

# A Dose of Physic for the Doctors!

Or a Plan for the Reformation of the Medical Profession; and a

*Warning to all Wives and Mothers*

against the Immoral and Dangerous Practices of the well-known

## DR. BRADBURY

*And his Male Nurse,*

### Mr. Alfred Saunders,

At their Private Residence, not far from FINSBURY SQUARE!  
*Who under the Mask of performing Experiments in "Animal Magnetism,"*  
*for the Cure of Nervous Disorders, were guilty of the most vile Proceedings*  
*with their FEMALE PATIENTS, and Household Servants,*



Also the Scenes of Horror carried on in

### Sir John Miles's Private MAD HOUSE,

*Lower Street, Islington.*

### ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

# A DOSE OF PHYSIC FOR THE DOCTORS.

Or, *A Plan submitted to her Majesty's Government for the Reformation of the Medical Profession.*

By an M. D.

ON account of the public mind having become awakened to the necessity of some alteration being adopted in the present system of providing for the health of the people, by means of chartered bodies like our Colleges of Surgeons and Physicians, and taking into consideration the abuses in connexion with quackery, as it is presented to our view daily and hourly in all its various shapes, I have been induced to offer a few remedial suggestions thereon, resulting from a lengthened period of experience.

In addition thereto, I shall deem it to be my duty to notice some awkward facts respecting that prince of Quacks, the so called *Dr. Bradbury*, and *Mr. Alfred Saunders*, his '*Male Nurse*,' that may probably lead to their well merited castigation, for which I shall feel proud as the humble instrument thereof. But hereafter I shall touch on that subject, and another concerning the late *Dr. Miles's* Private Mad-house, in their proper places.

Many and various have been the arguments of the Editors of Newspapers, and their numerous correspondents, on the subject of Sir James Graham's intended Bill for the appointment of a Metropolitan Board of Health.

Now, although those medical men who are already eminent in their profession may have nought to fear from the establishment of such an institution, yet it undoubtedly must be admitted by all reasonable men, that if a greater facility for the practice of quackery is guaranteed by the proposed change, that it will lead to a great injustice towards the thousands who are studying for the profession, and have embarked *their all* towards the attainment of the object of their pursuit. In fact, it would be nothing less than a downright system of unblushing robbery towards all individuals so situated. While the mere pretender, who has more money than brains, or to whom honesty is no object, would go on recklessly hazarding the die of killing or curing, no matter which, so long as he had sufficient craft to enable him to get clear of the consequences.

However unpleasant truth may be, there is a serious point in this question not to be omitted, which I think has some-

thing to do with the Government taking up the matter. We all know very well, that when the Roman Catholic priesthood had the power of keeping knowledge from the mass of the people, there existed on the subject of doctrinal points in religion only the one recognized interpretation of the Church, as it was called. But when that antiquated rule was broken through, and *the right of private Judgment* became acknowledged with the establishment of an opposition church termed 'Protestant,' dissent in a hundred shapes sprang forth to astonish mankind with their spiritual recipes; while some took the extreme road of proclaiming against all divinity as spiritual quackery. As in religion, so in politics, there is no settled standard of perfection in any part of the world, and I may include every branch of the medical profession under the same head.

There is no settled system observed in the healing art, although there are recognized *formularies* for the students to be examined by. Whether physicians, surgeons, or apothecaries, as soon as they have passed their respective colleges, and have obtained the necessary diplomas authorising them to practise, they each go a different road, and act either according to the rules of one out of the many who are deemed by their professional stars, or they will invent some new theory on which they will take their stand, and forthwith challenge the systems hitherto followed by their medical brethren. Hence the proverb,—Who shall decide, when doctors disagree?

Without the necessity of going through a catalogue of names to support this argument, we have only to point to two or three of the principal schemes now on the stage. The science of *Hydropathy*, or the *Cold Water Cure*, is patronised by some medical men, while others recommend *Hot water immersions* for the same diseases. The *Universal Vegetable Pills*, and similar inventions too numerous to mention here, are each patronised by actual medical men, so styled from their having obtained their diplomas. *Animal Magnetism*, *Galvanism*, &c. have each their advocates for curing complaints incidental to nervous depression. Some physicians advocate a herbal dietry, and total abstinence from all strong liquors; at the same time, for precisely similar diseases, many of their brethren will urge the necessity of their patients partaking of animal food in abundance, and fermented liquors of all kinds. Indeed, I will even go the length of stating, that if twelve of the most eminent of my medical friends were to be consulted apart individually, nine out of the number would vary in their

opinions of a patients' symptoms, and their advice respecting the best course to pursue!

Notwithstanding all this, I do not wish for the establishment of any institution with the power they possessed formerly of restricting the due exercise of private judgment.

I am only anxious to state impartially that which is notoriously the fact, namely, that amidst all the knowledge acquired, and the great amount of good resulting therefrom, there has sprung up as much quackery among the members of each branch of the medical profession as ever existed in connexion with those generally stigmatised as such. Therefore, in justice to the public, whose existence is in the question, the medical profession themselves, and the unprofessional practitioners;—instead of the proposed Board of Health, with its secret Council, I would have appointed a superintending Council, on the basis of the following *PLAN*, which I respectfully submit to the consideration of her Majesty's Government, as the most important, in my humble opinion, of any yet brought forward, and which ought to be formed into an Act of Parliament as soon as the Legislature again meets in Session. It may prove in its operation what I might term—a *DOSE OF PHYSIC FOR THE DOCTORS*, but which, if speedily taken, as I have prescribed it, may possibly prove an antidote to quackery, because of its purgative qualities, and at last save in the hour of danger those bodies corporate—Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, who are each threatened with strangulation by our state doctors. Consequently I would have observed the subjoining Rules—

#### RULE 1.

That there shall be perfect freedom to cure diseases, by whomsoever hath the ability to do so, as a physician; and in like manner those that possesseth the requisite skill for practising surgery, or wish to follow the profession of a chymist, apothecary, or accoucheur.

2.

To facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, all medical institutions shall be open to any one on paying the smallest amount of fees that shall be deemed requisite for all suitable purposes towards the proper sustainment of the said institutions, and the payment of the various officers or servants attached thereto: the same to be decided by a committee of inquiry to be hereafter appointed.

3. Digitized by Google

That there shall be appointed a central Council of Super-

intendence, to sit at stated periods in London, having power to examine all cases of cure performed by any one, and to certify the same; a copy of which certificate shall be granted to the performer of such cure, containing all the proper particulars, in order to encourage the exercise of talent for the public good.

## 4.

That there shall be established in every town containing not less than 2,000 inhabitants a local Council, whose business it will be to record all successful medical operations, grant certificates for the same, and forward the proper particulars to the superintending council in London.

## 5.

That in all villages and hamlets there shall be appointed a resident officer, if those places be deemed sufficiently great, from the nearest Local Council, as to require the residence of a superintendant of medical affairs, whose duty it will be to report all cases to the said local Council, at such times as shall by them be thought requisite.

## 6.

That there shall be held in London an annual Examination of all the successful performers of all such cures, by the Central Council of Superintendence, who shall duly report to the public the names, residence, &c. of every one of those successful practitioners, that the public may know who are the most eminent in the medical profession. These rules alike apply to physicians, surgeons, and those apothecaries practising as accoucheurs.

## 7.

That all successful medical practitioners duly report particulars of the medicine used by them in such cures, with the names, residences, &c. of the *chemist* who dispensed the same, particularly if such chemist invented the compound.

## 8.

That the *Central* superintending Council, as well as the respective *Local* councils, shall be composed of an equal number of physicians, surgeons, and chymists, in order the more efficiently to carry on their examinations of members belonging to each branch of the medical profession. Also shall be empowered to prosecute in any criminal court, all persons who shall be judged to have wantonly trifled with the case of any patient submitted to their care.

## 9.

That in order to carry out these rules (with such alterations

and additions as shall be expedient) a *Commission* shall be appointed, under the hand and seal of her Majesty. composed of at least twenty, from among those deemed to be the most eminent of each branch of the medical profession, with a like number chosen from her Majesty's Privy Council, who shall proceed to examine into the truth of all cases stated to have been cured on the part of at least 500 physicians, surgeons, and accoucheurs resident in London; and in order to form a correct judgment of their respective merits, a certain number of the principal class of diseases, and cases requiring the exercise of the greatest skill, shall be taken as a test, when all those that appear to them to exhibit the greatest amount of professional ability shall be set aside, from whom 50 shall be balloted for to form the first Central Council of Superintendence.

10.

That each local council shall be chosen by the central council precisely in the same manner, and on similar grounds as specified in the preceding rule

11.

That no person shall be permitted to practise as a physician, surgeon, apothecary, accoucheur, or chemist, unless he can prove by proper certificates, that he has studied at least 5 years in the proper public institutions, which shall be open to every one without reservation, excepting the payment of nominal fees, in such proportion as shall be deemed necessary for defraying the incidental expenses attached thereto.

The central council to be empowered to frame the machinery for carrying out such objects, and to make all other necessary regulations, provided they do not militate against the general spirit of these rules.

12.

That the basis of the rules laid down in this plan shall be legalized by an act of Parliament, to be passed in the ensuing session; the same to be amended whenever wisdom and experience shall dictate the necessity, for the advancement of science, the progression of knowledge, and the protection of the lives of her Majesty's subjects.

Having concluded this part of my task, I leave it to the unprejudiced portion of my readers to consider of its practicability, without any further observations thereon, and proceed to call their attention to the following subject:—

# *Warning to all Wives and Mothers*

AGAINST THE IMMORAL AND DANGEROUS PRACTICES  
OF THE WELL-KNOWN

**DR. BRADBURY,**

*And his Male Nurse, Mr. Alfred Saunders:*

A professional brother of mine, who lately issued a Work entitled "An Important Address to Wives and Mothers, on the Dangers and Immorality of Man-Midwifry," has thought proper therein to cast upon medical men rather too many unjust aspersions, relative to their general proficiency and humane treatment in that branch of our art. Of all men in the world he ought to have held his tongue; for, in spite of his anonymous signature, I know him too well, and can tell him that he has more glass that could be broken than those he has been throwing his stones at. However, there is one thing that surprises me above all others, that when he attacked those whom he stigmatized as *Male Nurses*, how it came to pass, that he was so oblivious of outward things, especially of his own dear self, as to get drawn and published his own pretty likeness, appearing as half woman and half man, and attach it as a frontispiece to his said work! Truly some men sow figs and gather thistles!

Before the public tribunal I will summon him to appear, who shall judge of the truth between us, without the necessity of my being known personally in connexion with such bad company, from the fear of being slandered by one who is well versed in that, and every other dirty art. He will excuse my boldness.

The individual I am alluding to here, the reader must understand, is no less a personage than the infamous *Alfred Saunders*, the 'Male Nurse' and fellow-quack of the equally notorious *Dr. Bradbury*. That noted quack bone-setter, worm manufacturer, bolus purveyor, the self-styled Doctor, with his assistant or 'Male Nurse,' more properly speaking, originally came from Liverpool, where they for a long time sojourned as master and man, following the art of cutting up sheep's and pig's guts, to represent worms of enormous length of the tape and other kinds, which they represented had been

voided by their various patients, known only to themselves; together with a fine show of bottles, containing only coloured water, and other schemes which impudent quacks know how to combine to attract the unwary. They amassed sufficient to enable them to come up to London, where, after *walking* the hospitals for a short period, paying a few trifling sums to hear a small number of lectures, and just contriving to get merely a smattering of the medical art, so as to enable them to practise their deceptions *more respectably*; they at once set up as doctors, and proceeded to operate without any proper license or certificate of their proficiency.

This they have contrived to do for the last ten years. But of all the infamous tricks perpetrated by any man, none can equal the scandalous attempts of Dr. Bradbury's male nurse to represent in his work beforementioned, that medical men of good reputation were guilty of dragging into the world their fellow beings, and with instruments remorsefully destroying them. Rather let me retort upon *Mr. Alfred Saunters* and his coadjutor the Doctor with more reason and justice, that such operations are more likely to be performed in a brutal and unfeeling manner by quacks like them; who unjustly lay such charges against the most skilful and humane among our profession?

To return to their former history, let me ask them, how long is it since they gave up their private den of infamy at Liverpool, and to leave off giving Lectures on Animal Magnetism at that place, before they occupied their present domicile *not far from the neighbourhood of Finsbury square*? 'But hold' says a friend of mine, while I am writing, 'you are touching on private character, for which you are amenable to the law of libel.' I say in answer, What care I for a law passed for the protection of the innocent? Let those that are such by all means defend their fair fame; but I here fearlessly defy Dr. Bradbury and his Male Nurse to be capable of availing themselves of its provisions, and prove the contrary of what I am about to assert by genuine unbought evidence.

The following Extract from an excellent Poem truly illustrates the proceedings of such knaves—

- “ Thy business CANT, to make mankind believe,
- “ And man's profoundest study to deceive ;
- “ Refinement's tongue adorns Deception's powers,
- “ A serpent gliding through a bed of flowers ;
- “ Thus the great MESMER o'er the senses creeps,
- “ Charms and seduces, whilst its victims sleep.”



That old science, newly revived, commonly called Mesmerism, or Animal Magnetism, afforded a good opportunity for Dr. Bradbury and his Male Nurse for practising their villany, which they took great care to improve in such a way, as to suit the purposes they have long aimed at, that is to say, of committing acts of secret seduction, without the fear of any evidence being brought forward to convict them on the part of their unconscious victims. Their last new move of lecturing and experimenting in various parts of the country bids fair to bring them a greater amount of gain than ever they before realized, in the shortest space of time. But it is remarkable, though not surprising, that they never played off their tricks on any of the male sex, and indeed only on those females whose bodily and mental infirmities rendered them fitting instruments for their base purposes. The honest practitioner will perceive that my strictures are only levelled against *the abuse* of Animal Magnetism, by such persons as Dr. Bradbury and Mr. Alfred Saunders, and not *the use* of it, for the legitimate object of assisting medicine and chemistry, in ameliorating human suffering. That the knowledge of a great and important secret in nature is often abused by badly disposed men is a fact that has been many times demonstrated, and for the honour of our sex, sorry am I to be under the painful necessity of adding to the catalogue of iniquity.

By such men secret seductions and robberies can be committed with impunity, by the power they possess of so operating upon the nervous system of their frail dupes, as to compel them to perform whatever they required in an unconscious state, however revolting the performances might be, at the same time destroying all chance of detection.

Therefore it becomes a serious question, whether it ought not to be so controlled by a special act of Parliament, as to deprive any mere-adventurer of the power of turning magnetiser.

If it had not been for the unblushing depravity of the Doctor and his companion in carrying on their schemes to the extent of permitting some to be witnesses of their transactions, they would never have been communicated to me, nor possibly could I ever had the power of exposing such villany.

It was during last month, when I had returned home from one of my visits to ————— Hospital, where I had been rather later than usual in attendance on my out-patients, that I was waited upon by a respectably attired female, who delivered to me a letter enclosing what I found, on close ex-

amination of the matters contained in it, to be a document embracing the statements of herself and two other females, with their names inscribed, respecting the vile proceedings of Dr. Bradbury and Mr. Alfred Saunders, his head assistant, whom they plainly charged with the most odious crimes, practised on their female patients, under the mask of performing experiments in Animal Magnetism for the cure of Nervous disorders.

I accordingly appointed an interview with the whole of them the next day at 5 o'clock, which the bearer of the letter said would be agreed to, as the others had authorized her to lay their cases before me, and expressed their willingness to be guided by whatever I should decide upon, with the consent of their friends.

The result of my subsequent examination of them, individually and collectively, satisfied me of the entire accuracy of their extraordinary revelations.

Considering the annoyance they would likely be subjected to by the evil-minded, if I were to publish their addresses, I resolved to give only their names, which appear at the close of their statements, as hereafter inserted.

The Confession of *Mary Ann Symonds* I shall draw the reader's attention to first.

London, July 2, 1844.

I, the undersigned, certify, that about the middle of March last, when having been out of place about four months, I was informed of an advertisement in one of the papers, to the effect that a housemaid was wanted, of industrious and sober habits, who would also be required to perform the duties of a housekeeper to an elderly gentleman, where a manservant was kept, and would be treated with liberality if suitable. To apply by letter only, addressed to A.B. at the post-office, Islington. Being a stranger in London, I thought nothing of this strange manner which I supposed might be usual, of applying for a servant, so I accordingly answered, and stated my name and address. To my surprise, a *strange gentleman, elderly in appearance*, called upon me next evening, who, after stating that he was the person in want of a servant, and offering me the liberal wages of £20 per year, concluded with rather a startling request, that I would then accept the situation, as he was quite smitten with my first appearance, and should not care to trouble me for my references. He also asked me if I knew of two creditable females, who would be capable of fulfilling the situations of upper and under nurses, to attend on some occasional patients, whom he took into the house under his care. Happening just then to be acquainted with two females, who rented a small room between them in the next house, and whom I had heard express their anxiety to get into servitude as soon as possible, I sent for them at once, and introduced them to my visitor. By the blandishments of his tongue, he soon prevailed upon us to agree to his terms; because, distressed as we then were, we each comforted ourselves with the illusion of being more comfortably situated than we had been for some time.

With a light heart we bid adieu to our few friends on the following evening and accompanied an individual, rather well dressed, who had been sent for us in a cab to "help us with our things," as he said, and who represented himself to be Dr. Bradbury's man servant."

(Signed) MARY ANN SYMONDS."

"I Elizabeth Clrrkson testify to the truth of that portion of the statement made by Mary Ann Symonds relative to the manner of our being engaged by Dr. Bradbury, and in addition thereto, beg to state what passed under my observation during the time I remained in his house.

For the first few days we each attended to our respective duties, without anything happening to us; but one morning, about 11 o'clock, I was called into a room situated on the first floor, at the back of the house, which neither of us before was allowed to enter, where an extraordinary scene presented itself to my view. Besides the Doctor and his assistant, or rather his *Male Nurse*, as he called him. I recognized four of the female patients, who had at first been in the habit of calling occasionally for advice gratis, but at last became inmates of the establishment, to be cured, as they stated, of epileptic fits, and sudden nervous attacks, which they were subjected to.

One was lying on a sofa, and appeared as if her whole power of life and motion was entirely gone. Her arms and limbs were extended, her hands clenched, her mouth and eyes fast closed; while there appeared to be a deep flush on her countenance, not exactly of a natural hue!

The doctor requested me to be seated, and not to alarm myself, when he would show me how he could MESMERISE persons who were afflicted with nervous disorders of various kinds, and which he could cure by such practices. He next told the other females (three in number) to sit beside each other on a form in the middle of the room; which request having been complied with, he softly advanced and stood in front of them, while his assistant took his station behind the third one; then, after they had passed their hands backwards and forwards a certain number of times, and rather, as I thought, in an indecent manner over various parts of their persons, each patient quickly assumed the same rigid appearance as the one lying on the sofa. They afterwards arose up, walked a few paces, and then followed their operators into a recess at the opposite side of the room to where I stood. While closeted with them, I heard distinctly several loud kisses, which I make no doubt the doctor and his assistant were the parties giving them. In fact, I was so confounded at such transactions, that I gladly retreated from the room, and flew to my fellow servants to acquaint them with what I saw."

(Signed) ELIZABETH CLARKSON."

London, July 2, 1844.

*Catherine Cordwell*, in her confession, gives precisely a similar account, but in addition throws further light upon the atrocious doings of Dr. Bradbury and his *Male Nurse*:—she says—"It has only been since I have had an opportunity of weighing things over in my mind, and calmly reflecting upon the odious scenes I beheld at Dr. Bradbury's, that I have guessed the purpose he had in view when he sent for me after my fellow-servant Elizabeth Clarkson had just escaped from the secret room. Being rather excited from what she related, I could scarcely be induced to enter the room, until the doctor in a harsher tone than he was accustomed to use commanded me to wait on him. Tremblingly I walked into the room, and would have escaped on the instant, but the door was locked by the Assistant, who came stealthily behind me—

I must have fainted that very moment, for I had no recollection for

some time, and how long I remained in that defenceless state I know not, but alas! I remember well—and the thought makes me shudder—I found myself lying on a sofa, with my dress disordered, from which I arose as quickly as it was in my power to do. The doctor assured me that no harm had happened, and hoped that I would not be alarmed. Yet I could not help feeling alarmed, the more so when I had gathered my scattered senses, and beheld several females, one standing, another sitting, and two others lying in the most indecent postures—in a torpid state! The Doctor and his Assistant laughed and conversed with them in the most disgusting manner, and did more than prudence will permit me to mention. They at last by various signs and gestures, also by placing their hands alternately on the front and back of their heads, at the same time drawing them backwards and forwards, and by sundry breathings, they restored their patients to a state of consciousness, but who did not appear to have any recollection of what had passed, or I am confident they would all have left the place. Neither my fellow-servants or myself had any opportunity of informing them, so closely were we watched; but we at length got away from the house altogether, by a plan we adopted.

July 2, 1844.

CATHERINE CORDWELL.”

In answer to questions I put to each of them, they stated, that before they escaped, which was not until a fortnight afterwards, Dr. Bradbury and his villanous companion sought every opportunity to practise on them, and were guilty of the most vile proceedings towards them. Further comment is useless on my part, therefore I will leave them to public indignation, which will not fail to overtake them, as soon as this exposure becomes extensively known.

I have scarcely sufficient space left, to notice the *Scenes of Horror* carried on in the late *Sir John Miles's Private Madhouse*. Let any one pass down the right hand side of Lower Street, Islington, and when nearly opposite the Thatched House Tavern, he will observe a dreary looking house at the corner of a turning, having iron bars before every window, and a garden with very tall trees at the back. In that horrid den many an unfortunate being was concealed from the light of day. They were often entrapped on the false charge of insanity, confined in that “Hell upon Earth,” and while chained up, whipped by their brutal keepers, until the blood gushed from the lashings inflicted, as is represented in the Engraving on the Titlepage, where one of those keepers is seen standing over his victim, having a whip in one hand, while with the other he is holding a mask before his face to guard against any future recognition, in case of a discovery. And, thank God, it was discovered at last, and finally put down, as I hope every evil practice will be, which not only is an outrage on humanity, but a disgrace to that noble profession to which I have the honour to belong, and feel proud of making the acknowledgment, by signing myself

A PHYSICIAN.

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