

Chorea Sancti Viti.

Contributors

Hamilton James, 1749-1835.
Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

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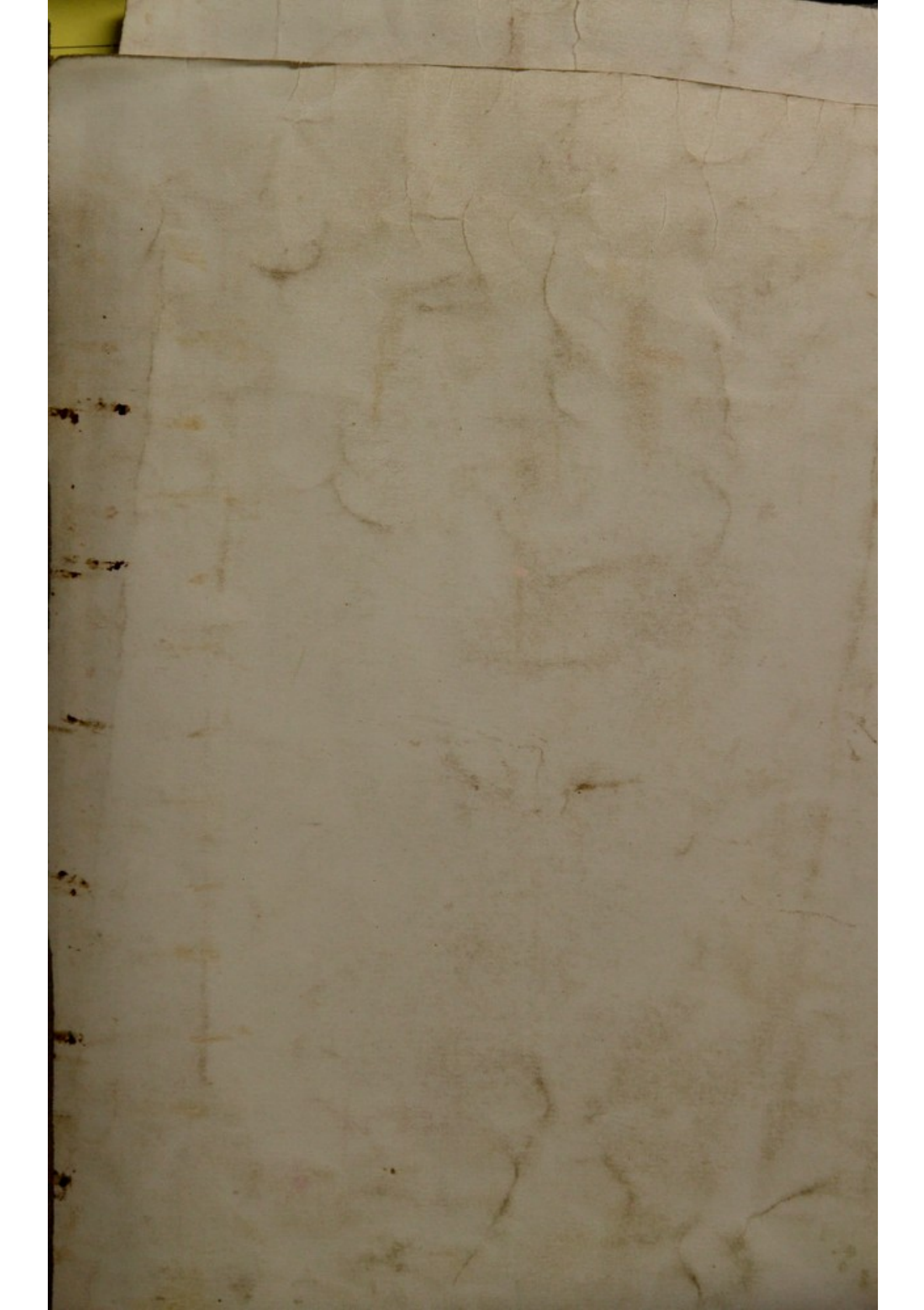
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183 Euston Road
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T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
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CHOREA SANCTI VITI.

Royal Infirmary, February 23, 1823.

JEAN KEMP, *Ætatis* 9.—Is affected with constant irregular and involuntary motions of the superior and lower extremities. The muscles of the trunk, of the abdomen, and those which move the head, eyes, and lower jaw, are similarly affected. She is unable to stand for any time in the erect position; and when she attempts to walk, one leg is observed to be dragged after the other. The motions are reported to be entirely suspended during sleep. Her articulation is considerably affected: her deglutition slightly so. Pulse 80, soft; tongue clean; belly slow; appetite good, rather voracious. She sleeps well.

The motions above described were first observed eight weeks ago, and are attributed to a sudden fright. They have increased in severity ever since. Various remedies have been employed without relief.

Habeat pilulas aloeticas tres vespere.

24th February.)—Pills taken, but with difficulty, and as yet without effect.

R. Aquæ font. unciam unam,
Syrupi simplicis semunciam,
Pulveris aloes grana octo.

Fiat haustus vespere sumendus.

Common diet.—A night nurse.

25th Feb.)—Very copious evacuation of lumpy and peculiarly fetid feces.

Repetatur haustus ut heri.

26th.)—Feces less copious; chiefly lumpy, and still fetid.

Repetatur haustus cum pulveris aloes granis quatuor.

27th.)—Feces pretty copious. Soft and bilious.

R. Aquæ,

Syrupi, utriusque drachmas quatuor,

Pulveris aloes grana duo, misce.

Sit haustus vespere sumendus.

28th.)—Feces in abundant quantity, are soft, and of bilious colour.

Intermittatur haustus.

1st March.)—No alvine evacuation.

R. Aquæ semunciam,

Syrupi empyreumatici,

Vini aloes socotorini, utriusque drachmas duas.

Sit haustus vespere porrigendus.

2d.)—Two alvine evacuations: in one receptacle the feces are formed, and hard; in the other, soft, and of clayey consistence.

Repetatur haustus.

Full diet.

3d.)—One alvine evacuation; feces lumpy, rather soft, and of peculiar feter.

Repetatur haustus ut heri.

4th.)—Feces like those of yesterday.

Repetatur haustus.

5th March.)—Feces, in respect of quantity and appearance, the same as for two days past.

Repetatur haustus.

6th.)—Copious evacuation at two motions; in the first, the feces appear formed, but rather of doughy consistence; in the latter, they are soft, more bilious than hitherto, and with less fœtor.

Intermittatur haustus e vino alois.

7th.)—Feces scanty, formed, and rather hard.

Repetatur haustus ut supra, cum vini aloes drachmis quatuor.

8th.)—Alvine evacuation; feces in moderate quantity, formed, and dark-coloured.

Repetatur haustus ut heri.

9th.)—Involuntary motions of the trunk and extremities are much mitigated, and in a great measure under command. She stands and walks with greater steadiness. Deglutition and articulation are improved; and the aspect of her countenance is greatly so. Alvine evacuation since yesterday: copious in one receptacle, formed in the other and softer.

Repetatur haustus cum vini aloes drachmis tribus.

10th.)—No alvine evacuation.

Repetatur haustus ut heri.

11th.)—Feces since last report not over abundant; are formed and hard.

Habeat haustum ut supra prescriptum mane et vespere.

12th.)—Alvine evacuation more copious; feces are soft and bilious.

Continuetur haustus mane et vespere.

13th March.)—Feces copious, soft, and bilious.

Intermittatur haustus.

14th.)—Feces since yesterday in moderate quantity ; dark-coloured ; in part of clayey consistence, and again more fetid.

R. Sacchari rubri

Pulveris jalapæ utriusque grana sex

Sit pulvis omni mane sumendus.

15th.)—Copious evacuation of soft fetid feces.

Cras mane repetatur pulvis ut heri.

16th.)—Repetatur pulvis ut heri.

17th.)—Since the 15th, alvine evacuation not over abundant ; consists of formed dark-coloured feces, less fetid.

R. Pulveris jalapæ.

Sacchari rubri utriusque grana decem

Sit pulvis omni mane sumendus.

18th.)—Copious evacuation of soft and rather fetid feces.

Repetatur pulvis jalapæ cras mane.

19th.)—Alvine evacuation pretty copious ; in part soft ; in part lumpy.

Repetatur pulvis jalapæ cras mane.

20th.)—Feces scanty, soft, and bilious ; patient appears thinner and paler than at admission ; appetite good, but less voracious.

Continuetur pulvis.

21st.)—Feces in natural quantity, formed, and of clayey colour.

Repetatur pulvis cras mane.

22d March.)—Alvine evacuation more copious than of late; feces formed, consistent, and clayey-coloured.

Repetatur pulvis jalapæ.

23d.)—Feces are soft; in abundant quantity.

Repetatur pulvis.

24th.)—Feces more scanty, formed, and white-coloured.

R. Submuriatis hydrargyri grana duo

Pulveris jalapæ.

Sacchari utriusque grana sex

Sit pulvis cras mane sumendus.

25th.)—Feces copious, soft, clayey-coloured, and fetid.

Repetatur pulvis ut heri.

26th.)—Feces soft, in moderate quantity, clayey-coloured, and fetid as yesterday.

Repetatur pulvis ut heri.

27th.)—Feces similar to those of yesterday.

Repetatur pulvis.

28th.)—Repetatur pulvis.

29th.)—Alvine evacuation of yesterday and of to-day, similar to that last described.

Intermittatur pulvis.

30th.)—Since yesterday alvine evacuation in natural quantity, form, and consistence. Since the 9th instant, she has continued to improve in respect of irregular motions, and in facility of speech and of swallowing. Rolling of the eyes, remarked in the case, has not been observed for some time past.

Habeat pulveris jalapæ, drachmas duas in doses octodecem divisas.

Signa, One occasionally when costive.

Recommended to be much in the open air, and to take her usual simple food.

Dismissed relieved.

April 6th.)—This day her mother, on a visit, reported Jean to have improved in respect of distinct enunciation, and of steady progressive motion. She appears to have been rather purged, and to have passed a large living lumbricus.

11th.)—Re-admitted—from the country; is reported to continue improved, in respect of distinct articulation and of steady progressive motion. The motions of her arms and mouth are, however, somewhat increased. She is said to grind her teeth during sleep, and to complain of itching about the arms. Looks thinner than when she left the Hospital. Bowels reported regular. Of the powders, six dozes only were taken, and are reported to have occasioned gripes and purging.

12th.)—Since admission has had one alvine evacuation; feces are formed, pretty copious, and of dark colour.

Habeat pilulam aloeticam unam, vespere.

Common diet.

13th.)—Pill taken with difficulty; scanty evacuation of formed feces, of peculiar feter. During her absence, aspect and colour of countenance were much improved, and continue to be so.

R. Pulveris aloes grana quatuor.

Syrupi sacchari empyreumatici drachmam.

Sit electuarium vespere sumendum.

14th.)—Pretty full evacuation of soft and fetid feces.

Repetatur aloes ut heri.

15th April.)—Alvine evacuation consists of soft, but some lumpy and fetid feces. She has complained of headache. Pulse calm ; tongue clean.

Hirudines sex fronti.

Repetatur aloes ut heri.

16th.)—Headache relieved ; leeching answered well ; alvine evacuation scanty ; feces formed, of white colour, small calibre, and fetid.

Repetatur aloes ut heri, et cras mane habeat infusi sennæ unciam.

17th.)—Copious evacuation of bilious fetid feces ; in part soft, and in part lumpy.

Repetantur et aloes et infusum sennæ ut heri.

18th.)—Feces bilious, soft, fetid, and in full quantity.

Repetatur aloes ; intermittatur infusum sennæ.

19th.)—Alvine evacuation copious ; bilious ; of nearly natural consistence, and less fetid.

Repetatur aloes.

20th.)—Since yesterday feces much more abundant than of late ; in general formed, and but little fetid.

Repetatur aloes.

21st.)—The convulsive motions of the arms and mouth last described are now not observed, and only occur after bodily exertion has been continued for some time ; the articulation is quite distinct, and she is capable of steady progressive motion ; aspect and colour of countenance continue to improve ; appetite is good. The grinding of teeth during sleep is scarcely, if ever, observed. Itching about the anus is gone ; alvine evacuation since yesterday scanty, soft, and otherwise natural.

Intermittatur aloes.

22d April.)—A moderate evacuation of soft and natural feces.

23d.)—Feces in natural quantity, and formed.

24th.)—Moderate evacuation of formed and apparently healthy feces. Continues free of irregular motions.

R. Aloes drachmam unam

Sacchari crystallizati, drachmas duas.

Tere intime et divide in doses octodecem æquales.

Signa, One occasionally.

Dismissed cured.

EDINBURGH, 2d MAY, 1823.

In respect of the appearance of the child, and of the incessant involuntary action of numerous muscles, this case presents CHOREA in its most exquisite form, and proves the utility of Purgative Medicines in the treatment of the disease. While I leave the abettors of the doctrine, that Atony is the cause of Chorea, in possession of their opinion,—the result of this case, as well as that of others which I have published, must convince them, that medicines said to possess stimulant and bracing powers, are not essentially necessary for its removal.

James Hamilton



