XI. On Dr. Cartwright's Pedo-motive machine

Mr. Henry Meikle

To cite this article: Mr. Henry Meikle (1819) XI. On Dr. Cartwright's Pedo-motive machine , Philosophical Magazine Series 1, 54:255, 59-59, DOI: [10.1080/14786441908652184](https://doi.org/10.1080/14786441908652184)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14786441908652184>

Published online: 29 Jul 2009.

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When it is necessary to remove meat for use, it can be taken out of the vessel without allowing it to come in contact with the oil. By pouring in water, the oil will ascend and will flow over the edge of the vessel containing the meat into one placed underneath to receive it; thus the meat can be easily removed, and the oil will not be wasted. Fresh water can be preserved in like manner in situations where it is scarce, by covering its surface with oil, and by putting bright pieces of iron in it.

London, July 6, 1819.

XI. *On Dr. CARTWRIGHT'S Pedomotive Machine.* By Mr. HENRY MEIKLE.

To Mr. Tillock.

London, July 5, 1819.

SIR,—DR. CARTWRIGHT, in giving an account of his invention, in your last Number, says “that it seems nothing less than a miracle, that the idea did not occur to the common knife-grinder centuries ago.” If I do not mistake the thing altogether, Hardie’s walking-crane is nothing else than the same principle brought to great perfection; and if I rightly remember, there is in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* a description with an engraving of a carriage moved with ratchet-wheels and treddles, which I conceive to be precisely on the same principle as that proposed by the Doctor at the bottom of page 425. However, as the account which Dr. C. gives of his invention is very concise, he himself can best explain his meaning if I have misconstrued it.

I am, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

HENRY MEIKLE.

* * In laying the above observations of our correspondent Mr. Meikle before our readers, we beg to offer one remark. The idea of working a wheel-carriage by means of ratchet-wheels moved by treddles is not new; but we have no recollection of having before seen any proposal for applying the whole muscular strength of a man’s body, by means of straps over his shoulders, to the working of the treddles. This is what we consider as the principal novelty in Dr. Cartwright’s suggestion, and that which alone gives it value as an improvement. If the strap or any fixed point of resistance for the man’s shoulders, while his feet are employed to communicate his power, has been before in use, the Doctor’s improvement is not new.—EDIT.