

the method of treatment will be more universally known and adopted. I have used this method of fumigation, and found it most successful in cases where the wife has contracted syphilis from her husband, and *vice versâ*. The process of cure may with advantage be carried out simultaneously. This vaporiser will no doubt prove of great service in the sick-room, and in pulmonary complaints, for fumigating purposes, and for volatilising drugs previous to inhalation. The apparatus complete, as shown in the figure, may be obtained from Messrs. Baker, surgical instrument makers, High Holborn.—*Medical Times and Gazette*.

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## Medicine.

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### THE USES OF THE UVULA.

By Sir G. DUNCAN GIBB, Bart., M.D., L.L.D.

It may be taken as an axiom in the animal economy generally that nothing has been created without a purpose and a use, although to our comprehension the use of many things may seem inexplicable. Nevertheless, when carefully examined and studied, bodies of trivial importance, and seemingly existing for symmetry or harmonious unity, in the mesial line especially, are invested with a good deal of interest and really practical importance. Such a one is the uvula.

Of this body we hear but little, unless it becomes the source of trouble through elongation or its participation in some neighbouring disease—such as inflammation and swelling. It was probably better known and appreciated as a part of some importance amongst the ancient Greeks and Romans, from the terribly severe measures resorted to when it became the object of medical interference.

In all anatomical and physiological works the uvula comes in for a very small share of consideration, a few lines sufficing to describe it as a small rounded process or conical prolongation of the mucous membrane, forming a sort of cul-de-sac hanging perpendicularly from the middle of the inferior border of the soft palatè, the *velum pendulum palati*, or *velum molle*. Perhaps more could not be said; but we look into its *composition*, its *situation*, its *relations* as a muscular body to neighbouring muscles of high importance, and its true functional uses—which have never yet been wholly understood,—we do not find it meets with the consideration it really merits.