

**An essay on the effects of the fucus helminthocorton upon cancer : more especially in the stage denominated occult : with a concise enquiry into the origin and nature of the disease, and the probable way in which the dispersion of these tumours is effected : together with observations on the various modes of practice ... enabling the reader at one view to become acquainted with every method now pursuing for the cure of this malady / by William Farr.**

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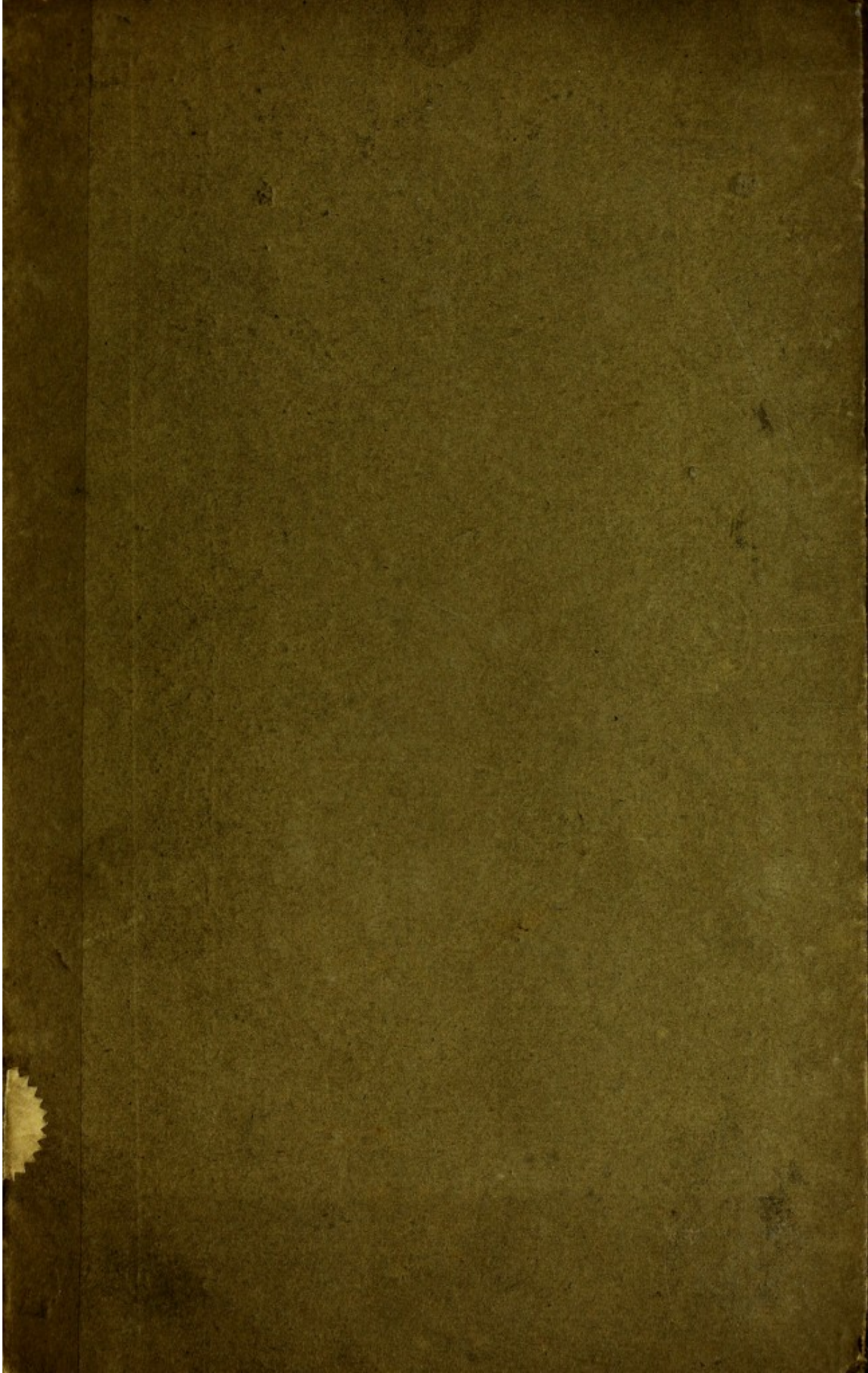
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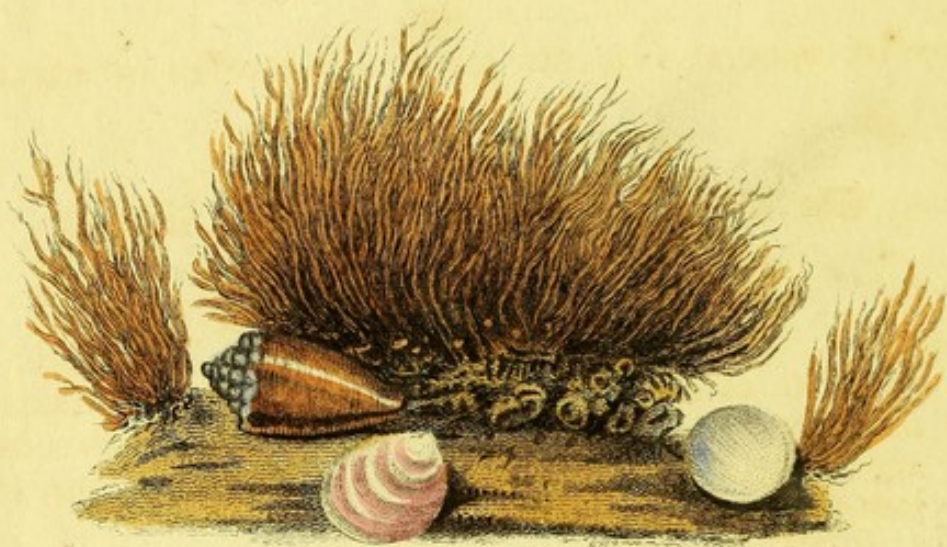


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*Fucus Helminthocorton.*  
or  
*Mousse de Corse.*

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,  
YORKSHIRE COLLEGE,  
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY,  
AN

# ESSAY

ON THE EFFECTS OF

THE FUCUS HELMINTHOCORTON

UPON

## CANCER,

MORE ESPECIALLY

IN THE STAGE DENOMINATED OCCULT;

WITH

A CONCISE ENQUIRY INTO THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE DISEASE,

AND THE PROBABLE WAY IN WHICH

*The Dispersion of these Tumours is Effected:*

TOGETHER WITH

OBSERVATIONS ON THE VARIOUS MODES OF PRACTICE OF  
REGULAR PRACTITIONERS, AND OTHERS IN THE PRESENT  
DAY, ENABLING THE READER AT ONE VIEW TO BECOME  
ACQUAINTED WITH EVERY METHOD NOW PURSUING FOR  
THE CURE OF THIS MALADY.

—◆—  
BY WILLIAM FARR,

*Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London; and late Surgeon to  
the Hospital on the Island of Anholt; author of "A Treatise  
on Scrofula," &c. &c. &c.*

—◆—  
"Prona via est et eget moderamine certo."—OVID.

=====  
LONDON:

PRINTED FOR W. WRIGHT, 46, FLEET-STREET.

—◆—  
1822.



ESSAY

BY THE AUTHOR

THE TIGER HELMINTHOLOGICAL

AND

CANCER

AND

IN THE STAGE DENOUMINATED OCCULT

AND

A COMPLETE ENQUIRY INTO THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE DISEASE

AND THE MEANS OF PREVENTING IT

OF THE OPINION OF THE AUTHOR AS CONTAINED IN THE

PREVIOUS EDITION

CONSIDERATIONS ON THE NATURE AND COURSE OF THE DISEASE  
AND THE MEANS OF PREVENTING IT  
AND THE MEANS OF CURE  
AND THE MEANS OF PREVENTING IT  
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AND THE MEANS OF CURE

BY WILLIAM FARR

Member of the Royal Society of London, and Lecturer in  
the Hospital of St. George, London, &c. &c.  
"The Principles of Hygiene," &c. &c.

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1831

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ERRATA.

Page 8, line 7, for *dispensing* read *dispersing*.

— 6, — 22, for *accompanied* read *unaccompanied*.

— 15, — 6, 7, dele *censory*.

— 19, — 22, for *presenting* read *preventing*.

— 62, — 8, for *on* read *ou*.

## INTRODUCTION.

---

IN presenting to the world, an essay which proposes a method of treatment entirely novel in its nature and effects, for the cure of so formidable a disease as Cancer,—I am conscious, that all I may advance on this subject will be in opposition, both to the opinions and practice of those who have been eminent in the profession, from the earliest ages to the present; all of which go to prove the insufficiency of human wisdom to devise a successful method for the treatment of this most destructive malady,

This, of itself, is sufficient to deter any man, however well qualified he may be, either



from long experience, profound study, or laborious research, to attempt the subversion of those opinions, which the experience of ages has only tended the more strongly to confirm. If such difficulties are to be found by the man who possesses every requisite, to enable him to undertake so arduous a task with a prospect of success; how much must they be multiplied, when such an attempt is made by one who lacks these qualifications; and, more especially, when the facts are few which he can yet adduce, in support of his practice?

Notwithstanding such an accumulation of disadvantages, I am emboldened to proceed, because I am satisfied I deviate not an atom from the truth, when I state, that all those good effects which I have experienced, from the exhibition of this medicine, in the dispersion of Cancerous Tumours, will speedily



be verified and confirmed by the experience and practice of others.

To the theoretic views which I have taken to account for the action of this medicine, and for the origin of the disease, I hope for the indulgence of my readers, more particularly those of the profession; and beg that they may be considered more in the light of queries, than as opinions which have arisen from complete investigation and research. I should have altogether refrained from entering into this part of the subject, but from the hope that that which I may have conceived in error, will cause discussion and inquiries, which otherwise might never have arisen, and eventually lead to the promulgation of principles raised upon more solid foundations.

It may, perhaps, be said by some, that I



have too hastily ventured to give my opinions to the public, on a subject of such vast importance ; and that I ought to have taken ten years practice, instead of three, to prove the validity of my statements. To such, I would reply, that finding the mode of treatment which I had adopted, unquestionably more beneficial than any other yet known, I should, had I longer delayed giving it publicity, have considered myself devoid of the common feelings of humanity ; being satisfied, that many valuable lives might be saved, or, at least, prolonged, by its early promulgation.

In addition to this, I felt myself obliged to yield to the continued solicitations and intreaties of those who had already experienced its beneficial effects. But, at a time like the present, when the veil of mystery is thrown over the proceedings and practice of indivi-



duals ; and when empiricism has assumed so formidable an aspect, that we find it not only sanctioned, but patronized, by men of rank in society ; and when its devotees are permitted, with impunity, not only to designate that man who stands highest in our profession, by the familiar epithet of friend, but even venture to assume his name, for the purpose of gaining attention from desponding sufferers ;—we can scarcely hope, that the publication of a plan of treatment, which is simple, and unaccompanied by mystery and secrecy, and the effect of which is capable of being accounted for, on rational principles, will meet with attention from persons afflicted with this disease.

Be this as it may, it has led me to a useful discovery, and in thus making known the result of my practice, I feel that I have discharged my duty to the public, and I leave



it to them to judge of the propriety of its general adoption.

The action of the remedy on the absorbent system is the principle on which I ground my hope of its utility ; and, as far as my experience has gone, I am enabled to state, that the more strongly marked the case, in the Occult stage of the disease, the more speedy and beneficial have been its effects. In making this assertion, I wish not to be understood as implying, that there is no kind of cancerous tumours which it is incapable of dispersing ; for it must be obvious, to the merest tyro in surgery, that the absorbent vessels are less capable of being excited to perform any extraordinary labour, in those persons who are advanced in years, than in younger subjects.

No one, I should think, can reasonably



expect, that a plan of treatment, which is known to have succeeded in cases which have been unaccompanied by age, and other bodily infirmities, can succeed with persons who, from such causes, are on the verge of eternity. It may not, however, be inapplicable here to state, that I consider these tumours, which form in the breasts of females previous to a certain time of life, capable of being entirely dispersed, or so much reduced, as to render them no longer either a source of mental uneasiness or bodily suffering.

Those, again, which form at later periods in life, are capable of being retarded in their growth, and, in some instances, admit of being partially reduced; but, whether more can be accomplished, by any improvements in the method of treatment which I propose, time, and farther experience, can alone determine.



As far as I have gone, I have every reason to be satisfied with the result which I have communicated to the public, without the slightest reserve. It is not, however, my intention to rest here, for my endeavours shall be unceasing to carry my success even to the extreme stages of this disease; and I hope shortly to have such opportunities afforded me of proving the efficacy of my treatment in the Occult stage, as will at once silence prejudice and scepticism.

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*43, Half Moon-street, Piccadilly.*

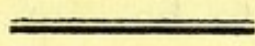
*Dec. 12th, 1821.*

*29 Upper Montague Street  
Montague Square*



AN

# ESSAY ON CANCER.



## I. *History of the Method of Cure.*

It is well known and acknowledged by the profession, that much time and labour have been expended by men distinguished for their depth of research and extent of knowledge, in investigating the nature and origin of that disease, which forms the subject of my present treatise; and being well aware that I can add little to the theoretic views already before the world, I shall abstain from entering very minutely into such investigations; as however gratifying they may be to men of science, they can but slightly interest the greater part of mankind, inasmuch as they have all failed in producing any clear



or practicable System, either for the alleviation or cure of this disease.

If we consult either the ancient or the modern authors who have written on this subject, we shall find their opinions of the nature of Cancer to be equally involved in doubt and perplexity. Some have adduced theories which have no foundation but in their own imaginations; and others have founded systems upon sufficiently plausible arguments, which are not borne out by the result. Whether, therefore, Cancer is to be considered as having an independent vital existence, or as a local or a constitutional disease, as some have imagined; or whether the view which I shall here take of it accords better with facts and observation, must be left to the candour and judgment of those who may examine the evidence to be adduced.

The circumstance of the death of Napoleon from a Cancer in the stomach, having excited public interest and raised a question



how far this disease may be deemed hereditary, I am induced to enter a little into this subject, which otherwise I should probably have forborne to discuss. Hitherto it has not been classed with those diseases usually so denominated ; yet I have no doubt that a Diathesis or disposition to the disease, exists in some persons which is not to be found in others, and facts are not wanting to prove that several persons in the same family have been subject to Cancer. Three members of the family of a physician in town had Cancerous affections ; two of them had submitted to operations, and in the year 1809 a third had the disease ; but even this and other facts of the same nature, do not authorise us to assert, that because the father died of this disease, it must also necessarily affect the son.

And here I would observe, that the report drawn up and signed by the six surgeons who examined the body of Napoleon after death, was calculated in some measure to raise



a doubt whether his death had been really caused by a Cancerous affection of the stomach, from their having stated that he had been ill only seven weeks, and that the body was covered with fat, and that, with the exception of one adhesion, the liver was found quite healthy.

However, since the return of Professor Antomarchi to this country, the mysterious veil which till then had covered the case has been completely removed;—for he affirms that the disease had existed nearly ten months, and that the extremities were considerably emaciated and the liver much enlarged.

It also appears, that he withheld his signature to the report for two reasons. First, because his patient had not been designated by the title of Emperor; and secondly, because the diseased appearance of the liver was entered in the report first made out, but was omitted in the second.



I shall only remark, that had Napoleon died with a Cancerous affection of the stomach, which he unquestionably did, it would have been the first instance known to European Surgeons in which that disease had been unaccompanied by a diseased state of the liver, or unattended by emaciation.

It is the opinion of some of the first surgeons and physiologists of the present day, that no metallic or vegetable preparation possesses any influence over what is called true Schirrus or Cancer, at least in a curative point of view; and they also go further, by observing that no benefit whatever, is, or will be, obtained from medicine internally exhibited, that is, benefit effectual and permanent; but the sceptic who refuses to listen to any statement, on the ground that it opposes preconceived opinion, must be deemed unjustifiably captious.

It is true, that the researches of the most eminent men in the profession, to find a suc-



cessful method of treating this disease, have been involved in perplexity, and all their efforts have been baffled; but there is no person who will not readily agree with me, that what has been denied to science and research, may be the result of accident to discover. It is to this, in the first instance, that I confess myself indebted for the mode of treatment which I am now about to recommend, and which had its origin from the following circumstance.

In the year 1817, I was called upon to attend a person with a Scrofulous affection of the elbow joint, whose age was twenty-five. After the patient had been a short time under my care, my attention was directed to a tumour which was situated in the left breast. On examination, I found it to be hard with an irregular surface, the skin not at all puckered or discoloured, the tumour moveable and about the size of an egg flattened, and ~~was~~ accompanied with pain.



I should here remark, that this is by no means a common situation for Scrofulous tumours, nor did I conceive it bore any close analogy to tumours of that description.

I desired that no further notice might be taken of it, and I continued to pursue the plan of treatment which I have recommended in my treatise on that disease, making no alteration in my method in consequence of the existence of this tumour.

At the expiration of three months, I was somewhat surprized, as well as gratified, to find that it had entirely disappeared.

It may here be proper to remark, that the patient had observed this tumour for twelve months previous.

The whole circumstances connected with this case, I took the earliest opportunity of communicating to Mr. Brandish, and learnt from him that many years before he had one



of a still more doubtful nature, which had been attended with like success.

This information, in addition to that which the case just related gave me, caused my determination to seek for others of a similar nature, in order to prove more satisfactorily, the influence which Alkalis have in dispersing glandular swellings of various kinds. In some of a doubtful species, I had the satisfaction to observe a decided benefit; in others, partaking more of the nature of the true Schirri, I found the means which I employed inadequate to effect their reduction.

This disappointment, however, instead of deterring me, rather served as a stimulus to farther enquiry, and I determined to try the effect of the various Fuci which this kingdom produces.

I entertained greater hopes of success from that species denominated, "Fucus Vesiculosus," having frequently observed, during the



time I have been on the sea coast, the powerful influence of this Alkaline vegetable over Scrofulous swellings of the glands, when applied to them in the form of a cataplasm, a prescription usually recommended by old women for children afflicted with Scrofula, who frequent bathing places. This, however, when employed either internally or externally in true Schirri, I found wholly inefficacious.

Consulting some French authors on the subject, I found that they are accustomed to give this vegetable dried in the dose of a dram, and they further observe, that it is employed by them with success to rub glandular swellings, when internal remedies have begun to disperse the tumours.

I confess, however, that although I have witnessed a partial reduction of tumours, by the use of this medicine, I have never found any permanent benefit from its internal use, or as



a local application either in Scrofula, tumours of a doubtful nature, or in true Schirri.

I then determined to have recourse to the foreign Fuci, and at length, I selected the "Fucus Helminthocorton," conceiving it better calculated to answer the purpose intended than any other, from the probability of its action being more decided, and my knowledge of its powerful effects when given as a vermifuge.

I was the more confirmed in my opinion of the probable success which would be attendant on the exhibition of this medicine, from a conversation which I had with Mr. O'Meara, who perfectly recollected some observations made by Napoleon, in which he expressed his surprise that the Mousse de Corse should be in general use on the Continent, only as a vermifuge; for he was satisfied it possessed other properties than those attributed to it by the profession, having seen instances in



Corsica, in which the dispersion of tumours had been accomplished during its internal use ; and he added, that he had little doubt if a trial were given to it in other diseases, it would be found to possess advantages not before attainable.

Previous, however, to my using this medicine for the purpose for which I intended it, and the better to satisfy myself of its medicinal qualities, as well as its action on the system, I entered into a correspondence with some physicians abroad, who, I knew, were in the daily habit of exhibiting it and witnessing its various effects on the human body.

From one eminent Italian physician I received the following answer to my enquiries.

“ The largest dose which can be given of  
“ the F. H. is a quarter of an ounce, which,  
“ however, should be diminished according  
“ to the habit or age of the patient ; a sixth



“ or a seventh of an ounce may be given to  
 “ infants. The quantity to be given for a  
 “ dose is to be put into a covered vessel, and  
 “ about half a pint of boiling water poured  
 “ over it and left to infuse for ten or twelve  
 “ hours, then strained clear off and taken fast-  
 “ ing; no food to be permitted to be taken for  
 “ an hour, or an hour and a half afterwards :  
 “ it can be given at most only four or five  
 “ times.”

As a commentary upon these directions, I shall observe that in this instance it was only designed to be used as a vermifuge, and whether the strict injunction which he thought proper to add to the direction, regarded only its effects and efficacy when taken for that purpose, or some injurious tendency which he supposed a long continuance of its use might occasion, I am wholly ignorant.

The precaution, however, had not the effect of deterring me from making a trial of it; and it is highly gratifying to me to be



enabled to state, that it has more than answered the expectations I had at first formed.

In giving, however, to the world the result of my experience and practice, I wish to be understood as excluding from its successful agency the ulcerative stage of Cancer; nor do I presume to assert there are not cases to be met with, even of occult Cancer, which will fail to experience any beneficial effects from its use; these I shall endeavour to point out in a more appropriate part of this treatise.

Although the plan of treatment which I am about to publish, may not be applicable to every stage of Cancer, I have no hesitation in saying, that it will be found to possess greater influence over that species which is denominated occult, than any other which has yet been held up to public view as useful in that disease.

But as this medicine, notwithstanding the



success which has attended its use in my hands, appears to be still inefficient in some cases, when the malady has attained its greatest malignity, I am induced to call upon all those persons who have professed to treat Cancer with more than usual success, to unite their endeavours for the laudable purpose of ridding mankind of so dreadful and severe a scourge.

In order to effect this very desirable end, I propose that those gentlemen who have made this disease their particular study and are in any way celebrated for their method of treating it, should communicate with each other, without the slightest reserve, their opinions on this most important subject.

This plan I have suggested from a sincere wish to apply to a very dreadful disorder, an improved and efficacious mode of treatment in all its stages, if such be within the power of human means to accomplish; and in order that the public may become the better ac-



quainted with those persons residing in the metropolis, who really have, or profess to have, a superior mode of treating this complaint, I shall briefly state their names, and other particulars, relating to and connected with them; at the same time offering some ~~een-~~ ~~soy~~ remarks on the various modes of practice which they pursue.

## II. *Of the Usual Methods of Curing Cancer.*

1. I SHALL with this view first name Mr. Young, who has for some years been known to the world as the original proposer of the plan of pressure for the cure of this disease.

I consider his method as certainly ingenious, and it proves him to possess considerable mechanical talent. It is to be lamented, however, that this gentleman should not have confined his plan to those cases to which it was applicable, as he would then have sustained the credit and reputation which he gained at



its first introduction; but from his having applied it indiscriminately to all cases that came under his care, he has experienced many failures, which have tended materially to lessen the confidence of the public in his practice. In justice, however, to Mr. Young, I am willing to confess that I have seen cases both where his plan has been directed by himself, and been followed by others, in which a removal of the disease has been effected.

In the Autumn of last year, a person from Dudley called upon me for the purpose of consulting me in a Scrofulous case, who was then under Mr. Young's care with a cancerous affection of the upper part of the nose. I had consequently an opportunity of seeing this case from time to time, both whilst under his process, and subsequently to its cure; of which I was fully satisfied.

Previous also to the adoption of my present method, I have succeeded on the plan of this gentleman, in promoting the absorption,



and the consequent dispersion of a moveable tumour in the breast of a lady, about thirty years of age: as a proof, however, that his plan is not always attended with beneficial result, I shall simply state that ladies whom he has attended, and with whom his method has been exercised for a considerable time, have applied to me with an increase, rather than a diminution of the disease; so much so, that one lady who applied to him with a tumour in her breast, was eighteen months under his care, and, although the process was persisted in for that period, two other tumours formed in the same breast.

In another instance in which he did not succeed, he stated as the cause, that the rotundity of the individual prevented the pressure from being equally applied. These and other cases which I have seen, serve at least to prove the great uncertainty which is attendant on his mode of practice.

Mr. Lloyd, of Falcon-square, from what I



have seen of his treatment, appears to me to follow, with some variations, the method proposed by Mr. Carmichael, with the addition of the insertion of Setons, near the diseased part, and the occasional use of Sedatives.

I have little to observe on this gentleman's mode of treatment, except, that there is nothing novel in it; for Setons have been before recommended, and occasionally had recourse to for many years past; and I consider his plan to be altogether inadequate to the purpose for which it is designed. At the same time I wish to be understood, as by no means condemning Setons in this disorder, when properly and judiciously applied; but as farther notice will be taken of their use in another part of this treatise, when speaking of the local treatment of cancer, I shall at present abstain from further observations on this plan.

Mr. Wheeler, in the city, is frequently resorted to by persons labouring under this



disease. I understand that he is in the habit of exhibiting Hemlock internally, and also of using it as an application in the form of a Cataplasm.

This medicine, I believe, was originally proposed by the famous Dr. Storck, of Vienna, who states that its use must be continued for at least six months ; and, if no benefit is derived during that period, it should be continued for twelve months. He even recommends its being persisted in for two or three years.

But the inutility and inefficacy of Hemlock in any form for the removal of Cancer, has been sufficiently proved by practitioners of every age ; independent of which, when given internally for a length of time, it is found materially to enervate the body, and impair the constitution. Besides, much time must be lost in the trial of a medicine which is so slow in its operation, and uncertain in its effects, thereby presenting the exhibition of



those which have been found more useful in this disease.

This is surely a most important point for the consideration of those afflicted with Cancer, as, by losing time in trying a multiplicity of remedies, they suffer the disease to advance to those stages in which it is past all hopes of relief. Of this, I can from experience affirm, that practitioners following a peculiar method of treatment to which they themselves are partial, frequently err by advising a patient to continue a little longer, although he is deriving no apparent benefit from its adoption. In this manner they delude him by flattering hopes to a fatal loss of time which cannot be recalled.

These observations, however, I have no intention of applying to the gentleman whose name I have just mentioned. They were merely drawn from me by the reflexion that in too many cases practitioners, deluded with their own plans, flatter themselves and their



patients with prospects which time seldom realizes.

Mr. Chevalier, in South Audley-street, who is a surgeon of eminence, has also given Cicuta to a very considerable extent in Cancerous affections ; but I believe no case can be instanced in which, even in his hands, a true schirrous tumour has been dispersed, either by its internal use, or as an external application.

I shall now introduce to the notice of my readers, Dr. M'Donald, of Orchard-street, who treats this disease constitutionally, and from various conversations which I have had with him, I am inclined to believe his plan of treatment partially resembles that which I am about to describe.

His success, however, has been limited to four cases, in all of which there still remains some portion of tumour, deprived, however, of its malignancy ; for, notwithstanding several years have elapsed since his



treatment was pursued, the tumours evince no disposition to resume their former activity.

This gentleman has tried his method of treatment on one case of open Cancer, in which, although he did not finally succeed, he states that it deprived the wound of all stench, and that during its continuance no pains were experienced. The diseased part was dressed simply with dry lint.

As it was evident to me that he had accomplished more for the cure of this disease in the occult stage, than any cotemporary or preceding practitioner, I confess that I felt anxious to communicate with him on the means which he employed, in order to ascertain if any improvement could be made on the method which I had adopted. I fully explained to him the means which I pursued, expecting on his part the like candour, and that as the foundation of our practice in these cases seemed similar, our united efforts might



lay down some principle to carry even the cure of this disease to the extreme stages.

I regret, however, that in this endeavour all my trials proved abortive. He threw the veil of mystery over his method of treatment, and although he did not deny that it resembled mine, no philanthropy or liberality of mind could induce him to impart that information which might benefit mankind. He was like the miser with his hoard, content to hug himself in the thought of his possessions, without considering that when put to interest, it would be more gratifying, as well as useful, to himself and others; and that he who hides his talent in the earth will only be rejected and despised.

I shall now proceed to speak of a gentleman who has latterly attracted a very considerable portion of the public attention, and more especially of those afflicted with Cancer; I mean Mr. (now I believe Sir Charles) Aldis, of Nelson-square, who has recently published



a treatise on Cancer, in which he vainly endeavours to justify himself both in criticising and condemning the practice of others in this disorder, as useless and nugatory; and yet refuses to publish to the world that plan which he asserts he has practised with such uniform success, and which, it would appear from his account, no one else could with safety and security conduct.

Amongst the various excuses made by this gentleman, for not promulgating his method, is, that he was enjoined to secrecy by the friends of the late Mr. O'Connor, from whom he obtained it.

Now, I would ask, why he has since thought proper to break that obligation, by communicating every circumstance to the president of a certain society. The world, I trust, is not quite so unenlightened as this gentleman imagines; and I cannot but consider it a very ill compliment to those of the profession, to be deemed incompetent to superin-



tend and direct the application of any plaster, however powerful may be its effects.

But if the obligation extends only to the external mode of treatment confided by the friends of Mr. O'Connor, to Mr. Aldis, certainly the prohibition cannot at all refer to the constitutional remedies which Mr. A. asserts he has himself discovered, and the efficacy of which he professes to have proved in about three hundred different cases.

If this statement be correct, what should hinder him from divulging the means which he employs; no principle of honour can here be pleaded in excuse.

I was referred by him to a lady living in Charter House Square, who had been under his care, and whom he professed to have cured. Previous to her becoming his patient, she had frequently consulted Sir Astley Cooper, a circumstance which was mentioned to me by Mr. Aldis in corroboration of his own



testimony ; and I should here remark, that the nature of the case was such as would admit of constitutional treatment only.

Upon conversing with Sir Astley Cooper on the subject of this lady's case, he stated that she had formerly been a patient of his, but that she never had been more the subject of Cancer than myself. In conflicting testimony, it is for the world to judge on which party the greatest reliance can be placed. And here I shall take an opportunity of referring to the case of a Mrs. Pear, of Dover, which Mr. Aldis has inserted in his treatise, as one which has yielded to the mode of practice he pursues.

He tells us in the first place, that Mrs. Pear consulted Sir Astley Cooper, who after examining the diseased part, pronounced it to be so bad a case of Cancer, that nothing could effectually cure it ; that subsequent to this, Mr. A. took this lady under his care, and in the short space of three months, completely



eradicated a disease, the virulent influence of which she had felt for eighteen years. He then, at the desire of the lady, accompanied her to Sir Astley Cooper, that he might see the cure which had been thus happily effected; and he further affirms, that this able practitioner, whom he says, "I am proud to call my friend," expressed the warmest satisfaction at the recovery of one whom he had before considered as incurable, and did not withhold his approbation of the means by which it had been accomplished. A rather singular approval, certainly, when Sir Astley could not know the means,—locked up as they are in mysterious darkness.

Now, when I mentioned the circumstance to Sir Astley, he disclaimed all knowledge of it whatever, and so far from either approving or countenancing Mr. Aldis's mode of concealed practice, he highly disapproved of it, and as to his personal acquaintance with that gentleman, he said he did not recollect ever having seen him, though it must



surely have been impressed upon his memory, had such a case as that which I have just mentioned been brought under his notice.

I am fearful, therefore, that we cannot rely with much confidence on the assertion of a gentleman who thus presumes to claim an acquaintance with the man who is the brightest ornament of our profession, without ever having seen him. Perhaps he arrogates to himself a claim to his friendship, from a supposed congeniality of mind subsisting between contemporary men of science!!

The nature of Mr. Aldis's statement in these particular cases being sufficiently proved, certainly affords the strongest grounds for our distrust of all, and the ungenerous disguise which he has used with respect to the means which he employs, seems to imply, on his part, a doubt with regard to their efficacy.



The plan of treatment which he has preserved with such inviolable secrecy for the benefit of the widow of his friend, is nevertheless exercised by others in the present day ; and although I allow that in some few instances it may have been found to succeed, yet I consider that its success is always doubtful, and its use attended with considerable danger ; independent of its being accompanied with pain infinitely more acute than that caused by the operation of excision,—the excruciating agony necessarily continuing during the whole time the application is made.

The public, however, may not be aware that the mode of practice employed by this gentleman, which he has so cautiously withheld, was also communicated by the late Mr. O'Connor, to other persons besides himself ; in proof of which I shall here name the various things of which it is composed, and I call upon Mr. Aldis to disprove my statement if I am not correct.



This specific plaster is a compound of arsenic, potash, the roots of the common buttercup, (*Ranunculus bulbosa*,) and honey, of which he varies the proportions according to the effect desirable to be produced.

This, however, is by no means a recent discovery, for we find that a similar method was practised in the Reign of Queen Anne, by a Mr. Becket, who published his book on this subject in the year 1711. The materials which composed his plaster, were not made known; but it was called the grand Dissolvent, and we may reasonably conclude from some observations which he makes, that it was a composition of arsenic, the principal ingredient in Mr. Aldis's plaster.

Gendron, a physician at Montpellier, made use of a preparation of arsenic; and in Mosely on Tropical Diseases, there is a reference to an old Medley of nostrums, printed in 1627, where the realgar or red arsenic was directed



to be united with grease, honey, and flour, which were to form a plaster and be applied to the Cancer.

The same author also observes, that arsenic, though a very ancient remedy in Cancers, will not produce the salutary effects obtained by corrosive sublimate, which he directs to be used as follows :

- “ Spread a plaster of Dyachylon with gum upon leather, the size of the Cancer. Supposing the plaster to be as large as a crown piece, sprinkle on it a scruple of corrosive sublimate, finely powdered, and so in proportion for a larger or smaller plaster. This being applied to the Cancer, is to remain forty-eight hours, or longer if there be any apprehension that it has not done its office ; then take it off, and apply a poultice of bread and milk with olive oil, which, frequently renew, until the Cancer comes entirely out by the roots. The part is then to be drest as a common ulcer. A purge or two with calomel



may precede the application, but when the patient is gross, or in a bad state of body, he must be properly prepared for the operation. Bark is sometimes necessary to forward the digestion and cure. He concludes by adding some admonitions and cautions on this mode of practice. Where the diseased parts are deep seated, he directs the application of the plaster to be preceded by a blister, to destroy the cuticle, which I know is also done by Mr. Aldis.

Now, if any of these methods which we have just spoken of had been found of decided advantage, and unattended with danger, it must be obvious to the commonest observer, that they would have been not only instantly adopted, but greatly improved by practitioners in the present day.

A respectable practitioner, who resided in the west end of the town, undertook to superintend and direct the application of Mrs. Plunkett's plaster, the composition of



which was similar to that of Mr. Aldis ; arsenic and the roots of the ranunculus acris, forming its chief ingredients. But from the dreadful consequences attendant on its application, he was glad to abandon it, declaring that he could not conscientiously pursue such a dangerous practice.

A case has just come within my knowledge ; —in which Mr. Aldis applied his plaster to the breast of a lady, a banker's wife in the City, in which he failed to extract the tumour—an ugly cavity was made in the breast, but the tumour remains undisturbed.

Mr. Aldis, in another part of his treatise, remarks that, where so much depends upon the exercise of the judgment, it must be obvious that the publication of a simple formula, however gratifying it would be to those who would gladly avail themselves of knowledge acquired without labour, could not answer any good purpose to the community. Now, does he mean to infer that he is the



only person capable of applying this wonderful specific plaster, and that he cannot in any way be benefited by the professional skill and acknowledged ability of the many distinguished practitioners of the present day?

That Mr. Aldis may no longer be blinded by this delusion, I take leave to state that Mr. Lake, of Brooke Street, Holborn, an uneducated man, and formerly a mechanic, is now practising on the same plan as Mr. A. and, if we may give credence to his own account, with much greater success.

In short, that this method has been the practice of empirics for ages past, numerous instances may be adduced to prove; but where will be found the surgeon who values his own reputation, or the life of his patient, who would adopt a practice so pregnant with danger?

As I am aware that persons, more particularly females, afflicted with this disease, are



in the habit of taking the round of practitioners, who profess to effect its cure, often looking more to their pretensions than to their qualifications. In order to embrace every plan which is now pursuing, I shall here mention a person of the name of Whitlaw, in Great Queen Street, who is by profession, a lecturer on Botany, though he boasts that he is uneducated. He professes to have obtained a constitutional method of treating Cancer during a residence, as he states, with the Indians; but from his conversation, I am well persuaded that no case of Cancer has ever been treated by him with success. This, his description alone of the persons who have been under his care, and of the disease itself, sufficiently proves.

What he has mistaken for Cancers in the breast of females were evidently tumours arising from superabundance of milk after parturition. A case of this description was sent to me a few weeks ago from Essex, in which the tumour had burst, and was called



an open Cancer. It is almost needless to say that I desired the patient to be under no uneasiness, requesting her to return home as no such disease as Cancer existed in her breast.

Such, no doubt, are the kind of cases which he has had under his care, in which he has performed cures and denominated them Cancer; he speaks also of a Cancerous disease, pervading the whole system; for he assured an officer of high rank in the army who came to consult him, that he had the disease over his whole body. This assertion alone must be sufficient to prove his knowledge of the disease in question, together with the happy facility, by which he can convert every cutaneous, and the greater number of glandular affections, into Cancer or Cancerous disposition.

He also professes to cure Scrofula; which he says, is an insink of the system, but his plan in that disease is evidently attended with as little success as in the former. In



proof of this, persons who have been under his care for a considerable time, have afterwards applied to me, having derived no benefit from his treatment.

There is a person who resides in the Kent Road, near the Elephant and Castle, of the name of M'Donald, who pretends to have succeeded in curing some cases of Cancer. Some time ago, I saw a female who had consulted him. Hers was a case of occult Cancer, and he gave her two small phials, which contained the mineral acids in a state of dilution; the one she was desired to take joined with a portion of gin, sweet spirits of nitre, and honey; and the other was to be used in the form of a fomentation. He also gave her an ointment the principal ingredient of which was camphor. In another instance he used caustics and occasionally medicated baths.

I consider it would be a useless expenditure of time to comment upon the mode of treatment just spoken of, and it is only in confor-



mity with my general wish to embrace all methods of practice that I here instance the present.

It is lamentable to think how often persons are imposed upon by the specious advertisements which frequently meet our eye in the daily prints; and amongst others, which only tend to deceive and disappoint the unwary, I cannot avoid mentioning the pretensions of a person in Bloomsbury Square, who affects to dispense a specific for Cancer, even in its latest stages; and so speedy, according to her accounts, are its effects, that within a week, such benefit will be derived as to induce the sufferer to proceed with a full conviction of its efficacy.

In order to prove to what extent the statements of this person are to be believed, I shall mention, that already three cases have fallen under my observation in which the patients have failed to derive the slightest benefit from the use of the medicine, although



in all these instances, its use has been persisted in for a much longer time than she states to be requisite; it has, however, this advantage, that if no benefit is derived no injury is sustained; for one of the ladies, to my knowledge, has for some time taken two quarts daily without experiencing the slightest inconvenience.

This person's modesty, however, will not allow her to arrogate to herself the merit of so important a discovery, which she represents as having been communicated to her by a gentleman from Bellow's Town in America, who stated that the Indians in that quarter of the globe, had used it for the cure of Cancer; and that it was a decoction of roots of trees found in the woods. I have endeavoured in vain to ascertain any of the miraculous effects of this specific, which has no apparent action on the system. Water no doubt may be substituted with the same prospect of advantage to the patient.



Having now impartially considered the various modes of practice adopted by persons residing in the Metropolis, it may be expected that I should offer some opinion on those works which have been recently published on the same subject; but being aware that they are in the hands of all those afflicted with Cancer, who are in affluent or easy circumstances, as I have had numerous opportunities of noticing, I consider it almost useless to detain my readers by offering any comment on them. At the same time I think it right to state, to what extent the plans which they propose have been successful in my hands.

That proposed by Dr. Rodman, I have tried in a variety of instances, and found that it has frequently the effect of mitigating the sufferings of the individual, but in no one instance has it been of any permanent utility. Cold has undoubtedly the effect of rapidly increasing the disease, and warmth on the contrary, has a tendency to suspend



its action ; in this every practitioner must agree.

It is no doubt true, that purgatives and other modes of depletion are occasionally not only serviceable but indispensably necessary, and that tranquillity of mind is also most desirable ; but I am confident they will agree with me, that these means are rarely capable of combating this disease with any prospect of success.

As to the local means which he recommends either in occult or open Cancer, they may be, and no doubt are, frequently useful, as auxiliaries, but never can be with certainty relied on, as a *modus curandi*. I have also tried the method he has laid down with a view to heal open Cancer, more especially at the commencement, and the result has been the same.

The various preparations of iron recommended by Mr. Carmichael in his treatise



on Cancer, I have also tried in several cases, and although it appears from the number of well authenticated instances which he has adduced that a complete cure has been effected; yet, in my hands, although I have implicitly followed his directions, I have never been able to reduce in the slightest degree, true Schirrous tumour. Still, in justice to this writer, I must state that in the treatment of open Cancer, his plan is attended with some advantages, not before attainable; for during the application of ferruginous preparations to the ulcer, we may calculate with some degree of certainty on no return of pain being experienced.

It must be obvious that the *methodus medendi*, advocated by these gentlemen, has not been attended with the same result in the hands of other practitioners as in their own otherwise the disease would cease to be that *opprobrium medicorum*, which it yet continues.



Previous to detailing the symptoms of Cancer, and the particulars of the nature and effects of the F. H. its exhibition and result, I think it may not be inappropriate here to remark how much I regret the little attention that has been paid to the method I have laid down in my treatise for the cure of Scrofula, by those who have been at the same time adopting my proposed plan, and I am at a loss whether I should attribute to wilful perverseness, or careless indifference, that neglect, which in other hands has been the cause of repeated failure, when under my own care, whenever sufficient time has been given, and my directions punctually followed, not a single instance has occurred to mar my expectation of eradicating this malady.

I owe it to the world and myself, to notice these facts, and to mention, that although I forewarned practitioners of the inefficacy of substituting a milder and different medicine for one more concentrated and efficient; yet I have reason to know that many still affect



to cure Scrofula on my plan, but instead of the caustic Alkali, give Liquor Potassæ.

Even at one of the public hospitals where my method of treatment has been adopted, this substitution has also been introduced, and what has been the consequence? Repeated failure and disappointment, rendering void and of no avail, that which might be a blessing to mankind, and of which I am daily witnessing the benefit and success.

### III. *Symptoms of Cancer with remarks.*

TRUE Schirrus in the female breast, commences in the form of a small hard tumour feeling somewhat like a marble buried in the gland. It is generally discovered by accident, and most frequently originates either from a blow, or from the pressure of the dress on the part. The progress of the disease is slow. It advances by occasional inflammation,



which comes on at intervals, and only gives pain occasionally.

This pain, however, is of a peculiar kind. In the first instance, it is like that caused by the introduction of a lancet, and afterwards resembles the sensation which a hot coal would produce if applied to the part. These pains generally increase in violence, previous to the period of menstruation, and are usually relieved by that discharge. Blows received at that period, are more likely to be attended with serious consequences, than at any other time, the breasts of women being then more tender.

The tumour at first is moveable, but after some time becomes attached to the skin and then appears like the cicatrix of an old wound. It will be frequently found adhering to the pectoral muscle, and extending itself to the axillary glands, the clavicle, and even into the cavity of the chest.



The colour of the skin covering the tumour remains natural for some time, but afterwards becomes livid, and the vessels of the part are distended with blood. The ulcerative process then commences; a bloody ichor is discharged; the sore is not tender to the touch; it granulates irregularly, and there is no disposition to cicatrization on the edges, which are turned outwards.

The time of life at which this disease generally occurs, is from the age of thirty-five to fifty. It is, however, sometimes seen as early as twenty-eight; but when tumours of this kind appear at early periods of life, although they have the true character of Schirrous tumours, they are not usually so denominated by the profession.

It is somewhat singular that this disease is more frequently found in the left than in the right breast; the proportion being nearly three to one.



There is another species of Cancer to which the female breast is liable, which from its softness has obtained the appellation of pulpy Cancer. If the removal of this kind is attempted, it will surely be reproduced, and I believe no instance can be given of this form of the disease having been treated successfully either by medicine or excision. It is usually accompanied with disease of the lungs.

The cause of Schirrous tumours being more frequent in the female than the male breast, is strikingly obvious, when we consider an undue exposure to cold as a pre-disposing cause; for every person knows, that those parts of the body which are constantly exposed, are more frequently attacked with Cancer than those which are continually covered.

This disease is infinitely more prevalent amongst females than is generally imagined. I am well aware that many ladies at the present day have had tumours of this descrip-



tion in their breasts for many years, which they endeavour to conceal, even from their most intimate friends, and frequently succeed, (by keeping the part warmly covered, the bowels open, and avoiding cold), in retaining the disease in a state of inactivity, sometimes for a period of several years.

The breast of males is, however, occasionally subject to Schirrous affections. I have at this time a gentleman under my care, upwards of seventy years of age, who has this species of tumour in his left breast.

The female breast is liable to other swellings and enlargements which are sometimes mistaken for Cancer. Young females have occasionally inflammatory tumours, forming there which will never become Schirrous. These tumours commence by simple inflammation which gradually loses itself in the surrounding parts, and are very sensible to the touch. The inflammation very rarely extends to the axilla; and will in most



cases be speedily relieved by the application of leeches and the *Emplastrum Saponis*, with brisk purgatives.

Steatomatous tumours will also be found forming in the breast, and frequently attain an enormous size; but these can never be mistaken for Schirrus. Hydatids will sometimes be found there; but they are not at all sore or painful: they will inflame, ulcerate, and form sinuses, but are by no means of a cancerous nature.

I have occasionally seen cases of Cancer, which I think might admit of being treated successfully, or, at least, materially benefitted, by the mode adopted for the cure of Hydatids in the female breast, namely, that of injection.

On the 29th of December, last year, I went into the country to see a lady aged 59. In the early part of the same year, she perceived a tumour in the left breast, which rapidly in-



creased, until the whole breast was nearly twice its natural size. When I saw her, it was no where particularly hard, and the axillary glands were free from disease. In one part of the breast, there was a distinct fluctuation, and a portion of the cuticular covering, darker in colour than natural. She had been for some time taking cicuta in large doses; but the pains were, notwithstanding, occasionally very severe. From this period, they became more frequent, and increased to a degree almost insupportable.

On the 15th of January following, she came to Town to place herself under my care. In the seventeen days which had elapsed from the time I first saw her, the breast had acquired a greater magnitude, measuring ten inches and a quarter by nine and three quarters: the skin was more discoloured, fluctuation was readily perceptible, and the general health much impaired. The breast, by some mistake, had been covered with a piece of leather.



With a view to retard the ulcerative process, and in order to afford more time to try to promote absorption, I applied the following ointment over that part of the breast, where the skin was most thin and discoloured:

R. Oxid: Bismuth: alb:  $\text{ʒ} \text{iii}$

Ung: Cetac:  $\text{ʒ} \text{i}$

M. ut. ft. Ung<sup>m</sup>.

This was spread on lint, and the whole of the breast well covered with cotton wool.—I ordered at the same time the infusion of Helminthocorton.

The next day, the pains were less frequent and severe, and the day following, she was freed from them altogether.

In sixteen days, the breast had diminished very materially, but the fluid already formed, gradually advanced nearer the surface, and by the twenty-fourth day, the skin was become so thin, that, at her express solicitation, I passed an abscess lancet into it and evacuated



about six ounces of thin fluid, of the colour of blood.

The wound, for ten days, showed no disposition to throw out fungus to any extent; the discharge was trifling, and no pains were felt.

For several days after the opening was made, I could pass a common probe its whole length around the interior of the abscess, without meeting any hard substance to obstruct its passage. The parietes of the abscess were, however, sufficiently thickened to prevent their collapsing, and, notwithstanding the quantity of fluid which was first discharged, the size of the breast was undiminished.

At this time, I think an injection either of lime water, sulphate of zinc, or nitrate of silver might have been used with advantage, but as such a mode of practice might



have been considered novel, I did not adopt it in this instance.

The death of this lady was materially hastened, if not entirely caused, by her being obliged to change her lodgings in one of the coldest days of the winter. I have strong reasons for believing, that the wound would never have taken on so violent and malignant an action, as almost immediately followed, but from this circumstance. Previous to her removal, I stated to her that she would suffer severely, in consequence, more particularly, as she had been so long confined to an apartment of an equal temperature ; but her removal arose out of circumstances over which she had no control.

The next night after removing, she slept eight hours and remained as well as before, and free from pain, till the evening of the second day, congratulating herself on my having prophesied falsely ; but, for the whole of the week following, her sufferings were



dreadfully severe; the breast became exceedingly inflamed; the wound threw up large quantities of fungus, and sloughed extensively, and her strength was greatly impaired.

We were, therefore, compelled to lay aside the plan which had so much relieved and benefitted her, and to administer sedatives for temporary relief. After this, she lingered about six weeks.

Although there is every probability, that the fatal termination of this case was caused by the reasons which I have just assigned, I do not mean to assert, that had such circumstances never occurred, the breast would have been restored to a healthy state under any plan of treatment; for, independantly of the age of the patient, her delicate constitution, and the advanced state of the disease, I must observe, that I have often found much difficulty in the reduction of Schirrous tumours, which have formed after the cessation of the Catamenia, and in no one instance have I



yet succeeded in accomplishing their entire removal.

In all these cases, however, the application of setons will be found of essential service, as an auxiliary. They act, in some degree, as a substitute for the natural discharge, by relieving the over distended state of the Capillary Vessels of the part affected. But they cannot be applied with safety in every case of schirrous tumour, at least in its immediate neighbourhood, because these tumours are not unfrequently accompanied by a diseased state of skin, which often extends to a considerable distance from the breast. This will be readily distinguished, by a comparison with that of the other breast, as it will feel much thicker, appear puffed, and on minute inspection, there appear streaks of a white colour running through it. Besides, if an incision be made into it after death, it will be found almost white, and of a consistence resembling cartilage. The insertion of a seton into parts thus affected, it must be obvious, would, in all



probability, be attended with serious consequences. At all events, such practice would be extremely injudicious; but in cases where no such diseased state of the skin exists, a seton may be inserted with perfect safety in the neighbourhood of the tumour, just below the breast.

I have no hesitation, therefore, in saying, that when properly and judiciously applied, setons will be found of considerable advantage, and I cannot too strongly urge the necessity of their use. But where this diseased state of the skin is extending to the parts around the breast, prohibiting the insertion of a seton close to it; it may be introduced into the arm of the same side, or a blister may be applied there, which should be kept open for some time. But after the ulcerative stage has commenced, setons cease to be of any utility.

Before I dismiss the subject of this diseased state of skin, I shall just observe, that every practitioner must be aware, how much more



difficult it is to get the absorbents to act by constitutional treatment on these parts when so affected, than on glands; and we are prevented from using local means, by the fear of irritating a part in which such a disease as Cancer exists, well knowing the consequences which usually ensue when such irritation is the effect of accident. When the skin is in this state, I know of no treatment either constitutional or local, that can be tried with a prospect of permanent advantage.

In such cases, after having succeeded in the entire removal of the tumour, I have found that the skin so diseased, has been wholly unaffected by the plan which I have been following. In one case, notwithstanding a whole year has elapsed since the dispersion of the tumour was accomplished, it has not evinced any disposition to take on a cancerous action. It may, perhaps, not be unworthy of remark, that in large schirrous tumours, where the skin covering them has been rendered so thin by unnatural distension, that the most



projecting points threatened an immediate protrusion, it acquired, while the tumour was reducing, a surprising degree of density and firmness. This proves to what an extent the disease had been communicated to it, though, at the greatest enlargement of the tumour, it was not at all apparent.

#### IV. *Mode of Treatment proposed.*

To obviate errors, as much as possible, in the treatment of Occult Cancer, according to my proposed plan, I shall lay down as clearly and distinctly as I can, all the particulars of the nature and properties of the F. Helminthocorton, and shall endeavour so to particularise my details of its exhibition, that not only practitioners, but the world at large, may be enabled to obtain from it that benefit which experience has proved to me to be the result of its use in this disease.

The following I consider to be an ample



botanical description, which is farther illustrated by the engraving:—

“ FUCUS HELMINTHOCORTON, *Cryptogamia Algæ*, LINN. *Algæ*, JUSSIEU.—Caulibus brevibus, tenuibus, ramosis, confertissimis; ramis teretibus, setaceis, semidiaphanis, in extremis tenuioribus; colore purpuro-flavescenti, sed vario, simili fucis alteris in hâc divisione specierum; odore algarum marinarum (*Gallicé marécageuse*) quibusdam nauseoso; sapore muriatis sodæ cum pellice mixto; constitutâ muriate sodæ, sulphate sodæ, carbonate sodæ, calce cum fibrinâ vegetabili et resinâ tingens aquam in quâ infusâ rubedine, et cito postea putrescens. Habitat in Corsicæ insulâ, ubi pro usu colligitur, conchis et lapidibus marinis sub aquâ adhærens. Dosis in pulvere substantiæ, drachma una; in aqua decocta vel infusa, ut postea derigitur.”

The following description is from a French medical work just published:—

“ Mousse de Corse, et par abus Coralline



de Corse. F. H. LINN. famille des Algues. JUSS. Plante marine formant une petite touffe d'une roux fauve d'un pouce ou deux de haut, et composée de tiges ou fibres entremêlées, tenaces, ayant pour base une petite callosité dure. Ces ramuscules sont fines, cylindriques, et se divisent en trois ou quatre rameaux alternes, redressés, simples, terminés en pointe, quelque fois divisés seulement en dichotomies irrégulières. Les articulations et les tubercules générateurs sont encore contestés dans cette plante.

“ Dans le commerce on la trouve en petites masses de fibres capillaires, ayant une espèce de noyau plus consistant, et toutes réunies par entrelacemens que l'on ne peut faire cesser qu'en les déchirant. La couleur en est inégalement brune et fauve ; elle contient beaucoup de matières calcaires de débris de coquillage, et un examen plus approfondi a démontré à M. De Candolle que ces masses ne contenaient pas d'ailleurs plus du tiers de leur poids de véritable mousse de Corse et que le reste était formé d'autres *fuci* et de



plantes marines dont les propriétés ne sont pas déterminées.

“ Quoiqu’il en soit, telle qu’elle est dans le commerce, elle a une odeur marécageuse, assez désagréable quoique peu forte, et une saveur salée sans amertume.

“ *Preparations, Doses.*—Ces qualités étant un obstacle à l’administration de la mousse de Corse, parce que c’est presque toujours aux enfans qu’on la prescrit, ou a du chercher à les masquer par des préparations convenables; il en est résulté qu’on en a varié infiniment les formes. La plus simple est la poudre dont on borne la dose à dixhuit ou vingt grains pour les enfans qui n’ont pas atteint l’âge de six à sept ans, et que l’on peut porter, après cet âge, jusqu’ à un demi-gros et même un gros. On la suspend dans de l’eau sucrée, de l’émulsion, du bouillon, du lait, un sirop, du vin, &c. On en saupoudre du pain que l’on recouvre de beurre, de miel, de confiture; on l’incorpore dans ces substances, dans un électuaire, une conserve, &c.; on en prépare des dragées,



des gâteaux, du biscuit, du pain d'épice ; on en fait un sirop que l'on donne par cuillerées ; il en est de même de la gelée dont le nouveau Codex a conservé la formule ; enfin on en prépare des infusions et des décoctions. Ces dernières sont préférable aux infusions parce que l'ébullition en extrait une substance gélative abondante : on<sup>u</sup> en fait bouillir trois onces quatre gros dans six onces d'eau pendant cinq minutes : on laisse reposer, ensuite on passe dans un linge et l'on fait boire chaque matin avec du sucre, un sirop, du lait, &c." He adds, " N'étant point purgative, elle ne dérange en rien les digestions ; comme elle n'est pas susceptible de produire de irritation, au contraire elle possède la légère action tonique." —GAUTIER, *Manuel des Plantes Medicinales*, 8vo. PARIS, 1822.

For the sake of the English reader, the *Corsican Sea-moss* may be described as a small sea-weed, of a purplish yellow colour, whose stems are closely crowded together. The smell is nearly the same with that of other seaweeds. The taste is saltish, and some writers



add, that it does not crackle between the teeth, but dissolves in the mouth.

It is chiefly composed of different salts, resin, and vegetable fibre, and probably contains Iodine. It is collected on the shores of Corsica, where it is found growing on shells, and stones exposed to sea water.

To this description, it may be proper to add, that it is usually procured in a very impure state, being mixed with various other marine productions, such as *conferva fasciculata*, *conf. albida*, and *conf. intertexta*; *Coralina officinalis*; *fucus purpureus* and *f. plumosus*; and *ulva clavata*; from which, the preceding description, and the accompanying figure, engraved from an excellent specimen, will enable any person to distinguish the genuine plant.

This mixture of other plants, of course renders its effects less certain, unless it is all picked, as is usual with the French,



before it is used for medicinal purposes. When thus freed from mixture with other plants, they call it *mousse de Corse bien mondée*, which renders it much dearer than in the state in which it is first collected. Notwithstanding these precautions, it is exceedingly difficult to obtain it unmixed; for out of a variety of parcels which I have received from the Continent, I have only met with one that did not require the process of picking. I have occasionally procured some from medicinal herb-shops, but found that none so obtained answered the intended purpose. This, no doubt, partially arose from the mixture of other useless and injurious vegetable substances with the F. H. ; and, I am inclined to think, its virtue had been much diminished by a continued exposure to the atmosphere.

The most eligible way of exhibiting the Fucus Helminthocorton, is either in the form of infusion or decoction, which I usually commence in the proportion of half an ounce to a pint of boiling water. It should stand, at



least, ten or twelve hours, and then be strained off clear ; of which, a wine glass-full may be taken three times a day—at least, an hour and a half before each meal, that is to say, on an empty stomach. More than this quantity should not be made at any one time, as it soon becomes unfit for use.

It may be given, in this strength, at the commencement, even to persons of the most delicate constitution, without producing any peculiar symptoms ; but about the sixth or seventh day, an increase of urine may be looked for ; a slight perspiration also will be perceived, and if no other effects are produced by the eighth day, the quantity may be augmented to three-fourths of an ounce to a pint of water ; and, in tolerably strong constitutions, four wine glasses may be taken in the course of the day.

Should this fail to produce an increased evacuation by the bowels, one scruple of rhubarb, in coarse powder, may be added to



each pint of the infusion, it being necessary that the bowels should be acted upon in proportion to the strength and age of the patient; but it is better that the constitution be under the influence of the medicine, before the bowels are moved by the addition of aperients.— Generally speaking, from three to four motions in twenty-four hours, have not the effect of diminishing the strength of the patient. After persisting in its use for ten or twelve days, and in some instances, even earlier, a degree of nausea may be experienced, accompanied by slight vertigo. These symptoms are not to be regarded more than as usual, and what may be expected, unless they become distressing to the patient, which rarely happens when the bowels are sufficiently acted upon.

From the twelfth to the twentieth day, the motions usually exhibit the following appearances. In colour they will be found much darker than usual, with small green specks. These gradually increase in size, and not



unfrequently, several motions will be found to consist for the most part of this tenacious glass-like substance. Previous, however, to the appearances I have just described in the fœcal matter, a quantity of slime will be occasionally voided, which, if permitted to any extent, generally reduces the strength of the patient. This may be obviated, by adding to the infusion a small portion of the semines *Cydonii mali*, which, yielding a quantity of mucilage, serves to sheathe the alimentary canal ; but, if the patient be of a full and gross habit, with a tolerably strong constitution, there will be no necessity for this precaution.

Prior to these changes in the excrementitious matter, the tumour, or tumours, will, on attentive examination, be found to have undergone some considerable alteration in structure and size, and will have become softer, and the projecting points will be found more obtuse. The better to ascertain any increase or diminution in the tumour, use two



pieces of tape, which pass over the surface in transverse directions, previous to the patient's commencing the medicine, and by so applying it, at any future time, you will be enabled to judge, with sufficient accuracy, if any diminution has taken place.

During the exhibition of this medicine, patients have sometimes complained of griping pains; in which case I have joined with it the *tinctura cardamomi composita*, with the *syrupus papaveris somniferi*; and, in some few instances, *tinctura opii*. Should there be at any time symptoms which demand relief, they must be left to the judgment and discretion of the medical attendant, to combine with the medicine that which he thinks most likely to answer the desired effect.

The method of treatment, which I propose, has the effect of promoting the absorption of the coagulable lymph, thrown out by repeated inflammation, which forms the pri-



mary connecting medium between the tumour and the healthy parts, such as the pectoral muscle, the ribs, &c. The absorption of this being effected, the tumour becomes moveable, and the surgeon, from its detached state, is the better enabled to complete its extraction, the operation being rendered less tedious, and the prospect of its success being considerably increased; so that, in fact, an operation which, from the strong adhesions, would have probably been deemed impracticable, can now be safely performed.

It has been often admitted, that women, who have ceased to bear children, those who are barren, and such as continue long single, are more liable to schirrous affections than other females, which is acknowledged to arise from a diminished vitality of those parts which are the common seats of this disease, whereby the action of the lymphatics is either totally suspended, or considerably weakened. It is manifest, under such circumstances, that



congestion must ensue, and in this way I conceive schirrous tumours originate.

Now, mechanical violence, supervening on parts thus predisposed to disease, may be considered as one of the principal direct exciting causes. But that the disease may be called into action by other causes, acting through the medium of the constitution, is also evident; for, although females, under the peculiar circumstances just enumerated, are those in whom schirrous affections most frequently occur, yet occasionally, under other circumstances, and earlier in life, causes may arise producing debility in those parts, in consequence of which, the disease in question may be equally induced.

If we examine the breasts of women, in which there is little vital power, either from their never having been called upon to perform their natural functions, or from their having ceased to do so, we shall not unfre-



quently find them full of indurations, which are no doubt produced by a congestion of fluid in the lymphatic vessels. I have, at this time, a lady under my care, who has both breasts full of these indurated masses; and, during last winter, she received a blow on the right one, in consequence of which, all the symptoms denoting the existence of a Cancerous Tumour supervened, and I have no doubt, if mechanical violence had been applied to the other breast, the effect would have been the same.

Here then we have a congestive state of the lymphatics of the breast, forming the basis of Cancer, and from the constant accession of lymph in those vessels, eventually accumulating to such an extent, as to rupture their already distended and debilitated coats, producing an effusion of that lymph, which, acting as an extraneous body, exhibits all the symptoms of incipient schirroûs.

Before I proceed farther, it may be worth



while to compare the phenomena here enumerated, with those occurring in simple inflammation. Numerous and various as have been the experiments, to determine the state of vessels in an inflamed part, and how much soever the conclusions, as to this point, may yet differ, I believe the generally received opinion, and that countenanced by the majority of pathologists of the present day, is, that a dilatation takes place in the vessels of the part affected, with an increased action in those adjacent. Thus, then, the affected branches of vessels become capable of containing more blood than they would do in a state of health; and, it follows, that by abstracting a portion of such blood, we not only remove the exciting cause, but also enable the vessels to regain their pristine vigour.

That such is the best treatment, and such the effect, will be allowed by all; and it is precisely the same line of reasoning which I would apply to the disease in question. Hence it may immediately be said, that



repeated blood lettings would effect the cure of schirrous tumours. To such, I would reply, that by the constant abstraction of blood in its usual composition, the remedy would at length be found to augment the disease, by inducing an increase of debility in parts already much weakened, and the fact of local bleeding affording temporary relief, may be accounted for by the portion of coagulable lymph thus taken from the system.

Now, if this most desirable evacuation could be procured without depriving the system of the other component parts of the blood, so essential to preserve the stamina of the constitution, it undoubtedly must be the most effectual method of treating the disease. That the remedy I propose will do this, by inducing its secretion from the mucous membrane of the intestinal canal, the succeeding facts and observations, will, I trust, amply prove; in corroboration of which, I shall here observe that I have in no one instance effected the reduction, or dispersion of any schirrous



tumour, unless I succeeded in producing those peculiar appearances in the fœcal matter, which I judge to be coagulable lymph; and as we know that the same effects may be produced by stimulating other parts,—who will say that this membrane alone shall be exempt from those laws by which other secreting surfaces are governed? The application of a blister, for instance, is often succeeded by an effusion of coagulable lymph.

We have likewise the authority of many writers, and particularly those who have paid great attention to this disease, tending to prove the existence of coagulable lymph in cancerous affections. Gendron informs us, that during eight years dissection of cancerous cases, he always found in those of the breasts, womb, nose, eyes, ears, and skin, a substance of a uniform nature resembling tender horn; and Carmichael says carcinoma is composed of a substance apparently gelatinous. He compares its general appearance to softened intervertebral substance, adding, that cancerous



ulcers have two kinds of discharge, the one thin, acrid and fœtid, the other white, tenacious and slimy, which adheres to the cancerous substance, and seems to be that substance itself, in a state of slough. And a third writer observes, that a thin lymphatic fluid is often discharged from ulcers of this description.

That the effect of the *Fucus Helminthocorton* in the dispersion of schirrous tumours, from its vermifuge properties, will have a tendency to fortify the opinion of Mr. Carmichael, that Cancer possesses an independant vital existence, I can readily believe. That animals, as well of the parasitic as of other species, are capable of being produced without progenitors, by what has been called equivocal generation, has, indeed, been frequently attempted to be proved. In the vegetable kingdom, perhaps, this power of self-creation, if I may be allowed such an expression, is more apparent; for if quick lime be scattered upon barren ground, —clover, as I have witnessed, may sometimes



be produced; and every farmer knows that upon ploughing up old grass lands, they soon become covered with annuals. But notwithstanding all the analogical reasoning that has been adduced in support of the independant vitality of Cancer, we find all our attempts to comprehend such a theory, produces a confusion of ideas, which baffles our powers of discrimination to harmonize or arrange

I shall conclude these observations, by adducing an instance, which, if schirrus really be vitally independant, militates against its powers of propagation.

Mr. Carmichael says, " that Cancer propagates, may I say, its species by small pea-like substances, connected by fibrillæ, each of them an incipient Cancer, capable of emulating the parent in bulk and malignity." As an objection to which opinion I shall state, that full six months after I had succeeded in dispersing a large tumour in the breast, several of these pea-like tumours made their



appearance. How, therefore, could they originate from the parent tumour, when that had so long disappeared?

I trust no illiberality will be attributed to the remarks made in this essay, either on the theory or practice of any individual, whose name I have mentioned. My principal object being to promote inquiry and discussion, and thereby advance our knowledge of the disease; for opinions and theories, whether well or ill-founded, often tend to elicit new light on subjects, which are involved in equal darkness and obscurity with the one in question. I am now engaged in the prosecution of such inquiries, as I hope will unquestionably confirm the theory I have here advanced, which from its novelty I submit with diffidence and humility, to the consideration of the profession, trusting I may calculate on the assistance of those of its members, who are friends to humanity and science.

I have occasionally seen eruptions in dif-



ferent parts of the body, during the exhibition of the F. Helminthocorton. These are not to be regarded, should they appear, as they will go off in a few days. In some cases several nerve-like filaments will be observed in the motions, and sometimes the patient complains of a bearing down of the rectum, accompanied with tenesmus.

I have enumerated and described these various symptoms, to prevent the possibility of any thing like alarm being excited in the mind of the patient; yet it must be obvious to the merest tyro in physic, that such a disease as Cancer cannot be removed constitutionally, but by the use of medicines, which exert a powerful influence over the whole system: at the same time, I beg to state that in no one case I have ever attended, have I met with any unpleasant consequences from the exhibition of this medicine, and in most instances, my patients have followed their usual avocations during the process of cure.



The dose should be gradually increased in proportion to the effect produced, beginning, as I before stated, with half an ounce to a pint of water, and, if the use of it be continued for two or three months, an ounce and a half, or even two ounces may be used to the same quantity of water. After having persisted in it for about a fortnight at the greatest strength, should it cease to affect the constitution, or in any way influence the disease, it must be left off for two or three weeks, and recommenced in the proportion of one ounce to a pint of water, and then progressively increased as before, taking four, or even five wine glasses daily.

One of the greatest advantages attendant on the exhibition of this medicine, is, that its action on the diseased part is so speedy, that no time is lost during its trial; for within a few days after it has been given, an alteration will be observed in the tumour, so that at most, if properly used, ten days or a fortnight will be sufficiently long for its continuance,



to enable the practitioner to determine whether it would be advisable to persist longer in its use.

This, however, I beg to be understood, as applying more particularly to those cases where an operation has been proposed, and in which, a longer delay might not only render the success of the operation doubtful, but the death of the patient be hastened thereby. For I am well persuaded, that many persons afflicted with this disease, have lost all chance of an operation being performed with any prospect of advantage, by delaying it too long from a natural aversion and dread; but more frequently by the hope held out to them by practitioners, who profess to cure Cancer by milder means, and who, when they have them once under their care, lead them on to a fatal security, by promises and persuasions, and by depicting to them hopes which they well know, can never be realized.

But that there are cases, in which a few



weeks, or even a few months delay, is of no material import, will be readily admitted; and in these I would advise a longer continuance in the use of this medicine, local treatment being conjoined with constitutional; for, I have frequently seen cases, which at first appeared to have benefited very little, and after some time have shewn evident marks of amendment.

It will, no doubt, be said by the sceptical and unbelieving, that no case of true Schirrus was ever cured by this plan. In answer to this, I would observe, that I have invariably found those tumours which are decidedly Schirrous, have been acted upon with greater ease, and in a much shorter space of time, than others of a doubtful kind. The better to strengthen this assertion, and with a view to obviate and prevent such an opinion being entertained, I shall now cite a case about which there can be no doubt.

A woman aged forty-seven, applied to me



on the 1st of November, 1820, who had had one breast removed by Mr. Brodie, about twelve months before. At the time I saw her she had Schirrous tumours underneath both arms, besides one in the remaining breast, and several others in different parts of the chest and neck, and one about the size of an egg in the right hypochondriac region. Those in each axilla were immoveably fixed.

She complained of a constant numbness in both arms, and the skin covering the largest tumour in the chest, had become very thin and was much discoloured. For months previous, she was unable to lie down in bed, from a constant sense of suffocation, when in a recumbent posture. She had a troublesome habitual cough accompanied with internal disease of the chest.

Under these circumstances, I prescribed the infusion of the Helminthocorton, and by the seventh, she passed much better nights, and was able to continue for some hours in a



recumbent posture, the usual appearances in the fœces having been produced.

On the ninth I saw her again. She had then had two bad nights, from a considerable increase of pain in the tumours, with nausea and constant vertigo.

By the twelfth, her general health was improved, and she again passed better nights. The tumour on the breast was found on examination to be softer and diminished in size. The sickness and vertigo had in a great measure left her.

On the sixteenth the tumour last spoken of was considerably reduced, those in each axilla had become moveable and were evidently lessened, The numbness complained of in the arms had subsided.

The twentieth : for several days past, large dark green patches have been observed in the fœces : two or three of the tumours are



divided, and the one in the breast has entirely disappeared: little or no pain is felt in the parts diseased, and rest is generally enjoyed.

During the night she went on gradually improving till the 25th, on which day I found her complaining of pains in all her limbs, accompanied by febrile symptoms, considerable increase of cough, and expectoration, on which account I was obliged to discontinue the medicine and never afterwards had an opportunity of recommencing it.

The situation of this patient as servant of all work, obliged her, unfortunately, to use laborous exertion, which, joined to frequent exposure to heat and cold, much impeded the benefit which would have arisen from the use of the medicine, and the violent cold with which she was at last seized totally precluded its farther exhibition.

It is rarely we meet with a case, where the



disease is more extensive and aggravated, than that which I have just cited ; but notwithstanding this, and the numerous disadvantages before enumerated, more was accomplished than could reasonably have been anticipated ; and, the facts, which I have stated, are sufficient to bear me out in the assertion, that even true Schirrus of the most inveterate nature, is capable of being removed by the plan which I propose.

In order that the effects of the medicine, which I recommend, may be more fully understood, and the symptoms, during its operation, more clearly defined, I shall briefly state a case throughout its progress, from the first adoption of the plan to the final cure ; and, as in all, the appearances are but little varied, I shall confine myself to one alone, considering that this will be sufficient to answer the end which I have in view.

A lady, forty years of age, applied to me on the 30th of May, 1820. She stated, that



about four years previous, when under the influence of the Catamenia, she had received a blow on her right breast, in endeavouring to save a child from falling down stairs. That shortly afterwards, a tumour was discovered in the breast, which had gradually increased; and although she had, from time to time, applied to various surgeons of eminence, all their efforts proved ineffectual, either to diminish or arrest its progress.

Upon examining the part, I found a tumour of a stony hardness, with great irregularities. The skin covering it was very thin, but not discoloured. Its greatest length was five inches and a quarter, and its breadth four inches, and it was immoveably fixed. She was exceedingly fearful of having it touched, from its great tenderness, and could not bear the slightest pressure of her dress upon it. Several of the lymphatic vessels were tight and bulky, the whole of the breast was much disfigured and distorted, and its temperature greatly increased. The nipple was dry and



hard, and bound down to the tumour by three adhesions.

The tumour itself, at its lower part, was confined to the chest by three adhesions also, neither of which would admit of the least separation. The axillary glands were not enlarged, but she was totally incapable of raising her arm.

I directed the breast to be well covered with cotton wool, and ordered her the infusion of helminthocorton, in the proportion of half an ounce to a pint of water, and to take a wine glass full three times each day. This she commenced taking on the 31st.

June 4th.—No symptoms worth notice had been produced: the medicine agreed very well, and I increased the quantity of the fucus to three quarters of an ounce.

June 6th.—Secretion of urine increased; tumour quite easy; no perceptible change



in the fœces or in the swelling; appetite good.

8th.—A lightness of the head, and slight vertigo experienced, which subsided when the medicine, combined with rhubarb, acted on the bowels, producing four motions during the day, which were natural in colour. She thinks the upper part of the tumour feels more soft.

9th.—Complains of considerable langour in the morning, with an unwillingness to move, which, however, goes off in the course of the day, during which, the bowels were moved three times. The tumour is decidedly softer, and slime appears in the fœces: no vertigo nor lightness.

13th.—General health not so much affected by the medicine; no unpleasant symptoms.

19th.—She describes the tumour as much



softer on the inner, as well as on the outer side, and says that it is now become moveable. This great softness, she was inclined to attribute to an increased menstrual discharge. The bowels were moved from four to five times during the day: I therefore discontinued the rhubarb, and increased the quantity of the fucus, in the proportion of an ounce to a pint of water.

21st.—This day, I examined the tumour, for the first time since she commenced taking the medicine, and found it, as she had described, considerably softer, and the projecting points more obtuse. According to admeasurement, it was reduced half an inch from its superior to its inferior part. It appeared, in part, divided about its centre: its greatest motion was laterally. The nipple was more free from adhesion, and more natural in appearance and situation. Red spots occasionally appear in different parts of the body, which remain only a day or two.



23d.—She says the softness increases, and that the lower part also is now becoming softer. The skin has become loose, and hangs over the nipple, which it conceals. This alarmed her, as she thought it arose from the nipple being drawn in; but, on raising the breast, she found that was not the case, it being more natural in appearance. I ordered a cataplasm of the *quercus marinæ* to cover the whole breast.

28th.—To day there is a considerable thickness of the integuments, in which the nipple is completely buried; but this, in point of situation, is now quite natural. The admeasurement, however, proves, in some degree, fallacious, as the size of the tumour is rather increased than diminished, from this loose state of the integuments. Its softness increases, and one portion, situated externally and laterally, is detached, and easily kept separate. The tumour admits of increased motion. Fœces described as having the following appearances: darker in colour, with



patches of dark green and slime. No vertigo nor langour, but twice she has had a momentary loss of sense, similar to what is felt when recovering from a fainting fit. The number of motions is, generally, from four to five during the twenty-four hours. Pulse rather quicker than natural; countenance healthy; and the temperature of the breast much diminished.

30th.—I examined the breast for the second time, and can now take hold of the tumour at the lower part, and easily raise it, it being now completely moveable in all directions, and every where more soft. The inner adhesion of the lower part of the breast to the chest has disappeared; the nipple is as much buried as before.

July 4th.—This day I saw the breast again, and, on admeasurement, found the tumour reduced an inch in length, and proportionably in breadth. The second adhesion has also disappeared, and the third is easily sepa-



rated. The skin of the last, however, is somewhat red; but there is no appearance nor prospect of ulceration. The whole of the breast is much more natural in appearance, and the nipple can be seen without removing the surrounding parts. Bowels open, having three motions daily; general health, and appetite, very good; fœces dark coloured, with some slime and green specks; heat of the breast natural. I again ordered the cataplasm, which I had discontinued for four days, in consequence of its having produced eruptions, during which time I ordered fomentations of camomile.

July 7th.—Tumour below, as well as above, perfectly soft, except immediately where the remaining adhesion exists, and there the redness of the skin has disappeared.

11th.—Complains of diarrhœa, and bearing down, produced by the medicine, which caused me to omit the rhubarb: the adhesion admits of a still greater separation. Two



small floating tumours, the size of peas, are situated on each side of it.

17th.—No extraordinary motions since the rhubarb has been omitted. The two pea-like tumours are dispersed; I again ordered the rhubarb.

25th.—The action of the medicine has been rather violent, having excited occasional nausea, and produced large green patches in the fœces. The depth of the remaining adhesion is now scarcely an inch, and much narrower at its surface. The greatest length of the tumour is only three inches and a quarter.

26th.—Last night, she had considerable pains in the breast, accompanied with increased heat of the part. I ordered a fomentation of poppy heads, and after the pains had subsided, applied the soap plaster over the whole breast.



31st.—The adhesion can be separated, so as to admit a finger being placed at its bottom: there is no other visible alteration. I removed the soap plaster, and ordered a cataplasm, made of camomile flowers, to be applied twice a day.

Aug. 1st.—Very severe pains in the breast, but they are not of long duration. In the course of the preceding night, several hard substances were voided, and a quantity of slime of a yellowish white colour: she never before observed any thing like it. The hard substances which came away, on being cut with scissors, snapped, and exhibited one or more tubes: *she* compared them to portions of sweetbread. On being kept a day they became more soft.

4th.—The pains, occasionally, are very severe, which she described as burning and tearing. I ordered a cataplasm, made with a decoction of poppy heads and linseed meal.



7th.—Two glands detached from the tumour, which is now more easily moved. The inside of the adhesion is become softer; the heat of the breast again natural; pulse full, but soft; tongue rather white; appetite spare.

14th.—Both sides of the adhesion become quite soft; the nipple hid, but softer, and has a white appearance; fœces sometimes natural, at others, of the colour of a green bottle; and again, after this, only in patches. Pains not so frequent, nor so severe. The whole breast is no where hard, as formerly.

15th.—Myriads of little white filaments pass by stool. At first, she thought they had life: they exactly resemble those which are found issuing from cancerous tumours. I have preserved some of them in spirits of wine.

17th.—Complains of much debility and langour, which she imagines proceeds from having passed two restless nights.



22nd.—General health much better, and no recurrence of pain or langour.

24th.—There have been no unnatural appearances in the fœces for the last week: the nipple is much softer, and the interior part of the adhesion has lost all its redness. I ordered the following liniment to be rubbed upon the breast, twice a day:—

R. Liniment. Sapon. ʒii

Tinct. Opii. ʒii

M. ft. Liniment.

By this time, I had gradually increased the strength of the infusion to an ounce and a half of the fucus to a pint of water.

30th.—The evacuations now became darker, and mixed with slime. At this period, the tumour measured two inches and a quarter.

Sept. 6th.—The usual appearance in the fœces could not be produced: the medicine



was, therefore, discontinued, and small doses of sulph. magnes. were occasionally taken, and the breast was ordered to be rubbed twice or three times a day with the liniment stated in page 105.

22nd.—Re-commenced the medicine, in the proportion of three-fourths of an ounce to a pint of water.

27th.—State of the swellings very little altered; fœces darker in colour; and the quantity of urine increased.

Oct. 4th.—Increased perspiration; bowels open; motions dark in colour, and the green patches again produced: the tumour is divisible into many parts, and very much diminished in size. Again ordered the cataplasm of *Quercus Marinæ*.

12th.—The dark green patches still appear in the motions; there is no pain in the



breast ; the tumour diminishes very fast, and is now so deep seated, that its size cannot be accurately ascertained.

By Nov. 10th, there was no longer any tumour to be discovered, and after continuing the medicine, and gradually increasing its strength, till the 1st of December, I thought it had been taken sufficiently long to prevent a recurrence of the malady, and from that time discontinued its use altogether.

This was, by far, the largest tumour I have ever dispersed. Indeed, it is very rare that schirrous tumours attain so great a size ; for, it is generally admitted, that in delicate constitutions, they soon run into the ulcerative stage. The appearances in the motions were not produced, in this instance, so early as in other cases, which is to be accounted for from the medicine having been left off during the continuance of the catamenia. For this, how-



ever, there is not the slightest necessity, as the medicine does not produce, at this period, the least unpleasant effect. The nipple is still rather more hard than natural, and there also remains a thickened state of skin; but that these parts, when diseased from Cancer, are exceedingly difficult to be acted upon by any kind of treatment; and medicines, which act powerfully upon diseased glandular structure, have no influence over such a state of skin, I have before stated.

The whole of the breast is now smaller than the other, yet, if a low dress were worn, no perceptible difference in size, or general appearance, would be discernible; and she is now enabled to wear the thickest clothing, without being, in the slightest degree, inconvenienced by it.

When I first saw this tumour, I hesitated to make any attempt for its reduction, as well from its magnitude as from its appalling appearance. The dispersion of such a tumour,



I believe I may safely assert, was never before accomplished by constitutional treatment. Its removal was the more extraordinary, when we consider the mildness of the means by which it was effected ; and that the pain she suffered was only occasionally severe, and even trifling, comparatively with what must be undergone by other methods of treatment. A medicine, possessing so powerful an influence, might be supposed to injure the constitution ; but, on the contrary, the general health has rather been improved than deteriorated by its use ; as, indeed, has been invariably the case, with all under my care, who have taken it.

Independent of several tumours in the breasts of females, which I have removed, two cases of uterine schirrus have yielded to this plan of treatment ; but one was not wholly removed by the medicine, in consequence of my having stated to the patient, in conversation, the possibility of its being removed by the knife : so that when the tumour



had been reduced one half, she became impatient, and begged me to fix a day for the operation, which, at length, I was compelled to accede to.

For twelve months, previous to her applying to me, she had occasional pains in the uterus, and, for nine months, she had perceived a small tumour near the mouth of the womb, which, on examination, I found to be situated underneath the mucous membrane of the vagina. This was about the size of a small walnut. Her age was 46; the catamenia appeared only once in three months, and then very slightly. In the course of two months, the tumour was reduced one half; the catamenia became regular, and rather profuse; and the pains subsided.

In addition to giving her the *Fucus Helminthocorton*, I ordered an injection of the muriate of soda dissolved in water. The operation, though attended with considerable hemorrhage, was successfully performed, and



the wound healed in a few days. There has since been no appearance of a return of the tumour, with a view to prevent which, she took the medicine for two months afterwards.

#### V. *Local Treatment.*

It will be observed, that in other parts of this essay, I have occasionally spoken of the local means which I should recommend; but, lest these should not be fully understood, I will just mention them here, in a more collected form.

In all cases of schirrous tumour, local warmth is of the first importance; and, to prove that in many instances, this may assist very materially in the dispersion of glandular swellings, I shall state a circumstance that recently came within my knowledge.

A lady had had a tumour in her breast for some months, and, amongst the various things



recommended to her for its removal, was local warmth. The most effectual mode of applying this, she conceived, was by placing her hand on the tumour, and retaining it there for several hours. Accordingly, she was accustomed every night, on going to bed, to lay her hand on the part, and, in a short time, she had so fully acquired the habit of doing this, that when she awoke in the morning, she found her hand in the same position in which she had placed it the night previous.

By persisting in this for some months, she found, to her infinite satisfaction, that the tumour was dispersed. I have frequently succeeded in dispersing scrofulous glandular swellings of the neck, by keeping the part well covered ; so that patients have come to me, in a few days, astonished at the reduction which had taken place, attributing to the medicine which they had been taking, that which, in point of fact, arose from the simple circumstance I have just mentioned. In the



case of young females, who have these glandular enlargements, I am accustomed to direct them to wear a *collerette*, lined with cotton wool.

Of little less consequence is it, that the mind should be kept in a state of tranquillity in every stage of the disease. The attention of the patient should be drawn to any other object, rather than allow her to dwell on consequences which may ensue, and which would be materially hastened, by brooding over evils, which the imagination never fails to aggravate; for, I am well persuaded, there is no more malignancy in cancerous, than other tumours, if they are treated in a proper manner.

If the tumour is covered only by a very thin skin, which is discoloured, the best application is the ointment made of the oxide of bismuth, spread on lint, and over which, a quantity of cotton wool is to be placed; but



if the skin be natural in colour, and the tumour has no disposition to ulcerate, then the cotton wool only should be applied.

When the tumour has receded from the surface, and become more covered by healthy parts, the linimentum saponis may be rubbed upon the breast twice a day. Indeed, this liniment may be applied, in the first instance, to those parts of the breast where there is no discoloration of cuticle. After some time, stronger liniments may be safely substituted, such as the spiritus camphoræ compositæ, in equal parts with the linimentum saponis. Another form of liniment, which I have occasionally used, and which has been recommended by Dr. Rodman, is made thus:—

R. Ol. Oliv. ℥iii  
 Ol. Terebinth. ℥ii  
 Acid. Sulph. M. xxx.

The latter ingredient may, in some cases, be increased to forty drops.



I have also found the following a most useful application :—

R. Camphor. ʒi

Acet. Potass. ʒii

Ung. Simpl. ʒi

These applications I have generally ordered to be used during the day, and a cataplasm, made of the flores anthemidis, reduced to a fine pulp, to be applied on going to bed : but, when patients have tumours which are deep seated, any of these liniments may be safely used.

When pains in the diseased part have become distressing, I have, generally, either ordered the decoct. papaveris as a fomentation, or mixed up with the pulp of the flores anthemidis, and thus formed a cataplasm, to which, I have sometimes added the extractum hyoscyami nigri.

I have usually found that an occasional variation of these applications has been at-



tended with more benefit than continuing any one for a length of time. Still, notwithstanding this detail of external applications, I cannot but regard them as of minor importance, so far as concerns the complete cure of the disease; and, although they may sometimes be, in a degree, beneficial in assuaging the pain, and, more frequently of use in diverting the attention of the patient; yet, it is the constitutional treatment alone that we can rely on, for a successful reduction of schirrous tumours.

The use of mercury, in any form, either locally or generally, I have never seen of any service in Cancer; nor have I ever witnessed any good effects from the application of leeches.

Electricity has been recommended by some, for the reduction of tumours of this kind. I admit, that in scrofulous enlargements of glands, it is often serviceable; but, I have often seen its injurious effects when used in



schirrous tumours, from its exciting an unnatural action in the breast, and producing pain ; and, in some cases, a discharge of blood from the nipple has attended its application.

In recommending a form of diet, for patients subjected to this plan of treatment, I shall first observe, that during the time alkaline substances are taken, all kinds of acids should be carefully avoided ; and, although the present vegetable is not one which would effervesce on being joined with an acid ; yet, such union, in the stomach, would materially tend to diminish its effects ; and, I believe, it is generally admitted, that vegetable acids have a disposition to increase, if not to produce, the disease. Fruit should not be eaten, unless quite ripe ; and, even in that state, the patient is better without it. All vegetables of an acrimonious nature are exceedingly improper ; such as garlic, onions, mustard, horse-raddish, &c. All fermented liquors should be very sparingly used, if not altogether discontinued.



For breakfast, I generally direct patients to take either coffee, cocoa, or milk and water. The use of tea, particularly green tea, I strenuously oppose, on account of its influence on the nervous system.

For dinner, plain meats, either roast, broiled, or boiled, drinking water, either alone, or a little wine added to it.

It is also desirable to avoid the alum too frequently mixed in baker's bread. The best bread, I consider, to be made with equal parts of rye and wheaten flour.

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*Conclusion.*

HAVING now, in a concise manner, given to the public an unreserved statement of the general principles and practice, under which I have been successful, in the removal of schirrous tumours in the breasts of females,



by a constitutional mode of treatment, the most simple that could be devised with any prospect of success ; and which might be, and frequently is, followed for other diseases in the case of infants, without, in any degree, proving injurious even to their delicate systems,—I cannot, both from its simplicity and utility, urge too strongly the necessity of its general adoption for the cure of Occult Cancer.

That there will, however, be some objections raised, I can readily believe ; more particularly, from a circumstance which lately came to my knowledge, of a lady in Norfolk, who had read my treatise on Scrofula ; and, being afflicted with that disease, sent the book to her physician for his opinion, who said, if she submitted to the plan of treatment which I proposed, certain death would be the consequence. She, however, did persist in giving it a trial, and in a short period, was materially benefited.

In instances of this kind, such premature



decisions must emanate, either from ignorance or illiberality ; and, notwithstanding the contempt which they deserve, when arising from such sources, we all know the influence which they too often possess over the world, and how much they obstruct the advancement of science, and impede any improvements on old established principles and practice, however reasonable and well grounded they may be.

I regret that my state of health, for some time past, has been such, as to render the enlargement of this essay to a more considerable size, exceedingly irksome to me : and, from this cause, I have been less copious than I could wish, or had at first intended ; yet, I trust, that the method of treatment which I have here recommended for the eradication, or at least, the alleviation of this fatal disease, which commits such ravages, and entails so much misery on the softer sex,—will not fail to excite their notice.



Its success with patients, under my own care, has surpassed my highest expectations; and, I hope, that the details, although more concise than I had proposed, will be deemed amply sufficient to attract the attention of the medical practitioner; and that the mode of practice has been explained with sufficient clearness and perspicuity, to prevent its misapplication in the hands of others. With a full confidence of the benefit that will result to society from its general adoption, I have given to the world that knowledge and information, which I have gained only by very gradual steps, and in the acquirement of which, I have expended much time and labour.

FINIS.



