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ESSAY

ON THE VIRTUES AND EFFICACY OF

Dr. SIBLY'S

LUNAR TINCTURE,

IN ALL DISEASES PECULIAR TO THE FEMALE SEX.

THOUGH Nature has made an evident distinction between the male and female in their structure and design, as well as in bodily strength and vigour, whereby they are unfitted for hard and laborious employments, yet the modern style of bringing up young Ladies, by confining them almost entirely to their apartments, keeping them on a poor low diet, by using artificial means to make them spare and delicate, has contributed more to their prejudice, than all the incidental diseases to which they are subject. These refinements in a female education, besides destroying their ruddy complexion, (which is often the design of it) relaxes their solids, impoverishes their blood, weakens their minds, and disorders all the functions of their bodies, whereby they are often rendered incapable of conception, and denied the felicity of becoming mothers. And this is not all; for too much confinement to particular attitudes, gestures, and positions, frequently impairs the organs of the stomach, and brings on indigestion, flatulency, head-ache, and the whole train of nervous disorders, which a freedom of bodily exercise, and fresh air, might have wholly prevented. Girls, like the tendrils of a vine, demand our tenderest care; and instead of being withheld, should be encouraged to romp, skip, and play, and to indulge in all the innocent diversions, as gay and blithesome as the playful lambs; which would exhilarate their spirits, promote digestion, stimulate their blood and juices; and at the proper time bring on a free and easy discharge of the needful regularity of the sex.

When that season is arrived, the constitution of every female undergoes a considerable change; and the greatest care is then necessary, since the future health and happiness of every woman depend, in a great measure, upon her conduct at this period. It is the duty of mothers, and of those who are entrusted with the education of girls, to instruct them early in the conduct and management of themselves at this critical moment of their lives. False modesty, inattention and ignorance of what is beneficial or hurtful at this time, are the sources of many diseases and misfortunes, which a little attention might have prevented: nor is care less necessary in the subsequent returns of this discharge. Taking improper food, violent agitations of the mind, or catching cold at this period, is often sufficient to ruin the health, or to render the female for ever after incapable of procreation. If a girl, about this time of life, be confined to the house, kept constantly sitting, and neither allowed to romp about, nor be employed in any active business or amusement which gives exercise to the body, she becomes weak, relaxed, and puny : her blood not being duly prepared, she looks pale and wan; her health, spirits, and vigour decline; and she sinks into a valetudinary for life. Such is the fate of numbers of those unhappy females who, either from too much indulgence of their own narrow circumstances, are at this critical period denied the benefit of exercise and free air. A lazy indolent indisposition proves likewise very hurtful to girls at this period. We seldom meet with complaint



from obstructions amongst the more active and industrious part of the sex;

whereas the indolent and lazy are seldom free from them.

Until the menses begin to flow, there is but little occasion for medical aid in the general management of girls. Manna, cream of tartar, or magnesia, possess all the requisites for relieving them in their usual indispositions. If more serious complaints occur, I cannot do better than recommend the treatment laid down in my MEDICAL MIRROR and FAMILY PHYSICIAN, where easy, cheap, efficacious, and certain cures, are prescribed for all the little infirmities of Children, which, if taken in time, are seldom attended with danger; whereas neglect and inattention, on the first symptoms of a disease, will often rob the parent of its dearest offspring. When the menstrual discharge originally commences, the greatest care is requisite to avoid every thing that may tend to obstruct it. A degree of cold that would not in the least injure girls at another time, will at this period be sufficient to ruin their health and constitution; therefore from whatever cause this flux is obstructed, means should be immediately used to restore it. In all such cases, let from 60 to 80 drops of the LUNAR TINCTURE be taken morning, noon, and night, in a wine-glass of warm water, or pennyroyal tea, until the intention is answered, which will usually happen in two or three days.-But the menstrual flux on its first coming down is sometimes vitiated, and apt to be too abundant: when this happens, the patient becomes weak, the colour pale, the appetite and digestion impaired; and cedematous swelling of the feet, dropsies, and consumptions, often ensue. To prevent this, let the patient be kept two or three days in bed, with her head low, and observe a slender diet, principally of white meats, and her drink red port negus. Every night and morning, for ten or twelve days, let her take one table-spoonful of the SOLAR TINCTURE, diluted in double the quantity of decoction of nettle-roots, or of the greater comfrey; and after the flux has abated, and her health and strength return, let her take a table-spoonful of the SOLAR TINCTURE every other day at noon, in a glass of cold spring water; which wonderfully contributes to restore a due consistency to the blood, promotes digestion, and invigorates the spirits. Before the customary period returns, she should discontinue the SOLAR TINCTURE; and if there be the least appearance of irregularity or obstruction, let her take, night or morning, for two or three days, from 60 to 80 drops of the LUNAR TINCTURE in a glass of warm water, and she will quickly find a regular habit, and her health amazingly established.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR ADMINISTERING THE LUNAR TINCTURE.

FOR THE GREEN SICKNESS.

The green sickness is an obstruction in the womb-vessels of young females, about the time of their courses beginning to flow: it is attended with a viscidity of all the juices; a sallow, pale, or greenish colour of the face, a difficulty of breathing, a sickness in the stomach at the sight of proper food; an unnatural desire of feeding on chalk, coals, stones, clay, tobacco-pipes, sealing wax, and other things of an hurtful and improper nature. This complaint most commonly proceeds from a longing desire after the enjoyment of some particular person, or from a violent inclination to exchange a single life for the state of matrimony; and when this is the case, the parents should either let her have the man she longs after, if they approve her choice, or otherwise endeavour to provide her a suitable match, as it would be the most natural and most radical cure, by removing the cause altogether. But if matrimony be not convenient, either on account of her youth or any other substantial reason,

recourse must be had to proper regimen and physical aid, otherwise the most serious diseases ensue, and the patient is quickly carried off in a consumption. The best method of regimen is laid down in my FAMILY PHYSICIAN; which, if well observed, in addition to the following course, will generally perform an effectual cure. Take leaves of mugwort, briony, and pennyroyal, of each a handful; infuse them four days in two quarts of soft water, and then pour off the clear liquor for use. Bottle it up, and take a gill glass, three parts full, with 80 drops of the LUNAR TINCTURE added to it, three times a-day, viz. morning, noon, and night, till the decoction be all used. Then reduce the dose to 60 drops of the Tincture in a wine-glass of cold spring water morning and evening, for 15 days; after which it might be taken only once a-day, or every other day, until the patient finds herself free from every symptom of the disease. For this malady, which hurries thousands of young amiable females into consumptions, this remedy is the best ever known: it unclogs the fallopian and spermatic tubes; purges and cools the uterus and vagina; promotes the menstrual discharge, cleanses the urinary passages, dissolves viscid humours in the blood, sharpens the appetite, stimulates the nerves, and invigorates the spirits, which, in all the stages of the Chlorosis, are so apt to be depressed. When this disorder is not very obstinate, nor far advanced, take from 60 to 80 drops of the LUNAR TINCTURE in a wineglass of cold spring water 30 or 40 days successively, and it will perform a cure without the decoction, which makes the dose considerably stronger.

FOR THE FLUOR ALBUS, OR WHITES.

The whites generally come away in the greatest plenty about the middle of the time between the monthly periods; the matter often proves variable, being sometimes white mixed with yellow, and at others of a thin watery consistence, greenish, and inclining to black; sharp, corrosive, of an ill smell, occasioning heat of urine, and now and then ulcers. It then causes great weaknesses, especially in the small of the back and the loins; a pale colour in the face, faintness, loathing of food, indigestion, swelling of the legs, irregularity in the courses. Sometimes it degenerates into a consumption or dropsy, and proves mortal; at others it causes incurable barrenness. It has usually been thought difficult to distinguish the whites from the venereal disease; and some women who have had bad husbands have laboured under the latter for a long time together, imagining it all the while to be only the former. Now, as it is highly necessary every woman should learn the symptoms by which these are known asunder, let it be observed, that whenever the courses come down the whites always cease, and do not trouble the patient again till the courses are over; whereas a venereal running remains constantly upon the patient, appears, and does not cease during the monthly discharges.

The whites often afflict maids of a weakly constitution, as well as married women and widows; and indeed there are but few of the fair sex, especially such as are any way sickly, but who have known it more or less. For whatever disease renders the blood poor, foul, or viscous, and reduces a woman to a languid condition, is commonly succeeded by the whites, which, when they come in this manner, continue to weaken the body more and more, and are in great danger, without speedy remedy, of wearing away the patient, and making her a miserable victim to death. Let no woman, therefore, neglect this disorder when she finds it on her, but endeavour to prevent its getting too much a head. The regimen and general management are pointed out in my Medical Mirror; and in lieu of other medicine, make a decoction of tormentil root, bistort, comfrey, and red rose leaves; take a gill glass three parts full, and add to it 60 drops, o. a small easpoorful, of the LUNAR TINCTURE

which must be persisted in morning, noon, and night, for ten days; then take it twice a-day, morning and evening, for ten days more; after which discontinue the decoction, and take the Tincture every morning for a month, 60 drops in a wine-glass of cold spring water. The disease will be found gradually to abate; and upon any symptoms of a return of it, take 60 to 80 drops of the Tincture in a wine-glass of cold water every morning for a week, and it will go entirely off.

FOR WEAKNESSES CONTRACTED BEFORE MARRIAGE, BARRENNESS, &c.

There are some disorders contracted by the fair sex, the cause and cure of which are of such a nature, that, for several reasons, chiefly through shame, they are likely to conceal them, and therefore may suffer worse consequences than can here be described. To tell, in a few words, what I mean by such diseases, they are all such as the patient, by a criminal indulgence of her passions, has herself been instrumental in causing, For that many of the fair, especially in their younger years, have suffered much from a secret vice, by which they have endeavoured to procure themselves those pleasurable sensations which God has ordered to be the effects of a mutual commerce between the sexes, is a matter of late becoming too notorious to be doubted, and too dreadful in its consequences to be indulged in; I mean that abominable vice Onanism, or secret venery. And certainly none of them can take it amiss, if, for their advantage, I venture so far to expose this practice, as to remove the evil consequences of it, and to prevent, as much as possible, its continuance. The secret vice before-mentioned is chiefly a fault of both sexes; nothing, therefore, can be of more importance to the preservation of human kind in general than the endeavouring to prevent a practice that strikes at the very root of fecundity, and is particularly destructive to young men as well as women, as I have amply shewn in my Medical Mirror; but, besides its wickedness, it is the most prejudicial thing that can be to the human constitution. Its bad effects on the body are many and great. If practised often, it relaxes and spoils the retentive faculty. It occasions the whites in women, and gleets in men. It ruins the complexion, and makes them pale, swarthy, and haggard. It produces a long train of hysteric disorders; and sometimes, by draining away the radical moisture, induces consumptions. It brings on heat in the privities, belly, thighs, with shooting pains in the head, and all over the body. It sometimes brings on that fatal malady, a furor uterinus, or, insatiable appetite to venery, the dreadful consequences of which are also depicted in the before-mentioned Medical Mirror. But what it is most liable to produce is barrenness, by causing an indifference to the pleasures of Venus, and, in time, a total inability or inaptitude to the act of generation itself. Virgins who indulge themselves over-eagerly in this abuse of their bodies, deflower themselves, and destroy the valuable badge of their chastity, which it is expected they should not part with before marriage, but which, when lost, can never be retrieved. With regard to maids, who have hereby deprived themselves of that sacred badge, the loss of which before marriage was so severely punished among the Jews, under what apprehensions must they continually lie!-with what terrors must they approach the marriage bed, which heaven has designed for the seat of the highest sensible enjoyments, when they reflect that their virtue, on the first amorous encounter, is liable to such suspicions as may never be worn off, but which may render uncomfortable the whole life, both of her and her otherwise affectionate husband! What I have already said, if duly attended to, will be sufficient to render this practice detestable; to deter the young, and hitherto innocent, from making themselves miserable, and to stop the course of those who have already

advanced far in the road to destruction. Let them, when any way tempted, reflect on the miserable condition of many, who, in galloping consumptions, have died terrible examples to all those who persist in this vice; and as relaxations, weakness, and infertility of the parts, whether male or female, are the common consequences that follow, relief can only be applied for in the following remedies, which are successfully prescribed for barrenness,

seminal weakness, muscular relaxations, &c.

Barrenness is such a state of a woman's body as indisposes it, upon the use of the natural means, to conceive and propagate her species. This proceeds from many sources, as may be seen in the Medical Mirror. A course of the LUNAR TINCTURE will be found most excellent for barrenness and debility; particularly while thus assisted by the SOLAR TINCTURE, which will greatly warm and rectify the blood and juices, increase the animal spirits, invigorate and revive the whole human machine, and not only raise the appetite to venereal embraces, but remove the usual impediments to fertility; prepare the womb for performing its office, and the ova for impregnation. The Tincture warms, comforts and excites the generative parts to admiration, and seldom fails of curing all common occasions of barrenness in a month or six weeks, if duly followed. Should the case, however, be so bad as to require surgical aid, either in the male or female, I must refer them to my Family Physician, where these misfortunes are most extensively treated, and the best advice given that medical or philosophical abilities can devise, both for men and women.

FOR INDISPOSITIONS ATTENDANT ON PREGNANCY.

Though pregnancy is not a disease, yet it is attended with a variety of complaints which require great attention; but for the cure or alleviation of which, medical aid has hitherto proved very deficient. In these complaints, however, the LUNAR TINCTURE exerts most extraordinary properties, and excels whatever has been hertofore offered under a medical form. It is an universal purifier of all those heterogeneous particles which produce nausea, and arise from the combining principles of the masculine and feminine Tinctures; from whence, according to the grossness of the essences at the time of conception, proceed vomiting, pains in the head and stomach, fainting, &c., occasioned by the jarring elements arising from the disproportion in the constituent parts of the male and female seed, in their primary qualities; which is not only attended with great debility and depression to the mother in her whole nervous system, but oftentimes with hereditary diseases, and dreadful consequences to the infant offspring, which nothing but a powerful exertion of the active faculty of nature can preserve from falling a prey to the gross and viscid elements which contaminate this procreative admixture. Now the LUNAR TINCTURE is elegantly adapted to invigorate and assist that active faculty in expelling all viscid humours; and being compounded of the most subtle and occult essences of nature, and fitted to the most active principles of the patient's elementary powers and vivifying influx, prepared by that living fire which germinates the vital principle, and quickens the embryo in the womb; and being joined to the ethereal spirit, strengthens and assists the vis vitæ, by attracting and uniting the four elements of procreative faculty into one harmonious combination, without destroying their variety or distinct powers; whence it is of the same nature and property as the animal spirit, and nervous elastic light or fluid, which purifies and fans the breath of life first breathed into the nostrils of Adam by his beneficent Creator, and communicated to his race by the action of the womb, as the flame of one candle is communicated to another. Hence the LUNAR TINCTURE produces the most salutary effects to all women in a state of pregnancy, by stimulating the procreative

faculty to the formation of the finest children; correcting and purifying the male seed from infection or disease; preventing moles or false conception; removing all loathings, longings, or vomiting, and effectually preventing abortion, from any cause whatever.—For these important purposes, when a woman enters into the state of matrimony, she would do well to take twenty drops of the LUNARTINCTURE every other morning to promote conception; she should then continue it three times a week, from conception to the end of the fourth month; then it should be omitted till a fortnight before her time, when she should take 20 drops in a wine-glass of cold spring water every morning till her labour, at which time it will wonderfully strengthen her, assist her throes, facilitate the birth, promote the lochia, and carry off the after-pains. She might take it occasionally during the month in any symptoms of cold, fever, or hysterics, diluted in a wine-glass of warm water, about the middle of the day.

Women who are subject to miscarriages should never fail to take this medicine, from the time they have reason to believe they are pregnant until a full month after they have quickened. It may be taken once, twice, or thrice a-day, or every other day, as the urgency of the case may require, from twenty to thirty drops in a glass of forge water; or in soft spring water in which common oak bark has been steeped; and she will effectually get over all causes of abortion. Women, after sudden miscarriages, or bad labours, will find wonderful relief by taking twenty drops of it once a-day in a wine glass of warm water, for a week or ten days. Nurses, also, whose milk is griping or defective, should take it once or twice-a day, or as often as occasion might require. The intention will quickly be experienced, the milk will be purified and augmented, and all the fluid secretions promoted in a manner

productive of sound health, both to the mother and child.

FOR WOMEN AT THE TURN OF LIFE.

The most critical and dangerous time of a woman's life is that wherein the menses cease to flow, which usually happens between forty and fifty years of age. The great change that this produces, by so copious a drain being taken into the habit without previous preparation, is the sole cause of its danger. Every woman must be sensible when this period arrives, and should conduct herself accordingly: for when the menses are about to go off, they appear for the most part irregularly, both in time and quantity, once in a fortnight, three, five, or six weeks: sometimes very sparingly, and other times in immoderate quantities. For want only of necessary care and attention, during the time that the menses thus dodge, and give symptoms of their departure, many and various are the complaints that ensue; amongst which are cold chills, succeeded by violent flushings of the face and heats of the extremities; restless nights, troublesome dreams, and unequal spirits; inflammations of the bowels; spasmodic affections; stiffness in the limbs, swelled ancles, sore legs, with pains and inflammation; the piles, and other symptoms of plenitude. But all this might easily be prevented by attending to a due regimen, and taking these Tinctures, as occasion may require. When a woman has reason to suspect her menses are about to leave her, let her lose four, five, or six ounces of blood, as the habit of body will admit; then let her take my Cooling and Opening Powders, sold at Two Shillings and Sixpence a packet. Let her take from 60 to 80 drops of the LUNAR TINCTURE in a gill glass full of water, every night and morning for ten days; then let her continue it every morning for ten days more, and afterwards once every two or three days, or oftener, if the terms are of an ill colour and scent, until they are corrected. This must be followed every spring and fall, for a month or six weeks successively, by all women who find their menses dodge, or come too sparingly, until they entirely

cease; after which let the patient put herself under a course of the SOLAR TINCTURE for a month or six weeks, taking one spoonful in a wine glass of warm water every night and morning for a week; then let it be taken only once a-day, in cold water, for the residue of the time; and if she takes occasionally two table-spoonfuls of the SOLAR TINCTURE, diluted in a tumbler of warm water, as a beverage after dinner or supper, instead of wine or brandy and water, it will be productive of great benefit in establishing an healthful state of her blood, and carrying off the viscid humours generally

produced by the menstrual flux returning into the habit.

Should it at this time happen, which it often does, that the terms flow too abundantly, and produce a flooding, the patient must immediately lose six or eight ounces of blood, and be kept as much as possible at rest, with her head low, until the medicine has had time to take effect; let her diet be spare, but not too lax, and let her apply to the following course: Take conserve of red roses, marmalade of quinces, juice of kermes, candied nutmegs, syrup of quinces, and syrup of coral, of each half an ounce; aromaticum rosalum, and astringent saffron of iron, of each two drachms; oil of cinnamon six drops; mix into an electuary, (which might be made up by any apothecary if the recipe be sent him) and take the quantity of a large nutmeg every day at noon, for six, eight, or ten days, or longer, as the urgency of the case may require, drinking immediately after it 60 drops of the LUNAR TINCTURE in a wine-glass of warm water: the flooding by this means will gradually abate, the feverish symptoms will go off, the back will be strengthened, the womb-vessels cleansed, and the patient wonderfully restored. After the tenth day, in most cases, the electuary might be discontinued; and the LUNAR TINCTURE should then be taken every morning for a month, 60 drops, by which time the parts will be braced, comforted, and coiled up, so as to fear no danger of a relapse. About a month after, let her undergo a course of the SOLAR TINCTURE, for the purpose of rectifying and stimulating the mass of blood: this should be taken for a month; a table-spoonful night and morning in a wine-glass of cold spring water for the first ten days, and then once a-day only for the residue of the time: the good effects of which will be sensibly and quickly felt.

The intention of nature, in returning this flux back into the habit, is to nourish and preserve life, not to destroy it. Until the age of puberty, girls require this blood for the sustentation and nourishment of their bodies; when that is sufficiently established, it is applied to the purposes of nourishing the fœtus, and of suckling the infant after it is born. When child-bearing subsides, and the eve of life comes on, the flux is returned back, to comfort and preserve it; therefore, if women were but careful to observe a regular course before this flux returns upon them, by adopting the methods I have prescribed, and by taking the medicine spring and fall for two or three years previous to the time, they might not only escape the perils and dangers attendant on this period, but would lay the foundation of a settled state of health, and enjoy a sound constitution of body to extreme old age;—which

God, in his mercy, grant to all my patients.

E. SIBLY.

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