

Memoir of Edward Jenner, M.D. : From Dr. Lettsom's Oration, delivered before the Medical Society of London, on the 8th of March, 1804 / [John Coakley Lettsom].

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MEMOIR OF EDWARD JENNER, M. D.

*From Dr. LETTSON'S Oration, delivered before the Medical Society of London,
on the 8th of March, 1804.*

IT is unnecessary to apprize you, Gentlemen, that an oration is delivered annually on this day, by a Fellow of this Society, elected in the preceding year to discharge this important duty. Our learned associate, Dr. Walker, was appointed for the present anniversary; but sickness has suddenly intervened, and prevented him from perfecting his design, and us in a particular manner from the pleasure and instruction which its communication must have conveyed to a listening auditory. Whilst you sympathize with me on the painful necessity of his absence, I hope you will permit me to claim your indulgence for accepting, on the present emergency, this Chair, which ought to have been filled by a Physician much more able to arrest your attention and to ensure your approbation.

This Society, impressed with a just sense of the importance of preventing the fatality of the small-pox, by vaccine inoculation, discovered by one of our very early members, Dr. Edward Jenner, laudably and unanimously voted him a gold medal, to be delivered on the present anniversary; and, however unworthy of the appointment, I complied with the request of my learned colleagues.

In reverting to the discovery of the Cow-pock, its history must appear to you to have been already exhausted; nevertheless, as the whole merit of the discovery is unquestionably due to a Member of this Society, it is equally flattering to our pride, and becoming our gratitude, to commemorate an event in which our honour is implicated, augmented, and, I trust, immortalized.

It is to be lamented, even at this period, that some of the most interesting discoveries in the history of the arts are scarcely known to us by any accurate record, which affords a very sufficient excuse for the liberty I take in requesting your indulgence to the following narration:

Thus the invention of the Mariner's Compass in 1302, by Flavio Givias, of Amalfi, near Naples, which enabled us to discover a new hemisphere, is recorded by no written documents which might elucidate the progression of that department of science which led to this important discovery in Europe.

Nor can we now ascertain who was the inventor of gunpowder in 1330, by which science triumphed over bodily strength: we know, indeed, that Swartz, a Cologne Monk, invented great guns in 1346; but are ignorant of the circumstances which primarily gave rise to the discovery.

Even the art of printing, so useful in recording events, and so convenient in spreading the knowledge of them, though ascribed to Lawrence Koster, of Haerlem, in 1430, as well as to Mintel, of Strasburg, is supposed to have been discovered at Mentz, in 1440, by Guttenburg, Faustus, and Schaeffer, in conjunction.

If this art has not fixed the date of its own origin, and the progress of science that brought it to light, it has happily preserved the remembrance of the discovery of the circulation of the blood throughout the whole body. Mich. Servetus, a French physician, first published his discovery of the circulation of the blood through the lungs in 1553. Cuspalpinus communicated a vague account of the general circulation in 1569; but it was fully elucidated and confirmed by Harvey in 1619. By this brilliant discovery, health and sickness may be defined in these few words:—"The one is a free, the other an obstructed circulation." But whilst the College of Physicians annually commemorate their deceased Collegian, may we never forget our Jenner; and as I am the first thus publicly called to the



grateful office of appreciating his merits, I hope I shall not be the last in a Society whose leading principle is the promotion of medical science.

To give accurate delineations of living characters is peculiarly difficult. Few can bear the stern truth of faithful biography; and where friendship directs the pen, a partiality, of which the writer is, perhaps, unconscious, slides into unmerited panegyric. There are, however, individuals whose lustre acquires no accession from the glow of public gratitude or the ardour of private veneration.—Such is our Jenner, “whom it can never be a degradation to praise, whom it is a degradation to praise without enthusiasm,” the youngest son of the Rev. Stephen Jenner, M. A. of the University of Oxford, Rector of Rockhampton, and Vicar of Berkeley, in Gloucestershire; at which place Dr. Jenner was born on the 17th day of May 1749.

Besides these church preferments, the respectable parent possessed considerable landed property in the same county.

His mother was the daughter of the Rev. Henry Head, of an ancient family in Berkshire; who likewise once held the living of Berkeley, and was at the same time a Prebendary of Bristol.

Young Jenner lost his father at a very early period of his life; a loss in some measure supplied by the affectionate attentions of his elder brother, the Rev. John Jenner, B. D. Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, united with those of another brother, the Rev. Henry Jenner, Domestic Chaplain to the Earl of Aylesbury, and Vicar of Great Bedwin, Wilts, father of the Rev. George Jenner, and of Henry Jenner, Surgeon, at Berkeley.

Our Jenner received his classical education at Cirencester, and his medical under Daniel Ludlow, of Sudbury, a Gentleman of professional eminence.

In 1770, he took up his residence with the late John Hunter, Esq. of London, with whom he continued for about the space of two years. This celebrated Anatomist pursued also the study of natural history, which he explained by dissection, and published the result in various essays, in many of which the name of Jenner is respectfully introduced; and so highly had he estimated the acquirements of his pupil, as to propose to him a liberal engagement to join him in delivering lectures upon natural history, which Hunter then had in contemplation.

At this period, the voyage of Captain Cook with Sir Joseph Banks was projected. A Gentleman skilled in the knowledge of comparative anatomy was wanted for the purpose of examining and describing the new animals they might chance to find: Jenner was fixed upon as the best calculated for such an office, and lucrative conditions were proposed; but his affection for his brother already mentioned induced him to decline an offer so seductive to a lover of natural history.

This fraternal attachment, which continued to the death of the latter, annihilated every prospect of emolument from distant sources, and determined him to settle in Berkeley, the place of his nativity, to cultivate the practice of surgery and the pursuits of natural history in the country; soon after which the degree of Doctor of Physic was offered him by the University of Erlingen; an honour he declined, as incompatible with the professional discharge of surgery.

An incident afterwards occurred which appeared much more likely to detach him from the immediate society of his beloved relative. He happened to dine with a large party at Bath: Something was introduced at the table which required to be warmed by the application of the candle; and doubts were expressed by several persons present, whether the more speedy way would be, to keep the flame at a little distance under, or to immerse the substance into it. Jenner desired the candle to be placed near

him, and immediately put his finger into the flame, suffering it to remain some time; he then put his finger above it, but was obliged to snatch it away immediately.—“*This, Gentlemen,*” said he, “*is a sufficient test.*”—The next day he received a note from General Smith, who had been of the party the preceding day, and who was before that time an utter stranger, offering him an appointment in India, which would insure him, in the course of two or three years, an annual income of 3000*l.* The offer was referred to his brother; and our Jenner, from his attachment to him, declined it.

Some may, perhaps, be ready to conclude that fraternal affection was carried to a degree of weakness—But who can avoid admiring the heart that is susceptible of such tender affections? Some may piously suggest, that in consequence of the latent designs of Heaven, he was happily prevented from engaging in distant pursuits, to announce to the world some grand discovery, and to establish a new æra of medical science, events which have since taken place.

In tracing a character thus rendered illustrious, the mind dwells upon it with increased pleasure, in contemplating the combination of moral sentiment and practical virtue—where the generous passions are subservient to sound reason, which directs them to promote public good and private happiness, as Fenelon well observes, “*La vertu, en réglant les passions, n'éteint point le sentiment.*”

My respectable auditory will permit me to illustrate this sentiment, by exhibiting the beneficence of our amiable associate.

An ingenious but unfortunate member of this Society, after many ineffectual struggles to surmount pecuniary difficulties, fell a victim to disease, leaving a widow and children penniless. From early friendships, I was desirous of raising by subscription a small sum to enable them to put on a covering more desirable than sackcloth and ashes. I addressed a letter to Dr. Jenner on the subject, and specified the amount of the donation I wished him to bestow. Suffice it to say, that he thanked me for affording him an opportunity of assisting objects of distress, and sent me a sum exceeding my request.

A few days afterwards he intimated to me, that he feared that a respectable person, whose name on this subject shall never pass my lips, laboured under pecuniary embarrassment; I expressed my willingness to offer my mite in conjunction with his. We soon, however, turned the conversation to some other subject. Jenner has a heart not made of stone or clay; and I venture to say, that the object of our conversation was the companion of his couch, for early in the morning I received a letter, which is too laconic to fatigue you in hearing:—

“I write this note just to propose an amendment with respect to the sum for the use of our friend. Will you let it be 50 instead of 30 guineas?”

E. JENNER.”

I may here observe, that not any part of these memoirs is immediately derived from our distinguished associate. From his friends I have drawn my principal information. The last to whom I applied, though known to me merely by correspondence, favoured me with some traits of his beneficence in the following words: “As for his generosity, it is constant and unbounded. It is not like an intermitting spring, which flows by starts, and as it were by caprice; but it resembles a perennial fountain, which ever gladdens the verdant plains, and never disappoints them of their expected refreshment. Yet, although his generosity never intermits, its stream is sometimes poured forth with an unusual flood; an instance of which is, his offer of 1000*l.* to equip a vessel for the purpose of introducing the vaccine inoculation into the East Indies, when the parsimony of Government neglected to do it.”

During his residence in the country, our associate lightened the severer duties of his profession by the study of physiology and natural history.

In 1788, his "*Observations on the Natural History of the Cuckoo*," appeared in the Philosophical Transactions, which were admired and approved by the best informed naturalists in this department of science. He has since attempted to demonstrate, through the medium of comparative anatomy, that what exist in human lungs, in the form of tubercles, are really hydatids.

To one attached to natural history, the pursuit of ornithology, with which the emigration of birds is immediately connected, must afford singular pleasure. The outlines of a paper on this subject have often been spoken of by Jenner to the Members of the Royal Society, and which contain many interesting and novel observations, but which his numerous engagements have hitherto prevented him from communicating to the public.

Thus early distinguished as a Naturalist, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London; and in 1792, he took his diploma of Doctor of Physic.

We have ample reason to conclude, that many important essays proceeded from his pen. By a late publication of Dr. Parry's, of Bath, it appears that the discovery of the supposed cause of angina pectoris originated with him, whilst his modesty repels him from the just claims of originality.

Of these, however, a transient view only is taken; the mind absorbed by mighty objects passes over inferior ones, as the stars are extinguished by the brilliancy of the sun. With a new æra of existence, afforded by the discovery of vaccine inoculation, the exuberance of gratification, the charms of health, the perfection of beauty, crowd upon imagination, agitate every tender sympathy of the heart, and delight all the intellectual powers of the soul!

The mind reposing after ecstasies derived from the contemplation of a discovery the most prominent in utility, looks with a lively curiosity to scrutinize into its origin, which I shall now attempt to explain.

About the year 1775, inoculation of the small-pox was much practised in Gloucestershire, after the Suttonian plan. Jenner, who then practised surgery, observed, that among those whom he was frequently called upon to inoculate, many resisted every effort to give them the small-pox, in consequence of their having undergone the cow-pock, contracted by milking cows affected with a peculiar eruption on the teats. He found, however, that some of those who had undergone the cow-pock, on being afterwards inoculated with the small-pox, took this virulent disease.

This discovery damped in some degree his ardour; but the genius of Jenner triumphed over every obstacle. By accurate investigation, he ascertained that the cow was subject to some varieties of spontaneous eruption on her teats, all capable of communicating sores to the hands of the milkers, although not all the real cow-pock. The surmounting of this obstacle enabled him to form a distinction between these diseases; only one of which he denominated the true, the others the spurious cow-pock, as possessing no specific power over the constitution.

Scarcely had this impediment been removed, before another of seemingly greater magnitude started up; for it was found, that a person who had milked a cow under the true cow-pock, and had thereby apparently gone through the disease with others, was liable to receive the small-pox afterwards. Which of us, Gentlemen, would have pursued the subject a moment afterwards? Disappointed and thwarted in our hopes, we should have relinquished for ever a subject that seemed to afford no criterion of success or security. Thanks to the genius of Jenner, or to that Power that

inspired and destined him to rank among the benefactors of mankind, his energy surmounted every obstacle, and led him to reflect, that the operations of Nature are generally uniform, and that it was not probable the human constitution (having undergone the cow-pock) should in some instances be perfectly secured from the small-pox, and in others remain unprotected, he resumed his labours with redoubled ardour, and the result was fortunate; for he now discovered, that the virus of the cow-pock was liable to undergo progressive changes, from the same causes precisely as that of the small-pox; and that when it was applied to the human skin in its degenerated state, it would produce the ulcerative effects in as great a degree as when it was not decomposed, and sometimes far greater; but having lost its specific properties, it was incapable of producing that change in the human frame which is requisite to render it unsusceptible of the variolous contagion: hence it appeared evident, that a person might milk a cow one day, and, having caught the disease, be for ever secure; while another person, milking the same cow the next day, might feel the influence of the virus in such a way as to produce a sore or sores, and in consequence of this might experience an indisposition to a considerable extent; yet, as has been observed, the specific quality being lost, the constitution would receive no peculiar impression.

During this investigation, he was struck with the idea that it might be practicable to propagate the disease by inoculation, after the manner of the small pox, first from the cow, and finally from one human being to another; he boldly made the attempt, and for ever secured humanity from deploring the ravages of the most pestiferous disease that ever visited the earth; and in 1798 he divulged this wonderful discovery to an admiring and astonished world.

Medical professors have often observed, that inoculation of variolous matter, though repeatedly performed, has not produced such an eruption of the small-pox as affords a security against the infection of this disease in future. Jenner experienced an analogous result in vaccine inoculation; he found that herpetic eruptions in children, occasionally prevented the vaccine, as well as the variolous virus from producing their correct action. That the skin although it might be apparently sound, at the point of insertion, is nevertheless so influenced by the disease, as frequently to baffle every effort to produce a correct pustule, and consequently to secure the constitution from the contagion of the small-pox; hence he inferred, that practitioners should be particularly circumspect when they inoculate those who have cuticular diseases, and that the danger of insecurity would be at once obviated, if on the appearance of an irregular pustule the disease were to be subdued by proper applications, and the patient then re-inoculated.

"Anamolies," he observed, "assuming different forms, may be excited, according to the qualities of the virus applied, or the state of the person inoculated; but by far the most frequent variety or deviation from the perfect pustule, is that which arrives at maturity, and finishes its progress much within the time limited by the true. Its commencement is marked, by a troublesome itching; and it throws out a premature efflorescence, sometimes extensive, but seldom circumscribed, or of so vivid a tint as that which surrounds the pustule completely organized; and (which is more characteristic of its degeneracy than the other symptoms) it appears more like a common festering produced by a thorn or any other extraneous body sticking in the skin, than a pustule excited by the vaccine virus. It is generally of a straw colour, and when punctured, instead of the colourless, transparent fluid of the perfect pustule, its contents are found

to be opaque. A little practice in vaccine inoculation, attentively conducted, impresses on the mind the perfect character of the vaccine pustule; therefore, when a deviation arises, of whatever kind it may be, common prudence points out the necessity of re-inoculation. The deviation, when it arises from the cuticular disease just noticed, generally corresponds with that above recited. If the pustule is not much disturbed in its course by scratching, it commonly terminates in a scab of a pale brown or amber colour, and soft in its texture, compared with that produced by the true vaccine pustule; and there is abundant testimony to conclude, that the fluid taken from a spurious vaccine pustule thus excited, is capable of propagating and perpetuating its like."

Hence, whenever the pustule has an irregular appearance, after removing the eruptive disease of the skin, inoculation should be repeated, to obviate the most distant insecurity.

It is rarely that genius, however distinguished, is so accurate as to give a first essay, even upon a subject in some measure familiar, without omission or redundancy, both as to matter and composition. To delineate a new field of discovery, from whom could we expect, not only a perfect outline, but the completion of every tint of light and shade! These, however, were so accurately united in his "*Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ*," as to induce a sagacious Physician, who never uttered a sentence without weighing its import, unequivocally to declare, "It appears to me, that none of the facts and observations introduced by Dr. Jenner, have been disproved or refuted; and that no information has been gained on any material point by all that has been written upon the subject since the publication of his first treatise:" and public conviction to this moment confirms the declaration of Denman.

Some, indeed, learned members of this Society, in which I see a Ring, an Aikin, and an Addington*, may be ranked among the coadjutors of Jenner, and have offered their handful of mortar to cement the noble edifice; but Jenner alone is the architect who laid the foundation of the glorious temple, on whose stately dome future generations shall gratefully inscribe

JENNERI
GENIO SALUTIFERO.

Had our illustrious Associate sordidly appropriated the fruits of his discovery to his private emolument, he might have acquired incalculable wealth; but elevated by the dignified impulse of universal benevolence, he voluntarily sacrificed private benefit to public good, and gratuitously conferred upon mankind the means of saving 800,000 lives every year; or, the sacrifice of 2500 human beings every day of the world's existence.

The philanthropy of Jenner did not confine itself within the limits of an empire, but extended from pole to pole: After divulging to Europe the means of security from the small pox, he was solicitous of conveying to India the salutary blessing, which all Europe accepted with gratitude and avidity; to effect which purpose he gave me authority to subscribe one thousand guineas in his name towards defraying the expense of conveying vaccine matter to Ceylon, and our other extensive Asiatic possessions. In one of his letters to me, he introduces the plan he had recommended to the Government, in hope of crowning his exertions with speedy and certain success.

* These Gentlemen, who are Members of the Medical Society, have distinguished themselves as authors on Vaccine Inoculation.

" My first attempt was about the conclusion of the year 1799, by sending out my publications on the subject of the cow-pox, and a large quantity of vaccine virus, on-board the *Queen East Indiaman*. This ship unfortunately was lost at sea. On hearing this disastrous event, I went on renewing my efforts to introduce vaccination amongst them, by such means as had proved successful in transporting the virus to countries far distant from this; but it never reached the shores of Hindostan in perfection.

" I was sent for twice to the Secretary of State's Office, (Lord Hobart's,) where pressing solicitations had arrived for vaccine matter, on account of the devastations the small-pox was making, particularly in the Island of Ceylon. I represented in the strongest terms the necessity of employing means more effectual than sending out dried matter, and that I would engage to point them out.

" The following was my proposition:—That on-board some ship going to India, twenty recruits, or men of any description that had not had the small-pox, should be selected. That I should be allowed to appoint a surgeon to attend them, perfectly conversant with vaccine inoculation.

" Thus I engaged that the disease should be carried in its most perfect state to any of our settlements.

" After some deliberation, my proposals were, each time, rejected, and I was requested to put up matter in a way the most likely to succeed. This I complied with, and did my best; but, as I told the gentlemen at the board, with only faint hopes of success.

" Ruminating on the calamities to which our countrymen and natives of Hindostan are exposed, and on the facility of subduing the small-pox, were the cow-pox once established amongst them, I was struck with the idea, that that obstacle was by no means invincible; nothing being required to remove it, but a ship properly equipped. It was then that I wrote to you on this subject, and proposed the immediate raising by subscription a sum sufficient to defray the expenses, at the same time requesting you to put my name down for a thousand guineas.

" Happily, soon after, intelligence was received that vaccine matter had reached India in perfection, through the persevering industry of my friend Dr. de Carro of Vienna. It was by his means that it was first planted in Constantinople, and from thence he contrived that it should move forward to Bombay. You need not be told with what exultation it was received by all ranks of society; the enlightened European and the poor Hindoo, both hailing it alike as the deliverer from a dreadful pestilence."

The discovery of vaccine inoculation, when first announced by Jenner, was so wonderful and so unexpected, as rather to dazzle than convince his contemporaries of its vast importance. Even to many scientific men, it appeared almost incredible, whilst they wished to see realized what they had deemed scarcely possible. Profound truths, or the vivid rays of light, on their first impulse, may confound intellect, or confuse vision: hence, observed the modest Fontenelle, 'If both my hands were full of truths, I would open one only at a time.'

At length, experience has enabled the world to appreciate the importance of a discovery, unequalled in history, and gratitude has paid its votive offerings to the genius of Jenner, from the thrones of both the Cæsars, the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain, and the various societies of literary characters throughout the civilized world. Whilst in him Britain claims a discovery, which will be recorded to her glory as long as a Newton or a Harvey shall dignify the page of science. One weighed the globe in the scale of gravitation, the other explained to man the laws

of his existence; but to Jenner was devolved the power of preserving that existence; and to this society will remain to futurity the honour of owning him its early associate; for, however powerfully envy or malignity may attempt to lessen the importance of the Jennerian discovery, or to depreciate the dignified character of its author, time will prove the vindicator of truth. As Linné answered one who opposed his sexual system of botany, by pointing to an academy of children—"These," said he, "will be our judges;" so Jenner, not walking over hecatombs of the slain, not surveying with melancholy retrospect, those rendered blind or deformed by variolous infection, may point to the rising generation, and enjoy the superlative gratification of contemplating myriads of fellow-creatures rescued from a deadly pestilence; which, under the blessing of Providence, he lived to subdue. Conscious, as he must be, of the high estimation in which he is held among philosophers and sages, he shuns adulation; and courts rural retirement, whenever his professional duties admit of moments of leisure; moments not given up to ease and inglorious indulgence.—Whilst the great and opulent have been protected by his discovery; in the philanthropy of his mind, he confers the blessing equally on the friendless and the poor. The manner in which these moments of relaxation are spent, is described in such appropriate language in a letter I recently received from a correspondent, as to induce me to introduce it here.

"About nine o'clock in the morning, I arrived at Berkeley, and immediately waited on my friend. He was just sitting down to breakfast. After the usual congratulations and inquiries respecting our common friends were over, I joined him in the repast of which he was about to partake. Our conversation, as might be expected, did not dwell long on other topics, but soon hastened to that important subject which has for some time arrested the attention of mankind, I mean the discovery of vaccine inoculation. I heard with much regret of the obstacles which envy, prejudice, and ignorance had raised to impede the progress of this salutary practice, and with heartfelt pleasure of its extensive and rapid propagation through almost every country of the globe. The parlour, in which we were sitting, looked into an agreeable lawn, on one side of which ran a walk, here and there perceptible between trees, till at length it was completely lost in a thick bower. I had observed, during our conversation, a great number of females, with children in their arms or by their sides, passing down the walk, and proceeding forward into the bower, which interrupted them from my view. The circumstance very much excited my curiosity; and I could not forbear interrupting the conversation to enquire of my friend what it meant. It has been my custom for some time, said he, to set apart one morning in the week for inoculating the poor; and this being the appointed day, the people you see are come from the adjacent villages on that account. You wonder, perhaps, continued he, to see them go so regularly into the bower and disappear; I will explain it to you. In the midst of those trees is a small mansion, built in the cottage stile; it consists of one room only, and was erected for the purpose of giving a rural appearance to that part of my garden. I have lately converted it into a place of utility; and the people who come to be inoculated assemble there, and wait until I come among them. It is for this reason I have given my little cottage the name of the Temple of Vaccina; and, like a faithful priest, added he smiling, I am always anxious to find it filled with worshippers. But after breakfast you shall go with me, and see in what manner we proceed. I agreed to the proposal with pleasure, and in a few minutes we both rose up, and went together to the cottage. We found it almost full of poor people with their children. My friend first

examined the arms of those he had inoculated the week before, and then inoculated others, strictly enjoining the parents to bring them the next appointed day. I felt a mixture of pain and entertainment in hearing some of the poor villagers express their apprehensions respecting the benefit which vaccine inoculation afforded them, and relate the prejudices of their rustic neighbours. But the Doctor very well understands the art of dealing with their prejudices; and it gave me great pleasure to observe the gentle and effectual manner with which he endeavoured to sooth their minds. It is a pleasing reflection, said he, after they were gone out, that these poor children are for ever secured from the dreadful evils which the disease I am striving to exterminate might have brought upon them: and when I consider the multitudes of the human race who have already availed themselves of the benefit, which I had the felicity to announce to mankind, and those who will hereafter avail themselves of it, my pleasure is so great, and my gratitude towards that Being whom I know to be the author of every blessing is so lively, that I can scarcely express either the one or the other. You have, said I, good reason to feel so: and with regard to your little temple here, reverting to the appellation which he had given to his cottage, it is a fortunate thing for us, that the system of polytheism has given place to the dictates of truth, else Vaccina would have been introduced as a new deity to the world, and men, if they regarded the advantages which she produced, would have done homage in this rural mansion, with greater delight and veneration than in the most magnificent and sumptuous temples that ever attracted the admiration of Greece and Rome."

In contemplating the extent of this splendid discovery, and the facility with which the public good it promises may be accomplished; and combining the various other discoveries and improvements in science, which we have witnessed, what a sublime prospect is opened to the ardent genius of aspiring and ingenuous youth! To instance a Franklin; who, by means of the medium of a small metallic wire, subdued and governed the most tremendous agent in nature, and opened to us the arcana of electricity; a discovery which Galvani and Aldini further extended; and by which we are now led to conclude, that from the *Gymnotus electricus*, that diffuses the electric power in the ocean; from all animal and brute matter, up to the clouds floating in the ambient air, an ætherial agency pervades all nature, and influences her hidden operations; but, as Seneca observes, *Multa etenim sunt quæ esse audivimus, qualia autem sint ignoremus! Quamque multa venientis ævi populus, ignota nobis, sciet.*

In a particular manner, the discovery which this society commemorates this day, affords the strongest encouragement to cultivate, with ardour, the science of medicine, after the example of our illustrious associate, to whom has been unanimously voted this gold medal, for his discovery of vaccine inoculation; and which, in his absence, I deposit, agreeably to his request, with the learned President of this society; who has, upon numerous occasions from this chair, which he has so long and honourably filled, instructed and improved a listening and grateful auditory: to my friend, Dr. Sims, therefore, do I, with the utmost pleasure, commit this medal, bearing the following inscription,

Don. Soc. Med. Lond. An. Salut. 1773.

Instit.

E. Jenner, M. D.

Socio suo eximio

ob

Vaccinationem

Exploratam;

in honour of Dr. Jenner, as the greatest mark of approbation we can offer to the unrivalled merit, and deathless fame, of that man, who has removed the veil which concealed the sacred mysteries of Isis in this profound allusion to nature :

ΕΓΩ

ΕΙΜΙ ΠΑΝ ΤΟ ΓΕΓΟΝΟΣ
ΚΑΙ ΟΝ; ΚΑΙ ΕΣΟΜΕΝΟΝ.
ΚΑΙ ΤΟΝ ΕΜΟΝ ΠΕΠΛΟΝ
ΟΥΔΕΙΣ ΠΩ ΘΝΗΤΩΝ
ΑΠΕΚΑΛΥΨΕΝ *.

* I am whatever is, or has been, and will be; and no mortal has hitherto drawn aside my veil.

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