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**Cumming R (1805)**. On the use of aqua frigida in scalds, in epidemic ophthalmia, and the effects of cold on the human body. *Medical and Physical Journal*. 14:239-241.

**Title pages**

THE  
M E D I C A L  
AND  
P H Y S I C A L  
*J O U R N A L.*

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CONDUCTED BY

T. BRADLEY, M.D.

R. BATTY, M.D.

AND

J. ARNEMAN, M.D.

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V O L. XIV.

FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER, 1805.

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[By William Thorns, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street.]

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ON THE USE OF AQUA FRIGIDA IN SCALDS, IN EPIDEMIC OPTHALMIA, AND THE EFFECTS OF COLD ON THE HUMAN BODY. By RALPH CUMING, M. D. of *His Majesty's Ship Pegasus*.

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Aqua frigida is my favourite remedy; in the last ship I served in, the Malabar, one of the Serjeants of Marines, as well as many others, were scalded; but as this was the worst case, I mention it in preference; part of the leg, the whole of the ankle, and upper as well as lower part of the foot, were vesicated. He was ordered to place his foot and ankle in a bucket full of cold water, which immediately relieved him from the excruciating pain he complained of; and when it became necessary to renew the water, which was frequently done when it acquired a certain degree of heat, imparted to it from the inflamed limb, he was extremely anxious for a fresh supply, for the colder the water was, the more comfortable he said he felt the part affected.

At night, nurses were appointed to attend him, with directions to apply linen rags dipped in water, and to renew them whenever they became warm; and this mode of treatment was persevered in until the inflammation subsided. Some of the vesications were very large, and by way of experiment I cut one of them through its whole extent, but found this part more difficult to heal than the others, from which the serum was evacuated by small punctures.

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