

## **Plan and reports of the Society instituted at London, etc.**

### **Contributors**

Royal Humane Society (London, England)

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ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY

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PLAN and REPORTS  
OF THE  
SOCIETY

INSTITUTED at LONDON

In the YEAR M.DCC.LXXIV.

FOR THE RECOVERY OF

PERSONS

APPARENTLY

DROWNED.

PUBLISHED M.DCC.LXXV.



the influence of



D. R. O. W. M. F. D.



T H E

## I N T R O D U C T I O N.

**M**ANY and indubitable are the instances of the possibility of restoring to life persons apparently struck with sudden death ; whether the evil proceeded from a stroke of apoplexy, convulsive fits, suffocation by noxious vapours, strangulation by the cord, or *drowning* ; although the party had remained senseless, and without any the least signs of life, for a considerable time \*. Cases of this nature have occasionally presented themselves in every country ; and although they could not fail to surprise for a season, yet they were considered and *neglected* as very singular and extraordinary phenomena, from which no salutary consequences could be drawn.

\* The memoirs of the society, instituted at *Amsterdam*, mention several cases, well attested, where the patients continued *upwards of an hour*, without any signs of life, after they were taken out of the water, who were yet restored.



These repeated instances at length attracted the attention of some benevolent Gentlemen in *Holland*; where, from the great abundance of canals and inland seas, the inhabitants are particularly exposed to accidents by water. They perceived with deep regret, that numbers, and those principally among the most laborious and deserving part of the community, were annually drowned: and it was justly conjectured that *some* at least might have been saved, had they not been entirely abandoned as dead, or very superficially treated. The hints that were dispersed through various publications, concerning the method of treating persons in this critical state, were carefully collected. These were made public, and rewards were proposed to those who should put them into execution. These humane attempts far exceeded their most sanguine expectations. They became instrumental in the restoration of several, who must otherwise have perished inevitably. This surprising success engaged the general notice, and was so universally countenanced, that they were at length enabled to form themselves into a respectable society, and extend their plan over the seven provinces. And it must afford real pleasure to every friend of the unfortunate to be informed, that about 150 persons, of whom the lives of many were very important to their families, and to the community, have been redeemed from death in the space of a few years.

The authentic testimonies produced of their remarkable success, instigated other countries also to imitate their example. In the year 1768, the magistrates of health at *Milan* and *Venice* issued orders for the treatment of *drowned* persons. The city of *Hamburg* appointed a similar ordinance



to be read in all their churches, extending their succour not only to the *drowned*, but to the strangled, to those suffocated by noxious vapours, and to the frozen. The first part of the Dutch Memoirs was presented to the Imperial academy at *Petersburgh*, and was translated into the *Russian* language, by command of the Empress. In the year 1769, the Empress of *Germany* published an edict, extending its directions and encouragement to every case of accidental death that afforded a possibility of relief. In the year 1771, the magistrates of the city of *Paris* founded an institution also in favour of the *drowned*. And the repeated instances of success in each country have abundantly confirmed the truth of the facts related in the Amsterdam Memoirs.

In the year 1773, Dr. *Cogan* translated these Memoirs, in order to inform this part of the world of the practicability of recovering persons apparently *drowned*.\* And Mr. *Hawes* having also exerted his endeavours to excite the attention of the public to the same subject, these gentlemen united and proposed a Plan for the introduction of a similar institution into these kingdoms. This Plan was so well received, and met with so much encouragement from several gentlemen of influence, that they were soon enabled to form a Society to promote its laudable designs. It is as follows:

## T H E P L A N.

I. The Society has undertaken to publish, in as extensive a manner as possible, the proper methods of treating persons in those unfortunate circumstances.

\* See the Memoirs of the Society instituted at *Amsterdam* in favour of drowned persons, published by Mr. *G. Robinson*, *Pater-noster-row*. These are earnestly recommended to the perusal of every one. They contain such a variety of cases, minutely related and well authenticated, as would render it unpardonable in us not to attempt a similar Institution.

II. To



II. To distribute a premium of *two Guineas* among the first persons, not exceeding *four* in number, who will attempt to recover man, woman, or child, taken out of the water for dead, within the cities of *London* and *Westminster*, or the parts adjacent; provided they have not been longer than *two hours* under the water; and provided the Assistants persevere in the use of the means recommended, and no others, unless under the direction of a regular practitioner, for the space of two hours: This reward to be given though they may not prove successful.

III. To distribute in like manner *four Guineas* wherever the patient has been restored to life.

IV. To give to any publican, or other person, who shall admit the body into his house without delay, and furnish the necessary accommodations, the sum of *one Guinea*; and also to secure them from the charge of burial, in unsuccessful cases.

V. A certain number of medical gentlemen, stationed near to the places where disasters by water are most frequent, have engaged to give their assistance *gratis*; these gentlemen are to have a fumigator, and other necessaries, always in readiness \*.

They flatter themselves, that by these regulations many individuals, in and about this metropolis, will be secure of the best and most immediate assistance in such critical cases: And, where it should not prove successful, their relations will always have the satisfaction of reflecting, that the last efforts have not been neglected.

\* Should the Society meet with due encouragement, it is proposed to present an honorary Medal to any medical gentleman or other, who may not chuse to accept of a pecuniary reward, in all those cases where they have been instrumental of success.



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## The METHODS of TREATMENT.

I. **I**N removing the body to a convenient place, great care must be taken that it be not bruised, nor shaken violently, nor roughly handled, nor carried over any one's shoulders with the head hanging downwards, nor rolled upon the ground, or over a barrel, nor lifted up by the heels, except with the greatest caution. For experience proves, that all these methods may be injurious, and often destroy the small remains of life. The unfortunate object should be cautiously conveyed by two or more persons, or in a carriage upon straw, lying as on a bed with the head a little raised, and kept in as natural and easy a position as possible.

II. The body being well dried with a cloth, should be placed in a moderate degree of heat, but not too near a large fire. The windows or door of the room should be left open, and no more persons be admitted into it than those who are absolutely necessary; as the life of the patient greatly depends upon their having the benefit of a pure air. The warmth most promising of success is that of a bed or a blanket, properly warmed. Bottles of hot water should be laid at the bottoms of the feet, in the joints of the knees, and under the arm-pits; and a warming-pan, moderately heated, or hot bricks wrapped in cloths, should be rubbed over the body,  
and



and particularly along the back. The natural and kindly warmth of a healthy person lying by the side of the body, has been found in many cases very efficacious. The shirt or clothes of an attendant, or the skin of a sheep fresh killed, may also be used with advantage. Should these accidents happen in the neighbourhood of a warm bath, brew-house, baker, glass-house, saltern, soap-boiler, or any fabric where warm lees, ashes, embers, grains, sand, water, &c. are easily procured, it would be of the utmost service to place the body in any of these, moderated to a degree of heat, but very little exceeding that of a healthy person.

III. The subject being placed in one or other of these advantageous circumstances as speedily as possible, various stimulating methods should next be employed. The most efficacious are,—to blow with force into the lungs, by applying the mouth to that of the patient, closing his nostrils with one hand, and gently expelling the air again by pressing the chest with the other, imitating the strong breathing of a healthy person.—The medium of a handkerchief or cloth may be used to render the operation less indelicate.—Whilst one assistant is constantly employed in this operation, another should throw the smoke of tobacco up by the fundament into the bowels, by means of a pipe or fumigator, such as are used in administering tobacco clysters: a pair of bellows may be used until the others can be procured. A third attendant should, in the mean time, rub the belly, chest, back and arms, with a coarse cloth or flannel dipped in brandy, rum, gin, or with dry salt, so as not to rub off the skin: spirits of hartshorn, volatile salts, or any other stimulating substance, must also be applied to the nostrils, and rubbed upon the temples very frequently. The  
body



body should at intervals be shaken also, and varied in its position.

IV. If there be any signs of returning life, such as sighing, gasping, twitching, or any convulsive motions, beating of the heart, the return of the natural colour and warmth; opening a vein in the arm or neck may prove beneficial, but the quantity of blood taken away should not be large; nor should an *artery* ever be opened, as profuse bleeding has appeared prejudicial, and even destructive to the small remains of life. The throat should be tickled with a feather, in order to excite a propensity to vomit; and the nostrils also with a feather, snuff, or any other stimulant, so as to provoke sneezings. A tea-spoonful of warm water may be administered now and then, in order to learn whether the power of swallowing be returned: and if it be, a table-spoonful of warmed wine, or brandy and water, may be given with advantage: but not before; as the liquor might get into the lungs before the power of swallowing returns. The other methods should be continued with vigour, until the patient be gradually restored.

We have been as circumstantial as possible in the above directions, that if one conveniency should be wanting, the attendants may not be at a loss for others. Where the patient has lain but a short time senseless, blowing into the lungs or bowels has been, in some cases, found sufficient: yet a *speedy* recovery is not to be expected in general. On the contrary, the above methods are to be continued with spirit for *two hours, or upwards*, although there should not be the least symptoms of returning life. The vulgar notion that a person will recover in a



few minutes, or not at all ; and the ignorant, foolish ridiculing, of those who are willing to persevere, as if they were attempting impossibilities, has most certainly caused the death of many who might otherwise have been saved.

Most of the above rules are happily of such a nature, that they may be begun *immediately*, and that by persons who are not acquainted with the medical art ; yet it is always adviseable to seek the assistance of some regular practitioner as soon as possible ; not only as bleeding is proper, and sometimes necessary ; but as it is to be presumed that such a one will be more skilful and expert, and better able to vary the methods of procedure as circumstances may require.

The Society think it proper to observe, that these means of restoration are applicable to various other cases of apparent deaths ; such as hanging, suffocation by damps and noxious vapours, whether proceeding from coal-mines, the confined air of wells, cisterns, caves, or the Must of fermenting liquors ; to those seized with apoplectic and convulsive fits, and also to the frozen. And they hope that some persons of influence in the parts where such accidents mostly happen, will form a similar institution for the recovery of the unhappy victims.

Wherever any good has been produced by the means recommended, the person who has superintended the cure is desired to write a circumstantial account of it to James Horsfall, Esq; Treasurer, Middle Temple, or Mr. J. B. Rich, No. 4, Field-court, Gray's-inn, Holborn, Secretary to the Society.



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REPORTS of the SOCIETY  
INSTITUTED IN FAVOUR OF  
DROWNED PERSONS, &c.

**I**T gives us unspeakable pleasure, that we are now able to unite our evidence with that of other nations, in confirmation of a fact equally interesting as it is curious and surprising, *viz.* that persons may, either by immersion in water, or by other species of strangulation, have every faculty totally suspended, so that they shall, to all appearance, be dead for a considerable length of time, and yet it may be in the power of art to recover them.

The Cases we shall lay before the public, demonstrative of this truth, have either been communicated by gentlemen whose veracity is unquestionable, and who could readily produce a sufficient number of vouchers, were any one to discredit their evidence; or they have fallen under our own immediate inspection.

As to ourselves, we can have no motive to induce us to be absurdly credulous on the one hand, or on the other, attempt to impose falsehoods on the public. The surprising facts recorded by our neigh-



bours, the Dutch and French, induced us to make the like experiments. Had we not succeeded, we should have made our report to the world; and, resting satisfied with the goodness of our intention, we should have left others to draw what consequences they pleased. But *we have succeeded*; and we congratulate our countrymen upon having demonstrated a fact, which we hope will, in process of time, wipe tears from the eyes of thousands: we congratulate ourselves in being the instruments of so much happiness. These were our motives; these are our rewards; and we desire no other.

Since these are the secret springs of our conduct, we lie under no temptation to act disingenuously. We are solicitous, equally with others, to weigh the validity of our undertaking, and ascertain the proportion of usefulness to our fellow-creatures likely to accrue from it; and therefore we hesitate not to declare, that we have paid our proffered rewards, in no less than 25 unsuccessful attempts, while the instances of recovery, in consequence of our institution, are only *seven* in number. But so valuable is life, not only to the individual, but to his various connections, that were the cases of success never to bear a greater proportion, we should have no reason to repent of our undertaking.

Yet were it consistent with the proposed brevity of this publication, to give the unsuccessful cases also at large, several instances would sufficiently indicate, that the cause of their failure was owing to adventitious circumstances, which, without affecting our leading principle, rendered it morally impossible to recover the unfortunate objects.

Several of the number had lain in the water from an hour and half to two hours, before they were taken up: and although we have engaged, that we might



err on the side of safety, to give our premiums to those who shall attempt the recovery of persons in this state, yet we are not so sanguine as to expect that one in fifty could be restored under such disadvantages. Others, after being taken out, were neglected for a considerable length of time, through the ignorance of the attendants.—In another instance, the person fell into the water as he was fighting. In this case, the body must have been heated to a great degree, and the lungs surcharged with blood; and his restoration would most probably have been impracticable, had the proper means been instantly applied.

In some other cases, although we were not so happy as to succeed, yet we were for some time flattered with such signs of returning life, as demonstrated that the vital spark had not been totally extinguished, though it was not in our power to revive it.

A due consideration of these circumstances so far from discouraging, animates our hopes, that, in the usual course of accidents, we shall proportionably equal other countries in the number of objects snatched from immediate death.

Candour will also make allowance for our present inexperience in attempts of this nature. No rules can be laid down that shall be equally applicable in every case; and our own observations in a few instances will better instruct us in the modes of procedure, than the most minute and circumstantial directions that can be possibly given. It is but just that we assure the public, however, that in all the accidents, where the Medical Gentlemen have been called in, they have discovered so much attention and zeal, as well as skill and expertness in their methods of treatment, that we have every reason to expect



expect considerable success from the continuance of their generous assistance. It is with pleasure we find also, that publicans and others readily admit bodies into their houses, without being such slaves to vulgar prejudices as we might naturally have apprehended; and that the lower class of people begin to be very assiduous in their endeavours to assist objects in that perilous state. The fourth case we have described is a pleasing specimen and earnest of the good effects of our rewards, in saving the unfortunate from an immediate danger of drowning; which is full as satisfactory, respecting the good produced, as recovering them after they were to appearance dead: and the Ninth Case evinces with what success stimulating methods may be employed in other accidents besides those of drowning.

In giving the history of Cases, the order which naturally presents itself is, first to relate the instances of success which fall under our immediate cognizance, and afterwards those which have been communicated to us by our correspondents.



## C A S E I.

July 12, 1774. **T**HOMAS, the son of *John Joseph*, a child aged about 14 months, dwelling by the Iron Foundry near the *Falcon Stairs*, wandering from its mother and other women who were drinking tea together in a chandler's shop, got into a back kitchen, and fell through a trap, the door of which was carelessly left open, into an aqueduct communicating with the River *Thames*. The women heard it fall, and ran to the place, but could not perceive the child. Their screams brought a shoemaker, who lived in an adjacent house, to the place, but he was fearful of jumping in, lest he should fall upon the child. *Thomas Vincent*, a waterman, who was amongst the crowd brought together by the cries of the distressed mother, being informed of the event, ran round by several houses, and climbing over the walls of the aqueduct, waded up to the place to the height of his chest in the water, proceeding cautiously, and feeling for the infant with his feet as he advanced; for he imagined the returning tide might have carried it to a distance from the place: nor was he altogether deceived; as he felt the child about ten feet from the opening. He took it up, and gave it to the women through the hole through which it had fallen. From seven to ten minutes must have elapsed from the falling-in of the child to the time it was taken out. The women upon the strictest

exa-



examination affirmed, that the child was to all appearance dead; its eyes were fixed, it lay breathless, and void either of motion or pulse. They shook, and beat it on its back for some little time, and then laying it upon a counter in the shop, rubbed its belly and chest with dry salt; the friction was scarcely continued three minutes before the child began to gasp, and give other signs of returning life, which encreased till they were enabled to pour some salt and water down its throat. This excited a vomiting, by which the child threw up a considerable quantity of water and mud from its stomach, and in a few minutes more it was restored to the joyful arms of its mother. In the course of the evening it had two or three convulsive fits, but these were of short duration, and returned no more. The person who had taken the child out of the water ran for Mr. *Boyse*, one of the Medical Assistants to this Society: he not being at home, his journeyman went to the house, but he found the child pretty well recovered. The waterman had the reward promised by the society.

## C A S E II.

ON the 11th of *August*, 1774, in the afternoon, about the time of high water, as *Dederic*, the son of *Dederic Woolbert*, a lad about thirteen years of age, was standing on a wharf near *Wapping New Stairs*, and casting a net, he accidentally fell into the river, in a depth of between 12 and 14 feet. Some persons who saw him fall threw a rope into the water: the boy, as he afterwards informed us, perceived the rope, and caught at it, but missing his aim he sunk, and became immediately senseless.

A wa



A waterman, who also saw him fall, got a board hook, and drew him up with some difficulty. He had been under water about ten minutes; when taken out he was to appearance void of life; his face was swollen and livid, there was neither pulse nor respiration, and his limbs were cold and stiff; one leg was considerably contracted. He was conveyed to a public house in the neighbourhood, and Mr. *Hodgson*, surgeon and apothecary in *Wapping*, was immediately sent for, who ordered the wet clothes to be taken off as soon as possible, his body to be rubbed dry with flannels, and then put between two blankets. Four men rubbed him well with salt; bottles of warm water were applied to his arm-pits, to the soles of his feet, &c. In about 25 minutes a little warmth was perceptible; some wine and water warm was then given him; he swallowed about half a small glassful, which excited a cough; a vein was opened, and more of the wine and water was given, which he drank without any difficulty. By the above method he was, in the space of an hour and a half, very well recovered.—The lad appeared before the Society. He said he had been troubled with a difficulty of breathing two or three days after his recovery; and his eyes were still so much inflamed, that what is termed the white of the eyes appeared of a uniform red; which was a sufficient evidence of the extreme danger from which he had been delivered. The presence of a promising youth, as it were risen from the dead, and the gratitude he expressed to the instruments of his preservation, diffused a pleasure over the whole company, which it is easier for a benevolent heart to conceive, than for any words to express.

His account corresponded with the general declaration of persons in his situation, *viz.* that he re-



mained entirely senseless, from the time of his first sinking, to the time of his recovering at the inn.

*John Minsban, George Hughes, Francis Amos, and John Coates*, were the persons assisting, and who shared among them the four guineas promised by the Society.

### C A S E III.

The following extraordinary Case, communicated to us by Mr. *Thomas*, Surgeon, at *Greenwich*, one of the Medical Assistants, is a demonstration of the efficacy of similar methods of treatment applied to the unfortunate persons who hang themselves, and indicates the extensive utility of these institutions. We shall relate it in Mr. *Thomas's* own words.

“ON the 14th of *June*, 1774, *Jane Donnelly* wife of one of the pensioners in the Royal Hospital at *Greenwich*, being in a phrenzy, took the desperate resolution of hanging herself. She lived in a house with several inmates; and about five o'clock in the afternoon was heard to drive a nail. In a few minutes after, a little dog that was in the room began to howl in a very uncommon manner. At first the people paid no attention to the dog, but finding the poor animal become more outrageous, and seemingly in great distress, one of them was induced to open the door, when she discovered the woman hanging in the middle of the room. She immediately alarmed the neighbours, who came to her assistance, and cut her down. They believe that, from the time the dog began to howl, to the time she was cut down, was full 25 or 30 minutes. She appeared to the people about her to be quite dead, as she did not breathe nor move; however they rubbed her temples with spirits of hartshorn, and  
 4 poured



poured water into her mouth. Full half an hour was spent in finding the husband, who came for me. I found her entirely motionless, her face somewhat swoln and and livid, her jaws fallen, and every other appearance of death; but having a general warmth, I was induced to attempt her recovery. After laying her in a proper situation, I directed the women to rub her extremities with common salt; the husband was employed in rubbing her temples with hartshorn, every now and then applying it to her nostrils; at the same time I opened a vein in her arm, from which the blood only dropt slowly. When the friction had been continued about fifteen minutes, I perceived a small pulse; this assured me that the use of the fumigator, or bronchotomy would not be wanting, which it was my intention to have tried. The friction was continued with assiduity for half an hour, when I found her pulse increase; the blood flowed freer; she began to breathe, and move her head; and soon after screamed most violently. She then swallowed a few drops of spirit of hartshorn and water without much difficulty: her senses in some degree returned; she called for water, and complained of her legs being hurt: her extremities being by this time very much inflamed, and she being thought out of danger, the friction was discontinued. I then left directions with the people about her how she was to be managed; and on the next morning found her free of all complaints, except a pain in her head and soreness of the throat. I have seen her frequently since in perfect health.

F. THOMAS."

#### C A S E IV.

ON *Thursday* afternoon, *August* 18, 1774;  
*John Harrington*, a boy 14 years old, son to *Mary*  
C 2
*Harring.*



*Harrington*, near the *Blue Posts* at *Poplar*, went into the *Thames*, near the *Horse-ferry* at *Limehouse*, to bathe. The tide making down, and the river suddenly deepening at that place, he soon got out of his depth, and was in the greatest danger of being drowned: he was a considerable time in the water, struggling and driving down with the tide, until being quite spent, insensible, and sinking, he was fortunately taken into a boat by *Isaac* and *Cornelius Estridge*. He was actually below the surface of the water, and they could just reach to catch hold of some part of the body, and in all probability he would have been totally lost in two minutes more, as it was in the middle of the river. He was without sense, or any perceptible respiration, when taken up. They brought him on shore, and began to shake him pretty smartly, with his head rather downwards, as they supposed he had taken in a considerable quantity of water: however, by this agitation he came to his senses; he was taken into the *Three Crowns* at the *Ferry*, and put to bed between blankets. In this situation I found him when I first came, (says *Mr. Patten*, of *Radcliffe-cross*, the Medical Assistant who superintended the cure). As he was then sensible, and the pulsation at the wrist plainly to be distinguished, I directed him to be well rubbed with a piece of hot flannel, and some warm brandy and water to be given him. After which he lay two hours, and went home perfectly well.—*Mr. Patten* also observes, that the encouragement and rewards which the Society give to people assisting in such cases, will be the means not only of recovering many thought to be dead, but will make people more diligent in giving their assistance, before they are so far gone as to render the recovery doubtful—an instance of which was to be seen in the before



fore recited case. A waterman in particular, upon the first cry of the boy's danger, jumped from off the gunwale of a ship into his boat, at the hazard of breaking his limbs, with the view of being first to get him out of the water; but it happened others were nearer, and took him up. Again the people at the house made no scruple of receiving him, and immediately putting him to bed. The parties assisting were properly rewarded.

## C A S E V.

A paragraph appearing in the public papers relative to the restoration of Capt. *Scott*, who had fallen into the River *Thames*, near *Limehouse*, several Gentlemen, Directors in the Society, took the trouble of going down to that place, in order to learn the particulars of the event from the persons said to be immediately concerned in his recovery; viz. *William Edges* and his apprentice, who took the body out of the water; *Thomas Edleston*, the publican, who admitted it into his house; and Mr. *Paul Nedham*, journeyman to Mr. *Hales*, surgeon and apothecary at *Limehouse*, who superintended the cure. These, conjointly and separately, confirmed to us the following account.

ON *September 5th*, 1774, about five o'clock in the morning, as Capt. *Scott*, of the *Favourite*, just arrived from *Leghorn*, was passing in a boat from his ship to land, the tide ran so strong that the lad belonging to the boat was not able to make way against it. The Captain took the scullers from the boy, and by accident fell into the water; yet in such a direction that his head soon emerged above the surface. It appears that he was  
carried



carried nearly a mile by the strength of the current, when *William Edges*, a waterman, seeing his perilous situation, rowed towards him, and by the assistance of his boy heaved the body into his boat. This man says, there were at first some feeble signs of life, his eyes being convulsed, and his chest feeling warm. He conveyed him as expeditiously as possible to the *Plough Alehouse* by *Kidney Stairs*. By this time every appearance of life, as he imagined, had vanished. The publican very humanely took the body under his roof, and furnished every necessary accommodation. A messenger was immediately dispatched to Messrs. *Patten*, of *Radcliff-Cross*, and *Smith* of *Limehouse*, Medical Assistants; but these gentlemen not being at home, Mr. *Nedham* attended. He informs us, that he found the body extended upon a table, cold, stiff, and motionless, and without the least signs of respiration; the jaws were fixed. He forgot to examine the pulse at his first entrance, but ordered him to be placed in a warm bed, and opened a vein; whence there issued scarcely an ounce of blood: brisk frictions of salt, volatiles, &c. were used for some time. When he examined the wrist, he perceived a feeble pulsation, but how long this had taken place, or whether it had ever been suspended, he was not able to say, as he had forgotten to attend to this circumstance upon his first arrival. But as so trivial a quantity of blood had issued from the orifice, there is great reason to conclude that the circulation was entirely suspended.—The means mentioned above were employed for near half an hour, without their making any apparent progress. At length, forcibly opening the patient's mouth, they applied to it the pipe of a pair of bellows, and blew into the lungs. This immediately excited a sudden catching of the  
breath,



breath, which gradually encreased. In the space of two hours the Captain was so far recovered, as to appear out of danger, though he was extremely heavy, stupid and inattentive, during the whole day. He for some days lost the power of speech; but was afterwards perfectly restored.

It is observable that no water came from his lungs. The persons who gave their assistance were satisfactorily rewarded by the Society.

## C A S E VI.

ON *Wednesday, September 20, 1774*, betwixt three and four o'clock in the afternoon, *James Becket*, aged about 35 years, fell out of his boat into the *Thames*, near the *Hermitage Bridge*. His foot being accidentally entangled in a rope, which had fastened the boat to a vessel, he was suspended by the leg, and his head was under the surface of the water. A lad in the same boat attempted to extricate him, but in vain. At length the shoe slipping off his foot, he plunged under the water. As he arose, the boy seized his leg, but was not able to hold it. The second time of his emerging, the lad laid hold of some part of his coat, and crying out for help, two other watermen came to his assistance, and with great difficulty (he being a large, heavy man) they heaved him into the boat. He was immediately conveyed to the nearest public-house in *Rotherhithe*, where the landlady received him with great humanity and care.

These particulars were given us by the watermen who took up the body. The remainder we shall relate in the words of *Mr. Corney* himself, the surgeon



geon who was the happy instrument of the recovery, in a letter addressed to us.

‘ Gentlemen,

‘ On *Wednesday*, about four o’clock in the afternoon, I was sent for to the *New-York Arms*, a public-house in this parish. On my arrival there, was introduced to a man that had been taken up out of the River, and was then in a boat adjoining to the yard. I immediately ordered him on shore, and saw him brought with great care by three men. He was placed in a room, and appeared dead, being without motion; and from the most minute examination, I could not discover either breath or pulsation. His clothes, by my direction, were cut off, and his head was raised rather above his body; the room was cleared from spectators, except such as were useful, and a constant friction applied to his belly, which appeared hard and enlarged. By these means I discovered a spasm or two about his eyes. I then proceeded to venesection, and immediately the spasms encreased, and were succeeded by distortions of the body and limbs; and they terminated in strong and continued convulsions, which lasted several minutes, and then his senses returned. I then ordered him clean and warm cloths, gave him a small portion of brandy, and had him put to bed: I find this morning he is perfectly recovered, and feels no inconvenience from the disaster.

‘ The watermen who attended, and were useful to me, have applied for this letter, to recommend them to your notice for a reward. If you think they merit the full, or part of the reward, you’ll please to use your discretion. As to my attendance and application, the Society being established on such humane and honourable principles,



it gives me happiness to contribute my assistance without reward, except that of doing service to my fellow-creatures.

‘ I wish success may crown so laudable an institution ; and believe me

*St. John's, Southwark,* ‘ Your humble Servant,  
*Sept. 22, 1774.*

T. CORNEY.’

Mr. Becket appeared before the Society, assembled October 27, to return the Directors thanks for a restoration to life, of which they were so instrumental. He confirmed the account given by the waterman concerning the accident, and said that, as he was carelessly stepping backwards, in order to look at some object, his foot missed the edge of the boat, and he plunged into the water ; and that by his other foot being entangled in the rope, he was rendered incapable of saving himself by swimming. He recollected a violent agitation of mind for a few moments ; but he had no pain, and soon became senseless. He felt a tightness and oppression upon his breast, and a slight cough for some days afterwards, but no other inconvenience.

This man is remarkably tall and stout : he signalized himself a few years ago, in quelling an insurrection of the coal-heavers, by seizing five of the ringleaders with his own hand.

The sight of so hearty a person in the full vigour of life, a worthy husband, and father of a family, and useful member of society, thus snatched from instant death, inspired every one present with the highest satisfaction and triumph : and they agreed the pains and expences the Society had been at, would have been abundantly recompensed, had this been the only instance of restoration to life by their means.



*Thomas Slater, Joseph Strutton, Henry Smith, and Joseph Kitchiner*, the watermen who took up the body, and assisted in the recovery, were recompensed according to our engagement.

## C A S E VII.

The following remarkable instance of success was communicated to Mr. *Rich*, Secretary to the Society, by Mr. *Smith*, of *Limehouse*, one of the Medical Assistants.

‘ *Sir*,

*October 31, 1774.*

‘ I have the pleasure to inform you, that I was yesterday instrumental in saving the life of a person who was in a most critical situation, by falling into the River *Thames*. The case was as follows :

‘ *Nicholas Groome*, aged 25 years, whose mother keeps a public house (the sign of the Red Lion and Still) in Drury-lane, went yesterday with two of his acquaintances to see a friend on board the *Asbley*, Capt. *Crisp*, an homeward-bound West-India-man, lying off *Lime-house hole*, a three-mast vessel. He insisted upon climbing up the fore mast, notwithstanding the earnest remonstrances of his friends. When he was up to the fore-top mast head, supposed to be at the height of sixty feet from the water, he fell, first upon the round-top, from thence on the gunwale of the ship, and then into the river. It wanted about an hour and half to low water. The ship was on the outside of a tier; some lighters were also ahead of her. He sunk under one of these, and arose between two others on the side next to the adjacent ship, with his face under the water, and his back upwards. A *Dane* belonging to the ship which lay on the inside of the *Asbley*, and a Black, cook of the same ship, perceiving the accident, immediately slid down the cables to the assistance



assistance of the unfortunate man. The Dane first laid hold of the skirt of his coat, and the Black soon after seized his hand. They held him in this manner until two watermen, *William Blackett* and *Richard Arrowsmith*, of *St. Catharine's*, passing that way, came to their assistance. They got him into a boat, and immediately conveyed him to land; there was neither sense nor motion in him. He was six or eight minutes under the water.

‘ I was immediately sent for, and happened fortunately to be in the way. When I arrived, they had already got the patient into a public-house at *Limehouse*, the sign of the *Horns*, kept by Mr. *John Horsey*, who received him with great humanity, and afforded him every assistance in his power, after admittance had been refused into another house. I found him placed before the fire, void of sense, or perceptible respiration. There was no pulse at the wrists or temples, nor any beating of the heart. The attendants were already rubbing him with dry salt; I continued the friction; and in a few minutes he shewed some signs of life. I ordered the remainder of his wet clothes to be immediately taken off, and the body to be placed in bed, and rubbed well with hot flannels. In about a quarter of an hour more he attempted to speak, and the pulse was plainly to be felt at the wrist. I bled him directly, taking away about eight ounces of blood. Soon after he was made to swallow, though with some difficulty, a little warm brandy and water.

‘ I then particularly examined his head, and found a large lacerated wound on the right side, near three inches long, which I dressed. Covering him warm, and giving proper directions to the assistants, I left him. In two hours I returned, and found him much recovered.



‘ The next morning he was so well, as to be able to go home with his mother in a coach, who hearing of his misfortune had come down, and attended him the preceding night.

‘ I should observe that, in the night after the accident, he bled from the wound on the head through all the dressings and cloths. I did not sew up the wound, though large, the scalp being so much lacerated that in all probability it would have inflamed,

‘ As soon as he became sensible, he complained of violent pains in his back, legs and arms: one leg was bruised in the fall, and was considerably swoln the next morning.

‘ The persons who took up the body, and assisted in the recovery, as also the publican who received him into his house, deserve great commendation for their behaviour; and I doubt not but they will meet with the encouragement they merit for their diligence.—With sincere respects, and with hearty wishes for the success of so respectable and deserving a Society, I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

RICHARD SMITH.’

Although this account, given us by Mr. Smith, is perfectly satisfactory as to the fact itself, and to the most material circumstances of which he was witness; yet curiosity prompted us to enquire into the particulars antecedent to his arrival; and from Mr. *Joseph Curtis*, a companion of Mr. *Groome*, who was with him on board the vessel, and of Mr. *Horsey*, the landlord, we learn the following circumstances: that four or five minutes had elapsed after the fall, before the body became visible to them; that it was about *eight* minutes after the body appeared before it could be taken



taken up, as the persons who first endeavoured could not succeed 'till the watermen came to their assistance; that it was *twenty* minutes at least from the time of the body's being taken out of the water to the arrival of Mr. *Smith*; that he fighed in about *three* minutes after the means were used by that gentleman, and became universally convulsed: that it was above *an hour* before the patient opened his eyes, and *two hours* before he could speak intelligibly; and that he threw no water up from his lungs or stomach.

Notwithstanding this providential escape from immediate death, the patient was afterwards in great danger from the wounds and bruises he had received in his fall; particularly that in his head, which at first gave some cause to apprehend a fracture or fissure of the skull, but fortunately these fears were groundless; and by the great care and skill of his surgeon, Mr. *Sanderson*, of *Great Queen-street*, who in conjunction with Dr. *Cogan*, Mr. *John Hunter*, and Mr. *W. Hawes*, gave him constant attendance, he is perfectly recovered, and has returned thanks to the Society, and the above gentlemen, in the public papers.

*Richard Arrowsmith*, *George Smith*, the Black, the Dane, and *William Blackett*, received One Guinea each in reward of their diligent attention.

# C A S E VIII.

## A

Having observed in the *London Chronicle* an account of the recovery of a child that was drowned at *Henley upon Thames*, we wrote to Mr. *Clowes*, Surgeon in that place, who was mentioned as having performed the cure, for the particulars of it; and he was so obliging as to transmit the following to us, by the hands of Mr. *Rich*, Secretary to the Society.



Sir,

*Henley upon Thames, July 15, 1774.*

In compliance with your request, I have sent as true a state of the case you enquire about as I am able, and think myself happy in having merited the attention of so humane a Society.

‘ON the 27th of *April* an accident happened here, attended with a very singular circumstance: some children were playing near a drain cut through this town for the convenience of conveying the water from a neighbouring spring, occasioned by the late heavy rains, into the *Thames*, when one of these children unfortunately fell in, and was driven by the rapidity of the current near 300 yards under ground. From the place where this little girl fell, the water takes an angular course under the great *Oxford Road*, and is banked in with posts and other implements to confine the violence of the stream. From the angular course it runs in a right line into the *Thames*, through another narrow covered drain, almost choaked up with sand and filth. This child, something better than two years of age, was at last taken up at the end of this drain, notwithstanding every impediment in the passage.

My house being situated next the *Thames* where the child was taken up, I was called immediately to its assistance, and found her to all appearance dead; cold as clay; the extremities and body of a high livid colour, with its jaw fallen, and a neighbour suspending her by the legs. Being firmly of opinion that little or no water enters into the thorax or stomach in these cases, I immediately altered its position (after taking off the wet clothes with the greatest expedition) by the assistance of two or three bystanders;



standers; the child was supported in an horizontal posture, with its head a little elevated. Then I began the recovery, by compressing with my hands the abdomen, so as to force the viscera towards the diaphragm, that the lungs might receive some pressure, and expel the stagnated air in their vessels; as it is generally allowed, that people who die by submersion, die in inspiration. By continuing this pressure a short time, and making a strong friction with warm cloths upon the abdomen, thorax and extremities (by the help of a proper assistant who was at hand) the child soon shewed some signs of life by little gaspings. I also evidently felt a pulsation from the heart. As soon as she was capable of swallowing, I got down *acetum scilliticum*  $\frac{3}{4}$ ss. in order to stimulate nature by puking, which had the desired effect, and she soon recovered. The coldness of the limbs prevented my using the lancet, and I believe it was a full hour before the pulse at the wrist could be perceived.

*I am, Sir, your obedient humble Servant,*

T. CLOWES.

## C A S E IX.

### B

We shall take the liberty of inserting, in this collection, the following instance of the surprising effects of electricity, communicated to the Rev. Mr. Sowden, and Mr. Hawes, apothecary, in the Strand, by Mr. Squires, of Wardour-street, Soho. For although we are obliged at present to confine our rewards to cases of *drowned persons*, yet one part of our design is to manifest the possibility of recovery in every instance of sudden death, where the vital powers



powers are suspended, without any essential injury being induced upon the frame. It will also manifest the admirable effects of the electrical shock; which we would earnestly recommend in all cases of a similar nature where it can be obtained.

‘*Catharine Sophia Greenhill*, aged three years, daughter of *William Greenhill*, on the 16th of July, 1774, fell out of a one pair of stairs window upon the paved stones. She was taken up to all appearance dead. An apothecary being sent for, he declared that nothing could be done for the child: Mr. *Squires*, who lives opposite to the place where the accident happened, finding the case hopeless, with the consent of the parents very humanely tried the effects of electricity. *Twenty minutes*, at least, had elapsed before he could apply the shock, which he gave to various parts of the body without any apparent success; but at length, upon transmitting a few shocks through the thorax, he perceived a small pulsation: soon after the child began to sigh, and to breathe, though with great difficulty. In about ten minutes she vomited. A kind of stupor, occasioned by the depression of the cranium, remained for some days, but proper means being used, the child was restored to perfect health and spirits in about a week.’

Mr. *Squires* gave this astonishing case of recovery to the above gentlemen, from no other motive than a desire of promoting the good of mankind; and hopes for the future that no person will be given up *for dead*, till various means have been used for their recovery.



## C A S E X.

C

The Case following was communicated to Mr. *Rich*, Secretary to the Society, by Mr. *Rose*, Surgeon and Apothecary, at *Putney*.

*Putney, August 15, 1774.*

‘ *Sir,*

‘ You’ll be pleased to present my most respectful compliments to the Gentlemen of the Society, and acquaint them I have, agreeable to their request, transmitted the method used in the recovery of *John Beesley*, a lad of 12 years of age, son to a shoemaker in *Fulham*.

‘ Passing over the bridge in my carriage on the 4th inst. about six o’clock in the evening, I was stopped, and requested to give my assistance to a boy just carried into the *Swan Alehouse* by the water side, said to be drowned. On my entrance, I found him lying on his face, and people rubbing him with salt. I immediately caused him to be set up, his head and shoulders supported, and took away 8 oz. of blood from the arm, rubbed his face, neck, &c. well with brandy, and continued the friction of salt: after some time persisting in this method, he shewed signs of life. I then directed him to be put to bed betwixt the blankets, and attempted to get down some brandy into the stomach, but this was impracticable. I then left him for the present, desiring the attendants to continue the friction of salt on the body and extremities, and the bathing of the face, &c. with the brandy, and to keep his head and shoulders a little raised. At nine o’clock the same evening I called again, and found nature had *just then* made an effort, by vomiting up some slime and water. His pulse now was getting up, and a general warmth was diffused all over him. I ordered

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some



some gruel with wine as soon as he was capable of taking it, and then to leave him to rest, which he did the remaining part of the night. He arose the next morning free from complaints, eat a good breakfast, walked home, and has continued perfectly well ever since.

*I am, Sir,*

*Your most humble Servant,*

JOHN ROSE.

‘*N. B.* When I first saw him there was a total loss of muscular motion, no perceptible pulse nor respiration; the extremities cold, face and eyes livid, and the jaws fixed, with a frothing at the mouth; in short, he was to all appearance dead, excepting a guttural noise, which indicated some degree of air circulating through the lungs. How long he might be struggling in the water ere he was taken out I know not; they told me he had been fifteen minutes out of it when I first saw him.’

## C A S E XI.

### D

The substance of the following case being inserted in the public papers, we were desirous of having its authenticity confirmed by Mr. *Rundell* himself, who was so obliging as to return us the following satisfactory answer to our enquiries, addressed to the Secretary.

‘*SIR, Bath, Gay-street, Sept. 12, 1774.*

‘*On Saturday the 27th of August, in the afternoon, I was called to a lad about nine years old, son of Mr. Syms, pig-butcher, in Queen-street. The messenger told me the boy was drowned, but that some signs of life were perceptible. I hastened to him with all expedition, and as I entered the door, ordered a large fire to be made in the kitchen; which*

*was*



was immediately done. On viewing the patient, found a vein had been opened by a butcher, who had pressed out of it about two ounces of blood: part of his wet clothes still remained on him, and some few bubbles of froth now and then appeared upon his lips. Whilst we were taking off the remainder of his clothes, some heated blankets were brought up, into which he was instantly put, and often rolled in them. These were repeatedly applied for a quarter of an hour. His face, body and extremities, were quite cold, and of a livid complexion; and the heart had not the least degree of motion in it. I then got a warming-pan-full of common salt, and having heated it over the fire, put it into a flannel petticoat, which I found at hand, and laid it over the region of the stomach, heart, and great part of the abdomen. In about five minutes after this last application (though the former ones were constantly renewed with unremitting frictions of warm flannels) he began to sigh. This symptom, no doubt, was very pleasing to me, as well as to the by-standers; on which we repeated our labours, if possible, with redoubled assiduity. In about an hour more he began to breathe with great difficulty, and the motion of the heart to return, though feebly: Frequent applications of heated salt during this period had been used. Soon after this, he drew up his legs and arms, and began to struggle under the clothes; and now a cold sweat appeared on his face, which in ten minutes more became warm, and then gradually extended itself over the whole body. His breathing was less and less difficult for the next eight hours, at the expiration of which his speech returned; and soon after he fell asleep. The next morning I found him perfectly recovered, and able to walk about as well as if nothing had happened. I asked him if he remembered



membered any thing of the accident, and what were his sensations at the time of drowning? To which his replies in general were, that he did not know that he had been in the water, or that any means had been used for his recovery. From the strictest enquiry I can make, and from the means used to find him in the river, I should suppose he could not have lain there less than *twenty minutes*. I should have mentioned that the boy's parents live at a considerable distance from the place where he was taken up, and that those who carried him home held him up by the heels, with his head obliquely downward; by which position, they said, much water had been evacuated by his nose and mouth. From what I have observed in the above patient, I should imagine great attention and strict application are absolutely necessary in like cases.

‘ I heard of a man who was taken out of the same river not a month since, and who had not been therein more than five minutes: he was stript and bled almost immediately, afterwards rubbed with salt, and put into blankets, and yet did not recover; which circumstance (if the report be true) was probably owing to a want of perseverance and labour in the assistants; as I do not find any medical gentleman had been called to him.

I shall at all times be glad to hear from any of the gentlemen who have undertaken this laudable and humane scheme; and beg leave to assure them, that any future informations they may have to communicate shall be readily attended to by, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

THO. RUNDELL.



The following remarkable Escape from Death was communicated to Mr. *W. Hawes*, Apothecary, in the *Strand*, by Mr. *Badger*, Surgeon, at *Chaddesly*, in *Worcestershire*.

In the Beginning of *August*, 1774, as the servant of *John Highway*, Esq; was swimming a horse in a large mill-pond, upon account of a strain in the shoulder, the horse plunged, threw him off, and kicked him upon the stomach. He sunk immediately. As he did not rise up again, there was no possibility of recovering him but by drawing the gates of the pool, and letting the body out with the stream, which was so violent, that it drove him down the current upwards of an hundred yards. By the fall from the gate into the brook, (which was about seven or eight yards in perpendicular heighth) his head struck against a rock, and the skull was laid bare for the space of seven inches. It is supposed, that from the fall to the time of his being taken out, about fifteen or twenty minutes had elapsed.

The attendants immediately held him up by the legs; by which position, a large quantity of water was discharged. They afterwards placed him in a warm bed. Mr. *Badger* was then called in. He found the unfortunate person without any appearance of life; but by rubbing a quantity of volatile spirits upon the lips, nostrils, temples, &c. the man began to breathe. The respiration soon became stronger and more regular; but violent convulsions ensued. This gave Mr. *Badger* reason to suspect that there was either a fracture or fissure of the cranium. Happily these suspicions were groundless. He washed and dressed the wound. The convulsions however continued all night, but the next morning they



they went off, and the patient became more sensible. He now complained of his stomach, which upon being compressed threw him into great agonies. A balsamic anodyne mixture was ordered to be taken at proper intervals; and in three or four days he was so far recovered as to be able to sit up. In the space of a month the wound of his head was completely healed, and the man was in every respect perfectly recovered.

## C A S E XIII.

## F

The following Extract of a Letter, addressed by Mr. *William Milbourne*, of *New-York*, dated *November 1, 1774*, to Mr. *William Hawes*, Apothecary, in the *Strand*, must give the sincerest pleasure to every humane breast, as it is a demonstration of the extensive utility of our Institution, even in its infancy; and we cannot but consider it as a pleasing presage of future good to the community at large.

“ Sir,

“ Your establishment of an Institution, for the recovery of drowned persons, does you great honour, even on this side the Atlantic. An ingenious friend of mine, Mr. *Agar*, a surgeon, to whom I gave one of your pamphlets, had an opportunity, a few days after, of trying an experiment upon a young man, who jumping into the river to bathe, unfortunately stuck in the mud at the bottom. He was under the water near 20 minutes, and when taken out, he was to all appearance dead. Mr. *Agar* gave the necessary directions, according to your instructions. In about an hour he began to breathe at the nostrils; soon afterwards he came to his speech, and in a few days he was perfectly restored.”

It



It is with great satisfaction that we are enabled to record the above instances of success ; all of which have presented themselves in the space of six months : and that we have been either immediately or mediately the happy instruments of saving several persons who must otherwise have been irrecoverably lost to their families and to the community. Were this the *only* good produced by our strenuous endeavours, we should have had abundant reason to rejoice that they have not been in vain. But we have the additional pleasure to acquaint the public that other Societies are forming for the same humane purpose. We are assured that the City of *Norwich*, animated by our example, has likewise established an institution for the recovery of drowned persons, under the patronage and influence of the Mayor and Corporation. They have done us the honour to adopt our plan, not only respecting the methods of treatment, and in the premiums they bestow, but in the appointment of Medical Assistants in different quarters of the town. Lord *Cathcart* has also generously undertaken to diffuse, at his own expence, a knowledge of the methods of treating persons in such unhappy circumstances through various parts of Scotland. Nor can we doubt but so benevolent a design, supported by so respectable a character, will meet with every encouragement on the other side of the *Tweed*. And we are credibly informed, that other parts of the kingdom are likewise upon the eve of promoting similar establishments. We cannot forbear uniting our ardent wishes, that a merciful Providence may in like manner smile upon their attempts, and that they may join with us, not only in an honourable but *successful league* against the distresses of mankind.



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To the P U B L I C.

WE undertook to introduce into these kingdoms an Institution for the Recovery of Persons apparently dead by Drowning, &c. upon the justifiable presumption, that, should the methods recommended in such alarming cases prove in any tolerable degree effectual, the known and experienced humanity of our countrymen would encourage a design so peculiarly benevolent in its views. We naturally concluded, that numbers in this great and opulent city would freely join us, and assist, by their liberal contributions, our attempts to lessen, in a very essential article, the evils of human life. Induced by these considerations, we have taken no small pains, and some of us have been at no inconsiderable expence, to place our institution upon an unexceptionable and advantageous footing, and to give the methods recommended by others as so remarkably efficacious, a fair and impartial trial. If they had not answered our desires, we should have borne *alone* that *ridicule* which the bulk of mankind are so ready to lavish upon unsuccessful projectors: Surely then we have a right to call upon every one whose circumstances will permit, to share with us the *honour* of



of doing good ; the inexpressible satisfaction of restoring life to perishing individuals, and happiness to distracted families !

The above examples of recovery, few as they are, as incontestibly prove the practicability of restoring those who are to all appearance dead, as if they had been more numerous. And they ascertain also a very affecting and humiliating truth : They demonstrate that hundreds might have been restored, and have remained to this moment a blessing to their connections and to the world, had not *Britain* been so shamefully inattentive to these cries of the distressed ; had not a baneful, may we not say *murderous* spirit of incredulity, rendered us deaf to the repeated assertions and demonstrative facts communicated to us by our neighbours on the continent ; who, we are sorry to say, have in this instance taken large strides before us, in serving the great cause of humanity.

The second part of the Dutch Memoirs, published since the first was translated, contains no less than *fifty-eight* additional instances of restoration to life ; so that they have redeemed, in the space of about six years, upwards of *two hundred* souls from death. In France, they have been instrumental in saving forty-five persons out of sixty-nine in about 16 months ; and it is a natural inference, that England has permitted numbers nearly equal to perish, for want of a similar interposition.

It is acknowledged, that accidents by water may not be so frequent in and about this city as in several parts of Holland, yet they are sufficiently numerous to awaken the concern of every compassionate breast. The bills of mortality inform us, that upwards of an hundred persons are drowned within their limits in the course of a year. Some of them,  
F indeed,



indeed, being carried off by the tide, are not found for several days, and their recovery becomes totally impossible. But the greater number are in more favourable circumstances; and suppose but one in ten restored, what man would think the designs of this Society unimportant, were himself, his relation or his friend that one?

It is to be hoped that the happy experience we now have, as well as that of the chief countries in Europe, will at length fix the attention of our countrymen upon this important object; and then they will soon learn how much good may be effected by their patronizing our undertaking. It would be difficult to form an estimate of the number of lives annually lost by drowning in this island: but when we recollect that we are surrounded by water; that we are the first maritime state; that accidents of this nature are perpetually happening upon navigable rivers, in sea-ports, and on voyages; and that there is not a town or village in the kingdom where the inhabitants are not exposed to danger by bathing, sliding, &c. we need not hesitate to pronounce the amount to be several hundreds. But as the methods so successfully practised in the case of drowned persons, are also applicable in sudden deaths occasioned by various other causes; whether suffocation by the cord, by noxious vapours, (as in coal and lead mines) suspension of the vital powers by lightning, syncopies, &c. &c. what an ample and untrodden field is open for the exercise of our generous compassion! What solid benefits might we not insure to the state, what lasting happiness to thousands, were the rich individuals, or the Magistracy of this great and wealthy city, to let so laudable a design share



share some portion of their bounty\*! Our premiums might be extended to a greater distance from the metropolis; they might also comprehend other cases of sudden deaths; we should be enabled to diffuse over the whole kingdom, even to its most retired parts, the knowledge of these successful methods, and excite a general spirit of trying salutary experiments in every case of sudden death: and there is every reason to believe that, when the public becomes familiarized to the assurance, that persons are recoverable in circumstances which were once deemed beyond the reach of help, they will exert themselves on these occasions with such vigour and perseverance as may be productive of the most happy consequences. Other parts of the nation, animated by our example, may continue to form similar institutions to avert the evils to which the inhabitants are rendered liable by their situation or employment. Of what benefit might they not prove in sea-ports, large towns, by the side of a river, and particularly in countries abounding with mines! The very idea of such extensive utility must warm the heart of every man that has a heart to be warmed: And we confess it hurts us to have such a noble prospect

\* We cannot forbear expressing our warmest acknowledgments to FREDERICK BULL, Esq; the late worthy Lord Mayor of London, for the *early* countenance he has given to our design. It is not unusual for Societies which have gained a full establishment, or are so far advanced as to confer a degree of honour upon their Presidents, to meet with respectable patrons. But for the chief Magistrate of the first city in Europe, to stoop and take an *infant* institution by the hand, and lead it through its first dangers and difficulties, merely because it was a *humane* one, reflects the highest lustre upon the benevolence of his disposition, and affords an example worthy the imitation of every gentleman of fortune and influence.

opened



opened to our view, and feel ourselves confined and fettered by the narrowness of our finances.

It is by no means our desire to erect this Institution upon the ruins of any other. It is with pleasure, and with a justifiable pride, that we behold such a variety of Plans formed, and supported by that spirit of benevolence which distinguishes this nation, in order to alleviate the various distresses of mankind. Our only wish is, that this may be added to the number; that we may be uniform and consistent in our acts of humanity; that the streams of public beneficence may not be confined in partial channels, but be divided and subdivided until they reach every proper object of distress.

And yet the justice we owe to our undertaking requires us to hint, that were we to draw a comparison between our Institution and those many others which do honour to their patrons, it would yield to none of them, either with respect to the quantity of good produced at a comparatively small expence; the importance and extent of its views; or the peculiar benevolence of its designs.

After the extraordinary expences are defrayed, which were necessary to make our plan sufficiently known, the current expences will be nearly proportionate to the number of accidents which present themselves. As we are not burdened with any standing charges, as the spot nearest to the place where the accident has happened becomes a temporary infirmary; where, if the humanity of the inhabitant should not, a moderate gratuity furnishes all the necessary accommodations; every guinea employed will be towards the actual redemption of a life. Surely if a charitable disposition contributes such large sums with cheerfulness towards the building, furniture, and maintenance of HOSPITALS, where a princely fortune is frequently



frequently sunk previous to the expected good, and where the hopes of relief are equally uncertain to each individual, it will not refuse a moiety immediately employed in succouring a fellow creature in the depth of distress.

We must also urge that the objects this institution attempts to relieve, are the most pitiable of any that can be imagined. The design of it is, to restore such as have in an instant *been numbered amongst the dead*, by some dreadful disaster, or by some sudden impulse of phrensy.

With respect to the latter class, although it is *misery* in one shape or other that drives any one to commit the horrid crime of *suicide*, yet every serious and considerate mind must earnestly wish to snatch them from such a destruction; that their souls may not rush into the presence of their Creator, *stained with the guilt of murder*; and that their relations may also be rescued from the *shame* as well as *loss* to which such rashness exposes them. In some cases, perhaps, they may repeat their attempts, and elude all endeavours to save them; yet as their horrid designs are mostly the effect of a temporary phrensy, there is greater reason to expect, that when returned to their senses, they will rejoice in their escape, and cordially thank their deliverers. And if indulgent benevolence has erected hospitals for the removal of evils mankind bring upon themselves by *vicious gratifications*, it must feel an additional pleasure in recalling a miserable creature from the very brink of eternity, into which he was precipitating himself by his own guilt; which guilt has this alleviation—it was occasioned by *wretchedness*.

A second class are the *industrious* poor. These from working upon water, mines, &c. are necessarily  
exposed



exposed to the disasters mentioned above ; and have they not a kind of demand upon us, to interpose, and avert if possible, the fatal consequences to which they are rendered liable, by serving the community with their labours, and gaining an honest livelihood ? Nay, is it not our *interest*, as well as duty, to replace them, if possible, in their sphere of usefulness, that they may again work for their wives and families ; whereby these may be snatched from immediate misery and want, and the community be relieved from an expensive burden ?

Such establishments as ours intend also a *general* benefit. Business or pleasure, or some unforeseen cause, exposes every man, either in his own person or in his connections, to accidents by water. In other cases our station in life may be so different, and so remote from the party we assist, that it may become impossible for us ever to partake of any other benefit from our donations, than the pleasure of doing good ; but every man living is exposed to the accidents we are attempting to avert, either in his own person or connexions, without any exemption from age, sex, or fortune : and he may owe his own preservation, or the preservation of some one still dearer to him, to that institution he patronized from a motive of public utility. So that it ought to be considered as a kind of insurance of life rather than an affair of charity ; as an association against those calamities which are common to us all. And when it shall become extensive, numbers will doubtless have cause to rejoice, that while they have been instrumental in saving *others*, their own, or the lives of their dearest relations, perhaps of their children, whose heedless and adventurous spirits are exposing them  
to



to perpetual dangers, have by these means been protracted for years. How many a parent is hourly subject to the danger of seeing a sprightly, thoughtless son, brought home to him a breathless corpse ! What would they not give at that instant for the most distant hopes of recovery !

But the Institutions formed upon the Plan, and for purposes like ours, speak with peculiar energy to the finest feelings of the human heart. Death is universally dreaded as an evil, and those establishments which have for their object the healing of diseases, and restoration to vigorous active life, have justly been ranked amongst the most benevolent and useful ; but *sudden* death, by some fatal disaster, aggravates the stroke. It is resented as a dreadful robbery which accident has committed ; and we lament the victim as cruelly and unguardedly stript in a moment, of the blessings he had the prospect of enjoying for a series of years. If there be, to every good man, a secret pleasure in performing acts of common beneficence, in being of *cold* utility to his fellow-creatures, how must his heart *glow* with satisfaction, where he has been instrumental in restoring to the joyful arms of relatives and friends, a parent, a child, a brother or an intimate, at the instant they are deploring his loss with inexpressible anguish ! We have too favourable an opinion of the human heart, to suspect that any one who calls himself a Christian, or a Man, would refuse to part with a much larger sum, than that for which we solicit, in order to extricate a fellow-creature, were he to *behold* him struggling with the agonies of death ; or were he enabled by it to present a father to the fatherless, a husband to the widow, and a living child to the bosom of its distracted parents ! And surely,



surely, it requires no great exertion of the imagination to paint this affecting scene in such colours, as to induce every man, who makes the smallest pretensions to benevolence, to concur with us in so pleasing, so delightful, so godlike a design!



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## A P P E N D I X.

SINCE the preceding sheets were sent to the press, we have received accounts of two other successful cases, which it is necessary to communicate also to the world in this publication, as they strictly belong to the reports of the last year.

### C A S E      XIV.

Mr. *Nelham*, journeyman to Mr. *Hales*, apothecary, at *Limehouse*, who was instrumental in the recovery of Captain *Scott*, (see Case V.) acquainted us by a letter, that on *Saturday, December 24, 1774*, about five o'clock in the evening, *Edward*, the son of Mr. *John Hoane*, tallow-chandler, of *Limehouse*, a child aged seven years, fell into the *Thames* at the time of high-water, a little below *Limehouse-bridge*; that he was under the water about a quarter of an hour, and was taken up to all appearance dead; but by the application of the methods recommended by the Society, he was happily restored.

This general account induced several gentlemen, Directors in the Society, to go down to *Limehouse*, and make a particular enquiry upon the spot. Most of the parties concerned in this interesting event were assembled at the house of Mr. *Hoane*,



the happy and grateful father of the lad ; and from them we gathered the following circumstances :

As the boy was running along the edge of a lighter, where he had been some time at play by himself, his foot slipped, and he fell into the water. Providentially Mrs. *Taylor*, the wife of a cheesemonger, saw him fall in from the back part of her house, which commands a view of the *Thames*. She immediately ran round by several houses to acquaint the parents with the accident. Mr. *Hoane*, the father, ran to the place, but could see no traces of the child ; nor was any person near to give the least assistance. He returned into his house to take care of his wife, whose distracted state of mind was so great at the misfortune, that it was with difficulty she was prevented from jumping into the river in search of her boy. The alarm of this distressed family brought a concourse of people about their habitation. Amongst others, Mr. *Watson*, a glazier, in the neighbourhood, went with the father to the lighter, but could not yet perceive any appearance of the child. In the midst of this confusion, *William Moulton*, a waterman, came from the *Surry* side of the river, and was going to fasten his boat at the adjacent stairs ; but hearing the father bewail the loss of his child, he rowed up to the place, and being informed of the accident, he jumped into the lighter, and began to feel with his boat-hook along the side of the vessel, to the depth of eight or nine feet of water, proceeding from the head of the barge to the stern. He says he believes he was full *ten minutes* before he found the body, lying close by the chain that moors the barge in the river, which seemed to stop it from being carried into the stream. He drew the boy up by means of the boat-hook,

in



in such a direction that Mr. *Taylor* was able to lay hold of his leg, and take him out of the water.

The parties were unanimously of opinion that the body must have lain at least a quarter of an hour in the water; and this minute detail of circumstances seems sufficiently to authenticate the supposition.

Mr. *Watson* informed us that he carried the boy across his arm into the house; that he was quite cold; and that his limbs and every part of his body were extremely flexible; that he did not breathe, nor were there any other signs which gave them reason to hope he was alive. They first rolled him gently upon a cask, and then sent for Mr. *Hales*, the apothecary. This gentleman ordered the wet clothes to be taken off, and the body to be wrapped in warm blankets and rubbed with salt. Mr. *Hales* staid about a quarter of an hour, when some considerable signs of returning life appeared, such as a general warmth of the body, sighing, groans, and a convulsive working of the bowels. Upon his departure he sent Mr. *Nelham*, who continued in the use of similar methods for some time. He ordered also the mouth to be forced open (for his teeth were still firmly fixed) and blew down his throat with a pair of bellows. Though the signs of life gradually increased, yet it was *two hours* before he was able to speak or cry out. They now put him to bed, and he continued dozing 'till three o'clock in the morning, when he returned perfectly to his senses.

The boy appeared before the gentlemen. He was, according to his parents account, much paler, and seemed to have less spirits than before the accident, but was free from every complaint. There was no inflammation of the eyes, nor difficulty of



breathing, effects which generally continue for some days after such accidents; but he bled frequently at the nose for two or three succeeding days.

*William Moul*, the waterman, had the generosity to refuse receiving any present from the parent of the boy, as he happened to be a neighbour and acquaintance; but we thought it incumbent upon us to reward the person who had been the immediate cause of the child's safety, notwithstanding he had not made any application for the offered premium. *Mr. Nelham* also was satisfactorily rewarded.

### C A S E XV.

We shall take the liberty to insert the following letter, addressed to the Treasurer by *Mr. Midford*, of *Burr-street, East-Smithfield*, a Medical Assistant to the Society. For although the Case itself is in no respect remarkable, as it does not appear from the accounts given us by the persons concerned in affording her assistance, that the girl was totally incapable of vital motion, notwithstanding she was for a time deprived of her senses; yet it must inspire every benevolent breast with pleasure to be informed of so narrow an escape of a fellow-creature from such imminent danger: and as we have suitably recompensed the persons assisting, we hope that the prospect of a reward will, in all cases, be sufficient to induce watermen and others to give the earliest assistance, should not a principle of humanity be sufficiently powerful.

“ *Sir,*

“ I am happy in informing you the four under-mentioned persons were last night the means of preserving the life of a young woman, who in her way  
home



home from seeing her friends, by mistake walked into the *Thames* at *Parsons's Stairs*: one of the men heard her fall, and called for a light, which being immediately procured, they saw her cloak floating, and were soon able to get her up. The men say she was under water two or three minutes. When I got to the public house into which she was taken, I found her sitting on a bench by the fire, supported by one of the men; the pulse at the wrist was just perceptible. Upon applying a bottle of volatile spirits to her nostrils, and pouring some of the same, mixed with water, down her throat, she was soon able to speak, and soon after went home in a coach. Upon the strictest examination it appears, this woman would certainly have perished, but for the timely assistance of these men; the hope of reward rendering them upon these occasions remarkably industrious. I apprehend you will see it necessary to make them some acknowledgment, in order to excite their diligence: the preventing the death of a fellow-creature being of as great moment to the Society as a recovery.

Tuesday, 4 o'clock. I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

WM. MIDFORD, Surgeon.

"The names of the men are as follow:—*John Brown, Charles Carter, Wm. Moser, Wm. Burges.*

The name of the man who called me, *John Reston.*"

The name of this young woman is *Jane Johnson*. She lives servant with Mr. *Thornton*, broker, No. 70, *Tooley-street*. *William Brown*, the waterman, was sent the next day to enquire after her health,  
who



who informed us, she was better than could be expected, and expressed the sincerest gratitude to the Society for our benevolent interposition.

\* \* \* It is proper to inform the Public, that during the last year we have paid our proposed rewards for twenty-five unsuccessful attempts, and *eight* successful ones ; so that we have been instrumental in saving nearly one in three, who would otherwise have been neglected for dead, and consigned over to the grave.

We cannot entertain a doubt, but that every lover of mankind will congratulate us upon this considerable success which has crowned our first attempt. We suppose that the prejudice of every man in the kingdom must be now removed, upon such repeated instances of restoration which have fallen under our own immediate enquiry : and we flatter ourselves that such a number of respectable names added to the List of Directors, and their liberal contributions, will animate others to imitate their laudable example.

We have subjoined the state of accounts during the preceding year, that the public may be acquainted with our finances. Directors and others may be satisfied in what manner the monies have been particularly employed, by enquiring of the Treasurer. The article of *printing* has unavoidably been very heavy during the last year, as it was necessary to be at some extraordinary expence to make our institution extensively known, and render the Public familiar with the methods of treatment. But in order to lessen this article as much as possible, it is agreed that this Plan and Reports of the Society shall for the future be *sold* at a moderate price : And altho' every



every Director will have a discretionary power to dispose of one to a friend, yet the public at large will not resent their contributing a mite towards the support of our institution, at the same time they are gratifying their own curiosity in perusing the instances of its success.

The Directors, encouraged by the events of the preceding year, propose to exert themselves with, if it be possible, double vigour the year ensuing. It is resolved to print a large number of Advertisements, containing the Methods of Treatment alone, in order to disperse them through various parts of the kingdom, especially in sea-ports, and towns contiguous to large rivers, in order to diffuse a knowledge of the means of assisting persons in such critical situations, and excite the inhabitants to form similar institutions, upon plans which shall appear to them most adviseable. It is likewise intended, as soon as our funds will permit, to extend our rewards to a greater distance from the metropolis, and include every other instance of sudden death, whether by suffocation from noxious vapours, hanging, synopies, those that are frozen, &c. We are solicitous also to reward those gentlemen who have been the instruments of restoration to life with an honorary medal, in acknowledgment of their skill and generous assiduity: And we propose to pursue every other method that shall enable us to be more extensively useful in saving the lives of our fellow-creatures. As the expences necessary to prosecute so extensive a plan must be considerable, the Society hope that they shall be encouraged and assisted in their undertaking, by every one who calls himself a friend to humanity.



The whole Money received to the Audit on 24th  
*Oct.* 1774, was — — £. 106 11 6  
 Since that Time there has been received 75 12 0

	182	3	6
There had been paid at the above			
Audit, — £ 116 17 9			
And has been paid since			
that Time, — 48 10 7			
	165	8	4
Remains in the Treasurer's Hands,	16	15	2

31st Dec. 1774.



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J. B. RICH, Secretary.



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