

**Reports of the Society instituted in the year 1774, for the recovery of persons apparently drowned. For the year MDCCLXXV.**

**Contributors**

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
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R E P O R T S  
OF THE  
S O C I E T Y

INSTITUTED in the YEAR 1774, for the

R E C O V E R Y

O F

P E R S O N S

A P P A R E N T L Y

D R O W N E D.



*W. Sharp sc.*



For the Year M.DCC.LXXV.



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## INTRODUCTION.

**A**Lthough it must be acknowledged that these kingdoms have been shamefully inattentive, compared with almost every other part of Europe, to accidents by water, and other cases of sudden apparent deaths, yet the humane and benevolent spirit which has now gone forth, and the great attention which is now paid to this most satisfactory of all arts, the art of succouring the distressed, in a great measure obliterates the reproach. And there is great reason to hope that, in the course of a few years, we shall, by the warmth of our zeal, and progress in the science of administering relief, will abundantly atone for that incredulity which so long kept us inactive.

It must inspire every breast that is not a total stranger to the feelings of humanity, with the sincerest pleasure, to be informed that our Society instituted in favour of drowned persons, has made the most encouraging advances in a very short space of time; that not only the public attention has been gained (which, in the midst of such various and numberless applications in behalf of the Unfortunate, was no easy task), but the many indubitable instances of success, which they have even



in their infancy been able to report, have been followed with a general conviction; and incredulity is changed into astonishment at restorations to life, which have hitherto been deemed beyond the power of mortals!

If any thing can add to the pleasure which it is natural for the most active Directors in particular to feel, in seeing their benevolent attempts crowned with success, it is the reflection that they are very far from being deceived, in the favourable opinion they had entertained of the benevolence and humanity of their Countrymen. They are much more *rejoiced* than *surprized* to find that the facts recorded in the last year, which have fallen under their own immediate inspection, have had the most desirable influence upon the minds of the Rich and the Compassionate. We rejoice for the honour of humanity, to see that the number of subscribers to our institution is so greatly increased; since *ours* is an institution from whence neither personal honors, nor private emoluments of any kind, can be obtained; and the Members of which are united by no other tie than by motives of genuine philanthropy. The subjoined list will also evince, that the number of respectable patrons is augmenting daily: it will evidence also that we have been honoured with some liberal, and even princely donations.

In this connection, justice demands that we particularly make our public acknowledgments to the *Worshipful Company of Fishmongers*, for the generous gift of *One Hundred Pounds* unanimously voted to our Society. We will suppose that they were induced to make this noble donation, not only to enable us to extend our sphere of usefulness, but to bear a public and ample testimony of their approbation



approbation of our design; and to set a laudable example to the other opulent Companies in this great city. Nor will we entertain a suspicion that so worthy an example will be finally neglected. In various other countries, the subject has been deemed of such national importance, that the Magistracy have interposed their authority, in order to establish institutions of a similar nature; and have issued out such edicts as are most suitable to the general state of their policy, and best calculated to excite the members of their community to exert themselves in saving the lives of their fellow-citizens. But, we hope that the *benevolence* of Britons will stand in the place of power; and that this wealthy City in particular will, as a collective body, give us that countenance and support, which are in themselves more noble and more consonant with the genius of this nation, than measures of a coercive nature.

To these we will add with pleasure and gratitude the very considerable collections that have been made in several Churches of this metropolis. And here we scarcely know which to admire and applaud the most, the alacrity with which the churches were offered to our use; the zeal with which the Rev. Gentlemen have pleaded our cause; or the liberality of their respective Congregations. Justice also requires us to declare, that the public in general have exerted themselves with amazing spirit and assiduity in forwarding our designs. Houses are readily opened for the reception of unfortunate objects; every requisite article is cheerfully administered; and the assistants and attendants seem to vie with each other in their zeal and anxiety to save their fellow creatures: this too in some cases merely from the laudable principle of humanity,



nity, without being influenced by the hopes of a reward.

As we have thus been enabled by various acts of public munificence, to exert ourselves, and received every assistance we expected in these exertions ; so it is with a pardonable triumph, we can pronounce, that *we have done good*. We cannot reflect, without a degree of exultation, that a society, first established upon the testimony of others, should so soon be able to support its credit by *its own* incontestible facts: that the countenance we have received, and the instances of our success, seem as it were, to have rivalled each other. Our first essay was truly encouraging ; but now a merciful Providence has enabled us, to present the public with a much richer harvest. And if the possibility of relieving our fellow creatures, at first animated us to make the attempt, surely we may be indulged in the pleasing contemplation of the efficacy of the aids administered !—We have already been the happy instrument of Heaven, in turning the sorrows of multitudes into joy, and their lamentations into exclamations of gratitude. We have seen the child unexpectedly restored to the arms of its fond parents ; the father, and support of a family, to his wife and children ; the suicide has been snatched from the guilt of becoming his own destroyer, without as yet being tempted to repeat the horrid attempt. In a word, we can already contemplate numbers, at this instant, enjoying all the blessings of life and health ; who, without our institution, would have been numbered among the dead : and we can behold families, thankfully receiving those supports and  
comforts,



comforts, which an honest husband and parent is able to bestow; who would otherwise have been involved in the depth of poverty and distress.

In the reports of the last year, we gave the account of *eight* instances of success, which fell under our own inspection, from the month of July, to December 1774, and of *seven*, which have been communicated to us by our correspondents. It is now in our power to present the public with a much larger collection of successful cases. During the course of the year 1775, the Society has been instrumental in rescuing from being drowned, or recovering when void of every sign of life, no less than 33 persons, out of 67 accidents. The total of disasters that have fallen within our plan, has been, since our first institution, 103, of which number *forty-one* persons have been returned to their families and to the community. The relative proportion, therefore, is considerably more than as *one* to three; a proportion this, far exceeding our most sanguine expectations! And while it speaks aloud to all the feelings of humanity, does it not fully demonstrate how much the *public* interest is served by restoring so many Members to the Community, and in preventing so many families from becoming a parochial burden? Does it not fully demonstrate, how much it is the interest of every *individual* in the kingdom, whom providence has blessed with a sufficient competence, to combine against accidents which so frequently happen, and from which none are utterly exempt?

But were we to ascribe to our institution also, the honour derived from the successful cases  
which



which have been communicated to us from Gentlemen at a distance from the metropolis, we might place the utility of our design in a stronger point of view : and to this, it is in some respects intitled : for a perusal of several of these cases will shew, that the benefits obtained have been in consequence of our having diffused a knowledge of the methods of treatment, and excited the general attention to this most interesting subject.

Notwithstanding the considerable disbursements so many cases have occasioned ; yet the resources mentioned above, have not only been equal to these, and various other incidental expences, but they have encouraged us to enlarge the boundaries of our institution, and extend our rewards to upwards of *thirty miles* round this Metropolis ; in which the following places are necessarily comprehended : *Greenwich, Putney, Brentford, Ware, Hertford, &c.*—Nor can we entertain a doubt, but the continued aid of the rich and compassionate, will enable us to support this expence, as well as to put into execution various other plans of usefulness, which we have formed. The *possibility* of success was a sufficient inducement for several to join us ; the few instances of the preceding year, greatly augmented our numbers. May we not confidently hope, that the *cloud of witnesses* we now send forth into the world, will make Profelytes in still greater abundance ? that so many vouchers for the utility of our institution, will, as it were, successfully plead for the preservation of *thousands*, who may hereafter be exposed to similar dangers ?



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In relating the successful Cases of the Year 1775, we shall follow the Method before laid down. We shall give, first, those for which the Society have paid the promised Rewards, and then subjoin the Accounts transmitted to us by our Correspondents.

C A S E    X V I.

Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1775. *Bernard Riley*, a poor labourer, standing upon the *Dice-Key*, between six and seven o'clock in the evening, accidentally fell into the Thames, near the time of high water, and sunk under a lighter, that was moored before the Quay. He was seen to fall by some servants belonging to Capt. *Harrison's* ship, who immediately came to his assistance, and drew him, by means of a long-boat hook, from under the lighter. It is supposed that five or six minutes had elapsed before the body was taken up; and they all agree in the assertion, that not the smallest signs of life appeared. They conveyed him to the house of *Finlay Ferguson*, a publican, upon the *Quay*; where, from the confusion and inexperience of the attendants, the

B

body



body lay ten minutes before any attempts were made to recover it; at length his wet clothes were taken off, and the body was laid before the fire, in the tap-room; the assistants continually rubbing him with hot cloths. Mr. *Vaux*, the nearest assistant-surgeon, was sent for, but he not being at home, the messenger ran to Mr. *Waring*, surgeon, in Tower-street, who came and bled the patient, and made use of other suitable means till he was in some measure recovered. He was afterwards conveyed to the parish work-house, where he was received with the greatest humanity, and taken care of till Monday, when they new clothed him, and as he was now able to go about his business, he was dismissed,

*William Lockwood, Edward Lismore, John Whitefield and John Green*, are the names of the first four persons who attended this unfortunate man, and they were accordingly rewarded with one guinea each. The truth of the above particular case has been certified to us by Messrs. *Joseph Harrison*, master of the ship; *Edward Grant, John Almond*, a house-keeper in the neighbourhood, *John Hurles* and *Stephen Goodsan*, Beadles; also Mr. *Jeremiah Vaux*, the assistant surgeon.

This man appeared before the Society to return thanks to the gentlemen who were the instruments of his preservation. His account agreed with that of others in the same unfortunate circumstances, (viz.) that his senses were immediately lost, nor had he the least recollection of any thing that passed from the moment of his fall to the time of his recovery at the public-house. He said he was well in health, except a slight oppression upon his breast, attended with a tickling cough.

CASE



## C A S E XVII.

March 5, 1775. As Daniel *Ayres* apprentice to Mr. ——— a Button-maker in *Christopher-alley*, Moorfields, and two girls *Alice Roberts* and *Elizabeth Williams*, his fellow servants, were walking in the fields between *Islington* and *Canonbury-house*, they were surprized by a noise resembling the groaning of a person in distress. This they imagined at first to proceed from an adjacent ditch ; but as they could not perceive any one in it, they walked towards the bridge across the new river ; from thence they saw the body of a man floating in the centre of the river, with his face downwards. By some soft dirt which adhered to the top of the rails, they naturally conjectured that to have been the place from whence he had thrown himself. The lad ran to the water side, and by the help of a stick, reached the skirt of his coat, and then drew the body towards him, which proved so heavy, that with the aid of the girls he was scarcely able to lift it on shore. The man appeared to be about *sixty* years of age, very large, and jolly, his face was livid and considerably bloated. At first they thought him quite dead, but in a short time they discovered some feeble signs of life, which increased after they had shaken and rolled him upon the ground. In about *twenty* minutes he was so far recovered as to be capable of walking with their assistance, or rather crawling, with the utmost difficulty, to Mr. *Lane's*, the publican, near to *Canonbury-house*. He was then consigned to the care of Mr. *Macglefian*, surgeon, in Upper Moorfields, who was



fortunately upon the spot. This gentleman informs us, that the man still continued senseless, drew his breath with great difficulty, and appeared to be in a considerable degree of danger. He stripped him of his wet clothes, and laid him before the kitchen fire, rubbing him with salt, &c. It was about *two hours* before this unfortunate man was able to speak distinctly. He then told the attendants that his name was *Bailey*, that he lived in *Turnagain-alley*, near the Old Bailey, and that extreme poverty was the cause of his making this attempt upon his own life.

The lad with his female companions were properly rewarded by the Society. Mr. *Lane* very humanely gave every assistance his house could afford, and generously refused to accept of the promised reward.

#### C A S E XVIII.

March 10th, 1775. A decent, well dressed woman, was observed to wander about the *Serpentine River* in *Hyde Park*, for the space of three hours; at length she threw herself into it. Fortunately two horse grenadiers, *Leonard Cowley* and *William Mason* by name, were witnesses to the fact from a window near the Park wall. They immediately ran to the place and drew her out of the water. She continued apparently dead for about ten minutes after she was taken out, but when they had shaken and rubbed her some time, they perceived a trembling in her under jaw; they immediately carried her to *St. George's Hospital*, where the surgeons belonging to the hospital, by continuing in the use of the proper means, were so happy as to recover her.

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The above particulars were communicated to us by Mr. *Jackson*, surgeon, at *Knightsbridge*, one of the medical assistants, who was sent for soon after the event, but before he could arrive, the patient was conveyed to the hospital.

We have since learned that the name of this unfortunate woman is *Frances Pickup*; she keeps a chandler's shop in the Borough. She was induced to make this horrid attempt to destroy herself, by the embarrassed situation of her husband's affairs, being in hourly expectation of an arrest.

It is with the utmost pleasure we are enabled to inform the public, that our attempts to recover those who endeavour to destroy themselves are not as has been surmised, entirely vain and nugatory. This unhappy person is sensible of her great deliverance, and entertains the warmest gratitude to the instruments of her preservation. These are the sentiments she expressed to Mr. *Lane*, Brewer, in the Borough, to whose house the honest creature went a little time after this event, and payed some money she owed him.

We have since learned that the indulgence of her husband's creditors, and humanity of many made acquainted with her distress, have placed this poor honest woman in a comfortable situation.

The soldiers received the reward promised by the society. The beadle at *Knightsbridge* received also a satisfactory gratuity.



## C A S E XIX.

The following we shall relate in the words of the gentleman who has favoured us with the particulars, and has been so greatly instrumental in the recovery.

On Saturday, May 6, about nine in the morning, a messenger came to tell me that A. B. was just taken out of the new river near *Canonbury-house*, and supposed to be dead. I went immediately to the public house kept by Mr. *Lane*, where I found the patient supported in a chair by two men. He could not speak, and breathed with the greatest difficulty; his pulses were interrupted and very languid; he was stone cold all over, and had an universal tremor upon him. I attempted in vain to make him swallow a tea-spoon full of warm rum and water. I got off his wet clothes as soon as possible, and had him put into a warm bed between the blankets. He breathed with so much difficulty that he could not lie down in bed. I opened a vein in his arm, which bled freely; I took about seven ounces, which relieved his breathing a little. I then got down a spoonful or two of warm rum and water; he now spoke for the first time, complained much of the pain it gave him to swallow, and was with great difficulty prevailed on to take any more. His abdomen and thorax were all the while rubbed with flannels dipped in hot brandy; in about *an hour and half* he began to grow warm, and his breathing became gradually easier. At eleven I left him tolerably recovered, only that he complained of a pain and tightness



tightness across his breast. Pectoral medicines were administered, and I saw him the next day perfectly recovered. He is *sixty-five* years old.

The following is the account I received from the by-standers, of what passed previous to my coming up to him. Mr. *Dawes*, a gentleman near Canonbury-house, Islington, crossing the bridge, saw something floating on the surface of the water at a little distance; he called some men who were at work just by, one of whom immediately jumped in and pulled the body out. He lay on his back in the water, with his head quite under the surface, and entirely motionless. When they took him out, there was not the least appearance of life. However one of them took him on his back to bring him to Canonbury-house. The distance being considerable, the man was obliged to lay down his burthen to rest, and then perceived the patient sigh. This encouraged him to proceed, and when he was come to *Canonbury-house*, the patient opened his eyes, and shewed other signs of returning life. In this situation I found him, and have already related what passed afterwards.

As I wished much to know how long he had been in the water, I made what enquiries I could for that purpose, but could get no other information, than that his hat was found on the bank, a considerable distance from where he was taken up. However I made what I could of this intelligence. I measured the distance, and found it to be 162 yards. I then caused a large block of wood to be put into the river, and watched how long it was in floating that distance. I found it was *nineteen minutes and an half*, which I should conjecture was near the time he was senseless, as  
it



it is hardly to be supposed that he floated while any power of action remained.

Tho' this person may be said in some measure to have recovered of himself, yet I am much inclined to believe, considering his age and the circumstances in which I found him, that he would notwithstanding have died, had he not had proper assistance.

I am extremely happy in having it in my power to add one to the number of those who owe their lives to this society; and am, &c.

Cross-street,  
Islington.

JOHN CHURCH.

Mr. *Church* afterwards learned that the man's name is *Cambell*, and upon his acquainting the Treasurer that *John Musgrave* and *James Horseman* were the persons who took the body out of the river, they were satisfactorily rewarded.

## C A S E XX.

This next instance of the preservation was transmitted to us by Mr. *Hodgson*, one of the medical assistants.

Yesterday about eight o'clock in the evening, *Jacob Hill*, a seaman, fell from on board a ship, near Wapping old stairs, into the river. He was throwing his hammock and bedding from one ship to the next, intending to leap after it, but standing too near the edge of the ship's gunwhale, and the bedding being heavy, in the action of throwing



throwing his foot slipped, and he fell down with it : he was carried about 200 yards with the tide. Two watermen (the bearers hereof) hearing the cry of a man being overboard, rowed immediately to his assistance, and took him up by luckily catching hold of the flap of his waistcoat when he was near sinking ; it being then about ten minutes from his falling from the ship. I saw the men take him up from a room in my house, and when they brought him on shore, I went to him ; he walked from the boat to the street, and except a little sickness, seemed as well as if nothing had happened. I desired him to pull off his wet clothes and go to bed, but he refused. I then ordered the watermen to pull them off by force, but he continued obstinate, and said he would go to his lodgings (*King-street, Tower-hill*) where he now is.

I am, Sir,

your obedient servant,

JOHN HODGSON.

*Wapping,*

*June 5, 1775.*

P. S. The names of the watermen who took him up, are *Roger Dusty* and *Joseph Campbell*.

These men were duly rewarded by the Society. It may not be improper to repeat, that although the Society have not absolutely engaged to distribute their rewards, unless the object be *apparently dead*, in order to avoid being exposed to fallacious claims, yet they have entrusted their Treasurer with discretionary power to recompence, in the most satisfactory manner, every man who shall be instrumental in preserving his fellow creature from drowning, where it shall clearly appear that the premium is deserved. By this regulation we hope to be free from imposition, and yet not to omit

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any



any opportunity of rewarding the vigilant and humane. In fact it is much more desirable to *prevent* these accidents, than to trust to the uncertainty of a recovery, where the object is apparently dead, although the latter case may be a greater subject of astonishment, and reflect the greater honor upon our institution. And it is with pleasure we shall recite, in the reports of this year, several instances of a similar preservation: These we hope will prove an incitement to watermen and others, to give the most speedy aids to persons in such an extremity of distress.

### C A S E   X X I.

The following is the second instance of success communicated to us by Mr. *Church*. We shall relate it in his own words.

On the 2d of *June*, 1775, about three in the afternoon, a gentleman (Mr. *Bell*) came on horse-back to tell me that a boy, named *Thomas Patterfen*, was just taken out of the New River, by the City-road, apparently drowned; he was so kind as to lend me his horse to save time. I immediately went and found the boy at the door of the *Coach and Horses* public house, without any signs of life, perfectly cold, his face swollen and livid, and the blood much stagnated in his thighs, in his wet clothes, laid across a barrel on his belly, and held by two men, who were rolling him with some violence, imagining thereby to get the water out of him (as they said). I immediately put a stop to this pernicious practice, had him brought into the house and stripped. Very fortunately the sun  
shone



phone warm upon the table, on which I laid the naked body, had it well dried with warm flannels, and immediately began applying the remedies proposed by the Society, viz. fumigations, frictions, &c. In about *ten minutes* a small motion was perceived in his under jaw, and his lips began to lose their livid hue, and to look of a more natural colour. I now discovered a very trifling pulsation, and some small degree of warmth under the *axilla*. I next opened a vein in his arm, which first bled drop by drop for about a minute, and then started out in a full stream. The boy sighed softly, and continued to do so about every half minute, tho' there were no signs of intermediate respiration. These favourable symptoms induced me to continue the means with great spirit, and in *one hour and an half* he became generally though slightly convulsed. His breathing was now distinct, tho' performed with the greatest difficulty: his pulses still continued very languid, and the proper warmth was not yet returned: soon after this he vomited. As the animal functions now began to exert themselves, I judged warmth was the likeliest means to compleat the recovery. I therefore got a bed well heated, and put him in between the blankets. I now applied volatiles to his nose, temples, and wrists, and flannels dipt in hot brandy to his stomach, which immediately relieved his breathing. The pulsation of the heart became now very perceptible; his pulses mended, and he had acquired a pretty general heat. He could not yet swallow. He now vomited again, and soon after lost all his warmth, and the perceptible pulsation of his heart. His pulse at the wrist became very languid and irregular. This was about *two hours and an half*



from the time I first saw him. These appearances alarmed me much, and made me exert every means likely to relieve, with the greatest diligence. Hot brandy was applied freely, and frictions with a warm hand were continued very smartly, for a quarter of an hour, upon the muscles of the forearm, with apparent advantage. I now forced open his eye-lids, and was much pleased to find the light prove a very powerful stimulus; it made him move himself a good deal. Soon after this he was much convulsed all over, the convulsions lasted full ten minutes. When they went off he opened his eyes, and made an effort to raise himself up in the bed. He could now swallow a little; his warmth was returned; his pulses regular, tho' too languid, and his respiration free; but still he did not appear to have the least degree of consciousness. If he was spoken to rather loudly, he would look at you, but immediately became comatose, and so continued till he was roused again, nor could his attention be fixed for longer than half a minute. This circumstance made me fear he had received a blow on the head; I therefore examined his head very attentively, but could discover no external marks of violence. I would then have bled him again, had not his pulse continued too languid. I determined therefore to see what sleep would do for him. I watched him for near an hour longer, he continued sleeping quietly, and was got into a profuse perspiration: this was *four hours* from the time he was undressed. I now thought I might safely leave him. About an hour after, I sent my journeyman to see how he was: he brought me word that he continued sleeping, and just as I left him. About ten o'clock



o'clock I went to him again. Soon after I came he awoke, continued still insensible and comatose ; his pulses were now full and frequent, which determined me to take some more blood from him. I opened a vein, and by the time he had bled six ounces, he uttered two or three inarticulate words to his mother, who stood by. He presently fell asleep again, and as his pulses began to flag, I was satisfied with the quantity of blood I had taken, tied up his arm and left him. The next morning I was told by his mother, that he awoke about three o'clock, which was *twelve hours* from the time the accident happened, spoke sensibly, took nourishment, went to sleep again, and awoke in the morning perfectly well, except fatigue, soreness, &c.

This boy had been under the water a *quarter of an hour* at least, and full *forty minutes* were lost before I came to him. He was found under a bridge with his head stuck fast in the mud. He is eleven years of age.

*Quere*, whether the obstinate coma, which was by far the most alarming symptom of all, may not be fairly attributed to the discipline of rolling on the barrel before I saw him? Whereby the blood might have been forced so violently into the vessels of the head as to occasion a preternatural pressure on the brain. The relief he found from the second bleeding seems to countenance this conjecture. I hope therefore this will be a caution to others, to abstain from a practice which may be injurious, and from which much good cannot be expected.

I am, &c.

JOHN CHURCH.

CASE



The above remarkable case becomes the more valuable, as it is an evidence of the absolute necessity of vigorous perseverance ; and a satisfactory demonstration to every ingenuous mind, that the actual application of means are productive of the most salutary effects. For surely no one will be so absurd as to maintain that the body would have been restored without these applications, when there was an obvious contest of so many hours, between the skilful practitioner and the overwhelmed powers of nature : and when such attention and care was necessary on his part in order to insure the victory.

## C A S E XXII.

Communicated by Mr. *Powsey* of *Poplar*.

Being at Mr. *Ward's* yard, near the *Orchard-house*, in company with Mr. *Kemp*, a cooper, surveying a building there carrying on, we were alarmed with the people crying out, Mr. *Kemp's* Apprentice was drowned, (his name *James Pike*). I ran immediately to the side of the river, (the river *Lee*) and found a man in a *Punt* trying with one of the oars to raise him from the bottom. In a little time he succeeded, by having happily got the blade under his belly, and by purchasing on the boat's gunwale the body appeared, suspended much like the sign of the fleece, the head and heels hanging in the water, and the back curving a little above. We were much perplexed how to get him on shore ; the man could not quit his hold of the oar to take hold of the body, nor could any one jump into the *Punt*, as the least motion  
must



must have shook him off the blade. At last a man undressed himself and brought him on shore without the least appearance of sense or motion, quite black in the face, and his eyes ready to start from their orbits. The people would have rolled him on a cask, which I would not suffer, but compelled them to carry him to a piece of timber, on which laying his head a little raised, we chafed him on every part till he was dry ; then rubbing him with salt on his back and belly, in about five minutes some little signs of life appeared. I then ordered some warm water, in which putting some salt, I held it to his mouth and forced a little down his throat, which excited an inclination to vomit. The efforts accelerated the slow returning circulation, and, after drenching him several times, I left him hobbling into his master's house, complaining of nothing but the soreness of his back, which indeed was almost excoriated by the friction. He had been in the water *eleven minutes*. It would have made you smile to have seen the strange contortions of countenance, and heard the incoherence of his speech on his *return to life*, as I may say ; for I am sure I thought his recovery impossible.

Yours, &c.

J. POWSEY.

January 21st,  
9 at night.

This instance of success, from a gentleman who is not of the profession, must be more satisfactory to every person who has the interest of mankind at heart, as it is an indication of the good which may be done in these distressful accidents, by any one who pays a due attention to the methods of  
treat-



treatment we have circumstantially laid down : and we hope the example which Mr. *Powsey* has given of skill and humanity, will induce others to make themselves familiarly acquainted with a practice, which may enable them also to save a fellow creature from impending death.

*Benjamin Kemp*, by whom the body was suspended on the blade of the oar, and *James Pike*, the man who jump'd into the river, upon producing a certificate, signed by Mr. *Powsey*, were satisfactorily rewarded. This gentleman being above the acceptance of any pecuniary reward, both as to circumstances and a generous spirit, he received from the Committee those acknowledgments which were due to his care and philanthropy.

## C A S E XXII.

Communicated by Mr. *H. Pierce*, a Medical Assistant.

I was yesterday, *July 17*, sent for to a poor man whose name is *Plunkett*, a shipwright, but out of work, who has lately employed as a labouring man on the river. As he was carrying staves from a vessel he fell into the water, between two ships, and would, I believe, have been drowned, had he not been assisted and taken up by *Leet's Vanderpump* and *William Pendegrass*. Two other persons also assisted in carrying him to a public house, the *Horse Shoe* and *Magpye*, facing *Wapping Old Stairs*; the master of which, *Christopher Pennycook*, received him and put him to bed, and with much tenderness gave him every thing that was necessary. When I first saw *Plunkett* he was sensible and



and spoke, but not a little frightened. As he had received a slight contusion from the fall, I took a few ounces of blood from him ; otherwise I should not have thought any thing necessary to be done.

Whether or not the Society shall think the persons who took the man up, and the others who assisted, deserving of any recompence, I must leave wholly to them. I could not however forbear, in justice to the above persons, giving this account.

I am, &c.

J. H. PIERCE.

*Lewis Vanderpump* and *William Pendergrafs*, who waited on the Treasurer, declared that when they took the man out of the water he was to all appearance dead, but upon well shaking him they perceived that, in about *six minutes*, he begun to gasp, and shewed other signs of life. In about half an hour *Mr. Pierce* came, and the man was very soon afterwards recovered.

*N. B* Altho' he had a large wound in his thigh, his knife having run into it by his falling against the ship's side ; yet he was not sensible of any pain from thence for the space of six minutes : As soon as he became sensible, *that* was the first thing complained of.

### C A S E XXIII.

Copy of a letter from *Mr. Greenhead*, Medical Assistant, at *Chelsea*.

Yesterday afternoon, about one o'clock, a sailing-boat was unfortunately overset near *Chelsea-bridge*.



*bridge.* There were two men in her; one of whom, whose name was *Anthony Sullivan*, by the timely assistance of Mr. *James Powel*, at the risque of his own life, was soon brought to shore alive. The other unhappily went to the bottom, and was not found till near *an hour* after the accident, when he was brought to Mrs. *Brigg's*, the sign of the *King's Arms*, the nearest public house. She received him very humanely, furnished him every requisite in her department, and together with myself and the underwritten, used every means to recover him, but without success. The person who bears this is the man who drew him up in the net; he lives in credit in *Chelsea*, and may be entrusted with the gratuity intended for the mistress of the house and the rest of the assistants.

I am, &c.

L. GREENHEAD.

The names of the assistants are *Thomas Note-ridge*, *Thomas Barnet*, *James Powel*, and *James Thomas*. They were properly rewarded by the Society.

#### C A S E XXIV.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. *Hodson*, Medical Assistant, in *Wapping*.

Yesterday *Richard Thomas*, a waterman, applied to me for the reward for taking *James Matty* out of the river. The boy is about four years of age, was playing in a gallery adjoining to *Wapping Old Stairs*, and by some means tumbled into the river, from a height of about nine feet: it was then



then near high-water. *Thomas* was in his boat close by, and immediately took the child up. They did not apply to a Medical Assistant, the child not being at all hurt. Some fortunate circumstances attended this accident: if it had been low-water, the child must inevitably have been killed. As it was, there were two boats almost immediately under the place from which he fell: these boats were a little asunder: between them the object fell. *Thomas* was in one of them; and no doubt, from motives of humanity, and we will likewise suppose actuated in some measure by the reward offered, immediately took him up. The mother of the child would have paid *Thomas*, but he would not receive any thing from her, as she is poor. I am, &c.

J. HODGSON.

No. 299, *Wapping*,  
5th *July*.

*Richard Thomas* was properly rewarded by the Society.

## C A S E XXV.

*Saturday, July 16, 1775*, about half past four o'clock in the afternoon, as *John Venables*, a boy about thirteen years of age, was bathing in the river *Thames*, by *Black Fryars Bridge*, some person present unfortunately threw a pear into the water, after which the unhappy boy ventured out of his depth, sunk under the surface, and after rising a second time, totally disappeared. It being *Sunday*, the iron gate which shuts up the ferry was locked: But *Joseph Knight* seeing the lad sink, immediately ran for the key. He procured



also a boat-hook, and searched for the body. At length he happily found it ; and, raising it above the surface of the water, *Joseph Durant* caught hold of the foot, and drew it toward the gunwale of the boat. The man conjectures that nearly *ten minutes* had elapsed from his disappearing, to the time of his being taken into the boat ; and indeed so many particulars could scarcely have passed in a shorter space of time. They declare there were not any symptoms of the smallest remains of life. *James Mansfield* and ——— *Perdew* now joined the others, and assisted them in conveying the body to a *tap-house* nearest the bridge, kept by Mr. ———, who received the body with the utmost readiness. It was laid in a blanket upon one of the tables in the tap-room, and the men applied themselves with the utmost vigour in rubbing of common salt over the breast, arms, legs, &c. At first their endeavours seemed fruitless ; but as *Perdew* was rubbing his groin, the lad was heard to utter a groan. In about *five minutes* more he opened his eyes. They now placed him upon his seat in an erect posture, and the favourable appearances began to encrease. The Landlady then desired them to remove the patient to an adjacent room, where he was laid upon a bed, and rubbed as before. In about *ten minutes* after his removal, he was so far restored as to be able to give information concerning his name and place of abode. His parents were immediately sent for. About this time Mr. *Evans*, journeyman to Mr. *Forbes*, one of our Medical Assistants, arrived, and giving the lad some salt and water to drink, it excited a vomiting, which seemed to perfect his recovery. He was now able to dress himself, and in this happy



happy state was he presented to his joyful father and mother, instead of an inanimate corpse. They immediately conducted him home and put him to bed. Some wine whey was given him, by the order of Mr. *Evans*, which promoted a kindly perspiration. The next day he called at the house of Mr. *Forbes*, perfectly recovered.

The above particulars were collected partly from the narrative of Mr. *Evans*, and partly from *James Miansfield*, who was one of the immediate assistants, and who has given us in a letter the circumstances which had taken place previous to the arrival of Mr. *Evans*: and the truth of the whole was authenticated to our Treasurer by Mr. *Forbes*, who had taken the pains to examine the different claimants.

The four men and the landlord received *one guinea* each. This is a pleasing instance of the efficacy of the most simple methods, in some cases; and is another example that persons unacquainted with the medicinal art may, by due attention, acquire the skill of administering the most successful aid to a fellow creature upon the brink of dissolution!

#### C A S E XXVI.

July 16, 1775. As Mr. *James Johnson* was stepping out of one boat into another, being a little in liquor, he fell into the *Thames*. After struggling for a few minutes he was taken up by two watermen, named *Richard Thomas* and — *Johnson*. They carried him to Mr. *Thompson's*, who keeps a public house in the neighbourhood, where he drank some brandy, and was very soon  
so



so well recovered as to be able to go on board one of the *Berwick* vessels.

The watermen were recompensed for their vigilance and humanity.

The above was also communicated to us by Mr. *Hodgson* of *Wapping*.

## C A S E XXVII.

Communicated also by Mr. *Hodgson* of *Wapping*.

Yesterday, *July* 17, about five o'clock in the afternoon, *James Norris*, a fine boy, about seven years of age, son of Mr. *Norris* in *Wapping*, trying to step into a boat near the *Old Stairs*, fell into the river. The place he fell from is the distance of two houses from mine; and Mr. *Raines*, my father-in-law, fortunately being at the window, saw him fall, called out; immediately Mr. *Bennett*, junior, our next door neighbour, came to his assistance, and stepping into his sailing-boat, which was moored at his back door, got hold of the boy's arm, just as he was sinking between the boat and the houses. At that instant three watermen came from the stairs in their boats, two of whom were active in assisting Mr. *Bennett* in pulling him up; for as Mr. *Bennett* lay on his breast in the boat, he could not draw him into it. The boy, who was not more than two minutes under water, required no other assistance than being rubb'd dry and put to-bed. To-day he is very well, and went to school as usual.

I have stated the accident as it happened, as nearly as possible, and you will best judge what reward the watermen deserve; for as Mr. *Bennett*

got



got the subject up before they came, they are not properly entitled to the full reward ; and yet on the other hand, as they put off to the place as soon as they heard Mr. *Raines* call out, they are certainly deserving of something.

Yours, &c.

J. HODGSON.

The men were satisfactorily rewarded.

### C A S E XXVIII.

The particulars of which were communicated to us by Mr. *Goodwin* himself, one of the Medical Assistants, living in *Gainsford street, Shad-Thames*.

July 20, 1775. *William Gardner* had thrown himself into the river *Thames*, upon account of some family uneasiness. He was taken up, after he had lain in the water about five minutes, and conveyed to the sign of the *George*, kept by Mr. *Batchelor*. Mr. *Goodwin* was immediately sent for, but as he was not at home, Mr. *Skuter*, his journeyman, ran to the place. He found the body stiff, and cold in every part. But upon a more minute examination he thought that he perceived a pulsation in the artery of the wrist, altho' it was extremely feeble. He applied with the utmost vigilance the various methods recommended by the Society, such as friction with salt, fumigation *per anum*, and also blowing the smoke of tobacco into the lungs. In about a quarter of an hour Mr. *Goodwin* arrived, and tho' he did not observe that they had made any advantageous progress,



gress, the body still continuing cold and stiff, yet the languid pulse was still perceptible. Convinced that the subject would be lost, if they relaxed their diligence, he animated the attendants to persevere. Their assiduity was at length rewarded; for in the space of *an hour and a quarter* from his arrival, they perceived a warmth began to return to the body, and that the joints became more flexible. The pulse was also considerably faster and stronger. In the space of *another hour* a kindly warmth was universally diffused over his body, his senses returned, and he was tolerably well recovered. The next day he complained of pains and a great soreness in various parts of his body, which were merely the consequences of the means used for his recovery, and they gradually went off in a few days.

Mr. *Goodwin* adds, that he is clearly of opinion that, had it not been for our Institution, this poor man would now be numbered amongst the dead; and he humanely expresses the utmost satisfaction that it has been in his power to add one to the number who already owe their lives to our Society.

Mr. *Shuter*, the journeyman, and the other assistants received a guinea each, and also Mr. *Batchelor*, the publican.

#### C A S E XXIX.

On *Sunday* the 24th of *July*, about five o'clock in the afternoon, as *T. Williams* was bathing in the *Thames* he was seized with the cramp, and immediately sunk; upon which *G Battiscombe*, *John Lee*, *Russel Browne*, and *William Hanley*,  
water-



watermen, put off with their boats to his assistance. At first they could see nothing of him; but on the body's rising again, *Battiscombe* caught hold of his hair, and got him, with the help of the other men, into his boat. He was to all appearance dead; being cold, motionless, and insensible. He was conveyed to the sign of the *Cheshire Cheese*, where they stripp'd off his clothes, dried the body, used frictions, and other proper means laid down by the Society. In *a few minutes* they perceived him to breathe very laboriously, and to groan dismally.

Dr. ROGERS, of *Tooks-court*, one of the Medical Assistants to the Society, was sent for. When he arrived he found his body very cold, the breathing very laborious, the pulse hardly perceptible, with other alarming and dangerous symptoms. He desired the men to persevere in the friction, &c. had him put into a warm bed, and prescribed proper medicines for him. In about *half an hour* his warmth gradually returned; his breathing became tolerably easy; he fell into very profuse sweats, and gradually recovered. When the Dr. called the next morning, Mr. *Thurgar* informed him that he went home late the preceding night perfectly well; and upon enquiry a few days after, he learned that his health was perfectly restored.



## C A S E XXX.

Messrs. *Oliver* and *Ansell*, Medical Assistants at *Brentford*, have transmitted to the Society the following case, which fell under their own inspection.

They were sent for about eight o'clock on *Monday* evening, *July 24*, to *William Scotman*, of *Swallow-street*, *St. James's*, who had been bathing in the river *Thames*, near the *Bridge* at *Brentford*. This man, after having been in the water about ten minutes, was seen by a person standing upon the bridge to struggle, and presently to sink under the surface. It is supposed he was under the water at least *ten minutes*, when by the great assiduity of *Joseph Bradshaw* he was taken out. He was to all appearance dead. Messrs *Oliver* and *Ansell* were immediately sent for; but they not being at home, Mr. *William Jones*, their journeyman, attended. After the methods recommended by the Society had been applied, he soon discovered some signs of life. He was then conveyed to the workhouse at *Isleworth*, where he was immediately put to bed between blankets made warm. In a short time he became sensible, and spoke very distinctly. Some hot wine was given to him, which seemed to revive him much, and soon after a warm *diaphoresis* broke out. He had no other complaint but a little sickness at his stomach, and appeared to be so well recovered that Mr. *Jones* thought it safe to leave him.

We are sorry to add that the man was seized about half an hour past ten o'clock the same night,



with a copious purging stool, and was immediately after taken with a shivering, and died in a very short time. I am inclined to think, adds Mr. *Ansell*, that had a little warm wine or brandy been given at that time, he might have recovered.

We could not forbear placing the above among the cases of recovery, altho' the issues of it were so unfortunate. For while it gives an additional testimony to the efficacy of the means recommended, it evidences that there is danger even in too great confidence of success. As it does not appear that any error was committed either by the carelessness or unskilfulness of the attendants, we would not be precipitate in our censures of those who seemed to have been actuated by the principles of humanity; yet we hope the above instance will in future render such as are present with the patient peculiarly attentive to his state. This unfortunate case indicates also that the Practitioner cannot be too watchful over the effects of an alvine discharge: which it is well known, when profuse and laxative, induces a great weakness upon the constitution. Where this symptom appears, which has doubtless a threatening aspect in that enfeebled state of returning life, it would perhaps be advisable either to check the discharge with proper astringents, or prevent its pernicious consequences by the timely administration of cordials. And we cannot help thinking with Mr. *Ansell*, that a little warm wine, brandy, or any other cordial stomachic, might have been of the utmost service.

*Joseph Bradshaw* was rewarded by the Society; and also *John Dean*, the messenger, who ran to call the Medical Assistants.

C A S E



## C A S E XXXI.

Copy of a letter from Mr. *Patten*, a Medical Assistant, to the Treasurer.

*Ratcliffe Cross, Friday July 28, 1775.*

Sir,

The bearer, *Samuel Stevens*, applied to me in consequence of his saving a boy just at the point of drowning, by jumping into the *Thames* at *Cockbill, Ratcliffe Cross*, with all his clothes on, and bringing him out as he was going down, probably for the last time. The boy's name is *George Plummer*, he is aged eight years, and he went in to bathe about noon on *Friday* last, *July 21*. Mr. *Braddock*, who belongs to the wharf where the accident happened, was an eye-witness to the man's humanity. Altho' this case does not properly come within the printed plan of the Society, I make no doubt but they will always be willing to encourage such acts of humanity. It is for this reason I have taken the liberty to trouble you with this.

I am, &c.

SAMUEL PATTEN.

As Mr. *Patten* was not present at this accident, he desired Mr. *George Braddock* to sign a certificate, to authenticate the truth of the fact. He readily complied with the request.

We afterwards learned that *Samuel Stevens* was exposed to imminent danger by his endeavouring to save the unfortunate lad. For swimming in his haste, over the very place where the boy sunk, the  
unhappy



unhappy Object caught hold of his leg ; and *Stevens*, in order to extricate himself, was under the cruel necessity of striking the lad's knuckles with the other foot, his shoes being on. This obliged the boy to leave his hold, and *Stevens* turning about, was so fortunate as to catch hold of his hair, which he could perceive under the surface of the water.

The man, as in other cases of a similar nature, was amply rewarded.

### C A S E XXXII.

*Sunday, July 30.* As a boy, his name unknown, aged about seven years, was bathing in a gravel-pit in the fields behind the duke of *Bedford's* garden, *Islington Fields*, he unfortunately fell into a deep hole, and was in the utmost danger of drowning. Very providentially Mr. *Jones*, one of the Directors of this Society, passing by, and hearing of the accident, informed a young man standing by the pond of the rewards proposed by us, in cases of this nature. The man, whose name is *David Jones*, immediately made the attempt with no inconsiderable hazard to himself, and he happily succeeded.

### C A S E XXXIII.

*Sunday, Sept. 3.* As *Timothy Fly*, *Thomas Lee*, and *James Staines*, were walking by the side of the *New River*, they saw a man in the water ; but by their timely assistance he was taken out, and his life saved. These men were recompensed for their attention and humanity.

The



The above account was transmitted to us Mr. *Clifton*, Journey-man to Mr. *Church*, of *Islington*; who had given himself the trouble of enquiring into the Subject.

#### C A S E XXXIV.

Communicated by Mr. *Church* to the Treasurer.  
I have the happiness to add one more successful as to the records of our Society. It is true the person was taken out with signs of life, but so totally insensible that she must inevitably have perished, had she not met with seasonable assistance. The circumstances be pleased to take as follows.

On the 9th *September*, *Deborah Green*, servant at the *Bald-faced-Stag public-house*, at the end of *Camden-street*, *Islington*, as she was stooping down to take a pail of water out of the *New-river*, lost her balance and fell in. She continued some time above water, to the great diversion of three most inhuman men who stood on the bridge just by, looking at her without offering the least assistance whatever. Fortunately for her, an old man, between 60 and 70 years of age, *John Waggstaff* by name, who was at work at the distance of about 300 yards, heard her fall in, and presently ran to her assistance. When he came to the spot, she was quite spent, had sunk twice, and seemed totally insensible. He immediately jumped in and brought her out. She breathed a little and moved her limbs, but could not stand; nor did she shew the least marks of consciousness. The by-standers had the presence of mind to strip off her wet things and carry her up stairs, where she was put into a warm bed between the blankets, while they sent



sent a messenger (*Robert Pullen*) for me : unfortunately I was not at home ; however my journeyman, Mr. *Clifton*, went to her. He found her so far recovered as to be able to speak. She had a very general warmth. Her pulse was strong and good, but her breathing exceedingly difficult, insomuch that she was in constant apprehension of suffocation. Her face seemed much swollen and overcharged with blood. He applied flannels dipped in hot brandy to her stomach which immediately relieved her breathing. This is the *third* instance in which I have known this application give immediate relief under these circumstances. Her face however continuing swollen, he judged it proper to take about six ounces of blood from her, which relieved her still more ; she presently got into a profuse sweat, mending gradually, and yesterday I took my leave of her perfectly recovered.

I am, Sir, &c.

*Cross-street, Islington,*  
Sept. 12, 1775.

JOHN CHURCH.

The persons who in my opinion merit the reward are the following : Mr. *Clifton*, *John Waggstaff*, who jumped in and took her out, *Susannah Wilkin* and *Margaret Emmett*, who assisted in getting her up to bed, undressing and otherwise attending her, *Robert Pullen* who brought me the information. These persons were all duly rewarded.

C A S E



## C A S E XXXV.

*William Cotton*, a waterman, about six o'clock in the morning of *Sept. 23*, as he was rowing his boat saw a man (one *David Adamson*) sunk deep in the mud in *Bow-Creek*, near *Blackwall*; upon which *William Cotton* called for assistance; after some time *George Wall*, and two others arrived, who with great difficulty got him out; to all appearance dead. The body was then carried round the Creek (which was a considerable way) to an adjacent house. *Mr. Smith* declared that he was quite cold and insensible. The men immediately stripped off his clothes, which were covered very thick with mud, and placed the body before a large fire. They then shook him violently, and used friction for a considerable time, and endeavoured frequently to get down warm elder wine, purl, &c. but could not succeed. In about *three quarters of an hour* he swallowed a tea-spoonful of *twopenny*, and soon after a little spiced elder wine, and from that time his sensibility, &c. gradually returned. In about *two hours* he was tolerably well recovered. He continued very ill for two or three days after, under the care of an apothecary, at his lodgings at *Deptford*; but is now perfectly well.

*Mr. Smith*, one of the Medical Assistants, was not at home when sent for, so that the men used the means laid down by the Society, and happily restored him to life; upon which *Mr. Smith* desired the landlady to wait upon the Treasurer, to acquaint him with the particulars of the case.

N. B.



*N. B.* The landlady received the premium offered by the Society, and *William Cotton, G. Wall, &c.* were satisfactorily rewarded.

### C A S E XXXV.

*September 27. William Oliver*, aged three years and an half, who accidentally fell into the *New River, Islington*, was taken out, and his life preserved by *James Morrison*, who dived in search of the child, and *Joseph Hignmore*, who assisted him. The child was carried to the sign of the King of Prussia's Head in *Islington*, and there delivered to his thankful and happy parents.

### C A S E XXXVI.

*Sarah Anderson*, of *Lambeth*, being a little intoxicated, fell into the *Thames*, *Sept. 30.* It was about ten o'clock at night, and so very dark that no one could tell the exact place. But a bargeman hearing her cry out, called out for assistance. Upon which *Jeremiah Ramsey* and *Joseph Hughes*, went in at the *White Hart Stairs* with their clothes on; and continued in the *Thames* full ten minutes before they could find the body; and indeed the barge was their only direction. She was carried to her own house, to all appearance dead. Her clothes were immediately taken off, and the body well rubbed with warm flannels, &c. *Mr. Burges*, a Medical Assistant, was sent for, at which time there were some very small signs of returning life; such as a pulse just perceptible, but extremely weak and irregular. He advised the same means to be continued, and in about *an hour* she spoke faintly.



faintly. He then prescribed internal medicines for her. She had a tolerable good night, but was very ill the next day, and continued so for several days; but she is now perfectly recovered.

Two women, who were very assiduous in using the proper means, as well as the messenger that went for Mr. *Burgess*, were properly recompenced.

### C A S E XXXVII.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. *Church*, of *Islington*.

S I R,

The bearers, *Richard Carter* and *George Redfar*, assisted on *Wednesday* last in pulling out of the *New River*, by *Sadler's Wells*, the body of *James Bates*, (who lives at No. 1, *Catherine-wheel-court*, *Smithfield*) who fell in accidentally. They deserve to be rewarded as you shall think proper. The boy was taken out alive, though speechless, and carried to Mr. *Ward's*, the *King of Prussia's Head*, where he was undressed by a large fire, and put into a warm bed, which soon perfectly recovered him, without any other means being used.

*I am, Sir, &c.*

*Cross street, Islington,*

JOHN CHURCH.

*Oct. 20, 1775.*

P. S. *Richard Carter* was the person who brought me intelligence of the accident.



## C A S E XXXVIII.

The following particulars of *Mary Riley* were communicated to *James Horsfall*, Esq; Treasurer, by Mr. *Haynes*, Master of the *Hugh Middleton's Head*, Clerkenwell.

S I R,

The bearer, Mr. *Haynes*, who keeps the *Hugh Middleton's Head*, near *Sadler's Wells*, was essentially instrumental in saving the life of a woman who threw herself into the *New River*, near that place, on *Sunday* last. I have enquired into the particulars of the case, and find that the woman must have been lost but for him. He exerted himself in a very particular manner, and well deserves to be rewarded.

*I am, Sir, &c.*

*Cross-street, Islington,*

JOHN CHURCH.

*Oct. 21, 1775.*

*Oct. 20, 1775.*—Mr. *Haynes* went to the *New River* to fetch a pail of water, when he observed a woman under the bridge; upon which he got over the fence belonging to the *New River Company*, opened the wooden gate, and the woman came through. He caught hold of one arm, but had not sufficient power to hold her. He then got hold of her body, drew her out of the river, and called to some men to assist him in getting her out of the fence.—Mr. *Haynes* says there were some small signs of life, but she was so much exhausted that he, as well as several other persons, thought her in the greatest danger. She was carried to his house. A little brandy was attempted to be got down, but



she had no power of deglutition. Soon after they offered it to her again; she now swallowed, and very soon recovered, so as to be conveyed to *Islington* work-house, where she continued for some days very ill, under the care of Mr. *Church*, of *Islington*. She is now restored to health, and very thankful to those who have been instrumental in saving her life.

### C A S E XXXIX.

Mr. *Billinghurst*, of *Piccadilly*, Medical Assistant, informs us, that in the month of *October*, between the hours of six and seven, two labouring men fell from a ladder into an *Ice-well*, which was repairing in *Mount-street, Berkeley-square*. One of the men, whose name was *Robert Wood*, was accidentally thrown off the ladder by the other, who was very much intoxicated with liquor, and at the same instant fell into the well upon him. They were both in for the space of five or six minutes. Unfortunately *Robert Wood* was immediately killed by the fall; for although the means were used with vigour for upwards of two hours, not one favourable symptom appeared. The intoxicated wretch was taken out alive, and by proper assistance was soon restored. *Hugh Venables* and *William Winch*, the persons who took them out, and shewed great attention and humanity, were properly rewarded by the Society.

The above Case is not mentioned as an instance of *Restoration* so much as to indicate the happy consequences of administering *immediate* help, and to convince the lower class of people that their assiduity and humanity shall not go unrewarded.

C A S E



## C A S E XL.

The following Case was communicated to us in the form of a certificate, subscribed by the parties concerned ; and is another happy instance of the efficacy of the means recommended by us, when used with vigour by persons totally unacquainted with the Medical Art.

*Rotherhithe Wall, in the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey.*

This is to certify, that on *Sunday* the 19th day of *November*, 1775, *George Posnitt*, a boy about sixteen years of age, in crossing a plank to go on board a vessel, fell overboard, into about 9 feet water, and remained there for the space of *fifteen minutes*, or thereabouts ; and that we, whose names are hereunto subscribed, went to his assistance, and pulled him from the bottom of the river with a boat-hook, to all appearance then dead. We immediately took him to the house of Mr. *William Hampton*, known by the sign of the *Three Mariners*, and sent for Mr. *Green*, surgeon, near *East-lane*. But he not being at home, we immediately caused the boy to be laid on a table before a moderate fire, and then rubbed him with dry cloths, and after that plentifully with dry salt, till there appeared to be motions of life in the boy. He then was put into a warm bed, and in about *six hours* after was recovered, so as to be able to walk.

*Richard Waring*, Grocer.

*Thomas Daniels*, Publican.

*Joseph Goodarer*, Lighterman.

*John Goodacre*, Waterman.

C A S E



## C A S E XLI.

*November 20, about five in the afternoon, Thomas Garland, of Lambeth, fell into the Thames. Mr. House, hearing somebody cry out for help, called to Mr. Edwards, who got into a boat, but could see nothing of him. They then rowed round a barge, and saw him rise up. They got hold of him, shook him well, and brought him to the sign of the Barley-Mow, speechless and insensible. They continued shaking and rubbing him, by which he was somewhat recovered. Then they poured down his throat some salt and water, which made him vomit violently, and he now became sensible. He was put into a warm bed, and very soon recovered.*

*Mr. Burgess, the Medical Assistant of Lambeth, informs us, that he was sent for to the above case : but by the activity and humanity of the persons who got him out of the water, the Subject was so well recovered when he came, as to require no medical assistance. But from the best account he can learn of the case, he thinks the men justly entitled to the reward the Society offer ; as he has no doubt but it is generally from this motive that the watermen are so particularly attentive to such unfortunate accidents, and the encouragement of them will prove, in a series of time, the happy means of rescuing many from the grave.*

## C A S E XLII.

*Friday, Nov. 24. As Alice Foley, a milk-woman, was walking by the side of the New River,*



*River, near Islington, she saw the body of a young woman in the water. Before she came to the spot, the body sunk, but immediately rising above the surface, she fortunately caught hold of it. By this time her master, John Roberts, came up and assisted her in her attempts to take the unfortunate object out of the water. These were afterwards joined by John Philips and Robert Herwood, who carried her to the sign of the Sir Hugh Middleton's Head, where the body was humanely received, and every requisite furnished by Mr. William Haynes.*

The body when taken out was quite cold, void of sense and motion, and to all appearance dead. The wet clothes were taken off directly; the body rubbed dry with warm cloths, frictions and other methods were used. In the space of about *fifteen minutes* she heaved a deep sigh. By this time Mr. Church arrived, who ordered hot flannels dipped in brandy to be applied to the region of the stomach. This seemed of instant service: respiration became freer, the subject recovered a kindly warmth, she began to speak, and was in a short time perfectly restored.

The name of this young woman we afterwards learned to be *Catherine Levidge*.

The parties who assisted in the recovery, received the rewards offered by the Society; as also *Richard Carter*, the messenger who ran for Mr. Church.



## C A S E XLIII.

Extract of a letter from Mr. *Palser*, Medical  
Assistant at *Hammer Smith*.

A boy about five years of age, named *John Hobson*, in playing on the wharf, fell into the *Thames* between the wharf and a barge. An alarm being given. A man ran to the spot, but could not for some time see the child, and was afraid he was under the barge; at length seeing the child's head rising to the surface, he jumped in, not without considerable hazard to himself, and brought the child out, at first senseless and livid, but in a few minutes he begun to yawn and stretch; and by frictions and warmth, was enabled to speak and stand upright in about a *couple of hours*. When I saw the child next day, he was very weak, pale, and bloated, but by the fourth day from the accident seemed tolerably recovered, and is now very well.

The parents expressed great gratitude to the bearer of this account, for his trouble and humanity; but being very poor with a large family, are not able to make him any kind of recompence but thanks. This induced me to lay the case before the Society, hoping that it will not be deemed an impropriety, and wishing, if it comes with propriety within the Society's plan, that the bearer may receive some little gratuity for his trouble and humanity.

*Hammer Smith,*

I am, Sir, &c.

*Dec. 14, 1775.*

J. PALSER.

The man was satisfactorily rewarded.

C A S E



## C A S E XLIV.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Curtis, of *Islington*,  
to the Treasurer.

S I R,

*John Adam Falkenhagen* was taken out of the New River, near Mr. Pay's garden, *Islington*, December 26, about six o'clock in the evening, and immediately conveyed to Mr. Ward's, at the sign of the *King of Prussia's Head*, opposite *Sadlers Wells*, where every possible care was taken of him: they sent to my house, but as I was not at home, my journeyman, Mr. Clifton, attended, who will give you the particulars of the case. When I saw him, which was some time after, he was so much recovered, as to be able to tell me his name and place of abode.

I am, Sir,

*Islington*, Your very humble servant,  
Jan. 6, 1776. WM. CURTIS.

## T H E C A S E.

*John Dury* and *John Surkitt*, two of Mr. Pays's men, heard a noise like that of a dog paddling in the New River. It was then dark; but upon going to see what was the matter, they thought they saw a man floating very still with the current. They procured a pole, and immediately landed him, *cold* and *motionless*: as they carried him into the public house, they perceived a frothing at his mouth. They speedily placed him upon a warm bed, and frictions, &c. were applied, (particularly by Mr. Ward himself, the publican; hot brandy was rubbed upon the thorax and abdomen, he having before seen it efficaciously used by Mr.

G

*Church*).



*Church*). They were persevering in the use of these means, together with hot bricks to the soles of his feet, &c. When Mr. *Inwood*, Mr. *Curtis*'s journeyman arrived, (for neither Mr. *Church*, nor Mr. *Curtis* himself, were at home) he was still very cold; and Mr. *Inwood* believes he must yet have perished, if they had not persevered. [The time from his being taken out, to this period, I could not ascertain; one said *half an hour*; others, nearly double that time]. Mr. *Inwood* was then going to use the lancet, but fortunately discovered a vein had been opened that day. By and by they discovered a propensity to turn himself, first on one side, then on the other; and soon after Mr. *Curtis* and Mr. *Church* came. Mr. *Curtis*, upon interrogating him, "Whether he was "not an *Irishman*," provoked him to answer, "He was a *German*." They then ordered something warm to be administered, and the patient to be wrapped up warm, and left him.

This is the brief state of what I received from the persons who received the reward; but I think Mr. *Ward*, the publican, said also, that the fumes of tobacco were injected per anum.

#### C A S E XLV.

The following CASE is prior to several others in point of date; but as the particulars were not communicated to us until the above were in the press, we are obliged to insert it in this place.

November 17.—*William Lane*, a poor man, returning from *Stroud*, in *Kent*, with his wife and family,



family, in a *Gravesend* boat, fell into the river *Thames*, from the *Quay*, near *Billingsgate*, about *Nine o'clock* at night. He had separated from his wife and family, it is supposed, to ease nature at the brink of the *quay*. As he did not return, his wife began to be surprized, and went in search of him. At length she found him lying upon the *quay* to all appearance *dead*, with manifest signs of his having fallen into the river. It is not known how long he had lain in the water, or who had taken him out. The most probable conjecture is, that some waterman, unacquainted with the methods of treatment, or rewards offered by our Society, had inconsiderately left him, from a dangerous supposition that he was already dead. The beadle of the parish was sent for, who applied to Mr. *Lima*, master of the *Antigalican Privateer*, (a publick house so called in *Dark-house-lane*) desiring him to receive the body into his house. With this request he readily complied, and gave such singular attention to the case, as does honor at once to his good sense and humanity. The body was conveyed to this house by *John Montaine*, *Francis Gaubere*, and — *Rutley*. While they were carrying him, some small signs of life were discovered. He was immediately placed in a warm bed, and Mr. *Vaux*, the nearest Medical Assistant, was sent for. This gentleman ordered that the patient should be well rubbed with hot cloths and bottles of warm water to be applied to his feet, &c. By these applications, the favourable symptoms manifestly increased. Mr. *Vaux* being obliged to take his leave, gave directions to the landlord to keep the body warm and dry ; give free admission to the air ; renew the application of the water bottles to his feet, and to give him



some mulled wine in small quantities, or a few spoonfuls of a cordial draught at short intervals, as soon as his power of swallowing should return, with a bit of toasted bread dipt in the wine. These instructions were faithfully attended to for several hours, with manifest advantages. Mr. *Lima* informs us that near *three hours* were elapsed from the time of his being brought to the house, before he recovered his senses : that he was first able to drink a little wine : at *twelve* o'clock he spoke freely : about *one*, he was able to sit up, and took several spoonfuls of the cordial mixture, and afterwards went to sleep.

This man remained several days in the house with his wife and family, until they were passed to their proper parish ; and he went away perfectly recovered.

Mr. *Lima* received the premium offered by the Society ; and the assistants were suitably rewarded.

## C A S E XLVI.

The following Letter, addressed to the Treasurer, is the more interesting, as it affords an example of the efficacy of the means in other Cases of suspension of the vital powers, besides those from drowning, or strangulation by the cord.

Mr. *Bower*, of *Prospect Hill*, near *Reading* on the 25th of *August*, about seven in the morning, walking round his fields, saw a man lying on the wet grass, whom he supposed to be drunk ; but upon endeavouring to rouse him, found he was cold, and to appearance dead. He immediately called two or three men who were at work in a barn



barn and fields adjoining, to assist in trying to recover him, and then came to me (who happened to be at that time at his house) to beg my assistance. I found the man cold and stiff, and began to think him past recovery. Upon examining farther, I could not find he breathed in the least, but thought I felt a small pulse. I got him removed to a sunny bank just by, and immediately employed one of the assistants to support him in an easy natural position, gently shaking his body, while another rubbed his chest, belly, &c. with his warm hand, and a third applied spirits of hartshorn to his nostrils and temples; after some time he seemed to grow warmer: and we thought we perceived a sort of tremor of the muscles, while they chafed him, and varied the position of the body, and we had some small hopes; but again began to despair. However, after *an hour's* perseverance, we discovered some small motion, a return of his natural colour, and a weak pulse. I then took from him three or four ounces of blood; soon after which, finding he could swallow, gave him a little warm rum and water; and in about two hours from the time I first saw him, he recovered his speech in some measure: in half an hour more, he was able to walk, with help. He said his name was *James Winch*; that he came from *Winkfield*, near *Windsor*, and had been down to *Plymouth* assisting some drovers; was therefore going home to *Winkfield*, but came out of his way to get work in the fields to maintain him on the road; but finding himself not very well, he feared he was going to have a return of fits he was subject to. He said he found himself ill about dusk the evening before, but remembered nothing after that; from whence we conclude he had been in a fit,



fit, and had lain so all night. If the men who assisted upon this occasion are entitled to a reward from the Society, you will be pleased to let me know ; it may be an encouragement to others in this neighbourhood to assist on any future occasion.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant.

H. HOLDWYER.

Although the men were not *entitled* to the rewards offered by our Society, as these are at present confined to accidents by water, yet we could not refuse giving them some recompence, both as a debt due to their attention and humanity, and as an encouragement to others, to make similar trials in cases which do not as yet come within the plan of our Institution.



ALTHOUGH the limits prescribed to this annual publication, will not permit us to insert the *unsuccessful* CASES at large, yet a summary view of these may perhaps be acceptable to our readers. An impartial comparison of them with the preceding, will also more clearly demonstrate the great importance of our Institution.

No.	Date	Subject.	Places of, or adjacent to the accident.	Length of Time under Water.
1	January 19,	Mr. Townsend,	Thames, by Chelsea,	{ Unknown
2	May 16,	Thomas Durant, lighterman,	Shad Thames,	{ N. B. Contusion upon the temple
3	— 20,	Mary Catching,	Battle Bridge, —	{ Twelve minutes.
4	— 25,	A woman,	Bell Wharf, Ratcliff Cross,	{ Unknown.
5	— 31,	Thomas Haynes, aged 15,	Chelsea,	{ One hour and half.
				{ Unknown.
				{ N. B. Contusion on the side of the head.
6	June 2,	John Abbot,	Deptford, —	{ Fifteen minutes.
				{ N. B. Three ribs broke, and a contusion on the temple.
7	— 5,	George Cox,	Limehouse, —	{ Unknown.
8	— 19,	James Lawton,	Limehouse, —	{ Half an hour.
9	— 19,	James Dean,	Limehouse, —	{ Upwards of twenty minutes.
10	— 19,	James Fortesque,	Serpentine River,	{ Upwards of thirty minutes.

N<sup>o</sup>.



No.	Date	Subject.	Places of, or adjacent to the Accident.	Length of Time under Water.	No.
11	— 25,	Robert Stone,	Vauxhall, —	{ Few minutes.	
12	— 26,	James Neat,	Battle-bridge, —	{ N. B. Intoxicated.	
13	July 1,	A person, aged twenty-one,	Enfield, —	{ Unknown.	
14	— 18,	Hayes Fortee,	Lambeth, —	{ Unknown.	
15	— 21,	George Thomas Deni,	Bethnal Green, —	{ Thirty minutes.	
16	— 21,	A young Man, aged 29,	Black Friars, —	{ Half an hour.	
17	— 22,	William Laurence, aged 18,	Brill, near Clerkenwell,	{ N. B. Weakly constitution.	
18	— 22,	William Clerk,	Old Swan stairs,	{ Forty minutes.	
19	August 9,	James Weather,	Tower Wharf, —	{ Unknown.	
20	— 10,	John Nutting, hackney } coachman,	by Westminster bridge,	{ Near an hour.	
21	— 19,	Wilkinson,	New River, near Ware,	{ Ten minutes.	
22	— 23,	John Brown, aged eight,	K. Edward stairs, Wapping,	{ Unknown.	
23	— 24,	Henry Martin, a lad,	Billingsgate —	{ An hour,	
24	Sept. 2,	Joseph Smith, aged 45,	River Lee, near Bow,	{ N. B. Aged eighty-three.	
25	— 12,	John Williams,	near the Strand,	{ Unknown.	
26	— 13,	A young Woman,	Mill Pond, Nine Elms,	{ A short time.	
27	— 13,	An Infant, —	Suffocated in a necessary,	{ N. B. Subject to fits.	
28	October 12,	Edward Walker,	Brook's wharf, —	{ Unknown.	



No.	Date.	Subject.	Places of, or adjacent to the Accident.	Length of Time under Water.
29	October 16,	Robert Deal, aged 16,	in a dock, Rotherhithe,	{ Fifteen minutes. N. B. Intoxicated, and received a contusion on the temples.
30	— 24,	William Fisher, aged 17,	Horsey Down,	{ Fifteen minutes.
31	— 25,	William Chandler, a lad,	Hertford, —	{ An hour.
32	Novem. 18,	John Clempson, —	near Effex stairs, Strand,	{ Unknown.
33	— 25,	A Lad, aged nineteen,	near Limehouse,	{ N. B. A contusion. Six minutes.
34	— 24,	Charles Bernard,	near Limehouse,	{ Ten minutes. N. B. His head struck against the side of a barge.

By comparing the above List with the preceding Cases of Recovery, it will appear that the Society has paid its rewards in the course of the year 1775 for *sixty-seven* accidents; of which number, no less than *thirty-three* have proved successful. So that we have been instrumental in saving about *one half*, or *one in two*, of these distressed objects! A most satisfactory reflection, which amply repays us for all our trouble! This proportion is so much beyond our own expectations, and we have so much reason to be contented with it, that we will not avail ourselves of lesser circumstances; or we might have observed that two of the unfortunate Cases do not properly fall within the plan of our Institution, viz. No. 20, No.



No. 27, Indeed the Treasurer, by virtue of the power given him, recompensed the assistants in both those cases, as it fully appeared that no fraud was intended, and as various means were employed with spirit and perseverance: but if these were expunged, the majority would turn on the side of success.

It is also observable from the above List, that the failure of success may, in a great number of instances, be ascribed to adventitious causes, which cannot, in justice, weaken our confidence in the efficacy of the means recommended. It is remarkable that there are not more than *six* or *eight* Cases, where it clearly appears that the parties were in the water so short a space as to inspire probable hopes of their recovery: we mean from *five* to *fifteen*, or *twenty* minutes. For although several instances are recorded of persons being recovered after they had lain from thirty minutes to upwards of an hour; yet it is not to be expected that these will frequently occur. The other unfortunate objects were either submersed a much longer space of time; or they received violent contusions in their fall; or they were aged; or of a weakly constitution; or subject to fits. The latter was particularly the case with *Joseph Smith*, (No. 23) who was an excellent diver, and has been frequently known to have continued under the water a greater length of time, than what at last proved fatal to him.—Every unprejudiced mind will acknowledge that circumstances like these must necessarily lessen the probability of success, or change it into an absolute impossibility!

Justice to the Medical Assistants, and to the attendants in general, obliges us to add, that in  
all



all these unsuccessful Cases, the most assiduous attention was given, and every expedient tried with spirit and perseverance for upwards of *two*, and in some instances, *three* hours.

We cannot forbear pointing out farther the encouraging progress which has been made in the preservation of our fellow creatures since our first establishment; and how amazingly the proportion of success has increased during the last year! In the year preceding, we were instrumental in saving *nine* persons out of *thirty-four*. In the last year, we have shewn the proportion to be *equal*. The man must be blind or obstinate, beyond the power of conviction, who refuses to acknowledge that this interesting and happy progress is owing to the general spirit we have excited, the encouragements we have given to those who shall afford immediate aid, and to our having diffused a general knowledge of the methods of treating persons in this dangerous and critical state!

It may perhaps be remarked, that in several instances, the length of time the parties were in the water, is set down as *unknown*. In some Cases, the objects were found absolutely dead, without any one being able to conjecture how long they had been in the water. But in others, the persons who favoured us with the narrative, had omitted acquainting us with this circumstance; not thinking it worthy their attention, as the party was irrecoverable. However, we must express, our earnest desire that gentlemen would, in their future accounts, be as minute and circumstantial as possible, even where they have failed of success respecting the sex or age of the party, the time they have lain in the water, or the time elapsed before as-



sistance could be procured them, their being intoxicated, subject to fits, receiving bruises in their fall, &c.

It is scarcely necessary to add, that the ~~circumstantial~~ account in *successful* Cases, is yet more important. Whatever relates to the state of the patient, and the comparative effects of the method employed, may prove of the utmost moment to the cause of humanity. In a business so new to us, and yet so extremely interesting, it is dangerous to pronounce any circumstance *trivial*, until repeated experiments have proved that it deserves that character.

It is in consequence of such attention, that we are already enabled to lay before the Public an observation or two, which may be of great utility in future practice.

When our Society was first established, and whilst we were yet unexperienced, we thought it the safest method to follow pretty exactly the mode of treatment recommended by other Nations, which are upon the whole excellent, and recommend themselves by the astonishing success attending them. Amongst these, the use of the lancet is mentioned in such an indiscriminate manner, as naturally suggests, that it is applicable in every accident, and in every state of the patient. But a Case or two which has fallen under our own observation, has convinced us that the utmost caution is necessary respecting the taking away of blood. Two instances have been communicated to us, by which it clearly appears that copious bleeding may, at an early period, prove of the most pernicious consequence. In both the instances, considerable hopes of recovery were formed, the natural colour returned,



turned, and a general warmth was diffused over the body, promising the return of life. In the one, a vein was opened, and the blood issued freely from the arms, to the quantity of seven or eight ounces: in the other, the *temporal* artery was separated, and it issued by jets to the amount of *nine* or *ten*. But unfortunately from both instances every favourable symptom retired, the bodies grew cold, and were irrecoverable. In consequence of these informations, a Medical Committee was summoned, who agreed to make an alteration concerning this article in their printed directions, (see Method of Treatment, No. IV.) A letter of caution was also written to every Medical assistant, requesting ‘them to be extremely cautious respecting bleeding, and particularly attentive to its *effects* wherever it may be deemed necessary; and that they would communicate to the *Society* the result of their experience upon this subject.’

Mr. *Church*, of *Islington*, of whose assiduity and skill we have given so many proofs in the Reports of this year, has already hinted in his narratives, that he has found the application of a cloth dipt in *warm brandy* to the region of the stomach, of peculiar service in relieving a difficulty of respiration. This gentleman also informs us, he has observed in all the Cases which have fallen under his inspection, that when the cornea of the eye was *opaque* or *misty*, the party was irrecoverably dead; but whenever it remained *clear* and *transparent*, they have been restored, although no other favourable symptom appeared. We need not remark, that should this observation be confirmed by any future experience, it would furnish us with a criterion which might save a great deal of unnecessary



cessary expence and trouble on the one hand; and on the other, animate the attendants to persevere in the most desperate and obstinate cases.

We now proceed according to the order laid down, to relate the cases of success which have been communicated to us from places at a considerable distance, and beyond the boundaries of our Institution.

Upon the death of Mr. *Rich*, late Secretary to the Society, whose zeal for its success, and disinterested vigilance in his office, as well as his other good qualities, rendered the loss sensibly felt, and deeply regretted by us; Mr. *Hawes* of the *Strand* was so obliging as to officiate during the vacancy; in consequence of which, the letters were addressed to him.

## C A S E XLIX.

G

S I R, *Gainsborough, May 2, 1775.*

The following is a faithful account of the accident and recovery of *Christopher Walton*, who, as related in the news-paper, fell overboard, where several large vessels were crowded together, and impeded his being taken up so soon as he otherwise might have been. He had an oar in his hand when he fell, which the by-standers imagine struck him in his fall. He continued, as they imagine, about *three minutes* in the water, and was carried by the current down the river, and entangled in some ropes which secured the vessels to the shore. He was then taken up by a gentleman, the relator of this part of the story, put into a boat, and carried from thence to a sailor's house. Soon afterwards a person who bleeds, exercised his skill successfully;



successfully ; that is, the blood flowed ; and in about half an hour from this time, it was that we first saw him, without any perceptible signs of life, laid upon a board, with all his wet clothes on. These we had immediately taken off, and their place supplied by blankets, and the patient brought within a reasonable distance from the fire. Frictions upon the abdomen and breast were now incessantly applied with warm cloths, and the warmed hands of his brother Tars alternately ; whilst his temples were chafed with volatile spirits, which were applied likewise to his nose. During this time the fumigator was getting ready ; and when applied, had a very speedy and sensible effect ; but owing to its being a little out of order, was not used until the man had shewn signs of life ; which first appeared by spasms of the extremities and groans, and was succeeded by violent convulsions of the whole body. From the time the tobacco fumes were applied, he recovered fast ; and this application to the nose and mouth brought on a puking, which confirmed his return to life. Cordials were now administered, but not too liberally ; and a warm bed perfectly restored him. He slept several hours afterwards, walked out the same evening, and the next day employed in his usual occupation. From the time of his fall into the *Trent*, until we saw him, was about *half an hour* ; and from that time, until he shewed signs of life, about *an hour* more.

There can be no doubt but that this man had been lost, had not these timely assistances been administered, as he was as effectually deprived of life, by being under water *three* minutes, as if he had continued any longer time. Yet we don't mean to insinuate, that a recovery is not more certain,



tain, the sooner a body is taken up. It is needless for us to make any further comment upon this case, as we suppose you will make the use of it most proper to extend your scheme into general practice. We only add, that perhaps there is no place in England where more accidents of this sort have happened, nor from the nature of the business carried on upon this river, more likely to happen in future ; that this man's recovery being perfected before a number of sailors, would not only be told here, but related in many other places ; and perhaps its good effects not useful to the poor man alone, who is the subject of this letter, but to many others.

We are, Sir,  
Your humble servants,  
JOHN WARD, M. D.  
GERV<sup>s</sup>. LASSELLS, Surgeon.

# C A S E L.

## H

Communicated by Dr. Townsend.

S I R,

*Cork, June 1, 1775.*

Your favour of the 20th of *May*, I received this morning ; and to convince you of my willingness to contribute as much as in my power to the good of mankind, and the satisfaction of so respectable a Society as you are a member of, have not deferred answering yours for one post.

The C A S E was as follows :

A boy, about six or seven years of age was found in a *Mill Race*, at *Cross's Green*, in this city, at *two o'clock* in the afternoon, by a woman who



who went for water ; and when taken out was, to all appearance, dead. How long he continued under water, cannot be ascertained, as no person saw him fall in. The woman, by her cries, alarmed the neighbours ; one of whom came running for me. At my arrival, he was as cold as marble, and quite stiff. I had him immediately removed into a house, and laid before a large coal fire on a blanket : then I had him well rubbed with flannel cloths, and frequently turned from one side to the other. By persevering in this method for half an hour, he began to snore ; and in a few minutes after, his whole body was most most violently convulsed. I then poured a little white wine and water into his mouth, and injected the smoke of tobacco by the anus, which purged him. In *twenty minutes* more, the violence of the convulsions abated somewhat ; and in *an hour* after, he was entirely out of danger. He lost blood at six or seven o'clock that evening, on account of a heaviness and stupor which remained. At eleven that night, he recovered his senses perfectly, and called for food.

I am, Sir,  
Your obliged, and most obedient,  
humble servant,

RICHARD TOWNSEND.



## C A S E L I.

Communicated by Mr. *Rigby*, Surgeon, one of the Medical Assistants to the Society established at *Norwich*.

*Norwich, July 30, 1775.*

An unusual hurry in business has hindered me from answering your letter so soon as the subject of it deserved, and as I could have wished.

*Thomas Tuffield*, the subject of the Case of which you desire a relation, is a strong healthy young fellow, *sixteen years* of age. On the evening of the *ninth of July*, as he was bathing in the river, about a mile and half from this city, he was suddenly carried out of his depth, and being unable to resist the force of the stream, he soon sunk to the bottom. He lay under the water about *ten minutes*; and when taken out, was to all appearance *dead*. I was immediately sent for; but the distance being so considerable, some time was necessarily lost before I could be with him. Fortunately however for him, the person who got him out of the river, having heard of the means recommended by the Society, immediately began to apply them; and at my arrival, I found them properly employed in rubbing universally the surface of the body, which was wrapped up in a blanket; and in applying brandy to the nose, mouth and temples, &c. a few minutes before I came, some signs of returning life had appeared; and I now found a little convulsionary contraction of the lower jaw, and a slight struggle of the limbs. He made, at intervals, a little confused groaning noise, and a good deal of bloody froth ran out of



one corner of his mouth. But he was universally cold; his face was livid, and much bloated; the pupils of the eyes were largely dilated, and unaffected by the light; there was no perceptible pulsation in any artery; the joints of the elbows and knees were now flexible, and the fœces had been, and were now running away from the rectum.

As he was in the open air, I threw over him a thick coat, which I had from one of the by-standers; and when I had opened a vein in the arm, it bled only by drops. I assisted in carrying him to a house, about two fields distance, to which they would have before conveyed him, but were not permitted. He was immediately put into a warm bed between the blankets, and the friction briskly continued. The good effects of a warmer air, and a thicker covering, were very soon felt, and in about a *quarter of an hour*, the arm bled better, the motion in the limbs was more natural, and the noise he made rather articulate. I opened another vein, which bled freely. Hot bricks, covered with flannel, were applied to his feet, which were still cold to an extreme; and though they burnt my fingers, he appeared to be insensible to them. In about *half an hour* after being in bed, I could just feel his pulses, but they were very feeble and irregular; and the light of the candle brought near his eyes, produced a contraction of the iris, and seemed to give him some degree of pain.

I now endeavoured to get down some warm milk and water; but the mouth was still opened with difficulty, and the power of swallowing was not sufficiently returned; for some of it got into the lungs, and produced a violent straining, which, though by rousing him, might be of some use;



yet I began to be alarmed at it, and feared he would have been suffocated. The frictions, &c. were still continued, and he gradually grew better ; and in about *two hours* from the first, he became sensible, and could answer questions, when much urged to it. I again attempted to make him drink something, but he pushed the cup from his lips hastily ; and when it approached them, he appeared much agitated, dreading its touching his mouth, as if affected by a hydrophobia. I therefore forbore the attempt ; and as he was now universally warm, and perfectly sensible, I left him for the night. In the morning, I found he had been, during the night, alternately stupid and restless, never speaking but when spoken to, then only when much urged to it. He was now very hot, his pulses were full, quick, and strong ; and he complained of much pain in his head, and great soreness from the rubbing. I bled him again freely, and gave him a purging draught : it was with difficulty that he could even now be made to drink ; but he did do it with much persuasion. He became cooler in the evening, from having had considerable evacuations, and was much better the next day. In a week, he was able to return to his usual work.

The remark which most obviously offers itself from this Case, which is peculiarly satisfactory is, that some signs of returning life were produced without the assistance of the Surgeon ; which proves that is in the power of any one to apply the means recommended by the Society ; the principal of which are, warmth and friction, and shews the utility of dispersing an account of them as extensively as possible. The good effects of the warm air of the house serves likewise to prove the propriety



propriety of conveying the unfortunate object *as soon as possible*, out of the external air, and putting him into a warm bed.

The danger of suffocation, which was brought on by endeavouring to get some liquid down, before the power of swallowing was sufficiently restored, shews the impropriety of attempting it before the patient be very much recovered.

I know not whether the hydrophobia has ever been before found a symptom in these cases; but in this instance it was remarkable. I am at a loss, however, to know whether it was the effect of drowning, or whether it was produced merely by the painful and almost suffocating struggle, brought on by the premature attempt to get down the milk and water.

I shall be ever ready, on any future occasion, to contribute my mite of information towards the promotion; and am, with respect,

Your's, &c.

ED. RIGBY.

## C A S E LII.

*Brighton, July 29, 1775.*

S I R,

I acknowledge the favour of your letter, and I hope my present hurry of business will be a sufficient apology for my sending so inaccurate an account of the case of a gentleman, who discovered no signs of life for *forty minutes* after he was taken out of the sea. But as I am a sincere well-wisher to so laudable an undertaking, I cheerfully communicate the case the first moment I could get from business.

*July*



July 17, 1775. I was sent for to A. B. a Physician, upwards of 70 years of age, and supposed to have been under water about *seven minutes*. As I had the distance of four miles to ride, I imagined it must take thirty minutes, or something more, from the time the messenger was dispatched to me, before I could be with him. When I first saw him, his face and lips were inclined to a livid colour, his body, thighs, legs, and extremities universally cold, and the only remains of life was, a very small creeping pulse, scarce perceptible. I immediately ordered four men with hot flannels to rub him all over incessantly; quart bottles filled with hot water to both his feet, pint ditto to his arm pits; to apply stimulating spirits and volatiles to his nose; and to rub his temples, neck, &c. with spirits of hartshorn. In about *fifteen minutes*, upon perceiving the circulation to be returning, sufficient to bear the lancet, I immediately took away eight ounces of blood from the arm, and continued the whole time to keep the machine going on by a general friction. In about *twenty minutes* he began to shew evident signs of recovering, by a gradual return of natural warmth and glow all over him; and in an incoherent manner, he expressed strange surprise at what the people about him were doing. In about an *hour* I got down some sack-whey, still ordering the people to continue to rub him, 'till I perceived him so far recovered, as to be able to pronounce him out of danger. I saw him again in the evening, found him sitting up, and learned that he had taken several times chicken broth, and complained only of being very sore and tender all over him; his pulse was low and languid, but quiet and regular. During the whole day the sea water,



water, which had been received originally into the stomach, was discharged in great quantities by the renal glands. This is a true and faithful relation of the above case, and whatever defects I have innocently been guilty of, I hope you will be so kind as to put a favourable construction upon. Though I have not the honour to be personally known to you, shall be happy to afford every assistance in this part of the world.

I am, Sir, &c.

HENRY KIPPING.

### C A S E LIII.

*Wycomb, Bucks, Aug. 4, 1775.*

S I R,

If communicating the following case to your Society can be of the least service to any individual, I am happy in having the opportunity of doing it.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of July last, a poor man on a journey, was found to all appearance dead, about a mile and an half from this town, on the road, at nine o'clock at night. I was immediately sent for, and found him cold and almost stiff. He was laid on a bank by some humane person who lived near the place. He had not the least pulsation that I could discover, by placing my hand opposite his heart. His jaw was fixed, and respiration seemed to be entirely stopped. I took with me half an ounce of sp. salis. ammon. vol. and after forcing his mouth open, poured into it about twenty drops, and held the remainder to his nose. But still there appeared not the least sign of life. Frictions to the spine were made use of briskly, and shaking the body was often repeated; but to

no



no purpose. I examined his arms, and found that two veins had been opened in one arm, and one in the other, which appeared to have been done lately. I opened another vein, but only a few drops of blood came from it, which I drove out by rubbing with my finger. Finding there was no time to be lost, I again opened his mouth and poured the remainder of the half ounce of sp. sal. ammon. vol. into it, held his nostrils tight, and placing my mouth to his, blew with all the force I could the volatile spirit down his throat. I have great reason to believe that some of it got down the aspera arteria into the lungs, for in a minute after, upon applying my hand on the chest, and pressing tightly, I found an unusual commotion, yet no pulsation or respiration ensued for the present. The frictions were continued, and I soon heard a little rumbling of the intestines. In a *few minutes* more, a kind of thrilling motion I felt near the heart; and presently after one stroke of that primary organ of life. He immediately fetched a deep sigh, and opened his eyes. I still continued the frictions.—Upon asking him how he did, he attempted to speak, but in vain. However, he got down a glass of rum and water, and then could answer me in whispers only. He was then conveyed to a barn, and proper covering was procured. He could distinctly answer me any question; and told me he thought he might have fallen in a fit, to which he was very subject. He remembered nothing of what had been done to him. As he was costive, I sent him some laxative medicine, and in the morning early, he pursued his journey, to all appearance as well as ever.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,

JOHN HOUSE.  
C A S E



## C A S E L I V.

M.

The following remarkable restoration to life was communicated by Mr. *Stebbing*, Surgeon, at *Ipswich*, to Mr. *Hawes*, Apothecary, in the *Strand*.

DEAR SIR,

I received your kind present of the Plan and Reports of your truly valuable Society, by the hands of *Captain Harrison*, and will strictly pursue the mode of treatment when opportunity offers. But as I observed the same means are proper in other cases of sudden death, as well as drowning, I have now the pleasure to communicate to you the particulars relative to a boy who was suffocated, and restored to life by the plan of treatment laid down in your Reports; and I think it an act of justice due to you, Sir, as well as your society, to declare, that as he was to all appearance dead, I should have given up the case as lost, if I had not received your pamphlet, which determined me to persevere in hopes of success; by which conduct the youth was happily restored to his parents, and to the public. So that I have the pleasure of communicating one successful case, and adding one life to the many already restored. May, Sir, your excellent society flourish to the end of time, is the sincere wish of

Your most obedient,

and humble servant,

GEORGE STEBBING.



## T H E C A S E.

About three months ago *John Sage*, son of *John Sage of Ipswich*, about *seven* years old, being with his father upon a chamber that contained near 500 comb of barley, the man had occasion to go into the office below, to unstop a trunk leading from the barley into a cistern, to let the barley run into it, for the conveniency of wetting it, to make malt of it. The child being alone in the chamber, seeing the hollow or well made in the heap of corn by the current, had the curiosity to get upon the edge, when the barley eaved in with him. He descended to the top of the trunk on the floor, which he fell across, his arms went down the trunk, his chin and body resting upon the two opposite sides of the hole. The barley still kept the current, (as it had got some force) and he was instantly *buried five feet deep, not a person knowing he was there*. The man below hearing a noise, which he now supposes was the boy when he first came down to the hole, and which he then thought was the child at play with a dog in the chambers, took no notice of it, but went about other business; 'till presently turning about and seeing the current of barley stopped, it struck him that the boy by some means was fell into the trunk. He directly ran up stairs in search of the boy, where he could find nothing of him. He was then confirmed in his suspicions, and immediately called for help; when three or four strong porters came to his assistance: one man put his hand up the trunk, and could just reach his fingers but was not able to give the least assistance



assistance that way. They all set to work to dig him out, but the corn lying in so close a place, made it very difficult, as it returned as fast as they threw it out from them. After some time one man found his legs, which he endeavoured to pull at, but found the corn would not admit of his standing firm enough to exert strength sufficient to extricate the boy from the strong hold the pressure of the corn made upon him. They then thought of a very happy expedient, which was, one man got hold of a beam in the cieling, and took the second man's hand, thus making a chain with each other; and in that way drew him out, after being buried *ten or twelve minutes*, under the pressure of at least 100 comb of barley. He was *apparently dead*, not shewing the least signs of life; his face looked very livid, and his mouth and nose stopped up with barley. They sent to my house; I not being at home, my journeyman attended, who immediately opened a vein, no blood followed; he repeated it without effect. I had given the treatise published by the society to him to read, just at the time this affair happened, which furnished him with ideas of trying what friction would do in this case; when he ordered the boys arm's and breast to be rubbed with warm flannels, and in *five minutes* the blood flowed freely. I by this time came home, when I directly ordered him to a warm bed, and pursued that excellent plan prescribed by the society with the greatest success. The first signs of life were breathing, with catchings, universal convulsions, and intermitting pulse. I ordered him blisters for his legs and arms, bled him the two following days, all which seemed to relieve him. He did



not recover his speech for *four* days, his senses 'till the *sixth* day. After that his senses and strength increased, and in three weeks time was perfectly recovered, and has continued well ever since.

*Ipswich, Aug. 20, 1775.*

Mr. *Hawes* received the above letter by the hands of Mr. *Barrow* of *Hoxton*, who assured him, that the day before he left *Ipswich*, he saw the boy and his parents, who expressed their warmest gratitude to Mr. STEBBING, for his having restored their son to life and health.

## C A S E    L V.

N.

The Case following was communicated by Doctor *Townsend* of *Cork*, to Mr. *Hawes*.

S I R,

*Cork, Oct. 29, 1775.*

*Master S———*, of this City, about twelve years of age, went to swim in the river, and by the violence of the current was carried down two or three hundred yards. After some time he was taken up *apparently dead*. The man who had taken the body out of the water, very prudently conveyed it to the nearest house, stripped and began to rub it. In the mean time he sent for a neighbouring Physician, (Doctor Pumphry) and for me. The Doctor immediately came, and made them persist in rubbing, by which means *only* the boy was soon restored to life, without convulsions or any other alarming symptom. When he was to all appearance out of danger, the Doctor left him in care of his family, in his father's house, whither



whither he had him carried. Unfortunately this lad's brother, a young man about nineteen years of age, was on the bank of the river when the current overturned him. He leaped in to save the boy, and was irrecoverably lost, not being found 'till *fifty hours* after. The hurry and confusion consequent on the loss of this young man, was such as made the family neglect the boy, who was thought to be out of danger. But as the frictions had not been continued for a sufficient length of time, at my arrival, I found him in bed, cold as death, with scarcely any pulse, and in some degree comatose. Being alarmed at these appearances, I caused hot bricks to be applied to the soles of his feet, renewed the frictions with warm flannels, and gave him a little wine and water warm; by these means, in about *half an hour*, his natural heat returned, and he could speak quite well, nor had he any disagreeable return.

I could not exactly ascertain how long he had been in the water. This happened about the end of *July* last.

I am, SIR,

Your very humble servant,

RICHARD TOWNSEND.

We cannot forbear observing that this remarkable case is another evidence of the necessity of perseverance, and proves to a demonstration that the youth would have been lost, without the assiduous application of the means recommended.

We



We have had frequent occasion to observe, that altho' we are obliged to confine our rewards to the recovery of persons in danger of *drowning*, yet it is an essential part of our plan to awaken the attention of the publick to *every* case of apparent death, arising from any sudden cause which *suspends* without destroying the various functions of the body. With this view we have, upon a former occasion, recorded a curious instance of the restoration of a child by means of electricity. (See Reports for the year 1774, Case ix.) We shall now subjoin, with the same intention, two cases communicated to us by Dr. Cogan, in a letter to the Treasurer.

S I R,

I have long been of opinion that a great number of children, who are *still-born*, as it is termed, and are generally neglected as irrecoverably *dead*, may very often, with proper attention and assiduity, be restored to the arms of their mothers, and reward them for the pains they have been suffering. Every practitioner in midwifry, it is acknowledged, will make some slight attempts to recover a child, where they perceive any signs of remaining life ; nor are they unacquainted with some of the proper methods of treating it ; such as applying onions, burnt rags or feathers, or volatile salts, or any other stimulants to the nostrils, rubbing the body with warm cloths, &c. But if the restoration be not immediate, and the infant does not convince them by a loud cry, that it is roused from its insensible state, they are apt to give up the case as desperate ; and it may be, lay the body in a place sufficiently cold or damp,



damp to extinguish any latent remains of life. I will also acknowledge that I have occasionally heard of some few instances of a recovery equally curious and surprising with those related concerning drowned persons. But these present themselves much less frequently than we might have reason to expect, and have been talked of rather as *prodigies*, than as *incitements* to attempt the same. I have of late, Sir, paid considerable attention to children in this situation, for which my connection with the charity for *delivering poor married women at their own habitations*, affords me frequent opportunities. Altho' I will not assert that in every case where circumstances appeared equally favourable, I have been equally successful, yet I am convinced that several have been restored, which otherways would have been lost, through neglect or incredulity. Two instances of this nature, which I beg leave to select, merely because I took a more minute account of them, will evince the great utility of attention and perseverance.

*Feb. 14, 1775.*—I was called to *Mrs. Darking*, a little deformed person, who from the extreme narrowness of her make, was never able to bring forth a living child, and whom I was under the horrid necessity of delivering about twenty months before, by the operation of *Embriotomy*.

In this case the hand was the presenting part, the membranes were entire, and the child was comparatively small. With these advantages, I immediately proceeded to turn the child, and the labour succeeded very happily, until it had advanced to the head, which adhered strongly between



tween the *ossa sacri* and *pubis*. It was upwards of *fifteen minutes* before I could, with the assistance of the mother's pains, finish the delivery. The pulsation in the *umbelical cord*, had ceased about *six or seven minutes* before the birth of the child. It lay totally passive, not the smallest degree of pulsation was perceptible, nor were there the feeblest attempts to respiration. I observed however a rigid contraction in the left leg, which was a demonstrative proof of latent life. I immediately rubbed the *abdomen*, *limbs*, the *spine of the back*, &c. with salt moistened with brandy, applied volatile spirits to the temples and nostrils, and dilated the *thorax* by blowing into the mouth thro' a cloth, compressing the nostrils with one hand, and the chest with the other, and thus imitating the natural respiration. In a *few minutes* I perceived an irregular pulsation, or rather a tremulous motion in the pit of the stomach, which encouraged me to proceed. I then plunged the child into a pail of warm water, blowing into its lungs while it was in this situation. A strong, tho' interrupted pulse at the *umbelical cord*, and frequent strokes of the heart, convinced me that we were making considerable advances: yet the infant was more than *a quarter of an hour* in the water before it began to heave a sigh; which it did first at very distant intervals, afterwards more frequently, and at length it breathed with tolerable ease. It was about *an hour* before I dared to omit one or other of these operations, or could deem the little patient out of danger. I then ordered the nurse to rub it dry, wrap it up in warm flannel, and place it upon a pillow, at a proper distance from the fire. The next day I called, and found the child perfectly restored.

The



The second Case was not in the event so fortunate ; and yet it was attended with circumstances which rendered it still more surprising.

*March 13, 1775.*—I attended Mrs. *Salomon*, who was so unhappily formed, that she had never brought forth a live child.—This was her fourth labour. The *band* also presented, and the state of her labour was, in other respects, similar to the preceding : the child was indeed much larger, and the bones of the cranium exceedingly firm and ossified. I had considerably more difficulty to extract the head, and was necessitated to assist the woman's pains with great exertions of force. There was not the least symptom of remaining life. I perceived also a red circle round the neck of the child, as is usual to persons strangled by the cord ; and some blood issued from the nostrils. As I had for some time made it my constant practice to blow into the lungs of still-born children, in order to ascertain whether or not they were absolutely dead, I did it in the present case, rather to satisfy my own mind, than from the most distant expectations of success. After blowing for some time, I perceived that the colour of the skin became more animated, which encouraged me to proceed to the use of frictions, and the warm bath. But although I perceived some signs of a favourable nature, which induced me to proceed, yet upwards of *fifty minutes* were elapsed before I could flatter the attendants or myself with the smallest hopes of a restoration. The warm bath seemed in this case a most excellent auxiliary to blowing into the lungs. Fumigation was also attempted ; but perhaps from the

L imper-



imperfection of instrument, it did not succeed. The bath was continued for about *ten minutes*, when the infant was taken out, well rubbed, and wrapped in a warm dry flannel. In this state it was kept for *five* or *ten* minutes, and frictions used. The bath was then repeated. In the use of these methods, sometimes we seemed to be gaining, and others losing ground. At length, however, the child began to breath with some regularity, tho' with a degree of difficulty. It issued a plaintive tone, rather than cried. Finding that for the last half hour we gained no farther advances, I ordered the child to be laid naked in its mother's arms, and took my leave. It was now about *two hours* after the delivery.

The next day I found that the child had lived *eight hours*, sighing and moaning, and uttering a plaintive sound; but that it had never acquired strength enough to cry.

Although the above Case was not finally successful, and the injury which the infant had received from the severity of the labor, was too great to admit of a restoration; yet this long contest, as it were, betwixt life and death, shews how much may be expected in circumstances more favorable.

Permit me to repeat, Sir, that these instances are communicated to you from no other motive, than merely to excite the attention of practitioners in Midwifry to this important object. Nor do I claim any other honour to myself, than that of persevering in the methods universally known, a much longer space of time than has hitherto been generally practised.

I in-

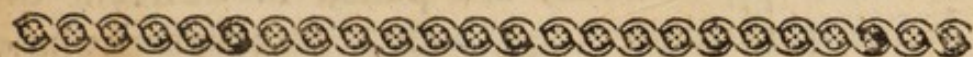


I intended to have subjoined some general observations ; but I would wish to put my remarks to the test of farther experiments, before I present them to the Public.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

T. C.



We have already hinted, that amongst the various stimulants employed in the recovery of persons apparently dead, ELECTRICITY, upon account of its subtile pervading nature, seemed to promise peculiar efficacy. We have given one instance wherein a child was happily restored by the electrical shock. We are pleased to find our sentiments confirmed by so ingenious an experimental philosopher as Mr. Henley, a gentleman well known in the philosophic world. And we hope that the publication of his opinion, which he has communicated in a letter addressed to the Society, will awaken the attention of Practitioners to this curious subject, and induce them to make a trial of so powerful and promising a remedy, as often as it can be conveniently obtained.

Gentlemen,

Much having lately been done in the recovery of persons apparently dead, by drowning, by the Societies very laudably instituted for that purpose ; it hath frequently occurred to me that there is in nature, a power, which may probably upon trial, prove a more speedy and effectual remedy, than any one hitherto employed for that purpose.



The power I allude to is ELECTRICITY : and from a careful observation of its effects on the human body, I am strongly of opinion that (together with warmth and friction) a few electrical shocks, from a jar containing one hundred, or two hundred square inches of coated surface, fully charged,\* (from which no danger, I think, need be apprehended) and passed in different directions through the body, but particularly through the heart and lungs, might produce the desired effect, in a very short time; when perhaps all other applications after a long and unre-mitted perseverance, may have proved wholly ineffectual. Those who have considered the rapidity and violence with which a charge of electricity passes through the human body, and *the internal concussion*, (procurable by no other means) which is given to those parts that are brought immediately into the circuit will, I imagine, be instantly convinced of the probability of its success, in the case of those unfortunate persons, for whose benefit I now wish to recommend it. I have lately proposed the trial of it to several very eminent gentlemen, both physicians and surgeons, and am authorized to say that they have unanimously approved of it. Some of them have assured me that they will take every

\* A shock of this force might be too violent, at *first*, at least. It would certainly be more prudent to begin with weaker strokes, and increase their power as occasion may require. Perhaps a similar caution would be adviseable in the application of other potent stimulants; and that more success would be obtained by attempting gradually to excite the torpid powers of nature, than in endeavouring to rouse them at once by more violent methods. We hope that gentlemen will favour us with the result of their experience upon this subject.

proper



proper opportunity to encourage the practice of it; but the learned Dr. *Fotbergill* at *Noribampton*, hath lately honoured me with a letter, so highly favourable to the experiment, that I shall by a quotation from him, take the liberty to conclude this paper.

“ In cases of apparent death from drowning,  
 “ and other causes, wherein the organs are sound  
 “ and entire, only their motion suspended; in  
 “ such cases, instead of losing time in the appli-  
 “ cation of several slight stimuli to the skin and  
 “ intestines; why not have recourse to the most  
 “ potent stimulus in nature, which can instantly  
 “ pervade the inmost recesses of the animal frame?  
 “ Why not immediately (if a machine can be  
 “ procured) apply electrical shocks to the brain  
 “ and heart, the grand sources of motion and sensa-  
 “ tion, the *primum vivens* & *ultimum moriens*  
 “ of the animal machine?”

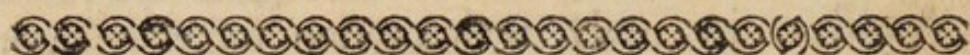
Sincerely wishing all possible success to these humane and useful Institutions.

I am, Gentlemen,  
 Your's, very respectfully,  
 W. HENLY.

We shall only add, in confirmation of this gentleman's opinion, that the electrical shock was tried upon the body of *James Lawson*, four hours after he was taken out of the water; every other method having been tried in vain; and the effects it produced were of such a nature, as to evince how beneficial it may prove in more favourable circumstances. The first shock excited a pulsation in the temporal artery. The next, diffused a florid colour over the face, and occasioned the blood to flow



flow in a copious stream, and to a considerable quantity, from an orifice which had been opened in the jugular vein, at the beginning of the process, without a drop having issued from it. The subsequent shocks were attended with no manifest advantage, and every favourable system subsided.



Description of a *Fumigator* of an improved construction, by *Dr. Cogan*.

The injection of the fumes of tobacco into the intestines, has been universally considered amongst the most efficacious applications; and a due attention to the manner of its acting will convince us that it deserves this character. It is not only the admission of a kindly warmth into the internal parts of the body, which must be promising of success, but the stimulating quality of the tobacco, connected with this warmth, seems admirably adapted to excite the suspended or extremely languid peristaltic motion of the intestines; which physiologists agree to place amongst the most irritable parts of the body, and which are allowed to retain the vital influence longer than any other. It is well known also, that this vital principle being once excited to action in any one part, (such is the general sympathy observable in an animated body) the whole system will in most cases share in the effect.

But the question is, by what means can this smoke be most commodiously applied? This will be best answered by enquiring what are the conditions or qualities requisite in the instrument made use of for the purpose?

It



It is necessary, for example; that the fumes be injected in a proper temperature, neither too hot, nor cold: that they be injected in a due quantity: that the box of the fumigator be so large as to contain a sufficiency of tobacco: that there may not be too frequent interruption in the renewal of it: that the instrument be portable: that it be so constructed as to be prepared with expedition, and not subject to any inconveniencies which may interrupt the operation. This last is peculiarly necessary in cases of sudden apparent deaths, where the least interruption may be of fatal consequence.

The ingenuity of artists has been much exercised to invent instruments that should answer these qualities; yet all those which I have as yet seen, have been very defective in one or more of the above requisites.

Some have been so constructed as to work with a pistern, in the manner of a syringe, but the inconveniencies attending them are, they are expensive, complicated, and soon out of order, and are worked with great labour and fatigue, and most that I have seen contain but a very small quantity of tobacco.

The fumigators commonly used by apothecaries in administering tobacco glysters, are too small, and the method of blowing by the mouth, is fatiguing and disagreeable.

The Dutch have considerably improved upon this sort, by making the bowl larger, so as to contain three-fourths of an ounce of tobacco. The construction of this, is a wooden bowl lined with brass or tin, and covered by a top of wood, lined in a similar manner. This top is screwed upon the  
other



other. The instrument is used by means of a wooden tube or blow pipe, screwed to the top, and adapted either to the mouth, or to a pair of bellows.

Its inconveniencies are, it is difficulty to light the tobacco when the top is screwed on, as it receives not a sufficient quantity of air to keep it alive until the agent be prepared for blowing: the dust and oil proceeding from the lighted tobacco, swell the wood, or fill up the intestines of the screws in such a manner, that it is often difficult or impossible to unscrew them, especially while they are warm; and thus the process is retarded or perhaps entirely impeded: frequent usage splits the wood, and this being inwrought with the other part, the whole becomes useless.

The French have attempted to improve upon this plan. A description of the instrument used by them, I will translate from their publications.

“ It is composed of a box somewhat like the bowl of a pipe. This box is covered by a top or lid, at the upper part of which is a hole or chimney, to give air to the tobacco at will. From the side of this cover proceeds a tube about four inches in length, incorporated with it, and adapted at the other extremity to the end of a flexible tube.

At the lower part of this box is inserted a species of tubular handle, which admits the nozzle of a pair of bellows, fastened to it by means of an iron pin passing transversely thro’ both. By this contrivance, when the tobacco is lighted, it is not necessary to touch the heated box, and the bellows serves as a handle by which to direct all the necessary movements.

This



This machine is made of copper, its component parts are of the same metal, foldered to it in such a manner that there is little danger of its being injured by the fire, &c."

Notwithstanding that this machine is in some respects an improvement upon the others, yet it is attended with several inconveniencies. It throws out but a very small stream of smoke, by no means equal to the advantages we ought to expect from an instrument professedly adapted to the purpose. It is also, for the sake of cheapness, so very inaccurately made, that the parts are not properly adjusted to each other, and the smoke escapes through various outlets; if not in such a degree as to weaken its efficacy, yet greatly to incommode the operator and attendants. The cover being fastened to the bowl in the same manner as the lid of a snuff-box, after frequent using it becomes too loose, and is apt to be blown off by a brisker action of the bellows. The metal also soon acquires such a degree of heat as to render handling the instrument extremely inconvenient, should the tobacco be extinguished, or occasion require it to be renewed. But the strongest objection is, according to the construction of this machine, the air passes into the bottom of it through the substance of the lighted tobacco; and sends smoke arising immediately from the surface into the intestines. By this contrivance the consumption of the tobacco it is true is equal, but very gradual, and the smoke is emitted in so small a column as must weaken the efficacy of the instrument. And farther, excepting the agents are more cautious than we can reasonably expect at a season of such general



perturbation, not only the hot ashes of the burnt tobacco, but even sparks of fire may be injected into the intestines.

Having remarked the above inconveniencies from repeated trials of these different instruments, I mentioned them to that very ingenious artist *Mr. Wrigglesworth*, surgical instrument in the *Minories*, submitting to him at the same time some general hints and observations relative to the removal of them. This gentleman has paid great attention to the subject, and after various experiments, he has constructed several upon a plan which I hope will prove in every respect unexceptionable. It will be impossible without the aid of a drawing to give an adequate description of it. The following may convey a general idea.

The bowl or body of it is made of cast brass; and is large enough to contain about *an ounce and a half* of tobacco. Thus every inconvenience which might arise from the melting of the solder, or smallness of quantity, is avoided. The pipe projecting from the lower part of it, is bored out of a solid piece of brass, as also those to which each extremity of the leathern tube is affixed, in order to prevent the same inconveniencies. The top or cover is also made of cast brass: from the upper extremity of which projects a neck about an inch and a half in length, the opening or bore of it is about half an inch in diameter. This top is fixed to the box by means of two nitches made on each side of a circular ridge or edge, admitting two ears that project from the upper part of the box, which by a circular motion lock upon



upon the rim; thus both parts become as firmly united as if they were one body, and yet when necessary may be separated with the utmost ease. The upper orifice of the top was made so large in order to admit a sufficient quantity of air to keep the tobacco lighted until the bellows can be applied.

The bellows, tho' portable, possess more power than any I have seen of the size. The snout or nozzle of them is accurately adapted to the neck of the cover, and is about an inch and a half or two inches long. The lower end of the snout is rounded and smooth, like the lower extremity of a glyster pipe; it is perforated like a cullendar, in order to prevent the ashes of the tobacco from rising into the bellows. This form also adapts them to other uses; they may be safely applied to the mouth or nostrils, without danger of wounding, or be introduced immediately into the *anus*; should any impediment arise to the use of tobacco; such as its deficiency, or the want of fire to light it. The bellows are fastened upon the cover or lid in a manner similar to the preceding; an ear projects from the upper part of the neck, and is admitted into a notch in a circular rim upon the nozzle. The pipe projecting from the lower extremity of the bowl, locks into the cross pipe to which the leathern tube is affixed, in the manner of a bayonet. By this kind of fastening the whole apparatus may be made ready in the space of a minute, and forms one compact body, free from the hazard of falling in pieces, and thus interrupting the operation; and yet either part may be taken off when occasion requires, with the utmost ease and expedition.



As the bowl will necessarily, during the operation, acquire a great degree of heat, it is inclosed in a thick case of wood, removeable at pleasure; this will secure the hand from injury during the whole of the process. We must also observe that if the fire should be extinguished, or the bowl require to be replenished with tobacco, the bellows by this peculiar manner of fastening, become as it were *one* with the cover, serving as a handle; so that they may both be turned round together, and disengaged from the body, and rejoined with equal ease, without being touched by the hand. Thus the great heat of the instrument will not incommode the operator in his business.

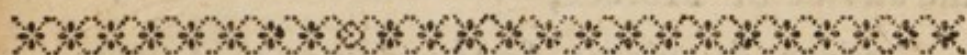
This instrument is not so expensive as those which work with a piftern, but it is from the truth and superiority of its workmanship considerably dearer than either the French or Dutch ones. But it is extremely permanent, nor can any part of it suffer injury by frequent usage, excepting the leathern pipe, which is common to them all. It is probable that the wooden case will not be in the least injured by the most frequent usage; if it should it may be supplied at a trifling expence.

The same ingenious artist has also constructed a machine so formed, as to contain the above fumigator, with every requisite for beginning an operation; such as brandy, salt, spirit of sal. ammoniac, tinder box, flint and steel, and cloths to rub the body. This is light and portable, being not much larger than a case of surgical instruments.



A magazine of this construction will be peculiarly serviceable ; I may say absolutely necessary in various parts of the country, where accidents most commonly happen by swimming and bathing in rivers at a distance from the town, and perhaps from any place where proper accommodation may be obtained. It might, by being slung across the shoulder of a man on horseback be very commodiously conveyed to the place, and the salutary process commenced ; and although the store is not large, it will always afford time sufficient to seek more ample supplies.

The Society at Paris have added in their magazines a large shirt and cap, made of the warmest flannel, with which they immediately clothe the body. These will doubtless be of the utmost consequence, and peculiarly requisite in cases I have been describing ; but they are omitted in this magazine, as their demensions would almost double the size and weight of the box, and render it extremely inconvenient for carriage. But a wallet or leathern pouch externally fixed to the box, and confined by a strap and buckle, would be much more commodious, and render the apparatus in all respects compleat.



Upon the first Institution of our Society, it was agreed, as soon as our Fund should permit, to present every Medical assistant, or any other gentleman, who hath distinguished himself by recovering a person apparently dead, with a silver medal,



dal, as a public testimony of his skill and humanity. The intention was, at once, to excite a laudable spirit of emulation, and to make some acknowledgment to gentlemen who have generously offered their assistance *gratis* ; many of whom have already been at very considerable trouble and expence, in their assiduous attempt to restore life. The liberality of the public have now enabled us to put that part of our Plan into execution. A Committee was appointed by the general body to take the subject into consideration ; to receive any Device that should be proposed to them, and decide upon their comparative merits. Among several elegant ones which were submitted to their judgment, that presented by the ingenious *Dr. Watkinson* was unanimously preferred, upon account of its simplicity, justness of the emblem, and elegance of the figure. The reader may see an impression of it taken from a copper-plate, in the frontispiece. The explanation we shall give in the Doctor's own words.

‘ Both antients and moderns have used flame as the emblem of life, and the extinction of it as the symbol of death.

In conformity to these ideas, and agreeably to the advice of Horace,

*Denique sit quidvis simplex duntaxat et unum,*

a boy is represented blowing an extinguished torch, with the hope, as the Legend imports, that a little spark may still remain.

This design seems strictly applicable to the case of one apparently dead, and also to that of the person who endeavours to recover him.

The



The reverse exhibits a civic wreath, which was the Roman reward for saving the life of a citizen, with a blank for the name of a person to whom the medal may be given : the inscription around the wreath expresses the merit which obtained it.



*State of ACCOUNTS of the Year 1775.*

	£.	s.	d.
At the Audit on 24th of Oct. 1775,			
the Treasurer had received, —	106	11	6
From that time to the Audit on 8th			
of Dec. 1775, he had received,	744	19	5½
From thence to the end of that			
Year, — — —	12	12	0
Total, —	864	2	11½

At the respective periods above-			
mention he had paid, — —	116	17	9
	459	9	10½
	6	2	0
Total, —	582	9	7½
Balance in hand, —	281	13	4

In which period the society has paid the reward in a CENTURY of Cases, THIRTY-SIX of which proved *successful*: So that they have been instrumental in preserving one third of the whole number of persons that have come within their cognizance,—some of them both *Body* and *Soul*!



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## A P P E N D I X:

*Containing the PLAN of the SOCIETY,  
and the METHODS of TREATMENT of  
DROWNED PERSONS.*

### T H E P L A N.

I. **T**HE Society has undertaken to publish, in as extensive a manner as possible, the proper methods of treating persons in those unfortunate circumstances.

II. To distribute a premium of *Two Guineas* among the first persons, not exceeding *four* in number, who will attempt to recover man, woman, or child, taken out of the water for dead, within thirty miles of the cities of *London* and *Westminster*; provided they had not been longer than *two hours* under the water; and provided the Assistants persevere in the use of the means recommended, and no others, unless under the direction of a regular practitioner, for the space of *two hours*. This reward to be given, though they may *not* prove successful.

III. To distribute in like manner *Four Guineas* wherever the patient has been restored to life.

N

IV.



IV. To give to any publican, or other, who shall admit the body into his house without delay, and furnish the necessary accommodations, the sum of *One Guinea*; and also to secure them from the charge of burial, in unsuccessful cases.

V. A certain number of Medical gentlemen, stationed near to the places where disasters by water are most frequent, have engaged to give their assistance *gratis*: these gentlemen are to have a fumigator, and other necessaries, always in readiness.

## METHODS OF TREATMENT.

I. In removing the body to a convenient place, great care must be taken that it be not bruised, nor shaken violently, nor roughly handled, nor carried over any one's shoulders with the head hanging downwards, nor rolled upon the ground, or over a barrel, nor lifted up the hills. For experience proves, that all these methods are injurious, and often destroy the small remains of life. The unfortunate object should be cautiously conveyed by two or more persons, or in a carriage upon straw, lying as on a bed with the head a little raised, and kept in as natural and easy a position as possible.

II. The body being well dried with a cloth, should be placed in a moderate degree of heat, but not too near a large fire. The windows or door of the room should be left open, and no more persons be admitted into it than those who are absolutely necessary, as the life of the patient greatly



greatly depends upon their having the benefit of a pure air. The warmth most promising of success is that of a bed, or blanket, properly warmed. Bottles of hot water should be laid at the bottoms of the feet, in the joints of the knees, and under the arm-pits; and a warming pan, moderately heated, or hot bricks wrapped in cloths, should be rubbed over the body, and particularly along the back. The natural and kindly warmth of a healthy person lying by the side of the body, has been found in many cases very efficacious. The shirt or clothes of an attendant, or the skin of a sheep fresh killed, may also be used with advantage. Should these accidents happen in the neighbourhood of a warm bath, brew-house, baker, glass-house, saltern, soap-boiler, or any fabrick where warm lees, ashes, embers, grains, sand, water, &c. are easily procured, it would be of the utmost service to place the body in any of these, moderated to a degree of heat, but very little exceeding that of a healthy person.

III. The subject being placed in one or other of these advantageous circumstances as speedily as possible, various stimulating methods should next be employed. The most efficacious are,—to blow with force into the lungs, by applying the mouth to that part of the patient, closing his nostrils with one hand, and gently expelling the air again by pressing the chest with the other, imitating the strong breathing of a healthy person: the medium of a handkerchief or cloth may be used to render the operation less indelicate. Whilst one assistant is daily employed in this operation, another should throw the smoke of tobacco up by the fundament into the bowels, by means of a



pipe or fumigator, such as are used in administering clysters: a pair of billows may be used until the others can be procured. A third attendant should, in the mean time, rub the belly, chest, back and arms, with a coarse cloth or flannel dipped in brandy, rum, gin, or with dry salt, so as not to rub off the skin: spirits of hartshorn, volatile salts, or any other stimulating substance, must also be applied to the nostrils, and rubbed upon the temples very frequently. The body should at intervals be shaken also, and varied in its position.

IV. If there be any signs of returning life, such as sighing, gasping, twitching, or any convulsive motions, beating of the heart, the return of the natural colour and warmth; opening a vein in the arm or neck may prove beneficial, but the quantity of blood taken away should not be large; nor should an *artery* ever be opened, as *profuse bleeding* has appeared prejudicial, and even destructive to the small remains of life. The throat should be tickled with a feather, in order to excite a propensity to vomit; and the nostrils also with a feather, snuff, or any other stimulant, so as to provoke sneezings. A tea-spoonful of warm water may be administered now and then, in order to learn whether the power of swallowing be returned: and if it be, a table-spoonful of warm wine, or brandy and water, may be given with advantage: but not before; as the liquor might get into the lungs before the power of swallowing returns. The other methods should be continued with vigour, until the patient be gradually restored.



We have been as circumstantial as possible in the above directions, that if one conveniency should be wanting, the attendants may not be at a loss for others. Where the patient has lain but a short time senseless, blowing into the lungs or bowels has been, in some cases, found sufficient: yet a *speedy* recovery is not to be expected in general. On the contrary, the above methods are to be continued with spirit for *two hours, or upwards*, although there should not be the least symptoms of returning life. The vulgar notion that a person will recover in a few minutes, or not at all; and the ignorant, foolish ridiculing, of those who are willing to persevere, as if they were attempting impossibilities, has most certainly caused the death of many who might otherwise have been saved.

Most of the above rules are happily of such a nature, that they may be begun *immediately*, and that by persons who are not acquainted with the Medical art; yet it is always adviseable to seek the assistance of some regular practitioner as soon as possible; not only as bleeding is proper, and frequently necessary; but as it is to be presumed that such a one will be more skilful and expert, and better able to vary the methods of procedure, as circumstances may require.

N. B. It is proper to observe, that these means of restoration are applicable to various other cases of apparent deaths; such as hanging, suffocation by damps and noxious vapours, whether proceeding from coal mines, the confined air of wells, cisterns, caves, or the Must of fermenting liquors;  
to

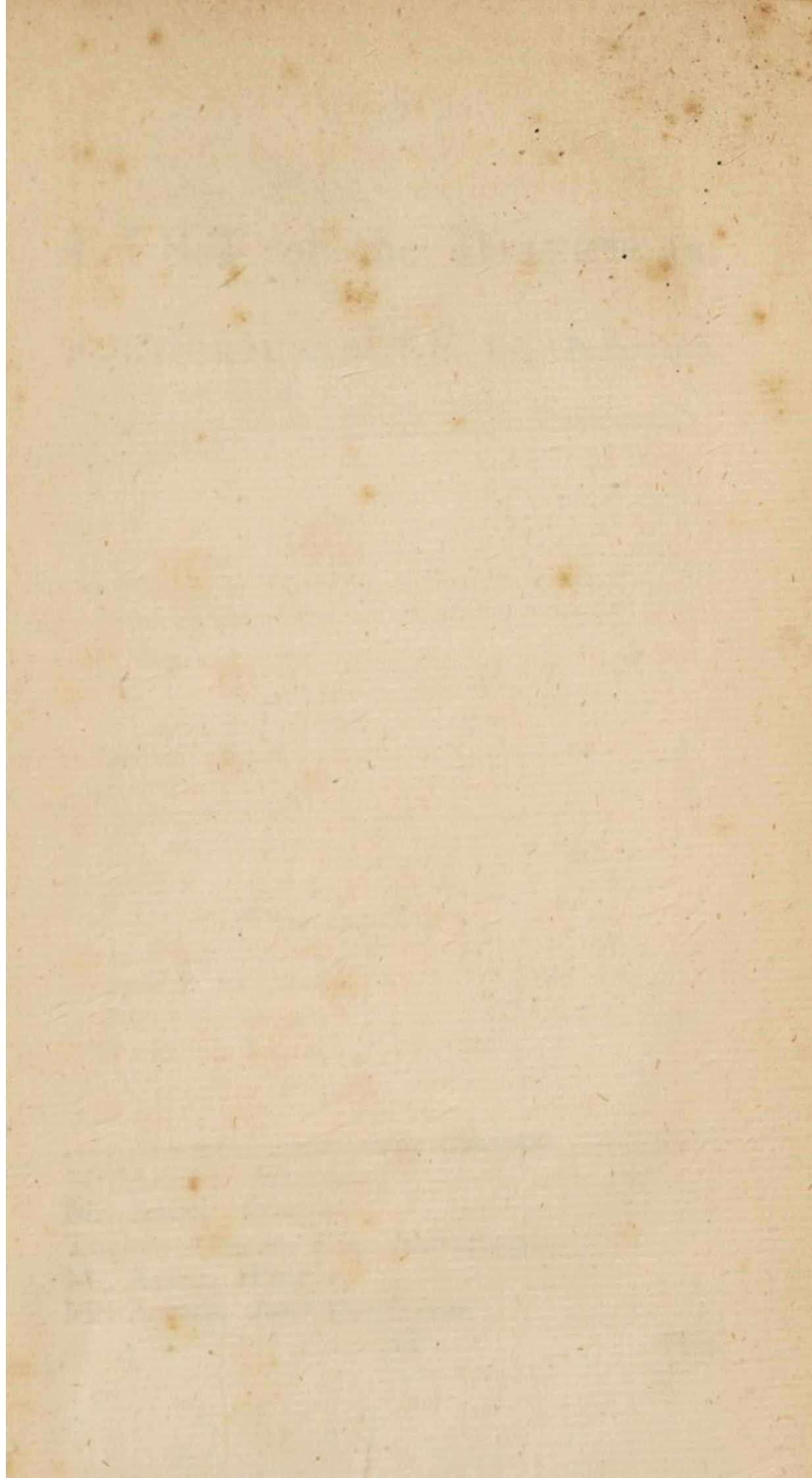


to those seized with apoplectic and convulsive fits,  
and also to the frozen.

Wherever any good has been produced by the  
means recommended, the person who has super-  
intended the cure, is desired to write a circum-  
stantial account of it to James Horsfall, Esq;  
Treasurer, Middle Temple.

T H E E N D.







The hurry of the Press has occasioned several ERRATA ;  
of which we beg the Reader to correct the following.

Page 3, l. 13, dele *will*.

53, l. 7, for *from*, read *in*.

l. 2 from the bottom, dele *any*.

61, l. 19, after *promotion*, read, *of the ends of the  
Society*.

79, l. 5, for the *colon*, substitute a *comma*.

80, l. 10, for *intestines* read *interstices*.

81, l. 27, dele *lighted*.

83, l. 27, for *cross*, read *brass*.

84, l. 12, after *without*, add *its*.

List, Letter D, r. \*\*\* Sir John Duntze.

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