

The case of Mr. Thomas Peirce, with regard to his styptic medicines, for stopping the most violent bleedings ... Interspersed with ... copies of his petition to the King, Lord Egremont's letters to His Majesty's Serjeant Surgeons, and their reports ... Together with the various experiments and affidavits, which ... demonstrate the ... efficacy of the said medicines / [Thomas Peirce].

Contributors

Peirce, Thomas.
Egremont, Lord.

Publication/Creation

[London] : [publisher not identified], [1764?]

Persistent URL

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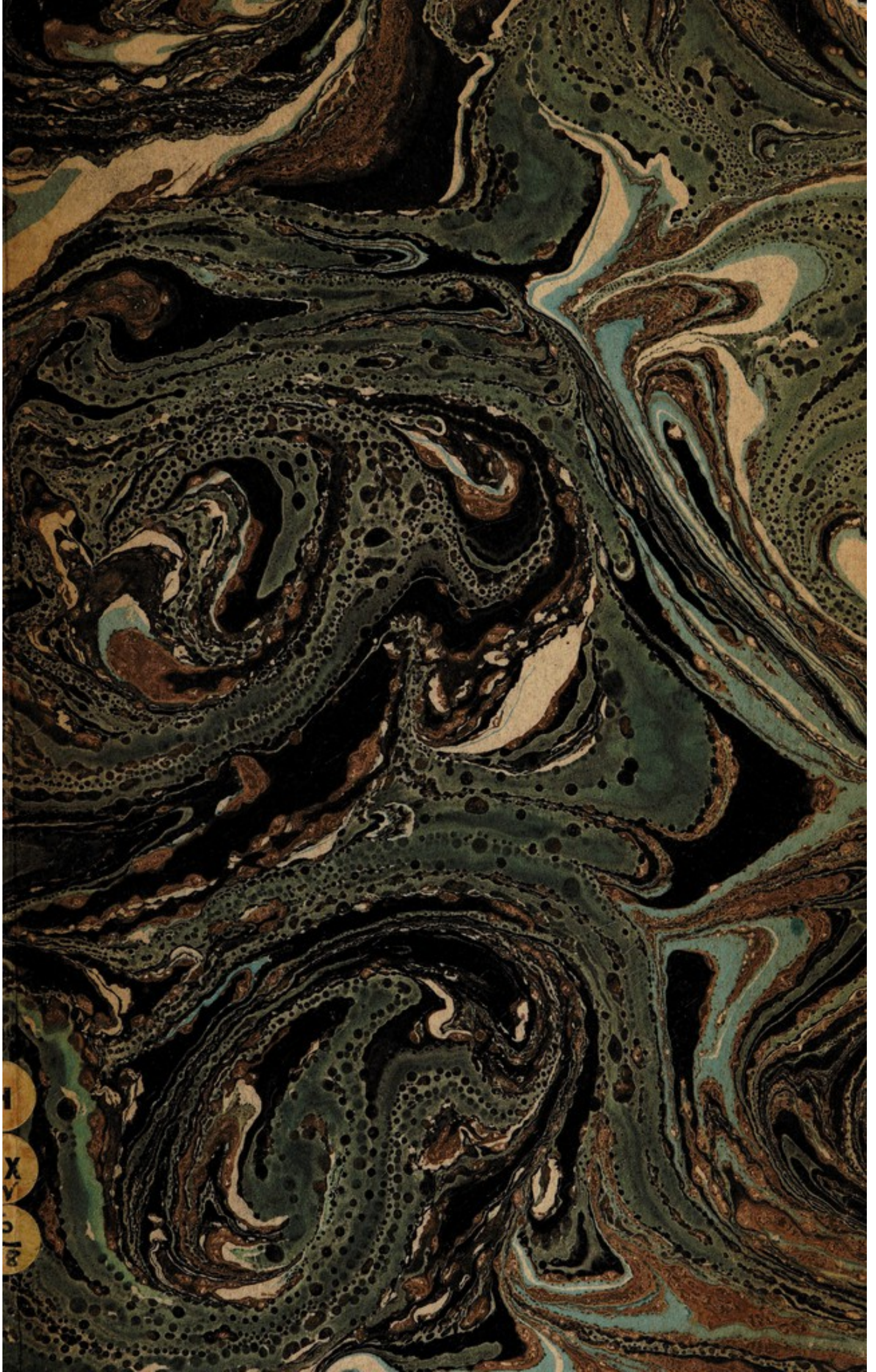
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The C A S E of
Mr. THOMAS PEIRCE,
With Regard to his
STYPTIC MEDICINES,

For stopping the most violent Bleedings in EITHER
Sex (external or internal) and for curing
all Fresh Wounds, &c.

INTERSPERSED WITH
Genuine COPIES of his PETITION to the KING,
Lord Egremont's LETTERS to his Majesty's
Serjeant Surgeons, and their REPORTS in con-
sequence thereof.

TOGETHER WITH
The various EXPERIMENTS and AFFIDAVITS,
which incontestibly demonstrate the extraordi-
nary Efficacy of the said MEDICINES.

THE Proprietor of these Medicines, on his
design of making them public, exclusive of
the natural right he had to expect some
emolument to himself adequate to their utility)
had principally in view the great benefit that would
thereby accrue to mankind in general, more par-
ticularly to the Royal-Navy and Army, and all
such as are exposed to the like difficulties and dan-
gers, as well as to his majesty's subjects in the
Plantations abroad, and all towns and villages in
this kingdom, situated at distances where help is
not so immediately at hand. But,

Having been long flattered with the hopes of
introducing them to the notice and regard of the
public, by more effectual recommendations than
the common method of puffing them off in a news-
paper, he finds himself at last, after various dis-
appointments, reduced to the disagreeable necessity,
either

either to join the common herd of advertifers, or renounce the advantages both the public and himself have the justest reasons to expect from their being made generally known.

It is no secret to the public, how graciously his majesty was pleased, upon the first application, to grant a reprieve to George Clippingdale, then a convict in Newgate, in order to have the efficacy of these medicines tried on him, by cutting off one of his legs, which the unhappy delinquent petitioned to have done, and chearfully accepted of a respite for that purpose. But his majesty very naturally referring it to the consideration of his serjeant surgeons, those gentlemen, for reasons only known to themselves, thought fit to turn it out of its proper channel, by shifting it over to the surgeons of the hospitals, to be first tried by them, (which the serjeants well knew, if I am not misinformed, was more than they could answer by the laws of this country) and thereby effectually frustrated the king's most gracious intentions, both to the public and myself, his majesty having declared that he would liberally reward me if it succeeded. However,

In obedience to the serjeants instructions in their second report, I applied to the following hospitals; *viz.* St. Thomas's, Guy's, St. Bartholomew's, and St. George's, from each of which, I met with the reception I expected; *viz.* a positive denial; except from Mr. Gataker, one of the surgeons of the last mentioned hospital, who indeed was candid enough to promise me a fair trial of it, provided I would leave the medicines with him; which I should readily have complied with, had it not been for the unfair usage I received at St. Thomas's, where (if report says true) they analyzed them in order to become masters of my secret.

The objections started by the serjeants in their first report, of the insufficiency of the experiments hitherto made to warrant a trial of it upon the convict, must (as every person will readily perceive) operate much stronger with the hospital surgeons: If any risk must be run in the experiment, it can admit of no dispute whether it ought to be with a forfeited life, saved solely on that condition, or with the life of an innocent person, with which no man nor *authority* has a right to sport. The serjeants alone can account for their deciding so contrary to the judgments, not only of the surgeons of the several hospitals, but of all the impartial part of mankind.

Thus defeated in my expectations, I have no resource left, but the candour of the public, desiring no farther encouragement than the medicines, upon fair trials, are found to deserve.

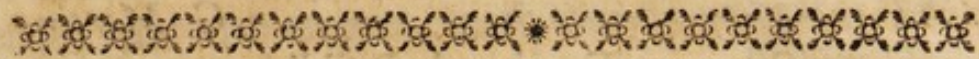
Experiments made on Brutes, and Cures performed by these Medicines.

AN incision made of an inch and half in length, and the artery of the fore leg of a large dog opened at the same time, the hemorrhage instantly stop'd without the needle, lint or bandage, and the wound cured in six days.

An amputation of the hinder leg of the same dog began forty minutes past seven, and the hemorrhage stop'd without the assistance of either needle, lint, or bandage, and the beast in a sound sleep ten minutes before eight; he slept well all night, and ran about the house the next day. The cure was performed within three weeks.

An incision made on the hinder thigh of an ass, five inches in length, and about two in depth, the hemorrhage stop'd in a very small time. This experiment was made in the presence of some gentlemen belonging to St. Thomas's Hospital.

An amputation of the hinder leg of a full grown healthy ass, made in the presence of near twenty gentlemen of the faculty, belonging to St. Thomas's and Guy's Hospitals, &c. The hemorrhage stop'd without the assistance of either needle, lint or bandage, with very little loss of blood, and in a short time he immediately went to rest, slept four hours and a half without the least restlessness, and in fine perspiration the whole time; when awaked he had good spirits, as appears by the following circumstance, for when hoisted by the tackle, which was fixed into a small joist of the ceiling, the tackle gave way and the beast fell on the side the leg was taken from; he continued upon the floor, with a man's weight upon his body ten minutes at least, struggling all that time with his bare stump rubbing on the floor, till the tackle was fixed in a fresh joist; when that was done he was hoisted so as to have a bearing on his three legs, nor one drop of blood appearing all the while; as soon as this was over he saluted the gentlemen with braying, and immediately had a hot mash, which he eat very heartily, in the presence of those gentlemen; he slept well all night, and was visited the three following days by near a hundred gentlemen of the faculty; the fourth day a poultice of bread and milk was applied to take off the coagulum, and the stump washed every other day (for the eight following days) with a small quantity of the powder dissolved in warm water. He soon became well with the common dressings.



To the KING's most excellent Majesty.

*The Petition of Thomas Peirce, Citizen
of London.*

May it please your Majesty,

HAVING been so happy as to discover a styptic, capable (as I have the strongest reasons to believe) of stopping the most violent bleedings, even of the larger arteries, without the painful assistance of the needle and ligature, I presume to introduce it to your Majesty's royal notice, humbly beseeching your gracious protection and assistance for the more effectually establishing so useful a remedy.

My presumption of its efficacy is founded on several experiments made on the smaller arteries of the human body, being the only opportunity I could obtain of trying it in that way; and confirmed by repeated trials on the brute creation, made under the greatest disadvantages imaginable to the medicine.

Not to trouble your Majesty with a detail of the particular experiments, I shall only mention two, the most considerable, to wit,

The amputation of the hinder leg of a strong dog, and the amputation of the same limb of a full grown ass, both which were performed in the presence of several gentlemen of the faculty (who have hereunto subscribed their names) and succeeded to their general satisfaction.

I was present when the amputation was performed on the ass,

T. Baker,

Surgeon of St. Thomas's Hospital.

I was present at the amputation on the dog,
G. Martin,
 Surgeon, Fenchurch-Buildings.

W. Louttit present at the amputation on the ass.

Pupils and apprentices of St. Thomas's and Guy's
 Hospitals,

John Turner,
John Butcher,
Devereux Edgar,
Charles Collins,
George Chandler,
Richard Burton.

Your petitioner therefore most humbly requests that your Majesty would be graciously pleased to order an experiment to be made upon the limb of any criminal already condemned to death, or to grant such other opportunity of demonstrating its efficacy to the publick (which I humbly presume would be attended with the most salutary consequences to your Majesty's subjects in general, and particularly to the navy and army) as to your Majesty's royal wisdom shall seem fit.

I am, Great S I R,

Your dutiful Subject and Servant,

Near Billiter-Square.

Thomas Peirce.

May it please your Majesty,

WE the under-written, the sheriffs of London and Middlesex, do most humbly presume to recommend the above petition to your Majesty's consideration, upon a presumption that a trial of the same may prove of publick utility.

Thomas Challenor,
Henry Banks.

Your petitioner, George Clippingdale, waterman, now under sentence of death in your Majesty's gaol of Newgate, most eagerly embraces the opportunity of beseeching, in the most humble manner, your Majesty would be pleased to appoint me, if in your Majesty's wisdom I shall seem worthy of your royal mercy, for the subject of the above experiment, submitting cheerfully to risque a life already forfeited to justice, upon so laudable an occasion, being the only atonement and satisfaction left in his power to offer his injured country.

George Clippingdale,

John Hopkins,

Uncle to the above convict.

John and Thomas Clippingdale,

Brothers to the above convict.

Robert Clippingdale,

Brother to the above convict.

*Lord Egremont's Letter to the Serjeant
Surgeons.*

Whitehall, May 5, 1763.

Gentlemen,

I Am commanded by the king to send you the inclosed petition of Thomas Peirce, of Billiter-Square; setting forth that he has discovered a styptic, capable, as he has the strongest reasons to believe, of stopping the most violent bleedings, the efficacy of which has been tried with success on the brute creation, in the presence of the surgeons, who have set their names to the petition; and humbly praying, in order to demonstrate the efficacy of the above styptic, that he may be permitted to try the experiment, on the limb of some criminal under sentence of death; and George Clippingdale,
now

now a convict in Newgate, having signified his consent to undergo the operation proposed, his majesty has been pleased to reprove him for a fortnight, but before the king declares his further resolution on this matter, it is his pleasure that you do, taking to your assistance any other gentlemen of the faculty, whom you shall judge proper, call * upon the said Thomas Peirce, to state the experiment he intends to try, and that you do examine into the same, and report your opinion, as well as to the said experiment itself as to the utility to be derived therefrom, and whether it is an object worthy of trial upon the conditions desired. You will be pleased to make your report as soon as possible, the reprove granted to George Clippingdale expiring on the 18th of this month.

I am, &c.

Egremont.

* Neither the serjeants themselves or any person from them did ever call or send to me, or make any enquiry what experiment I was desirous of having tried, or any such question; on the contrary, I several times waited on Mr. Hawkins, the serjeant surgeon, expecting to have a trial made with my medicines, but never could obtain that favour.

*The Report of the King's Serjeant Surgeons
to Lord Egremont.*

My Lord,

WE his Majesty's serjeant surgeons, Mess. Ranby, Hawkins, and Middleton, in obedience to your lordship's commands, having consulted together, and carefully considered of the proposals delivered to your lordship by Mr. Peirce, for trying the efficacy of his new invented Styptic Medicine, upon the arteries of an amputated limb,
for

for which purpose (if it should be judged proper to make such experiment) his majesty has been graciously pleased to grant a reprieve to a convict in Newgate, humbly beg leave to represent to your lordship, that the proofs laid before them in Mr. Peirce's proposals to your lordship, together with the declaration of the extraordinary efficacy of his medicine, are founded only upon experiments made upon the blood vessels of brutes; that they know, from certain experience, that this kind of comparative evidence is often fallacious, and inconclusive, there being in truth no precise analogy between the human arteries and the arteries of brutes, with respect to the violence of their bleedings, and the means necessary to stop them, as the hemorrhages from the arteries of brutes are in general stop'd much more easily, and even frequently will stop of themselves, without any application whatever; on such experiments therefore made upon the brutes, they think there is not sufficient authority for them to recommend the making the experiment proposed in Mr. Peirce's petition, but if your lordship should be pleased to direct, and Mr. Peirce would deliver * a proper quantity of his medicine to some of the surgeons of the hospitals, those gentlemen would soon have opportunities of making safe and sufficient experiments of its efficacy upon the smaller arteries of men, and if from such trials this medicine appeared to them to have more efficacy than the present known stypticks have, there would then be proper foundation and encouragement to make further experiments upon the larger arteries, and the convict

* I did leave a small quantity of my medicines at St. Thomas's Hospital, in order to have it tried; but, as I am informed, it was analyzed there, in order to discover the composition.

vict intended for the present experiment might, if thought proper, be preserved for the making of such trials as should, at that time, be judged satisfactory and important.

We are, &c.

May 13, 1763.

J. Ranby,

C. Hawkins,

D. Middleton.

*Lord Egremont's second Letter to the
Serjeant Surgeons.*

Whitehall, May 18, 1763.

Gentlemen,

HAVING laid before the king your report, dated the 13th instant, with regard to the proposal made by Mr. Thomas Peirce, for trying the efficacy of his new invented Styptick Medicine, upon the arteries of an amputated limb, I am to acquaint you, that his Majesty is perfectly satisfied with the reasons you give for not making such experiment at present on the convict in Newgate, whom the king had been pleased to reprieve with that view; and his Majesty entirely approving what you suggest of procuring a proper quantity of Mr. Peirce's medicines to be tried in the hospitals on the smaller arteries of men, desires you will accordingly apply * to Mr. Peirce for that purpose,

* Nobody ever applied to me for any of my medicines in order to have them tried in the hospitals, but on the contrary I waited on the gentlemen of the following hospitals, *viz.* St. Thomas's, Guy's, Bartholomew's and St. George's, and told them all that I was willing to let them have my medicines to make trial of, conditionally that they would permit me to be present when they were used, but could not be permitted to have them tried. Indeed Mr. Gataker, at St. George's,

purpose, in case he should be willing to put into your hands such a quantity as you shall judge sufficient to make the necessary experiments with.

I am further to acquaint you, that as George Clippingdale, the convict in Newgate, is already reprieved on this occasion, the king has been graciously pleased to determine that he shall not now suffer death, but that he shall be transported for life, unless it shall appear to you that there is sufficient grounds to preserve him here, in order to make any satisfactory and important trials of Mr. Peirce's Styptick. I am therefore to desire that you will report to me, as soon as may be, your opinion of this matter, and that I may receive and signify to the proper officers his Majesty's pleasure with regard to the final disposition of the convict above-mentioned. *I am, &c.*

Egremont.

The Serjeant Surgeons second Report.

My Lord,

WE are acquainted by Mr. Peirce that he is willing to deliver a quantity of his Styptick Medicine to the surgeons of the hospitals, in order to have such experiments made with it as to them shall seem proper; we have likewise seen and consulted with several of the surgeons of the hospitals, who we find have enquired carefully into the experiments upon the merit of which Mr. Peirce's petition

George's, very candidly told me he would give them fair trial if I would leave them with him; to which I should have had no objection, if they had not been before left at St. Thomas's, as before recited in this Narrative. I likewise told Mr. Gataker, that I would be always ready to attend with them whenever they pleased, but they have not yet been tried.

petition to his Majesty was founded, and they seem to apprehend those experiments of very little force and value. What effectual and safe trials may be made with the medicines, they have now under consideration. We humbly beg leave to represent to your lordship, that in our own opinion, and upon our consultation with those gentlemen, we think it will be of no utility to the public to preserve the convict in Newgate for any experiment upon the subject. *We are, my Lord, &c.*

London, June 7, 1763.

John Ranby,

C. Hawkins,

D. Middleton.

The Earl of Egremont.

Experiments tried since Application was made to the Hospitals.

A Large mastiff dog, having his ears cut off, the hemorrhage was stop'd in a very short time, by using the dry powder.

A horse belonging to Mr. Burrell, a stable-keeper, in White-Chaple, was docked, and the hemorrhage stop'd in a very small time, by using the powder dry, without any other assistance.

At the request of Mr. Thomas Peirce, of Billiter-Square, Fenchurch-Street, we whose names are hereunto annexed, made a trial of his Elixir and Styptick Powder, in the following experiment, on Friday the 30th of December, 1763, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

WE took a dog of a middling size and full of flesh (no ways prepared for the operation) and made a longitudinal incision through the abdominal

domenal muscles, on the right-side of the umbelica, about four inches in length, through which we wounded the ilium, by puncture, something more than half an inch in length; we immediately made futures in the muscles, and as soon as that was done, Mr. Peirce dissolved some of his Styptick Powder in water, and washed the wound, which in about three minutes stop'd the bleeding and formed a strong coagulum or crust; we then stitched the skin together, and applied some of the powder over all, after which we bound him up.

Mr. Peirce gave the dog before the operation about 30 drops of the Elixir, and after it about 20 more, which caused him to sleep for near two hours after the operation; the dose was repeated about 5 or 6 hours after, and continued three times a day for the three following days, and twice a day for the two succeeding days, when he entirely left off the Elixir.

On the third day we took off the dressings and found good digestion of laudable matter, and every symptom of pain abated; and as there never appeared any symptoms of danger all the time, we could safely pronounce him out of danger on the third day; the wound being quite well, excepting the skin, which was not healed.

In testimony of which we have hereunto subscribed our names, this 6th of January, 1764.

Richard Altree, in Tower-Street.

Joseph Morgan.

Affidavits

It is to be observed, that in the above case the dog's belly was open'd near four inches in length, the guts taken out, and a wound made in them of about three quarters of an inch in length.

*Affidavits & Cases relating to the Efficacy
of these Medicines on the Human Body.*

LONDON to wit, Thomas Whitlock, of Old-Street-Road, near Hoxton-Square, in the county of Middlesex, fellowship-porter, maketh oath and faith, that on or about the month of November 1762, being at work he had the misfortune by a strain to break a blood vessel, which caused him in a few days after to void blood both by vomit and stool, and that he continued so to do till the month of August now last past, during which time he could find no sort of relief; that about the latter end of the same month of August he began to use Mr. Peirce's Elixir for inward bleedings, and by taking one bottle was perfectly relieved from that malady, and has had no return.

Thomas Whitlock.

Sworn at Guildhall, London, the 16th day of November, 1763,
before me, MARSH DICKINSON.

LONDON to wit, Mary Humphrys, wife of John Humphrys, of Bennits-Court, White-Street, in the parish of St George, Southwark, in the county of Surry, maketh oath and faith, she was afflicted with a violent hemorrhage during eleven weeks, without intermission, having in vain tried all other methods for her relief, until she had taken one bottle of Mr. Peirce's Elixir for inward bleedings, by which medicine she received the desired cure, and has ever since been regular, and enjoyed her perfect health.

Mary Humphrys.

Sworn at Guildhall, London, the 24th day of January, 1764,
before me, CHARLES ASGILL.

A lady at Barnsley in Yorkshire, who had a violent hemorrhage for many months after a miscarriage (all other medicines proving ineffectual) is relieved

relieved from that malady by taking one bottle of Mr. Peirce's Elixir for inward bleedings, and rendered perfectly well.

A lady in Margate-street, near Cavendish-Square, sister to the above, was afflicted a whole year and upwards, and after baths and all other medicines had proved ineffectual, was perfectly relieved by taking one bottle of this Elixir, and continues in perfect health.

Mrs. N——s, at Tottenham, in Middlesex, who had been afflicted for seven months, is perfectly cured by taking one bottle of Mr. Peirce's Elixir.

Mr. Penny, Wine-cooper, living near Gould-Square, Tower-Hill, received a wound an inch in length upon the back of his hand by an oyster shell, whereby the leader of his fore finger was wounded, which injury had been received six days and the part much swelled and inflamed before he applied these medicines, but by the use of them was cured in eight Days. *Thomas Penny.*

Mr. William - Peter Knowlton, cork-cutter, in Mark Lane, near Fenchurch-Street, London, received a lacerated wound in the palm of his hand, more than an inch in length, by the teeth of a large mastiff dog; the back of his hand was likewise much bit, but was happily cured in eight days by washing the wound three times with the water that some of the powder had been dissolved in. *William-Peter Knowlton.*

A footman living with Mr. Seating, merchant, in Billiter-Square, received an incised wound on his right hand, which had been done a week and was much inflamed and swelled, before he used these

these medicines, which in ten days effected a perfect cure.

James Fawset, an apprentice to Mr. Reeves, Wheelwright, at the Golden Cross, in Long-Acre, received a long wound on his knee with an axe, and was cured in six days by the use of these medicines.

A porter at the King's-Head Tavern, in Fenchurch-street, received an incised wound on his wrist, by which he cut the veins asunder, but the hemorrhage was instantly stop'd by means of the dry powder.

N. B. The names of some of the before-mentioned persons are not inserted at length for the sake of delicacy, but the clearest and fullest information thereof may be had of the proprietor, as well as of the persons themselves.

From the above cases I presume, that if the gentlemen of the faculty to whom these medicines were refer'd, had given due encouragement, by granting the necessary experiments, upon proper certificates whereof the proprietor had declared his intentions of discovering the composition, it would by that means have been in the power of every soldier and sailor to assist each other, when, either from the great numbers of wounded or the close attack of the enemy, the surgeons are rendered incapable of giving the necessary assistance to every wounded man, for want of which, the poor men are frequently left to die in their gore; not to mention the advantages even in amputations, by preventing the greatest part of the pain and danger, which the patient unavoidably undergoes, by the present method of the needle and ligature, though used by the most skillful hand.

