

**Directions for administering Peruvian bark, in a fermenting state, in fever, and other diseases in which Peruvian bark is proper : and more especially in such cases as the usual formulae of the bark are rejected by the stomach, or nauseated by the sick : with some experiments to ferment the Peruvian bark with different sweets.**

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# DIRECTIONS

FOR

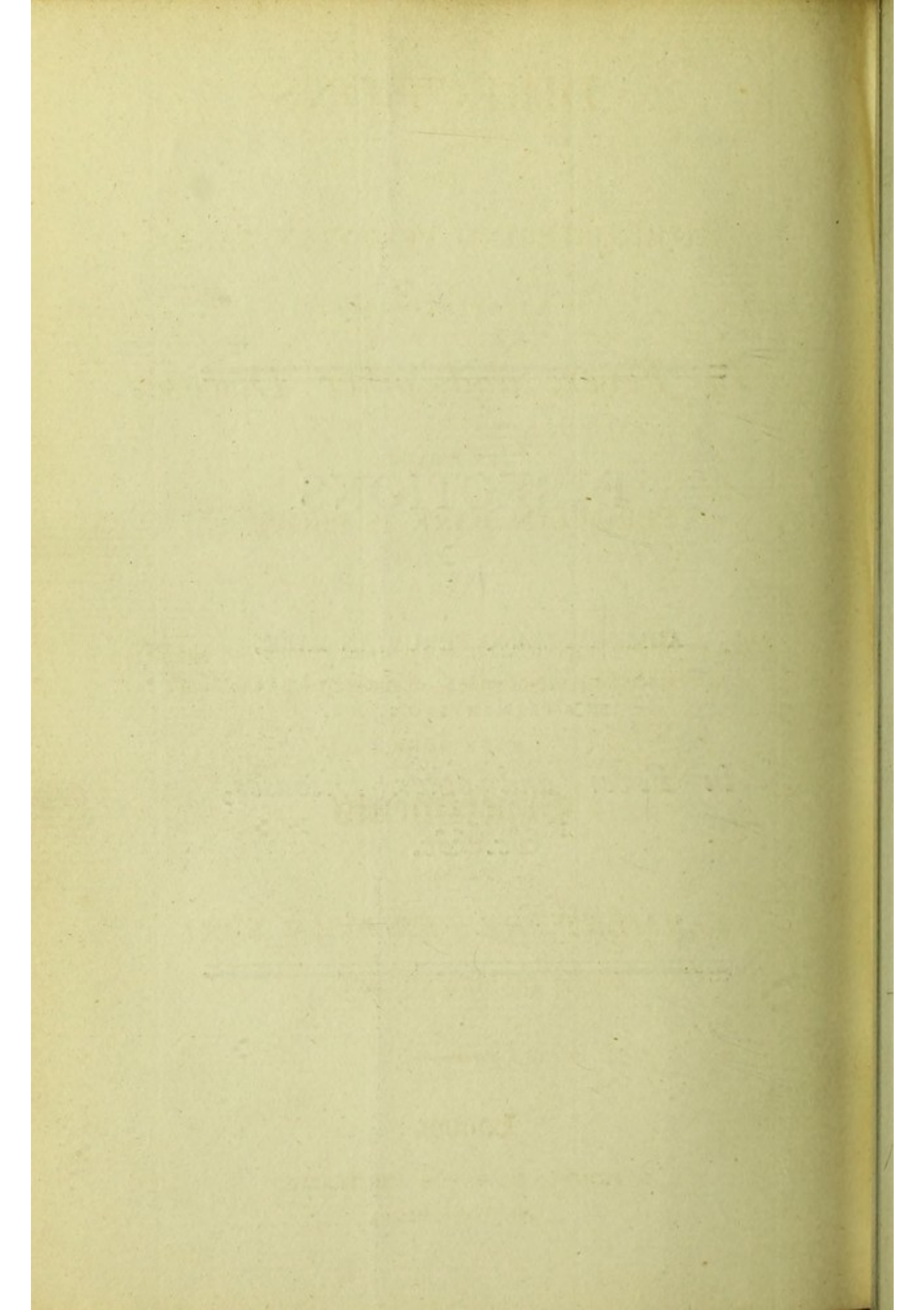
ADMINISTERING PERUVIAN BARK,

IN A FERMENTING STATE,

*In Fever and other Diseases,  
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IN A FERMENTING STATE,

*In Fever, and other Diseases*

IN WHICH

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WITH SOME

**Experiments**

TO

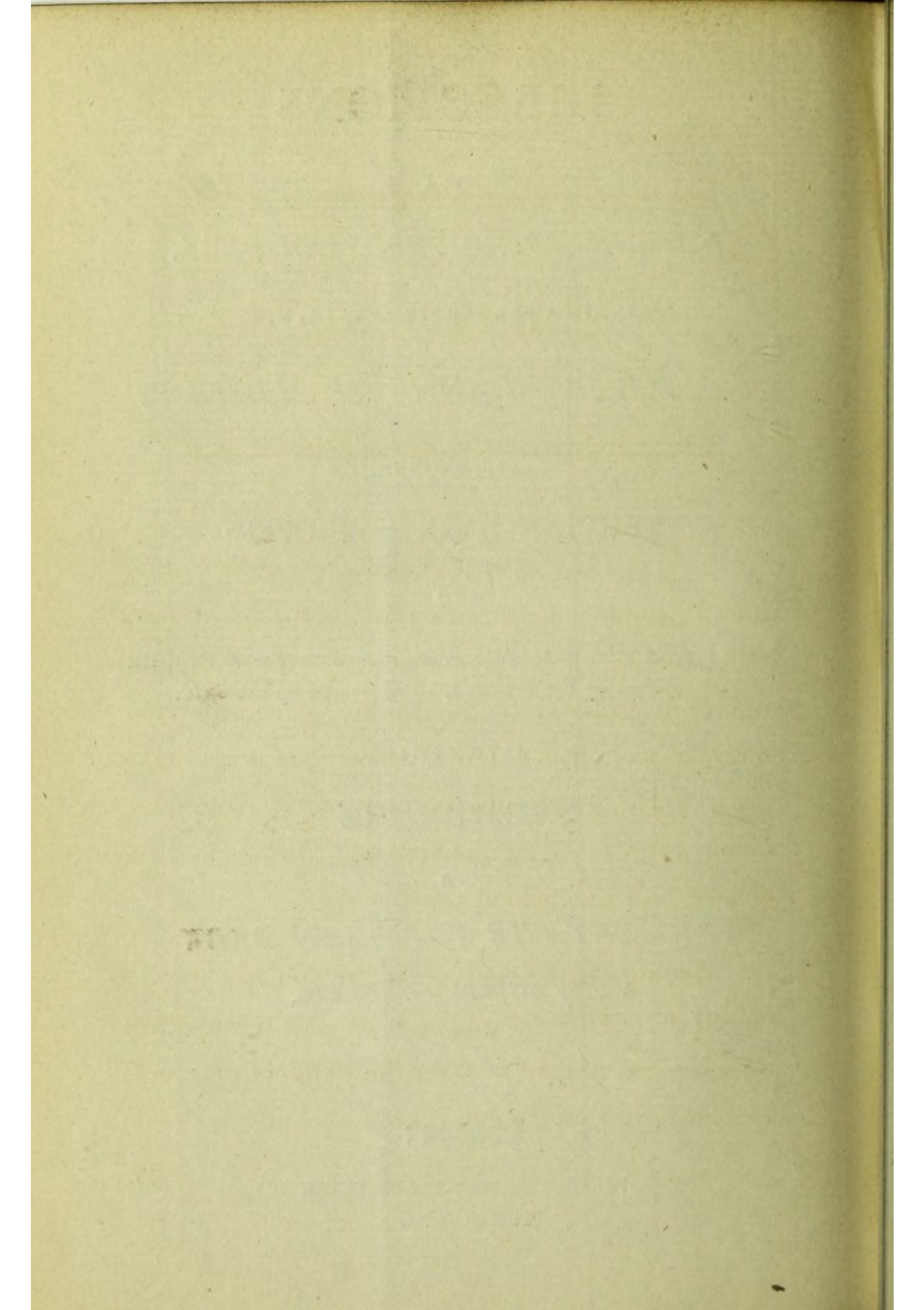
*FERMENT THE PERUVIAN BARK*

WITH DIFFERENT SWEETS.



*c*  
**London:**

PRINTED BY MARCH AND TEAPE,  
TOWER-HILL.



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## *Directions, &c.*

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IN the treatment of fever, and other diseases wherein Peruvian bark is proper, a method that would enable the stomach to retain it, and render it grateful to the palate, when the usual formulæ are rejected and nauseated, as often happens, to the great disadvantage of the sick, and disappointment of the practitioner, has long been a desideratum in medical practice.

Having often reflected on the subject, it occurred to me that by giving bark in a fermenting state I might probably attain the desideratum, and by that means save much time to the sick, as well

as the bark which is wasted in the untoward cases alluded to, when administered in the usual formulæ. I therefore, in Autumn 1796, made the following experiments :

## I.

I dissolved, in a gallon of boiling hot decoction of bark, two pounds of treacle\*; and, before it was cold, I added thereto a pint of barm, which, after being well agitated in the mixture, soon occasioned a very brisk fermentation.

The bark, in this fermenting state, was administered in a dose of one spoonful every hour, to a fever patient, who nauseated the usual formulæ of the bark ; and ever since, according to circumstances, both as to the quantity and frequency of the dose, it has been administered to fever patients in this Hospital, with a degree of success beyond expectation, in staying on the stomach, in pleasing the palate, and in the speedy recovery of

\* Half this quantity of treacle, and a sixteenth part of this quantity of barm, if it is good, will be sufficient, I find by experience.

the sick. Sometimes it has been made use of as a vehicle for other medicines, but generally alone.

## II.

Afterwards I dissolved, in a gallon of the decoction of bark, two pounds of brown sugar\*, and, upon adding a little barm to the mixture, a violent fermentation ensued.

## III.

I next dissolved, in a quart of the boiling hot decoction of bark, four ounces of honey, which, with a little barm added thereto, fermented very briskly.

## IV.

I boiled a gallon of sweet wort (the first run for making our Hospital beer) half an hour, into which, while boiling, I put pulv. cort. Peruv. two ounces, and continued the decoction ten minutes

\* Half this quantity may suffice.



in a close vessel; and to the decoction, before it was cold, I added a little barm, which brought on a very brisk fermentation. All those four preparations, to my palate, were very agreeable.

### V.

In a quart of the boiling hot decoction of bark I dissolved succ. liquorit. four ounces, and, before the mixture was cold, added a little barm to it, which fermented faintly; though, from first to last, three times more barm, in proportion to the quantity of decoction, was added, than in any of the three last experiments: but the taste of the bark was entirely concealed in this preparation, which was too luscious for my palate.

Although I have not made trials, in my practice, of all those five preparations of the fermenting bark, there does not appear to me any reason for doubting but their medical properties must be similar: the practitioner therefore, according to exigencies, or his own inclination, may adopt either.

It

It is further to be observed, that the dose, both as to quantity and frequency, is to be administered, according as the case requires, from one spoonful every half hour to eight or more spoonfuls, at such intervals as the practitioner sees fit, either alone or as a vehicle for other medicines.

## VI.

With the barm skimmed off, N<sup>o</sup> 1. fermented with much less barm than is therein mentioned, very good bread has been baked; I am therefore satisfied, that the facility of thus having fresh barm to bake every day, for the sick on board the fleet, will be a valuable acquisition.

## VII.

The decoctions of sarsaparilla, both simple\* and compound, fermented, with treacle and barm, and administered either alone or as vehicles for other

\* It does not ferment near so well as the compound: nor this near so briskly as the Peruvian bark decoction.

medicines,

medicines, have been productive of great benefit in this Hospital, in cases of broken down syphilitic habits, and in one very remarkable case of cacochymia, when the usual formulæ were rejected and nauseated.

That essence of malt dissolved in the boiling hot decoction of bark, and the mixture fermented with barm, will be equally pleasant and efficacious as N<sup>o</sup> 4, there appears no reason to doubt.

#### VIII. IX. X. XI.

Of the decoctions of snakeroot, gentian, quassia, and cascarilla, in sweet wort, and fermented with a little barm, I have made such ale or beverage as will be found very grateful, and, I dare say, will be much coveted by the sick and convalescents at sea.

That the extracts of the four bitters last named, and of others dissolved with any of the sweets mentioned in N<sup>o</sup> 1, 2, 3, and 4, or with essence of malt in boiling water, and fermented with a little barm, will make as pleasant ales as their decoctions, may rationally be inferred.

To

To administer fermented bark in doses from two to eight ounces, according to the discretion of the practitioner, as a preventive from sickness, is an experiment now in process.

After the preceding statement of the experiments, the following direction will, it is presumed, be sufficient to guide any medical gentleman in preparing the fermenting bark, when he is inclined to make trial of it, in such cases as have been mentioned, or in any other he thinks proper.

## XII.

Take of the decoction of Peruvian bark eight pounds, or one gallon ; of treacle or brown sugar from one pound to two pounds ; and of barm one or more spoonfuls, according to its goodness, i. e. freshness. Dissolve the treacle, or brown sugar, in the boiling hot decoction, and before the mixture is cold add a little of it to the barm, and cover it up until it ferments ; then gradually add the remainder of the mixture, and, as soon as it is all in a fermenting state, administer it to the sick.

After

After the fermentation has gone on briskly for some time, before it begins to fall, the barm may be skimmed off for baking, and what is not wanted immediately for baking should be kept carefully for next brewing. I prefer the barm of N<sup>o</sup> I or II, for baking ; and should the bark of those two preparations be thought too sweet, more of the decoction of bark may be added to the fermenting bark, until they are reduced to a palatable sweetness.

*Additional Directions.*

If it is intended the fermenting bark shall not contain any of the powder floating in it, the decoction should be allowed time to deposite by standing, and afterwards be poured through a piece of flannel, or bunting, before the sweet and barm are mixed with it for fermentation.

Many other, besides febrile cases, occur in practice, in which the fermenting bark, either alone or as a vehicle for other medicines, may be made trial of ; but, more especially, I would recommend the  
trial

trial to be made in such cases as the usual formulæ of bark do not succeed, for the reasons before mentioned.

Upon the same principle the fermenting decoctions of sarsaparilla, either alone or as vehicles, are recommended to be made trial of in cases of syphilis, especially when the constitution has been broken down by neglect, or mismanagement.

It is requested of the gentlemen who make trials of the fermenting bark, or other fermenting medicines, to state the cases in which they make them, and, with the result thereof, also to state their own observations and opinions concerning the medicines, in their returns to the Commissioners for Sick and Wounded Seamen.

It will be proper to carry some dried barm or thick barm in a bottle to sea, to make the first fermenting bark; or it may be made by adding some treacle, dissolved in a little hot water, to the thick grounds of small beer, or to a little fresh  
bottled

bottled ale or porter, and the mixture kept warm until it ferments.

Little tubs and kegs necessary for brewing the fermenting bark, and baking the bread, may easily be made on board ship, by the captain's permission.

R. Robertson.

Royal Hospital, Greenwich,  
9th October, 1799.

*FINIS*

