

The extraordinary life and times of Thomas Parr, who lived to be 152 years of age : with remarks on disease and health, and the means of prolonging life / [T. Roberts & Co.].

Contributors

T. Roberts & Co.

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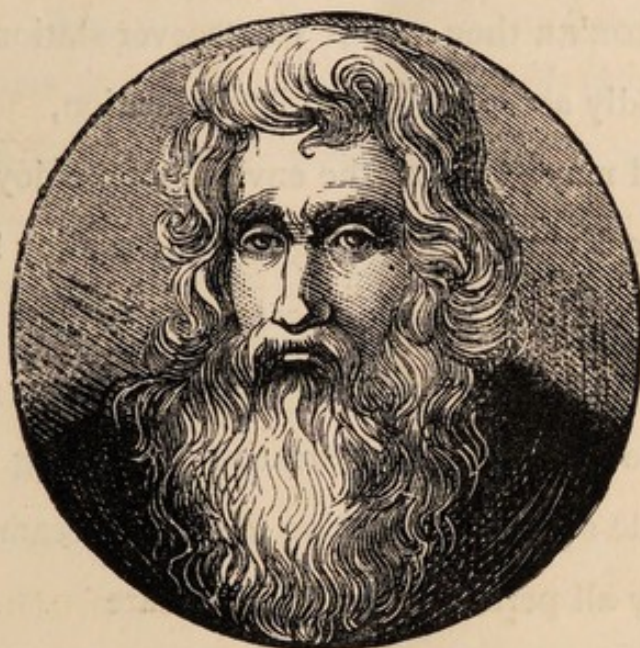
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THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE AND TIMES
OF
THOMAS PARR

FIFTY-FIRST EDITION.



WHO LIVED TO BE
132 YEARS OF AGE
WITH REMARKS ON
DISEASE AND HEALTH,
AND
THE MEANS OF PROLONGING LIFE.

LONDON:
T. ROBERTS & CO., 8, CRANE COURT, FLEET ST.

DEDICATION.

—♦—
TO THE OLDEST MAN ALIVE.
—

WHOE'ER thou art, of whatsoever station,
Kindly accept this humble dedication,
And may you long the envied boon enjoy—
Pure Nature's choicest gift without alloy !
But while to you I dedicate my page,
Oh ! might they listen—they of younger age—
Who careless now, beneath the morning beam,
Glide swiftly down Disease's fatal stream.
May all peruse with profitable care
My book, and learn from the example there
To follow PARR in Nature's simple plan,
And thus to lengthen out their little span.
So shall my humble labours merit praise,
And future PARRS be bless'd with honoured days.

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PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

IT will, perhaps, be necessary to inform the reader that the following pages have been called forth by the discovery of a curious document, which has raised much agitation throughout the country. The following sketch of the LIFE OF PARR will doubtless prove acceptable, and be read with interest by all.

The annexed is the document alluded to above, and was written by the celebrated OLD PARR, who attained the almost incredible age of 152 years, and who left this document to a relation; it is written on parchment, and, although upwards of 200 years old, is in an excellent state of preservation. The following is an extract:—

“These do certifie yt ye undermentioned is ye method of preserving health, which, by ye grace of Almighty God, has caused me to attain to my miraculous old age. Albeit in my youth I was afflicted with ye Bloody Flux and King’s Evil, but which all left me by using some dayes ye herbs as herein written.”

[Here follows the receipt.]

“Moreover, I bequeath to my second great grandson ye methoa I employ for preparing ye mendicament.—Given this day, and in ye 147th year of my age.

“THOMAS PARR.

“Winnington, Salop, Januarie 7th, 1630.”

LIFE OF OLD PARR.

It is rather difficult, after so many years have passed, to write at any great length the story of the life of Old Parr, especially as his position was of a humble and somewhat reclusive character. The discovery of the parchment, contents of which we print on preceding page, caused the events con-



PARR'S BIRTHPLACE.

nected with the life of Parr to possess extraordinary interest, and induced the writer to take some trouble to ascertain as many particulars as possible concerning his career.

The publication of this document, wherein he had penned

with his own hand the secret of the method by which he prolonged his life to the grand old age of 152, produced a marvellous effect on the system of medicine in vogue at the time of its discovery [some 60 years ago]; and will doubtless be altogether adopted in preference to the present methods, which are still full of absurdities.

According to the "Philosophical Transactions" (a scientific work which appeared contemporary with Parr), he was born at Winnington, in Salop, on the 14th September, 1483. The authenticity of this date is supported by the inscription on his tomb in Westminster Abbey, and the following words which appear on a brass tablet in the old church or chapel of Great Wollaston, place the matter beyond doubt :—

"The olde, olde, very old man, Thomas Parr, was born at the Glyn, in the township of Winnington, within the Chapelry of Great Wollaston, and parish of Alberbury, in the county of Salop, in the year of our Lord 1483. He lived in the reigns of ten Kings and Queens of England, viz., King Edward IV., King Edward V., King Richard III., King Henry VII., King Henry VIII., King Edward VI., Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, King James I., and King Charles I. He died the 13th, and was buried in Westminster Abbey on the 15th of November, 1635, aged 152 years and 2 months."

Parr's father was a petty farmer, and it is said that his birth-place still exists. At a very early age he commenced real life by joining his father in the cultivation of his small holding, and nothing was observed to lead anyone to suppose that he would live to such a remarkable age, the length of which causes him to be regarded after centuries have elapsed as one of the landmarks on the page of history. Ere he reached man's estate he was stricken with that most terrible complaint known as the bloody flux and King's Evil, which he patiently endured for many years.

In those days of rough-and-ready methods of cure—an age essentially of the survival of the fittest—it may be imagined

with what dread he looked forward to his future life. he could hope for was a speedy termination of his existence. He did not, however, neglect the means which were supposed to cure, and living in an age of witchcraft, naturally called to his aid one of those grim old ladies who were popularly believed to ride astride broomsticks. But her prescriptions and mummeries were in vain, and only made him more and more dejected and miserable. All seemed dark and dismal ; but as it is always darkest before dawn, so now in the time of his most intense despair he was on the dawn of a discovery, the effects of which would bring back the bloom of health to his



PARR GATHERING HERBS.

cheeks, lustre to his eyes, vigour to his body, and cause future ages to bless his name.

Although his disease prevented him from following his occupation, yet he was able to wander about ; and it was in this way that he acquired his knowledge of the various herbs and their medicinal properties. Constant intercourse with nature speedily made him familiar with her great treasures, and soon caused him to discard the humbug of witchcraft. Slowly but surely the idea grew upon him that he might use the knowledge he had gained in a practical manner, and after much thought

and hesitation, he determined to attempt to cure himself. In the first instance he had much difficulty, but after considerable patience and varied trials, he was fully rewarded for all his trouble by discovering that a simple combination of the active properties of several well-known herbs had the effect of entirely altering the tone of his system.

As may be supposed, this was a work of time, yet promising symptoms, speedily produced, gave him encouragement to persevere, with the ultimate effect of not merely restoring him to his usual health, but of making him celebrated for great strength, activity, and vigour. With his usual judgment he kept secret the means adopted by him to effect this wonderful restoration, for had he used the medicines at that period in



PARR SHOOTING WITH THE CROSS-BOW.

order to cure others, he would probably have been dubbed a wizard, and introduced to the nearest horsepond for his pains. He prudently refrained from incurring this odium, except in a few particular instances, and then the persons assisted were too enlightened to attribute the effect of his wonderful pills to any such ridiculous cause. His own immediate family were very much benefitted by his valuable discoveries, and their lives were extended in consequence to an advanced period, thus:—His son attained the age of 113 years, his grandson 109, and

two other grandsons by his daughters lived to 127 years each ; and his great-grandson to 124 years ; proving the great fact that his WONDERFUL MEDICINE (combined with a careful and moderate mode of life) is the MEANS by which a long and healthy life may be secured.

At this time Parr lived with his parents. After his restoration to health, his fame as an athlete speedily became established, and it is related that his success in all rustic games requiring great strength and activity caused him to be much sought after by the maidens of the village, many quarrels taking place amongst them in their endeavours to secure him for a husband, for in those days, when a strong arm was a necessity, the ladies had a decided preference for those who excelled in manly sports. He was a universal favourite, but loved frolic much better than a quiet fireside and domestic life, and remained a merry young bachelor until he attained the age of 88. We use the term young advisedly, because at that age he was so young in appearance that he would have passed for a well-preserved man of 40. It was at this age—when most men think about the grave—that he took unto himself a wife, by whom he had two children.

Of the numerous anecdotes concerning Old Parr, the following will be read with interest:—"When he was 105 years of age (during the lifetime of his first wife), he was detected in an amour with faire Catherine Milton," and in consequence was sentenced to do penance in the church by standing in a sheet. Taylor writes of this incident—

" 'Twas thought meet
He should be purg'd by standing in a sheet ;
Which aged (he) one hundred and five yeare
In Alderbury Parish Church did weare."

It happened that the Earl of Arundel, who afterwards became Parr's patron, was in church at the time, and becoming acquainted with the facts, was so diverted that he shortly afterwards sent for Old Parr and offered him a situation in his family, an offer which we need hardly say was gladly accepted. While staying with the Earl he was introduced to the celebrated

Countess of Desmond, who was renowned for her great age. She was married, it appears, in the reign of Edward IV., on which occasion she danced with the Duke of York, the king's brother. Upon the downfall of the House of Desmond, it became necessary for her, at the age of 140, to travel from Bristol to London in order to solicit relief from the Court on account of her poverty. Lord Bacon states that she renewed her teeth twice or thrice. There is now in the royal castle of Windsor a very fine portrait of the Countess. This celebrated lady was fortunate enough to obtain from Old Parr some of his medicine, by means of which she warded off those evils to which humanity is subject, and so maintained her vigour to the last. She died in the year 1612, aged 145. Upon being informed of her death, Parr exclaimed, "I verily now have notice to quit, and will earnestly prepare to follow." He lived, however, 23 years longer.

During the time Parr lived with the Earl of Arundel he spent the greater part of his leisure in manly exercises, and none could compete with him in strength or activity. It must indeed have made the youth of that age feel ashamed of their want of prowess when an old man aged 105, whose constitution had been undermined by a fearful disease, could surpass them in their own sports. They knew nothing of his wonderful Pills, and if he had told them they would not have believed him.

About this period Parr resolved to visit Henry Jenkins, a man notorious for having long passed the span of three score and ten. This wonderful old stager was born in the year 1501, and died in 1670, having lived to the extraordinary age of 169, this age being the greatest ever reached by any man of whom we have record in England. It is somewhat remarkable that two such men should have been living at the same time, Jenkins being exactly 100 years old when Parr reached 118. So much talk was created about Old Parr's activity, strength, and shrewdness, that Jenkins had an intense longing to see him, and it was not very long before his wish was gratified, for as Parr was passing through Yorkshire he determined to visit Ellerton, the home of Jenkins. Reaching the house which

had been pointed out to him, he walked briskly up to it, and cried out in a loud voice, "Does Harry Jenkins live here? I wish to see him."

"Yes," was the reply, "walk in." He did so, and discovered a feeble, tottering old man, with a few grey hairs thinly sprinkled round a bald head. After much talk of by-gone days, Jenkins mentioned that he had been sent to Northallerton with a load of arrows, to be used at the Battle of Plowden. "That is a good while since," remarked the visitor, "I well remember it; I was at that time thirty years of age." The astounded Jenkins stared, and at length exclaimed, "Why,



PARR'S VISIT TO JENKINS.

you must be Old Parr!" One cannot wonder at the astonishment exhibited by Jenkins, for at this time Parr was active and intelligent, his limbs well made, his face rather inclined to what is termed jolly, his eye keen and lustrous, and his hair, which was slightly grey, very luxuriant, and dressed in large locks down his back. He could well say—

As yet few furrows on my face are seen,
I walk upright, and my old age is green.

After this celebrated visit, it was remarked that Jenkins grew much stouter, and was able to resume his employment, viz., that of a fisherman. It is highly probable that Parr supplied him with

his life-giving Pills; for on what other ground can we account for his returning strength and activity, and his ultimate great age?

Parr spent a considerable portion of his time in the study of the vegetable kingdom, and has fortunately left behind him, though long hidden from the world, the important results of his labours. Besides the valuable receipt from which Parr's Life Pills are now compounded, there are several manuscript pieces, written in his own peculiarly quaint style, on the value of health. His opinions, though somewhat differently expressed, were that the varieties of climate and modes of living, if we are temperate, make but little difference to our period of existence; that the laws of nature are simple and easily understood, but they require perfect obedience. He rightly denounced the mysteries then assumed by the medical profession, being fully convinced of the power of his own discovery to thoroughly eradicate disease and prolong life.

After 32 years of wedded life, Parr's wife died in the year 1595. For ten years he remained a widower, and then, his great age of 122 notwithstanding, he married again Jane, the daughter of John Lloyd (or Flood), of Guildsfield, and the widow of Anthony Adda. His second wife gave birth to but one child.

Nothing of any special note occurred in the life of this extraordinary man during the next twenty-nine years. His life was peaceful and happy. His time after his day's work was over was spent in the sports he loved so well. It is said that at the advanced age of 145 he was able to run races, and was employed in threshing corn and various other kinds of farm work. He frequently ate by night as well as by day, and always preferred the plainest food.

Although Parr reached the extraordinary age of 152, with his faculties unimpaired, it is probable he would have lived much longer had not the Earl of Arundel, son of his old patron, taken him to London to present to King Charles I. It is related in the "Romance of London," published by Warne and Co., that, "His lordship ordered a litter and two horses for his easy conveyance, and that a daughter-in-law should attend him. He was likewise accompanied by a kind of Merry-Andrew, known as John the Foole. These were all brought by easy journies to London. At Coventry, as he passed, folk were very curious, coming in such crowds that Parr was well nigh stifled. The Earl had Parr brought to Arundel House to be shown to Charles I. He was first lodged at 405, Strand, the Queen's Head public-house (rebuilt in the present reign). This information Mr. J. T. Smith received in 1814 from a person,

then aged 90, to whom the house was pointed out by his grandfather, then 88."

Parr, on this occasion, as his attack was very sudden, and owing to the extraordinary change in his diet and usual mode of living, is supposed to have neglected his usual simple remedy, was prescribed for by the Court physician, who did not understand his case, under whose unskilful treatment he died. His body was opened by command of the king by the celebrated Dr. Harvey, and was found to be in the most perfect state, and death was attributed to peripneumony. A



PARR PRESENTED TO KING CHARLES.

full detail of the appearances, which are highly interesting, are published in the "Philosophical Transactions."

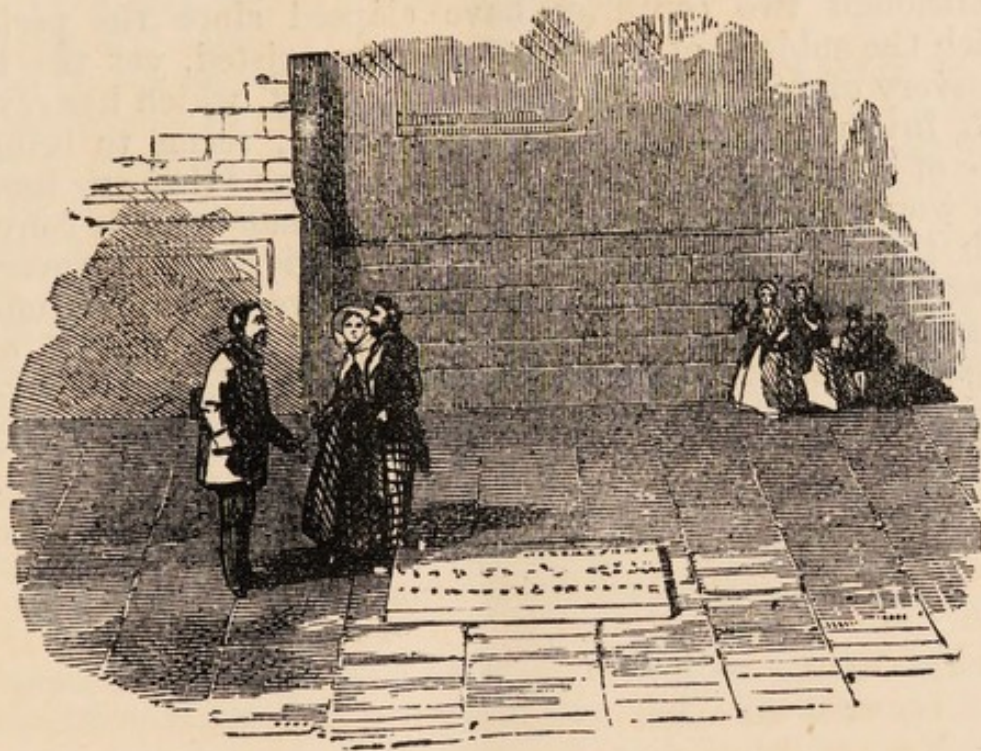
The following description of Old Parr in his last years is given by Taylor :—

Yet still his spirits possesse his mortal trunk,
Nor are his senses in his ruins shrunk ;
But that his hearing's quicke, his stomach good,
Hee'll feed well, sleep well, well digest his food.
Hee will speak heartily, laugh and be merry ;
Drink ale, and now and then a cup of sherry ;
Loves company, and understanding talke,
And (on both sides held up) will sometimes walke.
And though old age his face with wrinkles fill,
Hee hath been handsome, and is comely still ;
Well fac'd, and though his beard not oft corrected,
Yet neat it grows, not like a beard neglected.
From head to heel, his body hath all over
A quick-set, thick set, natural hairy cover.

Taylor gives some account of Parr's domestic life :—

A tedious time a batchelour he tarried,
Full eightie years of age before he married.
With this wife he liv'd years thrice ten and two,
And then she died (as all good wives will doe).
Shee dead, he ten years did a widower stay,
Then once more ventured in the wedlock way,
And in affection to his first wife, Jane,
He tooke another of that name againe.

His death is a corroborating proof that man, by paying attention to the laws of nature, and by assisting her operations by the aid of a benign medicine, might promote his life to 120,



PARR'S TOMB IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

or even 150 years; and it is fair to suppose that when prejudice (for even this medicine has not escaped the envy and prejudice of interested parties) no longer reigns, and the full effects of this great blessing bequeathed by Parr is truly felt, disease will no longer exist, and mankind will only die in consequence of accident or old age. Drs. Smith and Arnott, in their celebrated "Report to the Government on the Sanitary Condition of London," say that there is nothing in the physiological constitution of man to prevent his long surviving the age of seventy years, or more, if the causes which prevent his so doing

were removed : such as the malaria inhaled from impure and vitiated atmospheres ; and there can be no doubt that to the neutralising powers of his compound Parr owed his freedom from their influence, as also did those other individuals before named who were so fortunate as to obtain a participation in his wonderful discovery. We therefore say to those who are suffering from ill-health, from whatever cause ; to those who are approaching what is now called old age : to those who are sinking from premature decay, try Old Parr's remedy, which has never yet failed, which is as certain to cure as the sun is to rise, which, from the innocence of its composition, can never injure. To each and all we again say, TRY ; and you will soon look upon Old Parr as a great benefactor to the human race, in leaving this valuable remedy to the world.

Although two centuries have elapsed since the period in which the subject of our brief memoir existed, yet the recent discovery of his last Will and Testament, which has revealed such invaluable knowledge to the world, seems to bring the time of his sojourn on earth so fresh before us that our imagination would at times lead us to believe we had actually conversed with the worthy patriarch. As this privilege, however, can never be enjoyed, it behoves us to receive with gratitude the precepts, maxims, and guides, whereby the greatest of all temporal blessings—health—may be secured, and enjoyed to the latest period allowed by a kind Providence to mortality.



THE DURATION OF LIFE.

WE now propose taking into consideration the natural duration of human life ; and we shall endeavour to show, by the aid of Scripture and philosophy, assisted by numerous remarkable instances of longevity cited in the Bible, that the opinion generally entertained is unscriptural, and destitute both of philosophy and reason.

Probably no theory is more welcome to the human mind than that which establishes on good foundation a hope for a prolonged existence. Notwithstanding the trials, vexations, and difficulties incident to this life, the love of it increases with our years ; and it is one of the innate principles of our nature, which cannot be explained away by the subtleties of the sophist, nor overcome by any assumed dignity derived from a false philosophy. There are many of these unextinguishable feelings in our nature—our love of freedom, love of country, love of home and many others, but the *love of life* reigns supreme.

To fair, to dark, to feeble, and to strong,
Does the just fondness for old age belong.

At present the popular belief is, that the natural span of human life is three score years and ten, but this is contrary to both sacred and profane history. This opinion is, no doubt, founded on the misunderstanding of a passage of the 90th Psalm, where it is stated, “that the days of our years are threescore years and ten, and if by reason of strength, they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow.” Now it must be remembered that this Psalm is ascribed to Moses, and that he is not speaking of the lives of men in general, but of what was occurring among the Israelites in the wilderness. His own life, as well as the lives of the most eminent of his brethren, was far more extended than even fourscore years ; and, as he complains of the people being cut off through the displeasure of God, it is natural to conclude that he is alluding, not to the period during which men are capable of living, but simply to the fact that, owing to the judgments of the Almighty,

which bereft the Israelites on account of their sins, but few of them attained a more lengthy existence than that of seventy or eighty years. "For we are consumed," he says, "by Thine anger, and by Thy wrath are we troubled." They died not a natural death, but were cut off, through sin and unbelief, by judicial dispensations.

The clever Dr. Farre maintains that 120 is the last grant of God to man, and quotes the sixth chapter and the third verse of Genesis—"My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh; yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years." Now we find this expressed intention on the part of God gradually carried into effect—the principle of vitality appearing to become weaker until the close of the era in which the postdiluvian patriarch flourished; when, although several centuries had elapsed since the deluge, we find that 120 years was about the average of human existence. Abraham lived to the age of 175 years; and of his sons, Isaac and Ishmael, the former died at the age of 180, and the latter at 137 :—

They fell like autumn fruit that mellow'd long,
E'en wondered at because they dropt no sooner.
Fate seem'd to wind them up for fourscore years,
Yet freshly ran they on for years longer,
Till like a clock worn out with eating time,
The wheels of weary life at last stood still.

Jacob attained the good old age of 146 years, and his son Joseph, though subject to all the trouble and excitement arising from the peculiar and trying circumstances in which he was placed, reached the age of 110 years. Several ages after the time of Joseph, we find Moses living 120 years, while the inspired historian relates concerning him, that "his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated." Joshua, his successor in the government of the Israelites, died at the age of 119 years; and Eli, at a much later period, reached 119 years, and then died, not of old age nor of disease, but from the results of a fall off his seat on hearing that the Philistines had triumphed over the Israelites, slain his sons Hophni and Phineas, and taken the Ark of God.

Since the commencement of the Christian era there have been very many instances recorded of extreme longevity. Such instances are still frequently occurring, and they are sufficiently numerous to prove that man is not so constituted as to render it inevitable that he should die at so early a period as usually bounds his present existence. As a proof of man's faculties at an extreme age, it may be noted that "Ludovico Monaldesco,

at the extraordinary old age of 115, wrote the memoirs of his time." "Theophrastus began his admirable work on the 'Characters of Men' at the extreme age of 90." "Cato at 80 thought proper to learn Greek, and Plutarch almost as late in life, Latin."*

We have now proved that the years of man are not limited to so brief a span as 70 years—first, from the Bible, which expressly says (Gen., 6th chapter, 3rd verse): "Yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years;" secondly, from philosophy, which naturally infers that if one man can reach what is now considered an extended term of years, others may do the same; again, true philosophy is always consonant with Holy Writ; thirdly, from the instances which have occurred of extreme longevity. Can a reasonable mind require more than Scripture, philosophy and precedent? Supposing, then, that the theory of long life is well sustained, the question is naturally suggested, How can we attain what is so desirable? A wise general, on the eve of battle, does not wait till the enemy has made an attack, but makes a proper disposition of his forces beforehand, and thus, by due preparation, reasonably expects a victory. In the same way, he who desires to attain a healthy, and consequently happy old age, should not indolently wait for the attack of the enemy, which is sickness, but be constantly on his guard against his insidious approaches by paying proper attention to the state of his health. Many would fain occasionally use medicine to assist nature in her operations; but like a mariner at sea without his compass, knowing not where to steer, they first try this and then that, and meet with nothing but disappointment. In vain they cry:—

Give me but life, and years good store
Heap on my bending back; I ask no more.

To such how welcome must be the knowledge that Old Thomas Parr's Medicine is all that is required to conquer disease and prolong life.

The fine tonic properties it has been discovered to contain invariably restore the stomach to a healthy longing for food—or, in other words, a good appetite; and it has been proved to be the identical preparation of herbs which were collected by Old Parr to suit his once enfeebled system, and by the use of which he attained the astonishing age of 152 years. This discovery, and the making of the compound into pills, is one of the

* D'Israeli's "Curiosities of Literature," page 37.

greatest blessings ever conferred for the general good on the whole human family.

If the Stomach and Bowels require it, it acts as the mildest and most agreeable purgative, and by its cleansing powers totally eradicates a redundancy of bile, and completely removes all obstructions of the intestinal canal. This it effects without producing those painfully distressing sensations common to those preparations of calomel, colocynth, scammony, and the numberless drastic cathartics vended as remedies for a disordered state of the alimentary and nervous system now flooding the market; and which, if they do in any instance effect a cure, do so at the expense of so much physical suffering as to make it a question which is the most to be dreaded, the disease or the remedy. The powerful balsamic and invigorating effect produced on the whole frame by PARR'S LIFE PILLS is perfectly astonishing; many who have kept their beds for years have been so speedily re-invigorated with an infusion of new blood, and consequently new life and strength, that their re-appearance amongst their fellow beings, who have long given them up as incurable, is looked upon as the greatest of the many wonders of this miraculous age.

The whole of our system is built up from the blood—nerves, sinews, muscles, and even solid bone; this being the case, the grand object is to keep this precious fluid (the blood) in a pure and healthy state, for without this purity disease will show itself in some way or the other; thus diseases of every description have been cured simply by the use of PARR'S LIFE PILLS—showing that what has been considered different disorders, and requiring different treatment, all originate from the same cause, and can be cured by one uniform treatment. PARR'S LIFE PILLS, although powerful in conquering disease, are yet as pure and harmless as new milk, and may be administered with confidence to the invalid, however weakly from long ill-health, who will soon enjoy those delightful symptoms, viz., a return to strong health, a good appetite, sound sleep, and an increase of animal spirits. To sustain or re-invigorate the physical powers of the body, by enabling the natural streams of vitality to flow on their course without obstacle, is an object of the greatest importance, as it is obvious that any interference therewith must to a great extent divert them from their legitimate purpose, and so deprive the system of a portion of its natural support, enfeebling, if not prostrating, its energies, and so rendering it unable to fulfil its wonted duties. That both physical and mental vigour may be maintained for an extraordinary duration of time, we have many evidences on record,

and that the means of accomplishing this object are now within our reach, the many singular attested proofs of the power of the prescription, as left by Old Thomas Parr, is a guarantee of such value that it should not be lost sight of without mature reflection. To have produced a medicine so benign and mild in its operation and effects, and yet so effectual in searching out and curing disease, of however long standing, exhibits on the part of OLD PARR deep research and a thorough knowledge of his subject. Those who have been the instruments of restoring the long-lost secret to the world feel confident, when they make the assertion, that NONE NEED DESPAIR; if only a fair trial be given, the result will be a restoration to health and happiness.

Thus shall their humble labours merit praise,
And future Parrs be blest with lengthen'd days.



IMPORTANT TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

PARR'S LIFE PILLS

LETTER FROM A CENTENARIAN.

I, BARTHOLOMEW CLOSE, NEWTOWN ROAD,
NEWBURY, BERKS, *March 21st, 1885.*

DEAR SIRS,—Having recently completed my 100 years, I think it right to let you know how valuable PARR'S PILLS have been to me. With God's blessing they have been the means of preserving my health to the present time. Having taken them for nearly 50 years, I can testify to their value as a good, genuine family medicine. I have recommended them to very many, and do so still, as no family should be without them.—Yours respectfully,

BENJAMIN FREEMAN (*pro S. F.*).

To Messrs. T. Roberts and Co.,
8, Crane Court, Fleet Street.

You are at liberty to make use of this testimonial if of any service.

*The original of the above may be seen at 8, Crane Court,
Fleet Street, E.C.*

A LADY writes from Cheshire, under date 7th January, 1886:—“My father-in-law has taken your pills for Fifty-five Years. Saturday will be his 86th birthday.”

WELWYN, HERTS, *September 18th, 1878.*

GENTLEMEN,—I shall feel obliged if you will forward to me another supply of PARR'S LIFE PILLS, for which I enclose amount in payment.

I have a good demand for your medicine, and frequently hear of its curative powers; one case is really remarkable.

About ten years ago a tradesman in this village, of regular and temperate habits, suddenly lost appetite and strength, was under medical treatment for months without relief, and appeared to be gradually breaking up.

Having been induced to try PARR'S LIFE PILLS, he was at once relieved, in a few weeks completely restored, and at the present time is stronger and more vigorous than at any previous period of his life.—Yours respectfully, EDMUND LAWRENCE.

Messrs. T. Roberts and Co.

Chemist.

3, BUCKINGHAM TERRACE, NEW SOUTHGATE,
MIDDLESEX, *November 25th, 1880.*

DEAR SIRs,—Having used PARR'S LIFE PILLS for many years, and derived great benefit and relief from them, I have great pleasure in recommending them to every one, as a really *good genuine medicine*, and no family should be without them.—
Yours truly, HENRY BARTON.

Messrs. T. Roberts and Co.,
8, Crane Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

PERTH, TASMANIA, *March, 1880.*

SIRs,—As I still receive great benefit from "OLD PARR'S LIFE PILLS," now in my 70th year, please send me another large family packet, to be sent for me by Messrs. Hudson and Hopwood's Stationery and Book Parcel, Launceston, Tasmania; and will you be so good as to send me with the Pills two or three of your printed papers with Mrs. E. J. Catlin's letter and fine and excellent poetic lines, recommending PARR'S LIFE PILLS to her son. I want through Mrs. Catlin to recommend PARR'S LIFE PILLS to others. THOS. ALCOCK.

Messrs. T. Roberts and Co.,
Crane Court, Fleet Street, London.

TONG LANE, WHITWORTH, *near ROCHDALE,*
June 15th, 1878.

DEAR SIRs,—I received the box of pills you sent me by post safely. This medicine has been of the greatest use to me and my family without the aid of any doctors at all. No other medicine has been used but yours. I cannot fully detail to you how much good they have done our household.

About fifteen years ago I was suffering from colds and surfeits deeply rooted in the system, which resulted in partial lockjaw. I tried various means for six or seven months. I was advised to try a great doctor who understood such cases. He examined me and told me he would cure me for £10 or £12; but I was unable to afford such a sum. At last I procured a small box of your Sovereign Remedy; the remarkable effects I shall never forget. After taking one small box and two at 2s. 9d. I was perfectly cured.

I confess myself to blame that I did not report this to you at the time. I cannot half recommend your Pills enough. I have never required any other medicine since I commenced with them.

They clear the body from all impurities and give comfort and sound health. We are never without them. You are at liberty to make what use you like of my letter.

I remain, yours truly,

JOHN WORMWELL,

Wesleyan Local Preacher.

To Messrs. T. Roberts and Co.

TUDORIFIC.—Henry the Eighth outlived five of his wives, whose deaths took place from *mixed* causes; but his sixth one outlived *him*, possibly because she took "*Parr's Life Pills*."—*Judy*, June 2, 1886.

EVERY PERSON SHOULD BUY

A COPY OF

Old Moore's Almanack

CONTAINING

WONDERFUL PREDICTIONS AND HIEROGLYPHICS,

AND ALL THE

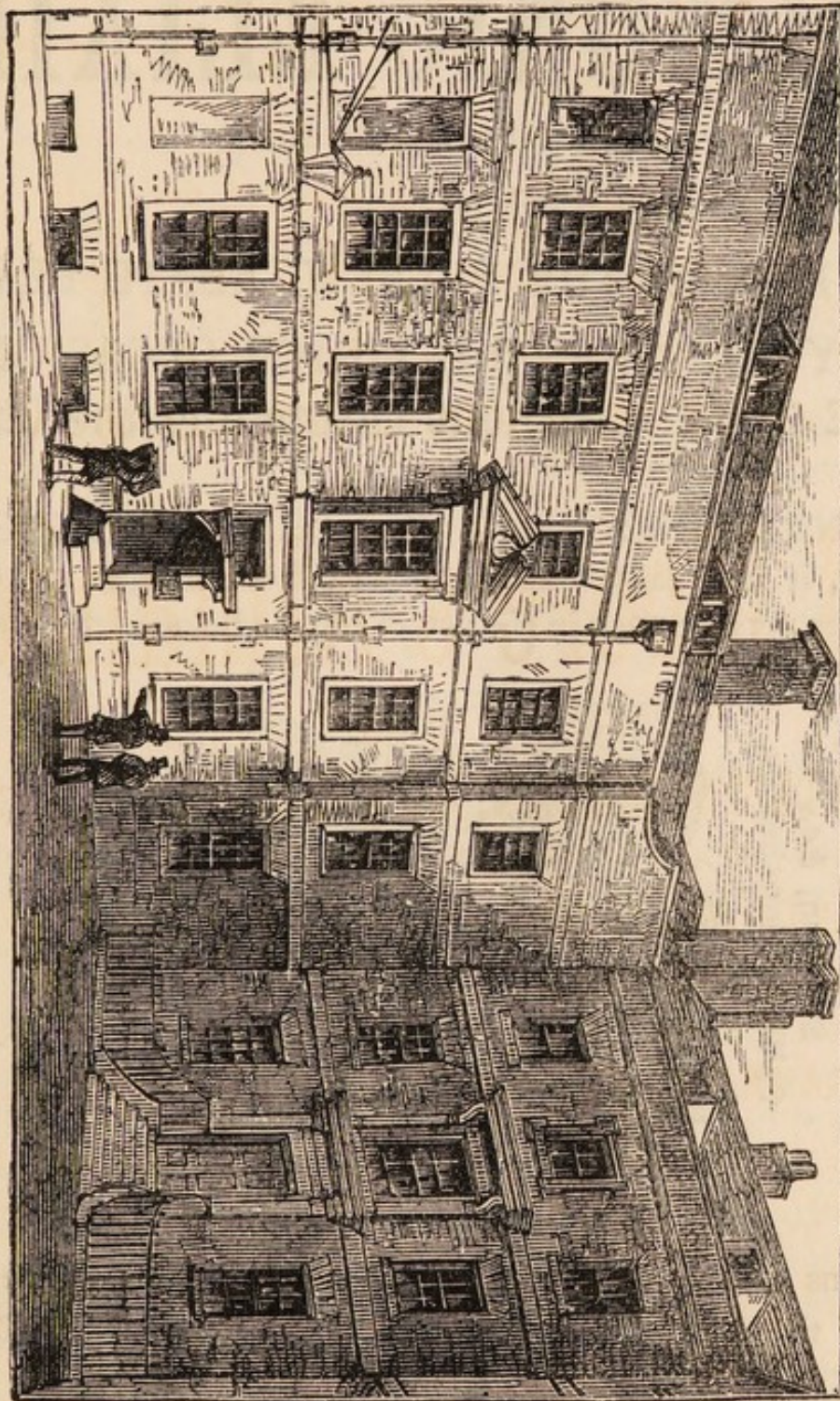
USUAL ALMANACK INFORMATION.

Be sure you ask for T. ROBERTS & CO.'s Edition.

CRANE COURT, FLEET STREET, LONDON.

IN the interesting work "*Old and New London*," published by Messrs. Cassell and Co., is a notice of Crane Court, Fleet Street. The engraving on the opposite page shows the house in which was first held the meetings of the Royal Society, and is now the Hall of the Scottish Corporation. The Hall was destroyed by fire in 1878, and rebuilt and opened in 1880.

The house on the left has become famous; it is where PARR'S LIFE PILLS have been prepared for more than fifty years. This justly-valued medicine gains year by year increased repute, and is in greater demand, not only in the British Isles, but in every part of the world.



CRANE COURT, FLEET STREET, LONDON.

SPENCER'S PULMONIC ELIXIR,

ADMIRABLY ADAPTED TO

EASE THE BREATHING,

LOOSEN THE PHLEGM, ABATE FEVER,

ALLAY THE TICKLING WHICH OCCASIONS

THE COUGH, without Tightening the Chest;

WHILE IN

CHRONIC DISORDERS, as Periodical Coughs or Inveterate Asthma, it is equally valuable in its effects, though, of course, longer perseverance in the use of the medicine is required.

Carefully Prepared from
the Recipe of the
late C. SPENCER, Esq.,
Surgeon, &c.,
Salford, Manchester.



Deservedly celebrated as
the most
successful practitioner
in all
Pulmonary Affections.

NOTICE.

Persons desirous of testing the efficacy of this medicine must observe that on each bottle are the words "SPENCER'S PULMONIC ELIXIR," and that each wrapper has a *fac simile* of the Proprietors' signature, as annexed.

J. Roberts & Co

DIRECTIONS
FOR TAKING
PARR'S LIFE PILLS.

This fine herbal medicine is, if taken for the time and in the manner specified, warranted to effect a cure.

The fine balsamic and invigorating powers it possesses are wonderful; a trial of a single dose will carry conviction that they are all that is necessary to invigorate the feeble, restore the invalid to health, and do good in all cases.

The heads of families should always have them in the house, as they may, with the greatest confidence, be resorted to at any time or in any case.

Epsom Salts are generally had recourse to when a purgative is required, simply because they are *cheap*. If the true nature of Epsom Salts, Seidlitz Powders, and all saline aperients were fully understood, they would *never* be resorted to: they occasion an excessive secretion and discharge of the natural moisture of the stomach and bowels, and this softens the contents of the bowels, and produces watery motions; the vessels, after this unnatural drainage, are dried up, and a confined state of the bowels is produced, which if not carefully attended to produces costiveness and all its train of evils; besides, all salts are cold and griping, to say nothing of the danger of mistaking oxalic acid for salts, which mistake has, in numerous instances, terminated fatally. PARR'S LIFE PILLS are now, from their many virtues, the established Family Medicine.

Indigestion or Dyspepsia.—It must be borne in mind that indigestion is caused by a foul and bad state of the stomach and a morbid action of the liver and biliary organs, and is the primary cause of more than half our disorders. These pills

must be taken, three pills at bedtime, and two before breakfast, and continued for a month or six weeks; this will restore the stomach to a clean and healthy state, and produce a natural action of the liver.

Gout, Rheumatism, Rheumatic Gout, &c.—The exciting causes of these complaints may be traced to any general derangement of the system; frequent sources of their appearance are—cold, bruises, sprains, free indulgence in wines, spirits, and highly-spiced foods: it is, however, an established fact that in nine cases out of ten it is hereditary, thus proving that before a cure can be effected, a total change of the system must be produced. The powerfully invigorating and alterative properties of PARR'S LIFE PILLS will, by a few weeks' perseverance in taking two or three daily at dinner, infallibly produce this happy change. Many preparations advertised as specifics for these disorders are merely opiates which act on the nervous system, and thus for a short time deaden the sense of pain, but possess not the least power in removing the *cause* of the disorder, and which, after the momentary relief afforded has passed, leaves the patient in a more helpless situation than ever. All opiates and stimulants cannot be too studiously avoided.

Dropsy.—"This disease (says Abernethy) is a preternatural accumulation of serous or watery fluid in the cellular membrane beneath the skin, or in different cavities of the body." The remote or occasional causes are various—hereditary or family predisposition, drinking cold liquids when the body is in a heated state, acute diseases of various kinds, as fever, dysentery, &c. These pills are justly esteemed as a powerful remedy for carrying off the collected water by stool and by perspiration; one or two should be taken every hour, until the bowels are freely unloaded. The patient may use as a drink cream-of-tartar, made in the usual way.

Sleep.—Nothing has such a tendency to restore the system as sound and refreshing sleep. A popular writer beautifully remarks: "All-healing sleep soon neutralises the corroding caustic of care, and blunts even the barbed arrows of the marble-hearted fiend—Ingratitude;" and by Shakespeare it is described as "Nature's sweet restorer;" yet there are thousands who pass weary and sleepless nights, without taking the trouble to ascertain the cause; many resort to opiates, and thus aggravate the evil. These pills will be found to soothe the irritated state of

the nerves, and soon to bring the whole system into that cool and healthy state that will induce sound and refreshing sleep, and thus fit the mind and body for the varied duties of life, which henceforward will be performed with ease and satisfaction.

Costiveness.—Habitual costiveness is, if not removed in time, a cause of more than half the disorders and pains to which humanity is subject; the medicines too generally had recourse to do more harm than good, as they weaken the peristaltic action of the bowels, and thus aggravate, instead of remove, the complaint. Let it be remembered that costiveness is CONSTITUTIONAL, and, therefore, it is absurd to suppose a few doses of a purgative medicine can remove it; an entire change of the system must be gradually produced by taking steadily two or three pills daily, for three, four, or even six months.

Gravel, Stone, and Urinary Affections.—Take three every night, and two in the morning.

Nervous Affections.—This class embraces a wide range, and the unhappy sufferers endure more anguish and receive less pity from those around them than from any other class of disorders. This in some measure may be accounted for simply because the symptoms are not so strongly defined as in other disorders; indeed, in some cases no symptoms are recognised, and, therefore, the hasty conclusion is jumped at that all the ailments of the patient must be imaginary, and not worthy of notice. There is no class of diseases requiring more kindness and care. Two or three of these invaluable pills will speedily reanimate the spirits, improve the digestive powers, and restore the whole nervous system to a happy and natural state. In all varieties of this disorder bleeding, leeching, or any other mode of abstracting blood, must be by no means employed.

Liver Complaints, Jaundice, &c.—The whole host of disorders denominated Liver Complaints may be attributed to cold, anxiety, want of exercise, spirituous drinks, excessive use of mercury, &c. These causes act powerfully on the liver, and obstruct the due performance of its natural functions and secretions; and the healthy action of the liver is of such vital importance to the general health that these interruptions, if not attended to, too often terminate fatally. Should Jaundice occur, it serves to remove all doubts with respect to this disease. Two or three pills every night for a few weeks will restore the patient to perfect health. The causes of these diseases are specified

before, which, as a matter of course, should be carefully avoided.

Bilious Disorders.—There is nothing can form so useful and efficient an aperient as the Bile itself, which has been admirably adapted by Nature to supply the bowels in a state of health with the requisite stimulus; but when this has from disease become either deficient in quantity or deteriorated in quality, medicines are justly entitled to consideration as the most effectual means of restoring a healthy secretion. These pills are all-powerful in removing the distressing symptoms attendant upon bilious obstruction, disordered state of the stomach and bowels—such as pains in the head, dimness of sight, sickness, oppression of the chest, lowness of spirits, with great apprehension of imaginary danger, and fear of sudden death, disinclination for active employment, and various other symptoms, at all times troublesome, and not unfrequently dangerous. By taking two or three doses of these pills at bedtime, and repeated as occasion may render necessary, the symptoms above described are speedily removed, an unusual degree of serenity pervades the mind, the stomach and bowels are restored to their natural functions; and returning vigour is the result. They operate pleasantly, without producing that irritation common to most advertised and powerful medicines, which too often augment the maladies they were intended to remove.

Coughs, Colds, Asthmas.—Three or four pills every night at bedtime; they will remove the congealed phlegm in the throat, which produces that unpleasant tickling sensation which provokes coughs and destroys rest; sound sleep will be enjoyed after a few doses.

Pimples, Blotches, Redness of the Nose, and all Skin Diseases, as Scurvy, Scorbutic Eruptions, Itch, Inflammatory Affections, Ulcers, Scrofula.—Persevere with two at night and two in the morning; time and perseverance will effect a cure. All outward sores should be kept particularly clean; the application of a little cooling ointment made of equal portions of olive oil and beeswax will be found of great service.

Female Complaints.—Headache, nervous affections, all irregularities of the system, depression of spirits, foul breath, sallow complexion, &c. Take two or three pills at bedtime regularly for a week, after which a few as occasion may require, which will soon restore a healthful and juvenile bloom to the complexion.

Aged People, by taking two, three, or four pills occasionally, will be quite invigorated by the fine balsamic properties of this medicine; they prevent unpleasant accumulations.

Spring and Fall.—The spring and fall of the leaf has been always remarked as periods when disease, if it be lurking in the system, is sure to show itself. The coldness of winter renders torpid the acrimonious fluids of the body, and in this state of inactivity their evil to the system is not perceived; but at the spring these are roused, and, if not checked, mix up and circulate with the blood, and thus the whole system is contaminated. These pills, taken three every night for two or three weeks, will rid the body of all that is noxious, and produce health and comfort. Persons troubled with scorbutic affections are strongly advised to try them at this time of the year; in a few days they will perceive the powerful clearing properties they possess, and thus be induced to continue them. Recently a remarkable case where a gentleman was so dreadfully afflicted with a scorbutic disorder as to be quite unsightly, by a patient undeviating course of these pills his system has undergone a thorough change, and his skin is now as fair and sound as that of a healthy child. The fall of the leaf, also, is a time when the system, relaxed by the heat of summer, would be highly benefited by a few weeks' course of the pills, two or three every night: these will clear off sour and bad humours which heat invariably generates. The liver, which generally gets sluggish, will be put into healthy action, and thus be able to perform the functions allotted to it; the body altogether will be re-invigorated, and prepared to undergo whatever change the winter may bring on.

GENERAL REMARKS.

In no one instance has this valuable medicine failed, when duly persevered in, to afford relief even to the oldest and most inveterate cases; if any from want of confidence, or fickleness, discontinue their use too early, and thus leave unaccomplished what they desired, are they to attribute the result to the medicine? Certainly not; but to their own love of change and want of patience. Celsus has justly remarked that "Diseases slow in their progress go off very slowly, and that time is necessary to remove the deeply-rooted evils which time has occasioned." This should be borne in mind by all suffering from chronic disease

deeply rooted in the system, to impart patience and perseverance in the use of this medicine, that, where the disorder seems obstinate, they may rest fully assured that time will effect a radical and perfect cure. It seems needless to specify particularly how they are to be taken in all cases; the patient will soon determine how they suit him; they may rest assured that the plan which is most agreeable to themselves is also best. Moderate exercise and abstinence from spirituous liquors are recommended to hasten the recovery of the patient. No restriction is required as to food; Parr's maxim was, "Eat when you are hungry and drink when you are dry." The patient need be under no fear of catching cold. It is of consequence that the patient should have, in this changeable climate, plenty of warm and clean clothing. Old Parr carefully provided himself against changes in the weather with good clothing.

Cures have been effected in the following diseases, after every other means have failed, as can be attested by many witnesses:—Abscesses, Agues, Aneurisms, Asthmas, Barrenness, Bilious Complaints, Blotches on the Skin, Boils, Bowel Complaints, Burns, Cancers, Cholera-Morbus, Cholics, Constipation of Bowels, Consumptions, Convulsions, Cramps, Croups, Debility, Dropsy, Dimness of Sight, Dysentery, Epilepsy, Erysipelas, Faintings, Foul Breath, Fevers of all kinds, Female Irregularities, Fistulas, Fits, Flux, Gout, Giddiness, Glandular Swellings, Headache, Heartburn, Hoarseness, Inflammation, Indigestion, Jaundice, Languor, Leprosy, Lethargy, Liver Complaints, Low Spirits, Lumbago, Measles, Mortifications, Nervous Affections, Ossifications, Pains in the Bones, Palpitations, Palsy, Paralysis, Phlegm, &c.

TO LADIES.

A TRIAL of a single box of PARR'S LIFE PILLS will at once prove that they mildly and speedily remove all Skin Eruptions, Sallowness of Complexion, Nervous Irritability, Sick Headache, Loss of Appetite, Indigestion, Costiveness, Depression of Spirits, Dizziness of the Eyes, Irregularity or General Derangement of

the System, and, by assisting the secretions, give such a healthy action to the organs as to give the colour of the rose to the complexion, and tone and vigour to the whole frame.

EMIGRANTS, SEAMEN, MISSIONARIES,

OFFICERS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY, MERCHANTS, &c., are respectfully informed that PARR'S LIFE PILLS are considered to be the most useful and saleable medicine in the English Colonies ; and in all affections and disorders especially incident to the tropics they will be found invaluable. It is the best medicine ever used in Scurvy and every variety of Scorbatic affections, making it very desirable to TAKE TO SEA.

THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE.

ADMITTING that no man was ever better acquainted with human nature than Shakespeare, it is quite true that he had but very little sympathy with doctors. If medical science were based exclusively upon principles of reason, doctors would not differ so much. Parr took reason and experience for his guides, and hence the wonderful cures which his pills have effected. They purify the blood, and prevent the establishment of disease in the system. Parr, who, like Shakespeare, had studied human nature thoroughly, laughed at many of the contradictory mysteries assumed by the medical profession, being fully convinced of the power of his discovery to eradicate disease, and thereby help to prolong life. The period has now arrived when the necessity for economy, precaution, and judicious attention to the purchase of good medicine is beginning to be felt and acknowledged. The large sale of PARR'S LIFE PILLS shows that the English public are not behind-hand in discernment, when they patronise an article of such established repute and of such decided usefulness, which has stood the test of time and experience.

CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC.

MANY persons, after learning that so many wonderful cures have been effected by PARR'S LIFE PILLS, have a great desire to procure the medicine which has done so much good. In doing this, however, caution must be exercised.

OBSERVE.—That round the sides of each box of the Genuine Medicine is affixed the *English Government Stamp*, on which is engraved, in **WHITE** letters on a **RED** ground, the words PARR'S LIFE PILLS.

To imitate this is felony, and the offender will be prosecuted by her Majesty's Government.

WE FURTHERMORE, in order to give the public a still greater protection, do consider it expedient to affix our signature to the wrapper which is folded round each box of the genuine medicine.

As witness our hand,

J. Roberts & Co

8, CRANE-COURT, FLEET-STREET, LONDON.

Sold Wholesale & Retail by our Appointment,
IN LONDON BY

Barclay and Sons, 95, Farringdon-street; W. Edwards and Son, 157, Queen Victoria-street; W. Sutton and Co., 10, Bow Churchyard; J. Sanger and Sons, 489, Oxford-street; F. Newbery and Sons, 1, King Edward-street; Evans, Lescher, and Webb, 60, Bartholomew Close; S. Maw, Son, and Thompson, Aldersgate-street; Thompson, Millard, and Co., Limited, Curtain-road; R. Hovenden and Sons, City-road and Berners-street; Lynch and Co., Aldersgate-street; May, Roberts, and Co., Clerkenwell-road; Butler and Crispe, 4, Cheapside.

ASK FOR PARR'S LIFE PILLS.

Can be obtained of all respectable Chemists and Medicine Vendors in Town and Country.

In Boxes, price 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., and in Family Packets 11s. each.

Full directions with each box.—**TRY THEM.**