

is suspended in some of the states I have witnessed; to what extent is a question—but questions are not to be asked, because, forsooth, it may displease some don in the profession of doctor bodies. I am told that all the phenomena I have witnessed are but modifications of *hysteria*. Be it so. What is *hysteria*? How is it allied to *epilepsy*? How is *epilepsy* so nearly allied to sleep? What relations are there between these and *cataplexy*? Can sleep—can *cataplexy* be produced artificially? If so, in what number of individuals out of every hundred? Is the *cataleptic* state injurious to the individual submitted to it? Assertions differ on this point. In many cases, the patients and their friends have declared to me that not only no injury has taken place, but that great benefits have accrued to health in consequence of repeated conditions of *cataplexy*. If this be so, depend on it, Gentlemen, that your veto directed in sneers against inquiry will have very little effect in checking the progress of our knowledge. I have myself been ridiculed for announcing *truths*. Time—time has rolled over my head, and has convinced unwilling men that the old adage of “*Magna est veritas et prævalebit*” is not so idle a maxim to depend upon. The curious fact relating to Mesmerism seems to be the obstinate feeling against all investigation which characterises the medical profession upon the subject.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours, &c.,

JOHN ASHBURNER.

55, Wimpole-street,
Dec. 5, 1842.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO A KNOWLEDGE OF GREEK AND TURKISH REMEDIES.

By X. LANDERER, of Athens.

Peculiar Exanthema, and its Cure.—In some parts of Greece, but especially in the neighbourhood of Thermopylæ, about Libadia, a peculiar exanthematic disease prevails, which attacks both the young and old, more particularly females than men, and the symptoms of which are hoarseness, peculiar condylomata forming on the glands of the neck, and afterwards on the genitals, moist exanthemata, tormenting the invalid, especially during the night, by their violent itching. This disease seems to rank between lepra and syphilis, and is probably generated by both of them. The most talented physicians of Greece have tried various curative means against this complaint, but with indifferent success; probably arising from the circumstance that their patients did not pursue the proper medical treatment laid down, either from want of patience, or on account of their limited means. Some time since a surgeon presented a petition to the royal ministry, asking permission to be allowed to occupy himself exclusively with the cure of this disease; and in proof of his competency to treat the same, produced, before a medical commission, several patients whom he had perfectly cured.

This mode of treatment consisted chiefly in the internal and external application of mercury with chalk, and some beverages tending to produce perspiration, which were prepared from the *smilax aspera*.

Hyoscyamus Albus, for Toothache.—In some parts of the Greek continent, the stalks of *hyoscyamus albus* are used for toothache. They are dried, and employed in lieu of tobacco for smoking. [In England the seeds are occasionally employed for the same purpose with useful effect.—Ed.]

Plumbago Europæa, for Issues.—The *plumbago Europæa* is frequently found in Rumilia, and in marshy places. Its roots are so acrid that they are used for causing issues, and even as a vesicant. If the more tender surfaces of the body are rubbed with the fresh root, the skin will be reddened in a few moments; and if the root is allowed to remain for a short time, it will be soon covered with small blisters.

Styptic.—As a styptic, roasted coffee, with vinegar, is held in high esteem. By the application of this remedy I have seen violent hæmorrhage quickly arrested.—*Annals of Chymistry*, No. 8.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Daniel Cooper, Esq., F.L.S., editor of the “*Microscopic Journal*.”

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

War-office, December 2.

27th Foot—William Nelson Irwin, gent., to be assistant-surgeon, vice Grant, appointed to the 28th foot.

28th—Assistant-surgeon James Grant, M.D., from the 27th, to be assistant-surgeon, vice Macdonell, promoted in the 80th.

80th—Assistant-surgeon Alexander S. Macdonell, from the 28th, to be surgeon, vice Turnbull, deceased

91st—William Stewart, M.D., to be assistant-surgeon, vice M'Laren, deceased.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

Members admitted Friday, December 2, 1842.

J. O'Hea, T. Morgan, D. M. Aitken, J. Dwyre, J. G. Rusher, H. B. L. Brock, T. Bishop, G. Tweddell, C. J. Farr, G. E. McLaughlin, J. R. King, J. H. Gramshaw.

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Printed by SAMUEL TAYLOR, of 6, Chandos-street, in the Parish of St. Paul's, Covent-garden, at his Office, No. 6, Chandos street, aforesaid; and published by HENRY KENSHAW, at his residence, No. 356, Strand.—Saturday, December 10 1842.