

**SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE  
CONTAMINATION OF WATER BY  
THE POISON OF LEAD: AND ITS  
EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN BODY**

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Some Observations on the Contamination of Water by the Poison of Lead: And Its Effects on the Human Body by James Bower Harrison

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**JAMES BOWER HARRISON**

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**CONTAMINATION OF WATER**

**BY THE**

**POISON OF LEAD.**

"Bonum est, fugienda aspicere alienu in malo."—*PoM. Syr.*

It is a good thing to learn caution by the misfortunes of others.

*Harrison*

SOME OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

CONTAMINATION OF WATER

BY THE

POISON OF LEAD:

AND

ITS EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN BODY;

TOGETHER WITH

REMARKS ON SOME OTHER MODES IN WHICH LEAD MAY  
BE INJURIOUS IN DOMESTIC LIFE.

BY

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LONDON:

JOHN CHURCHILL, PRINCES STREET, SOHO.

MDCCCLII.

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1852

## PREFACE.

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WHATEVER may be the motives attributed to me by others, I can honestly state that I write what follows for the public good. If I had been anxious to extend my practice as a medical man, I should have chosen any other subject in preference to that upon which I have written. On the other hand, I do not greatly value popular fame, when I find so large a share of patronage bestowed upon those whom I conscientiously believe to be either mistaken in their views, or dishonest in their practice; and I can state, from my own observation, that



more applause is commonly received by those, who pander to the prejudices of their patients, than by those who treat them with sincerity and skill.

I do not arrogate to myself any superiority of discrimination or originality of discovery:—I wish only to press on the attention of mankind truths which have been long known, and as long neglected. I anticipate, in fact, no other advantage from this publication than that of contributing something to the good of mankind.

It may appear to some, that I am making protestations of candour which are somewhat unnecessary; but let it be remembered, that whilst the present age is one of great advancement, it is one, also, in which Empiricism has gained an unusual amount of public approbation.

When I commenced preparing these sheets

for the press, I was not aware that Dr. Alderson was about to make the effects of lead the subject of the Lumleian Lectures; nor did I know that a review of the work of Tanquerel Desplanches would appear in the 'Edinburgh Journal of Medicine.' I am glad, however, to welcome these contributions to our knowledge of the subject, and I do not think they have altogether rendered what I have written unnecessary.

HIGHER BROUGHTON;  
*October, 1852.*

