

**A few cursory and practical observations on the advantages to be derived from the union of medical science and surgical skill ... together with some remarks on empirical practice in surgery, and a few observations, tending to remove existing prejudices against vaccination / [Thomas Bedford].**

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**Publication/Creation**

Liverpool : Gore, 1816.

**Persistent URL**

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From the Author  
with his respectful compliments

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A FEW  
CURSORY AND PRACTICAL  
**OBSERVATIONS**  
ON THE ADVANTAGES TO BE DERIVED  
FROM THE UNION OF  
**MEDICAL SCIENCE**  
AND  
**SURGICAL SKILL;**  
SHEWING, ALSO,  
THE EVILS WHICH RESULT FROM THEIR SEPARATION;  
TOGETHER WITH SOME  
*Remarks on Empirical Practice in Surgery,*  
AND  
A FEW OBSERVATIONS TENDING TO REMOVE  
*EXISTING PREJUDICES AGAINST VACCINATION.*

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BY THOMAS BEDFORD,  
*MEDICAL SURGEON.*

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LIVERPOOL:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY J. GORE, CASTLE-STREET;

*Sold also by Harrop, Manchester, and Gardner, Bolton.*

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1816.

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TO  
**RALPH FLETCHER, Esq.**  
LIEUT. COLONEL COMMANDANT  
OF THE  
*BOLTON REGIMENT OF LOCAL MILITIA.*

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DEAR SIR,

THE uniform and deserved respect and esteem which are attached to your name, by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the regiment you command, induces me to prefix it to the following pages, in order that I may indulge myself with the gratification of publicly testifying the very high and grateful sense I entertain of your distinguished qualities. When the regiment was first raised, I was honored by

the committee with the appointment of surgeon; and in the course of my practice, as well as in the duties of my office under your command, I have adopted the instructions of my revered and much respected preceptor, the late Dr. Kirkland, in the practice of medical surgery; and I have been rewarded with the pleasing satisfaction of superseding, in some instances, the necessity of chirurgical operations, and promoting the art of healing without the use of the knife.

The present publication may, I conceive, with great propriety, be addressed to you; because the truly laudable solicitude you have at all times manifested for the preservation of the health of the regiment, has afforded opportunities of observing the success of my mode of treatment; and I flatter myself it will not be unpleasant to you to be more particularly acquainted with

the principles on which it is founded. As the following remarks may tend to illustrate the well known axiom, that “prevention of disease is better than cure,” I am induced to give them publicity, confident that in endeavouring to effect this, I shall highly gratify one who has ever shewn himself a friend to the interest and happiness of his fellow creatures.

I beg leave to subscribe myself, with the deepest sense of gratitude and esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your truly obliged friend and servant,

THOMAS BEDFORD.

*LIVERPOOL,*  
*NOVEMBER 13, 1816.*

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“ We must remove every thing injurious, and supply nature with what is wanting, to perform a cure.”

BARON VAN SWIETON.

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**SURGERY** and **Medicine**, as sciences, of great importance to the comfort and happiness of the community at large, are supported and progressively improved by the practice of those who patiently and diligently watch the course which nature takes to remove disease. Some excellent publications have appeared ; and the practice in our own country has of late years been enriched by many valuable improvements, founded on medical truths and practical observations.

A mind disciplined in the school of practice is enabled to distinguish between ingenious speculations, and the rational inductions of cautious experience, and to select such portions of the various systems of medicine, as approach the character of truth; by which means, facts are stored, capable of supplying nature with what is wanting, when inflammation is to be abated and pain removed, the heat of fever timely assuaged, or other numerous complaints to which the human body is liable, if possible, cured or relieved.

Accustomed to the study of nature, the mind also acquires the art of discrimination; and an habitual knowledge of the first importance is obtained, in the choice of medicines which are to be internally used; for, symptoms of a similar nature are not unfrequently produced, (in the first instance) by internal affection, although the seat of

the disease may vary. In external complaints, the cause is generally evident to the senses ; but the art of discrimination by the touch is equally important, especially in ascertaining the cause of tumour which may arise from matter deeply seated, and in distinguishing between scirrhus and those indurations which may arise from other causes.

A few plain facts are considered of more utility to medical practice, than volumes of theoretical disquisitions. I shall therefore throw out a few practical hints, without much regard to order, on some important parts of curative surgery ; and first, I beg leave to state what has been the result of my experience in compound fractures,—convinced, from what I have seen, how readily an immediate inosculation in contused and lacerated parts will take place, when laid together, and defended by an

application, which will tend to keep the skin in a moist state, the whole being supported by an easy and well adjusted pressure.

Although I may only be reiterating truths which have been enforced ; yet as a repetition of facts may, it is hoped, lead to inquiry, tend to promote public good, and save individual anxiety of mind and pain of body, no apology is conceived to be necessary. In the course of my practice, I have always held the use of the knife as a last resource ; and have often had the satisfaction to witness the necessity for it superseded, by perseverance in such means, as by their local or general action, were calculated to assist in the cure. I have often viewed with surprise, as well as pleasure, the recovery of parts severely lacerated by accident ; particularly in compound fractures, where the muscles have been very much torn and bruised, and in injuries

which have been occasioned by the bursting of fire arms.

The muscles, the bones, and the principal arteries, may, in the first instance, appear so extensively divided as to afford very little hopes of success in attempting to save the limb: yet it should be recollected, that nature is wonderfully bountiful in all her works, and that when mildly treated, she will greatly contribute towards the re-establishment of health, and the recovery of the injured parts. By reducing an extensively lacerated wound to as simple a condition in appearance as possible, it approaches nearer to its natural state before the accident; consequently, it is nearer that point to which it must be brought before a cure can be performed. I always (if possible) avoid the use of the suture; for what cannot be done by tight pressure, may be effected by weight of bandage. Another important considera-

tion is, to *keep* the neighbouring parts of the wound as near their natural condition as possible, and thus prevent or alleviate inflammation. My own observations of the nature and cause of inflammation, lead me to consider it an accumulation of heat, produced by irritation and obstruction: its true characteristic symptom being evident to the sense of feeling, but not always described by redness. In fractures, a considerable tension and swelling is sometimes excited; yet the skin is not red, but hot and dry to the touch, and the pores are so close as to confine the heat which ought to be discharged. If the parts are kept in a state of perspiration, heat is permitted to escape; and, the vessels being pervious, a brisker circulation through them assists nature in performing a cure.

Persons, by violent exercise, often increase their natural heat to a great degree; and

disease or death might and would happen, were it not for the beneficence of nature, in her laws of the animal œconomy, providing against it, and discharging the heat by perspiration, as well as from the lungs. If, by accident, this discharge is obstructed, either local or general inflammation is excited. And is not the burning heat of fever assuaged by the same process? The extreme vessels becoming pervious, admit the fluids, and the body is restored to its natural temperature. When obstruction to these cooling outlets occurs, redundant heat will arise, the immoderate state of which is best indicated by the natural sense of feeling; and its offensive excess may be obviated or removed, by the evaporating agency of cuticular perspiration. This is the course which nature takes to relieve herself. I am therefore led to adopt that practice, and to contemplate those improvements which are established on a knowledge of her laws,

because they are most durable, and most easily comprehended.—Another advantage is derived by an endeavour to keep the neighbouring parts of a wound in their natural state: a sore may thus be prevented from degenerating into a sordid ulcer.

Having experienced how readily contused and lacerated parts unite when laid together, I was induced, if possible, to save a boy's finger that had been nearly chopped off. It was attached by a very small portion of skin, and hung down; I laid the separated parts together, and stitched them just through the skin all round; I then rolled the whole finger in plaster and bandage. At night, I could perceive a natural warmth at the end of the finger, and a complete union followed.

A joiner struck off one of his fingers

between the first and second joint with an axe : the separated part fell amongst some saw-dust, which adhered to it when brought to me. I soaked the parts in warm water, and then stitched them together as before:—a complete union followed.

These circumstances evince the wonderful efforts of nature, in restoring the circulation between parts, where a solution of continuity has taken place.

The art of healing, by the first intention, is a very important improvement in surgery; and such is the propensity of parts to grow together, although much contused and lacerated, that, upon removing the first dressing, I have been astonished to find so good an appearance. To remove every thing injurious, which can be done without much disturbance, is very proper;

but the less a wound is probed or searched for extraneous bodies, I think, the better. Much has been said on the use of the roller, and much good, I am well convinced, is derived from it, when well timed and managed; and although the application of it may appear very simple, yet a mechanical exactness is requisite, on which the whole utility depends. An eminent surgeon has remarked, "If a roller is not properly wrapped up, it cannot be well applied."

My own experience has fully satisfied me of the justness of the remark. Indeed, by attending with precision to every part of the ulcer, the art of healing and the comfort of the patient are promoted. By perseverance, I am convinced, very serious obstacles may be removed, with ease to the patient. The work of art is not finished, till every hair's-breadth of a sore is covered with firm skin. Neglecting a small space

at the conclusion of the skinning of an ulcer, because it may appear trifling, is very erroneous; for it becomes covered with a scab, it may fester, and an obstinate chronic ulcer may follow.

Unfortunately, a predilection for the knife manifests itself with some surgeons, who view the performing of operations as the acmè of their profession; consequently, they are as quick to condemn a limb, as they are anxious to remove it. I am aware of the difference of opinion which has existed, on this important branch of surgery; but all must agree in the necessity of understanding how to preserve limbs, as well as how to remove them. As manual operation and the art of healing require a different kind of knowledge, it is for the good of mankind that they should be united. Disease is often so situated, that the knife cannot remove it; and by far

the greater number of cases which come under the care of the surgeon, do not require it at all. I do most earnestly coincide with those surgeons, who pause, and contemplate what can be done, rather than by a sudden dash remove all away together ; for, in the course of practice, many, I am certain, have the great pleasure to witness a cure, which, in the first instance, was greatly to be doubted, on account of the extent of the injury sustained. In my humble opinion, it is more laudable to awaken every energy of the mind to save a limb, than upon all occasions to display a quick and dexterous mode of depriving a fellow creature of it. But though nature cures diseases, she must be assisted ; and I am well convinced, that parts which have sustained the most severe laceration and fracture, will often get well : we find many instances recorded, where persons not submitting to amputation have

been cured. Every thing depends upon not interrupting nature ; the steps she is capable of taking to recover injuries, surpass all kind of reasoning, except by analogy. It may happen, that a limb has received so violent an injury, that there is no possibility of a future circulation in the part :—in such cases, a surgeon would amputate without loss of time.\*

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\* Dr. Kirkland, in his *Thoughts on Amputation* says:—  
 “Now that amputation stands upon as fixed and as rational principles as any part of surgery, and that it will ever be a useful and necessary remedy, under certain circumstances, cannot be denied ; but that it might frequently have been dispensed with, where it has been employed, is, I believe, equally true. Those, therefore, in my opinion, have done right, who have endeavoured to persuade practitioners against precipitately performing this operation ; especially as operations, it is said by those who have opportunities of knowing, are the great and almost only object students in surgery pursue ; without a line being drawn betwixt those cases where amputation is, or is not necessary. The injury, where immediate ampu-

I beg leave to state, that in the course of twenty years' practice, I have had the management of many cases, in which the bones and muscles have been divided in a miserable manner; but which have been cured with much less trouble than could possibly have been imagined, and which have led me to declare an opinion against precipitately amputating in such cases. At the same time, I am well aware how much better this subject has been understood of late years, as well as the treatment of wounds in general, by some surgeons, whose observations are founded upon

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tation is required, is of that violent nature, that it cannot be mistaken; the destruction of the parts, and the impossibility of their being saved, is evident at first sight."

I have selected this passage, from a work of original and standard authority, since the publication of which, numerous limbs have been rescued from amputation.

clinical practice. I have lately read, with much pleasure and satisfaction, some medical works, in which chirurgical operations are said to be often needlessly performed. A circumstance, which cannot but tend to embarrass the mind of those who unfortunately require the assistance of a surgeon, is the observations which persons will venture to make, on the appearance of sores: I have frequently heard such remarks made, which, had they been attended to, must have caused a healthy and healing ulcer to degenerate into a foul and unhealthy sore.

Although the patient may have the utmost confidence in his surgeon, yet, in some constitutions, the mind is disturbed, and the progress towards a cure is interrupted by such interference.

A predilection for the knife makes it

fashionable, with some surgeons, to remove every indurated gland, under all circumstances ; and, unfortunately, the trumpet of alarm is too often sounded ; the horror of ultimate cancer follows ; and the necessity for immediate removal is agreed upon, before the disease is fairly characterised, or the least means are used for its reduction. Some instances have occurred in my practice, where persons had been strongly advised to an operation, as the only radical means of cure : these, however, proved chronic abscesses, and were cured in the usual way. Doubtless, such cases occasionally occur with other surgeons ; who, in the course of their practice, must often meet with tumours in the breast, which are of so indolent a nature, as to remain from their first being observed to the end of life, without pain or injury to the constitution, except what may be occasioned by the sound of alarm.

As there is no specific for fear, humanity enjoins the necessity of not adding to the misery of those, whose minds may already be harrassed with the apprehension of a disease which does not exist, nor is likely to happen. To increase this dread, causes disease; which an endeavour to calm the agony of anticipated suffering, as well as to soften down the complaint, might altogether prevent. Many of my medical brethren, I am well aware, agree with me in the opinion, that when scirrhus is fairly ascertained to be the cause of tumour, and not till then, the sooner it is removed the better. But before any surgical operation is finally determined upon, the disease ought to be fairly characterised, or it should be ascertained, that further delay would endanger the constitution or life: and, as the mind of the patient ought to be the first consideration, it is very important that not a syllable be

said about an operation, till the necessity for it can no longer be delayed. Every means having been tried, and no progress towards discussion perceived, the mind of the operator is satisfied with the nature of the affection, and he is then justified in removing the limb.—The mind of the person who is to endure the operation, ought to be made as comfortable as possible : hence a consultation affords satisfaction both before and after the operation. If this line of conduct had generally prevailed, I am convinced that many an operation might have been prevented ; and that by adhering to it in future, the use of the knife may be often superseded.—Besides, every disease which ought to be operated upon, would, in good time, be removed.

The utility of bandage is generally allowed ; and old ulcers on the legs will heal under strips of adhesive plaster and an

horizontal position of the limb : but that a radical cure can be performed, in those cases [where the vessels are impervious : or, that pressure will remove the thickening of the parts, which has accumulated by time, repeated experience warrants me in declaring is not to be expected.

The treatment of ulcers has been very much improved, and the practice simplified, by the indefatigable exertions of some recent authors ; but a thickening of the parts is often met with, which cannot be reduced by mere pressure, but may be attenuated, and removed, or discharged from the ulcer. Upon this principle, the subsidence of the neighbouring parts is radically effected ; whilst pressure, in the inveterate ulcer, only serves to lock up disease, which will break through its temporary covering.—It is true, the process of skinning goes on rapidly, so long as the

limb is at rest ; and I have seen a large ulcer soon healed, which as soon gave way, upon the patient's returning to his usual exercise. I have had the management of many cases, which had healed under strips of adhesive plaster, but had again broke out to the former extent of the ulcer. By unloading the vessels, the parts are restored to a natural state ; and then well-adjusted pressure assists nature in covering the sore with firm skin.

Numerous instances have proved to me, that old ulcers on the legs, entail misery and disease upon the patient ; and that instead of serving as a drain for noxious humours, they are a source from which (by the absorption of corrosive matter) the liver and other parts of the viscera are contaminated. Many instances might be selected, to prove how greatly the comfort of the patient has been promoted, as well

as his life prolonged, by a radical cure, after being troubled with an ulcerated leg for 10 years and upwards. And the cure of these local affections may be effected without the use of internal medicine. I have observed the complexion of persons, which had become very sallow, gradually clear, as the obstruction about the ulcer was removed ; and I have often heard them express themselves as feeling lighter, and having a greater relish for food.

In respect to the effect of remedies, experience is the only real source of knowledge. There is something in the appearance, and in the discharge from sores, which may be conceived, though not well described : a surgeon may view these symptoms as favorable efforts of the constitution ; but the patient is often so beset with remarks arising from an imaginary view of the subject by some adventurer, who, having no regular

plan to proceed upon, cannot avoid doing harm, because he fancies he has discovered disease, when he is only viewing the efforts which nature is making to relieve herself.

In accidents, the anxiety of the attendants to be doing something ; the expectation that some kind of operation must always be performed ; and the false opinions of the nature of the injury ; create a notion that sufficient has not been done ; which tends to disturb the patient and incumber the surgeon, whose rational course is to pursue a soothing practice, with a view to allay inflammatory action, instead of probing and searching for extraneous bodies, which it may not be prudent or practicable to extract, and which the succeeding discharge will place in a situation to be removed, with more ease to the patient.—Why attempt to hurry, and, by premature excitement, disturb the natural action of

the body? If the parts are kept in a state of perspiration, obstruction may be obviated, and the force of the circulation reduced, by which the swelling or tension of the limb is relieved or prevented. Instances do occur, in which it may be necessary to enlarge the wound in a decided manner: still the same mild treatment is best; there must be time for digestion and incarnation, before cicatrization will take place.

An ulcer is sometimes foul, in consequence of a bad habit of body; though it more generally happens from local affection, unconnected with any other complaint. Different appellations, indicative of their peculiar nature, are detailed in the writings of several medical men, who have paid very great attention to this subject, and whose object is to reduce it to a state of simple ulcer, whatever plan be adopted.

In common ulcers, following lacerated wounds, provided the natural action be not impeded, a cure, for the most part, readily follows ; but when in ulcers, either recent or of long standing, a cure does not advance, the aspect of the sore must determine whether it is owing to a bad habit of body or a local complaint ; what particular kind of remedies is necessary ; and whether internal as well as external means should be employed. We sometimes meet with exceedingly sensible sores : in such cases, the healing art requires a practical knowledge, besides that of anatomy and the animal œconomy.

It is well known, that there are some peculiarities in constitutions, which require particular remedies ; and such is the difference in the nature of irritability, that it sometimes happens, without any apparent cause, that the same application which

afforded relief, will give severe pain : just so it is with internal complaints.

I have frequently met with ulcers of so irritable a nature, that every progress towards healing was at a stand ; and although the internal use of medicine had been strictly adhered to, for many months together, yet the constitution of the patient had been greatly reduced by pain. In such cases, a minute attention to the diseased parts at each dressing, will lead us to the choice of such remedies, as, by experience, have been found capable of allaying the irritation of the sore under existing circumstances ; and, by the aid of medical surgery, of preventing the progressive advancement of disease to a state which may render an operation necessary.

Unless nature is properly consulted, by attending to every point of the sore, and

to the parts about it, with precision, I venture to say, that a limb may be lost, or the life of the patient extinguished ; although the internal aid of the whole *materia medica* be employed. In local accident, or disease, it is well known, that the disturbed state of the part affects the constitution :—a sympathetic fever is the natural consequence ; and, if the local complaint remains unsubdued for a length of time, indigestion, loss of sleep, and weakness follow. Medicine does not possess the direct power of communicating strength to the constitution : it may be employed with advantage in combating particular symptoms, or promoting the powers of digestion ; but I am confident, that the most effectual remedy will be the alleviation or removal of the local complaint.

If we believe the healing of ulcers of long standing dangerous, every person who may receive a wound, which, from neglect or

improper treatment, becomes a sordid ulcer, must pass the remainder of his life with a troublesome and painful sore, under an idea that his constitution requires a drain. In modern days, such an appendage is, I believe, much dreaded. Issues, which are sometimes placed in a sound part of the limb, with a view to catch the falling humour and discharge it, in time become sordid and painful, upon the same principle which occasioned the ill-conditioned state of the ulcer—namely, obstruction and inflammation, whereby the stagnating juices acquire acrimony, when ichor, instead of good matter, is discharged. I could select many instances, to prove, that curing the ulcer and the issue, restored the constitution of persons who now enjoy good health, although many years have elapsed. I find some respectable writers, at the present day, entertaining a notion, that, at this outlet, injurious matter is

discharged from the constitution, which might otherwise do harm ; without considering that such matter may be generated in the neighbourhood of the ulcer, and from thence carried into the system, and occasion disease.\*

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\* Dr. Kirkland (Med. Surgery, vol. i. p. 80.) says,—  
 “Hearing and reading, unless extended into practice, which converts them into real knowledge, only teach men the art of talking and writing ingeniously ; but talking about diseases, and knowing how to cure them, are distinct and very different things. Students in medicine must be allowed to be the greatest of physicians, if reasoning could make them so ; whereas they have abundance of words, and very little skill in the art of healing. Nor is it possible to form a true judgment on the medical abilities of any man, till we see him apply remedies as exigencies require ; for there are many who cannot communicate their ideas, and yet soon convince us, that they know in what manner to proceed upon being set to work ; *et vice versa*. Eloquence, or other arts of deceiving, which have often been successful in some branches of medicine, will never gain credit in the management of those diseases where the nature and cure are evident to the senses.

In respect to scrofulous ulcers, I have met with several sores, which had acquired that appellation, because they did not heal; but upon the local impediment being removed, a cure readily followed.

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Something substantial and convincing must be done; for without a cure is obtained, an obstinate ulcer (for instance) will remain a mark of unskilfulness in the prescriber, unless the blame falls upon the dresser, or the physician succeeds in persuading the patient that he ought not to think of being cured, for fear of being killed." (Page 83)

He says,—“ That every physician, who prescribes in external disorders, ought to be a good surgeon; and that every surgeon ought to be a good physician; that the nature of external diseases can only be learned by constantly seeing and examining them thoroughly; and that the method of cure will not be understood but by curing them.” Speaking of surgery, (page 3) he says,—“ The principal part being accomplished by the hand, its effects are evident, and it is practised upon more certain grounds than the cure of inward distempers, in which it may often be doubted, whether the recovery is owing to remedies or the constitution.”

Mr. Goodlad's\* experiment with some of the discharge which covered the sore of a boy, who had been many years affected with scrofulous diseases, has furnished important information as to its action upon himself; and the practical observations contained in his History of Scrofula, direct the attention of surgeons to a minute examination of the local appearance of the sore; and certain it is, that scrofulous ulcers heal without a specific remedy.

Wounds inflicted by the bite of a dog, according to my own observation, (in several instances which have occurred in my practice) soon become an ill-conditioned ulcer, and are tardy in their progress towards healing. I am well aware, that in lacerated wounds, in general, obstacles sometimes arise, and impede our endea-

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See page 113, On the Diseases of the Absorbent System.

vours to obtain a cure. I am induced, however, more particularly to notice wounds inflicted by the bite of a dog, from having observed an uniform tediousness in the cure of those which have fallen within my view. Wounds inflicted by a *rabid* animal, require, indeed, a different treatment to other wounds or ulcers; escharotics, or excision, being the only means likely to prevent a malady than which none is more to be dreaded. There is no poison which produces such terrible effects, or which rages with such violence as that communicated by the bite of a *mad animal*, when once its specific effects begin to act. Although the source of genuine Hydrophobia is known, yet the melancholy and fatal effects of this poison are regularly repeated, whenever an occurrence of this dismal malady is published; which proves that, hitherto, human skill has not been able to discover a remedy. The destruction

of the parts bitten may prevent its virulent action ; but this plan is uncertain. Hydrophobic symptoms are met with in spasmodic affections ; and their abatement may mislead us in forming an opinion of the nature of the complaint. Dr. Bardsley, of Manchester, whose extensive and practical knowledge of disease claims every attention, has suggested a scheme for cutting off the source of canine madness, and thus prevent a dreadful disorder.—Dr. Bardsley says,\* “If then  
 “ the *kind* of evidence which I have brought  
 “ forward in support of the argument,  
 “ is the best that the subject will admit;  
 “ and if it be such *in degree* as to render  
 “ the doctrine *highly probable*, my object  
 “ will be attained ; for it is upon the ground  
 “ of having established an accumulated  
 “ series of probable evidence, that I erect  
 “ the whole of the scheme for extirpating

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\* See Medical Reports, p. 330.

“ canine madness from this island. The plan  
 “ is as simple as I trust it will prove efficaci-  
 “ ous.—It consists merely in *establishing an*  
 “ *universal quarantine for dogs within the*  
 “ *kingdom, and a total prohibition of the*  
 “ *importation of these animals during the*  
 “ *existence of such quarantine.* I am  
 “ indeed persuaded, that two months would  
 “ justly answer this purpose; and render it  
 “ unnecessary ever again to have recourse  
 “ to a similar expedient. But this is not the  
 “ place to enter into a detail of the best  
 “ means to carry such a plan into effect. I  
 “ have no doubt of its practicability, pro-  
 “ vided the wisdom of the legislature should  
 “ think fit to adopt it. What I most  
 “ anxiously wish, at present, is to engage  
 “ the attention of the faculty to this inter-  
 “ esting subject; so that the propositions I  
 “ have advanced may be fairly canvassed.”

Medicine has very great power over the

worst of diseases ; but it is not within the scope of art to say that such an effect shall always be produced ; consequently, the business of art is to supply nature with what is wanting to perform a cure. This knowledge is every thing ; for nature is always ready to get rid of every inconvenience that attends the body.

Unfortunately, a *fashion* in medicine occasionally manifests itself in some men ; and the greater the authority, the more the constitution of the patient must be made subservient to its use ; till at last, the stomach becomes irritable, and is determined to reject any further proceedings. There are things of known utility, and to pass by them in pursuit of theoretic purposes of good, is something like what Dr. Johnson says, “To determine against that  
“ which we know, because there may be  
“ something which we know not.”

Improvement in the science of medicine is, perhaps, more likely to arise from a diligent research into what is known to be good, than by the utmost exercise of modern imagination or ingenuity.

The attention which is paid to the science of chymistry by learned practical men, has greatly improved that part of pharmacology, which relates to the operation of medicine. In fact, it has opened the recesses of nature, as to what substances are at variance, and what may be associated together in composition ; and as physiology is more attended to, a due knowledge of the operation of internal and external remedies, as well as a discrimination whether one of them or both, are necessary, will be acquired. In some complaints, diet is more to be depended upon than medicine. Health, it is commonly known, may often be maintained by a proper choice of aliment ; and,

although it must be allowed, that food is more agreeable to the stomach than medicine; yet, if the patient's appetite is defective, we must endeavour to bring on an inclination for food, by strengthening the powers of digestion. "When food does its proper office, health is the consequence."

Any man honored with a share of public confidence in his medical practice, ought never to hesitate in avowing a difference of opinion, on a subject where facts will bear him out.

Dr. Langrish well observes, "An absolute resignation to the opinion of any man, how great soever, without taking proper pains to judge, examine, and search, into the truth of it, is a slavish submission, and very unbecoming a rational creature." A splendid hypothesis amuses the fancy; but the healing

art can only be supported by principles which stand on the firm basis of facts and experiments. To indulge a species of self-deception, and substitute dogmas for facts, is only engaging the mind in unknown and imaginary qualities, which greatly retard the progress of medical science ; whilst science in general is making rapid progress, professors having expelled from their schools all reasoning not grounded on facts. Speculators in medicine are constantly throwing out wild and extravagant fancies. The juvenile mind is too often diverted from the study of cause and effect, before it is sufficiently expanded over the wide field of medical science, and aware of the danger of catching at undigested novelty, which often leaves us in the dark. He who fancies himself in the full possession of the theory of diseases, will find, that facts must be proved and must pass through the mind,

before their utility is known. Medicine presents a wide field for the exertion of the mind. To practice the healing art (with a view not to omit any assistance we may be capable of affording) rests upon a ground, which, if not acquired in the season of youth, may never reach the mind afterwards. In the other learned professions, there is an authority to which doubtful cases are submitted, and there are established laws, by which they are settled. In the healing art, it is very different; for when difficulty presents itself, the cure rests upon the judgment of the practitioner, whose appeal is to nature and experience. If we have contented ourselves with learning the name of a disease and a remedy, and fancy the complaint will fly before us; we shall often meet with embarrassments, which nothing can remove but a determination to learn the changes which happen from disease, or

nature, and the effects of medicine. Sir Wm. Temple observes, “ Though a man  
 “ may grow learned by other men’s  
 “ thoughts, yet it is from his own thoughts  
 “ as well as experience that he will grow  
 “ wise.”

My own observations of the efforts which nature is capable of making, induce me to conceive, that a person in a fever would more frequently recover unassisted, than when teased and nature thwarted by a load of improper remedies. How many diseases, which in their nature are not desperate, become so by the use of improper means to relieve them ! How many persons who have been declared incurable, have afterwards recovered, by the efforts of unassisted nature ! Indeed how few are the diseases which in their own nature are desperate !

To pronounce diseases incurable, may

screen a want of knowledge ; but, in some constitutions, I fear it has tended to destroy the patient. We are not able to say what efforts nature may be capable of exercising, even in the worst stage of disease. Instances of extraordinary recoveries have been and are often published ; and recollection will present to the mind of those conversant in practice, events, as to the termination of disease, which surpass all reasoning, except by comparison ; and prove the necessity of an acquaintance with the resources of nature, as well as that every means which the art of healing employs should be directed by a proper intention of assisting her. The Baron Van Swieten says, (Com. sect. 1.) “ But what are  
 “ we to understand by *nature* ? Why, no-  
 “ thing else, but the aggregate of all the  
 “ physical conditions which are required to  
 “ that most constant, durable, and at the  
 “ same time active power of moving,

“ wherein life consists ; now this is perfect  
 “ health ; if there be any thing wanting  
 “ thereto, nature is deficient, and the  
 “ defect is a disease. Physicians, there-  
 “ fore, do no injustice to the Supreme  
 “ Being, when they ascribe so much to  
 “ nature ; as they hereby understand the  
 “ constitutional frame of the created body.

“ It was, therefore, well said by Hel-  
 “ mont, *that nature is the order of God,*  
 “ *by which a thing is what it is, and acts*  
 “ *what God has ordered it to act.* Upon  
 “ the same subject, Hippocrates ; *Nature*  
 “ *supplies all things to all ; diseases are*  
 “ *cured by nature ; and nature has found*  
 “ *out ways of itself without art or contri-*  
 “ *vance ; nature untaught, and without*  
 “ *having rules prescribed, does of itself all*  
 “ *things necessary.*”

Experience has clearly shewn to me

the close connection between internal and external disorders ; and I beg leave to remark, (if I can judge from my own experience, supported by the practical writings of many medical men) that if the effects of external applications were more attended to and explained, nothing would throw greater light into the operation of internal medicine.

Indeed, there is not any thing which passes in the body in health, or when labouring under disease, but what external disorders or accidents will more or less explain. In the voluminous writings of some men, the science is rather overwhelmed and buried, than exhibited to advantage ; and although reading may lead to inquiry, it is from nature that we learn truth in medicine. Those who make it their study to apply dressings to sores, as exigencies may require, have

nature constantly before them ; and when reason is founded in nature, facts are extended into use.\*

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\* Appendix to the Critical Review, new arrangement, vol. 18.

A Treatise on Surgical Complaints, and the Operations which are necessary for their Removal, by Messrs. Chopart and Desault, Professors in the Practical School of Surgery, &c. Paris, 1796.

The utility of clear and exact descriptions of disorders that require the assistance of the surgeon, and of accurate and particular details of the methods of practice which have generally been attended with success, must be obvious to every one. These the authors of the present treatise seem to have had in view, and at the same time the forming of a kind of elementary work, to which the students who attended their lectures might occasionally refer.

For the execution of such an undertaking with success, much experience was unquestionably necessary, and such as the practice of a large hospital could alone supply.

Boerhaave and his learned commentator say, (sect. 557.) "Whoever therefore has so  
"thoroughly understood the diseases already

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Much of the materials that compose these volumes seem to have been derived from the practice of the Hospital of Humanity, formerly the Hotel Dieu.

Those who are conversant with the progress of surgery on the Continent, cannot be unacquainted with the name of Desault. The improvement of this useful art in France has been much indebted to his zeal and industry. It appears from the account of his life, prefixed to this treatise, and which was written by M. Bichat, one of his pupils, that he was indefatigable in his attention to the advancement of his profession; and that, though beset with difficulties of various kinds, he forced his way, by the exertion of his great talents, to the first and most important chirurgical situations in the country. He proposed, and ultimately, though not without considerable difficulty, accomplished, the establishment of a school at the Hotel Dieu, for the purpose of instructing the pupils of that extensive hospital in clinical practice.

It was not only in this way that he endeavoured to

“ described, and which are subject to the  
 “ sight, as to be well acquainted with their  
 “ several causes, nature, effects, and

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extend the limits of chirurgical knowledge, but also by the publication of useful observations and interesting cases. With this intention, in the year 1791, he began a journal of surgery, which we believe has been translated into our own language.

These are the chief particulars which immediately interest the surgeon.

The observations with which we are presented in the introductory part of the work, are judicious and important. It is here contended, and perhaps justly, *that surgery and medicine are more intimately connected than has generally been imagined. The same opinion has been maintained by an excellent practical writer of our own country, Dr. Kirkland, in a valuable publication intitled, “ An Inquiry into the Present State of Medical Surgery.”*

Desault, (Peter Joseph) a French surgeon, who was the editor of the Journal de Chirurgie, translated into English by the late Mr. Gosling. He died at Paris, in 1795, in

“ method of cure ; and has applied all  
 “ these particulars to the internal and  
 “ unseen parts of the body ; and compared  
 “ them with the actions of the sound parts,  
 “ and afterwards with the several appear-  
 “ ances of internal diseases ; will find,  
 “ that what is internal, corresponds  
 “ exactly with what is external ; that  
 “ external diseases, which fall under the  
 “ surgeon’s care, ought first to be treated  
 “ of, and that otherwise nothing regular  
 “ or just could be performed or advanced  
 “ in the practice of physic.”

The Baron Van Swieten says, “ Having

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his 46th year, not without suspicion of having been  
 poisoned during his attendance on Lewis XVII. And it  
 is singular that Clopart, who succeeded him in his attend-  
 ance on the Prince, and Doublet, who visited him, all  
 followed Desault to his grave within four days.

Biographical Dictionary.

“ thus treated of the diseases appertaining  
 “ to surgery, it may not be amiss, before  
 “ we come to give an account of internal  
 “ diseases, and the method of cure required  
 “ in them, to point out, in a few words,  
 “ how great an insight the knowledge of  
 “ external diseases will afford us in the  
 “ discovery and cure of such as are inter-  
 “ nal. And therefore we may justly lay  
 “ it down as an axiom: *That internal*  
 “ *diseases exactly correspond with such as*  
 “ *are external, and that nothing regular*  
 “ *or just can be either performed or ad-*  
 “ *vanced in the practice of physic, unless*  
 “ *the external diseases appertaining to*  
 “ *surgery be first accounted for, before*  
 “ we come to treat of such diseases as are  
 “ internal.

(Sect. 144.) “ The very parent of phy-  
 “ sic, Hippocrates, has wrote excellently  
 “ on wounds of the head, on ulcers, fistulæ,

“ fractures, luxations, &c. nor has he  
 “ slightly considered those accidents and  
 “ injuries, but he has also described at  
 “ large the methods and machines to be  
 “ used for the cure of fractures and luxa-  
 “ tions. Add to this, that it is of the  
 “ highest use towards the cure of internal  
 “ diseases, to examine and compare those  
 “ which are external. These last are all  
 “ of them more obvious to the senses, and  
 “ more easily understood. Thus we can  
 “ much more clearly understand external  
 “ inflammations, and their various ways of  
 “ terminating, than those seated internally.  
 “ What light do we not receive into the  
 “ nature of obscure diseases in the head,  
 “ from a previous knowledge of the wounds  
 “ in that part? Since, then, the general  
 “ and best method of learning is to pass  
 “ from the easier to the more difficult pro-  
 “ positions; those external disorders, there-  
 “ fore, which belong to surgery, are here

“properly introduced before the history of  
“internal and more obscure diseases.”

My own thoughts on the importance of medical science, the anxiety I feel to promote (as far as my humble efforts will allow me) its interests, and an attachment to curative surgery, induce me to notice those matters, which, from experience, I think may tend, in many instances, to prevent the necessity of chirurgical operations. It is by a proper adjustment of external applications, a knowledge of their properties, and an acquaintance with the resources of nature, that we are enabled to save a limb from amputation. This must always yield satisfaction and pleasure to a professional man.

Yet sufficient pains are not taken to acquire that knowledge which the profession requires. On the contrary, the *eclat* which

sometimes attends a successful operation, is transmitted from master to pupil ; the Tyro hails the performing of operations as the completion of his studies and the high road to fame, whilst he neglects to inform himself of the means of preventing their necessity. Hence, the dread of the knife drives many persons to seek relief from some strolling Empiric.—Thus he who alone rests his merit on his facility of performing operations, neglects an important duty of the profession, and lessens his services to mankind.

Curative surgery is not to be learned without the experience of a series of years : so much depends upon a practical knowledge of what is wanting to assist nature, when difficulties present themselves.

Neglecting so important a study, as that, which may enable us to cure diseases by a

proper choice of medicaments, is injurious to society.

For he who neglects to initiate himself in the art of healing, by acquiring an habitual knowledge of dressing sores, with a proper intention of assisting nature without mutilating the patient, is compelled to perform more operations than are necessary ; because the mind has not been grounded in that kind of knowledge which only can lead to the use of such remedies, as are capable of superseding, in some instances, the necessity of operating at all. Amputation, it is well known, is a useful and necessary remedy ; the performing of it requires but little skill, yet the loss of a limb is a permanent inconvenience to the sufferer, which ought always to be well considered, before the patient is subjected to it. I am fearful that in those sores where art is required, if a cure does not

advance, and nature wants that assistance, which the mind has not been accustomed to afford, the thoughts are directed to the use of the knife, where there is a greater probability of success. Hence the limb and the complaint are buried together, and there is an end of the matter.\*

Manual operation removes diseases which cannot be cured, and often affords the patient great relief. The plan of laying the skin close together and healing the

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\* Dr. Kirkland says, “ Surely suffering the medical  
 “ practice of surgery to degenerate, is disgraceful to the  
 “ science, and highly injurious to society. For he who  
 “ omits to inform himself in the methods of preventing  
 “ operations, will perform more than are necessary ; and  
 “ many a limb which might, I am persuaded, have been  
 “ saved, has been taken off, because the operator had  
 “ never attended properly to the art of healing.—Every  
 “ blockhead can *amputate* a leg ; but how much more  
 “ praise-worthy is he whose skill enables him to effect a  
 “ a cure, and preserve the limb ?”

wound by the first intention, is a very important improvement, now in general use. Although chirurgical operations may be very well performed, yet impediments do arise, which prevent a union of the parts. I have been applied to by persons, where wounds following an operation had become tedious and painful ulcers, requiring (for a considerable time) the aid of curative surgery, to prevent the operation proving abortive.

The human frame is wonderfully constructed, and complicated are the diseases to which it is liable.—The most skilful practitioner often finds his exertions inadequate to remove disease; but there are some men totally unacquainted with the cause or nature of disease, who commence Doctors, deceive the ignorant, impose upon credulity, and boldly declare their power to remove disease and death.

To distinguish causes, is not within their little skill, whose boasted practice is founded on guess-work, and a few empirical remedies of the most caustic and violent kind.

Persons labouring under disease too readily listen to any description of complaint, and as readily apply it to their own case, or, in fact, make their own case subservient to the treatment which answers the Empiric's purpose. Luckily for some, nature often struggles through disease in opposition to bad practice. External injuries, and diseases seated externally, afford ample space for the practice of deception, with those whose efforts are directed to that object; for no matter what injury a bone or a joint may have sustained, the regular and almost uniform statement of the case is, fracture or dislocation. This I know to be a fact, and have met with diseased

joints, which, I have no doubt, originated in consequence of the severity used in the deception practised for reduction.

I have occasionally met with gangrene, in consequence of a *stated* fracture being so tightly bound up as to cause obstruction to the circulating fluids; which brought on inflammation; and timely relief not being afforded, a mortification, to a certain extent, followed. This severity of very tight bandage partially used, is too much the case with those who call themselves bone-setters. It causes pain, and occasions lameness; but, at the same time, it answers the purpose of impressing the mind of the patient with a satisfactory conclusion, that the injury sustained is to the full extent of the Doctor's statement. I have had occasion, on account of the sufferings of the patient, to remove this partial bandage, and have found the

bones not at all injured. I have also had frequent opportunities of examining the dressings which these men use; and, unfortunately for the patient, he is not aware how unnecessarily his pain is increased, his cure prolonged, or his limb subjected to some permanent injury, by a train of irritating dressings. These impostors are ignorant, as well as indifferent, as to the effects produced, and are guided by a determination to subdue disease by storm. A flux of humours is invited to the part affected; and ultimately the constitution is injured, or the loss of a limb may be the only relief which the art of surgery can afford.

Perkins varied the mode of magnetism; others have varied that of magic; but the operations of all, are uniformly directed towards the metallic substances in the pockets of those whose ears are open to

every representation of disease, and to the pretended miracle, by which the operations of nature are counteracted, instead of assisted. There is an immense phalanx of adventurers, who may be classed under the head of Impostors and Alarmists, who distort complaints into various forms, for the purpose of making disease subservient to their wild predictions ; and, sometimes, nature, having surmounted injuries and abuses, steps in and spoils the tale. The patient is not aware, how soon a healing sore may degenerate into a bad state, by improper dressings ; nor is he aware, what mischief may be prevented, by a proper application in the first instance ; for nature is always ready to do her office, if she is not interrupted.

An excrescence, a pimple, a pustule, a spot, or a lump as it is called, all come under the appellation of *cancer* with these

Gentlemen ; and although roughly treated, nature, in some instances, accomplishes the healing part ; which is sufficient to stamp the Doctor's fame in the cure of *cancer* ; for the patient, ignorant of the nature of the affection, neither doubts nor ventures to oppose such high authority. Hence cancers are much oftener talked of than really seen ; and there is sufficient reason for saying, that when real cancer presents itself, the Doctor terms it an *incurable sort*, because he dares not attempt to use the knife, which is the only means by which cancer can be removed.

All writers on this subject, consider any attempt to remove the complaint, except by extirpating the diseased parts, as altogether useless.

Another famous and frequent appearance in sores, serves to create a consider-

able degree of consequence in the Doctor's practice.—This he calls *proud flesh* ; and whilst nature is at work furnishing new flesh, so as to form an even surface for cicatrization, the Doctor is busy preparing his *keen specific* to destroy the healthy production ; and when digestion has separated the part destroyed, nature kindly begins her work again. At this the Doctor is greatly displeased, and is now determined to root out this enemy to his labors ; for which purpose, he keenly doubles the force of his destructive skill, and tells his patient, the longer the pain the more lasting the cure. These men always attribute the pain which they occasion, to a bad state of the sore, which, they say, must be cleaned ; and from this scouring principle, have I known the worst consequences happen ; although the wound, in the first instance, was trivial. I have mentioned these circumstances, actuated by a

wish to caution those whose cases may be said to require caustic, not to submit, till they have ascertained from a surgeon its real necessity; by which means the axiom, "prevention of disease is better than cure," might often be illustrated. This proud flesh as it is called is very essential to the healing art. I never find the slightest touch of caustic requisite, to keep within due bounds the healthy granulations of an ulcer; but, when properly aided by plaster and bandage, new skin is formed in different parts of a sore, which, gradually extending, greatly facilitates the cicatrization of the whole.

Mr. Simmons, of Manchester, beautifully terms this process "the crystallization of skin." He says, "The process of skinning resembles the freezing of water, or the crystallization of salts, both of which are facilitated by an even surface

“ which is essential to the due configura-  
 “ tion of the crystals.”

Mr. Goodlad, of Bury, in his excellent book on the Diseases of the Vessels of the Absorbent System,\* says, “ New skin  
 “ cannot be formed from that which is  
 “ diseased ; but an island of skin will  
 “ sometimes form on the centre of the  
 “ sore, which gradually extends, and  
 “ covers a considerable part of the ulcer.”

The credulity of many persons in regard to medicine, is astonishing.—Men who are sceptical in other matters, readily listen to the tale of any idle fellow, who not choosing to follow some useful employment, sets up for a doctor, and while he knows nothing, undertakes every thing. The advice of the most skilful physician is

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\* See page 84.

neglected, to follow the direction of a man, who, having brushed the surgeon's hat, and ultimately worn it, feels himself fledged for a loftier flight, and becomes a bold adventurer, to improve the constitutions and repair the limbs of his Majesty's subjects ; whilst the disease is so frequently trifled with, that it is incurable. My own observations lead me to declare, that I have felt much, for the painful situation, in which I have found children, whose sores had been unnecessarily burnt with caustic.— The good effect of remedies is produced by a right use of them ; it is not sufficient to know that medicine possesses qualities, but we must also know when those qualities are applicable to the disease which presents itself. The internal and external effect of remedies upon the human body, is not to be learned by chance. “ Mere opinion, without knowledge, cannot find out a proper remedy.”

To be a practitioner in the healing art, is the work of a man's life ; and a minute observer of nature will, to the last, find he has still much to learn. In fact, real practice can only be learned at the patient's bedside.

Persons are led away by the promise of a sudden cure ; which is an opinion always to be doubted, because, upon examination, it will be found, that neither nature nor reason has been consulted about the matter ; on the contrary, various contrivances are made use of, which only tend to embarrass nature, and render a cure more difficult. A strong constitution will struggle through disease, in opposition to bad practice ; and nature, left to herself, would not be found destroying life, when she is capable of effecting her purpose by restoring health ; but the patient should well consider, how far his constitution

may be able to bear up against these Doctors' burning and scalding practice.

In submitting these remarks to the public, I hope to be considered as actuated by a wish to prevent mischief; and I have been cautious, that what I have said should be the result of my own observation.

There are many persons, whose readiness (in the absence of Medical men) to assist the afflicted is very laudable; and I have known much good derived from it, whilst no harm could happen, on account of the means used being simple; and if more attention were paid to seemingly trivial facts, the healing art might derive much advantage. The extent to which the use of caustic is carried by illiterate men, entails misery on society; its indiscriminate use being frequently the forerunner of amputation or death.

On Variolæ Vaccinæ. The invaluable discovery of Dr. Jenner is now very generally acknowledged to be a subject of the greatest importance to medical science ; and, after the most minute inquiry, it is found to possess such power in preventing disease, as is not equalled in the whole knowledge of the healing art. No doubt, posterity will justly and fully appreciate the zealous exertions of the discoverer.

The Jennerian inoculation has met with some opposition ; considerable prejudice has been excited, and the public mind kept in a state of alarm. Surely, sufficient skill has been employed ; sufficiently minute investigation has taken place ; sufficient time has elapsed to remove prejudice ; and, it is hoped, such a multiplicity of facts, the result of cautious practice, will fully satisfy the public mind, that this practice is a permanent security against the Small-pox ;

since the united evidence of the first medical characters in the British dominions has tended to prove this assertion. Perhaps greater skill cannot be found in any country, than what is possessed by the medical council of the Royal Jennerian Society for the extermination of the Small-pox ; whose zealous endeavours, supported by individual exertion, will, finally, remove one of the greatest scourges of the human race.

Every liberal mind will acknowledge, that means have long been in their power, (if properly managed) to evince the truth of Dr. Jenner's remark, " that a person " who had fairly had the Cow-pox, is no " longer capable of being acted upon by " the variolous matter." Thousands have been subjected to the test, without a negative having been found amongst those who had had the genuine Cow-pox. When the

Jennerian inoculation was first introduced, some persons, unacquainted with the rules so expressly given by Dr. Jenner for its management, and which require minute observance to ascertain a genuine pustule, began to inoculate ; and, consequently, many failures happened. The following circumstance amongst others came to my knowledge. A man totally unacquainted with the doctrine of inflammation, and the decomposition which matter is liable to, by the mode of conveying it, began to operate, and travelled for the purpose of gaining what he could by inoculating children. He was perfectly satisfied if his operations produced a pustule ; whether spurious or genuine, did not influence his practice, but when he found his patients attacked with the Small-pox, he boldly declared “ these *Cow-pox* false.” I, however, used my utmost endeavours to place this circumstance in its true light, and succeeded in

finding out some of the children who had been operated upon by this new inoculator, (ascertaining, at the same time, that the children had not been attacked with the Small-pox). I vaccinated seventeen of them with complete success. I afterwards inoculated them all with variolous matter, but was not able to produce the Small-pox. Most of them are now living, and have been exposed to Small-pox contagion, but are proof against this severe and deplorable malady. On a fair and unexaggerated statement given, it appears that forty thousand Beings in the united kingdom, were, annually, the direct victims of the Small-pox, besides the great mortality that was occasioned by disorders consequent upon this disease.

“*In the School for the Indigent Blind in St. George's Fields, the loss of sight in more than one half<sup>s</sup> the children, had been occasioned by the Small-pox.*”

Some parents are impressed with an idea, that eruptions, which in some instances appear at a remote period after inoculation, are caused by the Cow-pox. It should be recollected, that different kinds of eruptions happen *before* inoculation, as well as at a remote period *afterwards*; therefore, why attribute them to the Cow-pox? I have frequently met, in the same neighbourhood, with children who had not had either Small-pox or Cow-pox; yet eruptions had appeared upon them, similar to the eruptions which occurred at a remote period after vaccination, on other children. Eruptions which children are liable to, and are severely afflicted with, in some instances for years, will continue to make their appearance in spots, rashes, pimples, vesicles, pustules, and scales; as was the case before vaccination was introduced. A few years ago, I was desired to see two children of the same family, who had had the

Cow-pox. In both of them, an eruption had made its appearance, which the parents attributed to the inoculation.—Upon examination, I informed them, that, in my opinion, the children had unfortunately taken the itch ; in which I was at first strongly opposed, but the complaint spreading a little further into the family, they were all convinced of their mistake, and were cured by a proper application.

Mr. Ring, on Eruptions after Vaccination, says, “ I know no reason to suppose  
 “ that eruptions which appear at a *remote*  
 “ *period*, are owing to vaccine inoculation,  
 “ nor do I know of any new species of  
 “ vesicular eruption which has lately  
 “ appeared.”

If vaccination, (by way of reasoning with those whose minds are impressed with a wrong conclusion) produces the different

kinds of eruptions which appear at a remote period, why do they not appear in the same manner after every vaccine inoculation? why do eruptions appear on one child in a family, and not on the whole number who have all been inoculated with the same matter? I ask these questions, because I have witnessed the fact.

Much has been written, and much has been said, on this great and important discovery, the beneficial effects of which are not confined to a day or a year, but will be extended to the remotest posterity, not only in this country, but through the whole world. If a few plain remarks should in any way tend to remove prejudice, and promote the blessings of vaccination, the wish of an earnest advocate will be accomplished; and as the following address of the Royal Jennerian Society, to be presented at the Baptism of children, is so well arranged, I

am induced to give a copy in this publication ; other medical practitioners having been induced to do the same, confident that the oftener it is read, the more it may tend to the object of the society, in the preservation of the lives of mankind.

**“ TO FATHERS AND MOTHERS.”**

“ You who are parents, must feel yourselves not less bound by religion, than prompted by affection, to guard your child from impending evils ; and especially from infectious diseases endangering its life. No human malady can give more serious cause of alarm than the Small-pox. When taken in the natural way, it is, as you well know, violent, painful, and often fatal. Even in those who recover from it, the countenance is permanently disfigured, or the constitution receives some irretrievable injury, by

loss of sight, deafness, tedious ulcers, white-swellings, consumption, &c. In the Small-pox, communicated by Inoculation, there is certainly less danger ; but to ensure success, the most anxious attention and nicest management are requisite for a length of time. Notwithstanding every precaution, the inoculated Small-pox has, in many cases, proved fatal ; and it is further highly objectionable, since, by spreading infection, it endangers the lives of all persons in the neighbourhood, who have not previously had the disease. A mild and certain preventive of the Small-pox, was a few years ago providentially discovered by the Jennerian Inoculation of the Cow-pock. This, after the strictest inquiry, has been approved and recommended by the British Parliament ; and is now extensively practised, under the patronage of their Majesties, and the whole Royal Family. The new Inoculation may be safely performed at

every season of the year, and at every period of life ; since it occasions no material disorder, nor is it attended with any danger whatever. At the same time, no infection is communicable from the persons inoculated to others with whom they have intercourse. Thus this simple and easy process, without endangering the community, preserves all those who undergo it, from a most loathsome disease ; and never excites in the constitution the dreadful maladies above mentioned, which so frequently succeed both the natural and inoculated Small-pox. That you might not remain ignorant of so inestimable a blessing, this short statement is presented to you ; and as you value the life of your infant, and the safety of your neighbourhood, you will immediately avail yourselves of the advantage offered to you ; for doubly poignant must be your sorrow, if, by neglecting so to do, your

child should perish, or be materially injured by the Small-pox.

(Signed)

Minister of



AS an affectionate pupil of the late Dr. Kirkland, impressed with the recollection of his innate worth, and the great value of his excellent instructions, I am desirous to pay a tribute of esteem to his memory, and gratitude for his friendship. I have often witnessed the discriminating power of his touch, and the predictions of his great mind confirmed. No man was more earnest in his endeavours to ascertain the true state of the case, no one attended to nature with more vigilant exactness, and no one was more capable of supplying what was wanting. Possessed of great intellectual energy, and accustomed to keep his faculties in constant action, he was indefatigable in his researches to discover the sources of medical knowledge, and also to determine how that knowledge could be best employed, in assisting nature to perform a cure.

It may be justly said of him, that he was as cautious in drawing conclusions, as he was accurate in making observations. He was a determined advocate for truth. I have often heard him observe, “that one grain of matter of fact was worth a pound of reasoning.”

He remarks, “The human body is a  
 “ machine *sui generis*, that can only be  
 “ explained by its own laws and principles;  
 “ the effect of medicines and the cure of  
 “ diseases are no ways to be learned but  
 “ by clinical practice.”

I have often, in his study, observed him anxious to unravel facts, which his discerning eye had recently discovered in some of his patients, whose cases he considered to require peculiar treatment.

Amidst the arduous studies of an

author, whose publications were considerable, and the duties of an extensive medical practice, Music was occasionally a pleasing recreation to him. He has two sons, now living, who are in full practice at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, for whom I have the pleasure of publicly testifying my esteem, respect, and gratitude.

The following account appeared in the Leicester paper.

Died, on Wednesday, January 17th, 1798, at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Thomas Kirkland, M. D. Member of the Royal Medical Society at Edinburgh, which honor was conferred upon him many years ago, in the most flattering manner, by that Society, in testimony of their regard for the eminent abilities he had displayed in his Medical and Surgical Writings. His whole life had been employed in the most

unremitting attention to the study and practice of the duties of his profession ; and his genius shone most conspicuously, in the science and practice of the various parts of *Medico-Surgery*, wherein he had few equals, none superior. His different publications on diseases of the most melancholy and dangerous tendency to the patient, and the unrivalled practical success of his doctrines, in every part of the country, will immortalize his fame, and render every attempt at eulogium unnecessary and vain.\*

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\* Kirkland (Dr. Thomas), an eminent Physician, and Member of the Royal Medical Society at Edinburgh, and the Medical Society at London. He died at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, in Leicestershire, in 1798, aged 78. He was a zealous enquirer after science, and a successful practitioner. He published some valuable works ; one in particular, intitled, “ An Enquiry into the Present State of Medical Surgery.” *Biographical Dictionary.*











