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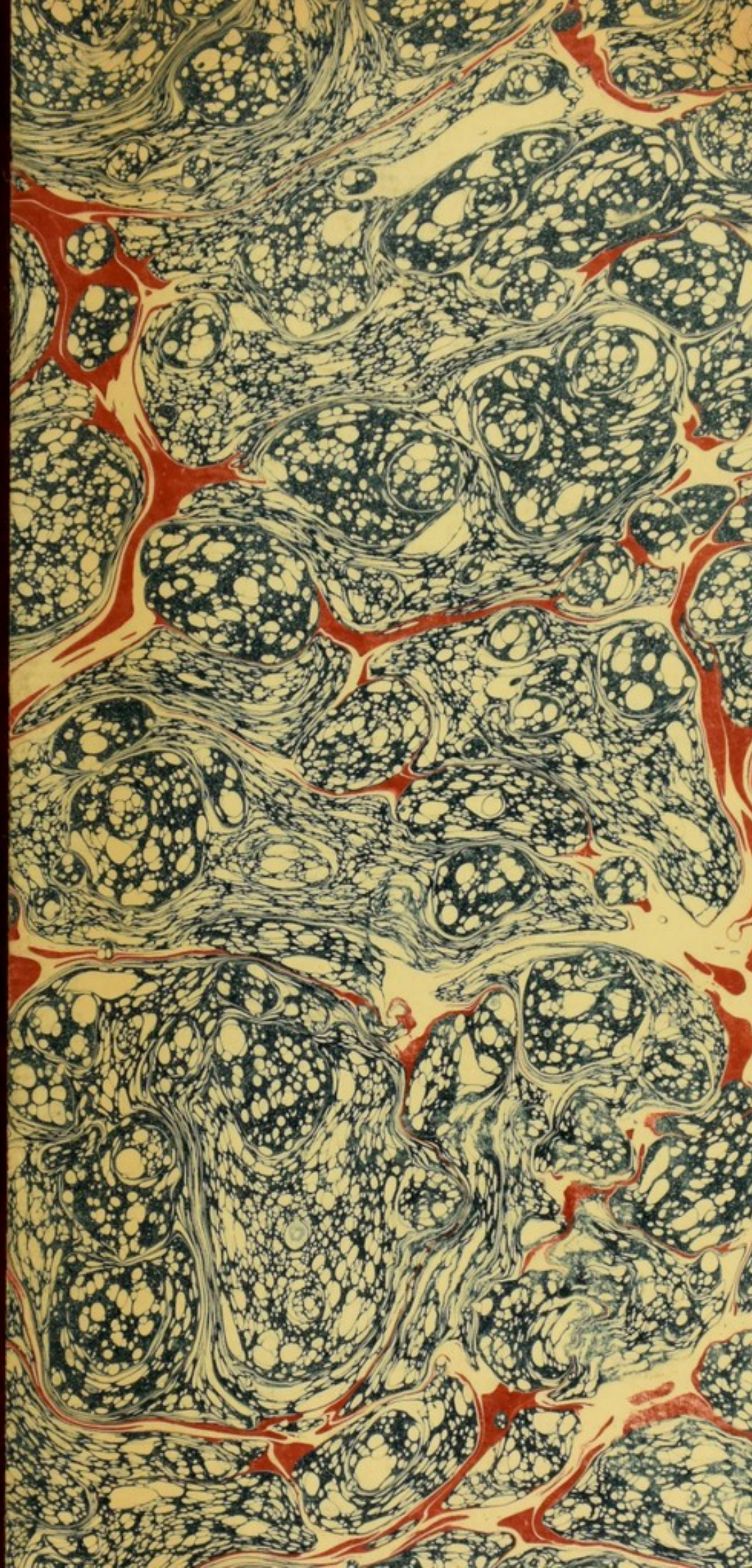
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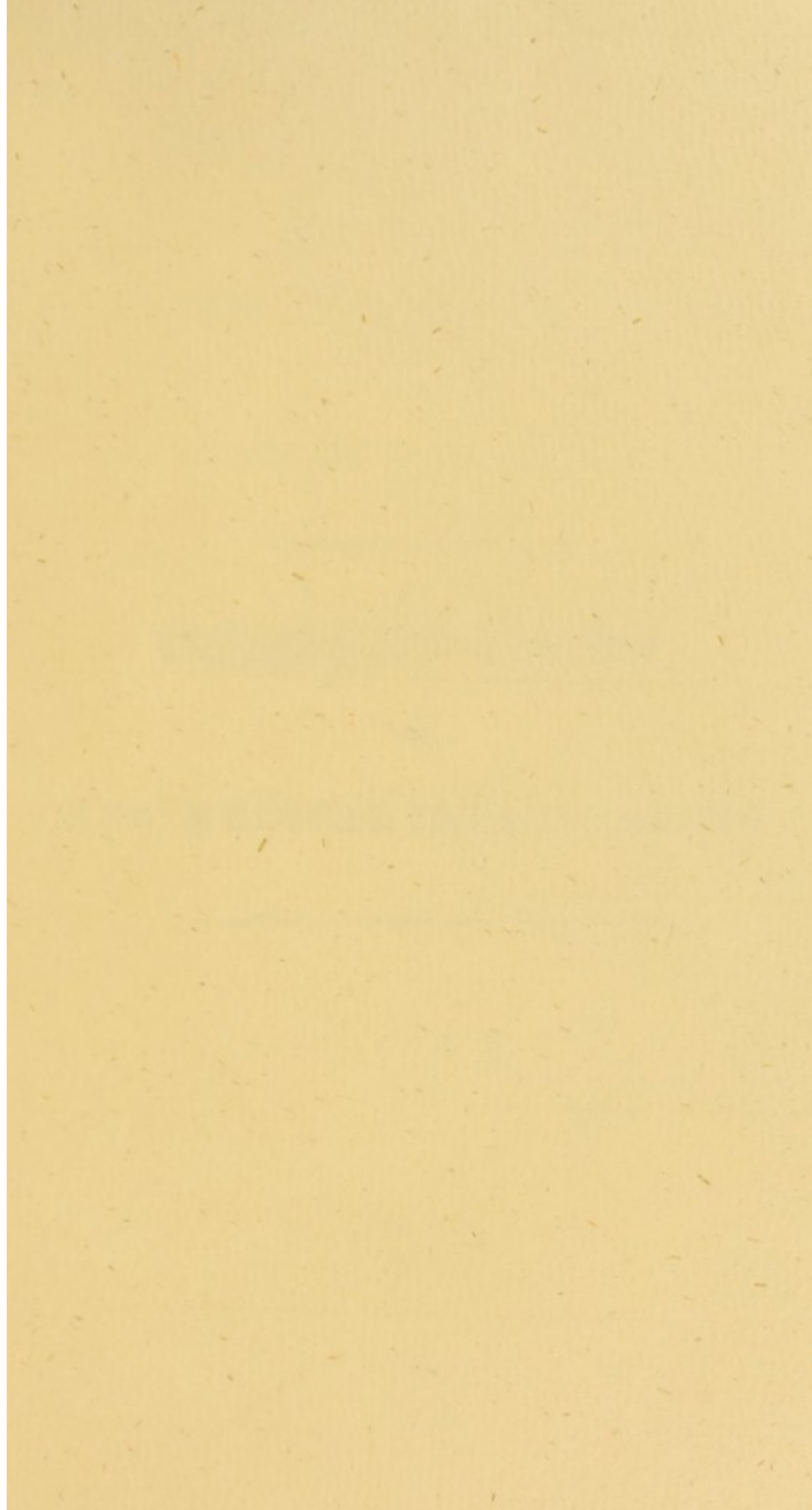
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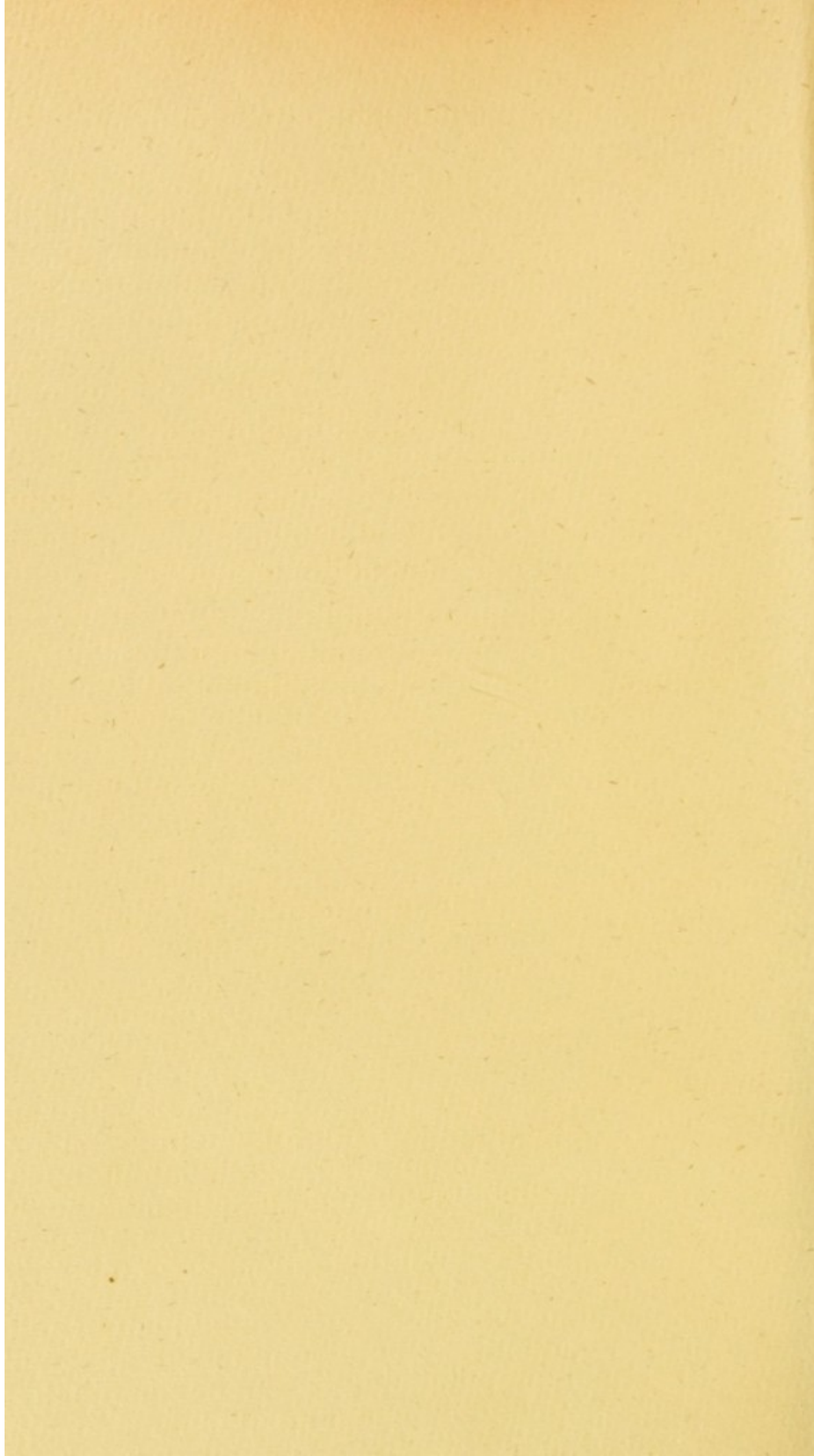
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RIDDELLIAN SYSTEM;  
OR  
NEW MEDICAL IMPROVEMENTS.

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RIDDILL'S SYSTEM

RIDDILL'S SYSTEM

OR

A NEW MEDICAL IMPROVEMENT

OF THE

PRINTED BY

BY W. BAKER

RIDDELLIAN SYSTEM;  
OR  
NEW MEDICAL IMPROVEMENTS;  
CONTAINING  
A CONCISE ACCOUNT OF THE ADVANTAGES  
TO BE EXPECTED THEREFROM.  
WITH SOME ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES.

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*Magna est Veritas, et prævalebit.*

---

“ Be it known to the Royal College of Physicians, as well as to the world at large,  
“ *and which I am willing to prove before them,* that by a counteraction to  
“ antimony, depriving it of all its deleterious and baneful qualities, combining it  
“ with other medicines, and tempering them as occasion may require, making  
“ them act and counteract each other, I can subdue any fever known in this  
“ country in a few hours, &c.”                      Gent. Mag. Aug. 1807, page 699.

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BY COLONEL RIDDELL.

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. RIDGWAY, PICCADILLY;  
BY W. BULMER AND CO. CLEVELAND-ROW, ST. JAMES'S.

1808.



# RIDDELLIAN SYSTEM;

## NEW MEDICAL IMPROVEMENTS;

### A CONCISE ACCOUNT OF THE ADVANTAGES

#### WITH SOME ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES.

By J. RIDDELL, M.D.

Printed by J. B. L. LONDON: 1808.



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1808

T O  
T H E M E M B E R S  
O F  
B O T H H O U S E S O F P A R L I A M E N T.

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M Y L O R D S A N D G E N T L E M E N ,

**T**O YOU who are continually employed in the arduous and important work of legislating for a mighty Empire, and are without doubt sedulously studious to encourage what may tend to promote and enlarge the happiness and prosperity of your Country, any apology for a seeming trespass on your time or patience, would be a libel on your zeal, your humanity, and your justice.

I have frequently read with pleasure inexpressible, the pathetic and splendid effusions of eloquence which distinguished



many of you, in a very affecting and impressive manner, in the various discussions that took place upon the Slave Trade: and the almost universal tenderness, care, and attention, which then pervaded your bosoms, to alleviate the sufferings, and ameliorate the situation of the unfortunate Negroes in the Middle Passage, give me the best founded hope that you will be ready to assist, and forward any object that may tend to the relief and preservation of fellow-creatures of your own complexion and colour.

From the same source of authentic information, (the Debates of both Houses of Parliament,) I have repeatedly read, that on the most accurate and moderate calculation, some thousands of our brave troops and seamen are annually swept away, by the dreadful ravages of the yellow fever, and other tropical disorders, incident to the West India Islands. This circumstance alone would sufficiently plead my excuse for the liberty I have now taken ; as my sole



design is to inform you that I have by long study, and considerable practice, discovered a safe and efficacious medicine, which effectually cures and eradicates every kind of fever in a short time, and which *I have every reason to believe* will put an end to those inexorable devastations of the human species.

I have in the following sheets published a concise account of the nature and effects of my medicine, to which I have added the cases and cures of many persons of the most respectable characters and situations in life. I am willing and desirous that His Majesty's Government should have an opportunity of evincing their attention and regard to the fate of our brave forces by sea and land, in those climates more especially, where disease is so much more destructive than the sword; and I hereby offer to attend any Naval or Military Hospital, under the express inspection and superintendence of physicians appointed by themselves, and to administer my medicine (even in the most desperate cases) provided I may have

others not so far advanced in the road of death; and by a fair and impartial trial of its *superior* efficacy, I am determined to stand or fall in their estimation.

I entreat you *individually* to have the goodness to read this brief work, that you may be able to form an impartial opinion, whether it is not, in some degree, incumbent on you as LEGISLATORS, to support and countenance a discovery which bids so fair to become a supreme blessing to our own country in the first and pre-eminent instance, and afterwards to mankind in general.

I have the honour to subscribe myself,  
with the most respectful consideration,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most devoted humble Servant,

JOHN RIDDELL.

*London, March 1808.*



## RIDDELLIAN SYSTEM.

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**I**N all arts and sciences, we frequently find considerable obstruction to their successful progress from the jealousies and clashing interests of cotemporary professors—and whenever any new, important, or superior knowledge shall appear, whether arising from learning, experience, or accident, all those whose practice, modes of thinking, or emoluments, may be disturbed and affected by these novelties, will generally become systematic opponents ; the *truth*, independent of all private considerations, will be the last thing thought of, and the great mass of the society are often, in some

way or other, the sufferers. On the subject of which we are now treating, wherein *all men* are so largely interested, and whereby so many live and become great in its mysteries and superstitions, the phalanx of opposition, ready to roll its torrents over the hardy mortal who shall dare to touch, or draw aside the tremendous veil in which it is now enveloped, is so immense, that no resistance can be found but in the *candour* and *plain good sense* of *mankind*. To the uninterrupted exertion, and free exercise of this plain sense, however, though it be much more widely diffused than is often imagined, there must always be innumerable obstructions: *fears*, *prejudices*, *attachments*, and even the influence of terms and phrases, will all, under endless forms, offer themselves, as a lion in the path, to turn aside the unarmed traveller, and will operate, in a thousand secret ways, to bias his conclusions, and prevent the cool employment of reason. There can be no reliance, therefore, in this case,



but on the native force, and the slow but all-powerful evidences *of truth*; which, where there is strength to persevere, must in the end be always victorious; and if we adhere in all cases to the simple statement *of facts*, delivered in so plain a way as not to be easily misunderstood by any reader, divested of all learned terms and technical phraseology, which cannot add any value to truth, we shall not in the end fail of being heard with pleasure and conviction.

But the terror which is so generally, and not without grounds, cherished against *quacks*, occasions the *term* to become a useful instrument in the hands of those who from private motives oppose the adoption of discoveries of the most excellent and beneficial tendency, when they cannot do it with any chance of success by argument and proofs. The quack, it is true, is often rash from ignorance, and bold from not knowing the dangers of his practice, or what mischief he may commit; and having been successful accidentally in a



few instances, concludes that his *nostrum* must be equally so in all others that appear outwardly of the like kind ; by which practice the ignorant and credulous patient is exposed to, and actually experiences, many fatal consequences. Thus may the finest and most useful acquisitions to medical knowledge be not only obstructed in their progress toward becoming a general blessing to mankind, but may be rendered objects of affright and disgust to persons who might otherwise, by a dispassionate examination, have obtained relief from the heaviest burdens of their lives, if this blessing should happen to be offered by a man not received within the mysterious and sacred pale of the college, nor admitted into some line of what is called *regularly bred* practitioners.

Dr. James has given a very happy definition, in the following words : “ If I understand the meaning of the term (quackery) it is any imposition on the credulity of the patient :” and in this sense,



there is more quackery in *regular practice* than will be readily imagined.

It was the good fortune of the celebrated fever-powder sold by Mr. Newberry, that, although its preparation was kept secret, and it was offered in the form of a quack medicine, yet, as the production of a very learned and regular physician, the mouth of direct opposition was in some degree stopped, and jealousy was forced into underhand and indirect methods of lessening the belief in its value ; of this the author, in his *Treatise on Fevers, &c.* most pointedly and justly complains ; and to this day, when its value is generally known and acknowledged, there are many reluctant practitioners who use it, not as what it is, but mixed and concealed under various disguises.

In this treatise and exemplification of facts, the reader will find nothing that can properly be designated by this offensive title ; he will not find any thing delivered here but the results of long, careful, and



sound experience; nor any presumptuous use made of it; but such only as will be found warranted by the plainest and most satisfactory proofs; and if I speak with the utmost confidence of the extensive benefits to be expected from my system and medicines, and of the wide range that may be attributed to them, under proper management, in the cure of diseases, it is from that tried certainty and conviction, which it would be nothing less than folly to resist.

It has been confessed by several candid physicians, from Hippocrates to the present time, who felt themselves above taking shelter behind the superfluous lumber of the *Materia Medica*, that the effective medicines for all purposes are *few in number*, and that all the valuable part of the art for the *cure* of diseases, might be comprised within the compass of *a few pages*. Of the above father of physic it is related, that “he conquered diseases by destroying  
“ the seeds of their existence; and that for  
“ this mighty purpose he used medicines



“ which were *few* in number, but *sure* in  
 “ their *effects*, and excellently accommo-  
 “ dated to the disorder. He was not soli-  
 “ citous about a *variety* of medicines, pro-  
 “ vided he found a *few* that were *necessary*,  
 “ and knew how to exhibit them at proper  
 “ seasons, and in due quantities.” And the  
 excellent writer who relates this, observes  
 likewise, “ That the man who is wise  
 “ enough to distinguish things dubious  
 “ from certain, *true* from *false*, will find  
 “ himself obliged to rest contented with a  
 “ few conclusions of undoubted verity,”  
 &c.; and further remarks, that if medicine  
 was reformed and regulated according to  
 the *experience* and safe agreements of skil-  
 ful men, “ it would soon be reduced from  
 “ its *enormous dimensions* to a *very small*  
 “ *compass*.”

It is to be lamented that the present  
 state of medical practice obliges the pro-  
 fessor to make a great show of prescription,  
 and to send in a quantity of needless me-  
 dicine, without which the party could not



live, and keep up the respect and necessary dignity of his station ; many patients expect this parade ; and would entertain a poor opinion of the professor, who either from principle, or greater knowledge, should withhold it.

A medical gentleman once told me, that a lady whom he had kindly spared in this particular, concluded that for this reason he knew nothing of his business, and employed another doctor, who, no doubt knew, at least, his own interest better. Thus the professors of this noble art must entertain radical and sound objections against making very speedy cures ; and they are such as will continue until new and wiser considerations shall be adopted in this respect ; and till those who *can* make liberal remuneration for services, of all others on earth the most important, shall have sense enough to do it in an inverse ratio to the medical attendance ; and pay, *not* for the many prescriptions written, the number of phials emptied, and



the quantity of medicine in different forms taken, some of which must have been injurious; but for all the writing, and all the takings, that have been the most ably, and therefore the most happily prevented. But in the present state of practice, it appears difficult to effect this desirable object; for the storm blown over, and the terrors of its consequences departed, the professor would, in most cases, be cruelly disappointed of his reward.

The great physician has always perceived and acknowledged the wonderful simplicity of this divine art; but to which he cannot adhere: and although every medical practitioner is in some degree forced into this loading system, there are some strongly inclined to give a seeming and fancied importance to it, by the vastness and cumbrous show of its matter, and the dark mystery of its terms. But as I conceive *experience* to be the best foundation for medical practice, and as I now



possess this advantage, arising out of the close attention and numerous trials of many years, with a success in restoring sickness to health, which has not, in many instances, been heard of, it will be on this ground solely that I now offer myself to the public notice.

It may seem surprizing to many, that a man bred to a military profession, should venture to exhibit himself as an administrator of medicine; a business which seems to require employments the most remote from such a life;—but being naturally fond of medical studies, I was first led to experiments on them by my own infirmities. All my trials were *first* made *on myself*; and I have now established a system, of the excellence and efficacy of which I am, as being among the living, a most eminent example.

From Dr. James's fever powder, a medicine never to be too much praised, I was induced to suppose that other and cheaper preparations of antimony might



be made to perform the same services, and possibly brought to be even more extensively useful; and I have since discovered, that by differently preparing and combining antimony, and counteracting its more pernicious and precarious effects by other medicines, I can procure certainty in all cases of fever; and that, without sweating, blisters, the lancet, or any other mode of medical torture:\* from

\* The above eminent physician, writing on the practice, in cases of fever prevailing at that time, has the following passage, which may here be suitably offered to the reader.

“ Another, and that the most common method of  
 “ treating fevers, may properly be called the eclectic,  
 “ or rather *trimming* method. In this the person to  
 “ whose care the patient is committed, bleeds, and per-  
 “ haps repeats it more than once, or is bold enough to  
 “ venture upon one or more purges; but at the same  
 “ time he frustrates his own good intentions, by re-  
 “ peating every three or four hours nervous cordials  
 “ and warm sudorifics, not considering that sweats  
 “ which are not spontaneous, but extorted, generally  
 “ prove symptomatical and noxious, instead of being  
 “ critical and salutary. This is doing something worse  
 “ than nothing; for, if bleeding and evacuations are  
 “ right, heating and nervous medicines, which are the  
 “ reverse, must necessarily be wrong, and *vice versa*.



whence arise these advantages, that the patient is never reduced, but increases in strength and spirits during the action of the medicine! and there is no danger of taking cold by exposure to the air. Intermittents are by this mode radically cured without the assistance of bark; and all inflammations, whether inward or outward, whether these latter proceed from an internal or external cause, are subdued with a speed which scarcely any evidence,

“ So that the good effects which might be expected  
 “ from either, are prevented by the opposite treat-  
 “ ment; and the patient is at last obliged to purchase  
 “ a very unequal chance for his life, at the expence of  
 “ half his skin torn off with blisters, with a degree of  
 “ pain scarcely tolerable, unless he has the good for-  
 “ tune to be out of his senses; and even then it is im-  
 “ possible for any one, who has not been delirious in a  
 “ fever, to conceive the agonies that are felt.

“ But the infinite perplexity and uncertainty of  
 “ *theories*, and the unsettled state of practice founded  
 “ thereon, have induced the wisest, the best, and the  
 “ most honest physicians in all ages, to lament the  
 “ defects in their profession, and ardently wish for  
 “ some medicine, or some method, which would answer  
 “ their purposes in the treatment of fevers with greater  
 “ certainty and expedition.”



but that of seeing it performed, can make credible.

Antimony, thus managed, operates on the body as manures do in the earth ; restoring its lost powers ; and certainly enables nature to perform her most important functions with increased energy, and better effect. If I had any occasion to exert, in an extraordinary manner, my mental or bodily faculties, I should not hesitate in having recourse to this powerful and benign agent, which steadies and invigorates the nerves, soothing and composing them with an almost magical influence, thus acting in direct contradiction to mercury ; and although it is generally believed and admitted, that in the natural fondness for any self-invented system all are prone to exaggerate its advantages, and to view every circumstance belonging to it with a partiality that precludes the disinterested coolness of a cautious enquiry, yet the numerous proofs and testimonies I have had of these advantages, appear fully to



warrant the assertions and representations here made to the public ; they seem to authorize me in calling it the first and best medicine known to man ; and in saying, likewise, that it ought to be accounted the corner stone of that foundation on which the divine science of physic should, in its purity, be erected. Such, however, is the cautious secrecy with which it is now practised, the mystery in which it is enveloped, and the weak superstitious reverence with which men yield themselves willingly up to it, that we can have no reason to expect that the public will speedily open its eyes to the medical evils to which they now so quietly submit, as if by a natural necessity : nor can we doubt but that a system affording such immense private advantages, will be defended with a vigour and tenacity commensurate to its value ; even to the length of legislative defences and injunctions, if possible to be obtained. But the power which has already refused to enslave the consciences of men, cannot



be suspected of an attempt to assault and restrain their moral agency, for the emolument of a select few. In a country, however, boasting its *freedom*, and *defended* by its *parliament*, this remark seems *superfluous*.

In the Report delivered from the King and Queen's College of Physicians, in Ireland, on Dr. Harrison's plan of medical reform, the necessity is strongly enforced of not permitting the practice of medicine to any but "*persons* who have been *suitably* educated." This probably means those who have got a sufficient stock of scholastic learning, and who have gone regularly through the prescribed courses of medical study, &c. But it may possibly be proved, that all this education, and every required study, may be scrupulously performed, and on that account a diploma no where refused, without making a good or a successful physician; and that something else may be necessary to form this character beyond the mere show of what



is called a regular education. Undoubtedly it must always be a great advantage not to be illiterate ; and gross ignorance in the persons called empirics, who by one formula of medicine only, may do serious mischief to those who credulously trust to their representations, is a great evil in society, and the opprobrium of medical practice : but on the other hand, a man may possess a natural sagacity in the knowledge of and treatment of diseases, which, when improved by *experience*, the animating soul of medicine, unfolds a degree of excellence and success in the practice of physic, which the most learned and regular education, with the longest exercise in the rules of prescription, might, of themselves, fail to produce. And should the world, then, be deprived of his skill and acuteness in such an important concern, on the vague ground that his education has not been conducted in a prescribed way ? I think this will hardly be affirmed. Such a practitioner is as little likely to be



rash in his proceedings, or to exceed his knowledge, as the regular bred medical professor, some of whom may have done as much mischief with the lancet, as any quack ever did with his nostrums. If then I show that I both can, and have cured diseases, or very greatly relieved them, in patients who have been voluntarily given up by the most eminent of the faculty, as desperate cases, beyond the reach of help from medicine ; should such a discovery be lost to the world, and the author of it contemptuously called a dabbler in physic, and prevented from using it for the benefit of his fellow creatures, because it is supposed to invade or to supersede regular practice ? Such an attempt would tend more to bring a physical education into discredit, than all the efforts of the empirics and nostrum-mongers the world has ever produced. Let all due respect be paid to the dignity of physick, and to that of the learned physician : but let not the power thus *materially injure* mankind,



which shews itself so *carefully solicitous* to preserve that great body from injury.

It is in the diagnostics of disease, and not in the readiness of extemporaneous prescription, that the experienced and discerning practitioner discovers the superiority of his abilities ; and by which he sometimes perceives the root of a disorder to be seated quite contrary to where the remote and various symptoms might tempt the less cultivated judgment to place it ; and he is thus directed to a sure means of destroying the evil, by removing the original, but unsuspected cause ; when all the painful consequences vanish of course, and the patient is astonished to find himself well, as if by enchantment, after long, expensive, and unsuccessful efforts had left him in despair of relief.

Of the multitude and variety of shapes in which the same original disease has been endlessly divided into others with distinct names, it is thus written :—“ I would ask “ whether the most simple disorder, of the



“ most simple part, does not, by preju-  
 “ dicing the action of that part, occasion  
 “ a peculiar disease? Nobody can doubt,  
 “ but that the adjacent parts, by connec-  
 “ tion, are subject to be affected by the  
 “ sufferings of the part originally disor-  
 “ dered ; and this interfering with the ac-  
 “ tions of the parts secondarily affected,  
 “ is frequently considered as a new dis-  
 “ ease. Hence many effects arising from  
 “ one primary disorder, appearing dis-  
 “ tinctly under various shapes, impose  
 “ upon the unwary physician; and oblige  
 “ him to enter them in his catalogue of  
 “ diseases. But upon strict examination,  
 “ these disorders, proceeding from one  
 “ cause, may be extirpated together with  
 “ it.” Phys. Dict.

The most learned physician must *ima-*  
*gine* many of the operations and causes in  
 the animal economy, and the most skilful  
 anatomist will be forced to *suppose* some of  
 his conclusions without demonstrative con-  
 viction ; so great is the difference between



the vessels of the body dead, empty, flaccid, and submitted to the examination of the student by dissection, and a body living, in action, and performing all its numerous functions. Respecting, therefore, the remedies for obstructions, and other disorders when they occur, the regular scientific professor must depend as much on his *experience* in the effects of those medicines which he makes use of, as the practitioner with less anatomical skill; and in the actual business of curing diseases, the longest knowledge in the effect of powerful remedies, and the acutest observer, of these two medical practitioners, will be the most likely to perform essential services to the suffering patient; and every one's *unbiassed* observation, would clearly warrant this conclusion.

Among scientific professors, we may observe much theory which does not go directly to the medical purpose of affording quick and effectual relief in diseases, but rather to the display of the speaker's



learning and literary abilities ; and in difference of opinion on these subjects, the most subtle disputant will obtain the ascendancy, and turn off the attention from a more successful practice in the removal of complaints. On the writings of Hippocrates, it is observed as follows :—“ Besides penetration and impartiality, a  
 “ simplicity of style, with clearness and  
 “ perspicuity of diction, are requisite in  
 “ the physician. Health is of more im-  
 “ portance than oratory ; and life a cir-  
 “ cumstance of more moment than striking  
 “ images, or well turned periods. An un-  
 “ seasonable ostentation of his acquaint-  
 “ ance with ancient history, a pompous  
 “ enumeration of the opinions of different  
 “ authors, or subtile researches into the  
 “ first causes of disorders, however effec-  
 “ tually they may prove the author’s learn-  
 “ ing, are yet of *little* or *no* service either  
 “ in the cure, or in the prevention of dis-  
 “ eases, in which the whole of a physician’s  
 “ business consists ; who being intent upon



“ *finding* out the *clear*, the *certain*, and  
 “ *infallible signs* of *health* and *sickness*,  
 “ thinks it his only proper employment  
 “ to preserve the former, and find out pro-  
 “ per *remedies* for *removing* the *latter*.”  
 And in this business, “ I rest the whole  
 “ upon *experience*, as of more weight than  
 “ all the theories and systems in the world.”

The most prolific source of disease to which our bodies are subject, is the obstruction, retention, and corruption of bile; and as an endless variety of symptoms attend this defect, these have, not unfrequently, been designated by different names, particularly nervous, and are considered as different diseases, though all originally arising from the same cause.

On this subject we collect the following sentiments from the writings of the late Dr. James, which are well worthy of notice.

“ Since many very formidable disorders  
 “ draw their origin from some fault of the  
 “ bile, the principal virtue and energy of



“ the medicines employed in curing them,  
 “ ought to consist in correcting this liquor  
 “ when peccant in quality, generating it  
 “ when defective, or evacuating it when  
 “ too abundant in quantity ; for as bile,  
 “ when in its due state, is justly to be ac-  
 “ counted a true and genuine medicine to  
 “ the body, so we must readily grant, that  
 “ the most important of all other medi-  
 “ cines are such as are calculated for re-  
 “ ducing this liquor to a natural and tem-  
 “ perate state, and that the principal busi-  
 “ ness of a physician consists in inventing  
 “ and applying such remedies with judg-  
 “ ment.” And again, “ We justly deduce  
 “ the origin of violent fevers from a large  
 “ quantity of corrupted bile lodged in the  
 “ first passage of the intestines, where it  
 “ easily admits, multiplies, and renders ac-  
 “ tive, the contagion of the *plague, malign-*  
 “ *nant,* and *petechial fevers, small pox,*  
 “ *measles, dysenteries,* and other contagious  
 “ diseases. Hence those medicines which  
 “ either by vomit or stool discharge these



“ noxious lodgments from the great canal  
 “ of life, prove excellent preservatives  
 “ against contagion and malignant dis-  
 “ tempers.”

The learned and able physician above mentioned delivers his opinion of health, disease, and death, as follows :

“ The vital circulation of humours is  
 “ carried on by organs and ducts ; the  
 “ elastic fibres of the muscles, which are  
 “ furnished with a successive and recipro-  
 “ cal dilatation and contraction, constitute  
 “ the organs ; the ducts are vessels, some  
 “ of larger, and others of lesser diameters.  
 “ When, then, at any time the elasticity  
 “ and impulse of the fibres are so dimi-  
 “ nished as not to bear a due proportion  
 “ to the quantity of humours to be moved,  
 “ and when these humours are not expe-  
 “ ditiously carried through the smallest  
 “ tubes, stagnation of the humours must  
 “ unavoidably happen in the capillary  
 “ vessels ; and hence arise putrefactions,  
 “ those fruitful sources of disorders and



“ death.” “ The fibres of the muscles,  
 “ which alone are the instruments of mo-  
 “ tion, in process of time become hard,  
 “ solid, and dry, when they not only move  
 “ with difficulty, but the pores and minute  
 “ passages, being by that means rendered  
 “ narrower, hinder the fluids from being  
 “ carried through their channels in an  
 “ equal and uniform course. Hence we  
 “ may conclude, that if the same mobility  
 “ of the fibres, and the same aperture of  
 “ all the vessels, could equally and for  
 “ ever be preserved, life would also, in  
 “ like manner, continue. This, however,  
 “ we know to be impossible ; and when  
 “ obstinate obstructions of the vessels, in-  
 “ durations of the viscera, large effusions  
 “ of humours into the cavities of the ducts,  
 “ and consequent putrefactions happen,  
 “ what physician is able to discover me-  
 “ dicines of such a powerful quality, as to  
 “ subdue these disorders, and stop the re-  
 “ mote and internal inflammations of the  
 “ more noble parts, and the consequent



“ mortifications? &c. If I could find the  
 “ happy man, who, by any sort of medi-  
 “ cines, could perform such miraculous  
 “ cures, I would loudly proclaim that he  
 “ was sent from Heaven as a common  
 “ blessing to the earth.”

As the bile, therefore, is a medicine to the body of the most salutary nature, when in its perfect state, and a poison when vitiated, the best and most effectual medicines for restoring depraved health from this evil, must be those which increase the quantity of the bile when deficient, evacuate it when redundant, correct its malignant qualities when corrupted, and promote its motion to the intestines in a due and salubrious state: for which purposes, and against all the forms in which this enemy can invade and undermine the powers of life, while those powers continue, antimony, prepared and combined in the way which I have fortunately discovered, may be called a *specific*.

Many works and dissertations have been



written on the qualities and virtues of this mineral ; numerous are the forms in which it is exhibited, and made variously useful to the purposes of medicine ; and most of the secret preparations and nostrums, of any real value, which have become famous at different times and places, have, in some way or other, been obtained from this fruitful source of medical transmutations. Some of these have possessed excellent qualities in some cases, though capable of doing great mischief in others : but of all these preparations, it is probable that the fever powder of the late Dr. James has been the most extensively useful, and admitted of the fewest objections.

It is from the management, combinations, and totally new use of antimony, sometimes counteracting its effects, and sometimes forcing it into particular action, that I have derived that system, which will appear to the reader to have been so singularly fortunate, and which I call THE ART OF MEDICINE SIMPLIFIED,—which



the more it shall be tried and experienced, will, I am confident, be found more and more satisfactory.

Antimony thus combined and administered, though possessing power equal to any effect to be expected from medicine, is nevertheless so mild, that it may be given to infants a day old, and to pregnant women with the utmost safety, and often with the happiest effects: its action is absolutely determined by the contents of the stomach and bowels; and if nothing should be found there injurious to health, and offensive to the ease and comfort of life, it will pass off without any kind of trouble or inconvenience. Its powers in correcting and removing vitiated bile, may safely be called wonderful; and during its operation the patient is strengthened and animated in a way that has never yet failed to excite great astonishment. This is a fair, and, I believe, an unexaggerated statement of the advantages offered by this system of medicine; and which I can



promise, on the honour of a gentleman, will not be disappointed.

No fever can long resist the medicines, and the mode of administering them, that I have adopted; a very few hours must subdue the most violent accession of this disease; and the more acute the attack, the surer will be the operation of my agents: but as some fevers arise from worms, and from other long and deep-rooted mischiefs in the intestines, and the constitution of the patient, its attacks will be repeated; yet the fit will, by the same means, be extinguished, with absolute certainty, as often as it may appear, until the exciting cause be finally destroyed. Throughout this operation the patient will continue to gain appetite and strength, and the medicines themselves will prove nutritious, and greatly invigorate the frame. Thus in a garden, although we cannot prevent weeds from growing, they may be rooted up as fast as they become visible, until the ground be cleared of the seeds it



at that time contains; and the soil will be improved by the stirring.

Fevers and dysenteries are the great and destroying diseases to which so many thousands fall sacrifices in hot climates; particularly *soldiers* and *seamen*; and surely it is of the highest national consequence that this great evil should be prevented. It is not long since it was mentioned in the House of Commons, that no less than eight thousand of our troops died in one year, of the yellow fever, in the West Indies. To subdue so dreadful a disease, must, therefore, be an object of the highest magnitude; and this I profess, and with the blessing of God, believe I can perform. And it is not a slight recommendation in this case, that should this system be adopted, the whole *Materia Medica* necessary for a ship or a regiment, might be easily carried by one man. Such, also, is the peculiar enmity which subsists between my applications and all local inflammation, that burns of the worst kind,



and the stings of venemous animals, are cured by them in a short time: and nothing more speedily gives way to this treatment, or with more entire safety to the patient, than the cruel paroxysms of gout.

Chronic disorders are frequently so deeply seated, that they cannot be entirely eradicated; but the cases are very few indeed in which they may not be greatly relieved, as I have many times experienced. But under this *system* and mode of administering medicine, there cannot be any recent disorders very long continued. All the complaints of children; small-pox, measles, and hooping cough not excepted, are rendered by it mild and harmless; all fatal symptoms are quickly dissipated; the changes produced are usually found to be to cheerfulness and a desire of food; and were it once generally adopted, under the authority of the Royal College, it would ruin quackery more effectually than a volume of acts of parliament in favour of regular professors. It is only the hope of



getting relief from disease cheaper, and more speedily than they can obtain it from the doctors, that ever drives men to the use of quack and patent medicines.

The Earl of Leven was so struck with the cases he had seen in my mode of practice, and the effects produced by it, that unsolicited, and unknown to me, he endeavoured, in some of the colleges of Scotland, to procure me a diploma, but without success; and in conversing on it afterward with his Lordship, and thanking him for his kind intention, I informed him, that a diploma would be of the less use to me, as my object was to make the whole known for other men's practice, rather than my own, when sufficient public attention could be drawn to the importance of a system totally new; and, in its results, almost universally fortunate: and although no notice has yet been taken of this offer, I am still solicitous to divulge it on being properly called upon; and until that time, to afford relief to those



who may be desirous of obtaining it: and having here declared the principles upon which I act, it is hoped, that in maturing a system which may prove so great a blessing to mankind, the honourable and learned College of Physicians will throw no impediments in my way; but that they may rather think, I merit their protection.

All persons having some secret preparations to sell, have most confidently and pompously set forth their virtues, and puffed their alledged excellencies in the most extravagant manner; which has justly occasioned the truth of their representations to be suspected: but as I have no packets, nor bottles to distribute, I may be patiently heard when I say, that no more has been uttered in favour of my system, than what I solemnly believe to be true; and which I shall always think it my duty, and hold myself ready to prove.

It now remains that I corroborate my statement and assertions by a few cases,



taken from a number, which would be sufficient to fill a large volume ; but the following, I hope, will not prove tedious enough to tire the reader in the perusal : nor have I to regret a single instance, in which I have either totally failed of giving relief, or have ever done the slightest injury to the patient. My medical essays have been chiefly among the poor, or those from whom I could receive no return but their blessings : and this exquisite cordial, I thank God, I have largely enjoyed. The great and opulent are, in general, too much influenced by the fear of public opinion, to avail themselves of assistance out of the regular track ; and although in making a purchase, or any common bargain, the business is viewed in every point, and all the resources of prudence exercised, yet in the most important article of *life*, the bulk of this order, would rather resign it *secundum artem*, than submit to be shielded by the buckler of an unadmitted professor. But still there are some found

who, by the energy of a superior understanding, are enabled to emancipate the mind from this fatal prejudice.

When I lived at Exmouth, a great number of poor persons in that neighbourhood were my patients; and I have the happiness to be able to add, they all recovered. Among these, in 1802, was a man who had been given up, as for certain death, in what is denominated a putrid fever. The medicines brought away from his bowels a load of black and most offensive bile, that had been retained till it acquired a high degree of malignity; after which he speedily got well, and is now living.

Another was a girl of about twelve years old, completely worn by disease to a skeleton, and for several days had refused both food and physic. When I offered the mother to attend her child, she shook her head in despair; and laying bare the sufferer's limbs, presented to view literally, as she called her, "*a living anatomy.*" On my representations, however, she consented



that I should attempt her cure; and in three days the child was free from danger, and restored to ease and appetite. In twelve days she was able to walk to my house, situated on the Beacon-hill, quite well, and eat a luncheon of beef and bread. The grand-child, also, of a poor woman was as fully restored, who was in the same way with the former, though not quite so emaciated. This child had been sometime confined to its bed without the least strength or rest, and all hope of its recovery abandoned by the doctor; but on the third day, was able to come down stairs, and in about ten days was quite well.

In a neighbouring village, five miles distant, I attended several persons who were ill with fevers of a malignant kind. When a woman, who had in great distress watched my approach, earnestly intreated me to go in, and look on her little maid, as she called her; I was shewn into a room, where I saw a pretty child in a burning



scarlet fever—pulse one hundred and twenty—violent pain in her head and loins—and all her body covered with broad red spots, indicating a high degree of inflammation.

As I always rode out sufficiently armed to attack this enemy of health wherever I met with it, I instantly gave her a large dose of my powder ; and prepared a second, directing the mother to give it in the evening ; not regarding any effect produced by the first, however it might act. This she promised punctually to perform ; and the next morning, about ten, I found the mother waiting my arrival. She said the medicine I had given did not operate ; that she gave the second dose at six in the evening, and that about eleven it took effect, bringing away a load of black bile from the stomach and intestines, after which her pains abated—and in the morning she had taken some tea and bread. As I stood questioning my little patient, I observed her looking at me with much



earnestness, when breaking into a sweet smile she exclaimed, “ La mother ! why  
“ sure this be the gentleman that gave me  
“ sixpence t’other day !” I was much affected by this circumstance, while I traced in her pale countenance the features of a lovely child, who, as I was riding through the village but a few days before, had attracted my notice, as a picture of rude health, beauty, and innocence ! In three days she was free from all her pains—the red spots turned dark coloured, taking the appearance of bruises ; and in ten days she was perfectly recovered.

In the same village I visited the family of a poor man, which was dreadfully afflicted with the measles. On entering the cottage, the first object that met my eye was a boy about six years of age, lying by a fire in the agonies of death ; already in a putrescent state, and gone beyond the reach of any human power. The mother, who was herself dangerously ill, told me, there were three children lying above



almost as bad as their brother. I went up the stairs, or rather ladder, and found in a miserable bed three little ones, covered with the eruptions, and in burning fevers. With the utmost speed I prepared, and gave to each, a powerful dose of my powder, making it palatable with sugar, and left them to its operation, desiring the mother not to be alarmed at its effects. This was about three in the afternoon; and the next morning I called at this house of misery: the boy was dead; and the mother told me, with tears, that the children above would all die—that what I had given them had worked upward and downward; and that the measles had all disappeared. I begged she would make herself easy, for they would all do very well; but she shook her head, without any faith in my prediction. Three days afterward, on calling to see my little patients, I was told they were all at play in the orchard—quite well! I frequently saw them subsequent to this visit; and not one of them had the least



cough, or one symptom of the complaints that so generally follow the measles.

At this time a poor woman applied to me, who had a child four years old that had just got through the measles, which had left sore eyes, and a bad cough ; and an infant at the breast just beginning to sicken for the same disorder. It was crying in the most piteous and distressing manner, and appeared to suffer very great pain. I gave it a dose of my powder, and saw it again in three hours, when the medicine had taken the happiest effect, having brought away half a pint of green bile from the stomach, and operated also gently on its bowels. The child was perfectly quiet, and seized the breast with great eagerness ; nor did it take the infection of the measles, or any other complaint, but continued in good health.

The relation of cases is the history of experience ; and when faithfully described, they set this great basis of medical knowledge and success, in the strongest and



most useful point of view ; but to enumerate more of the same kind would here be needless, though my medical practice in this neighbourhood would admit of a very extended and remarkable display ; particularly in the disorders of children, and in preventing the evils of *small-pox*, measles, and obstructed intestines, making nearly the sum of the diseases so fatal to early life. As *none* of the cases, however, were then accompanied by a thought that they would ever meet the public eye, no memorandum was made of either dates or the names of the parties ; and a very numerous detail, which would be little more than repetitions of similar events, could answer no valuable purpose. Yet the whole brings us back to this conclusion, which cannot be too often impressed on the mind of the reader—That I stand pledged to the public, to cure fevers of *all* descriptions in three or four days, and in most cases in twenty-four hours.



I shall now submit to perusal and consideration a case of another kind, which will be best done in the words of the party himself. The Earl of Leven, who did me the honour of a visit, mentioned, in terms of much feeling and interest, the deplorable state of a sick friend ; but that he was afraid he was already past the term of receiving relief from medicine, as he had in vain tried all that the Profession could do for him : yet, from what he had heard of my cures, wished me to call on him : and his Lordship added, that as his friend was a very worthy character, he would esteem it a particular favour.

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*The Case of Mr. Thompson.*

*Cheltenham, July 23, 1085.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,

INCLOSED I transmit you a statement of the very unfortunate situation in which I

was previous to taking your medicine.  
Believe me always,

My dear Colonel,

Your most respectful,

And obliged humble Servant,

JOHN ANST. THOMPSON.

*Cheltenham, July 6, 1805.*

I HAVE for several years been subject to a complaint, which has greatly incommoded me; but it is only within these eight months that it has increased to such a degree as to render me unfit for the enjoyment of society, and incapable of taking the exercise of hunting, shooting, &c. according to my former habits.

I have now the misfortune to be afflicted with a violent head-ache, and a continual pain in my stomach, which have rendered my limbs, and my knees in particular, so extremely weak and debilitated, that I can scarcely walk.

I had been a free, or perhaps what is termed a hard liver, till I was taken ill;



but though I have since had recourse to a more abstemious diet and way of living, I have not found that it has in the smallest degree alleviated my complaint. I have for some length of time tried milk and water for breakfast, the plainest meat at dinner, with seven glasses of wine, and in general abstained from eating supper: at other times milk and water, or water gruel. But this change in my mode of living has operated nothing towards removing my complaint; for I am at this moment infinitely worse than I was eight months ago; and frequently rise in a morning more languid and fatigued than I ever did after a severe day's hunting.

Being of a family subject to gout, the physicians ordered me guiacum, and other medicines, the same as those in general recommended; but from these I found no relief. They then advised me to try the Buxton waters, which I accordingly have done for the last six weeks, both by taking them internally, and using them as a bath,



but without deriving any benefit whatever: on the contrary, my complaint has increased to a very considerable degree, and many symptoms have lately appeared of a very unpleasant and alarming nature.

*July 7.*—The medicine given me last night by Colonel Riddell, has had an effect beyond what I could have conceived possible. I rose this morning very much refreshed, and, comparatively speaking, well. My head clear and light, my limbs much easier, and my appetite good.

*July 8.*—Colonel Riddell had the goodness to give me a second dose of his medicine, which has had the most wonderful effect. I am now, with the exception of being thin, well as I ever was in my life, and have reason to think that the medicine given me has *eradicated* the cause of my complaint.

*July 9.*—I am now in perfect health. When I look back to the very unfortunate and afflicted situation in which I was only four days ago, the effect of the medicine



given me by Colonel Riddell, appears more like magic than any thing else ; and I shall ever look on him as my preserver.

J. ANST. THOMPSON.

*Cheltenham, July 24, 1805.*

HAVING been threatened with a return of my complaint for the last three days (*which I then really conceived to be the gout,*) my stomach being continually painful to me, and my legs and knees much affected ; I waited on Colonel Riddell, who, after assuring me that the whole must be the effect of cold, gave me another dose of his medicine ; which I confess, to my surprise, has entirely removed my complaint, and I am now well as ever.

J. A. THOMPSON.

*London, August 15, 1805.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,

I INTENDED doing myself the pleasure of passing some days with you at Cheltenham, previous to my return home ; but public

matters look so serious, and I feel myself so perfectly well in every respect, that I leave town for Fifeshire immediately.

Wishing you and Mrs. Riddell all health and happiness, believe me,

Your very sincere,

And obliged humble Servant,

JOHN ANST. THOMPSON.

*Bath, January 9, 1806.*

HAVING been the means of introducing Mr. Thompson and Colonel Riddell to each other, and seen the progress of the cure above stated, I hereby certify the same.

LEVEN AND MELVILLE.

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The following letter, though preceding the above case in point of time, may here very properly accompany it.



*Eling, near Southampton,  
6th December, 1804.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I CANNOT rest happy without informing you I am more obliged to you than words can express; and shall entertain the highest sentiments of gratitude for the great and essential service you have rendered me; as from the medicines you administered to me, and the blessing of God, I am fast approaching to perfect health; which commenced on my leaving Cheltenham, and still continues to attend me.

After such painful illness as I struggled with for nearly four years, that I believe was never equalled, when medical aid could afford me no relief, though I am sure I had the first advice in this country and the West Indies, to find myself now nearly free from pain, increasing daily in size and spirits, almost appears to me enchantment. The only disagreeable symptom I sometimes experience, is a feeling of heat at my stomach, which I am certain

another dose of your medicine would remove—I am going to a house I lately purchased in Essex, on Bently Common, within two miles of Brentwood, where it would give me great pleasure to see you.

I remain, my dear Sir,

your most grateful,

and obliged humble servant,

JOHN KEILY.

IN THE melancholy catalogue of diseases to which the human frame is subject, there is probably none which so frequently or more effectually baffles all medical skill, (the hydrophobia excepted) as that known by the name of consumption; the terrors of which work so powerfully on the mind with the difficulty, and rarity, of receiving any relief from the science of physic, that people sit down under it as an incurable evil; and sometimes quietly resign the suffering party to death, as if it were a crime to oppose any intervention, to the



sovereign decrees of Providence. And change of climate, the last, and the most efficacious remedy yet tried, is too expensive for any to obtain, but the comparatively few, possessing leisure and opulence.

Consumption is a slow latent fever in the habit, constantly operating, and by degrees, undermining the constitution and all the functions of life.—Yet in an early stage this disorder is cured, and its causes removed, with as much ease and certainty, as constipated bowels are pervaded by active opening medicines.—And in a more advanced stage of the complaint, if death has not seized on the vital powers, will equally yield to the same means of cure, longer continued. Of this I have several proofs, in cases, which cannot, at present, be published; but the following is a sufficiently striking example.

*Evidence of Mrs. Ware.**Tiverton, December 31, 1805.*

Mrs. WARE of Tiverton says, that about this time two years she called on Colonel Riddell, who then resided at Bolham, and in the course of conversation mentioned the deplorable state her daughter, Jane Gibbons, was then in, and the little chance she thought there was of her recovery, as she had lost four of her own brothers, who died in the prime of life, and, as she conceived, from the same sort of complaint. Her daughter was about sixteen years of age, and had been sickly for years; but for the last three or four months she had been very ill indeed. Total loss of appetite, want of rest, languor over all her limbs, constant thirst, and general uneasiness, attended the disease, and her whole person was swollen and disfigured. When the Colonel offered to cure her, she expressed her thanks, but did not conceive



it was possible her daughter could derive any benefit from medicine. The Colonel however gave her medicine, and in three days she was restored to apparent health ; but about the fifth day she relapsed, and Mrs. W. again waited on the Colonel in great distress, who laughed at her, and bade her not be uneasy, as he would soon restore her daughter. He accordingly gave her some more medicine, and in the course of twenty-four hours she was perfectly well, and has continued so ever since.

*Tiverton, December 31, 1805.*

“ JANE WARE of Hallerton, late of Bol-  
 “ ham, appeared before me, and was  
 “ questioned to the facts in the above  
 “ statement, and after full and particular  
 “ enquiry, substantiates, in the most satis-  
 “ factory manner, the case as set forth, and  
 “ to which she accordingly makes oath be-  
 “ fore me,

“ G. CRUWYS, *Mayor.*”

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The value and singular efficacy of this *System of Medicine*, in affording relief to the numerous evils of disease to which we are subject, will further appear from the ensuing case.

*Tiverton, December 29, 1805.*

SUSANNAH ROWLAND, aged twenty-five years, says, that in the summer of 1804, she met with Colonel Riddell coming out of Blundell's school-house, where she had been begging with her mother, and asked him for a penny. That she was rebuked by the Colonel for begging in the streets, as she appeared able to work. The mother replied that she had been ill for a length of time with dreadful fits, and that she was then just come out of one ; and had not been able to do any work for about a year past ; and had been told, that if she could collect as many pence from different gentlemen as would buy her a silver ring, she would get well ; and *that* was the cause of her begging. The Colonel desired the



mother to bring her to his house at Bolham the next day, and he would give her something that would be of more use to her than any ring could be. She accordingly called the next morning, told her story, and believed her complaint arose from a fright she took previous to her first attack. She was out gathering sticks, and by some means took up a toad in her apron. She described the fits to be dreadfully severe, so as to deprive her of her senses for a whole day together, and during the attack she would bite her arms, and tear them sadly; and that she used, previous to their coming on, to be almost choaked. The Colonel told her he would give her medicines, and hoped soon to cure her; and made her take some that morning, from which time she began to mend, and had no return of the fits. In a week's time she began to recover strength, and in a fortnight was quite well. During this time she thinks she took medicine about six times; and finding she had received so



much benefit, she made bold to mention the case of her child, who had been ill a considerable time with a worm fever, and was reduced almost to nothing, as every thing the child took was thrown from its stomach. The Colonel gave it medicines that brought away quantities of worms, and in a fortnight the child was restored to perfect health, and has never ailed any thing since. And the said Susannah Rowland has also remained perfectly well herself; and has had no return of the fits she used to be troubled with.

*Tiverton, December 31, 1805.*

“ SUSANNAH ROWLAND appeared before  
 “ me, and was questioned to the facts of  
 “ the above statement : and after full and  
 “ particular enquiry, substantiates, in the  
 “ most satisfactory manner, the case as set  
 “ forth, and to which she accordingly  
 “ makes oath before me,

“ G. CRUWYS, *Mayor.*”

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In the extensive list of pains experienced from the complaints commonly called nervous, it has already been ably shewn that the nerves are not the *aggressors*, but the *sufferers*; and that the causes are obstructions and latent fever, which, when properly treated, are not in themselves very difficult to cure, as will be manifested by the following case of a lady, who, when nothing could be done for her, was sent to Cheltenham, where she obtained relief by means very different from those which were intended. But these disorders, from the peculiar situation of the patients, and from the predominant effects of the imagination, are of all others the most difficult to manage: and the professor who too rudely meddles with them, may find to his cost, that he has stirred up a nest of hornets, which may sting him to death. When Hercules perceived the resource from whence was drawn the renovated strength of Antæus, he could, by his superior strength, deprive him of this advantage,



but no degree of power can deprive *fancy* of its creations; all which, are to the patient, absolute realities; and the physician who shall successfully combat this hydra, must oppose it with its own weapons, as well as the arms which his medical skill affords him; and by dexterously substituting another imagination for that which the party is then in possession of, he may forward the cure without sacrifice of either his honour, or the real health of the sufferer, which is injured by unqualified, though convenient indulgence.

*Case of Mrs. I. M.*

*Cheltenham, May 27, 1806.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE taken the first opportunity of returning health, to make my most grateful acknowledgments to you, for your invaluable medicine, and unremitted attention. After an harassing and painful illness of four years, during which period I was tor-



mented with a nervous complaint; to describe all my wretched feelings would be impossible. In short, I suffered so much from excessive lowness of spirits, that life was a burthen to me; in consequence of which, I took the advice of several of the first physicians in London, but never found myself the least benefited by what they prescribed, but on the contrary, my complaints were aggravated.—Lastly, I was ordered to Cheltenham to drink the water. So far from feeling myself the better for it, I was much more inconvenienced with the weight of my limbs than before, attended with swellings in the ancles, which alarmed me extremely. In the course of conversation, I mentioned this to a friend, who told me of the wonderful cures you had performed, and seemed anxious I should consult you, which I did, and have certainly experienced the most wonderful change in myself. It appears more like a dream than a reality; after suffering for four years, and



trying every thing that could be suggested for my relief, by taking two of your drafts, and three pots of electuary, which you administered, in the course of four days, I felt myself a new creature ; I slept quietly, had a good appetite, and I now feel myself restored to health. I have only now to add, that I shall ever feel most grateful to you for your great attention, and invaluable medicine, and beg leave to subscribe myself,

Your much obliged,

I. M.

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The waters of Cheltenham are of two different kinds—one saline and aperient, the other chalybeate and corroborant ; and mistakes in the use of these springs, which are very frequent, have brought undeserved discredit on both. Each have very valuable qualities in suitable cases, and are hurtful in others. Of the latter effect the above letter furnishes an example ; and the following case affords a



proof of the good effects to be expected from their judicious use.

In the medical science, to judge rightly of the diagnostic of disease, is (as was before observed) of the first consequence; and I have had the happiness to have been fortunate in this particular. When I waited on Mr. Thompson with the Earl of Leven, and that gentleman was describing the various sufferings he laboured under, and speaking of his disease as of an incurable nature, I stopped him short by remarking — “ Sir, I have the pleasure to say, that there is not much ails you.” I was answered by an exclamation of great surprize! When I repeated my assertion, and added, “ I do not mean to assert that you are not in your feelings as bad as you describe yourself, but that your disorder is of that nature as will easily yield to my mode of treatment.” And that I was right, his own statement has fully proved.

I was afterward consulted on the case



of a young lady, Miss Munroe, who had been ill for a considerable time with a violent pain in her side, and was otherwise so much disordered, as to have entirely lost her colour. She had taken much medicine previous to my seeing her ; and both her father and herself were desirous that she should try the efficacy of mine. After inquiring into the nature of her complaints and symptoms, I desired she would come to my chalybeate spring in the evening, and drink a large glass of the water ; and if she found herself pretty well in the morning, to repeat it about seven o'clock, and I would call in the forenoon, and then see what was further to be done. I accordingly waited on my fair patient, and had the pleasure to find the water she had drank had given her an appetite for her supper ; that she had passed a good night ; had taken the water in the morning, as I had recommended ; had eat her breakfast with a relish, and felt very comfortably. I then informed



her she must continue the use of the water, as she had began, and I had reason to believe she would get well, without having recourse to medicine. In about three weeks she was perfectly recovered ; and left Cheltenham blooming as a rose : and I trust will, for many years, be a living evidence to the virtues of the Cambray Cottage Spa, and the benefit she derived from the advice of its owner.

No apology will, I hope, be deemed necessary for the use made of the reports of individuals concerning themselves. Sickness is no crime : and when benefits have been received, the acknowledgment is always an honour to the party making it. Some, indeed, display their ingenuity rather in the endeavour to lessen the value of such benefits, after the occasion for them is happily passed by ; but of these no specimens will be *here* given. No man expects to gather grapes from a bramble ; but every plant invariably preserves its character.



The following extracts from the letters of a lady, who I had known many years in India, will make clearly manifest the great power, as well as mildness, of the medicines she used ; and that they never disturb or ruffle the constitution, but compose the nerves into a quiet, little experienced before their operation : and the complaints are so well described, that the publication of them may become a great advantage to many.

*Cheltenham, April 20, 1806.*

DEAR SIR,

As you wished to learn how I passed the night after taking your first dose, I sit down with pleasure to assure you, that although I had believed the medicine potent, it has worked off with ease, and has rendered me lighter in spirits than I usually am.

Copious evacuations always before lowered me greatly, and occasioned those terrible sensations which numerous physicians that I have applied to have all termed



nervous; and which I considered as a broken-up constitution. My coming to Cheltenham was only for change of scene, for in drinking the waters in 1797, my left leg swelled as large as a child's body. I now consider myself under *your* care, who know that my indisposition began in 1792, when the worm\* broke in my left leg. After that event I was twice salivated for the liver, where Doctor S—— imagined my complaint to lie; but not one of the faculty have allowed it to be so in this country. I shall therefore, from henceforward, follow your advice; and be ever ready to acknowledge the benefit I receive; or, at all events, your friendly intentions towards a very old acquaintance, who subscribes herself,

Your obliged friend,

M. A.

\* A disorder to which the inhabitants and Europeans residing in India are subject.

*April 22.*

DEAR SIR,

I FOLLOWED your direction in taking a tea-spoonful of the electuary ; went to bed at ten, and had a little sleep. I emptied the pot of electuary in the course of the night, but did not feel it too active. I am subject to a confused noise in my head, the ears not having had any secretion of wax since the year 1799, when I had such an inflammatory fever and burning sensation in my right side, that —— (my physician) took eight ounces of blood from that part, and sixteen from the right arm, in a week. Since that time a quick circulation of blood as ever attended me, with great heat in the back of my neck ; and during the last three months a rushing of blood, or wind, has passed through my left shoulder, and positively runs down that arm to the ends of the fingers, like rain. A seton was placed in the back of my neck, which never suppurated. A great deafness came suddenly upon me, which



as quickly left me, after some months suffering. When it is convenient, I shall be happy to see you, and remain, &c.

M. A.

DEAR SIR,

*April 23.*

I HAD (as you predicted) a very comfortable night's rest; of course feel much relieved by what I term a heavenly occurrence; and having almost finished the second pot of your electuary, certainly find myself much cooler, and my nerves less irritable than they were at my arrival in Cheltenham; so that I have every reason to be grateful for the attention you have shown to, dear Sir,

Yours, &c.

M. A.

DEAR SIR,

*April 24.*

I FOUND myself so surprizingly better at getting up this morning, that I feared it might be a flattering glimmer of health that has, at times, been afforded me, but

a speedy relapse has demonstrated that my shattered frame was not then to be restored. After taking your two draughts and two pots of electuary, I have had a more tranquil night than I have experienced for a great length of time; and awoke without the horrors I am accustomed to; therefore may truly say, I have great reason to be thankful to you for encouraging me to make trial of what, really, at the time, though I took without alarm, I had, from my very ailing state, not much faith in. I am now content at keeping the house, and can find amusement in reading, which I attribute to tranquillized nerves, which I was devoid of when I began your course of medicines. I entreat you, dear Sir, to accept my sincere thanks for the present relief, being, at three o'clock this day, as well as I arose; and remain,

Your much obliged friend,

M. A.

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After the above date, Mrs. A— remained a month in Cheltenham, drinking my chalybeate water; and as I had the pleasure of enjoying this lady's company, both at my house and her own residence, I had opportunities of observing how fully she was able to partake of the enjoyments of society in a public place; and that she departed from it in the full enjoyment of health.

[The foregoing Cases are copied exactly from the letters of the different ladies who were the writers. From a motive of delicacy I have, however, declined to insert their names; but should I be called upon by any lady or gentleman who, entertaining any doubt, may, from *the actual wish of information*, feel a desire to see the originals, I shall, in such case, be happy to satisfy them.]

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The following letter from Col. Kennan, a Gentleman I had long known in India, is sufficiently explicit of its purpose.

*Cheltenham, 24th May, 1806.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE infinite pleasure to acquaint you, that your wonderful medicine which I took last night, has, I may say, acted like a charm, and I really believe another dose of it will nearly effect a cure. I dare say if any person but myself was to relate the circumstance, it would gain little credit, especially when it is made known that my disease (a disagreeable pain in the side) has AFFECTIONATELY ATTENDED ME, FOR UPWARDS OF TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS: it is needless to say that I have consulted every eminent physician in this country, as well as in the East and West Indies, and even in America, without receiving the least benefit.—Pray, my friend, give me a call in the course of the day, and oblige

Your's very much,

ROB. KENNAN,

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The ensuing letters describe the case of the Rev. T. S. Whalley, of Mendip Lodge, Somersetshire, who had been afflicted with a severe nervous disorder, for upwards of thirty years: and who, under the care, and with the advice of several of the most eminent physicians, had tried every sort of medicine which they prescribed for him, without the smallest effect resulting from them to his benefit. And when I accidentally met with him, and he informed me of his case, he assured me, that the physicians had at length advised him to let the disorder take its course, for it was beyond the reach of physic.—The letters are very perspicuous in displaying the progress of his cure.

*Cheltenham, April 18th, 1806.*

DEAR SIR,

I AM much indebted to you for your kind attention, and a second dose of your admirable medicine. I shall not fail to follow all your directions *à la lettre*, and doubt

not, but I shall have reason to rejoice in the implicit confidence I repose in the medical knowledge you have so generously and politely exerted for my relief. *I also* feel this change of weather, but certainly not so much as usual, which I wholly impute to the benefit I have already received from your medicine, in removing a part of the bilious load that has so long tormented and oppressed me. As you take such benevolent care of *others*, I hope you are not neglectful of yourself, lest the cold you mention should occasion a return of your habitual disorder.

With great esteem I am,

Dear Sir,

Your much obliged

and obedient Servant,

THOS. S. WHALLEY.

*Cheltenham, April 19th, 1806.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,

You have heard of Hermippus Redivivus :  
I am *not* Hermippus, but I am *Redivivus*,



through your benevolence and skill. Things go on *à la merveille*. I have eaten like a porter, slept for two hours since like a dormouse, and am now all alive and merry. When I hear you talk of the potency of your medicine, I shall raise my voice and say *probatum est*. Prometheus, we are told, made a man by infusing the ethereal spirit into his clay; and you with your powder may be said to relume the light of life, and make it burn with new vigour and brightness, when dying in its socket, or shorn by disease of all its cheering beams. I long for to-morrow, that I may learn the effects of your panacea on my admirable friend Mrs. Hannah More.\* The restoration of her health would be a public benefit. To-morrow night you may perhaps judge it expedient to send me a third dose of your incomparable medicine; yet in one respect it is ill adapted to these times, as it would

\* This lady wrote me a letter of acknowledgement for the benefit she received from the medicines given to her.



tempt many a man to eat himself out of house and home.

I am, &c.

THOS. S. WHALLEY.

*Cheltenham, April 21st, 1806.*

DEAR COLONEL,

NOTWITHSTANDING the internal symptoms I mentioned to you yesterday morning, and my finishing the pot of electuary at bed-time, it did not operate till seven o'clock this morning, and then though comfortably, only once, and not violently. But as your excellent medicine has now made its way good, I trust and believe that its operation will not rest here. I have had a night of most delightful and refreshing sleep, and feel well and cheerful. As I did not stir out of the house either yesterday or Saturday, I much wish, with your approbation, to take an airing in my carriage this morning; though probably you may wish me to take another pot of your



electuary after dinner, which I think will thoroughly clear me out, and set me firm on my legs.

I am, &c.

THOS. S. WHALLEY.

*Cheltenham, April 22d. 1806.*

MY DEAR SIR,

ALL obstruction having been removed from the upper and lower passages by the first pot of your electuary, the doses which I took last evening, and at bed-time, were so active that they threatened to disturb me between four and five this morning; however, I fell asleep again, and the operation did not take place till seven, which has been copious, but salutary, as I find myself in every respect relieved by it. The burning heat and internal agitation which I felt during four hours, on Saturday night, was the great crisis, and from *that time* my health (I mean after the subsequent evacuation of some black bile on Sunday

morning) has sensibly improved, and I am become a fitter patient for the cook than the physician.

I am, my dear Colonel, &c.

THOS. S. WHALLEY.

*Cheltenham, April 23d. 1806.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,

As I have been a sluggard this morning, my daily *bulletin* is later than usual. I took a good dose of your electuary on going to bed at eleven, and slept without interruption from that hour till five this morning, when a certain motion in my bowels made it necessary for me to rise hastily. After a copious evacuation I went to bed again, and slept sweetly till eight. Since I rose, the medicine has operated moderately again, and I feel myself much relieved. Indeed my spirits are now quite light, and my nerves steady.

I am, dear Colonel, &c.

THOS. S. WHALLEY.



*Cheltenham, April 24th. 1806.*

DEAR COLONEL,

MY sleep last night has been very refreshing, and I am quite alive this morning. The electuary has had very little effect ; which proves, I think, united with my feelings, that the bad bile is conquered ; and nothing surprises me so much respecting your medicines, as their leaving the nerves so tranquil after such profuse evacuations. It was what never happened to me before, as my *extremely* delicate and *irritable* nervous system, is usually shaken in pieces by purgatives, and does not easily or soon recover their debilitating effects. Long may you live happy in yourself, and family, and a blessing to others.

I am, dear Sir, &c.

THOS. S. WHALLEY.

*Malvern Wells, May 9th. 1806.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,

I HAD no occasion to take any of the electuary with which you so kindly



supplied me. Indeed I shall not think of applying to it on trifling occasions, as I keep it for my *sheet anchor*, in time of great need. The elastic air and pure water of this delightful hill are very favourable to my digestion and nerves. I climb about like a goat, to explore the variety of fine landscapes that break upon the eye on every side, and am astonished at my own vigour and agility. We leave Malvern on Monday, and intend travelling by easy stages northward as far as York, going and returning by different routes, to increase our amusements by varying the objects.

I hope all your patients do justice to your generous attention, by conforming strictly to your prescriptions and advice. It would give me great satisfaction to hear that Government had been influenced to accept the proposals offered by you for the *relief* of your country in *general*, and more especially the army and navy, from those dreadful pestilential fevers which



have proved so destructive of the human race. A sovereign remedy for this fatal and increasing distemper has long been a desideratum, and would be an inestimable blessing to the British empire. About the middle of July we intend returning to our domestic comforts at Mendip Lodge, where it would give Mrs. Whalley and myself great pleasure, whenever you can spare time from your benevolent exertions, if you will favour us with a visit.

I am, my dear Sir,

Your much obliged, faithful,

And most obedient Servant,

THOS. S. WHALLEY.

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The two following letters are written with so much ingenuous frankness, that I cannot resist the temptation they offer to lay them before the public.

*Cheltenham, June 5, 1806.*

DEAR SIR,

I CANNOT withhold from myself the pleasure of giving you a written testimony of my thanks and gratitude for your great kindness. Having suffered the most severe indisposition, the effects of bile, originating in malignant fevers caught in the West Indies, which I could not get above for nearly five years, during which period I was seldom at all well: applying frequently to medical men of the first-rate abilities, some of whom gave me a temporary relief, and generally ordering me to drink the Cheltenham waters. My malady increasing rather than otherwise, I determined to try their efficacy, and arrived here on the 7th of May. I drank the water rather more than a fortnight, and conceived my health improving, when I was suddenly attacked by an inflammation and contraction in my left leg, which rendered me quite lame, and moving even into



another room caused me great pain. I felt also a general debility, and my skin became quite yellow. In this very unhappy state of health I was really quite at a loss how to proceed. Fortunately, hearing that a gentleman residing here was in the habit of prescribing with the happiest effect, I requested Captain M—— to call on you, from whose liberal and very exalted character, I had every hope, as a brother officer's wife, to meet with attention. I was *not* disappointed, but soon favoured with your first visit; when finding me much exhausted by the use of the waters, you waited most patiently for several days, listening to my tale of sorrows. At length you gave me a medicine, the happy effects of which I can *never* for a moment of my life forget, as it gave me more relief than I could possibly have hoped for. I could walk the next day without pain or limping, and felt in spirits and comfort indeed comparatively well. I continued taking your medicines according to your instructions,



and am now walking about and enjoying a state of health to which I have long been a stranger. How can I, dear Sir, express my thanks for your very disinterested and unremitting kindness and attention to me, although perfectly *unknown* to you? I can only add, that I look up to you as the preserver of my life; and while that life remains, must be impressed with real gratitude and esteem for you, and remain,

Most sincerely your's,

L. M.

*To Colonel Riddell.*

*Cheltenham, July 4, 1807.*

DEAR SIR,

To acknowledge an error is the first step to reformation. Now, as I am fully determined never to transgress again by drinking the water, I take the first step, and avow that, contrary to your advice, and even after your medicine had restored me from a severe indisposition, I *did* again resort to the well, and drank the water four successive mornings, but on the fifth found



myself unable to pursue my imaginary restoration. Day after day I grew worse and worse ; was confined to the house with the swelling of one of my legs, as well as a general discomposure of my whole frame.

I verily believe the Cheltenham waters not at all advisable to those who are afflicted with pains in the limbs. You, my dear Sir, had already told me so ; but finding I was determined to give them another trial, contrary to your kind injunctions, you left me to my own guidance. I was, however, most agreeably surprized and pleased at your friendly call on Wednesday last, and much more so by your kind promise of some more of your invaluable medicine, of which I took a dose last night ; and this day, thanks to your friendship, find myself a different creature, so wonderfully am I restored by only once taking it. My blood, which was yesterday chilled in my veins, to-day is in circulation, and I find myself *renovated in every respect*. Language is *weak* and inexpressive of what



I feel, my dear Sir, for the patience and goodness with which you have so kindly persevered in the re-establishment of my health ; and I cannot help saying, that I should look upon it as one of the greatest blessings in life, could I procure your medicine for myself, family, and friends, whenever in need of it, confident of its *superior efficacy* to any I ever yet experienced.

I am, dear Sir, under the highest influence of gratitude,

Your faithful humble Servant,

L. M.

*To Colonel Riddell.*

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In May, 1805, I had first the pleasure of meeting with Sir F. Burdett at Cheltenham ; and as my fame had at this time made some noise in the world, I was introduced to him as a gentleman that might be of service in restoring him to health, and the use of his limbs, which by excessive exertion at the, then, late election for Middlesex, was considerably impaired, so



as to endanger his life. With great readiness he accepted the offer of my endeavours for his restoration ; and three or four days after I had attended him, he did me the honour of dining with me ; when, except a weakness in the legs, was, like my friend Mr. Whalley, restored to ease and appetite. I then put him on a course of my chalybeate water, and had the pleasure to see him every day gain health and strength. Mr. Bligh, a friend of Sir Francis, and at that time with him, was confined to his bed with a violent fever and rheumatic gout ; and had long, also, been troubled with a weakness of the ancles, that prevented his walking but with great difficulty. This gentleman also received my medical services ; and the fourth day he was down stairs, quite free from fever, in a state of convalescence, and able to take both his dinner and wine with a relish. A course afterward of the same chalybeate water, internally taken, and applied externally as a powerful corroborant, completed the



cure ; and I had the pleasure to see him leave Cheltenham in the vigour of fully restored health.

My success induced Sir Francis to recommend his friend, Mr. H. Townsend, to my attention and management. This gentleman was so greatly emaciated, and a martyr to gout, that Sir Francis declared he thought him too much reduced to derive any benefit from medicine. A trial, however, produced the happiest effect ; and Mr. Townsend left Cheltenham with his friend on a visit to Malvern, and were both enabled to explore the hills, each astonished at the others agility and strength : and I had the satisfaction to hear, from occasional visitors who arrived at Cheltenham, that they loudly extolled my system and medicines.

Sometime after Sir Francis had been my patient, Lady Burdett arrived at Cheltenham ; and perceiving the surprizing improvement that had been wrought, expressed a desire to put herself under my



direction in a similar way. Lady Burdett had tried a variety of medicines, and it may be presumed with the best advice that could be procured. It was believed her frame was too delicate to bear farther applications of this kind, and that nature must be left to her own exertions. Lady Burdett was at that time so weak as to require being carried from one room to another, and even to the table; but, as in the former cases, the fullest success attended the administration of my medicines, which in four or five days produced a good appetite and personal comfort: and assisted by the chalybeate spring, of which her Ladyship constantly drank, the restoration of strength was so fully effected, that I had the pleasure of walking with her from Sandford Lodge to my Cottage, where the spring is situated, and back again, a distance of more than a mile. I trust her Ladyship will pardon my referring such of my readers as may have the honour of her acquaintance, for any further



particulars with which they may be desirous of becoming acquainted.

Having mentioned the virtues of the Cambray Cottage Spa, it may be proper to observe here, that Dr. Archer published an account of several experiments he made on the water to ascertain its contents; and as the result of his enquiries he says, “ They  
 “ enable me to declare that they are as pure  
 “ and as good as any chalybeate we are ac-  
 “ quainted with in Great Britain or Ireland.  
 “ The discovery of them cannot, therefore,  
 “ fail of being of the utmost importance to  
 “ the invalids who annually visit Cheltenham for the cure of the diseases to which  
 “ such waters are applied; and under this  
 “ conviction, I not only recommend them  
 “ to my friends and patients, but have  
 “ drank them myself with great advantage.”

In the summer of 1806, Lady Dowager Elgin being at Cheltenham, did me the honour to ask my advice on the state of her health, and of the success which attended



my interference on that occasion, those who have access to this Lady may obtain the fullest evidence. The Honourable Colonels Crewe and Mullins, with many others, will also prove the advantages to be obtained from my mode of treating diseases.

It is already well known that I was honoured with a requisition to attend the Marchioness of Bute; and this I performed during more than three weeks, at Luton. The benefits her ladyship derived from my system and administration of medicine, in this term, I have no doubt but she will long live to acknowledge: and this, where it can be obtained, will appear from her Ladyship's obliging testimony.

In page 24 was introduced an extract on the general causes of health, disease, and death, concluding with a medicinal desideratum, which Dr. James was afterward, fortunate enough, in some degree, to accomplish. But the foregoing cases, though if it were needful I could very numerously extend, will, perhaps,



be sufficient to prove that I have since discovered medicines, which by the new system of administering them, are *more extensively useful, more certain in their effects,* mild and safer in their operation: and I have abundant authority to say, that by *this system life may, in most cases, be protracted considerably beyond the period at which it would end, if left to the operation of disease under the present practice.* If these medicines shall be applied in time, that is, before mortification takes place, or any vital part is irrecoverably injured, very few obstructions will be found wholly to resist them. There are some chronic complaints arising from causes which, in the nature of things, cannot be radically cured; but they may frequently be so far palliated, as to lengthen and make life more comfortable.

It will easily appear to the reader, that in prosecuting this discovery, I have incurred the trial of numberless experiments, which, together with the large quantity of



medicine used in my practice, on a very wide scale, for several years among the poor, has occasioned a very great expense ; and if I express a belief that I merit some remuneration, I hope it will not be deemed an unreasonable expectation. The college in Scotland to which the Earl of Leven applied in my behalf, for reasons which I cannot disapprove, and from cautions which I must honour, thought me an improper person to be intrusted with the power of killing with impunity. I trust, however, they will now think that I should *not* have made the most unworthy of their members ; but that, if they had thought proper to afford their sanction to my medical life, I have every reason to hope it would not have been disgraced.

In consumption, dropsy, and pleurisy, I have many examples of the efficacy of my system, with which it would be useless here to trouble the reader :\* but it remains

\* In the Monthly Magazine for January 1808, p. 584, is noticed the discovery of a French physician, that



that I make known some further advantages to be expected from its adoption.

Inflammations, both external and internal, produce the most fatal effects ; and for relief in these, the professor usually flies to leeches, blisters, or the lancet, &c. A more speedy and effectual relief will be found in the lotion, the effects of which will be hereafter described ; and that without the least pain or inconvenience of any kind. Many dreadful accounts are recorded in our daily prints, of females and children whose lives fall victims to fire from the combustible quality of their clothing : but the consequences of such melancholy accidents, might be frequently obviated by the timely use of this lotion. Ophthalmia, and all inflammations of the eyes, would, in a time comparatively short, be radically

the cause of *insanity* is seated in the stomach and intestines ; and that the occasion is black putrid bile, which deranges the nervous system, and all the impressions on the sensorium. If so, my medicines, which operate chiefly and most powerfully on this offensive matter, must have *insanity* added to the evils for which they may be reckoned a specific.



cured by it; and in all internal inflammations, I have found this lotion, taken as a draft, produce the happiest effects.

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*Case of Martha Kitchen.*

*Cheltenham.*

SOME time in the summer of 1804, I went to the poor-house of this town to see an unfortunate object who was raving mad. I was soon surrounded by a number of miserable creatures, to whom I was affording a pecuniary aid; when the matron joined the group, and interested herself in behalf of some wretched woman, who, she said, was confined to a room above, and dying, a martyr to the venereal disease; and that the doctor, who had been very good to her, had for the last two days given her up, as he conceived her too far gone to receive any help from medicine. I accompanied the matron to her room, and there beheld, in the person of Martha Kitchen, a living skeleton, eaten up by



the horrid corrosion of that fatal virus. On questioning the poor creature, I found she complained most of one of her feet, and suffered excruciating pain from the wound ; which, when the dressings were removed, exhibited the flesh from the toes, over the whole fore part of the foot, quite consumed, and the tendons laid bare. She had also a very large ulcer on the inside of her thigh ; another on the cheek ; with nodes on her head, shin-bones, and every bad symptom attending this most dreadful disease. After a few minutes pause, to consider whether it were possible to afford relief in this situation of the distemper, so inveterate and confirmed, and in the event of my making the trial, and her death, if I were not likely to have that termination laid to my charge ; humanity determined the endeavour to arrest her progress to the grave, or, at least, to render her continuance in life more tolerable.

I desired the matron to throw the clothes loosely over her, until I could bring what



I conceived to be the necessary means for her restoration.

I went home, and made my preparations; using as a lotion the same mixture with which I have since restored the sight of George Hart, and the plasterer, whose cases will shortly be mentioned. After cleansing the wounds, and bathing them for some time, I dressed them, and gave her a medicine to take internally. When I had done, she appeared to feel relieved; and I returned to my cottage with sensations more easily imagined than described. In the evening I made a second visit, and had the pleasure to hear my patient felt more comfortable. At an early hour the following morning I entered the door of the poor-house in anxious expectation; and was greeted by the matron with the account that Martha was not only alive, but had passed a tolerably easy night. On examining the sores, I found a more favourable change than could have been expected, and having dressed them, I gave



her medicines; attending her thus closely for three days; when the wounds had taken a turn so very salutary, and the change, on the whole was so visibly for the better, that I could not help considering the effects as like something supernatural. I now became solicitous that she should be seen by different medical professors; and Mr. Newell, of this place, several times visited her along with me, particularly when she had a dangerous relapse from some mismanagement, or improper indulgence of appetite, in my absence. Mr. Newell dining with me one day, during the progress of my attendance on this poor woman, when five or six other gentlemen were present, and my patient and system being the subject of our conversation, he allowed it to be a most remarkable case; and added, in very forcible language—  
 “ Sir, I do not hesitate to declare, that if  
 “ you cure this woman, (I do not say ab-  
 “ solutely, for the disease is so firmly rooted  
 “ in her bones I do not think that pos-



“ sible,) but so far as to enable her to go  
 “ about again, I say, Sir, Government  
 “ ought to give you a hundred thousand  
 “ pounds for your secret ; and I will then  
 “ be a convert to your system.”

But to proceed with the relation—In a week the flesh on the foot was restored to a level surface ; and she was able to eat, sleep, and comparatively to enjoy life. I now endeavoured to interest Dr. Jenner on the subject of my discovery and mode of administering medicine ; and I think he went twice to visit my patient : Dr. Minster, of Stow, went with me several times ; and I was occasionally attended also by some of the visitants to this place, excited by curiosity. I was accompanied, however, by Mr. Hammersley, the banker, with different intentions ; that gentleman visited this poor creature from motives of humanity, taking an interest in the business ; and to him I refer those who have the honour of his acquaintance for particulars.



A constant attendance was maintained three and four times a day (though distant from my house three quarters of a mile), for one month ; during which time, death made several efforts to deprive me of my patient, but timely applications defeated his attack, and nature, aided by art, resumed her functions with increased vigour. At this time the wounds were healed ; and for the space of a month more, she grew gradually better, the inveterate symptoms seeming to give way with great reluctance. Some business now requiring my departure from Cheltenham, I returned the following year, 1805, and found her still living.

*December 1807.*—I sent for Mr. Freeman, the medical gentleman who had formerly attended Martha Kitchen, to shew him the power of my medicines, in alleviating the evil of an internal hæmorrhage, which had attended me for six weeks, and in enabling nature to support the strength, and spirits, under such a drain, which, in that period, must have deprived me of as much



of the vital fluid, as could be at one time contained in the carcase of an ox. Mr. Freeman expressed himself seriously alarmed at my situation, under this great discharge, on seeing near a quart, which I had lost that day, and advised abstinence from wine, and other stimulants. In the evening he called again, and found me removed from all appearance of disease, and enjoying my Madeira; when, in conversing on this subject, Mr. Freeman reminded me of the above case, and declared his opinion of it as follows:—"I think, Sir, it is the most  
 "wonderful cure I ever heard of in my life;  
 "for when I left her, I thought nature so  
 "completely worn out, that she could not  
 "have subsisted twenty-four hours; and  
 "afterwards, when I met her walking in  
 "the streets, I stopped her with an exclamation of astonishment, and a question  
 "of doubt, as to her real existence! She replied, Yes, Sir, it is I; Colonel Riddell  
 "attended me, and I hope to get quite well  
 "again."—I did not then remember to



have heard of her strength being further regained than was sufficient to carry her about the limits of the house, until I had the fact, now unquestionably attested: and the whole case appearing so remarkable, I requested this gentleman to favour me with his report on it, previous to the commencement of my operations, which are as follows:

“ In April 1804, I first saw Martha Kitch-  
 “ en, after she had been attended the pre-  
 “ ceding year by Mr. Minster. Her case  
 “ was a most violent, and confirmed syphilis  
 “ of many years standing. She was exces-  
 “ sively weak, and her bowels agitated with  
 “ constant tenesma. In this case, I thought  
 “ mercury improper, and ordered her a  
 “ decoction of sarsaparilla, &c. to be taken  
 “ twice a day, with an opiate pill every  
 “ night. In this plan, I persevered three  
 “ weeks, with some little benefit, as her  
 “ bowels were relieved, but the venereal  
 “ symptoms not diminished; I ordered her  
 “ ulcers to be washed twice a day, with a



“ lotion composed of mercurial sublimate  
 “ and lime water, and on the 2d May, find-  
 “ ing her system rather restored, I told her  
 “ there was no chance of success, except  
 “ from salivation, which I feared she could  
 “ not bear. She told me she had under-  
 “ gone that process three times, and begged  
 “ to have it tried once more. I accordingly  
 “ ordered a scruple of strong mercurial  
 “ ointment to be rubbed in every night  
 “ and morning, which, on the third day  
 “ brought on the former complaint in the  
 “ bowels with double violence. The vene-  
 “ real ulcers greatly increased; and the  
 “ whole frame was so much reduced, that  
 “ she could scarcely speak to be heard. The  
 “ palate of the mouth, and the nose almost  
 “ gone, attended with ulcers in the feet and  
 “ forehead; and nodes all over the fore part  
 “ of the cranium, and the tibia of both legs.  
 “ I now discontinued mercury, only order-  
 “ ing the same pill as before, every night;  
 “ but at length finding her quite exhausted,  
 “ and almost lifeless, with scarcely a pulse



“ to be felt, I pronounced her incurable.  
 “ It was in this state Colonel Riddell first  
 “ saw her. She lived afterwards more than  
 “ a year, and was able to walk about the  
 “ town. (Signed) THO. FREEMAN.”

This case affords a very striking proof, not to be doubted, of the extraordinary efficacy of my medicines, used as alteratives, in this most cruel of all disorders. The lotion, in a very short time, totally extinguishes gonorrhœa ; and were it to come into general use, accompanied internally by medicines, when requisite, I will venture to say, that in a few years, the disease would be proved to be evanescent, and only known by name.

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The ensuing case has already been published in the Gentleman's Magazine, &c. but as a singular proof of the anti-phlogistic virtue of this lotion, I insert it here, and hope it will have a due effect on the public attention. The fact itself, is well



known, and the man has been examined, as to its truth, by many persons, as well as by two physicians, and is still an inhabitant of Cheltenham.

George Hart, a stone-mason, was fixing some iron railing, in the usual way of fixing it, by melted lead, when some water that happened to lodge in one of the cavities occasioned an explosion of the boiling liquid, which struck him in the face and eyes; I was then accidentally near the spot, conversing with General Keppel; and on examination, I found the poor man's eyes violently inflamed, and he suffered excruciating pain. He was immediately brought to my cottage, and when he arrived, his eyes were entirely closed, without the power to open them. I instantly prepared my lotion, with which I bathed all the parts affected, after extracting the particles of lead, which were scattered over the whole face. The application was continued ten minutes, when the man felt great relief. I then forced open one of the eyelids, and found



the ball of the eye had been slightly wounded, but no lead was visible in any part of it: this eye now felt comfortable, but the other was still very painful. On examination, I perceived this had been badly wounded, and the lead which struck it, was separated into numerous small particles. By rolling folds of soft paper, worked to a point, I was enabled to extract them, and the pain was considerably mitigated; and closely continuing my application of the lotion, in the space of twenty minutes, he was able to open both eyes, free from pain or inconvenience. In about three hours afterwards I had occasion to pass by the place where the accident happened, and found the man at work, the inflammation having wholly subsided, and being as well as if no such circumstance had occurred.

Some time ago, as a plasterer was putting up the cornice of a ceiling, a quantity of fine mortar rebounded, and from the position in which the man stood at that time, his eyes were nearly filled with it. Unfor-



fortunately he had been at work on the attic story by himself, and he had injudiciously rubbed the mortar, and forced it under the eyelids. I did not see him until half an hour after the accident happened; but I relieved him from the agony he suffered, in the space of twenty-five minutes, although the mortar had fixed itself firm under the upper eyelids, and had eaten into them.

I conceive a liquid of such astonishing and undoubted power in the extinction of inflammation, must be of the highest value to the public; but more especially in every species of warfare, in procuring a kindly aspect, and favourable state to wounds, and in preventing the fatal consequences of gangrene, with certainty as well as with ease to the patient. This fact is not a matter of doubt, but of the clearest demonstration. Sore lips and pimpled faces are speedily and safely cured by the use of this lotion, without any future inconvenience whatever.



A short time ago a poor woman, who lived in a turf hut on the Wolds, four miles from Cheltenham, called at my house to ask some relief, as is the custom at Christmas, with a sick infant in her arms. The child seemed quite inanimate, with a death-like appearance, and upon examination, I found the ears almost eaten off by a corrosive humour. A dose of the powder was immediately administered to it, and the ears plentifully washed with the lotion; a bottle of it was given to the mother, and she was sent away, with a charge to keep the sores constantly moistened. On the fourth day she returned, with the child full of mirth and spirits, and the ears quite well; the powder had operated as an emetic, bringing a quantity of yellow bile from the stomach; and the effect of the lotion appeared to this poor family so miraculous, that they agreed it could be no other than "holy water." She now brought with her a boy about seven years old, borne on an ass, who had been



some time lame, from a cut across the cap of the knee, with an axe. The wound was highly inflamed, and filled with fungus, and had every appearance of being an inveterate case ; but by medicine internally taken, and the use of the lotion, it took on the second day a healthy appearance, the swelling and inflammation having subsided, and the boy was able to walk about with ease. In ten days it was nearly healed, when this account was written.

The extraordinary powers of excitement possessed by the medicines I would here recommend to notice, appear to be accompanied by a permanent strengthening of the whole frame ; in this respect differing from the temporary excitements of fermented liquors, spirits, opium, or aphrodisiac medicines, which, after their short-lived operation, leave the body more debilitated than before they were administered. From this quality I have received several proofs, that the powder, and the other forms



in which that medicine is administered, may be safely called, as far as human means can go, a cure for impotency. This is very far from being a vain boast, or an empty delusive representation; and although individual examples cannot at present be exhibited, the fact will very strongly appear from other cases, and from collateral matter, in which the exciting powers of this medicine, and its permanency, are sufficiently evident, which, with perfect safety, will raise and continue the dormant powers, when nature is not absolutely arrived at the end of her progress, and there is strength enough left to second artificial assistance.

Much has been said on a case which appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine, for May 1807; and indeed more than either ought, or would have been said on such a subject, had it not been the only one to be found, from which it was imagined, something might possibly be extracted, that would allow of being forced into a remote injury to my system. But



when it shall be considered, that I undertook a case which had baffled all regular practice, and that the patient's dissolution was deemed inevitable, and hourly expected; when also it is known that I was pre-advised, that to meddle with a case so desperate would not be doing myself justice, yet so far to restore the patient, and to produce so wonderful a change, that for four days he felt strongly impressed with an idea that he should recover, and himself requested, that public prayers and thanks might be offered up for the benefit he had received, which were accordingly performed; my unprejudiced readers will contemplate it in a point of view very far indeed from that in which this transaction has been attempted to be placed. The patient lived three weeks after the commencement of my prescriptions; and some time previous to his death, I declared my opinion, that the right kidney was the principal seat of the disease, which a subsequent examination determined to be the fact, and



this viscus was found swollen to six pounds weight, and fourteen inches in circumference, clearly pointing out the cause of the patient's death; and at the same time, remarkably displaying the powerful properties of my medicines, which, under such aggravated circumstances, could subdue fever, render life supportable, and make smooth and easy, the passage to eternity.

These were evidently the effects of my efforts, in the present instance; and to these I can confidently appeal against the unfounded charges that have been made against my practice, which will, I have no doubt, support in future examples, the credit that it has already obtained.

The advantages to be expected from this system of medicine have now been displayed with sufficient fullness, and perspicuity; but so far from exaggeration, that the future proof which I solicit, will be found to justify me, if I had taken a wider range to express its usefulness, and



the value of the medicines which compose it. It was observed (page 6,) that some of the greatest physicians have been convinced that the best practice will be confined within a *narrow list of medicines*, but those to consist of great power, and known efficacy. My system admits but of *three or four*, and those well known; by the combination and counteraction of which, together with the mode of administration, are produced all the effects here exhibited; and future experience will make known new and more extensive instances of their efficacy and value. On this proof, it is, that I shall rest all my pretensions to public notice and favour, which, if suitable enquiry shall be instituted, I would claim only on the success of new cases, fairly achieved under the most careful scrutiny.

The whole is founded on the principle, that *diseases either originate in the stomach, intestines, and visceral obstructions, or are intimately connected with them*, and as my practice was formed on this



belief, so the opinion has been strengthened by the success of it; for through the whole of my labours, though very extensive, I have not once had occasion to blister, or produce any evacuation by the lancet, cupping, leeches, or setons, &c.; nor have I failed in a single instance of procuring benefit to the patient, or have ever lost one, but in the case last mentioned.

The mildness and safety of the medicines made use of, have been fully exhibited in the cases, wherein it appears that children at the breast may take the powders, not only without hurt, but always with a successful operation; and by the mode of their application, all inflammatory disorders, as fevers, gout, small-pox, measles, hooping-cough, and many others, are, to a certainty, rendered as harmless, as it is reported to be, of the cow-pock; making any succedaneum for the natural small-pox, entirely needless.

It is therefore peculiarly my wish and earnest desire to elucidate the character



that I mean to assume, of a decided improver on all antecedent medical practice, on the enquiries that may be made, and the proofs that may be exhibited of the truth of all that has been here represented to the public.

I shall, therefore, for the present, take leave of my readers, though I have much curious matter in my possession, which I am well convinced is worthy of their most serious consideration. And I must beg leave to call to their attention, that in maturing my system, I have had to combat with the prejudices of those who have derived the greatest benefits from my labour, added to the jealousies of others ; and I can with truth assert, that even my friends and nearest relations, have all presented obstacles to the success of this arduous undertaking. I have nevertheless persevered, and like the Princess Perizade, in the beautiful allegory related in the last story of the Arabian Nights Entertainments, have taken Hippocrates and the spirit of the late

Doctor James as my guides ; I have ascended the hill, and gathered, not the golden water, but what may be fairly called the golden powder, presenting a shield against all inflammatory fevers and complaints, at which even death drops his dart and averts his head, seeking victims to glut his insatiate maw in the discord of the rulers and councils of surrounding nations.



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