

A treatise on the cure of ulcerated legs, without rest, and ulcers of various parts : arising from scorbutic and other impurities in the blood, &c.; / by William Rowley, M.D. Member of the University of Oxford, Royal College of Physicians in London, &c.;

Contributors

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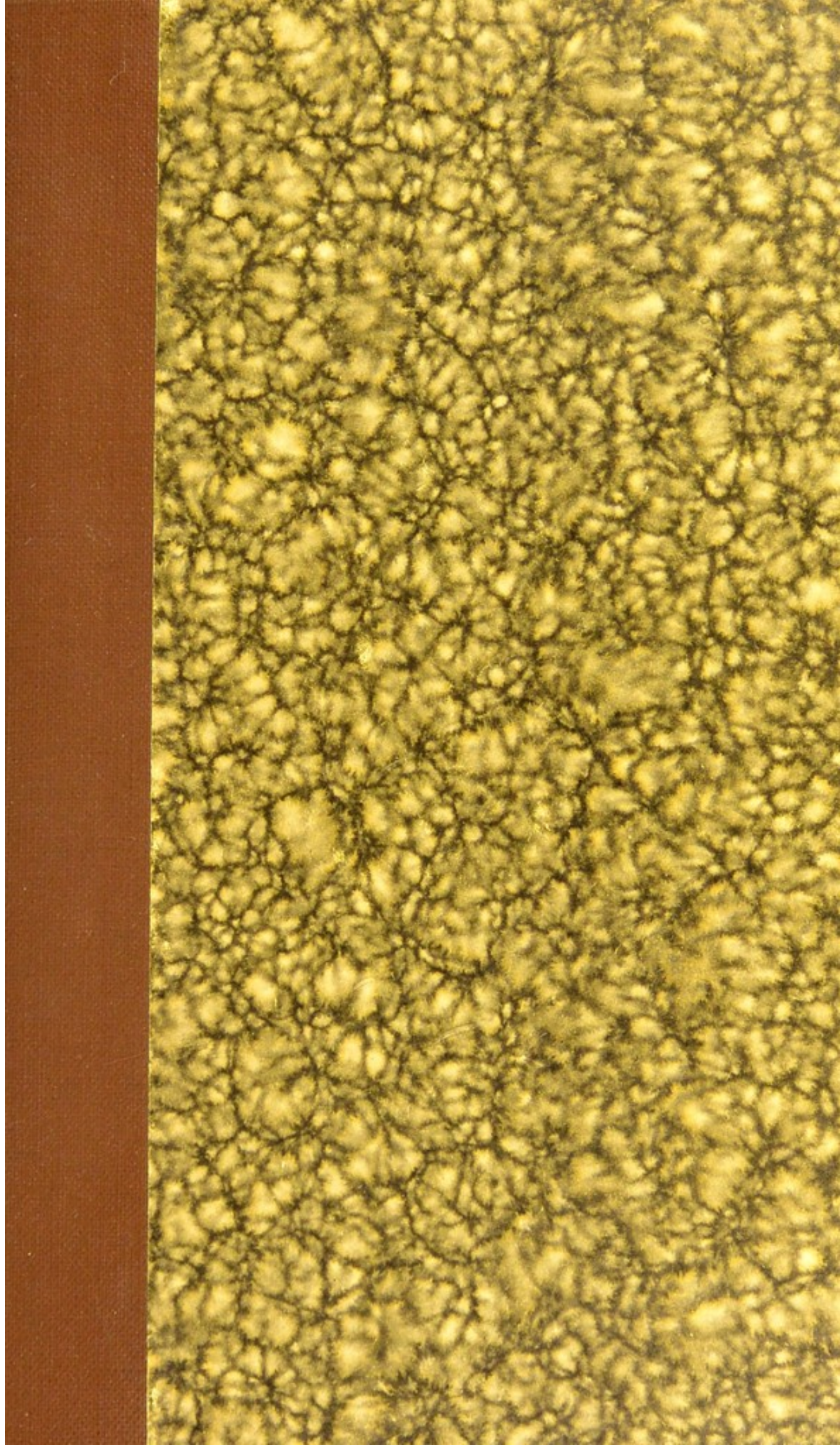
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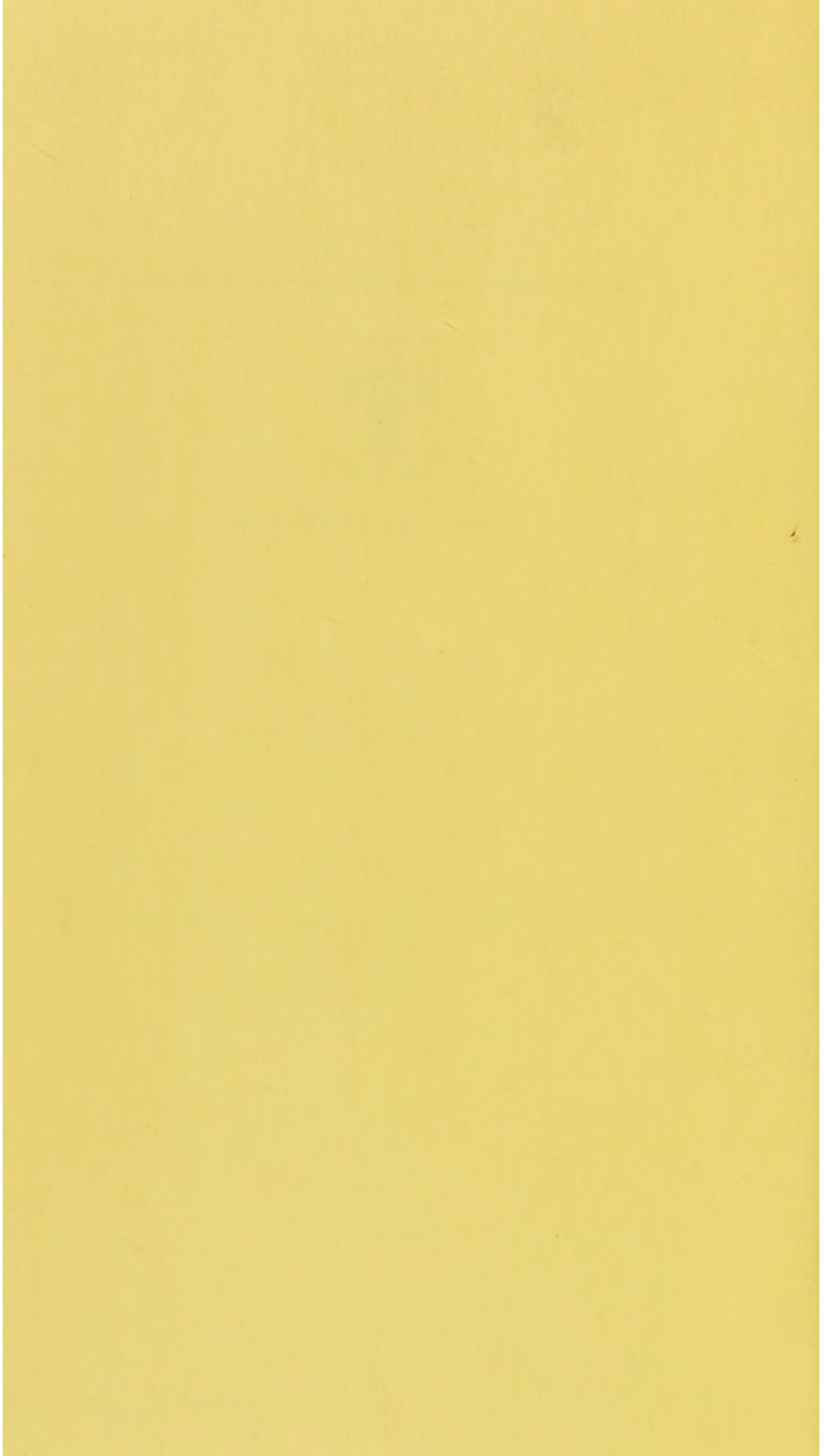
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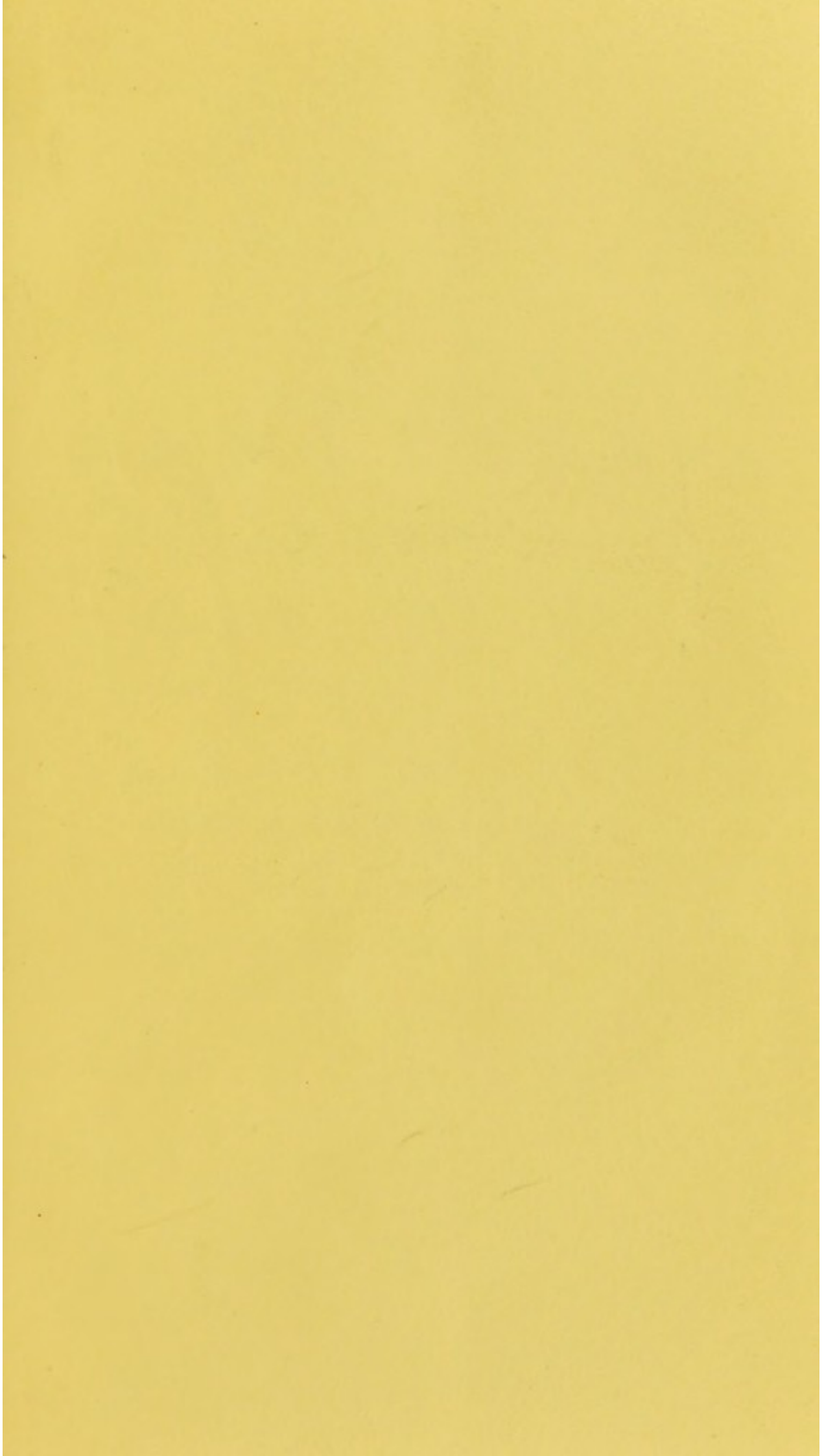
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U L C E R A T E D L E G S
W I T H O U T R E S T,
A N D
U L C E R S O F V A R I O U S P A R T S, &c.

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THE ARTIST

AND HIS
WORK

A
TREATISE
ON THE

ART OF
DRAWING
AND
PAINTING

IN
PENCIL
AND
COLOR

WITH
A
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
VARIOUS
MATERIALS
AND
TOOLS
USED
IN
THE
ART

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A R I S I N G F R O M
S C O R B U T I C A N D O T H E R I M P U R I T I E S
I N T H E B L O O D, &c.

BY WILLIAM ROWLEY, M.D.

Member of the University of Oxford, Royal College
of Physicians in London, &c.

THE FOURTH EDITION.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR E. NEWBURY, AT THE CORNER
OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

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UNIVERSITY
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TO CHARLES NOURSE, Esq.
SURGEON AT OXFORD.

S I R,

THE dedicatory language is generally the language of flattery ; but I feel as little Inclination to offer, as you would be to receive adulation. I request permission to dedicate this treatise on ulcers to you, from a conviction that your experience in the art of surgery, for fifty years, enables you to judge of the advantages of the new methods introduced.

You have candidly tried the doctrines contained in the former editions of this little performance, and in our conversations, while I pursued my studies at the university, you generously acknowledged their utility,

Your

DEDICATION.

Your unsolicited approbation gave me pleasure, and added fresh vigor to those professional improvements, which have occupied my whole life. It is from your friendly advice, and the hopes of serving society, that this edition, with many improvements, makes its present appearance.

May mankind long receive your inestimable services; and may you long enjoy that reputation to which your great merit in the art of surgery, is so justly entitled.

These, Sir, are the sincere wishes of,

Your most obedient humble servant,

WM. ROWLEY.

Harley-Street,
Cavendish-Square,
April 26, 1786.

C O N-

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ERRATA.—Page iv. l. 8. attempt.—p. vii. l. 21, became.—p. 12, read, by the slightest scratch any putridity, &c.—p. 53, l. 4. fyr. fimp.—p. 64. l. 14, four years.

INTRODUCTION.

AS the common treatment of ulcerated legs is often unsuccessful, and frequent relapses after a supposed cure the consequence; it is surprising no methods superior to those in common estimation have been adopted, to render their cure more permanent. Perhaps, servile obedience to an erroneous authority, prejudices practitioners in surgery, and renders them inactive in the pursuit of improvements, easily attainable, by applying more studiously to the effects of internal remedies in the cure of chirurgical diseases.

VARIOUS chirurgical cases might receive advantage from a judicious internal treatment, but none with greater certainty than ulcerated legs. The province of surgery being, principally, external dressings, or manual operation; the essential

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requisites

ii INTRODUCTION.

requisites for medical practice are too frequently neglected; a few general medicines are applied without any precise regard to individual indications; or, what is of greater consequence, contra-indications.

It is possible, by great industry, without extraordinary genius, to become eminent in *anatomy, chemistry, botany, midwifery*, or natural and experimental *philosophy*; but not any one of these departments of art or science, taken singly, ever constituted an accomplished practical physician. It is the happy combination of the whole, joined with an ardent love for the profession; long experience, and a superior capability of clear reasoning, that produce excellence in the healing art.

A CIRCUMSCRIBED knowledge, therefore, should produce diffidence, it should study more or practice less: but the reverse is too commonly observed. Inferior and confined science, assuming the air of wisdom, determines with rashness,

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ness,, and supports error with clamorous obstinacy: while minds the most cultivated by learning, genius, and meditation, suppose the possibility of human error; they contemplate with caution, and conclude with modesty.

THE prejudices of education are numerous in the art of medicine; they are ingrafted; when the inexperienced mind is incapable of judging, and they often increase, unsuspected, with riper years. They sometimes appear to originate in the lectures of theoretical professors who never, or slightly, practiced the art: or amongst others of great practice without a scientific and learned education; for both are equally incapable of training young minds to useful knowledge. It is the junction of a true theory, experience and reflection, that gives solidity to the art. Every future day's observation should be exerted to discover and correct the errors of the former: for prejudices are easily contracted; but with great difficulty eradicated.

INNUMERABLE fallacies obtain present protection, and future support; through an early and continued negligence in searching for truth. Indolent mediocrity perfectly satisfies the vulgar majority; but mediocrity never produces any thing excellent. Its utmost bounds, only expands to the peaceable attainment of doctrines already known, or received. To critically examine, or improve the arts, to separate truth from conjecture, or hypothesis from demonstration, are objects, much beyond the extent of its narrow comprehension: to flatter and be flattered in the grossest absurdities, is its highest ambition. Mediocrity, if ever roused to exercise its faculties, it is commonly in suppressing that superior excellence in others, which the confined limits of its own capacity, is incapable, or unwilling to comprehend. These subjects are more amply discussed in another work; their causes are traced, and their baneful effects demonstrated.*

* In the *Schola Medicinæ universalis nova*.

INTRODUCTION. v

A PREJUDICE has universally spread its influence amongst the chirurgical practitioners in this country, “ *that ulcerated*
“ *Legs should rarely be cured: they have*
“ *been considered as a salutary drain to the*
“ *constitution; productive of health and*
“ *long life.*” If such doctrines were true, mankind should be congratulated on the first acquisition of a stinking painful sore: the surgeons too, attached to these absurdities, might remain for ever in the undisturbed possession of a branch of practice; which has always been considered extremely lucrative; were not the ease and happiness of mankind superior to such considerations.

THESE doctrines, it is hoped, will be clearly proved erroneous; not only by rational arguments; but what is far more conclusive; by innumerable facts of old patients cured after all the common methods had failed: the means, likewise, by which these salutary effects have been produced, shall be faithfully communicated.

THE

THE received methods of treating ulcers, it might be expected, had some conclusive and uncontrovertable authority for its basis. A doctrine so prevalent, maintained with such furious zeal, might be imagined to originate in a variety of indubitable facts. From the violent opposition, any rational attempts to improve this branch of the healing art, meets; an undiscerning spectator would conclude, thousands have perished by attempting the cure of ulcers, and that the history of medicine teemed with the dismal narrations of the unhappy sufferers. An impartial examination of the subject, however, will absolutely demonstrate the contrary.

IN the prosecution of this enquiry, the Greeks, Romans, Arabians, and Moderns have been carefully consulted; but not one self evident proposition appears, worthy of attention, in defence of the supposed dangerous tendency of curing ulcers; at least, not a single instance applicable to the new mode of treatment.

THE

THE doctrines, therefore, so universally established, so universally credited, have no decided foundation to support them, either ancient or modern. From whence did they originate? From Mr. Samuel Sharp, chiefly, before long experience had ripened his judgment. He was a genius of the first rank in surgery; but, perhaps, too precipitate in his decisions on medical practice. The just and high reputation he acquired in the former branch rendered him assuming in the latter. Mankind, who cannot be judges of medical abilities, experiencing his admirable skill in operations, naturally concluded him equally excellent in every department of medicine. His treatise on operations was well written, and well received. An extensive practice afforded little leisure for future corrections; and his writings become an introduction to all the junior students in surgery. They read with avidity, and supposed his doctrines infallible. To separate truth from its semblance requires more discernment than falls to the lot of students in general.

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To give, however, the greatest latitude to the principles of the ingenious Mr. Sharp; let it be supposed that in his defective methods of cure, that difficulty was experienced, and danger justly apprehended; yet it does not follow, that all other modes are equally exceptionable. The introduction of opposite modes of treatment may produce opposite consequences. What might be difficult or dangerous in Mr. Sharp's mode might be the reverse with other practitioners, from a dissimilarity in the management of the disease. In Mr. Sharp's method, the causes of ulcers were never removed from the habit; but in the new modes they are; consequently the supposed dangerous tendency of the former, is probably removed by the latter. In the common methods the acrimonious state of the blood was little considered; but in the new, the blood is rendered mild and balsamic. In the former, the original causes remaining in the constitution relapses were frequent, in the latter the root of the evil is exterminated, and a
return

return of the complaint without some violence, or accident, rarely happens. It will be clearly explained, a vitiated habit of body is often the *cause* of the ulcer; the ulcer is likewise the *cause* of a vitiated constitution: for an absorption of the morbid matter contaminates the fluids and irritates the solids. Will a plaister radically cure any depravation of the human fluids? Certainly not. Is it not more rational to remove causes by skilful internal treatment? The evil is deeply rooted, and superficial applications, only procure temporary alleviation. Were it true, that old ulcers are dangerous of cure; which by no means is admitted; no surgeon asserts the same of a new ulcer. All ulcers have a beginning: Why not, then, cure ulcers before they become old? The difficulty of removing ulcers is owing to an acrimonious, or bad habit of body: remove the cause and the effects will cease. Correct the bad habit and the ulcer heals kindly: If this may be effected in an old ulcer, which is beyond the possibility of doubt; why not use the same means,

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when

x INTRODUCTION.

when the ulcer is recent, and prevent all future objections to a cure.

AMONGST many vulgar prejudices, a common assertion in every one's mouth is, "that ulcers must not be *dried* up ; " it is dangerous to *dry* up ulcers, the " disorder will fly to some other part " and *kill* the patient."

THIS is the language not only of the common people, but likewise of medical practitioners, and if true, would merit a serious attention. If it can be proved extremely difficult to *dry* up an old ulcer ; will it not appear highly irrational to find grave sober looking men ringing an alarm, and warning mankind of what seldom, or rarely can exist ? But it is often impossible to *dry* up an old ulcer, by any means ; therefore, any apprehension of an evil tendency, from what scarce ever happens, is supremely ridiculous. Through these false opinions, however, thousands must have suffered inexpressible misery, for years ; in various ulcers, easily curable : is not this disgraceful to the art, and shocking to humanity ?

IN

IN treating ulcers, it is a universal maxim amongst ancient and modern surgeons, that three stages of cure are necessary, *deterging* or cleansing; *incarnation*, or filling up the loss of substance; *cicatrisation*, or the skinning over an ulcer. Hippocrates pronounces above two thousand years ago; *τάτε γὰρ ἐλκεα, ἣν μὲν ἀνακαθαίρηται πυώ λουκῶ, ταχέειν θεραπείην δὴλοι ἐὰν δὲ μεταβαλλῇ εἰς τοὺς ἰχωρᾶς, κακοῦνθῃ.* Practical Surgery generally observes the same. In another place he delivers himself thus: *Ἰησθαι δὲ τὰ ἐλκεα, ὡς καὶ τὰ ἐν ἄλλῳ σώματι, ἀφλεγμαντὲ χρη ποιεῖν, καὶ ἀνακαθαίρειν καὶ ἀναπληρῆσαι καὶ εἰς ὠτειλᾶς αἰεῖν.* The principal object in Surgery is, to produce those successive changes by various applications in each particular stage. After the discharge of an acrimonious thin *serum*, what has been called *laudable pus* succeeds, which flows while the wound incarns: Hippocrates truly says, *πυὸν τροφή ἐλκεος.* When the granulations of flesh have shot out to the surface, and the part, formerly lost, has been renewed; then the skin extends forth its fibres and gradually covers the whole

b 2

space.

space. To imagine a deep ulcer can be suddenly *dried*, or cicatrised, while an acrimonious, fetid, or putrid ichor issues, is to suppose an impossibility; it is contrary to all experience, reason, and ocular demonstration. If any remedies produce such *drying* effects, they must be either astringents, or desiccatives; but these are never prescribed for such purposes; and, whoever will try their efficacy in any old, or deep ulcer, would soon find, that not *drying*, but heat, pain and inflammation would be the consequence. No internal medicine can suddenly *dry* an inveterate ulcer. The whole supposition, therefore, about *drying* ulcers is indefensible, and is a mere vulgar error.* Hippocrates remarks, Ελκος πελίου και ξηρον, η χλωρον γινομενον θανασιμον: but this is only delivered as a prognostic in *articulo mortis*, and has no reference whatever to the treatment of ulcers; to which

* If the truth of these assertions are doubted, I pledge myself to produce numerous patients labouring under the misfortune of old ulcers; in which cases, the total impossibility of *drying* ulcers, may be fairly and demonstrately proved.

disease the father of medicine, who lived in a warm climate, amongst relaxed patients, directs the application of the strongest astringents, or drying medicines, as verdigris, alumen, &c. The later Greeks, the Romans, and many imitating moderns have prescribed similar methods; sometimes, in northern countries; where not relaxation; but callosity and rigid fibres attended the complaints. I have seen ulcerated legs at *Paris, Rome, Naples,* and *Venice*, in the hospitals; which in general required the bracing plan of cure; owing to the warmth of the country, and relaxed habits of the people. At *Vienna* and other parts of *Germany*, in *Flanders* and *Holland*: I have observed, sometimes one method, sometimes another necessary. The climate, the diet, air, and constitution of the people, therefore, should be more considered; than any dogmatic systems of cure; which never will succeed in different countries. *Differe quæque pro natura locorum*, says Celsus, *genera medicinæ; et aliud opus esse Romæ, aliud in Ægypto, aliud in Gallia.*

THE

THE apprehension of *diarrhœa*, *fever*, *difficulty of breathing*, or *asthma*, is equally false upon similar principles, especially, if the new doctrines be pursued. Why should the morbid matter fly to the intestines, to the lungs, or to the system in general, and suddenly prove fatal? To produce such effects, the morbid matter of the ulcer must be absorbed by the lymphatics, or by the minute veins; * it must be carried to the thoracic duct, and vena cava; it must mix with the blood, and fix its abode in the lungs; fly to the surface of the intestines; or produce a general irritation in the whole arterial system. What evidence is produced of such consequences? except by accident, a fever has invaded a patient; and ulcers have become dry: but are such irrelative and fortuitous instances, to establish general rules for practice?

* Perhaps the whole body is bibulous; but neither anatomy nor physiology has confirmed this supposition, though highly probable: yet it is known that the *tela cellulosa* communicates.

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THAT some of the ulcerous discharge may be slowly absorbed is indubitable; but after attending, seriously, to thousands of ulcerated patients; I solemnly declare, I have never seen one instance of those effects so universally credited; not even by the worst practice, ignorance ever recommended. If, the curing of ulcers, however, by the common methods had reproduced *asthma*, *fever*, or *diarrhoea*; where such diseases previously existed; such an objection can have no weight, with the learned and candid; where patients have never had those complaints, and when a different method of cure is adopted, in which the constitution is changed.

IN the succeeding treatise is communicated the ultimate experience of twenty five years continual and extensive medical practice, as far as relates to the treatment of ulcerated legs, and some other morbid affections, arising from impurities, or depravations of the blood. The doctrines have not been founded on a partial, or contracted knowledge of the subject;

subject; but from innumerable observations. General conclusions have not been drawn from accidental instances of success, as is too frequently the case, in the introduction of many new, but transitory remedies.

It is reiterated trials and long experience, that should either establish, or condemn all attempts to improve the healing art. Failures have sometimes accompanied the most promising expectations; while chance, fortune, or accident, have illuminated; what eluded the most penetrating and sagacious mind; yet every attempt at improvement merits some degree of approbation. Facts of cures performed should alone determine the value of the *modus curandi*; these once established, a contemplation of the causes follow; then by analogy, physiology, and the application of different doctrines, new discoveries present themselves of the most beneficial tendency to society. The following improvements originated in an attempt to remove diseases, which prejudice

dice * considered difficult or dangerous to cure ; from a suspicion, that the received principles were erroneous ; and the event has amply proved the suggestion true. The cure of ulcerated legs, and the administration of mineral and saline alteratives in very small doses, at certain distances of time, without irritating the habit, were the primary objects ; but an extension of those theoretic ideas, which appeared rational, and were confirmed by success, were gradually applied to the schrophula and cancer. An ardent desire, at a very early period of life, at the age of seventeen, to improve our excellent art, prompted the undertaking ; success attending the first uncultivated efforts, excited, and encouraged remoter pursuits, under inexpress-

* The first attempts were at Belleisle in the year 1761, soon after its capture by his Majesty's forces. The methods were afterwards tried in the West-Indies ; at Jamaica, Havanna, America, &c. but they did not cure in hot countries ; yet bark and bracers succeeded. The three former editions on ulcers, contained cases, which are now excluded. For other improvements, see the treatises on diseases of the eyes, breasts, of hot climates, &c. &c.

fible difficulties, and the most formidable opposition : but the public received benefit, and the public afforded a generous protection. The innumerable opportunities of determining any new discovery, by positive facts, in this great city, is always obtainable by the industrious. Those practitioners who admit the inferior ranks of people, constantly, at their houses, free of expence, acquire immense experience, gratify the feelings of humanity, and render the art, what it ought to be, a blessing to society. To the younger physicians and surgeons, it is earnestly recommended to adopt, early in life, some benevolent institution of this nature ; for it will enrich their knowledge, and add true dignity to the healing art. Unconfined to the precise *routine* of hospital practice, the mind has free liberty to expand, and avail itself of the objects of mercy that offer. Dangerous experiments, indeed, should be always avoided ; for the art should be rendered more excellent by the safest means. To the studious, uncontrovertible demonstrations, often follow well conceived opinions.

This

INTRODUCTION. xix

This Introduction, and some parts of the treatise, are not only connected with the cure of ulcers, and other complaints, arising from an impure state of the fluids; but they likewise contain many reflections on medicine. If any expressions should appear too animated, it is hoped, they will be attributed to their true cause; a warm desire to serve mankind, without any intentional offence. The thoughts are delivered with that freedom, an immense experience in different branches of medicine, for thirty years, and medical travels in most parts of the world, may, in some measure, justify. Prevailing prejudices are censured, not with that degree of complacency, perhaps, which readers of a certain class expect: but it should be considered, the eradicating of erroneous principles, is the surest road to future amendment. Men, habituated to a faithful and implicit observance of old doctrines, however false, bear with impatience any attempt to convince them of error. Accustomed, in infancy, to receive resemblances for realities, or opinions without demonstrations;

xx INTRODUCTION.

and having passed, perhaps, a long life in error, they are exasperated by an overthrow of their favourite systems. The mysterious oracles of indolent tranquility, and specious deception, must not be prophaned with impunity by the sacrilegious hand of innovation :

—*Namque hoc tempore*
Obsequium amicos, veritas odium parit.

THE more successful any improvement is, by so much the more fury it is opposed; as the history of medicine fully testifies in the examples of mercury, bark, antimony, inoculation, &c. Every instance of an extraordinary cure reflects dishonor on the unsuccessful, and rarely fails of exciting, in envious minds, private opposition, at the expence of honor, integrity, and truth: yet the criterion of medical skill should be founded in fortunate cures, not specious verbal professions; *nam non eloquentia, sed remediis morbi curantur.* Improvers of arts are commonly treated with ingratitude; and though mankind privately avail themselves

selves of discoveries, they commonly abuse inventors. Calumny and detraction have been, and probably ever will be, exercised against every attempt to improve medicine; particularly in large cities, where men frequently become jealous competitors for extensive practice. Errors, however, should be discovered by facts and reasoning, before their removal can be effected; but those, who either through interest, indolence, or ignorance, pre-suppose none existing, will never labour in their detection. A physician, therefore, should be a good logician; or he may be as incapable of perceiving truth, as in detecting falsehood: he should constantly carry contemplation into practice, and practice into contemplation. How many chimeras have been propagated and credited, from an unacquaintance, or neglect, in the art of reasoning?

For Those who have arrived at the summit of knowledge and perfection, or who are satisfied the art requires no improvement; neither the foregoing, nor succeeding sentiments are intended; nor is it requested, any one should have common

mon sense, contrary to his inclination. If junior practitioners, as yet untainted with delusive systems, receive any benefit from these observations, it will afford the highest satisfaction. They may candidly try the modes of treatment; which have, at least, safety and mildness for their recommendation: but this cannot be pronounced of many destructive poisons lately introduced. *Arsenic, lead, cantharides, deadly nightshade, aconitum, henbane, hemlock, digitalis, dulcamara, &c. &c.* have been so liberally, and inconsiderately prescribed internally, in all cases, and constitutions; that one might be led to conclude, the materia medica contained nothing to cure diseases, except powerful poisons. The healing art, sacred to humanity and wisdom, thus becomes a scourge and pestilence, inflicting death on the innocent patient, under the direction of caprice, fashion and folly: without any fair trial of well-known efficacious remedies. One is thrown into excruciating tortures, and deadly convulsions by arsenic; another rendered senseless, torpid, or paralytic by lead; another has a suppression of urine,

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convulsions, or bloody urine, and a painful death by cantharides; another suffers similar symptoms by the aconitum, or other acrid vegetable poisons; another falls into stupidity, his lower jaw suddenly drops motionless, and death ensues by hemlock; another in an asthma is sent to eternal sleep by opium. Instances of all the above circumstances have been lately, as well as formerly, demonstrated; not to mention injuries rendering life unsupportable, where the poisons have not divested the unhappy victims of life. But are such practices, by the laws of humanity, or the healing art, justifiable? Are dangerous experiments to be admitted; while an abundance of excellent and safe remedies are easily obtainable? For supposing, even cures could be produced by the hazardous use of acrid poisons: it is certainly unfeeling to run any risk of destroying life on superficial conjectures, or out of complaisance to the reigning fashions, or dangerous projects of a German court physician, or other unthinking practitioners.

If

If the new discoveries, here communicated without reserve, be received with candor, there may remain some hope, that mankind will ultimately receive the benefit of those labors, which have long been dedicated to their service. The *modus operandi* of mineral alteratives shall be the subject of a future essay; in which some *Boerhaavian*, and other modern doctrines will be fully refuted. I may conclude with Sir William Temple, that “ I never
 “ have written any thing without the in-
 “ tention of public good. Whether I
 “ have succeeded is not my part to judge.
 “ Good intentions are at least the seed of
 “ good actions; and it must be left to the
 “ soil and the seasons, what may be the
 “ produce.”—*Conscius sum mihi quantum mediocritate valui, quæque antea scierim, quæque operis hujusce gratia potuerim inquirere, candide me atque simpliciter innotitiam eorum, si qui forte cognoscere voluissent, protulisse. Atque id viro bono satis est, docuisse quod scierit.*

A
T R E A T I S E
O N

ULCERS of the LEGS, &c.

THE most common and authorised practice, in the cure of ulcerated legs, is to insist on *rest*, and an *horizontal* position; at the same time purges and other remedies, according to the circumstances of the case, are universally given. It is not uncommon for some patients to undergo salivation; by which methods, and proper dressings, many receive a temporary cure. To prevent a relapse (especially in those ulcers which have been of long standing) it is usual to produce an artificial discharge, by means of an Issue: but in general, those persons who are exposed to any laborious exercise, seldom experience the cure to continue sound: for the causes of the complaint not being eradicated, by proper medicines and diet,

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from

from the constitution, on using their former exercise, the ulcer commonly breaks out again.

THIS is well known by hospital surgeons as a fact, who often receive the same patients annually. Whoever will examine a number of these cases relieved in the above methods, which is the common practice of the hospitals in general, will be well convinced of the truth of what is advanced. The following quotation from Mr. Sharp will give a perfect idea of the present mode of practice in the cure of ulcerated legs.

“ Bleeding and other evacuations will be
 “ serviceable, and above all things, *Rest*,
 “ and a *Horizontal Position*; which last
 “ circumstance is of so great importance
 “ to the cure of ulcerated legs, that un-
 “ less the patient will conform to it *strict-*
 “ *ly*, the skill of the surgeon will avail
 “ nothing; for as the indisposition of
 “ these sores is in some measure owing to
 “ the gravitation of the humours down-
 “ wards, it will be much more benefi-
 “ cial to lie along, than to sit upright, tho’
 “ the leg be laid on a chair, since, even
 “ in

“ in this posture, they will descend with
 “ more force than if the body was reclined.

“ ULCERS of many years standing are
 “ very difficult of cure; and in old peo-
 “ ple the cure is often dangerous, fre-
 “ quently exciting an *Asthma*, a *Diarrhœa*,
 “ or *Fever*, which destroys the patient,
 “ unless the sore breaks out again; so that
 “ it is not altogether adviseable to attempt
 “ the cure in such cases, but only the re-
 “ duction of them into better order and
 “ less compass, which, if they be not
 “ malignant, is generally done with *Rest*,
 “ and proper care. The cure of those in
 “ young people may be undertaken with
 “ more safety, but we often find it neces-
 “ sary to raise a salivation to effect it, tho’,
 “ when compleated, it does not always
 “ last, so that the prospect of cure in
 “ stubborn old ulcers, at any time of life,
 “ is but indifferent.”

BLEEDING and other evacuations are
 certainly serviceable in the cure of ulcers
 of the legs in plethoric constitutions, and
 inflammatory cases; but a variety of cir-
 cumstances constantly occur, which require

a different and opposite treatment: therefore bleeding and evacuations, if too generally applied, might do mischief. Operating surgeons seldom study, deeply, the science of medicine, and therefore are not competent to answer its various purposes in practice; of course they should be more cautious in prescribing than they generally are, and likewise more circumspect in forming a judgment on the medical improvements of others.

Mr. Samuel Sharp was a most excellent and humane surgeon; his works on operations, taken generally, are superior to any this country has produced; but whoever, possessed with true medical science, examines his pharmaceutic remedies in surgical cases with unprejudiced judgment, will have little reason to extol his scientific knowledge in this useful branch: the same observation will be often applicable to many of the most skilful operating surgeons. If, however, well-educated surgeons would apply to the study of medicine, they may, undoubtedly, become very skilful physicians: for the very essence of
all

ULCERS *of the* LEGS, &c. 5

all physiological reasoning being principally founded in anatomical demonstration, with which every surgeon should be intimately acquainted, it follows, that a surgeon, by early application, and a close attention on the sick in hospitals, may become very expert in medical practice; but a neglect of these advantages renders a surgeon's knowledge very circumscribed, except in his own particular department. Hence the branches of medicine mutually assist each other; manual operation belongs to surgery, rules of diet, and the direction of internal remedies, arising from deep reflection on causes and effects on the human constitution, are the immediate considerations of practical physic. A partial knowledge, however, cannot answer the important objects of medicine in any branch; it is an extensive attainment of the whole science, which alone can qualify a man for practice, and every surgeon thus accomplished is in reality a physician; though he may not have passed the regular forms of education.

As to *lying in bed during the cure,*
(with all respect due to a practitioner of
such

such great merit) I must beg leave to be of a contrary opinion, for the reasons before-mentioned; i. e. the patient, after keeping his bed two or three months, by the assistance of the common remedies, or salivation, the ulcers are supposed to be cured; but on using exercise, they most commonly return to their former painful state, and render patients fully as miserable as before the cure was attempted. This is a principal objection to the common mode of practice; but in the methods of cure which have proved successful for twenty-five years, the patients are very rarely liable to a relapse; because they are ordered to use moderate exercise during the cure, and by internal remedies the causes of these obstinate complaints are attempted to be removed.

MR. Sharp's doctrine is equally erroneous; when he asserted, probably from a blind obedience to authority, fashion, or from observation of his own defective methods of treatment, "*that the cure in old people is so very difficult, or that it produces Asthma, Diarrhæa, or Fever*; experience

in a multiplicity of such cases proving directly the contrary. Such a doctrine might have been formerly an excellent stratagem to create annuities at the expence of patients, but had no foundation in truth. If numberless facts, drawn from long experience of patients having been radically cured of old ulcers, from the age of fifty to seventy and upwards, may be admitted as demonstrations against a visionary hypothesis; so many might be produced, as would infallibly overthrow the doctrine, and convince the unprejudiced, that it was founded in absolute falsehood. If, beside the happiness of old painful ulcers being radically cured, it can be clearly proved, the constitutions of patients have been considerably amended, by correcting the vitiated state of the blood, and that neither *diarrhœa*, *fever*, or any other diseases are the consequences of the cure; it will require very little reflection, amongst humane and sensible practitioners in medicine, to determine, whether old and false doctrines should not be abolished, and new facts and demonstrations, if true, universally established and pursued.

THE reducing ulcers into "*betler order*" "*and less compass, by means of rest and care,*" can answer very little purpose, unless the patient should keep his bed during life, which remedy most will think worse than the disease; however, these rules, so positively laid down by Mr. Samuel Sharp, have proved an excellent excuse for the inefficacy of the common practice, and deterred many surgeons from attempting the cure in old people in general, and very frequently in other cases, where the cure might have been easily effected, without any inconvenience whatever to the patient. The doctrines of Mr. Sharp, should seem only applicable, where an *asthma*, *diarrhœa*, or *fever* pre-existed. Salivation, in these cases, is very absurd in general, and even cruel, were the case venereal; for such a powerful mercurial course, will greatly weaken and relax the most athletic and strong; in the more tender and delicate constitutions, the effects might be dangerous; but what renders this practice still more disagreeable is, that it does not in general prove successful; this Mr. Sharp himself
acknow-

acknowledges. I have seen a number of patients salivated in these cases, and to all appearance cured; yet in a short time after, the sores have broken out again, and the patients have been under as unhappy circumstances as before the cure was attempted: besides, the constitution has been destroyed in a great measure, by this fruitless and unsuccessful attempt; which in some instances, no means whatever, after this severe course, could repair.

The procuring an artificial discharge by opening an issue, notwithstanding it is almost universally prescribed, may be safely excluded from practice; if the methods of cure, hereafter recommended, be candidly pursued. The trifling discharge of an issue is very inconsiderable; though many of the profession are of opinion, something very essential is obtained by this means. It is imagined, when an old ulcer is cured, the constitution has been so much used to a discharge, that unless we assist nature by an issue, there will be a translocation of matter to

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some

some more noble part, as the *brain*, or the *lungs*, &c. it likewise prevents their breaking out again. These opinions, though very common and plausible, are produced from false theory, or arise from the defective modes of treatment. I have never known a single instance of any accident happening after the cure of ulcers, in thousands of cases; the major part of which had been unsuccessfully treated at our hospitals in town; but the new methods being opposite to those in common use, may, in some measure, account for this. Besides, patients, in general cannot be happy; for sometimes, the pain occasioned by the issue, is equal to the ulcer, when in its worst state; in which case it must be immaterial to the patient, whether he has the ulcer or the issue to torment him. Numerous observations on the practice of others, prove, that issues do not answer the end expected; for the ulcer has relapsed. If an issue could be of service, I would advise it to women after the cure, between the age of thirty-four and fifty, for reasons so obvious to practitioners, they need not be mentioned. If, however,

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a compliance with the practice of making issues on these occasions renders patients happier, as issues cannot do mischief, let them enjoy this supposed relief. I must declare, I have never used them after the cure of old ulcers; and am quite convinced of their insignificance, unless in those constitutions that have a dropfical tendency.

SOME surgeons, considering the ulcer of the legs a *local* disease,* suppose the constitution of the patient not affected. If by the term *local* they mean a disorder affecting any particular part, as the legs, the breasts, the lips, or any other part of the body, without its producing any change, or effect whatever in the general constitution; it is denied, that ulcers of the legs, or any other part, are *local* diseases of this class. If they mean only an *external* disorder; it is denied, that any external complaint, discharging a fœtid, acrimonious,

* The definition of *local* should seem to be, a disorder of any part or place of the body, independent of the general habit.

or purulent pus, can exist without contaminating, in some degree, the general habit: hence the application of ointments, dressings, bandage, or any other external means, which belong to the department of surgery, will not securely eradicate a disease ravaging in the constitution, and of which the ulcer is sometimes evidently a mere symptom.

If an anatomist, ~~by~~ dissecting a putrid subject, should receive ^{by} the slightest scratch, ~~by~~ any putridity from the subject he dissects; the misfortune frequently terminates, by a putrid fever, in death.

If the matter of the pustules from the small-pox be applied to a small puncture, the disorder is received, and produces its regular stages in the constitution.

If a puncture, even by the blunt part of a needle, be received in the finger or thumb, and the person should have a virulent gonorrhœa, and indiscreetly press the affected part to examine the state of the discharge, the consequence has been an inflammation of the lymphatic vessels of the arm, and a tumor of the glands of the arm, or axilla.

MIDWIVES have received the venereal infection by the same means.

FEVERS of the most malignant kind in the West-Indies, I have known to be communicated from a scratch in the finger, with which the pulse has been felt.

It is proved, that garlick, oil of turpentine, and other things of a peculiar odor, when rubbed on the feet or hands, will sensibly affect the breath, and the smell of the urine.

SEVERAL subtle poisons, from the bites of animals, and mercury, are conveyed into the habit by means of the absorbent system.

ALL these, and many other effects, arise from the absorbing power of the absorbent vessels.

If such evident effects are produced by things injurious, and others merely innocent, it naturally follows, that :

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THE acrimonious matter of a scorbutic or scrophulous ulcer, may send into the habit some of its irritating fomes.

THAT a putrid ulcer may carry into the human constitution some of its putrid effects.

THAT a venereal ulcer may transmit some of its virulence into the habit.

THAT a cancerous ulcer may convey, by similar means, some of its dreadful corroding qualities, and produce an hectic fever.

THAT abscesses and ulcers may be produced, by an absorption of the matter causing the small-pox, venereal disease, or even putrid malignant fevers and pestilence.

IF, therefore, the preceding facts be strictly true, which will be acknowledged by every learned and unprejudiced man in the profession, what doubt can remain of the
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the possibility of an absorption of some part of the ulcerous discharge, into the constitution ? It must, therefore appear, whatever vitiated change in the constitution be sufficient to produce an ulcer, and continue its effects for years ; that the matter of the ulcer, in its turn, may vitiate the whole habit ; and thus, by a reciprocity of action, from the ulcer to the constitution, and from the vitiated fluids to the ulcer, the effects may continue, and this reasoning, perhaps, explains the cause of ulcers remaining so many years.

If the preceding reasons be not sufficient to convince mankind, and nothing but the most determined obstinacy, or ignorance, can deny their rationality ; other reasons might be adduced, which may add weight to those already advanced.

ULCERS create pain, and pain produces uneasy sensations in the mind ; a perturbed mind will disturb the natural functions of the body : hence arise indigestion, feverish heats, and a vitiated chyle : from a vitiated chyle, an acrimonious state of the blood ;
and

and from these sources, all the functions, *animal, vital, or natural*, may, in various degrees, be changed from a sound state; and if the absorption of any acrimonious, purulent, or putrid matter be added; who can be so blind as not perceive, that the constitution may materially suffer, under the affliction of what may be called a *local* disease, and that remedies administered to remove the cause from the constitution, must be the most rational mode of proceeding? But what should confirm the whole reasoning is, that it has been acknowledged, a perfect cure is not experienced by the common methods: yet changing the constitution by diet and remedies, has proved, in numerous instances, a radical cure; not only of the ulcer, but has rendered the patient's habit, ever after, healthful.

THE cure of ulcers, therefore, cannot rationally be attempted by any narrow, confined mode; but should be accommodated to many circumstances of age, season of the year, particular diet and constitution of each individual, a consideration
of

of the causes of the disease, its effects, and consequences; the judicious choice of medicines, dressings and bandage; all which shall be explained in the subsequent part of this treatise.

Of ULCERS in general.

A SOLUTION of continuity, with loss of substance, in any part of the body, discharging pus, ichor, or sanies, is called an ulcer.

AN ulcer is either simple, or complicated.

THE *ulcer*, denominated *simple*, originates, in general, from some external injury; as contusion, abrasion, excision, or corrosion.

THE *complicated ulcer* arises from some disease already in the constitution; as the marine, or land scurvy, rickets, the dropsy, the scrophula, lues venerea, or cancer. A simple ulcer, likewise, from internal causes, may become complicated. The simple recent ulcer, therefore, may be termed idiopathic; the complicated ulcer symptomatic.

On the Causes of ULCERS.

THE recent simple ulcer has no very remote cause, as it arises from some sudden accident: but the complicated ulcer has many different and remote causes, according to its particular species. The proximate, or immediate causes of ulcers, are the laceration, excision, or corrosion of a greater, or less number of minute vessels; from the open mouths of which, serum, pus, ichor, or sanies are discharged.

Of the Seat of ULCERS.

ULCERS are commonly seated in the *tela cellulosa* *: An ulcer may, therefore, extend to many different parts of the body, and be superficial, or remotely seated; may pass through the interstices of many muscles, or not penetrate much deeper than the cutis.

* The ulcers of the viscera may, in some measure, be excepted; but even in these cases, as it has been demonstrated, the viscera themselves are composed of the *tela cellulosa*; ulcers of these parts may exist in the *tela cellulosa*. From the communication of the *tela cellulosa*, purulent matter has passed from the thorax and abdomen to the extremities.

Vide Physiolog. Halleri. Tom. I.
Prog-

Prognostics of ULCERS.

ALL simple ulcers in their first appearance may, easily, be cured. There would not be an old ulcer, were the disease managed judiciously in its primitive state.

To suffer a recent ulcer to become inveterate, is a disgrace to the medical art: but this arises more from the neglect of a skilful internal treatment and regimen, than any real difficulty in the cure.

COMPLICATED, or old ulcers, are more tedious in cure; but these are safely healed by removing the causes from the constitution which gave them rise: such are, generally, the sea or land scurvy, scrophula, lues venerea, or any other disease which contaminates the fluids.

On the Cure of ULCERS.

THE cure of all ulcers depends on a good digestion, incarnation, and sound cicatrification.

THESE three stages of cure are, frequently, produced by the operations of nature, joined with simple dressings, in recent ulcers; but a skilful application of various modes of diet and remedies will alone succeed in removing the complicated, or old ulcer.

Diet, Remedies and Dressings necessary in the simple recent ULCER.

IN plethoric constitutions, bleeding, saline purges, and a moderate abstinence, particularly from *liquids*, are to be prescribed.

IN *lax* habits, evacuations, or saline remedies would be improper; in which instances *tonics* may be useful. A dry diet is absolutely proper in both cases; for as the increased effusion of pus, ichor, or sanies, will depend much on the vessels being *distended* by fluids; so the *diminution* of the contents of the vessels will diminish the inflammation, the increased action of their coats, and allay irritation. The inflammatory stage of simple ulcers being removed, a glutinous pus succeeds, the ulcer daily incarns, and at last is cicatrised, or skinned over.

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ULCERS *of the* LEGS, &c. 21

SIMPLE recent ulcers, whether superficial, or deeply seated, even with some trifling indisposition in the habit, are, speedily, cured, by

BLEEDING, in plethoric constitutions.

SALINE purgatives once or twice in the week.

NITROUS drinks.

PROPER dressings and bandage.

AN abstinence from liquids in a certain degree, and by avoiding all salt, acrimonious, or stimulating diet.

1. ℞. Sal. Glauber. vel Rupel. ʒvj solve in infus. senæ ʒiij. bis in septimana sumendus.

In robust habits, or amongst porter, or ale drinkers, a stronger purge is necessary.

2. ℞. Pulv. jalap. gr. xv vel ʒj.
Sal. nitr. pulv.
Crem. tart. aa ʒss. m. semel, vel bis in septimana sumendus.

In more delicate habits.

3. R. Infus. fen. ℥ij.

Tart. solub. ℥i. m. f. haustus,
semel, vel bis in septimana sumendus.

In females, where the menses are obstructed; or in pallid habits.

4. R. Pil. ex colocynth cum aloe ℥j

Calomel. ppt. gr. ij. m. accurate,
f. pilulæ No. vj capiat j, vel ij.
alternis noctibus.

For a common Drink to the Plethoric.

5. R. Emulsionis commun. ℥j.

Sal. nitr. ℥j. m.

6. R. Sal. nitr. vel prunell. ℥ss solve in
aq. pur. ℥ij. capiat coch. ij.
vel iv, ter de die.

In habitual costiveness.

7. R. Elect. lenitiv. iiss.

Crem. tart. pulv. ℥iij.

Pulv. rad. jalap. ℥j. syr. simp.

q. s. f. elect. cujus capiat.

Q. N. M. semel, vel bis de die,
vel ad libitum in constipatione.

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In constitutions of a dropfical tendency, with a very dry diet, may be given,

Pil. ex colocynth. cum aloe ad gr. vj. vel
Elect. e scammon. ad 3fs.

As gentle laxatives, where no considerable evacuation is necessary, oil and manna, lenitive electuary, lac sulphur, and magnesia; or cremor tartar, sal Polychrestus, or Tartarum solubile, and such like remedies, may be recommended, merely, to prevent, or remove constipation.

In cachetic habits; aloetic preparations, mercurials, or antimonial and mercurial alteratives, may be given in small doses, at proper distances, the *pulv. mineralis*, or chalybeates.

In very lax habits, where the circulation is languid, *bark* and other *tonics* are useful.

The external Treatment of recent and simple
U L C E R S.

In these ulcers a surrounding inflammation is a common symptom.

* A composition of æthiops mineral and sal. nitr. equal parts, well rubbed together.

FOR

FOR which emollient fomentations and cataplasms are to be applied.

Unguentum emolliens.

8. ℞. Ol. mucilag. recent. vel ol. oliv.
opt. ℥ss.

Sperm. ceti ℥ij. vel ℥iiss f.
unguentum secundum artem.

THIS ointment, which is very simple and emollient, may be applied to any part swelled, or inflamed, twice in the day, The vegeto-mineral water is likewise useful. If, after some days, a well-digested matter should not issue, which is a sign of acrimony in the constitution; to the ulcer itself may be applied.

9. ℞. Merc. præcip. rub. benè lævigat. ℥ij.

Ung. ex alth. vel cerat. alb. ℥ij.
f. unguentum; parum cujus
parti affectæ applicandum
ope lintei carpti, semel, vel
bis de die.

FROM a thin discharge, a thick glutinous pus succeeds; new red granulations gradually fill up the space of the substance

stance formerly lost, until the surface of the ulcer is even with the skin, in which case the *ceratum epuloticum* is proper to cicatrise the sore, with light compresses.

IF the case be obstinate, internally, may be given remedies to correct the bad habit; or in time the ulcer may become habitual.

THE causes, therefore, in the constitution should be first ascertained, why the ulcer does not heal: for these being clearly discovered, the cure of any recent ulcer will not be difficult. The ulcer, however, continuing unhealed, is to be considered complicated.

On Exercise in the Cure of ULCERS
of the LEGS.

THE constant practice in hospitals, it has been observed, is, to oblige patients to *lie in bed*, during the cure of ulcerated legs; but on using exercise, after this mode of treatment, the skin frequently breaks, a discharge issues, and a relapse of

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the ulcer is the consequence. Ulcers of the legs commonly are seated upon, or near the *tibia*, frequently a little above the ankle; in which situation moderate exercise has always been recommended, during the new methods of cure; at the same time internal remedies, and a proper diet, adapted to each individual, are prescribed. Common sense, and a little reflection, unassisted by deep medical science, must perceive the utility of exercise when the cure is performing; for ulcers healing, while exercise is used, will be in no danger of relapsing: on the contrary, where lying in bed has been persisted in, a considerable time, on suddenly proceeding to muscular motion, the disease has frequently returned.

THERE are, however, circumstances in which rest may, for a certain time, be necessary; in violent swellings and inflammations; or if the ulcers should be seated on the superior part of the *tendo Achillis*, or on the *Gastrocnemii* muscles. The abbreviation and extension of these muscles are very considerable, and cause no small friction

tion in the cellular substance covering them, which is the seat of the ulcer : therefore during the incarnation of ulcers thus situated, the exercise should be very moderate ; but when the ulcer is, nearly, in a state to cicatrise, more exercise may be prescribed, to prevent the cicatrix forming itself into a contraction.

ULCERS are, certainly, healed by rest and the horizontal position much sooner, than where exercise is prescribed. The elongation of the minute vessels, and the tender fibrillæ, forming the granulations, which fill up the space occupied before by the ulcer, are less disturbed : but a cessation of all muscular motion, the warmth of the bed, an increased sensible, or insensible perspiration, all contribute to render the muscles relaxed, and the fibres of the tela cellulosa flaccid ; from hence the leg frequently diminishes in size. The ulcer incarnating during this diminished and relaxed state of the limb, is probably the cause of the relapse. The muscles, and other parts, which had been debilitated by a continuance in the warm bed, on returning again to their

usual motion, gradually reassume their former tone; the circulation of the fluids is increased; the lax flaccid parts become daily firmer; the cells of the tela cellulosa are more distended, and the limb acquires its former dimensions: but the lost substance constituting the ulcer having been repaired during the relaxed and diminished state of the limb, the new tender parts cannot sustain the shock of an unaccustomed friction, pressure and distension. The tender fibrillæ, by being over-stretched, become lacerated; the skin breaks, and the cause of the former ulcer not having been eradicated, the disease, gradually, returns to its former disagreeable state.

In the new mode of treatment, where moderate exercise is recommended, all these consequences are prevented: for, the leg performing its usual motions, and the wound healing up at the same time; the new parts supplied, become daily accustomed to various friction, pressure, or distension, and heal up so firmly; that no future exercise will lacerate the fibrillæ

brillæ of the regenerated flesh; nor will any thing but some external violence, or fever, reproduce the ulcer. In the former mode of proceeding, there seems a looser cohesion of the regenerating 'particles; in the latter, a more compact and firmer attraction and coherence, after the cure is completed.

On the Use of BANDAGE.

WHILE ulcers are incarning a simple roller is the best bandage: in the winter, it should be made of soft thin flannel, and in the summer of thin callico, or linen. The breadth of the roller should never exceed an inch and a half, or two inches.

If there should be a varix of the veins in conjunction with the ulcer, the whole leg should be rolled up to, or above the knee,

In rolling, some skill is required; it must be accommodated to the shape of the limb; so that the roller should lay smooth, and press equally on all the parts rolled.

IN *varices* of the veins, the leg, but not the ulcer, may be moistened, previous to rolling, with the *vegeto-mineral water* ; or with a weak solution of *alum* in water, or *vitriolum album* ; especially in great debility or relaxation.

THE roller should be placed so skilfully, as never to occasion pain, swelling, or inflammation by its tightness, nor become useless, from the want of a necessary pressure.

On COMPRESS.

COMPRESSES are likewise useful in the cure of ulcers. In laxity and sponginess of the surrounding parts ; in the sinuous ulcer : in those little exuberances, called fungusses, or, vulgarly, proud flesh.

THESE compresses may be composed of soft linen, or lint, repeatedly doubled ; they may be dipped in the solutions recommended in *varices* of the veins, and their shapes should be adapted to their various intentions.

BANDAGES and compresses, when judiciously applied, greatly promote the cure of ulcerations ; and assist in supporting muscular motion : in some œdematous, or dropical swellings, however, and in very corpulent patients, they should be cautiously used, or wholly omitted.

TIGHT bandage, likewise, is injurious in all inflammations, and inflammatory swellings, and where pain is the consequence, it should never be repeated.

AFTER ulcers are perfectly cicatrised, the bandage should, for a considerable time, be continued, to prevent external injury, and a relapse of the disease.

WHERE the veins are varicous, or dilated preternaturally, a laced stocking should be worn on the limb, for a long continuance.

On complicated ULCERS.

THE successful cure of the simple ulcer depends on the healthful state of the patient's constitution; but when the fluids are acrimonious, and the solids in consequence excited to a preternatural action; an ulcer will not incarn; for on the contrary, often enlarges its dimensions, and becomes, what is called, a *complicated* ulcer.

A COMPLICATED ulcer, therefore, is an ulcer joined with some irritating cause; either in the constitution, or adjacent parts, which retards its healing.

Causes of complicated ULCERS.

SOME irritating causes in the human habit are sufficiently powerful to produce ulcers; as the anasarcaous dropsy; the sea or land scurvy; a putrid tendency of the fluids; lues venerea; or cancer, &c.

THERE are, likewise, other causes; not indeed definible, nor very easy to explain,
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except from their effects, which, though not capable of producing ulcers of themselves, yet if any external violence should abrade the skin, or any accidental wound, or bruise should happen, an ulcer difficult of cure is the consequence. The examination of ulcers arising from what may be termed a *bad* habit of body, without any previous visible disease, is worthy of consideration.

FRESH wounds from sharp instruments heal immediately by the first intention, as it is called, in many; yet similar wounds in others, fester, produce pain, inflammation, tumors, ulcers, nay, even a mortification,

PARTS of the body lacerated by violent gun-shot wounds, with great loss of parts, heal kindly in some: in others the slightest wounds degenerate into incurable ulcers, gangrene, or mortification,

I HAVE seen slight wounds in hot climates, frequently, produce the locked jaw,
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and

and terminate fatally; while large wounds, even of the viscera, or other parts proceed, favorably, through all the regular stages of healing.

THE same diseases attack, and terminate in different people differently; to investigate this *individual* variety, and trace out the *causes*, well merit the attention of the reflecting physician. Researches of this nature, conducted with an acute penetration, profound and unprejudiced reasoning, and a nice discriminating judgment; will raise the art of physic to the highest pitch of excellence.

It is, however, a very good criterion of a patient's constitution, to determine, whether scratches, slight wounds, or any accidental excoriation, heal with facility; for it certainly indicates a healthful habit: on the contrary, where inflammation, pain, and a difficulty of cure succeed to accidents of this nature, it may be depended on, some latent mor-
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bific cause in the constitution, gives rise to those irritating effects.

THESE irritating effects have various causes; as *climate, air, diet, exercises, &c. seasons of the year; particular habit, the increase or diminution of the secretions and excretions*: all which should be considered, and, as much as possible, ascertained. Those great and important objects are treated in *physiology* and *general pathology*;* the application of which must be left, in general, to the good sense of the medical practitioner.

On the Acrimony of the HUMOURS.

IT must appear a plain fact, that various acrimonious states of the fluids may retard the cure, or be the original causes of ulcers: this being established; an investigation and discovery of those causes may be the best means of laying a rational foundation for the curative intentions of each particular species of ulcer.

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* In the Latin edition of my *Schola Medicinæ Universalis Nova*, now in the press,

AN *acrimony* is the impregnation of the humours of the body with some certain irritating particles.

THE causes and effects of acrimony are various ; as an enumeration of some of the most common will clearly amplify.

AN *acid acrimony*, chiefly, common to infants, is productive of the rickets, and sometimes, even ulcers ; curable by antacids, bitters, &c.

AN *alkaline acrimony* will produce spongy spreading ulcers of a putrid tendency ; these I have frequently seen in hot climates ; where most diseases terminate in putridity : in these cases, bark and acids succeed.

THE *muriatic acrimony*, from respiring in the sea air ; from salted food ; half putrid water ; bad bread, and lying in a confined place : this produces ulcers about the gums ; the teeth become often carious, and drop out ; large livid eruptions appear in different parts of the body, and spreading
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ing ulcers form on the extremities, sometimes with a caries of the bones.

NEITHER bark nor acids cure these diseases at sea, and yet an infusion of the extract of malt, not only prevents, but cures this disorder. Land air, fresh diet, sweet water, plenty of vegetables, and cleanliness, recover the patients speedily, often in the most desperate stages.

A *land scurvy* may arise from feeding on too much animal food, particularly salted, or from using too much salt; which is a common cause of ulcers of the legs, and various eruptions of the inflammatory kind; without any of the symptoms of the sea scurvy; this requires quite a different treatment: for antiphlogistics, as nitre, and sometimes mineral alteratives, are necessary.

VARIOUS other acrimonies produce their effects in particular parts.

As the *Rheumatic* in the tela cellulosa of the muscles.

THE *scrophulous*, in the lymphatic vessels and glands.

THE *scirrhus* in the lips, nose, breasts, &c.

THE *itch*, *erysipelas*, and others in the skin.

THE *venereal acrimony* affects the lymphatic glands, the fauces, the periosteum and bones : curable by mercury.

SOME of these complaints are hereditary, and transmitted from parents to children.

IT must be striking to every reflecting mind, that these variety of causes producing various effects, require different and opposite treatment. Ulcers of the legs arise from a multiplicity of causes, and therefore require many different modes of cure : but for practitioners who have obtained the public confidence, or credulity, no matter how, to solemnly assert, in a magisterial and self-important tone, that ulcers are *local diseases*, and that their causes are not to be investigated, nor exist in the patient's

patient's habit ; argues the utmost ignorance : When they proceed farther, and terrify the afflicted patients with the apprehension of some dangerous consequences, from a cure of the ulcer ; it can only arise from a want of application to the duties of their profession ; from some mean interested views ; or a vain supposition, that their contracted knowledge, is the height of medical science, and that the art itself admits of no improvement.

THE true causes of most diseases are to be investigated, by great industry, and though we may not immediately arrive at the summit of perfection ; yet those who constantly make attempts to improve the art, by unwearied observation in practice, and reflection ; will certainly succeed much better than those, who receive every thing as they found it, without examination, and satisfy themselves with the common vulgar prejudices. Perhaps, it can be evidently proved, that *medical education* is, in many instances, *radically defective*, and if so, what must be the consequences ?

HAVING

HAVING adduced many proofs in support of the new doctrines concerning complicated ulcers; the various species are next to be considered: amongst which the schrophulous, venereal, and cancerous are to be excluded; as the cause and cure of these are amply treated in my other writings on those subjects.

On ULCERS not accompanied with any specified Disease.

UNDER this class are, chiefly, considered, those ulcers which become difficult of cure from certain states of the blood, either natural to the patient's habit, or acquired by some irregularities, in what is called the non-naturals; these may be denominated *land scorbutic* ulcers.

Of the Land Scorbutic Ulcer, which seems to arise from a tenacity of the fluids, joined with a muriatic acrimony.

THIS ulcer is easily discoverable, by its inflammatory and painful symptoms, and a tendency to a surrounding callosity: it is often superficial, but sometimes deep; unaccompanied with any other specific symptoms of disease.

It

IT generally happens to those, who drink strong malt liquors, as ale, or porter, or spirits, and eat much animal food: or, it may arise by accident, and continue, from the sudden changes of air in this country, in conjunction with the other causes.

P R O G N O S T I C.

THESE old ulcers are not very difficult to cure, if patients observe a strict diet, and continue, a considerable time, the use of attenuating antiphlogistics, and mild metallic preparations,

C U R E.

BLEEDING is necessary, and should be occasionally repeated; especially if there should appear an inflammatory buff on the surface of the crassamentum; or in plethora.

THE quantity of drinks should be *diminished*, or those of a lighter nature substituted, in the place of strong malt liquors.

FROM half a grain to a grain of a well-prepared calomel in a pill, may be given,

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two,

two, or three times a week, and continued two months after the cure is perfected.*

NITRE from two drachms to an ounce may be dissolved in a quart of water, of which a tea-cup full may be taken twice, or thrice in the day.

The dressings may be the same as in the simple ulcer.

THIS species of ulcer is very common among the lower class of people in London, and thousands have been cured, under my own inspection, by the above means.

THE subsequent is the general plan of diet constantly recommended, and given to these patients in writing.

B R E A K F A S T.

NOT to exceed half a pint of tea, or milk.

* I have always given to the poor, who attend at my house on the public days, from half a grain to a grain of what I call *Aquila alba*, which is the merc. dulc. decies sub. pp^t. This acts as an alterative, and never disturbs the intestines.

TOASTED

TOASTED bread, with little or no butter.

No food, whatever, to be used between breakfast and dinner.

D I N N E R.

PLAIN meats, roast, or boiled, but not salted, and these in less quantity than usual.

SALT to be used very sparingly.

VEGETABLES or roots may be eaten in moderation, if they do not produce flatulency.

D R I N K S.

To use half the usual quantity of porter, or ale; but a lighter liquor is better; as small beer, or ale and small beer mixed. If tea be drank in the afternoon, the quantity should be reduced.

S U P P E R.

As light as possible, a potatoe, or toasted bread, &c. or milk and bread.

ALL liquids to be drank sparingly, vinegar, lemon juice, and such acids to be avoided; especially while *mineral alteratives* are administered.

EXERCISE to be used gently, so as never to excite pain in the ulcer, or fatigue to the patient.

ALL spirituous liquors to be avoided.

IN prescribing the necessary diet, it will be useful to enquire what foods the patient has been accustomed to, for the preceeding years; by this means some errors, and perhaps the cause of the prevailing acrimony will be discovered. Among the inferior ranks of people, the causes may be too great a use of salted meats, *salt, cheese, butter*; too great a quantity of *tea, spiritous liquors*, or strong *malt liquors*, the being exposed to cold and heats, the want of *pure air*, too much or too little exercise, costiveness or purgings, increased or diminished perspiration; errors, in the *secretion* of the chyle, or in its absorption, from morbid *mesenteric glands*;
or

or from too large, or too small flow of bile to the duodenum. The former produces purging, the latter constipation, and both cause a degeneracy of the fluids. The liver sometimes is diseased, which cannot be removed, but by *penetrating* mineral alteratives. From these circumstances, and many more too tedious to mention, it must appear rational, that all these accidents, errors, or morbid states of the viscera, and other parts, should be, as much as possible, ascertained, and counteracted by a judicious choice of diet and remedies: hence a variety of curative intentions become absolutely necessary, the greater part of which must depend on a profound acquaintance with all the branches of medicine, and their application to the differences observable in nature.

PERHAPS, eighty patients out of a hundred may be cured by the former and subsequent methods; but in the remaining twenty, there may exist as great a variety in the constitutions as in the number of patients, and from hence arises that nice part of practice, which requires an accurate dis-

discrimination, between one case and another, between one constitution and another: from a consideration of which, the *contra-indications* in the modes of cure are determined by the natural, or accidental peculiarities in each individual. If in any part of medicine, an extraordinary understanding, skill and experience are required, it is in distinguishing the *contra-indications*, and differences in the human habits. It is by the superior possession of this knowledge, the result of deep study, extensive practice, and close observation, that one physician will be more useful than many others. The common *beaten track* of any practice, however authorised, must be always inadequate to many *individual* curative intentions.

THE various impediments in the cure of ulcers already mentioned are to be prevented, removed, or palliated by the skill of the medical practitioner; in which the mildest methods should be first prescribed, then, more powerful; if those should not succeed, the most efficacious remedies are to be applied. All these should be so conducted, as never to excite any
rough

rough effects in the habit, although the most powerful alteratives should be exhibited.

THE skilful management in the doses of the mineral preparations, adapted to each individual, can never be acquired, but by an immense and reiterated experience and observation; but the physician who begins with very small doses, and gradually increases them, will seldom err. It should ever be remembered, that any medicine, given as an alterative, to produce a change in the constitution, cannot answer that intention, if it prove purgative; nor will *opiates* ever remove the causes of habitual diseases; therefore they have been excluded in the present practice.*

On the Seasons of the Year in the Cure of
U L C E R S.

SPRING and SUMMER.

IN the spring and summer, ulcers heal more kindly than in any other season of the year.

A U-

* The prevailing fashion of prescribing hemlock, nightshade, and other deadly poisons as specific remedies for the resolution of glandular and other complaints, is highly absurd, and often fatally injurious, opium likewise has been lately exhibited in cases and constitutions diametrically opposite to reason and experience,

AUTUMN and WINTER.

IN the autumn, ulcers are more tardy of cure, and the winter is the most unfavourable of all the seasons, for their incarnation.

On the spongious, putrid, and spreading
U L C E R.

THIS ulcer frequently succeeds the putrid or low remitting fevers, and is more common in hot climates, than in the northern regions: an ulcer of this species may, likewise, arise from extreme cold, or heat, by which the parts have become sphacelated.

C A U S E S.

THE principal causes of this ulcer seem to be, a partial, or general putrescent acrimony, from the blood having lost, in some degree, its cohering particles; hence debility in the solids, and a depravation of many functions; hence diseased viscera, and a degeneracy of the fluids.

S Y M P.

S Y M P T O M S.

THE parts surrounding the ulcer are generally lax; the ulcer discharges a foetid sanies, and its dimensions daily increase by the destruction of the parts.

P R O G N O S T I C.

THE cure will be more or less difficult according to the causes which gave rise to the ulcer: if it should have arisen from fever, and there should be reasons to conclude the viscera in an healthful state, the cure, as in most other diseases, will be more easily effected.

On the cure of the spongioid, putrid, and spreading ULCER.

IF this ulcer should appear after the putrid, or remitting fever, while recent, it may be cured by bark and the vitriolic acid with cordials.

IF the above methods should not succeed, there may be some reason to suspect

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the viscera to be diseased ; particularly the liver : for the bark and vitriolic acids administered during the remission of the fever contract the opening of the *ductus communis cholidochus* in the *duodenum*, by which the *liver* becomes either *inflamed* or *indurated*, and this I have repeatedly seen from the dissection of morbid bodies, *post mortem*, in hot climates. It becomes therefore a necessary practice, during the paroxysm of the fever, to give antimonials, as James's Powder, or small doses of *Tart. emet.* and in the remission *antiseptics* : by thus alternately applying those remedies, the most inveterate species of remitting fevers are sometimes cured. I have successfully prescribed small doses of calomel with James's powder, when the bile ducts have been contracted, and the whole body tinged with a deep yellow colour, the consequences of a diseased liver.

THE treatment of the recent putrid ulcer, should, in some measure, imitate the foregoing, and the bark should be given freely.

External

External Applications.

THE ulcer should be cleansed with tincture of myrrh and bark; and dressed with the yellow basilicon, mixed with *oleum terebinth.* on lint. The dressings should be renewed, at least, twice in the day, to prevent the absorption, as much as possible, of the putrid acrimony.

Of the fætid, but not spreading ULCER.

FROM the contamination of the fluids by the former species of ulcer, or the omission of antimonials and mercurial alteratives in its early stages, the ulcer remains, does not spread; but is deep, and emits a very putrid smell.

C A U S E S.

THESE ulcers may arise from a depraved state of the blood succeeding low remittent fevers, or from any other causes, by which the healthful texture of the blood is, in certain degrees, destroyed.

THESE cases often happen to sailors and soldiers,* and continue in an incurable state, from unsound viscera. An ill performed digestion, a depraved chyle, a bad secreted bile, or a diffusion of bile through the habit, are amongst the principal causes of the ulcer remaining inveterate.

CURE in very relaxed HABITS.

THE cure consists in restoring the blood to a more balsamic state, by removing the causes of acrimony, and restoring the viscera to their natural functions,

THE application of remedies must be drawn from the state of the patient's habit,

IF the ulcer be accompanied with great debility, pallor of countenance, a languid pulse, and other general symptoms of relaxation; the *bark*, *chalybeates*, and other *tonics*, will be proper.

* In the war before last, I had the care of many such patients, at Bellisle, in the year 1761; and since the late war, many have presented themselves, on my public days, for assistance, and have been cured.

10. R. Pulv. cort. Peruv. ℥ijss.
 Colcoth vitriol. benè pulver. vel
 Flor. martial. ℥ss.
 Spec. aromat. ℥ij. Sfy. imp. q. f.
 f. Elect. cujus sumat Q.N.M. ter vel qua-
 ter de die.

OR bark, mineral acids, and bitters,
 may be prescribed.

DURING the use of these remedies, from
 half a grain to a grain of calomel, with
 three or four grains of any aloetic pill, may
 be taken every other night, to prevent cos-
 tiveness, and remove obstruction in the
 viscera.

ALL saline purges, and remedies of the
 antiphlogistic class, should be avoided, as
 nitre, &c.

THE diet should be *dry*, but nutritious,
 and *tea* used very sparingly. lest the bracing
 powers of the corroborants should be coun-
 teracted, and the intentions of cure de-
 feated.

Of

*Of the Foul Fætid ULCER in Habits
not relaxed.*

THERE is a species of the *fætid* ulcer, in which the constitution of the patient is not much relaxed nor debilitated.

S Y M P T O M S.

THE ulcer is of a greenish, or livid hue, superficial, or deep, but not spongi-ous; nor are the surrounding parts of a loose texture, but rather inclinable to callosity. The smell is, frequently, very fætid, and the pain exquisite, especially some hours after receiving aliment. This ulcer may remain many years; but seldom without evident marks of a diseased habit; which is most distinguishable in the countenance; where languor, discoloration, and uneasiness are strongly painted; yet the patient pursues his occupation, or duties in life, without any extraordinary molestation.

C A U S E S.

THIS ulcer receives its origin from various causes, which, in general, exist in a
par-

partial, or universal depravation of the blood.

THE viscera seem to be particularly affected.

DIGESTION is rarely well performed.

A HEALTHFUL chyle is not absorbed by the lacteals.

THE circulation seems to be impeded at the part affected, yet exciting sufficient stimulus, heat and irritation to preserve the putrescent symptoms.

IT may be observed, that the putridity of the discharged fluids affects the general system, in proportion, as the surrounding parts are loose in texture, or attended with callosity.

IF the surrounding parts should be lax, the absorbing vessels will easier receive the semiputrid matter; but callous parts will not easily admit the return of the fluid; therefore,

fore, in the former, the blood is more, but in the latter, less contaminated with the alkalescent acrimony.

WHERE a putrescent acrimony once exists, a few particles may not only affect the immediate parts occupied by the ulcer, but likewise the whole system.*

C U R E.

THE mode of cure being previously accommodated to all the foregoing circumstances, the indications are:

To remove the putrefactive and diseased parts of the ulcer, and produce a good digestion.

To correct the acrimony in the habit, by removing obstructions or relaxation in the viscera.

THE ulcer may be cleansed by what was recommended in the last species of ulcer;

* This is clearly explained in the pathological part of the *Schola medicinae universalis nova*.

or the following solution is very useful for this purpose.

N^o. II. R. Merc. corros. sub. gr. vj.

Aq. pur. ℥ij. f. lotio.

THIS may be applied to the ulcer by means of a feather, two or three times, previous to dressing it with the precipitate digestive.

IF the solution should not answer the intention of deterging the ulcer, a *fumigation* of *cinnabar factitium*, or *Æthiop. mineralis*, will soon reduce it to a purer state; at the same time the fumes of an excellent alterative will be received, in a light manner, by respiration.

Internal Remedies.

THE *pulvis mineralis* in the dose of a scruple, or half a dram three times a day, mixed in a little water, will be proper.

A POWDER, composed of one third of the merc. dulc. sexies sub. ppt. and two thirds sulph. antimonii præcipitatum, well rubbed together; or instead of the calomel, the same quantity of *argentum vivum*, rubbed with the sulph. præcip. antimon. until the globules have disappeared. The latter will best agree with irritable stomachs.*

A GRAIN, or two grains of either of these powders, may be made into a pill with any conserve, and taken every night and morning; or in some cases three times a day, with or without a solution of nitre, joined with camphor. These pills, if well prepared, never act as salivants, nor disturb the intestines; which latter effect would entirely defeat their intention as alteratives.

* Calomel sublimed twelve times and well triturated with water is what I call *Aquila alba*; its operation is much milder than the common calomel; but this preparation is not to be procured: I am quite convinced of its superiority, and have always given it to the indigent, who apply for advice on my public days.

IN

IN patients with robust fibres, the nitre should be prescribed in full quantities, and *always dissolved* in water, or it may disagree; but to weaker patients, in smaller doses; in the nervous and debilitated, *nitre* should be omitted or joined, with the *spt. ammoniac. volat.* or camphor. It is by these means an excellent corrector and penetrating medicine is conveyed into the habit; but it should be observed, that *nitre* seldom agrees well with the stomachs of those who drink *wine, cyder,* or indulge with spirits. Perhaps the secretion of the defending mucus of the stomach is diminished, by those liquors contracting the excretory vessels of the mucal glands, or their acid particles may, in some measure, dissolve the mucus: hence the nervous papillæ of the stomach may be more susceptible to any saline spiculæ, such as *nitre*, and disagreeable sensations may be thus produced. Very irritable nervous patients are relaxed by this neutral salt. *Nitre*, therefore, though an excellent remedy to the laborious, and drinkers of malt liquors, whose stomachs are

well defended by a mucus, may be injurious to those who use cyder, wine, or undiluted spirituous liquors; or where an exquisite nervous sensibility exists. By long experience, and an unprejudiced attention to such circumstances, from reflecting on the probable causes, which produce such various and opposite sensations; may frequently be discovered, why remedies are very efficacious in *Holland*, *Germany*, and *England*, where the people, in general, are gross feeders; yet in *France* and *Italy*, the same medicines are not only unsalutary, but injurious. The *English*, *Germans*, and *Dutch*, in certain districts, bear the *mercurius corrosivus sublimatus* in small doses, when diluted; yet the *French*, *Italians*, and *Neapolitans* rarely admit its exhibition without suffering painful and tormenting sensations: this I have frequently seen in my continental travels. The inferences from a number of such observations are evident, and of the utmost utility in practice. What will cure a disease in one country, or province, may do mischief in another.

Whoever

Whoever follows with implicit faith the best medical precepts of cure, without minutely considering a variety of circumstances; as season of the year, place of residence, peculiar constitutions and symptoms, will be often disappointed. There never was, nor never will be, any regular, fixed, and infallible mode of practice in medicine, that will constantly prove successful. The art therefore should never be confined; but conform to an infinity of mental, corporeal irregularities, and contrarieties; for these have ever existed, will continue, and should be seriously considered by every studious physician. A great part of practical medicine, depends on the good sense and judicious application of the practitioner; but as the gradations of human intellects are various, as some have naturally a quicker and juster comprehension of men and things than others; so must the success of medicine constantly fluctuate, and be defective, or excellent, according to the partial knowledge, or extent of learning and genius in the prescriber.

On

On the chronic cutaneous ULCERS.*

THE chronic cutaneous ulcers, are a species of ulcerations which rarely penetrate deeper than the cutis of the legs, or other parts of the body; but often spread and continue for years.

SYMPTOMS.

THE skin is destroyed in various degrees, an acrimonious sharp humor is discharged; this drying and coagulating, scabs, fissures, and superficial ulcerations are formed; all different in size and figure. The parts affected itch violently, and bleed on being scratched; are often hot, and inflame, particularly in bed; preventing rest in the night, the dry scaly eruptions or scurfs fall off, and

* This disease is various in its appearance in different subjects, and is scarce definable. Authors have given names according to the appearances, or parts affected: as *Herpes exedens*, *Impetigo miliaris*, *Periscelis*, *Collaris*, *Vitiligo seu Albos*, *Leuce*, &c. &c.
are

are repeatedly regenerated, and the disorder is often an attendant on old age.

C A U S E S.

A MURIATIC acrimony seems to prevail, and the pores in the cuticula being obstructed, either from the circulating powers being diminished, or external cold; the fluid which should pass off by perspiration lodges itself, and becomes more acrid between the cutis and cuticula; its sharp acrimony often destroying both, renders the external surface of the cellular substance like a sponge, from the openings of which issue the sharp humor, irritating the tender nervous papillæ on the cutis, producing that violent itching which no application in some cases can allay. The constant determination of the acrid saline perspirable matter towards the skin probably causes the long continuance of the symptoms.

P R O G N O S T I C.

THE cure of these ulcerations are sometimes extremely difficult, the common modes of treatment not only fail,
but

but sometimes the most improved methods have not succeeded: there are, however, many cases curable, and all can be, in a certain degree, alleviated. *

C U R E.

THE general modes of cure should be various according to the causes which gave rise to the complaint.

THE constitutions, age and sex of patients should be considered.

THE diet should be dry, and regulated to the last mentioned circumstances, the general precepts of which have already been delivered.

* Amongst a variety of cases, about four since, two gouty patients, who had suffered extream misery many years, with these species of ulcerations extending from the foot to the knee, were cured by cinnab. ant. small doses of nitre, a pill of the *aquila alba* occasionally, and proper regimen. One was between 60 and 70, the other between 70 and 80 years old; they are both now in perfect health, nor have the ulcers relapsed.

To

THE particular indications are; to determine the humors, as much as possible, from the skin, when a profuse acrimonious humor is discharged; by cathartics, dry diet, and cooling diuretics.

To investigate the cause, and correct the prevailing acrimony, by cinnabarine, antimonial, or such like preparations, with or without nitre.

To junior patients of healthful habits, especially in plethora, bleeding is proper, and evacuating purgatives of the antiphlogistic class three times a week. Antimonial and mercurial alteratives already prescribed; solution of nitre; or the pulvis mineralis.

In senior patients, purgatives may be improper: therefore, from ℞j to ℞iſs of Cinnabar of antimony, or Æthiops Mineral, with, or without small doses of nitre twice in the day, have corrected the acrimony,

K

and

and radically cured this species of ulcers in elderly patients.

N^o. II. ℞. Cinnab. antimon. ʒij.

Pulv. fal. nitr.

— e tragacanth. c. aa ʒi

M. accurate, f. pulvis, dividendus in iv vel vi doses; sumat unam bis vel ter de die ex coch. ij. aquæ puræ.

IN some inveterate cases, from the fixteenth to the twelfth of a grain, of Merc. corros. sub. and the same quantity of Tartarum emeticum, dissolved in water, and taken in some saffraas tea, twice a day, have effected many extraordinary cures, not only in these cases, but in the most obstinate scorbutic eruptions, and even in the leprosy. In such very small doses, these remedies may be given with the utmost security: for they never disturb the constitution even of the most delicate persons, unless the stomach should labor under some particular affection.*

* The greatest accuracy and exactness should be observed in their preparation.

No.

N^o. 12. R. Merc. corros. sub.

Tart. emet. aa. gr. i solve in
Aq. Rosar. ℥viij capiat ℥ij
vel ℥ss mane et vesperi ex
coch. iv infus. assafr. vel
decocti sarsaparellæ.

To the above solution may be added,
if the prescriber should think it necessary,
from ℥i ad ℥ij of nitre.

THE same species of ulcer, in some in-
stances, has been cured by drinking a
decoction of the inner bark of elm *pro*
potu ordinario, and taking two or three
times a week, the Glauber salts, or any
other antiphlogistic purge.

IN very lax habits, or if the symptoms
should be periodical, the bark and tonics
may be useful. External applications sel-
dom avail ; however, the *unguentum emol-*
liens, No. 8. with or without a small por-
tion of *Goulard's extract*, will sometimes
allay irritation : but this should never be

used until the internal remedies have been exhibited.*

On the sinuous U L C E R.

A N ulcer without callosity, seated in the interstices of muscles, or between the external adipose substance and muscles, disuniting parts which should cohere, forming a cavity, and externally discharging pus, ichor, or sanies, is denominated a sinuous ulcer.

C A U S E S.

ABSCESSSES not sufficiently opened to evacuate the contained matter. An acrimonious serum corroding and dividing the cellular structure of the cohering parts. Punctures, gun-shot, or other wounds. A putrescent acrimony insinuating itself into the interstices of muscles, or between the adipose membrane and muscles: lastly, abscesses forming in parts remote from the situations in which they appear, as

* Oleum olivar. Acet. commun of each \bar{z} i. with Litharg. aur. \bar{z} i. finely levigated, and well united, greatly allays itching and inflammation.

in the ulcer from an affection of the *Psoas internus* muscle, or ulcers in various parts of the thorax, abdomen, loins, back, superior and inferior extremities, &c.

P R O G N O S T I C.

THE prospects of cure are dependant on the situation of the ulcer and sinus; on the possibility, or impossibility of precisely ascertaining the direction of the sinus; so that either by dilatation, compress, counter opening, or a seton, the causes may be removed; but sinuous ulcers of the thorax, abdomen, or *Psoas* muscle are with difficulty cured, and the latter is often incurable. All ulcers situated in parts subject to constant motion are not easily cured.

C U R E.

By dilating the wound in the direction of the sinus, if there be no danger of wounding arteries, or nerves of consequence, aponeuroses of muscles, or tendinous expansions. By counter-openings, setons, or a sponge tent.

By

By well directed compresses.

By injections of the solution N^o. II, if an incised tumor should have given rise to the ulcer, by which means the cyst will be destroyed, and a proper digestion procured.

THE administration of remedies may be selected from the doctrines already delivered: but it is necessary to remark, that some extraordinary cures have been performed in the white swelling of the knee, sinuous ulcers of the loins and thigh by the *aquila alba*, *sulphur auratum antimonii*, nitrous solutions, and fumigations of *cinnabar factitium*, and small doses of the *Tart. emet.* and *merc. corrosiv. sub.* in conjunction with proper dressings, well directed compresses, and an extream dry diet.*

* A servant of a Baronet and another young man, both scrophulous, were radically cured by these means: the former had a white swelling in his knee, and lost part of the thigh bone, the other had been diseased ten years. See the 74 Cases. Other Cases might be adduced.

On

On fistulous ULCERS.

A SINUOUS ulcer, with a small external orifice, accompanied with callosity of the surrounding parts, is called a fistulous ulcer.

C A U S E S.

THE causes are similar to those of the sinuous ulcer.

C U R E.

THE cure must vary according to the degree of disease, and the parts affected; but the general plan may be conceived from what has been already said of the sinuous ulcer. If however, the fistula should be in *ano* with the *adepts* coagulated in the cells of the membrane, and cinnabarine fumigations, with powerful alteratives already recommended, after a long continuance, should not prevail; the operation for the fistula in *ano* is
the

the last, though often miserable resource*.

On callous old ULCERS.

AN ulcer, continuing many years, surrounded with an induration of the adipose membrane is, defined an old callous ulcer.

C A U S E S.

THE general causes are the same as other ulcers, but the surrounding callosity seems to originate in an inspissation, or coagulation of the adeps in its cells, and a diminished action in the arterial; or a debility in the absorbing powers of the venal system.

C U R E.

THE callosity must be removed, or resolved, or the ulcer cannot heal. Sur-

* For a new mode of cure in the fistula lachrymalis, &c. see the Treatise on Diseases of the Eyes.

geons recommend the *knife*, *caustics*, or *escharotics*; but these rough methods are rarely, if ever necessary. Fumigations of cinnabar, or *Æthiops mineralis*; penetrating alteratives already mentioned of *nitre*, *Æthiops*, *cinnabar*, *aquila alba*, or *solutio Tartari emetici*, joined with *merc. corros. sub.* in very small doses, dissolved in decoctions of *farfaparella*, *julep. e camphor. &c.* effectually remove the cause of the callous ulcer, and if long continued, with abstinence from acids, produce the most excellent cures.

THE general dressings already mentioned may be applied to these ulcers, or a solution of the *merc. corrosivus sub. gr. iv ad ℥iij aquæ puræ*, as a fomentation, and detergent of the ulcer.

On the carious ULCER.

A N ulcer, accompanied with a corruption or caries of the bone, is called a carious ulcer.

L

SYMP-

S Y M P T O M S.

It is known by a very rancid fetor, a livid or black discharge, by a loose fungus, through which a probe being passed, the disease of the bone is easily discovered.

C A U S E S.

A PUTRESCENT, cancerous, schrophulous, or venereal acrimony corroding the periosteum, and denudating the bone.

C U R E.

THE fungus must be destroyed, and the diseased part of the bone removed; the latter is sometimes performed by the efforts of nature; but if not, and the tibia should be affected, the caries may be removed by a raspatory, which I think preferable to the application of caustics, because the former is more certain, whereas the latter may corrode deeper than is necessary,

necessary, and produce considerable mischief. *

THE internal treatment should be governed by a consideration of the causes, which gave origin to the carious ulcer. In general, alteratives cure; if from acrimony; but if from the putrid disposition of the fluids, bark, and tonics will be necessary.

Of ULCERS of various parts.

FETID ULCERS of the internal part of the ear, after resisting the most approved common methods of cure from ten to twenty years, with and without deafness, have been radically cured by fumigating the part with *cinnab. fact. vel Æthiop min.* by means of a machine †

* While I was a student at St. Thomas's hospital, between twenty and thirty years ago, I remember Mr. Baker successfully cured these ulcers by rasping the bone.

† Some years ago I invented a very simple machine for this purpose, composed of a copper funnel with a curved tube, and the other parts similar to the common fumigating apparatus.—See Cases, &c.

with a curved tube, in conjunction with mineral alteratives internally.

ULCERS, with caries of the bones of the head, have been removed by the same methods.

ULCERS of the eye-lid or nose, by removing various causes and fumigating the parts.

ULCERS of the lymphatic glands of the neck, or internally in the mouth, or about the fauces, by fumigations and the alteratives recommended in cutaneous ulcers, and by destroying the cysts, with escharotics, in glandular ulcers.

ULCERS of the thorax and abdomen, by counter-openings, setons, compresses, and removing causes.

ULCERS about the loins, back, or superior part of the femoris, by the sponge tent, compresses, dilating the wound, or by counter-openings.

ULCERS

ULCERS of the superior and inferior extremities, by the various means already described.

ULCERS from the anasarcaous dropfy are commonly incurable.

VENEREAL ULCERS are best cured by fumigation of *Æthiops*, and mercurial remedies internally or externally.

ULCERS from the *leprosy*, and the leprosy itself has been effectually cured by a solution of merc. corros. sub. joined with tart. emet. or by *Ward's* white drop and decoctio lignorum cum nitro.

THE APTHÆ, or thrush, from putrid causes by lotions of *borax* and antiseptics; from acidities in children by antacids and gentle laxatives of rhubarb, magnesia, and a dry diet.

THE *achores* or *favi*, or a glutinous discharge from the foraminula in the head, conglutinating the hair; by weak mercurial unguents applied to the vertex, purging, alteratives of the mineral class, a dry diet

diet, and abstinence from all salted food, butter, &c.

THE *tinea*, or scald head, by the same means.

THE *crusta lactea* in children with humidity or not, by giving the nurse, if the child sucks, mineral alteratives, and to the child *Æthiops mineralis*, or a pill of calomel gr. fs with gr. j. of Kermes min. twice in a week, for a month.

ULCERS in the urinary passages by strong solutions of camphor, mineral alteratives, nitre, &c.

DRY ULCERS, by promoting a discharge, with digestive unguents.

FISTULOUS ULCER of the cheek penetrating the *ductus stenonianus*, either from an accident, or by incision ignorantly made externally in this part.

By an internal perforation of the tunica of the mouth.

FISTULOUS ULCER of the urinary passage in any part of the urethra, by incisions

cisions on each side of the lips of the ulcer, and promoting granulations with digestives. By preventing the discharge of urine through the aperture, and the internal stricture by the use of medicated bougies; by the hair-lip operation.

A *fistula urinaria post partum* in females is to be cured in a similar manner.

TIME necessary in curing ULCERS.

THE cure depending on changing the constitution; in some patients, it is necessary to persevere in the modes of cure many months.

RULES to be observed after the CURE of ULCERS.

I. THE medicines administered during the cure should be continued for two months after the cicatrizing any habitual ulcer.

II. The former accustomed diet should be gradually introduced.

III. COOLING laxatives to the florid and plethoric, and bitter stomachic eccoprotics

tics to the palid and debilitated cachectic habits, should be occasionally prescribed.

IV. BLEEDING spring and autumn is proper, unless in debility, old age, gout, &c.

V. THE pulvis mineralis is a good preservative in this changeable climate, in different seasons.

VI. ALL excesses should be avoided, particularly in drinking.

VII. PERSPIRATION should be, at times, promoted in bed with antimonials.

VIII. THE parts formerly affected should be defended against external injury by the *emplastrum simplex*, a laced stocking if varicous, &c.

IX. WHATEVER errors in diet may have caused the ulcer, should be carefully avoided.

X. TEMPERANCE above all things should be pursued.

F I N I S.

