

**Taenia cured by ol. terebinthinae / [Robert Hartle].**

**Contributors**

Hartle, Robert, 1775-1860.

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Jewell  
Poisoning from opium.  
—

Kennedy  
Nitrous acid as a substitute  
for blisters.

Killett.  
nitrous acid as a substitute  
for blisters.  
—

R. Martle

Tania cured by oleum  
Terebinthinæ.

42550

is stated to have been observed, particularly one portion or coagulum, 'upwards of an inch in extent,' which was found 'lying at the superior margin of the right lateral ventricle.'

*Observations.*—The preceding details are extracted from a communication, by Mr. JEWEL, of Gerrard Street, inserted in the London Med. Journal for February (p. 109). From the original article it appears that the patient had been confined in child-birth only fourteen days before the attempt made upon her life; that she had been previously subjected to a severe course of mercury, for some *supposed* syphilitic complaints; and that her mind had been for some time (perhaps months) in a state of extreme dejection and distress, in consequence of the alleged nature and apparent obstinacy of these complaints.

Under these circumstances, it is but reasonable to presume, that she was, at the time of the transaction above alluded to, but ill qualified, either in mind or in body, to bear up against infliction of any kind; or to endure with impunity, and still less with advantage, the continued application of powerful agents, whose chief operation consists in calling into *activity*, and therefore, to a certain degree, in *exhausting*, the remaining powers of life.

## IX.

*Observations on the Use of Nitrous Acid as a substitute for Blisters.* Communicated by Dr KENNEDY, F. R. S. E. and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

*Extract of a Report from Mr Assistant Surgeon KILLETT, of the 3d Regiment Light Cavalry, to the Medical Board, Madras, dated Mhow, 4th November 1818.*

**I**N my report to the Board for the month of July last, I gave an account of the spasmodic cholera, as it came under my observation, during the short period it was prevalent at this place.

In that report, I recommended bleeding and blistering as the remedies chiefly to be relied on, considering the disease to be a spasmodic affection of the stomach and bowels, accompanied with inflammation, and quickly followed by a diminution of the powers of the brain; and I hinted that the actual cautery might be employed with advantage, as producing a more instantaneous counter-irritation, than the slow acting emplastrum lyttæ. Since writing the above mentioned report, I have been informed by Mr Assistant Surgeon Powell of the Bombay Detachment, now in camp, that he has used the nitric acid to produce a quick counter-irritation, and with the best success. Of forty-one cases which Mr Powell treated in this way, six only died; and of nine

cases treated by an officer commanding a detachment, without medical aid, one only died, and this a woman six or eight months gone with child. The great good effects of this sudden and powerful counter-irritation were strikingly illustrated in the case of a European, who received immediate relief to the burning sensation at the stomach on the acid blister being applied; and who, the next morning, being annoyed with spasms of the extremities, requested the same remedy might be applied; it was accordingly done, and so great was the relief obtained to one leg, that he cried for God's sake to apply it to the other, similarly affected.

Another striking instance was that of a Lascar, seized while cutting wood a koss from camp, and who, on being brought in, was supposed to be past recovery, his stools passing away involuntarily, pulse imperceptible, and extremities cold; the acid blister was applied to the stomach, and the patient got well.

Mr Powell uses two parts of acid to one part of water, and with this mixture rubs the surface over the part affected, to such an extent as may be thought necessary; as soon as the patient complains of pain, he neutralizes the acid, by washing the surface with a solution of salt of tartar; the cuticle can now be easily detached, and leaves the cutis raw, upon which he applies a common blister to keep up the irritation. He employs, besides, small doses of camphor and opium, frequently repeated, to allay the irritation at the stomach; this, with emollient enemata, forms his whole method of cure. I will conclude with saying, that the (forty-one) patients treated with the acid blister were all admitted in such a state, that no blood was attempted to be drawn.

*Letter to S. HEWARD, Esq. Superintending Surgeon, Presidency,  
from WILLIAM SCOTT, Surgeon, Madras.*

IN a letter to the Superintending Surgeon, dated 8th April last, I noticed some of the effects of the nitrous acid, used as a substitute for cantharides blister in cases of cholera.

I have now the honour to enclose some remarks on the more extended use of that application, which, should you think them worthy of notice, I will be thankful to you to forward to the Medical Board. With this remedy in our hospitals, it should no longer in urgent cases be observed in the journals, that the "blister did not succeed," or, "the blister was applied, but could not be kept in its place," for no circumstance can prevent the application of the acid, and its action, when applied, cannot possibly fail.

*Saint Thomas's Mount, 9th July 1819.*

