

slightest pain in any of them. The case was, therefore, regarded as one of neuralgia, and treated as such, but without relief to the patient, who became anxious that some other means should be tried, when I was again induced to inspect the teeth. The examination, however, was as unsatisfactory as before. But, fortunately, on resorting to the experiment of *striking* the teeth on the side affected, I instantly discovered the source of the patient's misery, for on tapping one of them the lady shrieked loudly, and almost sprang out of the chair. Of course the tooth was immediately extracted, and examined, when a small decayed spot was found to exist in it on the side which was in contact with the next tooth. It need hardly be added that the extraction was followed by immediate cure.

It may be worthy of mention, that this lady, when labouring under one of the attacks of neuralgia which she suffered some years ago, consulted an experienced surgeon, who advised the extraction of a tooth, which he thought was the cause of her suffering, but the drawing of the tooth afforded no relief, and she was ultimately cured by emetics and other internal remedies.

A man some time back came to me for advice for what he considered to be rheumatism of the face, as he declared that all his teeth were sound, and that the pain did not at all resemble toothach, in which he was well experienced. I inspected the teeth without finding decay in them; but on smartly striking them, one of the dentes sapientiæ gave much pain, and when extracted proved to be unsound, though in a part so concealed, and the spot was so small as to account for the impossibility of seeing the disease whilst in its socket.

Your review of Mr. Scott's work on tic douloureux, has induced me to transmit you the foregoing observations, as they appear to me calculated to prevent some mistakes, into which a young practitioner might easily fall, and I shall conclude by remarking, 1st. That the process of tapping the teeth is the only certain method, at least as far as I know, of forming a right diagnosis in cases of a dubious character, such as were the two above noticed; 2ndly. That though the pain in actual neuralgia of the face may, and indeed generally is, increased by striking the teeth with the forceps, yet the pain is not confined to a single tooth, but affects all the teeth in an equal degree.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ROBERT EMINSON, Surgeon.

30, Great Dover Road, Borough,
September 22nd, 1834.

SMALL AND FREQUENT DOSES OF CALOMEL IN CHOLERA.

*Remarks by Dr. AYRE on the Letter of
Dr. PEACOCK.*

FROM a communication which we have this week received for publication from Dr. AYRE, of Hull, we extract the following comments on the letter of Dr. Peacock, relative to the employment of single-grain doses of calomel in cholera, inserted in our journal of the 20th September. Dr. AYRE is, indubitably, entitled to an affirmative award on every claim which he makes:—

“To the averments of Dr. Peacock, which are to me wholly inexplicable on any recognised rule of literary justice, I shall content myself with replying by a simple narration of facts:—

“It was only in October 1832 that Dr. Peacock, by his own admission, communicated for the *first* time to the public his adoption of the treatment with small doses of calomel. But it was in the December of the *preceding* year that I visited and introduced *that* practice into Newcastle, and so early as the end of *January*, 1832; and full *eight months* before he resorted to the practice, I had letters from different gentlemen of that town, acquainting me that many of them there exclusively relied on it, and that those who steadily employed it had found it to be eminently successful. Darlington, where Dr. Peacock and his partner reside, is only thirty miles from Newcastle; and even if he did not inquire, he could scarcely fail to be told of the methods of treatment pursued there. But further, as early as *April* of *that* year, I had begun my communications to your journal in recommendation of single-grain doses of calomel, repeated every five or ten minutes, and in every letter renewed with earnestness the pressing advice to give it *exclusively*, uniting a single drop of laudanum with each dose, solely to correct an incidental effect of it, and to abstain from, or discontinue the use of it, as early as the disease would allow. This practice became known to almost every practitioner of the kingdom, and was noticed by every medical journal of the time; and this, too, full *four months* before Dr. Peacock had begun to try it, and even before he had seen the disease, or had endeavoured to cure it by the Indian plan of large doses.

“But an attempt is made by Dr. Peacock to show that his practice of giving calomel in single-grain doses differs essentially and radically from mine, because he

gives the same dose *invariably* in all cases, and to infants, therefore, I presume, as well as to adults, and *invariably* every ten minutes, and without, of course, any regard to the intensity of the collapse, or the advance it is making towards its termination. But besides his not copying my plan of giving the calomel every five, ten, or fifteen minutes, as the case may require, beginning generally, as is my rule, with it every five minutes, and sometimes giving only half a grain, and to infants only a third of one, he disclaims the imputed imitation of my practice, and asserts his pretensions to originality on the ground that I allow, or ordered, bags of warm sand to the feet, and, I suppose, though he does not name them, frictions for the limbs affected with cramp, with cataplasms of mustard to the stomach, and enemata of starch for the bowels, and a drop of laudanum to be given for a short time with each pill, to obviate the incidental inconveniences of it. Thus upon these grounds it is that Dr. Peacock has attempted to establish his claim to having originated a practice, as he asserts it to be, perfectly distinct from mine, and which, to quote his own illustration of his conception of it, he declares to be 'as unlike mine as the word Munton is to Monmouth.' But Dr. Peacock must know that these means are not auxiliaries to the calomel, nor were given as such, as *aiding its specific effect*, or tending in any way to interfere with or mar it; and that it has always been a point earnestly insisted on by me, to *give the calomel and rely upon it exclusively*, and to limit the use of other means to the purpose of obviating chiefly the incidental effects of the remedy, and for relieving the sufferings of, and sustaining the patient, through, the perils of the collapse.

"Hull, Sept. 25th, 1834."

At the late meeting of the BRITISH ASSOCIATION at Edinburgh,—Dr. MACDONNELL read a very curious paper, showing that the variations of the pulse produced by posture are independent of muscular action; the acceleration always following the angle of inclination of the body, whether the patient be asleep or awake.

Dr. BUSHNAN exhibited some worms which he asserted had been found in the blood of a female. A discussion ensued, during which several medical men declared that they had ascertained the woman to be an impostor, and that the worms, when examined by Mr. Rhind, had proved to be the same that are found in common ditch-water.

N^o. 579.

SKETCHES OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN IRELAND.

NEW SERIES. No. 1.

THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, PHOENIX
PARK, DUBLIN.

WHEN EPIMENIDES awoke from his slumber of half a century, it is said that he found his native country so changed, that he could scarcely recognise its identity. If, instead of tending flocks on the lovely hills of Crete, the pastoral sage had been cast among "the shoals and quicksands" of later times, and, by some casualty, had been removed from the ever-shifting scene of our modern transformations, what would have been his surprise on beholding the metamorphoses which had taken place during an absence in which the preparatory conceptions of ages would seem to have been evolved almost in a single day!

Feelings, such as we thus faintly endeavour to represent, fill our mind, when we look around and observe the verdure of a new social creation beginning to clothe in its beauty the ruins of that from which we consigned ourselves to a temporary exile.

On resuming our place among old friends and old associations, we cannot help imagining ourselves, like the philosopher of Crete, as if launched into a world from which time had effaced every vestige of its former condition, and impressed it with new features and new characters. Other men, other opinions, other institutes, have sprung up on its surface, in obedience to that law whose essence would appear to be revolution, and under whose omnipotent jurisdiction human power has no permanence, human statutes have no stability, human designs no duration, save those allotted them for the accomplishment of better and ulterior objects in the progressive scale of regeneration and improvement. Where are now those gothic piles of scholastic pride and corporate power—those aristocratic domes and halls, once replete with pomp and pedantry—those fortresses thrown up amid the fair domains of science, to protect her interests and extend her conquests, but which rose above them only to repress her exertions, or to prostitute her vestal purity to unhallowed purposes?—Where are they now, with their motley pageantry of edicts and decrees, of seals and charters, of maces mingled with mitres, which we left behind us in

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