

[Reviews of Letters from Graefenberg, 1847-1854.] / [John Gibbs].

Contributors

Gibbs, John, of Camberwell.

Publication/Creation

1847-1854

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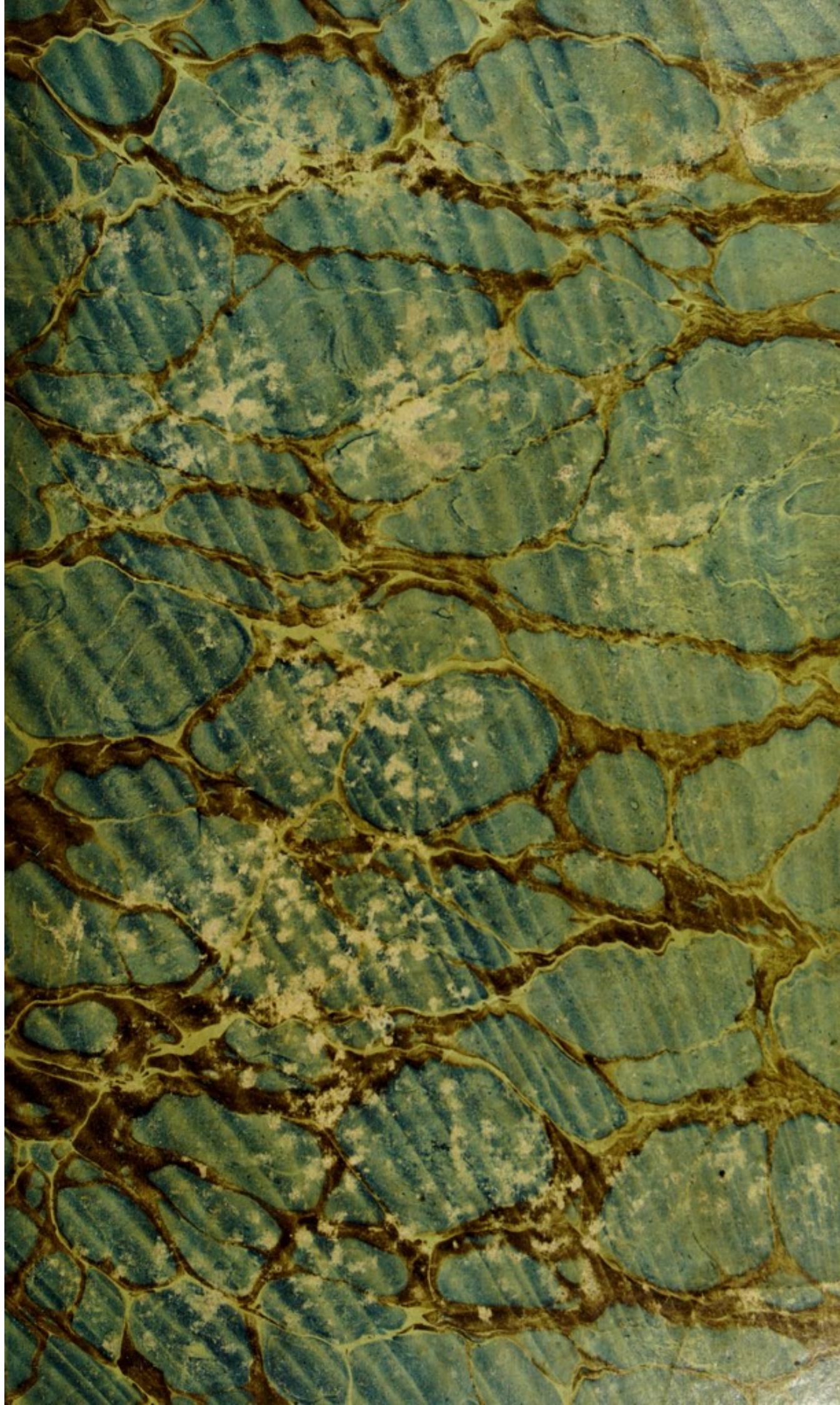
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John Gibbs.

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Reviews
of

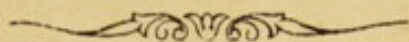
Letters from Griefenberg

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A very able production. —
Ennis-courthy News.

"Deserves the utmost con-
sideration." — Reynolds Newspaper.

"Exhausts the arguments."
— Hastings News.

My list —

Botanic fl. —

Vegetarian Messenger —

Journal of Health —

~~Homeopathic Journal~~

It was all the same
I was not the same
I was not the same
I was not the same
I was not the same

My dear
John
I am
Yours
John

"L'opinion publique fut vivement émue par ce livre."
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"Adduces a great many authorities medical and Statistical."
Morning Star.

"A very elaborate letter."
Hastings Chronicle.

"Shows considerable ability and full acquaintance with the subject."
Durham Chronicle.

"Deals with a momentous and difficult theme."
Bedford Mercury.

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THE EXAMINER.

MANCHESTER,
SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1847.

LETTERS FROM GRÆFENBERG, in the years 1843, 1844, 1845, and 1846. With the Report and Extracts from the Correspondence of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society. By John Gibbs. London: Charles Gilpin. 1847.

Mr. Gibbs is a medical gentleman of ability and repute, at present resident in Camberwell, who proceeded in the August of 1843, to Preissnitz's celebrated establishment at Græfenberg, and remained there until the summer of 1846, investigating, with the amplest opportunities for such study, the practice and theory of the water-cure. During the whole course of his visit, he maintained a regular and copious correspondence, detailing what he saw and inferred there, with Mr. Ridge, secretary of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society, by whom Mr. Gibbs' letters, generally with some comment of his own, were forwarded to be published in the Wexford papers, from which, with various additions, they are now reprinted. Along with the letters of Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Ridge, are given a number of documents, emanating from time to time, from patients in the Græfenberg establishment, individually or collectively, bearing most favourable testimony to the beneficial nature of the water-cure. And a number of notes are now appended, partly controversial, partly bibliographical, from which the reader will gain a tolerably accurate survey of the whole literature of hydropathy.

Mr. Gibbs went to Græfenberg, without any particular bias in favour of the water-cure, perhaps rather sceptical than otherwise, and there is an evident sincerity about his positive, straightforward, determined, style of writing, that indicates him to be a witness worthy of belief: his talent and information are not for a moment mistakable. Under the circumstances, therefore, his evidence is peculiarly valuable. It is not a treatise written with forethought and premeditation, after removal from Græfenberg, but a weekly chronicle, sent off as it befel, of what he saw with his own eyes, and now permits us to see. At first it presents almost exclusively facts, and it is only latterly when these have so accumulated as to make his belief in the efficacy of the water-cure firm as rock, that he enters very ingeniously into the theory of the system, endeavouring to establish it *a priori*, and collects from old writers and from new, from far and near, testimonies incidentally borne to it by the natural curative instincts of man.

To the general reader, the account of life at Græfenberg, that vast asylum of upwards of a thousand patients of all countries, cannot fail to be interesting.

Nor are the accounts of horrid diseases other than attractive, here, as we see them, in Mr. Gibbs' pages, in instance after instance, receding before the all-healing influences of water. We cordially recommend the book as a straightforward exposition of a subject in which all are interested, for who can boast himself now and forever exempt from disease?

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE,

JULY 24, 1847.

Letters from Græfenberg in the Years 1843-44-45-46.

With the report, and extracts from the correspondence, of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society. By John Gibbs. London: C. Gilpin.—Who has not heard of Græfenberg and the Water Cure? Who does not feel a wish to know something about Vincent Priessnitz, the founder of a system which seemed at one time likely to shake the medical "world" to its centre? The little volume before us—which includes a number of valuable contributions written by R. T. Ridge, Esq., of Dunsinane, Wexford, and other individuals, as well as from the gentleman whose name appears in the title page, and who is the chief contributor—contains the best sketch of the head-quarters of the "Water Cure" that we have seen. It is not "a laboured exposition of a theory," but "the testimony of a witness, accompanied by such reflexions as might easily suggest themselves to any close observer and enquirer after the truth." There are also a good outline of the received theory of the system and a variety of practical details. Mr. Gibbs was an invalid who went to Græfenberg to place himself under the care of Priessnitz, and communicates his experience in the form of a series of letters, which detail a great variety of cases that came under the writer's observation during his stay. He evidently possesses a warm and enthusiastic temperament, which is however tempered with shrewdness and knowledge of the world. The pruning knife might have been used in several places, but this perhaps would have weakened the *freshness* of the book. We pass no opinion on the merits of the system. Water is unquestionably an important remedial agent; and we are not amongst those who scoff at discoveries. Great judgment is required in carrying out the system, which is not understood by many who call themselves professors. The water-cure men are apt to run into extremes—hence, in part, the slightness of the impression that they have made upon the public mind. We may, at some opportunity when we are less pressed for room than we are now, give a few descriptive passages from this clever volume.

Letters from Græfenberg in the Years 1843, 1844, 1845, and 1846; with the Report and Extracts from the Correspondence of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society. By JOHN GIBBS. London: Gilpin.

Mr. Gibbs has dedicated these Letters to the Earl of Lichfield, as the "earliest convert, in a high station in this country, to the water cure." To those who are desirous of an acquaintance with the mode of treatment pursued by Priessnitz and other advocates of the water cure, this book will be acceptable. The mode of treatment is fully explained, while numerous cases are mentioned of persons labouring under various diseases who have been restored to perfect health.

*Patrist, Sept. 23rd 1847.
London.*

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8, 1847.

Letters from Græfenberg, in the years 1843, 1844, 1845, and 1846; with a Report, and Extracts from the Correspondence, of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society. By JOHN GIBBS. London: Charles Gilpin.

MR. GIBBS went to Græfenberg "with the twofold purpose of testing the efficacy of the treatment in his own case, and of investigating its principles and practice as exemplified in the cases of others." He resided there two years and eight months, and, from his intimacy with many of the most influential and best informed of the patients, and his friendship with Mr. Priessnitz, possessed good opportunities of acquiring a correct knowledge of the system. These opportunities he has used intelligently and honestly; he can exercise a sound judgment, and dares to express his conclusions.

No one can be acquainted with the present state of medical science, with the confessed ignorance of its professors as to many diseases and their proper modes of cure, and with their ignorance of many others, which, though not confessed, is quite as evident from their contradictory and ineffectual methods of procedure, without being convinced that a wide field is yet open for the cultivation of the skilful and humane. It is not, perhaps, for us to pronounce an opinion on the merits or demerits of hydropathy; and if we did, we might possibly meet with little attention. But, as public journalists, it may be permitted us to call the attention of our readers to a clear and sensible, and obviously trustworthy, account of the proceedings of its great apostle. Every contribution of *facts*, stated calmly and faithfully, is of importance. By these the matter must be settled, and these the people will judge of. Professional pretensions are losing their virtue in the present day. Men will think for themselves about their souls, despite the priests; and they will not resign their bodies to the dogmas of the "faculty."

To those who would be well-informed in the system adopted at Græfenberg we can safely recommend the letters of Mr. Gibbs. He is a warm advocate of it, but his zeal is not without knowledge, nor that best kind in such cases—*personal knowledge*. On most points interesting to the general reader, and many that are chiefly interesting to the professional reader, something will be found in his pages. What Mr. Priessnitz is, and what he is not—what he does, and what he leaves undone—his real pretensions and actual achievements—how he has been misrepresented and how he may be defended—may be here learned. Information of all kinds is presented in abundance—scientific, historical, eco-

nomical, statistical. Testimonies are brought from every quarter—the opinions of the learned—the experience of the most competent patients—the best ascertained facts—the deductions of reason—and, though last not least, the statements of the tailors at Freiwaldau, “who almost invariably find that, in a short time, the patients at Græfenberg increase in muscular development.” The inquirer after health, the philanthropist, and the medical practitioner, will do well to read Mr. Gibbs’s “Report,” for which we thank him, and which we beg very sincerely to recommend to careful perusal.

THE MORNING CHRONICLE.

LONDON:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1847.

Letters from Graefenberg, in the Years 1843-1846, with the Report of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society.—By JOHN GIBBS.—[Gilpin].—We recommend this volume to all who wish to make themselves acquainted with the potency of the water cure. The author was favoured with the friendship of Priessnitz, and the acquaintance of his most distinguished patients. That he is a man of sense, intelligence, and fairness, and therefore a trustworthy witness, is evident from his book, which contains details of some very remarkable cases.

The Evening Packet.

THE QUEEN—THE PEOPLE—AND THE LAW!

DUBLIN, THURSDAY, 11 NOVEMBER. 1847

LETTERS FROM GRÆFENBERG. By JOHN GIBBS. London: Charles Gilpin.

These letters are the production of an Irishman, the founder of a Hydropathic Society in Enniscorthy, and are the result of a visit paid to the head-quarters of the water cure, for the purpose of testing the efficacy of its effects in his own case, and of investigating “its principles and practice as exemplified in the cases of others.” They are re-published from the Wexford newspapers, to whose editors they were originally addressed, and are enthusiastic in their advocacy of cold water as a remedial agent. They describe with accuracy the modes of cure adopted by PRIESSNITT, by means of water, air, and exercise alone, and abound with examples of wonderful recoveries, which prove, at all events, that Mr. GIBBS is a sincere convert to Hydropathy.

LITERATURE.

Letters from Graeffenberg; by JOHN GIBBS.—GILPIN,
Bishopsgate-Street, Without; London.

"*Arison men 'udos.*"

"Water is best."

THERE is a great deal of truth in this. The philosophical Greek saw of past times is vindicated by the modern instances of our own. Medical Science, after all after all she has done for so many generations, is beginning to turn back to Nature, and adopt the beneficent old agency and universal element of the ancient mother. The former is always safest the more closely she accompanies the latter, and in all her mistakes or defeats, will be sure to gain fresh vitality and vigour from contact with her. The theory of the Cold Water system may be understood by an average capacity, and is convincing to the common sense, while the practice of it, in the most complete and triumphant manner, keeps the promise of the doctrine. Other theories, like that of Free Trade, are generally received with a generous general belief, for the truth and nobleness of their abstract principles—the world waiting patiently for the fulfilment; but Hydropathy does not trouble us to exercise our credence at all; it puts all it teaches into practice at once, and before our eyes; and we are defrauded of the merit of what has been considered one of the highest of our faculties—faith. However, some might not think the worse of it, because it is so practically demonstrative. In fact the success which has attended the Cold Water treatment, everywhere, would enable it to dispense with any theory at all—as a scaffolding is unnecessary to give a clear idea the proportions of a finished building. In the midst of much discouragement it has its facts to fall back upon; through all the opposition that envelopes it you see them distinctly; and these and the whole system will come out and be visible by and by in the general recognition of all men. This system may be laughed at by the festive on one side and the professional on the other; but it does its business—that is, it saves lives, and desperate ones. But we can easily understand the dislike of the Doctors and Apothecaries to it. They can have little sympathy with a cold water deluge, breaking into the old *Materia Medica* shop and demolishing the bottles of all sizes—a regular Alpheus through its Augean accumulations of precedent and observance—and one that cannot be kept out with a fork. Somehow or other, our own experience of physic-taking—*animus meminisse horret*,—gives us a leaning to any reasonable plan of dispensing with it. We have, indeed, a strong conviction of the truth and benefit of the Hydropathic system—involving as it does, in its comprehensive plan, the use of simple drinks and the disuse of alcoholic poisons which deteriorate the physical system, as well as the outward application of water by way of ablution. Within

its plan exist all the means and elements of health ;— which used to be called a blessing—though one-half the people act as if it was no such thing—putting it to sleep on the shelf, with the seven Cardinal virtues.

We have received "*Letters from Gräfenberg*," written and published by Mr. John Gibbs. They are over fifty in number, and are extremely interesting in their numerous instances of successful cure, under the system of Priessnitz, and the various explanations or indications of its principles, scattered through the book. We think the case of the German practitioner a triumphant one. We also think that the objections urged against his practice are fairly answered. We are happy to see that a great number of medical men of all countries have given their assent and recommendation to the hydropathic treatment. In fact we do not see why the doctors of medicine should regard it with such aversion. The administration of baths must, or ought always presuppose an intimate and scientific knowledge of the constitution. The cold water treatment demands a regular course of physiological study and a college diploma. It holds the science of therapeutics as high as it was before ; and none but doctors should practice it. The cold-water doctors do not discard the old medical *material*, entirely, nor the lancet, nor, of course, the surgical officers. We really think the *regular* practitioners may make their own concessions with a good grace ; and put themselves in front of a rational system in its progress, instead of falling behind it.

We recommend our readers to examine the matter for themselves. For our own part we have no superstitious terror of a perspiration in a wet sheet—nor any dislike to a process which does the sanatory work of hours in as many minutes.

We have much sympathy with innovation and progress. The history of human improvement is but a record of change.—We also find that the opposition or discouragement offered to these changes did not hinder their final triumph—soon or late. Anaxagoras whispered the doctrine of the antipodes to the antique world ; which laughed at the idea of making the lower people " good rascally sort of topsy-turvey fellows," walk on their heads. One Blasco de Garay, about the middle of the 16th century, exhibited a vessel, in the bay before Barcelona, moved by steam—the citizens looking on. But the idea was thought a flat impracticability. Sir H. Davy said we might as well hope for a slice of the moon as gas in great towns. Dr. Lardner proved, at Bristol, before the British Association, the utter impossibility of traversing the Atlantic by steam—somewhere about the very time Richard Roberts, of this town, carried the *Sirius* to the quay at New York ! Harvey could not persuade a single doctor of his own age and standing to put faith in his immortal fact. King James said Bacon's doctrine was like the peace of God—it " passed all human understanding ; " and his courtiers and his age thought somewhat as he did. Eradicate an error from our human philosophy in fact, and it cries out aloud—as a mandrake is said to shriek when you pull it out of the ground ;—*ha gran forza una vecchia opinione*. But all the truths which were ever discouraged or abashed for a time have emerged at last into the day. Time, the Redressor, despairs of nothing. If the simple system of applying the hydropathic process to almost all the ills that flesh is

their to—be, as we believe it is—founded upon reason and physiological science, it will as assuredly have its triumph as the doctrines of Harvey or Copernicus or Cobden had theirs.

The simple secret of the cold water cure has been known for ages: Celsus commends it; Horace speaks of it, somewhere, as an excellent prescription; and we read that Antonius Musa, the family doctor of Augustus Cæsar, put the Emperor through a course of hydropathy and cured him several times. Several other instances escape our memory. But the absurdities of professional science, in the course of ages, seem to have gathered round the simple medical knowledge of the world—just as the Samothracian and Eleusinian mysteries encumbered and disfigured the esoteric doctrine of the unity—or the cycles of Ptolemy refracted the true light of the firmament—and the *abracadabra* of an art, was of more signification than the investigation of nature. In time, however great innovations bettered the science of medicine—for which the world should be thankful—and the matter under consideration is one more—for which only a few are thankful—as yet.

There is one thing very unfair, indeed, in the opposition to the water treatment. The number of patients that die under it are “conned and set in a note-book”—recorded with pathological warning for the good of mankind, while the recoveries are either not noticed or suffer detraction. Regular practice finishes off its regular allowance daily, weekly, monthly—hundreds fall in the natural course—and we are not the austere, perhaps unjust censors to cry “haro” needlessly on the faculty; but let a single ricketty patient, worn out by the lancet, perhaps, or the drug-bottle, slip through the wet fingers of the hydropathist, and the offended professionals appeal to the common sense of society against these pretty doings, and society responds, with raised hands, “drowning the general ear with horrid speech” concerning the shocking catastrophe. We should be sorry indeed to attribute to the faculty the feeling of *Mons. Bahis*, in Moliere’s comedy—*Il vaut mieux mourir selon les regles que de rechapper contre les regles*; but we believe it is not sufficiently just to the efforts of hydropathists and the virtues of the beneficent element. However, as we have already aid, there is no use in trying to expel one of the truths of nature with a fork. It will recur, gather strength and remain recognised along with the other winnings and achievement of science and civilization;—if so be it is a *bona fide* truth; and we think few except the ignorant of all classes, will deny that the *rationale* of the water treatment commends itself generally for the soundness and truth of its principles. We present our readers with an extract from these *Letters*, respecting the hydropathic treatment of lung affections:—

“I shall, as briefly as possible, elucidate what is the mode adopted in the Water Cure, to relieve and cure lung complaints; and shall explain that the practice is in strict conformity with the physiological principles of the present day. The chief aim of the hydropathist in lung, and in all other affections, is, to use his remedies so as to “place the body under the most favourable circumstances for resisting or throwing off disease,” in other words, to allow the curative process of nature, the “*vis medicatrix naturæ*” to exert its in-

fluence; for it is the golden principle of hydrotherapies, as it ought to be of medicine, though it is seldom observed in the practice of the latter, "that the cure of all diseases must be effected by the powers of the living system." Let us then presume that a patient attacked with pleurisy or acute inflammation of the pleura is offered to be cured by water. I select this species of chest inflammation, because it is very common and its name is well known. It is highly important that this disease should be subdued as speedily as possible, it cannot continue long without producing other diseases, such as adhesions between the several thoracic organs, by which vital functions are impeded, and sudden or premature death occasioned.

"For the information of my unscientific readers I would remark, before explaining the principles of the treatment, that, "at every inspiration, we take into the lungs a certain quantity of oxygen from the air. This oxygen finds its way into the most remote tissues of the body, by means of the blood which is circulated through the lungs." The oxygen immediately attaches itself to the globules of the blood, by which it is carried to the heart first, and then distributed to every part of the body into which it is absorbed. "*These blood globules, then, are the carriers of oxygen.*" In contemplating the condition of a pleuritic patient, we find the membrane lining the lungs red and swollen, and its vessels gorged with florid blood. This red colour is *entirely* owing to the presence of *too much oxygen*, and the swollen condition is owing to the rapid circulation, by which more blood is brought to the part by the arteries than can be carried away by the veins. There is also an increase of *temperature* at the inflamed part. Now since animal heat is produced by the combination of oxygen with the materials of the body (carbon and hydrogen), it is plain that this increase of heat is owing to the increased activity with which oxygen is combining with the diseased pleura. In the pleura of the sick man some cause has weakened the resisting energy of the vital force; and it is a fixed law of nature that oxygen *always* unites with that which is endowed with the least vital resistance. In all healthy parts the affinity for oxygen is resisted with equal energy."—Liebig's "*Organic Chemistry.*" Medical men in a case of pleurisy, and in all cases of this class effect a cure by diminishing the velocity and force of the circulation, and lessening the general excitement. "The means by which they endeavour to accomplish these objects are low diet, bleeding, blistering, salivating, nauseating doses of antimony and foxglove. The reason why it is desirable that these two effects should be produced is, that a diminished quantity of oxygen may be conveyed to the inflamed, part, that thus the destructive process may be arrested in time to allow the curative power of nature to manifest itself, before irremediable alteration of structure has been produced. The Hydropathist acts on the same golden principle, but he produces the same effects by different applications of a different agent. He abstracts a large amount of heat from the patient by the half bath, or the *repeated* use of the wet sheet half wrung out, which is changed as often as often as it gets warm. This treatment is pursued until the skin becomes soft and more prone to exhalation

"Wet bandages" are applied also to the chest, and changed even oftener than the sheet. When the skin becomes more prone to perspiration, the body envelopment is not changed, but being closely covered so as to exclude air, the patient is allowed to perspire. The length of time to remain enveloped is indicated by the state of the pulse and feelings of the sufferer. An ablution with tepid water at 70o Fahr. is then performed, and the greatest care is taken to re-establish moderate diaphoresis by giving the patient in bed repeated draughts of water—a small quantity at each time—and by local bandages round the chest and throat. The sitz bath or foot-bath, is also used to create reaction in the extremities. 'The immediate effects of cold on the living system are to diminish the velocity of the heart's action, to lessen sensibility, and to decrease the number of respirations in a given time.' (*Liebig*.) 'Under the *protracted* influence of cold, the pulse become slower, feeble, and thready; the respirations, like the pulse, sink from eighteen to twelve in a minute. Whatever excitement, too, might have been present, as for instance, the excitement of danger, rapidly vanishes.' (*Johnson*.) 'These effects of cold are known to almost every one, and have been repeatedly proved in the case of persons accidentally exposed to severe cold—as when they have fallen asleep travelling in frosty weather, or have been accidentally nearly covered by snow. The effects of cold in lowering the vital energy of the skin hardly require any illustration. The frozen nose, frost-bitten toes, common in severe winters, and that condition of the fingers we say 'our hands are numbed' with cold, are all instances of the power cold applied in any way has in lowering or even destroying the vitality of the skin.' The pleuritic patient is either covered with a cold wet sheet or put into a half-bath, of about 65o of Fahr. 'The first effect is to lessen the frequency of the respiration—by this, a large quantity of oxygen is taken into the system. The next effect is to diminish in a remarkable and striking degree, the force and frequency of the pulse. By this a diminished quantity of oxygen is conveyed to the inflamed part. Here, then, are all the effects which are sought to be produced by bleeding, tartar emetic, foxglove, calomel, and opium; there only remains the blister. The good effects of a blister are produced by diverting the circulation from the inflamed part to the skin, that is, determining the force of oxygen to the blistered part. The blister effects this by weakening the vitality of the skin so much that the resistance offered by the natural vital force at the blistered part shall be even smaller than the resistance offered at the inflamed part.' I have before pointed out the power cold exercises in diminishing the vitality of the skin. 'When, therefore, the entire surface of the body, or a part of it, is submitted to the repeated influence of cold, the vitality of the skin may be lowered to any extent. The force and power of oxygen is thus drawn from the inflamed pleura and determined to the skin, whose reddened appearance demonstrates that this effect has been produced; for this red colour is owing to, and can *only* be occasioned by the increased quantity of oxygen which has been brought to it.'—*Johnson*.

"Liebig (a name which stands at the very head of scientific philosophers) says, in his 'Organic Chemistry,' a work which has excited the admiration of all the learned societies in Europe, 'the resistance of the living

tissues to the action of oxygen is the weakest at the cooled part than in the other parts, and this in its effects is equivalent to an increase of resistance in those other parts; the *whole* action of the inspired oxygen is exerted on the *cooled part*. It is therefore obvious that the judicious application of cold can produce all the effects of bleeding, antimony, foxglove, calomel, and opium, and much more than the blister and in much a higher degree. The blister produces its effects on a small portion of the skin. Cold produces its effects on the whole surface of the body."

We must observe one thing with reference to water-cure. Its paraphernalia of wet sheets, baths, assistants, &c., makes it a more laborious affair than the somewhat supine endurance of the regular treatment. This disadvantage, we are sure tells more against the new system, than anything the ignorance or fear of the many can urge. And indeed it is no slight disadvantage.—Slopping, exposure and knocking about, under a disease, are no slight dissuatives. The sick rooms of the many cannot afford the means and appliances without which the patients, the practice and the practisers of hydropathy will never have fair play. We see nothing to meet this objection but public establishments completely furnished. And these also will present difficulties to be overcome—in the necessary removal of patients from their homes and relatives—medical matters too in their own way, of great efficacy. In speaking favourably, according to our own convictions, of the cold water cure, we also speak of what we consider its disadvantages. We should be happy to see these overcome.

The Merchant

IN WHICH IS INCORPORATED

THE CITY CHRONICLE.

LONDON, TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 29. 1847

LETTERS FROM GREFENBERG IN THE YEARS 1843-46; with extracts from the correspondence of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society. By John Gibbs. (Charles Gilpin, Bishopsgate-street Without.) The title of this volume so plainly indicates the nature of its contents, that we need only say that it is a collection of letters from the great seat of the Water Cure Establishments, written in a sober style in favour of hydropathy—a term, by the bye, which the author repudiates—and which contains a great number of facts illustrative of the benefit to be derived from it by patients labouring under a great variety of diseases, and showing especially that water when abundantly applied, is a most effective agent for clearing all impurity from the system. The book is a good manual for those who wish to study the whole subject.

The Independent.

PRO REGINA ET PATRIA.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1847.

LETTERS FROM GRAEFENBERG, &c.—by JOHN GIBBS.—
London. Charles Gilpin, 5 Bishopsgate-street Without.—
In this work, into which the thoughtful and accomplished
author has thrown all the chastened enthusiasm, quiet
energy, close reasoning, striking illustration, and appro-
priate selection of facts, calculated to ensure attention and
produce conviction, the reader will find a clear, forcible,
and to our mind satisfactory statement of the theory and
practice of hydropathy, and the immense good achieved by
the judicious application of the principles. With the high
and varied qualifications which Mr. Gibbs brought to the
task he undertook the readers of the *Independent* are fa-
miliar. It is, therefore, unnecessary for us to dilate on
them. Suffice it to say that in the estimate of his powers,
and the valuable account to which he has turned them, put
forth in the subjoined passages by our able contemporary,
the *Nonconformist*, we fully and cordially agree:—

“Mr. Gibbs went to Graefenberg, with the twofold pur-
pose of testing the efficacy of the treatment in his own, and
investigating its principles and practice as exemplified in
the cases of others.” He resided there two years and eight
months, and, from his intimacy with many of the most in-
fluential and best informed of the patients, and his friend-
ship with Mr. Priessnitz, possessed good opportunities of
acquiring a correct knowledge of the system. These oppor-
tunities he has used intelligently and honestly; he can ex-
ercise a sound judgment, and dares to express his conclu-
sions. * * * To those who would be
well informed in the system adopted at Graefenberg we
can safely recommend the letters of Mr. Gibbs. He is a
warm advocate of it, but his zeal is not without knowledge,
nor that best kind in such cases—*personal knowledge*.—
On most points interesting to the general reader, and
many that are chiefly interesting to the professional reader,
something will be found in his pages. What Mr. Priess-
nitz is, and what he is not—what he does, and what he
leaves undone—his real pretensions and actual achieve-
ments—how he has been misrepresented and how he may
be defended—may be here learned. Information of all kinds
is presented in abundance—scientific, historical, economi-
cal, statistical. Testimonies are brought from every quar-
ter—the opinions of the learned—the experience of the
most competent patients—the best ascertained facts—the
deductions of reason—and, though last not least, the state-
ment of the tailors at Freiwaldau, ‘who almost invariably
find that, in a short time, the patients at Graefenberg in-
crease in muscular development.’ The inquirer after health,
the philanthropist, and the medical practitioner, will do
well to read Mr. Gibbs’s ‘Report,’ for which we thank
him, and which we beg very sincerely to recommend to
careful perusal.”

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1844.

HYDROPATHY.

We have been favored by Mr. RIDGE, the zealous and active Hon. Secretary to the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society with the following letter received by him from Mr. GIBBS, who has so graphically described the cases which have come under his immediate personal knowledge as to the course and efficacy of the Water Cure since his arrival in Grafenberg from Enniscorthy. We have not presumed to give any opinion on the subject of the truth or falsehood of the theory and results likely to follow the application of PRIESSNITZ's practice, but we know too well the honour and high character of Mr. GIBBS to question the truth and impartiality of his letters.

We therefore willingly insert the following letter for which our readers were doubtless in expectation from what has lately appeared in our columns :—

THE GUARDIAN.

WEXFORD, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1848.

LETTERS FROM GRAFENBERG.

BY JOHN GIBBS, ESQ.

(Charles Gilpin, London. T. Roche, Wexford.)

This is a most interesting work. It consists of letters from Grafenberg in the years 1843—'4—'5—'6, with the Report and Abstracts from the Correspondence of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society. The letters are well written, and they bear the stamp of the scholar and the gentleman. With the opinions it enunciates we have nothing to do. The question on which it treats is very debateable, and few medical men but are against the adoption of its principles. However, as a work containing much that is curious and interesting, and written by a man who has given the subject his closest attention, we recommend it as a work that may be found a valuable appendage to the gentleman's library.

The Christian News

THURSDAY, DEC. 23, 1847.

Literature.

LETTERS FROM GRÆFENBERG, *in the years 1843, 1844, 1845, and 1846, with the Report and Extracts from the Correspondence of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society.* By JOHN GIBES. London: Charles Gilpin.

THE advocates of the "water cure" are "the new-view people" of the healing profession. They are passing through the ordeal through which every benefactor of his race has had to pass, in his efforts to break up old established and cherished opinions. They are "the weak things," and "the things that are despised," by which Jehovah is working out some portion of a great deliverance for suffering humanity. As usual, therefore, the ignorant, the prejudiced, the proud, the interested, have been, and are still in some great measure, arrayed against them. Nor have they to contend with the opposition of open and decided foes alone; they have also to proceed under the incubus of the ignorance, the selfishness, and the rashness of those who are among their most enthusiastic friends. Yet, in defiance of all, they are moving steadily onward, and developing for the world one of the most important principles of temporal weal that has ever been pressed upon the attention of men.

Such being the position occupied by this body of reforming advocates, it will not be wondered at, if we should feel drawn towards them by a somewhat powerful cord of sympathy; nor need it be subject of wonder, if we should be led to speak of them in terms that indicate for them a very strong affection. We love the bodies as well as the souls of men. We hail the man who can be instrumental in affording relief through the tortured frame work, as truly as we hail him who is the means of good through the avenues of the mind; and, above all, we are disposed to hail the progress of that advancing truth which must ultimately prevail.

In order to give our readers, generally, some correct idea of the book before us, it may be well to sketch the progress of its great subject. Vincent Priessnitz may be regarded as the author of the water system of cure, as at present administered; and he to whom its present celebrity may be regarded as owing its existence, so far as the instrument employed to produce it is concerned. He "is the son of a small proprietor, whose ancestors for some hundred years have tilled the ground upon which" the establishment at Græfenberg is built. "While" he was "yet a boy, there was in the neighbourhood an old man who used to cure diseases in cattle by water applications. Priessnitz, it is said, used to assist him in his operations, and thus first acquired the rudiments on which, with the energy and daring of genius, he has founded a science. One of his first patients was himself. While still a boy, having sprained his wrist, and having water pumped upon it, he thought of putting a wet bandage round it. This produced a rush which he did not know whether to consider good

or bad. However, he persevered till his wrist was well. He proceeded from one small step to another, until the accident occurred that figures most strikingly in his early history. Having broken two of his ribs, and a surgeon having told him that he never could be so cured as to be fit for work again, he resolved, with an unusual determination and firmness, to endeavour to cure himself. To effect this, his first care was to replace his ribs, and this he did by leaning with his abdomen, with all his might, against a chair, and holding his breath so as to swell out his chest. This painful operation was attended with the success he expected. The ribs being thus replaced, he applied wet clothes to the part affected, drank plentifully of water, ate sparingly, and remained in perfect repose. In ten days he was able to go out; and, at the end of the year, he was again at his occupation in the fields." His fame spread among his neighbours, and he tried and effected other cures. He became, in fact, a self-taught "doctor," and the success with which his efforts to alleviate suffering were attended, ere long brought down upon him the opposition and enmity of interested and prejudiced parties. A complaint was lodged with the authorities against him; "claiming the intervention of the tribunal to prohibit him from unlawfully healing the sick and the afflicted. In consequence of this he was condemned to imprisonment, and forbidden to resume his practice. From this decision he appealed to the Aulic council, who sent a committee to investigate the matter on the spot, and the result was, that his enemies not being able to substantiate any of their charges against him, the sentence was reversed, and the whole proceedings, and the facts which were thereby elicited, contributed still more to extend his fame and to increase the number of his patients, among whom are now comprehended many of the highest rank in the empire." The commission appointed by the council, and whose decision saved Preissnitz from imprisonment, consisted of physicians; and at least one of them had the pleasure of seeing a little patient, whom he had "given up" as hopeless, and "not to survive till next day," that very next day playing among the rest when he visited. This was effected by Priessnitz. Not only had this benefactor to pass through the ordeal raised by the village doctors of medicine, but he was also denounced from the altar by a neighbouring clergyman. Over all these, and hosts of other and still more insidious calumniators, he has risen to a world-wide celebrity, and the number of patients attending his establishment exceed the average of 1000 each year, and we believe they are greatly and rapidly increasing. These are from all quarters of the globe—"French, English, Russians, Turks, Persians, Italians, Greeks, Danes, Swedes, Spaniards,—Europeans, Asiatics, Americans,—nay, even an African"—such was the variety congregated at this place of cure when Mr Gibbs arrived there in 1843. The place itself, it may be mentioned, is most favourably situated for the end to which it is devoted. It stands about 1909 German feet above the level of the sea; "the springs of the purest water in its neighbourhood are very numerous, and the many walks through its extensive forest, yields shelter and protection alike from the heat of summer and the winds of winter, though against these one acquires a still better protection in a strength and hardihood of frame which resist and defy the severest changes of the weather." The fame of this most celebrated establishment, spreading as it has now done into all lands, has excited a deep, and rapidly widening interest, and given rise not only to many kindred establishments both in this and other lands, but also to associations of philanthropic and intelligent men, who have been organised for the special purpose of promot-

ing inquiry and spreading knowledge regarding the "water cure" in society at large. "The Enniscorthy Society" was the result of a lecture delivered by Captain Claridge on the 27th of July, 1843, "when he made statements relative to the remedial powers of water in the treatment of disease, which excited so much interest," that the Society was formed on the next day for the following purposes—"1. To make inquiries and collect information as to the truth of what has been written by different authors on hydropathy, and advanced by Captain Claridge on the same subject. 2. To publish authentic information, 3. If hydropathy be found to be true, to promote its adoption as a matter of humanity." This society seems to be composed of highly intelligent and most enterprising men, prepared, in the spirit of enthusiastic benevolence, to carry forward the objects for which they have been associated. In August 1843, one of their number, John Gibbs, Esq., arrived at Græfenberg, and in the December following he commenced a correspondence with the honorary secretary of the Society, in the course of which, during the remainder of his stay of two years and eight months, he gave the particulars of upwards of a hundred cases in twenty-eight letters, twenty-three of which were published in the Wexford papers. These letters of Mr Gibbs form the chief part of the volume in hand. It also contains twenty-four other letters, of various descriptions, by other writers. Among these are several documents addressed to the inhabitants of various countries, and signed by large numbers of the patients residing for the time at Græfenberg, and the volume is closed by the first short report of "The Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society."

Such are "The Letters from Græfenberg" and their accompaniments in the volume before us, and seldom has it been our lot to meet with a book that has more deeply interested us. We must admit, that it has a want of *oneness*, as it is rather a collection of *materials* out of which a first-rate popular treatise might be formed, than a treatise already arranged and perfect; but this deficiency is the necessary result of its being simply the published correspondence of an association; and we must cheerfully add, that we believe there will be found in this volume more that is calculated to convince an ordinary non-professional mind, than in most of the regular and professional treatises on the subject in hand. In reading these letters, you get into the

company of highly intelligent, prudent, pains-taking, scrutinising, enthusiastic men; who, having had an excellent opportunity of observation, present you with the results of their inquiry as these arise to their own minds, and as they would probably have arisen to your own had you possessed the same power and enjoyed the same opportunities of observation. We most heartily commend the book to our readers, and close with the hope that an era has dawned upon our race during which many of the multiplied miseries to which they have hitherto been subjected will be known no more.

Instead of giving extracts in connection with this somewhat extended notice, we shall take the liberty of enriching our columns with some of these, under various heads, so as to give some further idea both of the book and its subject.

THE
Christian Record.

MONDAY, MAY 1, 1848.

Literature and Science.

Letters from Gräfenberg, in the years 1843-6. By JOHN GIBBS. Cloth, 8vo; pp. 270. London: Charles Gilpin, 5, Bishopsgate-street Without.

On the subject of the water-cure, there are few books of greater interest than this. The author has been an observer from the time this system of treating diseases was presented to the public. "I had the pleasure," he says, "to assist Captain Claridge in the formation of a hydro-pathic Society at Enniscorthy, the principal objects of which were to obtain and to publish authentic information respecting the water-cure; and it was in the fulfilment of a promise to the members of that society, that the greater number of the following letters were written." The author has had every opportunity afforded him for prosecuting his enquiries, and from the length of time which he has spent at the very "fountain head," and the attention shown him not only by the host of intelligent parties on the spot, but by Priessnitz himself, the "*Letters from Gräfenberg*" are calculated to dispel the fears of those who shudder at the wet-sheet. Thousands of people have very erroneous ideas of the system. "It is," says the author, "to be regretted "that this mode of treatment is not distinguished by a more appropriate cognomen than either that of Hydropathy or the Water-cure. In page 129 of this book, will be found the case of a patient who, throughout a treatment which was continued for five months, and by means of which he was restored to health, never had a *cold* bath." "It is, perhaps, this misnomer of cold water-cure, which has misled many into the belief that this system of treatment relies only upon *one* remedial agent for success in every case, and which has caused both friend and foe too often to overlook the great distinction between topical and general, internal and external, cold and tepid applications, and also apparently to forget those other remedial agents, the sweating process, frictions, regulated exercise, or rest—as in the treatment of diarrhæa—diet, clothing, and also the withdrawal of unhealthy influences, and the substitution of only those which exert a soothing power on the mind, and are therefore conducive to health. All

these certainly form *one system*, but it is a system composed of *many remedies*." The truth of this extract from the preface is fully proved in the work itself—a work containing more original and authentic information on the subject of the water-cure, than any with which we are acquainted. We cordially recommend the "Letters from Graefenberg" to the perusal of both the friends and foes of Hydropathy.

The only thing that we object to, is, that the author condemns, wholesale, any other mode of treatment. Medicine, like everything else, is the gift of God, and 'tis a shame to abuse it; but when it is compounded "according to the art of the apothecary," and used by men of skill, it serves the end for which it was given. We have seen water cure, where drugs have failed; and we have seen physic cure, where water, in all its modes of application, has proved of no avail. There is a time and a place for everything; and in the same inspired language—"Everything is beautiful in its place,"

The Southern Reporter.

CORK, TUESDAY, DEC. 7, 1847.

LITERATURE.

LETTERS FROM GRÆFENBERG.

LONDON, CHARLES GILPIN—1847.

This work is a republication, by Mr. GIBBS, of a series of letters sent by him from Graefenberg, the head quarters of the celebrated Priesnitz, to Mr. Ridge, Secretary of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society, and published in the Wexford Papers during the year 1843-4-5 and 6—together with extracts from the correspondence of the Society at Enniscorthy, and other documents tending to throw a light on the subject of which the author treats. At this time of day it would be an altogether unnecessary task to treat our readers with a disquisition on "the Cold Water Cure," therefore, in speaking of Mr. Gibbs and his book, we shall strictly confine ourselves to an opinion of what he has written on the subject. To us, the motto on the little page—"We speak that we do know, we testify that we have seen," appears to have been fully carried out by the writer, who, in this series of epistles, relates to his readers the experience he has acquired during a very lengthened residence at Graefenberg, where he seems to have been a very acute and intelligent observer of passing events. The letters are such as might be expected from a sensible clever man, writing under such circumstances to a friend deeply interested in the result of his observations—setting forth the *modus operandi* of the system, stating plain facts by which he illustrates and enlivens his narrative, and enabling his correspondent to form a true and accurate estimate of the value of cold water as a remedy for disease. Mr. Gibbs, justly in our opinion, reprobates a practice, which has been carried to a extent that has much injured the Cold Water system—namely, the puffing it off as a specific for any and every disease, something like "The Vegetable Pills" a few years ago so victorious—able to raise the dead again to life.

LITERATURE.

LETTERS FROM GRAEFFENBERG,

By JOHN GIBBS.

London: GILPIN.

While works on the subject of Hydropathy are almost daily issuing from the press, the cause they advocate is in many instances injured by either the utter or partial ignorance of the writers, and which, aided by the bungling stupidity of many of its professors, bring into disrepute, with many, a system which cannot be denied to have in numerous instances wrought cures as extraordinary as effective, and well authenticated. A perusal of the present volume will tend to remove much of that prejudice created by the writings of superficial individuals against what is vulgarly, or we should rather term it popularly, called the cold water cure of disease. The letters are the fruits of a four years' residence at Graeffenberg, and the writer's personal experience of the treatment there adopted, and the salutary effects arising from a *proper* administration of Hydropathy, are given in a lucid style, without any attempt at effect, or endeavour to prop up the system he advocates on other than its own merits. Mr. Gibbs is a man of talent and discernment; he states facts which have come under his immediate cognizance, and he places those facts before his readers in a manner calculated to disarm and conciliate hostility, and induce, on the parts of opponents, a desire to inquire candidly and impartially into the merits of a treatment which has gained such world-wide celebrity. The author combats with much ability the objections raised against Hydropathy, points out the fallacy of the objections raised against its failure in some instances, and gives numerous practical details which we have not seen in any similar work, and which will, we are

certain, prove alike new and interesting to the reader. Inquiry into the merits of any system which may be broached, is our duty as rational beings, and its investigation should be made not by the light of one-sided arguments, or through the statements of superficial inquirers. The effusions of "mere book-makers, paying flying visits to Graeffenberg, and without staying there a sufficient time to learn how to spell either the name of the place, or of its proprietor, or of the neighbouring town," are no more calculated to convey a knowledge of the merits or demerits of the system, according as the writers may have been previously predisposed for or against it, than would the opinions of the tourist be worthy of attention, who, as described by Sterne, "posts through a country in a coach-and-four, with the blinds up." The *dicta* of such persons Mr. Gibbs ably refutes—misrepresentations on the one hand, equally with the unmeaning nothings and absurd and pernicious errors on the other. We have extended our remarks so far as to preclude the insertion of any extracts from this work, the sensible production of a man of sense, written on an important subject, and which, as such, without presuming to offer our opinions on its utility or otherwise, we would warmly recommend to the notice of our readers.

THE TEETOTAL TIMES.

SEPTEMBER, 1847.

Literary Notices.

LETTERS FROM GRAEFENBERG, *in the years 1843—1846.* With the report, and extracts from the Correspondence of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society. By JOHN GIBBS. London: C. Gilpin, Bishopsgate.

Mr. Gibbs describes this Volume as "the testimony of a witness, accompanied by such reflections as might easily suggest themselves to any close observer and inquirer after truth." He furnishes a vast number of facts, illustrative of the nature and effects of the Hydropathic process; answers most of the objections which are usually urged against it; accounts for its failure in those cases in which it is said to have failed; and establishes its claims as an infallible remedy for the majority of ailments to which flesh is heir. The testimonies in favour of the system are numerous and striking.

THE TRUTH - TESTER.

DOUGLAS, JUNE 15, 1847.

Letters from Grafenberg, in the years 1843, 1844, 1845, and 1846, with a report, and extracts from the correspondents, of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society: by JOHN GIBBS.

‘Quorum pars fui.’

‘We speak that we do know, we testify that we have seen.’

‘Son mal sera incurable, s’il ne cede a la boisson, et aux bains de ces eaux.’

London: Charles Gilpin, 5, Bishopsgate-street Without. 1847.

Having received the volume only a few days previous to going to press, and therefore not having had time carefully to examine its contents, we are not prepared to pronounce judgment on it as a whole, in the present No. This we hope to do in our next. Nevertheless we have seen enough of it to justify us in saying it appears to be written in an able manner. The author is evidently a shrewd man—a man of science—well acquainted with, and enthusiastically devoted to his subject; and having enjoyed the enviable honor and advantage of studying, and seeking its practical workings under the care and skill of the *great master* for nearly four years, he is, we think, well qualified to give an opinion. This he has done in the present volume. It embraces a large range of topics connected with the Water Cure, and if we are not greatly mistaken, will amply repay the individual who shall give it a careful reading. We hope to return to the volume in our next number, and shall, perhaps, furnish some brief extracts therefrom.

THE TRUTH - TESTER.

DOUGLAS, JULY 15, 1847.

REVIEWS.

Letters from Græfenberg, etc.; by JOHN GIBBS. London: C. Gilpin, 5 Bishopsgate-street Without.

We think it speaks well for the intelligence and spirit of the age, that so many works, of a popular character, bearing on the important subjects of Physiology, are being presented to the public. We well remember the first appearance of Dr. E. Johnson’s justly celebrated work, ‘Life, Health, and Disease,’ as well as the valuable work of Captain Claridge, on ‘Hydropathy,’ and the strong sensation which their appearance created. A variety of publications of a similar kind, varying in talent and style, have since been issued, making very considerable accessions to our physiological literature; and amongst those to whom the public are indebted, very few are entitled to greater consideration than that of Mr. Gibbs. The work has been evidently gone about in a business-like manner.

The matter, the paper, the printing, and the whole getting-up, are worthy of the great subject treated. We say, the *great* subject, for such it is. Man's physical, mental, and moral well-being, are all so intimately connected, that whatever affects the former, must also affect the latter.

Having already expressed our general approbation of the work, we have nothing to retract; but from a more perfect acquaintance, are enabled confidently to recommend it to our readers, believing that it needs only to be seen to be approved and admired. As a book of *facts*, it is not a whit behind the very chief of its companions, and must take, if not the foremost, a most prominent place in the class of works to which it belongs. It forms the marrow—the cream—the essence of the author's observations, experience, and reasonings, during his *long* residence at Græfenberg. There is a strain of thankful-earnestness which much pleases us, and we shall be greatly disappointed if it does not obtain an extensive circulation.

From our last, it will be seen that we designed to give some lengthened extracts; we are, however, reluctantly compelled to content ourselves with the following, which will give the reader some idea of the character of the work. We hope to return to it in a future number.

Mr. Gibbs' visit to Græfenberg must be considered, to some extent, as a *voyage of discovery*, undertaken with no very strong prepossessions in favor of the *cure*. And fearing he might have occasion to retract, he refrained, for three months, from giving his views to his friend Ridge, to whom his Letters were originally addressed. At first, and on approaching the scene of his future observations, he had considerable misgivings, and began to think—'can I have come all this way to find an assemblage of fanatics worshiping at the shrine of an impostor?' He also recollected that one of his fellow-voyagers from England, a Major-General in the Prussian service, had told him, that throughout Germany the confidence in the Water-Cure was much diminished, and that Priessnitz's reputation was daily declining; 'and, in my mood,' says Mr. Gibbs, 'I almost forgot, that in reply to my question, 'If he knew anything personally of the Water-Cure?' the same gentleman told me that 'all he knew personally was, that two officers, friends

of his, who had been long and vainly treated by the first medical men for knee diseases, had gone to Græfenberg, and had returned home perfectly cured.' 'Well,' thought I, as I entered Freiwaldau (the nearest town), 'I shall soon learn more about it; and I *did* soon learn more about it. I had not been many hours at the hotel, when a gentleman arrived, on his way home from Græfenberg; he was the first 'Kurgast' I was fortunate enough to meet with, and I eagerly entered into conversation with him. He frankly told me his case, which was as follows:—He had had dropsy, retention of urine, dyspepsia, palpitation of the heart, asthma, and rheumatism. Medical men, both in England and Germany, declared his heart to be ossifying, and they pronounced him to be incurable; but Priessnitz told him that he had no heart-disease. He was painfully costive, his fœces

being like bits of chalk.' After giving an account of the General's age and the treatment he received, Mr. Gibbs says—'He concluded his statement by energetically assuring me that it was utterly impossible to give me any idea of his former sufferings, and he most fervently thanked God that he had been led to place himself under Priessnitz's care.' This circumstance, together with the facts elicited from his new acquaintance, strengthened Mr. Gibbs' favorable impressions of the Cure, and he consequently went up to headquarters bent on the strictest investigation, and yet with his mind fully open to conviction, according to the facts which might be presented, resolving on these to base his opinions.

In his second Letter, our author gives a short but graphic sketch of Priessnitz, his residence, and his patients. Of the latter he speaks as follows :—'The number of patients, 339, including those in private lodgings, was conclusive evidence that Priessnitz's high reputation, and the belief in the efficacy of the Cure, had suffered no diminution in public estimation. Among the patients, besides Germans, were persons from almost every part of the world—French, English, Russians, Turks, Persians, Italians, Greeks, Danes, Swedes, Spaniards, Europeans, Asiatics, Americans—nay, there was even an African under the Cure.'

Gräfenberg—that is, Priessnitz's establishment—consists of one very large building; one large, two small, and two moderate-sized buildings, with the necessary out-offices. In the largest building Priessnitz and his family reside. It also, besides many sleeping apartments for a portion of the guests, contains the kitchen, dairy, bakery, and the dining-saale, which latter being 120 feet long by 35 broad, with a large recess on one side, affords an excellent promenade on a winter's evening. Gräfenberg is most favorably situated for the Cure; it stands 1,909 German feet above the level of the sea; the springs of the purest water in its neighborhood are very numerous, and the many walks through its extensive forest, yield shelter and protection alike from the heat of summer and the winds of winter; but against these, one acquires at Gräfenberg a still better protection, in a strength and hardihood of frame which resist and defy the severest changes of the weather. The following is Mr. Gibbs' description of Priessnitz :—'He is forty-three years of age; he is about five feet eight or nine inches in height, squarely and stoutly built. He has a spacious brow, a keen, searching eye, a close set lip, on which there dwells fascination when it relaxes into a smile; and to close the description in the words of our popular writers, it may be said, that, notwithstanding several defects in point of beauty, and a sternness of outline in almost every feature, there is something uncommonly pleasing, as well as striking, in the whole expression of his countenance, and one reads there kindness of heart, as well as firmness and decision of character.'

Limerick Reporter.

TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 27. 1847.

HYDROPATHY—LETTERS FROM GRÆFENBERG.

We have been favoured by Mr. John Gibbs with a compilation of letters, written by him from Græfenberg, in the years '43, '4, '5, 6, on the subject of the cold water cure; together with the report and extracts from the correspondence of the Enniscorthy Hydrophatic Society. Mr. Gibbs states that his attention was first directed to the water cure by his near relative, Mr. George B. Gibbs, at whose suggestion, backed by the perusal of the works of Capt. Clarridge, he proceeded to Græfenberg, for the purpose of testing the efficacy of the treatment in his own case, as well as investigating its principles and practice, as exemplified in the case of others. Mr. Gibbs resided two years and eight months at Græfenberg, and his intimacy with very many of the best informed and most influential of the patients, and his being honored with the friendship of Mr. Priessnitz, the founder of the cold water cure system, afforded him unusual facilities of acquiring correct information, therefore his book is not a compilation from other works, but a review of facts noted down as they occurred. It does not contain narratives of patients sleeping all night in wet sheets, and perpetrating other absurdities, which have their origin in some wild or wilful imagination, but which have no place, and, as the writer states, never had a place in Mr. Priessnitz's practice. Instead of endeavouring to appear to know everything, and thus swell his work to an indefinite size, Mr. Gibbs has endeavoured to confine it to that which is well ascertained, which stamps upon it the merit, as far as it goes, of being correct in its statements, whether they be narratives of facts, or directions for treatment. The work is extremely well brought out in London under the author's own immediate inspection, and its attentive perusal cannot fail to instruct all who read it attentively and without prejudice, upon a subject of such vast importance and vital public interest. We strongly recommend its perusal.

NATIONAL TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

DOUGLAS, JULY, 1847.

Letters from Grafenberg: by JOHN GIBBS. Gilpin, London. 1847.

A capital book on the Water Cure, which besides numerous cases of extraordinary cure, contains some historical matters in defense of PRIESSNITZ and his method against objectors, and some clever replies to medical men.

Reviews.

LETTERS FROM GRÆFENBERG, in the years 1843, 4, 5, and 6. With the REPORT and EXTRACTS from the CORRESPONDENCE of the ENNISCORTHY HYDROPATHIC SOCIETY. By JOHN GIBBS, London: C. GILPIN, 1847. pp. 280.

THE WATER CURE JOURNAL, AND HYGIENIC MAGAZINE. Edited by J. M. GULLY, M.D., MALVERN; and W. M'LEOD, F.R.C.P.E., BEN RHYDDING, Otley. London; GADSEY, and GROOMBRIDGE & SONS.

NOTWITHSTANDING the numerous and striking cases of cure effected by the Hydropathic treatment of disease, there are yet many, who, from interested motives, or from prejudice, are sceptical on the subject. To this class, we recommend the perusal of John Gibbs' letters; and those who have either faith or experience in Hydropathy, will derive, we can assure them, both pleasure and confirmation in going over his pages.

The author's residence for nearly three years at Græfenberg; his intimacy with many of the best in-

formed, and most influential of the patients—and his being honoured with the friendship of Vincent Priessnitz, afforded him unusual facilities of acquiring correct information. His book, therefore, is not a compilation from other works, but a *record of facts*, noted down as they occurred; and consequently, it does not contain narratives of patients sleeping all night in wet sheets, and perpetrating other similar absurdities; but which have not, and never had, a place in Priessnitz's practice. Instead of endeavouring to appear to know every thing, and thus swelling out the Book to an indefinite size, he has rather studied to confine himself to that which is well ascertained; and hence his statements, whether they be narratives of facts or directions for treatment, have the merit of being correct; and will, we trust, obtain for the work, that attention which the importance of the subject calls for.

THE WATER CURE JOURNAL is a well got up, and seemingly an ably conducted periodical, devoted to the Hydropathic cause. What we have been able to read of it, has interested us much. It will, we have no doubt, as it progresses, become yet more interesting; and we would earnestly recommend it to the notice and support of all, who, with ourselves, desire to see the Water Cure applied more generally to the relief of suffering humanity.

THE LIMERICK CHRONICLE.

SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 5. 1848.

Letters from Grafenberg, in the years 1843, '44, '45 and '46—By John Gibbs. London, Charles Gilpin.— We are much gratified with the perusal of this clever work. It contains the details of a number of important cases which came under the author's observation during a residence of nearly three years at Grafenberg. It likewise supplies a lucid explication of the rationale of the water treatment, a good sketch of its rise and progress, and many interesting particulars relative to its celebrated originator Vinzenz Priessnitz. We recommend this cheap work to the notice of those who are desirous of correct information on a subject respecting which many erroneous opinions are entertained.

The Journal of Commerce.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1847.

LETTERS FROM GRAEFENBERG IN THE YEARS 1843-46; with extracts from the correspondence of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society. By John Gibbs. (Charles Gilpin, Bishopsgate-street Without.) The title of this volume so plainly indicates the nature of its contents, that we need only say that it is a collection of letters from the great seat of the Water Cure Establishments, written in a sober style in favour of hydropathy—a term, by the bye, which the author repudiates—and which contains a great number of facts illustrative of the benefit to be derived from it by patients labouring under a great variety of diseases, and showing especially that water when abundantly applied, is a most effective agent for clearing all impurity from the system. The book is a good manual for those who wish to study the whole subject.

Scottish Temperance Review.

GLASGOW, 1ST APRIL, 1848.

Letters from Graefenberg. By John Gibbs. 12mo, pp. 280. London: Charles Gilpin.

Within a comparatively short space of time, the hydropathic mode of treating disease has attained to such an exalted position as to demand from all a patient investigation. The work noted above is a record of facts and principles illustrative of the nature and advantages of the system, which is well worthy the attention of the candid inquirer. During a resi-

dence of two years and eight months at Græfenberg, the author enjoyed peculiar opportunities of acquiring correct information, both from experience and observation, the results of which he has given in a series of 'Letters' of great practical

value. Though less satisfactory in some respects than a consecutive work on the subject, yet, the 'Letters' being written in a clear and intelligible style, and almost wholly free from professional nomenclature, are admirably adapted for conveying useful information to a large class of general readers, amongst whom we trust it will obtain an extensive circulation.

THE NATIONAL
TEMPERANCE CHRONICLE AND RECORDER.
JULY, 1847.

Letters from Græfenberg, in the years 1843, 1844, 1845, and 1846, with the Report and Extracts from the correspondence of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society.
By JOHN Gibbs. 12mo. pp. 280. C. Gilpin.

MR. GIBBS has given us a very interesting, and in many points a highly instructive volume. It appears that after the perusal of the works of Captain Claridge, Dr. James Wilson, Mr. Abdy, Dr. Edward Johnson, Dr. Courtney, and Mr. Bea-mish, he resolved upon a journey to Græfenberg, with the twofold purpose of testing the efficacy of the treatment in his own case, and of investigating its principles and practice as exemplified in the cases of others.

The book before us is the result of his experience and observation, in letters addressed to various journals and newspapers. We do not know any book on Hydropathy, containing more entertaining and useful matter. It is the work of a mind of much discrimination and keenness of observation. We cordially recommend it to the serious attention of our readers, as most worthy of special attention.

PARIS, JUNE 4, 1848.

LETTERS FROM GRÆFENBERG IN THE YEARS 1843, 1844, 1845, and 1846, with the Report and Extracts from the Correspondence of the Enniscorthy Hydropathic Society. London, 1848.

MR. PRIESTNITZ has a warm friend and admirer in the author of this little volume, who has certainly compiled a great number of facts which attest strongly in favour of the "Cold Water System." The fault of the writer is his excessive enthusiasm. This gives an air of constant panegyric to his commendations, that may be regarded by many persons as inconsistent with the cool impartiality required to form a scrupulously exact judgment of the subject on which he treats. It also gives an air of disputation to his book, for Mr. Gibbs is not only an admirer but a champion; for no true knight ever donned helm and cuirass to defend the reputation of his "ladye-love" with more willing alacrity than our author snatches up his pen, to maintain the merits of the Græfenberg plan of treatment against all assailants. Apart, however, from the eulogiums of Mr. Gibbs, which somewhat impair the value of his facts, some of the cures are really very remarkable. We annex a few extracts.

Since the introduction of hydropathy into this country, it has been winning its way, slowly, perhaps, but surely, in public estimation. Of this we are afforded proof in the support which is extended to so many hydropathic establishments in different parts of the kingdom, viz.—Dr. Wilson's and Dr. Gully's establishments at Malvern; Dr. Ellis's at Sudbrook Park; Dr. Barter's at Blarney; Sir A. Clarke's at Dublin; Dr. Rishaneck's at Ilky; the Harrow establishment; and the establishments of Doctor's Weeding, Feidman, Lovell, Courtney, Heathcote, Balbirnie, Johnson, Stummes, Paterson, King, Curtin, Hills, Preshaw, and many others. Hydropathy is likewise extending its influence in other quarters. It was only the other day that an advertisement from the governors of one of our principal hospitals announced that various new baths were being fitted up in it, in order "to keep pace with the increasing science of the age." And whence this increasing science? From a hamlet in the Sudates! Since Priessnitz arose, has not every medical man who has any pretensions to common sense made sundry improvements in his practice, and does he not now employ water in manifold ways of which, a few years since, he had no idea? And why does he not employ it in still many more ways? Why, but from ignorance, similar in kind though not in degree to that which, ten years since, restrained him from his present practice.

“Allow me now (Mr. Gibbs is here writing to a friend) briefly to give you the particulars of a cure of a case of stomach complaint of six years standing; the patient was a young man twenty-seven years old; he was here last year for three months, and this year also for three months, having come on the 1st of March, and left on the 1st of June. His stomach was so bad that his food used continually to return into his mouth, and his medical adviser said that he should become a convert to hydropathy if Priessnitz succeeded in effecting a cure. For a month before his departure he was perfectly well. He had not many crises, only eight or nine boils. His treatment was, in the morning, an *abreibung*, followed, after the lapse of five minutes—during which he lay in bed, by a *leintuch*, succeeded by the cold bath; at noon he douched, and took an *abreibung* and *sitz* bath, and in the afternoon he took the *leintuch* and cold bath again.”

The following cure was effected in the Princess Saplitchas' house by the Pastor Klose, June 1st, 1843. “A married woman, aged twenty-six, in eating soir *kroust* swallowed a piece of glass, which stuck in her throat. After several ineffectual efforts either to cough it up or force it down, she sent for a surgeon, who gave her an emetic, which also proved unavailing. He next endeavoured to extract it with different instruments, and applied a large number of leeches to the throat, but all in vain, and on the second day he said that he could do nothing more for her. Meanwhile she got inflammatory fever, and as the medical science could not afford her aid, she was submitted to the water treatment by the before-mentioned clergyman. She was packed in a *leintuch*, or wet sheet, with a heating *umschlag*, or wet bandage with a dry one over it, round the throat, both being changed night and day as soon as warm. At the commencement of this treatment, the patient could not swallow even a drop of water, she could scarcely breathe, and a horrible stench came from her mouth; her medical attendant said that mortification had set in, and that she could not possibly live through the next day.” The account then goes on to the seventeenth day of the treatment, when it proceeds as follows:—“After a quiet night, there was found in the bed a piece of glass, which it is supposed must have been thrown up while coughing, and a few days after the patient left the establishment nearly well.”

THE
WATER CURE JOURNAL,
AND
HYGIENIC MAGAZINE.

AUGUST, 1847.

Letters from Graefenberg, by JOHN GIBBS; published by Charles Gilpin, London. We would very strongly recommend the reading of this work to those who are unacquainted either with the system or the powers of the water treatment.

THE TRUTH-SEEKER

No. 3, Vol. 1.

New Series.

Letters from Graefenberg. By JOHN GIBBS,
London, C. Gilpin.

These letters are written in a clear and forcible style, and embody the results of three years observation and study of the Water Cure under its great founder, Priessnitz. Without concurring with Mr. Gibbs in every point, we may safely affirm that this volume contains a large amount of valuable theoretical discussion and practical detail, which cannot fail to be interesting to the disciples of Hydro-therapeutics; besides a number of documents which will be of importance to the future historian of the system, and to the biographer of its most *successful* practitioner.

The Christian News.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1848.

Health.

THE WATER CURE JOURNAL. April. Glasgow: *Christian News and Day-Star* Office.

THE coming to hand, at a seasonable moment, of the *Water Cure Journal* for this month, has induced us this week to lay before our readers some extracts and comments instead of our usual article. The *Journal* well deserves this attention. Its appearance, from month to month, must progressively alter the state of British society for the better, in reference to health. Often, when perusing its pages, do we feel an intense desire that it were read and studied in every family in the empire. This, considering its price and its literary character, is not, perhaps, to be hoped for. A considerable part of it is more adapted for the perusal of the educated than the illiterate. This, in one important point of view, is an excellency. The educated and the wealthy are, perhaps, the dupes of the drug system to as great an extent as the millions; and, in a question like this, the opinions of the educated and intelligent must ultimately find their way among the masses, and prevail. Still, much that this journal contains may be read with advantage in the cottages of the poor. While on this topic we may express our conviction, that a *Journal of Health* for the million is still a desideratum. The agency that would most speedily leaven the masses, would be a magazine not exceeding one penny, or, at most, twopence, in price, and eschewing everything like professional language. It would require to lay before its readers instructions regarding health in language with which they are familiar, and show them how much it is practicable for them to effect in their own houses, without either danger or expense. The first article in this month's *Journal* is Lecture III., on the "Physiology of man." The leading point examined is, "The relation of life with animal heat." Under this general head we have a somewhat lengthened and very interesting discussion of "the relation of age with animal heat." Proof is adduced that, from the age of four to about fourteen, the heat of the human body is naturally greater than during either the previous or subsequent stages of existence. Every one who would be an accomplished hydropathist must understand the leading phenomena of animal heat. Such knowledge may be said to lie at the very foundation of intelligent practice; and on this subject Dr M'Leod will be found to be a superior preceptor. The second article is entitled "A few remarks on the baneful effects which arise from the use of tobacco in all shapes." The use of tobacco is one of a *class* of practices—such as tight-lacing, late hours, the use of too hot food, &c—which have obtained a most despotic rule over multitudes, but a rule that is utterly incompatible with the enjoyment of continued vigorous health. Every person addicted to the habitual use of snuff or tobacco,

is a slave to his lusts. No such person can live as long as—other things being equal—he would, if he eschewed such unworthy habits. No one can indulge such customs, and, at the same time, use all lawful endeavours to preserve his own life. The article before us enters into the physiology of the subject, and describes several of the diseases which gradually take their rise from the use of tobacco. We are sorry to think, however, that the paper, with all its excellences, is adapted to do serious injury to many worthy minds. We would urge those of our Christian brethren who wish at once to smoke tobacco and enjoy a peaceful conscience, to be upon their guard. Should the *Journal* fall into their hands, they should content themselves with merely reading the title of the article on tobacco, or, if they cannot feel at ease in doing this, they should glance very hurriedly over the pages, and every now and then endeavour to laugh as they feel the argument pinching them. It might be advisable also to use the precaution subsequently of abstaining from asking any acquaintance such a question as, “Have you read the *Water Cure Journal* for this month?” We have next an essay extracted from the *Dublin Medical Press* for Feb., by W. Porter, M.D., F.R.C.S.L., &c., on “Diseases arising from the injurious use of mercury.” An appalling subject this. What thousands has mercury slain, even when administered by the most skilful hands! The highest medical authority can be cited in proof of the assertion, that such drugs kill as many as they cure. But the day is drawing nigh when such substances will be restricted to their proper province, namely, the destruction of rats and other vermin. We pass over a very interesting narrative from the pen of Thomas Methurst, M.D., giving an account of the wonderful results of hydropathy in his own case, and come to a letter of Mr John Gibbs’, Camberwell, on “The (proposed) Medical Registration Bill.” This bill would seem, in some of its clauses, to have been framed for the express purpose of preventing any disturbance from arising, to British medical schools, from such parties as Jenner, Harvey, and Priessnitz. The professed object of the bill is the protection of the public from the impositions of quacks; but it is such protection, in the department of medicine, as would be enjoyed in the departments of education and religion by forbidding, on pain of heavy penalties, any one from pursuing the avocation of teacher or preacher who had not been licensed by some presbytery or bishop. It would be the banishment of one admitted evil by the introduction of one incalculably greater. As Mr Gibbs justly remarks—“The true way to put down quacks and quackery, whether within or without the profession, is to enlighten the people—to make the study of the human frame, and of the laws which govern it in health and disease, a part of every schoolboy’s education.” The wide dissemination of such publications as the *Water Cure Journal* will do more to put down quackery than any Parliamentary medical bill that could be framed. If we were to judge by some of its provisions, we should say, that while the ostensible objects of the bill is to protect the public, the real object is to protect the “profession”—an insidious putting forth of the half-paralysed fingers of monopoly. The following extract will show to what we refer:—“The contemplated provisions of the proposed bill have hitherto been discussed as if they only concerned the medical profession, and in no wise interested the public, which appears to be looked upon as if only created for the especial

benefit of that learned body. But in reality those provisions challenge the most jealous scrutiny on the part of the public, as will become apparent by a glance at a few of them. It is proposed that there shall be a registration of medical practitioners, excluding from the registry every practitioner not licensed by one of the British medical corporations; and farther, that the name of any practitioner, guilty of the vague crime of any 'unprofessional conduct,' shall be struck off the registry; and still farther, that any unregistered person who shall practise medicine or surgery, no matter what may be the result of his practice, shall be liable, for every time he shall so offend, to summary conviction before a magistrate, to be followed by fine or imprisonment."—We leave our readers to judge whether this extract does not justify us in denomnating the proposed bill as an attempt to banish one evil by the introduction of another incalculably greater. At what date would any of our "British medical corporations" have licensed Priessnitz? We repeat, the true way to cure the evil in question, is to enlighten the people. The journal before us will effectually do its part for those amongst whom it circulates. Let such a cheap magazine as we have suggested be circulated among the masses, and quackery must go to the wall. Mr Gibbs, towards the close of his able letter, remarks—"Let us now inquire in what degree of estimation that profession, which it is proposed to endow with such extraordinary power and privileges, was held by some of the most distinguished of its own members. Dr Paris says, 'The file of every apothecary would furnish a volume of instances, where the ingredients of the prescription were fighting in the dark.' Dr J. Johnson says, 'I declare it to be my most conscientious opinion, that if there were not a single physician, or surgeon, or apothecary, or man-midwife, or chemist, or druggist, or drug in the world, there would be less mortality among mankind than there is now.' Dr Billing says, 'I visited the different schools of medicine, and the students of each hinted, if they did not assert, that the other sects killed their patients.' Frank says, 'Thousands are slaughtered in the quiet sick room.' Reid says, 'More infantile subjects are perhaps diurnally destroyed by the mortar and pestle, than in the ancient Bethlehem fell victims in one day to the Herodian massacre.' Speaking of the plague, Dr Madden says, 'In all our cases we did as other practitioners did—we continued to bleed, and our patients continued to die.' And who does not remember Sir A. Cooper's famous declaration, that 'The science of medicine was founded on conjecture and improved by murder.'"

That it is shewn by the returns of *the Registrar-General that vaccination is sometimes the immediate cause of the death of the vaccinated.*

Your petitioners therefore humbly entreat your honourable House that the said bill may not pass into a law, and that the compulsory law at present in existence may be immediately repealed.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

J. KENDALL.

THOMAS WHITE.

THOMAS HUDSON.

&c. &c. &c.

The petitioner John Gibbs, having carefully examined the question, is of opinion that vaccination fails as a protection from small-pox; that it propagates other diseases; that there is a religious objection to inflict disease with a view to any ulterior benefit; and that compulsory vaccination is opposed to the liberty of the subject; he therefore prays the House to reject the Vaccination Bill.

The petitioner George Boxall, states that he caught the small-pox after vaccination, and suffered very severely; that of his five sisters, two were vaccinated, and of those, one caught small-pox and severely suffered, while the unvaccinated escaped; his brother, who has never been vaccinated, but who has been exposed to infection, also escaped; from these facts he is convinced that vaccination cannot be relied on, as a preventive or mitigator; he is therefore opposed to its legal enforcement; and prays the House to reject the Vaccination Bill.

In legislating for the compulsory vaccination of "every child in Great Britain," it should be shewn that vaccination is a certain preventive of small pox. Now, that this is not the case is patent to all who have investigated the subject. In Northampton, during the now prevalent epidemic, nearly all small pox patients *have been vaccinated.*

In a letter to the President of the Board of Health, by John Gibbs, Esq., entitled "COMPULSORY VACCINATION briefly Considered in its Scientific, Political, and Religious Aspects," there are to be found an abundance of facts which prove that vaccination is at least uncertain as a prophylactic against small-pox. The letter of Mr. Gibbs does that gentleman great credit; indeed, the people of this and of every other country are greatly indebted to Mr. Gibbs for the labour he has bestowed, in the collection of statistical facts upon the subject of vaccination. He examines the present bill in all its aspects. Speaking of its social bearing, he says:

The Compulsory Vaccination Act is the first direct aggression upon the person of the subject in medical matters which has been attempted in these kingdoms. It invades in the most unexampled manner the liberty of the subject, and the sanctity of home. It not only unspeakably degrades the free-born Briton by depriving him of liberty in a personal matter, but denies him the possession of reason; outrages some of the finest feelings of the human heart, those feelings which have their origin in parental love, that still bright spark of the divine nature breathed into man by his Heavenly Father; sets at nought parental responsibility, and constrains the parent either to violate his deliberate convictions, and even his religious scruples, or boldly to defy an unjust law.

If vaccination be indeed a blessing which must needs be showered upon the land, would it not better become a wise government and a free people to commend opinions by disseminating information upon the subject than to attempt to make unconverted converts by force?

What reasons can the advocates of vaccination assign for the faith they hold? Scarcely one of them has investigated the subject scientifically, they cannot plead even the unanimity of the profession on their side. "In the public mind extensively," says the "Lancet," of 21st May, 1853, "and to a more limited extent, in the profession itself, doubts are known to exist as to the efficacy and eligibility of vaccination. The failures of the operation have been numerous and discouraging."

Vaccination, then, by the confession of the vaccinators themselves, is not an unfailing protection against small-pox. The experience of most persons will testify to the same effect, and ample corroborative proof may be found in the returns of the Registrar-general. I cannot allow myself to make use of any extracts from these important and able papers, without at the same time respectfully and thankfully acknowledging my many obligations both to the Registrar-general and to Mr. Thomas Mann, for the courtesy and kindness with which, on various occasions, they have complied with my requests. In No. 10, Vol. 15, for the week ending 11th March 1854, we find, "A grocer died in South-street, Chelsea, at the age of 50 years, 'of confluent small-pox' (14 days). He had been vaccinated when one year old." In No. 45, Vol. 13, we read: "In the sub-district of Haggerstone West, at 46, Essex-street, on the 1st of November, the daughter of a bricklayer, aged five years, died of 'variola confluens' (nine days), vaccinated with effect when six months old, marks perfect." Mr. Bowring mentions that "four out of a family of seven have been attacked, and the survivors are still suffering under the disease. All were vaccinated between the ages of four and six months; the cicatrices still perfect." He also records a death from small-pox without vaccination, and adds "a prejudice against vaccination, of which this is another instance, is gaining ground in my district." It would appear that, by a prejudice, Mr. Bowring must mean an unfavourable opinion founded on experience. To proceed: In No. 41, Vol. 13, we find, "At 82, Earl-street, Lisson Grove, the daughter of a bottle merchant, aged one year, died from 'confluent small-pox' (14 days), vaccinated seven days previously.' The medical certificate adds, "vaccinated on the 23rd of September, in two points on each arm. Small-pox first showed on the skin on the 30th. Both diseases progressed in a modified form for five days, when the child fell into a typhoid state." In this case, "small-pox and cow-pox have possession together. Which of them killed the patient? The number for the week ending 25th of March, 1854, furnishes another instance of the failure of vaccination to protect. "On the 17th of March, the son of an ostler died, aged six years, small-pox (five days), vaccinated."

The weekly return, No. 14, Vol. 15, for the week ending Saturday, 8 April, 1854, furnishes similar evidence:—

"Six deaths occurred from small-pox: three of these, of which the following are the particulars, in the small-pox hospital.

"On the 31st March, a boy, aged 10 years, from Holborn Union; small-pox confluent (12 days), unprotected.

"On 1st April, a boy from Somers Town, aged 5 years, small-pox confluent, "modified (9 days). He had been vaccinated at the age of four months; one "cicatrix.

"On 7th April, the wife of a labourer, from Lambeth, aged 22 years; small-pox "confluent, unmodified (8 days); vaccinated in infancy, in Suffolk; two good "cicatrices."

In the quarterly return, No. 20, 1853, at page 42, we find:—"Chorlton, "Hulme. The mortality of last quarter has been heavy: 22 deaths have "occurred from scarlatina, 16 from hooping-cough, and 7 from small-pox; "5 members of one family suffered from the last disease most severely, the "father and 4 children. *They had all been previously vaccinated, and, as "reported, with success. Two died;* and a boy, who had not only been "vaccinated, but previously had the small-pox, and was very much disfigured, "was one of the victims. This manifests a very strong predisposition in some "families for certain diseases."

In No. 17, under the head of Taunton, the following appears:—"There has "been one death from small-pox, that of a male, 20 years of age, vaccinated in "childhood." In No. 19, it is stated, under the same head:—"Taunton. "Autumnal diarrhœa has been prevalent, but not of a severe character. In "other respects the district has been free from disease."

During a period of sixteen years, ending 1851, rather more than half the patients admitted into the small-pox hospital in London had been previously vaccinated;* and out of eight hundred patients admitted into the same hospital in 1852, only 230 were unvaccinated;† that is to say, five hundred and seventy, or considerably more than *two-thirds of the whole had been vaccinated.* Very defective, indeed, must be the general practice of vaccination, as is evidenced by the following statistics given in Mr. Gibbs's letter:

It is asserted that if vaccination "does not always [does it ever, except when "it proves fatal] prevent small-pox, the attack is much milder." So mild indeed is it, that, in illustration it might be added on the authority of Dr. George Gregory, that out of 298 patients having small-pox after vaccination, who were admitted in the course of a year into the small-pox hospital, 31 died, and (on the authority of the Registrar-general) that, out of 432 deaths from small-pox in an epidemic season, in a period of 10 weeks, in London, 135 deaths were returned as occurring after vaccination, and this, be it remembered, in a population, of which it is complained by the advocates of this antidote (?) that it is much neglected.

Indeed so notorious are the failures of vaccination to afford protection from the ravages of small-pox, that the "Lancet" is forced to account for them by pleading that a supply of effective lymph has never been provided; that the extension of vaccination has hitherto been entrusted to parsimonious Boards of Guardians, who not only accepted the lowest tender, but were displeased if called upon to pay for many operations; and that vaccination has never formed part of the education of medical men, but that each practitioner is left to pick up his experience, how, when, and where he can. In one place the "Lancet" asserts

* *Medical Times*, August 27th, 1853. † *Lancet*, February 12th, 1853.

that "the best mode of vaccination is still undetermined;" and in another, complains of "a want of agreement in the profession as to the essentially "pathognomonic signs of genuine vaccine inoculation." Be these accusations worth what they may, they fully justify the spreading disbelief in the efficacy of vaccination.

That deaths have occurred after, or in consequence of, vaccination, is clearly evinced by the indisputable returns of the Registrar-General, thus (quoting from Mr. Gibbs again) :

In the Registrar-general's weekly returns, No. 30, Vol. 14, for the week ending Saturday, 23 July, 1853, a few days before the passing of the compulsory Vaccination Bill, we read : "In Bethnal-green, at 19, Warner-place, South, "on 15th July, the son of a cabinet-maker, aged seven months, died of vaccination, erysipelas."

In the "weekly return," No. 13, Vol. 15, for the week ending Saturday, 1 April, 1854 : "In Mile End Town, Lower, the daughter of a gentleman, aged "three months, died of 'erysipelas.' The medical man states that it super-
"vened on vaccination." In the "weekly return," No. 14, Vol. 15, it is stated that, "At the German Hospital, Dalston, both on 30th March, the son of
"a mariner, aged 10 weeks, and the son of a sugar-baker, aged 13 weeks, died
"of 'general erysipelas, after vaccination, effusion on the brain.' The medical
"attendant adds in his certificates, that 'both these children were vaccinated' on
"the same day in Whitechapel-road, and were in the hospital two days.' The
"cases appear to be such as demand investigation. In Ratcliff, at No. 2,
"Devonport-street, on 6th April, the son of a coal merchant, aged three months,
"died of 'erysipelas all over the body (one day), succeeding vaccination, which
"was considered to be fine.'"

"Demand investigation ! Does not the whole question of vaccination
"demand investigation.'"

Other cases of legal infanticide are thus reported : "'In Mile End New Town,
"at No. 1, George-street, on the 17th July, the daughter of a carman, aged
"three months, erysipelas after vaccination (three weeks), convulsions (24 hours.)'"
—*Weekly Return*, week ending Saturday, 22 July, 1854.

"In the south sub-district of St. Giles, at No. 8, Parker-street, on 13th April,
"the daughter of a mason, aged one month, 'irregular vaccination, when a
"fortnight old.'"—*Weekly Return*, for the week ending 15 April, 1854.

"At the 'Cock and Castle,' Kingsland, on 1st May, the son of a licensed
"victualler, aged four months, died of 'vaccination, inflammation of the cel-
"lular tissue of arm and thorax.' In Haggerston, East, at No. 54, Union-
"street, on 1st May, the son of a hotpresser, aged four months, died of gangrene
"after vaccination (14 days)."—*Weekly Return*, for week ending 6 May, 1854.

Were it even admitted that death never occurred after vaccination—were it possible to prove that vaccination does effectually protect the patient from small-pox—should we be justified in rendering the process compulsory, when, from evidence, it has been clearly admitted that *other diseases*, difficult to distinguish at the time of development of the vesicle, are transferred by the process *instead* of the vaccine

lymph. Mr. Gibbs has collected evidence under this head also. He says :

Dr. Jones Quain, after describing the symptoms of cow-pox ("Manual of Pathology," p. 336), thus concludes :—"Every eruption after vaccine not presenting these characters is spurious."

From this it is evident that Dr. Quain discerns a connexion between vaccination and spurious eruptions. Other medical writers are more explicit.

The "Lancet" (a zealous advocate of vaccination) says :—

"There is a belief—it may be denounced as a prejudice, but it is not the less a deeply-rooted conviction, and one not confined to the poor or the ignorant—that if the vaccine disease may be transmitted by inoculation, other diseases less beneficial may be propagated in the same manner, and by the same operation. Many a parent, of high and low degree, dates constitutional disease in her offspring to vaccination with 'bad matter.' Who shall say that this etiological conclusion is always false?"—*Lancet*, 15 July, 1854.

"The poor are told that they must carry their children to be vaccinated by medical men who may be strangers to them. They apprehend—and the apprehension is not altogether unfounded, or unshared by the educated classes—that the vaccine matter employed may carry with it the seeds of other diseases not less loathsome than the one it is intended to prevent."—*Lancet*, 23 October, 1854.

"So widely extended is the dread that, along with the prophylactic remedy, something else may be inoculated, lest the germ of future diseases may be planted, that few medical practitioners would care to vaccinate their own children from a source of the purity of which they were not well assured."—*Lancet*, 11 November, 1854.

An American medical author, Dr. Shew, commenting on a case of death from vaccination which was reported in the "New York Journal, Medical and Surgical," gives a case of a lady whose health had been injured by vaccination, and adds,—

"In two other cases, large swellings took place; one in the arm-pit, the other in the neck, lasting for some days, and finally breaking out in running sores. By questioning closely, we not unfrequently find that children never enjoy good health after vaccination, however firm it might have been before."

In another place the same author says,—

"After all the recommendation that this practice has had for the last 50 years, there are yet those who entertain honest doubts as to whether it is, after all, on the whole, a benefit to the race. At any rate, the question, like all others, has two sides; both of which demand our most honest consideration. It is certainly true that vaccination does not merit the encomiums which its more early advocates put upon it; nor is it anything like capable of exterminating small-pox from the world, as was formerly maintained; but that it will, in a large proportion of cases, protect the system from variola, and that in those cases where it fails of this protection it renders the disease a much milder one, no one will pretend to deny. The only question is whether, as a whole, it is of benefit to mankind. It is maintained that vaccination, while it affords a good degree of protection from variola, yet renders the system more liable to other diseases. It is affirmed also, that other diseases are introduced into the system at the same time with the cow-

"pox. Long-continued and troublesome skin diseases appear to follow it, and in not a few cases the child seems never to enjoy good health after it has been performed. I think any one who has any considerable practice among children in any great city, will be struck with the number of cases he will find of this kind, by questioning parents on the subject. . . . Not only does vaccination cause subsequent unfavourable effects, but it sometimes endangers life at the time; and in some instances destroys the child. I have myself known most fearful convulsions to be brought on by it, and that in children apparently of the firmest health.

Again he says,—

"I have been for years so much a disbeliever in vaccination, that I would not be willing to have it practised upon a child of my own. I did not, however, know that there was high authority, even among the profession, for doubting the utility of the practice till the winter of 1850—1851. At this time Professor Bartlett, a very candid and able man, and lecturer on the theory and practice of medicine in the University of New York, quoted in his remarks on the causes of pulmonary consumption, on the authority of two French writers, Barthez and Rilliett, the following facts in regard to vaccination: In 208 children that had been vaccinated, 138 died of tubercular consumption, and 70 of other maladies; in 95 that were not vaccinated, 30 only died of tubercular consumption, and 65 of other diseases. The circumstances connected with the two classes, the vaccinated and the unvaccinated, were, as nearly as could be, the same. Professor Bartlett did not himself, in consideration of these facts, venture an opinion as to the propriety or non-propriety of vaccination, but would simply be understood as referring to them as matters worthy of serious consideration."

It is asserted that from children apparently the most healthy, diseases the most horrible have been propagated in and by the vaccine virus. A gentleman, well known in the philanthropic world, informs me that, with lymph taken from a child supposed to be perfectly healthy, his grandchild, a healthy child, of healthy parents, was vaccinated; from this child the virus was transferred to his cousin, another healthy child, the offspring also of healthy parents. Subsequently both children became afflicted with a loathsome disease, prior to the outward manifestation of which some 20 other children were vaccinated from them.

From the foregoing it may be gathered that

If every child in England were vaccinated, small-pox would still exist; or how comes it that more than *two-thirds of the small-pox patients admitted into the small-pox hospital were found to have been vaccinated, and of these so many died?* Those who advocate compulsory vaccination tell us that the diminution in the mortality from small-pox is owing to the extension of vaccination. Will the following statistics harmonize with such an assumption? The number of deaths from small-pox in London, in the years 1838-9-40-1-2, were respectively 3817, 634, 1235, 1053, and 360, does not such variation shew that vaccination could have little effect on the epidemic?

So far from compulsory vaccination being likely to exterminate small-pox, there is every reason to believe that the bare fact that the legislature *enforces* vaccination on the poor, will beget a resistance,

The Witness.

SATURDAY, JULY 15.

EDINBURGH,

* Our Medical Liberties, or the Personal Rights of the Subject as Infringed by Recent and Proposed Legislation. By John Gibbs, Esq. London: Sotheman & Co., 331, Strand. 1854.

MEDICAL LEGISLATION IN ENGLAND.*

One of the most notable facts connected with our present system of legislation, is the singular facility with which scheming and interested parties can procure acts of Parliament in their own favour, when there is no one to oppose them but the public. Whether it be the Remembrancer of the city of London who quietly slips into a bill a clause imposing a tax of four shillings per chaldron on all coals entering the port of the metropolis, or a provincial Pier Company which obtains the privilege of charging all passengers who land or embark the sum of two shillings per head as pier dues, whereby the said Pier Company received no less than seven thousand pounds from the passengers of a single steam-boat in a single season,—there seems to be no difficulty in procuring the authority of the imperial State for almost any measure, provided it does not involve a strife between her Majesty's Ministers or her Majesty's Opposition. The interests of party sharpen the wits of the deliberative wisdom of the nation ; but where those interests are not supposed to be present, the easy and good-natured Legislature is willing to oblige all classes of her Majesty's subjects. Such at least would seem to be the case with regard to the *Vaccination Extension Bill*,—a measure which last session rendered it imperative on every parent or guardian of every child born in England after the 1st August 1853 to cause the child to be vaccinated within a specified time after birth, unless vaccination be postponed under a medical certificate, or series of certificates, of unfitness ; and that a pecuniary penalty shall be inflicted for non-compliance with the requirements of the act. On the propriety or impropriety of vaccina-

tion we have nothing to say,—we leave that entirely to the medical profession. But when the Legislature assumes the office of pronouncing on medical theories and medical facts, and imposes on the lieges of the realm an obligation to adopt certain speculative measures for the preservation of the national health, we think that the Legislature has entirely overstepped its legitimate boundaries, and intruded on a province which by no means concerns it. At present the act extends only to England, but rumours are afloat that Scotland may also, at some future time, be subjected to a similar course of experimentation ; and we should like to have the judgment of our northern faculty before we are invaded by compulsory medication. The State is as much out of its proper place in prescribing vaccination, as it would be in prescribing “Cockle’s Pills” or “Locock’s Lozenges ;” and we regard this invasion of the parental authority as mere subserviency to the clamour of a medical party which has nothing to recommend it save the noisiness of its presumptuous claims. The whole outcry of English *medical reform* is little more than an agitation of interested quacks and place-hunters. Some twenty years since, the agitation began, conducted at that time principally by that ingenious personage Mr Wakley, who aspired to the office of coroner for London. It had been customary to appoint a barrister ; but Mr Wakley, calculating on the facility with which the Londoners are engaged in the petty warfare of party, raised the cry of the profession, and London was placarded with bills urging the appointment of a *medical* coroner. The bait took remarkably well. The doctors and apothecaries worked strenuously for the medical reformer ; and Mr Wakley, who was by no means in flourishing circumstances, stepped into the lucrative office. Since that time medical reform has been a favourite subject with the scheming portion of the profession ; but, to show how much it is worth, we may mention the fact, that though Mr Wakley gained his election entirely on the ground that the coroner ought, as he said, to be a medical man, when he was appointed he installed his own son as assistant-coroner, and that son was a barrister, or at least studying for the bar. That the medical profession in England requires not merely a reform, but a thorough revolution, will be easily admitted by any one who knows how the unfortunate English

au bout de cinq semaines et fut assez solide pour supporter la pression d'un bandage ; les coliques et les selles diarrhéiques ont continué plus longtemps, mais la santé a fini par se rétablir, et cette bonne vieille, qui a été si près de la mort, est heureuse de raconter son histoire et de bénir l'art et celui qui pour elle en a été si bien le ministre.

LITTÉRATURE MÉDICALE ÉTRANGÈRE.

JOURNAUX ANGLAIS.

1^o *Compulsory vaccination*; letter adressed to the president of the board of health, by John Gibbs. — La vaccine obligatoire. Lettre adressée au président du conseil de santé, par le Dr John Gibbs.

2^o *Essay upon compulsory vaccination*, by Horace Johnson. — Sur la vaccine obligatoire, par le Dr Horace Johnson.

3^o *The evils of vaccination*; by George Gibbs. — Les maux de la vaccine, par George Gibbs.

Ces trois brochures dont nous venons de donner le titre ne sont pas les seules qui aient paru sur la même matière en Angleterre. Voici leur raison d'être dans ce pays. Nous traduirons sans réflexion, comme il convient quand on ne veut instruire.

« En 1855 un acte pour rendre la vaccine obligatoire se glissa par contrebande (*was smuggled*) dans le parlement. A la chambre des Communes, le 6 mars 1856, M. Cowper demanda la permission d'introduire quelques amendements dans les lois sur la vaccine. Une semaine à peine écoulée, il fit tous ses efforts pour obtenir une seconde lecture de son projet. Alors le docteur Barrow demanda une remise jusqu'après les fêtes de Pâques. La motion fut chaudement appuyée par son collègue à la chambre, M. le docteur Michell; l'assemblée y consent, de telle sorte qu'au moment actuel tous les projets pour rendre la vaccine obligatoire sont restés tels quels entre les mains des membres de la chambre des Communes, (*as the bill had reached the hands of members only that morning*). »

Dès ce moment, on peut le dire, jamais temps n'a été employé plus fructueusement par les adversaires de la vaccine.

De nombreuses publications ont vu le jour : en tête, et la première sous tous les rapports, se trouve celle de John Gibbs, *Compulsory vaccination* (la vaccine obligatoire) qui, sous forme de lettre adressée au président du conseil de santé, considère la vaccine dans ses aspects religieux, scientifiques et politiques. Deux courtes citations feront connaître les tendances de l'auteur :

« Assurément, dit-il, il n'est pas de sujet sur lequel le peuple, « même instruit, montre une telle ignorance et crédulité que « sur la vaccine; c'est ce qui fait que les partisans de cette pra- « tique rejettent loin tout sentiment honorable, méprisent tout « principe de justice, violent l'esprit de la loi, outragent les « préceptes du christianisme, foulent aux pieds le sens com- « mun et trahissent leurs intérêts les plus légitimes et les plus « chers.... »

« La loi qui rendra la vaccine obligatoire est la première at- « taque directe sur la personne en matière médicale tentée « dans ce royaume. Elle envahit, sans exemple, la liberté du « sujet et la sainteté de la maison. Non seulement, d'une ma- « nière inexprimable, elle dégrade l'Anglais né libre en le pri- « vant de liberté dans sa personne même ; mais elle le prive « de l'usage de sa raison, outrage les sentiments les plus déli- « cats du cœur humain, sentiments qui ont leur origine dans « l'amour des parents, met à néant la responsabilité paternelle, « la contraint à violer ses convictions arrêtées, et même ses « scrupules religieux, ou à braver courageusement un droit « injuste.... »

Plus loin, s'adressant aux vaccineurs il leur dit :

« Si la vaccine est un don céleste, n'est-il pas étrange que « dans le propre pays de Jenner, dans la soucieuse Angleterre, « après une expérience d'un demi siècle, durant lequel elle a « été bien nourrie par l'état, cette pratique fasse de vigoureux « appels aux espérances, aux frayeurs pour se propager sim- « plement par les pénalités ? Pourquoi dans ce même pays, « la vaccine est-elle tenue à distance par un grand nombre « d'hommes qui motivent leurs refus, parce qu'elle n'apporte

« pas une protection suffisante contre une invasion de la pe-
« tite vérole ; parce qu'ils ont un dégoût naturel à l'idée de
« transporter dans les veines de leurs enfants un dégoûtant
« virus venu du sang d'une bête malade et de le transmettre à
« travers les milieux humains reconnus sains ; qu'ils ont la con-
« viction et la crainte que d'autres maladies, tendant à empoi-
« sonner et à abrégier la vie, sont fréquemment transmises dans
« l'économie par le virus vaccin ; qu'ainsi, sous certaines circon-
« stances, la voie de la santé, de la longévité a pu être corrom-
« pue dans le sang et les énergies vitales affaiblies, de là, une
« suite conséquente d'actions morbides, et de plus, parce qu'ils
« ont une conviction intime que volontairement propager cette
« maladie est chose à fuir à la face de Dieu. »

Pour M. John Gibbs, intervenir dans les actions divines, vouloir corriger le chef-d'œuvre de la création, lui paraît absurde et impie.

Mais rentrons dans les questions qui sont plus particulièrement comprises dans le domaine de notre science.

M. John Gibbs reconnaît que la vaccine peut, dans une grande proportion de cas, protéger l'économie contre la petite vérole, quoiqu'il soit aujourd'hui hors de doute qu'elle ne peut pas éteindre cette maladie dans le monde, ainsi qu'on l'a formellement prétendu ; mais le grave de la question est ailleurs :—En donnant un degré de protection contre une maladie ne rend-elle pas le corps plus accessible à d'autres ? N'est-elle pas elle-même une opération suivie de dangers ? Ne sert-elle pas de véhicule à divers vices et à diverses affections ? La mortalité générale, au lieu de diminuer, s'accroît-elle ? Dans son ensemble, enfin est elle un bienfait ou une découverte trompeuse ?

Telles sont les diverses questions que l'auteur passe en revue.

Après avoir cité avec Horace Johnson des cas d'érysipèle à la

(1) Ceci vous rappelle qu'en 1856, l'évêque d'Evreux osa dire au comité de vaccine de l'Eure que « il ne comprenait pas comment des hommes peuvent être assez déraisonnables pour donner
« une maladie sous prétexte de préserver d'une autre et pour inoculer à l'homme un venin animal. »

suite de la vaccine, il dit : « Les fonctions de la peau sont
« longtemps troublées, des maladies semblent en être la suite,
« et dans bien des cas, l'enfant ne paraît pas jouir d'une
« bonne santé après avoir été vacciné. Je pense qu'un médecin
« qui a une pratique étendue chez les enfants dans quelque
« grande ville serait frappé du nombre des cas qu'il trouverait
« de ce genre. »

Passant à la phthisie tuberculeuse de l'enfance, après avoir cité une statistique encore plus chargée que celle que l'on publie en France, il ajoute : « Deux auteurs français, Barthéz et Rilliet ont
« observé que sur 208 enfants vaccinés, 158 moururent de
« phthisie tuberculeuse, 70 d'autres maladies. Sur 98 non
« vaccinés, 50 seulement moururent de phthisie tuberculeuse
« et 68 de diverses maladies. »

Le vaccin peut devenir le véhicule de la syphilis, des dartres, des scrofules, de diverses infections originelles. Les nombreux témoignages que l'auteur invoque ici nous entraîneraient trop loin. Enfin, des tables de statistique nous montrent la petite vérole loin de diminuer allant croissant, malgré la grande diffusion de la vaccine ; les fièvres exanthémateuses, rougeole et scarlatine, augmentent ; la mortalité générale serait bien plus considérable dans les contrées où la vaccine est obligatoire que dans celles où cette pratique est restée libre.

Il est une question sur laquelle M. John Gibbs et tous les autres auteurs anglais ne se sont arrêtés que transitoirement, nous voulons parler du déplacement de la mortalité : l'enfance ménagée, tandis que l'adolescence et la jeunesse payent depuis 40 ans un tribut plus large à la mort. Mais cet oubli, si cela peut s'appeler ainsi, se comprend facilement lorsqu'on se rappelle que l'Angleterre n'a qu'un quart de sa population de vaccinée ; à Londres on ne vaccine annuellement que le huitième des naissances,

Le livre de M. John Gibbs prouve que son auteur a lu tout ce qui a été écrit sur la matière, en Allemagne, en Amérique ; mais c'est en France, il faut le dire, c'est chez des auteurs bien connus de nous, MM. Carnot, Ancelon, Duché, Verdé-

Delisle, Zemplett, qu'il fait de larges emprunts ; l'ouvrage de M. le docteur Bayard, *Influence de la vaccine sur la population*, y occupe une grande place.

L'opinion publique fut vivement émue par ce livre. La Chambre des communes ordonna la publication et l'impression du mémoire de M. John Gibbs, sans lequel, peut-être, la pratique de la vaccine serait devenue obligatoire, tandis qu'au contraire aujourd'hui les règlements sont presque sans exécution dans beaucoup de districts; dans d'autres c'est avec de l'argent qu'on persuade aux parents de faire vacciner leurs enfants.

Ceux qui suivent avec attention le compte rendu des séances de l'Académie de médecine de Paris ont pu voir une preuve de cette opposition vive à la vaccine en Angleterre. On lit à la séance du 11 novembre 1856 : — « M. le ministre de l'agriculture transmet une série de questions relatives à la vaccine, posées par le président du département sanitaire du royaume Britannique, et transmise au ministre, avec prière de solliciter de l'Académie les réponses que comportent ces questions » (Renvoyé à la Commission de vaccine).

C'est sous l'effet produit par la publication de M. John Gibbs que l'on comprendra la démarche faite par les autorités anglaises auprès de notre Académie. Puisse ce signe de haute confiance stimuler le zèle de la commission académique, pour l'engager à répondre d'une manière digne d'elle et de la grande nation qui s'en remet à son arbitrage. L'humanité est intéressée à la solution.

On sait toute l'indépendance qui caractérise la *Revue médicale* sur ce sujet ; nous voulons seulement qu'on la connaisse, et que l'on sache par elle l'intérêt bien autrement exagéré que chez nous qu'on met à l'examen de cette question à l'étranger.

SOCIÉTÉS SAVANTES.

ACADÉMIE DE MÉDECINE.

Rapports divers. — Discussion sur la méthode sous-cutanée.

SÉANCE DU 31 MARS 1857. — Présidence de M. MICHEL LÉVY.

M. Robinet lit au nom de la commission des remèdes se-

crets et nouveaux, une série de rapports dont les conclusions négatives sont adoptées.

A l'occasion d'un de ces rapports relatifs à la préparation du valérianate d'ammoniaque présentée par MM. Laboureur et Fontaine; MM. Caventou et Lecanu s'opposent à l'adoption des conclusions qui demandent, pour cette préparation, l'application du décret du 5 août, 1850, par la raison que le valérianate d'ammoniaque, s'il est utile, n'est pas un médicament nouveau, et que tous les pharmaciens peuvent le préparer. Malgré ces observations, l'Académie adopte les conclusions favorables du rapport.

L'ordre du jour appelle la suite de la discussion sur la méthode sous-cutanée.

M. LE PRÉSIDENT. — Je prendrai la liberté de rappeler le vœu que j'avais émis au commencement de cette discussion, celui qu'elle conservât un caractère exclusivement scientifique. Malheureusement, ces limites ont été outre-passées, surtout dans la dernière séance. Je préviens les orateurs que, si un pareil fait se renouvelait, je me verrais forcé d'intervenir dans leur propre intérêt, dans celui de la dignité de l'Académie. En donnant la parole à M. Guérin, je n'ai qu'à le prier de continuer à se tenir dans les limites des convenances qu'il a observées jusqu'à présent. (Marques d'approbation.)

M. J. GUÉRIN. — En reprenant la parole dans cette discussion, mon premier devoir est de remercier et de rassurer l'Académie. L'orateur dit que son intention est de se maintenir dans les positions purement scientifiques dont il s'est fait un devoir.

L'Académie se rappellera que, voulant fixer l'état de la science à la publication de mon premier mémoire sur la méthode sous-cutanée, j'avais choisi le *Manuel de médecine préparatoire* de M. Malgaigne, édition de 1857; il m'a fait deux graves reproches à cet égard. Suivant lui, j'aurais omis de citer ce que cet ouvrage renfermait de documents sérieux comme opérations sous-cutanées antérieures à mes travaux; de plus, j'aurai pris l'édition de 1857, au lieu de prendre l'édition de 1859. Je vais répondre à ces deux reproches.

nation is drugged and doctored. It is not an uncommon circumstance for an English family, even in the middle rank, to consume year by year, forty, fifty, or sixty poundsworth of drugs. In Scotland, a similar family would not consume as many shillings' worth. In Scotland the practice of medicine is a profession, and the patient pays for the skill and attention of the medical attendant, who has no interest in the administration of noxious substances. But in England it is neither a profession, nor an art, nor a science, but a *trade*; and medical reform, as hitherto advocated, means nothing more and nothing less than an attempt to procure a legal monopoly of the trade of drugging. Of course, we except the physicians (some of them only), and the operating surgeons; but these form a small portion of the profession, and are to be found only in a few of the large towns, such as London, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, &c. The great mass of medical men in England are general practitioners,—that is, persons who are licensed to drug the population. Their art consists in the administration of a *mixture*,—a six or eight ounce bottle, containing liquid, for which 3s 6d is charged,—*draughts*, generally put up in packets of four or six, charged a shilling or eighteenpence a-piece,—a box of pills charged from a shilling to half a crown, according to size, no matter what they contain,—and a lancet. With these as the authentic stock in trade, sanctioned by conventional use, the practitioner passes through life, his deliberations conducted with mock solemnity, ending invariably in the prescription of a mixture, a packet of draughts, a box of pills, or a touch of the lancet. It is thus no rarity to find in an English house half a bushel, or perhaps a whole bushel, of doctor's bottles, the contents of which are legally supposed to have conduced to the health of the community. That such a system requires reform, it needs neither a medical association nor an act of Parliament to assure us. It is a system of unblushing and atrocious quackery, almost justifying the philippic of Sir Astley Cooper, when he said that the science of medicine was “founded in conjecture and improved by murder.” No wonder that the celebrated Dr James Johnson, in the heat of his honest indignation, gave utterance to the never-to-be-forgotten declaration—“I declare it to be my most conscientious opinion, that if there were not a single physician, or

surgeon, or apothecary, or man-midwife, or chemist, or druggist, or drug, in the world, there would be less mortality amongst mankind than there is now."

From the long continuance of the present system, the people of England have been educated into the habitual practice of consuming enormous quantities of drugs, and consequently England is the finest field in the world for quacks and quackery. The unlicensed practitioner finds the ground thoroughly prepared for him, and he has only to apply a little extra stimulus in the form of effrontery and pretension, to attract to himself the medicine-taking propensities which have been generated by the legally qualified profession. This is a trespass on the legal rights of the licentiates, and medical reform means an act of Parliament to prevent this trespass, and to secure the monopoly of the field as the exclusive domain of the legal druggers. Modest Dr Ebsworth, one of the reformers, considerately exclaims, "Let us not flag till we have obtained a recognition of our deserts. The public were made for us, not we for the public." If medical reform meant a reform in the practice of medicine,—if it meant sanitary reform, or anything that would conduce to the public health, it should have our hearty approval. But when it comes forward as the war-cry of a party fighting for mere pecuniary monopoly, we have no sympathy with it, and only regret that the indifference of Parliament should give the sanction of law to such questionable schemes. We have made these few observations for two purposes; in the first place, should Scotland at some future period be threatened with a compulsory vaccination act, we should like to elicit the impartial judgment of the Scottish medical faculty on the genuine merits and demerits of the vaccine process. That it does not prevent the recurrence of the disease, is plainly evident from the fact, that "out of 800 patients admitted into the Small Pox Hospital in 1852, only 230 were unvaccinated; in other words, 570, or considerably more than two-thirds of the whole, had been vaccinated." There is also a strong suspicion, based on the experience of many eminent medical men, that it not only introduces *other* diseases into the system, but that some children "never enjoy good health after vaccination."

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Poor Persons paying 2s. 6d. are entitled to Advice and Medicine for a Month.

PROVIDENT CLASS.—Poor Persons paying 1d. a-week in health, are entitled to Medical Aid when sick, after three months' contributions have been paid.

which will operate against the success of the measure. Thus would mistaken legislators bring into disrepute a discovery, which, properly developed, would be a blessing to humanity, believing, as we do, that *vaccination, properly performed with pure lymph is preventive of small-pox*. But we maintain that the state has no right to enforce vaccination, until it can provide fully for its successful performance. Even though it could do this, what right has the state to interfere with the liberty of the subject, in depriving free-born Englishmen of their power of choice? The State may *teach* medical doctrines, but not hale men and women to prison for their non-submission to those doctrines.

In a word, the bill now before the House of Commons must not pass into law; and we urge upon every lover of English liberty and justice to protest against and resist, by all legitimate means, such an infraction of the law of liberty.

THE HOMŒOPATHIC RECORD.

MEDICAL, SOCIAL, AND SCIENTIFIC.

No. 7. }
NEW SERIES. }

MAY 1, 1856.
PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

{ PRICE 1½D.

114

THE HOMŒOPATHIC RECORD.

ignorance." Therefore, we say, enlighten the people; let them know that constipation can never be cured by cathartics and purgative medicines, "patent and non-patent, regular and irregular," and such will seldom be used. Let the people understand that there exists no such thing as "tonic" or "strengthening" medicine, in the customary acceptation of that familiar phrase; and they will no longer poison themselves, become really weak, by taking huge quantities of drugs, in the vain hope and expectation of thereby *adding* to the energy, power, or strength of the vital force. Inform the people it is absurd that "an aperient can do no harm, if it does no good," and we shall hear that oft repeated and pernicious saying no more. *Homœopathic* medicines should be given—it is not necessary to degenerate, to go back to the allopathic auxiliaries. Give them the gentle spiriting of dynamic agents—not marshal on the chimney pieces of their chambers the red republic of pill boxes, that would have prostrated Goliath of Gath as effectively as the smooth stone that smote into his forehead. Purgatives disorder.

LA REVUE MÉDICALE
FRANÇAISE ET ÉTRANGÈRE.

(15 avril 1857.)

If such be the case, a legislative command to vaccinate is rather too serious an invasion of the rights of parents to be tolerated without a much fuller inquiry. Death itself appears to be occasionally caused by the application of the vaccine virus, perhaps principally in London, where erysipelas appears to supervene, and in such a case the command to vaccinate is a command to sacrifice the child. Our second purpose is to direct attention to the able pamphlet of Mr Gibbs. It is written in a manful, straightforward, and even eloquent style. The author rides over the medical profession roughshod, without the slightest remorse, and, considering what the practice actually is in England, we can easily forgive his vehemence. "Once begun," he asks, "where is such legislation to end? Is every presumed good

thing in medical practice to be forced upon us? If one thing, why not another? Are we to be leeches, bled, blistered, burned, douched, frozen, pilled, potioned, lotioned, salivated, not only *secundum artem*, but by act of Parliament? The glorious uncertainty of law added to the glorious uncertainty of physic!" We are happy to find that this course of medical legislation has met with so able an opponent as Mr Gibbs, who is already known to literature as the author of the interesting "*Letters from Graefenberg*."

VACCINATION IN PARLIAMENT.—We are glad to see that this important subject, through the efforts of Mr. Gibbs, is receiving the attention of Parliament, as may be seen from the following extracts. *Notice of Motion*—Mr. Brady: Bill to provide for the vaccination of the people in England and Wales.—*Times*, July 12th.—*Return Ordered*—On the motion of Mr. Brotherton for a copy of a letter dated 30 June, 1855, addressed to the President of the Board of Health by John Gibbs, Esq., entitled *Compulsory Vaccination*, briefly considered in its scientific, religious and political aspects.—*Daily News*, July 12th.

Copy of the Bill
July 25. 1855

Hastings & St. Leonards News.

HASTINGS, FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1854.

LITERARY NOTICES.

Our Medical Liberties: or, The Personal Rights of the Subject, as infringed by Recent and Proposed Legislation; comprising Observations on the Compulsory Vaccination Act, The Medical Registration and Reform Bills, and the Maine Law. By JOHN GIBBS, Esq. (1s. 6d.) London: Sotheran, Son, and Draper, 10, Little Tower street, City. 1854.

UNTIL we read this pamphlet, we were not aware so much could be said against the compulsory movements in the medical line which characterise the present day. This is a spirited *brochure*, and will command attention. We are not sure that Mr. Gibbs has made out a case; but we are sure that he has striven with vigour and ability to do so.

The following remarks on the Vaccination Act will shew our readers something of the style of the writer of this pamphlet:—

“ View the question of vaccination as one will—assuming that it is all that its advocates assert it to be, what can excuse the panic which ushered in the *Compulsory Vaccination Bill*, and what pretext can justify the passing it into a law? Even the *Lancet* was forced to ask what excuse there was for indecent haste, and what grounds for panic. In the quarter (ending September, 1853) in which this Bill was passed, the deaths from small-pox, in London, were only forty-two, while the deaths from measles were 226, from scarlatina 397, from hooping-cough 426, from diarrhœa 1232, from influenza 137, from typhus 585, from scrofula 124, from consumption 1745, from convulsions 463, and from all causes 12,918. Add, that small-pox is, in a great measure, wilfully kept alive amongst certain classes, by inoculation and other means. Again, then, I ask, what grounds were there for panic? When men are panic-stricken, then it is that, in their blind selfishness, they are capable of the most violent actions—of the most atrocious outrages. There is no aggression upon the liberties of a people that it has not been attempted to palliate, if not to justify, by the plea of the public good. Vain mediocrity is ever intolerant, and those whom it impels are continually meddling with their neighbours' concerns; such men are ever prompt to try to coerce where they cannot persuade, and imbeciles, who cannot think for themselves, invariably desire to reduce all others to a like state of helplessness,—the ever ready pretext, with all, being the public good. It is this spirit of inter-meddling which has been the most prolific cause of evil to the human race. The public good is ever the cuckoo-note

of every tyrant and tyranny in the world. At Rome, Florence, Vienna—where you will, it is the plea for any and every atrocity. It has been advanced to justify the burning of the body for the salvation of the soul; it is now advanced to justify the constrained poisoning of the body for its own health. Petty plagiary!—paltry parody of a magnificent error!

“The *Compulsory Vaccination Act* is said to be for the protection of the public. What public? Surely they who reject vaccination do not ask for this enforced protection—they want information and they are insulted with a hypocritical profession of regard and a Coercion Act. *Cannot they who believe in vaccination protect themselves?* Nobody seeks to hinder them—nobody presumes to dispute their right to adopt any medical practice, however questionable it may be. Why cannot they act with like forbearance to others? When will men learn to do as they would be done by? When will men exhibit a little becoming modesty as regards their own convictions and some forbearance towards even the follies of their fellows? When will it be universally understood and acknowledged that all men have rights, to rob them of which is also to deprive them of the sense of responsibility and to paralyse the spirit of self-reliance. Surely, if freedom be more than a name, it implies the right of the freeman to reject not only that which other men may choose to regard as an evil, but even that which they may combine to urge upon him as a good. When will men cease to be selfish and to prefer self-interest to principle? How would any noble lord, or honourable gentleman like to have this or that peculiar medical practice forced upon himself? What right has he to force his favourite prophylactic upon any one else? Why should I accept his decision in a matter which chiefly concerns myself? What qualification does he possess that I should bow to him as an authority in medical matters? What right has any individual whatever to inflict his medical creed, or practice, upon another.”—Pp. 27—9.

Saturday May 29. 1854.

THE ATHENÆUM

Mr. John Gibbs, in *Our Medical Liberties, or the Personal Rights of the Subject*, attacks some measures recently passed on purpose in Parliament, and maintains vaccination to be injurious. This writer seems to fear the introduction of the Maine Liquor Law into this country; and, in truth, we find that measure recommended in a pamphlet called *The Facts of the Case*, published at Manchester.

OUR MEDICAL LIBERTIES.

Our Medical Liberties: or the Personal Rights of the Subject, as Infringed by Recent and Proposed Legislation; comprising Observations on the Compulsory Vaccination Act, the Medical Registration and Reform Bills, and the Maine Law: BY JOHN GIBBS, Esq.

THE appearance of this able pamphlet is extremely well-timed, and it is to be hoped that it will be extensively circulated among all classes of the realm, as its sterling merit demands. We call upon every one of our readers to procure it immediately, to study it carefully, and to introduce it to all with whom he has any influence whatever. There is at the present moment a widely organised medical conspiracy, which grows, day by day, to a more threatening head, the object of which is to give to an exclusive section of the medical profession, despotic authority over the community in all matters that relate to health; and this exclusive section of the medical profession, while advancing claims to the most elevated position, while repudiating the station of a profession, and aping even the dignity of a 'Priesthood,' manifests, on all occasions, the most strained and bigoted adherence to effete doctrines, the most determined perseverance in destructive practices, the most bitterly persecuting spirit against innovators, and the most eager ambition, not only to possess themselves of all public emoluments, but indissolubly to unite themselves to the State. At a time when the connexion between Church and State is wavering—when great towns like Birmingham and Liverpool are refusing to pay ecclesiastical rates, and many influential ecclesiastics, in order to avoid the dire struggle, throw themselves upon the Voluntary principle—at such a time as this, it is sought, by

this exclusive section of the medical profession, to fasten upon the English people the yoke of a state physic. It appears we may be as free as we like in religion; but we must be serfs in medicine: a gallipot tyranny is to be established, and Sangrado shall be our autocrat. Churches may tumble down, rats gnaw into the pews, and moths devour the surplice; clergymen may be left to starvation or voluntary benevolence; but a fund must be provided for this exclusive section of the medical profession. 'Cedant arma togæ'—let the Church, in future, give place to the pill-box.

The first public rate levied for the benefit of the new 'Priesthood'* is the vaccination fee; but this, though considerable, is only, as Mr. Brady expresses it, 'the thin end of the wedge'—only a stepping stone to greater usurpations. The principle of compelling every child to undergo vaccination is in itself pernicious; for, however firmly we may be convinced of the utility of vaccination, we have no right

* 'He did not believe that Mr. Brady's Bill would do away with quackery, as had been represented. A man joined his own college merely for the purpose of obtaining a diploma, and he was now a most notorious quack. He contended that registration would not do away with quackery. It would be far wiser on their parts to wait until they could direct their minds to a very high stand, and then ask Parliament to remove all the obstructions of which they now had reason to complain. Let them show Parliament that they entered the profession not as a mere trade; that they went into it as part of a priesthood, to give health to the mind and body, as the clergyman gave health to the soul. (Cries of "Question!") He asserted that they were a priesthood, and it was not right for them to go to ask for trade emoluments.'—Dr. Cousin's Speech, reported in the *Lancet* of March 11th, 1854.

~~here~~ to force our panacea down the throats of our neighbours, who believe that our panacea is irreligious, immoral, and insalubrious. This kind of coercion is exactly the same as that which we lately denounced so loudly in the case of the Madii. The Tuscan Government fined and imprisoned these persons to prevent the spread of what it esteemed a moral disease: our own Government was highly indignant at this interference with the rights of conscience, and remonstrated with the Tuscan Government upon the subject; and yet our Government, with admirable inconsistency, fines and imprisons individuals merely to prevent the spread of a phy-

sical disease, making as little account of the rights of conscience, when it suits its purpose to disregard them, as any absolute Government in existence. A certain exclusive section of the profession is satisfied that vaccination is a good thing; moreover it brings in fees. Is that any reason why all the world must, nolens volens, be vaccinated? Homœopathic practitioners are as firmly persuaded that the administration of certain minute quantities of belladonna acts as a preventative of scarlet fever. Is that a reason why all the world is, nolens volens, to be dosed with belladonna? Vegetarians believe that meat-eating brings on scrofula. Is that a reason why the public should be deprived, by Act of Parliament, of beef and mutton? Dr. Howard reads in the Pyramids that salt is the cause of all our diseases; but surely the most frantic legislator, however deeply imbued with the anti-salt mania, would not fine and imprison his fellow-subjects who chose to season their potatoes with this condiment.

It is astonishing how resolute every one is to force upon his neighbour his own pet theory! If argument do not suffice, we have recourse at once to pains and penalties. The word "toleration" is in every one's mouth; but, interpreted by the heart, its meaning is rancour and persecution.

The Registration Bill, now fortunately rejected by a large majority in the House of Commons, was a Bill to enhance the honour and profit of an exclusive section of the medical profession at the expense of truth, humanity, and justice. Its ultimate object was to empower a certain corporation to form itself into a court for the purpose of deciding upon the truth or falsehood of medical doctrines, and of punishing all those who presume to treat the sick in a manner contrary to their decisions, or to treat the sick at all without the license of the court. It was aimed to establish a real medical inquisition. But pretensions of this kind are so preposterous that they need only be exposed to be repelled with derision. They are of

"such hideous mien,
As to be hated need but to be seen."

"This measure," says Mr. Gibbs, "proposes that there shall be a registration of all qualified practitioners of medicine and surgery, that is to say, of such practitioners as hold British diplomas; and that if any individual, whose name is not admitted to the registry,

shall practise, no matter with what result, as a physician or surgeon, for gain or reward, he shall be liable to fine or imprisonment for every time he shall so offend. Thus not only is it proposed to prohibit many thousand persons (as is shown by the Census Returns) from lawfully earning their bread by employing their talents in a useful calling in this boasted land of freedom, but also to deprive the subject of his natural right to be the conservator of his own health, and to seek its maintenance or its recovery at whatever hands, or through whatever means, his judgment shall approve. It is attempted to inflict this great wrong under cover of the hypocritical, but clumsy and insulting pretext of protecting him from being the victim of quackery, while the real object is to gratify the low ambition and monopolising rapacity of a combination of traders in physic."

Many of our readers will remember a case reported in this journal of a lad ill with fever, whom his medical attendants, men of high reputation, had pronounced to be dying, absolutely beyond their skill to save: and yet this lad's life *was* saved—by whom? By a *bath-man* sent to England from Gräfenberg, by Priessnitz, at the urgent request of the youth's parents. And yet (one can scarcely credit it!) men whose medical skill is put to shame by a German clown have the presumption to ask of the Legislature to give them a monopoly of medical treatment! Look at Priessnitz the farmer—Ling the fencing-master—Harrup the cobbler: all of these persons have cured hundreds who had in vain sought help from the medical profession. In all times it has been the same. Quacks, as they are called, have always coëxisted side by side with the profession. Why? Because quacks have always cured as many, if not more, than the regulars. To set up a claim to be and remain the sole standard of truth, is transparent nonsense. Opinions change from day to day; and many of those which are held in honour now, will, within the year, be regarded with contempt; and for this reason, if for this reason only, common sense will brand Mr. Brady's Registration Bill as a logical absurdity, and justice will admit that it was a party instrument, intended to advance the money interests of its promoters, in violation of ordinary decency and good feeling.

COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

Mr. J. Gibbs, of St. Leonard's on Sea, is doing good service for humanity, by the able letters he contributes to the Saint Leonard's News, against this fashionable abomination. His able letters should be reprinted in every paper in the kingdom, and would be if it were not for the force of fashion and interest. The future, however, will not fail to acknowledge his labours. Most gladly would we avail ourselves of the pleasure of inserting them in our little Record, but our limited space prohibits us from doing it. In addition, however, to the *valuable facts* connected with his researches, we may say that the progressive mind of our readers is all but universally arrayed against it.

We will mention one striking fact among many that are continually coming under our notice. Some six years since we knew a young man and woman of the village of ——— near Leeds, both perfectly healthy; indeed they were blessed with more of the vigorous enjoyment of healthy life than falls to the ordinary share of the working people in our own manufacturing Yorkshire villages. They married, and were in due time blessed with a child. Their objections to vaccination were overruled by the young mother's parents; and the young father, as he told me, foolishly consented rather than have any noise. The matter took well, and as the child was perfectly healthy, and altogether a model of beauty, all the children far and near were vaccinated from it. In the course of a little time eruptions appeared upon the child's skin, which went on increasing. The same also followed in every case that had been vaccinated from it. A cry was raised among all the people that the *young man* and *woman* had been diseased with the accursed s —, and such was its influence that the young pair were perfectly horror struck. Certain it is, however, that all the children suffered from it, and that simply by the introduction of the virus into the first child. The child was under my treatment for four months, and although it is now apparently well, nevertheless I candidly confess that I have my doubts about its health in the future.

Botanical Record. (Leeds) August 5. 1854.

Mr. Gibbs is doing a good work for the public. His exposure of vaccination and its results, cannot fail to tell upon the popular mind. In our next, if all is well, we will publish his letter, for which reprint Mr. Stevens has our best thanks. "Our medical liberties," if they are to be won, must be through the co-operation of all parties of medical reformers.

Feb. 1845.

THE SCOTTISH HERALD OF

HEALTH AND TEMPERANCE.

COMPULSORY VACCINATION ACT !!!

What foolery in the 19th century!

JOHN GIBBS, Esq., Sussex, we learn from a letter of his to the Messrs. MORISON is about to publish a *Second Pamphlet* on the above subject and Act. The readers of "The Hygeist" know that a few months ago this gentleman published his first pamphlet, exposing the cruelty, the wickedness, the despotism, of passing such Acts as to compel all parents, under pains and penalties, to vaccinate their children. He not only demonstrated the inefficiency of vaccination for the proposed end, but that the *vaccine virus* often produced death, and a great many other diseases, even years after vaccination had taken place; and that as a matter of fact, the virus often taken (in carelessness, or ignorance) from diseased children, communicated diseases of all kinds to those into whose bodies it was introduced. These and many other terrible facts, he disclosed in his pamphlet. We know nothing as to what school of medicine Mr. GIBBS belongs, nor do we much care, seeing he belongs to the school of medical freemen; and is an educated, able, dignified, advocate of the freedom of the subject, whose inherent right is to adopt, without any legal obstruction, any system of medical treatment he may for himself think best. In the letter referred to, he most properly suggests the idea of a union among all medical dissenters, not only with the view of obtaining the repeal of the above Act, but to watch and guard in future the medical rights of the public, which the doctors are constantly endeavouring to invade, by their bigoted tools in parliament. But who are medical dissenters? Why, Hygeists, Hydropathists, Homœopathists, Botanists, Anti-Thermalists, Mesmerists, and many other medical sects; but does harmony reign even in the schools of the common systems? Why no. In them confusion and contradiction reign triumphant! Opposite systems and contradictory practice, characterise the whole length and breadth of their proceedings; and, therefore, they are all properly speaking dissenters together, each one against another, and each medical school against its neighbour!! Medical dissenters all; and yet they have the audacity, to pray parliament to put down by law, every system that has had the manly courage to plant its standard on the free soil of Britain, regardless of the schools of the false prophets, who have not yet learned to teach either themselves or the public, the very first elements of demonstrated medical truth. We will hail with pleasure the appearance of Mr. Gibb's new work.

REVIEWS.

Our Medical Liberties: or, the Personal Rights of the Subject, as infringed by recent and proposed Legislation, comprising Observations on the Compulsory Vaccination Act, The Medical Registration and Reform Bills, and The Maine Law. By JOHN GIBBS, Esq. Sotheran and Co., London, pp. 64.

EQUAL laws and right of private judgment constitute the glory of England. That glory, however, has been tarnished of late by class legislation and enactments in favor of a medical monopoly. There has been a retrogression in legislation induced by the worrying importunity of the medical profession, which appeared to feel that their craft was in danger amidst the increasing light of advancing knowledge. A craft which in the darker ages gone by could do its deadly deeds without fear of detection, now, in these days of greater science, seeks the shelter of parliamentary enactments to protect it in its doings. The serfdom of ancient baronies is now sought to be renewed in the subjection of England's yeomen, life and limb, kith and kin, to the control of a few men who may, by some means or other, have managed to obtain a few pieces of parchment with broad seals attached,

authorising them to physic, cut, and mangle human bodies at their pleasure. "The Compulsory Vaccination Act" is a disgrace to the country and the age in which we live. Such an act might better become the Autocrat of Russia than the enlightened and liberal administration of Queen Victoria. Nothing is more disgusting to the scientific man than to see a man with pus in one hand and a lancet in another, and by the incision of the latter

to convey the former into the vital system of a human being. The chances are nineteen to twenty against the purity of the *lymph*. It may be primary lymph, that is, taken direct from the cow; but who is to guarantee the entire healthfulness of the cow? It may be secondary, as it is called, that has been taken from a child; but who is to know what diseases that child may inherit from his ancestors? These questions are too frequently answered by the agonised mother, who, after the vaccination of her child, sees the fine indications of vigorous health no more in her babe; it is no longer her joy and her pride; it is no more presented to assembled visitors to admire and enhance their pleasure by a hearty kiss of its ruddy cheeks: no, it is now transformed into the scabby, loathsome thing that must be concealed, and kept away from all company. And when the mother applies again to her medical attendant, and, almost frantic, inquires, "What can be the cause of this change?" she receives the cold-hearted reply, "Oh, perhaps the vaccine matter was not quite so pure as I thought it was." An injury has been done to the child's constitution which the medical man, though he may have all the diplomas and certificates which colleges and halls can confer, cannot repair. It is revolting to every Englishman's best feeling to have any man enter his house armed with the authority of law to convey a disease to his children whether he is willing or not. The next step in this direction, and not an improbable one, may be that the men of the medical profession will endeavour to get a bill passed, giving them power to meddle with our wives as well as with our children: the law that has passed is not less monstrous than the one we have supposed may be sought. The sacredness of home is invaded in both.

The pamphlet before us is sound in its reasoning, clear in its statements, rich in quoted authorities, and valuable for its

statistical information. We can most heartily recommend it to the attention of our readers, assuring them it well deserves a careful reading. Our space will not allow us to make very large extracts, but we cannot forbear giving a quotation from the conclusion:—

“Britons! guard well your hard-won, precious rights. Surrender not even that one, which, in the immensity of your riches, may appear of trivial value. Keep your medical liberties intact. You must preserve them all, or you must lose them all; and remember that with them must be lost, or preserved, no small portion of your civil and religious liberties as well; they are all intimately and inseparably united. Let no unhallowed tongue beguile you—let no unhallowed hand despoil you.” —

THE ALLIANCE.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1854.

Our Medical Liberties. By John Gibbs, Esq. Sotheran and Draper, Strand, London.

SOME vigorous writing and just protests; but the remarks on the Maine-law are based on a misconception.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Luton Miscellany.

THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION AND REFORM BILL.

SIR,—What a narrow escape the public have had, of having their interests encroached upon by this Bill, may be judged of by the following observations.

At the third reading of the Bill, in the House of Commons on May the 10th, Mr. Craufurd opposed the Bill, as being not a progressive, but a retrogressive measure, which would prove injurious not only to the Medical Profession, but to the public at large. Mr. Warner in seconding the amendment of his honourable friend, said that the great fault of the Bill was, that it proposed to deal with one of the most important of the human sciences, in a way which tended, not to encourage its advancement, but which would materially check it. The real motive which had induced the corporate bodies mentioned in the Bill, to agitate for a measure of this kind was because they felt the new sciences of medicine were so encroaching on their antiquated system, that it was absolutely necessary to put a stop to them.

Lord Palmerston, being inclined to consider that the Bill would have an effect which would rather be injurious than innocent, opposed the Bill. It was accordingly rejected by a majority of forty nine.

On this subject a contemporary medical journal remarks, "There is at the present moment, a widely organised medical conspiracy, which grows, day by day, to a more threatening head, the object of which is to give to an exclusive section of the medical profession, despotic authority over the community in all matters that relate to health; and this exclusive section of the medical profession, while advancing claims to the most elevated position, while repudiating the station of a profession, and aping even the dignity of a Priesthood, manifests, on all occasions, the most strained and bigotted adhesion to effete doctrines, the most determined perseverance in destructive practices, the most bitterly persecuting spirit against innovators, and the most eager ambition, not only to possess themselves of all public emoluments, but indissolubly to unite themselves to the state.

The Registration Bill, now fortunately rejected by a large majority in the House of Commons, was a bill to enhance the honor and profit of an exclusive section of the medical profession at the expense of truth, humanity and justice, its ultimate object was to empower a certain corporation to form itself into a court for the purpose of deciding upon the truth or falsehood of medical doctrines, and of punishing all those who presume to treat the sick in a manner contrary to their decisions, or to treat the sick at all without the licence of the court.

It was aimed to establish a real medical inquisition, but pretensions of this kind are so preposterous that they need only be exposed to be repelled with derision.

"This measure" says Mr. Gibbs, * proposes that there shall be a registration of qualified practitioners of medicine and surgery, that is to say, of such practitioners as hold British diplomas; and that if any individual, whose name is not admitted to the registry, shall practice, no matter with what result as a physician or surgeon, for gain or reward, he shall be liable to fine or imprisonment for every time he shall so offend. Thus not only is it proposed to prohibit many thousand persons (as it is shown by the census returns,) from lawfully earning their bread by employing their talents in a useful calling in this boasted land of freedom, but also to deprive the subject of his natural right to be the conservator of his own health, to seek its maintenance or its recovery at whatever hands, or through whatever means, his judgment shall approve.

gratify
It is attempted to inflict this great wrong, under cover of the hypocritical, but clumsy and insulting pretext of protecting him from being the victim of quackery, while the real object is to ~~qualify~~ the low ambition and monopolizing rapacity of a combination of traders in physic." Many of our readers, remarks Dr. Walter Johnson, † will remember a case in this magazine, of a lad ill with fever, whom his medical attendants, men of high reputation, had pronounced to be dying, absolutely beyond their skill to save; and yet this lad *was* saved. By whom? By a *bathman*, sent to England from Grafenberg, by Priessnitz, at the urgent request of the youth's parents. And yet one can scarcely credit it; men whose medical skill is put to shame by a German clown, have the presumption to ask of the legislature to give them a monopoly of medical treatment!

Look at Priessnitz the farmer—Ling the fencing master—Harrup the cobbler: all these persons had in vain sought help from the medical profession, in all times it has been the same. Quacks as they are called, have always coexisted side by side with the profession. Why? Because quacks have always cured as many, if not more, than the regulars. To set up a claim to be and remain the sole standard of truth, is transparent nonsense. Opinions change from day to day, and many of those which are held in honor now, will, within the year, be regarded with contempt; and for this reason, if for this reason only, common sense will brand Mr. Brady's Registration Bill, as a logical absurdity, and justice will admit that it was a party instrument, intended, to advance the money interests of its promoters, in violation of ordinary decency and good feeling.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,

WM. FORBES LAURIE, M. D.

Dunstable, June the 16th, 1854.

* Author (among other works devoted to progress,) of an able pamphlet entitled "Our Medical Liberties; or the personal rights of the subject, as infringed by recent and proposed Legislation." London: Lotheman and Son, 10 Little Tower Street and 331 Strand. A work which it is to be hoped will be extensively circulated among all classes, as its sterling merit demands.

† Journal of Health, June, 1854.

The Constitution ;

OR, CORK ADVERTISER.

TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 16, 1854.

Our Medical Liberties : or the Personal Rights of the Subject, as Infringed by recent and proposed Legislation ; comprising Observations on the Compulsory Vaccination Act, the Medical Registration and Reform Bills, and the Maine Law. By JOHN GIBBS, Esq.

THIS is a very earnest and energetic appeal to the public, whose "liberties" the writer considers invaded by the Act and Bills alluded to. Against vaccination he inveighs strongly, contending that if it mitigates one malady it introduces others—that therefore to render it compulsory is cruel, and that "if legislation be at all called for in the matter, it should be directed not to coercing the laity and to pandering to the pride, prejudice, ignorance, and laziness of medical men, but to removing the causes which" (by medical men themselves when attempting to account for failure) "are said to impede the extension and to vitiate the practice of vaccination ; to withdrawing the administration of measures for the spread of vaccination from unwilling and incompetent, and intrusting them to competent and willing hands, instead of leaving untouched the evil complained of ; to providing the needful supply of effective lymph, and to enacting that medical men be properly instructed in its use." On the merits of the medical question we are unable to form a judgment, but a good many authorities are advanced on the author's side. To medical men these, of course, are not new, though by the unlearned reader they will be perused with some surprise. The Registration Bill is denounced as designed to secure a monopoly of the profession to certain "qualified practitioners," and thereby likely rather to discourage than to assist its successful cultivation. If anything could be done to purge the profession of quacks, of pretenders to a knowledge which they have not and to a success which they achieve not, it would be well, for, however allowable free trade may be in things commercial, we admire it not in matters that concern human health and life. Respecting the Registration Bill, the author may be content, for Parliament has rejected it, the opposition to it having rested chiefly on grounds suggested by his book. Mr. GIBBS, though long resident in England, is a native of this county, and the publication is penned in a clear and forcible and stirring style. It contains many startling statements, supported by high names, but these we do not meddle with it, as in our ignorance we might be doing harm which we could not remedy.

Darlington & Stockton Times.

Our Medical Liberties, by John Gibbs, Esq. London :
Sotheman and Co.

Mr Gibbs in the above pamphlet gives us his reasons for believing that in the recent and proposed enactments relating to Vaccination, Medical Registration and the Maine Law, the personal rights of the subject are placed in imminent danger. He combats the principle that the minority should be made to do that which is to the manifest interest of the majority, by stating a number of facts to prove that vaccination is not so great a preventative of disease as is generally supposed ; but on the contrary it is the immediate cause of several malignant diseases while the good it is intended to effect is contingent and prospective. Having proved so much, he contends that it is manifestly unjust to force down the throats of an unwilling public a practice which, while it is objected to by all or nearly all who do not voluntarily avail themselves of it, has little to recommend it in the way of a preventative or a cure. His objections to the proposed Medical Registration and Maine Law Bills are that they will not counteract the evils which it is sought to remedy ; he maintains that 'quackery' will not be suppressed by this law which will infringe most unwarrantably on our cherished liberties. The Maine Liquor Law he says has failed in the State of Maine and that in this country there are many grave objections to its being put into practice. The pamphlet concludes with a brilliant peroration on freedom and liberty which the author says are menaced in these proposed measures. Though quite willing to acknowledge that there is considerable merit about this pamphlet we must be allowed to express an adverse opinion to that of the writer on all the subjects he treats. While the neglectful spirit which is especially manifest in the lower classes of this country exists there must be some means adopted to check the growth of a disease, which we think the author has failed to prove has not been checked by vaccination. The other subjects embrace so wide a range that we must be content with saying here we cannot agree with Mr Gibbs. The pamphlet however is well written and will no doubt be extensively read.



