As the observations with which Dr Duncan sen. concluded his lectures on the subject of the human blood, delivered during his winter course, on the institutions of medicine, at Edinburgh, on the 15th of December 1824, may perhaps be incorrectly reported by some of his hearers, he has thought it right to put them in print, in the words in which they were delivered by him, that each of his students may be enabled to give a fair report of them / [Andrew Duncan].

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"With these interesting facts, Gentlemen, respecting the treatment of Fevers, I conclude my Observations on the Blood, and some of you may perhaps imagine, that I have extended them to too great a length. But, for my own part, I am convinced that the remarks I have offered on the chief fluid of the body, have not occupied more time than the importance of the subject well deserves; for no portion of the Human System demands more minute consideration. I would not, indeed, go so far as the illustrious Dr Harvey has done. For he has said, "*Sanguinem esse partem genitalem, fontem vitæ, primum vivens, ultimum moriens.*" But no one can doubt that the blood, circulating through every organ of the body, gives support and vitality to every part. And, with regard to the Pathology of the Blood, it is not more certain that it exists in the Body, than that different morbid states, to which it is subjected, are intimately connected with many of the most dangerous diseases, to which the human race are subjected.

From this unquestionable truth I have been led to illustrate the Pathology of the Blood, by practical remarks

on three very dangerous diseases, Scorbutus, Hæmorrhœa, and Febris. When treating of the cure of these diseases, I have presented you with the fruits of my own observations in an extensive practice of Medicine, for more than fifty years; and, during that long period, I have had an opportunity of conducting the cure of diseases in different situations and in different climates. For although, during the greater part of my active life, I have been a medical practitioner in Edinburgh, yet I have had an opportunity of practising the healing art in three different quarters of the world, not only in Europe, but also both in Asia and in Africa.

In communicating, however, to my hearers in this room knowledge which may aid them in the cure of diseases, I have, in another way, done more than any Professor can be supposed to do from his own experience, however extensive, however judicious, however attentive. I have given you, although a concise, yet I trust a faithful account of all the most important practical discoveries which have lately been published respecting the three diseases I have mentioned, particularly Scorbutus; with regard to which, such interesting improvements, in the way of prevention, have lately been made, that Sea-scurvy is now almost banished from the British Navy, even during the longest voyages.

From extensive reading, and deliberate study, I have been enabled to communicate to my students much useful practical knowledge, which, without very ready access to books, and without much time and serious reflection, they could not have obtained from the original authors by whom it has been published.

I leave you, therefore, to judge, with what regard to truth it has lately been asserted, by one of my colleagues

in this University, and even in print, that, from me, *as an individual Professor, Students can derive no knowledge which may enable them to cure diseases.* I confidently trust, Gentlemen, that your report to your Fellow-Students, founded on what you have heard in this room, will afford ample evidence that this assertion, with regard to my Lectures, is as false as it is calumnious. And I flatter myself you will be able to tell, that, though now an Octogenarian, I can still communicate to my hearers much knowledge which may be useful to them in the cure of diseases."