

A
DISCOURSE,
ON THE
SUBJECT OF ANIMATION.

DELIVERED BEFORE THE
HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

JUNE 11, 1792.

BY JOHN BARTLETT, A. M.

ARTERIA ANIMAM ACCIPIT E PULMONIBUS.



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At a Meeting of the HUMANE SOCIETY, June 12th, 1792.

VOTED, THAT *the Hon. the PRESIDENT, the first VICE PRESIDENT, Hon. ROBERT TREAT PAINE, Esq. the Rev. Dr. JOSEPH WILLARD, and the Rev. Dr. PETER THACHER, be a Committee to wait on Dr. JOHN BARTLETT, and return him the thanks of this Society for his ingenious Discourse delivered this day, and to request of him a copy for the Prefs.*

An Extract from the Minutes of the Humane Society,

JOHN AVERY, jun. Rec. Secretary.

ROXBURY, June 12th, 1792.

GENTLEMEN,

THE grateful sensations with which I am impressed by the approbation given to my discourse, will never be obliterated. Your very polite request for a copy to be submitted to the Prefs, demands my warmest acknowledgments. Presuming it may in some small degree promote the interest of this most humane and benevolent institution, I cheerfully comply.

I am, Gentlemen,

With due respect,

Your most humble Servant,

JOHN BARTLETT.

Hon. THOMAS RUSSELL, Esq.

JONATHAN MASON, Esq.

Hon. JUDGE PAINE.

Rev. PRESIDENT WILLARD, D. D.

Rev. PETER THACHER, D. D.

} Committee.

TO THE HONORABLE
THOMAS RUSSELL, Esq.
PRESIDENT,
JONATHAN MASON, Esq.
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT,
JOHN WARREN, M.D.
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT,
AND THE
Other TRUSTEES of the HUMANE SOCIETY,
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH of *MASSACHUSETTS*,
In TESTIMONY of their PHILANTHROPICK EXERTIONS in the CAUSE of Hu-
MANITY,

This DISCOURSE
Is most respectfully DEDICATED,

By their
Very humble servant,

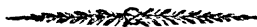
JOHN BARTLETT.

“ IF we are struck with admiration at the production of genius, in which the artist captivates us by an imitation of nature, and teaches canvas or marble, to resemble animation ; with what rapture must we view the corporeal faculties actually restored, the cheeks again blooming with undiffembled lustre, and the countenance replete with gratitude to those who have been the happy instruments of resuscitation.”



A

DISCOURSE, &c.



TO open to the view of this beneficent and humane society, the principles upon which the vital functions perform their offices, the causes which deprive those functions of their operation, and the means by which they may be reanimated, is the object of this discourse.

ALTHOUGH I feel with concern, how unequal I am to the importance of the subject, yet I rely upon my zeal for the promotion of this valuable institution, in pleading your candour and indulgence.

KNOWLEDGE and humanity are the leading principles of well instituted societies, the darling boasts of civilized countries, and the only bases upon which we can build that happiness which is reserved for the enjoyment of a cultivated people.

ALTHOUGH

ALTHOUGH human nature be possessed of faculties capable of being exalted to the highest pitch of knowledge and refinement, and although we reach them by slow and imperceptible gradations in most instances ; yet scarce one century and an half has elapsed since this land of improvement was an uncultivated desert, and the ravages of barbarity the zenith to which its inhabitants aspired. In the civilized state of Europe, when a celebrated anatomist * advanced that there was a circulating fluid necessary for the support of life, the idea was ridiculed ; since which time, the immortal Harvey established it as a truth, and not a man from his day hath attempted to controvert the fact. Until the eighteenth century, it was thought impossible, after a complete suspension of the vital functions had once taken place, that a restoration could be effected ; had it been attempted, it would have excited a sneer, and been considered as a proof of folly. This happy and enlightened age claims the honour of giving birth to humane societies. By their establishment the polished world became possessed of an invaluable gem, and the breasts of those of its members who have rescued the prisoners of death, have experienced sensations, the very idea of which the powers of description are too feeble to convey.

THE history of the establishment of humane associations has been fully investigated in the ingenious discourses which you have before attended. I shall only observe, that Amsterdam first lighted the torch, all Europe mingled in the flame ;
and

M. Fagon.

and the humane sons of this Commonwealth, animated by the reports of European success, * have adopted the system, and their continual exertions for improving it will be the means, I trust, of diffusing happiness to thousands, who would have wept at the consignment of their friends to the grave, and of calling tears of gratitude from such as would have been its victims. And pleasing is the reflection, that their directions for setting in motion the suspended animal functions, may be as easily followed by either of its members as by the most able Physician.

THE powers which support animation from the time of our first breathing, are heat, air, and moisture; the action of these powers, and all the phenomena of sense and motion, depend upon stimulus. This stimulus is derived from the reciprocal action of the blood upon the lungs, and the lungs upon the blood; and its operation is excited by the entrance of the blood into the heart. To elucidate which, it is necessary to give you a description of that organ with its appendages.

THE

* Since the establishment of the Royal Humane Society in London, to the year 1789, rewards have been paid in two thousand and fifteen cases, viz.

Persons restored to life, who had been drowned, or otherwise suffocated	890
Lives preserved from eminent danger	621
Unsuccessful Cases	504

2015 cases.

In Liverpool, in the years 1787, 1788, and 1789, out of seventy persons apparently drowned, sixty seven were saved, in consequence of which the honorary medal was voted to Mr. William Willson, who assisted in these accidents. [*Reports of the Humane Society in London.*]

THE heart has two cavities called ventricles, within which are several elastic chords, that arise from their fleshy portions, and are attached to the valves of two receivers called auricles, which are situated at the basis of the heart. There also pass out from the basis of the heart two arteries, called pulmonary and great artery; and six veins, four pulmonary, and two venæ cavæ, each furnished with valves; those belonging to the arteries for the purpose of giving way to the passage of the blood from the ventricles, and to resist its return; those of the veins to allow a passage only to the heart. The valves of the veins are connected with the elastic chords. There are two valves in the right ventricle, and two in the left.

Now the right ventricle being stimulated by the impulse of the blood, is excited to contract; the elastic chords relaxing, and the valves closing the opening into the auricle, every passage is obstructed, but the pulmonary artery, into which it enters, passes through the lungs, there undergoes certain changes and acquires certain properties, which are absolutely essential for the right performance of its offices. After this contraction the heart is relaxed and elongated. The chords attached to the valves between the auricle and ventricle, must necessarily draw inward the loose membranes, of which they are formed, and the blood now congested in the pulmonary veins, obtains a ready entrance into the left cavity of the heart; and this action takes place at the same time that the artery of the lungs is filled with blood, so that both ventricles are filled and emptied together; and the animal can no longer subsist than whilst this order is preserved.

OF

Of all casualties incident to the human race, (and against the fatal effects of which, it is the duty of this society to guard) drowning is that which most frequently calls for the assistance, which it delighteth humanity to afford. It was the attempt made upon those apparently dead from this circumstance which first proved successful.

A VARIETY of hypotheses from time to time have been adduced, respecting the cause which suspends the vital operations whilst the body is immerfed.

IN the times of Galen this suspension was thought to arise from large quantities of water, entering the different cavities of the body, and by their pressure, bursting some of the most important organs of life. But since the knowledge of anatomy has been more perfected, the action of the water upon the lungs only, fully accounts for all the phenomena attending it. Whether the water acts immediately upon the lungs by its pressure, or only by preventing the admission of the fresh air, is still a dispute amongst Physiologists. By dissection after drowning, the quantity of water found upon the lungs is very inconsiderable, and totally insufficient to produce the changes which take place. From this we may infer that the exclusion of the atmospheric air from the lungs, is the cause to which we must attribute every effect arising from submersion.

FROM this account of the circulation, and the agency of the air in promoting it, the manner in which submersion be-

B

comes

comes fatal, is evidently deduced. For whether death ensues from the admission of water into the lungs, or from the exclusion of the air by the circumambient water, the effect is the same, i. e. the lungs are incapable of expansion, and the blood in its course thro them is impeded.

HOWEVER destructive the want of air may be to animal life in the adult state, and however fatal the submerfion in water, yet it is a curious fact, that in the foetal state life is maintained under both these circumstances, and the provision of nature for supporting it, is perhaps one of the most astonishing displays of supreme wisdom, to be met with in the whole compass of our existence. Whilst the child is dependant upon its mother for life, and nutrition, the blood by which it is supported is received from the mother, by a vein which carries it to the heart, a part of it is then sent from the right to the left auricle, through an opening in the partition of the heart ; and another part passes through the artery of the lungs to the great artery, by a vessel which serves that purpose only. It is returned from the child, through two arteries ; these two vessels, with the vein which receives the blood from the mother, form the umbilical chord. Upon this chord depends its existence ; until it becomes an inhabitant of the atmosphere. No sooner is its tender fabric exposed to that element, which is forever after to be its main support, than from its general property of rushing where there is the least resistance, the lungs being in a passive state, and suspended in a vacuum, are forced to yield to its pressure ; in consequence of which the lungs become expanded, and are
brought

brought into close contact with the pleura, and diaphragm : which connexion is maintained until separated by disease.

THE air which has, perhaps, by this time imbibed some noxious quality, similar to that of perspiration, does by its pressure upon the lungs excite an uneasiness, and when nature can no longer support it, the lungs which are in a state of expansion contract, and expel the offending cause ; which, if retained would have become so rarefied by the heat of the blood, and have so compressed the vesicles, that the contents of the veins, would have become evacuated from the lungs, whilst they would be rendered incapable of receiving a supply from the arteries. Hence, the left ventricle becomes empty, the right insufficient to propel its contents, and suffocation takes place.

THUS we see that an alternate inspiration, and expiration, (which compound action is called breathing) is indispensably necessary for the support of life. After it has once commenced its operation ; animal heat is dependant solely upon its continuance ; and we find, whilst the blood of fishes, which do not breathe, are as cold as the element they inhabit, the blood of the whale kind, which have lungs, and respire, is as warm as the human.

WHEN the body is immersed, and life just bidding a last adieu to its corporeal frame, it rises to the surface, and makes an effort to inspire ; but from its debilitated state, and the spasmodic constriction of the epiglottis, (which always takes place) .

place) it is incapacitated to perform that act ; so that the air which is in the lungs, is continually passing off ; and receiving no supply, they are brought into a completely collapsed state ; this renders them incapable of receiving blood from the arteries, whilst that from the veins is continuing to empty itself : Hence, it is deprived of that quality which it is necessary for it to possess, in order to excite the contractions of the heart.

If under these circumstances, the lungs be inflated, the resistance to the entrance of the blood into the arteries will be removed ; and it will again enter, pass through them, receive its pabulum of life, and the heart again resume the functions peculiar to its office. The application of warmth and dryness to the body after immersion, is the first object to which we should attend ; and if the vital spark be not totally extinguished, we have a chance to recal its dormant powers to action by these alone. Suffocation by hanging, by the fumes of coal, the confined air of wells and caverns which have been long shut, and the damps of mines, is to be treated upon the general plan of resuscitation, proposed in the suspension of the animal functions from drowning.

INFANTS at their birth are sometimes apparently deprived of life. If then heat be timely applied, the lungs mechanically inflated, and an effort be made to imitate respiration, we shall often have the pleasing satisfaction of seeing them happily restored to the embraces of their fond parents.* And

let

* " It has been proved, beyond a doubt, that in various instances of apparent sudden death, and even in certain diseases which seemingly carry off mankind, suspension of the vital powers may take place independent of the absolute extinction of life : And it is now an established

let us in every attempt to check departing life, be determined to persevere until signs of recovery be apparent, or there is a certainty that the vital principle has forsaken its tenement.

ELECTRICITY is said, by the late Dr. Fothergill, to be the most speedy and certain remedy in unfortunate accidents from lightning. He observes that "electricity proves a most useful remedy even for its own excesses ; nor is the remark inconsistent, seeing its effects may be greatly diversified, according to the mode of applying it. Thus, it may be caused to pass silently along a wire, visibly to shorten or elongate it, or finally to dissolve it. The same circumstances are apparent in a variety of other instances. A strong current of air extinguishes the burning taper, whilst a gentler breeze rekindles it." We also know from actual experiment, when the limbs have become chilled, and completely deprived of sensation, that no remedy is so effectual as the application of snow or ice.

To restore the deranged organs of motion to the functions assigned them, recourse is often had to bleeding, emetics, suspending the body by the feet, and rolling it upon a cask ; all which, instead of restoring circulation to the fluids, will deny the little remnant of life the advantages which more modern practice has offered for its relief.

BLEEDING

established maxim that the coldness of the body, the frigidity of the limbs, and the total abolition of the external senses, are very dubious and fallacious signs of death. It is not then to be wondered at, that in all ages the absurd and pernicious custom of laying out the bodies of persons supposed to be dead, as soon as respiration ceases, should have occasioned the premature dissolution of great numbers of the human race."

BLEEDING deprives us of the most important point which it is our object to promote, viz. irritability; and when symptoms of recovery are apparent, if we diminish this power it will always prove injurious and sometimes fatal. Emetics will remain in a perfectly inactive state during the suspension of irritability, and whenever the stomach becomes capable of being irritated, then they produce their ordinary effects, sickness, debility, and fainting. Blistering and scarifying, upon the same principles, can have no effect until an excitement be procured; consequently are useless, and ill timed applications. Suspending the body by the feet, and every means by which it is violently agitated, will, in its torpid, and defenceless state, totally derange the contents of both cavities, and the pressure of one part upon the other, if there be the smallest circulation, will totally obstruct it, and produce the very effect we are endeavouring to escape.

PERMIT me to veil the subject of physiology and congratulate you upon this anniversary of humanity. No splendid table, nor vain parade of luxury, but the supreme delight of wearing the insignia of active virtue, induces us to commemorate it.

To you, gentlemen, who are the directors of this society, are we indebted, for its institution, and progress. You have opened an extensive field for the exertion of benevolent minds, to effect that, which the wealth of the Indies can never purchase.

BUT where is the learned philanthropist, the patron of science, and the guardian of humanity, who first presided at
your

your board*? Although his mortal part is shrouded in the lap of earth, yet his memory will be indelibly impressed upon the humane heart, until the general wreck of nature dissolves the records of genius and philanthropy.

THE Honourable Gentleman who has so ably filled the chair since the decease of the illustrious character just mentioned, deserves the grateful applauses of every friend to humanity.

MAY his, with your meritorious exertions, in the ample field which humanity has consecrated to your researches, be crowned with success; and may your reward be an experience of that heart felt satisfaction, which arises from the consciousness of having promoted the cause of benevolence, in the most important concern of human life: and may your names be held in veneration, and esteem, when the rigid laws of inexorable fate, have placed you beyond the reach of the art you profess.

* Gov. Bowdoin,

F I N I S.



ERRATUM.—Page 8, line 16 from top, for *it*, read *the blood*.

A N

A P P E N D I X,

CONTAINING THE

ACT of INCORPORATION of the HUMANE SOCIETY
of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS, and the
RULES and REGULATIONS of said SOCIETY since their
INCORPORATION ; with the METHODS of TREAT-
MENT in CASES of APPARENT DEATH, COMMU-
NICATIONS, CATALOGUE of MEMBERS, &c. &c,

COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one.

An Act to incorporate and establish a SOCIETY by the name of the HUMANE
SOCIETY of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

WHEREAS it is the duty of government at all times, to countenance and support its ci-
tizens, in their exertions for alleviating the distresses of their fellow-men : And whereas
divers persons have petitioned this Court, for an act of incorporation, whereby they may more
effectually carry into execution, their benevolent designs :

*Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assen-
bled, and by the authority of the same, That the Hon. Thomas Russell, Esq. Jonathan
Mayson, Esq. John Warren, M. D. Rev. Simeon Howard, D. D. Rev. Samuel Parker,
D. D. John Avery, jun. Esq. Rev. John Lathrop, D. D. Rev. Peter Thacher, Rev.
John Clark, Doctor Thomas Welsh, Aaron Dexter, M. D. and Mr. Nathaniel Balch,
together with all those who now are, and such others who shall become members
thereof, be, and they are hereby created into, and made a body politic corporate
forever, by the name of the HUMANE SOCIETY of the Commonwealth of Massa-
chusetts,*

And

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Corporation are hereby declared and made capable in law, of having, holding, purchasing and taking in fee-simple, or any less estate, by gift, grant, devise or otherwise, any lands, tenements or other estate, real and personal; (provided that the annual income of said real and personal estate, shall not exceed the sum of *four thousand pounds*)—and also to sell, alien, devise or dispose of the same estate, real and personal, not using the same in trade or commerce.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Corporation shall have full power and authority to make, have and use a common seal, and the same to break, alter and renew at pleasure; that it shall be capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all Courts of record or other Courts or places whatsoever, in all actions real, personal and mixed, and to do and execute all and singular other matters and things, that to them shall and may appertain to do.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation may make, establish and put in execution, such laws and regulations as may be necessary to the government of said Corporation, provided the same shall in no case be repugnant to the laws and constitution of this state. And for the well governing of the said Corporation, and the ordering their affairs, they shall have such officers as they shall hereafter from time to time, elect and appoint; and such officers as shall be designated by the laws and regulations of the said Corporation for the purpose, shall be capable of exercising such power for the well governing and ordering the affairs of the said Corporation, and calling and holding such occasional meetings for that purpose, as shall be fixed and determined by the said laws and regulations.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the end and design of the institution of the said Society, is for the recovery of persons who meet with such accidents as produce in them the appearance of death, and for promoting the cause of humanity, by pursuing such means from time to time, as shall have for their object, the preservation of human life, and the alleviation of its miseries.

And be it further enacted, That the place where the first meeting of the said Society shall be held, shall be the town of *Boston*; and that the Hon. *Thomas Russell*, Esq. be and he hereby is authorized and empowered to fix the time for holding the said meeting, and to notify the same to the members of the said Society, by causing the same

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same to be published in one of the *Boston* newspapers, fourteen days before the time fixed on for holding the said meeting.

In the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES, *February 21, 1791.*
This Bill, having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

DAVID CORB, Speaker.

In SENATE, *February 23, 1791.*
This Bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, President.

By the Governour,

Approved,

JOHN HANCOCK.

Attest,

JOHN AVERY, jun, Sec.



The INSTITUTION of the HUMANE SOCIETY of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

FROM a variety of faithful experiments, and incontestable facts, it is now considered as an established truth, that the total suspension of the vital functions in the animal body is by no means incompatible with life, and consequently the marks of apparent death may subsist without any necessary implication of an absolute extinction of the animating principle. The boundary line between life and death, or the distinguishing signs of the latter, are objects to which the utmost efforts of the human capacity have never yet attained. Nor can we, with any degree of certainty, pronounce that an animal is dead, until the most unequivocal proofs of putrefaction, have been furnished. From these facts it might reasonably be expected, that were proper measures to be adopted, especially in cases peculiarly doubtful, we might frequently be enabled to restore to full life, and the enjoyment of it, a beloved friend, or a valuable member of society. And indeed numerous successful instances might be adduced in the cases of persons, who would in a few hours have been consigned to an untimely grave, and perhaps have suffered all the horrors of inevitable death, attended with a consciousness of their own terrible situation. It is not, however, to be understood, that any process directed to the above mentioned purpose can be equally applicable to all cases: for as the attempt must presuppose an entire state of the vital organs, it is obvious that those apparent deaths which are consequent upon disease, afford in general, little or no encouragement for such attempts. But in most cases of sudden death,

death, the vital organs appear to have sustained but a very slight injury, and only require a seasonable excitement of the heart to renew their action.

THE exquisite feelings attendant on the unexpected restoration of an affectionate friend, or an indulgent parent, a dutiful child, or an intimate companion of our bosoms, after having been suddenly torn from us, and, in imagination, numbered with the dead, may be more easily conceived than described, nor is the acquisition of one deserving member of society an object unworthy the public attention.

UPON these considerations Societies have been formed in various parts of Europe, for promoting attempts to recover persons from apparent death, especially in cases of suffocation and drowning. The Humane Society established in Great Britain, in 1770, has been very successful. Within ten years from its institution, out of 1304 persons apparently dead, from drowning, 790 have been restored to their friends and country : Many of them, no doubt, useful and valuable men. For an institution of this nature a considerable fund is necessary, and many occasional expenses will unavoidably occur. The cause of humanity, however, deserves every encouragement. And to promote that cause it is to be hoped the benevolent will liberally subscribe. For these salutary purposes the Legislature of this Commonwealth, by their act passed the last session, have been pleased to incorporate a Society, by the name of the HUMANE SOCIETY of the *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, with ample powers ; and the following regulations and arrangements are submitted, by the society, to the inspection of the public.

RULES for the REGULATION of the HUMANE SOCIETY of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS, instituted in the Town of *Boston*, for the recovery of persons, who meet with such accidents as produce in them the appearance of death, and for promoting the cause of humanity, by pursuing such means, from time to time, as shall have for their object the preservation of human life, and the alleviation of its miseries.

I.

THAT the officers of the society shall consist of a number of Trustees, not exceeding twelve, of whom one shall be President, two Vice Presidents, one Treasurer, one Recording Secretary and one Corresponding Secretary.

II.

THAT the society shall meet twice every year, viz. on the second Tuesday in *December*, and the second Tuesday in *June* ; but that the President, with the advice

vice of the Trustees, shall be empowered to call a meeting whenever the business of the society shall require it.

III.

THAT the President and Trustees shall be annually elected, by ballot, on the second Tuesday in *December*.

IV.

THAT the Recording Secretary shall keep a fair copy of all the votes and proceedings of the society, and record all such cases and communications as the Trustees shall direct,

V.

THAT the Corresponding Secretary shall write all letters relating to the business of the society, and shall write answers to all such letters as the society shall receive, they being previously communicated to the President and Trustees assembled,

VI.

THAT the President and Trustees, a major part of whom shall constitute a quorum, shall, during the vacation between the semiannual meetings of the society, have the care and management of the concerns and funds of the society, regulate the mode of receiving the annual subscriptions, adjudge the premiums due agreeable to the rules of the society, and no monies shall be paid by the Treasurer without their order, signed by the President, or, in his absence, by the Vice President.

VII.

ALL property belonging to the society, whether by donation, or otherwise, shall be held in the name of the society, and remain in the hands of the Treasurer, and in case of his death be delivered to the President, until a new Treasurer shall be chosen.

VIII.

THAT any person, desirous to become a member of this society, shall be nominated by a member of the same, to the Trustees, a majority of whom shall determine his election.

IX.

EACH member shall annually pay into the hands of the Treasurer a sum not less than *six shillings and eight pence*, and any person refusing to pay for three years successively

successively said sum, or his subscription, shall no longer be considered as a member of the society, and his name shall be erased from the catalogue.

X.

THAT a catalogue of the members, with the sums they annually contribute, with the rules of the society, shall once in three years be published, and distributed among the members; together with an account of all donations received during said term, and such other papers as the Trustees shall think proper.

XI.

THAT such gentlemen of the faculty, as shall engage to afford their assistance towards promoting the views of the society, shall do it gratis.

XII.

THAT when any accident shall happen, producing apparent death, the person who shall first discover, and endeavour to recover the subject, shall be entitled to receive a sum not exceeding *three pounds*, nor less than *six shillings* lawful money, to be paid in such manner as the Trustees shall think best.

XIII.

THAT the Trustees be empowered to make such compensations as they shall think proper, to any one, who shall receive into his house the body of a person apparently dead, with a view that means may be used for his recovery.

XIV.

THAT any person who shall, by a singular exertion, save another from death, shall receive a sum not exceeding three pounds lawful money, to be paid in such manner as the trustees shall think proper.

XV.

THAT the trustees shall appoint some person to deliver a public discourse on the second Tuesday of *June* every year, upon some subject connected with the principal objects of this society, and that there be a collection, for the benefit of the Society, upon that day.

XVI.

THAT the Treasurer, annually exhibit his accounts to the Society, and whensoever the funds of the said society will admit of a compensation for his services, that he give bonds to the society for the faithful performance of his trust.

XVII.

XVII.

THE President and Trustees may, at their discretion, at any monthly meeting, admit such persons as honorary members of this Society, as will in their opinion, have a tendency to add respectability to the Society, or be the means of promoting its benevolent intentions, provided, that such persons are not inhabitants of this Commonwealth, and the votes of three fourths of the Trustees are in favour of such admission ; any thing in the ninth article to the contrary notwithstanding.

METHODS of TREATMENT *to be used with Persons apparently Dead from Drowning.*

THOUGH the following methods are chiefly adapted to cases of apparent death from *drowning*, yet the Society think it proper to observe, that most of the means of restoration herein recommended are applicable to a considerable variety of other cases, such as hanging, convulsion fits, suffocation by damps, or noxious vapours, the confined air of wells, cisterns, caves, or the must of fermenting liquors.—The Society have in some of the more essential articles of treatment, followed the recommendations of Foreign Societies of a similar nature ; they have however endeavoured to render them more conformable to the particular circumstances of this country.

I.

THE unfortunate person is to be conveyed carefully to the nearest house : For this purpose the head is to be raised a little, as in bed, and the body should be carried in a natural and easy posture.

II.

THE subject is to be immediately stripped, and laid on a warm bed, and the *skin* well dried with heated flannels, the mud and froth to be removed from the mouth and nostrils ; if the body was naked at the time of the accident, it is then to be surrounded as expeditiously as possible with a hot blanket, and thoroughly dried with coarse cloths or flannels.

III.

THE smoke of tobacco thrown up the fundament should be ranked among the earliest applications : If a *fumigator* should not be at hand, the common pipe* will

* When the common pipe is used the smoke is to be blown with the mouth from the bowl, through the stem, into the fundament, covering the bowl with a handkerchief, or thin piece of linen.

will answer the purpose of applying this vapour to the bowels. So easy and important an operation should be repeatedly performed, as the good effects of tobacco smoke have been proved in many cases.

IV.

THE skin is to be gently rubbed with warm woollen cloths, and a warming pan heated (the body being surrounded with flannel) may lightly be moved up and down the back for a considerable time. Wooden bottles filled with hot water, &c. or heated bricks, covered with flannel, may be efficaciously applied to the soles of the feet, palms of the hands, and other parts of the body.

V.

If a child has been drowned, its body should be wiped perfectly dry, and immediately placed in bed between two persons of good constitution; the salutary effects of the natural vital warmth have been clearly proved in a variety of successful cases.

VI.

THE body is to be rubbed with flannels, sprinkled with spirits, and fomentations of hot rum are to be applied to the breast, &c. and often renewed. The nostrils may be every now and then tickled with a feather; *snuff* and *volatiles* should be occasionally made use of, to excite sneezing if possible. The various means of recovery should be made use of by the *assistants* for several hours; the body is to be gently shaken every ten minutes, in order to render the process more certainly successful; and the bodies of *children* in particular are to be agitated, by taking hold of their arms and legs frequently, and for a continuance of time. In a variety of instances agitation, in conjunction with the methods laid down, has forwarded the recovery of boys who had been drowned, and continued for a considerable time apparently dead.

VII.

If there be any signs of returning life, such as sighing, gasping, convulsive motions, pulsation or a natural warmth, a spoonful of any warm liquid may be administered; and if it proves that the power of swallowing is returned, then a cordial draught may be given in small quantities, but not without the direction of a physician.

VIII.

WHEN the air is very cold or moist, the various methods of treatment are to be made use of near a large fire, or in a heated apartment. On the other hand, if the weather

weather is *warm*, or *fultry* (as in the summer season) the windows and doors of the room should be opened; and in every other possible way, a cool refreshing air obtained; as it is of the greatest importance in bringing forward the latent spark of life, or in restoring natural breathing.

IX.

No persons are to be admitted into the room, but those who are actually employed in exerting their utmost endeavours for the recovery of the unfortunate; six persons are, therefore, the greatest number that can ever prove useful on such occasions; and those who are bystanders, for the sake of curiosity, should be requested to withdraw, as their presence may retard, or totally prevent the restoration.

Bleeding is never to be employed in such cases, unless by the direction of one of the medical assistants, or some other respectable gentleman of the faculty, who has paid attention to such unfortunate accidents.

THE methods which have been so fully recommended, are to be made use of with vigour for several hours, although no favourable circumstances should arise; for it is a vulgar and dangerous opinion, to suppose that persons are irrecoverable, because life does not soon make its appearance; and upon this opinion, an immense number of the seemingly dead, have been committed to the grave; who might have been RESTORED TO LIFE, by *resolution* and *perseverance* in the plans of treatment now recommended.

The SOCIETY have received the following COMMUNICATIONS, since their last publication.

Dr. WILKINS'S *Letter to the HUMANE SOCIETY.*

GENTLEMEN,

PERMIT me to lay before you the following remarkable case, as a token of my high respect and esteem for your benevolent institution.

JOHN MOULTON, of eighteen years of age, attended the fulling mill business in Stratham in the state of Newhampshire. He went down to the mill on the morning of the 28th of September, 1789, in order to put the works in motion, which he effected by elevating a water gate. There being a great head of water

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at that time, the wheel was carried round with rapidity. He had occasion to cleanse a basket, in which was designed to shave fustick ; and accordingly went to the sluice way before the wheel, and put the basket in, so that the water suddenly filling its cavity, pulled him forward with such violence, that he could not recover the equilibrium of his body : He found himself falling, and extending his arm for relief, the first object it met with, was one of the floats, which whirled him under the wheel in a moment. One of the floats caught him between the os illium and short ribs, and wedged him under so fast, that the wheel was stopped, while the element of water overflowed, and surrounded him on either hand. In this situation he continued, 'till the proprietor of the mill (Major Barker) returning from the south part of the town, went down as usual to attend his business : He immediately observed that the wheel was still, while the gate was up at its full height, and the water rushing upon it with the greatest velocity : He searched for the cause ; but found none, 'till with difficulty having shut the gate near half way, and looking under the wheel, he saw the young man's leg lying over the sluice board : He flew to his relief ; but could not help him by reason of the pressure of the water, and weight of the wheel. He then went aloft, and cried aloud for help ; when one Simon Pottle, hearing the voice as he was passing that way, afforded his assistance, but in vain. Finding more help necessary, said Pottle went to the distance of forty, or fifty rods, and procured two men, viz. David Barker, and Caleb Wiggins, who taking with them levers and axes, went down, cut away, pryed the wheel up, and took the young man out : They examined, and found him breathless, cold and contracted. While they were endeavouring to effect his relief from the water and wheel, I was sent for in great haste, and arrived there before they had taken off his wet clothes : He was carried into a spacious room, laid on a bed, and placed in a convenient posture for examination. There was a total privation of respiration, and a stagnation of the blood, and, as far as we could observe, the heart lay dormant. All the vital organs were motionless, with an extreme muscular rigidity and coldness. I was resolved to try the methods prescribed, and recommended by the Humane Society at Boston, for recovering drowned persons ; being of the opinion, that he was in a state of suffocation. He was accordingly laid in an horizontal position, and sometimes gently turned upon his sides : Frictions were used, and his naked body covered with warm flannels, frequently applied ; volatiles and camphorated spirits, were applied to the spine of his back, and temporal muscles, with injections of tobacco smoke. These operations were continued one hour and a quarter, when there appeared a visible glow on his face ; a tremor soon pervaded his whole system, which was followed by tremendous groans and spasms for twenty minutes : When his blood began to circulate, phlebotomy was performed, and medicines given agreeable to

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the indications of the case. In three hours he so far recovered as to be able to give an account of his falling into the water. I saw him on the 24th July, 1790, then he enjoyed fine health, and pursued his business with ease and alacrity.

It was the united opinion of a number of judicious persons, that Moulton lay under the water and wheel, one hour, at a moderate computation. One circumstance in support of their opinion was ; that the young man's hat, which undoubtedly fell from his head, when he was caught under the wheel, was taken up several rods from the mill by a man passing over the stream: Who not thinking that there was any body in the mill, in distress, went on, and by estimation, must have been gone at least one hour before his return, which was before I began my operations.

I subscribe myself, Gentlemen, in bonds of the highest esteem and veneration,
Your most obedient,
Very humble servant,

WILLIAM WILKINS.

Billerica, September 27th, 1790.

Dr. BARTLETT'S *Letter to* Dr. JOHN WARREN.

ROXBURY, Novem'ber, 1795.

DEAR DOCTOR,

THE importance, which the communication of our efforts to restore the principles of departed animation is to the community, ought to induce every one who shall be the means of snatching a single victim from the grave, to offer to your *Humane and Benevolent Society*, the method by which it was effected. If the following process, which proved successful in *continuing* the animal functions, which seemed ready to take their flight after having been brought into action, shall merit your approbation and that of humanity, I shall be gratified by the addition made to your treasure of cases. On Friday the 12th inst. the daughter of Mr. John Howe, of Brookline, by accident fell into a pit filled with stagnant and very putrid water ; she had lain there betwixt two and three minutes. When discovered, she was motionless, with her face totally under water. Upon taking her up, signs of life were evident only in the muscles of respiration, and a small movement of the lips. The family stripped and rolled her on a table with salt ; during which operation, life for a minute appeared entirely to absent itself ; but upon discharging a spoonful of very filthy

filthy water from her mouth, she recovered a small degree of relief. A neighbouring surgeon was called, who ordered her in hot flannel, and constant friction. I was then sent for, and visited the child. She had been out of water forty minutes. I found her in the most extreme apparent distress that was possible to be borne, probably arising from the very acrid state of the water, in which she had been immersed. I directed glisters, consisting of an infusion of tobacco and castor oil, immediately to be given; a large poultice of warm onions applied over the whole extent of the stomach and bowels, stimulating poultices to the soles of the feet, continued friction, and as soon as the spasms upon the lungs and throat, were so quieted, that she was capable of swallowing, repeated doses of tartar emetic; all which were for the purpose of adding force and vigour to the vessels, that they might be enabled to unload the crowded lungs; a frequent repetition of glisters procured a plentiful discharge from the bowels; the bladder emptied its contents; and a copious perspiration took place; which evacuations gave her very evident relief, although there was yet no appearance of sense. She lay without alteration from her present state three hours, when a dose of ipecac. was given, and the stomach and bowels threw forth their food totally unaltered from the state they received it. (This shewed an entire suspension of the digestive, as well as sensitive faculties.) After these discharges she gained her senses in part, though not completely till morning, which was sixteen hours from the time I first saw her, when she awoke, and has since continued perfectly well.

JOHN BARTLETT.

Dr. JOHN WARREN.

Dr. LEONARD WILLIAMS's Letter to the Rev. Dr. PARKER;

REVEREND SIR,

AGREEABLE to your request, I send you an account of an unsuccessful attempt to recover a drowned person. I have made a very careful enquiry what methods were tried previous to my seeing the body, and am fully convinced they were as I represent.

THE unfortunate person was a young man, of twenty-one years of age, very corpulent for so young a person.

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THE body, by those who found it, was supposed to have been in the water about ten minutes; but I am of opinion it was much longer*.

WHEN the body was taken out, the fingers were stiff and opened with difficulty, the lips swelled and of a dark purple colour, the tongue protruded out of the mouth about an inch and an half; there had been a very copious discharge from the bowels†.

THE methods that were taken to restore animation, were as follows: The body was first rubbed with salt and vinegar; a shirt was taken off a person then present and put upon it. It was then rolled on a barrel several times, but not more than a minute at a time; a quantity of water was discharged from the mouth and nose; at first it was clear, but afterwards of a yellowish colour; in about half an hour, the body was conveyed to the nearest house, at about fifty rods distance; it was then put into a warm bed, covered and rubbed with warm woollen cloths. In about an hour Mr. Starr, a young gentleman who studies with Doctor Spring, was there; with a common smoking pipe he threw up the fundement the smoke of tobacco, endeavoured to bleed him in the arm; it bled very little, and continued rubbing with warm cloths. In about, but I suppose rather exceeding, two hours, I was present; I endeavoured to inflate the lungs, by blowing into the mouth, and at the same time compressing the nose, and raised the thorax divers times. I had the shirt taken off, which was a little damp; a healthy person, undressed himself, got into bed and clasped the body in his arms for half an hour‡. Warm cloths were continued to his back, and rubbing at the same time. Tobacco smoke was often thrown

* The reasons by which I form my judgment, as to the time, are the following: He was drowned in a small mill pond, I suppose not more than five or six rods square; after he had sunk in the water, a person who was standing on the dam, ran in a very difficult way about two rods, and raised the gate, and returned to the dam; then being desired by another person, who was in the pond, to shut the gate, he went back and shut it, and again returned to the dam; after that went back again and raised the gate a second time, and then called for help; two persons, who were about fifty rods distance, ran as fast as possible, and plunged into the water with their clothes on; after wading round the pond and diving for the body, not being able to find the same, another person who had just came up, ran to the mill, at about four rods distance, to get a crowbar to knock the plank off the dam; not finding one, on his return, he took up a piece of timber for said purpose, and fell down with it, got up and carried the piece of timber to the dam, and knocked off three or four planks; and after the water was drawn off, the body was found; which I am very positive could not be done in ten minutes, and am very doubtful whether in twenty.

† The body was raised out of the water, by taking it round the abdomen; a large quantity of feces were on the body, and on the clothes of the person who took it out, therefore it is very probable that they were discharged after it was raised from the bottom, whether before or immediately after it came out of the water, I am not determined.

‡ The person who had the body then in his arms was so faint, I did not think it proper for him to continue longer in bed.

thrown up. The head was kept raised a little more than persons generally are when in bed; and the body was turned and gently shook, several times; the same was in a fine large room, the windows open, and no more admitted than were necessary; it was continued four hours and an half, no signs of animation appearing, but the body becoming cold and the muscles rigid, we discontinued the same.

I am, with the utmost respect,

Your most obedient;

And humble servant,

Waltham, June 3d, 1791.

LEONARD WILLIAMS.

~~63~~ THE Trustees return their thanks to the above Gentlemen, for their respective COMMUNICATIONS; also to Dr. MOSES WILLARD, of Worcester, for his ingenious letter, upon the use of ELECTRICITY as a means of RESUSCITATION; and to THOMAS BULFINCH, M. D. for his letter, upon the method formerly used by the Indians, in recovering their friends from drowning.

D O N A T I O N S.

The TRUSTEES return their thanks to the following Gentlemen, for their respective DONATIONS, the receipt of which they hereby acknowledge.

1788 Nov.	FROM Capt. JOHN CALEF, of the island of St. Christophers, by the hands of Rev. Dr. Parker.	<i>£. s. d.</i> 1 16 0
	From the same gentleman, in 1790, by the hands of the President,	2 8 0
1790 Jan.	From Hon. GEORGE CABOT, Esq. Beverly,	1 8 0
Dec.	From the same gentleman,	1 8 0
1791 July	From the Hon. THOMAS RUSSELL, Esq. President of this society, consolidated notes of this Commonwealth, to the amount of	311 6 6
Sept.	Also a neat seal for the society, engraven on silver, From JOHN LANE, Esq. London, two elegant prints, representing the restoration of a young man to life, who had been drowned, &c.	
1792 June	From the Hon. Judge SEVER, of Kingston	2 8 0
July	From THOMAS DICKASON, Merchant, Boston,	6 0 0

PREMIUMS

PREMIUMS *adjudged by the TRUSTEES.*

THE Trustees, with great pleasure, announce to the public, the exertions of such of their fellow citizens, as have been instrumental in saving from death, a number of persons, who must otherwise inevitably have perished; and as a reward, for such exertions, the following Premiums have been adjudged, since July, 1789.

1789	To William Wells, and Nathaniel Nollage, for a signal exertion, in saving a child of Mr. Thomas Richardson, from drowning,	1	8	0
Sept.	To Ephraim Wheeler, for saving a child of James Evans,	0	12	0
Oct.	To Samuel Condendi, John Miller, and others, for saving, from drowning, Mr. Addington's child,	1	8	0
	To Lieut. Scott, of his Most Christian Majesty's ship the Leopard, for risking his life, in jumping from the stern of said ship, then in the harbour of Boston, and saving the life of a young lad, &c. a gold medal,	2	12	8
Nov.	To John Hutchinson, jun. for saving a child of Mrs. Johnson from drowning,	1	4	0
1790	To Jupiter Whey, for saving a child of Boston Smith,	0	12	0
June	To James Fanning, for saving a son of John Badger,	0	18	0
July	To Samuel Sloan, for saving Charles Brigham, from drowning,	0	12	0
Aug.	To David Ramsdell, for saving a son of Col. Popham,	0	12	0
Oct.	To Mr. Goffe, for receiving into his house, for the purpose of using the means of resuscitation, the body of Mr. Davis, who fell from the stern of a ship, at the Governour's wharf, and was drowned, when this act of kindness was refused at his own lodgings: The thanks of the Trustees, and a premium of	3	0	0
1791	To Jeremy Belnap, for bringing the first intelligence to the physicians, of a Negro being apparently dead, by frost, on the Long Wharf,	0	9	0
Jan.	To Thomas Blackmore, for saving Charles Hodges, from drowning,	0	12	0
March	To Daniel Grover and Sylvanus Dunham, for saving from drowning Mycal Doagles, who had fallen through the ice, near the channel, West-Boston,	1	4	0
May.	To Philip Richardson, for saving Sylvester Coles.	0	18	0
June.	To Monsieur Julien Jean Durotoir, for saving the lives of Daniel			

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1791.	Pierce, and three other men, who were shipwrecked near Nantucket Shoals, in December last, a gold medal.	-	-	3	0	0
	To Sylvanus Hill, for saving a child of Isaiah Doane from drowning, near Col. Hatch's Wharf.	-	-	0	18	0
July	To John Smith, for saving the life of a person belonging to the castle.	-	-	0	18	0
Aug.	To John Snelling, for preserving the life of a Frenchman.	-	-	0	12	0
Sept.	To Matthew Fanning, for saving Bartholomew Tuckerman, from drowning.	-	-	0	9	0
1792.		-	-	1	4	0
Feb.	To John Trench, for saving from drowning, Samuel Hunt.	-	-			
April	To John and Thomas Burges, keepers of the light house, at the Gurnet, for their exertions in saving the lives of two of the unfortunate crew, of the ship Columbia, wrecked on Duxbury Beach.	-	-	3	0	0
June	To Benjamin Buckman, for saving the life of Richard Roberts,	-	-	1	4	0
	To John Andrews, of Dorchester, for taking up and interring the body of Waterford, a Negro man, &c.	-	-	0	12	0
July	To John Cary, for saving a child of Samuel Gain, who had fallen into the mill creek,	-	-	1	4	0
	To Joseph Oliver, for saving a child of Ebenezer Mountford	-	-	0	18	0
	To James Brewer, for saving the life of an unfortunate woman, near Griffin's wharf,	-	-	0	18	0

A LETTER from the PRESIDENT of the NATIONAL ASSEMBLY of FRANCE.

At the Semiannual Meeting of the SOCIETY on the second Tuesday in June, 1792, the following LETTER, from the PRESIDENT of the NATIONAL ASSEMBLY of FRANCE, was communicated by M. DE L' ETOMBE, their Consul.

PARIS, November 24th, 1791.

THE National Assembly, to whom I have imparted the letter which you directed to me, has given deserved applause to the behaviour of M. DURUTOUR, and has desired me to testify to him their satisfaction thereupon, and to forward to him the honourable medal, which has been decreed for him by the HUMAN SOCIETY of Massachusetts.

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THE National Assembly, at the same time, directed me to write to you, and to express how sensible they are to the earnest care taken by that Society to reward, in so flattering a manner, a French citizen. The happy revolution which has been effected in this empire, will draw more closely those ties which had already united the American and French nations: Thus linked together, in spite of the distance which separates them, they will have but one and the same spirit, and will be in no competition but in those virtues, which the love of liberty and patriotism inspire. The whole world will be solicitous to pay a just homage to the benevolent citizens, who, impelled by the generous ardour of rendering themselves useful to their fellow men, have formed an association under the sublime title of the HUMANE SOCIETY of MASSACHUSETTS—instituted to relieve the unfortunate, and to reward those who imitate its noble intention.

THE Representatives of the French nation, do solemnly undertake, in the name of their constituents, the same engagement; and the whole nation, free hereafter from the yoke which restrained its native benevolence, will form one philanthropic society, which will keep up, with that of Massachusetts, a happy intercourse of virtues and fraternal regard, which no other interests will ever be able to interrupt. This is the vote of the National Assembly, and you, Sir, are requested, by them, to communicate these sentiments to the HUMANE SOCIETY of Massachusetts.

The PRESIDENT of the National Assembly.

(Signed)

GRENOT VAUBLANC.

To this, the following ANSWER was signed by the President of the SOCIETY, and sent to M. DE L'ETOMBE.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Humane Society of Massachusetts, to which you have communicated a letter, addressed to you, by the President of the National Assembly of France, to express the great satisfaction, which this Society derives from the attention paid to their institution, by that august Assembly.

THE circumstance, giving occasion to this pleasing intercourse, was a striking act of humanity, flowing eminently from the feelings of a French citizen, and has happily afforded us the means of impressing the French nation favourably, towards our infant institution.

CIVIL liberty takes its root in philanthropy, and will always produce institutions favourable to humanity, and to all the social virtues. From the progress of that freedom, which the revolution effected in your country, is calculated to produce, the most useful institutions may be expected.

THE Humane Society of Massachusetts, anticipates, with the highest sensations of joy, a reciprocation of friendship, with similar societies in that country : Indeed the world is convinced, that a nation, which has made the happiness of the whole human race, the basis of its civil constitution, cannot fail to exert all its powers in the completion of the glorious plan.

THE Society is extending its aids to relieve the unfortunate, and the distressed ; but we contemplate with inexpressible delight, the elevated principles exhibited by the French nation, necessarily tending to prevent those horrid calamities, which have too often ensanguined the soil of Europe. We behold, with rapture, the French and the American nations, inspired with the same ardour for human happiness—and feeling the most intimate alliance with Frenchmen, we will only try to emulate them, in the glorious work of restoring the whole world to the situation of one great family, dwelling in peace, liberty, and safety.

THE Secretary of the Society will deliver you a number of tracts, containing our Constitution, our Rules, and some of our Transactions ; if you can make them acceptable to the eminent citizen, who presides in the National Assembly of France, you will, as one of our members, render us the most essential service—you will be pleased to assure him, that the polite attention, which we have received from that Assembly, gives fresh vigor to the spirit of our association, and adds new force to the exertions of the society.

IMPULLED by the most exalted feelings of liberty and gratitude, the Americans have embraced the French as their brothers ; and as both nations breathe the same spirit of patriotism and humanity, the cement of their affections can never yield to any adverse occurrence, or even to time itself.

I have the honour to be, in the name and on behalf of the Humane Society of Massachusetts,

Your most obedient,
and Very humble servant,

THOMAS RUSSELL. President.

Boston, June 14, 1792.

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SUMMARY of the METHOD of TREATMENT, to be used with PERSONS apparently Dead from DROWNING.

CONVEY the person to the nearest convenient house, with his head raised ;—strip and dry him as quick as possible ; clean the mouth and nostrils from froth or mud—if a child, let him be placed between two persons naked, in a hot bed—if an adult, lay him on a hot blanket or bed, and in cold weather near a fire—in warm weather, the air should be freely admitted into the room.—The body is next to be gently rubbed with warm woollen cloths sprinkled with spirits, if at hand, otherwise dry ;—a heated warming pan may be now lightly moved over the back, properly covered with a blanket—and the body, if of a child, is to be gently shook every few minutes !—Whilst these means are using, one or two assistants are to be employed in blowing up tobacco smoke
 into

into the fundament, with the instrument provided for the purpose, or a tobacco pipe, if that cannot be had—the bowl filled with tobacco, and properly lighted, being covered with a handkerchief, or piece of linen, so as to defend the mouth of the assistant in blowing ; bathe the breast with hot rum, and persist in the use of these means for several hours. If no signs of life should then appear, let the body be kept warm several hours longer, with hot bricks, or vessels of hot water, applied to the palms of the hands, and soles of the feet, and this for a longer or shorter time, as the circumstances of the case may dictate.