

School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA

Some general information about the University
of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Pennsylvania Hospital, part of Penn Medicine, is the nation's first hospital, and was founded in 1751. The University of Pennsylvania opened its School of Medicine, the nation's first, in 1765. And, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania was established in 1874 as the nation's first teaching hospital.

The graduating Class of 1799

The University of Pennsylvania school of medicine played an important role in the practice of acupuncture in early American medicine. In 1826 the university granted John Jefferson Hall a Doctor of Medicine degree after he submitted his dissertation on Acupuncturation. The university repeated this fete again in 1831 when John M. Galt of Virginia also submitted this dissertation on Acupuncturation. In 1826 William Jr. Whelan of Pennsylvania received his Doctor of Medicine degree when he submitted his dissertation of Moxa.

The uses of acupuncture and moxa may have taking place at the university as early as the late 1790's. I will present to you the evidence for my hypothesis from the graduating class of 1799. Out of the 8 graduates in 1799 I will examine two medical dissertation. One on the use of Blister's and the other on Sympathy

The Graduating Statists from 1792 to 1819

Professorships.

1. Anatomy, Surgery, and Midwifery,
2. Theory and Practice of Medicine,
3. Institutes of Medicine, and Clinical Medicine,
4. Chemistry,
5. Materia Medica,
6. Botany and Natural History,

Professors.

DR. WILLIAM SHIPPEN, and
 DR. CASPAR WISTAR, Adjunct;
 DR. ADAM KUHN;
 DR. BENJAMIN RUSH;
 DR. JAMES HUTCHINSON;
 DR. SAMUEL P. GRIFFITTS;
 DR. BENJAMIN S. BARTON.

The appointments took place on the 23d of January, 1792. The last men-

A. D.	Graduates.	A. D.	Graduates.	A. D.	Graduates.
1792	7	1799	8	1805	24
1793	10	1800	10	1806	21
1794	8	1801	10	1807	31
1795	4	1802	22	1808	60
1796	4	1803	15	1809	63
1797	15	1804	15	1810	65
1798	12				

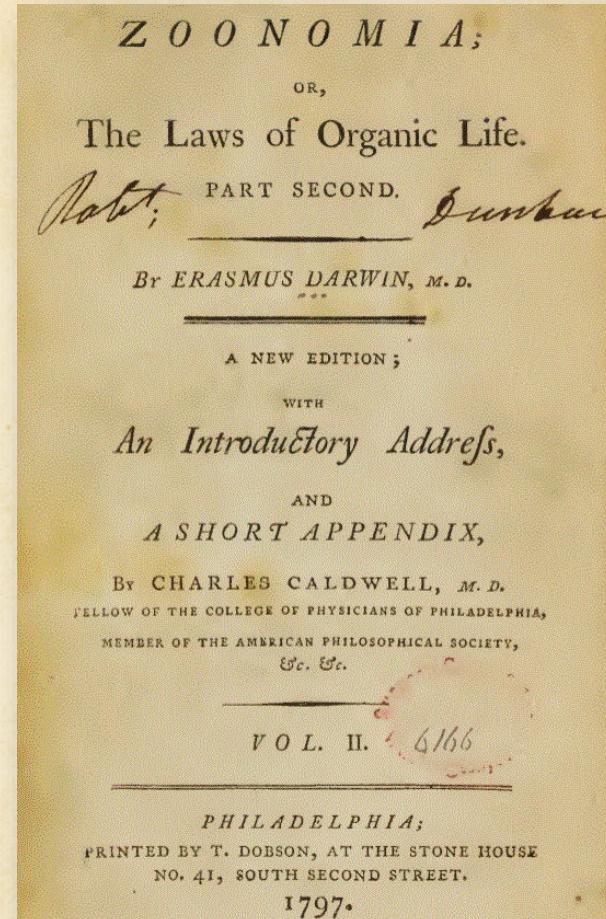
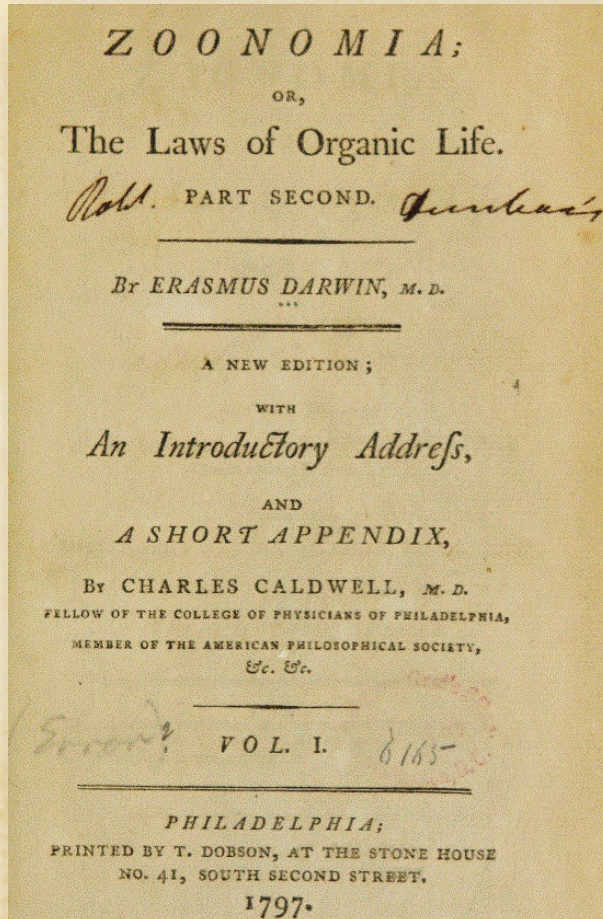
The Evolution of Acupuncture in the U.S.A



Erasmus Darwin 1722- 1802

Erasmus Darwin, M.D. was an English physician and inventor of several devices. Darwin's most important scientific work, *Zoonomia* (or the *Laws of Organic Life*) 1794–1797, contains a system of pathology and a chapter on 'Generation'. Both of Darwin's books *Zoonomia* Vol I and II were published in Philadelphia in 1797. Darwin speak of the uses of acupuncture for many medical conditions in both books. I will present two examples of his uses of acupuncture in the up coming slides

Zoonomia Volume I & II



<https://ia801700.us.archive.org/20/items/2551013RX1.nlm.nih.gov/2551013RX1.pdf>



Princeton University
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Copyright Zoonomia; or, The laws of organic life.

In two parts Zoonomia; or, the laws of organic life [electronic resource] : Part second. By Erasmus Darwin, M.D. ...

A new edition; with an introductory address, and a short appendix, / by Charles Caldwell, M.D. Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, member of the American Philosophical Society, &c. &c.

by Erasmus Darwin

Published 1797 by Printed by T. Dobson, at the stone house no. **41, South Second Street, Philadelphia**

Written in English. Edition Notes

Part I, edited by Samuel L. Mitchill, **was printed at New York** by T. & J. Swords **in 1796** (Evans 30312). Edition statement transposed; precedes "Vol. I." on title page.

Defemination and Explanation of Terms

P R E F A C E.

xxiii

In the Methodus Medendi, which is marked by M. M. at the end of many of the species of diseases, the words incitantia, sorbentia, torpentina, &c. refer to the subsequent articles of the Materia Medica, explaining the operations of medicines.

<https://ia801700.us.archive.org/20/items/2551013RX1.nlm.nih.gov/2551013RX1.pdf>

In the Methodus Medendi, which is marked by **M. M.** at the end of many of the species of diseases, the words incitantia, sorbentia, torpentina, &c. refer to the subsequent articles of the Materia Medica, explaining the operations of medicines.

Darwin States the Following on Page 143

M. M. Detect and extract the diseased tooth. Cut the affected nerve, or stimulate the diseased membrane by acupuncture. Venesection to six ounces by the lancet or by leeches. A strong emetic and a subsequent cathartic; and then an opiate and the bark. Pass small electric shocks through the pained membrane, and through the teeth on the same side. Apply vitriolic ether externally, and a grain of opium with camphor internally, to the cheek on the affected side, where a diseased tooth may be suspected.

https://ia801304.us.archive.org/22/items/darwin-online_1794_Zoonomia_A967.2/1794_Zoonomia_A967.2.pdf

M.M. Detect and extract the diseased tooth. Cut the affected nerve, or stimulate the diseased membrane by acupuncture.

Acupuncture, Expertise and Cross-Cultural Medicine

By R. Bivins, 2000

Page 221

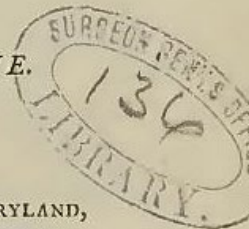
3 Sharpening the Needle

- 1 Anon, *The Modern Part of the Universal History*, Vol. 4 (London, 1759), 647.
- 2 Erasmus Darwin actually used the term 'acupuncture' in 1794. In *Darwin, Zoonomia; or the laws of organic life*, 3rd edn, Vol. 3 (London, 1801), 254, he asked: 'In cases of strangulated hernia, could acupuncture, or puncture with a capillary trocar be used with safety and advantage to give exit to air contained in the strangulated bowel? Or to stimulate it into action?'

U Penn 1799 Dissertation

AN
INAUGURAL ESSAY
ON
BLISTERS:
SUBMITTED TO
THE EXAMINATION
OF THE
REV. JOHN EWING, S. T. P. PROVOST;
THE
TRUSTEES & MEDICAL FACULTY,
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,
On the sixth day of June 1799
FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

By ROBERT J. KING, OF MARYLAND,
MEMBER OF THE PHILADELPHIA MEDICAL SOCIETY.



TO
BENJAMIN RUSH, M. D.

SIR,

IT is with deference, that I take the liberty of addressing to you the following Essay. Every one, I believe, who has enjoyed the advantage of being your private pupil, will be prompted to pay this tribute of respect to your kind attentions as a friend, and your beneficial instructions as a teacher.

Amongst the number of those, who have requested your protection of their first medical attempts, there are many, whose talents are far more deserving of your patronage, than mine can pretend to be: but none, Sir, ever felt more affection for your private virtues, or more respect for the public services that you have rendered to the cause of medical science, than

Your devoted humble servant,
ROBERT J. KING.

<https://archive.org/details/2559030R.nlm.nih.gov>

I Would Personally Like to Thank...

William Shippen, jun. M. D. Professor of Anatomy, Surgery, and Midwifery

Benjamin Rush M. D. Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine

Caspar Wister, jun. M. D. Professor of Chemistry and Physiology

Samuel P. Griffitts, M. D. Professor of the Materia Medica and Pharmacy

Benjamin Smith Barton, M. D. Professor of Natural History and Botany in the College of Philadelphia.

King Quotes Darwin in His Dissertation

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→ Dr. Darwin recommends blisters to be applied.*
They certainly must be effectual, by equallizing the excitement; upon the unequal distribution of which the coldness depends.

+ Vide Darwin's Zoonomia, on diseases of sensation.

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In ophthalmia, they may be applied to the temples with advantage.

→ In amaurosis, Dr. Darwin observes, that a blister should be applied to the crown of the head.

In otalgia, whether accompanied with febrile symptoms or not, blisters may be applied behind the ears, or ear affected, with immediate good effects. They should always be applied, when the pain is violent, as they abstract the inflammation, from the internal parts, and prevent a suppuration, which might occasion a want of hearing.

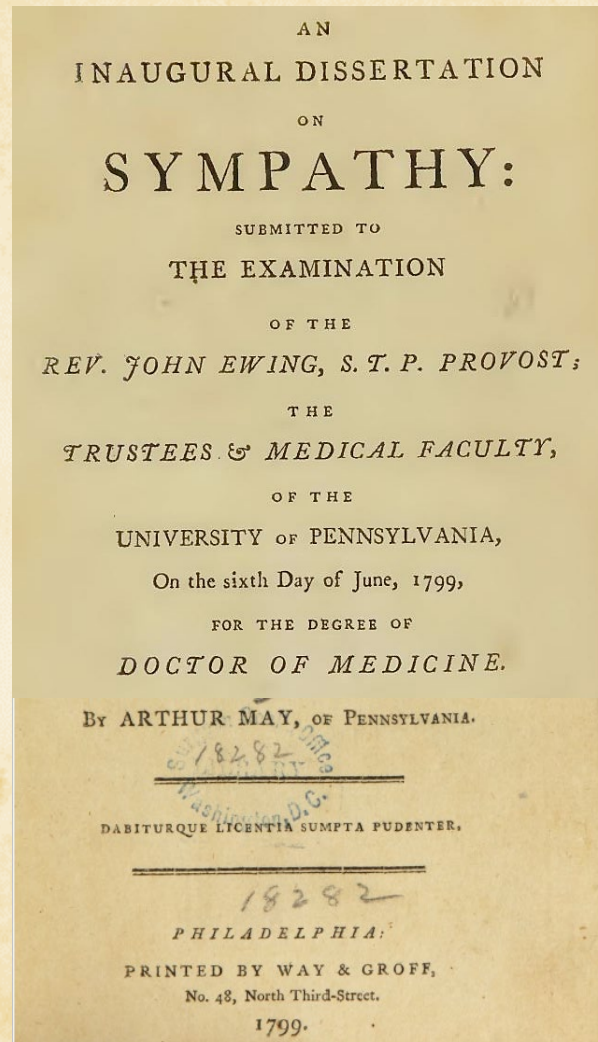
Dr. May's Dissertation on Sympathy

The following dissertation was submitted by Dr. Arthur May on June 6th, 1799. Do the following pages pertain to the topics of Acupuncture and Auriculotherapy? Could Dr. May's dissertation on Sympathy be some of the earliest documentation of acupuncture and or auriculotherapy by a student in early American history? Dr. May died on January 28th, 1812 in Lancaster PA.

Reference:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=BOwYAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA482&lpg=PA482&dq=arthur+may+lancaster+pennsylvania&source=bl&ots=RIGDoxeVFJ&sig=ACfU3U2v5gziSAkmosFnhP6J14f3ZH8i7w&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewj594Kvt7bqAhXlmXIEHTr2B2gQ6AEwBnoECAgQAQ#v=onepage&q=arthur%20may%20lancaster%20pennsylvania&f=false>

Dissertation on Sympathy



May Too Quotes Darwin in His Dissertation

25

and many of the tubercles had suppurated, and formed vomicae: each tubercle contained a globule of mercury."

If such are the effects of mercury in the blood-vessels, the great quantities used every day, with impunity, are a convincing proof, that mercury never enters the circulation.

Experiments too often conform to the theory which the experimenter had previously adopted.

→ Darwin attempts to prove that nitre enters the circulation; but I have seen his experiments repeated, and the presence of nitre could not be detected in the blood.

Dr. Seybert, whose accuracy in chemical investigation may be relied on, has made experiments with sulphur; and in the trials he made he did not detect it.

Sympathy, A Proper Definition



Dr. William Cullen

Dr. Arthur May, a graduate the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Class of 1799, wrote the following dissertation titled, “An Inaugural Dissertation on Sympathy.” The definition of “sympathy” according to the Farlex Partner Medical Dictionary:

1. The mutual relation, physiologic or pathologic, between two organs, systems, or parts of the body. **2.** Mental contagion, as seen in mass hysteria or in the yawning induced by seeing another person yawn

Expiation of the Dissertation

In Dr. May's dissertation, he mentions the following physicians: Dr. Philip Physick and Dr. Benjamin Rush, who have taught and guided him through medical school. He also quotes the famous Scottish surgeon, Dr. John Hunter (he refers to him as Mr. Hunter). May's dissertation, "Sympathy" is about the works of Dr. William Cullen. I am providing information about the above doctors prior to the dissertation so you can understand the impact of this groundbreaking work.

Some medical terms Dr. May mentioned in his dissertation are no longer used. I provide a brief explanation of what those terms meant in 1799 to aid you. I left the spelling the way it was spelled in that era.

I choose a handful of paragraphs throughout Dr. May's dissertation and comment on them in some detail. Also provided is a link to Dr. May's full medical doctoral dissertation.

Sympathy Dissertation Definitions

The definitions below are passé medical terms that appear in Dr. May's Medical Doctoral on the *sixth Day of June 1799*

Eruption:

1. A breaking out, especially the appearance of lesions on the skin.
2. A rapidly developing dermatosis of the skin or mucous membranes
3. Passage of a tooth through the alveolar process and perforation of the gums

Catarrh:

may be synonymous with, or vaguely indistinguishable from the common cold, nasopharyngitis, pharyngitis, rhinitis, or sinusitis

Empiric: (*empirical*)

a person who, in medicine or other branches of science, relies solely on observation and experiment.

Sympathy: Page 9

This accounts for one disease curing another. Mr. Hunter (Dr. John Hunter, Scottish surgeon) says, "No two different fevers can exit in the same constitution, nor two local diseases in the same part, at the same time. The suspension or cure of a gonorrhoea, by a fever, may be an instance of this. The failure of inoculation, and the power of resisting many infections, depend upon this: the great difference in the time from the application of the cause to the appearance of the disease depend upon the same principle."

Dr. Rush mentions several cases of pulmonary consumption, (Tuberculosis) cured, or suspended by gout, madness, dyspepsia, head-ach, **eruptions**, diarrhoea, pregnancy, etc.

Sympathy: Page 10

Dr. May states the following about cures and empiric

A large ulcer, on the leg of a patient in the Pennsylvania Hospital, was cured by the same state of fever.—A child of Mr. S. was cured of an eruption, by a catarrh; which ceasing, the eruption returned: some weeks after, the same fever suspended the same eruption. An empiric cures toothache, by burning the ear with a hot iron: moxa, burned on the skin, behind the ear, effects the same cure.

U Penn School of Medicine Graduate Dissertations

Catalogue
Of
The Medical Graduates
Of
The University of Pennsylvania
With
An Historical Sketch
Of
The Origin, Progress, and Present State
Of
The Medical Department

Published by Direction of the Medical Faculty of the University

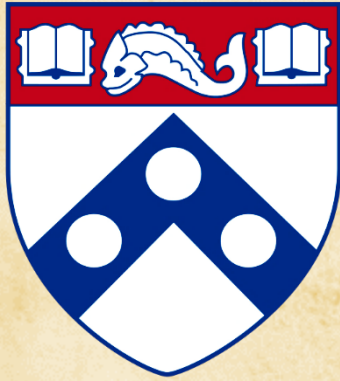
Second Edition

Philadelphia:

Printed by Lydia R. Bailey, 26 North Fifth Street

1839

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/010600055>



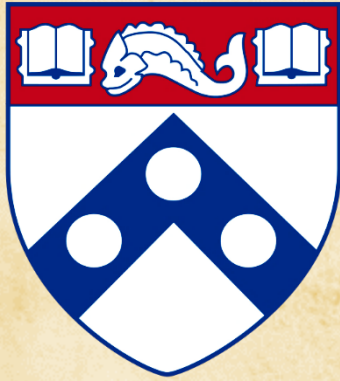
School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA

Medical Doctoral Dissertation's:
ACUPUNCTURATION

John Jefferson Hall of Virginia
class of 1826 dissertation: **Acupuncture**

John M. Galt of Virginia
class of 1831 dissertation: **Acupuncture**

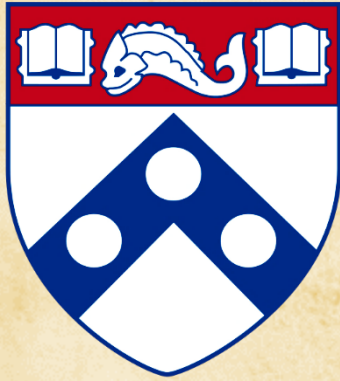


School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA

Medical Doctoral Dissertation's:
MOXA

William Jr. Whelan of Pennsylvania
class of 1828 dissertation: **Moxa**



School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA

Medical Doctoral Dissertation's: **SYMPATHY**

Arthur May of Pennsylvania class of 1799

William M. Alexander of Virginia class of 1814

Harvey Bradford of Kentucky class of 1819

Isaac Hays of Pennsylvania class of 1820

Calvin Graham of Virginia class of 1834

David Pannill of Virginia class of 1834

George H. Nichol of Maine class of 1836