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# THE UNFETTERED CANADIAN.

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## ROBINSON'S LECTURES.

### LECTURE V.

MEDICINE, AS IT IS TAUGHT IN THE SCHOOLS.

WE must survey the whole extent of a science, in order to understand the value and relation of its integral parts. When we know the extent of an evil, we are more resigned to our lot, than while the subject remains doubtful. The mind winds up her power to the contest or the endurance, and displays an extent of energy and resolution, which the man, before, never even dreamt that he possessed. And so it is with science; when we have surveyed its outline and mighty range, we are then prepared to meet its most threatening aspect, and grapple with its formidable strength. There is a fortitude of soul, distinct from that physical fortitude which braced the Nemean lion's nerve; and I am persuaded that it is from the lack of the former, that many men are deterred from encountering the difficulties of science, and facing that imposing front, that would soften into a placid smile before the energy of perseverance. I have known a boy to weep, and abandon school forever, because he could not solve a single problem, though formerly he had been considered one of the smartest in his class.

I shall now hasten to give you a brief view of the several parts of medical science, as it is taught in the schools, and embraced by the literati of that profession.

The *Institutes of Medicine* are divided into *physiology, pathology and therapeutics*.

1st. *Physiology*\* comprehends the laws and functions of the human body, in its healthy state.

\* Derived from *phusis*—nature, &c. *logos* discourse.

2d. *Pathology*† describes the *remote, predisposing, exciting* and *proximate* causes of disease.

3d. *Therapeutics*‡ contain an account of the nature and operation of medicines, in the cure of disease. To these divisions we may add,

4th. The *Clinical Lectures*; which comprehend the method of visiting and examining sick people, and the knowledge to be derived from attending the bed of sickness. A register kept of the diseases and remedies of *Clinical patients*, forms an item in this part of the study.

I. *Chemistry*. The analyzing of substances, to discover their nature and composition.

II. *Materia Medica*. This study comprises the whole volume and extent of the *number, name, nature and use* of medicines, *mineral, vegetable and animal*.

III. *Pharmacy*. To know the aspect and admixture, and chemical qualities of the various medicines, the student must apply to the *Apothecary's art*; or study under a practising physician, who prepares his own medicines.

IV. *Botany*. The science of the vegetable kingdom; which is the foundation of one part of the *materia medica*. To know the *class, and family, and name* of plants, and their *medical virtues*, is of high importance.

V. *Natural History*, is another part of the science, intimately connected with the former, and affording so many facts and illustrations, that no eminent physician will neglect to acquire it. It is delightful to the intellect, and useful in the department of medicine.

VI. *Anatomy*, which is the science of organization, as *physiology* is the science of life; and is the foundation of *Surgery*, and the most

† *Pathos, disease*, and *logos*.

‡ *Therapeuo, to cure*.

important item in the pathological department, must be carefully studied.

VII. *Surgery*, which is the practical part of *Anatomy*, requires great attention; a firm hand, a fixed eye, and determined soul, are absolutely necessary in the manual operations of surgery. For want of these, I saw a patient perish under the hands of one of the most skillful surgeons. His nerves trembled, his hand shook, and he was forced to desist in the midst of his operation. The operation was upon the windpipe, to extract a substance that had entered. The patient expired. And when we add to all these, the science of

VIII. *Obstetrics*, you will perceive that the medical profession commands a most extensive and boundless field. No idler can be, or ought to be, admitted in this laborious vineyard. For it is no matter, in the language of Dr. Rush, whether acting under the cover of a diploma, or the pompous folly of an advertisement; if they are idle, they are equally empirics, and are only calculated for incomparable mischief.

A few remarks on these different parts of medicine, shall close this lecture.

The investigations of physic are not only peculiarly interesting to the physician, but they are eminently so to all mankind. For an acquaintance with the nature of human life and health, and their various states and affections, is undoubtedly of greater moment and importance to us all, than any other natural subject. The religion of the Bible is supernatural. For, although by this knowledge, men may not become adepts in the art of healing, they may yet guard and defend themselves from much misery and disease.

There is in all living animals, a principle, the effects of which are very visible and obvious to all men. During its presence there is life; in its absence, death. This we denominate vitality, or the living principle. It is infused by the Supreme Being, and is the work of his hands.

He is the Father of Spirits.

It is neither the *dura mater* of Bagliva, nor the *medulla* of Haller; nor the *nervous fluid* of Hoffman; nor the *ensorium* of Darwin; nor the *excitability* of Brown; nor, the *excitability*,

and *sensibility*, and *stimuli* of Rush; no! nor the *heat* of Thomson; but the living spirit which is made and implanted in the breast by the Almighty. All these that I have enumerated, and ten times as many more, that I might enumerate, are the mere effects of the vital principle, which have been so egregiously mistaken for the principle itself. It is very easy to distinguish a living dog from a dead lion. The most stupid can perceive this. And yet the most learned cannot explain the intimate nature of that living principle, which has forsaken the one, and animates the other.

But although we are equally ignorant of the principle of life, as we are of the principle of gravity, yet their effects are abundantly obvious to reason and experience. And when we have collected and digested the various modes and operations and phenomena, which life exhibits, under all the aspects of health and disease, by careful observation, experience and reason, the sum total may be called the philosophy of life.

Animal life, as it operates on the human body in health and disease, has been considered the primary and grand object of the attention of the physician. And some of its most obvious properties are sensibility, irritability and excitability. These are the effects of vitality, which have been mistaken for vitality itself.

Some physicians have supposed that the vital principle may lie dormant in a quiescent state, like latent heat, and afterwards be made to show itself, like heat, by the application of stimuli. But the reasoning is fallacious; it is merely analogical, drawn from a material subject, *heat*, to prove the phenomena of an immaterial subject, the *spirit* of life. It would be better reason, to attempt to prove that the spirit is latent, when the body is dead, because we cannot perceive its effects, than to attempt to establish from latent heat, a latent state of mind. For if in fainting, or catalepsy, it can be established that the spirit is merely latent, it may as well be latent in the grave to the day of judgment; for in the argument respecting an immaterial substance, whose very essential quality is activity, and without which it could not be; the latency of one hour, or one hundred thousand millions, could not at all change the con-

ditions of the question; nor relieve the disquiet from the direful consequences of making the soul a material substance.

I know some physicians distinguish between the rational soul and the vital principle of animal life. But the distinction, is perhaps, not clearly understood. There is in animals something far superior to mere vitality. A plant has vitality, its life and death. And Doctor Brown's theory was applied, with great success, to plants, and supported them with superior energy and vigor, in the high latitude of Scotland. But in animals, besides vitality, we perceive *thought, reason, memory, design* and *perseverance*, with a great number of the noble passions which animate man; *love, gratitude, affection, friendship, grief* and *bitter wo*, even to the destruction of life.

A very eminent and pious philosopher, considered these phenomena, as the operation and agency of God, moving and directing his own universe to the final issue and grand results of the eternal judgment. This, by the way, is a very old opinion, and has been beautifully embodied by the poet, in these celebrated lines;

"All are but parts of one stupendous whole,  
Whose body, *nature* is and God the soul;  
That, chang'd through all, and yet in all the same,  
Great in the earth as in the ethereal frame;  
Lives in the sun, refreshes in the breeze,  
Glow's in the stars, and blossoms in the trees;  
Lives through all *life*, extends through all extent,  
Spreads undivided, operates unspent;  
Breathes in our soul, informs our mortal part,  
As full, as perfect, in a hair as heart;  
As full as perfect, in vile man that mourns,  
As the rapt seraph that adores and burns,  
To him no high, no low, no great, no small;  
He fills, he bounds, connects, and equals all!"

This is not the doctrine of Spinoza who made God the *soul* of the world; but the pious doctrine of a universal providence, and the omnipresence of the Deity in the government of the world. Look at the smallest plant or insect, you behold him there, in his matchless wisdom and sustaining power, forming the mechanism and moving the vitality of a creature so small and inconsiderable, and apparently worthless in the great sum of things. The Psalmist took

a most striking and comprehensive view of this sublime and glorious theme. "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there! If I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there!! If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me, even the *night* shall be light round about me!"

This was the true sentiment and doctrine of the ancient philosophers, the presence and superintendence of the Deity every where. They were not Atheists, although the miserable Spinoza wrested their doctrine to his own malignant and deadly purpose. But he might well do that, when he turned the Jewish Scripture to the same account, for he was a Jew, and deeply read in the Old Testament. But the *wasp* can extract poison from the flower: So did his perverted *soul* draw death from the wells of salvation!

As the doctrine of *life* and *health* cannot be known by reasoning *a priori*, but must be deducted from experience and observation, some very eminent men have thought that its laws and principles should be divided in a different manner from that of the scholastic mode: That so many divisions of the theory of life and disease, which have prevailed since the days of Galen, have not only embarrassed but bewildered the subject; and that the laws and principles, therefore, should be divided in a different manner; 1st, that the human blood is the recipient and vehicle of heat and life to the several parts; 2d, from many experiments *pure air* appears to be the pabulum of irritability; for the absence of *pure air* destroys life sooner than the defect of any other *natural substance*; 3d, the next in importance to the animal economy, seems to be the *nervous fluid*, or the medulla of the brain and *spinal marrow*; for they have all the same nature and origin; 4th, sensibility, residing in the organ of sense, connecting the mind with the external world.

The term *Physianthropy*, has been devised for the purpose of expressing, in one word, the

healthy, the morbid, and the curative nature of the vital actions.

*Pathology* has been also subdivided into *Semiology*, or the doctrine of symptoms; and *Nosology* for the names and divisions of diseases into their *genera* and species; a most tedious and terrible array, for the head of the poor disciple of Esculapius. Dr. Rush has here great merit in banishing nosology from the walks of medicine. You have only to imagine the dilemma of the practitioner, looking, in silence, on his suffering patient, until the disease would develop itself, that he might understand its nature; for this was necessary before he could prescribe. Dr. Rush, laid at once, his finger on the pulse, and directed, without delay, *depletion* or *stimuli*. This short and sudden process, gave opportunity of routing the enemy, (as the doctor used to say) before he had time to entrench himself in the human vitals!

*Therapeutics* do very well to express the curative indications. But it has been often suggested, that the above terms have been considered too much as separate subjects of pursuit, and independent of each other; and are used often without due consideration, in the antiquated and *scholastic* manner.

All these, *Pathology*, *Semiology*, *Nosology*, *Therapeutics*, depend on Physiology, as it depends on Anatomy. For no principle or mode of action of the human body, in health or in disease, can be either learned or understood without an accurate acquaintance with physiology.

Medicines, says Dr. Hoffman, contain no inherent principles of action in themselves. They do not act on the dead body, said Hippocrates, and their action on the living body depends on the state in which they find it; whether torpid or irritable, strong or weak, and it is the same with all parts of regimen, food, drink, air, exercise or any other.

This is sound philosophy, and has been illustrated by Dr. Cullen, on sensibility and irritability. *Sensibility*, when often excited becomes dull and loses its force: thus a dose of opium, if continued a few days, must be in-

creased, or it will have no effect. On the contrary, *irritability* augments by being excited; if an emetic be repeated for several days, the dose must be diminished; the irritation of the stomach will not bear the original quantity. It must be diminished daily.

*Medical* substances may be understood perfectly in their chemical properties, as they are by some apothecaries, and yet we may be perfectly ignorant of them in their physical operations on the human body. This distinction will show that Dr. Thomson, without a *knowledge* of chemistry or botany, may know the physical operation of his medicines, better than the most profound chemist. For this knowledge must be learned by experience, and not in the dust, and toil, and retirement of the schools. Hippocrates has given us the clue; medicines affect the body according to the state in which they find it. The state or condition of the body, and the operation of the medicine on that state we commonly learn, as Thomson learned it, by experience.

Dr. Brown, by reducing all diseases into two classes, *sthenic* and *asthenic*, ascertained, at once, to which class the complaint belonged, on visiting his patient, and proceeded accordingly to remove the debility.

Dr. Rush, by making disease a unit, caused by morbid excitement, and its *state* or condition to be ascertained by the pulse, would decide with equal facility, on the mode of cure; equalize the excitement.

Dr. Thomson, by making disease the general effect of one general cause, *obstruction*, has fixed his remedy, like the others. Remove the *obstruction*, is his cure; Remove the *debility*, was Dr. Brown's cure; Remove the *morbid excitement*, was Dr. Rush's cure; and all by different stimulants. The *debility* was removed by diffused stimulants: The *morbid excitement* by diffusive stimulants: The *obstruction*, by diffusive stimulants.

These gentlemen, though they have travelled on far diverging paths, yet, at the end of their journey they have almost met in single point. They began their career together about the end of the last century; and before the middle of

the present, it is impossible to say what may be the estimation in which they shall be held by the world; or the cures effected by their discoveries.

I am not one of those who think wisdom is to be obtained by idleness, or gained by chance; and yet I know that some of the most valuable discoveries in the world have been made in obscurity, and have sprung as it were, from fortuitous, not that I believe that there is any thing absolutely fortuitous, but to humble the pride of man, who is too apt to lean on the might of his own arm, and ascribe to himself the merit of great discoveries. The Deity concedes them to the humble and illiterate, while they are withheld from the proud aspiring *sciolist*, or doctor of the schools.

Let those who despise Dr. Thomson and his discoveries, because he is, or was, poor and unlearned, remember the words of him, who knew the heart of man, and has left us an admonition that should sink us into the very dust. "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hidden these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes."

#### SPEECH OF MR. SMART,

*In the Senate of Maine, in favor of repealing the law restricting Thomsonian practitioners.*

Inasmuch as I have been one of the joint select committee that had under consideration the petitions of about 2000 persons praying for the repeal of the law regulating the practice of physic and surgery, I feel it my duty to submit a few remarks for the consideration of gentlemen at the board, who I hope will give me their candid attention.

The law which the petitioners pray may be repealed was never, I believe, demanded by the people. The opinion is very prevalent that it does not, in the least, prevent quackery; but it stigmatizes some of our most meritorious and worthy citizens—it shields and protects one class of men, however incapacitated many of them may be to perform medical duties, while another class, many of which it is proved

are the best practitioners, are debarred from reaping the benefits of their honest industry. This, the majority of the committee believed to be wrong—they believed that the community would be safer without the law, and that it was just and proper that men and systems should stand or fall by their own merits.

I have heard quackery denounced by gentlemen at the board, and can truly say that my heart responds to their words—nothing, I will agree, is more odious than quackery.

Although the talent of the Senate has been taxed to paint its horrors in glowing colors, I believe the story has not half been told. I have heard of "Thomsonian quacks." I doubt not that many individuals calling themselves Thomsonian doctors are impostors and quacks. I once believed that all who pretended to skill as such were so—my physician told me so—the statutes told me so, and by some strange hallucination I believed that the law was *just and equal!*—Hence, I looked upon all Thomsonian practitioners as quacks—they must be so, or there was fault in the laws. But I at length was led to believe it *possible* that men were doing wrong to suffer themselves to be blinded by prejudice, and I determined to make a free and unprejudiced enquiry—to watch all cases that came within my inspection, and ascertain, if possible, whether the Thomsonian practitioners were entitled to support. The result convinced me that their labors were attended with *better* success than the legalized physicians; and public opinion will bear me out in saying that although a few quacks have imposed upon the community, yet there are many skilful, valuable Thomsonian physicians, who have done much to alleviate the sufferings of their fellow men. I have said that the whole story had not been told about *quackery*—it is not pleasant to tell it—it is disgusting—it will not suit the arguments of gentlemen to do so. Permit me to say that it is within the knowledge of all, that many go through the "regular course" of study, as it is called, get a diploma, and set up for themselves, who are the *veriest quacks in the world*—legalized quacks—worse than RUM-SELLERS, for the law but *suffers* the latter, while it *sanctions* the

former. The reason is obvious—they have no genius—no industry. Facts, I doubt not, will show that some of these members of the “Medical Faculty” have killed more human beings than Cæsar or Bonaparte, and yet are sanctioned by the law, and extravagantly paid for their work of death. I am thankful that public opinion is fast changing on this subject, and trust the day will soon arrive when the antidote administered to counteract the influence of the pestilence will not be worse than the bane.

The people will no longer bear dictation in these matters—the public voice is now proclaiming in language not to be misunderstood, that it will be the judge of its own wants—it will select its own servants, whether they be legislators, divines, or physicians—it will rule that laws shall give equal protection to all—that the road to distinction shall be open to all—that there shall be no bar to competition between two classes of physicians, but that each individual shall stand or fall on his own merits—that he who pretends to superior attainments or endowments, shall support his claims, not by appealing to his lineage or associations, but by what he accomplishes. If a man employs another as a physician, the presumption is that he has confidence in his ability—life is sweet, and is the first object he would protect. What reason is there, then, that the man whom he selects shall not receive protection from the laws, that he may be compensated for his services? Sir, no honorable man would avail himself of a chance of depriving a creditor of his pay, and shall the legislature of the state of Maine afford facilities to knaves, that a man of common honesty will scorn to use?

If merit is to be the test of this question, the Thomsonians will bear comparison with the legalized physicians. In proportion to their numbers they are as skilful; and I challenge proof to the contrary. No gentlemen at the board would hazard his reputation by a contradiction. This law I believe to be opposed to your state constitution, which declares that all men are born *equally* free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and LIBERTY. But the

present law, instead of defending *liberty*, tends to *restrict* men in the defence of life, and force them to gulp down calomel under the direction of legalized quacks!

Extraordinary efforts have been made throughout the union to put down the Thomsonian practitioners by arbitrary laws and libellous denunciation. But those who pursue this course mistake very much—they forget that the people “who rarely deal unjustly” judge impartially in the case—and their decision is in favor of a repeal—this is evinced by their petitions. In many states they have obtained a repeal of similar laws, and in some states of the Union the practice of physicians who dispense with the use of mineral poisons, is more extensive than the other; and so far from being “quacks,” they are allowed to have made great improvements in the science of medicine. These practitioners have done much to strip the former practice of its mystification and jugglery, and although the skilful and meritorious of the legalized class may not be injured by their competitions, yet the *quacks* in the ranks of the “regulars” are exposed and brought down.

But abolish the present law, and you raise the standard of medical practice—the Thomsonian will be encouraged, by having an open field for his labors, to applying himself to improvement; and the quack, now legalized, will either be obliged to qualify himself to support his pretensions, or withdraw from a profession he disgraces.

I have before stated that I was no friend of quacks. On the contrary, I heartily despise them, and am as willing as any body to ferret out the evil of quackery; but, my way of doing it is a little different from that of the learned faculty—I will not say *people*, for they never demanded the present law. The medical faculty had tried in vain to draw the line of distinction between that which was quackery and that which was not. Even gentlemen physicians at this board, will not deny that many who receive diplomas are but quacks, while many skilful physicians are among those that the law term impostors. It seems from this that their way of doing business is not success-

ful—the line is not drawn by the law. My way is, to permit medical practitioners to be sustained by merit alone, and the line between merit and demerit will soon be drawn.

Why not then abolish a law which has failed to answer the ends for which it was created; a law for the repeal of which 2000 petitioners have prayed, many of whom are the first citizens of the state; a law arbitrary and unjust—a law which stigmatizes some of our most valuable citizens—that prescribes a particular path that all must travel in, thus making a machine of the mind and circumscribing genius; a law which will well compare with the Chinese customs, compelling generation after generation to perpetuate the practices and follies of past ages!

[The law is repealed.]

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### LOBELIA.

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Professor Tulley, of Yale College, who has had more than twenty years' practice and experience with lobelia, gives his decided opinion in favor of its use as a common remedial agent, and says that all that has ever been said against it is "mere stuff and closet speculation, not containing a *single truth*." Prof. McLellan says, "I have used lobelia and find it to be a useful article in the removal of disease." Prof. Waterhouse, of Harvard University, and the celebrated Dr. Mitchell give their full assent to the entire safety and great utility of lobelia as a common family medicine. Now, when contrasted with the opinions of these great men, who have both a scientific and practical knowledge of lobelia, how utterly beneath contempt are the sayings and opinions of that host of three-penny medical tyros and ignoramuses who condemn lobelia without knowing any thing about it, either practically or from books.

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### LETTER FROM PROFESSOR TULLEY.

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The subjoined letter from the pen of Professor Tulley, lecturer on Materia Medica and

Pharmacy in Yale College, was written by that eminent medical philosopher to Dr. H. Lee, of Middletown, Ct., in reply to a letter which Dr. Lee wrote, inquiring Prof. Tulley's opinion of the Lobelia *Inflata* as a medicine; and we recommend to such of our readers, whether friends or foes, as have any conscientious scruples relative to the entire safety and great efficacy of the Lobelia *Inflata* as a remedial agent, to give this letter a careful and critical examination, for it is from the pen of one of the first medical gentlemen of the age, who is by no means a Thomsonian.

[From the Botanico-Medical Recorder.]

NEW-HAVEN, Ct., Thursday,  
22d March, 1838. }

DEAR SIR:—Your letter of March 5th reached New-Haven after my departure for Albany, on an excursion from which I returned only yesterday. This fact I trust will excuse the delay in my reply.

I have no sort of knowledge of the newspaper notice which you mentioned, never having seen it, nor even heard of it before. It is true, however, that I have stated, in my public instructions, that lobelia inflata is entirely destitute of any narcotic or even cathartic powers. This is, however, a negative position, which is incapable of positive proof. If I were to assert that *sinchona* is not narcotic, I could not prove it positively. All I could say would be, that for 27 years I have been in the habit of using it, in large quantities and small, and of witnessing its use by others—without a single indication of any narcotic operation. Just so it is with regard to lobelia inflata. I have now been in the habit of employing this article for 27 years, and of witnessing its employment by others for the same length of time, and in large quantities, and for a long period, without the least trace of any narcotic effect. I have used the very best officinal tincture in the quantity of three fluid ounces in 24 hours, and for four and seven days in succession; and I have likewise given three large table spoonfuls of it within half an hour, without the least indication of any narcotic operation. I have



likewise given it in substance and in other forms, and still without any degree of this operation. I have superintended experiments with it, made by young men, and always with the same results.

I have known four or five tobacco-pipesful of it smoked in immediate succession, and without any narcosis; and I have also known it given by enema, and with the same result. In addition to this, no species of the genus *lobelia*, nor of the order *lobeliaeae*, is known to possess a particle of narcotic power. Dr. Bigelow, of Boston, was the first who ascribed narcotic powers to this agent; and this he first did in 1817, and not from his own observations, but from the general fact in connexion with its nauseating and emetic operation, it sometimes produces vertigo and nervous tremours: and that when it nauseates powerfully without vomiting, and when it vomits excessively, it produces considerable prostration. After Dr. Bigelow first pronounced it narcotic, subsequent writers very speedily converted 'something as black as a crow into three black crows;' and Dr. Ansel U. Ives, of New-York, at last pronounced *lobelia inflata* to be a 'deadly narcotic,' and that its action as an emetic 'is secondary, or symptomatic of the primary impression upon the brain, like that caused by tobacco and other narcotic poisons.' But all this is mere stuff and closet speculation, and does not contain a single truth. There is no probability that Dr. Ansel U. Ives ever used the article in his life.

The symptoms from which Dr. Bigelow inferred its narcotic power, are produced by the tartrate of antimony and potasso, and quite as often by *ipecacuanha*, as by *lobelia inflata*; and I have not only witnessed them from seasickness and sick-headache, but I have very often experienced them in my own person from these two affections.

As to the cathartic power of this article, I have the same ground for a negative decision, as in regard to its narcotic power, with one exception only, viz. some other species of the genus are unquestionably cathartic. I have never been able to produce a laxative or even *ecoproitic*

effect with it; but I have occasionally (though not often) known it prove *coprostatic* [costive.]

As an emetic, I am satisfied that it is as kind and as destitute of all hazard, as the officinal *ipecacuanha*, though perhaps it may be somewhat more efficient; I have occasionally known it produce powerful nausea without vomiting, and with considerable prostration; but not by any means as often as I have known *ipecacuanha* do this. I have a considerable number of professional friends who use it more than any other emetic, and, on the whole, consider it one of the very best agents of this class in the whole materia medica, for a large number of cases of frequent occurrence.

But *lobelia inflata* possesses another power of much more value than its emetic power, and of much more value than would be in its narcotic power, if it possessed any. There is not, however, space in this sheet to treat of it; I can only say, that it is the exertion of this power, when *lobelia inflata* is used as an emetic, that gives it a superiority over all the emetics in common use, for the treatment of certain diseases.

The officinal tincture, carefully prepared, is the pharmaceutic form which I prefer. As an emetic, a tablespoonful is a medium dose for an adult of ordinary susceptibility. This quantity, however, will frequently fail of operating, if the patient is quietly in bed, in which case, it may be necessary to repeat this dose after an interim of 15 minutes. If the patient is up, and moving about, a tablespoonful will usually vomit in ordinary cases. But there are instances in which a dessert-spoonful is a sufficient emetic dose.

I am confident (the old women's stories in the books to the contrary notwithstanding,) that *lobelia inflata* is a valuable, a safe, and a sufficiently gentle article of medicine; and I think the time will come, when it will be much better appreciated. Little, however, of its value can be specified within the compass of a single sheet of paper.

Be pleased to excuse the hurry and seeming carelessness of the preceding, for which I must

plead the fatigue and indisposition of a very tedious journey.

I remain yours, sir, with much respect,  
WILLIAM TULLEY.

Dr. H. Lee, Middletown, Ct.

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**LETTER FROM PROFESSOR  
WATERHOUSE.\***

NO. II.

CAMBRIDGE, Dec. 8, 1835.

To Samuel Thomson, Botanic Practitioner of Medicine.

Dear Sir:—To the questions put to me yesterday I answer, that I remain firm in the opinion that you were the discoverer of the remarkable medical virtues of the *Lobelia Inflata*, as a safe emetic, and other rare qualities in effectually detesting the stomach and intestines of foul and morbid matter—a prime object in the removal of all disorders consequent upon imperfect digestion. The efficacy and safety of this vegetable I have had ample and repeated proofs of in a number of cases, and in my own person, and have reason to value it to any article in our *Materia Medica*.

That you yourself are the originator of this compound process, very extensively known under the title of the *Thomsonian Practice or System*, I have no doubt whatever. I mean the uniting the warm bath, with the thorough cleansing of the whole alimentary canal. I value and recommend it on this account. It effects in three or four days, what we regular physicians used to occupy as many weeks to accomplish. As a public teacher of the practice of physic, I have told my pupils for nearly half a century past, that when they have learned to restore the long impaired organs of digestion to their pristine or natural state,

\* Dr. Thomson wrote a letter to Dr. Waterhouse requesting him to give his decided opinion of the Botanic system, and this letter was written by Dr. Waterhouse in reply to it, and the reader by a careful examination of the Doctor's letter, will be able to ascertain fully the opinion of this great medical philosopher relative to the Thomsonian system.

they acquired two-thirds of their profession; and on that simple principle is based the whole doctrine of my printed lecture on the pernicious effects of *smoking cigars*, and the inordinate use of ardent spirits.

Furthermore: the regular physician finds it necessary sometimes to make a *great change* in the human frame, or to make a very strong *counter irritation*, so as to obliterate the *morbid* or *destructive* one. This used to be done by *quicksilver*, that is *mercury* in the various preparations; when pushed to a *salivation* it dilapidates, if we may so speak, or dissolves the human fluids, all of which are made up of globules, or round particles, on the *arasis* of which depends the vital integrity of our bodies, and of course our health and vigor. After the hazardous process of *salivation*, the physician may, perhaps, be able to say—*now I have so far* changed the morbid state of the patient, that his disease is conquered, and entirely overcome by the powerful operation or the *mercury*. But then in what condition does he find the sufferer? His teeth are loosened, his joints are weakened, his healthy countenance is impaired, his voice is more feeble, and he is more susceptible of cold, and a damp state of the weather. His original disorder is to be sure, overcome, but it is paying a great price for it. Secret history conceals from public notice innumerable victims of this sort.

Now, my sagacious, industrious, and much respected EMPIRIC, or ECLECTIC, if you like the latter term better, let us come to the point you seem to aim at, namely my opinion on the whole.

I consider a man laboring under a chronic disease of some time standing, who has passed through one, two, or three, (as the case may be) of your processes of the *lobelia emetic*, to be as much altered as the man who has gone through the very disagreeable and dangerous operation of mercurial salivation; and if so your discovery is highly valuable, and on this account it was that I spoke freely and strongly in commendation of the new practice, and was not afraid nor ashamed to hail you as a REFORMER, and to give you full credit, and in this view, I have always considered you as

standing on higher ground than *Paracelsus*, who was born 1493.

As to the point of your *originality*, I will sum it up in as few words as I possibly can—I regard you as the *Tree*, the root and trunk, of the *Lobelia* and vapour bath system, conjoined; its limbs your immediate agents, and its leaves and fruit, the purchasers of the rights and privileges—all deriving their value from the *Tree* of knowledge, and having said this, I have performed a grateful office, and I may add, duty, to all around me, and remain, and hope ever to remain,

Your steady friend,  
BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.

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**LETTER FROM PROFESSOR  
WATERHOUSE.**

NO. IV.

To Samuel L. Mitchell, M. D., LL. D., of the city of  
New-York.

CAMBRIDGE, Dec. 19th, 1835.

My dear Sir:—Dr. Samuel Thomson, who has the honor of introducing the valuable *Lobelia* into use, and fully proved its efficacy and safety, will deliver you this. He has cured and relieved many disorders which others could not, without being a regular diplommatized physician, and dared to be a republican in a hot-bed of federalism; for which he has been shamefully ill-treated, even to persecution.

I have aided and assisted Dr. Thomson from a firm belief that his novel practice has been beneficial to numbers, and that it may be placed among improvements. If he be a quack, he is a quack *sui generis*, for he proclaims his mode and means. Had John Hunter, whom I well knew, been born and bred where Samuel Thomson was, he would have been just such another man; and had S. T. been thrown into the same society and associations as J. H. he would, in my opinion, have been his equal, with probably a wider range of thought; both are men of talents and originality of thought.

I am, indeed, so disgusted with learned quackery, that I take some interest in honest, humane and strong-minded empiricism; for it has done more for our art in all ages and in all countries, than all the universities since the time of Charlemagne. Where, for goodness-sake, did Hippocrates study?—air, earth, and water—man, and his kindred—vegetable; disease and death, and all casualties and concomitants of humanity, were the pages he studied—every thing that surrounds and nourishes us, were the objects of his attention and study. In a word, he read diligently and sagaciously, *the great book of nature*, as Thomson has, instead of the little books of man.

How came your legislature to pass so unconstitutional an act as that called the '*anti-quack law*'? such as the parliament of England would hardly have ventured on; for, *who will define quackery*? Were I sufficiently acquainted with your excellent governor Clinton, I would write to him on the subject. You New-Yorkers are half a century behind us in *theological science*, and your quack bill looks as if you halted also in physie.

By what I have seen and learnt of Dr. Thomson, I wish him success, and the notice of the eminent and the liberal in his profession; and with these views I give him this rapidly written letter to you, and am with a high degree of esteem and respect, his steady friend.

BENJ. WATERHOUSE.

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**THE TESTIMONY OF DR. DON-  
ALDSON,**

A SCOTCH PHYSICIAN OF HIGH REPUTE.

I was educated in the Gregorian doctrines of the Edinburgh school of Medicine; I was taught the theory of medicine as delivered in his *Conspectus*, and was exercised in the Cullenian discipline, divested of all his hypothetical errors of spasm and atony of the extremities of arteries. I learned all the branches of the medical science under the distinguished and erudite professors of the most celebrated uni-

versity and school of medicine in the world. I always embraced plausible truths, and rejected visible errors, in theory and practice; I admitted doubtful hypotheses to have no place in my mind, to influence my future practice. Even during my discipleship, I thought for myself, and digested their instructions with an unfettered and independent judgment and reasoning, and I had no sooner completed my studies of the theoretical and practical science of medicine, and other branches of learning, in the college of Edinburgh, than I repaired to the schools of London, so famous for anatomy and physiology.

I could not produce an immediate crisis in fevers, nor remove the agonies of fluxes; they still continued to return, or to torture my patients, in defiance of all the remedies that have been recommended by Drs. Blane, Lind, Clarke, Chisholm, Cullen, Thomas, Phillip, Hoffman, Børhaave, Brown, Ferriar, Fordyce, Currie, Darwin, Jackson, Wright, Fowler, Trotter, Haygarth, Heberden, Lieutaud, Huxham, Russell, Macgregor, Falconer, Desgenettes, Milne, Dewar, Bisset, Warren, Pringle, Buchan, Churchill, Friend, Mead, &c. who are supposed to have delivered the sentiments of the medical schools in their days. Neither were the remedies employed by the most noted of the ancients, as Hippocrates, Celsus, Galenus, Asclepiades, &c. &c. more successful in curing febrile distempers.

From that day till the present, I never have used the remedies commonly prescribed by writers on medicine, neither have I followed the doctrines of the schools in the treatment of febrile diseases; I determined that no other patient of mine should ever become a victim to the common old treatment pointed out by professors of medicine, and authors of medical books. In the full belief of the doctrine which experience had taught me, I soon had the pleasure of seeing almost all my patients recover from fevers, in the space of two, three, four, or five days, whereas, according to the old method of treatment followed by my contemporaries, patients laboured a month, six weeks, two or three months, under a violent fever

and its fatal dregs, and either died or were restored by the mere efforts of nature, or languished under the irredeemable consequences of such disease, during the remainder of their lives, in misery and infirmity.

In fact no physician whose works I have read, no professor of medicine whom I have heard speak on the nature of diseases, has ever discovered, or even hinted at the cure of fevers; all have delivered theories, which amount to open acknowledgments of their ignorance of it; or have candidly professed the universal ignorance of all physicians in the world, of the former and present times, respecting the nature of these diseases.

I observed the plan of cure followed by the East Indians in fevers. I saw the practitioners cure the most vehement cases of intermittent fevers in a single day, with such a mathematical precision and certainty, as I never beheld in any region of the earth—by purging, vomiting, sweating, &c. I perceived that they also cured without knowing the nature of disease, or the principles of their practice; and was led to believe all diseases curable, if we could only discover the remedies against them, and would apply these remedies in due time and to sufficient extent, to effect these possible ends. Their method of treatment consisted in the administration of a medicine that effectually purged and vomited their patients, who were obliged at the same time to use the steam bath, and to drink abundantly of warm teas, until copious or profuse sweat was produced, and the fever was mechanically reduced, leaving nothing to be done by feeble nature, as the ancient and modern practitioners of Europe were accustomed to do many ages prior to the days of Bottallus and Sydenham.

Having acquired a knowledge of these things relative to the nature of febrile diseases, I was induced to abandon the common plan of treatment, and to institute a new method of curing them with the use of new remedies; but in the course of my investigations, I learned from the annals of medical history, that there could be no advantage in deserting the old path, until I had found a new one, well paved with the solid

rocks of experience, observation and induction, in which I would meet no impediments to my course of rational practice. On the consideration of this circumstance, I rather concluded to conform my practice, in some degree and measure, to the doctrine of the schools, until I should sufficiently attest and establish my new doctrines and principles, by long and reiterated experience and observations, which I deemed necessary to sanction any change in the generally approved practice, and to ratify the truths of my doctrines and maxims by the success of the remedies which I proposed to myself to employ in their cure.

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SCARLATINA SIMPLEX, S. ANGINOSA AND S. MALIGNA.

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NO. II. BY DR. P. JOHN.

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These varieties or forms of Scarlatina have been raging the past winter, spring, and summer, in this section of country, as an epidemic, causing almost as much alarm and fear as though the cholera was amongst us; and simply because it has proved almost as fatal in the hands of the Allopaths, when assuming the *anginose* and *malignant* forms.

It has been a number of years since it has visited this place; and even now, it does not spread from house to house as rapidly as I have known it to do, but is lingering around us, slowly reaching family after family, attacking old and young, and very often proving difficult to manage.

Having been called upon to treat a great number of cases (in fact nearly all) of each form of this disease, I had the opportunity, which I embraced, in particularly noting down the prominent symptoms of each variety, and comparing them with confirmed other cases of the same variety, in order to see how far a regular train of symptoms attending one case, agreed with other cases of the same form. With a very few exceptions, I have found but little variance.

SCARLATINA SIMPLEX. The symptoms of this form, as far as I have observed, are as follows: commencing with more or less chilliness and shivering, with depression, nausea, and mostly vomiting; more or less pain in the lower extremities and head; skin hot and dry; and pulse quick, and frequent. On the second day after the commencement of the above symptoms, almost invariably, when I have been called, an eruption of a scarlet color makes its appearance, first on the face, and then successively on the neck, trunk, and extremities. "This rash," Armstrong tells us, "consists of innumerable red points, which, running into each other, give a diffused blush to the skin, resembling much the shell of a boiled lobster." There is a slight roughness on the surface of the breast and extremities, caused by the enlargement of the miliary glands and papillæ of the skin.

I should further remark, that soon after the commencement of the above symptoms, I have, with but few exceptions, found a slight soreness of the fauces, attended with some difficulty of swallowing. The tongue is covered with a thick, white fur, through which the red points of the enlarged papillæ are distinctly seen. The patient is more restless, uneasy and fretful, during the evening exacerbations, and more calm and easy in the mornings.

On the third day the eruption, febrile action, etc., are generally at their complete state of developement; and on the fourth day, a gentle perspiration takes place, and the efflorescence disappears, followed by more or less of a desquamation of the skin.

*Treatment.*—Commence by administering a light lobelia emetic, and opening the bowels, if constipated, and keeping them open, either by equal parts of *Pod. pelta.* (may apple) and *Cr. Tartar.* or, enemas of weak composition tea and milk. Then order a strong tea of the flowers of the *Crocus sativus* (saffron,) and *Sambucus nigra* (elder,) drank freely, and one of my fever powders, viz.:

Asclep. tub. (pleurisy root) from 2 to 4 gr. according to age of patient.  
 Lob. infl. from 1 to 2 gr. do.  
 Icto. feti. (skunk cabbage) " 1 " 2 " do.

given every three hours during the exacerbations, and every four hours in the mornings. As soon as the exanthema begins to decline, I order doses of strong composition, with loaf sugar and good cream added, at longer or shorter intervals according to the patient's strength, etc. The result of this treatment has been, not only the shortening of the duration of the disease from one to three days, but the complete recovery of every case.

**S. ANGINOSA.**—The majority of cases of Scarlatina occurring in my practice has been of the *anginose* form. The symptoms I have found to be more violent and severe from the very commencement, than in the *simplex*. It commences with headache, præcordial oppression, nausea, mostly vomiting, and general muscular prostration. A high febrile action soon sets in, accompanied with a dull pain and stiffness in the muscles of the neck, and under the ears and angle of the jaws. "The voice soon becomes hoarse, deglutition painful and very difficult, and respiration attended with a disagreeable sense of constriction in the throat." The fauces, palate, tonsils, and uvula present a very red and tumid appearance. The tongue is dry and florid along the edges, its surface filled with red inflamed papillæ; pulse quick and frequent: thirst mostly great; and the heat of the skin intense. These are the symptoms the disease has generally assumed on the second day, at which time I have mostly been called in. I commence with the following treatment: Gargle the throat every two hours with a strong decoction of capsicum and sage (if a child, wash it out with a swab made for the purpose); bathe externally with the following liniment,

Antispasmodic Tinct.	16 oz.
Comp'd Tinct. Myrrh	12 "
Ol. Hemlock	3 "
Ol. Sassafras	1 "
Ol. Terebinth (turpentine)	2 "
Ol. Camphor	1 "
Ol. Succini (amber)	1 "

every three hours, keeping flannel around the neck, and give one of the fever powders with one grain of capsic. an. added every two hours.

Second visit—third day of disease: Find no modification of the symptoms; the eruption has commenced appearing on different parts of the body, more particularly above the elbows: The throat not unfrequently, on examination, presents small ulcers of an ash-colored appearance, in which case I order the throat gargled (or washed) every hour with a strong decoction of capsic. an. and myr. cerif. (bayberry); the liniment applied as before; the fever powders given every hour; a tea of *asclep. tub.* for drink: and a tea-spoonful of

Pod. pelta.

Menth. viri. (spearmint),

Cr. Tartar,

equal parts, in warm water to act on the bowels, or, if much pain in the head, which I have mostly found to be the case, an *enema* prepared as follows, for an adult:

Composition powder 15 gr.

Lobelia infla. 10 "

Warm water and milk, eq. parts, 1 pint, to be repeated if necessary.

Third visit—fourth day of the disease: Find patients easier and more comfortable; and in a slight moisture: throat presents a more favorable appearance; the sloughs disappearing. Order the gargle every one or two hours; a half tea-spoonful of composition with loaf sugar and good cream, every three hours; and *gum arabic* dissolved in warm water (sweetened or not) for drink. In case of febrile symptoms arising, the fever powders as before.

Fourth visit—fifth day of disease: Patients still improving; the efflorescence entirely gone; and throat nearly well: recommend the occasional use of the gargle, and the composition and gum arabic water as before.

Fifth visit—sixth day of disease: Patients convalescent. This has been the result, to the day, of every case where the patients have had the proper nursing, etc., and when the directions have been strictly followed—I have not lost a single case.

**S. MALIGNA.**—This form is the most violent, and most to be dreaded; and, in describing it, I shall write out the following case.

A young gentleman, aged about twelve, was taken with vomiting early in the morning: the nausea, etc., continuing, his father administered a lobelia *emetic*, which, after having operated, left him with a high fever, headache, soreness in the throat, etc., which increasing very rapidly, I was sent for in the afternoon. Upon examination, and from all the symptoms presenting, I marked it down a severe case of *S. Maligna*, and prescribed accordingly.

*Second morning:* All the symptoms more aggravated, and others presenting of an alarming character; the pulse small and feeble; the sensorial functions very much disturbed; the eyes dull and inflamed, and an eruption of a purplish or livid hue making its appearance; the tongue dry, and covered with a brownish fur: breath fetid. The fauces presented brown-like-colored sloughs on both the soft palate and tonsils. I was now satisfied that I had a very bad case of *S. Maligna* to treat. I prepared a strong decoction of capsic. an. and myr. cer., and ordered his throat effectually washed with a swab every hour: well bathed with the liniment as in the anginose form; a a plaster of

Ulmus ful. (s. elm)	1 part,
Lob. inf.	1 do.,
Capsic. an.	½ do.,

mixed in warm water, spread on linen cloth, and kept applied to throat; sinapisms to the feet (not strong enough to vesicate); bowels kept open with enemias; and a tea-spoonful of the *compound tinct. of myrrh*, given alternately with the *fever powders* every hour.

*Evening visit:* Find the patient still growing worse; none of the symptoms abating. Patient constantly in a kind of delirium and stupor, from which it is impossible to arouse him completely to his senses; his neck is considerably swollen and assumes a dark, livid color; his cheeks, fingers and feet, present the same color; his jaws and tongue so swollen and stiff as to make it almost impossible to get the swab into his throat. Ordered a poultice of the inner bark of the *Prinos verticillatus* (black alder) and *fresh yeast*, kept applied to the throat; and of the compound tincture of jobelia (prepared as follows:

Pul'd Lob. seeds	16 oz.
" Capsic. an.	8 "
" Cypr. pubes. (nervine)	4 "
" Scutil. latifl. (scullcap)	4 "

Comp'd Tinct. Myrrh (No. 6) 1 gal.), one tea-spoonful every ten minutes until *emesis* is produced, after which continue it every half hour until my return, and drink plentifully of strong black alder tea.

*Third morning:* Think the patient is no worse, perhaps the symptoms less unfavorable: the breathing is more natural and free; still impossible to wash his throat, but the *drops* have the effect of keeping it cleared out, causing him occasionally to throw up; there is less talking and rambling in his sleep; but still a stupor from which it is difficult to arouse him; neck and cheeks not quite so dark and livid, but hands and feet the same. Ordered the poultice continued; and a tea-spoonful of the *drops* continued alternately with the same quantity of the comp. tinct. myrrh every hour.

*Evening:* Conclude the patient is no worse, but cannot say he is any better—ordered the same treatment continued.

*Fourth morning:* A manifest difference: patient is better, though by no means out of danger; no delirium, and but little stupor; can open his mouth and let me examine his throat a little, which presents a very red, but not such a dark and tumid appearance; the sloughs are assuming a more healthy color. I am told that he has been much troubled with tenesmus, for which I left two powders containing a few grains of pulv. rubh. and cal. magnesia each; give one, and in the course of two hours, if the tenesmus continues, give the other. Ordered the wash continued every two hours; and the *tincture* given as before.

*Evening:* Patient not quite so well; more difficulty in washing his throat; more stupor, and a little delirium. Ordered the *drops* and *tincture* given alternately as before, and drink of the alder tea.

*Fifth morning:* Patient knows me this morning, without having to be roused up; cannot speak to be easily understood, in consequence of the soreness, etc., in his throat; he is very

weak, and is again troubled with considerable tenesmus, for which I ordered enemas of pul'd ul. ful. and warm water, and another powder of pul'd rhub. and cal. mag.; also ordered a small dose of composition with loaf sugar and good cream, every hour and a half, and gum-arabic water for drink: occasionally a tea-spoonful of the *tincture*, in order to keep the throat clean, which it does admirably, causing him to hawk and spit up freely. In case he should begin to sink, ordered the *tincture* given freely.

*Evening*: Symptoms still favorable, though it was found necessary to resort to the *tincture* more freely about noon, to keep him from sinking: ordered the same treatment continued.

*Sixth morning*: Patient still improving, with the exception of his mouth, which is now very sore; his tongue, and the insides of his cheeks are covered with little patches, which seem to be eating deeper. Ordered it well washed with strong decoction of

Coptis. trif. (gold thread)	} equal parts,
Rhus. glab. (sumach)	
Salvia off. (sage)	

sweetened with honey, every hour or two; the other treatment still continued.

*Seventh morning*: The patient still gaining; mouth presents a more favorable appearance; no difficulty in swallowing: continue the mouth wash; and a half tea-spoonful of Larrabee's Spice Bitters, in warm water, every four hours.

*Eighth morning*: Patient needs no more attention. Recommended him taking the *bitters* for several days, and continue the wash until his mouth is entirely well.

I have lost but two cases of this form: they were beyond the reach of medicine before I was called in.

Near Millville, Col. Co., Pa., 7th mo., 1849.

N. B.—By "*the drops*," I mean the comp'd tinct. of lob.; and by "*the tincture*," I mean the comp'd tinct. gum myrrh, or No. 6.

Phy. Med. Recorder.

## MUSCULAR ACTION.

The skull contains two bodies. One is very large, and is called the *cerebrum*, which fills all the anterior, superior, and most of the posterior parts of the cranium: the other is called the *cerebellum*, and is quite small, when compared with the cerebrum: it is situated in the inferior posterior portion of the skull. These bodies nicely fit in and fill up the cavity of the cranium. The under surface of each gives off two processes; the two from the cerebrum immediately unite with the two from the cerebellum, and form one body, called *medulla oblongata*, which passes down through a hole in the base of the skull, called *foramen magnum*.

The spine consists of twenty-six bones, twenty-five of which have a large foramen in each, resembling very much the foramen magnum. These bones are all piled one upon the other, forming a continuous chain, or column, commencing at the base of the skull, and ending at the inferior part of the trunk. Its juncture with the skull is at the foramen. By this connection at this point, a continuous tube is formed from the cavity of the skull through the spine. This tube or canal allows the medulla oblongata to pass through its whole length. Another term is, however, applied to it, *medulla spinalis*; this term is applied to that body as soon as it passes into the foramen magnum, and while it remains in the spinal canal.

The cerebrum, cerebellum, medulla oblongata, and medulla spinalis, are composed of two different substances. The one is called *cortical* or *cineritious*, the other *medullary*; the former is gray, the latter white. The arteries going to these bodies are split into the finest divisions before they plunge into them: they are finally lost in the cortical portion. Here they construct myriads of invisible bodies, called *cortical spherules*, or the *least glandules* in the body. From each one of these little laboratories, or imperceptible workshops, an abducent or centrifugal duct, of the most refined and exalted character, goes forth into the realm of



muscular fibre. In the cerebrum, the cortical substance is found upon its external surface, while the medullary constitutes its interior portion. The tenuous ducts of the cortical spherules, go from the circumference of the brain to its centre. As soon as they emerge from the gray substance, they being comparatively free from blood vessels, form a white medullary substance. This last substance is linear, because it is formed of assembled ducts, and are anatomically called *medullary fibres*.

The four nervous centres, the cerebrum, cerebellum, medulla oblongata, and medulla spinalis, give off and receive what are named *nerves*; the former are *motive*, the latter are *sensitive*. The number of the motive are thirty-five pairs, and the number of the sensitive are thirty-four. The two kinds as they go to or from these centres, are generally enveloped in the same sheath: there are, however, five exceptions to this. As soon as the medullary fibres pass out of the great centres, they are clustered together into bodies resembling long cords, and their first divisions are called *nervous fibres*. Their least unities, however, are termed *nervous filaments*.

There is a little ganglion (small nervous enlargement) in the anterior part of the longitudinal fissure of the cerebrum, which gives off two small fibres. They descend, pass through the base of the skull, down the neck on each side of the spine, at the junction of the transverse processes of the vertebræ with their bodies, through the thorax, the abdomen, pelvis, and finally meet at the inferior end of the sacrum (last bone, but one, of the spine). All along their tracks, they are continually forming enlargements, termed *ganglions*. The curvical portion of each side has three, the dorsal twelve, the lumbar five, and sacral five. These ganglions give off fine filaments, which become intimately associated with similar filaments from the intercostal, par vagnum, portio dura, and trigeminus (nerves of the back and head). After their union with these, they go to different parts of the face, to the roots of the lungs, the arch of the aorta, the

origins of the celiac, the large and small mesenteric, the emulgent, primitive, external and internal iliac arteries, and at these different points form enlargements and networks, called *plexuses*. These centres also give off filaments which creep upon the walls of bloodvessels, and follow them to their utmost divisions.

The *motive* nerves which go from the nervous centres, are of two kinds: one is *voluntary*, the other *involuntary*; the former is under the government of the will, or cerebrum, the latter under that of nature or the cerebellum.

Muscular fibre is the *material body* of all *apparent* motion in organic formations, and that which the *cortical glandules* elaborate from the sublimated essences carried to them by the carotid and vertebral arteries, divided to their utmost tenuity, is the *soul* of all *apparent* motion in organic forms. The *connecting link* of the body and soul of organic motion, is the centrifugal nervous tissue. When this link is severed, the *body* of motion is powerless. This link, the efferent nerves, has its origin in the *cortical glandules* of the great nervous centres, and its termination in the *unities* of muscles.

The muscular tissue is the *servant* of the ethereal fluid manufactured by the cineritious portion of the brain, and is high servant to the mind and true soul.

The muscular tissue has the same divisions that the nerves has—the voluntary and involuntary. The former is active only when we will to do something; then it moves a part or the whole of the body, according to our wishes.

The latter division of muscles has periods of labor and rest; but as a general thing, those periods are so short that we do not ordinarily recognize them. This class of muscles is found in the alimentary canal, in the arteries, in the veins, in the lymphatics, in the lacteals, in the ducts of all the glands, in the bladder, in the uterus and its appendages, in the heart, in the diaphragm, and in the intercostal muscles.

The leasts of muscles, their unities, called *fibrilla*, are fine threads, composed of minute

bodies, called *cells* sometimes, arranged in single file, surrounded by a delicate sheath. A good many of these are most always brought together and surrounded by another sheath; this second thread is what is called a muscular fibre. Where much strength is requisite, these fibres are again clustered together, and form what is termed a fasciculus (being a bundle of fibres), and in the voluntary division, the fasciculi are aggregated into a very large bundle, termed a *muscle*, the largest assemblage of of fibrillæ—each division receiving its own sheath. It is probable that the fibrillæ are the sole actors in the finest divisions of vessels, that is, they act alone, without being formed into fibres.

A fibrilla is formed by a number of minute bodies, arranged linearly. The individuals of the fibrillæ are said to be oblong, their greatest diameter corresponding with the length of the fibrilla; each of these parts are connected with the brain by the mediation of minute nervous filaments. When the fibrilla acts, the ends of the *cell* are said to approach each other, and their sides to recede from the centre. By the simultaneous action of all the cells in a fibrilla, the two extremes of the fibrilla are made to approach each other—thus visible motion is produced.

The nervous filaments commencing at the *cortical spherules*, and terminating in these microscopic elements of the fibrilla, convey to them an influence which throws their ends into an opposite electrical state, which produces instant attraction. Not a muscular motion in the whole body, whether in the voluntary or involuntary systems of muscles, can be produced, unless there is a free communication, by the nerves, between the brain and these cells of the fibrillæ. Destroy that connection, and all muscular motion is paralyzed. Almost every change that occurs in the body, is attributed to the sympathetic nerve and the brain (the former being an appendage to the latter): all *muscular* motion is attributable to them. But the changes which take place in the food, chyme, chyle, lymph, arterial blood, venous blood, secretions, the

removal from the tissues any worn-out material, or the addition of fresh material to them, are to be accounted for on chemical affinities. The arterial blood leaves the vascular tissue and permeates the capillary tissue, the tissue of reparation and change; comes in contact with every part of the living body, saturates it as water does a sponge, and while these affinities occur between the moving flood and the various tissues, each tissue meets some ingredient of the nutritive tide that it requires, and forms an union with it; and if any of its old affinities have become weak, they are dissolved, and new marriages permitted and performed. Thus dissolution and reparation go hand in hand. S.

*Phy. Med. Recorder.*

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#### LETTER FROM DR. PATTERSON.

COLBORNE, 10th Nov., 1849.

MR. EDITOR,

In redeeming my pledge to correspond with you respecting the progress of our cause, and the influence of our principles, permit me to state, that our progress is emphatically *onward*; and such is the influence of our principles, that the man who hesitates to grant his note for our medical services, when desired, is considered to occupy a place, a *little* below that of unqualified meanness. Fortunately, however, few such specimens of unworthy humanity are found in this region—and of these few, not one can be found so utterly lost to virtue, as to openly found his refusal on the ignoble scheme of the medical monopolist. No man refuses to give his note, assigning as his reason, that we cannot collect our fees—any pretext whatever, is preferred to this. One man, for example, whose residence is five miles from my office, refused to give his note because I charged him 7s. 6d. per visit. Several passing visits, and one of consultation, in his case, not being charged at all.—Another, declaring the end is at hand, refused

for the same reason, showing that the most incongruous shuffle, is considered more honorable than the legal defiance of our claims, though, no doubt, such men inwardly chuckle over their ability to defy, extended to them by *Honorable* Medical Boards, and *Honorable* Legislative Assemblies.—Yet the meanest man in our midst, is not mean enough to openly avow the principles of these *Honorable* Bodies—not mean enough, to openly take advantage of their *magnanimous* legislation. How true it is, that such Bodies are destitute of soul—utterly destitute of conscience—to run, “*full drive*,” against one of the first principles of our moral consciousness—that the employer becomes, from the fact itself, thereby indebted to the employed. Immeasurably more honorable would these bodies now appear, had they imposed their fines and legal penalties on our employers. As they now stand, however, it appears to me, Mr. Editor, that in some cases, at least, these shameful penalties will soon turn to our account, as they justify our requiring a note of hand at the close of our visits, in each case—the mean man will refuse, and we thereby get clear of him at once, who, would otherwise continue to draw upon our time and resources.

B. PATTERSON.

#### INFLAMMATION OF THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD.

It is seldom that Water-Cure practitioners, who have charge of establishments, have an opportunity of treating acute diseases. Thinking that a report of acute cases might be interesting and useful to the readers of the Reporter, I send you the following method of treatment adopted in the case stated.

May 6, came Master Albert Reed, who lived a mile from our Cure, to be Hydropathically treated for inflammation of the brain. Age, thirteen years. Pulse one hundred and forty per minute; violent pain in the head and neck, attended with a general burning fever. As the attack was extremely sudden, an attempt

was made to induce perspiration by means of the hot sitz and foot bath taken at the same time. But the patient could not be made to perspire. Resorted immediately to large wet compresses, wet in ice-water, applied to the head and around the neck. Still the symptoms did not in the least abate. Then put him in a deep sitz bath seventy-two degrees, and reduced the temperature gradually while in to sixty; poured cold water slowly and steadily for half an hour on his head, and kept a large towel wet with ice-water around his neck. This treatment continued thirty-five minutes when the pain gave way in the head and he felt great relief. Was then put upon the bed and covered warmly except the head and neck, which were constantly enveloped in ice-cold compresses. Gentle perspiration broke out, and the relief was still greater than when he got out of the bath. After some two hours, in spite of the intense cold to the head and neck, the symptoms returned. The sitz, as before, was used with the same success. Then gave three pints of tepid water as an injection, which was followed by copious evacuations of hardened feces and a large quantity of tar-like fluid resembling an evacuation produced by caïamel.

This gave much relief. Patient soon fell asleep; pain in the head abated, as well as the general fever. Gave him no nourishment that night. The hue of the skin was a dirty yellow. An offensive odor escaped constantly from his person. Slept some during the night; but the cloths about the head and neck were removed once in from three to five minutes all night. So burning was the fever that they would become very hot (though of several thicknesses) in that time. Gave him a general washing bath in the morning. Pain in the head nearly gone. An injection was again given, which produced large evacuations of more healthy bile; which gave much relief from the general fever.

The pulse the second, third, and fourth days, would rise one hundred and thirty-five and one hundred and forty, if the cold applications were omitted half an hour, so intense was the fever.

This was always subdued by packing frequently in double wet sheets—sometimes once in five and ten minutes, with his head in a bowl of cold water all of the time while in the pack. The wet bandages on the chest and abdomen were used constantly, when he was not in the pack or sitz baths. These had often to be changed. The fourth night he slept in eight thicknesses of wet sheet, with cold to the head. Rested finely; fever yielded. On the fifth day he left for home on foot, and never had to return to his bed or give up being about. In one week he was able to walk five miles a day. He ate nothing for four days but two crackers; then a little bread toasted and gruel was added. A brother of the patient died in forty-eight hours after the attack, of the same disease. He was treated with medicine.—*W. C. Reporter.*

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#### VASCULAR EXCITANTS.

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All locomotive action is proximately produced by muscular contraction. Further, all vascular action is proximately produced by muscular contraction. By vascular action, I mean the action that occurs in arteries, veins, lymphatics, lacteals, heart, alimentary canal, ducts of glands, and receptacles. Moreover, the pulmonic action is the result of muscular contraction. In short, all cognizable action in organic forms, is proximately the effect of muscular contraction. That part of the circulating system called *capillary*, which lies between the terminal arteries and the origin of veins, is independent of the muscular and nervous tissues, and its contents are propelled through it by what is termed *capillary attraction*; while in those vessels whose calibers are so large as to pass beyond the power of capillary attraction, have their contents circulated by *muscular power*.

Actual experiment teaches us, that every fibrilla of the entire muscular systems, involuntary as well as voluntary, is connected with some one of the nervous centres, by *nervous filaments*; also, that if that connection is bro-

ken, the filaments cut, the muscular power to contract is destroyed.

Therefore, we are able to see that muscles, although they are the immediate cause of organic motion, are but passive material means used in producing that important function; also, that the centrifugal nerves of the brain and medulla spinalis (a nervous body in the spine) are but material conduits which transmit the mystical fluid, the ethereal essence, elaborated by the cineritious glands, called *cortical spherules*, to the microscopic and oblong cells of the fibrillæ. Finally, this sublimated fluid of organization, this valuable secretion of the nervous centres, is the posterior cause of all ocular motion—the nervous and muscular tissues, the machinery which it uses to produce so inestimable a work.

With these facts before us, is it possible for us to give a philosophical reason of the proximate cause of an increased or decreased vascular action, as the condition may be in any given case? In the former case, is it not an increased amount of this subtle, electric fluid, and in the latter, a deficiency of it? And if this is true, what kind of a medicine will rectify the first condition, and what the last? Will not that agent which can quiet and pacify the action of the cortical spherules, diminish vascular excitement? And, moreover, will not those articles which can arouse and increase the action of the aforesaid spherules, thereby accelerate the action of the heart and its vessels, arouse them from their lethargy, and compel them to carry through the entire domain of life, its fluid food?

Again: holding in mind what anatomy has taught us, what must be the abilities of those means that can improve the energies of the heart, and exalt the powers of the arterial and venous systems? Surely, must they not be those that primarily impart an impetus, an acceleration to the action of the cortical spherules? Therefore, we are able to see, and say, that anything which can arouse and strengthen the circulation of the blood, does it by furnishing to the cineritious glands of the great nervous centres, those refined materials

and that peculiar stimulus, which they require for vigorous action; also, that any agent which can exert a soothing, pacifying influence upon the circulations, does it by first furnishing to the above glands, those conditions requisite for, equal and uniform action.

Further: all *tonics, stimulants, and anodynes*, produce their effects, by furnishing to the brain and medulla spinalis, those wants or means that enable them to produce, through their afferent nerves, upon the muscular tunic of the vascular system, those three effects, known as tonicity, stimulation and calmness.

In the voluntary muscles, the will presides over the frequency and degree of their action, though the prior and posterior, or proximate and remote causes of action, are the same in both divisions of muscles. Spasms and cramps occur in the voluntary muscles (we may not perceive them, yet they may also occur in the involuntary muscles—we know of their occurring in the alimentary canal), occasioned by the provoking presence of a foreign body in the domain of the centripetal nerves of the nervous centres. The afferent or centripetal nerves are *reporters* to the mind, and the presiding spirit of the organism, of the states of the body, and the qualities of approaching things. If their information to these powers, enthroned in the capital of the kingdom, yes, in the royal Palace, are compatible with the best interests of their government, then peace and order reign; but if incompatible, then they put forth efforts, corresponding with the degree of encroachment, to remove them. The efferent nerves (those that go from the brain) are divided into two classes, voluntary and involuntary; whether the afferent nerves (those that go to the brain) have two such divisions, is not positively known, though it is probable they have. The five nerves of sense correspond to the voluntary division of the efferent nerves; while those nerves (if any) which go to nature, as it is sometimes called, correspond to the involuntary efferent nerves. If the nerves of sense are lacerated at certain points, it occasions spasms at certain points of the voluntary muscles. Perhaps corresponding

effects follow similar injuries to the afferent nerves of the interior principle, called nature.

When spasm occurs, it must be explained in the same way as ordinary muscular action: although the will is forestalled, nevertheless the continuous action of the muscles is the effect of the continuous action of the nervous fluid upon the cells of the fibrillæ. S.

*Phy. Med. Recorder.*

### MOTIONS OF THE JOINTS.

Muscular exercise, when properly distributed among the muscles of locomotive action, is the basement of health, the pivot of long life. The wherefore, of this will be forthcoming. If any one will look at the skeleton of the human body, he will discover that it is composed of a large number of distinct bones, connected by their ends principally; also that their extremities are so moulded as to nicely fit each other; some with a socket and head, others in the shape of a hinge; others again combine the two, while some will be clustered and consolidated in such a manner as to become one bone for all practical purposes in motion. If he will examine the joints individually, he will find some capable of only one motion, others of two motions, others again of five motions. And, if he is careful in his examinations he will be able to anticipate the offices of the voluntary muscles.

The advantages flowing from muscular exercise are so valuable and certain, that it is obligatory upon the ministers of anatomy and physiology, to present every argument and inducement, so that *all* may be inclined to practice it. The anatomy and physiology of the locomotive apparatus of our being, must be thoroughly examined—the number of joints specified—their shape—their number of motions—the number of muscles to each joint—the number for each motion, and their combined; also, their individual names. So that, when a motion is produced, whether of the head, jaw, finger, foot, or arm, the doer can promptly tell every agent in the process. By

this, we can soon become acquainted with the machinery of motion, soon learn what apparatus is needed to bring into active exercise any muscle, learn where to distribute the exercise; if a part is undeveloped what is to be done to increase its power and size, and if a part is distorted by bad habits, what is requisite for its readjustment and harmonious appearance.

All this is needed, every parent and teacher of our country must have this information, so that it can be imparted to those under their care; every physician is recreant to his profession, to the confidence placed in him, to himself, and to the laws of our being, who fails to acquaint himself with these implements of health; every advocate of justice, every preacher of genuine morality, every lover of his race, should thoroughly understand this subject.

It should be a part of our primary education, so that, from our cradles, we may grow up gymnasts, and not pale, sickly, hot-house-plants, subject to frostbite every time we snuff a salubrious breeze, and to death, if we are so fortunate as to get a shower bath in company with the field flowers, by the fall of heaven's dew or rain.

The head upon the spine is capable of *two* motions, an up and down motion, or flexion and extension. The first bone of the spine, called *atlas*, because it supports the head, as the ancient philosopher Atlas did our globe, is capable of *one* motion upon the second bone of the spine, named *axis*; this motion is axillary.

The other bones of the spine do not have individual motions, but collective; the remaining bones of the neck are capable of *five* motions—flexion and extension, right and left lateral, and circular; the circular is a combination of the other four motions.

The bones of the back, called dorsal, those connected with the ribs, have but a limited motion; they are comparatively permanent for the protection of the lungs, heart, liver, etc.

The bones in the lower part of the back, known as the lumbar, have *five* motions, corresponding with those of the neck, called cervical.

The lower jaw has *five* motions, flexion and extension, right and left lateral, and an embarrassed circular.

The shoulder blade (*scapula*), is not connected to the trunk by a joint, as is usual in other parts of the body, but by *red flesh*, termed muscles. This connection has *five* motions, a forward, backward, upward, downward, and a circular.

The arm upon the shoulder blade, can perform *five* motions, upward, downward, inward, outward, and circular, besides a species of rotary.

The forearm upon the arm, or the elbow joint, has *two* motions, flexion, and extension. The forearm has two bones, the *ulna* and *radius*. The radius does not enter into the composition of the elbow joint, neither does the ulna assist in forming the wrist joint. The radius is on the thumb side of the hand; this bone, with the hand, has *one* motion, the rotary or axillary; it is so related to the ulna, as to allow it to roll upon it at both ends.

The wrist joint has *five* motions—flexion, extension, right and left lateral, and the circular. The hand upon the wrist has a very obscure motion, if any; the thumb upon the wrist, has *five* motions—flexion, extension, two lateral, and circular; the remaining joints of the thumb, have *two* motions—flexion and extension.

The fingers upon the hand have *two free* motions—flexion and extension, and *three* curtailed motions, two lateral, and circular; the remaining joints of the fingers have *two* motions—flexion and extension.

The hip joint has *five* motions—flexion, extension, inward, outward, circular and a difficult axillary.

The knee joint has *two* motions—flexion and extension.

The ankle joint has *five* motions—flexion, extension, two lateral, and circular. The toes have *two* motions, with embarrassed lateral and circular at their connection with the foot.

Thus we have all the locomotive actions of the body. The muscles are so distributed, as to perform all the motions above specified. Muscular exercise, to be most useful, must be so adapted as to facilitate all these motions, with the least possible expense of vital power.

Unequal distribution of muscular exercise is but a little better than that which we usually get; while, if it is judiciously divided among all the muscles, the beneficial results are prompt and striking.

Our ordinary occupations call forth the above motions every day, but in a very slight manner; over and above these, health requires that they must be done vigorously—that *every muscle* of the entire system, must be daily aroused to its *full normal* action; by this means, nutrition will keep pace with digestion, digestion with eating, and circulation with the extent and distribution of the exercise.

S.

*Phy. Med. Recorder.*


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## THE UNFETTERED CANADIAN.

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TORONTO, JULY, 1849.

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THE constitution of the Canadian Eclectic Medical Reform Society, which we had prepared for this number, as adopted by the Kingston Convention, is crowded out, and therefore cannot appear till our next; unless it may be deemed necessary to publish a few copies in form suitable for signature.

The Petition against Medical Monopoly adopted by the Kingston Convention, appears on the last leaf of this number, so as to be easily removed with the knife, and used as a heading for signatures, when required.—We have likewise published a few hundreded copies of the petition in a detached form, and hence any one disposed to aid in circulating the petition,

can readily obtain a heading.—On the back of these forms we have published an address to the Anti-monopolists of Canada, urging upon them the necessity of active exertion, in obtaining signatures to the petition, and subscribers for the Canadian.

In our next we will publish the details of a very interesting trial, which resulted in the acquittal of the defendent who was prosecuted for practising medicine without license on the complaint of a stripling M. D., urged on, it may be, by some of his older brethren, who knew, however, the danger of attempting to enforce their iniquitous principles of monopoly—the jury, (honor to them), saw fit to step aside from common practice, in order to shame the abettors of the prosecution, by pronouncing the defendent *not the least* guilty! which was received by the assembly with enthusiastic applause, in which, even the judge, joined heartily. Poor Stripling, we pity him, in view of the lasting injury he has inflicted upon himself, by this vile prosection.

We understand that Dr. Wolfe has left Prince Albert, and probably, will not attempt further to maintain his novel and incongruous positions by arguments; and if he is determined not to yield the question openly and manfully—we must admit, that silence will *sound* for him the best possible retreat. We regret however that he wound himself with so short a eord. As it is now our turn, we challenge the Medical Profession of Canada, to sustain the doctrine of their monopoly, in the discussion of Dr. Wolfe's question, or any other they choose to frame, or propose.

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J. L. WILKIE, JAMES MUIR, JUN., and AMOS J. MANSFIELD, are General Agents for the Canadian, we hope our friends will assist them in obtaining subscribers and funds for the Journal.

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*Lying.*—Never chase a lie. Let it alone, it will run itself to death. I can work out a good character much faster than any one can lie me out of it.

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