

man misery, will, we are persuaded, be very cautious in trying any experiments for alleviating the pain of gout by the application of cold water.

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Dr JOHN O'REARDON, who lately graduated at the University of Edinburgh, and who is at present in Paris, in a letter to Dr Duncan, gives him the following account of a very singular case.

An unmarried woman, aged twenty-four years, came to the Hospital attached to the Medical College of Paris, and was there received under the care of Mr Dubois, first surgeon of the Hospital. Her complaint was a loss of speech, under which she had laboured for more than five years prior to her admission. She could cry and laugh in noisy fits, and bursts, but was incapable of the least modification of voice. It was learnt from many of her relations, and from herself, as she could write, that being in a state of general and profuse perspiration on a summer's day, she plunged into a cold bath, after which she was immediately afflicted by a severe fever, which terminated in dumbness.

Mr Dubois having examined her with much attention, could perceive no sign of mal-conformation

conformation in the organs of speech. He then determined to make a trial of burning with moxa, in expectation of deriving some benefit from it; and he executed his purpose a few weeks ago. He applied three of them in succession between the shoulders, during which the patient cried in a most moving manner, but without the articulation of a single syllable, until the end of the operation, when the sounds La, La, were supposed to be distinguished at intervals. She was then permitted to be quiet, and in the mean time was directed to expect a renewal of the same experiment, or the application of a blister to the neck.

On the following day, the surgeon requested of her to give him written information respecting her feelings and her sentiments on the occasion. She accordingly wrote, "That, in her opinion, nothing but the efforts which she would be forced to make during the painful operation of the moxa, would cause the recovery of her speech; that since the commencement of her illness, she never perceived herself so near speaking as during the torture of the late application; and that from a blister she expected to derive no advantage."

On the 8th day, a fresh moxa was applied to the left side of her neck, the burning of which caused the patient to cry with much vehemence; but, in the greatest ardour of her pain, as well as of her convulsive shrieks, she, to the surprize of all present, was heard to pronounce, in a distinct manner, the following words: Pa, Pa, Pa, Mon Papa, Mon Dieu, Ma, Ma, Ma chère Maman. She soon repeated these words, and afterwards spoke many others without difficulty. The moxa was then removed unconfumed; and the poor girl, still in tears, embraced her surgeon with wild transports of joy and gratitude. I had a pretty long conversation with her twenty days after this, and found her then speaking with as much ease as any other woman in Paris.

To explain the success of this operation by theory, is perhaps a matter of some difficulty. But the faculty of speech was probably restored in consequence of the violent action imparted to the muscles and nerves of the part. To a cure having been effected by the burning in this instance, no reasonable objection can, in my mind, be started, unless it be supposed, that she deceived all her friends
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and acquaintance by an affectation of dumbness during the space of five years; a deception which, uniformly carried on by a woman for such a length of time, would to me appear much more wonderful than the cure.

Mr Dubois used the moxa with the same success about four years ago, in the case of a woman who became dumb during the suppression of her menses. He is very partial to this cruel remedy, and has often used it with various success in affections of the knee-joint, rheumatism, &c.

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The following information respecting medical education in France, has been communicated to Dr Monro *junior*, in a letter from a friend of his in Paris, dated the 8th of March 1803.

“Fourcroy lately presented to the Corps Legislatif, a set of regulations for the studies and graduations in medicine and surgery in France, with a view to rescue the science from the state of anarchy in which it has been since the suppression of the universities.

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