

**An essay on the nature and cure of scrophulous disorders, vulgarly called the King's evil / [John Morley].**

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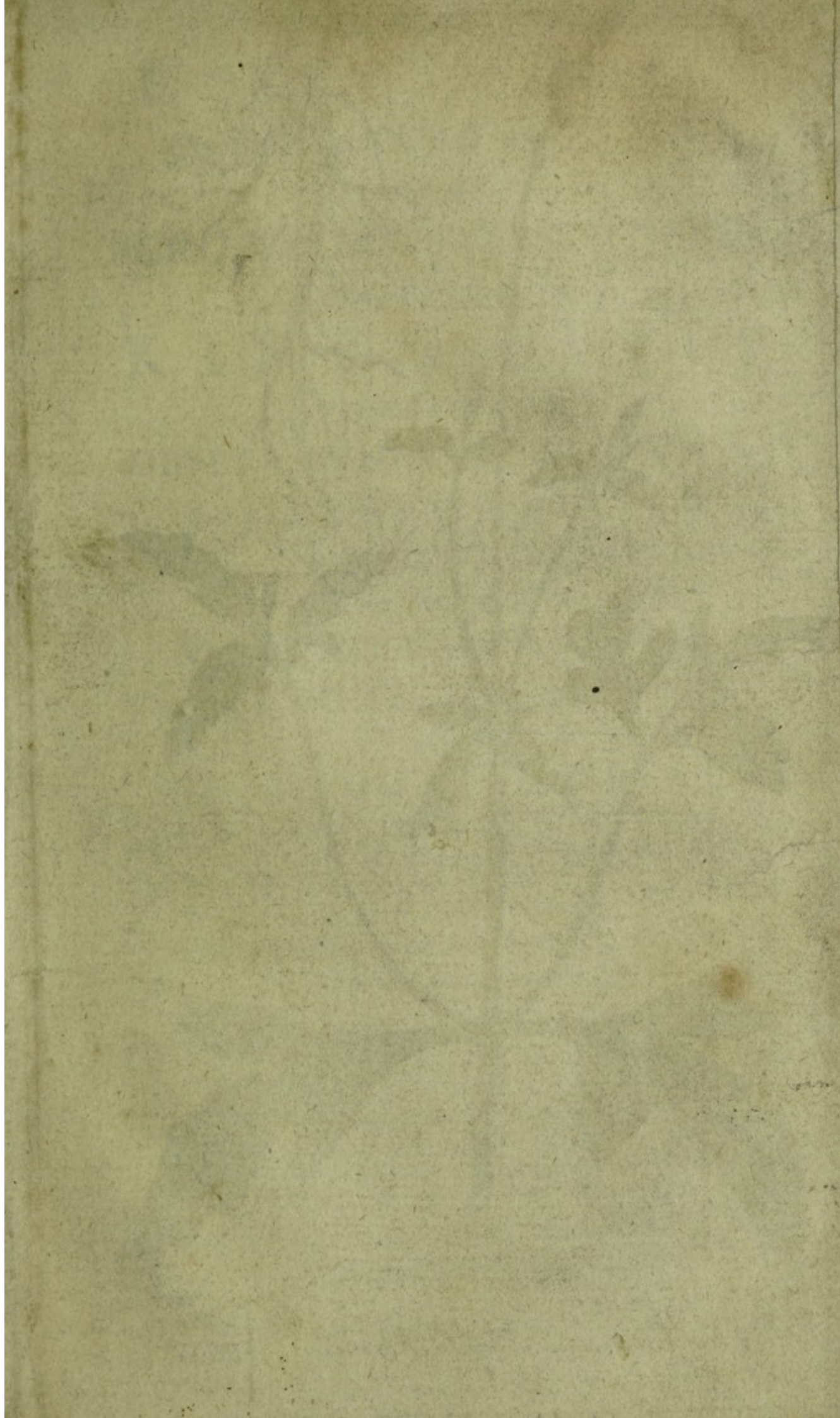
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*The Common Purple Vervain*

{ Flower.....A  
Seed.....B  
Root.....C

## E S S A Y,

On the NATURE and CURE

O F

SCROPHULOUS DISORDERS,

Commonly called the

K I N G ' S E V I L ;

DEDUCED FROM

OBSERVATION and PRACTICE.

T H E T E N T H E D I T I O N

With A D D I T I O N S .

A S A L S O , A

V A R I E T Y O F C A S E S ;

T H E R E M E D I E S I N T H E M U S E D ,

A N D

O C C A S I O N A L R E M A R K S .

To which is prefixed

A COLOURED PLATE of the HERB VERVAIN,  
and its ROOT.Published for the Good of Mankind; particularly  
the Common People.

By JOHN MORLEY, Esq;

*Of Halstead in Essex.*

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*Facts are stubborn Things.*

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L O N D O N :

Printed for JAMES BUCKLAND, at the Buck in Paternoster-Row. 1773.

[ PRICE ONE SHILLING. ]

E S S A Y

On the NATURE and CURE

SCROPHULOUS DISORDERS,

Commonly called the

KING'S EVIL;

DEDUCED FROM

OBSERVATION and PRACTICE.

THE TENTH EDITION

WITH ADDITIONS.



VARIOUS CASES;  
The REMEDY then used,

OCASIONAL REMARKS.

A General Table of the Cases  
and is found.

Published for the Good of Mankind; particularly  
the Common People.

By JOHN MORLEY, Esq;

Of the Middle Temple.

Printed by J. G. B. in the Strand.

LONDON:

Printed by James Bland, at the Back in Pall Mall.

[ Price One Shilling ]

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## P R E F A C E.

**A** Method of treating scrophulous Disorders, or the King's Evil, having been found by me greatly successful, I resolve to continue to publish this new Edition of many Cases I have had under my Care.

I do it to the End that Sufferers, so long as God may grant me Life and Health, may know to whom to apply for Relief gratis; or from the Cases I publish, gather how to cure themselves and Families; especially the Poor: Thereby steering clear of the many never-failing Medicines, so pompously set forth in Advertisements.

Those Practitioners in Medicine and Surgery, who have candour enough to own their Skill has been often baffled in scrophulous Cases, may attend to the Success my Methods have been blessed with: Those, who are so very learned and self sufficient as to think they know every thing, may, if they please laugh at me.

What I offer to the Public is the Result, not only of much Reading, but what is more essential, of many Years Practice on several thousand Subjects. Some quite cured; many greatly relieved; Limbs con-

demned to Amputation preserved; many turned out of Hospitals, as Incurables, cured; as well as others given over by very eminent Physicians and Surgeons.

I shall use the plainest Expressions possible, and point out the most simple and cheapest Remedies poor Persons may procure. I neither mind, or shall attend to, Criticisms. I shall be contented, if by my Description of the King's Evil or scrophulous Cases, where there is no Complication of other Disorders, any one may know them. I have found many very much dislike being told their Case was the King's Evil or scrophulous. Indeed they often are humoured by many of the Medical Faculty in this Disposition, calling it only Scorbutic. This I never do; but tenderly give my Sentiments without Reserve; and always conceal names, if required.

All I have related is strict Truth: Nor can it be supposed, as I take no Money for my Advice, that I wish to impose on any One. Moreover, for a Confirmation of what I assert, I have mentioned most of the Persons Names, who may be applied to.

To conclude; I would advise every One not to be disheartened at the Simplicity of the Process, or the Slowness of the Cure; or mix any other Medicines or Prescriptions with mine: For they may defeat the Methods I have laid down, and which have had the Success I shall circumstantially relate,

( 5 )  
A N

E S S A Y

On the NATURE and CURE

O F

SCROPHULOUS DISORDERS,

O R T H E

K I N G ' S E V I L :

**T**HE King's Evil is a Name given to a very grievous and obstinate Disease, ever since *Edward* the Confessor's Time; because said to be cured by him and other succeeding Kings, both of *England* and *France*. Above ninety-two thousand Persons are recorded to have been touched for it by King *Charles* the Second only: With what Success is variously related, disputed, and believed. Those who have time, may read Mr. *John Brown*, Surgeon to King *Charles* the Second, his Account of the King's Evil, and other Writers who treat of that Subject. This Disease is either hereditary or accidental. I have found, on a close Examination of Persons applying to me, not one in twenty without some Family Taint of it. The lowest



Degree of this Disorder seems to be the Swelling of the upper Lip, without any apparent Cause; which I look upon as an infallible Sign of the Evil in the Habit of Body, though no other Appearances. Sometimes both Lips, the Nose, and Cheeks inflame and swell; the lower Jaw-bones are often troubled with Swellings on, and about them, and cause bad and rotten Teeth. Frequent Ulcers on the Gums; and many Swellings under the Ears, Jaws, and Chin, and many Parts of the Neck and shoulders; sometimes smooth, moveable, and not discoloured, or painful; at other Times come to Sores, break, and run much for a length of Time, are healed with great Difficulty, and often break out again, if the Habit of Body be not altered. The Eyes are very frequently scrophulous, looking inflamed, and of a dead, reddish, or leaden Colour: and sometimes white Specks on or near the Pupil, or Sight, which generally discharge great Quantities of clear, saltish Water, of so corrosive a Nature, that it takes the Skin off the Cheeks. Often small running Ulcers at the inner Corners of the Eye, which discharge a whitish thick Matter, which glues up the Eye-lids in a Morning, so that they are opened with Difficulty. When these Complaints withstand the usual Methods of Bleeding, Blistering behind the Ears, Cupping, Setons, and almost numberless Etceteras for Months together, we may venture to pronounce them  
scrophulous

scrophulous. What some People fancy to be the St. Anthony's Fire, is often a Species of this Disorder. Swelling on the Knees and Elbows, without Redness or Inflammation, vulgarly called White Swellings, so that the Bones themselves seem enlarged near the Joints, are to be accounted scrophulous. When Sores or Ulcers have been long near the Joints or Bones, and will not heal with common Applications, it is a shrewd Sign the Bones are foul or carious: In that Case Pieces of Bone, sharp, ragged, and seemingly Worm-eaten, and little Pieces like coarse Sand are seen on the Plaisters among the Pus or Matter when taken off. When the Gristles or Cartilages on the Head of the Bones are consumed, then follows a stiff Joint, by the Bones growing together. The Muscles under the Hams, and the Inside of the Elbows, I have often found to have been divided by the Knife, by unskilful Hands, so that the Joint has been rendered useless. I have met with Swellings within the Throat, the Tonsils greatly tumefied and inflamed, threatening a Suffocation, nothing appeared outwardly. This Distemper may shew itself like a Leprosy, with a very thick white scurf on the Head and elsewhere. When the Disorder falls on the Lungs, beware of a galloping Consumption, as it is frequently called, and is too often fatal to young People, by not attending scrupulously to this Disorder. After the Measles and Small-pox, weak Eyes  
and

and running Sores are not unusual, which People seldom think proceed from the Evil; though it is too often the Case. A very dry thick crusty Scab near the Elbows, and Joints, is sometimes seen; which, when removed is soon succeeded by others of the same Nature, which are difficult to cure, except the Constitution be mended. The Glands under Womens Armpits frequently swell or tumefy; and their Breasts troubled with hard, unequal, painful Tumours or Swellings, which have been too often taken for Cancers, and the Knife ignorantly used, to the irreparable Damage of the poor Sufferer. Such Breasts neglected, or wrongly treated, often degenerate into real Cancers, when every one knows the Case is deplorable. Should the Bones be foul the Case is bad, though not always to be despaired of: Sometimes the Marrow of the Bone is touched, or the Disease begins in the Bone itself; which may be observed when the Bones themselves seem swelled about the Heads, and afterwards Sores break out and discharge a thin oily Matter, then is it truly a deplorable Case. How often is the Disease conveyed to tender Infants, by scrophulated Nurses, who, till their hidden infirmities are discovered, shall look like the Picture of Health? When Persons in good Health, free from excess of Humours, and who on looking back find their Parents have been sound, shall

shall nevertheless find Indications of the Evil in their Children, let them not be astonished : for it is too common. If, upon a curious Enquiry amongst the Relations of a Family, any of the aforesaid Symptoms have been remembered, though a Generation or two distant, the Complaint may be suspected to be the Evil. It will lie dormant many Years ; appearing and disappearing in some Families for many Generations, and shew itself in various Forms, in all Ages, Sexes, and Conditions, from the Birth to the Age of 85, as I have experienced. It shall happen that one amongst numerous Relations, or many Children of the same Parents, shall only shew it in one Instance, and all the rest be free and clear. In short, this Disease appears in so many Forms, that it would be almost endless to attempt an entire Description. I think what has been said sufficient to inform Mankind what in ordinary Cases is the simple King's Evil not complicated. All these, and such like Complaints, are removed by much Time, Patience, and a steady Adherence to my Directions ; even for Years in some Subjects. One constant Method I use to every Patient, without Distinction, let their Complaints be what they will. If, upon examination, I have Reason to suspect them to be scrophulous, is to give them a Piece of fresh common Purple Vervain Root, about three or four Inches long, and about the Size of the Patient's little  
Finger,

Finger, if Men or Women, to young Children and Infants as large as their Thumb, and so in Proportion, but not less; because it shrinks much, and contains but little Virtue. Many Patients have been grossly imposed on, by the Venders of these Roots, who quote my Name to deceive the ignorant Buyer, and I must repeat it, that if a Vervain Root is not that Bigness I recomend, People are greatly deceived, and have little or no Benefit at all from it. Let the Buyer take Heed. All the Fibres are to be cut off smooth, and as little of the Rind as possible, to be worn always at the Pit of the Stomach, tied with a Yard of white Sattin Ribband, half an inch wide, round the Neck of Men and Women of an ordinary Stature: If taller an Ell will be wanting; and Children in Proportion. To the better Sort of Females, I propose the Ribband to be fastened through an Eyelet-hole or Loop in the Bosom of the Shift, and so worn, which will be no Eye-sore. A Quarter of a Yard of Ribband will be enough; but no other coloured Ribband is proper: because the Dye in some colours may be prejudicial. The Root must never be wetted, not when fresh gathered, but wiped clean with a dry Cloth. It must not be sown up, or covered with any thing, but always worn naked at the Pit of the Stomach. If after wearing, the Ends of the Fibres stick out and hurts or pricks the Stomach, they must be  
be

cut off with a sharp Knife, as at first. I always cut a little Notch round the upper End of the Root, and tie the Ribband with a double fast Knot, lest it slip out and be lost. When it has been worn a few Days, it will shrink, by the Heat of the Stomach; then the Ribband must be tied faster. A Buckle or Button on the Bosom of a Man's Shirt, will be convenient, to keep the Root next the Skin, as well in Bed as up. Observe the Root be not decayed or rotten, but fresh and green when applied; and it is necessary to have a fresh one every Spring and Fall. When I put this Root about the Patient's Neck, I am not ashamed to say, "Pray God give his Blessing to these my Endeavours, \*" or some such short Ejaculation; not by Way of Charm, or such like Nonsense, but to remind the Patient of our Dependance on the Divine Help, co-operating with the natural Means he has provided for our Comfort and Relief: and surely there is as good Reason to beg his Blessing on this, as on our daily Food. Here in some of my former Editions I was at some Pains in noticing how this Ceremony, if so it might be called, had and might cause Laughter. I will now only say that the joyful Testimony of the Cured through my Means, is a much greater Heartfelt Satisfaction to me than the Derision of all others will ever give me Uneasiness. The experience I have had of the good Effects

\* See Eccles. Chap. xxxviii, Verse 14. \

Effects of the Vervain-Root is enough for me ; nevertheless, I will just mention that the great *Boyle* in his *Essays* has treated of the strange Subtilty of Effluvia ; how specific Medicines are reconcileable to the Corpuscular Philosophy, and how advantageous simple Medicines are.

This Root being of such general Use in all Stages of the Evil, it will be proper to give a plain Description of the Herb Vervain, the Place and Manner of its Growth, that it may be easier found and known by the common People. The common Vervain grows with a fibrous or stringy Root, of a light brown Colour, very hard, of a bitterish Taste ; sends up Stalks, many half a yard high, squarish, solid, somewhat rough, of a purplish Green, and branched : the Leaves stand upon the Stalks in Couples over-against each other, hairy on both Sides, wrinkled, and jagged with deep Cuts, and wide towards the Stalk End, something like Oak Leaves when half grown, of a deeper green above than beneath. The Flowers are ranged in long Spikes, of a very pale Purple, divided into five Parts at the Top, succeeded by four small longish Seeds joined together. The Flower is very small, the two uppermost Segments appearing like a Crest, and turned upwards. It grows very often in Highways, Court-yards, chalky, gravelly, and stony uncultivated Places, and blows in July, August, September, and October. Some call it the Holy Herb ; in Latin

Latin *Verbena*; in Welsh, Cas gangythrel. All the Herb is very bitter and astringent. It is much celebrated, for almost numberless Virtues, by ancient Authors. By the Moderns hardly noticed; not being fashionable in the present Practice. This Plant, by a Chymical Analysis, yields several acid Liquors; Abundance of Oil; pretty much volatile concrete Salt and Earth: It is therefore probable, that it contains some Sal-Ammoniac, united with a good deal of Sulphur. It is vulnerary, cleansing, and opening. The other Medicines and Applications, with their Preparations, such as common People may manage, will be found in the following Cases.

### C A S E I.

PHILIP WINTERFLOOD, late of *Halsted*, in *Essex*, a Journeyman Barber, aged 35, formerly living at the Sign of the *Peruke*, opposite the *White-Horse*, at *Mile-End*, near *London*, who was a fat Man, was for eight Years miserably afflicted with several strumous Ulcers under both Breasts: some were above an Inch deep, discharged much foul corrupted Matter, had done so for Years, could get no Help, and had the Evil hereditary in his Family many Years. This poor Man was in *Halsted* Workhouse, where his Diet, and Attendance were not of the best. The first  
 Thing



Thing I did was to give him the Vervain Root to wear about his Neck, and ordered him some gentle Physic once a Week. To wit, Syrup of Roses one Ounce, Manna one Ounce, dissolved in a Pint of skimmed Milk, for one Dose : Sometimes he got it, sometimes he did not. I gave him a Phial of Liquor to wash his Sores Night and Morning, of Vinegar one third, Red Port Wine one third, and Vervain Water distilled one third ; some Ointment to spread on a Rag, and lay on the Sores after washing them. The Ointment was made with green Vervain Leaves with about a fourth Part of House-leek Leaves both bruised, and boiled in Pork Lard, till it was of a good Consistence, and all the Watry Part wasted, then strained and kept for Use. It may be made stronger by boiling the same Quantity of Herbs in the same Liquor as before, Note ; instead of distilled Vervain Water, which poor People cannot so easily procure, the Infusion of the Vervain Leaves may be used ; that is, hot boiling Water poured upon the Herb, like Tea, and covered ; when cold may be used in its Stead. This Method cured this Man in six Months, nothing else was used, and he continues well for aught I know to this Day.

## C A S E II.

*Robert Heatherly*, Son of the Reverend *Mr. Heatherly*, late Minister of *Clavering* in *Essex*, formerly Master of the School in *Christ-Hospital, London*, aged Twenty-three, was an Out-Patient of *St. Bartholomew's Hospital* for the King's-Evil, had the second Joint of his Thumb so affected, that the Bone came out, and many other Sores healed up and seemed cured: Not long after, the Disorder fell into both his Eyes, with some small unbroken Tumors in the Neck and under both Ears, and had been blind some Months. He came to me with his Eyes covered; has been well some Years, and is now in the Excise. I gave this man a Root; ordered him a gentle Purge of half Manna and Half Syrup of Roses, in thin Milk, once a Week, for three Months; to leave off all Covering to his Eyes, and wash them often with cold Spring-Water, dropping some into the Eyes; this restored him perfectly to his Sight.

## C A S E III.

*Ann Nunn*, Daughter of *John Nunn*, Farmer, near *Laindon-hills*, in *Essex*, aged Twenty-one, had a large scrophulous Tumor opened on the right under Jaw-Bone by *Mr. Earl*, of *Hornden*; it discharged mostly

a thin watery Matter; but as he could not heal the Wound, she came to me. I gave her a Root, and ordered some gentle Purges, but no Salts, for I always find them bad in scrophulous Cases, and gave her some Vervain Ointment for the Wound, which soon healed it up.

#### C A S E IV.

*Elizabeth Reynolds*, Wife of *Joseph Reynolds*, of *Halsted*, Farmer, aged Twenty-five, came to me with her Lips much swelled; it had been coming three Years; the inside of the Nose and upper Lip broke out and very scabby, and a large uneven scrophulous Tumor had been encreasing three Quarters of a Year, under the right Ear, and several small Swellings on the Left Side of the Neck. I dispersed all the Swellings, and cured her other Complaints in six Months; since which she had no Returns. First I gave her a Root, and purged her with gentle Physic. I also gave her some Vervain Ointment for the Lip and Nose, and ordered her to take some green Hemlock Leaves, bruise and apply them warm once a Day to the large Tumor: In six Weeks the Tumor was greatly diminished; but as the Hemlock worn constantly somewhat affected the Head and Eyes, I ordered it to be applied only at Night and to lay on till the Morning, which in two or three Months reduced the Swelling entirely

tirely, all the small Tumors vanished, and were quite cured. *Note*, if the Hemlock affect the Head, as it sometimes will do, if applied near the Head and Neck; some gentle Physic must be often used, or the Quantity of Hemlock lessened. If neither will do, leave it quite off.

### C A S E V.

*William Ardley*, Weaver, of *Coggeshall*, in *Essex*, aged Forty, had been much troubled with the Tooth and Ear-ach; afterwards a Sore broke within-side the left Cheek and discharged near a Pint of stinking Matter, at several Times, then a large Tumor arose on the left Jaw-bone and broke into three Ulcers outwardly, and discharged much Matter. The Sore within the cheek healed up, when it was with difficulty he could open his Mouth. I gave him a Root, and ordered him once a Week a Purge of Jalap, five or six Grains, more or less, as it operated; two Motions a Day sufficient: Applied to the Sores without Side the Cheek a Poul-tice of white Bread, Milk, white Lill<sup>r</sup> Roots, and Grounsel, all mashed together<sup>y</sup> and laid on warm Morning and Night; this sufficiently digested the Sore, then I healed it up with the following black Plaister. Take white Lead finely powdered two Ounces, Olive Oil, four Ounces, mix these in a large earthen Pipkin; boil ov

a slow Fire, stir all the while with a Piece of Lead till it grows of a deep brown or blackish Colour. This will take an Hour or more. Let the Pipkin be about a Quarter full; lest it boil over, which it is very apt to do. Let it cool in a Gally-pot, and keep it for Use. When you want it, warm the Point of a Knife, and spread it pretty thick on black Silk or Linen Rag, apply it warm, and it will stick, if not too much boiled. Do not pull off the Plaisters lest you hurt the Sore; when it falls off itself, apply a fresh one as long as wanted.

#### C A S E VI.

*Deborah Alston, Wife of Thomas Alston, of Heney, in Essex, aged Twenty-four, came to me with a running Ulcer about the middle of the outside of her left Thigh, which had been healing and running for ten Years; a small Ulcer near the left Breast, and small Kernels, sometimes about the Neck and Throat, which shewed the complaint to be scrophulous: she had been twice salivated, and much done to little purpose. I gave her a Root, ordered Rose Leaves boiled in Whey for a gentle Purge once a Week, to wash the Ulcers twice a Day with a strong Infusion of Hemlock Leaves, and to apply a Rag spread with Elder Ointment over them. About two Months after, she felt a piece of Bone very loose: I ordered her then to*  
 apply

apply much Lint, wetted with the Infusion Morning and Night, and the Elder Ointment as before. Three Weeks after, the Point of a Bone sticking out, she herself, with the Point of a Penknife, enlarged the Wound, took out a Piece of Bone, and examining the Wound with her Finger, took out two more Pieces, followed by much Blood: A Week after, she brought the three Pieces to me; the Wound looked clean, healed up in a Month's Time; she has no Lameness, walks well, enjoys good Health, and feels no more Prickings or Signs of any more Pieces of Bone. Two of the Exfoliations are each two Inches and an Half long, and one Inch broad, the other two Inches long and three Quarters of an Inch broad; weighing altogether a Quarter of an Ounce. Some Parts looked black and some white, and as if Worm-eaten. The whole when laid together measured seven Inches. *Note*, Elder Ointment is made in the Spring, by boiling the young Leaves in Mutton Suet till the Moisture is wasted, or in Pork Lard. To make it strong, add the same Quantity of Leaves as before, after straining the first Leaves from the Liquor, and repeat this three Times. In Winter, when no leaves, take the tender Bark of the last Summer's Shoots, scrape and boil them as above, and keep for Use.

## C A S E VII.

*Robert Ruff*, aged Twenty-three, Son of Mr. *James Ruff*, Quarter-Master of Sir *Robert Rich's* Dragoons, was quartered at *Chelmsford*, in *Essex*: He was bit by a Monkey on the left Side of his Neck: it was sore; he had many scrophulous Swellings appeared under his Chin and round about his Neck, hard, and oftentimes very painful, and many small Pustules breaking out like a salt Humour in many Parts. I gave him the Vervain Root to wear about his Neck, and ordered him a gentle Purge of Jalap, in thin Milk, once a Week; the other six Days to take a Dram of Antimony finely powdered, or levigated, mixt with the same Quantity of Loaf Sugar beat fine, to wash it down with a Quarter of a Pint of Ground-ivy Tea, to continue this Course six Months, and to use Vervain Ointment to the Sores. An Acquaintance of his, whom he recommended to my Care, assures me he told him he had the Happiness of being perfectly cured, with God's Assistance, and declares, no other Remedies he had ever used, had any Effect, but mine.—This was several Years after the Cure.

## C A S E VIII.

*John Butcher*, of *Bocking* in *Essex*, Bay-Weaver, aged Thirty. He first felt a dashing Pain strike suddenly into the lower Joint of the Fore-finger of his right Hand; and in about a Month, all the other Fingers and Thumb were affected in the same Manner; and so contracted, that he could not stir them even with the other Hand, without great Pain. No Discolouration, or any perceivable Tumour, Swelling, or preternatural heat, to the Touch of himself or others. This Man I restored to the full Use of his Hand, Fingers, and Thumb, by the following Method: I gave him a Root; ordered a Purge of Rose Leaves, boiled in Whey, once a Week; directed him to boil Cabbage Leaves bruised in Water; bathe his Hand in the warm Liquor, Morning and Night, for half an Hour at a Time, and to rub all the Joints, after bathing, with the Vervain Ointment. This Man had several Relations troubled with the Evil; I therefore treated him as a scrophulated Patient, and cured him in two Months. He was discharged from the *Essex* Militia, as unfit; but after Cure admitted again.



( 22 )  
C A S E IX.

*Robert London, Son of Robert London, of Bradfield Combust, in Suffolk, aged Thirty-two, had a Fever which held about a Week. Three Months after, thirteen Tumors rose about the Legs, Thighs, and Buttocks, had been all opened by a Surgeon, and discharged so violently, that he was reduced to a meer Skeleton. He was brought to me in a Cart, with a Bed in it, being unable to move Hand or Foot, or to be moved without great Trouble. I went to the Cart; he looked like a dead Corpse; his Stomach was gone, and his Visage very ghastly, This Man's Sores were all tented, which I ordered to be pulled out; all the Dressings to be laid aside; all the Sores to be gently syringed twice a Day with a strong Decoction of Hemlock, Milk-warm, dry Lint to be applied, and lest it should stick, Elder Ointment spread on a Rag over all. I moreover ordered him daily half a Dram of Antimony, finely powdered, with an equal Quantity of Loaf Sugar, and to wash it down with Ground-ivy Tea. I also put a Root about his Neck. In three Weeks Time his Stomach returned; his Sores began to heal; and in two Months the Surgeon wrote he was quite well. This, by many, is called the Running Evil.*

C A S E

## C A S E X.

*Susan Ottley*, of *Bocking* in *Essex*, single Women, aged twenty-fix, came to me with almost numberless Ulcers and fungous scabby Excrecences from the Top of the right Shoulder down below the Nipple of the right Breast, all hollow likean Honey Comb. She had a deep Ulcer on the inside of the Arm, near the right Arm-pit, one near her Shoulder, one within-side the Arm about three Inches above the Elbow, and one almost under the right Buttock, bad Stomach, bad Health and Complexion, had this Disease hereditary; had one Sister died of it; another had it in her Eyes, of which I cured her. This Person came and lived near me, so that I saw her once in eight or ten days, and I effected the Cure in the following Manner: I first gave her a Root, and applied a Plaister of Sperma Ceti and Sallad Oil, to the Scabs on the Shoulder Neck, and Breast, which made them fall off; afterwards I applied the Black Plaister, as in Case V. which being changed and renewed, as occasion required, at length healed up all the Sores. All the Time of her Cure I gave her daily a Dram of Antimony, finely powdered mixed with half a Dram of Loaf Sugar, and to drink a Cup full of Ground-ivy Tea after it. If it gave more than two Stools in twenty-

four Hours I lessened the Dose, and sometimes increased it as I found her body in order. I continued this Course many Months; all her Sores are now well, she has a good Stomach, a healthy florid Countenance, and so likely to continue. I advised her to purge gently every Spring and Fall with Jalap three or four Times.

### C A S E XI.

*Mary Bingham, Wife of Adam Bingham, Husbandman, of Cressing, lately living at Patifwick in Essex, aged Twenty-eight, was led to me having been totally blind for twelve Months. Both eyes looked as almost covered over with Cobwebs of a dead leaden Colour, run much scalding Water, mixed with a white thick Matter from the Corners of her Eyes, and almost continually dashing Pains about her Forehead, with many scrophulous Breakings out, about the Corners of her Mouth, and several other Places. I gave her a Root of Vervain to wear about her Neck, ordered her to purge once a Week, with dried Damask Rose Leaves, boiled in Whey; gave her a phial of distilled Vervain Water, to drop five or six drops cold into each Eye, four or five Times a Day, and to Wash them every Morning with the coldest Spring Water,*

ter. This Method, in a few Months, restored her Sight, so that she can now see to spin, and do any common Work. Three Years after she shewed me her right Breast very hard and full of Pain; this I judged to proceed from the old Complaint, for Want of proper Care. I ordered her to poultice it with Half white Nettle Leaves, and Half Elder Leaves, warm, Morning and Night, which restored the Breast to be as well as the other. This Case shews this Disorder is subject to Return, without due Care and Caution.

## C A S E XII.

*Eleanor Bullmer*, kept the *Golden Lyon* in *Newmarket, Suffolk*, aged 55, had a violent Rash came out all over her, then fell into the left Leg, and produced a very large foul, deep, stinking Ulcer, almost all round the Small of her Leg, five or six Inches long; the Muscles that serves to bend the great Toe and Foot upwards, bare and dry as a Horn, an Inch or more in Length, and grown about with much proud Flesh. This Woman had not been able to stir off her Couch, for a Year and an Half without great Difficulty, and two stilts under her arms. A great Physician told her, if she went to an Hospital, the Ulcer might be healed in two Months, but in all probability it would kill her. Living at *Newmarket*, several Physicians

cians saw her after I took her in Hand. The Muscle of the Leg is rotted out, so that she cannot bend her Foot upwards, and must always go limping. She goes about her House without Crutches, but now and then uses an under-hand Staff, especially up Steps. The Ulcer is now very clean, and not above the Bigness of Half a Crown; the Woman is in good Health and Spirits, and able to manage her House herself, having, since I first saw her, lost her Husband. I gave her a Root, judging the Case scrophulous, and ordered the Ulcer to be cleansed twice a day from its Filth, with a Decoction of Hemlock, and then to apply the Herb bruised with Pork-Lard and fine Oatmeal, warm, as a Poultrice, fresh twice a Day as long as wanted, and at the same Time to use the following Diet-drink, to wit, Take Senna four Ounces; of sharp-pointed Dock-Root, Half a Pound; great Water Dock Root, Half a Pound; Polypody-Roots Half a Pound; all sliced very thin; Crude Antimony grossly powdered, one Pound, and tied up in a Rag: Boil all in three Gallons of Sweet-wort, till one Gallon is wasted; strain it when cool enough; work it with a Spoonful of Yeast; add white Nettles, green Broom, and Ground-ivy, of each bruised a Handful; let all work together: when done, strain and bottle up close for Use. Of this Liquor she drank a Coffee-Cupful Morning and Night, and was to increase or lessen the Dose as it operated; two Motions in twenty-four Hours are suffi-

cient. she found great Benefit by it. She was also to anoint her Leg round the Ulcer with Elder Ointment. As the Ulcer is now brought to good Condition and small Compass, I think it much better for her Health, at her Time of Life, that it continue open, rather than heal it quite up. *Note*, It is best in Summer Time to make but Half the Quantity of Diet-drink at once, lest it turn sour and vomitive; it must then be thrown away and fresh made. I cured her Son of the Evil in his Eyes at the same Time; and in the Manner as related in Case II.

### C A S E XIII.

*John Nicolls*, Son of *Zachariah Nicolls*, Miller, of *Little Ashen*, near *Dunmow*, in *Essex*, aged Seven, had a scrophulous Swelling on the great Toe of the left Foot; several small running Ulcers on the same, which discharged a thin, corrosive, watery Humour, for Half a Year, and the Evil a little in the left Eye. I gave this Child a small Root; ordered Syrup of Roses and Manna, equal Parts, in thin Milk once a Week, for a gentle Purge; to wash his Eyes with the coldest Spring Water every Day, and a Cataplasm of a Garden Snail out of a shell, beat to a Mash, with the same Quantity of Garden Parsley, applied to the Toe, fresh twice in twenty-four Hours; this perfectly cured the Disorder in three Months.

C A S E

## C A S E XIV.

- *Matthew Byford*, Son of *Abel Byford*, of *Little Stamford*, in *Essex*, aged Eighteen, had a large Tumor arose on the upper Part of his left Thigh, which had become an Ulcer, and run much thick Matter. An Inch above the Ulcer was a very red inflammatory Swelling, which seemed to communicate with the Ulcer. I gave him a Root, and ordered to purge once a Week, with equal Parts of Manna and Syrup of Roses, dissolved in Cheese Whey, for two Months, and to inject a Decoction of Hemlock into the running Ulcer; then to apply a Poultice of Half white Nettle Leaves, by some called Archangels, and Half Elder Leaves, beat into a Mash, with a little Pork Lard and fine Oatmeal, fresh and warm, twice a Day, over both Ulcer and Tumor. In three Months a perfect Cure was made.

## C A S E XV.

*Elizabeth Golden*, Wife of *John Golden*, of *Water Beauchamp*, in *Essex*, Husbandman, had a most violent hot salt Humour in her left Leg, which broke almost into numberless Water Bladders; itched much, was greatly inflamed; and the Flesh hardened the Inside of her Thigh on the same side began to be affected in the like Manner. I advised her to drink  
Half

Half a Pint of Tea, made with the common red Dock Roots sliced thin, Morning and Night, or boiled in Cheese Whey; then to wash her Leg and Thigh all over with an Infusion of Green Hemlock Leaves, and to anoint the same with Elder Ointment; in three Months she came to me almost well; but complained of a Coldness at her Stomach, for which I ordered a gentle purge of Jalap, with a little grated Ginger once a Week. About two Months after she came to thank me, being quite free of her Complaints. *Note,* No Root prescribed, as I thought it more scorbutic than scrophulous.

### C A S E XVI.

*Edward Howlet, of Burnham, in Essex,* Husbandman, aged 30, had a Tumour that appeared and disappeared at Times near the right Jugular, for a Year; afterwards it swelled as large as a Halspenny Loaf, then was poulticed by a Surgeon's Direction, but it did neither supurate or disperse, but was opened: some Part cut away, and discharged a little thick bloody Matter. It had been cut eleven Times, as fast as the Fungous kept growing, and discharged much of the same Sort of Matter. When he came to me the Fungous was large and flat, with thick Edges like a Cake laid on the Part; the Edges were ulcerated, it was three Inches in Diameter, and one Inch thick, the Man well in every other



other Respect: As I apprehended this to be a scrophulous Case, I gave him a Root to wear at his Stomach, ordered to purge gently twice a Week with Damask Rose Leaves, boiled in Cheese Whey, to apply Slips of black Plaister, as in Case V. to the Ulcers round the Edge of the Fungous, and over all, the Hemlock Leaves bruised and very hot, twice a Day. He was in a Month much mended; in three Months the Fungous almost wasted; and some Months after he came to shew me, he was quite well, not the least Remains of the Fungous or any Ulcer, but the Neck smooth and even, and no Complaint whatever.

### C A S E XVII.

*Elizabeth Hart*, Daughter of *Thomas Hart*, of *Earls Colne, Essex*, Husbandman, aged Twenty, had a Swelling on the Wind-pipe, which compressed it so much as to cause a great Difficulty in swallowing, her Throat very sore within-side; had been increasing two Years, her Lips often cracked and bled. I gave her a Root, directed to purge gently often, with Syrup of Roses and Manna in Cheese Whey or thin Milk, and to apply a Poultice of a Garden Snail and Parsley bruised, fresh Morning and Evening; this produced many small Pimples, which discharged some little watery Matter, then disappeared, and others in a Day or two in  
like

like Manner succeeded, until all the Humour was discharged, and the Swelling quite gone. I moreover ordered her to bruise eight or ten Millepedes or Sow Bugs, make them into a Pill with fresh Butter, and going to Rest to let it lay at the Root of her Tongue, so as to melt gradually, till the Soreness within-side the Throat was no more; these Methods in three Months removed all her Complaints.

### C A S E XVIII.

*Joseph Traylin, of Toppesfield, in Essex,* Cooper, aged Forty, had several Tumours and Ulcers on the Back of his Right Hand, which rendered it useless, and some small Swellings about his Groin and Arm-pits; has the Evil strong in the Family; found no Help from the Surgeon, so came to me; I gave him a Root, and ordered to purge weekly for six Weeks, with Damask Rose Leaves boiled in Whey, sweetened with Manna, and to apply a Poultice of White Nettle Leaves beat to a Mash, with a little Pork Lard, and fine Oat-meal, fresh and warm twice a Day, to the Back of the Hand; in a Week he found great Benefit, and in a Fortnight more, the Swellings on the Hand were all down and well; he came about two Months after, his Hand quite firm and well, and all his other Complaints gone.

## C A S E XIX.

*Mary Tyler, Wife of William Tyler, of Halstead, Husbandman, aged Thirty-six, had the Evil breaking out all over her at Times, for many Years. When she came to me had both Lips monstrously swelled, and her Mouth so very sore, that it was painful for her to get her Victuals into it, her Nose swelled, and all the lower Parts of her Face and Chin almost one intire Scab, with many scrophulous Breakings-out on the upper Part of her Face; all her Neighbours told her she ought, for Shame, to cover her Face when she went into the Street; she had many other Breakings-out of the same Kind on both Legs and Arms, which were all very much inflamed. I gave her a Root, and ordered gentle Jalap Purges twice a Week; and for constant Drink, a Handful of Ground Ivy Leaves, and about an Ounce of common Red Dock Roots sliced thin, and boiled in two Quarts of Water, covered, till a Pint is boiled away, strained and kept for Drink the next Day, and so constantly, except she purged; the Mouth to be washed twice a Day with an Infusion of green Hemlock Leaves, and all Scabs on the Face, Legs, and Arms, or other Places likewise; but to be careful she swallowed none, or touched her Eyes; then to anoint with the Elder Ointment. As she lived by me, I saw her frequently*

frequently, and sometimes found it proper to add Half Hemlock Ointment to the other, that is made by boiling the green Leaves of Hemlock, bruised in Hog's Lard, and strained: If it wants to be stronger, boil the same Quantity of the Hemlock Leaves in the same Liquor two or three Times. She is now well, and her Face clean and smooth, and no scrophulous Symptoms. *Note.* All Ointments should be boiled in earthen Pots; for Metal is corrosive.

### C A S E XX.

The next Case I shall give as drawn up by the Patient himself.

I *John Hickman*, Gardener to the Right Honourable Lady *Bateman*, at *Yeldham*, in *Essex*, aged 50 Years; six Months since, having a violent rheumatick Pain struck into my Right Arm and Hand, with great Weakness, my Hand grew very thick, and my Fingers stood out stiff and immoveable, and quite useless, that I could not lift my Hand to my Head, nor take up an Ounce Weight off the Table with it; the Flesh pitted much, without Heat or Discolouration. I had a small Ulcer on the Wrist near my Hand. I was advised, and had a Letter of Recommendation to the most eminent Surgeons in *London*, to whom I applied without any Success. After I came Home,

I was advised to apply to Mr. *Morley*, and three Weeks after I had been with him, I could stir my Fingers, and in ten Weeks Time the Swelling of my Hand was wholly gone, the Ulcer is entirely healed, and now by the Blessing of God I can use my Hand and do my Work as usual, and never was in a better State of Health in my Life : as witness my Hand.

*February, 1766.*

JOHN HICKMAN.

This Person was cured by the following Method. I gave him a large Vervain Root to wear at his Stomach, and directed him to purge once a Week with ten Grains of Jalap, and as much Cream of Tartar, and lessen the Quantity if more than three or four Motions. I directed him to boil Half a Pound of Salt-petre in a Quart of Spring Water to a Pint, and to apply Cloths three or four Times double, wetted in the Liquor pretty warm, three Times in twenty-four Hours, a Quarter of an Hour at a Time. To wrap up the Hand in warm Flannel, and also to have a Flannel Sleeve tight on the Arm : gave him some Vervain Ointment to the Ulcer, and afterwards a Piece of Black Plaister, which made it sound and well.

### C A S E XXI

A young Gentleman in *London*, aged 26, falling down on both Knees caused a white lymphatic

lymphatic Swelling on his right Knee, notwithstanding the following Means had been used, as he himself told me, without Effect. First the Knee was treated as a common Bruise, and rubbed with Oils; afterwards poulticed with white Bread and Milk, Lees of Beer, near a Month; then fomented with an Infusion of Camomile: next a Blister, which run but little; then Leeches applied twice, six at a Time; was at *Bath*, afterwards at *Southampton*, went through the usual Methods at both Places; after all nothing touched the Swelling. He had also a small scrophulous Tumor, red and enflamed, on the Point of the Breast Bone. I gave this Gentleman a Vervain Root, ordered some gentle Physic once a Week, and to foment the Knee with a Decoction of green Hemlock Leaves, Morning and Night, for Half an Hour at a Time, warm and afterwards to apply the Herb bruised, all over the Knee, and to lace it on with a Knee Piece. Some Months after, he wrote to me as follows: ‘ I am sure all the Pleasure I enjoy, ‘ is totally to be attributed to your Kindness, ‘ for had I not been so happy as to have been ‘ under your Direction, most likely I should ‘ not have gained the Use of my Limbs so ‘ soon.’ In another Letter he says, ‘ I am ‘ surprisngly recovered in Regard to my ‘ Knee.’

## C A S E XXII.

A little Girl in *London*, four Years old, had a scrophulous Ulcer on each Arm: both had been dried up, by the Use of the Bark, by Order of one of the principal Physicians in *London*. Soon after broke out a deep Ulcer on the Calf of each Leg: these were cured by some gentle Physic and a Vervain Root at her Stomach. Some Time after, neglecting to wear the Root as directed, the Humour fell into both her Eyes, which was soon removed by a fresh Vervain Root. I have had very frequent Instances of People leaving off, or loosing their Roots, thinking them very insignificant, the Disease has returned; but by Application of fresh Roots, their Complaints have again disappeared: In some People this has been the Case three or four Times. These are certainly convincing Proofs of the great Efficacy of the Vervain Root, in scrophulous Complaints.

## C A S E XXIII.

A Lady in *Norfolk*, about twenty-five, had a large scrophulous Tumor near the Left Ankle, and pricking dashing Pains in her Joints. When I first saw her, she bathed daily in the Salt Water; which had so swelled and inflamed her Leg, she could hardly stand. I beg'd her to leave off bathing, which she did; in forty-eight Hours she

she found Ease ; and some Months after, I had a Letter from her, that her Complaints were by my Directions entirely removed. I cured this Lady by anointing the Tumour with the following Ointment. Pomatum one Ounce, Flower of Brimstone one Dram, Salt Prunella Half an Ounce ; this soon cooled the Inflammation. I gave her a Root, and ordered gentle Physic. This Case shews the bad Effects of Salt Water Bathing, in scrophulous Disorders.

### C A S E XXIV.

A young Lady in *Norfolk*, aged Twelve, had a smooth flattish Tumour about the bigness of Half a Crown, gathering above the Nipple of the Left Breast : she had been under the Care of a judicious Physician, without any apparent Advantage. I gave her a Vervain Root, and ordered a Pint of Milk to be boiled and sweetened, with a Table Spoonful of clarified Honey, and taken in four Draughts ; in the Morning fasting, at Eleven, at Four, and one at Bed Time ; taking thirty or forty Millepedes with the first and last Draughts. This dissolved the Tumour, without any Return.

Names in this, and the three preceding Cases, as desired, are omitted.

This Essay, by its Bulk, would become too costly for common People, should I have leave to give an Account of all those whose



Cures testify the Success of my Method. However, as what will cure the Poor, whose Welfare I have much at Heart, will also the Rich, the Cases I give of the Poor, may briefly serve for the Rich. Unhappy I am when applied to in the last Stage of the Evil and scrophulous Disorders, after repeated unsuccessful Trials by others: yet even then have I saved both Life and Limbs. I shall mention two Cases more, to shew the good Effects of Hemlock in scrophulous Cases.

C A S E    X X V .

*Peter Raven, of Earls Coln, Essex, Labourer, aged Forty, was in the Workhouse when he applied to me, and gave me the following Account: ' Eight Years since several dashing Pains struck into his right Breast, which in an Hour's Time swelled as big as his Fist, without any Strain or Hurt that he remembers; it was poulticed for nine Weeks without any Effect, the Sinews of the right Arm contracted, the Swelling on his Breast kept increasing for seven Years, and was bigger than his Head; at length broke of itself, and discharged a Quart or two of white thick Matter; and Numbers of other Ulcers appeared all over the Breast, which kept running near a Year.' When he came to me, he was seemingly in a deep Consumption, with a very bad Cough, emaciated to a great Degree;*

gree ; to all Appearance in a dying Way, and smelt most filthily : I think never was a more deplorable Object. I ordered him to take a Dram of green Hemlock Leaves fresh every Day, bruise and boil in a Pint and Half of Cheese Whey, strain, take one Half fasting, the other at Night going to Rest, washing all the Sores first with a strong Infusion of Hemlock, and then to apply Elder Ointment on a Cloth all over his Breast ; he came in a Fortnight's Time, his Cough gone, his Stomach good, Colour returning, and slept well ; a Month after, I added Half Hemlock Ointment to the Elder Ointment, and in some Months compleated the Cure. He is now out of the Workhouse, and maintains himself by his Labour ; is married, and has a Child since his Cure ; no other Method was used. *Note*, He had no Vervain Root. This Cure must be attributed to the Hemlock only.

### C A S E XXVI.

*John Newton*, of *Halstead, Essex*, Weaver aged Thirty-eight, a Year before he came to me, had a Humour broke out on the lower Part of the Shin of his left Leg, with many small Pimples, with white Heads, afterwards ran clear Water, and broke into a large deep Ulcer, so that the Bone was visible, with much fungous Flesh at the Bottom, the Leg and Foot swelled, pitted much, so

very lame he could not come to my House, a Mile only, except on Horseback. I ordered him gentle Jalap Purgatives, thrice a Week at first, then twice, then once as he mended; and directed him to take a large Handful of green Hemlock Leaves bruised, put into an empty Firkin, and pour a Gallon or two of Water from a Smith's Forge, scalding hot on them; then to put his Foot and Leg into it, as deep as the Vessel would admit, not when scalding; and to keep it in the Liquor Morning and Night a Quarter of an Hour at a Time. Then to take a fresh gathered Carrot, wash and rasp it; squeeze the Juice out with the Fingers, warm the Raspings, and fill the Ulcer with it, quite down to the Bottom, and a little above the Surface of the Ulcer and Leg, with a dry Cloth over it, bind all on with a Rowler; and repeat this Dressing and no other after soaking. This perfectly cured his Leg in ten Weeks, and filled the Ulcer with sound and good Flesh, and quite smooth. *Note, No Ver-Root was used here.*

### C A S E XXVII.

*Aaron Wiskey, of Polsted, Suffolk, Shoemaker, aged Thirty-four, applied to me in June, 1769. After a Fever, a Sore gathered near the Point of his Back Bone. By poulticing, it broke, and discharged, for a considerable Time, a thin gleety Matter, from a very small*  
Orifice.

Orifice. A large Swelling came on the left Thigh, was very hard and gave great Pain. As it was thought he had been troubled with the St. Anthony's Fire, it was conjectured it had settled there. He was greatly emaciated. I recommended a Vervain Root; and to purge gently with Tincture of Jalap made in Geneva, as in Page 58, once a Week, and to drink of the following Decoction the other Days. Of red sharp pointed Dock-Root, sliced thin, one Ounce; Sorrel-Leaves bruised thirty or forty; Pour on this a Pint of Cheese Whey boiling hot; cover close: When cool, strain it, and drink it Milk-warm, at three different Times; one Third fasting, another about eleven o'Clock, and the Remainder about five in the Afternoon. I ordered a large Handful of green Hemlock-Leaves bruised, to be applied to the Thigh; and the Wound on the Back to have the Hemlock Infusion injected. Afterwards, equal Parts of Hemlock and Elder Ointment, made with Goose Fat, spread on Lint, to be laid over the Wound, and drest Morning and Night. The 10th of *October* following he came again to me; his Thigh was greatly swelled, and there seemed to be a Head as if tending to break. I advised applying a Plaister of Shoe-maker's Wax to it. On the eighth of the next Month, the Sore on the Thigh broke, and discharged, at one Time, five Quarts of thin Watery Matter like Whey, and the Thigh subsided to its former Size.

It continued discharging by little and little for a considerable Time, but less and less daily. The 3d of *July*, 1770, he came to my House, and told me many small Pieces of Bone came from the Sore on the Back-Bone; but that it was then sound and well, and his Thigh in a fine Way of Recovery, The 6th of *August*, 1771, he again came to thank me; and clapping his Hand on his Thigh, in great Spirits, cry'd out, "as sound as a Roach!" The 1st of *September*, 1772, a Neighbour of his coming to me, informed me this Man then continued hearty, sound, and well,

### C A S E XXVIII.

A worthy Lady sent me the Case of a poor Woman, which I shall give nearly in her own Words. ' The poor Creature is  
' now about Fifty. Eight Years ago she  
' lay in; at the End of the Month was  
' seized with a violent Pain in her right Leg,  
' just below the Calf. A small Pimple rose,  
' which increased till it came to a real Sore.  
' Many things were tried to no Purpose for  
' several Years. She was eight Months in an  
' Hospital, and discharged as incurable. She  
' now has two large Holes; about half an  
' Inch deep; the Bottom looks whitish, with  
' black Spots, and full of small Holes; the  
' Sides are of a very dark Red, or rather  
' blackish. At Times they are extremely  
' painful

' painful, and bleed frequently. The upper  
 ' Part of her leg is very black indeed, and  
 ' extremely swelled. She has for some  
 ' Time past applied nothing but a greasy Rag  
 ' to her Wounds. She is miserably poor in-  
 ' deed; having nothing for a Livelihood but  
 ' what she can get by picking up decay'd  
 ' Wood, blown down on *Enfield Chace*. If  
 ' she can be helped, it would be a great  
 ' Blessing.'—So far the Lady's Letter.

I referred her to follow what is laid down  
 in *John Newton's Case*, No. XXVI. in my  
 Essay; only adding, that the poor Creature  
 should steep her Leg in a warm Infusion of  
 Hemlock for Half an Hour, and to keep it  
 warm after steeping, lest she should take  
 Cold: The more Rest she could take, the  
 better. In less than four Months the Lady  
 called on me, and informed me, this poor  
 Woman was quite recovered, and in a good  
 State of Health.

### C A S E XXIX.

*Michael Nash*, a Shepherd, living with Mr.  
*Guilford*, at *Halton*, near *Wendover*, *Bucks*,  
 aged Twenty-five, being recommended to  
 me by the Honourable *Lady Rachael Austen*,  
 of *North Audley Street*, *London*, the 10th  
 of *January*, 1771, came to my House for  
 Advice. He had nine or ten Sores in his  
 Legs and Thighs, and many scabby Erup-  
 tions on his Face and Neck. These began  
 about

about six Years before, and were by Degrees come to what they were. He had an Issue in his left Leg, which was greatly inflamed: His Appetite was tolerably good. To this poor Man I gave a Vervain Root to wear on his Stomach, and ordered him Tincture of Jalap in Geneva one Table Spoonful once a Week, in Cheefe Whey or small Ale; to wash his Wounds with the Infusion of Hemlock warm Morning and Night, and then to apply the black Plaister, as in Case V. Page 15, to his Sores. *Lady Austen*, in a Letter to her Friend, dated the 23d of *August*, 1771, wrote, that the above-mentioned poor man, whom she had recommended to me, was perfectly recovered; and adds, ‘ I think it a Miracle; for he was almost eat up (if one may so say) with the Evil.’ This poor Shepherd sent me a Letter in the next Month, *September*, testifying his Gratitude and Thanks; and, according to his own Words, ‘ that he was right well.’

I must here mention, that I have received Thanks from many for Cures that have been effected without my Advice in Person; only by the Perusal of my Essay and a steady regular Observation of the Rules as related in the preceeding Cases. Amongst many other Letters, I shall, as a Proof, add Copies of what was wrote to me by a Person whom I never saw, giving it in his own Words. I will number it,

C A S E

## C A S E XXX,

S I R,

I HAVE taken this Opportunity of writing to you in Behalf of your Medicines for the Evil. Whereas I, *John Buck*, late of *Hingham*, in *Norfolk*, aged Thirty Years, now living at *Wymondham*, in the same County, was for twelve Years past violently afflicted with the King's Evil in my right Knee, and so bad that I could not stir without the Help of Crutches, and having been with the most eminent Surgeons in the County of *Norfolk*, but all to little Purpose, for they always counted it a white Swelling, and was clearly for taking off the Limb; for they told me that there was no Help for me. But Thanks be to God!—for with his Blessing, and with the Use of your Medicines, I am now right well, and can walk well and can follow my Business and do my Work without any Pain or Sorrow, and am in as good State of Health as ever I was in my Life. Sir, if it be agreeable to you, I should like that it might be added into the Book, as it was accounted as surprising a Cure as ever was performed, I only go a little limping, but 'tis as little as possible; as witness my Hand,

JOHN BUCK, *Worsted Weaver.*

December 24, 1769.



Some Time after receiving this Letter, I wrote to *John Buck* to know which of the Medicines he had used; in what Manner, and in what Time the Cure was effected; the Surgeons who had seen the Complaint, said it was incurable; and were for taking off the Limb? As I had never seen or heard of *John Buck* before the Receipt of his Letter, I desired a Gentleman near *Wymondham*, to enquire of the Truth of the Facts. He saw the Man, who gave him full Satisfaction as to his Case and Cure, agreeing with the following Letter from *Buck*, in Answer to my Enquiries.

Sir, my Duty to you. I *John Buck*, Worsted Weaver, of *Wymondham*, in *Norfolk*, aged 30 Years, was for 12 Years afflicted with the Evil in my right Knee, which for the first four Years would swell to a large Substance, and disperse again of its own self; then having a violent Fever of nine Weeks, which so contracted the Joint and wasted my Leg and Thigh, that I was unable to walk without great Pain. I was advised to apply to Surgeon *Swift* of *Norwich*, and accordingly did, who told me it was a White Swelling, and it was incurable, and that the less I did to it the better. About one Year after I was advised to go to Dr. *Heald*, of *Norwich*, who told me the same as Dr. *Swift*. Two Years after comes a travelling Doctor to *Norwich*, who went by the Name

Name of Dr. *Vernice*. He having such Praise, I was recommended to him. He told me it was a White Swelling, and in two Months he could make a perfect Cure of me. I put myself under his Directions, but all to little Purpose. About a Year after I was seized with such a violent pain on the Inside of my Knee, that it caused my Leg, Thigh, and Foot to swell in such a Manner, that I was unable to move, or be moved, without great Pain, and with the Help of Crutches, and could take no Rest Night or Day, which reduced me to a mere Skeleton. It continued this Course for a Year and a Half; then it broke into a running Ulcer on the Inside of my Knee. Then I applied to Dr. *Casleton*, of *Hingham*, whose Care I was under three Weeks. Then he declared he could do no more for me, for the Bones were entirely decayed, and my Limb must be taken off; or it would cost me my Life. But, by the Blessing of God, I was in a short Time restored again to my former Strength, by the Help of Mr. *Morley's* Book, to whom I return my hearty Thanks for the same. I walk well, and never was in a better State of Health in my Life. Given from under my own Hand this 3d Day of *June*, 1770.

JOHN BUCK.

The Cure was effected in the following Manner:—First, I put the Vervain Root about my Neck. For a gentle Purge, I took  
ten

ten Grains of Jalap, and ten Grains of Cream of Tartar, once a Week; and the other six Days, a Dram of Antimony, finely powdered, mixed with the same Quantity of Loaf Sugar, and washed it down with a Cup of Ground-Ivy Tea. For the Sore, I made a strong Infusion of green Hemlock to wash it with twice a Day; then bathed my Knee all over with Vervain Ointment; then I applied dry Lint, and lest it should stick, a Plaister of Elder-Ointment over it. In two Months I found great Benefit; and in Eight Months the Sore was healed. I have had no Return, now three Years ago.

I should be sorry the Testimony of the Gentleman who enquired at *Wymondham*, added to the Man's own Letters, were not sufficient to authenticate the Case, and the Method of Cure. Be that as it may, I must here remark, that hasty Amputations are too often practised, to the irreparable Loss of the Patient, his Family, and the Community; especially if a poor Person. The Rich have the Means to advise with those who professedly undertake to cure their Disorders, I do not wish to take from any Man his Emoluments; but I repeat, that I am particularly anxious for the Poor. Should the Knife, or the constant Use of Caustics, make Cripples, I pretend not to set them to rights.

## C A S E XXXI.

The Right Honourable the *Countess* of *Marchmont*, out of her great Regard for the Welfare of the Poor, has been pleased to inform me of a very great Cure done in *Scotland*, from the Receipts only in my Essay on Scrophulous Disorders. A middle aged Man, by Name *James Smart*, had in August last a Sore on his Cheek, which run greatly; and his Face was dreadfully swelled, the Sore was quite through his Cheek, had been long ill of that Complaint. He had a *Vervain Root* to wear at his Stomach, was ordered to take the Diet Drink prescribed in *Mrs. Bulmer's Case*, Page 25, and the gentle Physic of Syrup of *Roses* and *Manna*, in Page 14, and to dress the Sore with *Vervain Ointment*, as in *Winterflood's Case*. In about a Month, he was much better, several Bones came out, and the Swelling was much fallen, he continued these Methods till March following, then the Sore was quite healed, and himself in perfect Health. This Cure was done only by the perusal of my Essay, as in *John Buck's Case*.

I have had Cases and Recommendations from almost an hundred Physicians, Surgeons and Apothecaries; some for their own Children, when their own Endeavours have proved abortive; some, to get rid of the Importunities of poor Patients, who could pay nothing; some, to see my Methods; and some they send to me to secure their own

Credit, lest they should miscarry under their Hands.

C A S E XXXII.

Miss *Frances Kingdon*, Daughter of Mr. *Edward Kingdon*, Stay-maker, in *Dukes Court, Covent-Garden, London*, was recommended to me by *Lady Gray*, of *Charles Street, Grosvenor Square*, had, about nine Years before she came to me, a Tumor broke by a Poultice on the Left Knee, and kept discharging three Years before it healed. Then a Tumor on the Right Elbow broke and discharged some small Pieces of Bones, from thence the Humour was translated to the Left Shin Bone, went on Crutches, then to *St. Bartholomew's Hospital*, where a large Piece of the main Bone was digested out, but could not be healed up. Then, by a Pinch on the Left Elbow it was greatly enlarged and opened, but could make nothing of it, so she left the Hospital, with an Addition of a small Tumor under the Left Ear, the Shin Bone of the Left Leg enlarging, and a universal Scrophulous Constitution. They said the Leg must be taken off, for it could not be cured; she was Thirteen Years of Age, was near me with her Mother two Months, then went Home with full Directions to continue my Methods, which she did several Years with great Perseverance, had many more Sores broke, and foul Bones exfoliated, and has at length received a perfect

Cure

Cure, and has been well some Years. As I have her Consent to publish this Cure, I would recommend any Person doubtful of it to herself, and Father and Mother, for full Satisfaction from themselves.—I gave Miss a large Vervain Root to wear as directed in my Essay on the Evil, and advised Mrs. *Bulmer's* Diet Drink as therein, to wash the Sores clean with an Infusion of Green Hemlock Leaves, then to apply a Cataplasm of White Nettles mashed with Pork Lard, fresh and warm twice a Day, to the Elbow and to the healing Sores, dry Lint, and Vervain Ointment on Cloth over all, and to apply Tincture of Myrrh on a Sponge, where any Suspicion of foul Bones, and the Black Plaister afterwards occasionally. Thus she was cured.

In the Preface I have hinted, that I never mentioned Names, if so desired; and I must here add on this Head, I am so scrupulously delicate not even to ask after a Person of their Neighbour, lest it might raise a Suspicion of my having been consulted: so that the Knowledge of the Success of my Methods must be much lessened. I will not call it a Disadvantage; because it would seem as if I sought after great Fame; but this I will say, that my seeing Patients hardly more than once or twice, because of their Distance from me, makes me not on a Level with the medical and surgical Gentlemen, who frequently see their Patients, so as to alter any Method of Cure if necessary, which I cannot do for the above Reason.

I do not pretend to cure every One who may apply to me ; but this I am bold to assert, that I have been so fortunate to cure some scrophulated Breasts deemed to be cancerous, and on the Point of being cut off. Likewise some Persons given over by regular Practitioners, of which take the following.

C A S E XXXIII.

Mrs. *Brown*, Wife of Mr. *Brown*, at the *Cock*, in *Clare*, *Suffolk*, brought me the following Letter.

S I R,

MRS. BROWN, the Bearer hereof, hath for some Months laboured under a Disease in her Breast, which the Surgeons term a Schirrhus. Various Applications have been tried, and many Medicines taken, which have only served to alleviate her Complaints, without laying a Foundation for healing. This Disease has so near an Affinity with the Evil, that I do not think but it may be really called such. I wish you may be so fortunate as to direct somewhat that may be serviceable ; and am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

August 23, 1761. RICHARD HAWES.  
Surgeon, in *Cavendish*, *Suffolk*.

Mrs. *Brown* was a fat lusty Woman, aged Twenty seven. About a Year before the above Date, a large Tumour rose in her right Breast, and gathered in nine several Places,

Places, opened, dressed, and tented by the Surgeon, and discharged much; but that being thought insufficient to lessen the Breast, two Setons were made quite through the Breast, which was very large, close to the Ribs, in the Form of a Cross, and as the Silk rotted away, through the Virulence of the Matter, in eight or ten Days, more Silk was put in. Four Surgeons met to take off the Breast; and told her, if it was not taken off, she could not live to *Michaelmas* following; as her Breast would rot off in a Week or two, if not cut off. This was the State of the Breast when I undertook it. The 30th of *November* following, I saw Mrs. *Brown*; all the Ulcers were healed, and the Breast firm, and herself in good Health and Spirits, without any Complaint whatever. *February* 27, 1762, she was with me again, and shewed me her right Breast, found and firm, but told me, that about three Weeks before, on taking cold, she felt a dashing Pain in her left Breast, which she shewed me; there was a smooth soft Tumour rising on the upper Part, above the Nipple, which had increased fast. I ordered her proper Remedies for this new Complaint. *April* the 4th, her Husband came to tell me the Tumour was broke and discharged in several Places round the Nipple. I ordered what was proper, and *September* the 6th following, her Husband came again; told me her Breast had been quite well for two Months; was in good Health and Spirits;



no Complaint at all; and that the Day before he came, she was delivered of a fine Girl, both very well. I saw her some Days after, examined her right Breast which had lost the Nipple, all continued firm and well; and also her left Breast; but she had no Milk in it, and no Complaint whatever. Mrs. *Brown* had Twins in a Year after, and has had several other Children: both Breasts continue well and firm, and the last lying-in she had Milk came into her left Breast, which is very extraordinary. It is easy to observe from this Case, that taking off Mrs. *Brown's* right Breast would have availed nothing; inasmuch as the left Breast became disordered in the same Manner: so that Amputations are of little Service, except the Constitution be amended; then there is seldom Occasion for the Knife. I do not mention the Methods I used in Mrs. *Brown's* Case, because they are beyond common Management. I insert the two following Cases to shew that no Age is exempt from this dreadful Disorder.

#### C A S E XXXIV.

*Samuel Pain*, Son of *Samuel Pain*, Weaver, in *Clare*, aforesaid, was brought to me in the Month; he was born with a large Ulcer on the Back of his left Hand, and judged to be the King's Evil by Mr. *Young*, a Surgeon of that Place, who recommended him to my Care. This Infant was cured with a Root;  
some

some Vervain Water to cleanse the Sore, and Vervain Ointment 'on a Rag to the Part. The Father sent me a Letter of Thanks for making, as he expresses it, a safe Cure of his Child's Hand. It is evident from this Case, that very simple gentle Methods are often very efficacious, in the Infancy of this Disease.

### C A S E XXXV.

The next Case is of *George Hoggerall*, aged Eighty-eight. He was formerly an Under Gardener to Esquire *Honywood*, in *Essex*. He was a remarkable fresh-coloured healthy-looking Man: and so healthful all his Life, as never to take one Dose of Physic. In the 86th Year of his Age, the Sight of both Eyes left him at once; since which, he had several small scrophulous Tumours broke on each side his Neck, discharged much, and seemed to be well digested. His wife came with him: they had been married fifty Years, and confirmed the Account of his Health. I gave him my Assistance, and ordered him to call on me when he could. Who could ever have thought that the King's Evil should lie so long dormant in the Constitution of so healthy a Person, without the least Symptoms, until the Age of Eighty-seven Years, and then appear in its genuine Form? From these two Instances it is very apparent, that no Age is exempt from its Inveteracy.

This

This will more fully appear by the following Account of two thousand scrophulous Patients, who have applied to me; classed according to their respective Ages and Sexes.

	Males.	Females.	In all
Under 5 Years old	77	89	166
From 5 Years to 10 Years —	108	117	225
From 10 Years to 20 Years —	212	309	521
From 20 Years to 30 Years —	166	285	451
From 30 Years to 40 Years —	96	200	296
From 40 Years to 50 Years —	60	143	203
From 50 Years to 60 Years —	37	63	100
From 60 Years to 70 Years —	17	13	30
From 70 Years to 80 Years —	2	5	7
From 80 Years and upwards —	1	0	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	776	1224	2000
	<hr/>	776	<hr/>
		<hr/>	
		2000	<hr/>
		<hr/>	

From this Account, the Females exceeded the Males more than three to two. Hence it may be concluded, those Persons are greatly mistaken, who in their Writings have advanced, that Persons above forty Years old are rarely, if ever, affected with the Scrophula; as also the too common Opinion of Children outgrowing the Disorder. Both these Notions tend to make People neglect proper Care until the Disease has taken too fast a Hold to be overcome.

I have had Application by Letter from many Persons, desiring me to send my Medicines and Directions, and my Charges for them, for which I should be punctually paid.

But

But all this is needless, as I make up no Medicines, nor will my almost worn out Eyes suffice to give any Directions in Writing. Neither can any Letter, I think, thoroughly convey a clear Description of the almost numberless Symptoms and Affections of the Scrophula.

I have had many who have been salivated, and taken mercurial Preparations to very little Purpose; on the contrary hurtful. I have found salt Water taken inwardly to have had bad Effects, as already hinted. Outwardly it often dries up the Sores for a Time, which generally break out again near the same Places, and will continue to do so, unless the Habit of Body is altered. I very rarely order Bleeding, and never direct Vomits, which I think of no Use. Issues or Setons I do not approve, and generally dry them up, as they are apt to draw the Humours into them, inflame and are troublesome without any Assistance towards the Cure, as I could ever observe. I repeat that I do not order Salts of any Kind for Purgation; but always the most mild and gentle Things for that End. Hemlock I have used outwardly numberless Times, with great Success. I administer little inwardly: If any Tumors, &c. are near the Head, it must then be used with Caution, as in Case IV. I never use Knife or Caustic to open an Abscess, sometimes the Point of a Lancet, and that but seldom: For I find proper Poultices much more eligible on many Accounts. I advise those who

( 30 )

are costive under this Disorder, which is a very frequent Complaint, to keep the Body always open with very mild and gentle Purgatives; a little at a Time and often, is more beneficial than strong Purges. Jalap I have found, by long Experience, prepared as follows, to be the best family Purge for scrophulous Disorders. Take one Ounce of Jalap in fine Powder, steep it in Half a Pint of Geneva, in a Pint Bottle, close stopped, shake it well two or three Times a Day for a Week gently pour off the clear, or filter it through whitish grey Paper; fling away the Dregs, and keep it close stopped for Use. A Man may take a Table Spoonful of this Tincture in a Quarter of a Pint of warm small Ale, Cheese-whey, or a Dish of Tea with Sugar: A Woman, one, two, or Three Tea Spoonfuls: A young Child, a few Drops, in its Victuals; always proportioning the Dose to the Age, Sex, and Strength of the Patient. Two Motions, or three at most, in twenty-four Hours are proper. It may be taken once or twice a Week at Discretion, as long as wanted. A Month in the Spring or Fall, will be very salutary, for all People subject to this Disorder; though no Complaints, only as a Preventative. When I order Antimony to be taken inwardly, I always direct it to be finely levigated, or powdered in an Iron Mortar, as fine as possible, and then sifted through fine Lawn or Muslin, so that few or no shining Particles appear; then it is a fine and safe Medicine.

Never

Never to wear any Covering over the Eyes, but to wash them often with cold Spring Water, which will strengthen them and repel the Humour, which the Purgatives will carry off. It is gentle easy Methods, not rough Prescriptions and painful Applications, that are most efficacious in this obstinate Disorder. Persons, though ever so poor and distressed, are welcome to consult me for Advice, in Person, if they find, or even suspect themselves to be tainted with this Disorder, on any Morning, from Ten to Twelve, and in the Afternoon from Three to Five of the Clock (Sundays excepted) if I am well.

Many many Guineas have been offered me; but I never take any Money. Sometimes indeed genteel People have sent me small Acknowledgments of Tea, Wine, Venison, &c. Generous ones, small Pieces of Plate or other little Presents. Even neighbouring Farmers a Goose, or Turkey, &c. by Way of Thanks.

This I am obliged to say, as Persons wishing to consult me may be afraid, least, as I am not regularly feed, I should come with the After-Clap of a long Bill.

It cannot be expected, that I, who receive no Fee, should be at any Expence: therefore Letters to me must be free of Postage, or they must be returned.

The Pleasure I take in relieving the Afflicted, affords me the highest Content and Satisfaction. I will hope no One bears me any  
Evil

Evil; if there should be such, I always have in Mind St. Paul's Precept, *Not to be overcome of Evil, but to overcome Evil with Good.*

May all my Patients who receive any Benefit from my Essay, or my Directions in Person, say with the Royal Psalmist—*Bless the Lord, O my Soul, and forget not all his Benefits: Who forgiveth all thine Iniquities: Who healeth all thy DISEASES!*

It possibly may be of Use to some to turn to several of my Prescriptions without great Trouble. I therefore here set down where many are, at one View, to be found.

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