

A treatise on the venereal rose; commonly termed gonorrhoea virulenta: containing a simple, safe, and certain method of cure, without the use of mercury / [William Butter].

Contributors

Butter, William, 1726-1805.

Publication/Creation

London : J. Callow, 1805.

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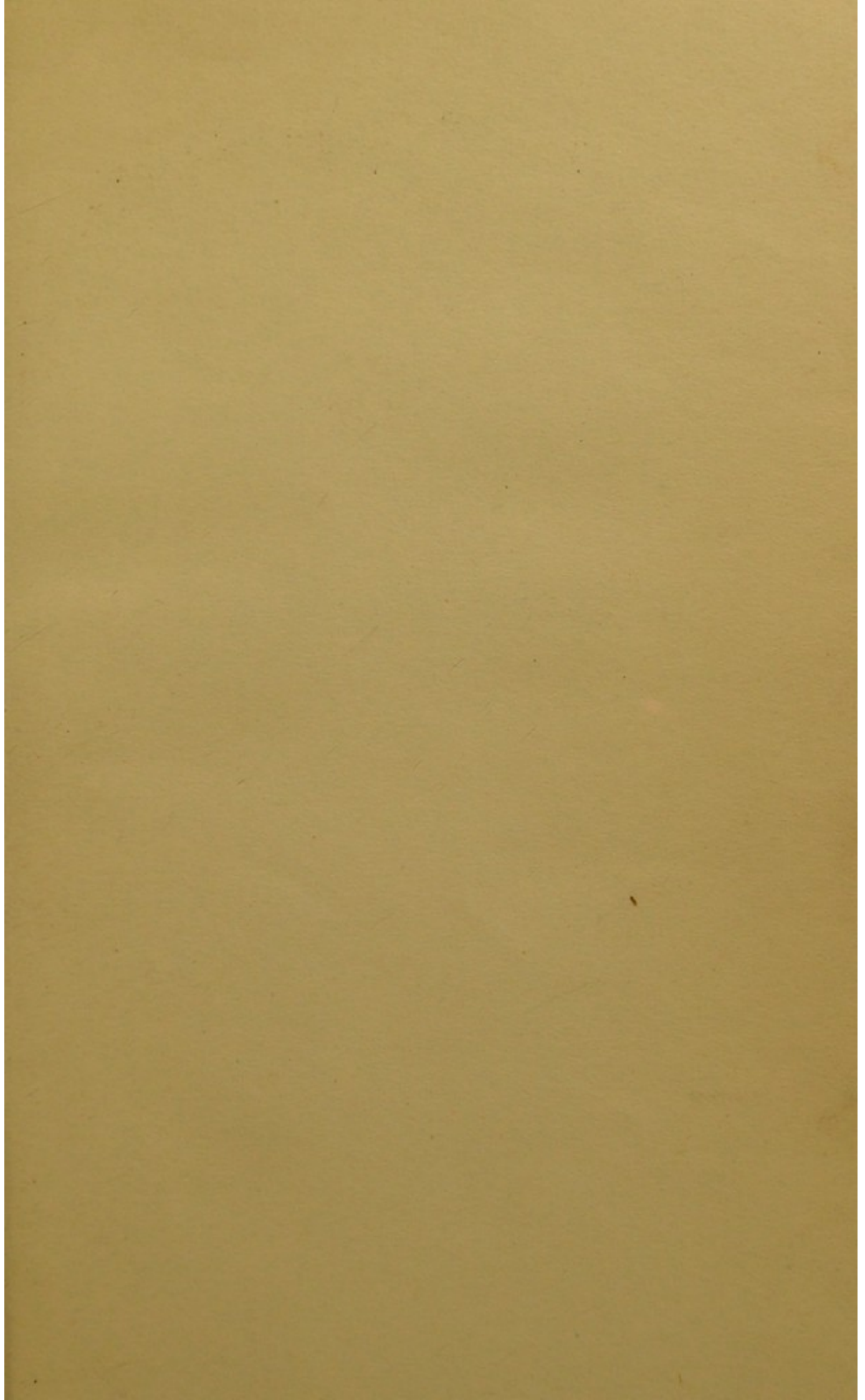


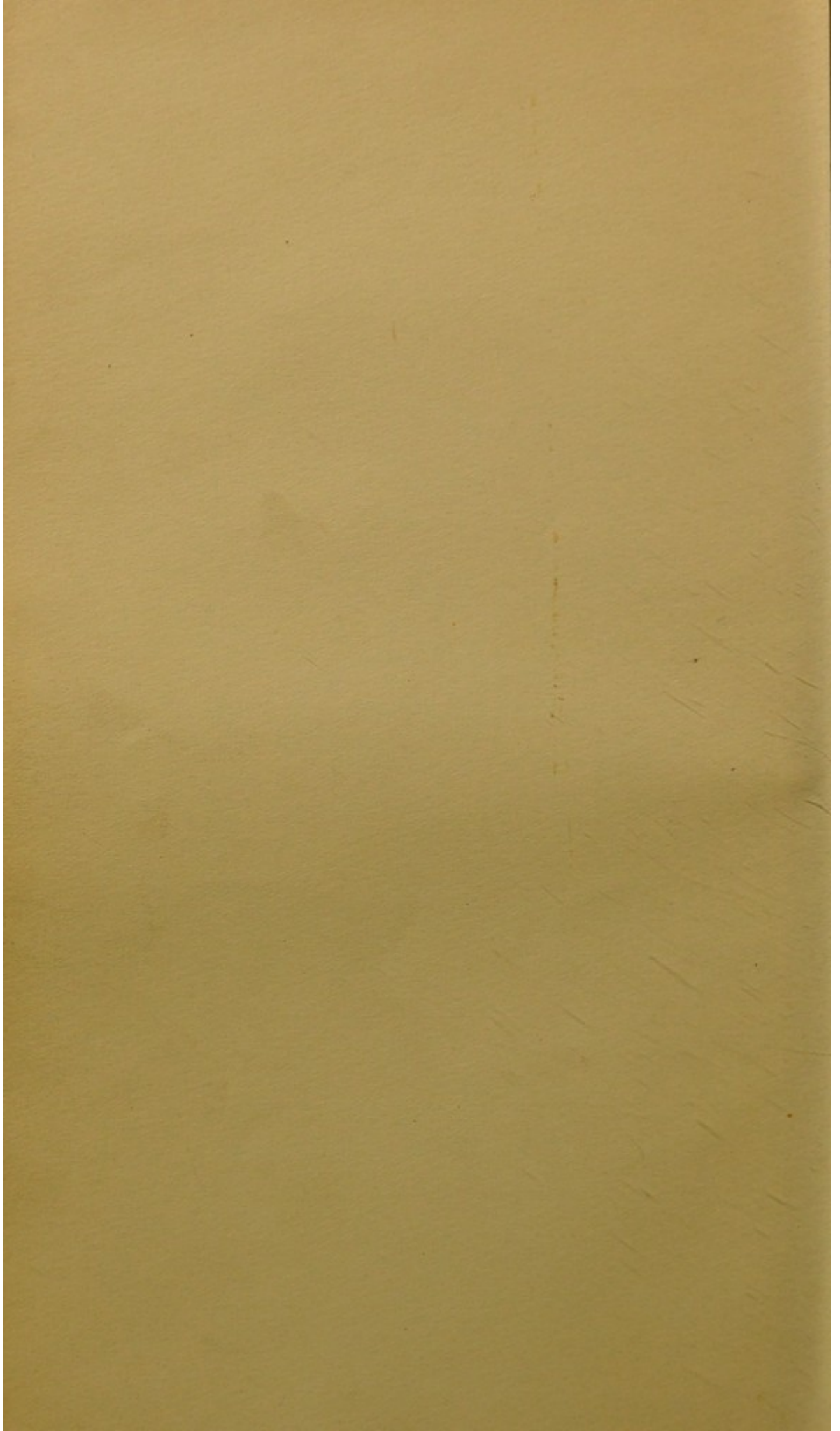
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T R E A T I S E

ON THE

V E N E R E A L R O S E .

TREATISE

ON THE

VENEREAL ROSE.

A
TREATISE
ON THE
VENEREAL ROSE;
COMMONLY TERMED
GONORRHOEA VIRULENTA:

CONTAINING

A simple, safe, and certain Method of Cure,

WITHOUT THE USE OF

MERCURY.

BY WILLIAM BUTTER, M. D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND
MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY, BOTH OF EDINBURGH.

THE SECOND EDITION.

Et Causæ quoque æstimatio sæpe morbum solvit. CELSUS.

London :

PRINTED FOR J. CALLOW, MEDICAL BOOKSELLER,
NO. 10, CROWN COURT, PRINCES STREET, SOHO;

BY W. SMITH AND SON, KING STREET, SEVEN DIALS.

1805.

TREATISE

ON GONORRHOEA

VENEREAL NOSE;

COMMONLY TERMED

GONORRHOEA TRICENTATA.

CONTAINING

A COMPLETE SYSTEM OF THE TREATMENT OF THIS DISEASE.



By WILLIAM BUTLER, M.D.

LECTURER ON THE DISEASES OF THE GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM, IN THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS AND PHYSICIANS OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LONDON.

THE SECOND EDITION.

Printed and Sold by W. G. and A. C. Black, 15, Old Bailey, London.

LONDON:

Printed for J. Galt, 15, Old Bailey, London. By W. G. and A. C. Black, 15, Old Bailey, London.

1863.

(2)

I am of opinion that much misery might be prevented by using Mercury even as a general medicine in every form of Venereal disease; but for the Venereal Rose no injections are necessary.

An Appendix is added for the sake of order.

THE PREFACE.

IN the following pages I have destroyed one of the props of Merciless Imposture by giving a suitable definition and description of the Venereal Rose, by elucidating its true nature, and by adapting thereto a method of cure simple safe and certain without a chance for any of the bad consequences that have hitherto so frequently occurred in practice. I say without a chance for any of those consequences provided that the patient can strictly conform to the rules laid down.

It is worth notice that no recourse is had to Mercury for the Venereal Rose or for any of its Complications remarked upon in this work.

I am

I am of opinion that much misery might be prevented by using Mercury even as a general medicine in very few cases; Antimony on the same principle in no case whatever; and for the Venereal Rose no injections whatever.

An Appendix is added for the sake of ascertaining the cure of the Venereal Rose extracted chiefly from my publication on the Kinkcough.

GROSVENOR STREET,

June 11, 1799.

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A TREATISE

A
T R E A T I S E

ON THE
V E N E R E A L R O S E.

CHAPTER I.

Of the Synonymes; the Definition; the Description; and the Prognostick of the Venereal Rose.

§ 1. *The Synonymes.*

Gonorrhoea Impura. *Cullen.* Synops. Nosolog. gen. 121. spec. 2.

Gonorrhoea Syphylitica. *Sauvages.* Nosolog. Method. Class ix. gen. 30. sp. 4.

Dyfuria Venerea. *Ejusdem.* Class ix. gen. 27. sp. 4.

A

Gonor-

Gonorrhoea Syphylitica. *Sagar. Syft. Morbor. Symptom. Cl. v. Ord. iv. gen. 31. spec. 5.*

Gonorrhoea Virulenta. *Astruc de Morb. Vener. Lib. 3. cap. 1.*

Gonorrhoea Virulenta Sicca. *Ejusd. Lib. 3. cap. 3.*

The Virulent Gonorrhoea or Clap of most British writers.

Eryfipelas, the name given by the Greeks to that kind of inflammation, a species of which we are about to treat, alludeth to its spreading tendence, as well as to its colour: From this last quality some of the modern nations of Europe have also assigned it a name, calling it Rosa or the Rose; which seems so well adapted, that it ought, in my opinion, to supplant a very inapplicable one, though in common use, the St. Anthony's Fire. I therefore add, as a new synonyme of the disease now to be considered,

The

The Venereal Rose.

§ 2. *The Definition.*

The Venereal Rose may be defined an erysipelatous or diffused inflammation of the passage for generation, commonly productive of a constant purulent discharge, and always arising from infectious intercourse.

I have said commonly productive of a discharge, because now and then it occurs without any discharge at all; like any other species of the Rose that I am acquainted with. It must, however, be allowed, that no other species of the genus is so seldom without an excretion.

§ 3. *The Description.*

The Venereal Rose usually begins in four or five days, and sometimes in a few hours, but seldom later than eight or nine days

after infection. A heat of urine commonly precedes the running for a day or less; though sometimes the latter is the first symptom. The discharge at the beginning is thin, colourless, and in small quantity: but it soon increases in quantity; and at the same time acquires more consistence and some colour. It is generally of a thin creamy consistence and colour. It is often whitish: sometimes it is greenish; and sometimes of various colours. It is always fetid. It is generally most copious when the patient is warm in bed. The colour of this running, whether fresh or dried upon linen, continues the same; and hath little more effect in stiffening the cloth than if it had been water.

In a few days after this disorder hath commenced, it is attended with frequent painful erections, called Chordee, from the corded sensation that the patient complains of for the time, as well as from the part affected
being

dilated, and very painful to the touch. The whole feat of the disease is tender to the touch; though some parts of it are more so than others: but the chief tenderness is under the bulbous extremity of the yard, where some hardness is also felt; and here it is where the pain and heat are chiefly felt from the passing of the urine.—This is the state of the symptoms when the Venereal Rose is at the height.

Sometimes, beside the more common symptoms as mentioned above, the patient complains of inguinal pains, and of pains of the testicles, and of their containing bag, called *Scrotum*, and even in the yard itself, especially when swelled, from the middle toward the glans.

Those pains of the yard are sometimes constant; at other times they intermit, but irregularly. They are described by the patient as aching, sometimes as burning, and
some-

sometimes as shooting pains; and sometimes they convey an idea of numbness. They are in general not fixed; for they are commonly in the body of the yard and in the urethra by turns. They are neither affected by the touch nor by the passing of the urine. The running, however, is always more during those pains. The swelling of the yard is also increased by the pains.

The inguinal pains are sometimes accompanied with a slight enlargement of the small glands seated there.

In this disease, as it has hitherto been described, the pulse is calm, provided that the patient is otherwise in good health.

But sometimes there is pain of a fixed nature, which is situated in the space between the anus or fundament and the testicles; which space is known by the technical term

Perinæum. This pain is at all times troublesome; but particularly so when the patient walks, or sits, or when he makes water. While sitting, he is obliged to rest on one hip that he may avoid pressure on the part affected, which would give exquisite pain. The pain from making water is still worse just after it is made.

It likewise hath happened, that the patient complains of hardness and severe pains of the belly, from the navel down, with an almost total suppression of urine. These symptoms are also attended with severe pain in the small of the back: and the patient, even in bed, can only recline backward and in a half erect posture.

The Venereal Rose is also sometimes accompanied with swelling and inflammation of the testicles and scrotum, and sometimes with the pox.

In each of these cases except the last the pulse is always quick, and the skin warmer than natural.

Having thus given a description of the Venereal Rose from the beginning to the height, I shall now relate the progress of its decline till it be quite removed.

The swelling of the yard and unnatural redness of the glans are the first symptoms that go off. The pain and straitness on making water, and all the other pains next gradually disappear; the chordee next, which at last is sometimes attended with a sense of stiffness instead of pain: and the running becomes daily less, acquiring at the same time less and less fetor, more and more consistence, and one uniform colour, generally white. At length the running becomes very inconsiderable, inodorous, transparent, colourless, and clammy like the white of an egg.

From

From the time that the disease begins to decline, the matter when dried upon linen hath a twofold appearance: the main body of the stain preserves, as usual, the colour of the fresh running; while the surrounding margin is colourless, and more particularly stiffens the linen. This margin, from a very inconsiderable beginning, gradually increases, and the central spot diminishes in the same proportion, till toward the close of the disease it entirely disappears; when the running cannot be said to stain the linen, because it is only distinguished on the cloth by exhibiting a starchy appearance. This remark is just in those who have had the disease seldom; otherwise the running in general continues muddy to the last. At the time when the discharge is colourless, it is become very inconsiderable and soon ceases entirely.

An itching attends the decline of the disease on erections; and also on the passing of
the

the urine, except when a good deal is made, and then a forenefs is felt toward the laft. There is generally no forenefs now from preffure any where in the courfe of the urethra. A more than ufual frequency of the urine likewise now and then takes place; and which fometimes fubfifts for a little after every other fympptom of the difeafe is gone.

In women the Venereal Rofe begins in much the fame time after infection. There is a redundant moifture and an itching fenfation at firft. Soon after the running becomes copious, with the ufual appearances of colour and confiftence; and accompanied with pain, heat, and fwelling of the parts affected, which are aggravated by walking.

Here alfo the fame progrefs toward recovery is obfervable as in the other fex. The pains, heat and fwelling go off firft; the pain
from

from making water next; and lastly the running, which gradually terminates with the same appearances as have been already described in the men.

§ 4. *The Prognostick.*

The Venereal Rose always admits of a safe and easy cure. The danger or the difficulty solely arises from improper treatment.

I now proceed to inquire into the nature and seat of the Venereal Rose; and to explain its symptoms.

C H A P. II.

Of the Nature, Seat, and Symptoms of the Venereal Rose.§ 1. *Of its Nature and Seat.*

GONORRHOEA, the name by which the Venereal Rose hath been longest and most generally known, hath proved an unfortunate deception as to the nature of the disease, and, of course, as to the method of curing it. The definitions generally given by authors have not had a better effect. A few have been more correct on this head; but without deriving any advantage from their accuracy. Of this number is Doctor Astruc, who, though he admits of inflammation, still supports the original doctrine, that the Venereal Clap is the feminal discharge increased and vitiated by the infectious cause. His descrip-
tion

tion of the disease is of a piece with the theory: neither are drawn from just observation. And his method of cure must prove a greater nuisance to a patient than even the disease itself: but to return.

Other authors state, that the Venereal Rose is an ulcer. On this subject there are two opinions; some deriving this supposed ulcer from an immediate and actual erosion of the part affected by the venereal miasms; while others say, that the ulcer is the consequence of inflammation occasioned by those miasms. These opinions labour under difficulties which their several authors or abettors could never solve: nor is it to be wondered at, since they are flatly contradicted by the most accurate investigation of the part affected, in such as happened to die while labouring under the Venereal Rose. Morgagni has proved, that in such cases there is a more than natural redness and a redundant moisture

ture in the urethra; but that no ulceration is ever seen*. Those facts, while they overturn the doctrine of ulcer, render incontrovertible the one which I am now to advance. I must, however, remark, before I proceed further, that even the learned and ingenious Nosologists have lost sight of their usual accuracy on this head, by giving way to the generally received opinion, in ranking the Venereal Rose with the fluxes, and not, as it is by nature, with the inflammations. Nor is this all; for, as a natural consequence of that oversight, the simple Venereal Rose becomes two diseases, and so very distinct, that they barely belong to the same class! namely, the Venereal Dyfury and the Venereal Clap.

The Venereal Rose is either simple or complicated. It is known to be a simple

* J. B. Morgagni de sedibus et causis morborum. Epistol. xliv. Art. 3, 4, 5.

disease,

disease, when it is attended with no other symptoms than such as are peculiar to the nature and seat of it. When other symptoms occur, they only give rise to complication and not to any distinct species.

The simple Venereal Rose is an affection of the urethra or urinary passage in men, and chiefly of the vagina, or passage to the uterus or womb in women. It is an erysipelatous inflammation, arising from contact with an infectious cause. This inflammation generally extends as far as the middle of the urethra; and is now and then without any discharge; but most commonly it does discharge, and constantly, from the whole or the greatest part of its surface, a purulent matter, which gives rise to the popular name of the disease.

A common erysipelas on any part of the body is usually attended with an excretion.

This

This in sound habits is ferous ; and not being able to penetrate the cuticle or scarfskin, separates it from the cutis or true skin, and thus forms vesicles or bladders of clear water. However in cachectick habits a purulent instead of a ferous discharge hath frequently been observed.

The erysipelas of which we are treating discharges pus instead of serum for two reasons: first, the cause is malignant; secondly, it appears that the part affected of itself disposes the erysipelatous excretion to be purulent. An evident proof of this occurs not seldom in practice. Even in the most healthy habits, for example, where cleanliness is not attended to, a white curdy matter is apt to gather between the prepuce or foreskin and the neck of the glans, which, by its acrimony, occasions a degree of inflammation attended with an itching and a purulent discharge. In this case the parts are inflamed

B

and

and thickened; but not the smallest appearance of ulceration or excoriation is ever perceived. What is called the Benign Clap is another instance of this purulent tendency.

Having thus explained the origin and the nature of the running, all the symptoms are easily accounted for on the same principle as under.

§ 2. *Of the Explanation of its Symptoms.*

When the inflammation is in its infancy, the discharge is thin and colourless like that of the common erysipelas: but it soon acquires more and more colour and consistence till it become, when the inflammation and consequent malignity are at the height, quite purulent.

The pain and heat on making water are what must be expected from a sharp fluid passing along an inflamed part.

The

The sense of straitness and smallness of the stream on making water point out that the urinary passage is diminished from the sides of that canal being thickened by the inflammation. This thickness is also demonstrable by the case mentioned in the preceding section where the discharge is from the neck of the glans and the inside of the prepuce. Beside, there is a further confirmation by M. Littre, who, on dissecting the body of a man who had died while labouring under the Venereal Rose, found the urethra inflamed, thickened, harder than natural, and containing a redundant humour*.

The unequal tenderness of the urethra is chiefly owing to some parts of it from structure being more susceptible of irritation than others.

* Observations sur la Gonorrhée, dans les Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences pour l'année 1711.

The chordee originates from pain taking place in the whole course of the urethra and which gradually increases till the erection is completed, when it is at the worst; and then also affects the whole body of the yard.

The curvature and extreme pain of the yard during the chordee are owing to the *corpus cavernosum* or main body of it yielding but with much difficulty to the agonizing contraction of the urethra. As a proof of this, the pain is instantly relieved by bending the yard downward and backward and so assisting the incurvation; when the chordee also quickly ceases. Even when erections are painful without incurvation the bending of the yard will be attended with the same good effects. From this it is proved that the *corpus cavernosum* suffers merely from sympathy with the urethra; and further that, when the pain without curvature is equally as severe as with it, the sympathetick affection is
become

become so strong as to be able to counter-balance the inflammatory irritation of the urethra.

The heat of the bed or intemperance adds to the irritability of the inflamed excretories, and of course quickens their motions which must increase the running.

Erections not only increase the running, but sometimes by their violent action on the blood vessels force the blood itself through the morbid excretories, either in an oozing state or profusely as a hemorrhage.

The colour of the running being various and its consistence incoherent though seemingly thick are owing to the humours naturally balsamick being broke down by the venereal poison.

So much for the signs of existing inflammation.

When the inflammation is gone a morbid sensibility remains. During the continuance of this the chordee is attended with a sense of stiffness instead of pain; and the passing of the urine now become free creates only an itching, except when a good deal is made and then a sense of soreness succeeds from the longer continuance of the titillating cause.

The frequent calls to make water arise from the neck of the bladder partaking of morbid irritability through sympathy with the urethra.

The different appearances of the running upon linen are the several gradations from malignity to the sound balsamick state.

When the discharge is become thus sound and balsamick and the urine free we are certain that the whole seat of the disease, whatever

whatever be the structure, is now also found.
And no stricture or caruncle can ever occur
from such a cure.

Having thus explained whatever relates to
the Venereal Rose as a simple disease, I now
proceed to inquire into its complications.

C H A P. III.

Of the Complications of the Venereal Rose.

It is mentioned in the preceding chapter that all such symptoms as do not correspond with the nature and seat of the Venereal Rose are to be considered as pertaining to complication. On this principle the Venereal Rose is liable to various complications. These according to the preceding description are,

First, pains fixed or moveable in the yard with their concomitant symptoms.

Secondly, fixed pain in the *Perinæum*.

Thirdly, hardness and severe pain at the bottom of the belly with violent dysury.

Fourthly, swelling and inflammation of the testicles and scrotum, and

Fifthly, the pox.

The

The four first complications demand particular attention as being intimately connected with our subject. I shall therefore briefly unfold what I take to be the nature of each, and according to the order in which they are mentioned.

The pains in the yard are spasmodick, and the consequence of a morbid affection of the first passages acting on this weakened organ. It is from those pains chiefly that I have ventured to decide on the extent of the main disease, not doubting that they equally affect the whole of it. Beside, Morgagni has observed in one of his dissections that the moisture superabounds only so far in the urethra*. The swelling of the yard and painful inguinal lumps arise from the irritation excited by those same pains whether moveable or fixed.

* Lib. citat. epistol. 44. art. 7.

The acute pain in the *Perinæum* depends on an inflammation, which is said to have its seat sometimes in Cowper's glands and sometimes in the Prostate gland. Indeed those cases may happen either separately or conjunctly: but as such distinctions cannot in my opinion be of any use either in theory or practice, I wish to denominate this disease by the Prostate gland alone as being the most considerable. This inflammation commonly called phlegmonous, I call constricted by way of distinction from the erysipelatous or diffused inflammation: because, since those inflammations are intended by nature for the same end, to wit, an excretion, they can only differ as to the parts affected. When inflammation falls as in the present case on a glandular or other confined part, the pain is extreme from that confinement during the preparatory process of the excretory ducts for the purulent excretion; and from the external covering of the part
affected

affected being not only inflamed but more and more stretched from its accumulating contents. This purulent or inflammatory excretion commonly called suppuration is Nature's effort to, prevent a mortification; being in certain cases her way of procuring a resolution of the inflammation by thus breaking down and expelling the immediate obstructing cause and so restoring the fluids that had thereby been impeded to their proper circulation.

The third complication, namely, the hardness and severe pain at the bottom of the belly accompanied with violent dysury are symptoms of inflammation at the neck of the bladder. The hardness chiefly arises from the bladder being over distended with urine; and the severe pain, partly from the same cause and partly from the inflammation at its neck.

The

The fourth complication, to wit, the swelling and inflammation of the testicles and scrotum, arises partly from vicinity to the Venereal Rose, but more especially from the parts latterly affected not having been properly supported from the beginning of that primary disease.

It is a pleasure to observe that none of the preceding complications are venereal; that bad management is almost ever their occasional cause; and that the vicinity of the main disease is as often no more than the predisposition. I say it is a pleasure to be able from repeated experience to make those remarks; as surely they ought to be powerful motives with the patient to attend strictly to his medical advice; since by such attention all probability of any of the like complications taking place will be obviated.

The

The fifth complication of the Venereal Rose is barely mentioned as being such; because the pox does not further come within our present plan. At any rate it is a disease of too much importance to admit of a subordinate discussion.

The means of cure for the Venereal Rose and its several benign varieties or complications make the subject of the following chapter.

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

*Of the Cure of the Venereal Rose and of its
several benign Complications.*

The common methods of treating the Venereal Rose having proved to me unsatisfactory, I considered it as my duty to look out for more effectual means. And as the celebrated Baron Storck had remarked that the extract of hemlock cured this disease after having resisted all other remedies* I became eager to try its effects in every case of the Venereal Rose without exception that might come under my care, and so long as the success should warrant my perseverance. This resolution I took from my confidence in

* Supplement. Necessar. de Cicuta. Corollar. x. Remedium est contra gonorrhœum inveteratam rebellem.

whatever

whatever my learned friend asserts as a fact; as well as from my own knowledge of the general effects of this medicine in the human body. I began this practice in the year seventy-four; and have ever since found it far superiour to whatever means have been in common use.

I maintain that the extract of hemlock, or more properly according to my form the hemlock-mass for pills is a safe and certain cure for the Venereal Rose; but that the time requisite for this cure depends much on the patient's attention to management. When that is correct it proves a cure in a fortnight. Otherwise it will take double that time and more to effect a cure.

However this much can be said in favour of hemlock, that even where the cure hath been unnecessarily protracted it hath had extraordinary good effects in mitigating every
symptom

symptom of the disease and in warding complications and every bad consequence, except sometimes a gleet.

After what hath been said, it is the less to be wondered at when I affirm that, beside curing the disease in question, I have never yet seen the hemlock-mass fail to improve at the same time the health and strength of the patient when both had been deficient. It has even in so short a time as is requisite for the cure of the Venereal Rose restored the urine to a full stream when that had been wanting from the time of a former cure.

As this medicine had never discovered to me any direct tonick power I believed that its effects were the more easily frustrated as above by intemperance of any kind. On this account as soon as the inflammatory symptoms were gone I began early to
combine

combine the hard extract of Peruvian bark with the hemlock, and with such remarkable advantage that I have persisted in the practice ever since; though this improvement is not quite sufficient to baffle very absurd conduct.

What is here said is only applicable to the simple Venereal Rose; for in the cases of benign complication the Peruvian bark can scarce ever be used.

Having prefaced so far, I am now led to particularize the subject in hand.

§ 1. *Of the Cure of the simple Venereal Rose.*

For this disease I prescribe as under.

The patient is to take two hemlock-pills weighing five grains each thrice a day; to wit, at eight in the morning, two in the afternoon, and eight at night. He is to continue this dose while the symptoms abate:

C

but

but if little alteration has taken place in three days, on the fourth he is to take three pills thrice a day and for the same time; and then on the same conditions to persevere or increase the dose to four pills at the usual hours for a continuance: because if the disorder is not by this time very much abated inattention to rules must be the reason which no increase of dose can rectify. This I say from the clearest proof; because I have on such an occasion given triple the dose here recommended thrice a day with no better nor with the least bad effect.

If the belly be regular no laxative is wanted. In case of costiveness the following pills will be necessary.

Take of scacatorine aloes and hard soap each a dram. Beat them together into an uniform mass with a sufficient quantity of honey; and divide it into twenty-four equal pills. One

One of these pills more or less should be taken every night so as to produce one stool a day.

No external means are wanted, except a bag-truss and the patient's own urine.

The truss should be used from the beginning to the end of the cure. The urine as it passes occasionally answers the purpose of a fomentation; and better too than any that could be put in its place.

For this end the patient every time he is to make water should stretch the prepuce beyond the glans between his finger and thumb while he presses its extremity softly together so that the urine may in part be impeded in its progress out of the body; by which means it will effectually cleanse the glans, its neck, and the inside of the prepuce.

Even in the case of hemorrhage from the urethra the preceding means of cure are sufficient; because the hemlock-pills remove the chordee which is the cause sooner than any other medicine that I am yet acquainted with. Indeed in my opinion such a circumstance need never happen provided that the patient is attentive to rules, and among the rest to sit up, if in bed, when the chordee comes, and further to mitigate its violence and shorten its duration by assisting the curvature in the manner already mentioned.

As to diet, the patient should have for dinner some plain meat with pudding or broth, and small beer for drink; for supper, broth or milk with bread; for breakfast, tea with bread and butter as usual; and for a luncheon, broth.—In the intervals the cooling liquids such as gruel and barley water may as far as convenient be used for the sake of increasing the quantity of the urine and so
blunting

blunting its acrimony, whereby the hemlock-pills will be assisted in putting a more speedy period to the inflammation.

Wine, spirits, ale, and porter may surely be left off with hearty good will during the short time that is requisite for the cure of this inflammatory disorder.

All other aggravating causes should likewise be avoided; such as violent exercise, indiscreet exposure to cold, late hours, hot rooms &c.

When all symptoms of inflammation are gone and the cure goes on but slowly through accidents that cannot be avoided the same means are to be pursued with the addition of an equal proportion of the hard extract of Peruvian bark to the hemlock and of as much of the balsam of Peru as may be necessary to make a mass uniform and

of proper consistence for pills of the usual weight.

Four of these pills are to be taken thrice a day.

Sometimes it is necessary for expediting the cure to take twenty drops of the Saturnine Tincture in a glass of water with each dose of the pills.

Toward the conclusion of tedious cases the cure will be further quickened and confirmed by dipping the yard two or three times a day in cold water, while the patient is persevering at the same time in the use of the other means.

§ 2. *Of the Cure of the Disease complicated with Spasmodick Pains of the Yard.*

When those spasmodick pains have been fixed, severe, and constant, the promoting of
four

four or five stools hath made them shift their place, hath abated their severity, and hath even brought them to an intermission. For these reasons, though I know that the hemlock will of itself cure this complication, yet it will always be proper to join a laxative with it; because the progress of the cure is thereby more comfortable to the patient and also sooner at an end.

Two of the laxative pills therefore are to be given more or less every night so as to produce two stools a day.

The hemlock-pills are to be given progressively as in the preceding section.

After the pains are gone if the cure should prove tedious the Peruvian bark and balsam should be combined with the hemlock and used with the other means as in the simple Venereal Rose.

The laxative pills may now be omitted or just taken so as to keep the body regular.

The same regimen should be observed as in the simple Venereal Rose; only the patient should be still more abstemious as to solid food during the complication.

§ 3. *Of the Cure of the Disease complicated with Inflammation of the Prostate Gland.*

As this disease has all the tendencies of any other phlegmonous or constricted inflammation, the means of cure ought to be used as soon as it appears that it may to a certainty be removed by *Resolution* which will prevent a great deal of misery that would otherwise happen if Nature was left to herself; when at least suppuration would be the consequence which for the most part ends in a Fistula.

Sixteen ounces of blood thus timely taken from the arm will in general greatly abate the pain so as to leave no doubt that it shall be entirely carried off by the other means employed. If however some doubt on this head should remain it will be entirely removed by a repetition of the phlebotomy within twenty-four hours from the first operation.

Half an ounce of Polychrest salt is to be dissolved in a pint of hot water: and a fourth part of it is to be taken warm every six hours beginning the day of the first blood-letting.

This solution is to be repeated in more or less quantity every day so as always to produce four or five stools till the disorder is removed.

Cut into small pieces and bruise four ounces of newly gathered hemlock, and boil
it

it in four pints of water for five minutes. Strain the liquor when cold; and then make it sufficiently hot for use.

The part affected is to be fomented for half an hour three or four times a day with flannels wrung out of the above decoction and applied of an agreeable warmth.

After fomenting the part is always to be anointed with some of the following application; which consists of half an ounce of camphor dissolved in half a gill of olive oil.

From the beginning to the end of the cure the patient should ly in bed and live on broth, gruel, barley water &c. abstaining from all solids even bread and from every thing spirituous or fermented.

In a few days the cure of this additional disorder will be effected; when the patient
is

is to return to the means of cure for the simple Venereal Rose.

§ 4. *Of the Cure of the Disease complicated with Inflammation of the Neck of the Bladder.*

This is a much more violent disorder than the inflammation of the prostate gland. Indeed it highly endangers the patient's life. The same means are to be used in this as in that; but in a greater degree in proportion to the violence of the symptoms.

Blood should immediately be taken from the arm in a full stream and till the patient begin to faint.

This operation is to be repeated every day to a pound more or less according to its effects in moderating the pains and in giving freedom to the urine.

At

At the same time the solution of polychrest salt is to be given every four hours that it may operate as a febrifuge both on the blood and on the first passages so as to produce five or six stools every day.

The whole abdomen from the navel down should be fomented every four hours for an hour at a time; should be anointed all over after each fomentation with the camphorated oil; and should in the intervals be covered with flannel.

The thin cool diet should be still more severe even to the exclusion of broth: but the other liquids must be taken often and copiously till the disease is on the decline when broth can be added.

A few days will show the good effects of this treatment if timely and strictly practised by moderating every symptom.

Venefection

Venesection should then be laid aside: and the solution with the external means are to be continued though with considerable abatement till every symptom of the complication is gone. The cure of the primary disorder is then to be completed.

§ 5. *Of the Cure of the Disease with Swelling and Inflammation of the Testicles and Scrotum.*

In this case the patient must immediately go into bed and continue there till at least the inflammatory symptoms are gone.

He must live on the thin cool diet abstaining from every thing solid.

The parts affected must be wrapped in flannel and supported by a bag-truss, so as to be kept as easy as possible till the cure is completed.

In

In general less blood is necessary to be taken in this than in some of the preceding complications; for as the parts affected yield more readily the symptoms are commonly less violent. When blood-letting is necessary it should be taken from the arm: and leeches are to be applied after to the part affected in number proportionate to the exigence of the case.

The solution of polychrest salt should be given so as to produce two or three stools a day; and in the manner above mentioned.

The part affected should be fomented three or four times a day for an hour at a time; and a poultice of bread and milk with oil of hemlock should be applied through the night.

In the intervals of fomenting some folds of linen drenched in the same oil should always be applied.

The

The hemlock oil is made in the following manner.

Boil half a pound of fresh hemlock cut and bruised in a pint of olive oil till it become crisp; then strain off the oil.

The practitioner or patient has here his choice either to use this or the camphorated oil. I know from experience that the hemlock-oil is preferable in every case whether venereal or not where that with camphor is recommended; and beside is not offensive by its smell as the other is. On all occasions therefore I only recommend the camphorated oil till the other can be got.

By the time that the inflammatory symptoms are gone the swelling will at least be a good deal reduced. The patient may then leave his bed. Beside the bag-truss the hemlock-oil is now to be the only topical application;

application; and with which the parts affected are to be kept constantly moist.

The laxative and hemlock-pills as well as the diet are now to be used in the same manner as directed for the simple Venereal Rose; which will complete the cure both of the primary and of this accidental disorder. No case of the kind that I have yet seen hath been able to resist this treatment.

Having thus finished the history and the cure of the Venereal Rose I shall in the following chapter conclude with some necessary remarks that could not so easily be introduced into the body of the work.

CHAP.

C H A P. V.

The venereal compared with the common Rose.

That I may further establish my doctrine concerning the nature of the Venereal Rose I shall now particularly inquire how far this disease agrees with Erysipelas in general as to its principal characters.

First then, the Erysipelas or Rose always tends to alter the structure of the part affected so as to render it in general more liable ever after to the same disease: and returns as often as they occur never fail to enlarge that part more and more. Hence it is probable that the change made in the first instance is also an enlargement though too inconsiderable to be obvious to our senses.

D

The

The Elephantiasis of the West Indies* seems to be nothing more than the consequence of the Rose. And I have seen several instances of the forearms enlarged to double their natural size from the same cause.

In conformity with this we have already established it as a fact that during the Venereal Rose the part affected is thickened. In this disease however the thickness entirely goes off with the inflammation through the copiousness of the purulent discharge. Of course when this is prematurely stopped the consequences often imbecillitate and sometimes shorten life. A remaining thickness from such a cause does at times among other inconveniences give rise to the Rose whether venereal or not; especially when assisted by the irritation excited by a bougie, an instrument in use much beyond its merits.

* See Hillary on the Diseases of Barbadoes.

Secondly,

Secondly, the Common Rose is in general attended with pain which however is very tolerable: and sometimes this disease is accompanied with an itching instead of pain which is scarce tolerable.

The Venereal Rose is likewise attended with very little pain, except on making water. And I have known it attended with an almost constant intolerable itching which was even aggravated by making water.

Thirdly, the Common Rose is sometimes without any discharge; but for the most part with one; and that most commonly ferous and in no great quantity. However in cachectick habits we have found it purulent and copious.

The Venereal Rose is now and then without any discharge; but for the most part with one, which at the beginning is ferous

and small but soon becomes purulent and copious.

Fourthly, the Common Rose is generally spreading from place to place; except in cachectick cases where I have always found it stationary.

The Venereal Rose is always stationary. The supposed spreadings are no part of the main disease; but complications the consequences of bad treatment or neglect, as hath been already observed.

Fifthly, the Common Rose is liable to disappear suddenly; and always with danger to the patient. It likewise sometimes appears all of a sudden and when least expected to the total removal of some misery within one or other of the great cavities.—A lady was troubled with a cough and a pain in the left side which affected her breathing. This pain
immediately

immediately went off on the appearance of the Rose near to the part that had been affected.—A person just recovered of a dysentery dreamed in the night that a man was pulling out his bowels; and awaked in a great fright. He was then exceeding hot, had a shooting pain in his face and a severe bearing down as though he wanted to go to stool: but on trial he had none. In the morning the lower part of his face was affected with an erysipelas covered with a crop of clear small pustules. He was then in other respects quite well.

The Venereal Rose is liable to disappear suddenly: when it is generally succeeded by inflammation of the inguinal or prostate glands, of the testicles or of the eyes; and sometimes by that general affection of the whole body called the Pox. The ophthalmy on such an occasion is said to be so violent as to destroy that delicate organ before the

means of cure can have time to produce the desired effect*. I have seen the ophthalmia more than once which was doubtless venereal: and it was always safely cured. In every case of this kind the immediate opening of the temporal artery is indispensable. And whoever omits that generous remedy in violent inflammations of the eyes whether venereal or not is liable to much blame: for that operation is not only perfectly safe, but gives instant relief, and likewise shortens the cure far beyond any other means that have been yet tried. We have seen instances of a violent ophthalmia being entirely removed by the time that the bleeding was concluded†. Surely no venereal poison can operate so suddenly as to obviate such a cure!

* Vide Erndtelium apud B. Van Swieten's Comment. in H. Boerh aphorismos. Vol. v. 4to. p. 430.

† See improved Methods of opening Arteries, &c.

The return of the Venereal Rose often happens; but with little more good effect than to abate in a degree some of the most contiguous symptoms that had occurred through its disappearing: which is all that could be expected from a poison that had been further introduced into the body.

Sixthly, inflammatory malignity most commonly appears under the form of the Rose. This inflammation is therefore sometimes infectious.

The Venereal Rose is always infectious.

Seventhly, in the Common Rose internal medicines make the indispensable part of the cure. The greatest share of the inconveniences that have been observed in the cure of this disease have been generally and justly attributed to the topical applications. These

when the most suitable are of weak power ;
and therefore only a secondary help.

In no circumstances does the Venereal
coincide more correctly with the Common
Rose than in these.

THE APPENDIX.

*Necessaries to ascertain the preceding Cure of
the Venereal Rose.*

Of the Powder of Hemlock.

Before the Treatise on the Kinkcough was published this preparation of hemlock had been chiefly prescribed for internal use at Edinburgh. The celebrated Professors of Medicine the late Doctors Cullen and Gregory both told me that as much caution was necessary in ascertaining the dose of every fresh powder as if it had been a chemical preparation; and that very alarming symptoms had arisen from inadvertence in that respect. It is not easy to assign a reason for this singularity: perhaps some parts of the plant may be more virulent than others; the
gathering

gathering of it at different times of the year, or at different ages may probably also occasion a difference; and perhaps all parcels of the herb collected for powdering may not have been freed from impurities with equal care: but most probably this diversity of strength in the different preparations depends in a great measure on the different degrees of heat employed in drying the herb previously to its being powdered. I know that if hemlock be dried in the shade according to the common rule it will lose much of its colour and smell. The fresh herb bruised turns yellow in a few hours. The expressed juice becomes yellow and throws up bubbles in much the same time. Hemlock therefore shows a strong disposition to ferment. In order to prevent this fermentation, and consequently to preserve its virtues entire, the herb when intended for powder should be dried by a pretty brisk heat. Hence it is probable that intermediate degrees of heat
will

will produce powder of proportional efficacy. Hence seems to arise the necessary caution with regard to every fresh preparation. Hence a proper standard for making both powder and extract seems equally wanted. I commonly direct the powder to be made as follows.

Take any quantity of the leaves, footstalks and tender parts of the stems and branches of hemlock about the time that the first flowers are beginning to open; spread it upon a hearth before a good fire, in a room where in particular dogs or cats have no access; and place a deep fender, or some such contrivance, immediately behind the herb, in order to hasten the process of drying. When the herb is sufficiently friable, reduce it to a very fine powder. This when preserved in phials well stopped will retain its efficacy for many months.

We

We now come to the method of making the mass for pills. It is compounded of the powder and expressed juice evaporated to a certain consistence. This inspissated juice usually called extract may still retain the name: but it is to be observed, that I employ it only as an ingredient for the mass of pills. I prefer this form not only as it keeps better, but also as it probably hath the virtues of the herb in greatest perfection. A sufficient quantity of powder should be in readiness previously to making the extract, the process of which is as under.

The Extract of Hemlock.

When you are about to make this Extract the plant must be gathered over night; so that, by beginning very early next morning, the several processes of incision, contusion, expression and evaporation may be finished in one day for the reason already assigned.

The

The plant may be gathered wherever it is found healthy and rank: though those places seem preferable where it naturally affects to grow.

The best age for cutting hemlock in order to make the extract, is that mentioned above; as then the herb is in full verdure, hath suffered little or nothing from the depredations of insects, and its odour is manifestly strongest.

Every part of the herb except the root and what may happen to be decayed should be taken.

The subject thus collected is to be cut down and bruised exceedingly well in a wooden or marble mortar, and then put into hair-bags for expression by five or six pounds at a time.

During

During the expression, the first juice is opaque, deeply green, and discovers little odour. But by degrees it becomes lighter in colour, till what runs last is of a pale yellowish green, and is diaphanous. And all along it seems to gain in smell what it loses in colour.

As this is the case, the matter should be drained of its juice as much as can be; since probably what comes last possesses in greatest degree the medicinal qualities of the herb.

For this purpose, frequently altering the position of the bag in the press is recommended that no part of the herb may elude the utmost efforts of pressure: and this process should be continued till the drops fall very slowly; when the herb on being taken out of the bag will appear quite dry.

This

This expressed juice all along depofes in part a yellowish fediment: but the whole is to be ufed without depuration.

To fave time, as foon as you have got a fufficient quantity of juice to fill your vefsel, you may proceed to evaporation; gradually adding more as you get it ready, and as the vefsel can hold it, till you fhall have put in the whole.

The propereft vefsel for the procefs of evaporation is a broad glazed platter. This is to be put over a fire of charcoal in a fire-pan.

Before the juice becomes very hot it will run into clots, the green part forming the clots which float in a brownifh liquor.

As foon as thofe clots are formed you fhould begin to ftir the liquor frequently
with

with a bit of hemlock stalk; and keep up just such a heat as makes them move about without driving them above the surface or occasioning any ebullition.

Proceed in this manner till the intestine motion cease from the matter having acquired more consistence: and then it will be necessary to stir it constantly from the bottom. The rule for the degree of heat now is what raises a steam without bubbling or noise.

Go on thus, till, upon spreading the stuff to an equal thickness over the platter whilst upon the fire, you can with a spoon scrape away any portion from the bottom while no effort is made by the contiguous mass to fill up the vacuity.

You then have got extract of a sufficient consistence as an ingredient for your mass
of

of pills. Six pints of the juice generally yield one pound of this Extract.

The Hemlock-mass for Pills.

Take of the extract of hemlock as above any quantity, and of the powder of hemlock one fifth part: mix them without addition.

This mass is of a dark green colour, and retains the odour of the fresh plant. The quantity of powder here specified makes the extract of a sufficient consistence for pills; especially after it hath been kept for a few days to allow the powder time to absorb the watery part of the mass. And this proportion is the more eligible that a quantity of hemlock of the age above mentioned lost by drying exactly four-fifths of its weight. Therefore this mass, prepared with so gentle a heat, and containing the

E

same

same proportion of solid matter as the herb, may be allowed to possess the medical virtues of hemlock without diminution.

The mass of pills thus prepared should be put up in stone pots capable of containing about a pound weight each; and covered with paper closely tied down. In this manner I have known it kept above two years of a good consistence and without discovering any tendency to corrupt. I mean however such pots as are made in Staffordshire and other parts of Britain; for the ware that is imported from Holland, under the name of Delfe, will not preserve your composition if it were ever so well prepared.

It will however in general be a very useful precaution to look at this medicine from time to time: and if its smell begin to alter,
which

which sometimes happens, it should immediately be taken out of the pot and beat in a mortar which will restore the natural odour, and of course put a stop to the fermentation which was then taking place, and which would otherwise have ended in mould, and in the total destruction of the mass as a medicine. By this treatment repeated when necessary, which will not be oftener than every six or eight weeks at most, the hemlock-pills will hold good for any length of time.

Some have made an addition to the hemlock-mass to counteract its fermentative quality without ever considering how far the medical virtues may depend on that same quality.

Soon after the above preparations were given to the Publick in the Appendix to the Treatise on the Kinkcough, the drying of

plants quicker than usual was made general, and the hemlock-pills officinal by the Royal College of Edinburgh. Since that time the Royal College of London have also adopted this new method of drying plants.

From the whole that hath been said relating to the hemlock-mass for pills I shall sum up what any person whether of the profession or not can be a judge of; namely, that if it be not kept in glazed earthen pots; if not covered with paper, but with something that impedes transpiration; if it stick to the fingers on forming it into pills; if the colour differ much from that above mentioned; if mouldy; or if, instead of what is natural, it hath an empyreumatical or other rank smell; I say, on any of those accounts it ought to be rejected as a medicine by no means to be depended on.

I have

I have chose to be so particular; because hitherto it hath been generally the custom to question the virtues ascribed to this excellent medicine without ever entertaining a doubt of its being faithfully prepared; though there be still too much room for anxiety on this last head.

The hemlock is supposed to have deleterious qualities. For my part I have always found it an useful medicine; and so innocent that it can be safely given to an infant only a day or two old. I have even prescribed eight pills thrice a day making in all a quarter of an ounce for a child eight years of age, and with the very best effects. The Peruvian bark, so much in vogue, now and then shortens life: but not an instance can be produced of a fatal effect from hemlock.

Magna est veritas et prævalebit.

I shall

I shall conclude with this very important remark, that, as the hemlock-mass of pills is prepared two different ways, to wit, by placing the platter over the steam of boiling water according to the Edinburgh Dispensatory, and in the manner above directed, it will be necessary for the physician to know what mode has been adopted with regard to the preparation which he is going to prescribe: because what is made according to that Dispensatory has double the strength of the other; though it is not a whit more successful in practice when you come to the proper dose of each. Without this precaution very alarming symptoms may indeed be produced; especially if that officinal preparation shall happen to be prescribed for a very young infant, a practice which I believe will be scarce ever warrantable.

1864

Dr. William D. Miller, M.D.

of the University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, Michigan

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst.

and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the

proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

Wm. D. Miller

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