

## **Specification of Nathan Smith : vapour bath, &c.;**

### **Contributors**

Smith, Nathan.

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A.D. 1798 . . . . . N<sup>o</sup> 2271.

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S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

NATHAN SMITH.

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VAPOUR BATH, &<sup>c</sup>.

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L O N D O N :

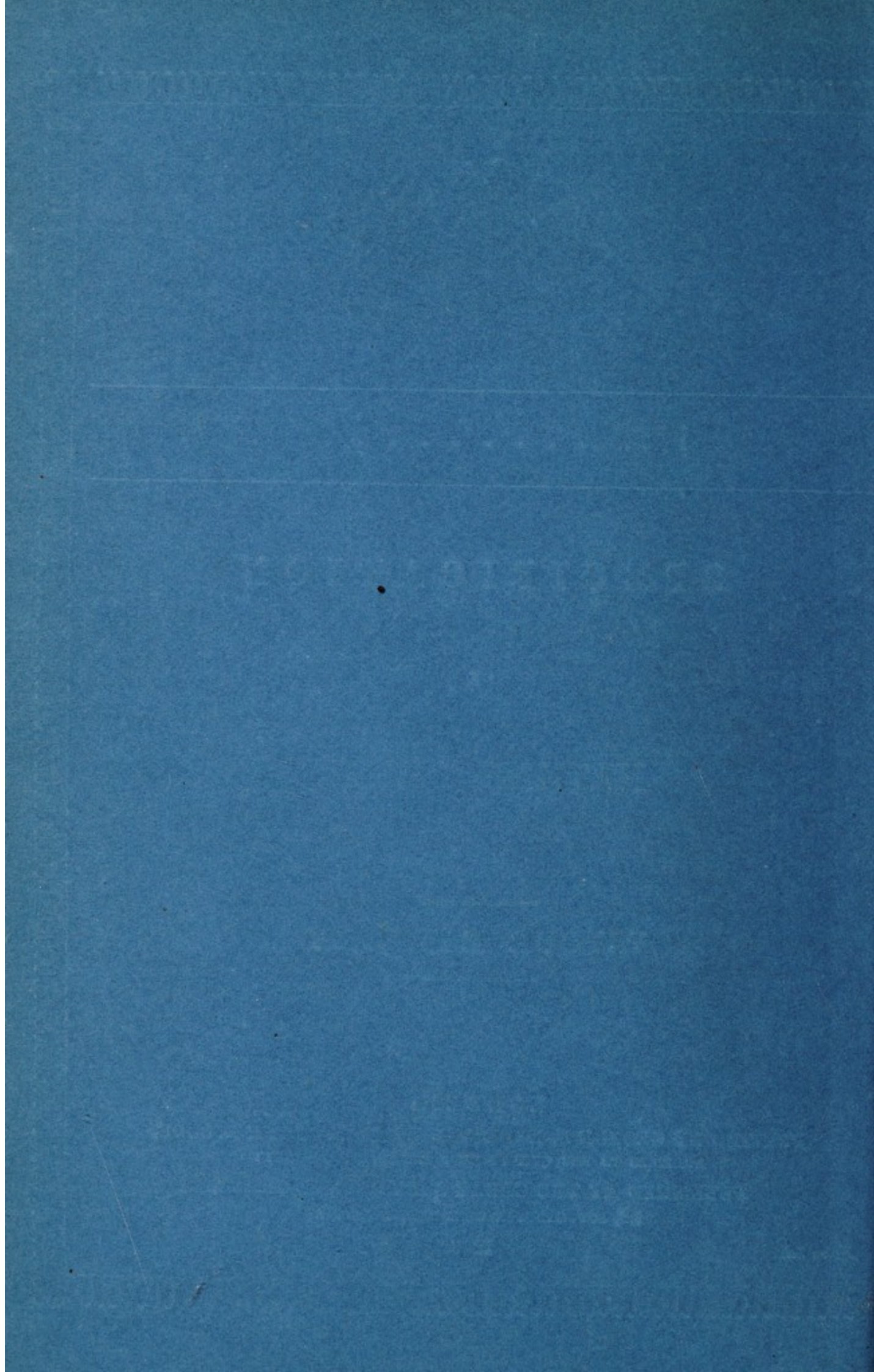
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A.D. 1798 . . . . . N° 2271.

**Vapour Bath, &c.**

**SMITH'S SPECIFICATION.**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, NATHAN SMITH, of Brighthelmestone, in the County of Sussex, Gentleman, send greeting.

WHEREAS His most Gracious Majesty King George the Third, by His  
5 Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain, bearing date at  
Westminster, the Twentieth day of November, in the thirty-ninth year  
of His reign, after reciting therein (amongst other things) that I, the  
said Nathan Smith, had, by my Petition, humbly represented to Him  
that I had, after much trouble, labour, and expence, found out and  
10 invented "A NEW WAY AND METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING OR MAKING A VAPOUR  
BATH OR VESSEL OF DIFFERENT SIZES AND SHAPES, BY UNITING THERETO AND USING  
THERewith A CERTAIN MATHEMATICAL INSTRUMENT OR MACHINE CALLED AN AIR  
PUMP OR EXHAUSTER, FOR CURING, HEALING, AND RELIEVING PERSONS AFFLICTED  
WITH THE GOUT, PUTRID AND INFLAMMATORY SORES OF VARIOUS KINDS, WITH WHICH  
15 THE HUMAN BODY MAY BE AFFECTED," and was the first and sole Inventor thereof,  
did grant licence that I, the said Nathan Smith, my exors, admors, and assigns,  
during the term of years therein expressed, should and lawfully might make,  
use, exercise, and vend, within England and Wales and the Town of Berwick-  
upon-Tweed, my said Invention within that part of His Majesty's Kingdom  
20 of Great Britain called England, His Dominion of Wales, and Town of  
Berwick-upon-Tweed; in which said Letters Patent there is contained a  
proviso that if I, the said Nathan Smith, should not, within one calendar  
month next and immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent,  
describe and ascertain the nature of my said Invention, and in what manner



*Smith's Vapour Bath for Curing Gout, &c.*

the same was to be performed, by an instrument in writing under my hand and seal, and cause the same to be inrolled in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery within one calendar month next immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent, that then the same should determine and be void.

**NOW KNOW YE**, that I, the said Nathan Smith, in compliance with and 5  
in pursuance of the said proviso in the said in part recited Letters Patent contained, by this Instrument in writing under my hand and seal, do ascertain and particularly describe the nature of my said Invention in the said Letters Patent mentioned, and how the same is to be performed, and declare the same to be in manner following, that is to say:— 10

I make or cause to be made a bath or vessel commonly called a vapour bath, of wood, iron, copper, brass, tin, lead, or other metal or substance, and of various or different forms, shapes, and sizes, suitable and adapted to receive and enclose the whole human body, or any particular part or parts thereof, such as the legs or feet, arms or hands; also a vessel or boiler for heating or 15  
boiling of water and other liquids; and a pipe or conductor, made of iron, copper, brass, tin, lead, or other metal, through which the vapour or steam is to pass and be conducted from the boiler to the bath, with one end thereof in or annexed, fixed, or fastened to the said boiler, and the other end in or annexed, fixed, or fastened to the said bath, and a stop-cock therein or in the 20  
bath or boiler, and a lamp or fire under the said boiler or vessel; and into or unto such vapour bath or vessel I screw or otherwise annex, fix, or fasten an instrument or machine commonly called an air pump or exhauster, or two or more of such instruments or machines, made of iron, copper, brass, tin, lead, or other metal, as may be thought necessary and proper, or any other instru- 25  
ment or machine that will pump and exhaust, extract, or draw air out of a vessel; and the vapour bath or vessel, and air pump or exhauster, when united, fixed, or fastened together or otherwise annexed, to be used together as above described, I denominate and call an air-pump vapour bath; and the uniting, fixing, or fastening or otherwise annexing the same as aforesaid, and the using 30  
and applying thereof, as after mentioned, for the curing, healing, or relieving of persons afflicted with the gout, putrid and inflammatory sores, and other complaints and diseases of like nature, being my sole Invention. I further describe and declare, that the body of the person afflicted, or any part or parts thereof affected, being put into the bath, and the bath being filled with 35  
vapour or steam of a degree of heat necessary and proper, from the boiler or vessel so called, and the stop-cock being turned, I then work the air pump or exhauster, and thereby pump, exhaust, or draw out of the bath or vessel any quantity of air, weight or pressure of the atmosphere, that I may think



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necessary and proper for the curing, healing, or relieving the patient; and the two operations of filling the bath or vessel, and pumping or exhausting the air thereout, I repeat as often as I may think necessary and proper for the curing, healing, or relieving of the patient, and either at one and the same  
 5 time or at different times, as need may be and require, and so on every person and persons seeking to be cured, healed, or relieved by the use and means of my said air pump vapour bath, made or to be made, used, and worked by me as aforesaid. And I further describe and ascertain that the machine so contrived as to hold that part of the body affected is first filled with steam or  
 10 vapour, and the external air or pressure of the atmosphere is then drawn out of the vessel or machine, in a lesser or greater measure, as the patient can bear it, to a half, a quarter, three fourths, or any other portion of the air contained in the vessel, and as need may be and require, thus giving aid or help to the elastic force and power of the internal air contained in the human  
 15 body to throw out and expel the matter which occasions the pain or hinders the natural functions of the human frame; and this to be repeated each time as often as necessary.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the Fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred  
 20 and ninety-eight.

NATHAN SMITH. (L.S.)

Sealed and delivered) being first duly  
 stamp) in the presence of

JAS DOBIE.

25

I. CLIFFE,

His Clerk.

AND BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the Fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord 1798, the aforesaid Nathan Smith came before our said Lord the King in His Chancery, and acknowledged the Specification afore-  
 30 said, and all and every thing therein contained and specified, in form above written. And also the Specification aforesaid was stamp) according to the tenor of the Statutes made for that purpose.

POPHAM.

Inrolled the Fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight.

LONDON:

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