

(To come in at the end of the Introductory Lecture Oct. 5th 1806. in Ph. Chamberlayne)

Now the intention of this course of lectures is to give you, ^{1st} some idea of life, or that animating principle, w^{ch} first moves and then conducts that latent process by which an embryo or fetus becomes a man; and this will lead us to trace man from the egg in Utero after life through its different evolutions, or expansions till he breathes the breath of life.

The infant after being separated from its Uterine or Placental support, depends in future on the operations of its own organs; and in order that it may live, it must ~~depend~~ be allowed to inspire the atmospheric air, by the Lungs, or organs of Respiration. But in order that the infant should grow as well as breathe, it must have likewise ^{a supply of} the food; which being received into its stomach is there prepared by Digestion, taken up from thence by Absorption; distributed by circulation; assimilated to its nature by Nutrition; and the whole carried on by means of Secretion. We shall point out all these operations to you. In all these processes, we shall endeavour to raise your ideas from the dead body ^{to} the all various motions of the living body.

We shall be led to trace the hum^{an} body as a wonderfully complicated, yet harmonious system. We shall contemplate it as drawing life & heat from the surrounding atmosphere by means of the Lungs; and then we shall view it as supplying itself, by the Stomach, with nourishment, from various

various parts of the creation. This will lead us to speak of the article of food: Here we shall compare the power of digestion in man with that of other animals. Here we shall find that while some are merely carnivorous - some granivorous and other herbivorous - man is omnivorous.

After speaking of the Digestive, Nutritive & Perspirative functions, we shall then describe the Nervous system, and shall endeavour to display some of its wonderful powers. Then we shall speak of the conspiration of the whole system, operating & cooperating agreeably to the laws of health; for the first or physiological part of our course, is the history of health; for it is absolutely necessary that we give you a description of the actions of the body in perfect health, before we describe its deflection into a disease. But what is perfect health? for some say there is no such state of the body -

Perfect health is the temperate action of the vital influence through every part of the system. The body continues in the exercise of its proper functions, without the least sensation of difficulty & embarrassment. Respiration is free & easy, neither requiring conscious exertion, nor even a thought; the action of the heart & arteries, with the consequent circulation of the blood are regular & placid; neither too rapid, nor too indolent, neither laboured, nor oppressed. Perspiration is neither checked nor excessive. Food is sought with appetite

enjoyed with relish, and digested with facility. Every secretion & excretion is duly performed. The body is perfectly free from pain, heaviness or oppression; and a certain vivacity & vigour reigns throughout the system; add to this, the mind is undisturbed by any violent emotions, agitations or depressions, but is in a state to exercise its noblest powers with tranquil vigour. → This is perfect health. The description of all the actions, operations & functions of the body in perfect health, will consume nearly half our course. Then we shall speak of the first degree of deviation, or deflection from the standard of perfect health into Disease, being that part of the science of Medicine, w^c is denominated Pathology.

We shall say nothing of the divisions & subdivisions of our doctrine of diseases at present; but shall only observe to you that the hum. body is so far from being a mere machine, that receives & suffers injuries without resistance, that there is within ^{it} ~~him~~, a preserving principle, w^c being roused and rendered uneasy from the feeling of pain, or sense of uneasiness, that it bends the whole force of that influence to repel the enemy; for an acute disease is a conflict of nature fighting for the preservation of the body.

In all this we shall hold up to your view a different picture from what you find in books: otherwise we
might

might refer you to books. The mode of acquiring knowledge by lectures is very diff from that of obtaining it from books. The Lecturer professes to read for you; for you he epitomises volumes; and for you he labours to collect the essence of a large work in a few pages. The advantages of a regular, systematic course of lectures on the Theory & Practice of Physic over that of reading books ~~can~~ can hardly be conceived by those who have not had the blessings of a public education. We have no hesitation in saying that by a well arranged system of lectures, a student may acquire more knowledge of the science in one month, than he could by himself, in ever so large a library, in a year. The experiment has been often tried, & the result confessed. The difference in studying in an association, & studying alone is almost inconceivable, by those who have not experienced both; but it is wasting time, & reflecting on your judgements, to say a word more on a subject, that has been already determined by the suffrages & practice of all Europe ^{as well as} of the oldest medical schools in ^{our own} this country.