

**A FEW OBSERVATIONS ON THE  
INFLUENCES OF ELECTRO-GALVANISM  
IN THE CURE OF CHRONIC RHEUMATISM,  
CERTAIN FORMS OF PARALYSIS,  
NERVOUS, AND OTHER COMPLAINTS**

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A Few Observations on the Influences of Electro-Galvanism in the Cure of Chronic Rheumatism, Certain Forms of Paralysis, Nervous, and Other Complaints by James Smellie

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**JAMES SMELLIE**

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BY JAMES SMELLIE, SURGEON.

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## P R E F A C E.

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It is impossible to avoid the fact, that many of the circumstances of the times we live in, are of such a nature as to be calling into a more frequent existence than before, those classes of diseases that are the product of the exhaustion of the nervous, and other forces of the human body, and are precisely those of that debilitating nature, as require the re-invigorating influences of some natural stimulus.

Certainly we have no agent of that nature for the cure of disease that can with more propriety, or with more safety be applied, and with more beneficial results, than galvanism.

The entire mass of literary and other professional men and women—the merchant, the speculator, and a number of other classes, coming

within the same category—whose heads and hearts get the lion's share of the work, in place of the strong arm, and stout back, are the classes who are more peculiarly liable to those series of now every-day complaints.

It may be necessary to show that the claims of galvanism, as an active and highly useful curative agent in the treatment of certain classes of diseases, are founded on facts demonstrated by many of the greatest experimentalists of the previous and present generations, and are still demonstrable to those who will take the trouble, and have the perseverance to do so.

It is impossible to believe that the science founded on the discoveries, and adorned by the researches of Galvani, Volta, Valle, Aldini, the Herschels, Humboldt, Faraday, Noad, and a host of other names, alike great and illustrious in the annals of science, can in any way be allied to empiricism, or as the dreams of the mere specialists, but is rather in accordance with the rapidly-advancing progress of scientific knowledge, and that which is founded on truthful, experimental induction.

For the due administration of electricity, or any of its modifications, in the cure of disease, it is absolutely necessary that the operator should be in possession of an intimate knowledge of the science to which this agent belongs, as well as a perfect acquaintance with the mechanism of the human frame, and of the many diseases with which it is sometimes afflicted, whether they be of the functions, or of the structures, or both.

When in the hands, therefore, of the uneducated, in all matters of this description, it can be of little or no service, if not mischievous; and these very misapplications have too often been the means of bringing discredit upon an otherwise valuable remedy, instead of the blame being properly placed to the account of the ignorance of the operator.





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