LXXVII. On a hydro-pneumatic pump

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LXXVII. *On a Hydro-pneumatic Pump.* By Mr. S. SEAWARD.

To the Editors of the Philosophical Magazine and Journal.

Gentlemen,

FROM the Notices to Correspondents contained in a late Number, I observe that the letter I had the honour of addressing to you, in vindication of my claim to the invention of the Hydro-pneumatic Pump, has been refused insertion in your valuable work, partly because it did not offer any "proofs."

I beg to acquaint you that, in consequence of my being stationed in a distant part of Cornwall, I am precluded, for the present, from collecting the necessary evidence, which on my return to London I shall have no difficulty in obtaining, to the full establishment of my claim.

In the mean while permit me to offer to your notice two or three facts which can be easily verified.

Having conceived the idea of compressing gas by the medium of a liquid body, I submitted my first ideas to paper, in the form of sketches, long before I had any communication with Mr. Martineau on the subject. This document is now and constantly has been in the possession of my brother, who will be happy to show it to any person who is inclined to give it an examination. It is true my first plan differed materially in form and size from the pump afterwards made, although in principle it will be found substantially the same.

I afterwards, with the advice of my brother, arranged and planned the pump in all its essential features, both as to size and disposition of parts, exactly as described in your Number for July.

This plan I submitted to Mr. Martineau, and explained to him the nature of the machine, with its intended operation; and now I can solemnly aver, that up to this time neither myself nor any person whom I consulted had the slightest idea that any thing of the kind had ever been suggested before.

However, I was now informed that Mr. David Gordon of the Portable Gas Company had already proposed a pump on similar principles, and had published his ideas on the subject, about four years ago, in the *Repertory of Arts*. As soon as I was acquainted with this fact, I waited upon that gentleman to ascertain whether he intended to pursue the idea any further; he candidly informed me he did not, but wished me success in my endeavours, as he approved my plan.

From this period, no time was lost in proceeding with the pump, which was made and completed entirely under my management and direction, as must be notorious to everybody in Mr. Martineau's factory. If the above facts be correct,—

and they admit of easy proof,—I will leave it to the judgement of any impartial man whether I have been guilty of falsehood in claiming the invention, qualified as that claim is by a proper acknowledgement of Mr. D. Gordon's priority.

I beg here to observe, that in publishing a description of the pump in question, I had not the slightest idea of giving any offence to Mr. Martineau, as such publication was actually contemplated by me while I was in his employ. You, Gentlemen, may remember that I promised you the description of this pump at the time I furnished you with the account of my *high pressure gauge*: at that period I considered myself in the enjoyment of Mr. Martineau's approbation and confidence. I have also to remark, that when he wished to make me a compensation for an invention of mine, I unhesitatingly refused to take any reward, as I considered myself bound, while in his employ, to do every thing in my power to promote his interests,—a conduct on my part which I conceive was deserving of a different return from the one I have met with.

I will now beg to ask Mr. Martineau, who the person is that he conceives is entitled to the credit of the invention; who was the person who suggested the "*essential parts of the pump*," and what these are; who instructed or directed me in preparing the drawings for the same; and also whether any machine of the kind was ever made or attempted in his or any other factory before I submitted to him my plan? If he will candidly answer the foregoing queries, it may be the means of throwing some light upon this mystery. Your kind insertion * of this will particularly oblige

Yours, &c.

Cornwall, Nov. 13, 1824.

SAMUEL SEAWARD.

LXXVIII. *Analyses of a Series of Papers on the Structure, Distribution, and Functions of the Nerves; by CHARLES BELL, Esq.; which have appeared in some late Volumes of the Philosophical Transactions.*

[Concluded from p. 359.]

WE were engaged in our last Number in considering the provision which exists for preserving the eye-ball from injury by the involuntary winking of the eyelids, as pointed out by Mr. Bell, and which instinctive action was seen to depend on some minute branches of the portio dura of the face supplying those parts: but the author, in the first part of the pa-

* We have inserted this letter in compliance with an urgent claim made on us on the part of Mr. Seaward, although, as the apparatus has we learn failed to answer the purpose for which it was intended, the subject has ceased to be of public importance.—EDIT.