

Vindication of the pre-eminent efficacy of manual operations in the cure of rheumatic and nervous diseases. Against the malignant and unprincipled attempts of certain members of the medical profession to decry and obstruct the practice / [William Balfour].

Contributors

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AGAINST
THE MALIGNANT AND UNPRINCIPLED ATTEMPTS
OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL
PROFESSION TO DECRY AND OB-
STRUCT THE PRACTICE.
BY WILLIAM BALFOUR, M. D., L. R. C. S.,
EDINBURGH.
1834.



VINDICATION.

IN 1812 I discovered that Compression of a part affected with Rheumatism, immediately removed, or suspended, pain. This fact I turned over and over in my mind, for two years. At length an opportunity occurred, of extending my observations to the same effect. From that period (June 1814) I have employed MANUAL OPERATIONS for the cure of Rheumatic and Nervous Complaints, and with a degree of success, in many instances, almost beyond belief.

From the moment of its promulgation, my discovery was regarded by the *higher orders** of the Medical Profession, as the accomplishment of a *desideratum*; as no disease incident to man so often baffles the skill of the physician, and defies the power of medicine, as Rheumatism.

Accordingly, patients in every grade of life, from every quarter of the United Kingdom, and some from foreign parts, resorted to me, in circumstances the most hopeless; and obtained perfect and permanent cures, by the application alone of that wonderful contrivance of Infinite Wisdom, THE HAND, after all other remedies had proved ineffectual.

For the truth of this, I can appeal to a host of honourable and learned personages, consisting, among many other no less respectable individuals, of Nobility and Gentry of both sexes, Members of Parliament, Judges, Generals, Admirals, Divines, Lawyers, Physicians, Surgeons—not one of whom is capable of advancing what is not in strict accordance with truth.

* See the *Testimonials* No. I. hereto annexed.

Nevertheless, like every other important improvement that ever was made in the Healing Art, mine has been maligned, impugned, and obstructed, in every possible way ; chiefly, if not solely, by individuals of the *medical* profession, whose conduct is evidence incontrovertible, that they are as heartless as handless—so utterly destitute, indeed, of every principle of feeling and of honour, that they are totally indifferent whether their patients sink or swim—whether they are ever cured or not, provided *they* cannot cure them.

This opposition has not been manifested in fair, open, and manly discussion, for then it would have been in my power to do myself justice ; but in that pitiful, underhand, insidious, backbiting way, which equally characterizes the coward and the calumniator. I feel myself imperatively called upon, therefore, to stand forward in my own vindication. I conceive myself laid under a necessity to expose the machinations, and neutralize the venom, of such miserable opponents, *by showing them up*, in their true and proper colours.

In the first place. Some time ago, I made a perfect cure of lameness in a lady, of twenty-four years duration, eighteen of which she was on crutches. Conceiving it would be for the benefit of many a distressed person to make the case generally known, I had it printed, and advertised it to be had *gratis* at my house, and at two separate booksellers' shops. One of these booksellers distributed all the copies I sent him ; the other gave out very few. When I asked the reason, he said, that "*several* medical men in the city (naming some of them) had called on him and stated, that if he gave out a single copy of my pamphlet, they would withdraw their custom and patronage from him !"

Now, in conduct so nefarious, illegal, and unjust, whether did malignity or meanness predominate ? They stand, I think, in this relation to each other—the malice of the ignoble individuals in question was of such virulence, as to make them lose sight of all self-respect, in their endeavours

to crush me: for no man, not transported with the most outrageous jealousy and envy, could ever lower himself so far as to attempt, in so mean, wicked, dastardly, and covert a manner, to mar the success, and obstruct the usefulness of another, who never crossed his path, and never was likely to do so.

There was no allusion to these wretched imbeciles in the pamphlet they thus endeavoured to suppress; they never received provocation at my hands, of any kind or degree; I never spoke to a single individual of them in all my life, except one, who has seen my practice, and declared it, in a letter of his which I hold, to be "efficient, scientific, and a blessing to suffering humanity." This person is a prominent advocate for *the liberty of the press*; nevertheless, I detected him in secretly attempting to suppress the pamphlet referred to, which pamphlet had no other object, and could have no other object, than the good of mankind. Whence, then, could such gratuitous malice proceed? The answer is obvious. It arose from envy at my daily curing cases, which had been given up for many years as hopeless; and my, thereby, obtaining the patronage of the public, while my unprincipled opponents and persecutors are consuming their days in idleness and obscurity. That is "the head and front of my offending"—the gall and wormwood which turn their stomach.

In the second place. It is no uncommon occurrence for me to receive patients from afar, who have for many months, and some of them for many years, been subjected to great pain and lameness, and consequent impaired health, without having obtained the least alleviation of their complaints from medicine. When I ask such patients, why they did not apply to me sooner? the uniform reply is, "we were prevented by our doctors, who assured us there was nothing in your practice—that it would never cure any body, and that, at any rate, it was not applicable in our cases;—but, hearing of other patients whom you had cured, in circumstances similar to our own, we came off at last, with-

out our doctors' leave." I shall here give two or three cases, in illustration.

1st. A young lady, in a northern county, came to complain of pain and weakness in her back, right thigh and leg, without any known cause. In defiance of all her medical advisers could do, she continued to grow worse for eighteen months. A consultation was then held, when her case was decided to be hopeless. On it being suggested that I should be called in, her doctors deprecated the idea, assuring the patient and her friends, that my practice was inapplicable in her case, and that it would certainly kill her. She came to me, notwithstanding; and returned home, in three weeks, perfectly well, and has continued so for upwards of ten years.

Now, it irresistibly follows, either that this young lady's doctors were wicked, unprincipled men; or that they were profoundly ignorant of the efficacy and safety of my practice. In charity, I shall assume the latter as the true alternative; and I then ask, How came they to pronounce a practice inapplicable, nay, killing, about which they knew absolutely nothing? The lady never once complained under my hands. But let us hear her own account of the matter. A few weeks after reaching home, she wrote me as follows:—

“ 21st August 1823.

“ It is now about a month since I left Edinburgh, and, as you wished to know how I came on, I now take the liberty of writing to you, and with the greatest pleasure have to inform you, that I am as well, and walking as stoutly as ever I did in my life. We left Edinburgh in the morning by the six o'clock coach, and got home in the afternoon to tea, (60 miles,) without feeling in the slightest fatigued, when, *only three weeks previous, I was quite worn out by riding six miles.* My acquaintances were as much astonished at my appearance among them again, *walking with perfect ease*, as if I had risen from the dead: They had condemned me to perpetual lameness. The medical men here, all wish you as high as Haman. You have put their

rheumatic patients in a state of rebellion, and I shall do every thing in my power to increase it."

2d. A lady, of one of the first families in the north of Scotland, was attacked with pain and a sense of fulness in the interior of one of her knee-joints, so that she could neither walk nor stand. Apprehensive of the worst, her medical attendants prescribed perpetual rest; but having got notice of a cure of a similar complaint, which I had performed in the person of a lady of quality in the same county, she came off to me forthwith, and was enabled to walk in less than a fortnight.

In the course of my attendance, this lady inquired of me, "Why I did not make my practice known?" "I have made it as extensively known," I replied, "as the London and Edinburgh Medical Journals can make it."—"But we don't read Medical Journals," she rejoined, "and my doctors never told me a word of the matter. Had I not accidentally heard of you from another quarter, I might have been confined to bed, or mewed up on a sofa to the end of my days."

3d. A young lady, in the county of Lanark, was seized with pain and weakness in her back and lower limbs: both knee-joints became permanently bent, particularly the right, and resisted every mode of treatment for their extension, for eight years—fifteen months of which she had been to England for aid, in vain. Hearing of the case recorded in the pamphlet already mentioned, she resolved on coming to me; but her medical adviser objected, saying, "Dr. Balfour's practice is nonsense,—there is nothing in it,—you can never derive benefit from him."

The young lady was thrown into great perplexity and fear, lest her friends should chime in with the doctor. But, "no!" said they, "we care not for his opinion—we know it has its foundation entirely in jealousy and prejudice;" and to me she came.

Her health was impaired,—she looked pale and sickly,—her knees were still as rigidly bent as ever,—and on the

right side she was pained as high as the loins inclusive. She remained under my care five months; when she returned to her friends perfectly restored to health, her limbs as agile and symmetrical, as if they had never had complaint in them.

I should like to know how this young lady's doctor felt and looked when he saw her return perfectly cured by that very practice which he set at nought? Verily I cannot conceive that a man of any sensibility could look a patient in the face, in such circumstances.

I could multiply such instances of apathy and indifference in medical men to their patients, when they find their own efforts unavailing; or rather, of their determination, that if they themselves cannot cure them, no one else shall. But I have said enough, I should think, to open the eyes of all, who are not wilfully blind, to the base deceit, the cruel imposture, practised daily upon suffering, unsuspecting patients; and that too, by the very men in whom they repose their confidence.

In the third place. Not a person of consideration, lady or gentleman, comes to me from a distance (and many such come), but my professional opponents and their infamous go-betweens are immediately at work, to prejudice them against my practice; and there is no misrepresentation too gross, no falsehood too atrocious, for them to employ, to compass their end. This is no fancy of my own; my information is from my patients themselves—most of whom soon penetrate the motives of their false and officious friends, and consequently treat them with merited contempt.

“Whence this hostility,” the reader may again well ask, “to your practice?” Solely, I answer, from its unparalleled success. It is utterly impossible it can proceed from any other source. I have been guilty of no offence, that I am aware of, either against science or society, but two—that of ascertaining a law of the animal economy, whereby a part, entirely separated from the living body, for a length of time, can be reunited, and again become part of the sys-

tem ; * and the method, which I am now vindicating, of curing rheumatic, nervous, and some other diseases, which prove incurable, by any other means—delinquencies these, which, all the world knows, cannot be tolerated in any contemporary, by gentlemen in that grade of the profession who honour me with all the paltry hostility they can muster,—

“ Whose praise is censure, and whose censure's praise.”

Accordingly, if out of twenty desperate, inveterate cases, which have long resisted every other mode of treatment, I cure nineteen, and fail in the twentieth ; that single failure meets me at every corner,—is bandied about in all directions, as conclusive evidence *against* my practice ; but the nineteen are kept in the back ground—are never once mentioned—they form no evidence *in favour* of the same practice ! Such is the justice and candour of my high-minded

* This is fully and distinctly acknowledged in communications to me from two Professors in this University,—the one from James Russell, Esq., in 1814, and the other from the late Dr. Andrew Duncan, junior, in 1816. 2dly, In the *Transactions of the Royal Institute of France*, for 1815. 3dly, In the *Annals of Philosophy*, April 1816. 4thly, In the *Dictionnaire des Sciences Medicales*, tome douzieme, au mot,—*Ente Animale*. 5thly, In the *London Medical and Physical Journal*, November 1814, the Editor of which expresses himself thus :—“ A short time ago, the man who, in his practice, calculated upon the *possibility* of uniting parts of an animal body *totally separated* from each other, would have been considered an idiot ; and should he have attempted to prove the stability of his principles by argument, would have passed unnoticed as a madman.

“ Dr. Balfour gives two cases whose authenticity seems unquestionable ; since, independent of the authority derived from his personal character, they are ushered into the world with all the weight that judicial deposition can give them. As they are of too much importance to be trusted to the fleeting pages of a small tract, we make no apology for transcribing them.”

And it may, lastly, be mentioned, that since I first wrote (1814) on the important subject of the “ reunion of parts which have been totally separated from the animal system,” numerous cases have occurred in which reunion was practised with perfect success, in Britain, America, France, and Switzerland ; and not a few of them have been communicated to me, as the originator of the practice.

opponents. Nineteen to one is nothing with them, when set against their wishes !

“ He that’s convinced against his will,

“ Is of the same opinion still.”

But my case is not singular : On the contrary, my antagonists have, without intending it, placed me on ground the most honourable. The history of medicine and surgery abounds in instances of persecutions of their brightest ornaments—of men, whose discoveries have immortalized their names, and laid the foundation of that state of improvement to which these sciences have attained in our day. It may therefore be laid down as a general rule, that the value and importance of any innovation or improvement in medicine or surgery, is to be estimated by the violence with which it is opposed, and the obloquy cast upon its author, by the unprincipled of the profession.

In the fourth place. My adversaries say, that subordinate agents, nay, old women, could perform my operations, with equal effect as myself.

This is merely the overflowing of their spleen at my success ; and proves to demonstration, that they know nothing about my operations. Before any old woman can operate to equal advantage with me, she must be better acquainted with Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology, than, I suspect, some of my opponents are ; otherwise she would either produce no effect at all, or do a great deal of harm. If old women could operate with equal effect as myself ; how comes it, that so many patients go to London and other places in England, in quest of cures, and, after subjecting themselves to the operations of both old and young women, under the superintendence of able physicians and surgeons, for weeks and months together, to no purpose, are constrained to have recourse to me at last ; and obtain perfect and permanent cures ? The answer is plain and easy. Neither the doctors in question, nor their subordinates, know any thing of the matter. I shall give an instance, out of many.

That most excellent gentleman, George Baillie, of Jerviswoode and Mellerstain, Esq., was, from an accident he met with, subjected to pain and lameness in his right knee-joint, for a period of fourteen years—during the whole of which time, he never had one night's uninterrupted rest. He consulted many eminent men; and, among the rest, Dr. Davis of London, who had adopted the practice which the late Mr. Grosvenor of Oxford introduced. He employed women in the case, for a number of weeks. No cure, however, nor any thing like a cure, was effected, or ever could have been effected, by such means. Mr. Baillie subsequently came to me, and was completely and permanently cured by *my hands*, in little more than three months.

Finding that I conducted the cure myself, without the intervention of subordinates, Mr. Baillie remarked, with the greatest complacency, “My London doctors trusted my case entirely to women, desiring me to call on them (the doctors) once a week or so; but you operate with your own hands.”—“If I did not,” I replied, “you would leave Edinburgh, as you left London—you would remain uncured.”

But let me not be understood as undervaluing either the mental or *manual* powers of women: Women can do many things which they are prevented from doing by the fashion of the times. Old women, and young women too, have superintended the natural function of child-bearing, from the beginning of the world, and will do so to the end, with perfect safety to both mother and child, in ninety-nine cases of a hundred. Yet the most eminent physicians do not conceive themselves degraded by doing, every hour of the day, what they know many old women could do as well as they—for this simple and satisfactory reason—that, if not accustomed to ordinary, they would prove but poor helps in extraordinary, cases.

In the fifth place. My practice is decried and obstructed by my antagonists, because it does not succeed in their hands.

It would be a miracle if it did: They know nothing

about it—they are equally ignorant of its principles and details, and are at no trouble to inform themselves of either. They do not wish it to succeed, and therefore condemn it without trial. They tell their patients to do so and so, instead of doing it for them, as I do ; but they might as well tell them to fly. The practice must be learned like every other practice ; otherwise no person can succeed in it.

Should it be asked, where I learned the practice ? I answer, where did Paré learn to tie arteries when divided, instead of searing them with a red-hot iron ? Where did Harvey learn the circulation of the blood ? Where did Newton learn the laws of gravitation ? Where did Jenner learn the practice of vaccination ? Where did Hamilton learn the advantages of purgative medicines, in cases where they were formerly reprobated as fatal ? Where did I ascertain the law, that a piece of animal matter, consisting of *flesh and bone*, can be reunited to the system, and become capable of performing all its former functions, after having been separated from the body for hours ? All these discoveries were made in the school of observation—from a close attention to facts, and a logical application of these facts.

One thing is certain, that if my opponents were not convinced of the pre-eminent efficacy of the practice which I have introduced, they would not take the pains they do to obstruct it. A castle in the air needs no one to pull it down ; it will fall of itself, and bury the architect in its ruins.

In the sixth, and last place. My professional friends in *Edinburgh* do their utmost to persuade those who are weak enough to be gulled by them, that to employ *manual operations* is to compromise the dignity of the profession.

If these *handless* wights know that there is such a word as *logic* in the English language, I ask them, if they ever heard of the *argumentum ad absurdum* ? Are they so thoroughly blinded by prejudice as not to see, that were such an objection to my practice followed out, it would

annihilate at once Anatomy, Chemistry, Surgery, Pharmacy, Midwifery? And what, pray, would remain?—just as much as such miserable logicians seem capable of comprehending—that is, nothing.

In my simplicity, I have been accustomed to consider a man who has *hands* to execute, what a clear head and sound judgment dictate, preferable, in a great majority of cases and circumstances, to one—all whose capabilities lie in his head, and who therefore cannot make them available to his patients, without the intervention of others. This indeed is so much a *truism*, that there can be no exception to it, but in the cases of, exclusively CONSULTING PHYSICIANS.

I have been accustomed to think that neither honour nor shame, dignity nor disgrace, attach to any act, abstractly considered; consequently, that many duties, repulsive in themselves, which medical men must perform, acquire dignity and importance from the object in view in performing them; and confer honour on those who perform them well.

Of what use would an accoucheur, a naval surgeon, a military surgeon, a country surgeon, or any other surgeon, be, without hands? I would ask the enlightened impugnors of the practice of *curing by the hand*, if they ever heard of such personages as Cheselden, Dr. Willam Harvey, Paré, John Hunter, Willam Hunter, Sir Astley Cooper, Sir Charles Bell, Mr. Brodie, Mr. Abernethy, Sir Everard Home, and a host of other no less eminent individuals, in the same quarter? Did they ever hear of the Monros, John Bell, Benjamin Bell, Alexander Wood, in our own city? All these great men cured by the hand; and by their hands chiefly, have their intellectual powers and professional acquirements been rendered serviceable to mankind.

It would be an insult to reason and common sense, to say a single word more in proof of the utter futility of one and all the objections that have been, or can be, urged against my practice of curing rheumatic, nervous, and some other diseases, by THE HAND.

I.—TESTIMONIALS in favour of the Practice, by Physicians and Surgeons of the first eminence ; and by distinguished Medical Reviewers, and other Writers.

1. A decisive instance of the efficacy of the practice is furnished by Dr. Grattan of Dublin, in the *Transactions of the Fellows and Licentiates of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland*, Vol. I., in the successful treatment of which he candidly acknowledges he proceeded solely on my plan ; and that eminent physician is there pleased to say, " This case, such as I have concisely related it, strongly corroborates those published by Dr. Balfour in his very interesting work ; and I have been principally induced to communicate it, as the remedy which accomplished the cure admits of no doubt."

2. When I first published on Rheumatism, I sent a copy of my work to Sir James M'Grigor, Director-General of the Army Medical Department, who, in his letter acknowledging the receipt of it, politely assured me my practice would have an impartial trial in the army.

On my passage from London in a smack some time afterwards, I fell in with a medical officer (Dr. Simpson) of the 36th Foot, then in Malta. Being the only cabin passengers, we soon came to understand each other's profession ; when I asked Dr. Simpson, in general terms, if there was any thing new going on in any department of practice. He said there was not, excepting a mode of treating Rheumatism and Sprains, which had lately been introduced by a Dr. Balfour, and which had his unqualified approbation. " His book," continued Dr. Simpson, " was sent out to us with other new publications ; and as soon as I read it, I declared to all the Medical Officers then in Malta, that I would adopt the practice the very first opportunity that offered, being convinced it was

founded on the soundest principles. I did not need to wait long: Cases of both Rheumatism and Sprains occurred, all which I treated according to his method, with immediate and perfect success. My professional brethren were astonished at the rapidity of the cures; and the practice received the particular approbation of Dr. Warren, Inspector of Hospitals in the Island." Dr. Simpson now went to his trunk, and brought out a parcel of papers, from which he read several of the cases to which he had referred, and informed me that he had sent others to Sir James M'Grigor, which he expected would be published.

The heart is one of those organs which unceasingly perform their functions, independently of our pleasure; and mine beat double-quick time on this occasion, so that more blood was sent to my face than was consistent with my remaining longer *incognito*, even to one less observant than Dr. Simpson.

3. "To show how ready we are to give the author full credit for his improvement, we think it right to add, that his plan *has been adopted in London, and with great advantage.*"—*London Medical and Physical Journal*, July 1815. (Review of Dr. Balfour's Work on the Pathology and Cure of Rheumatism.)

4. "Dr. Balfour has complained of our review of his Work on Percussion, &c. in Rheumatism. Our readers have seen his appeal against this supposed injustice on the part of our reviewer; and he will allow that we are not deficient in candour, when we admit, that we have, since this controversy, witnessed the beneficial effects of the plan recommended in rheumatic affections by this author. It may be some satisfaction to Dr. Balfour to be informed, that this *amende honorable* is from the writer in our Journal by whom the Doctor thought himself too severely treated." *London Medical and Physical Journal*, July 1817. (Review of the Second Edition, greatly enlarged, of the same work.)

The admissions and concessions of an avowed opponent

are of much greater weight and value, certainly, than any directly favourable testimony of his can be.

5. "Acute Rheumatism has been frequent and severe : In those cases in which it has been confined to the extremities, the use of Compression, according to the method of Dr. Balfour, has been eminently beneficial."—*Report of Diseases in the London Medical and Physical Journal, November 1818.*

6. "The effects resulting from Dr. Balfour's mode of practice in Rheumatism, to which we alluded in our last report, which have occurred to our knowledge, make us regret exceedingly that it is so seldom employed by general practitioners. The little benefit that has accompanied the use of it, is frequently mentioned as the cause for this neglect ; but we are disposed to attribute this to a want of that *adroitness* and attention which are necessary in order to obtain advantageous results from its application."—*Report of Diseases in same Journal, December 1818.*

7. "Dr. Balfour, and some others who have adopted his practice, have published well-authenticated results, of such a kind as should satisfy the most sceptical person, that *its powers are of a very extraordinary nature* ; and what is of more importance, that *it will remove some of the most afflicting forms of disease, when all other known remedies have either failed, or when they cannot be resorted to with the slightest hope of advantage from them.*

"We often, in the treatment of a disease, know not how far spontaneous efforts in the system have contributed to effect the salutary changes which we witness during the administration of our remedies. *But when we see a person who has been unable to move a limb at all, or not without extreme pain, for several months, perform the natural actions of it with comparative ease and facility, after the application of Compression and Percussion to it for a few minutes, it is not possible to avoid believing that it is these means which have effected the change.*

"Dr. Balfour has sufficient enthusiasm and resolution to excite him to pursue, steadily and vigorously, the good

cause he has undertaken, in spite of the difficulties which passion, prejudice, and apathy, have hitherto opposed to it; and he may feel assured, that no person whose opinion is worthy of consideration, will fail, sooner or later, to appreciate the indirect insinuations, malignant misrepresentations, and calumnies, which have been aimed at him and his practice, as they deserve."—*London Medical and Physical Journal*, January 1821. (Review of Dr. Balfour's "Illustrations of the Efficacy of Compression and Percussion, in the Cure of Rheumatism, Sprains, and Debility of the Extremities.")

8. "Dr. Balfour has great merit, both for the ardour with which he has prosecuted the cure of Rheumatism by Compression and Percussion, and the satisfactory grounds on which he has explained the causes of their success; and his zeal ought not to go unrewarded."—*Code of Health and Longevity, by the Right Honourable Sir John Sinclair, Bart.*

9. "The numerous cases (of Rheumatism) you give, seem to place the efficacy of your mode of treatment out of the question. By thus adding to your important method of reuniting parts of the living body that have been separated, a new and efficacious cure for one of the most dismal of diseases, you will raise yourself to a very high rank among those medical men, who have possessed the sagacity and intelligence requisite to improve the Medical Art."—*Letter from Thomas Thomson, M.D., F.R.S. L. and E., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Glasgow, to Dr. Balfour, 29th May 1816.*

10. The value and efficacy of the practice are acknowledged every day, by Physicians and Surgeons of this city, who are at the very top of their respective departments,—men who would be at the head of their profession, wherever they might be placed.

11. Eminent Physicians and Surgeons, both in Edinburgh and elsewhere, have consulted me *in their own personal cases*; and have candidly admitted the important benefit derived from my advice and operations.

12. The late very distinguished Sir Matthew Baillie, first

Physician in Ordinary to King George III., gave the practice his most unqualified approbation; and was pleased to say to me, at an interview which I had the honour of having with him, when in London two or three years before his death, "Were you to settle in London, and prosecute that branch of practice alone, you would realize a fortune."

13. The late Professor Gregory witnessed the practice almost daily, for eight months, during my attendance on the late Lord Meadowbank; and that distinguished physician repeatedly declared, that "he (Dr. Gregory) knew no remedy capable of producing such beneficial effects, and without the least degree of suffering or effort, on the part of the patient."

14. A lady of one of the first families in Scotland, after being under my care for some time, to her great benefit, visited London on account of her eyes. She availed herself of the opportunity of consulting Sir Henry Hallford, Bart., President of the Royal College of Physicians, as to her general health, when that distinguished individual recommended her to have recourse again to my operations. The lady herself is my authority.

15. LETTER from the late ANDREW COVENTRY, M.D., F.R.S.E., Professor of Agriculture in the University of Edinburgh, to Dr. BALFOUR.

EDINBURGH, 15th December 1829.

My dear Sir,—I have heard from my daughter, (to whom you have done so much good by your advice and treatment,) that a most respectable friend of your's, with the sole view of extending the benefits derived from your mode of practice, has inquired of you, whether you would take pupils, or young medical gentlemen to be instructed by yourself, especially in those important *minutiæ* which are the result of your long and extensive experience, and which could not otherwise be known. Now, after reflecting on the subject, it occurs to me that you must do any thing of the sort very cautiously—not because one would oppose in any way the spread of use-

ful information,—but because, though nothing could injure your interest or success here, yet your taking pupils, numerous or promiscuously, might afford an opportunity for ill-educated persons, perhaps, to bring the valuable discoveries you have made, and the improved practice you have adopted, into disrepute, if not to render them detrimental in many cases. I therefore beg leave to submit to you, that, considering the great amount of instruction you have yourself enjoyed in literature and science, beyond that of most medical men, and the intimate acquaintance you have with Pharmacy, and every branch of the Medical Profession, and the interest you take in sustaining its character, you should not receive any pupils who have not had the best preparatory education, and have fully attended the medical classes in an university, or other respectable seminaries, so as to be able to do justice to their patients, with credit to you and themselves. I remain your's very faithfully, &c.

II.—TESTIMONIALS by Patients, distinguished alike by their high station in Society, and their candour and liberality ; and by whose permission the following communications are published.*

1.—LETTER from the Right Honourable GEORGE, EARL of GALLOWAY, to the Right Honourable Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, Bart.

GALLOWAY-HOUSE,
2d April 1825.

My dear Sir John,—Until Dr. Balfour's arrival, I was not aware of your return to Edinburgh, or I would sooner have acknowledged your very kind and friendly letter ; for I feel myself much indebted to you. I have so much confi-

* These Testimonials are merely a *specimen* of a hundred such in Dr. Balfour's possession.

dence in receiving material benefit from Dr. Balfour's practice, that I have requested him to remain with me some days longer, and to which he has kindly assented, though I am fearful I am depriving you of his services. His system is original, and I doubt not must be very efficacious in most cases where the nerves are concerned; and I am only surprised, after the many cures he has effected, that the medical world do not acknowledge its efficacy, as well as the author's merits. I have only to repeat my sincere thanks to you for making the same known to me; and I remain, &c.

2.—LETTER from the Right Honourable CHARLES
HOPE, Lord President, to Dr. BALFOUR.

GRANTON, 10th March 1830.

My dear Doctor,—I beg your acceptance of the enclosed order, as a small acknowledgment for the perfect cure you have performed on me of a rheumatic affection in both my knees, of several months' continuance.

It had resisted a variety of applications, and at last had become so severe, as to deprive me of all exercise, as I could not, without great pain and difficulty, walk, or rather creep, across the room.

At last, Dr. Abercrombie, with that liberality which distinguishes him, advised me to apply to you, having known of several cures you had performed in cases of long-continued Rheumatism.

Accordingly I put myself under your care about the middle of January, and immediately began to feel relief from your mode of treatment by Compression and Percussion, of various kinds; and now I can report myself completely cured.

I have, no doubt, considerable weakness in my knees, owing to long disuse; but the pain and rigidity you have completely removed; and I can now, at the age of nearly 67, move my limbs as freely as ever I did.

For the benefit of fellow-sufferers in rheumatic complaints, you are at perfect liberty to make what use of this letter you think can be advantageous to them, or to yourself. I am, my dear Doctor, yours very sincerely, &c.

3.—*From the LORD PRESIDENT to Dr. BALFOUR.*

GRANTON, 31st May 1830.

My dear Doctor,—The interest you took in my case, and the success which attended it, while I was under your care, will, I am sure, make you desirous to know what has been the result.

I am happy to inform you, then, that since you gave up your operations, nearly three months ago, I have remained perfectly free from any rheumatic feeling in my knees. I have neither pain nor stiffness, and have regained my strength more quickly, and to a greater degree, than I expected, being able to walk for a couple of hours, without feeling fatigue; and I could walk longer, if you had not advised me against over-fatigue. I remain, &c.

4.—*From the LORD PRESIDENT to Dr. BALFOUR.*

12. MORAY PLACE,

Saturday, 10th March 1832.

Dear Doctor,—I have now been a complete week entirely free from every feeling of *lumbago*, and therefore I trust that I shall not have occasion for any more of your discipline at present. But if ever I have another attack, I shall certainly send for you immediately, *without trying other remedies, none of which I have ever found do me the least good.* I remain, &c

5.—*From the LORD PRESIDENT to Dr. BALFOUR.*

12. MORAY PLACE,
30th Dec. 1833.

My dear Sir,—You are at perfect liberty to publish my letters; and you may add, that, now in my 71st year, I have the free use of my knees, as much as I ever had in my life, and never have had the slightest return of Rheumatism since your operations in 1830. Yours sincerely, &c.

6.—*From the Right Reverend JAMES WALKER, D. D., F. R. S. E., Bishop, and Professor of Divinity in the Scottish Episcopal Communion, to Dr. BALFOUR.*

22. STAFFORD STREET,
Edinburgh, 6th Feb. 1833.

My dear Sir,—I have suffered very severely from Chronic Rheumatism, which I first caught in Italy in the spring of 1818, in consequence of a sudden chill after being greatly over-heated. About ten years ago the pain became peculiarly severe and general, accompanied with great and increasing weakness. I tried every remedy which the best medical advice could suggest, but the pain continued, and my weakness increased to an alarming extent, when I was induced, as a last resource, I confess with little or no hope, to apply to you. From the experience which I then had, I can most certainly say, that your mode of treating Rheumatism is both safe and salutary. It was eminently so in my case, in circumstances which left little hope, as well from the force of the malady, as from the extreme weakness to which I was reduced. A very few operations inspired me with confidence, because they clearly indicated progress. In the space of a very few months, I was enabled to resume all my duties with greater vigour than I ever expected to attain; and thus I continued, with occasional fits of comparatively little consequence, for several years. The malady has again returned

in a very distressing form, and I was again obliged to apply to you ; and though the circumstances are different, I am equally convinced now, as I was at first, that your mode of treatment is safe and salutary, and that under God I owe to your kind exertions in my behalf the general improvement of my health, together with the use of my right arm and left leg, of which, from the most rigid and deep-seated Rheumatism, I was very nearly deprived.

I shall be happy indeed, if this sincere testimony on my part shall lead other sufferers to reap similar advantage. I remain, &c.

7.—*From JOHN WAUCHOPE of Edmonstone, Esq. to
Dr. BALFOUR.*

EDMONSTONE, 16th Feb. 1833.

My dear Sir,—Having contracted a very severe Rheumatism in my right thigh-joint, a good many years ago, from wet feet and the coldness of the temporary barracks at Dunbar, when in the Edinburgh militia, I became very lame in consequence. I was even afraid, at one time, of losing the use of my right leg ; and having tried various remedies without effect, I was advised to consult you, which I did. I have reaped very great benefit from your advice, and your operations have been of the greatest service to me, insomuch, that I am now free from pain, and able to take moderate exercise. I consider there is no treatment equally efficacious in rheumatic complaints with yours ; and am perfectly convinced, if I had had the good fortune to know you sooner, and been aware of your practice, I would have benefited a great deal more. I do not, however, despair, by a little further perseverance, of being perfectly cured. I remain, &c.

8.—*From* Sir ROBERT ABERCROMBY of Birkenbog,
Baronet, to Dr. BALFOUR.

COATES CRESCENT,
18th April 1833.

Dear Sir,—Before leaving town, I think it right, and but an act of justice towards you, to bear testimony to the benefit I have derived while under your care. The violent and almost constant Rheumatism, which I experienced in both arms, has, under a three weeks attendance by you, been so much eradicated, that I have now no pain whatever in the right arm, and only a slight one occasionally in the left; and I think the operations on the trunk of my body have given a stimulus to the system, and considerably improved my general health. I remain, &c.