

An account of the remedy for the stone lately published in England, according to an act of Parliament, assigning a reward of 5000 [pounds] to the discoverer / Extracted from the Examinations of this remedy [Mrs. Stephen's Medicines for stone], given into the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris, by M. Morand, and M. Geoffroy; appointed, as members of that Academy, to examine the same.

Contributors

Gem, Richard, 1716-1800.

Geoffroy, Claude-Joseph, 1685-1752.

Morand, Sauveur François, 1697-1773.

Stephens, Joanna. Examinations of the remedy.
Académie des sciences (France)

Publication/Creation

London : H. Woodfall for J. Roberts, 1741.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/p8ck5yk8>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.

**wellcome
collection**

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

[P] 220-1/1
A N
A C C O U N T

O F T H E

R E M E D Y for the *STONE*,

L A T E L Y

Published in *England*, according to
an *Act of Parliament*, assigning a
Reward of 5000 *l.* to the Discoverer.

Extracted from the EXAMINATIONS of this
Remedy, given into the Royal Academy of
Sciences at *Paris*, by M. *Morand*, and M.
Geoffroy; appointed, as Members of that
Academy, to examine the same.

By RICHARD GEM, of the *University of Cambridge*.



L O N D O N :

Printed by H. WOODFALL, without *Temple-Bar*.

Sold by J. ROBERTS in *Warwick-Lane*. 1741.

Price One Shilling.

Medical 7/1 266

53352





*To the TRUSTEES appointed,
by Act of Parliament,
to examine into the Ef-
fects of Mrs. Stephens's
Medicines for the STONE.*

MY LORDS,

TH E just Confidence re-
posed, by the Wisdom
of the Legislature, in
your Knowledge, Integrity, and
tender Concern for your Fellow-
Subjects, naturally requires that
the following Performances be
submitted to your Judgment.

THE Diligence and Candour with which your Lordships were pleased, under the Honour of a Parliamentary Appointment, to examine into the Efficacy of Mrs. *Stephens's* Medicines, for removing so painful and dangerous a Disease as the Stone, wou'd hardly admit new Evidence in that Cause to be laid before any other Tribunal; nor could any be found more strictly just, or more scrupulously careful.

IT will always be a Misfortune to Mankind, if experienced and established Methods of Cure shou'd lose their Esteem, or be superseded by a few imperfect Experiments, whose chief Merit may only depend upon such loud
Applauses;

DEDICATION.

v

Applauses, as very often attend
Novelties of little real advantage
to Health.

It must, on the other hand,
be acknowledged, that the State
of Physic is not so perfect, as to
furnish adequate Remedies for
the various Diseases incident to
Human Nature; and therefore it
will be always an Instance of
Prudence and Compassion, (I
might add, of Justice to our Fel-
low-Creatures,) to allow a fair
sifting of the Merits of any pro-
bably more easy, more safe, or
more effectual Cure, than is al-
ready commonly known; and if
such a proposed Method of Cure
shall, in many unquestionable In-
stances, be attended with Success,
and prove no way productive of
Mischief;

DEDICATION.

Mischief ; your Lordships, and the Gentlemen joined with you in the honourable Trust, have shewn, by an illustrious Example, that such a Discovery may properly demand strict Examination, and impartial Regard.

I am,

May it please your Lordships,

Your Lordships

Most humble Servant,

RICHARD GEM.

A N
EXAMINATION

O F

Mrs. STEPHENS'S *Medicines*
for the STONE.

By M. MORAND, *Surgeon;*
Fellow of the Royal Society at London, of
the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris,
and of the Academy of Bologna.

EXAMINATION

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE original French of the following Piece of M. MORAND, was very lately sent over to England in Manuscript; with his Permission to have the same translated, and published in English.

M. MORAND, Doctor
of the Royal Society at London,
of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris,
and of the Academy of Bologna.



*M. MORAND's Account of
Mrs. STEPHENS's Medicines.*

INTRODUCTION.

1. **T**HE Reward assigned, by History of
the *British* Parliament, to the publica-
Mrs. *Stephens*, upon pub- tion of the
lishing her Medicines for Medicines.
the Stone, must necessarily excite the
Attention of the Faculty.

2. **T**HIS Disease is so terrible, and
the Notion of the Stone being undissolv-
able in the Bladder, is so prevalent, that
no discovery can be of greater import-
ance.

3. **T**HE publication has been conduct-
ed in the best manner. Mrs. *Stephens*,

convinced of the utility of her remedy, communicated the receipt, upon the promise of the Parliament to grant her the sum of 5000 *l.* if her Medicines should prove to be what she asserted they were.

Character of
the discoverer.

4. As to her character, I am informed she is of a gentleman's family in *Berkshire*; and that her time has been chiefly employed in preparing Medicines for the poor.

The reward
assign'd.

5. THE Trustees appointed, by the Act of Parliament, to examine this remedy, being twenty-two in number, certified, that they were convinced of the utility and efficacy thereof, in curing the Stone; twenty of them being of opinion, it had a *dissolving power*: in consequence of which, Mrs. *Stephens* received the abovementioned reward, on the 28th of *March*, 1740.

The Receipt
published.

6. I HERE suppose the Receipt universally known: It was directly printed in *English* in all the public papers; afterwards given in *French* by *M. de Bremond*; and in *Latin* by *Dr. Hartley*,
physician

physician at *London*. These Medicines consist of a *Powder* and a *Decoction* for the Stone, and of *Pills* for the Gravel.

7. As soon as the Receipt was made public, different opinions, as is common in such cases, arose upon it; some maintaining there can be no Solvent for the Stone in the Bladder; others, that there is none hitherto found, tho' they conceive the thing to be possible.

Different
opinions
about it.

8. WERE these the only questions upon the subject, the matter, perhaps, might soon be determined: for tho' the words *Dissolving Power* are express in the Act of Parliament; yet I should think, the meaning rather than the letter ought here to be regarded; and that every one might conclude in favour of the Medicines, if they are capable of curing the Stone, in whatever manner they may act.

9. BUT there are different opinions in other respects; some pretending, that the Decoction and the Pills are an odd jumble of several simples, incapable of pro-

I N T R O D U C T I O N .

ducing so extraordinary an effect ; whilst, on the other hand, 'tis affirmed, there are many instances of particular mixtures, where composition undoubtedly gives new properties.

10. OTHERS again pretend, that these Medicines form the cretaceous and calculous matter here voided along with the Urine : and this assertion has found so many advocates, that Dr. *Hartley* thought proper to give it a serious confutation. On the contrary, some look upon this discharge of a solid substance, to be the desired effect of the Medicines.

11. MANY have despised this remedy, without giving themselves the trouble to understand it ; but such as are zealous for the good of Society, must think it incumbent upon them not to neglect an inquiry of so great moment.

Procedure of
the Royal
Academy of
Sciences.

12. AND this being the disposition of the Royal Academy of Sciences, they directed me to make the proper trials ; which I entered upon fifteen months ago : and the

the result of them I give in the present Narrative; which contains,

(1.) A SUMMARY Account of what I ^{Division of} observed in about forty persons, put un-^{the subject.} der a course of these Medicines.

(2.) SEVERAL experiments I have made upon the Stone of the Bladder; in order to explain the action of the Medicines. And,

(3.) THE consequences, that may hence be justly deduced.



SECT.



SECTION I.

OBSERVATIONS upon Forty Persons, put
into a course of the Medicines.

Patients
classified.

I. **D**IVIDE the Patients, who have taken these Medicines, into four classes; and keep separate lists of them; specifying, (1) Their ages; (2) Their distempers; (3) The time they were under cure; and (4) What was observable in the progress. But I shall here give only such a summary account of them, as may serve for understanding the following examination.

Effects of the
Medicines,
upon taking.

2. THE first class consists of five persons, who took the Medicines for diseases, of the Kidneys and Bladder, different from the Stone. Such of these as complained of disorders in the Kidneys, and of nephritic pains, appeared to receive benefit; but the Medicines increased the disorders
of

of those who made purulent urine; and consequently had some ulcer in the urinary passages.

3. THE second class consists of eight persons, some of either sex, who took the Medicines for the Gravel; two whereof reckoned themselves perfectly cured: four more were relieved; and two received no benefit. But several of them brought away stones, even of a considerable size.

4. IN the third class are six patients, who had symptoms of the Stone; but were not searched by the Catheter. One of them, who was near sixty years old, took the powder and the decoction for almost three months; and then perceived nothing of the disorder: four others were relieved; two of them bringing away entire stones; and the other two discharging pieces of stone in the form of scales.

5. THE fourth class consists of twenty-two patients of various ages, from three years old to seventy-nine; who were all examined by the Catheter, and found to have the Stone: twelve of them were
searched

searched by my self; and the rest by Surgeons of character.

6. Two of these patients having but lately begun to take the Medicines; we may reduce the number to twenty, who have finished the course.

7. OF this number, concerning whom a more settled judgment may be formed, there are four who took the Medicines but a very little while: one of them found himself considerably relieved; two received neither benefit nor hurt; and the fourth, upon suffering great pain from the Stone, was cut, and a soft stone extracted from him.

8. OF the sixteen, who took the Medicines for a considerable time, there were eleven grown persons, and five children. Three of the grown persons received no benefit; four were greatly relieved; and four judged themselves perfectly cured.

9. ONLY one of the five children said he was relieved; the four others were not relieved at all, and had the operation performed

formed upon them; the stones extracted shewing no signs of dissolution,

10. THE principal effects of these Medicines having been common to a number of patients, I shall here mention them in general.

11. THE soapy decoction and powders, taken in white wine for a constancy, gave to many an uneasiness in the throat, of no long duration; in some they brought on a coughing, and in others a vomiting: but this appeared owing either to their acrimony, affecting the passage; or to a loathing. For, after having been gradually accustomed to them, these little accidents had no ill consequence. Very few were set against them; and many continued to take them chearfully for almost a year together.

12. IN general, they at first increased the pains; yet only for a few days: but to some of the patients they soon restored the faculty of retaining their urine; which is usually a good sign: because these Medicines act more efficaciously when the

OBSERVATIONS *upon Persons,*
urine, impregnated by them, is long retained in the Bladder.

13. THE urine of those who take the Medicines, has a very strong smell; like that of the volatile spirit of sal-ammoniac. They commonly, at the beginning, bring away slime, and a white sediment, along with the urine; which sediment, if separated and dried, turns to a yellowish powder, that, being thrown upon live coals, gives the odour of a fœtid animal oil.

14. SEVERAL patients have only brought away this sediment; but others have also discharged small crystalline flakes, like talc; and others stony scales, convex on one side, and concave on the other. Others again have brought away pieces of stone that could not be crumbled between the fingers; and consisted of several coats. Some discharged small entire stones; such as are often voided at the end of a fit of the Stone-colic. Others, who were used to void round, red gravel, brought none of it away during the use of the Medicines. Only a very few, who had

had made bloody urine before, did so during the course.

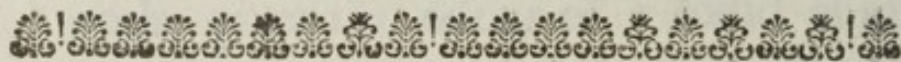
15. THESE are the general effects of the Medicines; but they had other particular effects with respect to the different circumstances of the patients at the time. For example; they dispersed a swelling in the legs of two patients: and one of the children brought away worms.

16. IT is remarkable, that these Medicines have never, even in a single instance, disordered the appetite, the digestion, or any one principal natural function. Ordinarily they make the body costive; tho' sometimes laxative; but it is found by experience, that the powders may be used as an astringent, and the decoction as a laxative; so as to make the one correct the other, by giving more or less of either.

17. UPON the whole, it is certain, their use has been attended with no apparent inconvenience; except in such as made purulent urine, either with or without the Stone; in whom they increased the pain;

as I am induced to believe, because the pain became less upon leaving them off.

18. As this short account of the effects of these Medicines, may serve to give a tolerable notion of them; I shall, in the next place, proceed to the particular experiments made with a view to discover the manner of their action, and its physical cause.



S E C T. II.

EXPERIMENTS *upon the Stone of the Bladder, in order to account for the Efficacy of the Remedy.*

Whether the Remedy acts as a Lithon-
triptic or a
Solvent.

I. **T**HE difference started by some, between a *Lithontriptic*, and a *Solvent* for the Stone, may be allowed, if we take the terms in a strict sense; which probably occasioned two of the Trustees appointed by the Act of Parliament, *viz.* Dr. *Pellet*, President, and Dr. *Nesbit*, one of the Censors, of the College of Physicians at *London*, to sign separate certificates;

cates ; wherein they have only subscribed to the utility and efficacy of the Medicines.

2. DR. Nesbit, I am informed, said in particular, that they acted rather as a *Lithontriptic*, than a *Dissolvent*. A true *Solvent* for the Stone, it is said, should, in the proper sense of that word, act so, as to render the stony substance soft, in the way of fusion ; which also is an expression sometimes made use of upon this occasion ; whereas a *Lithontriptic*, according to the strict etymology, only divides the Stone into small parts.

3. BUT this surely is playing with words: for if Physicians were possessed of a Medicine, that would enter the surface of the stone, break its texture, separate the bonds of union, and expel it in small pieces by urine, would they not then have a sufficient cure for the Stone? And when possessed of such a *Lithontriptic*, would they inquire any farther after a *Solvent*?

4. BUT

Perhaps act
as both.

4. BUT the Medicines appear to have both these properties. And first, the experiments that have been made with them, shew, that they have a *Dissolving Power*.

5. THESE experiments were made by Dr. *Hales*, author of the *Vegetable Staticks*, and by Dr. *Hartley*, in *England*; by M. *Geoffroy*, and my self, in *France*.

6. Dr. *Hartley* published his in the Account he gave of the Medicines, which has been translated into *French* *; and in his Letters to me he mentions some of those made by Dr. *Hales*. But since that time, Dr. *Hales* himself has examined accurately into the subject; and designs shortly to publish his curious Inquiries. †

7. M. *Geoffroy* has delivered to the Academy a most useful Memoir upon this head †. As for my own expe-

* See the Advertisement, prefixt to the following piece.

† These are since published in a Pamphlet, intitled *An Account of some Experiments and Observations on Mrs. Stephens's Medicines for dissolving the Stone*. † See the following piece

riments, I now proceed to relate them: and shall add some Remarks upon the Course of the Medicines, before they arrive at the Stone.

8. HAVING procured an extremely hard and smooth human Calculus, of the size of an Apricot, I sawed it into four pieces, and put each piece into a separate Glas. The first piece weighed a hundred and twenty-seven grains; to which I put the Urine of a Man who was then taking the Decoction and the Powders. The second piece, weighing one hundred and nineteen grains, I put into the Urine of a Man in health. The third piece, weighing ninety-three grains, I put into the soapy Decoction. And the fourth piece, weighing sixty-eight grains, I put into a liquor made by dissolving Mrs. *Stephens's* proportion of Soap in fair water. These four pieces of the same Stone, were each kept exactly covered with their respective liquors.

Experiments
to prove the
dissolving
power of the
Medicines.

9. I SET a mark upon all the Glasses, and placed them in a Sand-furnace, heated by a Lamp, nearly to the same degree,
as

as the Urine naturally is in the Bladder. I left these pieces of Stone to digest, in this manner, for a month; and punctually changed the respective Urines every day; without doing any more to the Stones, than washing them lightly in fair water; and not rubbing or brushing them, as was done in some Experiments related by *Dr. Hartley*.

9. AFTER these pieces of Stone had thus stood in constant digestion for a month, I took them out of the Glasses; and weighing them directly, found they had all increased in weight, excepting that which was in the soapy Decoction. The piece put into the Urine of the Man who was taking the Medicines, appeared pierced into little hollows upon its surface; and the Glas was incrusted with a stony matter, to a great thickness, resembling a saline vegetation with numerous small crystals.

10. THE piece put into the soapy Decoction, left its first coat, and part of the second, upon my fingers, when I touched it; and weighed twelve grains
less

less than at first ; that is, had lost twelve in ninety-three.

11. I THEN put the four pieces upon separate papers, and dried them for three days on the same Sand-heat, to discharge the moisture they had acquired ; and weighing them again, I found that the piece taken out of the Urine impregnated with the virtue of the Medicines, had lost three grains of the original hundred and twenty-seven.

12. THE piece taken out of the healthy Urine, originally weighing a hundred and nineteen grains, had gained one grain.

13. THE piece taken out of the soapy Decoction, originally weighing ninety-three grains, now weighed but sixty-one ; and consequently had lost near one third.

14. LASTLY, the piece taken out of the Solution of Soap in Water, originally weighing sixty-eight grains, had lost eight grains.

Consequences
from the Ex-
periments.

15. IT will be very difficult to resist the force of the consequences which naturally flow from these Experiments. I take it, we have hence a clear proof, that Stones, surrounded with common Urine, increase, by uniting to themselves certain parts of the Urine: and, on the other hand, we see, that a Stone, surrounded by Urine impregnated with the Medicines, becomes more penetrable to the surrounding liquor, and loses a little of its substance. And to this cause we must here necessarily attribute the diminution of weight; as the Stone that was surrounded with the soapy Decoction, lost near a third. Lastly, it appears, that it is not the Soap alone which produced this whole effect; by reason, that the Stone, in the soapy water, lost no more than eight grains in sixty-eight.

The dissolving power accounted for.

16. WE must therefore necessarily allow the soapy Decoction to have a dissolving power; the operation whereof I shall attempt to explain, upon the principles of Natural Philosophy.

17. IT

17. IT is known, that the Stone is a true tartar ; containing much volatile Salt, according to the Experiments of Mr. *Boyle* ; and a large proportion of air, according to those of Dr. *Hales*.

18. AGAIN, we know that the parts of the Stone, and all other hard concretions formed in the bodies of animals, are cemented together by unctuous matters ; and that alkaline Salts are capable of disuniting those unctuous matters.

19. Now, by taking every day three half-pints of the soapy Decoction, which contains two ounces and two drams of Soap ; the patient, according to the analysis made by M. *Geoffroy*, thus takes an ounce and forty-five grains of Olive-Oil, and about three drams of the Sal-kali, made into a Lee with Quick-lime. Hence, therefore, the patient receives into the Blood a certain proportion of the alkaline Salt of the Soap, and transmits it to the Urine ; which thence becomes alkaline, or turns the Syrup of Violets green, as soon as it is discharged

charged from the Bladder : an effect, which common Urine has not, till after standing for some time.

20. THE Action of the alkaline Salt is here rendered stronger by means of the Lime ; which is a general dissolvent of all animal substances. It is again increased by the powder of calcined Snails, and Egg-shells, taken at the same time. This Powder also is an actual Quick-lime, caustic to the Tongue ; and on that property I apprehend its efficacy depends. For it wou'd be childish to suppose that Egg-shells, which of themselves have been esteemed a *Lithon- triptic*, should wear away the Stone by their Roughness. These Medicines, therefore, contain parts of Quick-lime, which may first penetrate the Stone ; and alkaline Salt, which may disunite it.

Three diffi-
culties, in
conceiving
the manner
wherein the
Medicines
operate,
solved.

21. BUT here may arise three materi-
al Questions ; *viz.* (1.) What Proof is there
that the Medicines enter the Urine, pos-
sessed of those parts which we here al-
low able to penetrate the Stone ? (2.)
Supposing them to come into the Urine,
how

how happens it that they do no mischief; whilst they remain mixed with the Blood which brings them thither? And, (3.) When they are in the Bladder, how comes it to pass that they do no harm to the part?

22. As to the first Question, it is proved, by many instances, that the Soap goes into the Urine: some of the Proofs arise from direct Observation, and others from a chemical Analysis.

23. THUS, I have found the Soap again, in form of an unctuous Pellicule at the top of the settled Urine of many Persons who took the Medicines. Sometimes also I have seen the same prismatic colours in these Urines, as appear in the Bubbles of soapy Water; and such as our Solution of Soap exhibited on the sides of the Species glass that contained it. Some of the Patients also discharged a pale blue slime along with the Urine; the colour of which slime was however blue enough to shew that the Parts of the Coal, and the Sal-kali come into the Urine. For M. Geof-
froy

froy the elder has shewn, that from all animal or vegetable coal, a stronger or a weaker Blue may be extracted in proportion as the coal approaches more or less to a cinder; and that much more of this Blue is obtainable, when an alkaline salt is mixed with the coal *. In short, the analysis made last year, by his brother, of urine impregnated with the Medicines, discovered both alkaline salt and oil therein: and as these make the basis of soap, the Medicines must needs arrive at the urine in possession of their dissolving parts.

24. IN answer to the second question; these Medicines do not remain long enough in the blood to occasion any disorder: and it is only by their remaining in the urine, the continuance of that fluid in the Bladder, and its surrounding the Stone, that they act upon it; whence probably it is the particular office of the urine to extricate the dissolving principles of the liquor; which could not be done in the blood, on account of their circulating too briskly therewith.

25.

* See *Mem. de l'Acad. Roy. An. 1725.*

25. THIS necessity for the urine to remain long in the Bladder, in order to affect the Stone, is farther proved by a circumstance not uncommon to those who take the Medicines; *viz.* the not bringing away pieces of stone, along with the urine, till the patient begins to empty the Bladder more seldom. From whence it should seem, that these Medicines have no effect upon Stones in the Kidneys; at least not so as to dissolve them; because the urine, which here surrounds them, does not remain long enough for the purpose.

26. By way of answer to the third question; we are to consider, that three drams of the *Sal-kali*, and three drams of the powder, taken in a day, are diluted with two pounds and six ounces weight of urine; which is the quantity made in twenty-four hours, according to the computation of *Dr. Keil*; and consequently the acrimonious parts of these Medicines may thus be blunted. Besides, the soap contains an oil which may correct and sheathe the too great acrimony of the salt; so as to defend the inner coat of the Bladder from being injured. Yet I own the
Medicines

Medicines do in some measure irritate this coat, though not violently, unless the Bladder be ulcerated; in which case the nervous coat is immediately acted upon, as being deprived of the villous one, which covers it in the natural state. The Medicines thus arriving at the Bladder, with all these properties, give a power to the urine of making an actual impresson upon the Stone: and Mr. *Carterett's* case affords a remarkable instance to the present purpose.

Mr. *Carterett's* Case brought as a proof of a dissolving power.

THIS gentleman was relieved by the Medicines, but left them off before he was perfectly cured: and dying two years afterwards, of a lethargic disorder; upon opening the body, there were found in the Bladder two hard, smooth Stones, of the size of small chesnuts; each of them containing another within it, so as to rattle upon shaking, like the eagle-stone, or an almond in the shell. The inner stones were so soft as to be easily crumbled between the fingers; and appeared, in the language of the Surgeon who took them out, to have been rotted and eaten into. These inward stones or kernels were

were formed of the calculus, acted upon by the Medicines; and the shells arose from a stony substance, formed after the gentleman had omitted to take the Medicines. Certainly this difference, in the consistence between the external and internal stones, is a strong presumption in favour of the Medicines.

27. BUT this is not the only instance of a dissolving power, insisted upon in *England*: The letters which I have received from some of the Trustees, appointed by the Parliament, relate four more. And other Cases referred to.

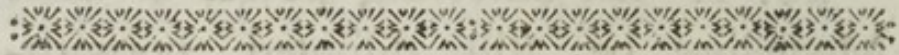
28. IF the dissolving power of these Medicines be still disputed, notwithstanding so many proofs; this, at least, must be allowed, that they have the sensible effect of an excellent *Lithontriptic*: and after the observations here related, it would be injustice to deny them this character.

29. I AM not unacquainted that there are other celebrated Medicines for this purpose; as particularly *Avicenna's Electuary of Ashes* *, recommended by numerous Other supposed Lithontriptics

* *Avicen. L. 3. c. 24.*

merous authors: but this has a near affinity with the Medicines of Mrs. *Stephens*, on account of the large proportion of alkaline salts contained in the vegetable and mineral ashes, which are the basis of the composition: and in other respects, I look upon Mrs. *Stephens's* Remedy to be much its superiour.

30. How far the Virtue of these Medicines may reach as to curing all persons of the stone; and how far the practice of *Lithotomy* may hence be rendered unnecessary, we shall next proceed to examine.



SECT. III.

The CONSEQUENCES deducible from the preceding History.

Children receive little benefit from the remedy as a Solvent.

I. **I**T appears by the experiments made both in *England* and *France*, that children are not capable of receiving benefit from these Medicines: the reason whereof is not hitherto discovered; at least no satisfactory one has yet been assigned. But here it happens fortunately, that

that children are better fitted for the operation of cutting; which is commonly performed more successfully upon them than upon grown persons.

2. YET this operation, whereby the Stone is taken away from children, proves no preservative against another; some of them having been cut even seven times over. Though it may prevent the return of the Stone in them.
But if these Medicines can prevent the parts of the urine from concreting together so as to form a stone (as it is probable, from some observations, that they may) we might give them successfully to such children, who, after being once cut, manifest a disposition to breed the Stone anew. But be this as it may, there will not, perhaps, be wanting subjects of all ages for *Lithotomy*.

3. IN grown persons, upon whom the Medicines appear to act efficaciously, the success is observed to be in proportion as they are advanced in years. The remedy acts more efficaciously in the aged. The four, which I have mentioned above, are of sixty-five, seventy, seventy-one, and seventy-nine years old: and it should seem, that the good effect of the Medicines

constantly decreases in proportion as the subjects are younger.

Where given
with least ad-
vantage.

4. AND among the grown subjects, who might advantageously take the Medicines, there will be found some, whose violent pains from the Stone may determine them to undergo the operation, upon account of the slow progress of the cure. And those who have an ulcer in the Bladder should not take them, for the above-mentioned reasons.

Scarce affect
the Mulberry
Stone.

5. NOR should I think, that these Medicines can have an effect upon what we call the *Mulberry-stones*; especially such of them as are black, or of the colour of Iron-flag: for these stones appear to be of a very different nature from the white and chalky kind, which consist of thin concentrical coats, that may be peeled off with the nail; and some of them may be crumbled between the fingers; whereas the *Mulberry-stones* are composed of little and almost conical clusters, pointing to the centre of the stone, and rising from the surface in irregular knots, with considerable spaces between them. On
the

the external coat of these stones, and sometimes on the inside, we find little lumps of dried blood, which do not appear in the other kind: whence I judge them to be a particular composition of urine and blood, making a much harder concretion than that of the white Stones; and resembling what we are told of the cement of the Antients; the hardness whereof is ascribed to the bullocks blood used in the composition. When these Mulberry-stones are sawed into two pieces, both the flat surfaces take a polish like marble, or agate; so that I believe these Medicines will not act upon them.

6. BUT as we cannot certainly know the consistence of a Stone till it is extracted; I should always advise a grown person to try the Medicines of Mrs. *Stephens*, before he submitted to be cut: since, (1) in the first place, they are attended with no inconvenience; and do not hinder the operation being performed afterwards, if they fail. (2) Because, if they relieve, this may give the patient time to provide an experienced Lithotomist, or to prepare himself for a favourable opportunity.

The Medicines in what Cases advisable.

tunity to be cut ; if they abate the Pain, and enable the Patient to retain his Urine better. (3) Aged Persons thus may prolong their Lives, which might chance to be shortened by the Operation. (4) Because, though there were very few to be cured, it is but prudent to try Medicines which may prevent an operation that is always hazardous, notwithstanding the great Improvements made in it.

Whether
there be full
Proof that
the Medi-
cines dissolve
Stones.

7. BUT all we have hitherto said of the Virtue of these Medicines, is not sufficient to determine, positively, that they cure the Stone ; whilst it may be asked, whether any Patients have been searched, not only before, but after taking them ; so as to give a proof of their cure, by the catheter.

8. THERE are seven instances of this in *England*, but none at *Paris* that I know of ; the four Persons I mentioned to have been cured, having obstinately refused to undergo this trial ; which indeed is more inquisitive than useful. For it is easy to shew, that, according to the disposition wherewith this affair has
been

been examined, all trial by the catheter is either insufficient or superfluous. Thus, Searching by the Catheter uncertain. if a Patient, who thinks himself cured, be examined by the catheter, by one who is prejudiced that these Medicines could not cure him ; and the Stone be not found ; such a prejudiced person will still conclude there is a Stone : and he may instance in the Patient who was three times searched by Mr. *Chefelden*, without finding the Stone ; which however he found upon searching him the fourth time : and daily experience furnishes the like examples. Consequently, examination by the catheter cannot determine, whether the Stone be abolished by the effect of the Medicines. Which kind of Reasoning may possibly have some weight with the less credulous.

9. As to the Patient, this trial is And useless to the Patient. superfluous ; since he only takes the Medicines to cure him of the disease ; and if he really grows well by the use of them, his end is answered. I am not therefore surprized, that the Patients, who were in this state, rejected my proposal of searching them again. One of them thought he

he gave me no bad reason, in saying that before he begun the Medicines, he submitted to be searched for his private benefit; but being now cured, he did not incline to be searched for the benefit of the public.

10. NEITHER is the ceasing of the Pains a Proof that the Stone is destroyed: for it may be objected, that in the common course of this Disease, there are sometimes intervals of ease, for many Months; or even Years; of which there are numerous instances to be produced.

But one positive Proof.

11. NEVERTHELESS, the difficulty of obtaining full proof shall not delay my giving the Academy an account of my Observations. There can be but one positive Proof, which way soever we consider these Medicines: And that is, the Stone being found by the Catheter, and the Medicines taken with apparent success; then opening the Body, after death, and finding no Stone in the Bladder. But it is Time only, and Opportunity, that can fully inform us hereof. For my own part, I have been all my Life

Life too watchful, with regard to the subject, to neglect a matter of such importance.

12. HAVING thus, as I suppose, ^{Whether the} shewn the advantages to be received from ^{Remedy be} the Medicines, as they are now used ; it ^{improvable,} may be proper to consider whether they are improvable. M. *Geoffroy* has already ^{In the De-} mentioned some precautions, relating to ^{coction,} the *British* Receipt, in the way of correction or amendment. It was hoped that the Decoction might be rendered more simple, by using *Alicant* Soap as the only ingredient, on a supposition, that this was the principal active part of the Medicine ; whilst the Plants burnt to a coal, were thought to be employed only to disguise the Liquor. But my Experiments will not suffer me to look upon these ingredients as useless ; but on the contrary, encourage me to inject a very weak soapy Decoction into the Bladder, the first opportunity.

13. As to the Powders, I should like ^{The Pow-} not to give them at the beginning ; ^{ders,} but to wait a little, till the Patients be-

F

come

come accustomed to the soapy Decoction; the action whereof, in my opinion, is increased by the addition of the Powders.

14. I BELIEVE it cannot be determined, how long these two Medicines should be used: But this is no discredit to them; since Persons, for the relief of more inconsiderable Diseases than the Stone, submit to long and repeated courses of Mineral Waters and other Remedies. And many Patients have found success by taking these Medicines, in half the quantity ordered by Mrs. *Stephens*.

Or the Pills.

15. THE Pills appear to me an excellent Remedy for the Gravel; and may be used instead of the soapy Decoction, by such as think themselves cured of the Stone, and would take a proper method to prevent its return.

Conclusion.

16. To conclude, where a Person has all the symptoms of the Stone; and by making use of these Medicines, shall soon find a very thick sediment in his Urine, and afterwards scales, or pieces of Stone therein,

therein ; and perceive that he can hold his water longer ; that after making, it grows clearer and clearer ; that his Pains cease ; and that he is able to bear the motion of all sorts of Carriages ; it would not then be reasonable to attribute the Concurrence of so many advantageous Circumstances to Chance ; whilst they were observed to happen during the taking of Medicines, which he had not used before. I therefore declare, that if the Certificate of the Trustees, nominated by Act of Parliament in *England*, had been offered to me ; tho' perhaps I might, from a nicety in point of Expression, have hesitated as to the *Dissolving Power* of these Medicines ; yet, out of regard to Truth, I should readily have subscribed, with *Dr. Pellet*, that they are often useful and efficacious in curing the Stone in the Bladder.



from the preceding...
 and perceive that he can hold his
 water longer; that after taking it grows
 clearer and clearer; that his Pains cease;
 and that he is able to bear the mo-
 tion of all sorts of Carriages; it would
 not then be reasonable to suppose the
 Concurrence of so many advantageous
 Circumstances to Chance; whilst they
 were observed to happen during the
 taking of Medicines, which he had not
 used before, and therefore declare, that it
 the Curative of the Tertian, dominus
 not for All of Parianis in Aegyptus
 had been offered to me; the peripne
 might from a nicety in point of Ex-
 periment, have depended on the Dy-
 stasy, Part of these Medicines, yet
 out of regard to Truth, I should readily
 have renounced, with Dr. W. that
 they are often useful and efficacious in cu-
 ring the Stone in the bladder, contrary to



A N
EXAMINATION

O F
Mrs. STEPHENS'S Medicines
for the S T O N E.

By *Mr. GEOFFROY, Chemist,*
Fellow of the Royal Society of London, and of
the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

THE following Examination of Mrs. Stephens's Medicines, is extracted from the *French* Original, lately published as an Appendix to *Dr. Hartley's View of the present Evidence for and against Mrs. Stephens's Medicines*, translated into *French*, by M. Morand, under this Title: *Recueil d'Experiences & d'Observations sur la Pierre; & en particulier sur les effets des Remedes de Mademoiselle Stephens pour dissoudre la Pierre.* A Paris, 1740.



M. GEOFFROY'S Account, &c.



SHALL here consider Mrs. Stephens's Remedy for the Stone, under the following Heads; *viz.* 1. Its effects upon being taken. 2. Its chemical Analysis. 3. The changes it makes in the Urine. 4. The Action of this changed Urine upon the Stone, out of the Bladder. And, 5. The Manner of preparing the Medicines.



S E C T. I.

The Effects of the Remedy.

1. **A** GENTLEMAN, fifty-five Years Case of a Person not searched. old, having strong symptoms of a Stone in the Bladder, but refusing to be searched, resolved, upon the increase of his Pain, to use the Medicines; and began

The Effects of the Remedy.

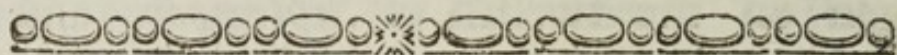
began with them, on the first of *August* 1739; taking, thrice a-day, fifty-six grains of the Powder; and after each Dose, half a pint of the Decoction; as prescribed in the Receipt, which he strictly pursued for near three Months. He found himself considerably relieved, during the first Month, by discharging, with his Urine, a white stony Matter, in scales, most of them concave on one side, and convex on the other. In the space of thirty-four Days, he could walk briskly for two hours, without feeling pain, or making bloody water, as he, after such Exercise, constantly used to do; but upon a second trial of this kind, his Urine was tinged with Blood, and deposited a large quantity of sand, and slime. From this time he brought away, at intervals, considerably large pieces of Stone; and contrary to expectation, found himself well in less than three Months. However, as this Gentleman refused to be searched; the Evidence of his having the Stone depends only upon the symptoms; *viz.* bloody Urine, exquisite Pain upon walking, and being unable to travel in a Post-chaise: But all these

were perfectly removed, under a Course of the Remedy.

2. SEVERAL Patients were searched Cases of two persons examined before taking the Remedy. by the Catheter, and found to have the Stone; one of them was a Child, of twelve years old, brought to be cut, at the Hospital. His pains were very violent, and he could not retain his Urine: but upon taking the Medicines, which he began on the twelfth of *September*, and continued for ten Days, he was able to hold his water; and frequently brought away Scales, and a white Sediment. Notwithstanding this, the symptoms returned; and the Remedy seemed to afford no relief. And we have many other Children in the same circumstances, but intend to cut them directly. Now I should think, that this instance, added to the observations made in *England*, since the publication of the Receipt, may justly raise a Suspicion, that the Remedy is only beneficial to grown persons. All the other Patients, upon using the Decoction, and Powder, in a full Dose, discharged, along with the Urine, large quantities of slime, a pasty substance, in the way of sediment,

G and

and scales : and all these received benefit. But as there is scarce any essential difference between the Observations upon the several cases, it is needless to be particular. One Patient, it must be owned, has taken the Powder, and Decoction, for six Months, without success ; he having a considerably large Stone, and bringing away but few scales, and little sediment.



S E C T. II.

A Chemical Examination of the Remedy.

The Soap for
the Decoc-
tion.

I. **T**HE Ball of Soap, dissolved in the Decoction of diuretic and carminative Plants, is rendered of a slate-colour, by the other diuretic Vegetables calcined to a coal. These Vegetables do not contribute, as Diuretics, to the action of the Remedy ; but only as a vegetable Coal : in which state, they communicate to the Soap only a little scorched Oil, and less Salt. The Oil, being dissolved in the boiling, by the action of the alkaline Salt in the Soap, thus produces a sulphureous odour.

2. **T**HE

2. THE Honey, here used, seems only ^{The Honey.} capable of dividing the parts of the other ingredients, and taking off from the saline Acrimony; so as to render the Decoction a little less disagreeable to the palate.

3. THE calcination of the Snail-shells, ^{The Snails and Egg-shells.} but more particularly of the Egg-shells, makes them a terrestrial absorbent, like lime; for true Quick-lime may be made from all animal shells: and these absorbents, particularly the Snail-shells, calcined with the animal in them, are impregnated with the fetid animal Oil.

4. IN making the Pills, Powder of ^{The Pills.} Snail-shells, without the Lime of Egg-shells, is mixed up with the Soap and Honey; the whole being disguised by the Vegetables calcined to a black Coal. It is plain, that these absorbents qualify the action of the Soap, which would otherwise purge too much; and for fear of rendering the Pills too corrosive, the Lime of Egg-shells, probably, is here omitted. There seems to be such a dif-

ference between the Pills, and the Decoction, that they cannot be substituted the one for the other. It appears to me, that the Decoction always succeeds much better than the ingredients given in a solid form, and fits better upon the stomach; at least I have found it always more adviseable to give a dose of both the powders immediately before the decoction. For these absorbent powders, being in part a terrestrial, and in part a saline alkali, unite with the salt and oil of the Soap; so as to form a compound capable of mixing and circulating with the juices after digestion: and thus they come to be strained, through the Kidneys, into the Bladder, and sufficiently impregnate the Urine with the same principles, to make it act on the Stone as a dissolvent of the unctuous Matter, which contributes to its formation. This Remedy, therefore, promises success with Stones not hard enough to resist the action of a liquor that contains nothing stronger than alkaline salts: but we may be too sanguine to expect it should act upon such hard Stones, as perhaps nothing but acids will dissolve.

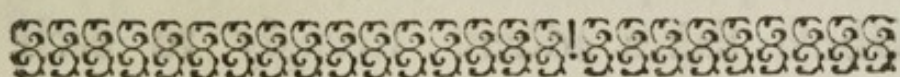
5. Mrs. *Stephens* has made choice of The Composition of Alicant Soap. *Alicant* Soap. Now, this Soap consists of Oil, and the mildest of all the fixed salts, *viz. Sal-kali*; which, however, is rendered more active, by means of the Quick-lime added in making the Lee. This Lee being evaporated to a certain degree, a due proportion of Olive-oil is added thereto; and the mixture is boiled to a body, so as, when cold, to appear in the form of a solid cake. I extracted this short account of making *Alicant* Soap from the Memoirs for the History of Arts, communicated to me by M. *Reaumur*. A hundred weight of Oil, thus boiled with a Lee of *Sal-kali*, and Quick-lime, yields a hundred and eighty pounds of perfect soap, whether white or marbled. Now the oil so boiled, can lose but little of its weight; whence, after several exact trials, I judge, that in a hundred and eighty pounds of Soap, there are fifty pounds of *Sal-kali*, and fifteen of water: though something should here be allowed for the fine part of the Quick-lime remaining behind in the clear Lee.

The quantity of Oil and alkaline Salt in the decoction.

6. BEING desirous to know what quantity of Oil and alkaline Salt was contained in three half-pints of the Decoction, (the quantity taken in a day) I made an examination on purpose ; and found by analysis, that two ounces of Soap contained about two drams and forty-eight grains of Sal-kali ; and, by another Experiment, an ounce, three drams, and twenty grains of oil : consequently, a patient, who daily takes three half-pints of the decoction, containing two ounces and two drams of Soap, takes one ounce four drams, forty-five grains and a half of Olive-oil, and about three drams of *Sal-kali*.

Liquid Soap.

7. I HAVE successfully tried to re-compose Soap, by using the same proportions here assigned. I have also obtained a liquid Soap, of a much more agreeable taste than the common : and this one may prepare *ex tempore*.



S E C T. III.

EXPERIMENTS upon the Urine of those
who take the Remedy.

1. **T**HE Urine of such as take these Medicines, produces a somewhat stronger ebullition, with a weak oil of vitriol, than the Urine of those who are not under the same course. The Urine tried with Oil of Vi-
triol.

2. **T**HE same Urine being mixed with Soap-lees *, curdles and deposits a light-brown sediment, in flakes; from whence there separates, upon long standing, a heavy, unctuous, mucilaginous matter; the liquor, by evaporation, at length becoming solid, like a strong glew: whereas the Urine of persons supposed not to have the Stone, thus produces only a slight coagulation, without slime; and grows dry with difficulty. With Soap-
Lees.

3. A Solution of pure *Sal-kali* being put to the Urine of those that have the With Sal-
kali.
Stone,

* *L'huile de Chaux.*

Stone, precipitates a white curdled mass, whose flakes adhere strongly to each other, where they touch; but a strong lixivium of common *Sal-kali*, separates all these flakes from one another; in the same manner as Soap-lees.

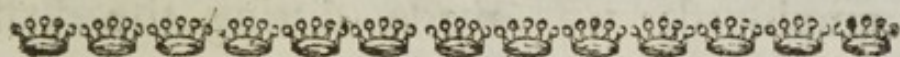
Evaporated. 4. UPON evaporating to dryness the Urine of those who take the Medicines, there remains a thick brown mass, so saline as to appear striated from the centre to the circumference: and this mass being run *per deliquium*, and separated from its unctuous part, affords, by a fresh evaporation, a small quantity of salt, resembling that of *Sal-kali*, or that which I have obtained from soap. I have made a kind of *Glauber-salt* of it; which shews, that a part of the soap comes into the urine; as the salt of the soap is found therein, together with a superabundant unctuous matter.

Effect of the Medicines upon the Serum of the Blood. 5. THE serum of the blood of a patient taking the remedy, is much more limpid than the serum of healthy persons, who lose blood by way of precaution; and their blood affords much more fixed salt,

salt, than the blood of persons in perfect health.

6. THE soap made of *Sal-kali* affords a kind of *Glauber-salt*, by means of oil of vitriol; as I have found upon several trials: which is the less extraordinary, as we have certain proofs, that the basis of sea-salt is contained in the burnt *Kali*, and in all the plants growing upon the sea-shore. But this does not hold of any soap prepared with a different alkaline salt; such as pot-ash, well freed from its neutral salt: for if such soaps be calcined, and oil of vitriol be added to the remaining ashes, a tartar of vitriol, and not a *Glauber-salt* is thus obtained.

Difference of Soaps.



S E C T. IV.

EXPERIMENTS upon the Stone of the Bladder.

I. I HAVE made many experiments which shew, that when the Urine of those who take the Remedy, is charged

Charged Urine no Solvent for the Stone.

H

with

with slime and sediment, it does not act upon the Stone as a Solvent.

2. I took a rough bladder-stone, weighing, after being thoroughly dried, two ounces, three drams, five grains and a half; and putting it into a glass, I poured upon it, every morning, the fresh-made urine of a patient, then in a course of the remedy; and continued doing thus for a month: at the end whereof, I found it covered with a stony crust; and having washed it well with water, to take off all the loose parts, I dried it in a stove, some days longer than I had thus dried it before steeping it in the urine; and found it increased six grains and a half in weight. The urine here employed, was made during the first month of the course; and was then charged with much sediment and gravel. When the urine of this patient deposited no more sediment, I suspended the same Stone a-fresh in a clean glass, and poured this new and clear Urine upon it, every morning as before; and finding, after ten days Observation, that no incrustation was made, I took it out, washed it, and

But un-
charged dis-
solves it.

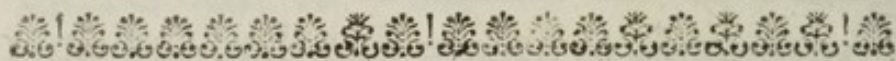
and dried it, in the same stove, for the same number of days as before; and then found it to weigh no more than two ounces, two drams, and forty-two grains: whereas its original weight was two ounces, three drams, five grains and a half. I keep this Stone, because it may incline one to believe, that the remedy disposes the Urine to act as a Solvent. This Stone now appears as if it was graved in some parts of its surface; and there are small holes in it, which make it seem as if the Urine had begun to act upon its internal parts.

3. THIS diminution of weight, in ten days time, compared with the increase gained in the former Experiment, may give us cause to believe that the Medicines do not act upon the Stone, till after the Urine is freed from its slime and sediment. The Urine of those who take the Remedy, is very slimy, and full of a white sediment, during the first, and often during the second month; but the sediment is only large, when there is slime: whence, perhaps, this slime, washed off by the Soap from the vessels,

may act after the same manner as the whites of eggs, or isinglass, in the clarification of wines, syrups, &c. Thus much at least is proved by experience, that soap, taken internally, discharges slime by Urine: which of it self is a considerable effect.

Action of the
Urine ac-
counted for.

4. AND in this case, the Soap may act both by means of its Oil and alkaline Salt; the Oil relaxing the passages, and disposing them to transmit Gravel, and other obstructing matters; and the alkaline Salt dissolving all the oily, resinous, or sulphureous substances, which serve as a cement to the Stone.



S E C T. V.

The PREPARATION of the REMEDY.

The Egg-
shells how
calcined.

I. **I** STEEP the Egg-shells for two or three days, then wash them in several parcels of fair water; and after draining, and drying them in the air, I nearly fill large crucibles therewith. I
bore

bore holes through the sides of these crucibles, at different heights; and luting on covers, I set them in the strongest heat of a Potters Kiln. 'Tis a sure sign, that the Egg-shells are sufficiently calcined, when they appear white in the middle of the crucible; for commonly towards the middle, and especially towards the bottom, there are some small parts, which do not fall to powder in the air, and ought to be separated by the sieve.

2. IF it be thought necessary to use the Plants scorched to a coal, they may be roasted in an iron tube, or stove-funnel, a foot and a half long; one end thereof being soldered up, and the other fitted with an iron cover. This vessel, being filled with the vegetables, may be laid horizontally on a hearth, and surrounded with a few faggots; and being kept in this state, till no more smoak comes out at the cover, the matter will thus be roasted to a black coal. And the Snails may be treated in the same manner; after having been first washed and drained.

The Vegetables how scorched to blackness.

Cautions as
to the Soap.

3. THE other parts of the Preparation are very well described in the printed Receipt. I shall only farther observe, that the Soap should never be boiled, nor the Decoction suffered to remain, in vessels of copper; because the Soap would corrode the metal, and thus be tinged with Verdigrease: but earthen or tinned vessels may be safely used for the purpose.

F I N I S.



