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COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

To the Editor of the *Belfast Magazine*.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE HUMANE  
SOCIETY.

I DO not know how I can better answer the good intentions of the benevolent writer, than by sending the annexed letter for insertion in your pages, and accompanying it with an extract from the Report of the Royal Humane society of London, for 1803, giving an account of the Couchette, an instrument which appears to be similar to that recommended by our philanthropic traveller. Though you do not profess to give plates for the embellishment of your magazine, I hope you will in this case give a drawing of the instrument; from its nature it cannot be said to be ornamental, but it may prove useful. I shall likewise subjoin some of the more striking cases of restoration from drowning, extracted from the said report, in hopes of turning attention to a subject, which does not occupy as much of public notice as the importance of it demands, and of inspiring with confidence the medical and other attendants on such distressing occasions. Probably many lives have been lost from want of this confidence, and from the neglect of persevering for a sufficient length of time in the necessary exertions. I intend to select additional cases from reports of other years, for insertion in your future numbers.

A MEMBER OF THE LISBURN  
HUMANE SOCIETY.

SIR,

During a rainy evening which stops me in this town, I have been reading an account of your *Humane Society*, and take the liberty of suggesting to you a part of the apparatus which is used at Hamburg, and appears to be of essential service, by keeping the body in a proper degree of warmth, without moisture, and also without impeding the friction, or other operations, assisting to the recovery of the patient.

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It is on the principle of the water plate, or *Colfer biggin*, the interior part of which is large enough to receive the body rolled in blankets, in which it is laid. I do not recollect having seen it elsewhere than on the banks of the Alster. I am your

Sept. 22, 1808. obedient Servant.  
To the Secretary of the Humane Society, Lisburn.

EXPLANATION OF THE TIN  
COUCHEITE,

*For Communicating Heat to Adults, Still-born Infants, &c. apparently dead.*

As it is of the utmost importance in attempting to excite resuscitation, that early and gradually increased heat should be employed, it is recommended to have at every receiving house a hollow tin apparatus, similar to the design, Fig. 1. in the annexed plate... The body is to be laid on the upper part, with dry blankets interposed. (See the Section at *a*.) The bottom should follow the same direction throughout, in order that a smaller quantity of water may be necessary to fill the cavity into which it is to be poured (at first of a gentle heat) through the nearest aperture at *b*. When the water begins to be cool, draw it off, and pour in, at the top, more water, of such heat as the Medical Assistant shall judge proper. While the body thus rests in a state of increasing warmth, every other judicious resuscitative attempt is to be made by the assistants, as the case may require.

The expense of one for an adult will be but moderate, and may be made by any tin-plate-worker.

In a brief state of the Royal Humane Society, drawn up by Dr. Hawes, which was laid before the guardians of life at their anniversary, it was observed, "That the court of directors ordered the annexed Couchette to be made, for the restoration of adults, and likewise on a smaller scale for

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the laudably attempting to restore still-born children.....It is likewise earnestly recommended to be employed in all cases of the sudden death of infants, &c. as its application will always tend to aid and assist the means of "resuscitation.".....The Editor ardently hopes, that, ere long, the small Couchette will become a part of the furniture of Lying-in-Hospitals, &c.

PERSEVERANCE.

The Paris Memoirs state the case of the lady of Baron Wenzel, the celebrated oculist, who was ship-wrecked. She was taken out of the sea, apparently dead, at one at noon; from that hour till nine in the evening, the assistants were employed in using means for her resuscitation; at which period, signs of returning life appeared, and from that hour she began to revive, and in due course of time was perfectly restored.

This case illustrates the remark, so beautifully made by that darling child of fancy, our immortal Shakspeare:

Death may usurp on Nature many hours,  
And yet the fire of life kindle again  
The o'er-press'd spirits.

Mr. Wilkinson observes, "I was called to an apparently dead man. By an assiduous perseverance the cheeks became flushed; convulsions ensued, which after some time terminated with a wild stare, and my restored patient muttered, "Where am I? Where have I been?" The next day he was conveyed to his wife and children.

"Seven hours scarcely afforded a ray of hope. This remarkable instance of providential success, holds out encouragement to Medical Practitioners in the most desperate cases of Suspended Animation."

'Fulminis afflatus interdum vivere telis,  
'Vidimus et resciri.'

EDW. WILKINSON.

Long Sutton, Dec. 21, 1801.

Attested by { Charles Jerman, A.M. Min-  
{ Alex. Frazer, M.D. &c.

REV. DR. FLY TO THE MANAGERS.

GENTLEMEN,

Mrs. J\*\*\*\*, in consequence of a miscarriage, was supposed to have expired....Her mother closed her eyes, tied up her jaw, and had her laid out. Three hours after her supposed decease, Mr. Clark, M. A. on viewing the

corpse, expressed a hope that death might not yet have actually taken place. In opposition to prejudices, and at the expense of his understanding, he proposed endeavouring to recover her, by the resuscitative methods. By perseverance for two hours, to the astonishment of the family, &c. the patient revived. HENRY FLY.

LIGHTNING.

DEAR SIR, Finkenham, April 19.

On the 12th of April, a storm of hail suddenly came on, succeeded by a most vivid flash of lightning. In about five minutes, I was requested to visit J. Mitchell, who was then struck dead with lightning; and had been an apparent corpse half an hour. A dead cold pervaded the body; the pupils of his eye were much dilated; the countenance exhibiting a ghastly appearance.

Visible marks of the electric fluid were on his knees, ankles, and feet, resembling those following the explosion of gunpowder. I commenced with ardour the resuscitative plans recommended by the Royal Humane Society, which, for three quarters of an hour, were productive of returning animation, convulsions interrupted respiration, diffusion of heat, and languid circulation. My restored patient was confined to his bed some days; but by medical attention his life and health were perfectly restored.

INFANTILE RESUSCITATION.

REV. MR. DANNETT.

Horton, Salop, Jan. 4, 1802.

An infant of my own had the Small Pox, which suddenly subsided, and about nine in the morning had all the signs of death. I tried, for four hours, the resuscitative progress, when it was proposed to lay him out. I determined to persevere: and at six in the evening, I put him into the warm bath, still continued stimulative plans. In about twenty minutes he sighed, then opened an eye; a cordial was given; which, in a little while, was swallowed. By degrees vital heat was diffused. He was put into a warm bed, slept some hours, and, by the blessing of God, life was perfectly restored.

Philadelphia, August 31.

The dreadful shock on Sunday, the 29th inst. took place about 12 o'clock, and its effects were seriously felt by several persons, particularly by the family of Mr. John Pol-

lard, of Philadelphia, who occupy a part of the premises of Mr. Johnson, coachmaker. The atmosphere was, at that time, apparently serene; Mr Pollard was sitting at the door reading; his wife was nursing an infant at the window; and another child was amusing itself on the floor, when the shock, as sudden as it was terrible, struck him motionless for several seconds. Mrs. Pollard was extended senseless on the floor, and the child thrown a considerable distance, but fortunately without any material injury; her appearance, when recovering, was livid, and upon animation being restored, she became as spotted as a leopard. The timely aid of Dr. Reynolds being obtained, we are happy in stating, she is now in a fair way of recovery, and feels no otherwise affected, than by the weakness occasioned by this shock. Mrs. Johnson, also, who was in the garden, as well as a woman in a neighbouring lane, were prostrated by the same flash, and remained some time in an almost similar situation. Her life was providentially restored by the resuscitative process.....*Persons are requested not to have recourse to the common practice of sheltering under Trees, during storms of thunder and lightning.*

#### RESUSCITATION.

Three boys were at Miles Green, during a storm of rain, accompanied with the most tremendous thunder and lightning, who took shelter under a tree, which attracted the electric fluid. W. Granger was struck with such force by the lightning, as to be *completely lifeless*, for a considerable time. The resuscitating means of the R. H. S. were employed by Mr. Coombe, who restored the suspended animal functions, and the living boy was conveyed to his joyful parents.

July 15.... This morning, a boat, with six men, coming to Fedaland, were overtaken by the most violent thunder and lightning. The men's boots were burnt. Two of them were struck seemingly dead: they all remained in a state of stupefaction for some time after they were taken ashore. The apparently dead, by an assiduous perseverance, were providentially restored to life by the London Humane Society's plan. The others, in a few hours, by the judicious assistance of the sur-

geons, were recalled to sensibility, &c. and in a few days all the men were perfectly restored.

#### PUBLIC CAUTIONS.

*To prevent the dreadful Effects of Lightning.*

1 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 a solitary tree, for safety.

2 Never stand near to leaden spouts, iron gates, rails, rivers, brooks, or trees. The open air and covered carriages are safe and certain protections, provided persons sit in a coach, &c. the distance of some inches from the sides.

A day-labourer was lately struck by lightning, with a scythe in his hand; a heavy fall of rain and hail ensued; the effects were such, that in the course of an hour languid life returned. He was taken home and perfectly restored.

It is possible that nature has taken this medium of pointing out a new remedy for persons apparently killed by lightning. It also evinces how dangerous it is to carry any thing of an electric nature in a storm.

3 When a person is struck by lightning, let continued frictions and insufflations of the lungs be practised. Let gentle shocks of electricity be made to pass through the chest, when by skilful persons blisters to the breast, acrid cataplasms to the feet, and perseverance in the resuscitative process.

#### RECOVERY FROM DROWNING.

*Communicated by H. Woodthorpe, esq. Town Clerk; and John Nichols, esq. at that time a Member of the Navigation Committee.*

SIR,

A young man was at the Swan tavern, near Battersea, who betrayed signs of a mental derangement. Our men watched him; but he eluded their vigilance, and got on the bridge, and plunged from thence into the Thames: they instantly cut their ropes, and pursued him down the stream to the place where he sunk, and providentially caught hold of him with a boat-hook, pulled him up, and brought him to

shore, when a medical assistant of the H. S. attended, and successfully employed the usual methods. Had it not been for the exertions of these men, this unhappy being must have been lost, notwithstanding several boats were put off from the opposite shore.

*Guildhall, London, H. WOODTHORPE.*

May 20, 1802. JOHN NICHOLS.

*An industrious Man apparently frozen to Death.*

A citizen of Wetzorff, who had repaired hither to buy leather, and set out on the 9th Feb. 1803, at six in the evening, lost his way in the snow, and became so fatigued, that he was obliged to lie down and rest himself, when the cold put a period to his further career. In the morning, at five, he was found stiff, and void of life. Some well-disposed minds ordered him to be taken to the house of a medical man in this city, who pursued the appropriate means of the London Humane Society, till six o'clock in the evening, with a meritorious perseverance, when, at length, this apparent corpse awaked as from a dream, regained the use of his faculties and limbs, and, in a few days, marched off in perfect health."

SUSPENSION OF LIFE BY THE CORD.

*Robert Evans, esq. M.A.*

January 9, 1803. Mr. I. G. called on me, and begged that I would follow him immediately to his house, and try some means to restore a youth who had hanged himself. There were three circular impressions round his neck; his body was cold, and to all appearance dead.

The usual methods were used at twenty minutes past one o'clock (half an hour after suspension at this period) and, with Mr. Sykes, we persevered another hour, when Mr. I. G. said he would not come to life again. But we still continued our efforts. At two, warmth ensued; the eye-lids trembled, and the whole body became convulsed. An hour and a quarter had elapsed before life was perfectly restored.

Robert Evans,  
Joseph Sykes.

*Communicated by W. Wilberforce, esq. M.P.; the Rev. Mr. Bean, of Carshalton, and J. J. Angerstein, esq.*

A woman called a chimney sweeper. On examining the chimney, it being very narrow, a smaller boy than himself, who accompanied him was sent up.

When he had got about two thirds up the chimney, he stuck fast.

His cries were heard by his companion who then ascended, but he likewise lost his senses. The woman of the house was now much alarmed for the safety of both the boys, as they were too far up the chimney to be reached from below. The cottage being an insulated building an aperture was made, but unfortunately not in the proper flue. These, much to be pitied children, would inevitably have perished, had it not been for B. Bailey, esq. "*The milk of human kindness was strongly implanted in his philanthropic breast.*"—This gentleman began to work himself on the chimney, and made an opening in the very flue appropriated to their destruction. He drew the last boy down till his face was brought to the opening that had been made, when he stripped off the cap that was drawn over his head, &c. before he ascended, to keep the soot from entering his mouth and eyes.

The first boy that ascended, seemed quite dead; his eyes were fixed, the lower jaw fallen, &c. Having committed him to the care of the spectators, Mr. Bailey ascended the ladder again to deliver the other distressed boy, and was equally successful. This boy was not so far gone as his companion; he was insensible, and in alarming state of suffocation.

Mr. Bailey, like the good Samaritan, had the boys conveyed to his own house and sent for his surgeon, who employed the means of restoring suspended animation, and had them put to bed, all soot as they were. The smallest boy was soon restored, but his companion gave no signs of life till near twelve hours, when he became convulsed, and began to sob, and give other signs of resuscitation. In a few hours he was able to take food, and both were conveyed from the house of their deliverer perfectly restored to life and health.

B. Bailey, esq. of Carshalton, has been presented with the honorary medallion of the Royal Humane Society:

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

ACCOUNT OF THE CORK INSTITUTION.

WHATEVER be the celebrity which this infant seminary may attain; whatever advantages result from