

## **Perkins's patent metallic tractors / [Benjamin Douglas Perkins].**

### **Contributors**

Perkins, Benjamin Douglas, 1774-1810.

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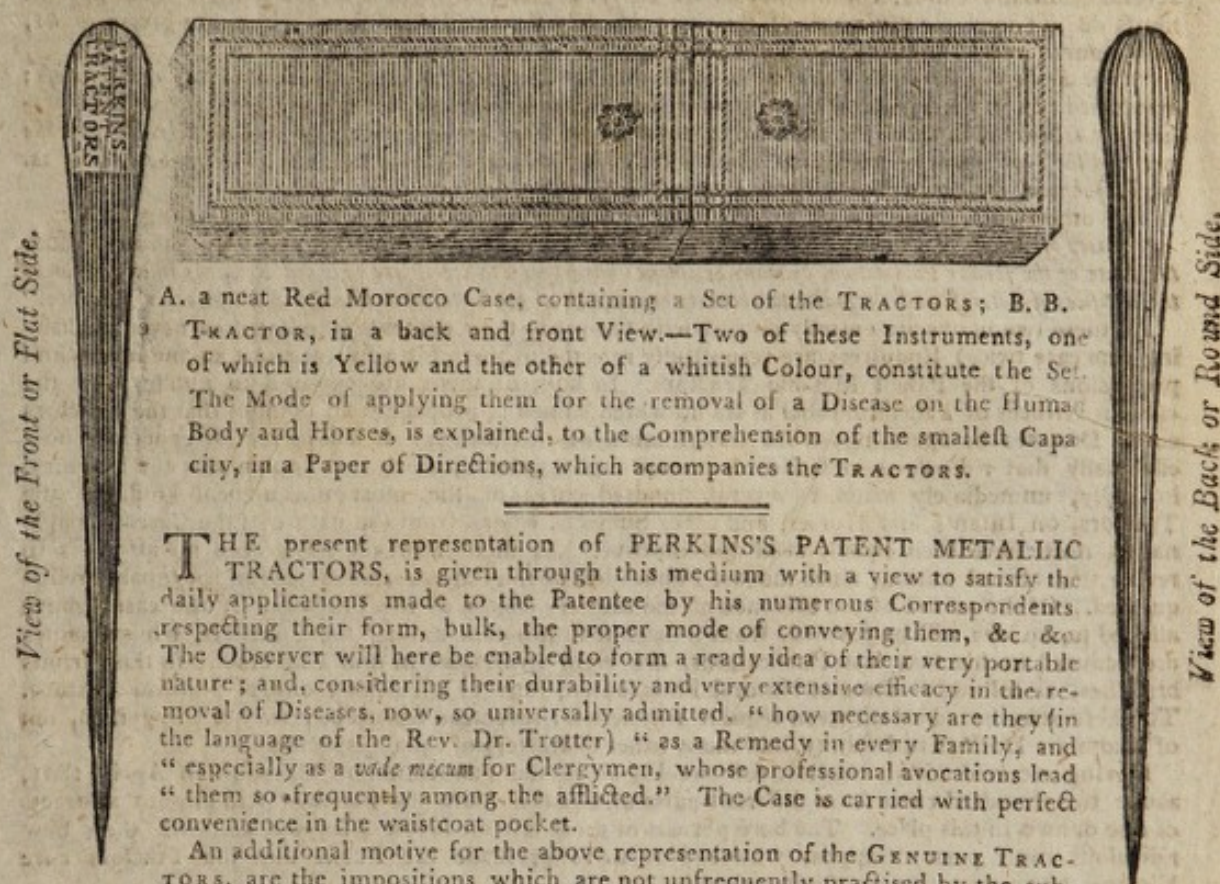
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# PERKINS'S PATENT METALLIC TRACTORS.

B.

A.

B.



View of the Front or Flat Side.

View of the Back or Round Side.

A. a neat Red Morocco Case, containing a Set of the TRACTORS; B. B. TRACTOR, in a back and front View.—Two of these Instruments, one of which is Yellow and the other of a whitish Colour, constitute the Set. The Mode of applying them for the removal of a Disease on the Human Body and Horses, is explained, to the Comprehension of the smallest Capacity, in a Paper of Directions, which accompanies the TRACTORS.

THE present representation of PERKINS'S PATENT METALLIC TRACTORS, is given through this medium with a view to satisfy the daily applications made to the Patentee by his numerous Correspondents respecting their form, bulk, the proper mode of conveying them, &c. &c. The Observer will here be enabled to form a ready idea of their very portable nature; and, considering their durability and very extensive efficacy in the removal of Diseases, now, so universally admitted, "how necessary are they (in the language of the Rev. Dr. Trotter) "as a Remedy in every Family, and "especially as a *vade mecum* for Clergymen, whose professional avocations lead "them so frequently among the afflicted." The Case is carried with perfect convenience in the waistcoat pocket.

An additional motive for the above representation of the GENUINE TRACTORS, are the impositions which are not unfrequently practised by the substitution of counterfeits. These, though not attempted openly, have, in several instances, been privately put into circulation, by persons interested in depreciating the Credit of the GENUINE TRACTORS, and consequently occasioning their disuse. As no benefit would be derived from such spurious Imitations, the unsuspecting Patient, it has been supposed, would be satisfied of the inefficacy of the Metallic Practice. Such artifices, while they intringe on the right of the Patentee, at the same time, defraud the Public; and he must therefore not be thought unreasonably severe in determining to employ the means the Law affords for the prevention of such abuses in future. As innocent artificers and tradesmen, from not knowing the nature of his Patent, which secures every possible external application of the Metallic Influence in the removal of Diseases, may be led into a violation of the law, by making something of a different shape, &c. it is right to inform them that they are equally liable to damages with their employers. On this particular they may possibly derive some satisfaction by the following Extract from his Patent, on which is stamped the Great Seal of England.

"We do strictly recommend that no person or persons, during the continuance of this our Letters Patent [fourteen years] either directly or indirectly, make, use, or put in practice the said invention, or any part of the same, or otherwise counterfeit, imitate, or resemble, or shall make or cause to be made any addition thereto, or subtraction from the same, without the direct consent and agreement of the said BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, his heirs, assigns, &c. in writing, under his or their hands and seal, upon such pains and penalties as may be justly inflicted upon such offenders, for their contempt of this our Royal Command: and further, to be answerable to the said BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, his heirs, assigns, &c. for his or their damages thereby occasioned."

To guard against Impositions applicants will please to observe that every genuine set of Tractors is stamped with the words PERKINS PATENT TRACTORS; and, which will be the most sure means of detecting frauds, to the printed Directions for their use, which accompany them, is subjoined a Receipt, signed "BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS." in the hand-writing of the Patentee. To counterfeit this, it is unnecessary to add, is Felony.

The TRACTORS have been found a safe, speedy, and effectual Remedy in the following Disorders; *Acute and Chronic Rheumatism, including Lumbago and Sciatica, Gout, Sprains, Contusions, Burns, Scalds, Inflammations of the Eyes; also of the Skin, as Erysipelas and Tetters; Painful Inflammatory Tumours, as Biles and Whitlows; Violent Spasmodic Convulsions; as Epileptic Fits, Cramp and Locked Jaw; Pleurisy; Stings and Bites of Venomous Insects, Fluor Albus; Pains in the Head, Face, Teeth, Ears, Breast, Side, Back, Limbs, and all analogous Diseases of Horses.*

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In proof of the Efficacy of the Tractors in these Complaints there have been published, by the Patentee, during the last three years, four different works, in which have been presented several thousand Cures, communicated by characters of the highest respectability. The present limits do not conveniently admit of the titles of only the two last of these, which are given, gratis, to the purchasers of the Tractors: one was published in January, 1800, and entitled,

*"The Efficacy of Perkins's Patent Metallic Tractors, in Topical Diseases of the Human Body and Animals; exemplified by 250 Cases from the first Literary Characters in Europe and America: to which is prefixed a preliminary Discourse, in which the fallacious Attempt of Dr. Haygarth and others, at Bath, to detract from the merits of the Tractors, by asserting their action on the Imagination, are detected and fully confuted. Sold, price 1s. by J. Johnson, St. Paul's Church-Yard, London."*

The other work above alluded to, which was published in April, 1801, has the following Title:

*"Cases of successful Practice with Perkins's Patent Metallic Tractors, communicated since January, 1800, the Date of the former Publication, by many Scientific Characters; to which are prefixed Remarks in exposition of the Artifices of Interest and Prejudice to prevent the adoption of the Metallic Practice. Sold, price 1s. as above."*

As these two books are entirely distinct with respect to their contents (the Patentee never publishing one case twice) Enquirers are respectfully referred to them for a full account of the merits and pretensions of the Patent Metallic Tractors. In both of them are exposed to public view the curious artifices of a medical cabal at Bath, which aimed to propagate an opinion that the Tractors cured Diseases by operating on the Imagination of the Patient! It will be readily conceived how effectually that ridiculous and absurd attempt was exploded, when it is known that the Patentee, in reply, immediately adduced several hundred cures of the most unequivocal kind, by the Tractors, on Infants and Horses, and other Subjects, where, from the nature of the Cases, Imagination must have been equally dead and inactive. As there however have been no attempts to revive that absurd notion, since the last Publication of the Patentee, the objection is probably relinquished. Of the nature of the evidence of the salutary effects of the Tractors, in the cases above alluded to, an idea will be formed, from a bare mention that among the Vouchers, whose names are adduced in his two last Publications, are eight Professors in four Universities in the various branches, as follows:—three of Natural Philosophy; four of Medicine; one of Natural History. To these may be added nineteen regular Physicians; seventeen Surgeons; twenty Clergymen, ten of whom are Doctors in Divinity, and many other characters of equal respectability.

Having received within the last few weeks, since the publication of his book in April, 1801, above two hundred cases from different parts of Great Britain, the Patentee will present abstracts of one or two in this place. The bare perusal of these few on Horses, Infants, &c. will shew how ridiculous must persons appear who endeavour to persuade the Public that the Tractors cure Diseases, by an operation on the Imagination.

### NEW CASES,

PUBLISHED IN AUGUST, 1801.

THE following Extract of a letter is kindly permitted to be inserted in this place.

London, Hertford-Street, May 25th, 1801.

"LORD RIVERS presents his compliments to Mr. Perkins, and requests he will send by the bearer a set of his Metallic Tractors, which he is desirous of purchasing in addition to those he has already had, and which he constantly leaves with his groom; they having been of the greatest use in his stables."

A. PINCKE, Esq. of Sharstead, Kent; in a letter of July 1st, 1801, obligingly favoured the Patentee with the following statement.

"CASE.—*Violent Contusions on a Horse.*—In August last, a very valuable horse of mine, through an accident, in a field, dashed his head and the point of his right shoulder against a large tree, when running at his utmost speed. As might be expected, he fell like a stone, and lay without the least signs of life. In about two minutes however he so far recovered as to be able to get up. The right shoulder had been forced back with such violence that it appeared greatly let down below its proper position; and, from the violence of the contusion, presented a shocking spectacle. Having your Tractors in my possession, I determined to try their efficacy, more out of curiosity and compassion than from any expectation of future service. A Farrier was sent for, merely to let out the extravasated blood that had lodged near the point of the shoulder; and this was all the assistance the animal had except from the Tractors. These were applied four or five times a day, for about half an hour each time; drawing them from the withers to the point of the shoulder, under the breast, and up the back part of the shoulder to the withers again; and sometimes they were continued down the leg to the ground. Their effect in diminishing the pain was very evident. He looked more cheerful after their use, and had a good appetite. We continued them till he was enabled to walk tolerably well, and in a month more could gallop about the field for his diversion. Although he is still somewhat lame, he undoubtedly feels little if any pain, being uncommonly playful, and having been frequently used in husbandry without the least increase of his lameness. The preservation of this horse is entirely to be attributed to the effects of the Tractors. One circumstance was very remarkable, and which, at least, demonstrated their influence. After they had been used upon him some time, he would show an evident shyness whenever the servant came near him to repeat the operation, till he became so susceptible of them that he would rear up or offer to lie down as often as the Tractors approached him."



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DR. J. FULLER, of Upper Brook-Street, London, with the liberality and humanity, which distinguish any others, who have retired, after a life of extensive practice, on the 5th of June, 1801, favored the Patentee with the result of his Experiments, from which the following is extracted.

"I have used the Tractors in very numerous instances with great success, and have now no hesitation to acknowledge my firmest confidence in their utility, among such as have a pleasure in the possession of the means of relieving the sufferings of their fellow-creatures."—After detailing several cases of *Tooth-ach*, *Swelled Faces*, *Sprain*, and *Rheumatism*, he cites the following decisive experiment: "A Lady, aged 60, whom the Tractors relieved of a *Rheumatism* of long standing in the shoulder, found a great warmth during their application, and, which was extraordinary, felt the burning sensation continue for several days. This patient being so susceptible, I thought her a proper subject on whom to try the comparative merits of the Tractors with other substances, and thereby ascertain what concern the imagination had in the effects. I accordingly drew the points of forks, wood, &c. over the part effected, as I had before used the Tractors, but from neither was there produced the least effect. The Tractors, however, on being applied a second time, immediately occasioned the heat, and gave exactly the same relief as at first. This experiment was made under circumstances which rendered it very decisive."

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THE REV. DR. RIPPON, of Grange-Road, Southwark, London, in a note of June 1st, 1801, favored the Patentee with the copy of a Letter addressed to him from the REV. JAMES SHUTTLEWORTH of Cowling-Hill, Yorkshire. Among several important cases therein are the following:

"CASE.—*Burn on an Infant*.—A child had the misfortune to get its hand burned so severely that the part vesicated. I applied the Tractors, and in a very little time both the blister and inflammation disappeared; and when I left the place the child's hand was quite well."

After stating the singular relief given to his own daughter by the Tractors, which took off the inflammation of a severe affection, occasioned by the frost three years before; and the relief of a wrist of a person who had been afflicted several years, and could find no benefit from the first medical assistance, Mr. S. concludes, by expressing his high opinion of the merits of the Tractors.

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MR. EDMUND BLATHWAYT, Surgeon, of Narbeth, Pembrokeshire, in a Letter of June 1st, 1801, after mentioning that the Tractors had nearly been brought into disrepute in his neighbourhood, by the artifices of interested persons who had privately attempted to circulate counterfeits, which gave no relief, and which were imposed on the patients as genuine, states the following cases.

"CASE I.—*Violent Bruise*.—D. MORGAN, Esq. of Brynauyn, in this County, formerly a Captain in his Majesty's 39th Regiment, had the misfortune to fall and bruise his knee, so considerably, that he was, when I saw him, confined to his bed, without the power of moving his leg. The knee was very much swelled. I applied the Tractors, though, I confess, neither my Patient nor myself had then much confidence in their efficacy. In about 20 minutes he observed the swelling was much diminished, and that he was able to bend his knee. I used them about 15 minutes more, when he got up. In three days, from their continual use, he found himself as well as ever he was; the part only appeared discolored from the bruise."

"CASE II.—*Obstinate Rheumatic Affection*.—The same gentleman has since been cured by the Tractors of an obstinate Rheumatic Affection in the neck, with which he had been plagued, for nearly 20 years, and which had resisted the power of Medicine."

"CASE III.—*Pain from an Old Sprain*.—SARAH PHILLIPS, a servant of Mr. Morgan, was attacked with a pain and weakness in her arm, which she attributed to a violent sprain on that arm, about five years before. She was usually seized, twice a year, in the same manner, and commonly ill with it, about a month before strength returned. The Tractors were tried, but without any effect, when it was discovered, that she had just been using a greasy application to it. The part was then washed clean, as you direct in such cases, and the Tractors again applied, when she declared she felt the pain go out at her fingers' ends. They were used but twice afterwards, and she has been well ever since. I found that the course of the pain descending the arm was exactly that of the Ulnar nerve. This case is very satisfactory in regard to the action of the Tractors, independant of Imagination. The mind would as readily have been wrought upon before as after the oil was removed. Mr. Morgan will satisfy any one of the truth of these cases, as he has authorized his name to be published from a conviction of the utility of the Tractors. I could send you several other cases; but, not to take up more of your time, will mention them to any, who choose to apply to me."

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THE REV. T. HILLYARD, of Olney, Bucks; in a letter of May 6th, 1801, states the following:

"CASE.—*Very Obstinate Rheumatism*.—ELIZA HILLYARD, a child of Olney, was seized with the Rheumatism, which first took away the use of her hands and contracted her fingers. It then run up her arms and down her back into her hips, knees, and ancles, where it settled, and so deprived her of the use of her legs, that she moved only on crutches for two years.—During this time a great variety of remedies were tried without effect. She was three months in the Northampton Infirmary, where also many experiments were made, but all to no purpose. Dr. CARR then advised Sea Bathing; the season, however, being late, she did not go; but tried Electricity, for a long time, without any advantage. In this hopeless state your Metallic Tractors were recommended. I had not much faith, yet was not so great an infidel as to withstand facts. I first tried them myself, in May last, upon her hands, and they proved effectual; for, in fourteen days, they removed the contraction from her fingers, and a hard callus from her knuckles! We then began their application from the hip to the toes, which drew down the complaint, and occasioned while using them, a

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swelling and inflammation in the great toe. This I thought a favorable symptom; and we therefore persevered in their use, twenty minutes at a time, twice a day, for three months, when she had derived so much benefit, as to be able to cast aside her crutches, and has had no occasion for them since. She runs about as active as other children, and enjoys good health."

THE REV. T. GREEN, of Middleton Cheney, Northamptonshire, in a letter of April 13th, 1801, favored the Patentee with the result of his extensive practice with the Tractors. The present limits admit of but a short extract from it.

"When your Tractors, which I published in October last, was conveyed to me, I was not only greatly surprised at their simple appearance, but thought it impossible that they should be of any use. An extensive trial of them, however, commenced under the influence of prejudice against them, has shewn me my mistake. Were I ever so much disposed to attribute their good effects to imagination, experience would convince me to the contrary. I consider them an invaluable acquisition to every family, and wish their extension through every part of the world. I think it but due to the public and yourself to state the following instances of their real utility, which I myself have witnessed."

"CASE I.—*Severe Contusion*.—The first case was on myself. In the month of November last, I received a violent blow on my wrist, which caused a considerable swelling, attended with severe pain. By the use of the Tractors seven minutes, the swelling and pain entirely subsided, and no remains of the blow were to be seen but a little redness on the skin which soon disappeared."

"CASE II.—*Lumbago*.—A young man had a violent Lumbago, or Pain in his Loins, occasioned by lifting a heavy weight. I tracted him for half an hour, from the loins to the knees, and he found the pain gradually go downwards to one knee. The next day his complaint, though trifling, was in the calf of his leg, I tracted him again twenty minutes, when he was completely cured, and has been well ever since."

"CASE III.—*Inflammation and Swelling from Chilblains*.—A woman came to me who had a foot exceedingly swelled and inflamed from a Chilblain. She could not then bend the foot, and was obliged to wear a very large shoe. The first time the Tractors were applied from the instep to the toe, she found great relief, and could easily bend the foot. The second time the Inflammation and Swelling began to subside. She required only five operations to complete the cure. It was very astonishing to see the Swelling and Inflammation follow the points of the Tractors. A similar Case has occurred on another person, on whom the same effects were produced."

To these succeed a detail of several other Cases, equally satisfactory: viz. three of *Rheumatism*, a *Sprain*, *Tooth-Ach*, the removal of a *Large Swelling on a Horse*, &c. but the limits do not admit of their insertion. Mr. Green then proceeds.—

"I am sorry to say I believe several well-meaning persons have been imposed upon by spurious Tractors, which have tended to bring the genuine ones into some disrepute. One person had tried them, to my knowledge, in a severe Rheumatism, under the idea that they were genuine, but found no benefit. I detected the fraud on examining them. He has since used your Tractors and derived great relief. Some medical gentlemen of extensive practice in my neighbourhood, I might add, have used your Tractors to good purpose, and one in particular speaks highly of them. Upon the whole, I cannot close my letter without saying I think them a most valuable Discovery; and, notwithstanding the opposition they may meet with from interested men, many in future times will venerate the memory of the Discoverer."

TIMOTHY CLARKSON, Esq. of Breedon on the Hill, Leicestershire, May 26, 1801, writes, "I have operated, in many cases, upon my friends, and poor neighbours, among whom the Tractors have done wonders." Among several cases which he cites is the following.

"CASE.—*Rheumatism*.—A friend of mine, whose estate joins my own, was so afflicted with the Rheumatism in his back and hips that he could not go across the floor without the help of a stick. The first operation of the Tractors gave him great relief, and after three more, he was perfectly well; and the next day but one, walked 12 miles without his stick."

MR. THOMAS RAWLINS, Printer, of Andover, Hants, who with much benevolence has devoted, for some months past, hours of the day to the use of the Tractors on his poor neighbours, and others, June 8, 1801, writes; "I have not relieved less than 60 with the *Rheumatism* and 20 with *Tooth-ach*. One person, who had been severely afflicted with the Rheumatism for 7 years, had been a considerable time at Bath, and tried almost every thing which could be thought of, without effect, has been cured by the Tractors." Several other cases from Mr. Rawlins, equally important, and nearly two hundred besides, from different parts of Great Britain, are, for want of room, omitted.

THE TRACTORS, so necessary in every Family, and among Horses, may be had, with new and improved Directions for using them; rendering the mode of Application perfectly intelligible to every Capacity, for FIVE GUINEAS the Set, of BENJAMIN DOUGLAS PERKINS, A. M. the Patentee, in the house of the late JOHN HUNTER, Surgeon, Leicester Square; of FREDERICK SMITH, Chemist and Druggist, in the Haymarket, London; of ROBERT SHEPPARD, Merchant, Edinburgh; and of CHARLES WHITTELL, Chemist and Druggist, Chester.—Their portable Nature renders their Conveyance to any part of Great Britain, by Coach, and even by Post, perfectly convenient. Letters (*Post paid*) enclosing their Amount in a Bill or Check, will be punctually attended to.

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