

A narrative, of a discovery of a sovereign specific, for the cure of cancers : with several other improvements lately made in medicine ; with a postscript, on a singular case of a stone taken out of the tongue / by Hugh Martin, physician and surgeon in the American army.

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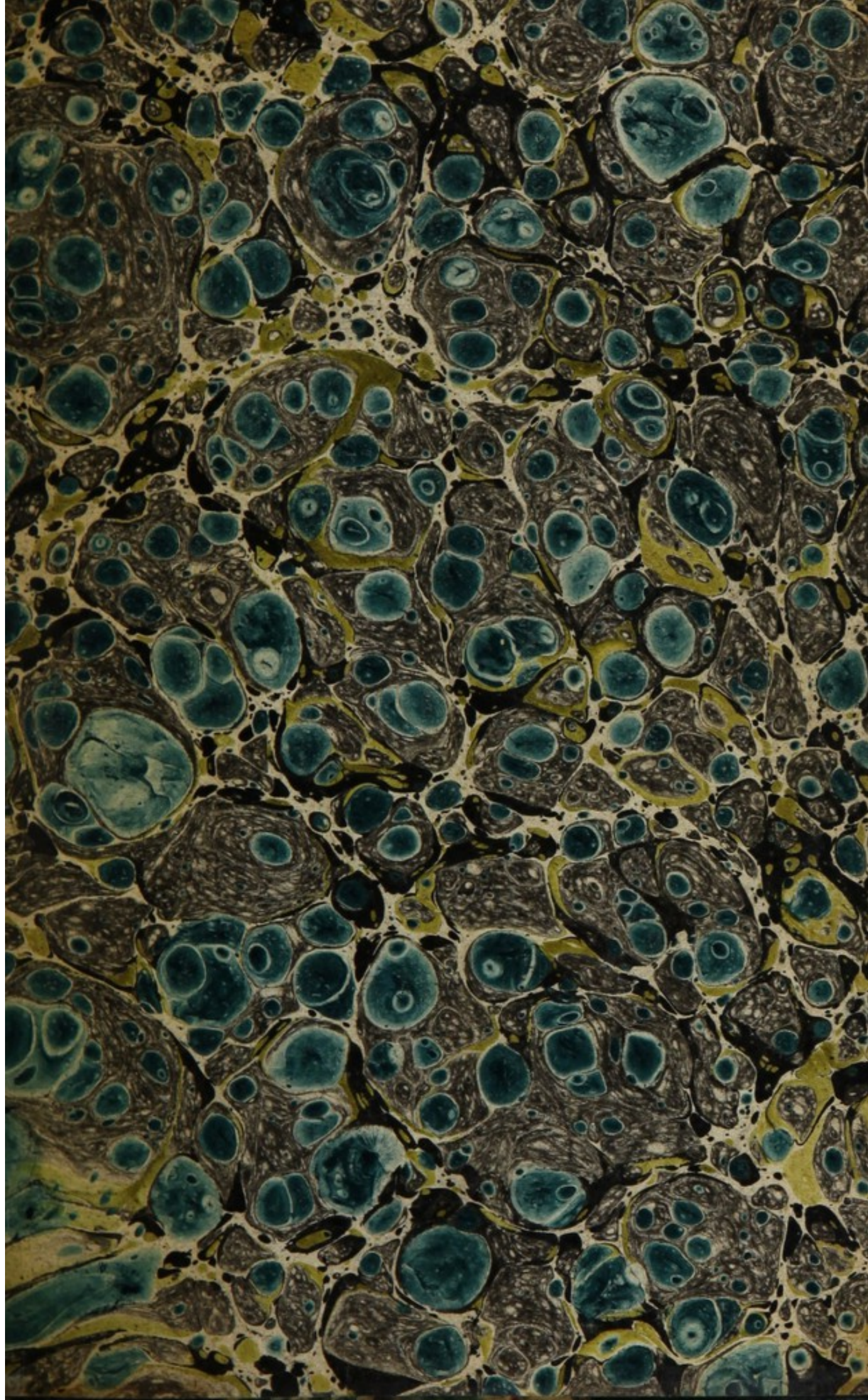
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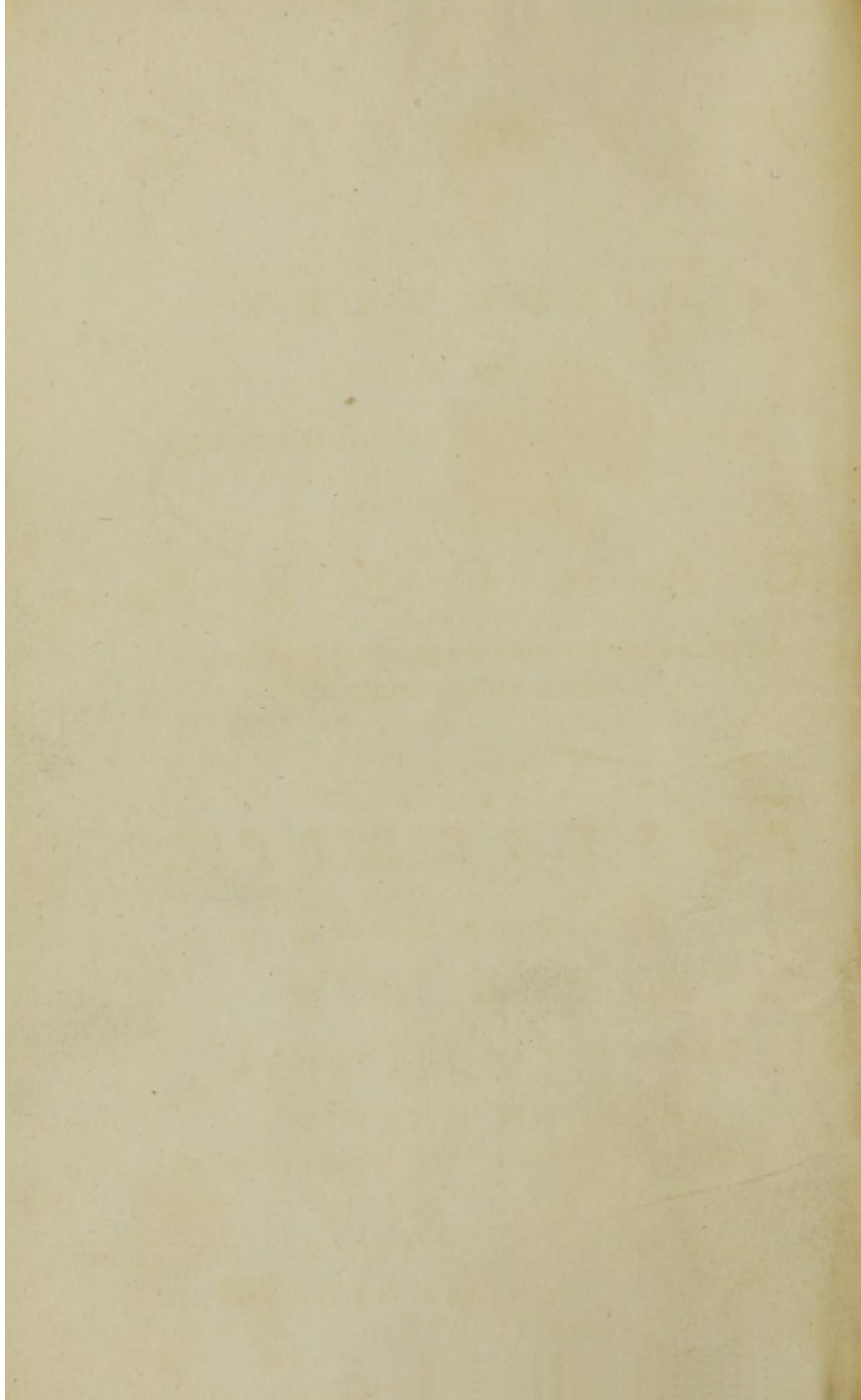
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Section,

Cancers

No. 36228.





A

NARRATIVE,

OF A

DISCOVERY

OF A

SOVEREIGN SPECIFIC,

FOR THE CURE OF

CANCERS.

WITH SEVERAL OTHER IMPROVEMENTS LATELY
MADE IN MEDICINE.

WITH A

POSTSCRIPT,

ON A SINGULAR CASE OF A

STONE

TAKEN OUT OF THE TONGUE.

By HUGH MARTIN,

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON IN THE AMERICAN ARMY.



PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY ROBERT AITKEN.

M. DCC. LXXXII.

A

NARRATIVE, &c.

AS it does not admit of a doubt but that nature affords us a remedy for every disease incident to the human system; seeing that from time to time discoveries are made for the cure of the worst of them, to the great happiness of our fellow-citizens, as well as to the advantage of science and enrichment of medicine.

In Europe and other parts of the world it has been found that the industry of individuals have brought to light many of the mysteries in nature. And in America, where a new and large field of investigation is opened, several discoveries have been made at different periods; one of which has fortunately fallen to my lot, which is the cure of cancers, by a medicine which has proved of itself a sovereign specific, or general remedy for these diseases; and no doubt many other valuable ones will be made by the indefatigable industry of other adventurers.

When

When in actual service as surgeon in the army, my duty obliged me to travel through many of the states, and to some parts of the continent, where I had an opportunity of seeing the productions of nature in an uncultivated state; and amidst those pleasing varieties I spent my leisure hours in exploring the virtues of plants, and the examination of any phænomena I beheld around me---as I appropriated them to that use when they did not interfere with duty---and to find out such a remedy has been an object of my particular attention for several years; which researches were at last attended with success. Though to give the honor due to science, I acknowledge that the advantages of a regular medical education contributed much towards it, as a preparative, though no more than what was common to all other medical pupils, but solely in bringing it to perfection; for it could never be supposed that any person ignorant of the true principles of chymistry, unacquainted with botany and the materia medica, and of the general laws of nature and structure of the system, could ever have it in his power to make a discovery (of any sort,) of general use to the human body, such as this is at present brought to. So that it has not been found out by accident like some others, or like a person finding a purse of gold on the high way, but by regular study, by observation and experiment.

These circumstances, and the general success of the medicines corresponding together, make it appear that to no other than the author of nature am I indebted for this discovery; for had it been in the power of any person whatever to communicate
or

or give me such a remedy, the cancer would not been an incurable disease until my time; though it is well known that many thousands have in vain attempted it. Whose failures by incision, and their returns from cementing them without removing the cause, discouraged their patients, and obliged them to tamper and quack for themselves as well as they could; but now it is to be hoped that these are nearly at an end, though no doubt counterfeits may appear for a season, but their works will discover them.

All the most eminent physicians and surgeons that have ever wrote on the subjects of scirrhi and cancers, unanimously agree in pronouncing them incurable. After many fruitless attempts in the course of their extensive practices, by incision, cauterization, famine, salivations, and the use of common causticks; from all which methods and remedies they never could bring the cure to a certainty, as that which would do service in one case failed in another, which no doubt gave rise to the *noli me tangere*, that as they could not bear these remedies, they should not be touched. But *tangam et curabo* can be said at this day with the same propriety without going beyond the limits of truth.

Indeed, for me to set forth falsehoods in the face of the world on any pretence whatever would only serve to bring on myself the just odium of my countrymen, as an impostor and a vain pretender to science; but as facts have proved the contrary, and is the basis on which I stand and am supported. I have nothing to fear from any quarter so long as reason
and

and experiment serve to confirm any proposition, either in physic or philosophy. Viewing all science of this nature, that is not founded on such a basis, however beautified with words, to be nothing more than a mere apparition that appeareth and vanisheth in an hour, serving only to amuse the ear for a few moments. But that which is founded on truth and facts endureth forever.

The cases of occult and ulcerated cancers cured in this city within the present year, are, major-general Robert Howe, of our army, Mr. Thomas Leiper, Mr. Montgomery, merchant, Mrs. Jones, of this city, Mrs. Stockton and Mr. Horner, of the state of New-Jersey, Mr. Joseph Rush, ship-carpenter, the revd. doct. James Sproat, Mrs. Carmichael, the consort of the revd. John Carmichael of Brandywine, Mrs. Taylor of Tinicum island on the Delaware, of several cancers in different parts of the body, also of a wen; Mr. John Cochran of Maryland, Thomas Shute from Carolina, the hon. Peter Phillips, esq. one of the judges of the superior court of the state of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, and the hon. Cæsar Rodney, esq. late governor of the state of Delaware, and now a delegate of Congress, who is now nearly well of one in the last stage, of a most inveterate nature, with a great number more too numerous to be mentioned.

As the above mentioned facts to which I refer, established by living witnesses at this day, make it appear that the cancer is no longer an incurable disease, I need say no more on the subject. But as their return may remain a matter of suspense with some,

some, I therefore thought it might be proper to offer a few sentiments on that head. But first it may be necessary to quote a few cases from under the hands of those first cured, who remain as sound at this day as the day I pronounced them well, and the many others of a like nature and state might been procured, yet the following may be sufficient for the present purpose.

THIS certifieth that my son remains well of the cancer cured by doctor Martin, upwards of these two years since.

VAN SWARENGEN, Sheriff

July 29th, 1782.

Washington county.

I DO hereby certify that I remain well, and no appearance of my cancer breaking out again, though more than twelve months since I was cured by doctor Martin. I am the person who set forth my deplorable and dangerous situation in a former publication in as clear a light as I was capable of, to which I refer. Given under my hand at Pittsburgh, the 27th of July, 1782.

JAMES HAMILTON.

The former of these cases was cured soon after I made the discovery in the year 1780; but until I succeeded in the latter case, and several others of a like inveterate nature about a year after, I never could be sanguine or certain, but afterwards was fully satisfied that I had made a discovery of general use, and obtained a sovereign specific for these diseases.

It would be great presumption in me to assert that these diseases would never return, as by such assertions

tions I should assume the knowledge of future events, which I do not pretend to ; content with what is past and present. But we find they have kept well nearly three years, and plain facts are proofs better than all presages.

Returns of the disease will prove to be very seldom, as the very intention of my cures, as well of cancers as of scrophula, wens, and diseases of the skin, is to eradicate the disease and restore a freedom of circulation and of perspiration, which are lost in all these diseases, which the remedies I have discovered are calculated to perform and restore, whether administered internally or on the external surface, let their situation in the system, or the appearance they put on be what it will. But the medicine used internally, though it removes the internal disease with safety, yet its power is not great enough to restore the circulation in these obstinate diseases on the surface, which make an external application necessary. But still it is probable that among the hundreds already cured in the different states, and the thousands that will be cured, if life is prolonged, that some few cases may return, though not from the original cause, unless some diseased fibre or obstruction should remain ; but that by no means lessens the power or efficacy of the remedy, as it still remains to cure it again. And we know that the Peruvian bark is reckoned a specific in the cure of intermitting fevers, and in a general way is infallible, but it does not leave the system in such a state of resistance but that the miasma or marshy effluvia will produce them again. Neither do I pretend to say that a patient will never have the cancer again,

as it cannot be supposed that the medicine will operate on the system like the small-pox or measles; for if there is a predisposition in the system to produce these diseases, they will at different periods be brought on by similar causes; as for instance, a patient may be effectually cured of it this year, and take it again in three, six, or a dozen of years after, and be cured of it every time, and the first not be the cause of the last.

Where failures will happen, the cause will arise from the system being solely contaminated, and no soundness left to operate on. In such cases none could expect me possessed of a creating power. But there is no necessity now of letting these diseases get to such lengths of inveteracy, as early applications will always be attended with the best consequences, in these as all other diseases.

But to be brief, the true state of the matter is that I have found out remedies for the removal either of organic or inorganic matter from the system, whether indurated muscle or scirrhus gland, diseased cartilage, periosteum or membrane, and in two instances, which were the only ones that fell under my particular notice, they removed the carious parts of bones without the use of any instrument whatever, leaving the contiguous vessels around where these diseases were seated always disposed to heal.

The effects from these medicines are certain and safe, and are as highly specific in these diseases as the Peruvian barks are in the cure of intermittents; and

and having got so well acquainted with their mode of operation, that very little pain will be experienced by their application. Neither are they offensive or dangerous to the most delicate constitution.

But beside the discovery for the removal and cure of occult and ulcerated cancers with the lupus or wolf, so called by some, as these may be all ranked under one head or class, I have made several other improvements in medicine ; in particular for the removal and cure of the scrophula and wens without the use of the knife ; also venereal tumours and ulcers, the callous or rather the scirrhous edges of old ulcers, and the dislodgment of their peccant acrimonious matter, leaving the parts around where the disease was seated disposed to heal, and recover the freedom of circulation which was lost, and have succeeded in a few cases of the fistulo in ano, which were the only ones that have fallen under my notice, without the use of an instrument ; and also of tetter on any part of the body. To these improvements also belong the removal of all unnatural excrescences, appendages, and eruptions, of whatever nature or kind, or wherever their situation on the body ; as they can be removed with as much safety from the eye or around it as the nose or ear, and from the nose as any other part of the body ; for was not this the case my remedies could not be considered of general use. There are other complaints which will, agreeable to reason, be removed by these remedies, but as experience hath not produced facts sufficient to establish them beyond all contradiction agreeable to truth, I shall not mention them until that is the case---with several other improvements

ments which do not belong to the order of this narrative.

Great mistakes are and have been made with regard to the causes of many of these diseases as well as of the cure, by imagining that they arose solely from a vitiated state of the blood and fluids of the body; whereas they originate principally in the solids, as experience proves; for when their diseased parts are removed and the fluids have a free circulation, I find that the disease with all its bad symptoms subside. And we daily see when fluids are confined, as for instance, a river when damed up, the water becomes stagnant and putrid, and also the banks; but when the obstruction is taken away and the water flows as usual, the bad effects cease. And trees whose fibres get diseased so as to obstruct the sap, occasions knots and a decay of different parts; but it cannot be supposed that the fault lies either in the water or in the sap. So it is with the human body; by colds, pressures, strokes, and every other cause that obstructs the circulation in any part. And though there are diseases of a putrid nature, such as the scurvy, and those produced by poisons, that may affect the blood and juices, yet we know that they also affect the solids; in such cases both must be attended to. And even in the glandular parts which are the seat of indurated and scrophulous tumours, and of scirrhus tumours also, whether they may proceed from inspissated juices or only from a defect in the vascular structure, or from both; yet experience prove that these can be removed, and the parts restored to soundness. So that it is reasonable to conclude, that if our solids
could

could be kept in a sound state few diseases would arise from the fluids in case we lived regularly.

As to the particular mode of application and manner of operation with the remedies themselves, time I hope will enable me to make them of general use to the world, by some proper mode adopted for that purpose, that the poor and the distressed in every part of the world may partake of an equal share, and be relieved from such grievous afflictions.

I cannot conclude without returning my thanks to doctor *Ewing*, provost of our university, and to doctor *Rusby*, for their public declaration of the truth of these things; and also to many other physicians and surgeons of eminence both in this city and different parts of the continent, whose candor has been so great as to recommend to my care many patients who laboured under these diseases, who are now perfectly cured.

POSTSCRIPT,

POSTSCRIPT,

ON THE CASE OF A

S T O N E

TAKEN OUT OF THE

T O N G U E.

MR. *Charles M'Donald*, an inhabitant of *Charles-Town, South-Carolina*, now of this city, received, in the year 1756, a fith bone in the left side of the root of his tongue, which afterwards gave him great uneasiness in swallowing; which was always more acute when he eat any thing sweet, and when he caught cold. It was accompanied with inflammation and a hard lump under the left jaw. In the year 1766 he discovered a lump on the under part of his tongue, about the size of a small pea; which continued increasing until the time *Charles-Town* was besieged, in the year 1780, where he received repeated colds by exposing himself on the lines, which brought on his usual symptoms of inflammation, pain, and a difficulty of swallowing, but these subsided in a few days, and continued easy to the middle of February 1782, when his old symptoms returned, but were more violent and of a longer duration, which much alarmed him. And finding no relief from the remedies he had recourse to, he sent for me the fifth of March following, and on visiting him, he gave me the above history,

with

with adding that some had supposed it to be a wen, and said he feared it was a cancer. On examination I found there was a lump on the under part of the tongue close to the frenum, which put on the appearance of a small incised tumour about one half inch in diameter. I told him I did not believe it to be a cancer; but gave him this as an answer, that be what it would he had best have it removed and cured, which he consented to; and on the same day I applied the medicine to it which I use in the cure of cancers and ulcers in the internal parts, which by next morning opened it without the least injury to the contiguous parts, so that I introduced a small silver probe into it, and about one-fourth of an inch from the surface I felt a hard substance, which I took to be a piece of bone. I then applied the medicine repeatedly for two days after, which opened it so that I could introduce the probe below and round it, as it lay in an oblique direction from the left side of the tongue to the frenum where the tumour protuberated; from which issued out a small collection of pus, but could not get out the hard substance without using violence. He continued the use of the medicine all that day and night, which was the fourth after the first application. On visiting him next morning, he told me he was obliged to rise before day, as the supposed bone had become so loose and troublesome that he could get no rest, and a little before sunrise it came entirely out.

But to our great surprize, instead of its being a piece of bone, it was a solid stone, three-fourths of an inch in length and one-half inch in diameter,
of

of this size and appearance *. The external surface of the stone was hard; but on having it sawn through the middle, (which was done by Mr. *Wood*, watch-maker, in this city) the inside of the stone was like chalk, and in the centre as a nucleus was a substance much harder than the rest, which I concluded was part of the fish-bone which had formed the nucleus---which I have now in my possession. Though from the appearance of two different lamina through a magnifying glass, and the change it must have underwent, it was a difficult matter to determine with exactness.

But what makes it probable is, that ever since the receival of the fish-bone, which is about twenty-six years since, the gentleman had always an uneasiness in his tongue; but since it has been extracted he has never felt the least uneasy sensation, as immediately after he was relieved from every bad symptom; and at the end of about five weeks he was to all appearance perfectly well. After which he returned to *South-Carolina*.

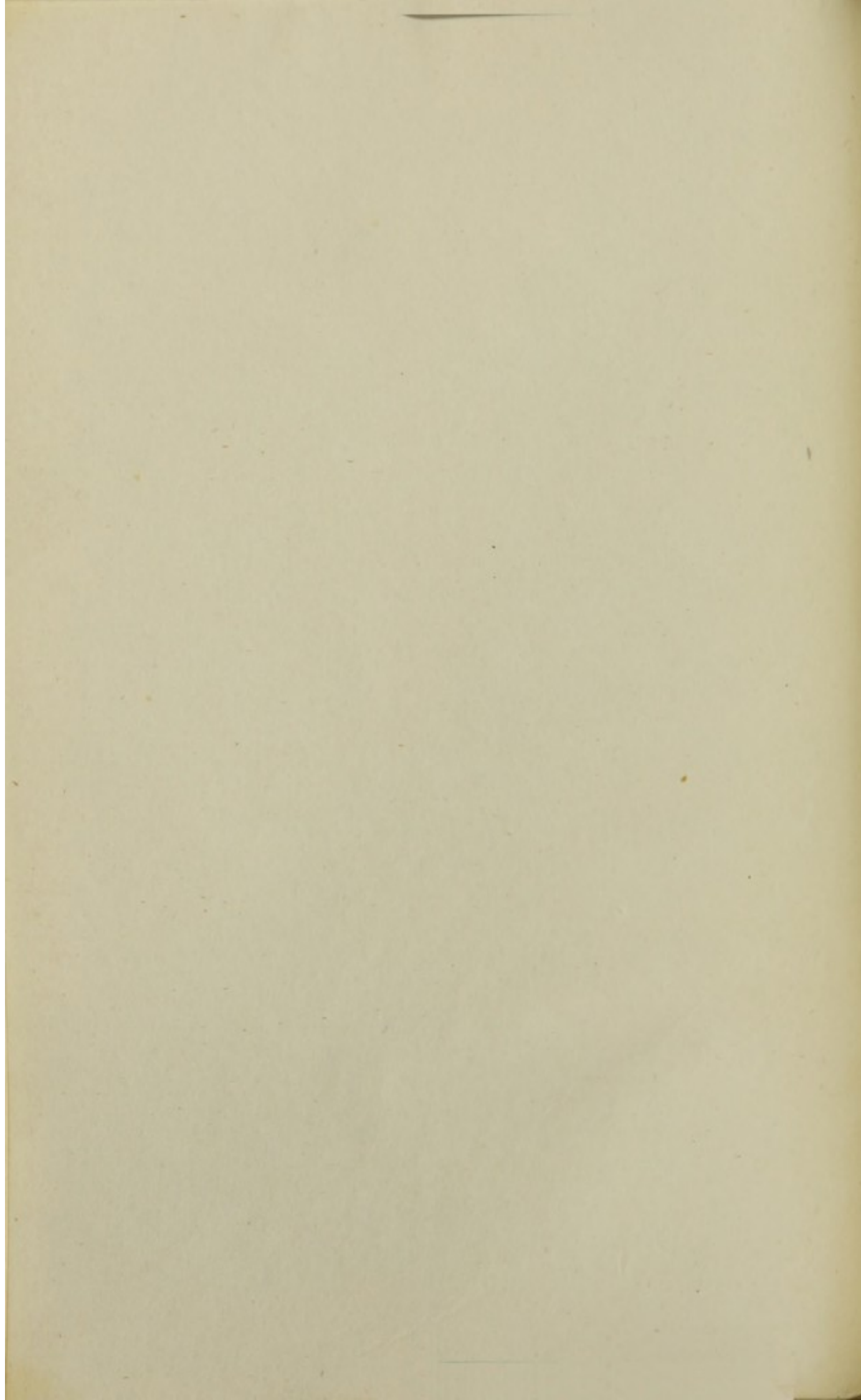
Having looked over *Morgagni*, the memoirs of the different societies, and several other authors, and not finding a similar case, I looked upon its singularity to be worthy of the attention and observation of the public.

* FIGURE of



the STONE.

Philadelphia, April 20, 1782.



Med. Hist.

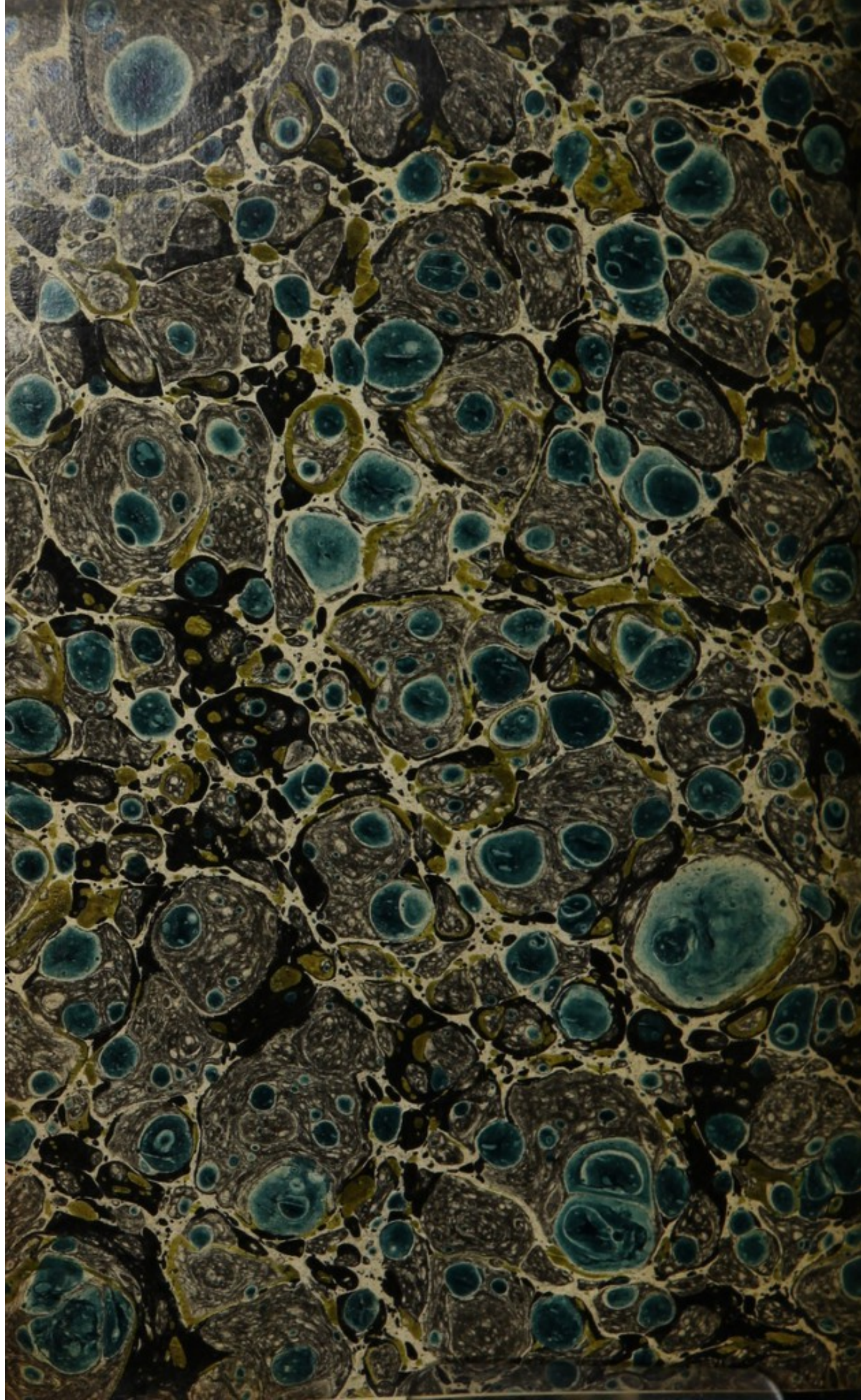
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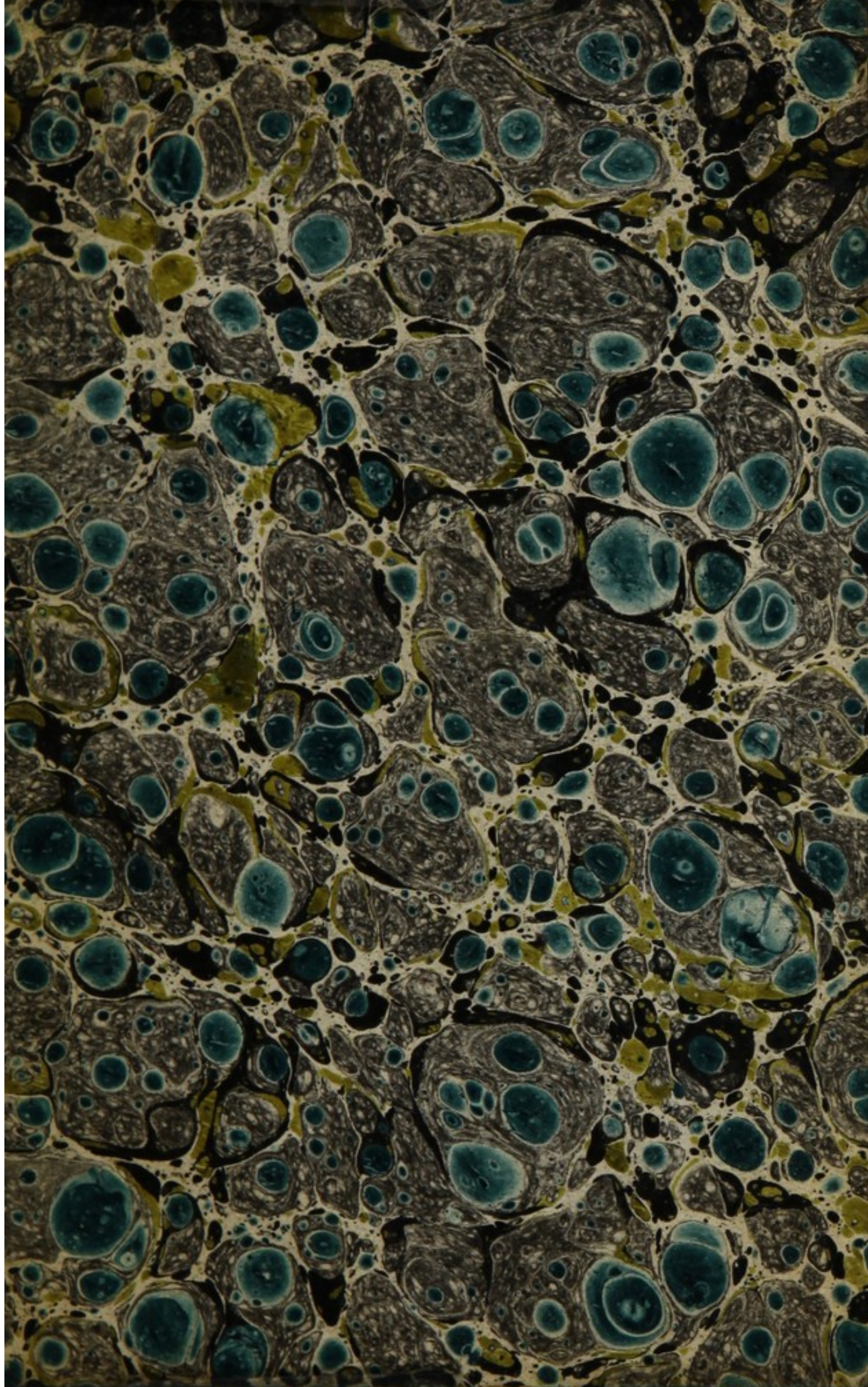
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