

**On the Portable Sudatory, or hot-air-bath; with cases illustrative of its medical powers in various disorders, and its great utility in cholera morbus, with directions for its administration; together with remarks on the applicability of galvanism in the first stage of that disease / By M. La Beaume, medical-galvanist and electrician in ordinary to the King.**

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ON THE

# PORTABLE SUDATORY,

OR

HOT-AIR-BATH.

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## *Explanation of the Frontispiece.*

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Figure 1, represents the administration of a General Vapour-Bath to a patient who is covered with a steam-proof cloak from the neck to the feet, without subjecting the head to the vapour.

Figure 2, represents a child using the General Vapour-Bath under a canopy, whose head is subjected to the vapour which the child is inhaling.

Figure 3, the same remedy applied to a sick person in bed, either subjecting the head to the vapour or not.

Figure 4, represents the administration of the Warm Air-Bath (medicated or not), either subjecting the head to the fumes or not, as may be desired, by closing or opening the covering of the frame behind the head of the patient.

Figure 5, is the figure of a child lying on a couch, undergoing the same process.

Figure 6, the Portable Sudatory, or warm-air-bath applied to a patient in an urgent case, either undressed and in bed, or in his clothes on a bed or sofa.


Figure 7, represents the application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath to the leg and foot of a patient.

Figure 8, the local vapour or warm air, administered to the knee of a patient; and which may also be applied to the foot, elbow, or hand, by a slight alteration of the same apparatus.

Figure 9, the same remedy to the arm.

N.B.—All these Baths may be medicated as may be advisable.



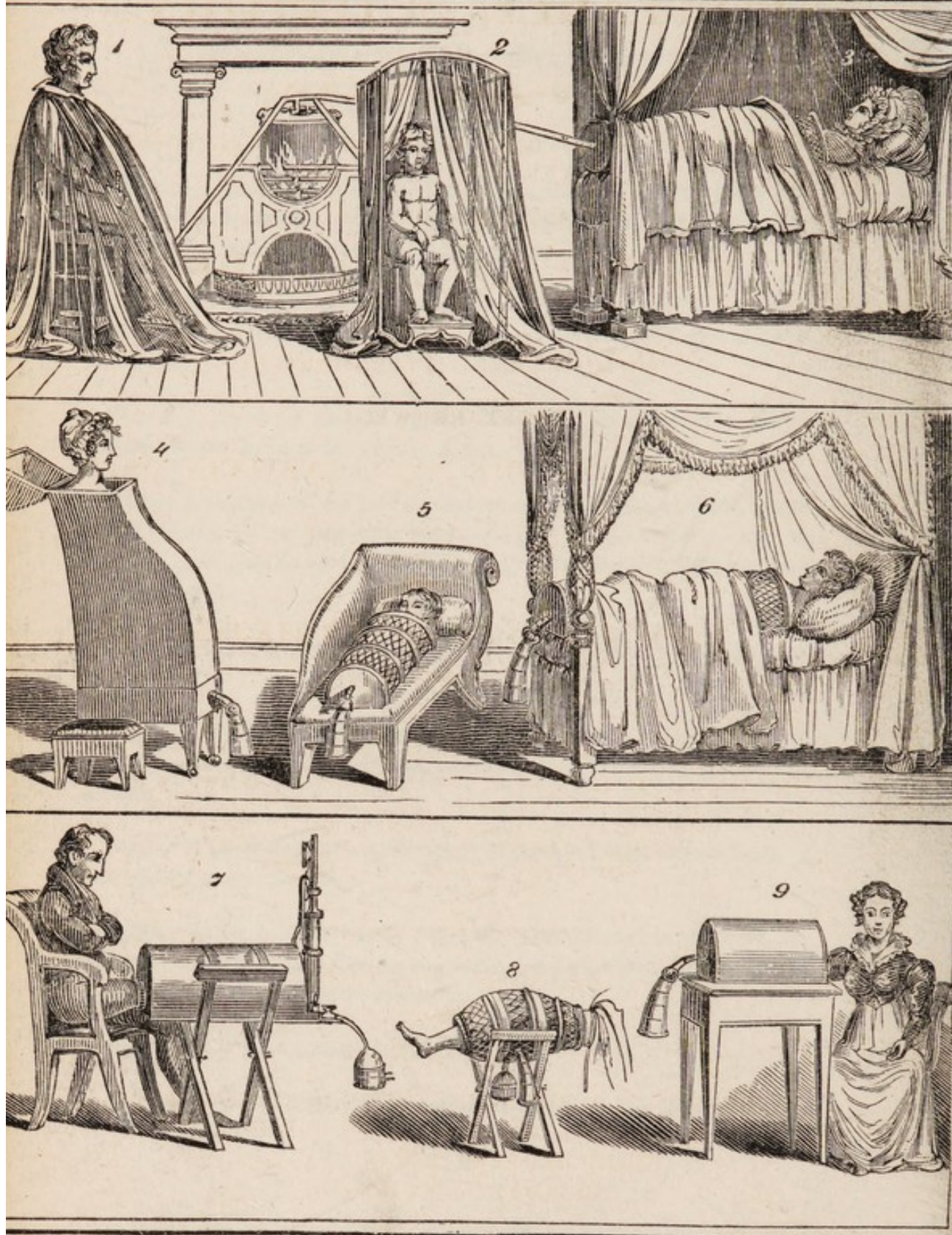


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MR. LA BEAUME'S VAPOUR AND HOT-AIR-BATHS.



For Explanation *vide* preceding page.



ON THE  
**PORTABLE SUDATORY,**  
OR  
**HOT-AIR-BATH;**

WITH CASES ILLUSTRATIVE OF ITS MEDICAL POWERS  
IN VARIOUS DISORDERS,

And its great Utility in

**CHOLERA MORBUS,**

WITH

*Directions for its Administration ;*

TOGETHER WITH

REMARKS ON THE APPLICABILITY OF

**GALVANISM**

IN THE

*FIRST STAGE OF THAT DISEASE.*

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BY

**M. LA BEAUME,**

MEDICAL-GALVANIST AND ELECTRICIAN IN ORDINARY TO THE KING,  
Electrician to the Bloomsbury and Northern Dispensaries,  
Consulting Ditto to the London Electrical Dispensary,  
Fellow of the Linnæan Society, and Corresponding  
Member of the Medical Philanthropic  
Society of Paris.

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1832.

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*Price Two Shillings.*

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F. WARR, PRINTER,

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## DEDICATION.

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To those Medical Gentlemen who have called me in to aid their practice, either by the administration of the Portable Sudatory, or by the application of Galvanism, and who have witnessed their extraordinary powers, this humble production is respectfully dedicated, as a memento of the Author's sincere gratitude, for the privilege of thus co-operating with them in saving life and restoring health.

31, *Southampton Row, Russell Square;*  
*December, 1831.*

## ERRATA.

Page 2, for *former* read *late*.

— 23, for *Sendamore* read *Scudamore*.

— 40, for *cherry* read *sherry*.

— 54, for *zink* read *zinc*.

— 56, for *recussitate* read *resuscitate*.

— 58, omit "*as*" commencing the tenth line.

— last line, for "*by rising*" read "*having raised*."



ON THE  
MEDICAL EFFICACY AND USE  
OF  
MR. LABEAUME'S  
PORTABLE SUDATORY,  
OR  
HOT-AIR-BATH.

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ABOUT fourteen years ago, I invented the *Portable Sudatory*, or Hot-Air-Bath, which is designed to be applied to patients at their own houses in bed. The apparatus is so light as to be carried by hand with facility. In the use of it, air heated by a spirit-lamp to a proper temperature, is introduced to the patient while lying in bed in the most agreeable position. The immediate effects are, a genial glow, first in the feet, and thence ascending to the bowels, stomach, breast, hands, arms and head. By this simple means, the blood is at once determined to the surface of the body, and a healthful perspiration produced; and thus those



obstructions removed, which occasion and perpetuate disease. The great convenience of this remedy is obvious, especially for prompt application *in cases of emergency*; while the time usually spent in procuring a wooden or tin bath, the trouble of conveying it to the sick room, the tedious and imperfect modes of regulating the temperature of the water,—and, above all, the aggravation of the disorder attending the removal of the patient from bed, frequently counterbalance *all* the good effects of the common hot-bath.

In proof of the singular efficacy of this Sudatory, I might quote the first medical authorities of former years; I might refer to a recent production of an eminent medical writer; or I might allude to its extensive employment on the Continent, as well as to its application in certain hospitals of this country: but I prefer giving a few striking facts which have occurred in *my own practice*, under the eye of some of the most respectable medical practitioners, who have sought my aid, and who have been gratified at the surprising results which have immediately followed its use.



## CASE I.

In the spring of 1820, I was sent for in great haste, by the late Dr. Armstrong, to apply the Sudatory, in a very urgent and desperate case. When I arrived I found the patient, who was about thirty years of age, lying in a state of the greatest prostration. His countenance was extremely pale; he was unable to move his head, or open his eyes, without feeling a great degree of sickness and giddiness; he could not speak, but in a whisper; he felt extremely cold, though under a profusion of blankets, with a bottle of hot water at his stomach, and a still larger one at his feet. Dr. A. observed, that this was a case of great danger; that the circulation had nearly ceased on the surface, and in the extremities; that the heart was gorged with blood; the pulse extremely feeble; and the man rapidly sinking. I at once ordered the bottles to be taken away, and applied the Sudatory. In about five minutes, the patient observed that he felt a comfortable glow in the feet. In a quarter of an hour, he expressed himself in a louder tone of voice, as being sensible of a general warmth, with the head and chest greatly relieved. The physi-



cian, who particularly watched the state of the pulse, remarked, that the vigour of the circulation was then restored; and the diffusive stimulus of the Sudatory had also produced a copious perspiration. I continued the application ten minutes longer, when the patient experienced entire relief. He was enabled to sit up immediately after, and take some tea for breakfast.

This single application, was the means of saving the patient's life; for I was assured by the physician of his full conviction, that no other means could have produced such an extraordinary recovery.

## CASE II.

I was requested by the same gentleman, who had thus witnessed the medical power of the Sudatory, to apply it to another of his patients, who was labouring under *Erysipelas*, and in great danger. The subject was far advanced in life, and had been ill for a considerable time. As I acted ministerially in this case, I did not fully enter into the particulars of his ailment; but was informed in general terms of his great indisposition; and that unless the *constriction of the skin* could be removed, and *perspiration*



*produced*, which the ordinary remedies had failed to do, there was no hope of his recovery. I found the patient in bed, suffering great oppression and uneasiness; and without fatiguing him with any inquiries, I commenced the operation, in the presence of two medical gentlemen, the late Dr. A—, and the late Mr. Hayden, of Sloane Street.

In a few minutes, a genial glow pervaded his whole frame; he said he felt very comfortable, and much relieved from the oppression he had laboured under; and in the space of three quarters of an hour, a general perspiration was produced, which was kept up for some time, and attended with the happiest effects.

This single application of the Sudatory, was all that was required for his relief. The *secretions* of the skin having been restored, he *recovered rapidly*, and was soon restored to perfect health.

### CASE III.

A middle aged lady, of a sanguine temperament, had for some days suffered from a violent cold, which was at last accompanied with *inflammation* of the lungs. Her breathing was



affected to that degree, that she was unable to take a deep inspiration without feeling considerable pain. She complained of great soreness of the chest, with frequent shiverings and extreme coldness. The head also suffered from giddiness and confusion; her tongue and pulse indicated strong febrile action, and leeches were ordered to be immediately applied to the chest, together with purgative and other medicines. Having the highest confidence in the powers of the Sudatory, she was desirous to try its effects, before she had recourse to those means, and I was requested to apply it to her.

The operation was attended with the usual good effects. In a quarter of an hour circulation was equalized; her chest was immediately relieved from pain and soreness; her breathing became free and easy; and a copious perspiration followed, which was kept up during the night: and a subsequent mild treatment very soon restored her to health.

#### CASE IV.

Mr. C., upwards of seventy-five years of age, who had for years suffered from a constricted state of the skin, and various ailments resulting from a want of perspiration, was induced to



make trial of the Sudatory. This gentleman had for many years used various remedies to procure perspiration, without success. He had employed the various species of warm, salt, and medicated baths, and annually visited the different watering places ; but every means failed of restoring perspiration. One application of the Sudatory fully effected the purpose. Perspiration was kept up during the night, and followed by an immediate improvement of his general health.

#### CASE V.

Lady M. G., about twenty years of age, was recommended to me as a patient by a physician of extensive practice, who was acquainted with the extraordinary powers of the Sudatory. Her case was one which afforded very little prospect of relief, as she had for many years laboured under very peculiar indisposition. She never recollected to have perspired freely but once; when she experienced considerable improvement in her general feelings. The digestive organs were in a state of great derangement ; the action of the liver sluggish, its secretions vitiated, and occasionally obstructed ; while the bowels were constipated to a great



degree, requiring the constant aid of aperient medicine. What she chiefly complained of, was a high degree of *feverish heat*, with *head-ache*, which she had experienced every night, for more than *four* years, and an *extreme coldness* every morning after she arose. The paroxysm returned regularly at certain hours, and continued the usual time without any intermission. She had enjoyed the best medical advice, taken every prescribed remedy to promote the secretion of the skin, and used *hot, tepid, cold, shower*, and other baths; but nothing afforded relief. I first employed Galvanism with advantage, and afterwards made an application of the Sudatory at her bed-time. In twelve minutes after I had commenced the operation, she said she was sensible of moisture upon her legs and feet. A few minutes after, I found her hands quite damp; and in less than half an hour, a free and general perspiration was produced. The pulse, which was before full and frequent, became soft, and the relief was complete: this single operation of the Sudatory prevented any recurrence of the hot fits at night. The subsequent application of Galvanism removed the biliary obstruction, and excited the bowels to regular evacuations.



But as the cold fits continued in the mornings, I again administered the Sudatory, prior to the return of the paroxysm, and the remedy in this case also fully succeeded.—There was no necessity for its repetition.

#### CASE VI.

A lady, who had been for some time in a state of bad health, caught a violent cold, by riding in an open carriage on a summer's evening, which terminated in an intermittent fever. Dr. W. her physician accompanied me to witness the powers of the Sudatory, which we judged suitable to her case. At the time I commenced the operation, she complained of extreme coldness, pains in the head, and other symptoms attendant on ague. The Sudatory fully succeeded in restoring the vigour of circulation, and producing a copious perspiration in the usual prompt manner. On the following day, the patient found herself perfectly recovered from the attack, and she had no return of the complaint afterward.

#### CASE VII.

— Clissold, Esq., had for more than *twenty years* suffered much from derangement of the



digestive organs, and obstruction of the secretions of the skin. During that period, he had received the best medical advice, but without success. His general health was exceedingly bad; he laboured under a disagreeable eruption; his face was frequently covered with blotches, which had the appearance of scurvy. In addition to these ailments, he complained of a *numbness* and *coldness* of the lower extremities, particularly the feet, accompanied with great debility, rendering him incapable of taking proper exercise. He stated, that during the twenty years, he had employed every known remedy, not only for the benefit of his general health, but also to restore the secretions of the skin, the obstruction of which, he conceived to be the cause of his cutaneous disease; and that he had used the *dry sulphureous fumigation*, and every other kind of bath, without any advantage.

A blister to the face relieved him of the eruption in the part, but nothing seemed to procure perspiration. The hot-bath excited the system, and caused a determination of blood to the head, which obliged him to desist from the use of that remedy. In this case, I first employed Galvanism to restore the tone of the



digestive organs, with good effects. The liver performed its functions, the bowels became regular, and the general health was improved. I next applied the Sudatory, when its effect was remarkable; a *perspiration* was produced in twenty minutes, which was kept up during the night, and continued moderately for several days. Immediately after the use of the Sudatory, the skin exhibited evident marks of improvement. Two operations more had the effect of curing the eruption; and the application of the Air-pump Vapour-bath fully succeeded in removing the numbness and coldness of the lower extremities.

### CASE VIII.

Some time ago, I was particularly requested by a physician in my neighbourhood, to apply the Sudatory in a very peculiar and dangerous case. He observed, that unless the patient should obtain immediate relief, he could not survive two hours. When I arrived, I found the surgeon in attendance, who stated to me that the patient, a youth about eighteen years of age, had, for some time, suffered from an obstruction of the bowels—that this was followed by *Saint Vitus's Dance*—and from eleven o'clock



in the morning of the preceding day, he had been attacked with epileptic fits, which had frequently recurred—that his disorder was attended with hydrophobic symptoms, and that apoplexy would most likely terminate the life of the sufferer.

I found the patient in bed in violent convulsions,—his countenance pale, ghastly, with spasmodic action of the jaws,—all indicating fatal results. During its application, one of the servants was employed to steady the Sudatory, as his legs were violently convulsed, while I administered it in the presence of the surgeon, Mr. Islingworth, of Hackney, and several of the family.

In this, as in the first case which I have related, circulation had nearly ceased on the surface, and in the extremities. The pulse could scarcely be perceived. The surgeon, who particularly watched the pulse, remarked that he observed an improvement in the circulation, a few minutes after I had commenced the application. In a quarter of an hour the vigour of the circulation was restored, and a gentle perspiration was produced about the stomach and bowels; and the patient was so far recovered as himself to observe, that he felt



warm and comfortable about the body and limbs, that his head was greatly relieved, and that he was much better. The convulsions ceased, and he appeared calm. I ordered him thin gruel, of which he drank freely. He afterwards perspired profusely and became quite composed, in which state I took leave of him.

I was afterwards informed by Dr. A., who had requested my attendance, that the patient soon after my departure, fell asleep, had an excellent night, awoke refreshed, and had *no* return of the epileptic or convulsion fits; and that, the obstruction of the bowels being removed, he was restored to perfect health.

This immediate successful application of the Sudatory was a matter of surprise to all parties: for neither the physician nor the surgeon entertained hopes of the patient's recovery; but conceiving it to be a duty, suggested the propriety of an experiment, which, when judiciously performed, could not possibly do harm, and at the same time offered a chance of saving the life of the youth.

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*Of Croup, and Inflammation of the Lungs.*—  
The following cases, which occurred in the practice of Mr. Stewart, a respectable surgeon



of Great Marylebone Street, London, were communicated by him to the Editor of the *Gazette of Health*, and published in the 77th Number of that popular journal.

### CASE IX.

About the middle of December, 1821, I was sent for in great haste to see a child reported to be in a state of great danger. When I arrived at the lady's house, I found the little sufferer, who was about five years of age, in the greatest agony from a disease termed croup. Upon enquiry, I was informed that the patient had caught a violent cold, of which this was the result. I immediately desired eight leeches to be applied to the throat, after which a blistering plaster from ear to ear. I also prescribed large doses of calomel, with ipecacuanha, as a solution of the tartarised antimony, which was administered in small doses till nausea was freely excited. This plan of treatment I had flattered myself would have proved effectual; and, indeed, for three days the child certainly appeared getting better. On the fourth day, however, the symptoms suddenly became much aggravated; great difficulty of breathing, excessive thirst, with the peculiar characteristic



sound in coughing and speaking, an uneasy sense of heat over the whole body, a continual inclination to change from place to place, great restlessness, and frequency of pulse, with a continual inclination of throwing the head back in the agony of attempting to escape suffocation. In this most distressing state I felt exceedingly anxious to try the effects of the *portable Sudatory*; and having dispatched a messenger to Mr. LaBeaume, of Southampton Row, requesting his immediate attendance, I accompanied that gentleman to see its effects; and to his kind and prompt exertions I cannot sufficiently do justice, conscious how much the public is indebted to him for the very many benefits, and even lives, which have been saved by his efficacious remedies. As soon as we arrived, the child being placed in bed, I observed with much satisfaction, in about twelve minutes after Mr. La Beaume had commenced the operation, a sensible moisture upon her legs and feet. Within a few minutes succeeding, on feeling the pulse, I found the upper extremities quite damp; and in less than twenty minutes, a copious perspiration was produced. The pulse, which had hitherto been exceedingly irregular, became less frequent and soft, and



the little sufferer, who but a short interval before was nearly *gasping her last*, sunk into quiet slumber, and continued through the night to breathe easily. This single operation of the Sudatory prevented any recurrence of those frightful symptoms; and the patient, in a very few days, perfectly recovered.

### CASE X.

In consequence of the result of this trial of the Sudatory, I again requested the attendance of Mr. La Beaume in another case, in which I judged its application necessary. This occurred soon after the foregoing case, when attending a lady's child with *inflammation of the lungs*, for several days, without obtaining much advantage; and finding that respiration became more laborious, the extremities cold, and the child apparently sinking fast, I determined upon giving the Sudatory another trial. In this case, the circulation had *nearly ceased*, and it was upwards of half an hour from the commencement of the operation, before warmth or animation was excited. A further continuance of this remedy however succeeded, when no relief was expected. In about an hour the circulation was restored, a gentle perspiration



was produced about the stomach and bowels ; and the little sufferer, soon after Mr. La Beaume's departure, fell fast asleep : a copious perspiration followed, which was kept up during the night and the greater part of the following day ; and very shortly after, the child was restored to perfect health.

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### CASE XI.

I was requested by a poor woman to apply the Sudatory to her child, who was extremely ill of scarlet fever. As the child had been kindly attended by Dr. Gregory, I sent her to consult him on the subject, and he requested me to employ it. The case was considered hopeless, unless perspiration could be produced. In one hour this object was effected ; the child was thus relieved, and soon got well.

### CASE XII.

A few years ago, Dr Armstrong and Mr. Hill called me in to see a very sick lady in Bloomsbury Place. In a severe day, having got chilled, she ate greedily of indigestible food, and soon after fell down in a fit. Strong emetics and purgatives were given, without



effect. She soon became delirious. The Sudatory was applied for half an hour, when circulation was equalized, delirium ceased, a copious perspiration was produced; and thus, to the surprise of her medical attendants, the patient immediately got well.

The above cases prove that the Sudatory is a most important remedy when properly administered. I might adduce many instances of its great success in gout, rheumatism, palsy, dropsy, cutaneous eruptions, spasms, &c.; and in several instances, the regular secretion of the skin has been restored, after obstinate obstruction for twenty and thirty years.

In the following cases, the Sudatory merely afforded relief.

### CASE XIII.

Dr. Richardson, of Bedford Square, who, from reading my pamphlet, was acquainted with the powers of the Sudatory, sent me a note, requesting me "to leave the sick to save the dying." I did so immediately, and attended the companion and assistant of the celebrated Belzoni, who was suffering from a most dreadful and disgusting disease, called "the iliac



passion." Several medical consultations were held; the patient was given over, and *immediate* dissolution was apprehended. The Sudatory, however, relieved his suffering, and prolonged life for three days, for I applied it daily; after which he died. After a *post mortem* examination, Dr. R. wrote to me to say, "that an intorsusception of the bowels occasioned the fatal termination of the case."

#### CASE XIV.

At the time that Miss Abernethy was under my care and treatment for an anomalous rheumatic affection, occasioned by torpid liver, Mr. Abernethy was suffering from an acute inflammation of the hip-joint. He attributed his malady to the "deranged functions of the chylopoietic organs." I dared to question so great an authority, and strongly advised topical bleeding by cupping. He however honestly maintained his point; his sufferings daily increased; and, urged by his amiable lady, he requested me to administer to him the Sudatory. I did so: and every benefit that the remedy could afford was obtained. A copious perspiration was soon produced, which was kept up during the night. He was much relieved; but



afterward he relapsed, and daily grew worse—was confined to his bed. His extreme suffering compelled him, at last, to send to a medical friend, who I understand resided at Enfield, and in whom he had implicit confidence; who by the application of twenty leeches, and a judicious medical treatment, soon effected a cure.

I have mentioned this case more fully, first, because Mr. Abernethy was a most interesting character; secondly, because that, with all his *mental* acuteness, he mistook the cause of his disorder; and thirdly, because it was erroneously reported in a popular medical journal, that Mr. A. was cured by my application of the Sudatory and Galvanism,—which was not *the fact*. It was his daughter that was thus restored to health, after two years' illness, and not himself.

#### CASE XV.

I must state another case in which my most highly-valued remedy completely failed:—

About four years ago, visiting a patient who was ill of fever, I was infected by his disease—became much indisposed, daily grew worse, and was at last obliged to have recourse



to the Sudatory as my *anchor-hold* of hope. I had it applied to me for an hour in vain—I neither obtained *warmth* nor *perspiration*, because the *inflammatory* stage of the disease *had* come on before I employed it. During the night, twenty-four grains of James's powder and ten of calomel were administered to me without effect—the disease ran its course, and nothing but a judicious treatment and constitutional strength, through a kind Providence, effected my recovery. I must confess I felt humbled, that although I had frequently employed the remedy to myself in other minor maladies with immediate advantage, in this instance, and in my *own* case, the failure was complete. This result, however, has taught me an excellent lesson—never to presume on the powers of the most efficient means when unseasonably applied; and also convinced me, that, when in a state of disease and suffering, I was as fully *incompetent* to judge for myself as was the great Mr. Abernethy in his own case; and that what is capable of doing much good in judicious hands, is also capable of doing much harm when *unseasonably* and improperly employed. Hence we must conclude that there is wisdom in counsel;



and that on the first indication of disease, common prudence should dictate the necessity of immediately resorting to medical aid, and submitting to the guidance of those who *alone* are competent to direct the use of so Herculean a remedy.

I entreat the indulgence of my readers in making the following communication :—

About fourteen years ago, soon after I commenced my professional course in London, I was determined to combine every means in my practice that could benefit the afflicted: I introduced the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath to public notice by the advice of the late Dr. Bligborough, and the Sudatorium by that of Dr. Gower; I had been convinced of the powers of both those remedies, from applying them, *first to myself*, and then to others.

After the first application of the Sudatory, which Dr. Armstrong witnessed, he frequently expressed his surprise at its wonderful effects, and requested that I would let him have one to try in the early stage of typhus, (as he was then physician to the Fever Hospital.) I had a Sudatory made immediately, and sent it as a donation to that institution. He also procured



from me a very portable apparatus, which he exhibited at his lectures in the Borough; and he proclaimed its utility to his medical brethren. Notwithstanding all this I was *seldom* called in by the faculty, though I frequently employed it in my own practice.

About four years ago I determined to give up the application of the Sudatory, except to my own patients and friends: chiefly because it interfered with my domestic comforts, and my other practice, the administration of galvanism, &c. I therefore determined that so useful a means should be placed in the hands of other medical practitioners; and I also offered, on the application of Sir C. Sendamore, to give a model of my apparatus to *any* medical man who might get one made cheaper than I could do,—my only wish being, that a remedy that had proved so successful in my own practice should also be so in other and abler hands, and that hospitals, dispensaries, and heads of families should resort to its use; but very few persons knew how to estimate the value of a remedy I so freely offered. However, when the public apprehension was excited by the fear of CHOLERA, and the Board of Health suggested hot air as a remedy, in the first stage



of that malady, the Sudatory was *forced* upon the attention of medical men and the public; and though a favorable opportunity presented itself to introduce my remedy to notice, I determined not to trouble myself any more on the subject; till I was urged by a most respectable and benevolent gentleman, who called on me, and stated that I was instrumental in saving his life fourteen years ago, when he was apparently dying from a violent attack of cholera; and he requested and obtained my permission to publish his case in the newspapers; and also urged me to communicate with the Board of Health on the subject. I promised him I would; and did so, in compliance not only with his wish, but that of Dr. James Johnson and Mr. Delisser, who pointed out the great utility of the remedy in cholera. I also exhibited my apparatus to the Board of Health, at the St. Pancras District Meeting of medical men, who most highly approved of its construction; and Dr. Johnson and myself displayed it at the Westminster Medical Society in Windmill Street. In consequence of the notoriety my Sudatory obtained, I have had so many applications for them, that I immediately engaged manufacturers to execute the orders; and after



inspecting each of them, they were sent to the parties.

Since the first few dozen were made, a great improvement was suggested to me by Dr. Johnson, peculiarly essential in cases of Cholera, for which the public and myself are much indebted; and his idea arose from his superior knowledge and experience in the Asiatic malady. Besides which, by simplifying the machine, employing cheap materials, and inventing a new spirit-lamp for regulating the temperature, the Sudatory is materially improved, and may be now made at so *low a price*, that the poor as well as the rich may possess it.

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### TESTIMONIALS.

“We have, from amongst other evidence of the utility of this ingenious contrivance, (the *Sudatory*), inserted two cases; the one from a gentleman of high character, the other from a medical man, Mr. Delisser, whose professional talents, general knowledge, and promptitude in affording relief, are a guarantee for the excellence of any object he recommends.”—*Gazette of Health, Dec. 1831.*



## CHOLERA MORBUS.

*To the Editors of the Monthly Gazette of Health.*

“GENTLEMEN:—Allow me, at the present crisis, when all minds are turned to the subject of that dreadful disease, cholera morbus, to take advantage of your valuable Journal, to draw the attention of my medical brethren to that ingenious and scientific invention of Mr. La Beaume, of Southampton Row, called the Sudatory; the employment of which, it occurs to me, in cases of cholera, would prove highly beneficial, where the application of warmth is so essentially necessary, and no mode of exciting the natural heat of the body, that I am aware of, could be so instantaneously accomplished. It has, under my own knowledge, in many instances, produced a determination to the skin when all other remedies failed, and in none more striking than in my own case, having experienced the most wonderful relief from its application during a most obstinate fever. The Sudatory is very simple in its construction, portable, and easy of application, so that it can be administered by nurses, at the



patients' own houses; therefore all public institutions should be provided with them, as they are by no means expensive. Although I am not able to give a description of the machine, I have no doubt that every information may be obtained from the scientific inventor, who is well known to the medical public, and who has, in his recent publication, most handsomely offered to do so. I must again repeat, that I know of no remedy in cholera that could be of equal importance.

“ I am, Gentlemen,

“ Your obedient Servant,

“ ALEXANDER DELISSER.”

63, Judd Street; Nov. 22, 1831.

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*To the Editors of the Monthly Gazette of  
Health and Practical Medicine.*

“ GENTLEMEN:—Under the present anxious state of the public mind respecting the oriental cholera, I feel assured that you will allow a space in your widely-extended Journal for the insertion of the following communication.

“ Some time ago, I was attacked with the English cholera, in such a violent degree that life was nearly extinct, and my recovery was



considered hopeless. The promptitude, however, of the late Dr. Armstrong, in sending to Mr. La Beaume, of Southampton Row, Russell Square, to apply his Sudatory, was the means, in the short period of about twenty minutes, not only of restoring animation, but of so completely reducing the symptoms of the disease, that I was considered out of danger immediately after the application; and in about two or three weeks I recovered my usual health. The machine to which I allude is a very ingenious contrivance invented by Mr. La Beaume, well known for his success in the medical application of Galvanism; who, upon the above occasion, applied the apparatus in the presence of Dr. Armstrong. The extreme simplicity of that machine, the dispatch with which it was applied, its almost instantaneous effect, without in the least degree disturbing or even touching the patient, render the contrivance invaluable. Having experienced such signal benefit myself, I am induced thus to recommend the public, and particularly medical practitioners, to procure a similar machine from Mr. La Beaume. In my opinion, no parish in the kingdom should be without it. I learn, that Mr. La Beaume's private practice and professional engagements



will not allow him to attend any but his own private patients from home ; and, indeed, were he otherwise disposed, neither he nor one hundred other medical men would be physically capable of administering the requisite aid of this Sudatory in case of public emergency. I am told, from the actual experience of a medical man, that by far the largest proportion of cases of cholera, in which the Sudatory has been applied in the first instance, have been cured. In my own case, from the cold and almost lifeless insensibility of death, I was in a few minutes thrown into a profuse perspiration, and restored to consciousness.

“ I make the above communication at the instance of several friends, and under the conviction, that the general adoption of Mr. La Beaume’s Sudatory, if the cholera morbus, (which God forbid,) should commence its ravages in this country, would tend, if not to arrest the progress, at least to diminish the fatality of this fearful disorder. In inserting the above, you will oblige

H. H. W.

*Lincoln’s Inn Old Square.*

“ I subjoin the address, that the Editor may ascertain the quarter whence this communica-



tion is made, and that the writer cannot be actuated by any other motive than the desire, that others may reap the same benefit, in similar circumstances, as he has experienced."\*

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Could I produce no other evidence of the efficacy of the Sudatory, the facts now stated must convince any candid man of the extraordinary powers of the apparatus in cases of emergency.

I have presented a simple narrative of facts, and am ready to *refer to the parties for the truth of the statements*. A physician who attended the application of the Sudatory, remarked, "that he had never in his practice seen effects so invariably beneficial, procured by any means, as by the Sudatory."

It is an invaluable remedy in a great variety of diseases. I again repeat, I have employed its powers in Gout, Rheumatism, Palsy, Dropsy, Cutaneous Eruptions, Spasms, and many other disorders, with decided benefit. I have found it *invariably* succeed in restoring the vigour of circulation, diffusing animal heat, promoting not

\* For a more detailed account *vide* Case I. p. 3.



only the healthful action of the skin, but that of the kidneys and bowels; removing obstructions, and affording speedy relief.

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*Extracts from the Medical Journals.*

“WE have published several cases of the efficacy of Mr. La Beaume’s newly invented apparatus, termed ‘Portable Sudatory,’ which has been employed in his practice with wonderful advantage. It is more certain in its effects, and more convenient than the warm (or vapour) bath, by occasioning a determination of blood to the surface, equalizing circulation, producing an evaporating surface in a variety of diseases attended with heat and dryness of the skin. In his Sudatory, we have a *certain* remedy for exciting perspiration, without *disordering* the stomach by nauseating medicines. In typhus fever, gout, chronic rheumatism, diabetes, and all cases of local congestion, we have no hesitation in saying his Sudatory is a most invaluable invention.”—*Gazette of Health*, Dec. 1822, page 14.

“The ingenuity and simplicity of this apparatus deserve our favorable notice, and the



attention of the profession. By means of this 'Sudatory,' which is so light that it may be carried with one hand, (being about eighteen inches square, and six pounds weight,) the patient may be enveloped in air heated to any temperature that may be required (in one minute). It may be used as a general or local hot-air or vapour-bath; and it possesses the great advantage, that it may be used without moving the patient. The great benefit, and the frequently great difficulty of inducing a free and genial perspiration by ordinary medical means, are well known. Mr. La Beaume's 'Portable Sudatory' is admirably adapted to produce this effect, as well as many others equally to be desired."—*London Medical and Physical Journal*, Dec. 1831, page 529.

"We are happy to learn that M. La Beaume is about to give a full description of his invention, while we can assure our readers that cases of the most violent English cholera, which were considered beyond hope by the late Dr. Armstrong, and others, were cured by this bath. It was exhibited at the Westminster Medical Society (by Dr. J. Johnson and M. La Beaume,) on the 26th November last, and highly ap-



proved of by a numerous meeting of the profession."—*London Medical and Surgical Journal*, Dec. 1831, page 508.

"M. La Beaume has submitted his bath to our inspection, with which we have been very much pleased. We have seen many contrivances, but none of so much simplicity. It is capable of being employed with the greatest quickness and facility in those urgent cases where *instantaneous* assistance is demanded. This invention should at *this* particular crisis be in the possession of every family, for it can be, without the slightest inconvenience or danger, immediately had recourse to, for the purpose of keeping up the circulation, and indeed of restoring animal heat, in moments of alarm and danger. In the present Number, we have inserted an extraordinary case of cholera morbus, cured by this apparatus."—*Gazette of Health and Practical Medicine*, Dec. 1831, page 483.

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*Construction of the Portable Sudatory.*

Before I give the necessary directions for the prompt and cautious administration of the Hot-Air Bath, I present my readers with the following outline of its construction.—The apparatus is made of two, three or four semi-circular frames, which slide into each other like a telescope: at the smaller end of the machine there is a semi-circular foot-board, in which is a circular hole to receive the upper end of an iron tube, tinned, and fixed by a bayonet screw. The object of the frame-work is to form an arch over the body, and support the bed-clothes. The metallic tube is the medium through which the hot air passes into the bed; at the lower end of the tube there is a cavern or cell to receive two spirit-lamps,—the larger one to heat the bath immediately, and the smaller one to maintain an adequate temperature as long as necessary. Since the demand for my Sudatories became great, I determined to simplify the machine, and make it less expensive, and to adopt Dr. James Johnson's important improvement. Spaces on each side of the semi-circular frame are left that manual friction may be administered to



the body and limbs of a patient, and in the centre division ample room is allowed to pass a bed-pan under him, if required, while he is raised by a very small blanket or band, which must be laid under him before the administration of the bath. Several dozen of the Sudatories were made on this plan. As I have since found that some who have employed the Sudatory have *mismanaged the lamps*, and nearly set the bed-clothes on fire,—to prevent accident, and to regulate the temperature, I happily thought of a very simple contrivance to meet every possible danger and difficulty, which supersedes the use of the *two lamps*, so that a child may administer the Sudatory with safety; and which also materially reduces the price of the apparatus. This invention is the substitution of a *metallic cone* and *sliding cover*, which being once placed in the cavern need *not be again removed* till the bath is administered. This simple apparatus is a *self-regulator* of the temperature: at the commencement, the heat from a larger volume of flame is immediately raised to a high degree, and gradually diminished when the equalized circulation and copious perspiration are obtained. Thus the patient is saved from



the oppression of a continuity of too great heat; added to which, to prevent the apparatus and bed-clothes being soiled by smoke arising from atmospheric air heated by alcohol, this lamp is so constructed as to consume the smoke. The latest improvement of the tube, is the admission of heat and the exclusion of flame; for this idea I am indebted to my old friend Professor Aldini, of Bologna, and Mr. Hutchinson, a gentleman of great mechanical genius, to whom I acknowledge my obligation; as I think it contemptible vanity to shine in borrowed plumes, and falsely to ascribe to one's self another's merit. I reprobate the conduct of greedy and grasping traders, who pirate the principle of valuable inventions, rob the projector of his meed of praise, and plunder him of his pecuniary reward. If pressing poverty urge to dishonesty, the plea of necessity may palliate the crime; but where the love of gain *alone* impels to a dishonourable action, the sordid meanness of such debased minds merits the contempt and censure of mankind. Apply this remark to the host of bath-makers, who have started into notice, and vie with each other in vending their "*pretended inventions on superior principles, at the cheapest prices.*" These



machines, like Peter Pindar's *harmless* razors at a shilling per dozen, are made to *sell* but not to *cut*. In our parsimonious age, economy is the pass-word, and cheapness the object. Such claimants to patronage find willing approbation; for the love of saving, as well as gaining, is now the chief passion of a thoughtless multitude: but common sense should teach "these children of a larger growth," that the *dearest* things in *nominal* price, are the *cheapest* things in real *value*. This is no fallacious notion, because it is founded in truth, observation and experience. I am led to make these observations from the fact, that most of the bathing apparatus sold to the public at *low* prices, will not answer the purpose in cholera morbus. Indeed, the apparatus I first constructed, although an adequate family remedy, would be ineffectual in that malady, as it did not allow the necessary convenience of *manual friction*, &c.; but those which are now manufactured, will answer every purpose, both as a *general* and *local* Sudatory for an infant, child, or adult; and by a simple and cheap contrivance, not only hot air, but simple or medicated vapour, or both combined, may be administered with the greatest ease and advantage.



I beg my readers will pardon this digression, and distinctly understand, that I never would have directed my attention either to the construction or the use of the Sudatory if I had not found it a potent and wonderful auxiliary in my professional practice; and that I have been impelled, not from the love of gain, but higher motives, to supply my medical and other friends, and patients, with a most invaluable family remedy, which for many years I have been anxious they should possess. I rejoice that the time is now arrived, when a proper estimate is made of the real utility of the portable Sudatory, and that though I have laboured long, at great cost, to bring it into notice, I have not at last laboured *in vain*.

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*Directions for Administering the Sudatory.*

The following directions for the proper application of the Sudatory, will I hope be clearly understood:—

Bear in mind the separate use of the three parts of the machine. *First*, the frame is designed to support the bed-clothes: *Secondly*, the can of spirits, when ignited, to heat the



air: *Thirdly*, the metallic tube to convey the heated air.

The patient should undress, if the case be not urgent, and go into bed, either between the sheets or blankets. In the mean time, fill the can nearly to the brim with spirits. Draw out the divisions of the bath according to the length required, either for child or adult; turn back the bed-clothes, and place them over the frame of the bath; then tuck the upper end of the clothes around the neck, so that the head may not be exposed to the heat; and the clothes at the foot of the bed should be tucked around the edge of the foot-board of the bath. Then quickly insert the tube into the hole of the foot-board, and fasten it carefully by the screw; put the lamp into the circle of the tin cavern, and with a lighted piece of paper touch the surface of the spirits, and they will burn moderately. During the process of the bath, regulate the temperature to the feelings of the patient, (which will vary in different constitutions and disorders), by sliding the cover of the lamp which is affixed in the groove, which will, in proportion as it is covered, increase or diminish the quantum of both flame and heat. When the Sudatory has produced a copious



perspiration, or if palpitation of the heart or throbbing of the head is induced, the flame must be diminished by sliding over the cover of the can, partially or to the fullest extent. After the operation, take out the hot tube with a towel, then stop the hole of the foot-board for a few minutes, that the bed-clothes may gradually cool, otherwise the patient will feel them too hot; then draw out the machine at the foot of the bed; let the bed-clothes gently fall on him, and the superabundant perspiration will soon be absorbed by the contact of the bed-clothes. Adjust and put up the framework; affix the tube in its place; if any spirits remain, pour them out by the small lip of the can into the bottle, "that nothing be lost."

In this mode of taking a hot-air-bath, there can be no risk of checking perspiration, which should be kept up by taking some warm drink, either peppermint or balm tea, barley-water or thin gruel, cherry negus or weak brandy and water, as may be advised by your medical attendant or directed by your judgment and experience.

Observe also, that the iron tube coated with tin, on the first application becomes so hot that the tin will melt and drop; but that is of no



consequence, as it cannot injure the iron. I have used a similar tube for ten years, and it is now as good as ever.

Finally, understand that the temperature of the bath should never be raised so high as to oppress and produce faintness; if the head gets hot, sponge it with some of the spirits, or cold water, to produce an evaporating surface, which will cool it. I have had this application made to many patients who were subject to a determination of blood to the head while taking the bath, with the happiest effect. As some persons have naturally or accidentally an acute sense of smell, the fumes of spirits of wine become very disagreeable; I therefore advise medicated or aromatic spirits to be used, to render the heated air more stimulating or composing, pleasant and refreshing. This may be procured, according to my recipe, at Messrs. White and Co., Ludgate Hill; Messrs. Reece and Co., Medical Hall, Piccadilly; Wholesale Chemists; Mr. Garden, Oxford Street, near the Pantheon; and Mr. Jackson, Southampton Row, Russell Square: who will supply the public with genuine articles, at a reasonable price. I recommend these parties from no



sinister motives, but because I have confidence in them that they will do what is right.

If the public duly appreciate my portable Sudatory, and if the sale of that article should very materially increase, I shall appoint three or four depôts in town to suit public convenience, where it may be promptly obtained; which shall be announced by advertisements in the morning and evening papers. Besides the printed testimonials of medical writers in favour of my Sudatory, I have the pleasure to add the approbation of Sir Henry Hallford, Sir Astley Cooper, Sir C. Scudamore, Mr. Brodie, Mr. Pennington, and other highly respectable practitioners in the three branches of the profession; who have all pronounced it the best that they have seen, and will be supplied with them.

In the frontispiece, the *first* division represents the Vapour-Baths as administered; the *second*, the Sudatories, of which enough has been said; and the *third*, the Local Vapour and Air-Pump-Vapour, and Hot-Air-Baths.—The following remarks will further illustrate their use.



## THE GENERAL VAPOUR-BATH.

(First division, A. B. C.)

The portable Vapour-Bath which I employ in my practice was the invention of a gentleman of great mechanical ingenuity, and has been very materially improved by the Hon. Basil Cochrane and myself. Its construction is very simple: the apparatus consists of a boiler, tubes, stop-cocks and regulator, by which the temperature of the vapour applied to the lower extremities can be made twenty or thirty degrees greater than that to the upper. A portable tent or steam-proof covering, a chair and stool, are the only appendages. The regulation of the temperature is essentially necessary for the safety of those patients who are liable to a vascular fulness, or determination of blood to the head; for many persons who have resorted to the common vapour-bath, have experienced the most injurious effects, because the head was subjected to the same degree of heat as the feet.

The medical powers of vapour, as a sedative and stimulant, are well known to practitioners, as its sudorific and tonic effects are to the invalid. Its quieting effects on the nervous



system, and its purifying effects on the skin, are also a great recommendation of it ; for there is no single function of the vital organs on which the general health depends more than on that of the healthy action of the skin. This bath is particularly applicable in the first stages of fever, in acute inflammation of the stomach, liver, bowels, and other organs ; in gout, rheumatism, gravel, dropsy and scrofula ; as well as in chronic diseases of the abdominal viscera, obstructions in the gall-ducts, torpor of the liver and bowels, palsy, enfeebled and diseased joints, obstruction of perspiration, cutaneous disorders, and the complaints peculiar to children and females.

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### AIR-PUMP VAPOUR-BATH.

(Third division, G.)

The Air-Pump Vapour-Bath consists of several parts :—a metallic cylinder or vessel, into which the disordered limb is to be placed ; at the extremity of which a bladder is attached to prevent the steam from escaping, and the air from rushing into the machine, during the process of exhaustion ; at the other end of the vessel are placed a stop-cock and tube, to



which a small boiler containing water is affixed ; the steam from thence passes into the machine through the stop-cock, and the fluid evaporates by a spirit-lamp placed under the boiler. A thermometer shews the temperature of the fomentation, and regulates the degree of heat. An Air-Pump is firmly attached for the purpose of exhausting the machine when the fomentation has continued the proper time ; and there is also an escape-valve, with which is connected a flexible pipe, adapted to convey off the vitiated air occasioned by the nature of the complaint sought to be remedied. There is also another stop-cock to prevent the valves of the pump being injured by the hot vapour, in its passage from the boiler.

Each application of this apparatus takes up generally about an hour. The sensations experienced by the patient during the process, are of the most agreeable kind. Even in painfully acute disorders, the effects of the operation are actually soothing, exciting gradually and gently an inclination in the patient to sleep. The exhaustion, when carried to its fullest extent, awakens no other feeling than a sense of weight, and of a distention of the limb to which the operation is directed.



When this is experienced, the application is terminated, by the admission of air into the body of the vessel, which affords instant relief. In short, the effects produced on the patient by the application of the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, are mild, safe and efficacious, and afford relief in the very worst forms of disease, even after all other remedies have been tried in vain.

The apparatus comprehends, and for the first time unites the effects of fomentation and the cupping-glass, two of the most powerful means of acting on disease, and that on a plan more extensive than was ever before thought of; and is particularly applicable to gout, rheumatism, palsy, contractions of the muscles, cutaneous and other diseases, particularly of the chronic kind. The peculiar construction of the machine is adapted to the leg or arm only, but the principle extends to the removal of atmospheric pressure from any surface, every square inch of which sustains a weight of fifteen pounds; the effects on the vessels circulating the fluids in such parts are evident; and the consequent temporary expansion of those vessels, from so great a pressure being removed, must give an opportunity for obstructions to give way, while at the same time



the progress of inflammation is arrested, and symptomatic fever and the destruction of parts consequent on suppuration, are avoided.

It is certain that the removal of atmospheric pressure is, in many cases, attended with the most salutary effects, in helping obstructed vessels to unload themselves, not only in local affections of the extremities, but also of other parts of the body where obstructions may have taken place. The late learned and ingenious Dr. Garnett was so much struck with this discovery, that he procured and exhibited one of the machines, which he explained in his lecture on gout, in his interesting course on *Zoonomia*. Professor Hufeland has elicited the attention of the faculty at Berlin to this remedy, by his warm expressions in favour of its use in several of the diseases in which I have employed it most successfully.

Since these valuable testimonials, the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath has received various and important improvements; and its extraordinary efficacy in the relief and cure of many dangerous disorders, has induced the faculty to recommend it: and I have more fully illustrated its use in a separate treatise on this machine.\*

\* See the Advertisement at the end of the book.



### THE LOCAL SUDATORY.

This portable apparatus is of a semi-oval form, sufficiently spacious to admit a part or the whole of a limb for the application of warm air, which may be impregnated with aromatics, sulphur, camphor, or any other drug. The principle on which this machine acts is precisely the same as the Portable Sudatory, or General Warm-Air-Bath. In those cases, to which the Local Vapour-Bath, and the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath do not apply, and in which it is necessary to produce a copious perspiration in a diseased limb, the effects of this bath may always be depended upon, as it invariably accomplishes that object. The administration of this auxiliary remedy will always restore the balance of circulation in a benumbed or wasting limb, by determining the blood to the surface, by affording immediate ease from pain, and by relieving the vascular fulness without a general excitement of the system. This apparatus and two others for the application of dry and moist heat to the chest, the stomach, bowels and feet, are constructed on the most simple principles, and have been found most advantageous in my practice.

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By the recent improvement of my portable Sudatory, the topical application of hot air or vapour can be made by that apparatus, without the two last machines represented in the third division of the frontispiece. I lament that the public has been much deluded by the advertisers of cheap vapour-baths, who have led them to suppose that that remedy would be efficient on the attack of Cholera. This is a dangerous, and may prove a fatal error; for so great is the prostration of strength attendant on the first stage of that disease (as in fainting) that the *recumbent* and not the *erect* posture is absolutely necessary to restore the sinking powers of life. Another important consideration is, that the administration of the vapour-bath to a patient in bed often chills instead of warming him; because the vapour will ascend to the upper part of the frame, where the temperature will be great, while the lower part of the frame, where he lays, will hardly be warm: besides which, the condensed vapour will wet the blanket, and require the patient to be removed. These serious inconveniences are avoided by the substitution of hot air, which envelopes the patient, and occasions no other moisture but perspiration, which is immediately



absorbed by the bed-clothes without removing him from his position. Indeed, the *hot air* and not the *vapour* bath was recommended by the Board of Health, to be immediately employed in case of Cholera: this direction was founded on the successful results attendant on its administration even in the hot climate of British India, during the great mortality occasioned by Cholera in my native land. No remedy so promptly and effectually arrested that dreadful disease, as the Hot-Air-Bath. It was this application alone, like Aaron's censor, that stayed that plague.\*

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## ON GALVANISM.

I must now present to the consideration of the medical profession and the intelligent public, an Herculean remedy, most beneficially applicable on the first or blue stage of Cholera Morbus. As there has been so much lately written and said on this fatal disease, which

\* I have forgotten to say, that when the frame of the Sudatory is placed over a patient, the foot-board should be at least eight or nine inches distant from his feet; otherwise he will find the heated air uncomfortably hot.



in a few weeks destroyed more than sixty thousand persons in one city in India, I have briefly to observe, whatever difference of opinion prevails on the communicable or incommunicable nature of this malady, all writers and experienced practitioners agree that the first effect of the disease is a sudden prostration of strength, from loss of nervous power or vital energy, followed by constriction of the skin, disturbed circulation, congestion of the blood, suppressed secretions, and a fatal issue, in a very short time, in impaired constitutions which have lost the power of re-action. The sudden abstraction of nervous power and vital heat from the system, is an unquestionable fact; but whether occasioned by malaria, animalculæ, morbid effluvia, or the positive or plus, or negative or minus state of electricity in the atmosphere or earth, are speculations on the philosophy of that *fact*, with which we have *most* to do: the treatment on the first attack of the disease should therefore be, to *restore nervous power, invigorate the circulation, and determine it to the skin, and open the pores*. Since the grand discovery of animal electricity, and metallic electricity, or Galvanism, all philosophers and medical writers agree that the



galvanic influence, if not identical with nervous power, is unquestionably the *best substitute* for it ; and that it is a natural, immediate, and most powerful excitant of the vital forces ; the best test of life, and the surest criterion of death. The chymical properties of Galvanism are well known to the scientific : by its intensity or concentration of light, heat and electricity, it has been found, not only capable of fusing all metals, decomposing fluids and alkalies ; but even of *evaporating* diamonds. If such be the powers of Galvanism on inanimate substances, with which it has not so great affinity as with the principles of vegetable and animal life ; what great effects must it necessarily produce, when employed as a medical remedy in defective nervous energy or suspended animation. These positions are now maintained by practitioners of the first eminence, and writers of former as well as modern times.

It is now about thirty years since I first directed my attention to philosophical and medical Galvanism, and employed it as a local stimulant with the best effects. About fifteen years ago, I first applied it to myself as a *constitutional* remedy : such effects were immediately produced on me, while suffering extremely



from indigestion with all its horrors, that I was transported with delight in having discovered this elixir of life. I have since employed this powerful agent with astonishing advantage, in various chronic diseases; and have published some of those facts in the first and second editions of my work on medical Galvanism, with numerous cases to prove its efficacy. At the commencement of my practice in London, I had to contend with the ignorance of the vulgar, as well as the prejudices of honourable but mistaken men; but I rejoice to say, that since the "Schoolmaster has been abroad," the uninformed have acquired knowledge, my honest opposers have yielded to the force of conviction, and have in a manly and dignified manner acknowledged their involuntary error, by sending me several patients, many of the first classes in society, who have been cured or relieved by my treatment. After fourteen years conflict with formidable discouragements, which had almost paralyzed my energies and arrested my professional career, I have triumphed in the success of my humble instrumentality; I ascribe no merit to myself, but to the *omnipotence* of truth, which is sure to prevail in candid minds, but not in selfish spirits. It is



easier to convince the judgment than to mend the heart, and subdue self-love.

In the frontispiece of my last work on Galvanism, I gave a representation of several galvanic batteries I had constructed for my professional use, and others which were intended for prompt application in suspended animation, which apparatus is so portable, as can be conveyed in a walkingstick or waiscoat-pocket. So minute a battery, made with the ordinary materials, could not have developed sufficient influence had I not happily discovered other combinations than zink and copper, which increase the power of galvanic excitation to an astonishing degree, and render the apparatus more potent than four of Crookshank's troughs of one hundred pairs of plates each. This discovery opens a wide field for observation, as it is directly opposed to the supposed laws of galvanic excitation laid down by that great chymist, Sir Humphry Davy. My little apparatus is an important improvement of De Sanctis' piles, on Aldini's principle; it can be instantly excited to develop an adequate intensity of galvanic influence for suspended animation; and by a few simple directions, a child may apply it, even in extreme cases, with *ease* and *safety*.



As no chymical analysis can discover the secret, I shall not for the present make it known, that neither the public nor myself may be damnified by counterfeits, which will most probably be offered for sale; and yet these batteries shall be so cheaply constructed as to meet the circumstances of the poor as well as the rich, that no one may be without them in case Cholera should extend.

Reasoning on the well known chymical and medical properties of galvanic agency, with which I have been practically acquainted for the last thirty years, and have seen its wonderful efficacy in those diseases which were occasioned by defective nervous power and vital energy; I may venture to say, that few persons can be more competent to judge of its utility, or advise its application. I also beg to state it as my decided opinion, that in the first stage of Cholera its application, conjointly with the use of the Sudatory, will speedily restore nervous power, and the balance of circulation. But I must own, I have never applied Galvanism in either the English or the Asiatic Cholera; nor have I known it applied in that disease. But reasoning *a priori*, I strongly recommend a fair trial to be made



of a remedy which, from its nature and peculiar action on the nervous and sanguiferous systems, and the organs of secretion, bids fair to prove effectual in the cold stage of the disease.

This conclusion at which I have arrived, is not from another's theory, but from my own practice; and it is I think confirmed by many English and continental writers who have written on the science of Galvanism. It is therefore reasonable to suppose, that if Galvanism can recussitate those who are apparently dead, it must have a powerful influence on those in whom the principles of life are not so much depressed, nor the sensorial power altogether suspended, though the loss of muscular strength be great. I think it useless to quote the authority of any man who has not had more experience of the curative powers of Galvanism than myself; and therefore, on the presumption that these remarks will be noticed by the guardians of public health, instituted in various parts of this kingdom, I have ordered an ample supply of the Portable Sudatories and of my galvanic apparatus to be immediately manufactured, that they may obtain them, in order to arrest the progress of a destructive malady.

Many of my readers may probably ask how



it happens, that if the Portable Sudatory and the galvanic influence have been found so efficient in the cure of so many acute and chronic diseases, that they have not been more frequently and generally recommended by the faculty? I have already anticipated and partly answered their enquiry: but I must answer this question more plainly, by stating my opinion, that ignorance of their powers, prejudice against their employment, and mistaken self-interest, have hitherto impeded their use. In the former case, I must maintain that where knowledge is a duty, ignorance in professors of the healing art is a crime. In the second case, it proves moral imbecility to reject and oppose proffered evidence which establish well-authenticated facts. And in the last instance, an unpardonable vice to sacrifice public good for private advantage; to say nothing of that unsound policy, which is "rotten at the core."

The imputation of empiricism to my practice by vulgar error, I condescend not to notice; but such an insinuation made by *any* member of the medical profession who pretends to the knowledge of chymistry and the art of healing, merits censure. I can lament a mistaken judgment and a conscientious opposition to my



practice, and yet respect the individual ; but a covert and base hostility, however disguised, against the use of *any* beneficial remedy, when maintained by avarice and instigated by envy, renders a man a public enemy ; by opposing and retarding a public good, he commits a public wrong, and therefore deserves public reprobation.

As my profession has now been dignified by the approbation and sanction of a patriotic Monarch, and my appointment of Medical-Galvanist and Electrician in Ordinary to the King, was conferred, (not by interest with the Lord Chamberlain), but by the recommendation of his Majesty's physicians, to whom I publicly acknowledge my gratitude, as the reward of scientific researches and professional success ; it being the first appointment in this department of medicine ever bestowed and gazetted by order of the King ; for whose gracious condescension, I feel the greatest obligation. This high authority will, I hope, silence calumny, and inspire confidence in the remedial powers of Galvanism and Electricity when properly administered.

I have now attained my long wished-for desire, by raising these philosophical agents



into due estimation in general opinion as a legitimate practitioner in the healing art.

That the reader may be satisfied that I have not over-valued those means, I crave their perusal of the following extracts from critiques on the second edition of my treatise on Galvanism, Electricity and the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath, &c. I now announce, that as other scientific persons have contributed to the fund of medical knowledge, and proposed many means for *curing* Cholera, I will shortly present my offering at the shrine of humanity, and publish some useful hints for the restoration and preservation of health,—for the prevention of disease and protection from Cholera, with various other matters now unknown to the public, in a small cheap pamphlet for general perusal.



## EXTRACTS

*From Reviews on M. La Beaume's Works on Galvanism, Electricity, and on the Air-Pump Vapour-Bath.*

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From the *London Medical Journal*, November, 1826.

“ Mr. La Beaume has dedicated many years to acquiring a knowledge of Electricity and Galvanism. We have no doubt, that he is well instructed in the science upon which he writes. He is anxious to separate himself from the mere mechanical operators of Electricity. He strikes disease at its source, by one of the most powerful medical agents that has ever been employed in the curative treatment of human maladies.”

From the *Gazette of Health*, November, 1826.

“ GALVANISM.—Mr. La Beaume has detailed, as concisely as possible, the results of his extensive experience of the galvanic fluid constitutionally applied to various diseases. The numerous cases in which he has found this powerful remedy efficacious,



and the zeal and intelligence with which he has assiduously followed this branch of the profession, entitle his book to the consideration of medical practitioners, and prove him to be the most skilful and scientific galvanist in this country. From a mere mechanical agent, Mr. La Beaume, in concert with some continental physicians, has successfully laboured to raise Galvanism into a medical as well as surgical remedy ; and it has in many cases effected a complete restoration to health, without any auxiliary aid whatever. In cases of asthma, liver complaint, and in chronic affections in general, Mr. La Beaume has found Galvanism to be a most efficacious remedy : and under his administration, we have no doubt but this philosophical agent will prove highly beneficial : but we are of opinion that the results which have happily attended Mr. La Beaume's practice, and which he has faithfully and impartially detailed, are to be expected from very few galvanists in this country ; for few have studied this science so deeply, practised it so extensively, or proved himself so well qualified to administer it, as Mr. La Beaume, whose zeal in this pursuit, and whose urbane manners, deservedly render him well known in and out of the profession. And although we may not think with Mr. La Beaume on every medical subject, yet on that of Galvanism we must allow his merits to stand very high."



The *Medical Adviser* of December 26, or January 27, has also given a high commendation and copious extracts.

The book has also been favorably noticed in the *Medical Repository*—the number is mislaid.

From the *New Monthly Magazine*, November, 1826.

“ The character of M. La Beaume, as a practitioner of long experience, and of excellent tact and skill in its application to constitutional peculiarities, stands too high in the profession and before the public, by his previous publications, longer to leave room for hesitation respecting the efficacy of the galvanic power in diseases to which it was not previously known to be applicable. No impartial or unprejudiced person, we think, open to reasonable conviction, can peruse this additional evidence of Mr. La B.’s valuable inquiries, without wholly dismissing from his mind that degree of scepticism and that ridicule, at one time so strongly attaching to this branch of science, as connected with any medical, or indeed any other useful purpose.

“ In remarking upon the safe substitution of this medicinal agent, after citing a number of cases, the author thus concludes:—



“ ‘ Thus Galvanism affords to the invalid advantages superior to all the benefits of mercurial remedies, without any baneful effects on the glandular, sanguiferous, nervous, or muscular systems.

“ ‘ The difference in the actions of Galvanism and mercury upon the system is great, important, and remarkable ; and gives to the former an immense superiority. Galvanism, skilfully administered, seldom requires the aid of any secondary agent to supply its deficiency, and never to remove injurious effects ; it is not at variance with any constitutional temperament, nor can it superinduce any disease ; in its application it is perfectly safe, pleasant, direct, and often instantaneously effective ; it gives the patient no personal inconvenience whatever ; and may be exhibited at all times to both males and females, at all ages, and at all seasons of the year. Mercury, on the other hand, requires particular attention to all these circumstances ; its secondary, or auxiliary agents, are purgatives and tonics to expel its *residuum* and rebrace the debilitated system ; it is frequently so much at variance with constitutional temperaments, that it is sometimes totally inoperative, and never cures a disease but by the introduction of another. Its application is never so safe but it requires protection from colds ; it is unpleasant and personally inconvenient, because it affects the gums, the teeth and the



breath ; it is indirect, because it must be carried by the absorbents to the seat of disease ; and, whenever it is instantaneously operative, it is sure to be injurious ; and lastly, it cannot be applied at all times and seasons with such safety as Galvanism, particularly to the female sex.'

" In order to remove apprehensions entertained by more timid patients, it is elsewhere observed :—

" ' Fifthly, that Galvanism is not only an efficient but a perfectly safe remedy, in the hands of a skilful operator, is a fact that should inspire the confidence of fearful patients, and encourage them to resort to its aid. The safety and mildness of this philosophical agent result from its nature, its "modus operandi," its "modus applicandi," its peculiar operation on the human frame, and from the nature of the diseases to which it should be administered.'

" The deservedly high character, however, which Mr. La B.'s scientific and medical productions, connected with this branch of the profession, have already obtained for him, in some of the first journals of the day, will spare us going into farther details as to his particular merits, both as a practitioner and a writer. Such merits are at length duly appreciated by some of the leading medical men of the present time ; while they are further reported to come recommended by the candour,



liberality, and gentlemanly feeling, which have long entitled M. La Beaume to public credit and respect."

The *Mirror* of November, 1826, has given a long extract from the work on Galvanism, in addition to the following observations of the Editor,

"To the medical practitioner this treatise is highly important, and to our readers we strongly recommend an earnest perusal of it."

The *Mechanic's Magazine* has given an extract from the above work, and recommended it.

From the *Register of Arts and Sciences*.

"This is a sensible and well-written treatise on the medical virtues of Galvanism and Electricity. Mr. La Beaume is a respectable practitioner of some years' standing, and is sanctioned by some of the leading characters among the faculty in the metropolis. Indeed it appears from the cases here enumerated, that he has successfully applied the energies of Galvanism and Electricity to the alleviation even of the sorest and most inveterate maladies of humanity."



One or two of the Morning Papers, and the *Globe and Traveller*, have reviewed the book most favorably—those papers are mislaid.

From *The Courier*, December 25, 1826.

“ Mr. La Beaume’s previous publications, his long experience and excellent tact, and skill in the practice of medical Galvanism, have prepared professional men, and the public in general, for his present important work, which we have perused with so much satisfaction, that we have no hesitation in recommending it as a safe guide to the knowledge of the sanative properties of Galvanism, and as the production of the most scientific and skilful medical galvanist in this country.

“ Mr. La Beaume’s work contains a brief sketch of the origin and progress of Galvanism, which precedes his important account of its philosophical and medical efficacy; and it proves from undisputed facts, that, when constitutionally and skilfully applied, the galvanic fluid is the most efficacious remedy in those numerous maladies known under the generic term of chronic diseases. It is also satisfactorily proved, that the application of the galvanic fluid is far preferable to that of mercury, particularly in disorders of a chronic nature, and in morbid affections of the digestive organs. The



author's observations on the comparative actions of Galvanism and medicines in general, are acute and convincing, and he clearly proves the superior efficacy of the former in cases where it ought to be administered.

“ The experience of twenty-three years' arduous and unremitting application to the theory and practice of this important science is ably condensed into a small volume ; we join with pleasure our contemporaries in recommending this interesting and useful volume, as containing a fund of practical information relative to a philosophical and medical agent that is calculated to be of the highest utility to mankind.”

From *The Sun*, November 9, 1826.

“ This is an intelligent, clear-headed piece of argument, in which a novel branch of the medical science, hitherto considered as mere quackery, is proved to be highly successful in the cure of those disorders, which the ordinary remedies have failed to relieve. Did M. La Beaume proceed merely on theory, and turn metaphysician in his dissertation, we should (from an inherent scepticism in matters of novel experiment) be slow to believe his statement ; but he has illustrated his opinions by proofs ; he has shown practically, that Galvanism has, in numberless cases mentioned in the course of his



book, cured the most inveterate disorders ; so that the subject is at least worthy of serious and dispassionate consideration. In cases of suspended animation in particular, he points out its efficacy ; but our limits prevent us (as we would wish to do) from following up his remarks on the subject."

From *The Star*, February 17, 1827.

" Mr. La Beaume's recent work on Galvanism, is the more worthy of general perusal, because it unites all that is necessary to be known of the history and theory of the science, with the extensive experience of a long established practitioner. The chemical and medical properties of Galvanism are, in this short treatise, exhibited to the commonest apprehension ; and it will tend to convey a knowledge of that important and interesting philosophical agent to many who may obtain relief from its curative properties.

" Many other interesting subjects are condensed into this small volume ; and we cannot refrain from adding our commendation to Mr. La Beaume's work, which has already received high encomiums from our literary contemporaries. It is the production of a scientific and respectable individual, to whom the medical profession, as well as the public, are greatly indebted for his researches, and the results of his experience, on a subject but little known, and less understood."



From *The Literary Chronicle*, October 28, 1826.

“ The author has succeeded in very ably condensing within the compass of this brief volume, the experience of twenty-three years’ study of the sciences of Electricity and Galvanism, and its pages are extremely elucidatory of their beneficial effects upon the human frame. Besides the successful application of Galvanism above mentioned, we have excellent authority for several extraordinary instances of cures in cases of liver complaint and asthma.

“ We cannot take our leave of Mr. La Beaume, without expressing our sincere hope that his valuable treatise will have the effect of dissipating many delusions upon the subject of Galvanism, and of spreading a knowledge of its efficient and beneficial powers among that large portion of the public, which professional interest and ignorant prejudice have so long blinded to its advantages.”

From the *Atlas*, October 22, 1826.

“ The science of Galvanism is, as is well known, wholly a modern discovery ; its relations with animate matter are extremely surprising and extensive—its power, whether in curative or other processes, until lately, has not even been guessed at ; the individual, therefore, who devotes himself to the performance of the experiments by which alone the



truth can be elicited, is deserving of honourable reward. Mr. La Beaume appears for many years to have applied himself to this end—at first principally for the sake of experiment, and next with the object of relieving cases of disease, and the consequent remuneration. In the volume before us he has published an account of his method, and given a register of an immense number of cases, which he appears to have relieved. Medical science can scarcely be considered as coming very appropriately under the head of literature ; but since Galvanism partakes of the character of physics as well as of medicine, we think it due both to the public and Mr. La Beaume, to propagate to the utmost of our power the news, at any rate, of his experiments. We are moreover induced to this by the fact that the science of Galvanism, by its near connexion with electricity, is a branch of popular knowledge, and that therefore general readers are more capable of judging of it than they are of the operation of other remedies.”

In *The Age*, and in *The Sunday Times*, (October, 1828,) which are mislaid, most favorable reviews were given.

From *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, March 25, 1827.

“ In the work before us by M. La Beaume, he



gives the result of his extensive experience, and fully proves the utility of this philosophical agent in numerous cases of chronic affections, which have been cured by a constitutional exhibition of this very singular remedy. The operation of the galvanic fluid on dead bodies, easily led to its application in cases of suspended animation and local affections of the extremities. The successful labours of Pfaff, Humboldt, Vassalli, Aldini, and many others, seem to have induced M. La Beaume to try this powerful agent in disorders to which no one had previously applied it ; and his success, as well as his experience, have been very extensive.

“ His work is devoid of all tincture of that enthusiastic zeal which blinds and misleads so many, when occupied with the progress of a new discovery ; nor does the author display any desire to renew the systems or theories ; his only inducement appearing to be the love of truth and the honorable ambition of extending, by proper means, the bounds of a science to which he has been long attached.

“ The principal design of the present work is an impartial statement of the cases which have come within the author’s practice, and which fully proves the sanative power of the galvanic fluid, constitutionally administered, in chronic complaints, particularly those of the liver. Great stress seems to



be laid on the superiority of the exhibition of Galvanism over that of medicines, particularly mercury: in some diseases, however, it is admitted, that mercury proves more beneficial, but then it is in those disorders to which it is not prudent to administer the galvanic fluid. The work is so conveniently arranged, and the table of contents so copious, that immediate reference may be made to any particular disorder, where the author's experience is stated as concisely as possible, and his success or failure recorded with a sincerity that secures the entire confidence of the reader."

I was favoured with the perusal of this Journal by Major Goulburn, late Secretary to that colonial government.

From the *Gazette of Health*, February, 1828.

"Mr. La Beaume, medical galvanist, has lately published a selection of cases of indigestion from disorders of the stomach, liver, and bowels, and other complaints, as asthma, gout, blindness, &c. &c., which were cured by Galvanism, under his superintendence; to which he has added lithographic representations of the viscera of the chest and abdomen. Many of the patients, whose cases Mr. La Beaume has noticed, were recommended by physicians and surgeons of the first eminence.



There is certainly a great difference between the cases published by Mr. La Beaume, and those which are given by many authors in favour of a particular remedy or practice. Mr. La Beaume has pleasure in giving references to any of his patients, whilst others, for obvious reasons, decline 'to expose their patients to such inquiries!' Mr. La Beaume, after complaining of the secret hostility of some practitioners (pretended friends) to his practice, of which we are acquainted with a few instances, observes, 'I shall at all times be most happy to co-operate with medical men, when my aid may be beneficial to their patients; for I have no wish to entrench on the province of respectable practitioners, nor to diminish their honourable gain. My object is not to oppose the ordinary treatment, but to aid it by most powerful and beneficial remedies, especially in those cases of disease which medicines cannot cure. Many patients who have placed themselves under my care, and who have derived benefit from the treatment I adopted, have assured me that they had been long prevented from trying Galvanism, on account of the unfavourable opinions they had imbibed from their medical advisers, who have, in consequence, lost the confidence of those patients and their connexion.' Every medical man who has introduced a new remedy, or adopted a novel practice, has experienced the same



*illiberality* from certain members of the *liberal* profession of medicine. Galvanism, or electricity, is unquestionably not only a most valuable auxiliary to medicine in a great variety of diseases, but in many deep-seated cases through which the fluid may be passed, it is the principal or leading remedy. In local organic diseases, either within the cavity of the chest, or of the abdomen, in a joint, or a gland, in which it is necessary to bring the absorbent vessels into action, and to promote the circulation in it, Galvanism, or electricity, is a valuable auxiliary to mercury, and the remedies the state of the constitution may indicate. It was our intention to have given one or two of the cases from Mr. La Beaume's publication, but the length of the two first articles of this Number will not admit of it, nor indeed would two or three be sufficient to enable a person, unacquainted with the remedy, to form a correct opinion of its value. To such a person, the price being only three shillings, we would recommend a perusal of the work."

From the *Gazette of Health*, March, 1828.

"Dr. Favré Palaprat, an eminent physician at Paris, Member of the Ancient Academy of Physic, Director-General of the Medico-Philanthropic Society, and of the Royal Society of Science, &c. &c., has lately published a translation of M. La Beaume's



works, on the efficacy of Galvanism and Electricity in cases of indigestion, inactivity of the liver and intestinal canal, and on various chronic affections. To the translation of M. La Beaume's last publication on affections of the digestive organs, &c., the doctor has added many cases of indigestion, constipation, inactivity of the liver, &c. &c., in which Galvanism, &c., proved beneficial under his own superintendence. From the high estimation in which the doctor is held as a physician, and as a man of general scientific attainments, by his brethren, not only in Paris, but throughout the whole continent, M. La Beaume's works will obtain a very extensive circulation in Europe. We find they have also been reprinted in America. The results of the numerous trials which independent men of science will give Galvanism, &c., we have no doubt will confirm the favourable reports of its efficacy, particularly in cases of debility of the stomach, and want of action in the liver and intestines, which M. La Beaume has made in his works, through the medium of the medical journals."

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## CRITIQUES

### *On Mr. La Beaume's Publications & Practice.*

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“ MR. LA BEAUME is well acquainted with what is known of electricity and galvanism, and is well informed respecting the physiology of the human body ; and he evinces much discrimination and judgment in his mode of employing them. He has obtained results from these measures that shew them to be worthy of being more generally employed than practitioners in general are disposed to believe. The general indications for their use must be evident, and our limits will not permit us to enter into particulars respecting them ; yet we must state, that the cases here related shew them to be efficacious in many affections to which they have not been generally considered applicable with so much benefit : this is especially the case in regard to torpor of the liver and dyspepsia from debility, more particularly in persons whose nervous system has been rendered comparatively inert by long-continued sufferings or too great mental exertions. Mr. La Beaume has adopted the employment of this remedy as a part of his duties ; and we feel much pleasure in being able to add our testimony to that of many of the most eminent medical practitioners, in favour of the excellence of his



qualifications for the profession he has assumed. It is, however, in the application of electricity and galvanism to medical purposes, that these become especially beneficial. Nothing has tended more to excite the disgust of the medical practitioner for these remedies, than the assumption of them by empirics; and it is from the same cause, and the neglect of due attention to them by the members of the faculty, that the value of them has been rated in, apparently, far too low a manner, and that the unfounded fears of their agency, prevalent to a great extent, have derived their origin. We shall only add to the foregoing remarks, that we think the public is much indebted to Mr. La Beaume for his meritorious exertions to place the use of those remedies in their proper sphere; and that it should be a cause of much peculiar gratification to medical practitioners to know that they may resort to his aid, in cases where they think those remedies applicable, with the assurance that their advice will be conformed to in a judicious manner, and with confidence that they so far consign their patients to the care of a gentleman of liberal education, whose conduct has done honour to his profession. The use of the air-pump vapour-bath was proposed several years since by a physician of considerable talents, who at the same time adduced satisfactory evidence of its powerful efficacy; but he seems to have evinced more zeal in its favour than his cotemporaries were disposed to participate with him; and this remedy, which, reasoning *a priori*, would lead us to expect great effects from, had become almost totally neglected in England: not from its having failed to produce what it was stated to be qualified to do, but absolutely from the want of a



proper trial of its powers. It has, however, been adopted by other nations: the French commonly resort to it; and Professor Hufeland, of Berlin, has lately endeavoured (in the *Journal der Practischen Heilkunde*, Mai 1819) to elicit the attention of the faculty more generally to this remedy, by his warm expressions in favour of its use in several of the affections for which Mr. La Beaume has also employed it with the most gratifying, and often extraordinary, results. The great efficacy of the vapour-bath, either partial or general, in many diseases, has been universally acknowledged: now this apparatus combines with the measure just indicated the power of producing a rarefied atmosphere round the whole or part of any of the limbs, to an extent that may be easily regulated according to our desire, and which may also be maintained for an indefinite period. The chief objection to the use of it, amongst the two higher ranks of the profession especially, is the necessity that some person well acquainted with the principles of its action, and possessing some knowledge of physiology, should superintend the application of it. Physicians cannot do this; and surgeons have not the inclination, even had they sufficient leisure. This objection is now obviated as far as the practitioners of London are concerned.”—*London Medical and Physical Journal for June, 1820. No. 256, page 503.*

“ It is, we think, sufficiently made out, that maladies are occasionally influenced by measures of an extraordinary nature, and both as it respects the Vapour-Bath, and the various degrees and modifications of Electricity, testimony is too forcible in favour of their



frequent utility, to admit of rational doubt. Against every species of quackery, it is to be hoped, we shall ever be found the foremost in the ranks of oppositionists; but we do not subscribe to the position, that all who are not absolutely with us, must necessarily be against us. Mr. La Beaume's professions are widely different from those of the nostrum-monger; he lays claim to nothing beyond the fact which experience and practice cannot fail to give."—*London Medical Repository, Monthly Journal and Review, for April, 1820, page 308.*

"We are very glad to see that a proper compliment is paid to M. La Beaume's claims upon the profession, as an industrious man, of very gentlemanlike and honourable habits, who has deeply studied the remedies which he professes to apply, and who is very competent to decide in what cases they may be used with advantage, and in what they would be likely to produce injury. Since we made our former remarks upon Mr. La Beaume's practice, we have had an opportunity of knowing him professionally, so that we can heartily join the Reviewers, in saying, 'that it should be a cause of peculiar gratification to medical practitioners, to know that they may resort to his aid in cases where they consider those remedies (the Air-pump Vapour-bath, Electricity, and Galvanism) applicable, with the assurance that their advice will be conformed to in a judicious manner, and with confidence, that they so far consign their patients to the care of a gentleman of liberal education, whose conduct has done honour to his profession.'"—*Medical Intelligencer, for June, 1820, page 186.*



“ Mr. La Beaume ranks deservedly high ; he has made many observations upon the influence of Galvanism and Electricity on the human body, which are exceedingly interesting and important.”—*Medical Intelligencer*, No. 4, for February, 1820.

“ Mr. La Beaume is, we have reason to believe, an acute and scientific man, who has collected together many very valuable practical facts on the subjects of his volumes, and we have heard much of the accuracy with which he distinguishes those states of the constitution to which his remedies apply.”—*Medical Intelligencer*, No. 6, for April, 1821.

“ The Air-pump Vapour-bath is an ingenious and portable instrument, by means of which, the Vapour of hot water or spirit is applied to a part of the body, and its efficacy heightened by the pressure of the atmosphere being taken off, by means of an exhausting syringe.”—*Medical Intelligencer*, for June, 1820.

“ This is a second edition of a work, which should be perused by medical practitioners, illustrated with many new and striking cases.”—*Philosophical Magazine and Journal*, Vol. 55.

“ This is a *neat manual*, on a very interesting subject. It is pleasing to behold *science* and *benevolence* thus united in alleviating the pains and sufferings of humanity. Electricity is the powerful agent employed by the God of nature, to effect its greatest wonders. The *elicited vital spark*, judiciously applied, revives and in-



vigorates the declining frame, arresting the progress of disease, and augmenting the mass of human felicity."—*European Magazine, for January 1820, page 58.*

"The practice adopted by Mr. La Beaume, is highly respectable, and the thanks of the profession and of the public are equally due to him, for taking up a remedy (Galvanism) which has been much neglected, and by those members of the profession who are acquainted with it, and capable of appreciating its merits, from a knowledge of the animal economy, is allowed to be a most important one."—*Monthly Gazette of Health, for November, 1818, page 1085.*

"We must do Mr. La Beaume the justice to say, that neither in this remedy, the Air-pump Vapour-bath, nor in Galvanism, does he trust to its topical effects. Like a skilful physician, whose anxious wish is to cure his patients, he takes into consideration the state of the general health, and the peculiarities of the constitutions of his patients; and it is in such hands only, that such powerful topical remedies can be employed with safety and effect."—*Monthly Gazette of Health, for December, 1819, page 365.*

"We esteem it a most fortunate event that Mr. La Beaume, whose abilities and assiduity eminently qualify him for the undertaking, should have directed his attention to this important branch of the healing art."—*Gazette of Health, for June, 1820, page 535.*

"Mr. La Beaume's work is written both for medical



and non-medical readers. The numerous facts which he adduces in favour of the Air-pump Vapour-bath, render the work highly interesting to the members of the profession; and to those who are subject to the diseases for the cure of which the remedy is applicable, we recommend a serious perusal of it"—*Monthly Gazette of Health, for December, 1819.*

"This production which we announced in our last number, merits the attention of the public at large, as well as of the profession, and especially of those who require medical assistance. The author has treated the various branches of this subject with his usual ability and candour, and with a precision and perspicuity seldom recognized in discussions of a scientific, and in some degree, novel subject.

"The volume contains so many interesting and singular facts and practical remarks, which throw much light on the science of medical Electricity and Galvanism, that we may safely recommend its perusal to men of science as well as to invalids. The author commences his dissertation with very judicious observations on the history and philosophy of Electricity, and gives a brief but luminous view of its discovery and progressive improvement, pointing out its properties and laws by which it is governed.

"This part of the subject contains some original ideas, conveyed in a clear and distinct stile, equally amusing and instructive. The second part of the book is written with the same judgment and discrimination. In order to explain the nature of the remedy, he notices—First, Its medical properties;—Secondly, The diseases to



which it is applicable ;—Thirdly, The principles on which it acts ;—Fourthly, The modes in which it should be administered ;—Fifthly, The cases in which he has proved its efficacy, together with important remarks on cases where it is not beneficially applicable ; — and Sixthly, The apparent reasons which have opposed its more general adoption in medical practice.

“ The long experience and unremitting attention of Mr. La Beaume to this important branch of science, have placed him under circumstances which afford him opportunities to make discoveries of inestimable utility.

“ The observations on Galvanism, although brief, are highly valuable. Mr. La Beaume, it appears, has for a considerable time past, employed the Galvanic fluid as a substitute for mercurial remedies, in stomach and liver complaints, with great success. The book contains two copper-plate engravings. We do not hesitate to say, that this is by far the *best* work on the subject which has yet appeared ; and we therefore strongly recommend it to the consideration of our readers.” — *Monthly Gazette of Health, for April, 1820.*

“ Well authenticated facts in regard to the success of any remedy, constitute the only true legitimate ground of confidence with the public, as well as with the medical profession and men of science in general. It is much in favour of this treatise, that the most interesting doctrines introduced to our consideration are confirmed, not only by the author’s own extensive practice, but likewise, the opinion of several highly respectable medical characters, who have a well-founded conviction of the great utility of the Air-pump Vapour-bath.



“ The portion of this work which merits the greatest share of the public attention, is that which furnishes the details of twenty-five cases of cure, performed by Galvanism and the Air-pump Vapour-bath, in disorders of the digestive organs, gout, rheumatism, palsy, cutaneous diseases, &c. Both the theory and the practice of the machine meet our most hearty approbation. We consider the invention as a most valuable acquisition to medical science, and esteem it a most fortunate event, that Mr. La Beaume, whose abilities and assiduity eminently qualify him for the undertaking, should have directed his attention to this important branch of the healing art, and we conceive it to be a duty, which the public owe to themselves, duly to appreciate the merits of the information conveyed in this interesting publication.”—*Monthly Gazette of Health, for June, 1820.*

“ The indefatigable and scientific Mr. La Beaume has published a collection of cases of indigestion, torpidity of the liver, habitual costiveness, and gutta serena, in which he applied the galvanic fluid with complete success. In some of our late and early numbers we have published several cases of indigestion, deficient secretion of bile, and obstinate costiveness, which were cured by Galvanism under the care of Mr. La Beaume. The new cases prove that in habitual costiveness or inactivity of the bowels, Galvanism is a most valuable remedy, and that its effects are permanent.”—*Monthly Gazette of Health, for December, 1822, No. 73, page 14.*

