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**Millar J (1798b)**. Observations on the conduct of the war. An appeal to the people of Great Britain. London: for the author.

**Title pages**

OBSERVATIONS  
*Ex libris* ON THE *Biblioth.*  
CHANGE OF PUBLIC OPINION,  
*Coll. Rej. in Med. Edin.*  
Religion, Politics, and Medicine;  
ON THE  
CONDUCT OF THE WAR;  
ON THE  
PREVAILING DISEASES IN GREAT BRITAIN;  
AND ON  
MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS  
IN  
THE ARMY AND NAVY.

Si quid a vero alienum, facile poterit a multis, qui Spectatores fuerunt, eorum de quibus agit  
insimulari mendacii. Joannis Sleidani in Philippi Cominæi Commentarium Præfatio.

BY JOHN MILLAR, M.D.

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VOL. I.

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LONDON:

PRINTED BY J. BARFIELD, WARDOUR-STREET; AND J. BRETTELL, GREAT WINDMILL-  
STREET, HAYMARKET.

Key passages

On the 26th of December, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, the twenty-first regiment of foot had lost no less than nine officers, and more than one hundred private soldiers, in the West Indies; while the third battalion of the sixtieth regiment, quartered in the same island, having become hardy veterans, or, in the military phrase, seasoned troops, under Mr. Reide's care, lost, during the same period, only one man by disease; and a more successful practice having thus been introduced into that island, the inhabitants have also become more healthy than those of the neighbouring islands.

The whole of Mr. Reide's practice, and the general average of success during three years and three months, in the West Indies, appear in numbers in the following Tables composed from official monthly returns, regularly made to Colonel, now Brigadier General Strutt, who commanded the regiment, and transmitted every six months to Mr. Adair and Mr. Hunter, Surgeons General to the Army\*.

No. I.

*Table of the Proportion of Deaths to the whole Number of Sick, from June 1788 to September 1791.*

No.	Year.	Entered.	Died.	Average of Deaths.
1	1788	342	2	1 in 170
2	1789	595	9	1 in 66
3	1790	628	10	1 in $68\frac{1}{2}$ nearly
4	1791	401	4	1 in 100
Grand total		1966	25	1 in $78\frac{1}{2}$

\* Reide's View of the Diseases of the Army. London, 1793.

No. II.

*Table of Deaths in the Remitting Fever of the West Indies, denominated the Yellow Fever by His Majesty's Ministers, and deemed incurable, as it has actually proved under their Arrangements.*

No.	Year.	Remitting fever.	Of whom died.	Dysentery.	Of whom died.	Total.
1	1788	207	2	0	0	2
2	1789	205	4	122	1	5
3	1790	235	2	66	0	2
4	1791	179	1	24	0	1
Grand total		826	9	212	1	10

No. III.

*Table of the Proportion of Deaths in Consumption, from June 1788 to September 1791.*

Consumption.	Died.	Average.
23	15	Nearly two thirds.

There were no other diseases which proved fatal in the third battalion of the sixtieth regiment, while the medical department was conducted according to the plan resisted by Administration.

MEMORIAL presented to the PRESIDENT of the BOARD of CONTROUL.

THOUGH Medicine has hitherto been judged a detached science peculiar to Physicians, and totally independent on Political Œconomy and Military Operations, more mature deliberation, a more intimate acquaintance with the subject, more comprehensive views, and more extensive knowledge, have clearly evinced a general attention to its influence to be absolutely necessary to the successful direction of the business of the State.

It has been observed, by an able Physician\*, who could not, according to the state of Medicine at the time he lived, discern the energy and propriety with which the observation applied, above all others, to his own profession, in which he eminently excelled, that there are few things which we know, which are not capable of being reduced to Arithmetical Calculation; and when they cannot, it is a sign the knowledge of them is very small and confused; and where a Mathematical Reasoning can be had, it is as great a folly to make use of any other, as to grope for a thing in the dark, when you have a candle standing by you.

This advantage is peculiarly obtained in the practice of Medicine; for though, in the detail of private practice, it must ever be subject to that mystery which imposes on the frailty of mankind, yet, by the chaste application of Arithmetical Calculation, it may be accurately determined, what can or cannot be done in the cure of diseases, among bodies of men assembled in fleets and armies, and what methods or medicines are comparatively hurtful or serviceable; what are the most prevalent diseases, and the means by which they may be managed with the greatest success.

This method of treating the subject places it in the most respectable point of view; banishes mystery and charlatantry, and sets the practice of Medicine in its purity and simplicity, far beyond the cavils of quibbling criticism; the fallacy of delusive theories; and the still more dangerous rock of fallible opinion, or over-bearing authority.

From faithful registers and accurate calculations, the proportion of sick to the whole number of inhabitants in a kingdom, province or city, or of men in an army or navy, and the proportion of deaths to the number of sick in peace and war, town and country, in all ages and nations, and under all different prevailing medical theories and modes of practice, may be clearly ascertained and accurately compared.

The comparative propriety of different Medical Arrangements may be illustrated, the mistakes of historians may be corrected, and facts clearly explained, which, without the assistance of an intelligent medical investigation, would puzzle the most accomplished Generals and the most experienced Statesmen.

If the whole number of men in an army, and the monthly and annual proportion of deaths, be known, the propriety or impropriety of the general plan of Medical Arrangements may, with a great degree of certainty, be determined, by Arithmetical Calculations, founded on fixed principles, ascertained by regular Registers, accurately recorded, during a long series of years, in all seasons, regions and climates, in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America.

By the same means, if the general Medical Management is distinctly known, the average of fortunate or fatal practice may also be nearly calculated.

Considerable progress has already been made in these investigations; but it remains with the Executive Government to carry them to perfection, and render them extensively useful.

The only public department in which, so far as is publicly known, any attempt has been made to establish regular Medical Registers by authority, is in the service of the East India Company.

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