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A
NARRATIVE
OF A
SINGULAR GOUTY CASE:
WITH
OBSERVATIONS.

BY
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PHYSICIAN AT BATH,
MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS IN LONDON,
AND
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

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PRATT and CLINCH, at BATH.

M DCC LXXXII.

(PRICE ONE SHILLING.)

NARRATIVE

OF A

SINGULAR GOUTY CASE

WITH

OBSEVATIONS

JOHN A. E. M. D.

PHYSICIAN IN CHIEF

MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE OF

PHYSICIANS IN LONDON

AND

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M DCC LXXXII.

(PRICE ONE SHILLING)

TO THE
PRESIDENT AND CENSORS
OF THE
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
IN LONDON.

GENTLEMEN,

I THINK it incumbent on me to present the following Sheets to You; as being the First that I sent to the Prefs, since you were pleased to honor me with the College *Diploma*. I have been exact and candid in setting down every Circumstance, which I deem'd material and worthy of Observation; in this
very

very remarkable *Case*; which comprehends a Period of Seven Years, viz. from the Year 1774 to 1781. If You, who are competent Judges of the Utility, which the following *Narrative* might be of; especially to young Practitioners, will favor it with your Sanction; others, I flatter myself, will receive it well. Another Motive also has induced me to address it to You, and that is, to assure You that I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your much obliged,

And humble Servant,

BATH,
Feb. 20, 1782.

JOHN LEE.

A
NARRATIVE
OF A
SINGULAR GOUTY CASE.

AMONG the many Instances, recorded in the History of Medicine, of the dangerous Symptoms which happen in consequence of *interrupting Nature* in her Operations, there is not one (in my Opinion) in which more extraordinary *Effects* have been produced, than in the present; and which might throw an additional Light in the Treatment of GOUTY Disorders.

By those Gentlemens' Advice, he *injected* every Day a Decoction of the *Traumatic Herbs*, such as Agrimony, Plantain, Yarrow, &c. and took inwardly an Infusion of the Bark made on Lime Water.

These Medicines soon *checked* the Discharge, and at length totally *suppressed* it; the Consequence of which was near being *fatal* to the Patient; for on the Sediment's having been *stopped*, he lost his Appetite; he complained of a Head-ach, and wandering *gouty* Pains all over him; he at length laboured under a slow Fever, and his Feet and Ancles began to *swell*, and pit on being pressed with the Finger. After having taken some Medicines for these Complaints, which partly removed them, he was ordered to go to the South of
France.

France. In his Way thither, he sojourned some Time at Paris, and consulted some Physicians there, who advised him to bathe, and drink the Waters of *Bareges*, a Village remarkable on account of its *Waters*, and its romantic *Situation* in the Pyrenean Mountains. He arrived here in the Month of May, and remained six Weeks, but did not receive much Benefit.

On his Return to Paris, being then very ill, and no Sediment appearing in his Urine, the Patient took Pills composed of *Soap*, *Rhubarb*, *Martial Flowers*, *As-sa-fœtida*, *Gum Ammoniac*, and *Extract of Wormwood*: He continued these Pills a Fortnight, and after each Dose took a Draught of the Infusion of *Juniper Berries*, in which Half a Drachm of the *Terr. foliat.*

foliat. Tartar. had been dissolved. The Patient was much *better* after having taken these Medicines; his Appetite was considerably mended, he recovered his Strength apace, and the *Sediment* in the Urine made its Appearance again, which had been locked up (as the Patient term'd it) during several Months. Its *Quantity, Consistence, Colour, and Smell*, were much the same as at the Time it first appeared; which was Fifteen or Eighteen Months before, viz. in a short Time after he got well of the Strangury.

During Six Weeks the Patient continued well, all which Time the Sediment came down, and did not weaken him; a Circumstance which is *worthy of Observation*, and which he dreaded very much.

much. He then, on being out at Night later than usual, caught cold; the Consequences of which were, a Fever, a Cough, and a Suppression of the *Sediment*: And now a Train of Symptoms, such as he formerly laboured under, attacked him, viz. wandering Pains in his Ancles, Knees, Wrists, nay sometimes in his Bowels; this last Symptom was soon followed by the Bleeding Piles, which afforded him great Relief, and continued Three Days without Interruption: On their stopping, he had an universal Tremor, a Loss of Appetite, vomited the lightest Food, and had a slow Fever; what little Sleep he got, was for the most Part interrupted, and his Pulse at Times intermitted: In this dangerous Situation he continued several Days: At length, with
the

the Help of proper Medicines, and by the Application of Sinapisms to the Feet, he got a severe, tho' *fortunate* Fit of the *Gout* in both his Ancles, which continued Three Weeks. Here I beg Leave to observe, that I attribute his Recovery to the Medicines he had taken, which brought on the *Gout*: The Medicines prescribed were, *Gum Guaiac. Musk, Native Cinnabar,* and *Opium.* The following is the *Formula* which I ordered:

N^o I.

℞ Gum. Guaiac. ℥j.
 Mosch. gr. xij.
 Cinnab. Nativ. gr. xx.
 Extract. Thebaic. gr. j.
 Syr. Simpl. q. s. Misce, f. pil. iij.
 Capiat Æger pil. j. Sexta quaque Hora.

The

The Patient took Three Spoonfuls of the Musk Julep after each Pill. In a short Time after he had taken the Third Pill, the Tremors subsided, his Bowels were easier, the Fever quitted him; he got some sound Sleep, which relieved him greatly; and now he began to perceive great *Pains* in his *Ancles*. Doubtless, the Sinapisms acted as good Auxiliary Troops; but *once since* the Patient labouring under the *same Symptoms*, I found that the *above Pills* answered the same End *without* the Sinapisms. What merits our particular Attention here, and what proves the wonderful Efforts of Nature, is, that in the Decline of this Fit, the *slimy Sediment* in the Urine *appeared* in Proportion as the *Gout* went off. This is a *Circumstance* worthy of Observation. Having

recovered, he continued to enjoy good Health for Ten Months; during all this Time the mucous Sediment came down: At the End of Ten Months, or thereabouts, he dined at an Acquaintance's House with a numerous Company, where he indulged himself in Eating and Drinking too much: On his Arrival at his own House, he complained of a great *Sickness* and Load in his *Stomach*, a *Head-ach*, and he had a *Shivering Fit*; the *Sediment* being now stopped, he continued very ill during a Fortnight. Having got somewhat better of these Complaints, he was advised to go to *Spa*, where he remained a Month; during the first Week he drank the *Pobun* Water, which did not agree with him; he then tried the *Geronster*, from which he received some Service.

On

On his Way to Paris, (where he had determined to pass the ensuing Winter) he bathed and drank the Waters at *Aix-la-Chapelle*, where he continued Three Weeks. He *drank* the Water every Morning, *bathed* every other Morning, and took Three of the following *Pills* every Night at Bed-time. These Pills had done him *great Service* at Two different Times before.

N^o II.

℞ Rhei Elect. — ʒj
 Gum. Ammon. ʒjss
 Sapon. Castil. — ʒij
 Flor. Mart. — ʒj
 Ass. foetid. — ʒjss
 Syr. eCort. Aurant. q. s. Misce f. Massa.
 Pil. Singul. Pil. gr. iv.

The Patient received considerable *Benefit* from these *Pills*, and the Waters of *Aix-la-Chapelle*; and now the *Sediment* in the Urine (which had been *suppressed* several Months) began to make its *Appearance*; he therefore finding himself much better, proceeded on his Journey to Paris, where he arrived in the Beginning of November 1776, and enjoyed tolerable good Health until the latter End of January 1777; when, on *catching Cold*, a Fever ensued, the *Sediment* was entirely *suppressed*, and an *Issue* which he had in his Arm during many Years, was totally dried up: This was generally the Case, whenever he had a Fever, tho' e'er so little. Here I beg Leave to deliver *my Sentiments*, which were *then* the *same* as at *present*, (tho' contrary to the Patient's, as well as some

of

of the Faculty) viz. that the *Suppression* of the *Sediment*, and the *Discharge* of the *Issue*, were the *Effects* of the Fever, and not its *Causes*; and in this Dr. Bouvar, Dr. Macmahon, and my learned and celebrated Professor, Dr. Petit, Physicians at Paris, *coincided* with me in *Opinion*. The Patient being recovered from this Disorder, with which he lay dangerously ill during Seventeen Days, began to *believe* and to be *persuaded* of what I had *very often* before told him, viz. that the *slimy Sediment* which *appeared in his Urine*, did not proceed from an *Ulcer* in his *Bladder*; but that *Part* being *weak*, Nature (happily for him) *threw off* the *Gouty Humour* that Way; and besides, I assured him that he would enjoy good Health whilst the *Sediment* came down; this was literally

true,

true, as he afterwards found by Experience, for he was never *better* than when the *Sediment appeared*. From this Time, the Patient was satisfied to promote this *salutary Discharge*, and never after signified the least Desire to have it stopped, as he no longer entertained an Idea of its proceeding from an *Ulcer*.

Whenever this Humour happened to be *suppressed*, or even *diminished*, (which was frequently the Case on his catching Cold, or eating or drinking improper Things) he laboured under a *Lowness of Spirits*, *Loss of Appetite*, *swelled Legs*, or the *Gout*; and he used to say, that all these Symptoms proceeded from the *Sediment's* having *gone astray* (as he termed it): On the Return of which, all and every
 one

one of the above Symptoms *vanished*, and the Patient recovered his usual State of Health.

He continued well until the Commencement of September 1777, being then in the 73d Year of his Age: He got wet in his Feet by walking in marshy Ground, the Weather being rainy; when he came Home, he immediately went to Bed, complaining of a Head-ach, and a violent Pain in his right *Testicle*. On my visiting him the next Morning, I found him very ill, having a Fever, a Head-ach, Sickness at Stomach, and on Enquiry found his *Testicle* prodigioufly *swoln*, and his Pulse beat Ninety-eight in a Minute; however, by keeping his Body open, by the Application of proper Poul-

tices

tices and Cataplasms, with the Assistance of the Aperient Nervous Pills, N^o II. and by his diluting plentifully with a gentle *diuretic Ptisan*, in each Quart of which a Drachm of the *Terr. foliat. Tartar.* had been dissolved, he recovered in the Course of Three Weeks; and in *Proportion* as the slimy *Sediment* appeared in the Urine, the *Testicle* diminished.

Having recovered from this dangerous Situation, he went to London, where he enjoyed tolerable Health until the Commencement of November 1777. Having some Business in the City, he walked a great deal, from one Place to another; the Weather being then remarkable hazy and damp, he got wet in his Feet, and came home with a *Shivering Fit*, and
took

took to his Bed: He passed a very uneasy Night. The following Morning, being the Ninth of November, he complained of a great Head-ach, an Oppression, and a violent Pain in the *Regio Epigastrica*; the Abdomen was swoln, he had a high Fever, and at Times his Pulse *intermitted*. The *Sediment* being now totally *suppressed*, and the Patient being far advanced in Years, and weakened very much by repeated Disorders, I began to fear for his Life; I therefore proposed to his Relations to have a *Consultation*, which they agreed to. Accordingly, Dr. Heberden, and my worthy Friend, the late Dr. Petit, were sent for, and requested to attend at Six o'Clock in the Evening: They came at the Time appointed, and after having visited the Patient, we prescribed Turpen-

tine Clysters, and Saline Draughts; to each Draught were added ℞j. of Sper. Cet. and ℥jss. of the Tinc. V. Guaiac. with as much Tinct. Fuligin. to be taken immediately, and repeated every Six Hours. The next Morning, the 10th of November, he was somewhat *better*; the Fever was less, his Respiration easier, and his Body was open. The same Medicines were *continued*. The following Morning, being the 11th, we found him worse, having been restless the preceding Night; complained of violent Pains in his Bowels; the Abdomen was swelled; and he had been at Times *delirious*. We now ordered him a Purgine Draught, with Tinct. Sena, Tinct. Sacr. and the Tinct. Vol. Guaiac. The Saline Draughts were continued every Six Hours, without the
Tinct.

Tinct. Guaiac. In the Course of the Evening of that Day he had Four or Five Stools; and the Day following he complained of the Piles, which towards Night emitted a great Quantity of Blood: This Evacuation continued during Three or Four Days, and relieved him very much. This, doubtless, contributed greatly towards his Recovery; however, not being able to take much Nourishment, he remained very weak during Three Weeks or a Month.

When the Patient was in a Condition to travel, we advised him to go to Bath, to bathe and drink the Waters: This was the *dernière Resource*, and which bid fairest to be of Service to a Gentleman, who had seen full *Fifteen Lustres*, and who devoted

most of them to the Service of *Venus* as well as *Bacchus*. He left London on the 8th of January, and arrived in Bath the 11th. After being prepared, he began by drinking the *Cross Bath* Water, which did not agree with him; on this Account he drank the Water at the *King's Bath* the following Morning, which *sat easy* on his Stomach, and *passed* off freely. He continued to take Three small Glasses every Morning before Breakfast, at Half an Hour's *Interval* between each Glass; Whenever the Patient happened to drink a Fourth Glass, which he did Two or Three Times, tho' against my Directions, it never failed to occasion a *Giddiness*, and a *Head-ach*. And here, by the Way, it may not be amiss to *observe*, that several Persons who come to *Bath* for the Recovery

covery of their Health, *commit a great Error in drinking too large Quantities of the Water*; which, by *over-heating* them, and occasioning *Head-achs, &c. retard the Cure.*—But to return to our Patient. He continued to drink the Waters during Six Weeks, and bathed every other Morning. Bathing in the *Morning* agreed much *better* with him than at *Night*: And indeed the *Morning* appears to be the *propereſt Time* for bathing, and is the *Time appropriated* for it in most other Countries in Europe. It is unnecessary to observe, that on the *Day* of bathing, *Cold* must be avoided. Our Patient bathed in one of the *New Baths*, which have been elegantly fitted up some *Time* ago; I ordered that the *Water* should not exceed *Ninety Degrees* of *Fahrenheit's Thermometer*:

Thermometer : He remained *One Hour* in each Bath.

As it *is not* the *general Practice* in this Country to continue in a Bath *so long*, some Persons might, perhaps, imagine, that the Patient had been *relaxed*; but the very contrary happened, for he always got out of the Bath *stronger* and in *better Spirits*. After having bathed and drank the Waters during Six Weeks, he complained of Pains in his Knees and Ancles, which terminated in the *Gout* in his right Foot. This *Fit* lasted a Fortnight; and in Proportion as it went off, the *Sediment* (which did not appear in the Urine for several Months) made its *Appearance*, and the Patient recovered his usual State of Health; which he continued to enjoy
 until

until the latter End of March 1781, when having dined in Company with many of his Acquaintance, and forgetting that he was far advanced in Years, and an Invalid, he indulged himself in eating and drinking improper Things, and caught a severe Cold the same Evening. In the Course of the Night of that Day, the Patient was seized with violent Pains in his Bowels, a Head-ach, and a high Fever. And now the *Sediment*, the *fatal Sediment*, got out of its wonted Course, and was *suppressed for ever*; and notwithstanding that he had all the Aid and Assistance that *Medicine* could administer, Death snatched him from his Relations and Friends, on the *Eleventh* Day of this Disorder.

In Two Days after his Death, he was *opened*. On opening his *Abdomen*, we observed the superior Part of the *Colon* immediately under the Stomach, to be prodigioufly *inflated*; so much, that it had the Appearance of a *second Ventricle*. The Stomach, Liver, Spleen, and Pancreas were found to be in a natural State; the *Kidneys* were uncommonly *small*, particularly the left one. On the *Bladder's* being *opened*, we found about Two Spoonfuls of the same Sort of *Humour* (the Sediment), which, at Times, appeared in his Urine: One Side of the *Neck* of the *Bladder* was slightly *inflamed*, probably owing to the *Acrimony* of the Humour which we found in it. The *prostrate Gland* was somewhat *swoln*.

Upon

Upon opening the *Breast*, the *Lungs*, &c. were found to be in the *natural State*. We now got to the *Head*, which on being *opened*, we observed the *Vessels* of the *Dura Mater* to be more *turgid* than usual; we found about Three Spoonfuls of *Water* in the anterior *Ventricles* of the *Brain*; and the *Plexus Choroids* much *larger* than usual.

From *this Case*, we find what *Care* and *Attention* should be observed in forming the *Diagnostic*, and delivering the *Prognostic* of Disorders, in *Gouty Habits* of *Body*. The *Humour* which deposited in this Patient's *Urine*, had all the *Appearances* of *Pus*; consequently, we must not be much surprized, that at the *Commencement* of its *Appearance*, it was

D

imagined

imagined to have proceeded from an *Ulcer in the Bladder*. But Experience proved it to have been a *salutary Discharge*, that Nature formed to expel the Gouty Humour. This evidently appears to be a fact, as by the foregoing History we find, that the Patient always enjoyed good *Health* when the *Sediment came* down ; and on its being *stopped*, laboured under the *Gout*, or some other Disease.

By the History of this *singular Malady*, we find, that the sudden Tumour of the *Testicle*, the recurring *Swelling* of the Legs, the *Oppression* at Times on the Spirits, and the perpetual *Accumulation* of viscid Congestions in the *Bladder*, (a weakened Part) proceeded all from the same Cause, viz. A GOUTY DESPUMATION from the
 Blood ;

Blood; whence have arisen *various Transpositions* and *Metastases*, according to the Redundancy or Decrease, in Discharge of this *excrementitious Matter* with the Urine.

I shall conclude with observing, that whenever this *slimy Matter* had been *suppressed*, I did not find any Thing which did the Patient so much *Service* as the *Bath Water*, in diluting, attenuating, and propelling with the Urine, that *viscid Humour*. It must be remarked, that the Water proved more *beneficial* to him, when previous to its Use, he had taken during a Week or Ten Days the Aperient Nervous Pills, N^o II. and a Mixture of Tinct. Rhei, and Tinct. Sacr. every Third Morning during their Use: By this Method the Patient was duly *prepared*,

and

and the BATH WATER generally brought
down the *Sediment*, or occasioned a Fit of
the GOUT.

F I N I S.