



XXVI. On the culture of Indian corn, &c.

John Murray F.L.S. M.W.S.

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ference. I ordered a continuance under the same directions, and in two days more the urine was of nearly the natural colour; but the skin had not improved in the same proportion. I advised tonics with the occasional use of the acid, and my patient shortly recovered.

I have had many of the same complaint since that time, and have directed nearly in the manner, according to the age and condition of the patients, and the result has been the restoration of health in a very short time. In general, the yellowness disappeared in three or four days from the urine, but continued a little longer on the skin; by the use of tonics, and sometimes a little of the acid, this is however removed in a few days. I have met with only one patient, whose symptoms have not yielded to the above plan. This was a person eighty years of age. Even in this case, however, the acid always produced relief; but the complaint soon returned. My present practice is to give a cathartic of calomel and julep or some of the neutral salts, and then the balm tea moderately acidulated with the phosphoric acid, which I direct to have continued till it operates as a diuretic and until the urine becomes clear or nearly so; this commonly takes place in the course of two days. I have advised other acids when this has not been at hand; but I am inclined to give the preference to the phosphoric, although I think the others deserve a further trial.

I might have entered much more into detail, but I am satisfied that it needs only a trial to convince any candid person of the advantage of this acid in the cure of the jaundice. I have never seen any bad effects from the use of the phosphoric acid, although it is said that phosphorus is poisonous. This I have never used.

I shall be happy to answer any inquiries, and remain respectfully your obedient servant,

CALEB MILLER.

XXVI. *On the Culture of Indian Corn, &c.* By JOHN MURRAY, F.L.S. M.W.S., &c. &c.

To Dr. Tilloch.

London, Feb. 7, 1822.

SIR, — IN No. 284, page 433, of the “Philosophical Magazine and Journal,” we are favoured with “Thoughts on the Cultivation of Maize, &c. by a practical and experimental Farmer.” It is indeed an inquiry of considerable interest. That Indian corn has ripened in this country, and that too without artificial warmth or shelter, is a well ascertained fact, and such seeds would doubtless ensure a succession more hardy than the primitive seed,
whence

whence the successional crops were derived. An intelligent practical farmer in Holderness informed me he had succeeded in rearing Indian corn in an unsheltered and exposed situation, and that the seed thus obtained grew freely. In the North of Italy, the growers of maize *twitch off the tops* of the plants as soon as the male flowers have done their part, and this is allowed to accelerate the expansion and ripening of the seeds.

In the Neapolitan kingdom they possess a species or variety of the Indian corn, called *Mellica quarantina*, which is sown as a successional crop after the wheats are reaped. It is presumed ripe for the sickle in forty days, and from this circumstance receives its specific distinction. This variety of maize seems admirably adapted for the short season of our summer. I can have no doubt whatever of its capability of being naturalized to this climate. By some preparative, as steeping the corn in water of a genial warmth, ere it is committed to the earth, we might determine promptly the germinative powers, and anticipate in some measure the period requisite for its full and perfect development. Mr. Knight has with his usual acuteness and sagacity insisted on the importance (in cases of exotic plants) of an instant stimulus of increased temperature, and he very judiciously appeals to what can be accomplished by a short Canadian summer, to prove the correctness of his views.—I take it that we suffer most in the *sudden transit* from the chills of night to the blaze of sunshine, and that if practicable we should screen our wall trees, &c. by brushwood (and it is astonishing how small a matter will accomplish the purpose in question), not only as a defence from the loss of temperature sustained by radiation in a climate, where the period, at night, in relation to the thermometer *above the freezing* point, forms so small a fraction of the year. I am glad to see so much science enlisted into the service of argiculture and horticulture as we find in the persons of Sir Humphry Davy, Mr. Knight, &c. and it augurs well for their further advancement. The nutritious properties of Indian corn remain undoubted.

Permit me to add, that I think it singular *Millet* should not be attempted as a green crop for cattle, if not for its seeds. It is very generally cultivated in Tuscany, and cut down, while still unripe, as food for cattle. I have reared it for my amusement, and thus know it to be equally hardy with Canary-grass; consequently may be cultivated for the purpose in question. In the Southern counties of England, I doubt not it might profitably succeed the crops of wheat.

There is cultivated in Italy, particularly about Cremona, a variety of flax called *Lino monochino*, obtained originally, I believe, from Bavaria. It is esteemed much superior to any other, and
possesses

possesses a fine silken fibre. It rates in the Italian market much higher than the flax commonly cultivated.—Can you inform me, sir, whether we enjoy this variety?

I have often regretted the want of an *experimental field* for agricultural researches, such for instance as that at Padua, &c. In horticulture we begin to possess this valuable appendix.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most humble and very obedient servant,

J. MURRAY.

XXVII. *On the Galvanic Deflagrator of Professor ROBERT HARE, M.D. of the University of Pennsylvania, in a Letter to that Gentleman from the Editor of the American Journal of Science.*

Yale College, Oct. 23, 1821.

MY DEAR SIR,—I WAS much impressed by your account of the Galvanic Deflagrator, and of the fine experiments which you performed with it, as described in the third volume (p. 105) of the *American Journal of Science**. By means of your kindness in sending me your original apparatus (the only one which, as far as I am informed, has hitherto been constructed) I had it in my power, early in the month of June, to repeat your experiments in my public course of lectures. Large numbers of intelligent persons attended, in addition to the classes, and the results gave great pleasure and satisfaction. My health being at that time very feeble, it was not in my power to pursue the subject to the extent which I had intended; and expecting to resume it, I had postponed the writing of a notice of your instrument, hoping that by and by I could do it more to my own satisfaction. But as no one else appears to have repeated your experiments, I have concluded, even at this late moment, to throw a hasty notice into the *Journal*, although it has not been in my power to add any thing to the experiments performed in June.

I can say with truth that I consider your Deflagrator† as the finest present made to this department of knowledge, since the discovery of the Pile by Volta, and of the Trough by Cruickshank. The vessels being filled with the fluid, beforehand, prevents any haste or confusion, and the advantage which your arrangement gives the operator, of immersing, at one quick movement, the whole of an extensive series, is very great. Being perfectly ready, and with the poles in his hand, the teacher only giving a signal to his assistant to immerse the coils, instantly directs the whole power to the desired point, and produces results, which, both in

* See *Phil. Mag.* vol. lvii.

† Your Calorimotor I have never possessed.