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Medicine

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 27, 1836.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. NAUDAIN made the following

**REPORT,**

WITH SENATE BILL NO. 98.

*The Committee of the Senate, to whom was referred the memorial of Boyd Reilly, praying that Congress would purchase the right to use his improved apparatus for the application of pungent and irrespirable gases and vapor to the surface of the human body, in the army and navy, and hospitals, of the United States, report:*

That they have carefully examined the apparatus invented by the said Reilly, and consider it as admirably adapted to accomplish all that could be desired in the application of the pungent and irrespirable gases to the surface of the body. The machine is portable, simple in its structure, easy of application, does not subject a weak and feeble person to fatigue during its use, and the patient and attendants are not exposed to the inconvenience or danger of breathing any vapor that may be applied, either while the patient is subjected to its action, or while removing him from the bath.

The application of vapor and pungent gases to the surface of the body is not a new remedy, but has long engaged the attention, and commanded the confidence, of medical men. But the imperfection of all the apparatus heretofore employed for this purpose, has greatly limited the use of the remedy. Your committee believe that no apparatus has hitherto been invented by which irrespirable gases could be applied to the body in a recumbent posture; and with sufficient security to the patient and attendants against the introduction of the vapor or gas into the lungs; both matters of vast importance.

Your committee confidently believe that the use of the pungent gases, applied by means of this improved apparatus, will be admirably adapted to the treatment of a great portion of the diseases to which persons in the military and naval service of the United States are liable, and they think will, in the end, prove the most speedy, economical, and pleasant mode of treatment in cutaneous and rheumatic diseases, and that future experience may prove its efficacy in many congestive forms of disease.

In corroboration of their opinions of the importance and utility of this invention of the memorialist, the committee refer to the annexed testimonials of distinguished medical gentlemen in the military and naval

service of the United States, as well as the testimony of other eminent physicians, marked A.

The committee deemed it their duty to address a letter to the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of War, upon the subject of the introduction of these improved apparatus into each arm of the national service. This correspondence is annexed, and marked B.

The single inquiry was made, "whether the introduction of the apparatus, invented by Royd Reilly, into the naval hospitals, and on board ships of war of the United States, would be so desirable as to warrant the purchase of a right to use them in the naval service?" A similar inquiry was made of the Secretary of War.

This inquiry the Secretary of the Navy referred to the Navy Commissioners, who returned a negative answer. In transmitting this answer to the committee, the Secretary says: "This report is not probably founded on any opinion adverse to the usefulness of this apparatus, as its usefulness appears to me to be clearly admitted by the professional men who have employed it. But the general mode of introducing such improvements, by the purchase, from time to time, as wanted, of a sufficient quantity of the machinery itself, at a reasonable price, from the proprietor or his vendees, is supposed to be more convenient and economical than the purchase of a mere patent right; and, under that view of the subject, I concur in the opinion expressed in the report.

The Secretary of War expresses no opinion as to the propriety of purchasing a right to use the apparatus in the military service, because he has no means of ascertaining the value of the right.

It will be noticed that neither of the Secretaries doubt the usefulness of the apparatus, and it is, very properly, the economy of the purchase of the right alone they consider, and each merely in reference to the service of his own department. Now, it is respectfully suggested that, although the wants of neither arm of the service *alone* might warrant the purchase of a right to use the apparatus in either, yet, the wants of the *whole* service, both naval and military, might render it prudent for the Government to purchase the right to use them, *ad libitum*, both in our limited peace establishment, and upon a more extended war service, should that unhappily take place.

The committee, considering the length of time Mr. Reilly has been employed in the invention and improvement of his apparatus; the time he has spent in introducing his invention to the notice and patronage of the Government; the great skill and ingenuity evinced in the arrangement, and the completeness of the apparatus for the purposes intended; and the great advantage which, in their opinion, will be derived from the speedy and general employment of the apparatus in the service of the United States, and into general and common use throughout the country, have reported a bill to purchase the right to use the memorialist's vapor bath in the naval and military service, in the hospitals, and in the penitentiary, of the United States; and, also, to compensate him in some degree for his time and trouble in introducing his invention to the notice of the Government: and, for these purposes, it is their unanimous opinion that the sum of ten thousand dollars would be no more than a moderate and reasonable compensation. They have therefore named that sum in the bill.

A.

*Certificate from Joseph Lovell, M. D., Surgeon General of the United States army.*

WASHINGTON, March 17th, 1834.

SIR: Agreeably to the request contained in your letter of the 12th instant, I have to state that your vapor bath has been furnished to the larger military posts, on the report and recommendation of the surgeon to whom it was sent for trial; and that I have found it a convenient, speedy, and effectual remedy, in the several cases in which it has been used in this place by my direction, either as a simple vapor bath, and for the application of sulphur in obstinate cutaneous affections.

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

JOS. LOVELL.

BOYD REILLY, Esq., *Washington.*

*Copy of an official report addressed by Dr. Archer, surgeon of the United States army, stationed at Fortress Monroe, to Dr. Lovell, Surgeon General United States army, referred to in the preceding certificate.*

SIR: Agreeably to your instructions, I have minutely examined and tested the apparatus patented by Mr. Boyd Reilly for administering the vapor bath, and believe it to be the only one ever invented that fully answers the purpose intended. It possesses great simplicity of construction, is very portable, durable, and easily repaired. No art, and very little attention is necessary to put it in operation, and the patient experiences no inconvenience whatever from its use. He reclines perfectly at ease, on an elastic couch, which, from its construction, adapts itself to the inequalities of the body, an important desideratum in the treatment of rheumatic, gouty, or other diseases attended with much pain from an uneasy position. The sulphur gas, with which I tested the apparatus, was completely excluded from the chamber, and produced not the least inconvenience, either to the patient or to any one present. I think it a very important auxiliary to our remedial means, and would strongly recommend its adoption in the medical department of the army.

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

ROB. ARCHER.

To Dr. Jos. LOVELL, *Surgeon General.*

*Copy of an official report from Thomas J. Boyd, M. D., surgeon of the United States navy hospital, Washington, to the Navy Commissioners.*

In compliance with your orders to examine Mr. B. Reilly's apparatus, and report my opinion of its use, I have the honor to submit the following:



Vapor baths are held in high regard by the medical profession. They are justly considered efficient remedies in obstinate affections of the skin, and in various chronic diseases, where the perspiratory function is obstructed. The relation between the skin and the internal organs is so intimate, that the absence of perspiration is one of the earliest symptoms of disease, and many of the milder forms of ill health are only known from an interruption to this important process. There are no means so efficacious in restoring its energy and breaking up morbid associations as the direct application of heat and moisture.

Inconvenience attending the employment of vapor baths, has operated against their introduction into general practice. Every physician who has encountered cases of obstinate chronic rheumatism has had occasion to regret the want of a simple and efficient apparatus to apply aqueous vapor without risk or discomfort to his patient. It is only in large establishments that the advantages of this remedy can be obtained, and under the most favorable circumstances it is considered hazardous and fatiguing. In foreign hospitals, where these baths are much more employed than in our country, the vapor is conveyed to the patient while in bed, or if the case permits, he is taken into a small chamber filled with it. Both these methods answer the purpose of exciting profuse perspiration, but are inconvenient and often impracticable. No other than aqueous vapor can be applied in this manner. Various contrivances have been adopted where it is necessary to employ more active agents, such as sulphur and the mercurial preparations. These vapors are irrespirable, and cannot be safely used without securing the patient and attendants from their effects. So far as my knowledge extends, no apparatus suitable to the wants of ordinary practice has overcome this difficulty. It is likewise necessary that the vapor should be removed without allowing it to escape, or the patient has to be carried into another chamber, at much inconvenience, and some risk of taking cold. Impressed with these views, I examined the machine of Mr. B. Reilly, to which my attention was called by your orders. I caused it to be applied to a patient laboring under severe rheumatism. The place of trial was a common-sized chamber. The machine consisted of a frame separable into parts to render it portable, of sufficient length and breadth to accommodate the largest-sized person. A lacing of strong girding forms an elastic couch to recline on. The patient, after being stripped, had an oil-cloth bag, open at both ends, secured by several turns of bandage round his neck, and was then placed on the frame. A covering of prepared muslin, supported by hoops, was stretched over him, and secured by a drawing-string into a groove running round the frame.

The oil cloth attached to the patient's neck was adjusted to the upper end of the cover, and he was now completely enclosed in the apparatus from the neck down, and as comfortable as if on a bed. A small tin vessel with sulphur was placed over a spirit lamp, and a tube leading from it to the lower end of the frame opened into the body of the apparatus. The patient soon became sensible of the action of the vapor, and was thrown into a profuse perspiration, which was continued for more than an hour without discomfort or fatigue. In order to throw off the vapor, the frame has a false bottom, and a small tube leads from this to the chimney-place, and the vapor is driven over as fast as generated. The heated

air expels it completely before the patient is removed. There was no escape of gas from the machine, and the patient suffered no inconvenience.

I was satisfied from the experiments that the apparatus fulfilled the object of fumigation with the irrespirable gases, without annoying the patient or attendants. The principles of its construction are simple, and its application to all cases where simple or medicated fumigation are desirable, is attended with little trouble and no exposure.

Subsequent trials have confirmed me in my opinion. For hospitals, it would be a great addition to our curative means, in many obstinate diseases to which seamen are subject.

On board of ships it may be used for simple vapors in less time, and with greater effect, than a warm bath.

I feel no hesitation in recommending it as a very efficient contrivance, and should be pleased to see it adopted in the navy.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

THOMAS J. BOYD.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the original.

JN. GREEN, *Clerk.*

PHILADELPHIA, *June 20, 1832.*

SIR: In compliance with your request, I have great pleasure in stating to you my opinion of the utility of your bathing apparatus.

The value of vapor baths is fully acknowledged, and has been long used as a remedial agent by medical practitioners. It has been a desideratum, however, to possess the means of applying it without subjecting feeble patients to the inconvenience and fatigue of sitting or standing while taking the bath. Mr. Reilly's apparatus possesses this advantage in an eminent degree: the patient, while taking it, may repose as comfortably as in his ordinary bed. I would, therefore, particularly recommend this apparatus as worthy of patronage. It may be found useful not only in hospitals, but on board of our national vessels, where, on an emergency, a vapor bath may be provided for patients in a few minutes.

I am, very respectfully,

THO. HARRIS, *M. D.,*

*Surgeon, U. S. N.*

BOYD REILLY, *Esq.*

*Note.*—This communication, furnished by desire of the Secretary of War, is the third letter of Dr. Harris on this subject placed before Government.

WASHINGTON CITY, *June 8, 1833.*

SIR: Your request, that I would give you my opinion of the portable vapor baths, should have been attended to sooner, but for many urgent engagements since its receipt.

It would be needless for me to descant on the medical properties of the vapor bath, or upon the great advantages to be derived from the application of vapor as a remedial agent. It is a remedy that has enjoyed too long and deserved a reputation to require this at the present enlightened period: and though it has met with the sanction of medical men in nearly every age, yet the great inconvenience experienced in its application, both to the patient and physician, has tended to deprive them, in a great measure, of its beneficial effects in the cure and alleviation of many diseases.

The vapor baths which you offer to the public have but few of the inconveniences usually experienced by the profession in the application of this remedy, (vapor,) and are yet calculated to afford all the advantages which can be derived from the application of vapor, whether simple or medicated. Its portability is not its most striking recommendation, though certainly, from this circumstance, it deserves the highest approbation of the profession. With this it possesses simplicity, and ease of application of the vapor to the whole or only a part of the body, without the patient undergoing the least fatigue from either exertion or position, or inconvenience from heat or the disagreeable effect produced by the inhalation of the vapor from the most offensive and deleterious articles which may be used.

It gives me pleasure, sir, then, to say that I approve, in the highest manner, of your portable vapor bath; and this opinion of it has not been derived from mere examination of the apparatus, but also from having seen it afford, in violent and protracted cases of diseases of the joints, the most unequivocal and decided relief.

Yours, very respectfully,

T. MILLER, *M. D.*

MR. REILLY.

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WASHINGTON CITY, June 24, 1833.

SIR: It affords me pleasure to testify to the valuable character of your portable vapor apparatus. Objections hitherto made to apparatus for this purpose are entirely obviated; and the escape of sulphur gas, so obnoxious to the patient, is entirely prevented. The efficacy of sulphur vapor cannot now be questioned in cutaneous and chronic rheumatismal affections. Gentlemen of medical pre-eminence in Europe and North America, have been compelled to sanction and advise its use, from a strong conviction of its sanative power as displayed in the various public receptacles of diseased humanity. The only reason which can be assigned why it has not been more generally employed in our country, has been owing to the simple fact—the offensiveness of the vapor escaping from the defective construction of the apparatus, which is entirely remedied by your ingenious improvement. Diseases incident to a change of climate would be relieved and checked, and its introduction into the naval and military departments of this country would be signally beneficial.

Yours, very respectfully,

B. J. MILLER, *M. D.*

TO BOYD REILLY, Esq.



WASHINGTON CITY, *April 25, 1833.*  
*Brown's Hotel.*

Having had occasion, some short time since, to use Mr. Boyd Reilly's apparatus for applying medicated vapor, in a most violent case of acute rheumatism, (after applying every other means, without the slightest degree of success, for the relief of the patient,) I take great pleasure in saying the application of it exceeded my most sanguine expectations, and that the patient received immediate relief after the application of the machine.

I consider it one of the most valuable agents in a great variety of obstinate diseases, such as chronic rheumatisms and cutaneous affections.

HY. HAW, M. D.

To B. REILLY, Esq.

WASHINGTON, *March 1, 1834.*

DEAR SIR: Having fully tested the value of your sulphur vapor bath in rheumatic diseases in their most violent forms, I cannot do less, in justice to yourself and the public, than to recommend it to their favor; as, in my opinion, it is the only certain remedy for this hitherto formidable and distressing disease. It is my decided opinion that our army and navy should adopt it immediately.

Yours, truly,

ALEX. McWILLIAMS, M. D.

BOYD REILLY, Esq.

WASHINGTON CITY, *April 5, 1834.*

SIR: I have made application of your sulphur bath recently in a case of rheumatism, complicated with hepatic and gastric derangement. It gives me pleasure to state that my patient experienced great relief from the rheumatic disease, and a decided improvement in her general health, by the removal of the affections of the liver and stomach.

The value of a uniform cutaneous application of many remedies, particularly sulphur, and the difficulty, heretofore, of applying this latter agent with safety, for want of mechanical means, is so well known to the medical profession, that your apparatus must become very valuable to them on account of its efficiency, particularly to those employed in hospitals and on ship board.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

NOBLE YOUNG, M. D.

B. REILLY, Esq.,

*Washington City.*

WASHINGTON CITY, *April 12, 1834.*

DEAR SIR: Dr. Joseph Hammons, late a representative in Congress from New Hampshire, and Judge Hayward, of the Land Office, while

under my medical treatment, seemed to have been much relieved by the application of your vapor bath. Dr. Hammons had been suffering a long time from chronic rheumatism, and Judge Hayward from excessive debility and inaction of the lower extremities after a protracted fever. I have no doubt of its efficacy when judiciously administered.

Your obedient servant,

NATH'L C. CAUSIN.

BOYD REILLY, Esq.

*Washington, D. C.*

*Note.*—Dr. Causin is President of the Board of Health, Washington.

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WASHINGTON, *May 29, 1833.*

SIR: Having become some acquainted with an apparatus invented by Mr. Boyd Reilly, for the application of the fumes of sulphur and other gases to the surface of the body in the cure of diseases, the pungency of which has hitherto made their use very difficult, on account of the unpleasant effects upon patients and their attendants, when breathed into the lungs; and having understood he is desirous to have the usefulness of his invention extended to the United States navy, permit me to remark that I believe his apparatus is as well adapted to the purposes for which it is intended, as possibly can be invented, not only on account of its entire ease and convenience to the patient, and the impossibility of the escape of the substances used in a gaseous form, by which the patient or attendants can receive the least injury, but also on account of its convenience in being easily moved and set up in cases where patients cannot be moved to a fixed apparatus. It is not my desire to trouble you with an account of the utility of the fumes of sulphur and other pungent gases in the cure of rheumatism, gout, and many diseases of the skin, as their efficacy has been well tested, and universally acknowledged throughout Europe, and in many parts of the United States, by a gentleman of medical science. It may not, however, be improper to submit a few remarks for your consideration touching my own case, and the efficacy of the fumes of sulphur as applied by Mr. Reilly, inasmuch as the severity of my suffering has been partially known to you. From the 11th of December last, till the 1st of April, I was confined to my room, and for ten weeks to my bed, by inflammatory rheumatism. During my illness, I had some of the best medical advice in the United States; but the best medical treatment, and strictest adherence to the antiphlogistic regimen, produced no sensible mitigation of my distress. At the commencement of my illness, the disease pervaded every joint of all my limbs; at the end of two weeks, the disease had abated in all of the joints except the right knee and ankle, and in these it had increased with great violence. The first of April I thought myself some better, and could walk a little by the use of my left leg and the aid of crutches. On the 12th April I had a renewed attack of rheumatism in my left hip, knee, and ankle, my right knee becoming more inflamed and swollen at the same time. I was confined to my bed two weeks in great distress, and could see no reason to expect I could escape the loss of the use of my left

limb, as had already taken place with my right. At this time I heard the gentleman before mentioned was in the city with a portable apparatus for applying the fumes of sulphur to diseased limbs. He was called, and I had the fumes of sulphur applied to my lower limbs six times by the use of his small apparatus, and had them applied to the whole body three times by the use of his large apparatus. The operation was entirely easy to me, no sulphurous gas escaped into the room, and I have received decided benefit by its application. My left limb is entirely restored, and the muscles of my right limb appear to perform their proper functions, but with greatly diminished energy. I have no doubt my right knee joint would have been restored to its former mobility by the use of the sulphurous fumigations, had it not been for the intervention of a bony substance, produced within the joint by the violence of the disease the preceding winter. This being the case, there is no reason to believe any application or remedy will ever enable me to straighten the limb. You may feel assured the foregoing representation has been made under a full conviction that it has afforded me very decided and permanent relief in one of the most violent cases of rheumatism I have ever witnessed, and from a desire that its usefulness may be co-extensive with the diseases in the cure of which I believe it is so well adapted.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH HAMMONS.

To the HON. LEVI WOODBURY,  
*Secretary of the Navy.*

APRIL 23, 1834.

The preceding is a correct copy of an original letter on file in the Navy Department.

JOHN BOYLE.

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 12, 1833.

DEAR SIR: Understanding that Mr. Boyd Reilly, late of Philadelphia, is about introducing his apparatus for vapor bathing to the notice and use of the medical branch of the Navy Department, I deem it an act of justice to him, and also to the public service, to advise you of the effect which the recent use of this bath has had on my own person.

In my last severe attack of bilious fever, it became necessary to make use of a considerable quantity of mercury, so that when the fever subsided, it left me with a painful weakness in my knee and ankle joints; so much so that I was unable to walk, and much less were my legs able to support my emaciated body, without assistance. I attributed this excessive weakness of the limbs to the effect of mercury upon my system, (having been salivated,) but this was denied by my physician, (and I have great faith in his judgment,) who prescribed a salt-water hot-bath, with a quantity of mustard in it, for my legs, and rubbing the same with coarse woollens, until the friction should produce an action on the surface. This was faithfully applied for three successive days, without any perceptible benefit.



He then directed the application of Mr. Reilly's sulphur vapor bath upon the limbs, which was administered two days in succession. Such was the effect of this remedy, that in twenty-four hours my limbs were so strengthened as to enable me to walk about my room alone. I then waited three days, in which time I found my limbs slowly gaining strength, when I had the bath applied to my whole body, except the head and neck, which had the effect greatly to invigorate my whole system, and in a very few days enable me to get out, and attend to the duties of my office again.

I cannot be mistaken in the effect which this bath had upon me in immediately restoring strength to my limbs, and in fact to my whole system, when other remedies had failed.

With great respect,  
Your obedient servant,  
ELIJAH HAYWARD.

To the SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

APRIL 23, 1834.

The preceding is a correct transcript of the original, now on the file in the Navy Department.

JOHN BOYLE.

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WASHINGTON, 23d April, 1834.

SIR: You are aware that I have had very few opportunities of testing the efficacy of your sulphur bath, but having witnessed its favorable operation in the case of General Houston, I cannot hesitate to recommend the use of it to the public.

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
WILLIAM JONES, M. D.

Mr. BOYD REILLY.

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CITY OF WASHINGTON, April 6th, 1834.

This is to certify that, having been severely attacked by fever last August, I had but partially recovered, when I was seized with cholera in Louisiana: when I arrived at this place I was in low health, and placed myself under the care of Doctor William Jones, who, upon the amendment of my health, recommended the use of Mr. Boyd Reilly's vapor bath. I had recourse to the use of the bath, and believe that I derived signal benefit from it. The gas made use of in my case was sulphur gas, in which I was several times enveloped in my bedchamber, with perfect convenience and comfort to myself.

I take pleasure in recommending Mr. Reilly's bath to the notice of the public, and to the use of invalids.

SAMUEL HOUSTON.

CITY OF WASHINGTON, *April 24th*, 1834.

SIR: Having examined your machine for applying the sulphur bath, and witnessed its application to one of my patients, I cheerfully unite in recommending it as an invention worthy the consideration of the medical profession and of the public.

THOMAS SEWALL, *M. D.*

To Mr. REILLY.

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B.

SENATE CHAMBER, *May 8th*, 1834.

SIR: By the direction of the select committee to whom was referred the memorial of Boyd Reilly, I transmit his memorial, and the annexed testimonials, for your consideration.

The committee request the expression of your opinion whether the introduction of the apparatus, invented by Boyd Reilly, into the naval hospitals, and on board the ships of war of the United States, would be so desirable as to warrant the purchase of a right to use them in the naval service:

I am, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

ARNOLD NAUDAIN.

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,  
*Secretary of the Navy.*

A similar letter was addressed to the Secretary of War, on the 13th day of May.

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NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

*10th May*, 1834.

SIR: The Board of Navy Commissioners have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, transmitting a letter from the honorable A. Naudain, chairman of a select committee of the Senate, with a memorial from Doctor Boyd Reilly; and, in conformity with your directions, have the honor to report:

That, in the opinion of the board, the introduction of the apparatus invented by Dr. Reilly, into the navy hospitals, and on board the ships of war of the United States, would not be so desirable as to warrant the purchase of a general right to use them in the naval service.

The papers are herewith returned.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, sir,

Your obedient servant,

I. CHAUNCEY.

HON. LEVI WOODBURY,  
*Secretary of the Navy.*

## NAVY DEPARTMENT,

May 13, 1834.

SIR: In reply to your inquiry of the 8th instant, I have the honor to enclose a report of the Navy Board unfavorable to the purchase of a right to use Dr. Reilly's apparatus for the application of vapor to cure diseases in the naval service.

This report is not probably founded on any opinion adverse to the usefulness of this apparatus, as its usefulness appears to me to be clearly admitted by the professional men who have employed it. But the general mode of introducing such improvements, by the purchase, from time to time, as wanted, of a sufficient quantity of the machinery itself, at a reasonable price, from the proprietor or his vendees, is supposed to be more convenient and economical than the purchase of a mere patent right; and, under that view of the subject, I concur in the opinion expressed in the report.

The papers enclosed are returned.

I am, respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

LEVI WOODBURY.

The Hon. ARNOLD NAUDAIN,

*Chairman Select Committee, Senate United States.*

## SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,

May 16, 1834.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions of the 15th instant, I have to report that from twelve to fifteen of Mr. Boyd Reilly's baths would probably be required for the army as at present distributed; and it is, in my opinion, desirable that they should be furnished to the principal posts and stations. The price paid for those purchased was fifty-five dollars, but I am not informed what portion of this was in consideration of the patent. The letter and memorial are herewith enclosed.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH LOVELL,

*Surgeon General.*

Hon. LEWIS CASS, *Secretary of War.*

## WAR DEPARTMENT, May 29, 1834.

SIR: In answer to your letter of the 13th instant, I have the honor to transmit a report from the Surgeon General in reference to the baths of Mr. Reilly.

I understand from Dr. Lovell that there are two of these baths belonging to the medical department, and that about twelve more would probably be useful. The cost of these, as he states, is fifty-five dollars each.



The value of the patent right I have no means of ascertaining, and, consequently, cannot form any opinion whether it would be proper to purchase from Mr. Reilly the patent right for the number which we wanted, and then have them constructed at the expense of the United States, or whether it would be better to purchase them of Mr Reilly as they are ordinarily sold by him.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Hon. ARNOLD NAUDAIN,  
*Senate United States.*

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