

The Evolution of Acupuncture in the U.S.A



Erasmus Darwin 1722- 1802

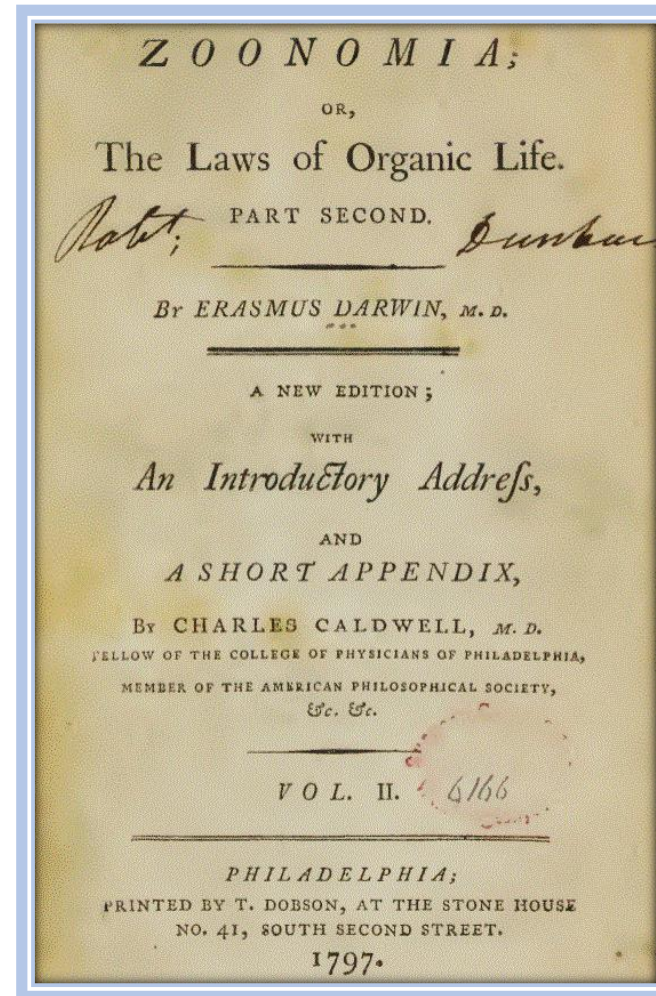
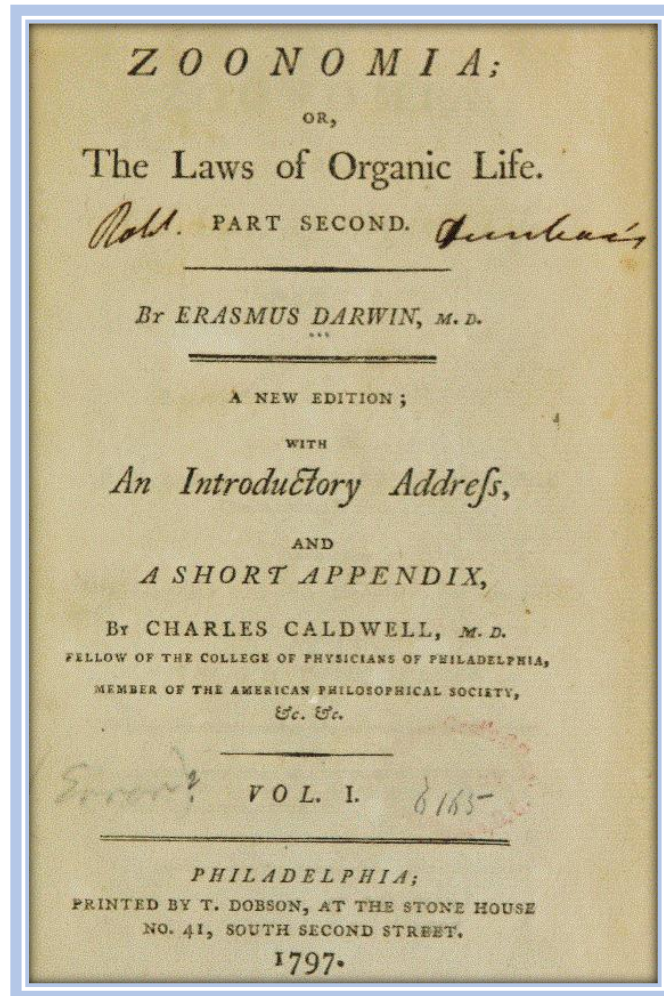
Erasmus Darwin, M.D. was an English physician and inventor of several devices. Darwin never patented any of his inventions, he believed this would damage his reputation as a doctor. However, he encouraged his friends to patent their own modifications of his designs. Darwin's most important scientific work, *Zoonomia* (or the Laws of Organic Life) 1794–1797, delves into pathology, anatomy, psychology, and the functioning of the body

Darwin Invented the Rocket Engine



Some of Darwin's inventions include a horizontal windmill, a canal lift for barges, a copying machine, and a carriage that would not tip over. Darwin made a sketch of a simple hydrogen-oxygen rocket engine with gas tanks connected by plumbing and pumps to an elongated combustion chamber and expansion nozzle; a concept not seen until one century later.

Zoonomia (or the Laws of Organic Life)





Princeton University
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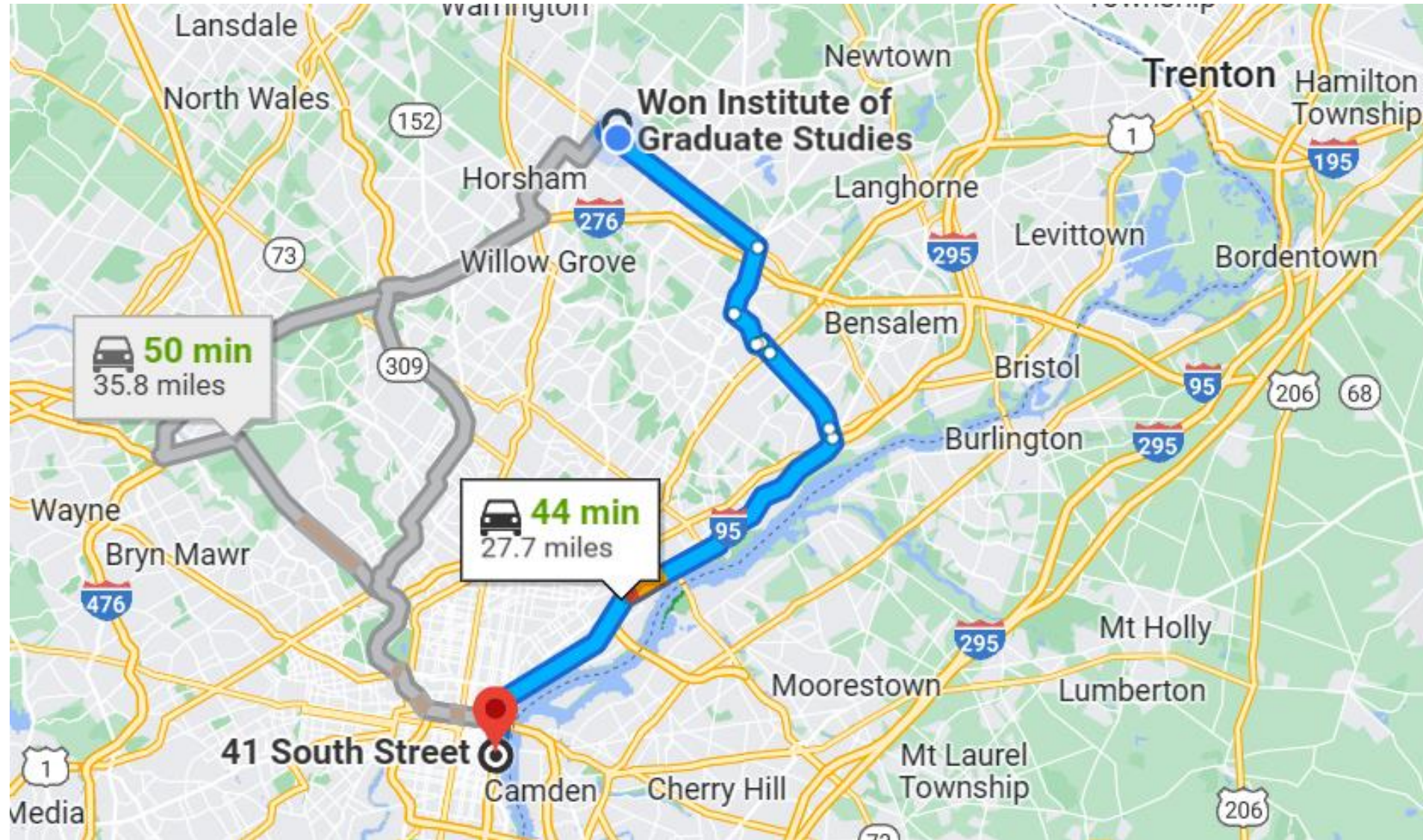
Zoonomia; or The laws of organic life. In three parts by Erasmus Darwin

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.

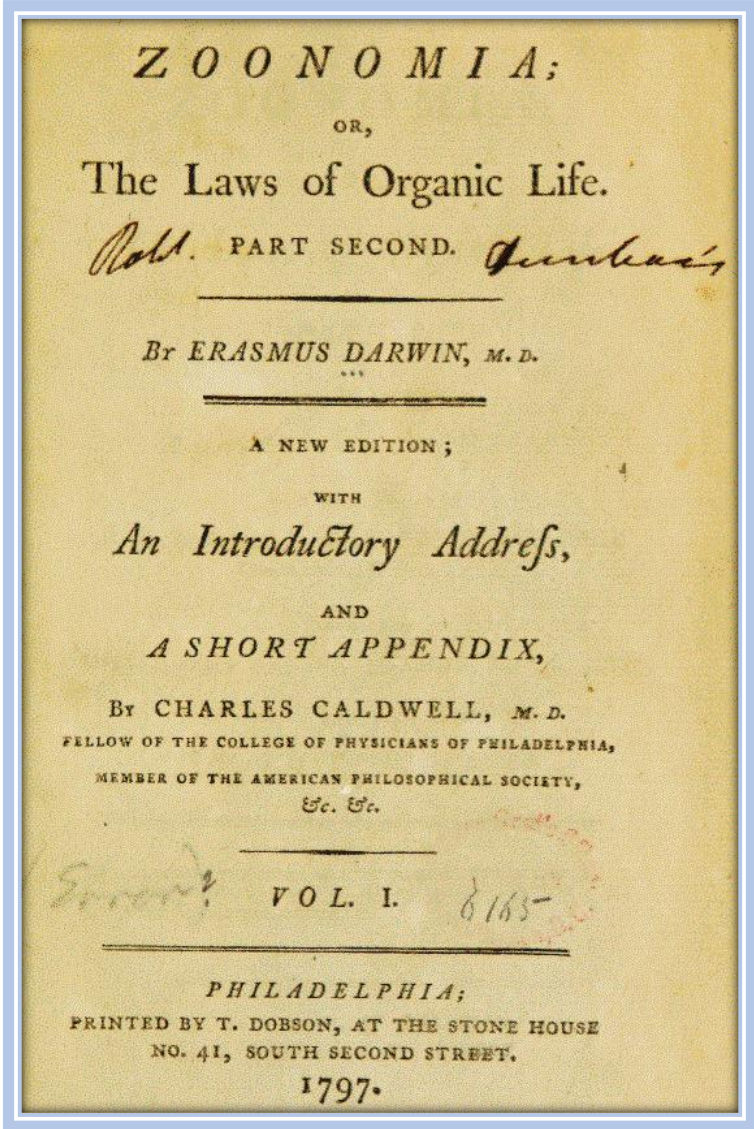
Published in 1797 by Printed by T. Dobson, at the stone house no. 41, South Second Street,
Philadelphia Written in English. Edition Notes

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.

Us and the First Book on Acupuncture Printed in the US



Acupuncture Appears in the USA For the First Time



Zoonomia Volume I

CLASS I. 3. 1.] OF IRRITATION.

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stance? Or could half a pound, or a pound, of crude mercury be injected as a clyster, the patient being elevated by the knees and thighs so as to have his head and shoulders much lower than his bottom, or even for a short time held up by the heels? Could this also be of advantage in strangulated hernia?

Where the disease is owing to strangulated hernia, the part should be sprinkled with cold water, or iced water, or salt and water recently mixed, or moistened with ether. 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? It is not uncommon for bashful men to conceal their being afflicted with a small hernia, which is the cause of their death; this circumstance should therefore always be enquired into. Is the seat or cause of the ileus always below the valve of the colon, and that of the cholera above it? See Class II. 1. 2. 11.

Zoonomia Volume I

Considering the great resemblance between this kind of painful epilepsy and the colic of Japan, as described by Kemfer ; and that that disease was said to be cured by acupuncture, or the prick of a needle ; I directed some very thin steel needles to be made about three inches long, and of such a temper, that they would bend double rather than break ; and wrapped wax thread over about half an inch of the blunt end for a handle. One of these needles, when the pain occurred, was pushed about an inch into the painful part, and the pain instantly ceased ; but I was not certain, whether the fear of the patient, or the stimulus of the puncture, occasioned the cessation of pain ; and

Zoonomia Volume I

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DISEASES

[CLASS III. I. I.]

as the paroxysm had continued some weeks, and was then declining, the experiment was not tried again.

→ The disease is said to be very frequent in Japan, and its seat to be in the bowels, and that the acupuncture eliminates the air, which is supposed to distend the bowel. But though the aperture thus made is too small to admit of the eduction of air; yet as the stimulus of so small a puncture may either excite a torpid part into action, or cause a spasmodic one to cease to act; and lastly, as no injury could be likely to ensue from so small a perforation, I should be inclined at some future time to give this a fairer trial in similar circumstances.

[2551013RX1.pdf \(nih.gov\)](#)

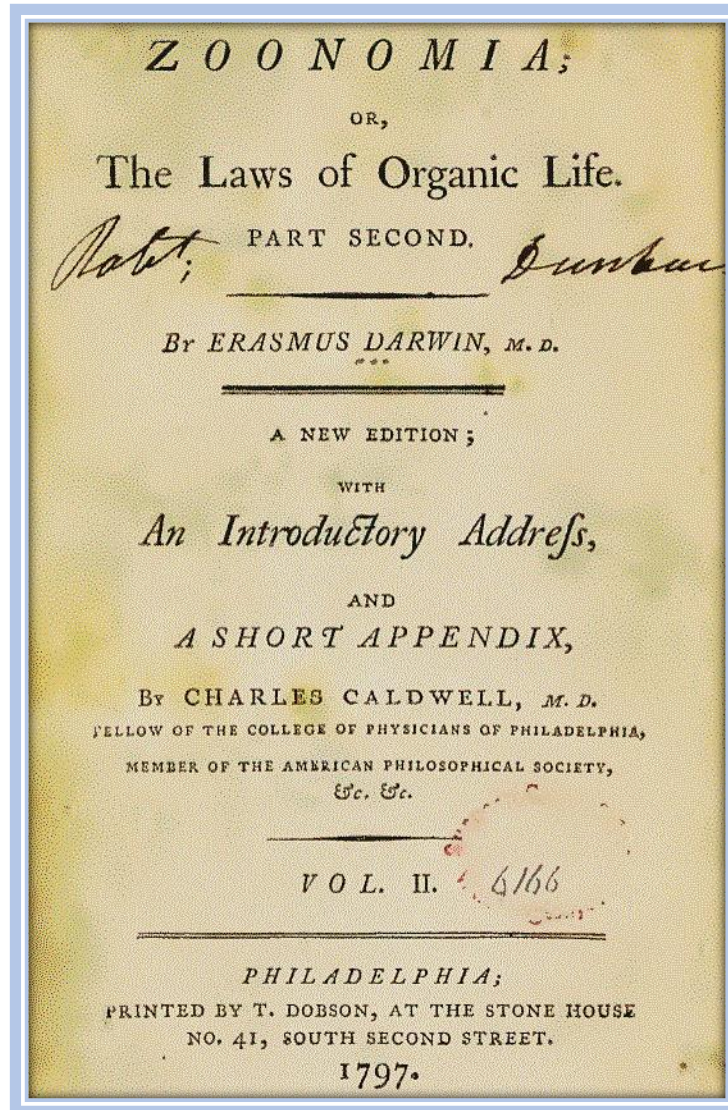
Zoonomia Volume I

M. M. Venesection. An emetic. A cathartic. Warm bath. Opium a grain every half hour. Wine. Spirit of wine. If the patient becomes intoxicated by the above means, the fit ceases, and violent vomitings and debility succeed on the subsequent day, and prevent a return. Blisters or sinapisms on the small of the leg, taken off when they give much pain, are of use in slighter convulsions. Acupuncture. Electricity. Asperision with cold water on the painful part.

Page 421

[2551013RX1.pdf \(nih.gov\)](#)

Zoonomia Volume II



<https://ia600309.us.archive.org/11/items/2551016RX2.nlm.nih.gov/2551016RX2.pdf>

Defemination and Explanation of Terms

PREFACE.

xi

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

The remote causes of many diseases, their periods, and many circumstances concerning them, are treated of in the preceding volume; the descriptions of many of them, which I have omitted for the sake of brevity, may be seen in the Nosologia Methodica of Sauvages, and in the Synopsis Nosologiæ of Dr. Cullen, and in the authors to which they refer.

DERBY, Jan. 1, 1796.

PREFACE. Xi

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

M. M. meaning Methodus Medendi

M. M. Detect and extract the diseased tooth. Cut the affected nerve, or stimulate the diseased membrane by acupuncture. Venesection to fix 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. Page 141

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

Zoonomia Volume II

Where the disease is owing to strangulated hernia, the part should be sprinkled with cold water, or iced water, or salt and water recently mixed, or moistened with ether. 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? It is not uncommon for bashful men to conceal their being afflicted with a small hernia, which is the cause of their death; this circumstance should therefore always be enquired into. Is the seat or cause of the ileus always below the valve of the colon, and that of the cholera above it? See Class II. 1. 2. 11.

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Zoonomia Volume II

CLASS III. I. I. DISEASES OF VOLITION.

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Considering the great resemblance between this kind of painful epilepsy and the colic of Japan, as described by Kemfer; and that that disease was said to be cured by **acupuncture**, or the prick of a needle; I directed some very thin steel needles to be made about three inches long, and of such a temper, that they would bend double rather than break; and wrapped wax thread over about half an inch of the blunt end for a handle. One of these needles, when the pain occurred, was pushed about an inch into the painful part, and the pain instantly ceased; but I was not certain, whether the fear of the patient, or the stimulus of the puncture, occasioned the cessation of pain; and as the paroxysm had continued some weeks, and was then declining, the experiment was not tried again. The disease is said to be very frequent in Japan, and its seat to be in the bowels, and that the **acupuncture** eliminates the air, which is supposed to distend the bowel. But though the aperture thus made is too small to admit of the education of air; yet as the stimulus of so small a puncture may either excite a torpid part into action, or cause a spasmodic one to cease to act; and lastly, as no injury could be likely to ensue from so small a perforation, I should be inclined at some future time to give this a fairer trial in similar circumstances.

Zoonomia Volume II

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DISEASES OF VOLITION. CLASS III. 1. 1.

M. M. Venesection. An emetic. A cathartic. Warm bath. Opium a grain every half hour. Wine. Spirit of wine. If the patient becomes intoxicated by the above means, the fit ceases, and violent vomitings and debility succeed on the subsequent day, and prevent a return. Blisters or sinapisms on the small of the leg, taken off when they give much pain, are of use in lighter convulsions. **Acupuncture**. Electricity. Asperision with cold water on the painful part.

Acupuncture, Expertise and Cross-Cultural Medicine

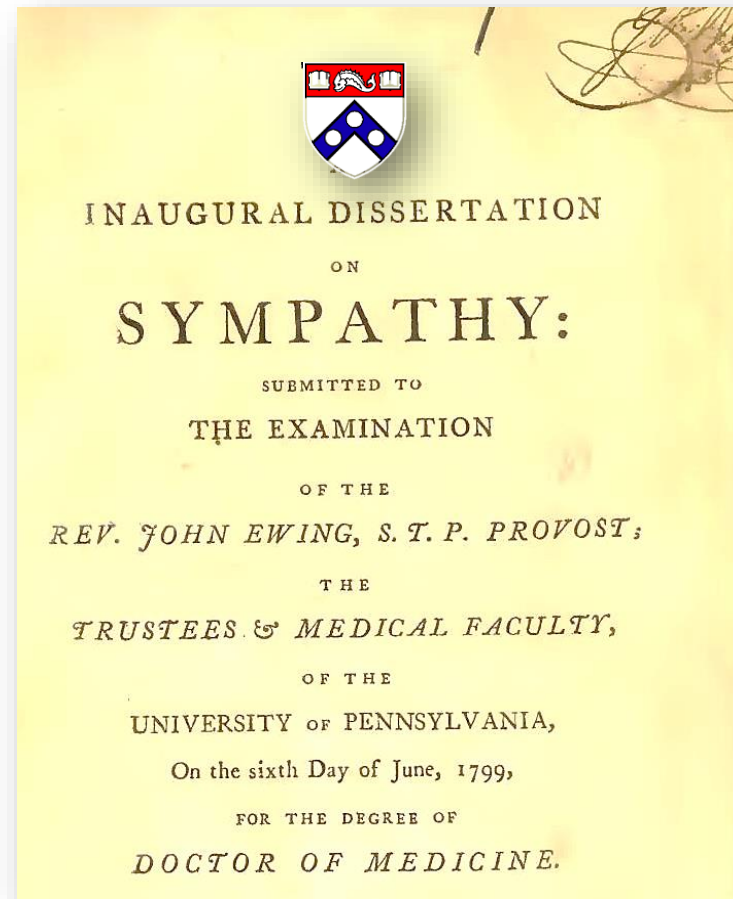
By R. Bivins, 2000

3 Sharpening the Needle

Page 221

- 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?' ---

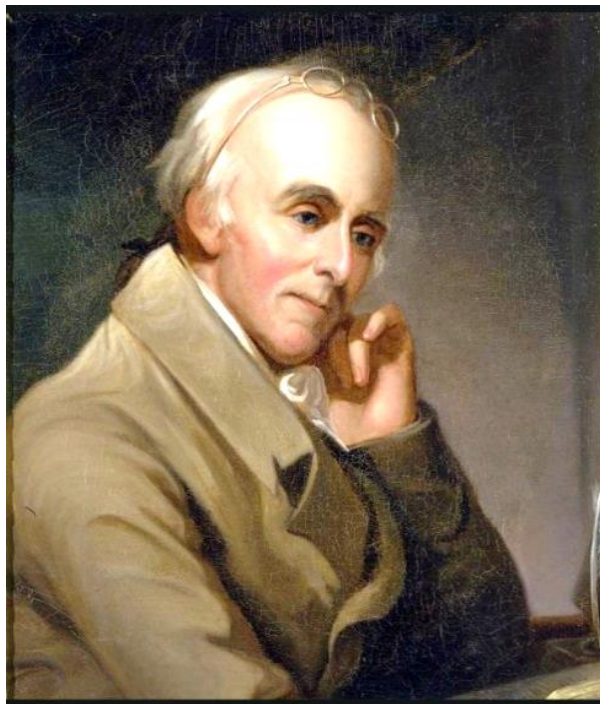
Dissertation on Sympathy



<https://collections.nlm.nih.gov/catalog/nlm:nlmuid-2563002R-bk>

Do the following pages of Dr. Arthur May Dissertation speak of an early form of auriculotherapy?

Benjamin Rush



He is considered the, "Father of American Psychiatry," publishing the first textbook on Psychiatry in 1812. The title of this book is, "Medical Inquiries and Observations upon the Diseases of the Mind."

Sympathy Dissertation Definition's

The definition below that appears in Dr. May's Medical Doctoral in June of 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*)

In medicine or other branches of science, relies solely on observation and experiment

Universal & Partial = 1



Mr. Hunter divides " the sympathy of the body, into two kinds: universal, and partial. By the universal sympathy is meant, where the whole constitution sympathises with some sensation, or action of a part. By partial sympathy, is meant, when one or more distinct parts sympathise

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, diarrhaea, pregnancy, etc.

Sympathy: Page 10

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 tooth-ach, by burning the ear with a hot iron: moxa, burned on the skin, behind the ear, effects the same cure. Give a dog

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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.

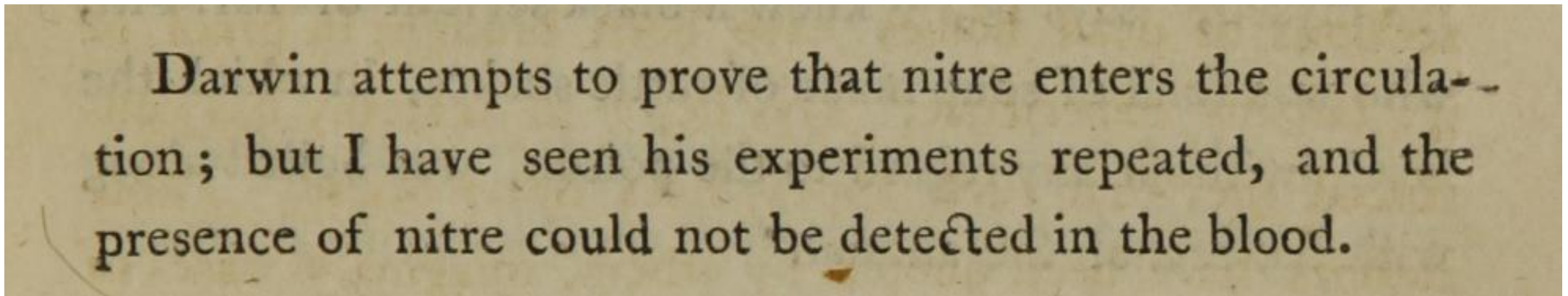
Sympathy: Page 13

Sympathies exist between the stomach and skin, between the eyes and genitals, between the testes and parotid glands, etc. In a word, the whole system, mind and body, is one mass of general sympathy : no sooner is any part affected, than the impression is communicated throughout the whole. Sympathy is the conductor of disease, and this same sympathy is the agent of cure. All the operations of medicines, I have ever witnessed, appeared to have been performed by the agency of sympathy.

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Were US Physicians Familiar with Acupuncture in the 1700's?

The following dissertation (for medical doctor) comes from Dr. Arthur May in 1799. He speaks on the uses of moxa and mind body medicine. It is my belief that he was familiar with acupuncture and its effects on pain. He cites Dr. Darwin's research (from Zoonomia Volume II) in his dissertation, this leads me to believe he knows of acupuncture effects. Dr. May quotes Darwin's work on page 25 of his dissertation. See photo below for a copy of that quote. His dissertation on Sympathy is based on Dr. Cullen's theory in mind-body medicine. He quotes Dr. Cullen as well.



Dissertation on Sympathy By Dr. May in 1799

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From Zoonomia Vol I

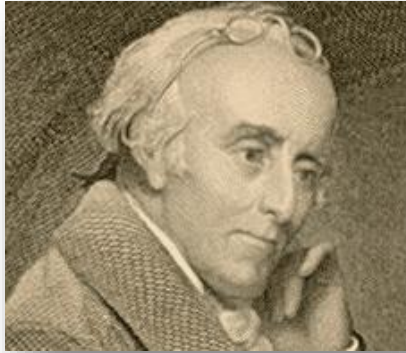
From hence it appears, that the saccharine matter, with which the urine of these patients so much abounds, does not enter the blood-vessels like the nitre and asparagus mentioned above; but that the process of digestion resembles the process of the germination of vegetables, or of making barley into malt; as the vast quantity of sugar found in the urine must be made from the food which he took (which was double that taken by others), and from the fourteen pints of small beer which he drank. Page 236

From what it appears, that the saccharine matter, with which the urine of these patients so much abounds, does not enter the blood-vessels like nitre and asparagus mentioned above;

NIH Consensus Conference. Acupuncture

November 3rd – 5th, 1997

Conclusions: Acupuncture as a therapeutic intervention is widely practiced in the United States. Although there have been many studies of its potential usefulness, many of these studies provide equivocal results because of design, sample size, and other factors. The issue is further complicated by inherent difficulties in the use of appropriate controls, such as placebos and sham acupuncture groups. However, promising results have emerged, for example, showing efficacy of acupuncture in adult postoperative and chemotherapy nausea and vomiting and in postoperative dental pain. There are other situations, such as addiction, stroke rehabilitation, headache, menstrual cramps, tennis elbow, fibromyalgia, myofascial pain, osteoarthritis, low back pain, carpal tunnel syndrome, and asthma, in which acupuncture may be useful as an adjunct treatment or an acceptable alternative or be included in a comprehensive management program. Further research is likely to uncover additional areas where acupuncture interventions will be useful. [NIH Consensus Conference. Acupuncture - PubMed](#)



Benjamin Rush

The American Philosophical Society



On Friday February 4, 1774, Dr. Benjamin Rush addressed the members of the American Philosophical Society, in Philadelphia, PA. He read his essay out loud titled, “An Inquiry into the Natural History of Medicine among the Indians in North-America, and a comparative View of their Diseases and Remedies, with those of civilized Nations.” Dr. Rush’s speech compares a native Indian remedy that was similar to that of moxa.

Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia



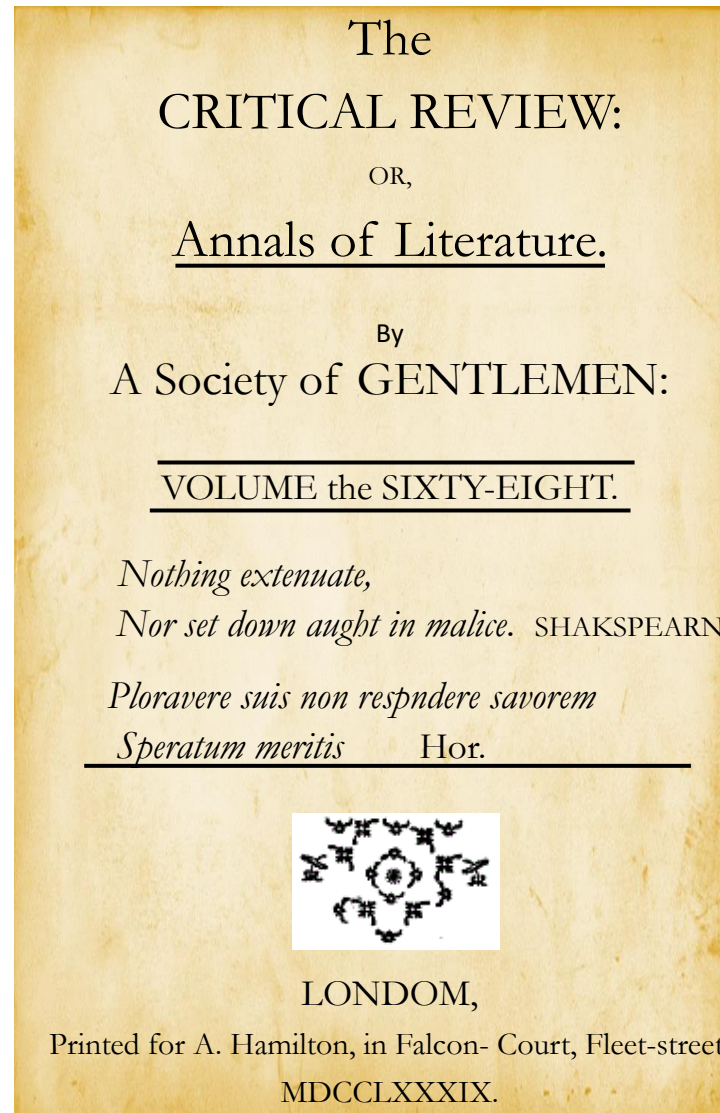
Built in 1770, it was the home to Franklin's Library Company, The American Philosophical Society, and the First and Second Banks of the United States

Carpenter's Hall of Philadelphia



Carpenter's Hall housed the **First Continental Congress in 1774** (Sept 5th – Oct 30th) and was home to Franklin's Library Company, The American Philosophical Society, and the First and Second Banks of the United States.

Dr. Rush Essay Starts on Page 341



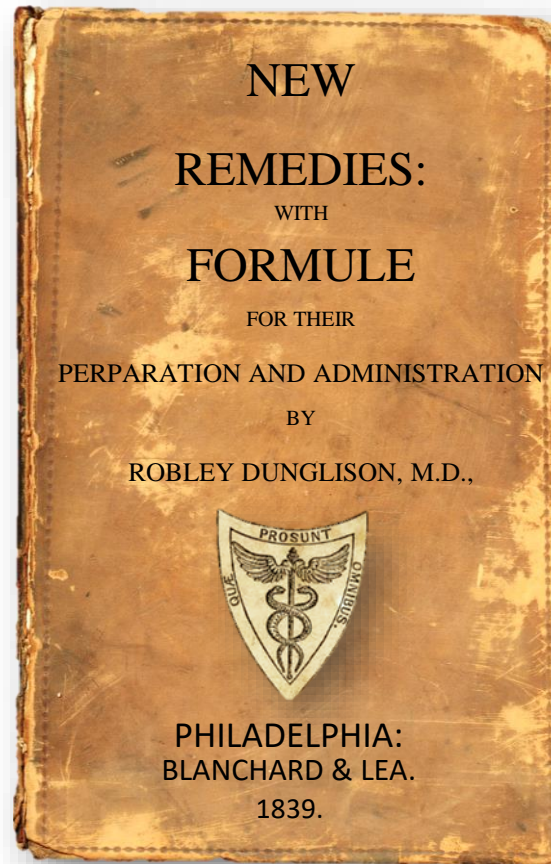
<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008890497>

Page 341 from Dr. Rush's Essay

The Indian remedies are few; and those chiefly natural ones, by increasing the natural evacuations. A piece of rotten wood set on fire, and burning gradually downward like moxa, is not the '*potential*,' but the actual caustic. Their peculiar remedies our author greatly distrusts, and we think with reason: even their boasted remedies for the venereal disease, they assist with profuse perspirations; and they at last sometimes fail. After

The Indian remedies are few; and those chiefly natural ones, by increasing the natural evacuations. A piece of rotten wood set on fire, and burning gradually downward like moxa, is not the potential; but the actual caustic.

Dr. Robley Dunglison



<https://archive.org/stream/61611000R.nlm.nih.gov/61611000R#page/n3/mode/2up>

Robley Dunglison was an English-born physician who studied medicine in England, Scotland and France and received his medical degree in 1823 from the University of Erlangen in Germany. The following year, Thomas Jefferson asked him to join the first faculty at the University of Virginia as a Professor of Anatomy and Medicine.

NEW REMEDIES

Dunghlison writes the following on page 400 in his book about what and where moxa comes from. He also describes how to use cone moxa

MOXA, *Moxibu'rium*. A word by which the Chinese and Japanese designate a cottony substance, which they prepared by beating the dried leaves of the *Artemisia moxa*, — a kind of mugwort. With this down they form a cone, which is placed upon the part intended to be cauterized, and is set fire to at the top. The heat and pain gradually increase, in proportion as the combustion proceeds downwards, until ultimately an eschar may be formed. In Europe and this

Page 400

Moxa was introduced and probably spoken about for the first time in the USA

It occurred:

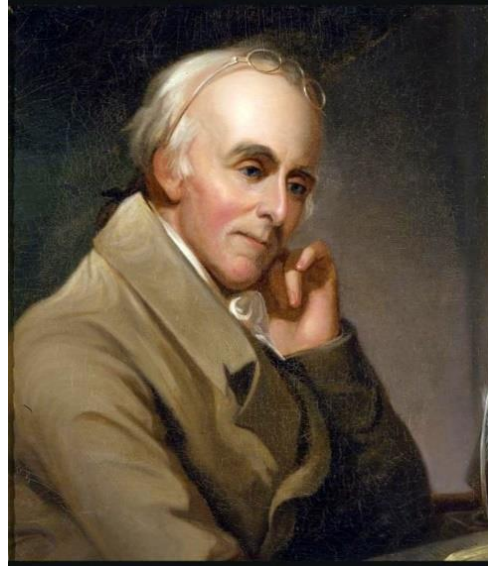
7 Months (215 days) before the First Continual Congress convened

1 year 6 weeks (409 days) before the start of the Revolutionary War.

1 year 10.8 weeks (441 days) to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

7 years 8.7 weeks (2,616 days) after the conclusion (officially making the U.S.A a country) of the Revolutionary War

Benjamin Rush



Benjamin Rush was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. He was a physician, politician and educator. Rush attended the first Continental Congress and was one of 56 men who **signed the Declaration of Independence.**