

The inefficacy of all mercurial preparations in the cure of venereal and scorbutic disorders, proved ... To which are added a dissertation on M. de Velnos's vegetable syrup ... and an ... analysis of that medicine / [Henry Saffory].

Contributors

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THE
I N E F F I C A C Y
 OF ALL
MERCURIAL PREPARATIONS
 In the Cure of
Venereal and Scorbutic Disorders,
 PROVED FROM
REASON AND EXPERIENCE.
 TO WHICH ARE ADDED,
A DISSERTATION
 ON
M. de Velnos's Vegetable Syrup,
 Which radically Cures every Species of the above Disorders ;

A N D

An Accurate Analysis of that Medicine ;

Made by Order of the Marshal Duke de Biron, by Messrs. Rouelle and La Cassaigne, Professors of Chemistry at Paris.

By **HENRY SAFFORY**, Surgeon ;

And Member of the Corporation of Surgeons, in London.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR ; and Sold by T. EVANS, Pater-noster Row, and Mr. SOUTHERN, James's Street.

M D C C L X X I I I .

[Price One Shilling and Six-pence]

THE
METHUEN

OF ALL

MERCURIAL PREPARATIONS

In the Cure of

Veneral and Scrophulous Disorders

PROVED FROM

REASON AND EXPERIENCE

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

A DISSEMINATION

ON

Mercurial Symp.

the medicinal use of the above-mentioned

and

An Account of the Medicines

used in the cure of the Venereal Disease, by Mr. J. Keble, F.R.S.
and the late Professor of Chemistry at Cambridge.

BY HENRY SUTTON, Surgeon.

and Lecturer on the Venereal Disease at St. George's Hospital.

LONDON:

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TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,
THIS SMALL TREATISE ON THE
INEFFICACY OF MERCURY IN THE
CURE OF VENEREAL AND SCORBUTIC
DISORDERS,
IS HUMBLY INSCRIBED,
BY THEIR MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,
HENRY SAFFORY.

TO THE

MEMBERS OF THE

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

THIS SMALL TREATISE ON THE

ENERGY OF MERCURY IN THE

CURE OF VENEREAL AND SCORBUTIC

DISORDERS

IS HUMBLY INSCRIBED

BY THEIR MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT

HENRY SUTTON

(ii)

P R E F A C E.

EVERY member of Society is under an indispenfable obligation to promote, as far as he is able, the happiness of the whole community. The soft whispers of humanity plead strongly in behalf of the distressed; and the heart of that man must be callous indeed, who withholds relief from the cries of anguish, when that relief is in his own power. The human frame is subject to many disorders: pain and disease are part of the portion of mortality. Providence has indeed amply furnished the earth with medicines for assuaging the one, and removing the other; but the knowledge of these simples, their virtues, and the manner of application, are left to the sagacity of mankind; a task not easily

easily performed. They are scattered in such amazing profusion, and in such astonishing variety, that the mind is perplexed; and it is perhaps impossible for human abilities ever to discover all their virtues and properties. A composition of various ingredients often effects what all of them singly would attempt in vain: and as these combinations, as well as the simples themselves are infinite, we need not be surpris'd; that notwithstanding the prodigious number of eminent men, from the age of Hippocrates to our own times, have spent their lives in improving the healing art, it is still far from having reached the summit of perfection: and that we are yet ignorant of the virtues of many simples with which the bountiful hand of nature has so beautifully adorned the surface of the earth. New medicines are every day discovered, and chance or accident often reveals what the most assiduous application might have sought in vain.

Perhaps a stronger instance cannot be given of our limited knowledge of medicines, than the many ineffectual attempts to subdue the inveterate malignancy of some distempers, which have hitherto withstood all the power of physic, and are still considered as the opprobria of the healing art. But this must not be imputed to nature; she has provided medicines sufficient for every disorder: diseases of this kind triumph only over the ignorance of the practitioner.

Among these maladies, venereal and scorbutic complaints, especially when complicated, are not the least formidable; and physicians have often confessed, and often lamented, that they have too frequently baffled the power of every known medicine, and defied every attempt to subdue their violence. If my own declaration will add any weight to the general voice of practitioners, I can, with great

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truth,

truth, affirm, that during thirty years assiduous practice, part of which interval was spent at Naples and places adjacent, I have met with numberless instances, where all the common methods have been tried without success, and the wretched patients perished under the excruciating tortures of a loathsome disease. The fact indeed is too evident to want any farther proof: the universal acknowledgement of the most celebrated physicians have placed it beyond a doubt. Should any person, however, still hesitate to subscribe to the general opinion, I could wish him to visit the places where patients of this kind are received; because ocular demonstration would there convince him, that the fact is too certain. He would there see objects labouring under the extremity of anguish, breathing the most putrid exhalations, and quivering on the brink of eternity, after every known method has been tried in vain.

Affected

Affected by sufferings which could not be mitigated, and pierced with the cries of distress which could not be relieved, I have often wished that some fortunate accident, or some happy genius, might discover a remedy, which would enable the faculty to conquer these dreadful diseases. But the wish, however generous, was long in vain; and I began to despair of ever seeing it accomplished, when I fortunately became acquainted with M. de Velnos, the author of a medicine which has acquired great reputation at Paris, as a specific in venereal and scorbutic disorders, either singly or complicated. I had been too often deceived by pretended discoveries, to believe implicitly his most solemn assertions, with regard to the great virtues of his medicine. I had never been an advocate for secret remedies, and feared that interest, rather than truth, might form the basis of his assertions; and that though it might possibly succeed in

flight

slight cases, it might want power to eradicate the disease when grown too powerful for other remedies. He perceived my doubts, and took an effectual method to remove them: he offered to submit the efficacy and merit of his medicine to a series of fair and candid trials. This was a proposal which no ingenuous practitioner could refuse. I accepted the offer; and from a sufficient number of cures performed on patients labouring under those dreadful disorders, some of them considered as absolutely incurable, I am convinced, that his assertions were founded on truth; and have the strongest reasons to hope, that his medicine will prove of the utmost advantage to this country. For whatever opposition it may meet with, either from interest, or bigotry to the old methods of practice, I am persuaded its own merit, when fairly tried by the unerring touchstone of experience, will rise superior to all opposition,

tion, and silence even the tongue of envy. The candid and ingenuous, those who can feel for the sufferings of their fellow creatures, and sympathize with distress they wish to relieve, will, I am satisfied, give the medicine a fair and impartial trial. This is all I would ask; I wish it to stand or fall by experience only.

I am not ignorant that every person who attempts to recommend a medicine to the public, without revealing the ingredients of which it is composed, must expect the most illiberal attacks from the malignant pen of calumny. His conduct will be severely censured by those whose interest is concerned to suppress the discovery; and perhaps he may not escape the animadversions of others, though they may have only some favourite theory, or even the old method of practice, to defend. But I have learned to despise all such ungenerous attempts: they are the com-
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mon attendants of any innovation. Almost every member of the faculty, however eminent for his parts and learning, has met with illiberal treatment on endeavouring to introduce any new discovery, new medicine, or new operation in surgery. It will be needless to mention examples of this kind: he must be ignorant of medical history indeed, who does not immediately recollect many that have happened both in our own and foreign countries. It should also be remembered, that several of the most eminent physicians, both of the last and present centuries, had their secret remedies; and perhaps they did more service to the community by concealing the compositions, than they would have done, had they published them to the world.

It is well known, that M. de Velnos performed, by the help of his medicine, amazing cures during his short
stay

stay in England : I myself was a witness to several. I saw, with a secret satisfaction, his success, and became an advocate for his remedy from conviction. I have also received incontestible evidences of its prodigious efficacy from several of the first nobility in France ; together with certificates from some of the most eminent physicians in that kingdom. These, I hope, will be considered as proofs sufficient to exculpate me from entertaining even the most distant wish to impose upon the public, in a matter of so much importance. No person surely, who, by the assiduous labour of many years, has acquired some share of reputation, and established his character as a man of veracity, will rashly engage in an undertaking, that may sap the foundation of a structure, which has cost him his whole life to erect ! For whoever publishes a treatise of any kind, submits the truth of what he has advanced to the examination of the

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public; and, consequently, cannot complain of its being thoroughly scrutinized. If his assertions are founded on truth, he has nothing to fear; like gold from the furnace, they will acquire a greater lustre from a candid enquiry. I was aware of this consequence before I appeared as a writer, and therefore examined, with the utmost attention, every particular relative to the merits of M. de Velnos's Vegetable Syrup. In a word, whatever may be the fate of this medicine, I shall always enjoy the inward satisfaction of having sincerely endeavoured to promote the happiness of society, by publishing a remedy endowed with the singular virtue of radically curing two of the most dreadful diseases to which the human body is subject.

If, in perusing the following Treatise, the reader should think that I have not added a sufficient number of cases

cases to support the great character I have given of M. de Velnos's Antivenereal Syrup, I must beg leave to observe, that the short time I have been possessed of that medicine, has not been sufficient for me to collect a larger number of cures performed under my own inspection; and I will never advance any thing but what I know to be really fact: I shall leave to others the disingenuous method of publishing cures never performed, and affidavits never made. But as I have at present a great number of patients, whose cures are almost perfected, the public may soon expect a faithful and satisfactory account of the success of this capital medicine.

cases to support the most character I
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 not only so, but I have been
 told, that the fact that I have been
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 been sufficient for me to collect a
 larger number of cases performed un-
 der my own inspection; and I will
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 public may soon expect to be informed
 of the account of the success of
 this capital medicine.

T H E
I N E F F I C A C Y

O F A L L
MERCURIAL PREPARATIONS, &c.

THOUGH Commerce is undoubtedly an inexhaustible source of wealth, yet population forms the genuine riches of a kingdom; it gives at once both strength and permanence to the state. Without the assistance of a sufficient number of people, the trade of any country must languish and decay: the boasted manufactures must be neglected, and even the necessary labours of the husbandman must fail. But notwithstanding

standing the evident superiority of population, it has been much less regarded than commerce; which, in this land of liberty, has been carried to a degree of perfection unknown in other countries, by the industry, diligence, and activity of the inhabitants, protected by the power, and assisted by the countenance of the government. Every manufacture has been improved, and every invention encouraged, that had a tendency to promote the various branches of trade carried on in this flourishing kingdom. These are doubtless noble efforts, and demand the applause of every lover of his country: but surely population, on which even commerce itself depends, should not be neglected. It is really astonishing, that in a country, where the advantages and disadvantages of every contingent are nicely calculated, and the effect of almost every cause foreseen: where the relief of human nature, and the general advantage of society, form the sole wish and aim of the legislature;

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so little regard is paid to the preservation of the lives of men, though confessedly one of the grand sources of population. Luxury, and diseases of various kinds, combine their malignant influences in lessening the number of the human species. The excessive use of spirituous liquors, and other modes of living, are destructive of propagation. The continual emigration of people to America, the vast number of hands employed in shipping, and the late call for men to the East Indies, and to settle our new conquests, tend greatly to lessen the populousness of this country, to the irreparable injury of agriculture and commerce.

But among all these causes of depopulation, that relative to diseases is the most alarming; because its destructive effects, though amazingly rapid, are silent and secret. How many daily perish by venereal and scorbutic diseases: a loss of the utmost consequence, because it generally falls upon those

those men who are of the greatest service to the state. The scurvy may be considered as endemial to England, owing perhaps to its situation as an island, the coldness and moisture of the air, the food of the inhabitants consisting chiefly of meat, and the long voyages at sea, performed by such numbers of people. We need not therefore be surprized to find, that almost every native of this island is more or less afflicted with the scurvy. This disease is of itself a sufficient misfortune, but when complicated with a venereal complaint, becomes truly alarming. The latter indeed is not like the scurvy, natural to this country; it has been imported from the continent to the destruction of thousands; and may perhaps be considered as one of the evils resulting from a foreign trade. Wealth, the child of commerce, is the parent of luxury and pleasure; and hence the venereal disease, too often complicated with the scurvy, acquires a malignity in this island, which renders it more violent, rapid,

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and fatal. These diseases, handed down to posterity, are possibly the cause of that degradation of the human species, which had been so often lamented by the writers of our own times. Every discovery, therefore, which tends to lessen this destructive malignancy, certainly deserves the attention of the public. It is, perhaps, absolutely impossible to destroy entirely the source of this evil; but it is possible to stop its alarming progress, if a medicine can be discovered that will eradicate both venereal and scorbutic disorders, whether single or complicated. A discovery of the most singular importance to our soldiers and seamen, afflicted with the former, because it is almost constantly aggravated by a natural scorbutic habit.

It is well known, that the venereal disease is more easily cured, both in France and Italy, than in England; an advantage that results entirely from the warmth of the cli-

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mate ; yet even there the disease too often becomes incurable, and triumphs over all the art of the physician. It is therefore no wonder that the difficulty is doubly increased in this country, and that the faculty have long wished that a medicine could be discovered, which would enable them to conquer this dreadful disease in its most malignant state, even when complicated with the scurvy. And this noble discovery has, fortunately for the public, been made by M. de Velnos. His antivenereal vegetable syrup, radically cures every stage of the venereal disease, though complicated with a violent scurvy.

But, before I proceed to enumerate the virtues and properties of this valuable medicine, it will be necessary to consider the methods generally made use of in the cure of scorbutic and venereal diseases, and shew wherein they are deficient and inadequate to answer the intended purpose.

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It is not sufficient, in the cure of the scurvy, to preserve the habit of body from the predisposing causes: a long methodical treatment is necessary.

The curative indications consist in correcting or preventing the alcalization of the humours; restoring the tone of the solids, and the fluidity of the juices; re-establishing the secretions; and, lastly, in procuring the necessary evacuations.

The medicines commonly made use of to effect these purposes are sweet, acid, and bitter vegetables, given in different forms, and in different quantities, according to the various stages of the disorder. But these are inadequate to the purpose. It is not sufficient to effect an alteration in the humours, or even to re-establish the natural functions; for unless nature be farther assisted by proper evacuations, either by stool, sweat, or urine, the disease too often degenerates into a

disease of another species; when it will be necessary to have recourse to antiscorbutics, given as alternatives, purgatives, bitters, acids, corroboratives, and gentle sudorifics.

These medicines, which experience has sufficiently proved to be necessary in making a radical cure, have their inconveniences. Purgatives, however properly chosen, and artfully managed, too often weaken and impede digestion; and even their operation is not supported without difficulty by persons of scorbutic habits. Sudorifics disturb the operations of nature, and finding the humours in a state approaching to a dissolution, increase the evil, and often occasion a total decomposition. Hence we see the reason why the common method of curing the scurvy, though remarkably tedious, is not free from danger; nor is it always certain: too many instances occur in medical history, where all the abilities of the physician have been exerted in vain.

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The venereal disease is too well known, and its effects too often fatally experienced, to need any explanation, either with regard to its nature, its origin, or the manner of its communication. It will be sufficient for my purpose to consider the several medicines hitherto made use of in curing this disease, and shew that they are all of them too often inadequate to effect the necessary purpose.

Three different kinds of remedies; sudorifics, purgatives, and mercury, sometimes alone and sometimes compounded, have been hitherto used in the cure of this disorder. Experience has abundantly shewn that the two first are not sufficient to answer the intention. Mercury, notwithstanding all its inconveniences, has indeed long been considered as a specific in the venereal disease; but in my opinion very unjustly. I wish there were no instances upon record where all its boasted virtues have failed, the patients, after taking it in almost every form,

have

have fallen a sacrifice to this loathsome disease. And perhaps the only reason why it has so long maintained its place in practice is, because no other medicine of equal virtue, in venereal complaints, has hitherto been known.

It will not be denied but mercury often cures the venereal disease; but is not the patient exposed to dangers and accidents of the most alarming kind; and is not the cure too often partial and incomplete?

Mercury is administered externally and internally.

The external methods are by friction and fumigation. By either of these, it is divided into very minute particles, penetrates through the pores in its metallic form, and affects the salivary glands.

By this method we are never certain with
regard

regard to the quantity; we cannot judge of it by its effects, because these are equivocal; it never acts equally on different patients; and the dissolution of the symptoms is an uncertain sign of a radical cure; for it sometimes happens, that notwithstanding all the symptoms occur, the cause is not totally removed. What dependence therefore can be placed upon a medicine, whose effects are so uncertain? If we add to this the danger to which the patient is exposed, notwithstanding all the care of an experienced and prudent physician, our opinion of the virtues of this boasted remedy, will be greatly lessened. How often do the most fatal consequences happen from its use? It is not uncommon for the mercurial particles to be diverted suddenly to the head, stomach, or intestines, where the ravages they make are absolutely irreparable.

Whether the intention be to salivate, or whether the salivation comes on, notwithstanding

standing all the care and precaution of the physician, the following symptoms generally attend it: a swelling of the head and neck; an obstruction and irritation of all the salivary glands; pain, inflammation, and exulceration of the internal parts of the mouth, attended with flough or excrescences, which occasion hemorrhages more or less considerable; foetid gums; looseness and loss of teeth; and a cruel want of sleep, occasioned by the fear and danger of suffocation.

The patient is more or less exposed to these dreadful symptoms, as he is more or less afflicted with a scorbutic habit; while the natural effects of the salivation, a strict regimen, pain, and an almost total want of sleep, reduce him to the lowest state of depression; without affording him the consolation, that a radical cure will be the consequence of his sufferings: because mercury, though administered with the utmost caution to patients afflicted with the scurvy, brings on too suddenly

denly a salivation, which is very difficult to stop; and the quantity of mercury the patient has received is not sufficient to destroy the venereal virus. Nor can this defect be supplied; for every time an attempt is made to increase the quantity, the same accidents return. When this happens, and the venereal symptoms are alarming, the case of the patient becomes deplorable; the scurvy is irritated by a medicine absolutely improper, and both diseases soon increase to a degree that almost defies the power of medicine, and leaves the miserable patient without resource.

But the scurvy is not the only circumstance that renders a salivation improper in the cure of the lues venerea. There are others, among which we may reckon various disorders incident to the palate, the uvula, and the tonsils; together with the erosions and extulcerations of the fauces, which, spreading deep into the subjacent parts, often resemble an eating cancer, which cannot be totally cured

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and consolidated, till the disorder which gave them birth is effectually subdued and removed. In this case, therefore, if in any we are to observe the following maxim, that the peccant matter is neither to be conveyed to, nor evacuated by the part affected; otherwise it must necessarily happen, that by an accumulation of the saliva, which to the taste of the patient is æruginous, virulent, and has its qualities heightened by the mercury, a gangrene must be produced, and soon after succeeded by a fatal sphacelus of the parts. Hildanus furnishes us with some remarkable instances of this kind, *Cent. 3. Obs. 92.* Salivation is also improper in cases where, besides a redundance of thick and viscid humours, the patient's strength is much impaired; and this is certainly a very just and rational maxim; since, in consequence of the languor of the whole body, and the defect of a due tone, and sufficient motive force, all the parts, and even the more noble viscera, are preternaturally flaccid; hence it happens
that

that the viscid fordes of the humours being thrown into violent commotions by the efficacy of the mercury, are easily, and in great abundance, thrown into those viscera; but cannot, in consequence of the weakness of the resisting fibres, be so easily expelled from them. Hence these accumulated and peccant humours become stagnant, and occasion terrible symptoms of various kinds.* But a more irreparable misfortune is produced, when these fordes are conveyed to the brain, already weakened by previous disorders; for by this means, palsies, apoplexies, and other terrible lethargic disorders must be soon produced. But since in a lues venerea of some standing, and deeply rooted in the humours, there is generally a large quantity of peccant matter; and since the strength of the patient is, for the most part, much exhausted, either by the force of the disease, previous intemper-

* Vide Sennert. Prax. Med. Part 4. Lib. 6. Fallop. De Lue Venerea: & Sylv. Meth. Med. Lib. 2. Cap. xi.

ance, surfeits, or an excess of venery, it generally happens that, in those circumstances, a salivation, by some considered as the only sovereign remedy for a lues venerea, is highly improper and absurd. Many are indeed of opinion, that even in these circumstances, the body may be rendered fit for bearing a salivation; if, for instance, before its use, the redundance of the peccant matter is lessened, and the spissitude corrected by venesections, purgatives, and the repeated exhibition of sudorifics; but Sydenham's opinion is certainly much better founded; that ingenious practitioner, in his Treatise *De Lue Venerea*, tells us, that by such measures the body is no more prepared for bearing a salivation, than the bodies of soldiers would be prepared for battle, by cutting their nerves. Hence we see that mercury used externally, either by rubbing or fumigation, is so far from being a specific in the cure of venereal disorders, that it is often deleterious; instead of curing, it destroys the patient. Let us now
 consider

consider how justly it may be termed a specific in the cure of the lues venerea, when administered internally.

Mercury in its crude state, and undivided by any intermediate body, given internally, produces no sensible effects. Cinnabar and Æthiops mineral, very little; because it is absolutely necessary to reduce mercury to a saline form, in order to render it capable of being dissolved in the juices of the stomach; for by that means only it is capable of entering the minute vessels of the human body. On this principle, mercury has been combined with all the mineral and vegetable acids, and thence an infinite number of saline mercuries have been produced; but the effects and dangers of them all are directly proportional to the quantity of acid spiculæ, with which the mercury is loaded. Hence we see the reason why mercurial preparations degenerate into poisons; and why they are always more or less dangerous.

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The principal preparations of mercury, given in a dry form, are turpeth mineral, mercurius dulcis, calomel, panacea of mercury, white precipitate, &c.

Keyser's and Belloste's pills, by their difficult solubility, remain long enough in the stomach to occasion the most alarming mischiefs; and these will always be proportional to the degree of activity of the medicine, and the quantity of the dose. This method of exhibiting the saline preparations of mercury, should never be practised without the utmost caution, on account of the alarming accidents that may result from their extreme irritating properties.

Sometimes on account of the violent corrosive quality of the mercurial preparation, it is dissolved in a large quantity of some fluid, as water, spirit of wine, &c. Even corrosive sublimate, one of the strongest preparations of mercury, is given in this manner; and sold

to the public under different names; but always to the prejudice, and too often to the total destruction of the patient's constitution. By this method of exhibiting the saline preparations of mercury, its particles, being already minutely divided, penetrates the capillary vessels, and at once irritates and corrodes the nerves. It is therefore no wonder that the afflicted patient, too often with a painful degree of certainty, attributes to this cause the first attack of a nervous disorder, which all the power of physic can never remove.

If to these we add the inconveniences inseparable from mercurial preparations, and which are always the consequences of their use; if we consider the small number of patients to whom mercury may be exhibited with safety, among whom we must rank youths and old men, women and hypochondriacs; because the delicacy and sensibility of the nerves of the one, and the rigidity of those of the other, render them more susceptible of
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the bad effects of saline mercury; the use of mercurial medicines will be confined within very narrow limits. It frequently causes miscarriage in women during the first months of their pregnancy, and kills the fœtus in the womb of those who are farther advanced; it debilitates the stomach, occasions dysenteries and spitting of blood; causes severe and continual pains, tremblings, and the palsy: accelerates a pulmonary consumption in those a little inclinable to that disorder: For mercury always greatly affects the lungs of those who have made a free use of it. Add to this the chronical diseases occasioned by this medicine, and which are with the utmost difficulty, if ever, cured; and generally supposed to owe their origin to other causes; its being absolutely improper to be administered to valetudinarians, and persons of weak and delicate constitutions; and its being absolutely contrary when the disease is complicated with others, especially with the scurvy; and then let the reader judge how far mercurial preparations are useful. In

In a variety of venereal cases, mercury instead of removing increases the complaint; such as ulcers in the palate, swelling of the tonsils, caries and exostoses of the bones, indurations of the glands of the groin and neck, buboes, where they have acquired a certain degree of malignancy, inflammation and hardness of the testicles, warts, and fresh contracted claps; in many other cases it serves only as palliative.

Where then is the boasted efficacy of mercury? Experience has abundantly proved that the small degree of advantage derived from mercurial preparations is more than balanced by the alarming consequences inseparable from their use: the inconveniences far exceed the utility.

But it may be asked, how can these consequences be prevented? Is it possible to cure some stages of the venereal disease without the assistance of mercury? The answer is easy: It is --- Velnos's Vegetable Syrup effectually

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tually performs the cure, without being followed with any of those evils, which always attend a course of mercurial medicines. It totally eradicates the disease in its most alarming stages, without offering the least injury to the constitution. It may be given with the utmost safety to persons of the most delicate frame; to youths, and even women far advanced in their pregnancy. Its action is remarkably gentle: it ruffles not the constitution; it impedes not the common operations of nature. Of benign and friendly properties, it rather supports than impairs the nervous system. It is equally effectual in the scurvy as in the venereal disease; a complaint which has so long baffled the skill of the most eminent physicians, and which is so common in this country. It answers all the curative indications already enumerated for eradicating that cruel disease; it serves at once as a remedy for the disorder and food for the patient. It acts as an alterative, and by its corroborative qualities re-establishes the secretions; discharges part
of

of the peccant matter through the pores of the skin; loofens the belly to a convenient degree, and becomes a purgative without its inconveniences.

But when the venereal difeafe is complicated with the fcurvy, the vegetable fyrup of M. de Velnos, is perhaps the only remedy hitherto known that can effect the cure. It is equally adapted to both, and both are eradicated with the fame eafe, and nearly in the fame time.

A medicine, endowed with thefe noble virtues, furely deferves the notice of phyficians; as it will enable them to conquer a complication of difeafes, which has hitherto defied the power of medicine, and carried thousands of ufeful members of fociety untimely to the grave. This capital medicine has been known fome time in France, and has met with the approbation of the faculty, at the Royal college of phyficians in Paris, and I would

willingly hope, that by introducing here a medicine, which totally eradicates all kinds of venereal and scorbutic disorders, without the least injury to the constitution, I shall be thought to have done some service to this country, by saving the lives of many of my fellow creatures.

But in order to support in England the great reputation which the vegetable syrup of M. de Velnos has justly acquired in France, and prevent the public being imposed upon by a spurious medicine, it is necessary to observe, that a composition of a very different nature is sold in London, under the deceptive title of *The Vegetable Syrup of M. de Velnos, with improvements*. Mr. Burrows, the author of this medicine, being well acquainted with the virtues and efficacy of Velnos's syrup, and the great reputation it had justly acquired at Paris, agreed with the inventor for a certain number of bottles of the vegetable syrup, which he administered

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in London, promising to pay M. de Velnos a certain price for each bottle, and actually performed some remarkable cures with that quantity of the medicine. But his covetousness soon proved too strong for his virtue; he scrupled not to sacrifice the confidence of a generous public at the shrine of avarice. A spurious composition, under the ungenerous pretence of its being the medicine of Velnos with improvements, has for some time been advertised in the public papers by this *conscientious* gentleman. Mr. Burrows has indeed pretended, that he knew the composition of M. de Velnos's vegetable syrup. But it may surely be asked how he came by the secret? He never had it from the inventor; and no other person in the world knows what the ingredients are of which it is composed. M. de Velnos, justly exasperated against so ungenerous a proceeding, came over to England, and being desirous of securing his own reputation, and cautioning the public against so gross an imposition, made the following affidavit

davit before the lord mayor of London, and caused it to be published in the London Gazette, on the 11th of August 1772.

London, } “ JEAN Joseph Vergely de
 (to wit.) } “ Velnos, late of Paris in the
 “ kingdom of France, but now of the city
 “ of London, gentleman, maketh oath and
 “ fayeth, that he, this deponent, is the in-
 “ ventor and sole proprietor of the fyrup
 “ known at Paris under the name of Velnos’s
 “ Vegetable Syrup for the cure of venereal
 “ and scorbutic disorders, either when the
 “ patient is afflicted with the one, or with
 “ both together; and that this deponent
 “ faith that the composition of his fyrup is
 “ from simple vegetables only, and that
 “ there is not in its composition any thing
 “ of a mercurial, antimonial, or metallic
 “ nature; and this deponent farther faith,
 “ that he never did discover to any person
 “ in the world, the secret of making or
 “ com-

“ compounding his vegetable fyrup aforefaid;
 “ and this deponent farther faith, that he
 “ has left his true and real vegetable fyrup
 “ to be adminiftered only by Meffrs. Saffory
 “ and Son, furgeons in London, and by no
 “ one elfe; and any other fyrup that may
 “ be offered to the public in the name of this
 “ deponent is fpurious.

“ VERGELY DE VELNOS.”

*Sworn at the Mansion-houfe,
 London, this 6th day of Auguft, 1772.*

WILLIAM NASH, Mayor.

If any doubt fhould ftill remain with re-
 gard to the medicines of Velnos and Mr.
 Burrows, whether they are, or are not
 compounded of the fame ingredients, the
 doubt

doubt may be infallibly removed by analysing both. Mr. Velnos is very desirous to abide by this criterion; he wishes to have them both put to that severe test. His vegetable syrup has been repeatedly analysed at Paris, by the first chemists, and at the request of the principal nobility of that kingdom. I have annexed the process for the satisfaction of the reader.

Convinced of the justice of his cause, and assured of the success of his medicine, Mr. Velnos still hopes for the encouragement of a generous people, and flatters himself, that Time, the great revealer of all events, will soon withdraw the flimsy veil of deception, and expose the imposition in its proper colours.

Nothing but the most earnest entreaty of M. de Velnos, and the desire every honest man must feel to vindicate the character of a friend injured in the most tender point, could have

Have induced me to have troubled the public with a dispute which properly lies between him and Mr. Burrows, the patentee of a Noftrum he administers under the Title of *Velnos's Syrup, with Improvements*. Mr. Burrows must either be an enemy to his own reputation, or conscious that his pretensions are founded on falsehood; because Mr. Velnos has proposed a method that must put a final period to the dispute. Let both the medicines be analysed, and their component parts compared; and it will soon appear, whether they are the same or not; and also whether there are any mercurial, antimonial, or metallic particles in either. This is surely an offer which candour cannot refuse; and which any person accused of the atrocious act of selling a medicine under the name of a man, who absolutely disclaims it, should embrace with pleasure, if conscious of his own integrity.

M. de Velnos wishes for nothing more, than what every man, in similar circumstances, would think he had a right to demand. No person of character will surely submit to the glaring imposition of suffering a medicine to be publicly sold under his name, when he is a stranger to the composition. Reputation is too sacred a thing to be sported with, especially where life and health are concerned. For as our immortal Shakespeare justly observes,

Who steals my purse, steals trash, 'tis something,
nothing,

'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to
thousands;

But he that filches from me my good name,

Robs me of that, which not enriches him,

And makes me poor indeed.

I shall now leave Mr. Burrows to the dictates of his own conscience; I have proposed a method by which he may exculpate himself, if innocent; but, if this be refused,

the

the public must judge as they think fit of a man, who declines putting his assertions to the test of experiments.

M. Velnos's Vegetable Syrup has acquired some reputation in the cure of scrophulous disorders; but not having administered it myself to persons of a strumous habit, or afflicted with the king's evil, I can say nothing from my own knowledge; and shall therefore content myself with adding the following paragraph from a letter I lately received from M. de Velnos.

“ YOU seem to doubt,” says he, “ of
 “ the efficacy of my medicine in scrophulous
 “ diseases, and the king's evil: but I assure
 “ you, I have met with the greatest success
 “ in the cure of those disorders; and you
 “ may depend, that a cautious administra-
 “ tion of my Syrup, and a strict and care-
 “ ful attention, with regard to regimen,
 “ will greatly palliate, and generally eradi-

“cate every symptom of these fatal disorders.”

It has more than once been asserted in this dissertation, that M. de Velnos's Syrup is composed of simple vegetables only; and that from this circumstance it derives a peculiar advantage over all other medicines extracted from any bodies belonging to the mineral kingdom. Because, though it is far more efficacious, it is not susceptible of those dreadful consequences that generally attend a course of drastic mineral preparations. It may be given with success in all complications, at all seasons, and to all constitutions. Even an error in the administration, or the imprudence of the patient, can produce no alarming effect. It is therefore of the utmost importance to establish the truth of this assertion, namely, that the Syrup of M. de Velnos is compounded of simple vegetables only;

only: and I flatter myself that the following ANALYSIS of the Medicine will be abundantly sufficient for that purpose.

It has more than once been observed in this dissertation, that M. de Vénos's medicine is composed of simple vegetables only, and that from this circumstance it derives a peculiar advantage over all other medicines extracted from any bodies belonging to the mineral kingdom. Because though it is far more efficacious, it is not susceptible of whole dreadful consequences that generally attend a course of drastic mineral preparations. It may be given with success in all complications, in all seasons, and to all constitutions. Even an error in the administration, or the imprudence of the patient, can produce no alarming effect. It is therefore of the utmost importance to establish the truth of this assertion, namely, that the Symplicium of M. de Vénos is composed of simple vegetables.

ANALYSIS

A N A L Y S I S

*Of the Syrup of M. de Velnos, * made by Order of the Marshal Duke de Biron, by Messrs. Rouelle and La Caffaigne, Professors of Chemistry in Paris; who first made the Experiments separately, and then, in order to corroborate the Truth of the whole, repeated them together.*

THIS Remedy, in its natural state, exhibits the appearance of a syrup, of a thinner consistence than the common; of a brown colour; transparent; of a taste a little

* This Medicine was administered by M. Mittie, in the hospital of French guards, under the inspection of Messrs. Bercher, Le Thieulier, Doyen, Guilbert, and Deslou, doctors regents of the faculty of medicine, and M. Dufouart, surgeon major of the regiment of guards.

little medicinal, but principally that of
sugar.

Experiment I.

ONE pound of the fyrup, distilled in
balneum mariæ, gave not the least indication
of spirit; but the phlegm was slightly aro-
matic.

Experiment II.

FOUR ounces of the fyrup poured into a
plate of Delft ware, and placed in balneum
mariæ, produced one ounce five drams of
crystalline matter, of a brownish colour, and
which attracted the humidity of the air.

Experiment III.

SIX drams and a half of the above cry-
stalline matter, being put into two ounces of
rectified

rectified spirit of wine, and digested in balneum mariæ, the menstruum was strongly tintured; and, after being decanted, filtrated, and set in a cool place, deposited a sweet, viscous extract.

Experiment IV.

A second digestion in the same quantity of spirit of wine, gave the same produce.

Experiment V.

BY a third digestion in the same quantity of a spirit of the same quality, the menstruum was not so deeply tintured; and, being deposited in a cool place, a small quantity of little crystals, of a sweet sugary taste, shot to the sides of the vessel.

Ex-

Experiment VI.

A fourth and fifth digestion gave the same produce.

Experiment VII.

AFTER these five digestions, there remained a black matter weighing twelve grains, of an insipid taste, absolutely insoluble in spirit of wine, but easily soluble in water. On being thrown upon burning coals, it gave a smell compounded of those arising from animal and vegetable substances; owing to the matter used in the clarification of the syrup.

Experiment VIII.

THE menstruum charged both with the extract and saline matter, being mixed, first

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with

with a little, and afterwards with a large quantity of water, did not become turbid.

Experiment IX.

THE spirit of wine, charged with the extracted matter of the first and second digestion, being drawn off in balneum mariæ, and again cohobated and distilled, there remained an extract, sweet and very tenacious, of a yellow brown colour, attracting the moisture of the air; and being added to that which was actually deposited, weighed three drams and a half.

Experiment X.

WE have already observed, that from the third, fourth, and fifth digestions, some crystals were obtained; these crystals weighed a dram. The menstruum in which they
shot,

shot, being evaporated, produced no more; but there remained a dry fugary matter, weighing one dram and one scruple. The crystalline particles were prevented from shooting, by being wrapped up in a small portion of the unctuous extract obtained by the two first digestions.

Experiment XI.

THESE crystals, as well as the unctuous extract, being thrown upon burning coals, did not decrepitate, but diffused a smell of burnt sugar.

Experiment XII.

FOUR ounces of the syrup, being placed in balneum mariæ, and the fluid evaporated to a dryness, there remained one ounce five drams of desiccated matter. This matter

pulverised, was put into a glass retort with four ounces of well rectified æther, and digested in a sand heat, with a moderate degree of fire. The æther was then drawn over into a matrafs luted to the mouth of the retort; cohobated; again distilled, and again cohobated; after which the digestion was continued for two hours. By this means we obtained a tincture, diffusing the smell of ambergris; and the æther being evaporated, the dry matter had the same smell, was transparent, and of an acrid taste. This desiccated matter dissolved totally in spirit of wine; and water being added to the tincture, it rendered it but very little turbid.

Experiment XIII.

A part of the above desiccated matter digested in warm water dissolved totally, except a few minute resinous particles in such small quantity, that they seemed not to have re-
sided

found originally in the medicine, but to have been formed by the action of the small portion of acid in the æther on the oily parts of the vegetables used in the composition of the fyrup.

Experiment XIV.

SIX ounces and a half of the disiccated matter procured from a pound of the fyrup, being put into a retort, and the vessel placed in a reverberating furnace, there first came over a considerable quantity of phlegm, the acidity of which increased in proportion as the fire was augmented. As the heat became more violent, the acid became more concentrated, and more empyreumatic; and at the same time there came over a black oil, partly limpid, and partly thick. The fire being raised to the most violent degree, more acid and oil came over; but not a single particle of mercury. The retort being broke, there

there remained, dispersed all over the internal surface, a burnt matter or coal, extremely rarified, like that of any unctuous body.

Experiment XV.

THIS coaly matter being pulverized, mixed with the black flux in a crucible well luted, and melted in a wind furnace, not a single metallic particle was found at the bottom of the crucible.

OBSERVATIONS AND DEDUCTIONS.

I.

IT follows from the first experiment, that one or several aromatic vegetables are used in the composition of the fyrup.

II.

From the small degree of colour and taste of the extract obtained by the second experiment, it is plain, that the fyrup contains only a small quantity of active particles, and that sugar, or some saccharine matter, forms the predominant part of the medicine.

III.

It follows also from the third, fourth, and ninth experiments, that the active particles

ticles in the fyrup are very few, and that a considerable quantity of honey is used in the composition.

IV.

From the fifth, sixth, tenth, eleventh, and fourteenth experiments, it follows, that sugar is also used in the composition of the fyrup; because we have been able to separate it from the extract by crystallization, and consequently to determine the quantity; and as it is very probable, that equal parts of sugar and honey are used, and as two drams and a scruple of sugar are contained in two ounces of the fyrup, if we add two drams and a scruple of honey, there will remain only one dram and twelve grains of active particles.

V.

It is evident from the seventh experiment, that the fyrup had been clarified either with
isinglass,

ifinglass or the white of eggs; but the quantity of either is too small for us to imagine it is used to increase the virtues of the medicine.

VI.

From the eighth, twelfth, and thirteenth experiments it appears, that the fyrup does not, in its natural state, contain any resinous particles; but as the active part dissolves equally in water and spirit of wine, it may be considered as a resinous extract.

VII.

In fine, it is evident from the fourteenth and fifteenth experiments, that the fyrup does not contain a single particle, either of mercury, antimony, or any metallic or semi-metallic substance whatever.

C O N C L U S I O N .

From the whole therefore it appears that the fyrup of Velnos is compounded of a con-

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siderable

considerable portion of sugar and honey, of a
 resinous extract from one or several aroma-
 tic vegetables, and a small part of isinglass
 or whites of eggs; the whole dissolved in a
 large quantity of water.

Signed

LA CASSAIGNE,
 AND
 ROUELLE.

C A S E S,

Wherein Velnos's Vegetable Syrup has been administered with the most surprizing Success.

PERsuaded that every attempt, however artful, to impose upon the public, will ultimately reflect disgrace upon the author, I am determined never to publish any case but what has happened under my own inspection. I might easily have swelled the following catalogue to an enormous size, had I thought proper to insert the narrative of cures performed in France, by this medicine; but I chose to omit them, tho' the cases are authenticated in such a manner, that no reasonable person can doubt of their being true. But it may not be amiss for me to declare that I never administered this medicine but with the greatest success; and am persuaded that time will display all its virtues, and silence the tongue of envious opposition.

C A S E I.

London, } **E**leanor Smith, now of the
 (to wit.) } parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate; maketh oath and faith, that she, this deponent, for some months past has been afflicted with the most dreadful symptoms of the venereal disease, attended with shankers and sores of the foulest kind, together with the most excruciating and constant pains in her head and limbs, which reduced her to so miserable a state of lowness, that she could not walk a-cross the room without assistance. This deponent also declares, that she was, at the same time, afflicted with what is called a hectic fever, in consequence of the above complaints; but by the taking of M. de Velnos's Vegetable Syrup, administered to her by Messrs. Saffory and Son, surgeons in Bishopsgate Street, London, this deponent declares, that she was perfectly and radically cured; that she now remains in perfect health,

health, and that all her sores are healed without having any other remedy applied to them, except the fyrup used as a wash.

ELEANOR SMITH.

Sworn, *September 30, 1772.*

Before me,

WILLIAM NASH, Mayor.

September 30, 1772.

I do hereby certify the truth of the above Case of *Eleanor Smith*, who was under my care, and in my house, during the whole time of her cure.

MARY WALKER.

*Mistress of the Parish Workhouse of St. Botolph,
Bishopsgate.*

Witneses to the Cure,

HENRY CARPENTER,

JAMES PEAT.

} Church-wardens.

C A S E II.

MAry Wilson, late of the parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, about 22 years of age, laboured under a complication of some of the most obstinate venereal symptoms I ever saw. The injury had been received some years; and she had been long afflicted with the most excruciating pains, running sores in many parts of her body, shankers upon the labiæ, and a node of the size of a pigeon's egg; and excessively painful, on one of her legs. She was naturally of a scorbutic habit, and this, complicated with the venereal disease, had so emaciated her body, that even an attempt to effect the cure, by the common method, must have been attended with the most fatal consequences. But by taking of four bottles of Velnos's Vegetable Syrup, and observing a strict regimen, every symptom of her complaint was removed; she was perfectly cured, and in less than three weeks after recovered her former strength.

C A S E

C A S E III.

John Nelson, formerly of the parish of Maplebeck, in the county of Nottingham, mariner, had for fifteen years, laboured under a dreadful complication of the scurvy and venereal disease. He acquired the former in his youth, by the almost constant use of salt provisions at sea, and contracted the latter when about twenty years of age. Time had increased the symptoms to so violent a degree that even life itself was become a burden. He had continual running sores in both his legs, a fistula in perineo which had penetrated the urinary passage, so that he voided as much water through the wound, as by the urethra. In this deplorable condition he began a course of the syrup, which in about two months removed all his complaints, and in less than four, he was stronger, and enjoyed a better state of health than he ever could remember in any one period of his life.

C H A S E IV.

MR. Beaumgartner, merchant, of Poor Jewry Lane, Aldgate, residing at Chelsea, was, for a number of years, afflicted with a most virulent scurvy, which had occasioned one univerfal scurf over his head, which constantly discharged a large quantity of peccant fœtid matter: there was also upon his forehead a lump as big as a pigeon's egg; several of the joints were enchylosed, particularly the left arm, which he had nearly lost the use of. At the same time he was afflicted with severe complaints, univerfal lassitude, and a want of appetite; together with constant and most excruciating rheumatic pains in all his limbs. In this deplorable state, he applied to M. de Velnos, when he was last in town, who gave his syrurp with the greatest success: the fourth bottle perfected the cure, except a little lameness, which was removed after M. de Velnos's departure, by my administration of a fifth bottle, the patient was radically cured; and now remains in perfect health.

When

fyrop, and the cure was perfectly completed before he had finished the third bottle; the usual quantity, unless the case be remarkably severe, or complicated with a venereal complaint.

C A S E VI.

AN officer of the guards contracted, about two years since, a venereal complaint, but thought himself perfectly cured. Injection only had been used, and this being deemed sufficient, he had taken no medicines internally. Some time after, he was seized with the most excruciating pains in one of the glands of the left groin, which swelled prodigiously. One of his testicles also was greatly inflamed and indurated, and he had frequently very severe nocturnal pains. The bubo was at last, with the utmost difficulty, brought to suppuration; but the inflammation and pain of the testicle increased, notwithstanding all the efforts of the best physicians, and his being twice salivated, so that

it was judged necessary to extirpate it, especially as it appeared to be in a scirrous state. There was also an ulcer in the perineum, through which part of the urine escaped. He was, however, very unwilling to consent to the above operation, especially as they were obliged to inform him, that even then the cure would be doubtful, from his labouring under a scorbutic habit of body, which, complicated with the venereal virus, had contaminated the whole mass of blood. After continuing above fifteen months in this deplorable condition, he applied to me, by the recommendation of a brother officer, whom I had some time before cured. It was not without difficulty that I undertook the cure, which seemed almost beyond the power of medicine to effect. But by a careful perseverance in administering the medicine, I happily succeeded, even beyond my most sanguine hopes. I effected a radical cure; and the patient is now in a state of perfect health.

C A S E VII.

A N officer of the royal navy, now residing at his seat in Devonshire, came lately to London, in order to put himself under a regular course of Velnos's Vegetable Syrup, for the cure of one of the most aggravating maladies (to use his own expression) under which human nature could possibly subsist. When I first saw him, he was almost blind with one eye, and the sight of the other greatly impaired, and an infinite number of pustules upon the eye-lids. The parotid, submaxillary, and sublingual glands were enlarged and indurated. His head was covered with a general scurf, and, during the last two months, a foetid matter was discharged from his ears. He was so greatly emaciated and weakened, that he had not been able to walk beyond the limits of his garden for some time past, tho' very fond of that exercise. In a word, the disease had acquired so inveterate a degree of malignancy, that it baffled all the skill of the most eminent physicians, who had been consulted for his relief. He, however, declared
that

that he had not received a venereal taint for more than 20 years past, but that he had, from a child, been afflicted with a scorbutic habit, which had continually increased by the use of salt provisions, and long voyages at sea. In this deplorable situation he began a course of the vegetable syrurp, under my direction; and in six weeks every complaint was greatly abated. The glands were almost reduced to their natural size; his former sight returned; and I have lately received a letter from him, in which he informs me, that he is perfectly recovered, and that he is well convinced, that the medicine has insinuated itself into the most minute vessels, and eradicated the scorbutic virus out of all the juices of his body.

C A S E VIII.

A Poor woman, about 30 years of age, and six months gone with child, was lately recommended to me as an object of compassion by a gentleman of the faculty. She had received a venereal injury from her husband

two years ago, and which discovered itself by a large indurated swelling of one of the inguinal glands. Conscious of the baseness of the action, and desirous of concealing it from the world, the husband applied to a chemist, who injudiciously advised him to rub the tumour with mercurial ointment, without administering any internal medicines to carry off the virus. In consequence of this treatment, the swelling was dispersed, and the matter thrown into the mass of blood. From that time she had never been perfectly well; but the symptoms had not been so very violent till about two months before I saw her, during which time mercurial medicines, of the mildest kind, had, from time to time, been administered, but without success; and her prodigious weakness rendered it impossible for her to undergo a salivation. In this deplorable situation I first saw her. She was in bed, and so prodigiously weak, that she could not even sit up long enough to have it made. She had a continual and excessive discharge; ulcers in the throat and palate; excruciating nocturnal pains in the forehead, and shin-bones; and, in the left leg, a wound of the worst aspect,

aspect, in which a caries of the bone was plainly perceptible. A human being, in such melancholy circumstances, excited my pity; I undertook her cure from a motive of humanity. The utmost caution was, however, necessary; and her excessive weakness obliged me, for near 20 days, to give the medicine in very small doses; after which I gradually increased it to the usual quantity. In about seven weeks she was perfectly recovered, except the wound in her leg; and even this, after an exfoliation of the bone had taken place, was easily healed, and the cure perfectly completed. The mildness of this syrup is so remarkable, that notwithstanding her extreme weakness, and the cruel pains she suffered from the malignancy of the disease, she went her full time, was safely delivered; and is now, together with her child, in perfect health.

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