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For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.

DR. ADAMS,

THE following extract is submitted to your disposal.

PASSAMAQUODDY.

*Extract from a Manuscript Oration, read a few Years since, before an Association of Physicians, instituted in one of the Counties in this Commonwealth, for Medical Improvement.*

“ A physician is never without an object on which to write, or which commands his attention as an artist or a philosopher. All nature is an open volume for his contemplation and inquiries : the silent and unfathomed recesses of the ocean and the earth ; the hitherto almost unattempted *arcana* [secrets] of the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms of our country ; the *terra incognita* \* of the animal body and human constitution, and the varying state of the latter, owing to the numberless influences of physical and moral causes on it ; the present imperfect nomenclature of nosology [‘ arrangement of disorders,’] and materia medica [arrangement of medicines ;] the insidious and perplexing character which certain diseases have assumed, within half a century past ; and the incurable nature of others ; all call loudly on physicians for laborious diligence and patient investigation : nay, more, the imperfect state of our art requires that we be permitted to penetrate and explore the cold bosom of death ! that we may draw instruc-

\* Parts unknown, and facts unexplained.

tion from these tabernacles of clay, when they become insensible to pain, and ought not to excite our sympathy, and before they are consigned to the silent tomb!

“It is to be regretted, that while the various objects of pleasure and profit, which have arrested the attention of man, have been pursued in our country with an ardor equalled only by the spirit of enterprise which has actuated our countrymen, the interests of the healing art have been, till lately, almost wholly neglected. The practice of physic has been ‘*taken up*’ by the lazy, the immoral, and the ignorant; charlatanical imposture has kept pace with the credulity of the vulgar, and the respectability of the business so vilely prostituted, that the term *profession*, as applied to medicine, is a burlesque upon every calling that is decent, regular, or learned. I shall not pause, to apologize to this respectable audience, for this plain statement of facts; persons of sense and discernment (so many of whom I am happy to have the pleasure of addressing) know that my observations are made without the least exaggeration. But it is to be hoped the age is at least beginning to dawn on us, when men will no longer be allowed to forsake the plough, and wield the lancet; and that for the future, something more will be required to qualify men for the exercise of one of the most important callings, than a common school-boy education, and lounging away a *few months* in an apothecary’s shop, or in the *solitary*\* room of a *solitary*\* practitioner.

“It is time, my brethren, for the legitimate descendants of Æsculapius [the god of physic] to rouse from the lethargy which they have derived from, and which has so long oppressed, their fathers, and assert and maintain the rank to which they are entitled by the exercise of one of the most necessary arts. It is incumbent on them to support the dignity and respectability naturally allied to their profession, by their liberality, erudition, and good conduct; and by discountenancing, opposing, and suppressing, as much as possible, the unprincipled presumption of daring medicators. A reformation of the abuses in the practice of physic is certainly practicable, and ought to be attempted, and prosecuted with zeal and perseverance, lest posterity should charge us of having lived to no useful purpose, and stigmatize our names with stupidity.”

*Massachusetts, June, 1806.*

\* Alluding to the very inadequate means for giving medical instruction, which some persons possess, who pretend to take pupils; having few or no medical books, a scanty medical apparatus, and but little business; being unconnected with medical societies, and having no interest in social medical libraries; and, worst of all, being *profoundly ignorant themselves!*

## HUMANĒ SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.

*Directions for recovering Persons who are supposed to be dead from Drowning; also, for preventing and curing the Disorders produced by drinking cold Liquors, and by the action of noxious Vapours, Lightning, and excessive Heat upon the human Body. Published by the Humane Society of Philadelphia. 1805.*

*Directions for recovering Persons who are supposed to be dead, from Drowning.*

1. As soon as the body is taken out of the water, it must be conveyed on a board or bier if at hand, to a house, or any other place, where it can be laid dry and warm, avoiding the usual destructive methods of hanging it by the heels, rolling it on a barrel, or placing it across a log on the belly.

2. The clothes must be immediately stripped off, and the body wrapped up in blankets, well warmed. It should be laid on its back, with the head a little raised. If the weather be cold, it should be placed near a fire, and an heated warming-pan should be passed over the body; but in warm weather it will be sufficient to place it between two blankets well heated, or in the sunthine, taking care to prevent the room from being crowded, with any persons who are not necessarily employed about the body.

3. At the same time, the whole body should be rubbed with the hand, or with hot woollen cloths. The rubbing should be moderate, but continued with industry, and particularly about the breast. Apply also heated bricks to the feet, belly, and breast. The immediate application of frictions is of the utmost importance, as many have been recovered by frictions only, when early used.

4. As soon as it can possibly be done, a bellows should be applied to one nostril, while the other nostril and the mouth are kept closed, and the lower end of the prominent part of the wind-pipe (or that part which is called by the anatomists, *os mimum adami*) is pressed backward. The bellows is to be worked in this situation; and when the breast is swelled by it, the bellows should stop, and an assistant should press the belly upwards, to force the air out. The bellows should then be applied as before, and the belly again be pressed; this process should be repeated from twenty to thirty times in a minute, so as to imitate natural breathing as nearly as possible. Some volatile spirits, heated may be held under the valve of the bellows whilst it works. If a bellows cannot be procured, some per-

son should blow into one of the nostrils, through a pipe or quill, whilst the other nostril and mouth are closed as before ; or if a pipe or quill be not at hand, he should blow into the mouth, whilst both nostrils are closed ; but whenever a bellows can be procured, it is to be preferred, as air forced in by this means, will be much more serviceable than air which has already been breathed.

5. During this time, a large quantity of ashes, water, salt, or sand, should be heated ; and as soon as it is milk-warm, the body must be placed in it ; the blowing and rubbing are then to be continued as before ; and when the water, ashes, or salt are cooled, some warmer must be added, so that the whole may be kept milk-warm.

Loud noises have sometimes proved successful in recovering such persons and restoring to life. When signs of returning life are apparent, the frictions must be continued, but more gently.

These methods must be continued three or four hours, as in several instances they have proved successful, although no signs of life appeared until that time. When the patient is able to swallow, he must take some wine, brandy, or rum and water. Bleeding or purging ought not to be used, without consulting a physician, who should be called in as soon as possible : but clysters of salt and water may be injected.

After life has returned, if convulsions come on, blood should be taken, by direction of a physician.

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*To prevent the fatal Effects of drinking cold Water, or cold Liquors of any kind in warm Weather.*

1. Avoid drinking whilst you are warm, or,
2. Drink only a small quantity at once, and let it remain a short time in your mouth before you swallow it ; or,
3. Wash your hands and face, and rinse your mouth with cold water before you drink. If these precautions have been neglected, and the disorder incident to drinking cold water hath been produced, the first, and in most instances, the only remedy to be administered, is *sixty drops of liquid laudanum* in spirit and water, or warm drink of any kind.

If this should fail of giving relief, the same quantity may be given twenty minutes afterwards.

When laudanum cannot be obtained, rum and water, or warm water should be given. Vomits and bleeding should not be used without consulting a physician.

*The dangerous Effects of noxious Vapours, from Wells, Cellars, fermenting Liquors, &c. may be prevented,*

By procuring a free circulation of air, either by ventilators or opening the doors or windows, where it is confined, or by changing the air, by keeping fires in the infected place, or by throwing in stone-lime recently powdered.

These precautions should be taken, before entering into such suspected places; or a lighted candle should be first introduced, which will go out if the air is bad. When a person is let down into a well, he should be carefully watched, and drawn up again on the least change. But when a person is apparently dead, from the above-mentioned cause, the first thing to be done is to remove the body to a cool place in a wholesome air; then let the body be stripped, and let cold water be thrown from buckets over it for some time. This is particularly useful in cases of apparent death from drunkenness—Let the treatment now be the same as that for drowned persons. The head should be raised a little; and continued frictions, with blowing into the nostril with a bellows, should be practised for several hours.

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*In Case of Suffocation from the Fumes of burning Charcoal,*

The general treatment recommended for curing the disorders brought on by noxious vapours, is to be applied; but the dangerous effects of this may be prevented, by taking care not to sit near it when burning; to burn it in a chimney; and where there is no chimney, to keep the door open, and to place a large tub of water in the room.

In all these, as well as in cases of drowned persons, moderate purges and bleeding are only to be used, with the advice of a physician.

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*To prevent the fatal Effects of Lightning.*

Let your house be provided with an iron conductor; but when this cannot be had, avoid sitting or standing near the window, door, or walls of an house, during the time of a thunder gust. The nearer you are placed to the *middle of a room*, the better. When you are not in a house, avoid flying to the cover of the woods, or of a solitary tree for safety.

When a person is struck by lightning, strip the body and throw *buckets full of cold water over it* for ten or fifteen minutes; let continued frictions and inflations of the lungs be also practised: let gentle shocks of electricity be made to pass through the chest, when a skilful person can be procured to apply it; and apply blisters to the breast.

*To prevent Danger from Exposure to the excessive Heat of the Sun.*

Disorders from this cause, or (as they are commonly termed) *strokes of the sun*, may be expected, when a person who is exposed to his rays is affected with a violent head-ache, attended with throbbing or with giddiness; where the disorder takes place, these symptoms are followed by faintness and great insensibility, with violent heat and dryness of the skin, redness and dryness of the eyes, difficulty of breathing, and, according as the disease is more or less violent, with a difficulty, or entire inability of speaking or moving.

To guard against these dangerous effects of heat, it will be proper,

1. To avoid labour, or violent exercise, or exposing yourself to the rays of the sun, immediately after eating a hearty meal :

2. To avoid drinking spirits of any kind, when you are thus exposed. These add an internal fire to the heat of the sun. Vinegar and water, sweetened with molasses or brown sugar, butter-milk and water, small beer, whey, or milk and water, are the most proper drinks for people who are exposed to excessive heat. But the less a person drinks of liquors of any kind *in the forenoon*, the better will he endure the heat of a warm day.

3. To wear a white hat, or to cover a black one with white paper, when you are necessarily exposed to the hot sun, and to avoid standing still when in such a situation.

4. To retire into the shade as soon as you begin to be affected with pain or throbbing in the head, with giddiness or with faintness.

If these precautions have been neglected, and the symptoms above described have come on, it will be proper,

1. To remove the person so affected into a cool, dry place, and to loosen all his garments, particularly those around his neck and breast.

2. To examine whether the pulse at the wrists or temples beats forcibly, and if it does, to bleed immediately; but if the pulse be weak, or cannot be perceived, bleeding must not be performed.

3. To place his feet and legs (or if it can be done) the lower half of his body in warm water. But if this remedy fails,

4. To apply linen clothes wet with cold water, or with cold water and vinegar, to the temples and all over the head.

5. To administer plentiful draughts of vinegar and water sweetened.

In all cases of this kind, a physician should be sent for, unless the patient recovers speedily.