

A practical treatise on the diseases of the breasts : containing directions for the management of women during lying-in; with the methods of curing the inflammation, abscess, and schirrus of the breasts / by William Rowley, M.D. and Man-Midwife.

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A
PRACTICAL TREATISE
ON THE
DISEASES
OF THE
BREASTS.

CONTAINING

DIRECTIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF WOMEN DURING LYING IN;

WITH

THE METHODS OF CURING THE INFLAMMATION,
ABSCESS, AND SCHIRRUS OF THE BREASTS.

BY

WILLIAM ROWLEY, M. D. and Man-Midwife.

The SECOND EDITION.

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P R E F A C E.

THE first edition of the following Treatise was written many years ago for the use of the female sex; to direct them in the management of the breasts in child-bed. In a work of this nature, it was thought necessary to add some general observations on the safest manner of treating women during the month; for not long before this pamphlet was published, some dangerous prejudices had been adopted by several eminent practitioners in midwifery. Humanity for the sufferers, and a desire of preventing more mischief, induced me to make public my remarks, the result of considerable experience. The fatal effects of those practices; namely the destroying many women, has, I hope, brought it into disrepute. The projects alluded to, were leaving the placenta after the delivery of the child; and the indis-

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criminate use of low diet, to all patients, and in all cases, during lying in. At the time I communicated my thoughts on these subjects, I avoided any *personal* reflections on the parties who warmly espoused these unfortunate schemes; the *errors*, not the *men*, became the objects of animadversion; how far these very men can justify themselves in becoming my private enemies on this occasion, I shall leave it for the candid to determine; it is however pleasing to reflect, that their dark and envious calumnies, have encreased the reputation of those inventions they endeavoured to depreciate. But to return, it is hoped that the present publication will answer the purpose for which it was written; and the author requests the candid reader to excuse the many imperfections it may contain.

Harley street,
Cavendish Square.

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T R E A T I S E, &c.

TH E R E has been one common method of treating complaints of the breasts that happen in lying-in, from the time of Hippocrates; a period of near two thousand years: if, however, it was not in many points defective, the antiquity of the practice would be no objection to it. In this Treatise, then, we intend to explain how deficient the common methods are, and to recommend a better practice; for if the accidents that happen to these parts, were more properly attended to on their first appearance, the cancer of the breasts, with all its miserable symptoms, would be less frequent than is now experienced.

Those who are versed in the history of medicine, and acquainted with the different pursuits of medical men since the restoration of learning, might conclude, that this branch was well understood;

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but notwithstanding the many ingenious attempts to improve the art of delivery, the management of the breasts seems to have been generally neglected. In the inflammation, plaisters of diachylon, poultices, and such applications, are what authors have recommended in these cases, and are wholly depended on by the most eminent practitioners in midwifery at this present time, in every part of Europe.

During this last century midwifery has been much practised by men, particularly in this country; and whoever will take an impartial review of the endeavours of artists in this branch, to introduce mechanical contrivances to hasten delivery, with the fatal effects attending their vain projects, will have no great satisfaction in reflecting on the consequences which succeeded the introduction of men into the art. Impatient in waiting on the efforts of nature, they imagined that the tire tête, fillets, forceps, lever, net, crotchet, and other contrivances, were great acquisitions to this branch. But after destroying numbers of women
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and children, or injuring the mother, so as to make life burthenfome, these contrivances, more ingenious than useful, were excluded in general from practice. From my own experience I must declare, that instruments are scarce ever necessary; for in the generality of labors *Nature* will do the whole business of delivery, without any assistance from *art*; and in difficult labors, which but rarely happen, the least force or violence often proves fatal: so that after all the application of different men to invent instruments, and after exercising mathematical reasoning on the most simple subjects, we may be satisfied, that women, in all ages, must have been in general fortunate, in proportion as their modes were simple; and for these last hundred and thirty years, as the methods have been more complex from the mistaken prejudices of male practitioners, so have they been often unsuccessful, and not unfrequently fatal.

But, leaving these general remarks on the obstetric art, we proceed to make some observations on the effects which are produced in the breasts soon after the delivery of the child.

OF THE
S E C R E T I O N
OF THE
M I L K.

THE symptoms which attend the secretion of the milk are various in different women, and the time of its forming is uncertain, though in general considered to be on the third day after delivery. This opinion however is erroneous, for some have milk in the breasts a few hours after delivery; and it is of considerable consequence for the midwife to attend to this circumstance, or accidents may happen, which are not only exceedingly painful, but sometimes dangerous.

The most common symptoms of the milk coming are shooting pains, swelling of the parts, a feverish heat all over the body, and sometimes shiverings, with
sickness

sickness at the stomach. Some have few or none of these sensations at the accession of the milk, while others suffer the most exquisite pains. When the vessels of the breasts are over-filled, and the natural discharge through the nipple not encouraged, either by the child's sucking, or by any artificial means, then do sometimes succeed violent pain, inflammation, excoriation of the nipples, abscess and induration. If this last be neglected in the beginning, it lays the foundation of the cancer, and in a number of years often degenerates into that dreadful disorder.

It may here be observed, that during pregnancy, there is a flow of blood to the breasts, and the secretion of milk is performed, though not in any great quantity. In this we may observe the wisdom and regularity of nature, for this partial secretion, during pregnancy, prepares the vessels for the reception of a larger quantity of blood to the breasts after delivery. The utility of such wise laws must be obvious to every one who will reflect; for had no such partial secretion been performed,

formed, previous to that after delivery, we may naturally suppose, that diseases of the breasts would have happened more frequently from the sudden filling of the vessels: in consequence of which the absorption of the milky fluid would have been more impeded, and the diseases of course rendered more dangerous and difficult of cure.

*Of the INFLAMMATION of the
BREASTS, when the Mother does
not suckle the Child.*

IT must be remarked, that many women, who do not suckle their children, have no disease whatever in their breasts, while others are afflicted, more or less, during every lying-in. It is certainly most natural for every mother to suckle her infant, but there are many circumstances which prevent this, and in some cases it would prove highly detrimental, particularly to delicate constitutions. The not suckling the child is oftentimes productive of very painful complaints in the breasts; and the management of patients, under these circumstances, is of considerable consequence; for I really believe, an inattention to the breasts at that time has laid the foundation of many female diseases, some of which are shocking to reflect on. The order and designs of nature being perverted by the mother not suckling her infant, some effects must be naturally expected,

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as inflammation and painful swellings of the parts ; if these are not relieved in the beginning, the symptoms are soon more severe, for a fresh flow of blood being determined to parts already distended, the inflammation becomes more violent, the pain is exquisite, and these symptoms very often terminate in a number of abscesses, or swellings, containing matter.

The common methods of cure are, to shake the breasts, to apply diachylon plaisters, common treacle or molasses on brown paper, to embrocate the parts with oil, brandy, and vinegar, spirits of wine and camphor ; many such like remedies are used to backen the milk, as it is called. It may be easily imagined what trivial assistance such remedies can give ; for it cannot be supposed they are efficacious to the disease of an inflamed and glandular part. Nature, however, is very kind in diseases of the breasts in many instances, and a return of the milk into the habit, often terminates the inflammation ; but to imagine, as many have done, that such insignificant remedies as are applied in common contribute to these salutary
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purposes, would be nearly as absurd, as to suppose, that wounds could be cured by the sympathetick powder *. As such external applications are not solely depended on in other inflammations, how can they be expected to succeed in the inflammation of a glandular part, ever more difficult of cure than any other part of the body? The application of poultices in the simple inflammation of the breasts is improper, as it often promotes suppuration, which by all means should be avoided.

Besides, the inflammation of the breast is a disease of the minute vascular system; the vessels are preternaturally distended by a fluid constantly accumulating. If the absorption is not equal to the secretion, or if the milk be not drawn off thro' the nipple, the swelling must of course increase, and in proportion to the increased distension of this very nervous and susceptible part, so will the pain and inflammation be more or less violent.

* Absurd as it must appear, that any men could be so credulous as to believe, that a powder might be prepared, which could cure patients wounded at thousands of miles distance by sympathy; yet the thing was affirmed by Sir Kenelme Digby, and publicly discoursed on at the university of Montpellier, before a very learned audience.

*Of the CURE of the INFLAMMATION
of the BREASTS, when the Mother
does suckle the Child.*

HAVING already given an account of the common methods of practice, which it is supposed will be acknowledged to be defective; the cure of the inflammation is next to be considered. The sooner a physician is applied to, the greater will be the prospect of success, in preventing all ill effects. If the inflammation is considerable, the first and chief care ought to be, to prevent the formation of abscesses: and it must be observed in attempting the cure by the methods which follow, attention must be had to the patient's constitution, and other circumstances of the case; but this every skilful practitioner will be able to regulate by his own good sense and experience. The fullness of the vessels being the chief cause of the inflammation, emptying them will be necessary. Bleeding is what may be recommended, unless some particular symptoms or weakness of
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the patient, forbid its use. Internally diuretics and gentle laxatives are proper. But above all, a strict regimen is necessary, for if this be observed a few days with exactness, there will be little occasion for medicine. The patient must drink very sparingly; for as a great quantity of liquid diet produces a large portion of milk in the breasts, so must a small quantity prevent its accumulation. If the inflammation is violent, and the breasts very much enlarged with milk, they may be emptied by nipple-glasses, or by a person's sucking. This method of drawing the milk through the nipple must not be persisted in, when the mother does not suckle the child; the reason of this is very obvious; for it will with difficulty be laid aside. In order, however, to empty the breasts under circumstances of danger, every method ought to be employed, for by such means all future accidents are prevented. If the inflammation subsides, the cure is obtained; for the return of the inflammation seldom happens, unless the patient is indulged in drinking freely. The most innocent and weak liquids will frequently promote the

secretion of milk in many constitutions, and keep up the fullness of the vessels; the quality of the liquid is not of such consequence as the quantity, which, in the course of a very extensive practice in midwifery, I have frequently observed.

This method of treating women, so soon after delivery, might induce some practitioners to imagine, that it would in some manner effect the discharge of the lochia, but I have never yet found this to be the case, although I have made the closest observations for that purpose; and whatever skill either authors or practitioners may pretend to, in regulating this evacuation, it is merely chimerical. We may observe that those women, who have a very small discharge of the lochia, recover equally safe, as when it is profuse. Indeed such remedies as the penny-royal water, the spermaceti, &c. which are the compositions used on this occasion, cannot be supposed efficacious in any disorder; nor can the uterine remedies, as they are called, be depended on, as their effects are in general uncertain, if not in some instances hazardous.

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It is very possible for a putrid fever to ensue from an absorption of the lochia, or, from the after-burden being left behind, after the delivery of the child; for the method of leaving it to be delivered by nature, was one of the latest and most destructive refinements in midwifery. It was considered as a great improvement, till experience proved it a fatal one. How far the publication, which recommended this method, influenced the country practitioners, is impossible to determine; but it is hoped every midwife in London has excluded it from practice. This project of leaving the after-burden was productive of fatal effects, for a great number of women lost their lives by it. It becomes therefore indispensibly necessary to mention this unfortunate circumstance, to prevent future mischief. It is a singular, and melancholy instance, how far caprice and prejudice may influence even the learned. It certainly is the most arrogant presumption, for physicians to imagine, that nature can be governed by their *conjectures*. The old method of delivering the placenta immediately after the infant, has been

been the practice of all ages; it has ever been successful, and therefore did not require any alteration.

Hippocrates, and all the antients, always advised the immediate delivery of the after-burden, unless under particular circumstances; those who would know the ill effects of leaving the placenta may consult Leporinis de secundinis, Cohausen in Lucina, Ruyschiana, observations of Mauriceau, and all authors in midwifery, Ruysch. alone objected to this practice, only to support the supposed use of a muscle, which he pretended to have discovered at the fundus uteri.

The METHOD *of preventing* DISEASES *of the* BREASTS, *in* LYING-IN.

AFTER the delivery, if the mother does not intend suckling the child, then should we endeavour to prevent an accession of milk in the breasts, and this performed by very simple means; it chiefly depends on diet. As all fluids when drank by the mother promote the secretion of milk, so will abstinence from liquids prevent the breast, from receiving a quantity of blood to perform this secretion. A small quantity of blood being determined to the parts, and the vessels not being filled, in a few days they will contract to their original size, and make the same resistance as before pregnancy. The quantity of liquids which is proper for every one is impossible to ascertain, but the patient's feelings is the proper criterion to know when we are right: for whatever quantity produces inflammation or pain, must then be lessened. Bleeding
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is sometimes necessary, and cooling diuretic remedies, particularly in some plethoric habits, or to those patients where, in lying-in, the breasts have a peculiar tendency to inflame or become hard. If these methods are diligently attended to, no accident whatever will happen to the breasts during lying-in.

*Of the Treatment of the BREASTS,
when the Mother supplies the Child
with the Milk.*

WHEN the mother supplies the infant with its natural aliment the milk, the practice is to be just the contrary of the former. Instead of preventing the milk from flowing to the breasts, we must use means to promote it for the nourishment of the infant: this is performed by *nature* with very little assistance from *art*. We have only to attend to the diet, not allowing too great a profusion in cordials; nor are we to prescribe, as *some* men-midwives have done lately, to all patients a low diet: the first will be productive of inflammation, and the latter, if strictly adhered to, may produce great relaxation, and impede the recovery of the woman.

In lying-in, if inflammation, or fever, ensue, the low diet may be absolutely necessary; but if no ill symptoms appear, such a regimen is improper. In all diseases, the accustomed diet of the patient ought to be par-

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ticularly considered. It would be in many instances highly irrational to treat two patients in the same disease alike, unless their diet, constitution, and other concurring circumstances of the case, from the exactest similarity, indicated such a method. If two persons were attacked with an inflammation, the one having been used to the greatest freedom of diet, and of a plethoric habit; the other moderate, rather abstemious, and of the contrary constitution, no sensible man would treat them in the same manner; for what would be a salutary method with the former, might prove fatal to the latter. It will be allowed, that there is a great difference in the ordinary diet of women according to their ranks in life. If we were to suppose, that the lower class drink freely of strong malt liquors, and not unfrequently spirits (which is no unreasonable supposition) and that those in higher rank, besides their natural delicacy, observed the greatest moderation in diet; it would be highly improper to treat two persons, under such contrary circumstances, in one manner during

during lying-in; and from fatal observation it is now well known, that the very low watry diet, that has been so strenuously recommended of late, has not been attended with success.

It cannot be reasonably supposed, that one accustomed to a freediet, could suddenly leave it off without its producing bad effects in the constitution; remarkable instances have lately occurred amongst people afflicted with the gout, to confirm this. We find, from experience, in every part of England, that where there is a moderate use of caudle, and such like common diet, that the women recover the fatigue of labour in a few days; and, on the contrary, where this watry diet is persisted in, the recovery of the women is much more tedious if they escape a fever, or other diseases which arise from weakness and relaxation.

The best rule, therefore, is, to treat women in lying-in as nearly as possible to their common methods of living, considering, at the same time, what exercise they used before delivery, and allow for the rest which is observed in lying-in. We may indulge them with every thing reasonable,

unless some unfavourable symptoms forbid such practice; a medium ought to be observed; for, strong food or cordials are as unexceptionable as the low diet, and to insist on either would be equally erroneous.

I always order those women who suckle to apply the child immediately to the breast on the accession of the milk; for a neglect of this is often productive of bad consequences. We ought not superstitiously to wait till the *third*, or any other particular day, but be entirely regulated by the secretion. From a neglect in this one circumstance, I remember a mortification of both nipples being the consequence, which case I had a considerable time under my care before I could perform a cure. In excoriation, or chaps of the nipple, the best method of cure is to prevent the child sucking; externally, some apply ointments of different kinds, but the cerus ointment, or unguentum, as it is commonly called, and most generally used, must be a dangerous application where the infant sucks, as it is charged with a quantity of white lead, which is well known to be poisonous. The only application
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which I use, is a weak solution of the vitriol. alb. tho' this, or any other application, ought to be removed before the child sucks. It must be acknowledged, that it often happens, that no application whatever will cure these cases, owing to the distention, and constant friction of the child's mouth in sucking; and these little excoriations, tho' often very small, occasion the most exquisite smarting pain to the mother.

Having already treated on the most simple diseases of the breasts in lying-in, I shall next proceed to those more complicated. In the treatment of the inflammations already mentioned, I have recommended the greatest simplicity. The whole of the practical part may be comprized in very few words; emptying the vessels, and preventing a fresh supply of blood to the parts: this is performed by abstinence from fluids, which prevents a fresh formation of chile, with very little assistance from medicine. However simple these methods may appear, they are in general successful; nor have I found any ill consequence whatever attend this plain mode of practice.

*On the Inflammation of the BREASTS;
when complicated with hardness
and Abscess.*

IN the former part I have supposed; that the inflammation was cured by the means recommended; but, it often happens, that the surgeon has not the first management of the case, or that those trivial methods which are used in common have been administered without success; in consequence of which, indurations are often formed in one or both breasts, and sometimes collections of matter, which cause the most torturing pains, and frequently occasion cold shiverings and feverish heats. These sometime continue many days, in proportion as the inflammation is violent, or the matter deeply seated. In some instances the matter forms a large abscess in one particular part; in others small tumors are formed in different parts of the breasts. These not suppurating at one time, render the patient miserable; for no sooner has one broke,
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than another in some other part of the breast is forming. I have known, in some obstinate cases, a successive collection of matter form for one or two months: during which time, from the exquisite and constant pain this occasions, the strength of the female has been greatly exhausted.

The common method of practice in these cases is to apply poultices, with the other remedies already mention'd; to preach up patience to the unfortunate sufferer; and the superstitious medicines for these purposes are innumerable. The abscesses formed in the breasts are often opened with a lancet, or if large with the knife; on these methods of cure I must make the following observations.

To place any dependance on external applications alone in the indurations or tumor is inconsiderate; a poultice may promote the suppuration of the abscess if necessary, but as to the other common applications they are highly ridiculous; and to enforce the necessity of patience to a person exhausted by pain and long suffering is inhuman; if relief can be speedily obtain'd.

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It ought to be remembered, that the breast is of a glandular substance, very vascular and nervous, subject to as incurable diseases as other glandular parts; and all such affections, it must be confessed, are very difficult of cure. In indurations of the glands in other parts, no dependance whatever would be placed on those trivial remedies already mentioned: but indeed the little opportunity men have had, till within this last century, of attending these complaints, is some excuse for their remaining in an unimproved state of cure.

The opening abscesses of the breasts is attended sometimes with serious consequences, especially if the incision is made large, for the wound, healing in a kind of fissure, there often remain many small fistulous ulcers; but I shall be more particular on this subject hereafter.

The success attending the common methods of practice is various. In some, after the opening of the abscess either by nature or art, the hardnesses insensibly resolve, and, with the application of simple dressings, the disease terminates favourably.

vourably. In others, after all the miseries from pain which can be imagined, there still remains the induration or hardness. This however the women in general take but little notice of, if it is not attended with pain during the early parts of life: the evil is more remote, and is seldom observed till it degenerates into a cancer, which most commonly happens between the age of thirty-six and fifty. From observation I must say, that more cancerous indurations and ulcers happen from the neglect of these hardnesses in the breasts, than from any other cause whatever; hence appears the necessity of attending to these diseases early. When however we reflect, that such a period of time elapses without any appearance of disease, that these complaints have been distributed in the hands of many, and none except pretenders to the art have ever made this branch their particular practice, and that their ignorance and self-interest have always prevented them from making public any useful discovery; the cause of this neglect will be obvious.

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Surgeons,

Surgeons, in general not practising midwifery, have never traced the disease to its first source; physicians have employed themselves in deep reasoning upon the nature of the disease, but never thought of any prevention; and men-midwives being seldom consulted in the cancerous induration, or ulcer, have applied to other improvements, which they probably considered of more importance. From all these causes then may be attributed the want of a more perfect knowledge of these glandular affections, and they have been, in all ages, sufficient for the afflicted to have recourse to the most ignorant and daring impostors; amongst whom may be numbered those, who artfully pretend to remove the hardness of the breast with a plaister, which is nothing more or less than a burning caustic, that gradually destroys the parts, and not unfrequently puts an end, in the most cruel manner, to the patient's existence.

*Of the CURE of Indurations and
Abscess of the BREASTS.*

I Have classed these two diseases together, as they commonly accompany each other; however, I shall begin with the treatment of the abscess, or impostumation.

When an abscess forms in the breast, not attended with hardness, the cure in general is easily accomplished by the abscess breaking, or by making a puncture on the most depending part. Here I am under the necessity of making some observations on opening abscesses of the breasts, for if this be performed in the common manner, it is frequently productive of evil consequences. It is a maxim amongst the English surgeons in general, to make large openings in cases where any matter is to be evacuated; and this doctrine is certainly very just in most abscesses, though I believe it is too implicitly followed in England. I must confess, I have observed a kind of barbarity in some of our surgeons,

geons, when they open abscesses; after they have made an opening large enough for their purpose, they force their fingers into the wound, which they handle with great roughness and inhumanity. The reason why I mention this, is, because such cruelty is unnecessary in the generality of abscesses; it has had likewise a dangerous influence on the minds of pupils, who, from endeavouring to excel their masters, have become divested of every principle of humanity.

In the abscesses of the breasts, we are either to wait till the abscess bursts, or, according to some writers, it is to be opened by a lancet. The first method is a doctrine handed down to us by tradition, and is generally most agreeable to the woman; and considering the ill consequences arising from incisions, their aversion seems not to be ill founded. I, who have been a close observer of practice, and have drawn my conclusions from facts only, can produce at any time a number of instances where large incisions of the breasts have proved incurable. So that,
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however just the practice of making large openings may be, in abscesses of other parts, in those of the breast it is not only extremely cruel, but likewise often unsuccessful. The following case, amongst many others, will illustrate what I have been advancing, and give an idea of the disease which large openings occasion.

Mary Lowe, Tottenham-court road, was in an hospital in town for indurated tumors of the breasts; she had several very large incisions made with a knife in different parts, to discharge some matter which was there collected, and was after this a considerable time in the hospital, without obtaining her cure of the indurations, nor could the parts, which had been cut, be healed. After this she applied to me, and I ordered her the method of cure, which I shall hereafter relate, and proper dressings were applied to the wounds. After persevering many months in this course, I could only soften the indurations, but by no means could I heal the parts that were cut, there large fissures remain; she is often in great pain from the fresh collections of matter forming

forming under the skin ; and the remainder of her life is likely to be miserable, although the indurations are perfectly cured.

From many other similar cases I can clearly prove, that large incisions are dangerous in these diseases. I have great reason to believe, that if the breasts had been left to break in the former, as well as many other cases, and proper internal remedies had been administered, that such accidents would not have ensued, nor would the patient have been rendered miserable from a cruel and unfeeling use of the knife : but I hope a milder practice will take place of this, to accomplish which is the chief intention of this little treatise.

In the cure of hardnesses of the breasts during lying-in, many circumstances are necessary to be considered ; as how long the woman has been delivered, of what habit and state of health, whether she suckles the infant, and lastly, if no particular bad symptoms attend, as fever, &c.

The more distant these accidents happen from the day of delivery, with the greater safety may we pursue the methods of cure.

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The habit and health of the patient is of considerable consequence, for the remedies cannot be administered safely to those who are too weak or low. I have not as yet observed any ill effects from the mother suckling the child, during the exhibition of the medicines ; but if the mother does not suckle the child, we may be more liberal in our manner of proceeding. When any particular symptoms appear, every gentleman, conversant in the practice of midwifery and medicine, will act agreeably to his own good sense.

In the cure of the induration and abscess, I begin with bleeding if the patient can bear it, which I repeatedly order if the inflammation is very violent, or does not subside. I have often remarked, that this does not prevent the formation of matter as some have imagined, who are great reasoners but indifferent practitioners. The same regimen is to be observed which I have directed in the simple inflammation, with cooling and gentle cathartic medicines : externally, whether abscesses are formed or not, I use camphor as a resolvent dissolved in oil, applied in a poultice ;
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and for alleviating the pain, the saturnine preparations are very useful. If these methods do not succeed, then recourse must be had to more powerful remedies. Those I use are alteratives given in small doses; and at the same time the camphorated julep may be taken, with the saline mixture; for this medicine admirably prevents any feverish heats from the use of such remedies. Nitre must not be given to any but the robust, for it is apt to cause disagreeable sensations in every part of the body, particularly in lying-in; if these remedies should cause a purging, then must opiates be used; the conf. damocrat. in small doses, I prefer to all others.

This method I can recommend for the schirrus, not only of the breasts, but in other glandular affections of the body, as the scrophulæ, or king's evil. I have cured by these remedies alone some cases which have been of long continuance, and many in the most delicate constitutions.

In opening abscesses of the breasts, if a large opening is absolutely necessary, and the part is not thin, a caustic is more proper than the knife; though I very rarely
use

use this last, for letting them break ought to be preferred to any other means. The abscess, if judiciously treated, is of no great consequence; the indurations are what we ought principally to attend to, which in general will be cured by the means recommended, if they be but skilfully administered. On the mode of applying the remedies, however, the success depends; for no alteratives should ever be given in these complaints, so as to excite the least irritation or uneasiness in the habit. In the administration of alteratives, the neutral salts are particularly beneficial; but these subjects may be more fully explained in a future treatise on the new methods of successfully treating the scorbutic, scrophulous, and cancerous disorders.

*Of the Indurations of the BREASTS,
which happen from various Causes.*

IT would be difficult to determine the original cause of these cases, some are imagined to arise from a blow, others from a peculiarity in the constitution; but whatever may be the causes, the cure in general is the same. I have seen instances of small indurations in the breasts, which are very hard and loose in young people, resist every internal medicine which has been administered. What is the consequence of such cases I have not as yet had proper opportunity to fully inform myself, but the strictest observations are making for this purpose. In other instances, the cure is easily performed by the remedies recommended in the cure of the hardness. Practitioners in general have been often too free in cutting for the schirrus of the breasts; this complaint ought to be left to nature, if internal remedies should not succeed, unless attended with great pain. From observation I

am convinced, that considerable mischief is done both by the knife and caustic. Neither has the success of such practices been equivalent to the misery of the patient, as may be collected from the writings of the most eminent surgeons and physicians, antient and modern. In some desperate cases of the cancer, especially those in which the hemlock, opium, and such like poisons have been administered, the cure becomes very difficult. I have however great reason to believe, that I have been consulted in such instances some months too late; I am concerned to say, that this late application of patients has been too frequently owing to the illiberal opposition of men in the profession, who are too indolent to attempt improvements themselves, but very capable of decrying the discoveries of others. I can affirm, from a long experience, and can prove by the testimony of many persons of rank, that cancerous ulcers of the breasts, womb, mouth, nose, and other parts are curable, by safe and mild remedies. A woman, who had suffered the

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amputation of one breast, before I saw her, the other afterwards becoming hard, extending in lumps under the arm, and exceedingly painful, has been lately cured. A collection of various cases will be hereafter published, and submitted to the consideration of the candid part of the faculty; if these cures shall be thought sufficiently conclusive to give a sanction to the practice; the manner of preparing the remedies, and their application to different constitutions shall be immediately communicated.

F I N I S