

DR GRAHAM'S CELESTIAL BED

AT THE TEMPLE OF HYMEN, PALL MALL, ANNO DOMINI 1782

DR GRAHAM INSTALLED HIS TWELVE FOOT BY NINE FOOT CELESTIAL BED AS A FERTILITY TREATMENT. THERE ARE NO KNOWN CONTEMPORARY ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE BED, THOUGH IN ONE OF HIS LECTURES GRAHAM GAVE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION. THIS IS THE BASIS OF THE DRAWING.

ELECTRICITY...is the most powerful engine or influence in nature to remedy these several defects - it gives a tone and retentive firmness to the relaxed fibres - it corrects the acrimony of juices, strengthens and rejuvenates the generative powers and effectively removes obstructions.

IN THE 1780'S ELECTRICITY WAS REGARDED AS COMPLETELY MAGICAL. DR GRAHAM THOUGHT THAT THE EFFECT OF STATIC ELECTRICITY MAKING HAIR STAND ON END PROVED THAT IT HAD THE POWER TO MAKE ANY PART OF THE BODY 'ERECT'. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT FLUIDS SQUIRT MORE VIGOROUSLY FROM CHARGED BODIES.

TWO REAL TURTLE DOVES ON A BED OF ROSE PETALS



The INNER FRAME, which moves on a pivot, can be raised at the bottom of the bed, as in a moment, to be converted by the gentleman into such an inclined plane that he can follow his lady downhill, as it is called, which is certainly the most favourable posture for the great business of conception or propagation in difficult cases, especially in cases of corpulency or where the want of retentive firmness is the principle cause of barrenness.

MATTRESS MANUFACTURED WITH HORSEHAIR PROCURED: 'AT VAST EXPENSE FROM THE TAILS OF ENGLISH STALLIONS'.

THE BED WAS SUPPORTED ON 40 GLASS PILLARS. THESE ACTED AS INSULATORS, ALLOWING THE WHOLE BED TO BECOME ELECTRICALLY CHARGED.

GRAHAM CLAIMED THE 'CELESTIAL FIRE' WORKED IN ALL WEATHERS. THIS SEEMS UNLIKELY AS MOST STATIC ELECTRIC EFFECTS ONLY WORK WELL WHEN THE AIR IS DRY. THE ELECTROSTATIC GENERATORS OF THE TIME WERE NOT POWERFUL, AND THE 'FIRE' WAS DISTRIBUTED OVER THE ENTIRE BED, PRESENTING TOO MANY POINTS FOR THE CORONA DISCHARGE TO DISSIPATE FROM.

ALTHOUGH GRAHAM REFERS TO MANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS: 'WHICH BY THE MOST EXQUISITE AND EXPENSIVE MECHANISMS ARE MADE TO BREATHE FORTH SOUNDS', THERE WAS PROBABLY A MUSICIAN HIDDEN AWAY, TO CREATE A MORE TUNEFUL EFFECT, PARTICULARLY AS GRAHAM REFERS TO ALL THE SOUNDS STARTING AS THE COUPLE FIRST EMBRACE.

Indeed the whole of the apparatus in this suit of apartments, of which I can give little idea in words, has been fitted up at great expense. They are the result of a long and intense study.

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DESPITE GRAHAM'S FREQUENT EXAGGERATION, THE TOTAL EFFECT MUST STILL HAVE BEEN QUITE EXTRAORDINARY. IN CASES WHERE THE INFERTILITY STEMMED FROM PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS, THE BED MIGHT WELL HAVE DONE THE TRICK.

The CELESTIAL BED, being very highly electrified, the persons reposing therein bask in a genial invigorating tide of the celestial fire. Combined with the powerful influence of magnets, music and balmy odours..., they cannot fail in the nature of things of conducing to the production of a strong healthful and most beautiful offspring.

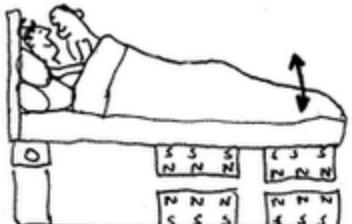
THE CELESTIAL FIRE PRESUMABLY REFERS TO CORONA DISCHARGE (A FAINT GREEN GLOW, JUST VISIBLE IN COMPLETE DARKNESS). THIS IS CREATED AROUND ANY ELECTRICALLY CHARGED OBJECT, CONCENTRATED ROUND ANY POINTS.

BEING ELECTRICALLY CHARGED UP DOES FEEL WEIRD - YOU CAN FEEL HAIR 'PRICKLE' AND SMELL THE OZONE FROM THE CORONA DISCHARGE.

AUTOMATA BUILT INTO HEADBOARD SHOWS A PASTORAL PROCESSION ENTERING THE TEMPLE OF HYMEN.

GRAHAM CHARGED £50 PER NIGHT FOR THE USE OF THE BED - AN ENORMOUS SUM AT THE TIME. HE ADVISED COUPLES TO BOOK A FEW DAYS AFTER THE WOMAN'S MONTHLY CYCLE.

It is designed for the use of married people only and every precaution is taken to exclude the licentious and impure. In order to deter the wantonly lascivious, the mere notaries of pleasure, from polluting the TEMPLE OF HYMEN, the following lines are written in golden capitals over the grand entrance: *PROCUL! OPROCUL ESTE PROFAN!!*



THE BED WAS SPRUNG ON ENORMOUS MAGNETS: 1500LB OF ARTIFICIAL LODESTONES. These MAGNETS being pressed to give that charming springiness - that sweet, undulating, titillating, vibratory, soul dissolving, marrow melting motion which on certain critical and important occasions is at once so necessary and so pleasing. THE MAGNETS OF THE PERIOD WERE VERY WEAK COMPARED TO MODERN MAGNETS. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR REPULSIVE FORCE WOULD HAVE BEEN STRONG ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THEIR OWN ENORMOUS WEIGHT - EVEN WITHOUT THE EXTRA LOAD OF THE BED AND ITS OCCUPANTS.

AROMATIC OILS HEATED TO CREATE 'BALMY ORIENTAL' ODOURS

Neither myself, nor any of my servants need ever see or know who the parties are in repose in this chamber, which I call the SANCTUM SANCTORUM! And it is never shown with the other parts of my stupendous apparatus.

ALTHOUGH GRAHAM CLAIMED THAT OCCUPANTS OF THE BED WOULD HAVE COMPLETE PRIVACY, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN UNLIKELY. ONE SERVANT WOULD HAVE HAD TO CONSTANTLY TURN THE HANDLE OF THE ELECTROSTATIC GENERATOR. ANOTHER WOULD HAVE HAD TO WIND UP THE CLOCKWORK AUTOMATA AT INTERVALS, KEEP THE STOVE STOKED, AND REPLENISH THE 'BALMY ODOURS'.