

**A treatise on the management of female breasts during childbed : and several new observations on cancerous diseases with prescriptions ; to which are added remarks on pretenders to the cure of the cancer / by William Rowley.**

### **Contributors**

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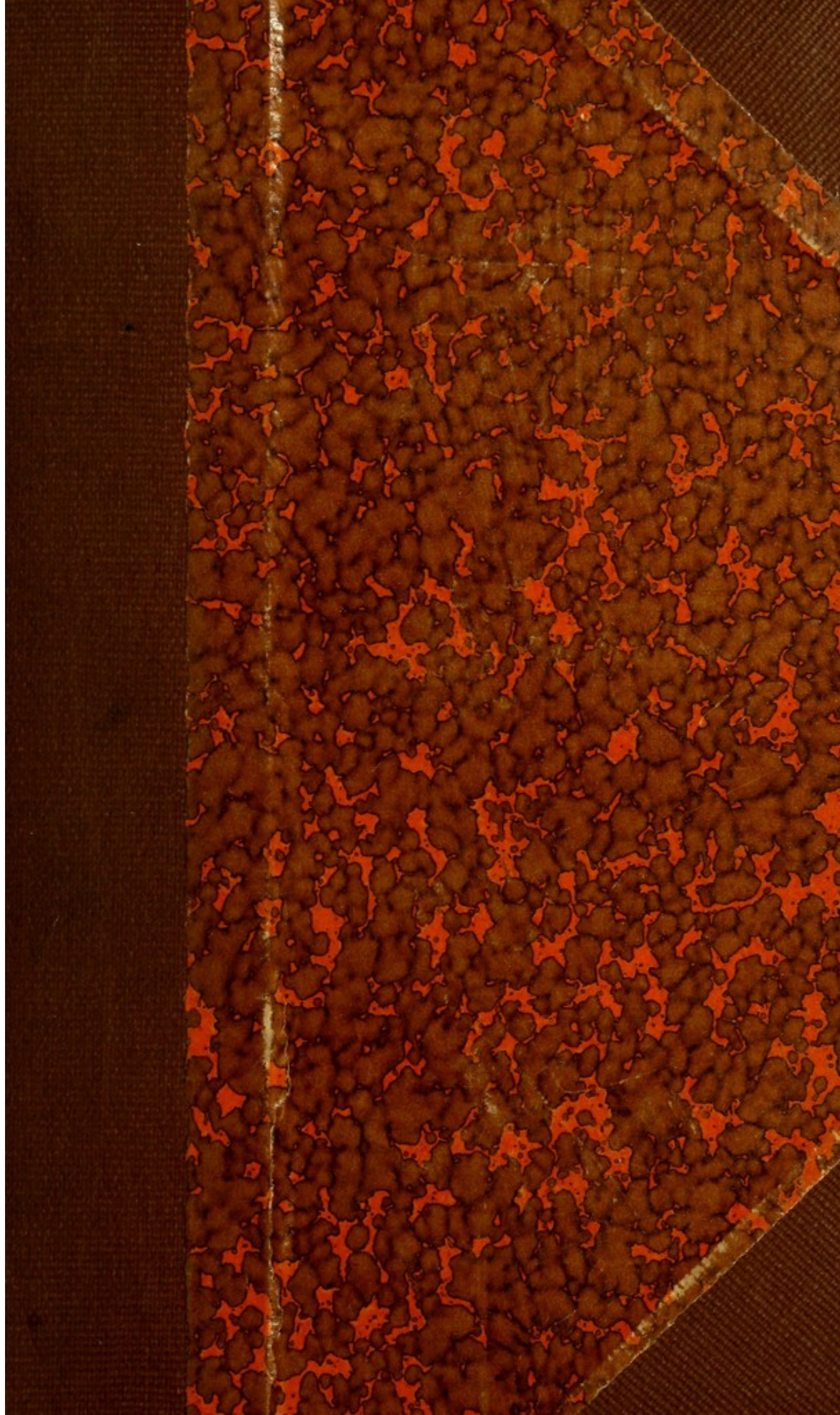
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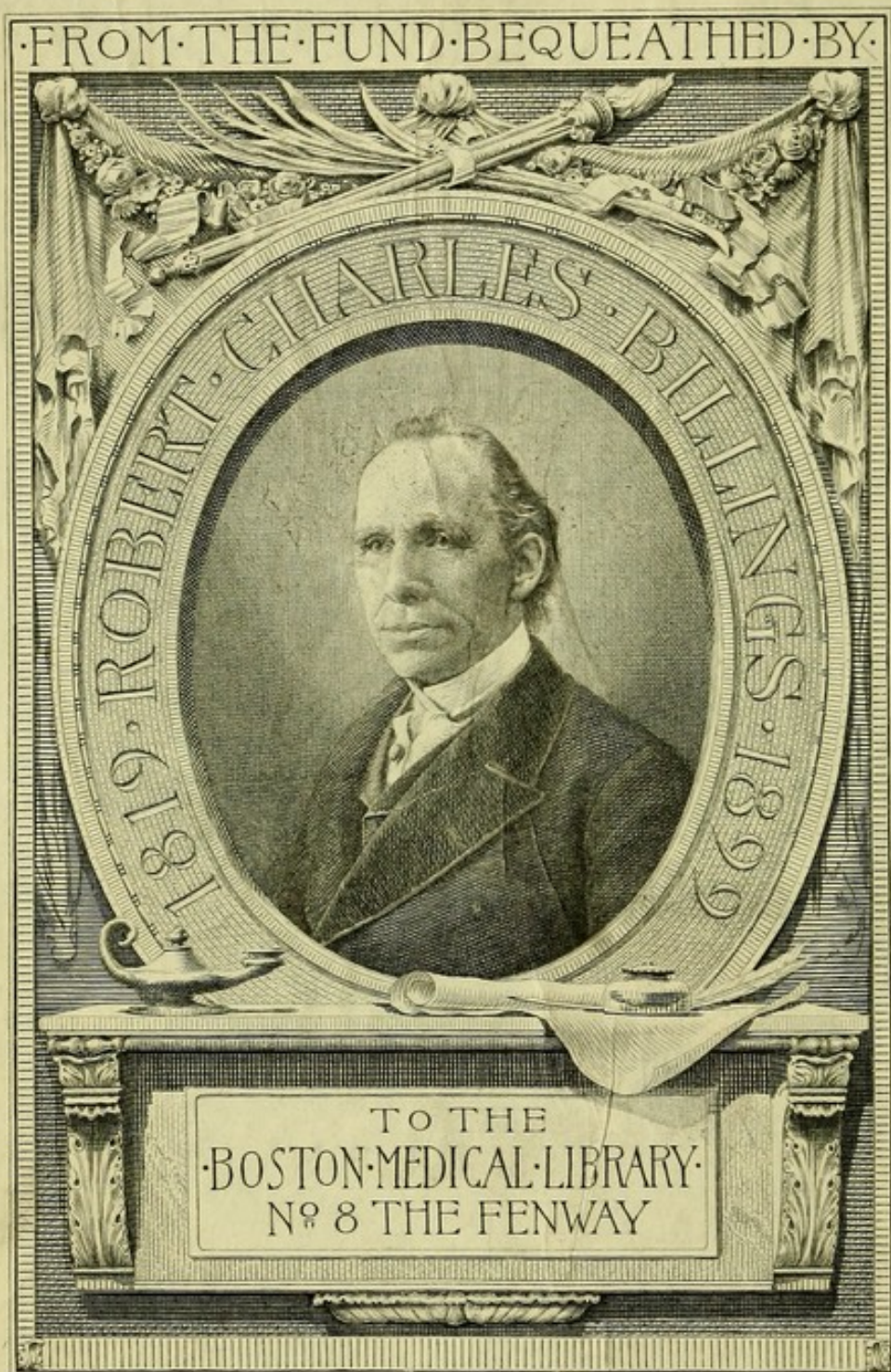


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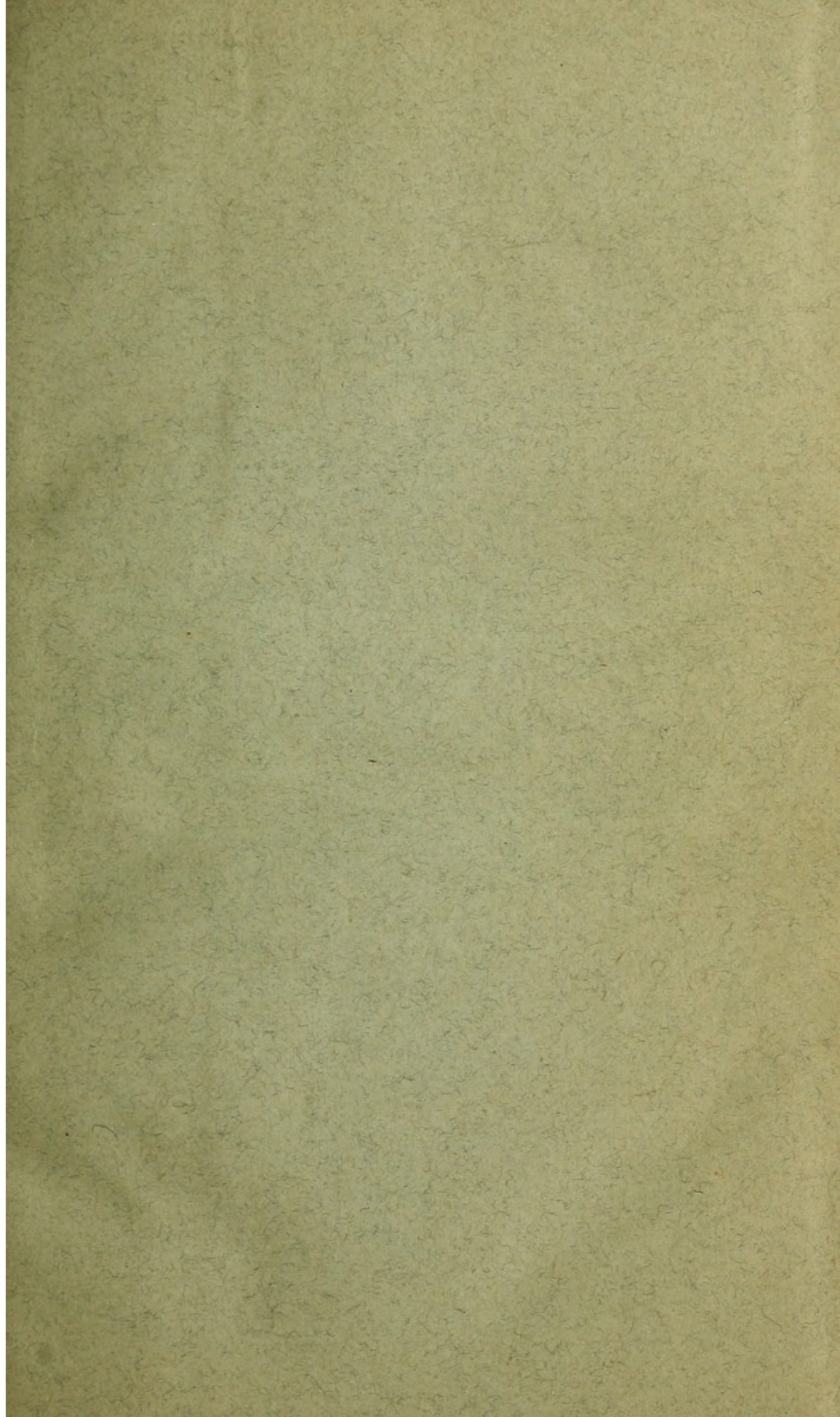




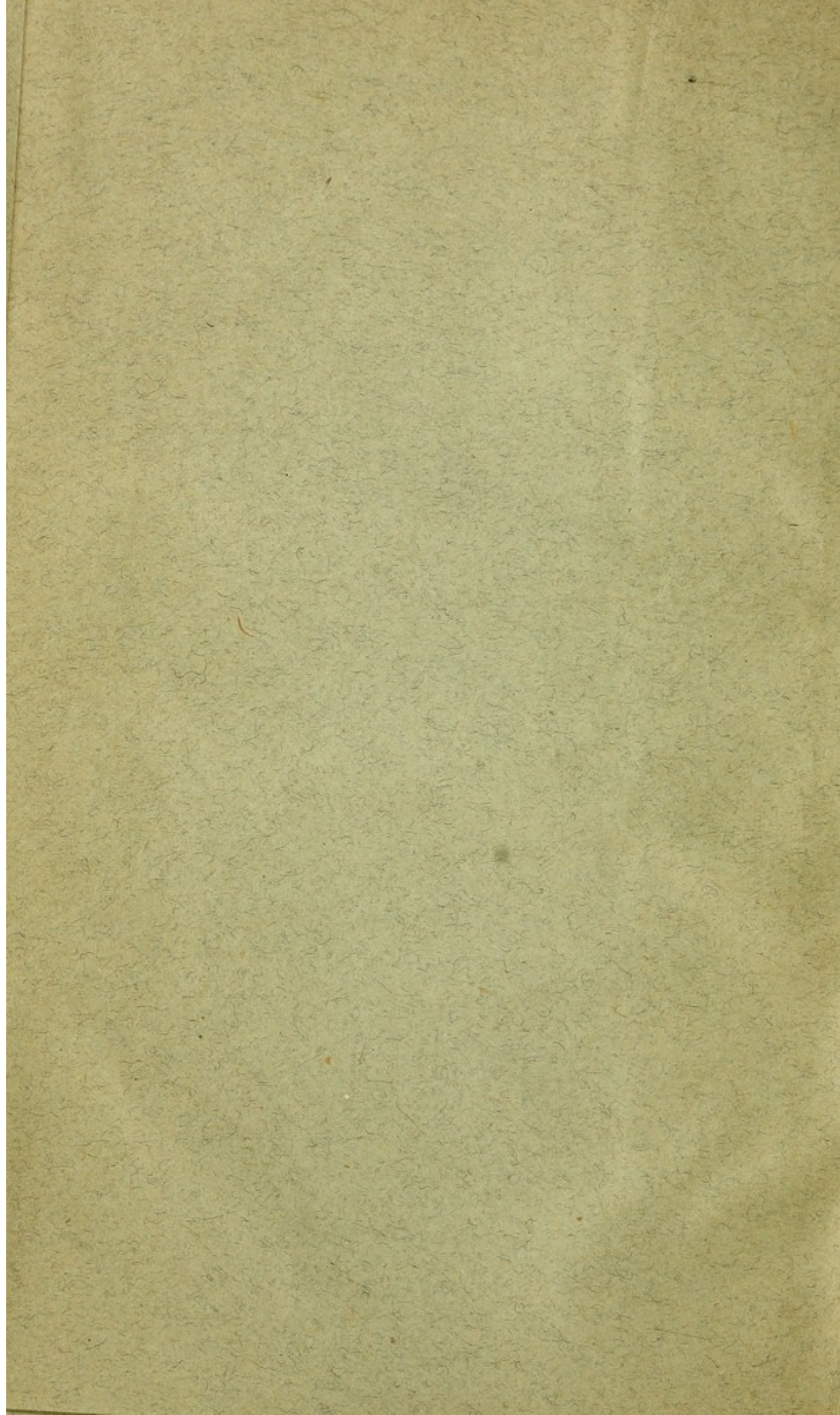
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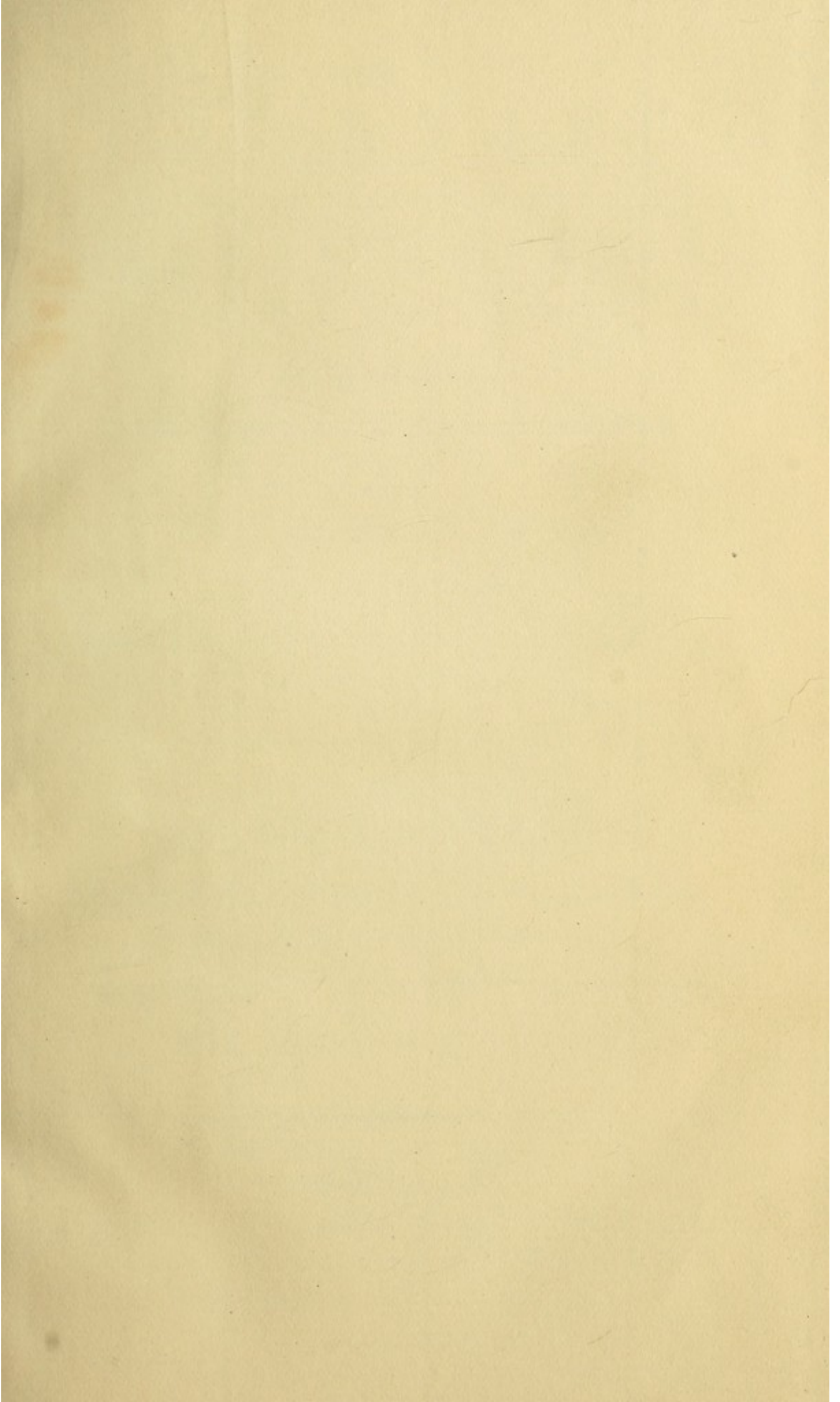




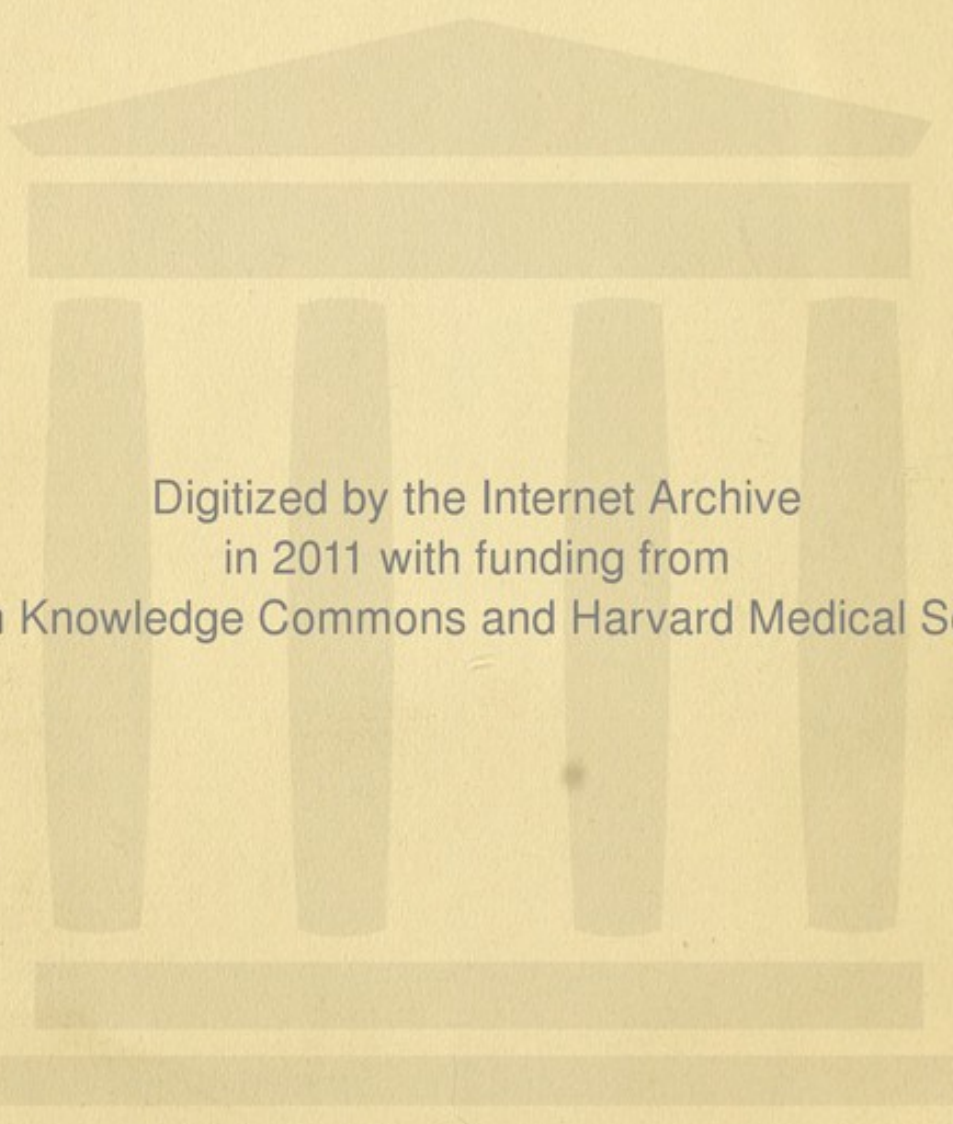












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A  
T R E A T I S E  
ON THE MANAGEMENT OF  
F E M A L E B R E A S T S  
DURING CHILD BED;  
AND SEVERAL NEW  
OBSERVATIONS ON CANCEROUS DISEASES.

WITH  
P R E S C R I P T I O N S.  
TO WHICH ARE ADDED  
REMARKS ON PRETENDERS TO THE CURE  
OF THE CANCER.

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BY  
WILLIAM ROWLEY, M.D.  
MEMBER of the UNIVERSITY of OXFORD, the ROYAL  
COLLEGE of PHYSICIANS in LONDON, &c.

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THE SECOND EDITION.

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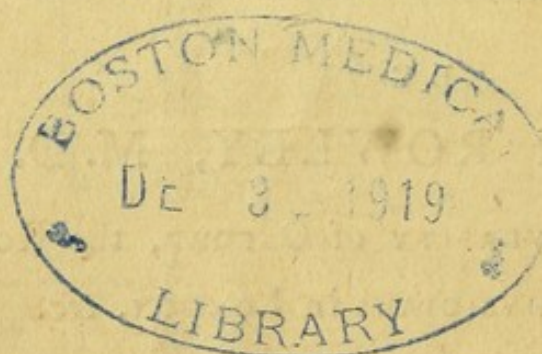
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## P R E F A C E.

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**T**HE first edition of this little performance was published about seventeen or eighteen years ago, when I was in the full practice of surgery and midwifery; which branches an impaired health obliged me to relinquish: but the opportunities of observing the diseases here treated at that period, and much subsequent experience, convinces me of the necessity of physicians well comprehending the separate branches of medicine, if they wish to be useful in the variety of cases in which they may be consulted.

In this edition are omitted some reflections on the practice of midwifery, which  
may



may be more properly communicated in another work : but the cancerous complaints are considered more anatomically and physiologically ; the probability or improbability of cure in various stages, with the reasons, drawn from a long and reiterated experience, are more exactly ascertained. If the doctrines here communicated can in any manner alleviate the miseries of the afflicted, or induce other practitioners to improve the treatment of these difficult and dreadful complaints, and wrest from the hands of imposture the credulous victims to empiricism, it will be a great pleasure to the Author.

SAVILLE ROW,

1790.

A TREA-



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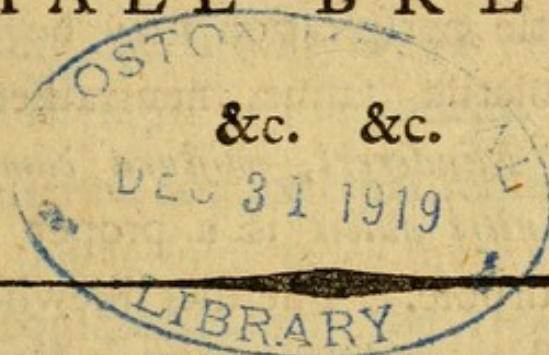
Eyelids,	Fauces,
Ear,	Tongue,
Nose,	Axilla,
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Gums,	Genital parts,
Tonsil glands,	Rectum,
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Some of these cases curable by the means recommended ;  
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A  
T R E A T I S E  
ON THE DISEASES OF  
F E M A L E B R E A S T S,



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*On the Treatment of the milky Breast during  
Childbed.*

**T**HE treatment of the breasts during childbed may be reduced to a few principles.

1. The accession of milk being sooner in some women than others, if the mother suckles her infant, it is necessary to apply the child's mouth to the nipple on the first day after delivery, and not wait, as many inexperienced or prejudiced practitioners have recommended, until the third day; for such conduct has produced inflammations, imposthumes, or gatherings of matter, hardneſſes, and consequent ſcirrhus and cancer.



II. If the mother should not suckle the child, the breasts should be first emptied, and the determination of a fresh flow of blood to the breasts prevented. The first is effected by cooling and gentle evacuations, as *lac sulphuris* and *magnesia, infusum sennæ* and *tartarum solubile, magnesia* and *rhubarb, manna, &c.*, with a great abstinence from all liquids, especially such as caudle, or any thing stimulant.

III. A gentle perspiration may be likewise excited by volatile, saline, neutralised remedies; *spiritus Mindereri, mistura camphorata, &c.* *Spiritus nitri dulcis* is a proper diuretic for the same purpose. The diet likewise should be antiphlogistic, unless contra-indicated by some particular circumstance; and the breasts may be rubbed with *oleum camphoratum*, solutions of camphor made with blanched almonds, and *spiritus Mindereri, &c.*, three or four times a day.

These methods, if early and judiciously applied, will avert all ill consequences to the breast during childbed.

The fluids being diminished, heat and irritability being prevented, and the blood intended for the secretion of milk being diverted into other channels, all pain, inflammation, and indurations, are prevented.



*On the Treatment of inflamed Breasts during lying in.*

If the foregoing methods be neglected, or a freedom of diet be indulged, the breasts often inflame, swell, and occasion exquisite pain.

The first mode of curing the inflammation is by resolution, or dissipating the inflammation before any matter forms: this is best effected by bleeding, according to the exigency of the case, and strength of the patient.

The internal and external remedies should be similar; but in some cases more powerful, than those recommended in the treatment of the breasts, when the mother does not suckle the infant; to which may be joined emollient and discharging fomentations, &c.

*On the Management of the Breasts, if Matter collects and forms Abscesses.*

If the foregoing methods should be applied too late, or they should prove ineffectual, and matter collect, much will depend on its being deeply or superficially seated: in the former the abscess will be longer in arriving to suppuration; in the latter, a shorter period accomplishes this desirable end. The pains, therefore, which are very acute, will be of longer or shorter duration; cold shiverings



will be frequently felt ; the swelling and pain increafes, and rednefs will often indicate on what part the abfcefs will form.

To encourage this end, all refolvents are avoided ; and fuppurating poultices fhould be applied, of bread and milk and hog's lard, or of *farina feminum lini*, with any oleaginous or unctuous fubftances, to foften and relax the fkin, to admit diftention with lefs pain, and promote fuppuration.

As the abfcefs points outwardly, and the furface becomes thin, it is neceffary fometimes to make a puncture, which never occasions the pain of bleeding ; or it may be opened, in timid patients, by the application of the concentrated nitrous acid, or fuffered to break, unlefs the patient fhould be much exhausted by reiterated pain, inflammation, and fymptomatic fever.

The treatment of the wound requires fome fkill ; for if it be fuffered to heal too foon, it will leave hardnefs : to prevent this, I have ufed occasionally a fmall fponge tent dipped in any mild unguent ; by this means the wound may be kept open until all the hardnefs be refolved ; then the wound may be fuffered fafely to heal.

If the hardnefs be left, it may hereafter produce the fcirrhus or cancerous tumor, or  
 6 ulcer ;



ulcer ; but this circumstance has been little regarded until the unfortunate victim, owing to former neglect, labors under the cancer, and then it is sometimes too late for either medicine or surgery to prove beneficial.

The resolution of the hardness will likewise be assisted by the resolvents already mentioned, and mineral light alteratives given in the new-invented manner, so as never to excite irritation in the habit ; a clear explanation of which will be found in the subsequent pages.

*On Indurations, cancerous Tumors, &c.*

The subjects now to be treated, it would have been thought, were exhausted, if credit could be given to the numerous writers that have pretended to cure the cancer, or who have declared the disorder always incurable.

Quacks and impostors never hesitate to boldly assert their certainty of curing these disorders ; and they gain credit, however ignorant, by the boldness with which their promises and falsehoods are generally expressed.

Surgeons in general are vehement against the fallacious promises of impostors and empirics, and they have a notion that no cure can be effected in any cancerous complaint : they know, perhaps, of no method of cure, and conclude that what is beyond their comprehension

sion



sion or knowledge must necessarily be beyond the bounds of human science. This conclusion is certainly irrational in many diseases, although in the cancer it is too frequently verified. Discoveries are continually making; and were all mankind to rest idle and satisfied with the knowledge of their ancestors, no improvements could be of any utility. It is the duty of medical practitioners to hear patiently every proposal for improving the art; to reason and judge candidly, and make repeated trials of whatever may be concluded safe. These are the only means of ascertaining the comparative merits of different modes of treatment, and the only means by which the mind is purged of juvenile or radicated prejudices, or by which the art of physic can attain a greater degree of excellence.

It may be observed that surgeons are commonly too ready to use the knife, not only in cancerous complaints, but likewise in tumors of the breast, not cancerous; and every experienced practitioner must, or should know, that the cutting out the scirrhus seldom, very seldom, proves successful. Were a number of such cases as have fallen under my own observation made public, they would strike the mind with horror, and banish from the art of surgery, except in very particular urgent cases, that cruel and unsuccessful operation.



In the present work attempts will be made to render a clearer and distinct knowledge of cancerous tumors than has hitherto appeared : the art will endeavor to wrest from imposture or cruelty the unfortunate victims laboring under these dreadful diseases. What is here advanced is the result of observation, anatomical inquiry, and repeated reflection. I hope other regular practitioners will examine the disorder seriously, and assist in improving the treatment of these truly deplorable diseases.

In all new attempts to remove complaints, ever considered difficult or impossible to cure, a great latitude for ill success should be allowed. There are many glandular tumors absolutely *incurable* from their first appearance; there are others extremely *doubtful* of cure; and all are *difficult* and tedious. If mankind expect more than the art of medicine can accomplish, which is very natural from the feelings of humanity, and an unacquaintance of the difficulties under which the art labors, it is the duty of a candid surgeon to apprise the friends candidly of the distant or immediate danger ; to attempt much, but promise little ; and society should rest satisfied with an honest exertion of our abilities, directed by the regular principles of the art, whether successful or unsuccessful.



The general internal mode of treating an obstinate scirrhus, or the induration of the breasts after lying in, is contained in the following formulæ :

*Sanguis mittendus plus minusve.*

- No. 1. *Rx.* Infus. fen.  $\mathfrak{z}$ iss.  
Tart. sol.  $\mathfrak{z}$ ij. f. haustus, mane sequenti  
sumendus.
- No. 2. *Rx.* Pulv. pro pilul. Plummer.  $\mathfrak{D}$ j. vel  $\mathfrak{z}$ ss. conf.  
Damocrat. q. s.  
f. Pilulæ No. xx. quarum capiat unam ter de  
die superbibendo coch. ij. misturæ sequen-  
tis \*.
- No. 3. *Rx.* Antimon. tartarifat. gr. ss. vel gr. j. solve in  
julep. e camph.  $\mathfrak{z}$ viiij.  
Deinde adde sal. nitr. vel prunel.  $\mathfrak{z}$ j. vel  $\mathfrak{z}$ ij.  
fiat mistura.

An abstemious diet is necessary.

Emollient and resolvent fomentations may be likewise useful.

Dr. James's powder, in small doses, has been beneficial in removing recent indurations of the breasts, when joined with neutralised salts.

\* The trituration with the *fulph. antim. præcip.* should be continued at least twenty-four hours; by which the powder becomes strictly a mineral alterative, and in small doses never disturbs either stomach or intestines, especially if the calomel be ten times sublimed and washed.



*Of the Indurations of the Breasts, which happen  
from various Causes.*

It would be difficult to determine many remote causes of these tumors; some are imagined to arise from a blow, others from a peculiarity in the constitution; but whatever may be the origin, the cure in general is the same. I have seen instances of small indurations in the breasts, very hard and loose, in young people, resist every internal medicine administered. What is the consequence of such cases I have had many opportunities to fully inform myself, and am quite convinced that all operations are cruel or unnecessary, and frequently unfortunate. In other instances the cure is easily performed by the remedies recommended in the cure of the hardness. Surgeons in general have been often too rash in cutting for the scirrhus of the breasts. This complaint ought to be left quiet, if internal remedies should not succeed, unless attended with exquisite pain. From observation I have reason to conclude, that considerable mischief has been done both by the knife and caustic, agreeably to the writings of the most eminent surgeons and physicians, ancient and modern. Experience proves that cancerous complaints of the breasts, womb, mouth, nose, and other parts, have been some-



times cured by the following modes. It is candid to acknowledge, however, that *failures* have frequently attended my *attempts*; in all which cases the patients have been relieved in certain degrees; and it is some comfort to alleviate human misery, or procrastinate evils, when radical cures cannot be reasonably expected. It is more reasonable to rest satisfied with known evils than to risk life in an attempt to cure by a cruel and too often a successful operation, which generally shortens life.

In the following part are contained all the methods used for these purposes, with *formulæ* of prescriptions, which in many cases of recent cancers have succeeded.

*Of Indurations of the Breasts, commonly called the scirrhus or occult Cancer, &c.*

These indurations are various in their size, situation, and effects, and are known by hardness and inequality of swelling: sometimes, but not always, the external veins are various; therefore the common definition given by authors is not accurate in the occult nor even ulcerous cancer.

These tumors may be divided into the indolent and malignant.

The scirrhoties make their appearance between the age of *thirty-six and fifty*, about



the *time*, or after the *cessation of the menses*, and are commonly attended with serious consequences; for the tumor without pain degenerates into the painful or malignant, and the painful or malignant into the open ulcerated cancer. Various anatomical and pathological experiments, made formerly, prove three internal species of the scirrhus; the external are various.

The first and mildest species are varices, or dilatations of the minute sanguiferous veins.

The second are varices of the minute veins, and a distention of the small lymphatic absorbing vessels of the breast.

This species is harder than the first, and, being connected with the lymphatic system, sometimes tumors appear near the axilla, which, by pressing on the returning veins, produce œdematous swellings of the arm.

The third is not only a distention of all the vessels, but likewise a dilatation of the cells of the *tela cellulosa*, a coagulation of coagulable lymph in the lymphatics, and the adipose fluid in its cells. The *tubuli lactiferi* are impervious, and become obliterated.

This third species being complicated of all the former, manifests a *stony* hardness, often accompanied with sharp excruciating pain: this has been called a true *occult cancer*.



When this third species degenerates into an ulcer, often very painful, fœtid, and fungous, it may be denominated the *perfect* cancer, or cancerous corroding ulcer, which sometimes destroys the adjacent parts, and too commonly proves *fatal*.

In congestions or indurations, the more ærial and volatile particles of the blood fly off, through increased action, heat, and the weakness of the vascular coats, and the more dense parts or coagulable lymph are left behind, either in minute vessels or cellulous cavities of the *tela cellulosa*: hence congestion often succeeds congestion; accumulation, accumulation; which becoming in time rancid or acrid, ulcerations succeed.

#### P R O G N O S T I C.

The first species, when recent, is generally curable by bleeding, antiphlogistics, metallic alteratives, extreme abstinence from fluids, and a proper diet.

The second species is more difficult of cure, and requires a *long perseverance* in the use of penetrating aperient metallic remedies; to give an additional force to the diseased vessels; to resolve the viscid impacted matter, or change its quality, and prepare it for absorption, and  
thus



thus gradually reduce the tumor by the expulsion or mutation of the causes.

The third species is generally *incurable*; and, after unsuccessfully attempting relief by similar modes to the preceding, there only remains the palliative method of managing the cancer, which may preserve the patient's life many years. These various plans of treatment shall follow in order.

*Treatment of the first Species.*

I. In plethoric patients, bleeding is repeatedly necessary to evacuate the contents of the distended vessels.

II. Evacuating the vessels will not be useful, unless they continue in a state of emptiness; for which purpose laxatives adapted to the constitution are proper; those of the saline kind in inflammatory habits; but, in the relaxed and debilitated, aloetics should be prescribed in small doses, rhubarb, or manna, &c.

Mittatur sanguis e brachio ad ℥viij. vel ℥xij.

No. 4. ℞. Infus. sen. ℥ij.

Tart. solub. ℥ij. syr. simp. q. s. m. f. haustus,  
bis, vel ter in septimana sumendus.

Or any other accustomed laxative may be prescribed.

The external pores are to be opened by antimonials; to evacuate, likewise, the fluids, and dislodge



dislodge the impacted matter, the following is proper :

- No. 5.  $\mathcal{R}$ . Antimon. tartarifat. gr. ij. solve in aq. pur.  
 $\mathfrak{z}$ ij. deinde adde  
 Sal. nitr.  $\mathfrak{z}$ ij. m. capiat gtt. xx. vel xxx.  
 ter vel quater de die ex coch. ij. julep. e  
 camphor, vel decocti nitrosi.

Externally the camphorated oil may be applied, or the vegeto-mineral water warm, fomentations discuffing and emollient, with cataplasms of *farin. seminum lini*, &c.

To those who cannot bear perspiration,

- No. 6.  $\mathcal{R}$ . Cal. ppt. x. vel merc. dulc. 6ies sub. lot.  
 Sulph. aurat. antimon.  $\mathfrak{D}$ iss. m. accurate, de-  
 inde adde conf. cynosbat. q. s. f. pilulæ  
 No. xxx. capiat unam ter de die, superbi-  
 bendo coch. iij. misturæ sequentis.

- No. 7.  $\mathcal{R}$ . Julep. e camph. aq. pur. āā  $\mathfrak{z}$ iv.  
 Sal. nitr.  $\mathfrak{z}$ j. m.

The common drink, during the whole cure, should be one drachm of sal. prunella, or nitre, dissolved in a quart of barley water or elder-flower water.

The diet should be innocent, and rather abstemious; all acids should be avoided during the administration of the prescribed remedies, and these should be continued many months, varying the prescription, or doses of the medicines, as circumstances occur, or no relief, much less any cure, need be expected.



Some of these cases, when mild, have been cured by the following electuary, drinking after each dose a cupful of a liquid composed of half an ounce of powdered nitre in a quart of water; to which has been added, and dissolved, two or three grains of *antimon. tartarizat.*

No. 8. *R.* *Æthiop. min.* ℥j.

*Conf. cynosbat.* ℥ij.

*Pulv. camphor.* ℥ij.

*Syr. balsam. q. s. f. electuarium, cujus capiat*

*Q. N. M. ter de die.*

If the patient should be of a costive habit, lenitive electuary may be used instead of the conserve of hips; or, in pale habits, any bitter purging pill may be given, joined with the calx. antimon. illot.

Cinnabarine preparations, *Æthiop's* antimonialis, neutral salts, sal sodæ, &c., according to circumstances, should be prescribed.

During the administration of these remedies, cold should be avoided, and the breasts should be covered with a hare's skin dressed or flannel: the same rules likewise are proper in all the subsequent methods of cure.

Mercurials used *externally*, as ointments, or *inwardly* taken, *uncombined* with antimonial or sulphureous preparations, have done inexpressible mischief in this and the other stages of  
the



the scirrhus and cancerous diseases. *Mercury alone aggravates all the symptoms of the cancer.*

Similar modes to those recommended succeed in the indurated breasts, which happen during lying in; and they may be safely prescribed, even if the mother suckle her infant: this abundance of experience has amply proved.

The *second species* of induration, where the *veins and lymphatic vessels* are both affected, a like mode of cure is required; but a stricter regimen should be prescribed, and the remedies should be given in larger doses, but never so as to raise any painful irritation either in the stomach or the general habit. It is the peculiar merit of the present plan, that small doses of these important remedies never disagree with the most delicate constitution, if *well prepared*; but on this depends their success.

In the second stage of the disorder likewise, cinnabar, or *Æthiop's mineral*, have been prescribed with purified nitre, rubbed together very fine, and found useful.

These powders are to be taken three or four times in the day to  $\text{ʒss}$ . in two table spoonfuls of camphorated julep, and before each dose a Plummer's pill, beginning with half a grain, and gradually increasing the dose to two grains, according to the constitution of the patient, and the peculiar circumstances of the case.



In the third stage, where the *veins*, *lymphatics*, and *cells of the adipose substance* and *tubuli lactiferi*, are probably filled with a coagulated matter, and become all together one confused mass, little success may be expected, yet it requires a similar mode of treatment ; for though no cure may be performed, the increase of the disorder, which might be rapid, is frequently for years retarded.

A more powerful plan may likewise be attempted, which, though seldom, has sometimes proved successful.

Instead of the pills, in addition to all the former methods, the following preparation may be administered, if there appear no material objection in the patient's constitution, or in the tone of the stomach, to forbid its use ; though the small doses of the *hydrargyrus muriatus*, joined with *antimon. tartarifat.*, rarely disagrees with any patient, being from the thirty-second to the eighth part of a grain.

No. 9. R. Antimon. tartarifat. gr. ij.  
Hydrarg. muriat. gr. j. solve in  
Julep. e camphor. ℥xvj. deinde adde  
Sal. nitr. ℥ij. capiat ℥ss. vel coch. j. vel-ij.  
ter de die, ex coch. iiij. decocti sequentis.

No. 10. R. Rad. sarsaparil. incis. ℥ij. coque in aq. pur.  
℔ss. ad libram unam & cola.

The solution should be measured in a wooden  
D spoon,



spoon, which should contain exactly half an ounce, or in a glass measure.

The diet and nitrous drink, as before prescribed, will likewise be useful.

It may be observed, that all the preceding modes of treatment are intended to attempt the removal of the causes of cancers; by exciting an action in the coats of the vessels, to resolve, change, or expel the impacted matter: therefore *opiates*, *hemlock*, or such *narcotics*, will be highly improper, as they would defeat the salutary attempts by diminishing the moving powers, and they appear highly contradictory to any intention of cure.

The *succeeding stage* is the manifest cancer, which does not always observe the progress already described; the variations are indescribable: for sometimes little dark-coloured indurated lumps appear in the surface of the breast, not larger than pease; in others a large swelling of the color of a mulberry; in others the nipple draws in, and is surrounded with a stony hardness; in others the whole adipose membrane, from the breast to the back, becomes hard, impeding respiration. All these species are too often *incurable* from their origin. Surgeons use the knife; but these disorders generally relapse after a cruel operation: to many melancholy instances of which, too shocking to relate,



relate, I have been frequently witness; and I find this has been the observation of all respectable practitioners, ancient or modern.

Whether if patients were to pursue the modes already recommended, in conjunction with the operation, time and a *candid* trial alone can determine: for my own part, from not being able to perceive practitioners justified in attempting a dubious operation, where the disorder is often rendered more violent, I must confess, from conscientious motives and my own private feelings, I have never assented to the operation under the last-mentioned circumstances, or indeed in any of the foregoing stages.

Various projects, many of which are highly superstitious and ridiculous, and others barbarous, at different periods have been suggested, and practised to cure the occult cancer: a dying man's hand, the application of a toad, a piece of undressed *veal*, *spittle*, plaisters, a *corn*, or callous substance from the leg of a horse, *urine* of a child fed on goat's milk, juice of *clivers*, poultice of *potatoes*, *vervain* hung about the neck; innumerable absurdities of *charms*, *amulets*, and strange *exorcisms*; passages from *holy scripture* wrapped up piously in paper, and worn near the part affected; electricity; various caustics, or arsenic applied as a plaister, which last is *Plunket's* secret to act as a caustic,



by corroding and destroying the parts indurated, under the specious and more flattering denomination of a plaister to draw out the *core*, as it is called. I have seen this last method prove horribly painful and destructive. Blisters have been applied; corroding lotions, warm liniments, and thousands of *irrational* or *cruel* remedies. Insignificant medicaments can do no essential *service* in the disease; but all sharp irritating applications *exasperate* the symptoms, and always hasten death. Some prescriptions originate in extreme folly and credulity; in rashness, ignorance, or barbarity; others in the purest benevolent intentions, undirected by medical science. The sufferers are generally impatient, and often expect more than the medical art admits, and, like a drowning man, catch at every straw assuming the form of relief. Every species of knavery has been imposed on cancerous patients\*.

It would be difficult to determine whether officious humanity and friendship of relations,

\* Black hellebore in auricula leporis ex., ladies' bed straw pal. ex., privet, herb robert, burnet saxifrage, salt of foot outwardly rises a vapor, fat of a crocodile, gall of sheep, bees in powder, millepedes, cantharides boiled in oil, lapis infernalis, prepared lead, diaphoretic oil of mercury, sweet red sublimite, anodyne oil of arsenic as a wash, Faber's quintessence of antimony, Faber's essence of arsenic, flower of ointments, hemlock, nightshade, &c.



or the most artful design and imposture of quacks, have done most injury to the afflicted laboring under cancerous complaints. The former often prevent assistance by a presumptuous dependence on irrational chimeras; the latter destroy, by an infamous and unfeeling determination to pursue every species of practicable deception, through ignorance, design, or temerity.

*On the confirmed internal occult Cancer.*

This is that stage of the disease in which the vessels and cells of the *tela cellulosa* are distended, the fluids are coagulated, the glandular substance is affected, and the free circulation of the arterial system, through the tumor, impeded, or altogether obstructed; to which are joined *acute* pains, a distinct tumor, or many tumors in different parts of the breast, irregular in their figure and dimensions, and often very painful on being touched; the external veins are often, but not always, varicous. These symptoms, happening to women about the time of the total cessation of the menses, may be justly termed of a *cancerous* tendency; for the tumors which accidentally happen in an earlier period of life, or from lying in, are *not* of a cancerous nature, though by bad management they may become so frequently. This distinction,



tion, however, not having been properly adverted to, has given an opportunity to ignorance and imposture to pretend they have *cured* cancerous cases where *no cancer* existed. It is with concern I mention the cruelty of some surgeons, who have operated on tumors that were absolutely not cancerous : such practices humanity and the honor of the medical profession should discountenance as much as possible.

*On the Operation for cancerous Tumors.*

In the treatment of the afore-mentioned stage of the disease, it becomes a question whether the removal of the scirrhus by the knife be an eligible practice ? or whether the palliative methods of cure be preferable ?

There is no difficulty in deciding on those questions ; when we are more guided by the laws of reason, humanity, and facts, than prejudices, or the erroneous authority of the art of surgery. After some years experience and consideration on these important subjects, the following is the result :

No tumor of this nature should be removed, unless *exquisite pain* urge its necessity, or hæmorrhage.

If the operation in any case be adviseable, which I much doubt, it should be when there is only *one tumor*, or two, and these not only  
contiguous



contiguous to each other, but detached from the pectoral muscle, moveable, and where no other part of the breast is diseased, nor swellings under the armpit; to determine which, with precision, requires no small experience and discernment.

If the breast be diseased in different parts, although there may be one tumor harder than the rest, the removal of this will be absolutely improper; for it will only occasion a necessity for repeated operations, and, after variety of torment, generally destroys the patient; of which many surgeons in London are well informed.

If the tumor or tumors adhere to the pectoral muscle, or if the lymphatic glands in the axilla be affected, or the arm swelled œdematous, the operation will not positively succeed, but increase the patient's torments, and prove more rapidly fatal.

In external hard *tubercula*, of the color of the blackberry, mulberry, or strawberry, whether large and single, or small and numerous, the operation is doubtful. The application of the *lunar* and other *caustics* have produced inexpressible misery, but no cure in these *tubercula*. I have, however, cured some of these cases by the use of the concentrated nitrous acid.

From



From having many opportunities to determine whether the operation should, in any instance, be performed in the true and confirmed cancer, it appears, in general, exceptionable by the laws of moral rectitude and humanity, though defensible by the received opinions of many surgeons. If, however, any future proofs to the contrary of this doctrine should convince me that this is a prejudicial opinion, I would cheerfully retract the doctrine.

The first consideration in this operation should be, whether it will answer the end proposed, that is, the absolute cure of the disease, or a permanent alleviation.

The amputation of the scirrhus breast is, at best, *doubtful*; therefore should be undertaken with the greatest caution and circumspection: it is frequently fruitless.

It often produces a *rapid* augmentation of the disease, and hastens death, with additional misery.

If in some very favorable cases it should remove the disease for one, two, three, or four years, which by no means whatever can be *previously* ascertained, yet in most instances it produces a painful incurable ulcer, and always ends fatally.

Many are the instances in which the diseased breast has been cut out, and the wound has  
healed;



healed ; but after some time the ulcer has re-appeared with increased violence, exquisite torture, and always terminated unfortunately.

*On the Consequences of the Scirrhus of the Breasts, when unassisted by medical or chirurgial Treatment.*

The indurated tumors of the breasts remain, in some cases, without any augmentation of the disease, or malignant symptoms, for *several years*.

In some instances the disorder becomes *rapidly* malignant, the tumor or tumors increase, and are attended with acute excruciating pains.

In both cases they commonly become ulcerous ; first an excoriation appears, issuing a thin acrimonious serum, the ulcer enlarges, the tumors throw off *stratum* after *stratum* of the diseased parts, smelling horridly foetid ; sometimes very large masses can be easily separated ; at others the parts are extremely putrid without separation.

Fungusses, tubercles, and large excrescences, arise successively ; for as one becomes putrid, separates, and is removed, others make their appearance.

In other instances the diseased parts gradually putrify and separate, forming a large spreading



ulcer, corroding all the adjacent parts; the ribs themselves are often exposed by the destruction of the periosteum.

A *hectic* fever accompanies the other horrid symptoms, which seems to arise from a partial absorption of the cancerous acrimony; other glandular parts are likewise often affected, and particularly the lymphatic system. Those surgeons, therefore, are in a most palpable error who suppose that the cancer is a *mere local disease*, requiring only local applications or operations. The juices of the cancerous patients are contaminated by the cancerous acrimony: hence the necessity of changing the state of the blood; hence the reason for applying remedies to remove glandular and lymphatic disease; hence the reason why removing the diseased part, by cutting, does not cure the cancerous disorder\*.

At last, after inexpressible misery, of longer or shorter continuance, with constant respiration in the putrid exhalations issuing from the sores, the patient becomes more and more debilitated; sometimes the acute pains diminish, at others not, till nature, exhausted by tortures and the cruel ravages of this ferocious disease, death closes the miserable scene.

\* Whoever wishes to see the most conclusive reasonings on this subject may consult my *Treatise on the Cure of ulcerated Legs, &c.* 4th Edition.



*On the Consequences of the Scirrhus of the Breasts,  
when under the Direction of surgical and medi-  
cal Assistance.*

Enough has been said of the consequences attending *arsenical caustics*, or operating with the knife. If the ulcer should not incarn and cicatrise after the operation, the disorder proceeds in a manner similar to the antecedent description, but varying almost with every individual patient.

In some instances the ulcers produced by the knife or caustic remain incurable, and torment for two or three years; in others the ulcers spread suddenly, and put a final period to life in the dreadful manner already described.

Human foresight fails in the prognostic of these diseases when a cure is attempted by an operation; cures in the *real occult* cancer, I believe, are rarely or never performed by cutting: in all which instances the patient is ever rendered more miserable. Even all the ancient as well as modern writers acknowledge this, from *Hippocrates* and *Celsus* to the present time, and yet most surgeons have, and do operate. Why should miracles be more expected now than formerly? or why should surgery continue in cruel error, which all its authors confess to have been uniformly unfortunate?



By a judicious internal and external treatment, joined with an exact regimen, according to the constitution of patients, and circumstances of cases, the progress of the disease is frequently retarded, its ravaging effects are greatly mitigated, the ulcerous stage, most to be dreaded, is at least suspended, and often many years prevented; and though an *absolute* cure can seldom be performed, yet life may be frequently rendered less miserable by an alleviation of all the symptoms. The utmost limits of medicine extend no farther in these unconquerable diseases; the causes of which *anatomy, physiology, pathology, and therapeutics*, will clearly explain to those well versed in the science of medicine and surgery.

*Some general Inferences on the different Attempts to cure cancerous Diseases.*

The origin, stages, prospects of cure, and ill consequences of cancerous complaints, being explained, humanity demands some conclusive doctrines from the foregoing premises.

I. A tumor or tumors in the breast, with or without pain, before the cessation of the menstrual evacuation, are generally *not cancerous*.

II. All tumors which happen in lying-in are  
 4 never



never cancerous, and therefore should not be extracted by the knife, or any other cruel method.

III. Extracting *indolent* or *unpainful* swellings of the breasts by knife, plaister, or caustic, unless with a certainty of radically curing the disease, is extremely barbarous, unnecessary, and frequently, in the end, fatal.

IV. Unpainful swellings in the breast *often remain many years* without any *increase*, or visible injury to patients; but no surgeon can previously determine what will be the consequence of an operation.

V. If it could be proved that many indolent tumors have been extracted, the patients recovered, and the breast has ever after remained sound; yet these circumstances are by no means admitted in favor of *cutting*, because those complaints were not cancerous, and might perhaps have been removed by milder methods.

VI. Most of the pretended cures by cutting, on examination, have been found of the foregoing class; but by the apprehension of the patient and unskilfulness of the operator have been called, without any regard to truth, *real cancers*. Vague report likewise asserts, that cancers have been cured by every species of superstition, and by trifling remedies directed by unlearned people. Ask the parties the true  
*definition*



*definition* of a cancer, and the fallacy of their pretensions is immediately discovered. If any one should assert a *cancer is cured*, who knows not its *definition*, it would be height of absurdity or madness to credit such report; for whoever understands not the nature and symptoms of a disease, so as to give a clear definition, must be necessarily ignorant of what he attempts to cure, and is liable first to deceive himself, and afterwards the rest of mankind.

VII. It therefore requires very little consideration with men of integrity, skill, and humanity, whether a dubious and cruel operation should be adopted, when no *real* necessity, from an apprehension of future ill consequences, nor the present danger of death, urges such a rash method.

VIII. It appears more rational and safe to leave such cases to chance, or to treat them mildly, than by rough, and often vain, attempts at radically curing, to risk the production of an incurable disease or ulcer, where none before existed.

IX. Neither the art of medicine nor artists are always responsible for the ill success of operations; for persons afflicted with the apprehension of cancerous complaints are frequently very impatient: they often fly from skill, learning, and sincerity, into the merciless hands



hands of unskilfulness, presumption, and mean artifice : thousands thus become victims to their own folly and credulity, and, with a dreadful augmentation of misery, voluntarily shorten their own existence \*.

x. In painful tumors, or real cancers, or ulcers of the breast, happening at the age of forty or fifty, when the menses have ceased, or nearly cease to flow, the extraction by the knife, under the favorable circumstances already delivered, has proved, in some instances, a temporary cure ; but in far the greater number the disease has returned with additional violence and devastation, and, after cruelly tormenting the afflicted patient for a longer or shorter period, always proved fatal.

xi. Under such circumstances of hope and hazard, practitioners in medicine will decide differently. Those who cautiously reflect, and

\* I lately was called to a shocking instance of this nature. A gentlewoman had an unpainful scirrhus of the breast, and applied to a foreign quack, who has for years abused the regular practitioners in the public papers : he used some applications which soon produced ulcers ; afterwards a fungus grew rapidly very large, weighing at least eight or ten pounds, horribly foetid. Two surgeons now living in town undertook to cut off the diseased parts, which was performed dextrously ; but the unfortunate patient languished a short time in inexpressible misery, and died. Innumerable instances of this nature may be produced.

who



who possess sensibility, will avoid recommending a successful operation, lest they aggravate human calamity, and shorten the duration of life.

The bolder class of surgeons, particularly the young and inexperienced, and all who are devoid of feeling, will rashly undertake the operation, and will consider themselves justified in having practised the modes of treatment which authors, but not reason, humanity, nor justice, prescribe\*.

xii. In the treatment by proper regimen, adapted to each individual, in conjunction with the remedies recommended in this treatise, while the disorder is *recent*, a cure has been obtained: some instances have remained well

\* About seven years ago a patient, laboring under an occult cancer of the *testis*, was earnestly advised by a very skilful surgeon, in consultation with an excellent anatomist, to undergo *castration*, as the only probable means of saving his life, and preventing future ill consequences. The patient had submitted, and, as no one could foresee the result of the operation, he settled his affairs. The case certainly appeared very desperate; but he was perfectly cured by internal remedies, chiefly by Plummer's pill, camphor, and nitre, in eleven weeks, and thus happily snatched from a most dreadful operation, and perhaps from death. This patient has remained in the most perfect health, and continues so to this day. Another person, under similar circumstances, was cured in the same manner. The former was patient to Mr. Kennedy, Great Queen Street,

above



above ten years, and continue well at this present time.

In many other instances the disorder has advanced, and terminated fatally; but those modes of treatment have, in numerous instances, alleviated the misery, and rendered the remaining passage through life more comfortable. It should, however, be confessed, that whatever mode be pursued, the disease is frequently incurable, and generally terminates fatally: therefore the cancer, in whatever manner viewed, must be considered an evil of the greatest magnitude to human beings, which has opposed, and *ever must*, from its nature, frequently resist all medical attempts in the radical cure. As this is the truth, why risk the unrelenting and cruel use of the knife? Wherefore disturb a disorder which in many instances is bearable, and safely alleviable, in hopes of cure, where success rarely happens, but wherein pain is too frequently augmented, and a miserable death experienced?

The progress of the disorder is slow, and its malignity may be often corrected; for by skilful management, many have labored under cancerous diseases, for several years, without any considerable inconvenience. These good effects have been produced chiefly by *cinnabarine pre-*



*parations*, nitre, *Æthiops mineralis*, *mucilaginous*  
*gums*, *abstinence* from all acid, salt or spicy food,  
 from all *spirituous and vinous liquids*; by keep-  
 ing the mind calm, for nothing hastens the dis-  
 order so rapidly as perturbations of the mind :  
 frequent *bleedings* are sometimes necessary ;  
*evacuants* of the purgative class occasionally ;  
 all correctors of acrimony, as the *sarsaparilla*,  
*sulphureous preparations*, *magnesia alba* ust. gum ara-  
*bic*, *crude antimony* prepared, with or without  
*nitre*, &c. &c. These various remedies are to  
 be applied to every individual differently, ac-  
 cording to the nature of the case and constitu-  
 tion of the patient ; by reflecting on the power  
 and force of the disease, the strength of the pa-  
 tient, the power of the medicine prescribed,  
 and the contra-indications. A powerful dis-  
 ease cannot be removed by trifling remedies ;  
 nor should violent medicines be prescribed in a  
 slight complaint, or in debility ; but these im-  
 portant objects must be left to the skill of the  
 judicious prescriber, who will regulate his prac-  
 tice according as circumstances occur. No-  
 thing but *metallic alteratives*, given so as never  
 to shock the constitution, are the least likely to  
 succeed in removing glandular or lymphatic  
 obstructions. It is playing with the disease,  
 and amusing the patient by specious deception,  
 to pretend or expect cures can be performed  
 by



by trivial remedies in an obstinate, formidable, and difficult disease.

*On the Management of the cancerous Ulcer, or confirmed manifest Cancer of the Breast.*

The cancerous ulcer may be divided into three stages —

- I. The *Commencement*.
- II. The *augmented* or separating Stage.
- III. The *putrid-absorbing* Stage.

The commencement is commonly an excoriation of the tumor, a black spot, tubercle, or a fissure near the nipple, with scirrhoty of the adjoining parts, attended with sharp darting pains, and a thin acrimonious discharge, sufficiently acrid to inflame, and sometimes corrode the surrounding parts.

*The external Treatment of the first Stage, or Commencement.*

If the breast be inflamed, and in a state of distention, emollient fomentations should be applied three or four times a day, and afterward the *ung. populneum, album, sambucinum*, or *Goulard's pomade, ol. camphor, &c. &c.* Soft cataplasms are likewise useful, if their weight on the inflamed swelling cause no uneasy sensation.



tion. The bread and milk poultice, with lard or oil, or the cataplasm made with *farina seminum lini*, may be used ; to either of which may be added Goulard's *vegeto-mineral water*.

The following liniment has greatly abated the burning heat and surrounding inflammation, when the parts are not much distended :

No. 11. R. Litharg. aur. benè lævigat ʒiss.

Acet distillat. ʒj. misce agitatione, deinde adde

Ol. amygdal. recent. vel

— olivar. opt. ʒiij.

F. linimentum, parum cujus applicandum partibus inflammatis, ter vel quater de die, ope plumæ mollis.

The *vegeto-mineral water*, reduced to half its usual strength, is frequently useful as a fomentation, to be applied warm ; or solutions of camphor with decorticated almonds and water.

It should be remarked, that no application agrees with two persons equally alike ; therefore what occasions most ease should be continued, and whatever evidently increases pain should be rejected. The surgeon, however, should use caution, lest he be deceived on this subject ; for patients under pain are often apt to attribute their misery or ease to false causes. They frequently condemn an application or inward remedy as the cause of their torment, when the pain arises from the nature of the complaint ;



complaint ; and often persuade themselves, under any mitigation of the symptoms, that the last thing applied produced the alleviating effect. This error should be rectified.

*The internal Treatment of the first Stage.*

The remedies internally prescribed should be accommodated to the constitutions of patients. To the plethoric and florid, repeated bleeding, laxatives, and antiphlogistics, should be prescribed, as the cathartic salts, nitre, *sal sodæ*, *prunellæ*, *sal polychrest*, *tartarum solubile*, &c.

To the pallid, nervous, and relaxed, should be prescribed *antispasmodics*, as *assafoetida*, *camphora*, *valerian*, &c., to diminish irritability ; aloetic laxatives, such as *sapo* and *pilula aromatica*, *extractum catharticum*, *pilula Ruffi*, with our *pulvis antimonialis*, of the new College Dispensatory, one, two, or three grains of the former, and two or three of the latter, every night, to prevent or remove constipation. Mild mineral alteratives, and correctors of acrimony, are to be recommended, and long continued.

To the corpulent, cold, languid, and relaxed, if the tumor be spongy or softish, on a supposition that the vascular system is relaxed, the chalybeate preparations have been useful ; but are improper if the parts are inflamed, or the tumors very hard. The *lima-*  
tura



*tura martis præparata, flores vel tinctura martial.* and similar preparations, may be prescribed, if heat or pain do not succeed their exhibition.

For the plethoric,

No. 12. R. Sal. nitr.

— Sodæ āā gr. x.

Julep. e camph.

Aq. pur. āā ℥j.

F. haustus ter in die fumendus.

Or the *pulvis cum cinnab.* and *nitr.* to ℥ss. or ℥ij. ter de die, ex ℥ij. decocti pectoralis.

The *decoctum nitrosum* may be used, *pro potu ordinario.*

No. 13. R. Sal. Rupel. ℥j. solve in

Aq. pur. ℥iij. deinde adde

Emulsionis commun. ℥v.

F. mistura, cujus capiat coch. iiij. semel, bis de die, vel sæpius in constipatione.

The Dog and Duck, Epsom, and similar waters, are likewise good antiphlogistic purgatives for the plethoric.

For the pallid, nervous, bilious, and relaxed patients,

No. 14. R. Pil. ex colocynth. cum aloë ℥j.

Saponis amygdal. ℥ss. M. accurate.

F. pilulæ No. xx. fumat j. vel ij. pro re nata.

The pill No. 2 or No. 6 may be ordered as a deobstruent



deobstruent and corrector, with the following powder :

No. 15. *Rx.* Cinnab. antimon. ppt.  $\text{ʒij}$ .

Sal. nitr.

Pulv. e tragacanth. c.  $\text{āā}$   $\text{ʒj}$ . M. f. pulvis,  
dividendus in xij. doses, quarum capiat  
unam ter vel quater de die ex coch. ij.  
julep. e camph. vel aquæ puræ.

Or the following bolus and draught may be taken :

No. 16. *Rx.* *Æthiop. min. recte præparat.* gr. xij. ad  $\text{ʒfs.}^*$

Pulv. camph. gr. v. syr. balsam q. s.

F. bolus, ter vel quater de die sumendus, su-  
perbibendo haustum sequentem.

No. 17. *Rx.* Sal. fodæ gr. viij. ad gr. xij. solve in

Julep e camph.  $\text{ʒfs.}$  deinde adde

Essent. antimon. Huxham gutt. xxx. f. hauf-  
tus.

Opiates, with the afore-mentioned class of patients, should be avoided, as a light delirium and costiveness frequently succeed their administration.

The *Æthiops vegetabilis*, *antimonium crudum* ppt., Huxham's *Æthiops antimonialis*, and such like preparations, are useful.

*Decoctum sarsaparillæ*, or *aq. hordeata*, and gum arabic, are proper, *pro potu ordinario*.

\* By triturating equal parts of *argentum vivum* and *floræ sulph.*, without heat, according to our Royal College Dispensatory.



For the corpulent, with a languid circulation, the cold, and debilitated,

Aloetics as laxatives; tonics are sometimes, though rarely, necessary; in which latter case the medicines for the bilious and nervous class should be preferred.

No. 18. *Rx.* Infus. amar.  $\mathfrak{z}$ iss.

Tinct. flor. mart.  $\mathfrak{z}$ j. M.

F. haustus ter de die sumendus.

Or,

No. 19. *Rx.* Flor. mart.  $\mathfrak{z}$ ij.

Spec. aromat.  $\mathfrak{z}$ ij.

Con. rosar.  $\mathfrak{z}$ iiss. M.

℞. elect. cujus capiat Q. N. M. ter de die.

Other chalybeates, and sometimes the cortex Peruvianus in milk, will be proper.

No. 20. *Rx.* Pulv. cort. Peruv.  $\mathfrak{z}$ ij.

Cinnab. antimon. ppt.  $\mathfrak{z}$ j. M.

F. pulvis, dividendus in viij. doses, quarum sumat unam ter de die ex coch. iij. aquæ puræ, hordeatæ, vel julep. e camphor.

With this class of patients a dry diet is absolutely necessary.

It should be observed, that the instances are few in which the bark, or other tonics, prove useful; for, on the contrary, they oftener excite pain; under which circumstance they should be immediately discontinued.



*On the external Treatment of the augmented or separating Stage of the Cancer.*

The rules for deterging, incarning, and cicatrifying ulcers in general, are precluded in the cancerous ulcer; for human art commonly fails in the attempt to deterge, incarn, or cicatrise the cancer.

If the discharge of the ulcerated parts should be very copious, no astringent applications should be used, for they create pain.

The ulcers should be cleansed with warm camphorated lotions, &c.

The mildest ointments spread on lint should be used, as the unguentum album, or any of the unguents already recommended.

No. 21. R̄. Sperm. ceti ℥ij.  
Ol. mucilag. ℥viij.  
F. unguentum secundum artem.

Or,

No. 22. R̄. Axung. porcin. recent. ℔j.  
Ceruss. ppt. ℥iv. F. unguentum.

The ulcerations should be kept very clean; but this is difficult, owing to the irregular surfaces of the ulcers, and the danger of irritating the parts affected.

No. 23. R̄. Extract. saturn. Goulard ℥j.  
Aq. pur. mollis ℔ij. F. lotio.



- No. 24. R. Sacchar. saturn. 3j.  
Aq. rofar. ℥ij. M. F. lotio.
- No. 25. R. Merc. corros. sub. gr. xv. solve in  
Aq. flor. sambuc. ℥ij. F. lotio.

When the surfaces of the ulcers are not very green and foul, the lotions 23 and 24, made tepid, will be proper.

Cinnabarine fumigations are likewise necessary, if no pain follow their use.

When the ulcers are very foul, greenish, and fætid, the lotion 25 should be recommended, the *aqua calcis*, or *phagædenica*, and similar detergents.

When fresh dressings are applied, after the ulcers are well cleansed in the gentlest manner possible, all the humidity should be absorbed, whether it be caused by the lotion or the ulcerous discharge; for the matter, or any part of it, remaining on the ulcer, or even in its fissures, will hourly become more acrid and create pain.

The lotions may be applied with a feather, or in the parts difficult of access by a syringe; but each mode should be performed with a light hand, lest by the ulcerations being irritated the patient's misery should be increased.

After the diseased parts are well cleansed and dried, the *saturnine* ointments, or, in short, whatever



whatever agrees best with the sore, should be used, and repeated.

The carrot cataplasm, for the purpose of covering the foul uneven surface of the ulcer, or a cataplasm of potatoes, being innocent applications, frequently prevent, in some measure, the fetor, or putrid exhalations, from annoying the patients or attendants. Powdered camphor may be likewise added.

The supposition of any *specific* qualities in the carrot, or such like applications, for the cure of cancers, argues the most ridiculous credulity.

A strong decoction of the leaves of hemlock, or a solution of its extract, joined with linseed flower, or other innocent farinaceous substances, have been used as cataplasms; the bruised leaves of *cicuta* are likewise applied, with no inconsiderable faith, even by learned, and apparently rational, practitioners, as possessing *specific* powers in curing cancers.

Such ill-founded expectations can only arise from an unacquaintance with the immediate causes, progress, and termination of cancers, and the properties of such medicaments. The fiery mad passion after narcotic and acrid poisons, as specific remedies, rages now with incredible and thoughtless fury, particularly amongst juvenile practitioners. Colleges and



universities, where often much theory, but little experience in practice, abound, have sanctified the exhibition of many poisons, as may be seen in dispensaries. Irreparable mischief has been produced ; but perhaps the voice of an individual, at present, would be lost amidst the violent clamors of the inexperienced and prejudiced, otherwise nothing merits more severe animadversion. The admission of poisons, as specifics, is the most effectual mode of wresting from the art all principles of true science and learning, at the hazard of introducing the most dangerous and rash empiricism\*.

If, however, any ease from the hemlock or solanum can be procured by external application, it might be prescribed ; but there arises a disgusting stench from the hemlock bruised, producing sometimes dizziness and pains in the head ;

\* A young gentleman, a major in the army, lately was suddenly deprived of life by taking a large dose of the extract of hemlock as a remedy. Another lingered and died in strong convulsions by the use of an arsenical preparation given for the ague. As to the pretended internal virtues of hemlock in curing a real cancer, nothing but folly could suppose it. I have made the most circumspect, yet, I hope, candid, inquiries to prove whether hemlock ever cured a confirmed cancer ; but find all candid physicians and surgeons acknowledge their disappointment in attempting the cure by hemlock, and this my own experience confirms. Professor De Haen, of Vienna, asserts



head; and certainly it neither resolves the tumor, deterges, incarns, nor cicatrises a malignant cancerous ulcer.

But as *cicuta* has been extolled, and as nothing should be omitted which is likely to prove serviceable, the following lotion is given, as a *palliative*, from a respectable author:

No. 26. R. Extract. cicutæ ℥ij. solve in  
Aq. calcis ℔ij. F. lotio.

*Est in ulcere cancroso efficax medicamentum*, says the learned author; or an anodyne fomentation may be prepared from the following herbs, and applied warm for a quarter or half an hour:

No. 27. R. Fol. hyosciami.  
Flor. sambuci āā ℥ss.  
Capit. papav. alb. ℥ij. coque in aq. pur. ℔ij.  
F. fots mammæ affectæ bis vel ter de die tepide applicandus ope lintei quadruplicati.

*Cataplasms*, for the purpose of mitigating

asserts the same. See his Epistle against Storck, proving the whole account about *hemlock* to have been fabricated to answer a self-interested purpose that is now well known. How shocking to reflect on the credulity of medical practitioners in this case; but what shall we say of the dreadful effects of the *digitalis*, which thoughtlessness has fatally prescribed in dropsies without any reflection on consequences? Every one versed in anatomy and pathology, with the diseased state of the viscera of hydropics, must perceive the total impossibility of that acrid poison being beneficial; on the contrary, dangerous.

pain,



pain, may be used, if their weight do not produce uneasy sensations.

No. 28. R̄. Farinæ sem lini.

— fol. cicutæ āā ℥iij. lactis q. s. coque  
ad cataplasma.

Or,

R̄. Farinæ herbarum præcedentium ℥vj.

Aquæ vegetomineralis q. s. coquantur ad  
cataplasma.

When large masses of the tumor become green, livid, and sphacelate, they should be removed gently, by holding the diseased parts with a pair of forceps, and separating them from their adhesions, so as never to occasion an hæmorrhage. The sphacelated portions being removed as often as necessary, prevents the unfortunate patient from breathing in that mephitic air, which is frequently the cause of an hectic fever. *Concentrated nitrous acid* immediately stops the bleeding in the arteries of the breast, without ligature.

The following mucilaginous and antiputrescent application may be very useful to diminish the putridity :

No. 29. R̄. Camphor ℥ij.

Mucilag. gummi arab. ℥bj. diligenter terendo  
do misceantur.

This preparation is likewise useful in poultices of linseed, as an antispasmodic and resolvent.



The *cataplasma ex dauco* may be prepared in the following manner :

No. 30. R. Dauci flavi q. v. fiat rasura, huic adde  
Decocti saturati cicutæ q. s. F. cataplasma.

*Hæmorrhages* happening in the cancer will generally be checked by styptic applications, by compression on the artery ; but if the means fail, the bleeding may be stopped by lint, formed into small compresses, thoroughly moistened in *ol. terebinth. ætheriale*, or the *acidum nitrosum concentratum*, with well-adapted bandage.

In this dreadful stage of the disorder the patient should use little exercise.

*Fresh pure air* should pass through the chamber as often as possible.

The vapor of vinegar should be diffused through the room, or aromatic herbs should be burnt, to diminish the putridity, for the purpose of respiration.

The odoriferous gums, as *thus*, *benzoinum*, *myrrh*, &c., may be rubbed on heated iron.

The surgeon should be careful to avoid the reception of any part of the putridity by an abrasion of the skin on his fingers, or by any slight scratch ; for if an absorption should be the consequence, a putrid malignant fever may be produced : this I once experienced. A little *oleum camphoræ* rubbed on the fingers is a preventive.

After



After the ulcers are dressed according to art, a bladder, softened with oil, may cover the dressings.

All the parts surrounding the ulcers, where there is no excoriation, should be defended from the acrimony of the discharge by any soft simple unguent, oleum camphoræ, or the ointments No. 21; 22.

The *internal* treatment of this stage of the disorder should be similar to the antecedent stage; the indications should be drawn more from the various circumstances arising, and the different constitutions of the patients, than from any fixed regular plan of practice. Disorders are irregular in their attacks; practitioners should be discerning and cautious, and accommodate their practice to individuals.

To correct the putrid acrimony, the following and similar prescriptions have proved advantageous :

No. 31. R. Pulv. cort. Peruv.

Cinnab. antimon. ppt. āā ʒij. M.

F. pulvis, dividendus in viij. doses, quarum sumat unam ter de die in pauxillo syrupi simplicis, vel aliqua gelatina, superbibendo haustum sequentem.

No. 32. R. Julep. e camph. ʒvj.

Decoct. cort. Peruv. ʒj.

Tinct. ejusdem ʒij. F. haustus.

It must be observed, that the bark and other  
tonics



tonics sometimes occasion difficulty in respiration, and therefore should be cautiously prescribed, or rather omitted.

In this stage of the disorder, if the palliative treatment be thought necessary, or great pain should indicate the absolute necessity of administering narcotics, opium may be prescribed.

No. 33. R<sub>x</sub>. Pulv. opii gr. xv.

— camphor. ʒss. syr. balsam. vel conf.  
cynosbat. q. s.

F. pilulæ, No. xxx. quarum capiat unam,  
duas vel tres secundum doloris violentiam.

Or the following drops may be used for the same purpose :

No. 34. R<sub>x</sub>. Spirit. nitr. dulc.

Laudan. liquid. āā ʒj. M. cujus sumat gtt.  
xxx. vel lx. urgente dolore, ex coch. iii.  
aquæ hordeatæ.

The hemlock has been given for similar purposes by many practitioners ; whoever expects a cure by hemlock will be deceived : but neither the one remedy nor other will give ease, nor produce stupefaction, in many instances, and they commonly cause costiveness.

*On the Treatment of the third or putrid-absorbing  
Stage of the Cancer.*

During the separating stage the absorbent system seems, in a certain degree, to be imper-



vious; but when the diseased, obstructed, and putrid parts, which had previously formed the tumor, have separated, the absorbent vessels have sufficient power to receive more of the putrid acrimony, and, by communication with the whole mass of blood, a hectic, and sometimes a remitting putrid fever, accompanies all the other grievous symptoms.

In this hopeless state of the cancer all medical endeavors should be directed to a palliation of symptoms, in conjunction with all the former methods.

In vomitings, the saline draught, and *confectio cardiaca*, or Hoffman's anodyne liquor, are useful.

Purgings should be checked by the julep. *cret.* and opiates, or the *extractum ligni Campechens.* dissolved in *aq. cinnam. simplex.*

Costiveness should be prevented or removed by mild-eccoprotics or laxative oily clysters.

Thirst should be allayed by innocent drinks, *aqua hordeata*, mint and balm tea, or such like drinks.

*Acids* are apt to increase pain.

The *aphthæ*, or thrush in the mouth, should be removed by solutions of *borax* and *syrupus mororum*, &c.

The ulcerated parts should be cleansed as  
much



much as possible by the means already recommended.

*On the scirrhus and cancerous Ulcer of the Womb.*

There are several disorders which arise from female inattention, or neglect of taking proper remedies, at or near the time of menstruation ceasing; but the most grievous and painful of all is the scirrhus or cancer of the uterus.

These disorders sometimes arise at an earlier period of life, from injuries in labor, or from a constitutional cancerous disposition; but a very extensive experience fully justifies me in asserting, that they are very unfrequent.

The disorder may be divided into three stadia, the *scirrhus*, the *ulcerous*, and the *putrid separating stage*.

The first is an induration of the womb, or some part of it, with or without tubercula. This can only be distinguishable by the examination of a skilful man-midwife, who easily determines whether the *os internum*, or mouth of the womb, be in a sound state, *indurated*, affected with *tubercula*, fissures, or an irregular uneven surface, like the edge of a saw.

This stage of the disease, in its beginning, is



not much attended to; the delicacy of the female sex frequently prevents inquiry; for while great pain is felt, no apprehension of disease exists in the female mind: from a want of intelligence, however, all the future inexpressible miseries probably arise.

When the disease increases, it is accompanied with acute pains: its species at this period is very often not discovered; and it has been frequently treated by physicians, of no inconsiderable reputation, as a complaint of the intestines, kidneys, or urinary bladder.

The commencement of the scirrhus is the true time to attempt the radical cure: afterwards it frequently happens that the utmost skill in medicine only extends to a palliation of symptoms, and in some cases can scarcely be obtained by any medicine.

As the *tubercula* increase in size, or as the *os tinæ* or other parts of the uterus become larger and harder, the pains in the back, loins, under the *os pubis*, down the fore part of the thighs, increase, are more frequent, and exactly similar to labor pains, with or without a sensation or bearing down, or protrusion of the *os internum*; and sometimes the uterus, from the relaxation and elongation of its ligaments, absolutely falls down into the vagina.

An obstetric examination ascertains immediately the source of all these symptoms; for  
although



although the *ovaria*, or the uterus itself, may be enlarged and indurated many years, yet they rarely occasion much pain, unless the *os internum*, or the part of the uterus immediately connected with it, be affected. This immense experience confirms.

The treatment of this scirrhus stage of the disease should be exactly similar to that recommended in the scirrhus breasts, but without opiates or narcotics, if the radical cure be attempted.

The ulcerous stage of the cancer of the uterus, or womb, is known by the fœtor of the fluid discharged, which has a dark-colored stain, is exceedingly acrimonious and putrid, and frequently excoriates the vagina.

The patient suffers the most excruciating tortures in the back, loins, abdomen, region of the pubis, and down the anterior part of the thighs, in the direction of the femoral artery and nerve, exactly like labor pains, without any prospect of delivery, and *bends forwards*; but the tumor often pressing on the neck of the *vesica urinaria*, or on the *rectum*, an obstinate obstruction of urine or feces is the consequence. The tumor of the uterus taking another direction, neither costiveness nor a stoppage of urine are amongst the symptoms, but an involuntary discharge of both: this latter case is less frequent than the former.

The



The disease remains in this dreadful state for one, two, or three years, shocking to the feelings of every humane beholder of the scene, but inexpressibly so to the truly miserable sufferer, who justly merits our utmost compassion and assistance.

In this stage small abscesses forming repeatedly, inflaming, swelling, and at last bursting, do not a little add to the exquisite tortures. After a large discharge, some little respite from misery, but not always, is experienced.

In the *putrid separating stage*, which continues in some instances many months, the uterus throws off slough after slough of its substance with dreadful acute pains. The fœtor becomes horridly putrid, and is distinguishable by the smell, to those who are accustomed to attend these lamentable cases, from any other species of putrefaction in the human body. Ulcers behind the ears, and of the genital parts, &c., have their peculiar smell, distinct from other ulcers.

In this *putrid separating stage* the uterus often becomes like a honeycomb, if small and repeated separations happen: in other instances, large masses separate and are thrown off, till scarce any part of the uterus remains. Nausea, vomitings, costiveness, floodings, diarrhoea, retention or an involuntary emission of urine,



urine, and hectic remitting fevers, with innumerable concomitant symptoms.

The appearances of some dissections *post mortem*, under my own inspection, have shewn the state of the parts after the cruel ravages of the disease.

A variety of these dissections I may hereafter publish, if likely to benefit society.

The *remote causes* are, injuries received from difficult or frequent labors, obstructed menses or floodings, habitual obstinate costiveness, inattention to the use of gentle evacuants at the termination of the menstrual flux, neglected fluor albus, venereal infection unskilfully treated, violent and inordinate passions, extreme grief, &c., accidental lacerations, scratches, and contusions of the *os internum*; an hereditary scrophulous or cancerous disposition; also a neglect of diet; colds, or other inattentions during the periodical monthly evacuations; cold sea bathing, or cold bathing at an improper time; or, in short, any thing which may suddenly check or suppress the flowing of the menses.

The best method of preventing the disease is to avoid, as much as possible, the above-mentioned remote causes.

The *proximate or immediate causes* are, an impeded sluggish circulation of the blood in the



lower parts of the abdomen, congestions in its viscera, obstructions in the arterial, venal, and lymphatic vessels, but mostly and principally distention, induration, excoriations or scratches in the mouth of the uterus. The body of the uterus, or its appendices, being much swelled or indurated, do not occasion exquisite pain; except in proportion as they press on the other viscera, or force other parts, in some measure, from their true situation. The scirrhus or ulceration that begins in the *os uteri* is what is so exquisitely painful and dangerous. Whether this part of the uterus be diseased is easily discoverable by an obstetric examination; therefore I have always considered physicians defective in knowledge when they have not practised midwifery; for without such advantage it is not easy to comprehend this malady.

The congestions, or irritating fluids, in the substance of the *os tincæ*, or extraneous bodies within the uterus, stimulating the uterus to contraction, make violent efforts to exclude the irritating causes: thus the pains are exactly similar to strong labor, by which they are distinguished from all other pains in the abdominal, lumbar regions, or pelvis, by skilful practitioners.



*The Prognostic of the Scirrhus or cancerous Ulcer  
of the Womb.*

The disorder, when recent, has been sometimes cured by the alterative methods I invented; in other instances the cancer has increased and proved fatal. When the cancer is advanced, with exquisite pains and ulcerations, it is rarely curable; and even, in some instances, the painful symptoms can scarcely be palliated by narcotics. As some very desperate cases have been cured by alteratives, though by far the greater number have ended fatally, yet it is justifiable to persevere in the attempt, on rational principles, before we resign the patient to opium and a miserable death. The physician should apprise the friends of the danger: to his brethren of the faculty he should explain the anatomical and pathological reasons of the improbability of a cure happening. Every thing should be attempted, nothing promised; by which means the art of physic will not be accused of uncertainty, delusion, or ignorance.

*The Attempts to Cure the Scirrhus or Cancer of  
the Womb.*

I have seen various methods of cure tried, particularly by *hemlock, nightshade, henbane,*  
I *mercury,*



*mercury* alone, *bleedings*, *neutral salts*, low diet, &c., but always unsuccessfully.

As to narcotics, as hemlock, opium, and the poisons, whoever reflects on the structure, situation, and uses of the uterus, the natural hardness of its substance, the minuteness and tortuous progress of its arteries, veins, lymphatics, &c., will easily conceive the improbability of whatever diminishes arterial action being able to penetrate and remove congestions or stagnations in this organ of generation: on the contrary, opium, hemlock, &c., seem more capable of fixing the disease.

From which consideration I was induced to attempt a more rational plan of cure, by uniting the sulphureous antimonials with the preparations of hydrargyrus. In all the cases I have been consulted, I have never yet seen patients cured by any other methods; but by mineral alteratives, given in very small doses, and repeated now and then, an unfortunate victim to this horrid disease has been snatched from death, and positively cured.

The remedies I have used are,

Cinnabar antimonii.

———— factitium, which are nearly the same.

Æthiops mineralis.

———— antimonialis.

Hydrargyrus and antimonial sulphurs.

Sulphur



Sulphur antimonii præcipit. cum aquila alba.

Kermes mineralis.

Nitrum purissimum.

Merc. dulc. xij. cies sub. & lotus cum sulph.  
aurat. ant. long rubbed together.

Camphora.

Neutral salts.

Antimonialia.

Tartarum emeticum cum merc. corros. sub.,  
to the sixteenth part of a grain, dissolved.

Turp. mineral. cum Kerm. mineral.

The modes in which such remedies have been applied are, to prescribe very small doses, and drink after each some solution of camphor and nitre, &c. In short, the general plan will be seen in the extraordinary case and cure given in the letter on medical vanity.

The remedies are likewise explained in the foregoing part, which treats of the cancers of the breasts; but will hereafter be augmented with a view of the principles on which they have been prescribed, in a treatise on the use of metallic alteratives in chronic diseases, &c. In this work will be given *formulæ* of all the prescriptions I have ever used of the mineral alterative class\*.

\* Many may be seen in the Treatise on ulcerated Legs and Impurities of the Blood; more in the Treatise on nervous, mental, and convulsive Diseases, &c.



It is absolutely necessary to remark, that the alteratives, in very small doses, should be given at exact distances, that the one dose should succeed another: they must likewise be continued many months. The action of these remedies, whether by changing and liquifying the congested matter, or by rendering the impervious vessels open in the *tela cellulosa*, and its minute cells, are inquiries which have much occupied my attention; the result will hereafter be communicated.

*On palliating the Symptoms.*

The powder, composed of *Æthiops* and nitre, or cinnabar and nitre, already given, is frequently useful in diminishing the dreadful symptoms, and correcting the prevailing acrimony.

Anodyne and detergent injections, to mitigate pain and deterge the vagina and the ulcers in the *os tinæ*, oleaginous clysters, with opiates, act as emollients and anodynes, their effect is easily conceived by considering the proximity of the *uterus* to the *rectum*.

The whole vagina should be frequently moistened with *ol. camphor.* to prevent the acrid matter corroding the part.

Where neither ease nor sleep can be acquired without opium, that remedy may be called into  
internal



internal use ; but it does not correspond with any attempt at the radical cure.

### *Fevers.*

The fevers attendant on the cancerous ulcer of the uterus are of the hectic kind, and commonly arise from the violence of the pain, or an absorption of putrid matter : they waste the body, prevent nutrition, flush the face after meals, occasion heat, thirst, and quicken the pulse, cause colliquative sweats, loss of sleep, &c.

The antiphlogistic regimen and remedies, as the common saline or volatile saline draught, sal diureticus, *spiritus Mindereri*, nitre, according to the species of fever ; and, in nervous irritability, camphor, castor, valerian ; or, to the pallid and more torpid habits, the gums, as assafoetida, sagapenum, myrrh, &c., may be proper, as auxiliaries.

The symptomatic fever, however, arising from absorption of the cancerous acrimony, can only be palliated, unless the causes could be removed ; but this is generally impracticable.

Bark and all antiseptics commonly increase pain in the cancerous ulcer of the uterus. Oleaginous medicines, with camphor and gum arabic, sometimes obtund acrimony, and ease pains, &c. ; but to answer more important purposes,



purposes, they may be united by means of alkaline salts with aqueous fluids, to which may be added nitre, neutral salts, according to the nature of the case and circumstances.

*Suppression of Urine.*

This may arise from the relaxation of the ligaments of the uterus, by which it falls lower down in the pelvis and vagina ; this pressing on the *meatus urinarius*, suppresses the urine.

The enlargement and scirrhus of the uterus may likewise, without any relaxation of the ligaments, produce the same effect.

*Hydatides*, or other substances within the uterus, pressing towards the *os tinæ* to be evacuated, frequently suppress the urine, and excite terrible pains, equal to the strongest labor.

In the relaxation of the ligaments of the uterus, without scirrhus or tumor, even in the early months of pregnancy, the cortex and tonics, with a dry diet, are necessary.

In all these cases the urine, if expedient, must be evacuated by means of a catheter.

If there be difficulty in passing the catheter in the usual mode, which I have frequently observed under the foregoing circumstances, I have been obliged to put the patient in a posture similar to that adopted in the reduction of the hernia ; the head placed on a pillow on the floor,



floor, and the legs on the bed ; by which the thoracical and abdominal viscera are drawn upwards, and by pressing the uterus out of the direction of the urethra the urine has easily flowed.

No medicines can remove these causes ; to prescribe would be futile.

### *Costiveness.*

This should be treated by castor oil, gentle eccoprotics, infusion of senna, *tartarum solubile*, oleaginous purgatives ; but if arising from the pressure of the uterus, clysters of oil and purging remedies are to be injected in the position recommended, in passing the catheter, or the pipe cannot be always introduced.

### *Nausea and Vomiting.*

This being symptomatic, and arising from the sensibility of the uterus, and its connection with the branches of the nerve called *par vagum*, &c., can only be palliated by *magnesia usta* and *pulv. rhei*, *tinctura sennæ*, volatile saline draughts, and abstinence from liquids.

### *Purgings.*

In the latter stages of the cancer of the womb, purgings are troublesome : they commonly arise from putrid causes, when the uterus



rus has been ulcerated, and has sloughed away by small portions or in matter.

This evacuation is rarely checked without increasing other evils; but the *extractum ligni Campechensis* in cinnamon water, *julep. e creta*, the *pulvis terra Japon.*, and all the milder astringents, may be useful.

### *Putrid Discharge.*

This discharge, which is exceedingly foetid, cannot be restrained nor corrected. The only thing art can accomplish is to defend the vagina from its corroding acrimony and excoriating qualities.

Soft unguents, camphorated oil, liniments of *litbarg. aur. acetum* and oil, have been used with success.

### *Violent Pains.*

If arising from the *os internum* being stimulated by hydatids, or any extraneous substance in the uterus, they cannot be diminished until the irritating cause be evacuated. Pain, in this case, though a cruel evil, is the only remedy to relieve the patient. I have been averse to check the pain under these circumstances, (which are sometimes ascertained by an obstetric examination) because obtunding the pain by opium prolongs the evil.



If no flooding attends, the *pulvis e myrrh. c.*, or similar remedies, may be given.

These pains have lasted, in some instances, many months, the uterus repeatedly throwing off hydatids, or masses of coagulated blood mixed with true coagulable lymph; after which the patient has recovered: but the sooner the masses are discharged, the greater the probability of a cure. The uterus, after long-continued pain, has suffered such great injury as, in the end, to ulcerate and end fatally.

### *Floodings.*

Floodings are no uncommon symptoms of uterine scirrhotities or cancer: they sometimes procure the patient a little respite from pain, and future ease; their cause, however, should be ascertained, whether merely from a relaxation of the uterine vessels, or from some mass which the efforts of the uterus would remove. In the former case, gentle bracers may be expedient; in the latter, nothing but the removal of the irritating cause will avail.

### *Hiccups.*

This symptom is the forerunner of great danger, and arises, if the least dangerous, from flatus in the stomach irritating the diaphragm; if more serious, from the extrication of fixed



air in the commencing gangrene, or putrefaction of the abdominal viscera or parts contiguous to the uterus, as the bladder, rectum, or the uterus itself.

The former requires gentle carminative eccoprotics, *aqua calcis*, *magnesia alba usta*, to direct the flatus downwards, as in hyfteric cases\*; in the latter nothing succeeds, and all medicine can attempt is to give carminatives and cardiacs.

### *Comatose Symptoms,*

If not produced by narcotics, are the immediate forerunners of the patient's dissolution.

The palliative plans, to alleviate symptoms, are only to be considered general, their specific and individual application is to depend on the skill of the prescriber. They are collected from my own long observation, and are the language of experience; but a consideration of all contra-indications is earnestly recommended.

A preparation of the *terra ponderosa* has been lately extolled as an excellent remedy for cancerous and scrophulous swellings. I shall try its effects, and shall be happy if it should succeed better than the plan I have recommended.

\* See hyfteric complaints in my Treatise on female and nervous Diseases, Convulsions, Apoplexy, Palsy, &c.



*On Pretenders to Secrets in the Cure of Cancers, &c.*

Pretenders to cure the cancer have appeared in every age : they swarm to all great cities, or generate in succession ; for no sooner does one pretender disappear, than another supplies his place with the introduction of some surprising secret and mysterious novelty. Three species of pretenders may be observed. The first are arch, daring intruders, capable of all sorts of tricks and deception, who, perceiving some predecessor in iniquity has acquired pecuniary advantages from lavish and unskilful promises, which cost nothing but the sacrifice of integrity and honesty, boldly pursue a similar line of atrocious conduct : they always find weak credulous people on whom they can impose and raise contributions with impunity. A second sort are those who, having seen a few milky or other accidental disorders of the breasts cured, while some particular applications or remedies were used, conclude the success owing to the medicines last prescribed ; in which, for want of true reasoning, they are often deceived. From the cure of cases, quite dissimilar to cancerous complaints, have some practitioners erected themselves into a great, though temporary, reputation for curing cancers. First they have de-



ceived themselves, through not knowing the differences or stages of diseases with precision : then they zealously obtrude their chimerical notions on others ; sometimes indeed designedly ; in other instances through error or infatuation. The third species of deluders are quite different from the former two : these are good intentioned persons, who have great and implicit faith in their own crude conceits, or in some family nostrum ; for a plaster, poultices, or diet drink, of *secret composition*, according to these believers, infallibly cure the cancer. Milky breasts, or contusions, perhaps, have amended while the nostrum was applied : hence great encomiums on many inefficacious and useless medicines ; hence a variety of superstitious remedies for the cancer. These people, not knowing the power of remedies, nor the obstinate resisting nature of cancers, differences of tumors in the breasts, nor whether they be truly cancerous or not, confidently and erroneously proclaim cures that were never performed, introduce insignificant or injurious compositions, and prevent the most rational rules in the art from being adopted : thus patients fall victims to their own unthinking credulity ; thus the only time in which judicious medicine might prove beneficial is unfortunately lost in superstitious expectation, or blind error.



The history of medicine abounds with instances of various deceptions of pretenders to the cure of cancers by *secret* methods. Though the very appearance of mystery ought to awaken suspicion, though the boldness of the deluders, the rashness of their boastings, their interested views, their complaints of being persecuted by the regular faculty, or their confident assertions that some eminent man or other has offered a large sum for their secret or nostrum, should induce mankind to be on their guard, yet cancerous patients, otherwise with good understandings, become the most egregious dupes to the various snares and artifices of low cunning and unskilfulness.

Other patients apply to these pretenders, who have some little hardness or swelling in the breast, from cold, accident, or other cause: if a case or two of this sort be cured, they are magnified into the name of *terrible cancers*; the exaggerated circumstances are published by every stratagem artifice can suggest; persons laboring under real cancerous complaints are ferrited out, the history related, the person supposed to be cured produced, the appearance of something like a fact has weight, and the delusion succeeds.

If any medical man of strict honor and learning in the profession should examine the  
subject



subject with candor, discover the deception, and pronounce a report strictly conformable to truth, it has little weight ; for when truth does not flatter unreasonable expectations, it is coolly received. In cancerous cases, patients, and often their relations, eagerly embrace, and vehemently protect, those who deceive them most ; the reason of which is obvious.

Physicians or surgeons of probity, on being consulted in cancerous cases, well knowing the difficulty the art has to surmount in curing some, and the absolute impossibility of curing others, are cautious in promising : an honest, skilful, and experienced man cannot promise success in these cases. The observations of the most learned practitioners for above two thousand years, the observations and communications of cotemporaries, and his own practice, if extensive, obliges him, as a man deserving the public confidence, to declare honorably his sentiments, and what he has treasured up by repeated experience ; the unpleasing truth being delivered, it may not be so favorable as the patient or affectionate friends expect. To a humane practitioner nothing can be more ungrateful to the feelings than to pronounce a foresight of painful future evils, and the impossibility of averting them ; but no just nor sensible man will, for the sake of a temporary present



present advantage, risk his future reputation by acting with duplicity or falsehood.

It is a great happiness to even palliate and mitigate evils when no radical cure can rationally be expected: this judicious medicine may effect many years, even in several cancerous diseases.

The ascendancy which pretenders to the cure of the cancer acquire is obtained by two means — dependent on the patient's hope and fear. The cautious promises of the regular practitioners, and the prudent reserve they commonly observe, do not give that comfort nor happiness which the confident and rash boastings of empiricism inspire. The man who pretends to a *secret* has every advantage — people love the marvellous, and believe most what they understand least. He promises a cure boldly, leads the patient by artifices into an entire faith in his flattering pretensions, uses menaces or soothing according to circumstances: sometimes he will alarm the patient with a threat to relinquish his attendance if she dares to shew the state of the breast, remove his dressings, or consult any other person; at others he will be all obsequiousness, humanity, gentleness, and daily affirm the case is getting better, even to the last moment of the patient's life. If any untoward symptoms appear, he



will assume a grave face, and attribute it to some irregularity in the patient, the winds, or weather: if the symptoms are mitigated, then his *secret* remedies are lavishly praised, as producing these temporary good effects. In this manner, exciting alternately hope and fear, preventing the patient from consulting men of character by various stratagems and deep-laid artifices, have I seen several valuable lives sacrificed at the shrine of ignorance, impudence, and imposture.

Neither reasoning nor medical skill, however cultivated, neither probity nor the most excellent advice, neither detection nor exposure of the delusion, will avail: the infatuation of an expected cure, and the lying reports of the disease being daily better, operate against all reflection, reason, or common sense: every expression of doubt is considered envious and inimical to the operator; every proposal to examine the case is opposed by the artifices of the deluder; every flattering falsehood is received with eagerness and rapture. Nothing but the lingering and miserable death of the unfortunate patient can convince the friends of their error: it is then, and then only, that affectionate relations discover themselves to have been accessory to the destruction of a deceased friend; it is then they perceive that their ill-timed,



timed, though well-intentioned, officiousness has been productive of inexpressible calamity.

This description of the arts of seduction, practised by pretenders to the cure of cancers, and the easy, unthinking confidence of the seduced, are founded in a number of facts which have fallen under my own immediate observation in a full practice of thirty years; they likewise correspond exactly with the observations of many other practitioners in the medical profession, both ancient and modern.

The detection of ignorance, or artful pretensions to the cure of cancerous diseases by *secrets*, is not difficult to those who are perfectly acquainted with the present improved state of medical science. Impostors can only pass for men of skill amongst persons of no learning or experience in the art of medicine. If the following or similar interrogatories were proposed to the daring intruders of deception, their answers would at once detect their skill: their silence, or a predetermination not to open any part of the intended operations of their assumed discoveries, or, in short, any appearance of mystery, ought to awaken suspicion, and suspicion would prevent delusion.

1. What is the definition of a cancer, either occult or manifest, as they have been called?

2. At what periods of life do cancers appear,

L

and



and in what consists the difference between the tumors arising from inflammation, milk, blows, cancerous disposition, &c.?

3. What is the anatomical structure of the breasts, and, according to various causes and symptoms, what part of the structure of the breast is diseased?

4. Whether the case be curable, doubtful, tedious, or incurable, with the anatomical, physiological, or experimental reasons from past observation?

5. On what grounds or principles is the case curable, by resolution, suppuration, removal of tumor, ulcer, &c.?

6. Are all the parts so deeply affected as to preclude all hopes of resolution or not?

7. What are the consequences if the tumor be not resolvable?

8. Is the disorder likely to remain in the same state for years, or is there a probability of tumor or tumors, ulcer or ulcers, increasing?

9. Whether the tumor is likely to enlarge from fluids being brought by the arteries, and not absorbed or returned by the sanguiferous veins, lymphatics, &c., or from what other rational causes?

10. Whether the tumor is likely to become ulcerous soon, or at some distant period, and



whether it will be mild, or very corrosive, fetid, and destructive to the parts ?

11. Whether, according to the common received principles of surgery, and the observations of honest writers, ancient and modern, the swelling or diseased parts should be cut out, and what are the probable consequences ?

12. What are the principal objections to operating on the breasts, and by what scientific means can it be discovered that the cancerous acrimony has contaminated the fluids or glandular structure in other parts of the body ?

13. Whether, amidst the many symptoms which accompany cancerous complaints, a complete skill in the science and use of medicine is not necessary ; and whether the internal treatment of hectic fever, nervous affections, vomitings, purgings, colliquative perspirations, and a variety of other symptoms, should be attempted by any person ignorant or but little acquainted with diseases, the power of medicines, &c., wherein the most consummate skill is required ?

14. Is it rational to suppose that any external applications can remedy the evils attendant on cancerous cases, when it is plain the disease is not local, but diffused frequently through the whole lymphatic system ; and whether in such cases a skilful physician is not necessary, not



only to judge of the probable consequences of external applications, whether deterfive, repellent, emollient, suppurative, caustic, &c., but likewise to direct judiciously the internal treatment ?

15. Whether it be not impossible for any physician of probity to determine on the operation of secrets, but by their salutary or injurious effects ; in which latter case is it not often too late to remedy the mischief by the most skilful advice ?

To what purpose, it might be asked, have these objections been advanced against cutting out the scirrhus or hardness ; to the application of arsenical and other caustics to draw out the core, as it is vulgarly called ; and to the fallacious pretensions of secret remedies ? The answer is, to prevent, if possible, future mischief, future delusion.

An examination of the hospital practice in *London, Paris, Lyons, Rome, Venice, Germany, &c.*, have furnished me with the most indisputable facts of the cruelty and often inutility of cutting out the scirrhus. In London I have been consulted in many hundred cases. There has been no surgeon of eminence for these last thirty years in this metropolis whose operations on the breast, in the true cancer, have not, to my own knowledge, failed. In some few instances the disorder,



disorder, for a few months, or a year or two, has lain dormant, then it has broken out with redoubled violence; ulcerations and destructions of parts have succeeded each other until the whole side of the thorax has become one continued, though uneven, fetid, corrosive ulcer; the corrosion of the cancer has destroyed all the softer parts, and in some instances the ribs themselves have been laid bare; hectic fever, vomitings, purging, from absorption and breathing in putrid exhalations, excruciating tortures long continued, until the exhausted patient, sinking under such a complicated train of misery, becomes sleepy, and expires. Surgeons, who have unsuccessfully operated, are seldom consulted when the disease returns; therefore often think the cure is compleated, though it relapses.

This has happened in younger and older subjects, where the operation has been performed, or caustic matter applied, in cases that seemed favorable for the knife, in others unfavorable: such is the doubtfulness of the operation. If examples were necessary, I could produce several that must strike the most obdurate heart with horror, and convince surgeons how cautiously they should undertake the amputation of the scirrhus or cancerous breast, lest they add to human misery, what might, by a milder treatment, be avoided.



As to hemlock curing the cancer, I deny it from the most positive proofs, and from the truest intelligence I could obtain at *Vienna* and most other hospitals in Europe.

From all which I infer, that cancerous complaints, happening after the cessation of the menses, unless recent and judiciously treated with alteratives and neutral saline remedies, are very doubtful of cure, and often degenerate into the manifest cancerous ulcer.

The *first stage* of the disorder, in which the vessels are only distended, is sometimes curable, but not always.

The *second stage*, in which the sanguiferous vessels and lymphatics are affected, the cure is more tedious and difficult, if even curable; but by proper management the disorder may be prevented sometimes from increasing.

The *third stage*, in which the sanguiferous vessels, lymphatics, lactiferous tubes, and the oleaginous particles or adeps are coagulated in the cells of the cellular structure of the breast, and have become one confused hard mass, no cure by resolution, cutting, or caustic, can be rationally expected; for though symptoms are frequently mitigated, yet this stage always terminates in death.

The *fourth stage*, in which the third stage breaks forth into an open cancerous ulcer, in  
some



some cases, by skilful management, the patient may live many years; but they are oftener destroyed by rashness and violent remedies: in other instances no art whatever avails, and the ulcer continually increasing, the patient most commonly dies either in extreme hot or cold weather.

On reflecting on the whole of the circumstances attending tumors of the breast, whether cancerous or not, the subsequent advice is the result.

I. In all tumors of the breast, if a long-continued course of mineral alteratives for a year or two, and the external applications already recommended, should not avail, it is best to remain quiet, observing a proper regimen, and occasionally taking some neutral salts, gentle laxatives, &c. By these means the cancerous complaint has been tolerable many years; on the contrary, when the disorder has been disturbed by the impatience of the patient or friends, the symptoms have *increased rapidly, and ended fatally.*

II. All operations, except in very urgent cases, should be avoided.

III. In the ulcerated stage it is always most judicious to use the mildest applications, and observe great cleanliness. This often requires the skilful management of the surgeon. I have  
known



known instances of persons living many years with cancerous ulcers, when treated mildly ; but I have never seen an instance wherein violent methods were adopted that the disease did not rapidly increase, and soon terminate in the destruction of the patient.

I have here communicated, without reserve, the result of much reflection and anatomical inquiry, and have delivered conclusions from a multitude of facts and long experience in practice. It were to be wished that the history of the cancerous tumors or ulcers were more favorable ; but it is necessary to deliver the positive truth, especially in cases wherein there has appeared so much imposition and delusion. It is hoped that other practitioners will avail themselves, as some have, of these and former hints, and improve the treatment. A consciousness alone of performing the duties of the profession, in wresting cancerous patients from the hands of cruel and superficial empirics, can alone induce regular practitioners to sedulously attend these deplorable diseases, and afford those comforts which science and reason may recommend.

THE END.



On CANCEROUS AFFECTIONS of various  
Parts,

PARTICULARLY OF THE

EYELIDS,	MOUTH,
EAR,	FAUCES,
NOSE,	TONGUE,
LIPS,	AXILLA,
GUMS,	GROINS, AND
TONSIL GLANDS,	EXTERNAL GENITAL PARTS:

---

THE common and received definition of cancers, in most authors, is very erroneous. *Home*, in his *Principia Medicinæ*, imitating others, says, *Quando scirrhus degenerat in tumorem inequalem, lividam, lancinantem cum vasis circumcirca varicosis, carcinoma vel cancer appellatur.* To this definition, or a similar description, have all the ancients and moderns agreed, as may be seen by consulting their works. Any experienced surgeon or physician, who had observed a number of cancerous affections, would immediately exclaim, there are many cancer-tending scirrhus tumors and cancerous ulcers, without inequality or lividness, without surrounding vari-



*vous vessels*; therefore the received definition is fallacious. The disorder is well known by the experienced from its appearance, situation, malignant tendency, and, if ulcerated, by its peculiar fetid smell, which cannot be defined, as likewise by its slow corroding effects, not always attended with pain, though sometimes insufferable and excruciating: therefore I should define a scirrhus, painful tumor of the lymphatic or glandular system, which does not suppurate like an abscess, but continues long, and at last degenerates into a very *fetid, corroding* ulcer, destroying the tumor itself, and sometimes the adjacent parts, to be a cancerous ulcer; numbers of which are never attended with varicous veins, unequal surfaces, nor a livid color.

There are three *genera* of cancerous affections of other parts: the first, *cancer-tending* tubercles, or smooth callosities; the second, scirrhus tumors of the glands; and the third, corroding cancerous ulcers; the *species* of which, with regard to size, extension, figure, color, or malignity, are numerous.

*Tubercles* and cancer-tending callosities appear in many parts: in the eyelids, nose, lobes of the ears, cheeks, upper and under lips; on the tongue and internal parts of the mouth, gums, palate, axilla, genitals, about the *rectum*, &c.

*Tubercles*



*Tubercles* are hard small swellings rising above the skin, about the size of pease, of different colors according as the parts affected are more or less vascular; from which cause they appear pale, or approaching to a red or purple color.

Callosities are hardnesses of the adeps immediately under the skin, from the coagulation of the adeps or coagulable lymph, and have frequently smooth equal surfaces.

They are nominated warts, excrescences, indurations, small carbuncles, &c., and often appear the forerunners of cancerous ulcers in acrimonious or cacochymical habits: they are to be distinguished from those excrescences or tumors which appear early in life, and continue unto death without malignity or any bad effects.

The tubercles that have a cancerous tendency seldom appear early in life, but gradually arise without any previous manifest cause; sometimes they are painful, in other instances not; but by bad management they have rapidly degenerated into cancerous ulcers, become painful, and have ended fatally. This has happened in the nose and many other parts.

The *cure* of the tubercles requires two methods of treatment.

The *mildest* treatment is attempting their resolution by fomentations, resolving applications,



a dry diet, and mineral alteratives, given at proper distances of time.

The *radical* treatment is the removal of the tubercle or tubercles by applying the *fuming pure nitrous acid*.

The *resolution* may be attempted, when they be recent, by fomenting the parts with a weak solution of *crude sal. armoniac* and *fumigations of cinnabar*, and by *bleeding*. *Purging* and *anti-phlogistic remedies* are likewise useful, mineral alteratives, &c.

If these remedies should not succeed in removing the tubercles, and there be reason to conclude them of a malignant, cancerous tendency, the destruction of the tubercle or tubercles is the most effectual method of preventing the cancer and all its terrible ravages ; for if neglected, when recent, they sometimes destroy the nose, the whole face, throat, scrotum and testicles, perinæum, vagina, or rectum, according to the part they fix on, not in a few days, but after many years dreadful torments.

The common caustics, and even the arsenical preparation of *Plunket*, are too apt to aggravate the disorder, though, in some few instances, they have succeeded. Extirpation by the knife seldom eradicates the cancer-tending tumor or callosity : the seeds of the disease, I



am certain, are in the constitution, not local, as some have imagined. Without removing causes, effects will not cease: hence the necessity of internal correctors of the acrimony. Mercury alone aggravates the disease; but joined with antimonial sulphurs is useful.

*The Cure of the Tubercles by the fuming nitrous Acid.*

Dip the point of a pen, or lint twisted round a wooden skewer, into the *fuming nitrous acid*, and make a *mark* all round the basis of the tubercle, so as to circumscribe the whole induration.

This operation is to be repeated every or every other day until a separation of the sound from the diseased part be evident.

This mode of treatment was my invention: it is attended with little or no pain, and is often successful.

Care must be taken not to suffer the *effects* of the *acid spirit* to extend beyond the limits of the small tumor or tubercles, which is easily effected by immediately and repeatedly drying the part touched with lint.

In this manner I have sometimes safely removed tubercles, callosities, and scirrhus tumors, of a cancerous tendency, in the

Breasts,

Eyelids,

Cheeks,

Nose,



Nose,  
Lips,  
Mouth,  
Genital parts,  
About the rectum, &c.

After the tubercle or tubercles are entirely destroyed, which must be done gradually, the ulcerated part may be dressed with the precipitate digestive, or any other, and washed before each dressing with a solution of the corrosive sublimate.

When the little ulceration formed by the eschar is cleansed or deterged, the cure may be finished by common dressings, whilst *mineral alteratives* should be given internally according to circumstances.

In scirrhus, cancer-tending tumors of the tonsil glands, gums, &c., all other methods should be first tried; but if danger of suffocation arise, the tonsil glands, if impossible to extirpate with the ligature, as when the base and upper surface are equal in extension, then, to save life, it is justifiable to destroy the tumor with the *fuming spirit of nitre*, by touching the part, and immediately absorbing the fluid on the part touched by dry lint on a skewer, lest the corrosive should injure any of the adjacent parts of the fauces, &c.; in which operations the most exquisite judgment, steadiness, and caution, should be employed.



*On the Tubercles or Indurations becoming cancerous  
Ulcers.*

When the tubercles have been neglected or improperly treated, they may become cancerous ulcers.

A cancerous ulcer gradually increases in size by its corrosive acrimony, slower than other ulcers, but more certainly destructive in its consequences.

It differs from all other ulcers, because it is more fetid, and attacks glandular or very vascular parts, as the lips, cheeks, &c., and is commonly, though not always, preceded by indurations or tubercles.

*Prognostic.*

All these ulcers, whether in the

Eyelids,

Nose,

Lips,

Gums,

Tonfil glands,

Tongue,

Axilla,

Groins,

Genital parts,

Rectum,

Anus, &c.

are very difficult and tedious of cure; but many  
instances



instances have yielded to the remedies hereafter recommended.

*The Mode of Treatment.*

The callous edges of the ulcer must be removed by the nitrous acid.

The ulcers may be cleansed by the use of cinnabarine fumigations once a day, solutions of *mercurius corrosivus sublimatus*, and camphor. The precipitate digestive, if not in the mouth.

Internally, all the metallic alteratives and saline medicines recommended in the cure of ulcers of the legs and other parts, cancers of the breasts, womb, &c., are particularly useful, when given at proper distances, in removing the cancerous acrimony, if mildly and judiciously administered, according to the magnitude of the disorder, the strength, age, sex, peculiarities of each patient, climate, seasons of the year, rational indications, and contra-indications. Without the knowledge and just application of remedies, and implicit obedience in patients, medicine in cancerous and many other disorders, instead of being efficacious, may frequently become injurious\*.

\* Whoever would wish for more information concerning a bad habit of body being the cause of various ulcers, as likewise the cause of their continuance, with various modes of removing scorbutic and other acrimony, may consult the *Treatise on ulcerated Legs*, 4th edition.



Though the foregoing Treatise freely animadverts, and even censures many dangerous, cruel, superstitious, and ignorant methods of treating cancerous affections, yet, in order to exhibit to view what hath been attempted in these truly melancholy complaints, the subsequent extracts, from the principal ancient and modern authors, have been selected. The learned reader will perceive that the modes of treatment I have adopted and communicated are new; and if they snatch now and then an unfortunate victim from death, or even palliate the symptoms of the incurable, it will not only requite the author for his unremitting researches, but perhaps point out the paths to other abler practitioners, and promote a spirit of emulation for the accomplishing future improvements.

[This part has been printed in a smaller letter, that the size of the Treatise, &c., should not be swelled beyond its present limitations.]

*Celsus de Medicina, l. v. cap. 28. p. 317.*

*De Carcinomate.*

Non idem periculum carcinoma affert, uti carbunculus, nisi imprudentia curantis agitatū est.

Carcinomata curationibus irritantur.

Quidam ferro adusserunt: quidam scalpello exciderunt.

Neque ulli unquam medicina profluit: sed adusta protinus concitata sunt & increverunt, donec occiderent.

Excisa etiam post inductam cicatricem, tamen reverterunt, & causam mortis attulerunt.

Cum interim plerique nullam vim adhibendo, qua tollere id malum tentent; sed imponendo tantum lenia medicamenta, quæ quasi blandiantur, quo minus ad ultimam senectutem perveniant, non prohibeantur.



Discernere autem cacoethes, quod curationem recipit, nemo scire potest, nisi tempore, & experimento.

Ergo ubi primum id vitium notatum est, imponi debent medicamenta adurentia.

Si levatur malum minuunturque ejus indicia, procedere curatio potest & ad scalpellum & ad ustionem.

Si protinus irritatum est, scire licet, jam carcinoma esse; removendaque sunt omnia acria, omnia vehementia.

*Gorræus, Definit. 291.*

*Καρκίνος*, cancer est tumor malignus aspectu teter.

Tumor iste & prominet & tactui renititur, atque ubi semel radices egerit, difficillime avelli tollique potest.

Est enim malignus, ferus, protervus, & quem curatio manuumque vel blandissima tractatio efferare potius quam mitigare solet.

*Gordonii lilium Medicinæ de Cancro.*

Cancer a principio difficilis cognitionis est valde.

Cancer autem est recens & tunc est curabilis, aut est antiquus, qui non curatur. Est etiam aut exterius apparens & tunc curatur: aut interius ubi non curatur.

*Pareus, ex Uffenbachii, collect. 162.*

Scirrhus illegitimus, indolens omnino & insensibilis, itemque canerosus nullam admittit curationem: verus autem & legitimus vix ullam.

Efferatur cancer alimentis sanguinem inflammantibus, animi perturbationibus, vix, æstu & acrioribus medicamentis oleosis & emplastricis, nec jure nec loco appositis.

Omnis cancer censetur ferme incurabilis, vel curatu valde contumax: est enim morbo toto genere malignus.

Ne efferentur aut serpent longius lenibus remediis & cura, quam palliativum dicunt, erit procurandum, sic enim multi cancro laborantes ad extremam usque senectutem pervenerunt.

Incipiens cancer sæpe incrementis prohibetur; ubi vero semel



mel increverit, nisi ferro curationem non admittit, ut qui malignitate & contumacia sua medicamentorum omnium vires aspernetur.

Cancer ulceratus est ulceris genus malignum, rebelle, intractabile, ut qui mitia medicamenta aspernetur, acribus autem & fortibus amplius efferatur.

*Pareus*, l. xxiii. cap. 41. de uteri procidentia — uteri putridi excisio. Si præscriptis remediis restitui nequeat uterus, & ulceratus computruerit, jubemur veterum præscripto illum amputare.

Visæ sunt permultæ mulieres, quibus totus ferme uterus excissus fuerat, nullo vitæ dispendio, quemadmodum testatur *Paulus*.

*Joh. Langius* scribit, Ep. Med. l. ii. ep. 39. se præsentē chirurgum carpum mulieri Bononiensi uterum extirpasse ipsa superstite & incolumi.

A° 1573. Procidentia ab antimonio hausto.

A° 1573. Vocatus *Pareus*, *Guillemeau*, & *De Vieux*, communi consilio censuimus, id quod prociderat, extirpandum esse: per duos dies sine dolore corpus extraximus, quod a 4 medicis & nobis uteri corpus esse visum est.

Cujus rei fidem fecere unus ex testiculis, qui integer extractus est, crassior item membrana, reliqua ex mola, quæ suppurata rupto abscessu sensim diffluxerat, &c.

Totum trimestre sana & egregie incolumis mulier supervixit, donec suborta repente pleuritide interiit.

Dissectæ a me & sedulo singula exquirenti nusquam comparuit uterus sed ejus loco callosum quoddam corpus, quod natura, quæ nunquam in nobis otiaur, jacturam ejus partis quasi reparatura, vel lacunam potius alvi repletura, substituerat.

*Tagaultius in Institutionibus Chirurgicis de Tumore præternaturam.*

*Cancer*, seu *carcinoma*, a toto genere est morbus gravis & perniciosus. Vix enim unquam propter succi crassitiem con-



fanescit, utpote quod nec repelli nec discuti queat, nec totius corporis purgationi cedat.

Sed & tanta ejus est malignitas, ut mitiora plane contemnat remedia, vehementioribus vero, veluti carbo irritetur, excandescatque atque efferatur.

Cæterum ex cancro non ulcerato non raro fit ulceratus, putrescente scilicet spatio tempores humore, in vasis delitescente, vel irritato a medicamentis inconsulte admotis affectu

Hunc autem exulceratum cancerum pessimum esse judicant omnes & veræ curationi prorsus ineptum: hic enim ad perfectam atque absolutam sui curationem mordentia, aspera atque vehementia desideraret medicamenta.

Atqui ut diximus talibus magis irritatur, efferaturque, tantum abest, ut sub iis mitescat vel consenescat.

Proinde satis fuerit si canculos non ulceratos prohibeamus augeri, a perfecta quidem curatione manum jubtrahentes.

*Tagaultius* 811, inter remedia recenset arsenicum sublimatum ut præstantissimum ac tutissimum auxilium in hoc affectu a *Guidone de Cauliaco* usitatum.

*Platerus*, in *Praxi*, l. ii. 567.

De cancro uteri; per podicem erumpisse, in vesicam & abdomen pervenisse.

Totum uterum computruisse & exemptum fuisse, cognovimus.

Uso medicamentorum acrium, uteri cervix erodi vel exulcerari: sicuti sinistro horum usu cervicem uteri ulceratam, tandem computruisse penitus, supervivente nihilominus diu postea adhuc muliere observavimus.

In gravidis foetus mortuus putrescens retentus, uterum inficit, corrumpitque, sicuti hoc in duabus mulieribus factum spectavimus.

Fœtum cum involucris & utero vicinoque peritonæo corruptis penitus, sectione in abdomine facta exemptum fuisse, quod in una vivâ adhuc & diu postea superstita manente fieri vidimus, & ex alia mortua nos ipsi hoc modo exemimus.



Cancer uteri cervicis, quia ab initio dolorem aut impedimentum non magnum affert, aut quia non cognoscitur cum negligatur, plerumque adauctus & confirmatus curari amplius nequit, neque in eo loco abdito commode aut sine periculo amputari potest.

Uterus exulceratus tandem, lethalis plerumque fit.

Ne tamen augeatur cura palliativa adhibetur.

Revulsiones per venæsectionem in poplite, purgatione convenienti, vires restaurantibus, topicis siccantibus, digerentibus, &c.

Ulceræ in uteri sinu & pudendo omnia perversa ob loci teneritatem & humiditatem sunt: adeo ut levis excoariatio, diligentiam ut fanetur, requirat.

Deteriora adhuc sunt depascentia & phagedænica, quæ si diu perseveraverint & profundas radices egerint, spatiumque amplum occupaverint, incurabilia fere sunt, uti & carcinomata, quæ mortem plerumque veluti & alia, corruptionem afferunt, quæ aliquando totum uterum depopulantur.

Exempla contagii se vidisse.

Prognostica in genere, si primum inceperit & adhuc exiguus sit, nec negligatur, ipsius incrementum difficulter impediri, si adauctus sit, ægerrime, & si ad summum pervenerit, nunquam curari posse, & si exulceratus sit, eum, nisi possit integer funditus extirpari, etsi longo tempore perdurare possit lethalem esse.

*Fernelius, Pathol. 420.*

Uteri affectus sunt, phlegmone, abscessus, ulcus, scirrhus, cancer, mola, inflatio, hydrops, calculus; in cervice rhagades, condylomata, hæmorrhoides, &c.

Nomæ, carcinomata cæteris ulceribus foetidiores, sordidiores, acerbioresque.

Exulceratum carcinoma, nomis malignius est.

Cancer benignus, nisi irritatus, diu citra perniciem consistit.

Malignus coerceri vix potest, quin fiat cancer exulceratus, nisi malignitate ocyus interimat, longe lateque proripit.

*N. Piso,*



*N. Pifo, de Morbis cognoscendis & curandis, cap. 59. p. 840,*  
de scirrho & cancro uteri dicit carcinoma uteri incurabile esse.

*Fabricius Hildanus, observ. Galenus* canceri curandi rationem duplicem statuit, quarum prima perficitur medicamentis, humores atrabiliares expurgantibus.

Altera consistit in extirpatione tumoris.

Quantum attinet ad primum, nisi statim ab initio administrata fuerit, parum aut nihil ad sanitatem posse, certum est: quaudoquidem jam materia ita compacta atque indurata est, ut medicamentis purgantibus non cedat.

Altera via a *Galeno* præscripta, est extirpatio tumores: hanc nonnulli ferro candente, alii, medicamentis erodentibus, reliqui cultro incisorio perficiunt.

Cancer exulceratus adversus quem medicamentis frustra pugnatur.

Ulcus cancrosum perquam malignum & immedicabile, assiduo erodens imas partes affectas, nec sisti potest.

In consilio suo ad cancerum oculi, bene notat: quoad resolutiva, cum tumor sit durissimus, credibile est nullo resolutum iri medicamento, nisi prius emolliatur. At vero præterquam quod hujusmodi prædura materia, tamdiu, (quindecim videlicet annis) congesta emolliri nequit periculum est ne ex isto emollientium usu tumor subito contrahat summam malitiam.

Erodentia mihi perquam periculosa censentur. Nam cum prominens hic tumor durissimus sit, credibile est benigna medicamenta irrita futura. quin potius ~~et~~ summa durities adest, sic vehemens requiritur medicatio, quæ vi septiorum & escharoticorum fieri solet.

At vero ut lenibus non afficitur cancer, sævissimum malum, sic irritatur & ingravescit vel tantillum acribus & vellicantibus ut ante expertus est æger.

*Riverius, Prax. Med. l. xv. 247.*

De prognosi hoc tantum pronuntiare licet, cancerum esse incurabilem, siue ulceratas, siue non ulceratus sit. Quod quidem



dem ut de omni cancro etiam partes externas obfidente verum est ; sic potiori jure de eo qui uterum occupat sentiendum est, ob continuam superfluitatum illuviem quæ ad eam partem decurrit.

Cum igitur curatio integra sperabilis non fit, ad alteram quæ palliativa dicitur, confugiendum est.

Eaque eo dirigenda, ut cancri non ulcerati ulceratio prohibeatur, & ne ulceratus majus incrementum fuscipiat : & in utroque doloris atrocitas temperetur.

Quod fiet ad immanissimos dolores placandos, cogimur ad narcotica recurrere.

*Ettmuller.*

Cancer est tumor plane singularis ac omnino sui generis.

Opera danda est ne exulceretur cancer, postquam enim cutis disrupta fuerit, certo certius hominem miserrime interimit.

Per acrimoniam humoris causticam, vasa nervosa & sanguifera destruendo & erodendo, unde ichoris copiosa effusio cum vitæ fere dispendio, hæmorrhagiæ frequentes & profusæ plerumque agmen claudunt & mortem optatam accelerant.

Cancer exulceratus vix ac ne vix quidem curatur.

*Dionis, Operat. de Chirurgie des Descendentes & Chutes.*

L'extirpation de la matrice est, trop hazardeuse, & la croit mortelle.

Il y a des auteurs, qui assurent d'avoir vu des femmes, qui en ont guéri.

M. Morand, a conseillé la ligature.

Le cancer est le plus horrible de tous les maux, qui mène surement mais lentement au tombeau.

Il n'y a point de maladie plus affligeante au malade : il n'y a point aussi, qui fatigue plus le chirurgien & qui lui donne plus de peine, parceque ce mal est presque toujours incurable.

De tels maux, il n'en faut attendre, que la mort.

La mere de Louis XIV. Roi de France, avoit un cancer à la mammelle, tous les chirurgiens & medecins etoient encouragés d'offrir des secours, mais sans aucun succès.



Il donne le precis des trois medecins de la Reine, leurs sentimens & le traitement.

Ces medecins estoient M. *Gendron*, *Alliot*, *Helvetius*, chacun publia une essay sur cette maladie:

*Barbette.*

A sphacelus of the womb is incurable; for what the ancients relate concerning the extirpation of the womb, to wit, that it may be taken out without great danger, is to be reckoned among their errors.

The extended tunicae vaginæ may be taken away.

*Wiseman's Surgery.*

A scirrhus cancer, by ill handling or increase of acrimony, frequently terminates in raging cancers, and torments the patient with exquisite darting pains.

Of all diseases which afflict mankind, the cancer is the most grievous and rebellious, and is generally incurable, by reason of its corrosive and malign venom fermenting in the humors, which, so far as we can yet find, yields neither to purging, bleeding, repellents, discutients, suppuratives, or any other medicine inward or outward.

A cancerous breast, from internal causes, should never be cut off.

After having given eighteen cases of operations, he finishes his treatise with a very sensible remark—"These unsuccessful attempts may render us extreme cruel to those who feel not the misery these poor creatures suffer with cancers in their mouths;" whereof he makes a most pathetic and very melancholy description, and concludes thus—"What I have attempted of this kind has been at the earnest request of the patients and their friends, and by the authority of a consultation of eminent physicians and surgeons. That the cure succeeded not must be imputed to the greatness of the disease, and may teach others how dangerous it is to neglect the consulting the experienced surgeon while the disease is recent and easy to be eradicated."

*F. Hoff-*



*F. Hoffman, Med. Rat.*

Cancer exulceratus cum tam facile perimat, causa eo potentior ad nocendum est, quo subtilioris indolis & majoris molis.

Est insanabilis.

*Boerhaave.*

Contusio quæ in cute nullius momenti esset, in glandula conglomerata scirrhum pessimum producere.

Cancrum difficillime curari in fœmina melancolica.

*Chefelden.*

It is a matter of dispute among some surgeons whether cancerous tumors should ever be extirpated or not, though it is certain none of these were ever cured without, and there have been many extirpated.

After having given an account of an operation, he says, " Some time after amputation, the wound looking fordid, a surgeon sprinkled the wound with red precipitate, which put the patient in a high salivation; upon which the breast grew clean and healed, the patient recovered, and, contrary to all expectation, lived many years in good health.

" From this accident I learnt the usefulness of salivating after extirpating cancerous tumors, though nothing is more hurtful before."

This practice I know to be very hazardous.

*Turner*, in his Surgery, calls it the most dreadful of all diseases.

This disease is the most deplorable of all others, and the true *opprobrium chirurgorum*.

Being once come to break its coverings, the skin or other membranes investing, it sooner dispatches the miserable patient, not only by its furious acrimony devouring and preying on the flesh in some places, whilst it spews out *fungi*, like the heads of *cauliflower*, in some others, and this with the utmost outrage to the spirits; but also from the vast gleet and hæmorrhage



rhage when it has eaten through the coats of the vessels, and having nearly exhausted the purple stream, in the midst of dismal groans, excruciating pains, intolerable stench, and putrefaction, the miserable creature finds release by death, which had been a long time wished for.

The best *prognostic* that can be made will be but very uncertain.

When the cancer is ulcerated, it is still worse than while it remains with the skin yet whole and sound; worse also in the mouth or throat, where the poor patient is often famished or starved to death, than in some other parts; worse where great quantities of the blood is daily expended, than where no such effusion has yet happened; though wherever it appears, and however complicate, we find it sufficient, sooner or later, according to age, habit, and way of management, to destroy the afflicted.

We should now hasten to the cure, if we knew of any the disease would admit.

We defy all *cancer quacks* to give one instance of a fixed or *true ulcerated cancer* that was ever cured by their management.

That all art (when it is arrived to any height) can do little more than *palliate*.

As for local medicaments, or external applications, where the cancer is not ulcerated, I have observed those people generally fare best who *meddle with none at all*; a simple inoffensive plaster in other cases, by constricting the pores, here only increase the heat and promote farther disturbance.

A crazy elderly woman, incommoded with a prolapsus uteri, under a fit of melancholy, drew down the prolapsed body and with the husband's razor she excised all within her reach. He hopes her cure may be accomplished.

Dr. Turner called this case *uteri cervicis abscissio*.



*Nenter, Fundam. Medicinae.*

## Prognosis.

1. Cancros occultos melius est non curare, curati enim citius intereunt, non curati per longius tempus perdurant. Hipp. aphor. l. vi. §. 38. exceptioni tamen locus adhuc est.

2. In primo statim principio facilius curantur, quam si per aliquod tempus perstitere, ubi rarissime curari solent.

3. Cancros exulceratos non nisi per sectionem, aut ustionem curare novit medicina vulgaris.

4. Dantur tamen selecta & appropriata remedia, quibus absque auxilio chirurgico uterque cancer tolli potest, sicuti nuper demum cancrum labiorum exulceratum in viro & mammarum in foemina sexagenaria sub nostra medicatione feliciter curatum gaudemus adhuc dum.

5. Non radicitus extirpatus facillime repullulat.

6. Contingit aliquando, etiamsi mamma affecta cancro radicitus extirpetur, altera eodem malo afficiatur, imprimis si a causa interna originem suam ducat.

7. Cancri, si subiecta ad eosdem recipiendos inveniunt, interdum sunt contagiosi.

8. Quo mitius tractantur, eo longius perdurant & minus torquent ægros.

9. Quo acriora remedia applicantur eo magis putredo & dolores augefcunt.

10. Etiamfi exquisitissima remedia præsto sint, mora tamen opus, donec malum extirpari possit.

11. Salivatio parum aut nihil.

Remedia laudat :

R<sub>x</sub>. Emetic. sine pari Kortholti, interne.

R<sub>x</sub>. Corrosivum liquidum Kortholti, ejusque balsamum vulnerarium.

*Heister, Chirurg. 677. de oris & labiorum Carcinomate.*

Ulcus cancrosum, vel depascens foetidum in labiis sæpe oritur sine tumore prævio : unde acris eademque pessimi odoris fa-



nies profluit, quæ non modo labium, sed universam quoque faciem miserum in modum erodit & plerumque labio inferiori infidet.

Nascitur miserabile hoc vitium nasci solet a *peculiari quadam sanguinis acrimonia*, quæ in spongiosis illis ac glandulosis partibus hæret atque inspissatur.

Oriuntur a morfu, ictu, punctura lapsu, contusione, fissura a gelido aere, Hiberno tempore, dente acuto odontalgia.

Medicamenta in pessimis his vitiis, parum & plerumque nihil proficiunt.

Ad proximas partes malum serpit denudat maxillas, erodit collum & pectus misere tandem strangulat hominem.

*Heisteri Comp. Practic. cap. xii. §. 27. 263.*

Ad obstructions ab humoribus viscidis merito referuntur glandularum tumores, scirrhi & tandem carcinomata sive cancrofi affectus, qui omnes ab obstructione vasorum & præsertim in glandulis ab humoribus crassis viscidis, tanquam causa propinqua suam originem ducunt; quibus vero in *cancrosis affectibus peculiaris & quasi venenata acrimonia rodens* cujus natura hætenus perspicui & curari nondum potuit accedit, quæ dolores rodentes sæpe vehementissimi & partium læsarum ac vicinarum erosiones sive ulcera concitantur.

Scirrhi medicamentis raro ac difficulter digeruntur & curantur.

Cancri vero vix unquam & rarissime.

Ubi in tempore partes vitiatæ exciduntur, aliqua salutis spes superesse videtur: præsertim si medicamentis simul convenientibus sanguis corruptus expurgatur ac emendatur: id quod tamen quam difficillime obtinetur.

Hinc fit ut vitium pristinum frequentissime, imo fere semper redeat.

Simulatque jam medicamenta reprimentia aut digerentia injiciuntur, quam celerrime malum increscit, usque adeo, ut ne vel integer quidem annus, qui sine medicina fuit, tantum doloris



loris ac tumoris incrementum adduxerit, quantum post adhibita medicamenta unicus mensis progignit.

Malum est pessimum.

In prognosi ita habet.

*Anna Austriaca, Ludovici XIV.* Galliarum regis mater, carcinoma in mamma contraxerat, omnes chirurgi excitati fuerunt, ut medicamentis eam sanarent; nihil tamen quidquam conamina ista omnia profecerunt.

Nullum adhuc dum ad inventum est medicamentum, a quo certam salutis spem petere liceat.

Cancro occulti satis diu sine graviore molestia a robustis & temperanter viventibus sustineri possunt.

Si irritantur illico pessima mala superveniunt.

Hoc malum vix ac ne vix quidem curationem recipere confirmant *Hippocrates, Celsus, Fabricius Hildanus*, alique nobilissimi medici.

Prolapsus tunicæ vaginæ, pro vera uteri procidentia falso habita, non nisi post mortem veritas inventa.

Permittit scarificationem in procidentia uteri, ligaturam funestam fuisse dicit.

Non utrum modo prolapsum sine vitæ periculo excisum quandoque esse, testibus Carpo & Paræo, l. xxiii. cap. 41.

Sed ipsas quoque mulieres istas utero licet destitutas & concipere, & in lucem edere fœtum aliquem potuisse, aliqui dixerunt.

De utero ablato negat Heisterus, concedit vero de vagina prolapsa ac ablata.

*Morgagni de Sedibus & Causis Morborum* iii. 44.

*J. B. Corresius* scite dixit:

Non sequi semper, quod morbus cognitus illico curetur, idque præcipue ratione malignitatis suæ, cancro potissimum exemplo usus, qui quamvis ab omnibus cognoscatur, nihilo minus raro curatur, & sane dicit ipse Morgagni, vix nonnunquam accidit, ut felix undique ea curatio sit.

Uterus



Uterus an faltem nonnunquam, falva, & quomodo muliere, excifus fit, pag. 484, conceditur, exemplo à Sandenio adducto, in Diff.

Qui affirmant funt *G. W. Wedelius*, in Diff. de procidentia uteri.

*Slevogtius*, in Diff. Sandenii de prolapsu uteri, quæ mulier feliciter fuit reftituta Jenæ. *Abr. Veterus*, Diff. de Sarcom. e pudendo muliebri.

*Molinettus*, in Diff. an. Path. “ De tutiffimam femper effe  
“ expertam & adhibuiffe pluries, dicit uteri amputandi ratio:  
“ nem in vetulis præfertim.”

Ad hæc verba bene monet *Morgagnus*, fufpicionem erroris augere videtur perpetua illa curationis felicitas.

De Uteri Sectione, vid. *Schenck*, obf. l. iv. fol. 712.

De Procidentia & ex Sectione non lethali *E. N. Cur.* Vol. I. obf. 80. pag. 152.

Uteri prolapsus verus ac inverfio negari non poteft, *Com. litt. Nor.* 1731. p. 312.

*Ant. Storck*, Archiater Viennenfis A° 1757, experimenta fecit cum *cicuta vulgari* ad fcirrhofos & cancrofos affectus, in libello fuo de cicuta plusquam viginti cafus felices adducit, & in capite iii. 103. hæc corollaria facit.

1. Ex fucco cicutæ lento igne inſpiffato parari remedium maxime innocuum, quod in omni temperamento, ætate ſexu, &c. ad ſatis magnam doſim poteſt exhiberi.

2. Hoc remedium nullam corporis actionem, ſecretionem aut excretionem turbat.

3. Agit modo inſenſibili nec alvum, nec vomitum, nec urinam, nec ſudorem movet.

4. Indurata & ſcirrhoſa in iis etiam caſibus reſolvit, ubi alia remedia maxime penetrantia nihil efficiunt. Eſt igitur remedium maxime reſolvens.

5. Quæ non reſolvit, ea plerumque ad benignam ſuppurationem redigit.

6. Cancro ponit limites.

7. Acre



7. Acre cancrosum emendat fœtorem dispellit.
8. Ichorem cancrosum in bonum pus convertit.
9. Sedat dolores.
10. Cancrum curat.
11. Ulcera alia insanabilia sanat.
12. Fistulas, sinus, ad omnia alia remedia rebelles claudit, consolidat.
13. Tumores œdematosos usu externo dissipat.
14. Visum, cataractâ nondum inveteratâ, demtum quandoque restituit.
15. Incipientes cataractas aut solvit aut earum progressum saltem impedit.
16. Phthificis non obesse, nec sputa impedire, sed ea potius promovere.

*Ant. Storck*, in secundo Libello de Cicuta, 1761, edito confirmat priora, ac in dedicatione ad Imperatricem ait :

Nunc posse dirissimos morbos sola cicuta levare, curari.

Multi nunc servantur ægri qui sine hoc remedio interfissent.

Quo sæpius cicutam ægris exhibeo, eo majorem semper in hac planta virtutem & efficaciam admiror.

In capite secundo hujus libelli describit 37 casus ægrorum quos cicuta sanavit ex sua propria experientia quorum 9 scirrni, 3 cancri, 3 ulcera, 4 arthrit. scrophulæ, 1 spin. ventosa, 1 elephantiasis, 3 fluor albus, 2 tumores hypoc. 2 rachitis, 1 scabies, 1 tinea, 1 cardialg. 2 tumores lymphat. 2 cataractæ, 1 lues venerea.

Cicuta 182 in cephalgiis. Sterilitas, phthisis scrophularis, hydrops, &c. ulcera fœdissima, sinus & fistulas maxime pertinaces sola cicuta plerumque feliciter debellavi, sanavi.

Obtulerunt tamen & mihi casus in quibus cicuta non profuit, usu quamvis longo & larga dosi adhibita.

Ab aliis medicis suppeditata sunt : ex litteris & testimoniis 19 practicorum.

Scrophulosos, strumososque fere innumeros sola cicuta curavi.



In annosa arthritide, inveterato rheumatismo, lue veneræ, furditate melancolia tristissima, serpigne sinubus & fistulis pertinacibus spina ventosa 261 epilepsia.

Circa uteri ulcera cancrofa quatuor habui fœminas, quas cicuta optime sanavit, plures alias habuit verum eas nequaquam restituit.

Cicuta cancrum curat, id multiplici experientia convictus vidi, nec tamen assero omne inde cancrum curari.

Iterum dat 22 casus felices ubi cicutæ profuit: 1 in stranguria, 1 serpigne, 2 scirrho, 2 vomit. contin. 1 ulcus, strumarum est remedium, 1 noli me tangere, 1 tumor in inguine, 3 spina ventosa, 1 glandulæ scirrhosæ in collo, 1 pruritus, 1 hypochondria tensa, 1 rachitis, 1 uteri hæmorrhagia, 1 cachexia, 3 cancri, 1 fluor albus, 1 gonorrhœa, 1 cardialgia.

Dedit cicutam ad ʒiv. in una dosi.

Cicuta fundit scirrhos etiam antiquos, 40 cancrum curat aut emendat ejus acrimoniam, pusque bonum inducit sopit dolores.

*Storck*, in lib. de Stramonio, p. 3, Cicutâ dissipari ait, veros inveteratosque scirrhos & cancos exulceratos.

*M. Galaker* well observes, that it is surprising how such a collection of cures should come from a physician of the Empress, when facts do not confirm those accounts; the experience of others is quite contrary to those assertions. In this kingdom it does not appear to have produced any remarkable advantage in any one disease: the extract was sent for from *Dr. Storck* himself, but in the use differed in nothing from the English extract.

*I have known hemlock fail in some thousands of instances, and have never seen it cure a confirmed cancer; nor could I receive certain information, when at Vienna, that any person was actually cured of the cancer by that noxious drug.*

*A. De Haen*, in Epistola de Cicuta, ad *Cl. Tralles*, 1765.

Accepit pilulas à *Cl. Van Swieten*. Ejus infelicitas fuit, ut quibus cicutam spatio anni dimidii, anni integri & sesqui alterius



alterius dederat, eorundem nulli sanescerent, plures in deteriora laberentur, unus periret alterque.

Experimenta auxit ad numerum 120; cum tandem octo fœminæ periissent, ceterorumque & nemo curaretur & multi periorarentur; quumque ex *Bohemia, Germania, Gallia, Anglia, Belgio Italia*, similia infortunia aut litteris perciperem, aut dissertationibus intelligerem impressis, ab experimentis novis desistendum esse arbitratus sum; cicutam & inertem esse & noxiam a prægressis convictus.

Unde septuaginta experimenta Breslaviæ facta, ex illis 36 qui scirrhus aut cancro laborarunt, 30 periire miserrime & sex incurabiles manserunt, neminem curatum fuisse.

*Storck* affirmat sæpe sæpius. *Cicuta* Viennæ multiplici experientia scirrhos veros, antiquos, inveteratos, pertinacissimos resolvit, curat cancos ingentes, exulceratos sanat.

*Cicuta* Viennensis sola miranda patrat, indigena aliarum regionum curare nullos potest.

De dosi notandum a granis ij. de die ad 240 gr. ascendit *Storck* ipse.

In nosocomio quodam integra libra extracti, longo tempore fuit propinata absque vel minima mutatione in somno vel excretionibus, ubinam virtus.

Hoc remedium nullam corporis actionem, secretionem aut excretionem turbat, agit *modo insensibili* nec alvum, nec vomitum, nec sudorem movet.

*R. A. Vogel, de Cognoscendis & Curandis Morbis, ii. 318.*

Cancer pessimum tumoris vel ulceris genus est, quod non modo ægrum diu atque miserabiliter affligit, sed & medicum ac chirurgum maximopere exercet, dum omnium pene remedium vim pertinaciter eludit.

Verum tarde admodum fieri scirrhi transitum in cancrum noscendum: itemque assiduos fere ac sævissimos dolores a carcinomate aperto generari.

Omnis cancer manifestus h. e. exulceratus ægrum lente

N

opprimit



opprimit & confumit, inter fæviffimos cruciatus, hefticamque febrem.

Per difficilis non folum eft carcinomatis, tam occulti, quam multo magis exulcerati curatio: fed & perpauca adhuc funt reperta medicamenta, quæ duriffimum malum fuperent.

*Cicuta* lugubres in corpore effectus edidit.

*Belladonna* potentior in fcirrhofum curatione, fed fuis premitur etiam noxiis, laudat aquam calcis vivæ & mercurium fublimatum corrofivum. Quem cancerum hæc non curant alia certe non curatura funt.

Cancer fungofus nullam fere curationem per remedia admittit.

*De Haen, in Epift. de Cicuta, p. 31.* Belladonna ex clarorum virorum confilio a medata cancrofis, eundem effectum edidit, foeminarum cum interitu vide De Haenii experimenta, *Rat. Med. Tom. II. p. 45, 46.*

*F. Boiffier de Sauvages, Noſol. meth. ii. 547.*

Principium prægumenon carcinomatis vulgo cenſetur virus proprium, cujus agendi modus ex nullis principiis mechanicis intelligitur adeoque theoria hujus morbi eft obſcuriffima, & medela ex antidotis non vero remediis rationalibus expectanda.

Carcinoma vulgare; vulgo pro chronico & infanabili habetur.

*Extractum cicutæ* apud Monſpelienſes *frustra fuit uſurpatum.*

*Lieutaud, Prax. i. 534.*

Tametſi cancerum mammarum plane indomabilem eſſe experientia conſtat: nonnulla tamen experiri licet præſidia.

De cicutæ viribus ſub noſtro cœlo nondum conſtat.

*C. G. Ludwig, Inſt. Chirurg. 65. 68.*

Peffima eſt ſanies cancroſa, quæ corruptionis ſphaceloſæ vehementiam longe ſuperat.

Partes vicinas irritat & inficit, vaſa lymphatica ſtringit,  
humorem



humorem contentum inguinat, sed cum toto corpore communicatur & labem universalem inducit.

Ulcerata cancrofa nonnunquam contagiofa fieri poffunt.

Scirrhus benignus ufque ad summam ætatem quiefcere poteft.

Mr. *Guy* performed, fince 1755, his cures by a medicine known by the name of M. Plunket's poultice: he makes a fecret of his manner of dressing.

The induration of a fcirrhus is fo exceffively great as to render it incurable by refolution.

Whatever incites the motion of the humors and quickens the circulation, as paffions of the mind, errors in diet, motions of the body, bruifes, falls, fevers, &c., may change a benign fcirrhus into a deplorable cancer.

We fhould be induced early to attempt the cure of a fcirrhus, though it be not troublefome, for fear of what may happen.

Scirrhuses that cannot be difperfed, there is no other way left to free the patients from their complaints but the knife or my (Mr. *Guy*'s) method.

He recommends no internal medicines, as not belonging to his branch of bufinefs.

External applications of the beft authors, &c.

It is evident that the cure of a fcirrhus is one of the moft difficult things in the whole art of furgery, becaufe the offending morbid matter of this difeafe lies, as it were, out of the bounds of circulation, whence it cannot receive the proper effects of the remedies made ufe of.

From the general confequences of leaving fcirrhuses to nature, it will be found that in twenty cafes eighteen will turn out cancers fooner or later.

Belladonna, given without any good fuccefs, is no fpecific in cancerous cafes.

In two years time, in more than a hundred fcirrhus and cancerous cafes, he cured them without failing in ten instances.



He pretends that his medicaments draw out the very roots of the cancers.

Mr. *Tho. Gataker*, in 1757, published his *Treatise on Solanum*, in the *Essays on Medical Subjects*.

The solanum belladonna nightshade may be always tried with perfect safety.

In some obstinate and very painful sores, attended with a thin acrimonious discharge, it is capable of giving relief in a most extraordinary manner.

Concerning the hemlock, he says, it is in vain to hope for extraordinary virtues from this plant, particularly in cancerous cases; *nor can the inefficacy of it in that respect be too fully known, in order that the usual methods of palliating or relieving these complaints may be omitted.*

*Against Mr. Guy's Cures of Cancers.*

There are no roots in the cancer existing but in imagination.

The extirpating or curing cancers, with applications that draw out the *cancer's roots*, was one of the chief pretences of Mr. Plunket, an Irish empiric, who was the first that brought this method of practice to be taken much notice of in England. He understood nothing of surgery.

Mr. Guy purchased the secret of Plunket's poultice.

As to the pretended merit of the medicine in performing its operation without loss of blood, it is the nature of all caustics to act in that same manner.

The pains in Mr. Guy's proceedings are not only as severe as almost any pain that can be suffered by the knife, but worse by the tedious duration of it.

From his cases it is difficult to form any certain or satisfactory judgment.

*Observations on the Solanum Belladonna Nightshade.*

There are three sorts — the common or garden and the deadly nightshade, and the bitter, sweet, or woody nightshade.

Mr.



Mr. Guy tried the garden nightshade in two cancerous cases, foul and painful ulcers, obstinate pains in particular parts of the body, scorbutic eruptions, and other common disorders.

The quantity of one grain in weight of the leaf infused in an ounce of boiling water, and the liquor afterwards strained, and taken at bedtime, would sometimes have a considerable effect; but that two or three grains seldom failed either to vomit, sweat, or purge the patient moderately, or to increase the quantity of urine.

The most common effects that I have observed to issue upon taking this medicine were, a heat or warmth diffused in a few hours over the body, a plentiful sweat succeeded this heat, and sometimes a gentle purging the next day. If a sweat did not break out, an extraordinary discharge of urine was generally the consequence, and sometimes followed likewise by a purging.

One or more of the natural evacuations were almost always increased.

The dose increased to twelve grains.

The fresh leaves of the deadly nightshade, bruised and applied to the breast, have been found very efficacious in cancerous tumors. Vid. *Willoughby* apud *Raj*. Hist. plant. 680.

Is recommended in dysenteries by *Linnaeus*, Mat. Med. §. 95.

*Junker*, in *Consp. Chirurg.* p. 314, speaks of two cases of cancers cured by it.

Dr. *Lambergén*, in an oration at Groningen, 1754, gave an account of a cancer in a woman's breast that had been radically cured by an infusion of the deadly nightshade.

Mr. *Gataker* says, he is far from being convinced that the infusion of nightshade will cure a confirmed cancer, though it is probable that great advantages will be found from it in some cases that seem approaching to a cancerous state.

I have the satisfaction to think that success attends the use  
of



of it in some disorders ; and that, in cases where it fails to cure, it will sometimes at least afford great ease and relief.

It has not been subject, as far as my practice has extended, to produce any lasting ill consequence.

Mr. *Gataker*, in the Supplement, says, “ I am now persuaded that there is very little reason to believe it has any specific power for the cure of any particular disease that has not any such peculiar and unaccountable power as is found to be in the bark for the cure of an ague, or in mercury for the cure of the venereal disease ; but as it is a great promoter of most of the natural discharges of the body, it has a power of procuring sleep and easing pains.

The nightshade, in a paralytic case, seemed to be very serviceable.

In several dropical cases the nightshade had good effect.

*Heisteri Comp. Medicinæ, practicæ 269.*

Alii succum belladonnæ, alii folia & decoctum ejus & externe & interne magnificiunt : verum sine fructu hæc adhibita fuisse novi.

Remede éprouvé pour guerir radicalement le Cancer occulte & manifeste ou ulceré, &c. par Messire G. R. le Febure de St. Ild\*\*\*.

The author examined, by chemical experiments, the ichor that flowed from an open cancer of two patients, which shewed different effects.

His remedy for the cancer is arsenic taken inwardly.

*Jacobi* used it in all fevers, principally in intermittents.

*Pitcairn*, *Zacutus Lusitanus*, &c., have employed it in dysenteries.

*Fallopious*, *Penot*, *Theodoric*, *Valescus*, and others, made use of it as topical applications in cancerous ulcers ; yet they only employed it as a caustic, and frequently mixed it with corrosive sublimate.

Differt. Academique sur le Cancer, which obtained the double



ble premium proposed by the Academy of Sciences at Lyons in 1773. By *Ber. Peyrilhe*, M. D. Royal Professor in the College of Surgery at Paris.

It is in this dissertation that the first account is given of the application of *fixed air* to the cancer as a method of cure, whose salutary effects have been since ascertained in England and France by several experiments.

*Dr. Guthrie*, of Peterburgh, has not observed any sensible benefit produced by the fixed air in cancerous cases; but in old, spreading, ill conditioned ulcers it has, in many instances, relieved the pain, brought on a more favorable digestion, and much improved the appearance of the ulcers; and in some it has effected a complete cure.

*J. O. Juslamond*. Account of the Methods pursued in the Treatment of cancerous and scirrhus Disorders, and other Indurations.

1. *Rx*. A martial tincture with sal ammoniac used as a wash round the ulcer.
2. A hemlock bath.
3. A preparation of arsenic used as a caustic.

Against Mr. *Gataker*, in 1757, rose Mr. *Bromfield*, Surgeon to St. George's Hospital, whose experiments widely differ from the former.

According to Mr. *Bromfield*, the symptoms were not only not relieved, but new ones were often brought on, and the patients health rather injured than benefited.

In several cases of inflammation, ulcers, &c., where this medicine had been given, it often occasioned pains in the fores, nausea, complaints of the head, temporary loss of sight, delirium, violent vomitings, gripings, and purgings, and even death itself to one person under his own inspection, though the dose of the garden nightshade did not exceed one grain at a time.

It seems the one author had written prejudiced in favor of  
thé



the medicine, and the other seems to have had his prejudices against it.

There are incontestible proofs of its deleterious qualities.

*Waltheri Sylva Medica*, de Cancro.

*Joh. Agricola*: Pulvis arsenici compos. ad cancerum egregius.

*Gabr. Fallopius*: Arsenicum crystall. sublimatum; experientia sæpius probatum.

*Greg. Horstius*: Arsenicum cum merc. sublimato.

*O. Maroldus*: R̄. Mercurii sublimati ℥iv. cum succo apii. F. ung.

*Glandorp. 19. Gazophyl.* in causticum lanfranci ingreditur arsenicum.

*Perquet*, Paracelsus etiam usi sunt.

*Platerus*, Prax. Med. ii. 744. habet causticum arsenici & sublimati.

Pulvis R̄. Arsenici crystal. ℥ij.

Rad. aronis ℥j. F. pulvis.

Alius ex pulvere R̄. Mercurii sublimati ℥j.

Aq. rosar.

— solani a ℥iv. parum coque.

R̄. Arsenici albi subtilissime pulverati.

Part 1. Rad. ari pt. iv. fuliginis parum ut horum trium mixtione, pulvis modice cinereus vulgo griseus fiat.

Hic pulvis ad crassitiem dorsi cultri ulceri cancroso inspergitur, cavendo ne bonam carnem tangat, pluresque addit cantelas, intra 18 dies eschara separatur a sana carne.

*Wiseman's Chir. Treatise*, 105.

*Guido* has commended arsenic powdered and sprinkled daily upon the cancers.

*Riverius*, in his Observations, tells of a cancer that was extirpated by the following R̄. Aq. fort. ℥j. Sublimati crudi ℥viij. Salis armeniacci ℥ij. Arsenici ℥j. distilled ad ficcitatem; then



then the caput mortuum powdered, the same weight of vinegar put to it, and distilled again to the consistence of a soft paste for use.

Oleum arsenici, aq. regia, ol. vitrioli, lap. caustic. &c., have been proposed.

*Waldschind*, 456.

*Timæus* omnia habet remedia ad cancrum.

*Barbette* commendat quintam essentiam arsenici, sed quis eum imitetur.

R̄. Rad. serpentar. exsiccata redigatur in pulverem, quantum lubet, adde arsenici crystallini partem tertiam, fuliginis camini parum, misceantur optime. Carcinoma inspergatur pulvere dicto, & fiat eschara, quæ decidet circa diem duodecimam per se, tunc adhibe emplastrum, &c.

*Sculleti Armamentar*, 188.

Dat decoctum, in fine hæc adnotat : & notandum, hujus soluis decocti crebro usu, multos ab exulcerati carcinomatis doloribus liberatos, pluresque a nondum exulcerato : fuisse curatos, hæc obiter de decocto.

Post excisionem mammæ elapsis 12 diebus duos tumores sub axilla insignes reliquit topicis resolvendos, chirurgus applicuit causticum ex arsenico paratum.

Cancer curatus, extracto hellebori nigri ℥j. crem. tart. ℥ss. conf. hamech. ʒvj.

T H E E N D.



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