

Description of the construction and uses of a portable apparatus for the recovery of the apparently dead; as recommended ... by Mr. Charles Kite ... and approved by the London Humane Society / [Made] By John Savigny. [Written by C. Kite. Repr. from appendix to his 'Essay on the recovery of the apparently dead', 1788].

Contributors

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D E S C R I P T I O N

OF THE

CONSTRUCTION AND USES

OF

A PORTABLE APPARATUS

FOR THE

Recovery of the Apparently Dead;

AS RECOMMENDED IN AN ESSAY ON THE SUBJECT

BY MR. CHARLES KITE,

SURGEON OF GRAVESEND;

AND APPROVED BY

THE LONDON HUMANE SOCIETY.

BY JOHN SAVIGNY,

SURGEON'S INSTRUMENT-MAKER, PALL-MALL, LONDON.

L O N D O N :

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M. DCC. LXXXIX.



HAVING at length completed an assemblage of instruments for the recovery of persons apparently dead, to the approbation, and, in every respect, according to the intentions of the very ingenious author of an essay on the subject; it only now remains to give an account of their construction, uses, and importance. This has been fully done in the Appendix of the publication alluded to; but, as every gentleman may not be in possession of it, I avail myself of the author's permission (who has also allowed me the use of the plates) to copy it, for the information of those whom I may have the honour to supply with the implements necessary to carry into effect the learned and humane theory of the
whole


whole work. Mr. KITE, in his essay, has entered largely into the happy consequences attendant on electricity, as one of the modes of treatment in some cases; and, as the necessary apparatus could not, in the nature of things, be included in the present plan, he has obligingly presented me with a model, from which I am enabled to supply gentlemen with a machine, which, while its powers are fully adequate to the desired purposes, is reduced to so small a compass, as to render its conveyance from place to place a matter of very trivial inconvenience.

I cannot resist this opportunity of making public acknowledgments of the obligations I am under to this gentleman for repeated acts of kindness, which will ever be remembered with sentiments of lasting respect and esteem.

A tribute of gratitude, of a very particular and extensive nature, I also feel to be here indispensably due to another most valuable individual

dividual from myself, for numerous instances of private friendship; and from all mankind, for his unremitting perseverance in founding, promoting, and, by ceaseless labours, bringing to maturity, an institution which, while it dignifies human nature, exalts the country where it originated, and extends an enlightened example to all the world.*

* Dr. Hawes.



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D E S C R I P T I O N
OF A
POCKET-CASE OF INSTRUMENTS
FOR THE
Recovery of the Apparently Dead.

THAT the principal cause of the want of success in the recovery of the apparently dead is the length of time that elapses before the proper remedies can be applied, will admit of no doubt. It is equally certain that this too frequently depends on circumstances wholly out of our power to prevent; but it is no less true, that cases terminating unfavourably often occur, to which, if proper and timely assistance could have been given, it is extremely probable they might have had a more fortunate conclusion.

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WITH the view of obviating these inconveniences, it was proposed to establish general receiving-houses; and, was that event to take place, it would undoubtedly be productive of great advantage: still, however, on particular occasions, much time must be lost in conveying the body to those places; and even when there it does not appear that the Society are yet in possession of a collection of instruments, calculated to answer many of the most essential intentions in the method of recovery.

IN the year 1775 an apparatus was contrived by Dr. Cogan, which was patronized by the Society: it soon came into common use, and has remained so to the present day. But this, which is certainly preferable to any thing of the kind that had preceded it, either in Holland or France, does not, by any means, seem calculated to afford that assistance the nature of these cases really require. Its size is one material objection, occasioning considerable

derable delay in being removed to any distance: but it is liable to another, much more so; for it contains little more, of any consequence, than one instrument, the use of which (although the instrument is acknowledged to be perfectly competent to its intended purpose) must be attended with very doubtful, if not very pernicious, consequences.

FROM these considerations it evidently appears that a regular and complete apparatus, comprehending a collection of all the articles and instruments which are requisite on these occasions, is much wanting; and that, if they can be comprised in a case which will admit of being conveniently carried about, it will prove a very considerable acquisition to the resuscitating art.

THESE *desiderata* are now, I conceive, accomplished; and I have the pleasure of offering, to the consideration of the Society, a

collection which comprehends every article (except an electrical* machine) that appears to me really necessary on any of these occasions, and nearly the whole of them are indispensably requisite in all: these are comprised in a case which may conveniently be carried in the pocket.

IN reviewing the various methods requisite to be employed in the recovery of the drowned, our attention was first directed to the consideration of the propriety of drawing off blood. When that question was determined in the affirmative, it was said that the operation would have better effect if performed in the jugular vein; but, as it sometimes happens that no blood is to be procured from that part, and likewise on account of the stimulus, cupping was recommended. If the proper instruments are not at hand, a sufficient quan-

* The electrical machine must be excepted: a very small one would answer for this purpose; but it is impossible to reduce its size so much as to bring it within the compass of this plan.

tity of blood may be drawn off by means of coffee-cups, small gallipots, wide-mouthed bottles, &c. and a common lancet will answer the purposes of a scarificator.

WE have endeavoured to shew* that restoring the suspended action of the lungs is of the utmost importance in our attempts to recover the apparently dead, let the original cause be whatever it may: but that in the case of the drowned, where the suspension of the vital powers proceeds from the stoppage of respiration, we ought, if possible, to be more particularly expeditious in the renewal of it; but as it is an operation which is usually performed with great indelicacy and difficulty, and as it is frequently, at least in the common mode, impossible to perform it at all—we have strong reasons for suspecting that many lives may have been lost for want of proper and convenient instruments to accomplish it.

* Essay, page 138, et seq.

WELL convinced of the importance of this circumstance, several gentlemen have turned their attention towards contriving instruments to effect it. It will be unnecessary to mention them here, as they have already been fully noticed in the essay, (page 140, et seq.) All that is requisite for me now to say is, that the following instrument (which is indeed one of those there described) has, in every instance wherein I have tried it, answered the purpose very completely.

It consists of an elastic tube about twelve inches in length; to one end of which is fixed an ivory or silver mouth-piece; or any common pair of bellows may be adjusted to it by means of a hollow conical screw; and to the other end an addition of ivory also, of such a form as to enter and fill up a nostril. It is thus used—A proper person, stationed at the head of the body to be operated upon, passes the appropriated end of this tube into one of its nostrils, and, sustaining it there with the fore-finger,

finger, he compresses both nostrils so firmly between the thumb and middle-finger of the same hand, that no air can pass otherwise than by the tube; and the other hand applying the other extremity of the tube to his mouth, he blows with force through the pipe into the nostril of the subject.

THE medical director, standing at the right side of his charge, must keep the mouth perfectly closed with his left hand, while with his right, making a suitable pressure on the prominent part of the windpipe, he prevents the air passing into the stomach, till, finding the lungs are properly distended, he is to press strongly upon the chest, removing at the same time his left hand from the mouth, so as to let the air pass out. When by these means the lungs are compressed the same process is immediately to be repeated, that, as near as can be, the manner of natural respiration may be imitated.

IF any difficulty should arise in distending the lungs, it must proceed either from water in the windpipe, or a contraction or adhesion of the epiglottis. We have already * pointed out the method of discovering when the first circumstance occurs; and, if my experiments and reasoning are to be depended upon, we have shewn the inutility, as well as impracticability, of removing it when it does take place. When the latter is the case, we shall generally remedy the inconvenience by bringing the tongue forwards, which, being connected with the epiglottis by almost inelastic ligaments, must of course be elevated. Should further impediments, however, occur, the pipe for the nostril is to be removed, and the silver tube, curved like a male catheter, recommended by Dr. Monro, and mentioned by Mr. Portal, Mr. Le Cat, and others, is to be screwed on the tube in its place: this is to be introduced through the mouth, or one nostril,

* Essay, page 120.

into the glottis, when, on blowing through the mouth-piece, or applying the bellows, the lungs will be dilated.

THIS last instrument is likewise much better accommodated for inflating the lungs, when in such cases trachæotomy is performed, than the common dissecting blow-pipe, the implement generally had recourse to.

THE introduction of stimuli into the stomach is deservedly reckoned a material part of the process: these may very conveniently be exhibited by means of a funnel and an elastic pipe. Should any obstruction occur to the entry of the medicine, it will be overcome by applying the mouth to the funnel, and blowing upon the liquid, which will then pass into the stomach.

IF my objections against the use of the fumes of tobacco are founded upon just principles, the apparatus in common use for that purpose

purpose will of course become unnecessary: a large bladder, fastened to an ivory tube, which may instantly be connected to a proper pipe, will be sufficient therefore for this purpose; and a clyster may immediately be formed, by mixing some of the vegetable essence with a large quantity of warm water.

BUT, even supposing I may be in error, and that the fumes, either of this or any other vegetable, may be of greater service than a diluted solution of their essential oil, still I do not see the least occasion there can be for a case so large and cumbersome; if the bowl which holds the fumigating substance be sufficiently large to contain fuel for a very few minutes, it is surely competent to our purpose; for nothing can be more absurd than the idea of keeping the bowels in a state of most violent distention for two or three hours, without any intermission! If therefore it be judged necessary, a fumigator of such a size is occasionally added, without materially increasing the bulk
of

of the case; and this may be connected to any *common pair of bellows*, by means of the hollow conical screw, or it may be worked by a blow-pipe.

THE degree of vital or natural heat remaining in the body, and the degree of artificial heat which is proper to be applied, cannot be ascertained or regulated, with sufficient precision, without the assistance of a thermometer; one constructed upon Mr. Hunter's principle is therefore provided for these purposes.

It may not, in this place, be amiss to observe, that simple frictions, with flannels, cloths, &c. appear to be nearly, if not equally, efficacious as when any stimulating medicine is had recourse to.

PROPER vials, containing essence of any aromatic vegetables, as chamomile, or peppermint

permint and the volatile alkali, and likewise emetics, are ready for immediate use.

On account of the commodious size of the case, and the variety of instruments it contains, a little management is requisite, in order to adapt them to answer their different purposes: this may at first appear a trifling objection; but a little attention to the following directions, and the annexed plates, will immediately remove it:

WHEN air from the lungs of a healthy person is to be used, that end of the ivory or silver mouth-piece which is marked (1) is to be screwed to the large red flexible tube where it is marked (2); the pipe for the nostril (3) being at the other end, the instrument is complete. See Plate III. Fig. 1.

WHEN atmospheric air is to be used, the conical part of the hollow steel screw, marked

marked in the plate (4), is, by means of the brass winch (6), to be firmly screwed into the nozzle of any common pair of bellows: the ivory or silver mouth-piece (1) of the large red flexible tube is then to be removed, and the other end of the conical screw, marked in the Plate (5), is to be fitted in its place. See Plate III. Fig. 2.

SHOULD any particular impediment to the inflation of the lungs render it necessary to have recourse to an instrument to pass beyond the glottis, or should it become necessary to perform the operation of trachæotomy, the pipe for the nostril (3) is to be removed, and the instrument shaped like a male catheter (7) is to be screwed in its place. See Plate III. Fig. 3.

FOR injecting fluids into the stomach, the ivory or silver mouth-piece of the inflating instrument (1) is to be screwed on the small black leather tube, where it is marked (8);
the

the mouth-piece is to serve as a funnel. See Plate III. Fig. 4.

FOR the injection of watery clysters, the small tube (11), connected to the bladder concealed in the head of the case, is to be introduced into the opening of the * clyster-pipe (12), which is then ready for immediate use. See Plate III. Fig. 5.

WHEN the smoke-clyster is preferred, the conical part of the hollow steel screw (4 in the plate) is, by means of the winch (6), to be firmly screwed into the nozzle of any common pair of bellows, in the same manner as when atmospheric air is to be thrown into the lungs; the cylindrical part of the screw (marked 5 in the plate) is then to be connected with that end of the fumigator nearest the lid, marked (14). To the other end of the fumigator (13) the blue leather

* There are two of different sizes in the case, for subjects of different ages.

tube is to be affixed by means of the screw (15), and the other part of the tube (16) is to be introduced into the pipe for the rectum (12), when the instrument will be perfect. See Plate III. Fig. 6.

IF the conical screw should be employed in inflating the lungs, or if, for any reason, it is not convenient to use the bellows, the fumigator can then be worked by the mouth. When this may be the case, the only alteration required will be, that the ivory or silver mouth-piece of the inflating tube (1) should be united to the fumigator at (14), in lieu of the cylindrical screw*.

To render the case more compact, the fumigator is taken to pieces; but is readily

* The most effectual and expeditious method, by far, of lighting the herbs in the fumigator, is by directing the flame of a candle on them by means of a blow-pipe: the crooked silver tube (7) will answer that purpose. — Phosphoric matches are provided, in case a light cannot otherwise be readily procured.

put together again by connecting the numbers 17 with 18, and 19 with 20.

It is surely unnecessary to remark that every one, who presumes to take upon himself the important office of directing the remedies that are to be used for the recovery of the apparently dead, should be provided with every instrument that can be necessary to second his intentions: this part of our profession is, under the most favourable circumstances, sufficiently beset with difficulties; and it is easy to conceive what must be the event in those cases, where any of the more essential remedies are omitted.

☞ The case, with the apparatus, completed in the most accurate manner, according to the foregoing description, may at all times be had at SAVIGNY'S Manufactory of Chirurgical Instruments, N^o. 129, *Pall-Mall*, London.

