

THE  
SANITARY JOURNAL,  
DEVOTED TO  
PUBLIC HEALTH.

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VOL. I.]

NOVEMBER 1874.

[No. 3.

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Original Communications.

CIRCUMSPECTIVE REVIEW OF HYGIENE.

“Per varios usus artem experientia fecit  
Exemplo monstrante viam.”

At the conclusion of an article on the progressive advance of Hygiene I alluded to the good work in the cause by Howard, Lady Mary Wortly Montague, and Jenner; and instanced some of the reforms accomplished by the former philanthropist. Before remarking on the labors of Lady Montague in the cause of suffering humanity, I will briefly refer to the history, as far as it is known, of Small Pox, the fearful scourge of past ages, which this brilliant and accomplished woman endeavoured to mitigate by the introduction of inoculation. It is a subject of dispute whether this disease was known to the Ancients, or whether it has originated at a comparatively recent date. Those who contend for its antiquity refer us to the account of the plague of Athens, by Thucydides, which, they say, is as accurate a description of the leading symptoms of variolæ as could possibly be expected from any historian who is not a physician. Those who hold the opposite opinion call in etymology to their aid; the word *pock* or *pox*, they say, is of Saxon origin, and signifies a bag or pouch; the epithet *small* in England, and *petite* in France, were added in the fifteenth century. The first author who