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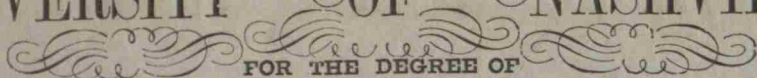
ON

The
Modus Operandi

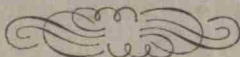
SUBMITTED TO THE

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MEDICAL FACULTY
OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE,



FOR THE DEGREE OF



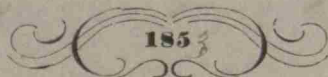
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

BY

John Wesley

OF

Rutherford Co. Tennessee



1853

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1) John, of the King. Parable Christ.

1. Once, I mean, according to several
State, in the garden of Eden, first
tasted of the forbidden fruit, has been
under a Stegana that Seals, retreating
back to the heart in Challenging ways,
the blood that circulates his system,
when he hears sounding from every
corner and nook in the universe
the sad verdict, "Thou shalt die."

Like clouds that arise one upon another
in battle array, till they have
over spread the sky with darkness,
and shrouded the earth with its
sable hue, settling down its brown
in fiery darts, the forked lightning
sprouting death and destruction, to
all things in its path; - So death on
his pale horse, riding o'er the world.

with an Iron hook, bludgeoning the
sides of the breast, and laughing
to scorn the wail of the dying.

There is not a word, a look, or
an action, but what has been sealed
by the great Seal of death, with
a Shroud upon its brow, painful
than the Mark of Cain; and more

awful, than any more terrible
than bars of Iron, or muzzles of
brass; the knowledge of the fulfil-

ment of the prophecy, that, "Iron
shall die." We see the vile son
of Satan and Sin, mingling, as

an Angel of Light, in the songs and
glees of Childhood, or dancing in
the green Swon, in the wild Chase
of Youth, or like the woman gawp-
ing at the sights of the "City of the Possi-
ble."

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or the half-blown rose tree; it buds,
stays in all its bitterness, behind
the blush that flows so gracefully
to the cheeks, in maiden purity, and
the gentle undulations, of the snow-
white bosom of the romping
school girl, or sentimental young
lady; - or taking the form of
disease, that, "walketh abroad at night
and wasteth at noonday" and sickening
some where within the fibres, of the
the "Crimin'd pattern of Decadent Na-
ture, that we know not where is that
Promethean heat that will its light
reburne"; Such is death, yet within
the compass of human science and
investigation, there are principles
by which the scientific man can
tell, almost without a doubt

or the half-blown rose bud; or hiding
itself in all its bitterness, behind
the blush that flows so gracefully
to the cheek, in maiden purity, and
the gentle undulations, of the snow
white bosom of the pompous
school girl, or sentimental young
lady; - or taking the form of
disease, that, "walketh abroad at night
and wasteth at noonday" and sinking
some where within the fibres, of the
the "Cunning's pattern of Decent Ma-
ture, that we know not where is that
Promethean head that will its light
reclaim"; Such is death, yet within
the compass of human science and
investigation, there are principles
by which the scientific man can
tell, almost without a doubt

where it begins; the end it bears,
and how it will terminate. To favor
this, we will have to bring to view
Certain Laws of Nature, which can
be proved to be correct, by other prin-
ciple, though in this dissertation
will be taken in Geometrical Lan-
guage, as axioms or self evident truths.

Nature in all her Systems or
Systems of Systems, have so arranged
their parts or parcels, in such shape
and influence, that the complete
actions of the whole, is dependent
upon the full development of each
one of its parts; Taking this then
as a fixed Law, we have to use but
a little reason, to get to the fact
that if one of its parts, be destroyed
that the whole will be affected to

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The extent of its influence or im-
portance; Such a System is the
Human Body, and of all Machines
the most complicated; Composed of
Bones, Muscles, Tendons, Glands,
Nerves, Blood, Blood vessels, and a
Thousand and one things that
need not be mentioned. In but
one thing do we find the human
System differing from other Machines
or Systems in the Universe, that is
when one of its organs are destroyed,
or affected by disease, all the others
seemingly lay aside their Physiologi-
cal action, to aid, the diseased part
in regaining its proper functions.

Now destroy for a moment any one
of the organs, for instance the brain, or
any one of its branches, or nerves,

and the body would be deprived of
sensation; take away the blood and
at once the other parts will be deprived
of life, or the Nutrients themselves, take
away the Lungs and you deprive the
Body of the power of purifying the
blood, the Main Spring thereof, take
away an arm and there will be a
peculiar action of the remainder, to re-
pair the injury, wound and part
if not fatal, there will be an action to
sustain itself, Hence the distinction
or Classification of different organs,
Some can be invaded and destroyed
and Life will still cling to the remain-
der, and continue to act, though in a
feeble state, while there are others
that the moment they are invaded
death begins, and when destroyed

Life only; these are vital, and these
are not; the life is dependent upon,
and the former is dependent upon life,
Death approaches so stealthily at
times and continues so long in pro-
traction, that it is hard to tell the exact
time, it begins, and when the Patient
has satisfied its appetite; while at
other times the transition from
perfect health, to that of death, is so
sudden, that we are hardly conscious
of its close proximity, till the work is
done. Now Gentlemen let
us examine these organs, we de-
scribe vital, and speculate a little
upon the different theories that have
come under our investigation. The
three great vital organs of the body
are, the heart, the lungs, and brain.

and Spinal Cord; The Mechanical, the
Chemical, and the Vital. Considering
them, these three as the great Vital
ones, we will only speak of death, as if
the Morbid process, originated in the
organs themselves; leaving out the
others, as only producing it, by Sympa-
thy, through one of these three; hence
we think the destruction of any one,
or all of them will destroy life,
The Mode or Manner, the Cause,
produced, is denominated, *Uremia*
Oporea. *Uremia*.

Here let me remark that life is
not only dependent upon the Mechanical
construction, relation and connection
of ^{the} Muscular and Bony systems, but
also upon two great principles of
Natural Philosophy, that of Hydraulics

and appendages. Since the time of Harvey down to the present, it has been known to all Scientific Men, that the heart, and accompanying blood vessels, of arteries, veins, and Capillaries, are the great reservoir, and Conduits, or great thoroughfares, by which the blood is conveyed to and from the heart, in the body, and it is known also that the blood is the sustenance of the body, or the medium through which the other organs are sustained, or as the mainspring, is to a watch, in keeping each of its parts, in the proper performance of its functions, so is the blood to the body, The way then in which the Circulation of the blood is arrested thereby producing death, will be the subject

of our first investigation.

From the peculiar construction of the coats of the arteries and the principles of Hydraulics, the Blood must, have a Motive power to propel it, and a sufficient quantity within the arteries that the force from the heart, will keep up the circulation of the Capillaries and veins; - From these principles then, it is obvious that there can be but two ways in which the heart will cease its action, First by there not being enough blood sent ^{to} the heart and by the diseas'd, conditions of its structure, or want of nervous influence, (this ^{will} occur under the head of Corua) it thereby not having power to contract.

Hence the fact that when a large blood vessel is ruptured, and it is ligated, the heart forcing the blood from behind through the opening united the heart and arteries fail to act. Not for any diseased condition in them, or any other tissue in the body, but simply for the reason that they have nothing to act upon, and death is truly produced by Curcul, or want of blood.

The second is a little more complicated, and may be produced in two or three ways, and perhaps more than that, The first and most common, is when the Muscular Structure of the heart take on a Morbid action, thereby destroying its power to Contract, and secondly when it

Crises, from the Nervous influence that
 is exerted is destroyed; By some diseased
 Condition of the Brain, or a sudden
 Emotions of the Mind, paralyzing its
 action. These are things all can Com-
 prehend, and when founded to their
 foundation, with a few other Symp-
 toms of some importance, the diagnosis
 is founded upon Cause and effect
 from principles so clear to the
 mind that they can be proved as
 Satisfactory as the Demonstration
 of a Mathematical Problem.

What then, one will ask, are the
 symptoms, of a diseased heart, or
 the want of blood or Chills?
 Suppose the heart should be affected
 with any of the common diseases to
 which it is subjected, such a Hypertrophy

Dropsy, or endocarditis, the effect
 will be known immediately, by the
 difference it produces in the pulse
 when the patient moves, or starts
 over himself, and the rigors and
 intermissions, fevers, and sudden pal-
 pitations, at times. The symptoms
 of Mucina are so plain that "those
 that can may read and though a
 fool need not err therein" and when
 they terminate fatally, the first change
 that is observed, is the extreme paleness
 of the lips, gums, and countenance in
 general; a cold perspiration over the
 whole surface of the body; dilatation
 of the pupils, and dimness of vision;
 Vertigo or dizziness of the head; and con-
 vulsions that return over and over
 before the patient dies. The most

of the symptoms, and observe which
 death of nature would be a disease
 condition of the same itself, such
 as delirium, dilated pupils, and
 Convulsions, The greatest Ana-
 tomical ^{Changes} after death between the
 two, is, in Quercia, the Left ventricle
 or the Left side of the heart, is
 almost empty, whereas, in
 the other, it is almost full of
 soft matter, Why is this? in Quercia
 the heart has nothing to contract upon
 Hence its emptiness, and in Sclerica
 the it has not the power to expel
 its contents, Hence its fullness.
 To explain the Mechanism as
 well as the Chemical, Changes of
 several Modes of dying, I will endeavour
 to bring them principally to two, the

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two great facts, which have been as-
certained, by scientific men, and
proved without the shadow of a
doubt, by experiments, that the
atmosphere presses upon the sur-
face of the Earth, to the amount
of fifteen pounds to the square
inch, and that the pressure upon
a common sized man, is about
fifteen tons, to show plainly
how this pressure presses down;
suppose for an instance, it to be
taken off, and what will be the
effect? We know very well, the
changes that take place, on any
part of the body, if we apply a cupping
glass to it? - So would the whole body,
be congested, should this pressure be
taken off; and, ^{death} would occur in a short time,

This position of the Manuscript is
 balancing the circulation of the fluids
 naturally, that they can perform their
 proper functions, without the least
 interruption, And the least change
 in the one, will make the other
 to rise up or sink to fall where
 required. This Change, then, is
 the cause of respiration, The dia-
 phragm phoagm, and the muscles of the
 thorax, acting at the same time,
 the diaphragm, increasing the
 diameter vertically, and the other
 muscles laterally, so enlarge the
 chest, that air is forced in through
 the mouth and nostrils, to fill ^{the} vacuum.
 Now the blood, at the same time
 that the air is forced in, is sent
 from the heart, through the

pulmonary arteries, and the
 the air extremely sensibility
 of entering in the air cells, fill
 with air by the act of respiration,
 with only an extremely thin
 Membrane between the air
 and blood; the blood then sud-
 dly gives up its superfluous
 of which is Carbon, and receives
 in its place oxygen, the suppor-
 ter of life,

Let us now examine some
 of the theories or Conclusions of
 different writers. "Haller thought
 that from the failure of the lungs
 to expand, the blood was mecha-
 nically obstructed immediately in the
 radicles of the arteries" in this he
 was partly right; but we find the same

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Symptoms appearing when we
breathe Azote or Hydrogen gas.

Dr Goodwin, "thought that the
venous blood passed into the left
ventricle and Aorta, there acting
as a poison, it stoped the action
of the heart" This is not so, for
then the Left side of the heart would
be completely full; but it is not.

Bichat, in his experiments, came
to the conclusion "that the venous
blood was sent to the Brain, and
other part of the body, acting as a
poison to all the tissues of the heart
with exception" This is partly true
but not entirely.

So it was left for Mr. Willard
of Troy, to advance the theory, of the
blood first beginning to stagnate, in

the lungs, and being sustained
 by the experiment of Dr. Saurin
 of New-Castle, which I think
 is the true one, He saw, as well
 as several of the other Gentlemen of
 equal celebrity, in the dissection
 being the corpuscles of blood begin
 to ^{float} the heart, when the lungs were
 inflated, and the effects thereof.

Let us now examine some
 of the symptoms that arise, from
 the sudden closure of the wind
 globes, or some other of the many
 mechanical obstructions that will
 produce death by Apnoea, Let
 the Cause then be what it will, when
 death occurs, the symptoms are the
 same; The first is a powerful
 exertion of the respiratory Muscles,

to enlarge the Cavities of the Thorax
with a peculiar distortion of the
Anatomical structure that cannot be de-
scribed, The Color of the face first
becomes flushed and red, and
then bluish and black, with
Convulsions or Spasms, that in some
cases, or twice, the heart soon ceases
to contract, and what we call Life
is gone for ever to return.

I now hasten on to the
third Mode of Death, or that
of Coma. The simplest Man
can trace the Circulation to
and from the heart, or delineate
the Relations of a Bone or Muscle
with its Neighbouring Bones and
Muscles, but, who can tell the
Composition of, or Mode of action

of that Effluvia of Life, or if that
a fluid, what it is, that when
an impression is made on the
surface it is immediately conveyed
to the Brain and Spinal Cord, and
from there reflected over the whole
System? And how it is that the
Essence of the Body, or the thing
we call Mind, should be placed
in this part of the organism alone
or how it is that when the Brain
is diseased or compressed, the
Mind is destroyed? or how it is
when a Nerve is Cut, the part to
which it is distributed, will lose
its vitality, I know of no theory
to explain these, than simply, they
contain, the Vital fluid - Life
In viewing the different

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grades of Animals, from the
Polypus to Man, the most com-
plicated of all Machines, Man,
I could admire the workings
of that Divine Hand, in the
gentle ascent, and beauty of
arrangement, of the Nervous Sys-
tem, from the general distri-
bution, in the Lovers to the
regular systematical arrangement
in Man, and the adaptations
of each one's System to their
Mode of Life, and the power
in some to produce again, an
amputated part, and in others
to make, two complete, from
one cut in two, and of some
retaining their Vitality, of the
higher order, for hours after

They have been decapitated

Differend theories have been advanced, and it now aflout, in the Literary world, to prove that the mind is in the blood or dependant upon it, but I will not stop here to prove its fallacy, but take the Nervous System as the medium through which we obtain life.

Let us now examine the most favourable symptoms that arise from its pathology, and the effect of differend Medicines in this process, and the most striking feature as the patient approaches that dissolution we call death.

We suppose the Brain should be Compressed, or Compressed from a Blow received upon the Head

How arrives to take the effect
of the injury, or whether it will
terminate fatally or not; the
Cure to be done in a great Major-
ity of Cases, by simply knowing
the difference of the symptoms thus
arise from each, the first that
the patient may receive, but in the
second of reaction ever takes place,
the inflammation of most always
fatal, When death is a consequence
of a diseased brain, the most prom-
inent symptoms, are alike those
originate from Coma passiva, the
first then that is observed, is the
patient starting wildly for a short
time as if suddenly awakened from
sleep; Low pulsations and resolu-
tion in sleep; and when awake

Staring wildly, and vocally about
the room, and at moments speak-
ing of things unreasonable, wild,
delirious, susceptible to external
objects, dilatation of the pupils;
Stertorous Breathing, and with
difficulty performed, the heart
suddenly contracted, "The sin-
cord is loosed; the Golden bowl is
broken; the pitcher is broken at
the fountain; and the wheel at
the Cistern; and the chest returning
to its Mother Earth, and the Spirit
to the God who gave it."

What is the difference be-
tween this mode of Azany, and
that of Oppenow, where we
find many of the Anatomical
Changes are the same, In this

the traces of the first affliction
and in Africa the first is the
primary and the second secondary
Now Southern people
have my ideas of the true great
Means of Ozing, judge if its
Merit or Demerit, recollecting
that I have come forward volun-
tarily and placed in your hands
that, which in a great degree
will over-ride an influence
over my future destiny.
Believing you to be Southern
in Connection with an insti-
tution, that is, and will bring
to the present progress of the
age, and one that will fair
to outstrip any of its predecessors,
in the acquisition of fame at

home and abroad, and situated
in the South with Southern, fair
Opinion and practice, I can say
I without the least hesitation, had
I had rather have the name of
my Faculty in my diploma
than that of any other institution
in the Union

With the feeling of a
Friend, suggest Mr. Garrison
to bid you all an affectionate
Adieu, until we meet in that
dreadful place the Great Beyond.

Thos. Dealey