

## V.

*On Acupuncture.* By JAMES MORRIS CHURCHILL, Esq.,  
Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

WHEN I published my little treatise on acupuncture, I expected to be questioned about it by individuals, who were too polite to tell me that I had asserted what was not true; at the same time that their countenances clearly indicated the incredulity with which they viewed it. Still I persisted; and the value of the remedy has been most satisfactorily ascertained and confirmed in the practice of several individuals, who are willing that nothing shall be left untried which appears likely to relieve that painful disease for which it is more particularly recommended. I say "*for which it is more particularly recommended,*" because many valuable remedies are lost sight of, from being injudiciously employed by those who are too fond of *analogical deductions*.

Its success has now been so conspicuous, that I can assume an air of triumph, and dare any one to express his disbelief in what I have asserted respecting it. I am continually hearing of successful cases from respectable members of the Profession; and expect soon to lay a body of evidence before the public, which shall dissipate the most obstinate scepticism. In the meantime, from my own practice, I select the subjoined cases for the perusal of your readers, that they may be induced to practise an operation that is so simple, so painless, and so convincingly efficacious; and it will afford me much satisfaction to receive succinct accounts of its effects from any gentleman who may feel inclined to employ it.

*Case 1st.* — George Jackson, a labouring gardener, about fifty years of age, became the subject of rheumatism three or four years ago, in consequence of exposure to wet and cold. The neck, shoulders, back, and hips, were occasionally the seat of the disease. Guaiacum and opium were usually had recourse to upon an attack taking place, and generally with decisive benefit. At the beginning of the year, however, his disease lost its erratic character, and fixed itself upon the deltoid and the greater pectoral muscles of the left side. The remedies accustomed to relieve him now failed of their former beneficial effect; and though cupping and blistering, with external irritants, were conjoined, the disease remained unsubdued. I conceived that this was a fair case for acupuncture, and, accordingly, performed the operation in the following manner: — A needle was introduced about midway

between the point of the shoulder and the insertion of the deltoid muscle, which pierced through the belly of this muscle until its whole length (one inch) had passed. The patient became sensible of relief before the needle had reached more than two-thirds its whole depth, and when it had completed its greatest depth, he observed that the pain of this part had entirely left him: it was allowed to remain five minutes, when, at his request, I withdrew it, and introduced it at the side of the chest, about three inches below the clavicle, intending to pierce the fibres of the pectoralis major. The pain of this part, which had now been much affected by the first operation, ceased as soon as the needle had rested two or three minutes, and after it had remained *five* I withdrew it, leaving the patient entirely free from pain. Previously to the operation, he had been incapable of lifting the left arm, and had been obliged to feed himself with the right hand alone, from the inability of carrying his left to his mouth. He now reached his hat from a peg where it hung at the height of his arm's length, and replaced it on his head, without experiencing the least stiffness or uneasiness in the arm or shoulder; and though, upon his resuming his occupation, he found his efforts impeded by a sensation of debility in the parts about the shoulder, yet it was neither sufficient to interrupt his daily exertions, nor to lead him to seek for any further medical assistance; and in a week or two he felt no remains of the disease.

*Case 2d.*—In February last, Thomas Field, *setat.* forty-five, residing at No. 5, Richmond Street, came to me with such an intense pain in his back (induced by working in a damp cellar), that he walked with great difficulty; he could not raise himself into the erect position, and one of his legs dragged after him, almost useless. He had been subject to lumbago several times before, and had been treated for it by various medical men with the usual medicines; but his recovery had been, in every instance, slow and protracted. I introduced two needles, two inches in depth, into the muscles of the loins, which in some degree lessened the violence of the pain in a minute or two. Finding that the disease was not removed, but mitigated, I passed a *third* needle and a *fourth* into the lumbar mass of muscles; and a few minutes having elapsed, I inquired how he was? he replied, that he "*felt no pain.*" But he was sceptical as to its having removed the disorder, for his first attempt to move after the needles were withdrawn was made with the greatest caution; and when he found that he was really freed from the disease, he could not divest himself of the fear that it would immediately recur. I heard nothing of him for two days, when

his daughter called on me, and informed me that her father was quite well, and had resumed his employment as a wine-merchant's cellar-man.

*Case 3d.* — William Webb, ætat. forty-eight, of No. 2, Richmond Street, applied to me for assistance for a violent pain in the lumbar region, with which he awoke at four o'clock in the morning. It extended to the intercostal muscles on both sides, and was so intense that he had been in a continued state of profuse sweat. *Flexion* of the body and coughing much aggravated his suffering, but his general health, which is never good, was not rendered worse. In the presence of Mr. Fernie, jun., of Kimbolton, I introduced a needle on each side of the spine, when he instantaneously complained of the pain shifting to the upper part of the sacrum. Having invariably found this to be a favourable occurrence, I was encouraged to introduce a needle into each of these parts; and on removing them at the end of five minutes, my patient was enabled to put the body into many different positions, without feeling any pain in the *back*; and the only inconvenience he experienced in the intercostal muscles, was a sense of constriction when he attempted violently to bend the body. I prescribed four grains of Dover's powder to be taken every four hours, and desired to see him the next morning; when he stated that he had remained free from suffering for several hours, but then had a slight pain situated about three inches *above* the sacrum. On using a needle to this part, he suddenly started, and stated that the pain had *flown* to the intercostal muscles of the tenth and eleventh ribs, (to use his own words) "as if a person, from the inside, had bobbed his finger against the part." I now withdrew the needle, and inserted it there, which effected perfect relief, as he has continued well ever since.

13, Princes' Street, Leicester Square, April 4, 1823.

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## VI.

*Case of Poisoning by Corrosive Sublimate.* By WILLIAM BUCHANAN, Esq., Member of the Society of Apothecaries, &c. &c.

BEING hastily requested to visit J. G., who was suspected of having taken poison, I did so, and found him with his mouth half open, from which he was in vain endeavouring to get rid of a quantity of ropy mucus — his lips and tongue were whitened, and having somewhat of the appearance which a sore puts on when washed with a solution of nitrate of