sedentary habits. She had been afflicted with bad health for some time past, and was greatly annoyed by an almost constant pain in the right side extending down the thigh, with a fixed pain between the shoulders ; and, when lying in an horizontal position, great uneasiness of the abdomen, as if pressure were made. She had been subject to frequent bilious attacks ; complaints of the head, as giddiness and pain ; sickness at the stomach, and constant dryness of the skin ; a



full pulse, watery and inflamed eyes, tongue white, furred and parched, with great desire to drink; the edges of the liver thickened, and she felt intolerant pain on the slightest pressure of the right side. I immediately directed sixteen ounces of blood to be taken from the arm, in a full stream, and three grains of calomel with an aperient draught, four hours after, consisting of an infusion of senna, rhubarb, and tartrized kali. At my following visit, I found the bleeding had succeeded in relieving the pain and giddiness of the head; but she still complained of extreme pain in the right hypochondria, extending over the abdomen, with pains between the shoulders which materially affected her breathing. The medicine operated copiously; the evacuations were extremely offensive and the pulse less frequent. The pill and draught were repeated, which again produced a similar effect. Twenty-five leeches were then applied to the right hypochondriac region, and a blister immediately after the leeches had ceased bleeding. Having to attend a patient some miles from town, I had not an opportunity of seeing Miss B. for the two following days. During my absence, my assistant very properly repeated the pill and draught; and, on my next visit, she informed me that she had been instan-



taneously relieved by the leeches and that the blister had risen in large bladders, but still she had a constant inclination to vomit, with pain between the shoulders, and her skin was of a slight yellow tinge. The former medicines were discontinued, and she commenced with the blue pill and rhubarb, combined in quantities to act gently on the bowels. She continued these and other means for nearly two months, tonics as well as alteratives, with little or no advantage. An evacuation of the bowels was kept up with the infusion of gentian and sulphate of magnesia, but I could by no means establish the healthy functions of the liver primarily affected by congestion, being the immediate cause of that torpidity of the *pori biliiarii*. She had been three times under the influence of mercury, which had reduced her to extreme debility, and I consider it to have been tried to its fullest extent. The perusal of your successful and interesting cases made me sanguine in recommending Miss B. to your care, and I feel truly happy to find my expectation so satisfactorily realized, and her recovery so speedily accomplished. She began to derive advantage and improve in health and appearance, even from the first application of Galvanism; and is now perfectly restored to



health. Wishing you a long continuance of similar success,

I remain, Sir, your obedient Servant,

A. D.

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On the 21st of July, 1818, an officer of rank in the royal navy was recommended to my care by an eminent physician residing in my neighbourhood. On my first interview with 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, which prevented him from taking requisite exercise. His medical friend wished the patient to try the effect of Electricity, and, considering 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 applied 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 arose 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 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 about nineteen years, had been actively engaged on foreign stations, particularly in the West Indies. During the time he resided in that climate he had several attacks of the fevers common to the country, and many severe fits of illness of a bilious kind; and, after one of



these, he became a constant invalid. I found his liver affected with chronic inflammation and considerably enlarged, its secretions defective, and his bowels costive. Lum-  
bago and sciatica had ensued as alternate maladies, and he was seldom free from either the one or the other.

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, etc., were all more or less 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 was 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 had 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 having his mouth affected; 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 temporary relief.

In this case, as well as many others, I conceived that nothing could relieve the patient from the consequent 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 latter end of the same month; making, in all, nineteen applications. By this time the liver regularly performed its office and the bowels required no excitement—the secretions became healthful—perspiration and appetite were regained—digestion was well performed—the distention of the abdomen was removed, its bulk being 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, produced by the complaint, prevented the patient from taking that share of exercise which he required, I resolved to employ the Air-pump Vapour-bath; and 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 soon to render the use of the Air-pump Vapour-bath no longer necessary.

On the following morning he declared himself free from any remains of his complaint, and took his leave of me. 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, who have 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 Scotland, and on his return to London, he 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 a perfect state of health; that he had long ago thrown aside every restraint of diet; and had, during his stay in that country, been exposed to a northern climate, and heavy rains, yet neither the lumbago, nor the 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.

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Mr. H——, about forty years of age, of a sanguine temperament, and of regular habits, had been afflicted with a violent pain in the right shoulder and arm, for more than four years. The affection was supposed to be an attack of acute rheumatism, for which his me-



dical attendant tried bleeding and other means, without producing any beneficial effect. The pains, with little intermission, continued to harrass him, and from which he suffered great torture, especially at night.

This patient also suffered much from a disordered state of the digestive organs. He commenced a course of Galvanism on the 29th 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 produced the desired effects,—relief from pain, and the removal of the contraction : after three applications of the bath, he 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.

It must be observed, the constitutional disease was first cured, and then the local disease was



subdued. The benefit this patient derived has been lasting, and he has ever since enjoyed a state of perfect health.

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A young lady was confided to my care, by an eminent practitioner in town, on the 1st of February, 1821. Her case was a singular one, as she had not the consciousness of any other malady, than that of a local debility of the muscles of the upper part of the left thigh, which rendered her incapable of walking, or even of standing, without considerable pain. The tonic plan of treatment and rubbing had, for many months, been followed without success. Fully persuaded that the disorder originated in the alimentary canal, I employed the Galvanism to restore the functions of the digestive organs. This being accomplished, the muscular strength was much improved. Two applications of the Air-pump Vapour-bath procured copious perspiration, and restored the balance of circulation in the affected limb. I then directed the galvanic influence as a topical remedy; and, after five applications of that agent, she assured me that she had fully regained the strength of her leg; and that, as a



proof of it, she had the night before attended a ball, and danced the greater part of the time without fatigue, and without having experienced any bad effects the following day. Being fully satisfied of her perfect recovery, I dismissed the patient, who still continues to enjoy the benefit she obtained from the plan which I pursued six years ago.

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T. L——y, Esq. barrister at law, about forty years of age and of a sanguine temperament, had for some years suffered from a great derangement of the abdominal viscera, and particularly from a diseased liver. His complexion was very yellow; his skin tinged with bile; his tongue much furred; and his pulse very feeble and oppressed; his appetite was much impaired; his digestion was ill performed; his bowels were costive; and his nights restless.

Although endued with a very superior mind and strong judgment, his spirits were often so much depressed, as to overpower his reason; and so great was his despondency, from the morbid state of his nervous system, that (as he



often said), had it not been for his firm belief in divine revelation, he would have, long ago, put an end to his miserable existence.

In this case I employed the Galvanism, with the occasional use of mild aperients, for about three months with great benefit; and, after suspending its use for many months, I renewed its use for a short time before my patient returned abroad; but it must be observed, that, during the period of this treatment, he had to endure a succession of the most painful family afflictions; and the Galvanism was therefore administered under the most unfavourable circumstances (especially from the extreme susceptibility of a nervous system weakened by disease), yet it succeeded beyond all reasonable hope, as is proved in the following extract from a letter that I received from him, dated Paramana, Surinam, February 3rd, 1825.

“ You will, I fear, before this, have set me down as ungrateful in not sooner acquainting you with the benefits which I continue to derive from your professional attentions during my late visit to England. For a great portion of the first period of my service here, between



three and four years, I am convinced from my sensations that there was an adhesion of the liver to some part of my side, or of the pleura; and the hepatic functions, in consequence, were altogether so completely deranged, that I could not, as I told you, go on without calomel for two days together, using the mercurial ointment to my side externally, as well as taking the pills. I need not dilate to you on the cruel martyrdom, the suicidal sufferings of my condition, from a complaint of such a nature and progress here, under an almost vertical sun, in the pestilential swamps of Guiana. If the government had not kindly indulged me with a leave of absence, I could not have survived six months longer. With scarcely strength enough left for embarkation, I took my passage for Europe, and immediately on my arrival in London waited upon you, as I had been recommended to do before I sailed; since which, although during the whole period of my stay in England my mind was kept in a state of agitation by a succession of private afflictions, that would scarcely allow any medical prescription a fair trial, I have been gradually on the mend; and even since my return here I have continued to derive such benefit from your administration of Galvanism,



that I have never had recourse to calomel, and seldom occasion for any medicine at all. I feel the climate, in other respects, as oppressive as ever, and it keeps me in a constant state of low fever, which deprives me of all sleep by night, except in snatches of half an hour, and necessarily of all strength in the day ; and I have been afraid lately that it was beginning again to affect the action of the bowels ; but I have succeeded in galvanizing myself with the batteries which you were so good as to provide for me ; and I think with as much benefit as I derived from the Galvanism when administered by you.

“ We have lately lost another member of the court for the adjudication of slave ships, in which I have the situation of judge. This loss leaves me the only one surviving of the four original commissioners appointed in 1819. It is, I am afraid, therefore beyond all reasonable hope that I should survive another three years, steaming in this kettle of miasma ; but, if I should, I shall certainly, in a great measure if not wholly, ascribe it to the service you rendered me whilst in England.”

The facts here detailed are strong evidences



of the beneficial effects of Galvanism, even under a most unfavourable climate. I have very lately heard with the greatest satisfaction that my worthy patient was in the enjoyment of good health and spirits, and that as he was preparing to return home, he is expected to arrive in town this month.

An eminent practitioner 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 was 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 before he became my patient, he had been under the care of the medical gentleman who recommended him to me. 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 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 diaphoresis was produced, which continued for some time, and afforded 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 Galva-



nism, and for the fourth time had recourse to the Air-pump Vapour-bath, on the 15th of the January following. 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 restored, and corporeal vigour acquired, I left him to the management of his own good sense, only enjoining him to pay the strictest attention to regimen and exercise. About three months after, 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 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 subsequent communications, that this gentleman continues to enjoy an excellent state of health.

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Mr. G. J——, applied to me on the 24th day of November, 1818. He informed me that he had from his infancy been extremely delicate, and from the age of thirteen years had several attacks of pulmonary disease, disordered respiration, and bloody and pus-like expectoration; and that his complaint had been pronounced to be consumptive. He had also suffered extremely from a bad state of the digestive organs, and spasmodic breathing. His appetite was lost—his stomach greatly oppressed by acidity and flatulence—his bowels always confined—the urine turbid or pale—perspiration profuse or checked—pains of an acute nature in the head, chest, and different parts of the body. The senses became impaired—deafness and defective vision ensued, and an extreme debility was the result of a high degree of derangement of the vital organs—his pulse was very feeble—tongue foul—



countenance pale—and his body much emaciated. In this case also I employed the Galvanism with decided and permanent benefit.

The recovery was gradual, but the progressive amendment was highly satisfactory. In the course of a few months the patient was restored to the enjoyment of a higher degree of health, strength and vigour, both of mind and body, than he had ever before experienced. The progress of recovery was clearly marked by an amelioration of the alvine secretions and urine; improved perspiration and general warmth; greater freedom of breathing and expectoration; increase of nervous, corporeal and sensorial power; the sight became stronger, the hearing was regained, and the mind invigorated and rendered capable of greater exertions. The benefit the patient derived from the course he had pursued was permanent. He has frequently called on me to report the excellent state of health he has continued to enjoy, and has presented me with a long well-written statement of his case, which he requested me to publish; but which I deferred doing till now, in order that I might have it in my power to vouch for the permanency of the good effects



of the treatment I had employed to subdue such a complication of disorders.

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T. C——, Keppel-street, Russell-square, about twenty-three years of age, of a very pallid countenance, and extremely emaciated, had all the appearance of a person in the last stage of decline. He was dismissed from both the St. George's and St. James's Dispensaries as incurable. This serious affliction unfitted him for every kind of occupation, being reduced to such a degree of weakness, that he was scarcely able to walk across the room ; and such was the state of his digestive organs, that he was utterly incapable of venturing on any animal or nourishing food. Being fully satisfied that if the patient did not obtain benefit, no injury could result from a course of Galvanism, I commenced my operations on the 29th October, and continued them for twelve days, when I dismissed him perfectly restored to health. It was observable that he gradually recovered from each distressing symptom in proportion as his digestive functions were restored. In a week after the application of Galvanism, he was enabled to



digest animal food. His spirits, which were before greatly depressed, became much exhilarated. His strength increased to that degree, that, in three or four weeks, he was enabled to walk ten miles in an afternoon without the least fatigue. In short he was, contrary to all human expectation, restored to a state of perfect health. I have farther to add, that, notwithstanding this patient has had several severe attacks of fever from being exposed to cold in his business, neither his digestive powers nor his lungs have suffered any diminution of their vital energy — that his corporeal strength continues unabated, and that he is now in the enjoyment of excellent health.

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The following case is that of a gentleman about twenty-eight years of age, who had been seriously ill for some time, and was much reduced in flesh and strength. As this patient was recommended to me for the administration of Galvanism by an eminent country surgeon, and acting, as I did, under his direction, I did not make any minutes of the history of his disorder, and therefore I present my readers with a statement drawn up by himself,



which he enclosed to me a few days ago, authorizing me to make any use of it I might think proper.

“A gentleman who had previously enjoyed good, though delicate health, was by a long continuance of severe domestic affliction and an inflammation of the lungs, (which proved fatal to the partner of his days, and younger brother), rendered incapable of attending to the duties of a public institution. The physician, who had attended his family, recommended an immediate removal to the sea-side, as the only means of averting a consumption; observing, that the lungs were in a very delicate state,—that the liver, through torpor and disease, was unable to perform its functions,—that the digestive organs were much impaired,—and that the nervous system was generally deranged.

“On the following day, the patient left London for Brighton, where he continued under medical advice for some weeks, without deriving any material benefit. Another physician was then consulted, who, having ascertained the mode of treatment which had been adopted, proposed a trial of the German water,



from which great advantage was derived. When the course was completed, after an absence of twelve weeks, the gentleman returned to town, having been informed by his medical attendant, that Galvanism, properly administered (the effects of which he had often witnessed), would be instrumental in again re-establishing his health. On resuming his duties he found himself quite unable to bear fatigue; his spirits were still subject to great depression, and the torpor of the liver continued to require the daily use of aperient medicines.

“In the first three or four weeks, Galvanism did not produce the effect the patient had anticipated; in consequence of which he wrote to his physician, who, in reply, urged its continuance; stating, that, from the symptoms described, he was convinced a permanent good would result. He said,

““I have perused your letter most attentively, and am more than ever satisfied, from the general tenor of it, that very great good will result from Galvanism; particularly if applied by Mr. La Beaume, of Southampton-row, who, I verily believe, understands the use of the Galvanic Battery, better than any one else in



London. After two or three times more having the galvanic fluid passed through the liver, you will, I think, find there will be no occasion for medicine, and that the bowels will be sufficiently stimulated to perform their functions.'

"After about five weeks, a change was evident; the depression of spirits ceased; a healthful countenance appeared; and a gradual expansion of the chest succeeded. The patient continued the course for about eleven weeks; and from the time it terminated, now nearly thirteen months, he has enjoyed uninterrupted health, vivacity of spirits, vigour of constitution, and energy of mind, which have enabled him to double his exertions, both as to mental labour and public speaking, without being at all fatigued. He seems as if a new principle of life has been imparted to him.

"During his illness his sight also failed him, and his spirits were so depressed, that life seemed a burden to him; but he is now quite a new creature."

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In the autumn of 1826, a young lady, about twenty years of age, who had been under the



care of several country practitioners, was brought to me by her friends. She had been for some time suffering greatly from a complication of disorders, which threatened a fatal termination. Her digestive organs were not only much affected, but disease had extended to her lungs; and as her expectoration was evidently mixed with pus and with streaks of blood, she appeared in a state of rapid decline. In the first place, I examined very minutely the state of her chest with Lanec's Stethoscope, and was led to believe that there was not only considerable inflammation going on, but that ulceration of the lungs, to a certain extent, had taken place. Under such circumstances, I despaired of rendering this young lady any essential service; although, from my experience of Galvanism, I had no doubt of affording her relief, after the inflammatory symptoms were subdued.

As I would not take the responsibility of such a serious, and apparently hopeless case entirely on myself, I recommended her friends to call in the aid of a physician, and to place her under his care. Dr. D——, was therefore sent for; and, after minute examinations, he fully confirmed the unfavourable opinion which



I had previously entertained. When I first saw this patient, she complained of acute pains in the chest, great tenderness to the touch, indigestion, violent spasms in the stomach, constipation of the bowels, and extreme prostration of strength; her tongue was foul, and occasionally parched and dry; her pulse exceedingly quick and irregular; her breathing greatly oppressed, and attended with a violent cough. She also complained of sleepless nights and morning perspirations, and great depression of spirits. Her voice was become so feeble, that she could only speak in a whisper.

The medical treatment of this case, under Dr. D.'s direction, was topical bleeding, small doses of mercurials, with opiates and sedatives, and the due regulation of diet. This mode of treatment not only afforded her great relief, but subdued the inflammatory action. The doctor, who is well acquainted with the powers of Galvanism, then thought with me that Galvanism might be tried, to excite the action of the liver and bowels, to prevent spasmodic attacks, and to stimulate the nervous system. I made the first application of that agent for three minutes only, on account of the extreme



susceptibility of the patient, but she experienced great relief; and after the occasional use of Galvanism for about a fortnight, she obtained considerable benefit in her digestive organs; she ate with appetite, digested her food, and her bowels performed their functions; she slept without disturbance during the whole night, and the morning perspirations and cough ceased to distress and weaken her frame; her expectoration became free, and assumed the appearance of mucus; her tongue became clean, her pulse regular and slower, her strength greatly increased, and she was enabled to diminish her usual dose of four grains of opium, which she had been obliged to take daily for some time to relieve her from the violent pain she had endured from spasm, to one grain. Even while she was taking the four grains daily, her bowels acted regularly with the aid of Galvanism, without any aperient medicine. So great was the progress of amendment, that after having pursued the galvanic course occasionally for about two months, she fully recovered from every ailment, except her partial loss of voice, which still continues feeble. After the lapse of a year and a half, I am enabled, on the authority of her friends, to say, that she continues to



enjoy most excellent health, good spirits, and her former strength ; and that she has not had the slightest return of her complaint, though she has been frequently exposed to night air, in attending evening parties and balls.

As this case had been deemed incurable by several medical men, and evidently appeared so hopeless when she first came to me, I made no minutes of the early history of the disorder ; but the following brief statement, sent to me by one of the patient's particular friends, soon after her return into the country, will, I hope, in some measure supply that deficiency.

“ Miss H——’s friend, Miss F——, had been ill for the last four years ; and during the first two years of this period she was afflicted with a violent cough, for which every remedy was tried in vain. Her cough at last terminated in a violent inflammation of the lungs, when there were strong symptoms of consumption ; for she was in the daily habit of expectorating large quantities of blood, mixed with offensive matter, which reduced her to such a state of debility, as to be obliged to be carried from the bed to the sofa for many months. This weakness produced violent spasms, which lasted



six or eight hours a day, the only relief for which was obtained by taking large quantities of laudanum, which were gradually increased to two hundred and sixty drops a day, which kept off the spasmodic attacks; and by that means, she acquired sufficient artificial strength to undertake a journey to London, to which place Miss H. was returning; who prevailed on Miss F. to consult Mr. La Beaume, which she did, and pursued his mode of treatment. The beneficial effects of Galvanism have exceeded their most sanguine expectations; for she is now able to leave off the laudanum, and likewise all aperient medicine, which she before took in large quantities. The spasms have ceased, and the expectoration has quite subsided. She now sleeps all the night, whereas, before this happy change, two or three hours of disturbed sleep was all she had obtained for months. She can now walk two miles at a time, and, after having been galvanized occasionally for two months, she bore a journey of thirty miles without fatigue.

“Miss H. would feel most happy to give any further information on the subject, or to refer to the friends of Miss F., who are truly respectable.”

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A young lady, under the care of an eminent physician in this neighbourhood, was brought by him to me in September last. Her complaint was loss of voice, being only able to speak in a whisper. Under this privation she had suffered for four or five months: various medicines had been tried without advantage. Judging that the malady, under which the patient laboured, was a disordered state of the digestive organs, evident to me by the appearance of the tongue and the complexion, the state of the pulse, and the nature of the alvine secretions, I employed the galvanic fluid with a view of removing the disease of the digestive organs and to restore her general health. After the second application of Galvanism, the young lady felt considerably better; the bowels acted with greater freedom, and her appearance indicated returning health; and, after the fifth administration of Galvanism, she was not only restored to health, but also recovered her natural voice. I have recently heard, that the benefit obtained by the patient is permanent.

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On the 22d of August, 1821, Miss C——, residing in Westminster, called to consult



me on her case, which was a remarkable one. The lady was about thirty years of age, of a sallow complexion; tall, thin, and much emaciated; and appeared to have suffered long from constitutional disease, and was unable to articulate a single word but in a whisper. The account the patient gave of herself was, that she had been labouring under a liver and bowel complaint for ten years past; and that for four years of the time she had lost her voice, and was not able to speak louder than a whisper. In order to the recovery of her general health and vocal powers, she, being a lady of fortune, had recourse to the advice of the most eminent medical men, who employed various internal and external means, as general and local remedies, without obtaining the desired effect. She was therefore, by the suggestion of some friends, induced to apply to me for aid. On the first visit, I found the pulse extremely low and slow; the tongue much furred; the stomach greatly deranged, by the presence of many dispeptic symptoms, as acidity, flatulence, etc.; the liver in a state of great torpor; the bowels highly constipated; in short, the general health was greatly impaired. Being fully satisfied that



the loss of voice was the result of this lady's bad state of health, my object was to restore the digestive functions to a healthy state, which I accomplished in about a month, by the application of Galvanism and a few doses of very mild aperients. At the expiration of that time, my patient lost all sallowness of complexion; the tongue and pulse indicated her recovery; the stomach digested the ordinary food; the liver secreted healthy bile; the bowels daily did their office; and her appetite, strength, and spirits returned. I then employed electrical insulation and current, in the course of the recurrent nerves, for five times; and the patient suddenly recovered her voice. I requested her to persevere a few days longer; but being obliged to defer her visit for two or three days, she relapsed into her former state. But after three more applications, she again perfectly recovered her voice. I am now happy to state, that, in reply to a very recent enquiry as to her health, she has favoured me with an answer; stating, that since her attendance on me, her general health has been perfectly good, and that she has never lost her voice since she regained it the second time; and she imputes the recovery of her health and voice



altogether to the means employed under my plan of treatment.

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About the middle of June, 1827, Miss W—, a young lady about eighteen years of age, was recommended to my care by Mr. W—, surgeon-apothecary, the medical attendant of the family in whose establishment she resided. About seven weeks before her application to me she was taken ill of the measles, and in three days after lost her voice and could only speak in a whisper; a privation that continued for six weeks. This patient had been in a very delicate state of health for many years previous to her illness from the measles, and was still labouring under the debility resulting from her confinement in a sick room.

I judged that Galvanism would be most advantageous in this case, both to re-brace the system and to restore the loss of nervous power: I accordingly applied it successively for four days; and on the fifth visit my patient informed me, that, on the evening of the preceding day, she suddenly recovered her voice, and spoke as loud as she had ever done.



After the fifth application she took her leave of me.

On making enquiry after this patient this morning (November 29th, 1827), I was informed by the lady under whose care she was placed, that Miss W—— has, ever since she was galvanized, enjoyed most excellent health, with the exception of occasional colds, which, however, have not injured her voice, which has remained perfectly recovered.

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In my recent work on Galvanism I have detailed the facts of numerous cases of asthma, which have been cured in my practice by the employment of the galvanic influence, after the failure of every other accredited remedy. It will, therefore, be unnecessary for me, in this small publication, to give many cases to prove the efficacy of Galvanism; especially as its utility is now generally acknowledged by the most scientific members of the medical profession, both in England and abroad.

The following was one of the most complicated and worst cases of asthma, in which Gal-



vanism proved highly beneficial ; and though it did not effect a perfect recovery, yet the relief the patient obtained was so great as to afford an ample proof of its utility, where no derangement of structure counteracted a perfect restoration to health.

About eight years ago, a gentleman of a nervous and bilious temperament, exceedingly emaciated, and labouring under disordered respiration, was, supported by two of his friends, brought to me for my advice and the administration of Galvanism. As the patient, from extreme debility, was unable to relate his case, he presented me with a written statement; of which the following is a copy.

“ I was always of a spare and thin habit of body, but tolerably healthy, and accustomed from my infancy to take much exercise in the open air; particularly walking, which agreed well with me. I never felt the least tendency to asthma, during my whole life, till the 18th day of May, 1812, being then about thirty-four years of age, and six months married, when I was awakened out of my sleep, about two o'clock of the morning, with a severe paroxysm. The disease seemed to have acquired



its utmost height at once, and I continued the whole summer and harvest in the most dreadful state. The fits continued, generally, about ten days, with paroxysms nearly every two hours; and during these ten days, the agitation and breathlessness were so excessive, that I could seldom bear to be removed from my bed, even for ten minutes. The disease would then relax, for a week or ten days, so far as to allow me to sit up for a few hours each forenoon; but nothing prevented the return of the fit, in all its violence, at the usual time. About the end of October, 1812, the disease gradually abated, as the weather grew colder, and I remained free of asthma during the succeeding winter and spring, though very weak. But about the middle of May, 1813, I was again attacked by the disease in all its virulence, and endured as much from it during that summer and harvest, as the preceding ones. I again got better about the end of October, 1813, as the cold came on, and continued almost free of asthma till the middle of March, 1814, when I began to droop, and grew gradually worse till the middle of May, when I was as bad as formerly; and since that time the disease has never left me, winter nor summer; and it is now September, 1818.



“ I can assign no probable reason for the disease, as I was less exposed to cold or damp, during the six months preceding the first attack, than during any period of my life. Of all the medicines I ever tried, and they were very numerous (among others, blisters, vomits, courses of mercury, digitalis, opium, æther, squills, diuretics and diaphoretics, bathing, hot and cold, issues in the arm and breast, etc.), nothing ever seemed to make any impression on the disease. Emetics, and smoking stramonium, generally afforded some temporary relief in the violent paroxysms ; indeed I think I could not have lived without these auxiliaries, but they never prevented the return of the disease : neither did I ever appear to be affected by change of weather or change of place : wet or dry, hot or cold, town or country, seemed all alike, except that the disease was rather more virulent in summer than in winter. There was also this difference between the summer and winter fits : the summer fit is a dry paroxysm of breathlessness, with little or no spitting ; and the winter one has spitting, sometimes to a great degree ; and when the spitting is over I feel my breast more open and comfortable than after the dry fits. It is proper to state that, ever since the disease



began, I cannot lie upon my left side ; when I do attempt it the breast immediately begins to close. During the fit the pulse always quickens to ninety at least, often to one hundred and ten and one hundred and twenty ; and I have known it approach to one hundred and thirty ; and always, when it attains one hundred or upwards, it is attended with much feverish heat and head-ache ; but I am happy when this occurs, as it always relieves the breathlessness in twenty-four or thirty-six hours. I think the fever comes oftener with the winter spitting fits, than with the dry summer ones. The fever always destroys any little appetite I may have for food.

“ After the closest observation of the symptoms, I think my disease is nervous. During the fit, the whole hollow part of the body is drawn together, particularly the breast ; and betwixt the breast-bone and navel, the contraction is so great, that wrinkles appear in it externally. I think the difference of my feelings during the fit, is owing to the contraction acting more forcibly on different parts ; the worst breathless fits being when the pressure falls most forcibly on the lungs. When it falls more on the heart, it produces extreme lan-



guor, oppression, and drowsiness. When the fever comes to a great height, it may be owing to its acting in some other way. The commencement of the fit is, for the most part, accompanied with an increased quantity of thin light-coloured urine and a desire to make it: this may be owing to the contraction acting on the kidneys. The fever ends this, and the urine becomes strong, high-coloured, and in smaller quantities, giving a sediment and imparting a red tinge to the vessel."

Thinking that Galvanism would prove beneficial in this case, I employed it with advantage, as will appear from the second statement written by the patient himself, which he gave me before he left town; it is as follows.

"Referring to the account of the previous state of my disease, I have now to observe in continuation, that I arrived in London on the 12th of September last, having come from Leith by sea in three days. During the voyage, I was a good deal troubled with sickness, but not to vomiting, and the breathlessness was very moderate. On the 15th September, I began galvanizing, and I reckoned that the fit should have returned about the 18th Sep-



tember, but it did not. It is now 13th October. During the past month, I have been galvanized almost daily, with few exceptions ; and I must say, I have not had such a comfortable month for four years. During last month, the returns of the disease have been comparatively slight, at six o'clock in the afternoon, and a little past midnight ; except about twice a week, when these attacks came pretty smart ; but the worst of them did not continue bad for more than three hours, when they gradually relaxed, and I was always able to get up the following day, and take an airing in a coach. The two last of these attacks, one on Thursday, the 8th instant, and the other on Sunday, the 11th instant, have been the most severe, but I hope they will get no worse. My life, for the last month, has not been without a considerable degree of comfort and enjoyment, whereas formerly, it was an intolerable burden."

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Mr. S——, about forty years of age, of a phlegmatic temperament and of sedentary habits, stated to me, that his general health had been very good previous to an attack of acute rheumatism about twelve years ago, which con-



fined him to his bed for six months. After his recovery from that disease, his digestion became much affected, his bowels constipated, and his breathing disordered to an alarming degree. Damp and foggy weather and easterly winds distressed him much. He had long laboured under various symptoms of indigestion and confirmed habitual asthma, and he continued to get worse for several years. He had been very ill the previous winter, during which he was not able to ascend a flight of stairs, but slept on the ground floor. His cough, from the commencement of this malady, was violent, and he expectorated a great deal of frothy and tough dark-coloured phlegm. The means he employed to obtain relief were various. As he had placed himself under the care of several medical men, and they gave him no hopes of recovery, but pronounced his disorder incurable, he tried every remedy he heard of without obtaining any benefit. He was at last recommended by a friend to apply to me. He came to me on the 27th of March, 1819, while he was labouring under the full influence of his complaint,—difficult breathing, hard dry cough, frothy expectoration, extreme languor and debility, indigestion, and costiveness. He obtained some relief on the



first application of Galvanism, and after a few operations he was enabled to ascend four flights of stairs to his bed-room with comparative ease; and the progress he had made during the fortnight of his regular attendance was great. The cough abated, his breathing was relieved, and he expectorated easily. On the third week his digestion was improved, his bowels acted freely, he slept well, was restored to strength, and on the fifth week was perfectly relieved from his complaint. He was galvanized twenty-eight times. Since that period, he has enjoyed perfect health, has not had occasion to take any aperient medicine whatever, and, though subsequently he has frequently taken cold from getting wet, he has not had the least tendency to asthmatic breathing.

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In June, 1825, Mrs. W——, of Oxford, placed herself under my treatment for the cure of a decided case of spasmodic asthma, under which she had suffered severely for many years. This lady was about forty years of age, corpulent, and of a full habit. When she first applied to me, her digestive functions were not much deranged, but her breathing



was at times exceedingly difficult and painful, attended by a violent cough and frothy expectoration. After a month's course of Galvanism she was perfectly relieved, and she returned into the country. As I was fearful that this patient, whose disease was of so long standing, might obtain only temporary relief, I made no minutes of her case; but, after waiting to ascertain the effect of the treatment I had administered, I obtained from her a short statement of the origin and progress of her disease and subsequent recovery. Having mislaid this statement, and being anxious to obtain the latest communication on the subject of her permanent recovery, I again addressed her, last week, and received the following reply.

“Oxford; Nov. 28, 1827.

“Dear Sir,

“I am sorry you have mislaid my letter, as a detailed recurrence to particulars of my sufferings really makes me nervous; you may not understand this, but those who have suffered from asthma will. You say, I must inform you the particulars, in order that my case may be published, which is my particular request; and, if necessary, my name and place of abode may be published also. First, my



health was never robust, but rather otherwise, which I now attribute to the embryo malady, which I inherited maternally. In early life I never had any disease to complain of, except shortness of breathing and lassitude, for which I had medical aid; and it was thought I should be better at a certain time, and that time arrived in my seventeenth year. I was then, however, no better, but rather worse; at length, my disorder rose to violent paroxysms, so as to almost cause suffocation; but, generally, some months elapsed between the paroxysms, during which, I was tolerably well, taking great care not to use much exercise, nor to walk up hill. From seventeen to thirty-three, I did not think my complaint much impaired my constitution; after that age, I did not rally again as usual, for it kept me ill for months together. I have been confined to my room for a month, during which, I could only go from the bed to a chair, and that very gently indeed; sometimes I could not leave my chair for a week together; and, even when I was better, I could not dress nor undress myself, as the exertion of moving my arms was too much. During every attack I had the best medical assistance that Oxford afforded, but it was never of the least service, except



in satisfying my anxious friends. I took every thing recommended for asthma, but all failed. My medical attendant thought I should be better when I ceased to have children. Five years after this time of life arrived, I experienced no alteration for the better, till, after one of my violent attacks, I got sufficiently well to go to London by short stages, when I visited you. At that time I could not walk a mile but with the greatest inconvenience; I was galvanized three weeks daily, and then waited a week, when I again resumed it, and continued it three times a week for a fortnight. Before I left town I walked for my own pleasure (it was so new to me) nine miles one hot day in the month of July, in 1825; and from that time to this, two years and a half, I have had no return of my complaint. All this time I have been in the enjoyment of such good health as to surprise all who knew me before that period. I go out all weathers, and even went out at the top of Radcliffe's library about six weeks since, and my breathing was no more inconvenienced than that of the friend who accompanied me. The height is eighty feet in continuation. I mention this as a specimen of what Galvanism has done for me; indeed I felt relieved from the first appli-



cation of it; I breathed as I had not done before. I can never be sufficiently thankful to providence which led me to you. The chain of events that led me to you was so remarkable that I should have been wrong not to have tried your instrumentality; and so will every one labouring under a similar disorder, who does not make the same use of your skill after reading this, which I have written expressly to do them good.

“Your’s, etc.

“A. W.”

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W. F——, Esq., about fifty years of age, was strongly urged, by one of his particular friends, to consult me on his case which was that of habitual asthma. His general health was not materially affected, but his respiration was much disordered, and had been so for many years of his life. In this case also Galvanism was employed with the greatest advantage, both as to the improvement of the digestive functions and the recovery of the respiratory organs.

In this case, like the last, I anticipated that the patient would obtain temporary relief;



therefore I made no minutes of it; but finding that the benefit he derived was lasting, I was induced to write to him a few days ago on the subject, and he has favoured me with the following very gratifying reply.

“ 12, King’s Parade, Chelsea;

“ Nov. 27, 1827.

“ Dear Sir,

“ For thirty years I was much troubled with shortness of breath and great difficulty of respiration, particularly during the winter months; and had been attended by several eminent physicians without deriving permanent benefit from their prescriptions.

“ Despairing of an effectual cure I was, last October, induced by a perusal of your work, which was lent me by my brother-in-law, to try a few applications of the galvanic fluid in the hope of alleviating my sufferings. I did not then contemplate the extent of the benefit to be derived from the use of Galvanism. Three visits materially improved my respiration and, in one month, my complaint was totally removed.

“ Since that time I have had no return of it,



and I think it incumbent on me thus gratefully to acknowledge the signal success that has attended the application of Galvanism to my complaint, so that your publication of it may induce others similarly afflicted to obtain relief.

“Your’s, etc.,

— “W. F.”

Mr. S. applied to me in September, 1822. This patient, who was then eighteen years of age, had been suffering for some time from disease of the respiratory as well as the digestive organs. His complexion was very yellow, his pulse exceedingly quick and irregular, and his tongue much furred. He complained of very great difficulty of breathing and violent palpitations of the heart, as well as of many of the symptoms which indicate a great degree of visceral derangement. Being apprehensive that Mr. S. laboured under an organic disease of the heart, and fearful that the stimulus of Galvanism would be too great (however mildly applied) under his high state of arterial and nervous excitement, I recommended him to try the nitro-muriatic acid solution to sponge the region of the liver and bowels, mild aperients, and the regulation of his diet. This plan he pursued for several



weeks with some advantage ; I then employed the galvanic influence till the end of the year, which restored him to health. I state these facts from recollection, as I did not record his case. In reply to a letter I wrote to this gentleman very recently, I received the following statement :—

“In the spring of 1820, I began to look sallow and felt very unwell, which increased as the year advanced ; and in the beginning of the year 1821, very severe symptoms of morbid liver and dyspepsia appeared, which became more and more confirmed, together with very great shortness of breath and extreme palpitation of the heart upon the least exertion, so that it was with great difficulty I could move about ; in fact I could not walk six yards without being dreadfully distressed, and my case was considered hopeless ; in which state I continued gradually getting worse till the autumn of 1822, when I placed myself under your care.

“During the above time, viz., between May, 1820, and September, 1822, I was under the care of two eminent physicians, from whom I did not receive the least benefit, but rather



grew worse ; their treatment I do not exactly remember ; I believe I did not take much mercury, but I was frequently sent to the sea side in hopes it might prove beneficial, but it was quite the contrary.

“ When I first visited you, you considered me in too great a state of excitement to be galvanized, my pulse then beating at 120 and upwards ; you, in consequence, very strictly dieted me for five weeks, at the end of which time you galvanized me, and told me to observe if I felt any and what difference during the remainder of the day : the result was that I was enabled to walk very briskly, viz., from your house in Southampton-row to mine in the Borough in thirty-five minutes, without experiencing fatigue ; and my extremities were in a glow for the remainder of the day, being quite the reverse to what I before felt. I then continued to be galvanized nearly every day till Christmas, 1822, (fifty-five times in all), when I felt so completely recovered as not to need your farther assistance ; and, from that period to the present, I have scarcely had a symptom of my old complaint, and am at this time, November 17th, 1827, in the enjoyment of most excellent health and spirits.



“ With respect to the cause of my complaint I feel rather at a loss, unless indeed a locked jaw which I had in the year 1816, and the subsequent treatment to reduce it, which was effected by means of very powerful medicines which I have every reason to believe very much injured my inside, could be considered as such.

“ Guy’s Hospital.”

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Miss C. Castle-street, Holborn, about twenty years of age, placed herself under my care in the autumn of 1823. This lady had been for some time suffering from indigestion, habitual asthma, and violent palpitation of the heart. Her case bore a strong resemblance in several particulars to the preceding one. Having previously subdued the high degree of excitement under which she laboured by mild aperients and a dietetic treatment, I employed the galvanic influence at certain intervals for about six weeks, which happily effected her recovery; and I am authorised by her to add that the benefit she has obtained has been permanent, and that, notwithstanding she has frequently taken cold, she has not had any



recurrence of the disease under which she had before suffered.

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I could adduce many other proofs of the efficacy of Galvanism in habitual and spasmodic asthma, but I conceive the facts which have been here stated will be sufficient to convince the most incredulous of its utility. I must also add, that I have employed the galvanic influence in two cases of disordered respiration, occasioned by dropsy of the chest, with singular relief. The patients would probably have recovered, had there not been an organic disease which rendered it impossible. It was my intention to have detailed the particulars of these cases which proved incurable; but, on a reconsideration of the subject, I am convinced that they could only be interesting to medical men and not to readers in general; I may, therefore, publish them hereafter in one of the medical journals.

I have lately had a lady under my care who was brought to me by a respectable practitioner in the city, and who had been for four years suffering from violent attacks of spas-



modic asthma, and many symptoms which indicated dropsy in the chest ; but who, I am happy to add, has been restored to health by the influence of Galvanism, which I applied for about two months.

For cures in various cases of PALSY I refer my readers to my recent work on Galvanism. These cases are detailed among those which relate to the *disorders of the head*, and will prove how effectual Galvanism has been in that complaint. In a treatise on Electricity and in another on the Air-pump Vapour-bath, several cases of paralysis are recorded ; and therefore it will not be necessary for me to enter into that class of disorders, but refer my readers to those works. I may add farther, that the efficacy of Electricity and Galvanism is now too well established to require confirmation.

IN SAINT VITUS'S DANCE both Electricity and Galvanism have been found effective ; and I have had several cases of recovery which I have recorded in my publications.

A remarkable case of EPILEPSY came under



my treatment about seven years ago. A young lady, at the age of sixteen years, had had most violent attacks of this complaint almost every week for four years. The disorder was supposed to have been occasioned by a fright. At the age of twenty she married, and during four years she had two children; but the disease still increased. She then lost her husband and was a widow four years, when she applied to me for aid. This patient had been under the care of seventeen medical men, whose treatment varied according to the different views they had taken of her case. Every means which had been tried failed in affording even a mitigation of her disease. When I first commenced a galvanic course, this young lady had not only violent epileptic fits once or twice a week, but from twenty to thirty convulsive fits in a day, which continued but a short time. After three months occasional use of Galvanism the convulsive fits left her, and the epileptic attacks became exceedingly mild, and recurred but once in six or seven weeks. She then went into the country, and was again married. From a series of adverse circumstances, which pressed on her mind, the disease again recurred; and the last account,



I had of her, was, that it was probable she would sink under the disorder which has baffled the skill of all her medical advisers.

I have, however, had a few cases of recovery from this disease, which I have recorded in my work on Electricity.

In that dreadful malady **INSANITY** I must notice one case in which Galvanism effected recovery :--A gentleman, about fifty years of age, was recommended to me by a physician to whom the patient in a lucid interval proposed a trial of Galvanism. The complaint was in this case brought on by taking a journey of seven hundred miles, on a most anxious event, without taking any rest for several nights. The patient became insane and was confined in a lunatic asylum for some time, whence he escaped and was found concealed in a distant field three days after. He was then placed under the care of Dr. P——, who attended him for some weeks. The Galvanism, in this case, was exhibited internally to the digestive organs and it allayed the excitement of the brain ; and, in five weeks, it restored the general health and the intellectual capabilities. I saw this patient about three years



after, and he was then perfectly well and pursuing his professional duties with energy of mind ; since which I have lost sight of him.

IN MELANCHOLY, which is nearly allied to madness, *several* cases have occurred in my practice which have been successfully treated. This complaint is generally preceded by various fancies, which denote a morbid state of the nervous system. The digestive organs are always affected, and the liver is most frequently obstructed or inactive. If the limits of this little work would allow me, I could relate several extraordinary cases of melancholy, but two must suffice.

A gentleman, about fifty years of age, applied to me about five years ago for the cure of this complaint, which, he said, was occasioned by a consciousness of his having been abandoned by heaven, as a reprobate, to perdition. He was sure that it was impossible that he could be saved, because the divine justice was against him, therefore no mercy could be extended to him. In stating his case his spirits were so much affected that he frequently burst into tears. On investigating the symptoms of his complaint, I found that his liver had been



torpid for some time, from confinement to his house and heavy grief, in consequence of a very severe domestic affliction. As he was in a state of great nervous irritation from want of sleep, which he could not obtain for several nights, notwithstanding the various anodynes he had taken, I advised him to ride twenty or thirty miles daily, outside of a coach, and take two or three mild aperients before he again visited me. In a week afterwards he again called on me and said, that he was much better, and that he was then satisfied that his liver was in a state of torpidity. The Galvanism was then employed for about six weeks, and the patient perfectly recovered.

About two years after this I met this patient in the street, and he appeared perfectly well; but he called on me a few days afterwards and said, that, from an association of ideas and the recollection of his past suffering, he had become very low spirited, and had given way to despondency so much that he should relapse into his former state. I administered the Galvanism a few times, which exhilarated his spirits and removed the painful apprehension of a relapse. About a year ago he had an attack of biliary obstruction, which



was occasioned by high living : the Galvanism and the Vapour-bath were employed a few times, which perfectly removed the complaint, and he has since continued well.

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A clergyman, about thirty years of age, suffered extremely, for some months, from great depression of spirits and a derangement of his digestive organs, occasioned by his sedentary habits and by a heavy disappointment of his prospects in life. As the disease increased, his distress of mind rendered him unfit for his ministerial duties, and occasioned the most horrible and blasphemous thoughts, which generally tormented him more particularly when performing his ministerial duties. He declared to me, that, such were the mental agonies he at those times endured, it was almost death to him to ascend the pulpit. He also observed, that, though his judgment was fully convinced of the being and attributes of the Deity, yet he felt as if he was an atheist, cut off from all hope of future happiness, and daily sinking into perdition. In stating this to me his hands trembled, his lips quivered, and his nervous



system seemed to have sustained a shock which could not be easily tranquilized. I had, however, the good fortune to convince him that his sufferings arose from the derangement of his digestive organs and his nervous system; and, after a course of Galvanism of nearly three months, this worthy man fully recovered; and ever since that time, which is about five years ago, he has continued in good health and spirits.

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In the case of *ANGINA PECTORIS* which I promised to detail, I shall briefly observe that the patient was about seventy-five years of age, and that his disorder had been pronounced to be *angina pectoris* by some of the first medical authorities. His breathing was not only much affected, but his digestive powers were much impaired. Galvanism was administered for three weeks with decided benefit, the stomach and bowels performing their functions. He was enabled to walk three or four miles daily, ascend several flights of stairs to the summit of his house, and walk up a hill without any inconvenience. He continued as well as could be expected at his age for nearly twelve months, after which he fell a



victim to the disease, which had been pronounced to be incurable.

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Before and since the publication of my book on Galvanism, I have had a few cases of DROPSY OF THE OVARIUM, GENERAL DROPSY, AND DROPSY OF THE BELLY, which have been relieved and cured by Galvanism and the other auxiliary means which I employed. These cases I may hereafter publish.

Several cases of DISEASES OF THE SKIN have also been successfully treated by a course of Galvanism, and the general and local Warm-air and Vapour-baths on the new principle invented by Captain Jeykill, and improved by the late Hon. Basil Cochrane and myself. I have found this Vapour-bath a most powerful auxiliary in my practice, and infinitely preferable to any other Vapour-bath, particularly on account of its safety, for, by determining the blood to the lower extremities, it prevents the danger of apoplexy. I shall here briefly state only two cases as I intend to publish, hereafter, several others to prove the comparative efficacy of various baths in cutaneous diseases.



Mr. P., about twenty-four years of age and of a full habit of body, had been for some months previous to his visit to me, in the spring of 1825, under the medical treatment of a French physician. That practitioner had prescribed calomel in large doses from a mistaken idea that the patient's complaint was syphilitic. The consequence of the unnecessary and over exhibition of mercury was, not only a diminution of his general health, but the origin of a cutaneous affection and a mercurial rheumatism. From the head downwards, even to the legs and feet, the patient was covered with large blotches of a reddish hue, about the size of a sixpence, which were attended with great irritation and occasional exudation of an acrimonious and watery discharge. This affection had continued unabated for several months, notwithstanding all the various means of cure that he had tried. The treatment I adopted in this case was, at first, the administration of Galvanism to restore the tone of the digestive organs, and then a short course of the general Vapour-baths accomplished his perfect and permanent recovery.

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This case of cutaneous disease, which I have recorded in my book on the Air-pump



Vapour-bath, was that of a gentleman of forty years of age, who suffered much from eruptions about his breast and wrist, and between his fingers and legs which appeared much inflamed, and these eruptions were attended by great irritation. This complaint was brought on by cold-bathing improperly employed, and it continued to harrass him for twelve months. After trying various means without effect, he was cured by five applications of the Air-pump Vapour-bath, nine years ago, and he has continued well ever since.

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Mr. B., about thirty years of age, of a melancholy temperament, sallow complexion and a spare habit, applied to me in consequence of a painful affection of the hip and thigh, in June, 1818. From the state of the tongue, etc., it was evident that his disease was occasioned by derangement of the digestive organs, yet he fancied that he was in perfect health, because he could eat and drink heartily and sleep soundly. This patient had laboured under his complaint, which was attended with great lassitude and a dull heavy pain in the hip joint extending down to the knee, for some months. Having been under medical care and



taken a course of mercurials, without any benefit, he came to consult me as to the efficacy and applicability of the Air-pump Vapour-bath in his case ; for he had tried the sulphur and other baths, about thirty times, without any benefit. In the treatment of this case I administered the Galvanism, a short time, with the happiest effects in restoring the digestive functions ; and, by the aid of the Air-pump Vapour-bath, applied seven times, he was cured of his complaint. The last time I saw him he assured me that he continued perfectly well.

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R. S., about thirty years of age, of a spare habit and of a nervous temperament, received a slight bruise on her knee, in the year 1817, and felt a sensation similar to a blow on the elbow. The pain soon became so acute that she could not walk up stairs, but was obliged to drag herself up backwards and was put to bed. The affection of the knee became so distressing that she could not bear the bed clothes to touch the part. An eminent surgeon was called in, who ordered leeches, fomentations, poultices, and purgative and other medicines. At the end of a fortnight, the livid appearance



and pain of the knee remaining unabated, the patient was conveyed to St. George's Hospital. There, fomentations were used constantly during the day and a lotion at night, for a fortnight, without affording the smallest relief. On the Saturday following an abscess was formed, which, being lanced, discharged a quantity of yellow matter. Fomentations and poultices were again resumed. Nine days afterwards another abscess was formed, in the bend of the knee, which also discharged a considerable quantity of matter. Fomentations, etc., as before, were employed for another fortnight, and then dressings, plasters and bandages for a month. After two months she was discharged quite lame and on crutches; her ancles being swollen and her general health greatly impaired. She then went into the country for six weeks and gradually got better. On her return to town, she tried Electricity for three months without deriving benefit; she soon after applied to me, when she was extremely weak, and, having a contraction of the muscles and tendons, could scarcely walk, and was also suffering from an excruciating pain. There was a considerable enlargement of the knee joint, and the surrounding parts were much wasted. The first



application of the Air-pump Vapour-bath produced most comfortable feelings with perspiration and sound sleep, which she had never had since the commencement of her attack. This application was repeated, nine days after, with similar good effects, and her limb began gradually to regain strength : the pain was relieved and the contraction lessened ; in a few days after, the knee, leg, and foot were perfectly cured. This patient called on me, some time after her recovery, to acknowledge the benefit she had obtained, and which she continued to enjoy.

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Mrs. S., about twenty-four years of age, had 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 from the ground, and left a great soreness in the ankle and foot. The pain, she said, was excruciating and prevented her sleeping night or day. Her lameness was extreme, and she had been obliged to go on crutches for some time ; and she was so enfeebled that she could not even support herself on them without assistance.



I administered Galvanism to her for three weeks, and the improvement of her general health was remarkable. Before the expiration of three weeks her digestion, spirits, sleep, etc., were perfectly restored: I then employed the Air-pump Vapour-bath. After the first application the contraction was lessened, and the heel was lowered one inch: two days after, she was enabled to walk across the room without assistance. After the second application the heel was lowered another inch, and she could walk out with one crutch only. After the third application of the Bath the heel almost touched the ground, and she acquired firmness of step and could walk with a stick only. 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, except 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: it fully succeeded, and the patient en-



tirely recovered ; since which she has enjoyed perfect health and the vigorous use of her leg and foot.

I am most happy to add, that this remarkable cure, effected in December, 1818, by Galvanism and the Air-pump Vapour-bath, has been permanent ; although two eminent physicians had declared that her complaint was incurable, on account of an extraordinary circumstance that attended the disease. This lady, to the present time, enjoys all the benefits of her recovery, and will cheerfully bear her testimony to the efficacy of the remedies which restored her to perfect health.

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Miss V., about thirty-five years of age, was sent to me in the spring of 1822, by an eminent country practitioner, who stated her complaint to be “ a partial contraction of the principal muscle leading from the collar-bone and breast, etc., to the arm,” occasioned by a violent blow on the breast. The most active treatment had been employed in this case to subdue the violent inflammation which the accident occasioned. Bleeding, leeches, etc.,



were repeatedly tried; and for six weeks the lady endured the greatest agony. The effects of the blow were great pain when she moved an arm or finger, when she spoke loud, or when she drew a deep breath. This ailment had continued several months and nothing afforded her relief. I first passed the galvanic current, for a few times, through the affected muscles and it materially abated her sufferings: I then employed that agent to the digestive organs, which were much deranged. In the course of five weeks, she was cured of the local disease and restored to health, I have since that time frequently seen this lady, who always acknowledges that the benefit she derived has been lasting.

*Capt Merriam*

E. M., Esq., about 30 years of age, applied to me in February, 1825, and presented me with the following statement of his case, drawn up by his medical attendant.

“Mr. M. was first seized in October last with pain in his left knee, after having taken a long walk: it was severe for the time, but soon left him, and the next day he could walk as usual. In November following, a few days



after having got wet, and neglected changing his clothes, the pain again returned in the same knee and continued, more or less, from that time till January 7th, 1824, at which time I first saw him. The knee was then considerably swollen, stiff, and painful; flexion and extension were performed with difficulty; and the pain always increased by exercise. There was one spot on the inner side of the patella which was more tender than the rest; and, on moving the patella, it produced a crepitus that occasioned a very uneasy and unpleasant sensation. The pain occasionally extended up the thigh and down the leg; and several times the lymphatic glands in the groin were enlarged and painful. At first leeches were frequently applied, and cooling lotions of different kinds, and, after the swelling and tenderness had a little subsided, cold poultices, liniments, blisters, friction, and straps of plaster round the joint supported by a wash-leather bandage. At first the roller appeared to give relief to the joint, but it could not be continued on account of the pressure occasioning pain. At first saline draughts, with occasional aperients, were taken, and afterwards a course of blue-pill with decoction of sarsaparilla.



“ In April an issue was set in the knee, and in May, in consequence of an occasional pain in the hip, and which was becoming more severe, I was induced to compare the length of the two limbs, when I found that of the affected side considerably longer than the other. I immediately set a large issue behind the great trochanter. The leg which was elongated was in a few weeks restored to its natural length; and the pain in the hip, after a time, considerably relieved; but that in the knee was not much benefited. The nitro-muriatic acid bath was used; and in June I applied two moxas to the knee, and, in August, as the pain was not entirely removed from the hip, I applied two to that joint.

“ Although Mr. M. is now greatly better than when first I saw him, yet still the pain is far from being removed, especially on taking exercise, by which the pain is always greatly aggravated.

“ Shrewsbury;

“ T. S.”

“ 11th September, 1824.”

This gentleman had been, for several years, in a bad state of health prior to this affection of the limb. When I first saw him his diges-



tive functions were much impaired ; his tongue was foul ; his pulse feeble ; his spirits greatly depressed ; and he had been obliged to go on crutches for nearly two years.

In the treatment of this case I first directed my attention to the restoration of the digestive functions ; and finding, after a course of Galvanism, that the liver secreted healthy bile, but that the bowels did not perform their office without great effort, I suspected the existence of a stricture in the rectum. On examination, made by a respectable surgeon who was consulted, the apprehension I entertained was confirmed, and the evil was subsequently removed by the judicious means which he directed.

The subsequent employment of the general and Air-pump Vapour-baths not only restored his general health, but cured the diseased limb ; and he was enabled, a few months after he returned into the country, to lay aside his crutches, and take as strong exercise as he had formerly done. This gentleman's recovery was the more remarkable, as he had been told by several medical men who had at



different times attended him, that he would never recover the use of his leg.

The following statement of the case was written and sent to me by the patient, requesting me to publish it in this little work.

“In November, 1823, I was attacked in the left knee with stiffness and swelling, accompanied with great pain and tenderness upon the inner side of the knee. Anodyne fomentations were applied for a week without producing relief: leeches were then applied, which increased the irritation. The general state of the body had been deranged for ten years; constipation of the bowels very great at all times; fæces very dark and foetid. Pain and swelling, with increased inflammation of the knee, continued unabated for four months, at which time the hip-joint became also affected; and, upon examination, it was discovered that the limb had considerably elongated. A large issue was put into the hip-joint of twelve peas, and one also in the inner part of the knee, which shortly brought the limb to its natural length. Inflammation of both joints continued to increase, when cup-



ping, blistering and moxas were constantly applied without giving relief. The blue-pill was administered in great quantities, together with other medicines. Sarsaparilla, the nitro-muriatic acid bath, were tried without effect. Lotions of every description were applied, which only added to the irritation. Goulard's extract was kept upon the knee-joint night and day for sixteen months. Constant crepitus of the knee-pan. In February, 1825, I consulted Mr. La Beaume (after having been tortured by a variety of remedies for seventeen months), who was decidedly of opinion that Galvanism would be of the greatest service, as I had been suffering from extreme torpor of liver and indigestion for some years. For the first month, however, I did not experience much benefit; but, at the expiration of six weeks, the change in my system was very perceptible, aided by the frequent use of the Vapour-baths, prior to the use of which I did not know what it was to perspire, the skin being so constricted. The knee had also become contracted so much that the heel was raised one inch and a half from the ground. The Air-pump Vapour-bath was here administered with great effect, and in the course of half a dozen operations the



heel touched the ground. Pain in the hip and knee still continued, notwithstanding the general health had so materially benefited, when Mr. La Beaume felt confident there was some internal counteracting cause, originating, in his opinion, from a stricture of the rectum : upon examination a very bad one was discovered about six inches up the rectum, and in length about one inch and a half. The bougie was passed for some months ; and, as the stricture was overcome, the pains gradually decreased, and I have continued to improve in health and strength."

I have the pleasure to add, that this patient, since the re-establishment of his general health, has continued well and in the full possession of the recovered strength of his limb.

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As I have stated several interesting facts to prove the efficacy of Galvanism in ATONIC, MISPLACED, and RETROCEDENT GOUT, in my recent work on Galvanism, I shall here briefly observe, that I have found the Air-pump Vapour-bath a most useful remedy in affording immediate relief from the most violent fits,



both at their commencement and after the inflammatory symptoms had subsided. Having recorded several cases in my "Treatise on the Air-pump Vapour-bath," I shall only state the following facts as illustrative of its utility.

A gentleman, about fifty years of age, who had, for years, been subject to the most violent attacks of gout, sent for me while he was suffering severely at the commencement of a gouty paroxysm. The application of the Air-pump Vapour-bath was made to the affected limb, which afforded immediate relief. In two days afterwards he had another attack in the left foot, and the second application of the bath was found as effectual as the first. A week elapsed when the gout attacked the left elbow joint; the third trial of the Air-pump Vapour-bath afforded immediate relief, and a fourth application made to the right hand, a few days afterwards, in consequence of another attack, proved as beneficial as the preceding. The patient then recovered without having recourse to any other remedial means. A subsequent course of Galvanism restored his digestive functions, and he has since enjoyed good health, and has not for some years had any return of the gout.

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M. G. had an attack of gout in both feet, which, after running its course, left him under great suffering in the ankle and the small bones of both feet, and more particularly in the instep and sole, so that he was rendered incapable of walking. The ordinary remedies had been judiciously employed without producing any benefit. The first application of the Air-pump Vapour-bath was made to the right leg and foot, without producing any other effect than a copious perspiration. In a few days afterwards the Bath was also administered to the other leg and foot with most excellent effect; and, after the third application, a short galvanic course fully restored him to perfect health and to the vigorous use of his limbs. To prove the permanent good effects of the treatment I employed, I need only say that this case occurred in November, 1818, and that since that period the patient has never had any gouty attack. These strong facts are sufficient, I conceive, to warrant those, who are labouring under the painful attacks of gout, to make a trial of the Air-pump Vapour-bath, which I am ready to administer with or without the superintendence of any medical gentleman, who may be desirous of witnessing the extraordinary effects of a remedy that



is as perfectly harmless as singularly efficacious.

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The medical efficacy of Electricity and Galvanism, as well as of the Air-pump Vapour-bath, in RHEUMATISM, is well known to the faculty and the intelligent public; but, as I have recorded a variety of successful cases in my other publications, I now need only assure my readers that in a multiplicity of instances, during the course of twenty years' practice, I have succeeded in effecting cures by means of those agents, after every other remedial means had failed.

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Some DISORDERS PECULIAR TO MALES, which have been successfully treated by Galvanism, etc., I intend shortly to publish in a small pamphlet. Here, however, I must make two important remarks: first, that I have now fully proved the peculiar power of Galvanism in quickening the action of mercury, and by that means accomplishing the cure of a certain disease in half the time which the ordinary mode of treatment would require; and, secondly, that the exhibition of Galvanism, in conjunction with mercury, counteracts the



mischievous effects of that mineral, supports the vital energy while the patient is under its influence, and gives tone and vigour to the constitution after a mercurial course. This has been the case in several instances which have come under my immediate care. I therefore strongly urge those, who may have the misfortune to suffer from a complaint for which the remedy is nearly as bad as the disease, to have recourse to an agent which will save them from the devastation of constitutional strength and restore them to health in a very short time.

IN PSEUDO SYPHILITIC AFFECTIONS several cases of recovery have occurred in my practice, some of which also shall be hereafter published.

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IN DISORDERS PECULIAR TO FEMALES, as the green sickness, obstruction, etc., no means have been found more efficient than Electricity and Galvanism; and the Air-pump Vapour-bath and other baths have proved useful auxiliaries. As I have given a variety of cases in my treatises on these agents, I must refer my readers to those works. It is a well-known fact that medical men are generally



aware of the efficacy of Electricity in female obstructions, and have favoured me with the recommendation of many cases; and I can most positively assert that I have never met with but four instances, in the course of my practice, in which I have not succeeded in curing the patients. In most cases the recovery has been rapid, and in a few progressive.

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In a variety of disorders which are classed as LOCAL DISEASES, Electricity, Galvanism, and the general and local Vapour-baths, have proved highly beneficial; as in broncocele or Derbyshire neck, tumours or enlarged glands, worms, sprains, ulcers, and mortification; and more particularly in that most painful disorder, which generally affects the nerves of the face, called tic-douloureux. I have had some cases of this malady; a few I have failed to cure, others have been cured by Electricity or by Galvanism. A very distressing case of this disease came under my treatment last spring.

A female, about thirty years of age, had for several months suffered from this painful affection of the fifth pair of nerves on the right side



of the face. Her complaint gradually increased, and, so great was the agony she endured, that she was rendered incapable of remaining in her situation of lady's maid, and was about to be discharged. Several medical men had seen the patient, and various remedies were tried without advantage. She had several teeth extracted, but without alleviation.

The treatment I employed in this case was the mildest form of Electricity, with the occasional use of mild aperients, as the local disease had deranged the digestive functions. In the course of three weeks she was cured, since which time she has not had any recurrence of the disease.

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Another interesting case of a morbid affection of the nerves of the head and arm came under my care at the commencement of the present year. The patient, a lady about forty years of age, had been suffering from that complaint for some months, and her general health was much impaired; Galvanism was, in the first instance, administered with the best effect; after which I used it occasionally with Electricity. In the course of three months the



patient recovered of the disease. The following statement was sent to me by this patient in reply to my inquiry after her health.

“ Liverpool, December 10, 1827.

“ Dear Sir,

“ I feel myself bound to you by a debt of the deepest gratitude, and I owe it to society to give publicity to the happy effects of your treatment whilst I was under your care for that terrible complaint the tic-douloureux.

“ I shall now recapitulate the symptoms and progress of the disorder, until I had the good fortune to be introduced to you ; in the hope that a particular account of my sufferings may the better enable you to decide upon any similar case.

“ While in this part of the country, about eighteen months since, I was much affected by pains in my head, which communicated from the right temple to the fourth finger of the right hand ; this I thought an extraordinary symptom, and therefore obtained the best medical assistance this part of the country could afford. It was by them considered a rheumatic affection, and treated accordingly ; but after



two or three months the pain, instead of abating, increased to a most alarming degree and eventually became excruciating. The pain in my temples was almost without intermission, and if for a moment it abated in that part it increased if possible in my hands. I could not lie on my right side in bed, and if by any chance I did get any sleep and turned during the night, I immediately awoke with the consequent pain and a sensation in my hands as though they were swollen to an immense size. These alarming symptoms induced me to return to London in hopes of obtaining relief; where my complaint, which continued to increase, was still considered and treated as rheumatic. I now wore my arm in a sling, and was advised to have all my upper teeth extracted, on the supposition that the pain might proceed from some of the dental nerves which the operation would destroy. This was a forlorn hope, but on the chance of obtaining ease I should have submitted to it within a very short period, had I not heard of your great success in the treatment of similar complaints. The sound of the word Galvanism at first alarmed me, as I had no idea that it could be so modified as even to produce a pleasurable sensation. However, I decided on making



the experiment. I was, as you are aware, either galvanised or electrified nearly every day for three months, and then every alternate day for a fortnight, when I was obliged to leave London.

“The second week of the application of the galvanic fluid considerably relieved my head, but for a month my hand remained in considerable pain, which the application of Electricity much diminished. During the three months and two weeks that I have mentioned the pain gradually abated, and for the last nine months I have had no return whatever of the complaint.

“The above statement must, I think, satisfy the most sceptical that Galvanism and Electricity are effectual remedies, when used, as in my case, for that dreadful complaint the *tic-douloureux*.

“H. F.”

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In many cases of the total or partial loss of either of the senses, I have been very successful. In blindness and deafness I shall subjoin only a few cases of cures, having recorded many



others in my former publications; and the following facts will be sufficient to illustrate the remedial powers of Galvanism and Electricity, and the mode in which I administer those agents. I must also add that the benefits obtained by the patients have been permanent.

Mr. J., about thirty years of age, of a spare habit and nervous temperament, was seized with blindness, supposed to have been occasioned by a previous state of ill health, by too great attention to his business which was that of a gun-smith, and by working at late hours by candle-light. On finding his health rapidly declining and his sight almost gone, he placed himself under the care of several respectable practitioners, all of whom, though they pursued different modes of treatment, failed to improve his visual powers. Among the remedies employed were mercurials, bleeding, general and local, blisters, various stimulating applications to the eyes, etc., none of which seemed to render him any service. He then placed himself under an eminent oculist, who sent him to me for the employment of the galvanic influence as the *dernier* resort of all medical remedies. On the first visit, this patient stated



to me that he found great difficulty in making his way from one room to another, not being able to see a single object distinctly.

Immediately after the first topical application of Galvanism, he felt considerably benefited; and he distinctly saw the houses on the opposite side of the square. The third visit rapidly urged on his recovery, and, on the fourth administration of the galvanic influence, he obtained most decided benefit. He then distinctly saw the colours of his hearth-rug by twilight, and the three following applications of Galvanism perfectly restored his sight.

On his last visit, he told me that he could again work by candle-light, and, without any difficulty, distinguish silver from platina wires of the smallest dimensions, although they are nearly of the same colour.

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A young gentleman of fortune, about twenty-five years of age and of a sanguine temperament, was recommended to me by the practitioner alluded to in the former case. He became blind of the right eye in consequence of a violent blow. Constitutional and topical



remedies were employed with advantage, but the paralysis of the optic nerve continued. The pupil of the eye was considerably dilated, and he could not perceive any object distinctly; in short, he had lost all useful sight.

The Galvanism was employed daily for nine days, and afterwards occasionally for about a month, when he perfectly regained his sight.

I recently heard, from one of his particular friends, that he continued to enjoy perfect vision.

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A lady, about thirty-five years of age, applied to me for blindness of the left eye, which had been of two years' continuance. She was in a state of perfect health, and attributed the loss of her visual power to over exertion of sight at fine needlework, by candle-light, while labouring under great indisposition.

On a minute examination of the eye, I was fully satisfied that her case was one of incipient cataract, and therefore, with a view of producing absorption, I employed the Galvanism, and passed it through the eye with the best



possible effect. After one month's occasional attendance, this patient was so far restored, that she could distinctly observe a small hole at the end of the galvanic battery, not larger than the head of a pin; and, in a few weeks after, she fully regained her sight.

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B. G., Esq., about seventy-five years of age, an eminent medical practitioner, who had enjoyed a robust and vigorous state of health during a long country practice of fifty years, found that his health, about ten years previous, began to decline, when he suffered much from a severe bilious attack, passed gall stones, and subsequently laboured under a chronic affection of the liver and obstruction of the bowels. Soon after an attack of jaundice he began, gradually, to lose the sight of his right eye; and, after various modes of treatment, he became quite blind of that eye.

From that time his general health, and the sight of his left eye, became so much impaired, that he was obliged to use the strongest magnifiers in order to see any small object, for without them he was not able to discern



any large object at the distance of a few yards. Mr. G., having consulted several oculists without advantage, was recommended to me by his son, who is also a medical practitioner of great respectability, and I treated his case as one of defective energy of the optic nerve, arising from a disordered state of the biliary organs. It was therefore my object to restore the digestive organs, which I stated to the patient would be productive of the most beneficial effects in increasing the visual powers of the left eye ; but as to regaining the sight of the right eye, I did not entertain the slightest expectation whatever.

Mr. G. submitted to my plan of treatment, and had recourse to Galvanism and the mildest aperients for a few days. He attended to the rules laid down as to diet, and, after the third visit, he informed me that his digestion was considerably improved, that his bowels acted freely, that his left eye acquired vigour, and that he was enabled to see across the street distinctly. After the sixth application of Galvanism to the abdominal viscera, my patient surprised me not a little, by informing me, that happening accidentally to close his left eye, he was greatly astonished to find that the right



eye, which had been useless for several years, was restored to sight, and that he saw with that eye much better than with the other which had been less affected with blindness.

He continued with me about a fortnight longer, during which period his general health and his visual powers were so much restored, that he could see better without his glasses than he ever did with them.

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A middle-aged gentleman, who had been many years resident in a hot climate, returned to England about seven years ago and consulted me in his case of deafness of the right ear. He could not hear a watch tick unless close to the ear. As his digestive organs were much deranged I administered Galvanism to the system for about three weeks, and by that means alone he fully acquired his health and his hearing without any local application whatever.

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A young gentleman, who had been placed under a course of mercury, took a violent



cold and became exceedingly deaf of both ears, under which privation he had laboured for several months. In this case the Galvanism and the Vapour-bath were occasionally employed to improve the general health, and, in the course of two months, effected a perfect recovery. After a lapse of three years, this patient can bear testimony to the permanent good effects of this treatment.

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A young female, about twenty-five years of age, gradually became deaf, and her deafness increased to that degree that she could only hear very loud speaking. In this state she continued for more than four years, when she was sent to me.

This patient had tried several blisters and various stimulants, both internally and externally, without any effect. Her case was pronounced to be a palsy of the auditory nerves of both ears; and all the symptoms of which she complained fully justified that opinion.

I directed the electrical influence through both ears during five weeks' attendance on me.



Her perfect recovery was, by that means alone, accomplished about three years ago, and she has continued to enjoy the benefit she then obtained.

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D. L. C. Esq. consulted me on his case. He was nearly quite deaf of the left ear, and partially so of the right. He was about thirty-five years of age, of a robust form, and of a phlegmatic temperament. He had laboured under this infirmity for four years. He was at first, he said, troubled with giddiness in the head, a singing noise in the ears, with occasional dimness of sight. The ceruminous secretion became deficient, and the sensorial power diminished rapidly. He had consulted several aurists, at different times, who had invariably prescribed local applications to the ear, which, instead of affording him any relief, rather increased his deafness.

Upon making minute enquiries as to the various symptoms of his complaint, I was fully convinced that his disorder originated in indigestion, and stated that to him as my opinion. He was at first surprised at this intimation, but afterwards admitted that he had, during



the whole period of his malady, experienced much distress of stomach from acidity, flatulence and nausea, and that his bowels had been frequently irregular.

This gentleman was galvanised on the stomach, and the immediate effect astonished him. On the following day he was enabled to hear his watch tick on the left side, at the distance of his arm's length, though before he could not hear the tick when the watch came in contact with the ear. By the regular use of Galvanism for a few weeks, he not only recovered his hearing but also his general health.

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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. He had been deaf for more than twenty years. On particular examination, I found no ceruminous secretion in either the right or the left ear, the tympanum of neither could be inflated; and he could not hear the ticking of a watch when placed in his mouth, or on his teeth.

This gentleman had lately returned from



India, after more than twenty years' residence in that country. During that period, he had been frequently attacked with inflammation of the liver, and other disorders peculiar to warm climates; and, since his return home, he had been constantly obliged to have recourse to mercurial and other powerful remedies to excite the bowels, the biliary secretion being inadequate to stimulate the intestines to proper evacuations.

Before I applied the Galvanism, I requested the patient to try how far he could hear my watch from each ear. He was sensible of the ticking when about three inches from his right ear, but required the pressure of the watch on the left ear to convey the sound to the sensorium. I then requested him not to put it to his ears for a fortnight, that he might be the better able to judge if his power of hearing increased. In three weeks after the employment of Galvanism, as a constitutional remedy, the secretion of the bile was increased, and the bowels were fully restored to their proper action without any aid of medicine. At the expiration of a fortnight, I requested him to try how far he could hear my watch with he right ear. He said, he was sensible of the



improvement in his hearing—that all his friends had remarked the change, and that he could now distinctly hear my watch tick as it lay on the table. He, however, put it to the right ear with the right hand, and then rapidly withdrew it to the fullest extent of his arm, and said, he heard it distinctly. On trying the watch to the left ear, I found the amendment comparatively trifling; he could not withdraw it more than three inches—a circumstance, however, that afforded hopes of farther improvement. In short, when the patient was perfectly cured of his liver complaint, he fully recovered the hearing of the right ear, but the left was not restored to equal capability.

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— A., Esq., an eminent solicitor of very extensive practice, had, by his great application to professional duties, brought on a nervous complaint. This gentleman was of a spare habit, of an active mind, and about forty years of age. He had experienced a gradual loss of hearing for about two years. In its first approaches it was attended with a buzzing noise in the ears, and a defective secretion of cerumen. He could inflate the tympanum, and hear the ticking of a watch at the



distance of about three inches from both ears, which were equally affected. There was no induration of cerumen. The auditory nerves had lost their tone and the nervous system, having suffered from too great excitement, had sunk into a state of exhaustion.

In this case I recommended nervines, and employed Electricity as a constitutional remedy. The patient, however, neglected to take the medicines I advised, and, notwithstanding the omission, by Electricity alone he perfectly recovered both his health and hearing in three weeks; a circumstance that left no doubt on my mind that his disorder was purely nervous.

In this, as well as in the preceding and succeeding cases, the ordinary local remedies had been employed without any advantage whatever.

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Amongst the numerous cases of obstructed eustachian tube which I have met with, a very extraordinary instance of recovery occurred while I superintended a public institution.

Mr. J.R., seventy-six years of age, of a very



spare habit, much emaciated, labouring under the infirmities of old age, bent down, bald-headed and toothless, but nevertheless in the possession of tolerable health, stated to me that he had become deaf in consequence of having been buried in snow for several hours, about forty years before, and that by the left ear he never afterwards heard any sound whatever. He began to lose the hearing of the right ear about seventeen years after, but in his then state he could not hear the ticking of a watch, though placed in his mouth or close to his ears. With the greatest efforts he could not, in the smallest degree, inflate the tympanum of either ear. Upon the whole, I conceived this case to be hopeless; but, having known several instances of recovery of deaf patients who had been under my care, he determined to make a trial, though I assured him there was not the least prospect of his obtaining any benefit.

He attended regularly eleven times, during which I employed Electricity. The next time he called, my servant, in his usual way, vociferated in his ear, "How do you find yourself, sir?" He smiled and said, "you need not holla so loud, for I can now hear as well as you can." I confess I was astonished



at this declaration, and, on making inquiry, he gave me a circumstantial detail of the particulars attending the sudden and perfect recovery of hearing with that ear, which had been totally deaf for forty years. From this extraordinary success I was encouraged to proceed with the other ear, and I had the satisfaction of restoring that also, in a sudden manner, in a fortnight after.

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In conclusion, I beg to make the following observations. It must be clearly inferred, upon the perusal of the preceding pages,—

First, that Galvanism is an *effectual* remedy in disorders of the digestive organs and the nervous system, and in other ailments arising from their derangement, and that in *numerous* cases it is much more beneficial than the ordinary treatment by mercurial medicines, etc.

Secondly, that Galvanism has generally been productive of *permanent* benefit, when a fair trial has been made of its sanative powers.

Thirdly, that Galvanism is a *perfectly safe* remedy when judiciously employed. Its safety



resulting from its nature, its operation and the mode of administering it, which can be so controled as never to produce any injurious effects on the constitution.

Fourthly, that Galvanism is a *convenient* remedy, as it requires no confinement, which medicines frequently do. It may be employed at all times to both males and females of all ages, at home and abroad, and at any hour of the day and at all seasons of the year.

Fifthly, that Galvanism is a *mild* remedy, and when properly administered is unattended by any violent and painful feelings. Though the application be made directly to the diseased part, the sensation produced by its immediate action is frequently pleasurable, or so mild that the patient is scarcely sensible of its effect. This fact should remove from the minds of the timid the foolish idea that violent shocks must be endured: so unfounded is this apprehension that even children at the breast may be galvanized without giving them any painful feelings.

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As I have, in my recent book on Galvanism



and the auxiliaries used in my practice, given a concise but clear account of the chemical and medical powers of those agents, their modes of operation and every information I conceived necessary, it remains for me only to add, that, in the peculiar branch of practice which I have pursued for many years, I have had much to contend with. The prejudices of the ignorant and the selfishness of the interested have impeded the general employment of a remedy, which has proved more beneficial than any other discovery of modern times. Though the most scientific and eminent of the faculty have supported my practice by numerous recommendations, for which I return them my best thanks, yet I deeply regret to add that there have been some practitioners, who have opposed the use of Galvanism and other philosophical agents, either from ignorance of their efficacy or from some other motive less honorable to their character. Many patients, who have placed themselves under my care, and who have derived benefit from the treatment I employed, have assured me, that they had been long prevented from trying Galvanism on account of the unfavorable opinion they had imbibed from their medical advisers, who have, in consequence, lost the confidence of those patients and their family connections. Presuming that in



every instance an honest opinion was given, is it not also fair to presume that medical gentlemen cannot be so competent to judge of the powers of a remedy, of which they have no *practical* knowledge nor *long* experience, as an individual who has devoted his whole attention and time to it, and who has successfully employed it in a multiplicity of cases of different diseases? As a peculiar tact is required in the various branches of medical practice, it is reasonable to suppose that the practitioner in each branch must be best acquainted with the particular department to which he dedicates his time and talents: so with respect to the medical and surgical employment of Galvanism and other philosophical agents. Therefore, without arrogating to myself any superior skill, I may be allowed to advise those, who are disposed to make a trial of my mode of treatment, to consult me in the first instance on the applicability and utility of Galvanism, etc., in their individual cases, either personally or by letter, and not to be prejudiced by the opinions of those, who are either ignorant of the powers of my remedies or averse from their use. After having employed Galvanism, Electricity, etc., very extensively for more than twenty-five years, I certainly must be supposed to be as good a



judge of the propriety of employing them, in any case of disease, as any of the faculty whose practice is confined to medicine or surgery. My reason for making these remarks is because I have, in several instances, discovered a secret hostility to my practice, which has prevented *many* patients from having recourse to the only means which could have effected their recovery. In various cases the influence of medical authority has shut the door of hope against them, and they have fallen victims to disease. Though the greater part of my patients place themselves under my care without the intervention of any medical attendant, and solely from the recommendation of those whom I have cured, yet I shall be at all times most happy to co-operate with medical men, when my aid may be beneficial to their patients; for I have no wish to entrench on their province nor to diminish their honourable gain. My object is not to oppose the ordinary treatment, but to *aid* it by most powerful and beneficial remedies, especially in those cases of disease which medicines cannot cure.

*London, December, 1827.*

*31, Southampton Row, Russell Square.*



# ERRATA.

- Page 37, first line, after *and* add *she*.  
47, seventh line, for *were* read *was*.  
86, last line, after *obtain* add *only*.



*The following Works have been written by the Author:*

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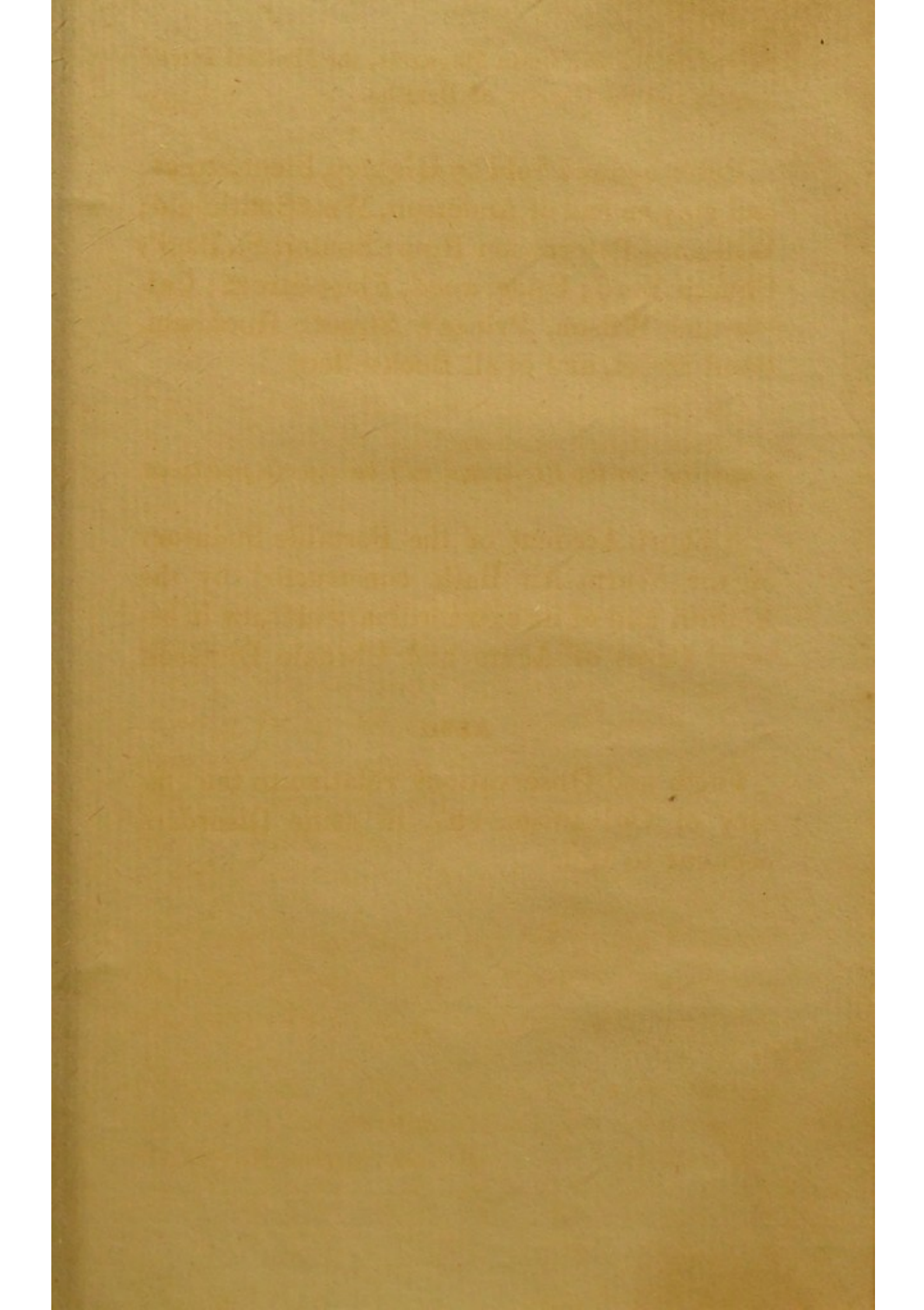
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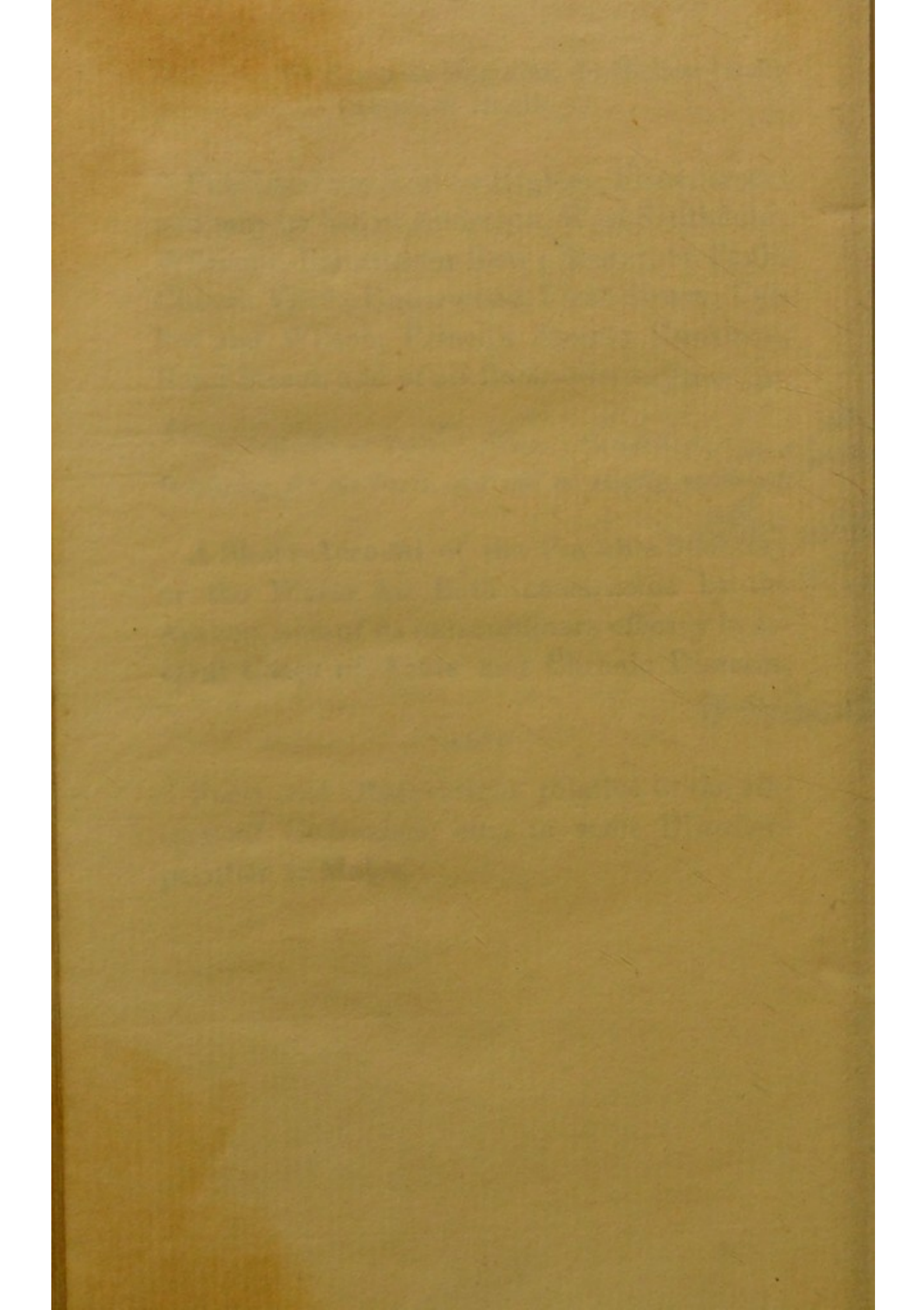
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