

"DR. BEAUMONT'S BOOK IS A VERY DANGEROUS ONE"

4. (BEAUMONT, WILLIAM). A contemporary review of Beaumont's Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice, entitled "GASTRIC DIGESTION." From the Providence Literary Journal. 20pp., sm. 8vo, sewn. N.p., n.d. (ca. 1834). \$15.00

*** The author of the review, buried in anonymity, submitted his article to an obscure journal not even recorded in that vast compilation of periodicals, The Union List of Serials. He finds much fault with both Beaumont and his Experiments (and many of his conclusions). Obviously a physiologist, the author considers Beaumont's experiments "highly commendable" but, he adds, "...as a popular work, to be placed in the hands of the dyspeptic, it is very questionable whether it will not do more harm than good."

The reviewer further says, "In some respects, Dr. Beaumont's book is a very dangerous one; and is fitted to mislead the Faculty, as well as the invalids who may read it, or refer to it for dietetic instruction. If chymification is effected wholly by the gastric juice-if it is a purely chemical, instead of a vital process-then the physician...has only to turn to Dr. Beaumont's scale of the digestibility of different kinds of food..." Nevertheless, he does find that the book contains many excellencies, despite the fact that Dr. Beaumont is too fond of his chemical speculations.