

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-06016-5 - An Account of the Nature and Medicinal Virtues of the Principal Mineral Waters of Great Britain and Ireland: And Those Most in Repute on the Continent

John Elliot

Frontmatter

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It is sobering to realise that as recently as the year in which *On the Origin of Species* was published, learned opinion was that diseases such as typhus and cholera were spread by a 'miasma', and suggestions that doctors should wash their hands before examining patients were greeted with mockery by the profession. The Cambridge Library Collection reissues milestone publications in the history of Western medicine as well as studies of other medical traditions. Its coverage ranges from Galen on anatomical procedures to Florence Nightingale's common-sense advice to nurses, and includes early research into genetics and mental health, colonial reports on tropical diseases, documents on public health and military medicine, and publications on spa culture and medicinal plants.

An Account of the Nature and Medicinal Virtues of the Principal Mineral Waters of Great Britain and Ireland

Although he was tried for attempted murder and died in Newgate Prison, the natural philosopher and apothecary John Elliot (1747–87) published a number of significant scientific works in the first part of the 1780s, especially with regard to sensory perception. This 1789 second edition of a 1781 work is essentially an alphabetically arranged catalogue of the principal British mineral waters, their properties and uses, along with those 'most celebrated ones which the English valetudinarian may have occasion to visit on the continent'. In his introduction, Elliot classes the waters according to their respective mineral properties and supplies details of the four classes of substances found united with water, and three methods for analysis. An extract of Joseph Priestley's 1772 pamphlet *Directions for Impregnating Water with Fixed Air*, with Dr John Nooth's alternative method as an appendix, forms an entertaining preface, informative as to the history of producing carbonated water.

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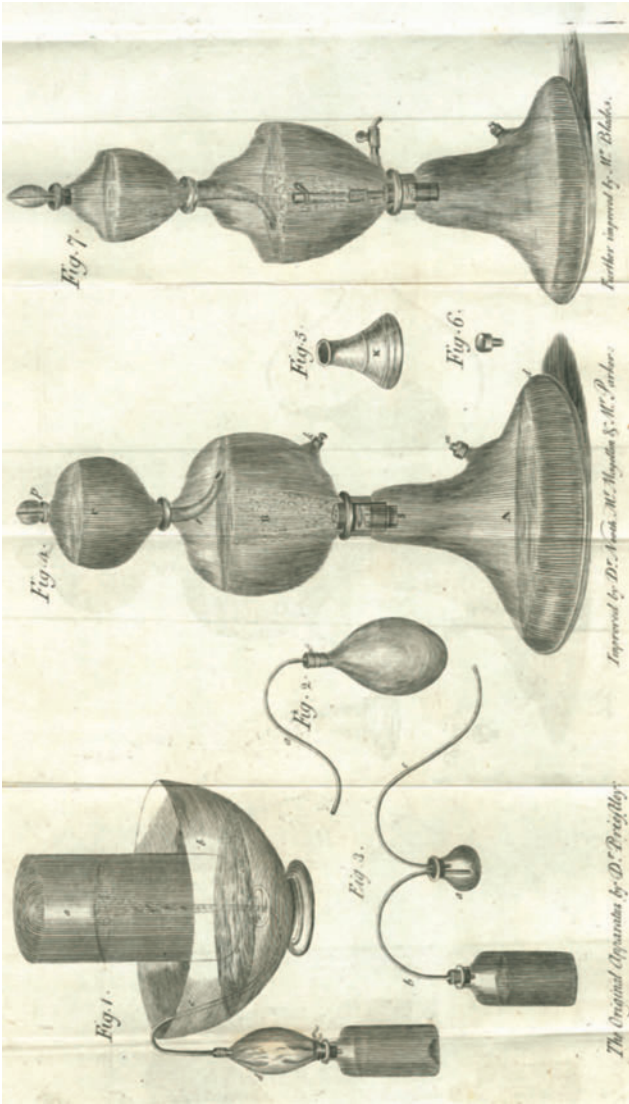
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AN
A C C O U N T
O F T H E
NATURE and MEDICINAL VIRTUES
O F T H E
Principal Mineral Waters
O F
G R E A T B R I T A I N A N D I R E L A N D ;
A N D T H O S E
M O S T I N R E P U T E O N T H E C O N T I N E N T .

T O W H I C H A R E P R E F I X E D

Directions for IMPREGNATING WATER with FIXED AIR,
in order to communicate to it the peculiar Virtues of
PYRMONT WATER, and other MINERAL WATERS
of a similar Nature, extracted from Dr. PRIESTLEY'S
EXPERIMENTS ON AIR.

W I T H A N A P P E N D I X ,

Containing a Description of Dr. NOOTH'S Apparatus,
with the IMPROVEMENTS made in it by others. And
a Method of IMPREGNATING WATER with HEPATIC
AIR, so as to imitate the AIX-LA-CHAPELLE and other
SULPHUREOUS WATERS.

By J O H N E L L I O T , M . D .

The Second Edition, corrected and enlarged.

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TO THE
FIRST EDITION.

DR. PRIESTLEY'S Pamphlet on the Impregnation of Water with Fixed Air being out of print, and that Gentleman having no intention of republifhing it, I have judged proper to prefix it to the following Tract, with the additions, as printed in his fecond Volume of Experiments on Air. This was done as well that the reader might be entertained with the hiftory of the difcovery, as instructed in an eafy method of making the impregnation when Dr. Nooth's apparatus might not be at hand.

J. E.

*Newman Street,
Aug. 3^d, 1781.*

IN this Second Edition the contents of the principal Waters, and their Proportions, when they could be obtained from any good authority, have been inferted: fome, which have come into repute fince the publication of the former edition, are added: the proportions of the ingredients for imitating different Mineral Waters have been altered, to bring them nearer to what, from the analyfes of later chemifts, we may presume to be their true compofition: the method of preparing the mephitic alkaline water is given in a more full and improved manner; and that part which relates to the analyfis of waters is confiderably enlarged.

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