

my claim to the invention of an apparatus for applying steam as a remedial agent, and likewise to the introduction of water-dressing in this country.

I cannot suppose Mr. Liston to be so ignorant of the history of surgery, as not to know that water was used by Hippocrates, and by many eminent men on the continent, during the last three centuries. From the number of my pupils who graduated every year in Scotland, the doctrines and practice I taught in my lectures, must have been no secret in Edinburgh. The Thesis which Dr. Nolan published (I think in 1825, if not an earlier date), was on the use of water in surgery, as taught by me. I therefore suppose that Mr. Liston's pupils must have misunderstood their master, as attributing to himself the discovery of a remedy to which I first gave the name of *water-dressing*, when used in the way I directed.

It would not be quite just to pronounce on the merits of M. Duval's steam machinery, as I have not seen it; but from the description given of it I should suppose it to be very complicated, and exceedingly like the numerous attempts I made with tubes and stop-cocks, before I hit upon the simple apparatus that has been in use now for more than twenty years. I should think also that M. Duval's machine is not capable of generating steam at a low temperature, which is effected in mine, in consequence of its wide funnel-shaped opening, and which is a circumstance of great importance in the treatment of some states of inflammation, and in certain injuries.

If in the case communicated of the boy with tetanus from lacerated leg, his limb had been in the first instance placed in steam, and retained there for twenty-four hours, and no sutures employed, he would in all probability have escaped tetanus, and certainly in that time the wound would have been free from tumefaction, and the edges would be approaching each other.

Although, without partiality, I am disposed to believe M. Duval's apparatus to be inferior to my own, I should not be surprised to see it preferred and adopted. The taste for complicated machinery still prevails amongst surgeons, as they have been taught to estimate more highly the resources of art, than the operations of nature.

I wish to take this opportunity of observing that those persons who, from prejudice, confirmed habits of thinking, or actual ignorance of the animal economy, suppose that nature is unable or indisposed to repair injuries, unless by some process of inflammation, will never understand the value nor reap the benefit of water dressing, and steam, and of several other points of treatment of equal importance with these. Such persons will be continually thwarting their own endeavours, and meeting with disappointments. Until it be generally acknowledged as a fundamental dogma, that inflammation is neither necessary nor sanatory, surgery will not rise to the rank of a science, but will remain an empirical art, such as it has descended to us from the dark periods of human knowledge.—I am, gentlemen, your very obedient servant,

Dec. 22, 1840.

JAMES MACARTNEY.

#### THE LATE DR. RYAN.

WE sincerely regret to hear that the late Dr. Ryan has left a widow and four infant children in a most destitute situation. The following letter has been addressed to the widow, on the part of the Committee of the Metropolitan Free Hospital, of which Dr. Ryan had been a physician.

29, CAREY STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS,  
Dec. 18, 1840.

MADAM—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Metropolitan Free Hospital, to lay before you the following portion of the minutes taken at their last meeting, on Wednesday evening.

#### TO THE COMMITTEE AND GOVERNORS OF THE METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.

The Medical Officers beg to announce to the Committee and Governors of the Hospital, the melancholy and premature decease of their colleague, Dr. Ryan. The circumstances attending this sad event are calculated to excite in their minds unusual feelings of regret; for they have not only been deprived of an active, intelligent, and kind-hearted colleague, and one whom they feel it will be difficult to replace, but they have also to deplore the hopeless and destitute condition of his widow and children, who were entirely dependant upon Dr. Ryan's professional and literary exertions, and who are now thrown upon the world without a refuge, unless speedy relief be afforded them by the benevolence of the profession and public. The long and faithful services rendered by Dr. Ryan to this institution, constitute, in the opinion of the medical officers, a very strong reason for their pressing upon the committee and the governors at large, the expediency of taking such measures as may testify their regret at the loss of their valuable physician, and their sympathy in the deplorable state of his widow and family.

(Signed) Physicians, JOHN STEGGALL, M.D.

G. A. T. WILKS, M.D.

Surgeons, A. TWEEDIE.

P. B. LUCAS.

JOHN LEETE ELAND.

Resolved,—That the following minute be entered upon the books, and a copy sent to the widow of the late Dr. Ryan:—

"The Committee of the Metropolitan Free Hospital, Carey Street, receive with deep regret the melancholy announcement of the premature decease of their late respected senior physician, Dr. Ryan, and feel it imperative upon them to give their unanimous testimony to his constant zeal and energy, in the benevolent objects of this institution, from its commencement; his skill and kindness towards the numerous suffering patients under his care; and his inviolable urbanity as a gentleman to all the members of the committee; and they sincerely sympathise with his bereaved widow and family on the irreparable loss they have sustained."

Personally I beg to offer my sincere condolence on your late melancholy bereavement, and to subscribe myself, madam, your most obedient servant,

C. TOOGOOD DOWNING.

#### AN UNTOWARD RESULT OF DRUNKENNESS.

THE museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, in Dublin, contains the picture of a man whose face was eaten away by a pig, while he was lying in a state of intoxication. The entire nose, both cheeks, and parts of both ears, in fact, all the most eatable parts of his face, were chewed off by the animal; nevertheless, the wounds all healed, and he recovered; but of course, with all the disabilities of enunciation, chewing and swallowing, attendant on such extensive destruction of soft parts. He, notwithstanding, under generous regimen, contrived, while in hospital, to keep up a good condition of body. His principal regret lay in the unavoidable disuse of his tobacco-pipe. The picture exhibits him, after the wounds had all healed, without nose or ears, but with two beautifully white and perfect rows of naked teeth.—*Dr. Houston's Catalogue.*

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

##### LIST OF GENTLEMEN ADMITTED MEMBERS.

Friday, December 18, 1840.

James Paret, George William Pretty, John Buck, William Collard Pyne, George Cordy Edwards, Henry Thomas Webster Harper, Onslow Andrews, William Winslip, Charles Godson, Edward Leslie Falloon, Joseph Chapman, Michael York, John Tuckey Travers.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

SECOND EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF MEDICINE.—NOVEMBER, 1840.

EXAMINATION FOR HONOURS.

The names are arranged in the order of proficiency.

*Physiology & Comparative Anatomy.*—† Richard Quain, University College; † John Paddon, University College; Edwin Wing, School of Physic in Ireland.

*Surgery.*—† John Charles Bucknill, University College; Thomas O'Meara, Mercers' Hospital, Dublin; Thomas Williams, Guy's Hospital, and Webb-street; Richard Quain, University College.

*Medicine.*—\* † Thomas O'Meara, Mercers' Hospital, Dublin; † John Douglas Strang, University College; John Charles Bucknill, University College; Edwin Wing, School of Physic in Ireland; Thomas Williams, Guy's Hospital, and Webb-street.

*Midwifery.*—† John Douglas Strang, University College; Richard Quain, University College; Thomas Williams, Guy's Hospital, and Webb-street.

*Structural and Physiological Botany.*—John Douglas Strang, University College.

EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE. NOVEMBER, 1840.

Anthony French Carpenter; M. B. Lond.

\* To each of these gentlemen has been awarded a University Medical Scholarship of £50 a year, for two years.

† To each of these, a Gold Medal of the value of £5.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

First Report on the Progress of Legal Education in Ireland, from the Principal of the Dublin Law Institute, &c. Hodges & Smith, Dublin. 1840.

(The Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, attached to the Law Institute, is a Medical Man—Dr. Thomas Brady.)

On the Sympathetic Relations between the Stomach and Brain, &c. &c. By CHARLES WIGHTMAN, M.D. Simpkin & Co. London. 1840.

Diseases of the Lungs; a Tabular View of the Signs furnished by the Stethoscope, and by Percussion, &c. By O'BRYEN BELLINGHAM, M.D. &c. Fannin & Co. Dublin.

Diseases of the Heart; a Tabular View of the Signs furnished by the Stethoscope and by Percussion. By O'BRYEN BELLINGHAM, M.D. Longman & Co. London.

ERRATUM.

In the Provincial Poor-law Report, page 198, col. 1, note §, for "one shilling and threepence one-third," read "threepence one-third."

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