



XXV. On the use of phosphoric acid in jaundice

Dr. Caleb Miller

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tures. On further inquiry, I found the conger eel to be a regular breeding fish with special sexual organs. It is therefore more than probable that the conger is the breeding eel, and that it never returns into fresh water after its entrance into the ocean. This peculiarity is different from the salmon, which alternates its periodical visits between the rivers and sea for breeding purposes: but Nature observes general, and not universal rules. When at Hastings several years ago, I put small eels caught from a neighbouring brook into sea-water, and they enjoyed apparent vigour for many days successively. I have also, when a boy, frequently caught river eels on the salt-water side of a marsh sluice at the mouth of the river Tees.

Any person resident on the coast might easily determine the leading facts respecting the identity, or otherwise, of conger and river eels. I suspect the latter require some years of sea growth before they acquire the sexual parts, but no degree of fresh water growth ever develops those organs in a river eel.

Dear sir,

Your obliged servant,

3, Langham Place, Cavendish Square,
Jan. 12, 1822.

ANTHONY CARLISLE.

XXV. *On the Use of Phosphoric Acid in Jaundice.*

By Dr. CALEB MILLER.*

To Prof. Silliman.

Bristol, (R. I.) April 28, 1821.

DEAR SIR,—**S**EEING in your Journal that you solicit communications, for the promotion of the Arts and Sciences, from the effects I have seen produced from the phosphoric acid in the cure of the jaundice, I am induced to say something of what I know, as I have not seen any mention of this acid as a remedy in that disease.

About six years ago I had a very obstinate case that resisted the common remedies. I was led to use the phosphoric acid on the principle that the acids decompose the bile. I made choice of this on account of its existing in a separate state in the blood.

I directed a large spoonful of the acid as prepared in Murray's *Materia Medica* in a pint of balm tea to be taken as fast as the stomach would bear it, till it should operate as a diuretic. In twenty-four hours the patient had taken eight pints, and it had operated powerfully as a diuretic. Neither the urine nor the white of the eye was as yellow as before, by a very obvious dif-

* From Silliman's Journal, No. IX.

ference.

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