

**An essay on the cure of ulcerated legs, without rest, exemplified by a varitey of cases, in which laborious exercise was used during the cures / [William Rowley].**

**Contributors**

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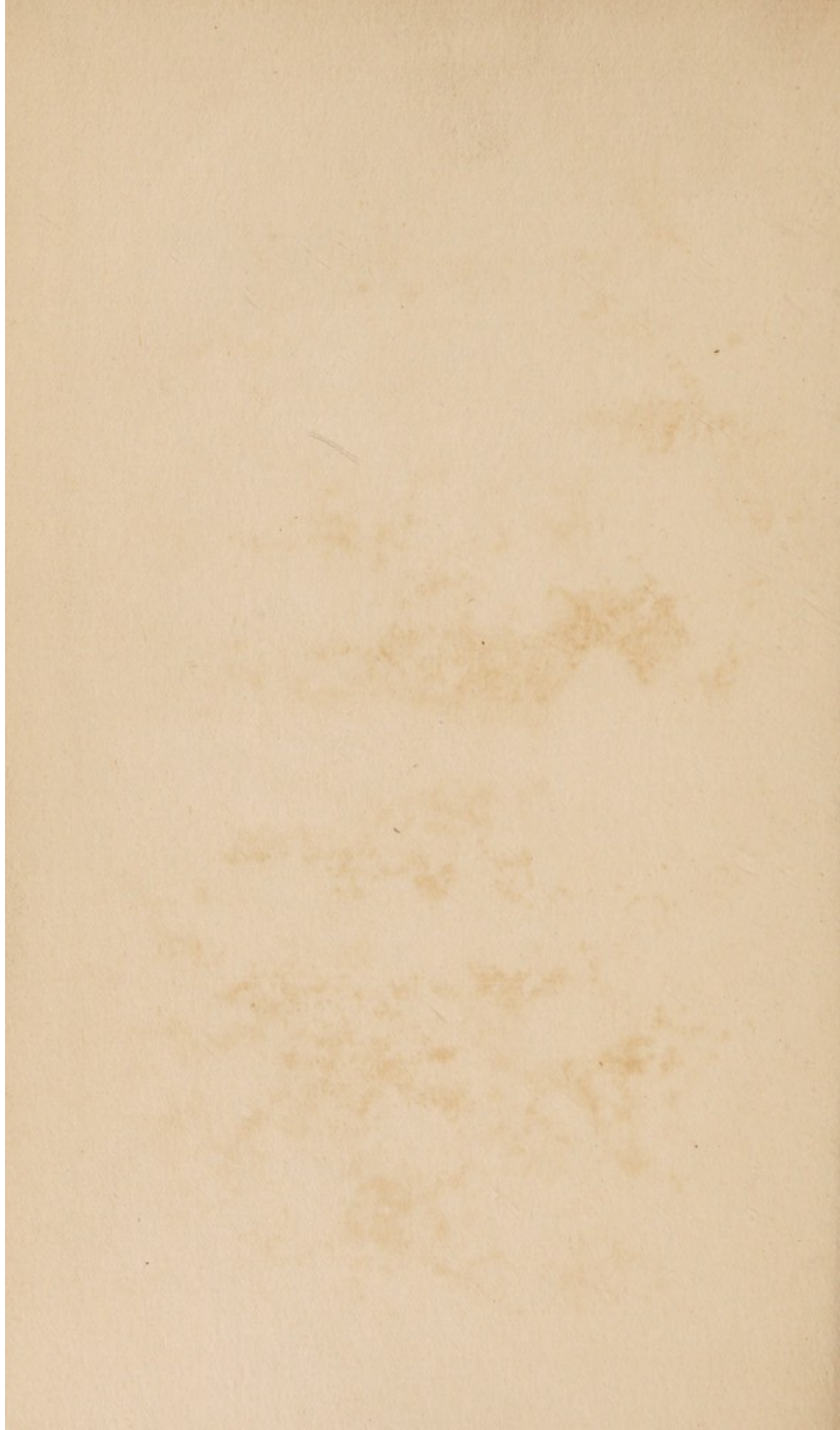




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*John Kingston*  
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A N  
E S S A Y  
ON THE CURE OF  
ULCERATED LEGS,  
WITHOUT REST,  
EXEMPLIFIED BY A  
VARIETY OF CASES,  
IN WHICH  
LABORIOUS EXERCISE was used during the  
CURES.

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B Y  
WILLIAM ROWLEY, SURGEON.

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THE SECOND EDITION.  
With NEW OBSERVATIONS and IMPROVEMENTS.

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Printed for F. NEWBERRY, at No. 20, the Corner of  
St. Paul's Church-yard.

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WILLIAM ROWLEY

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T H E

## P R E F A C E.

**A**S the common Methods of treating Ulcers of the Legs are unsuccessful, and their breaking out again, after a supposed Cure, frequent; it is surprising, that no other Methods than those at present have been put in Practice, to render their Cure more certain. But, I believe, a blind Obedience to Authority, prejudices the Minds of many Practitioners, and renders them inactive in the Pursuit of Improvements, which might be easily made; by applying more closely to the Effects of simple Medicines, in curing Diseases. There are many Cases in Surgery, which are greatly assisted by Medicine, but none more than Ulcers of the Legs. And as a successful Practice, in a great Variety of  
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of Cases, has proved the good Effects of the Methods advanced in the following Sheets, I hope I shall not be accused of Vanity in making my Observations public.

Upper Holborn,

No. 192.

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## E S S A Y, &amp;c.

**T**HE most common and authoris'd Practice, in the cure of Ulcerated Legs, is to insist on Rest, and a Horizontal Position ; at the same time purges and other remedies, according to the circumstances of the case, are universally given ; and it is not uncommon for some patients to undergo Salvation ; by which methods, and proper dressings, many patients receive a temporary cure ; and to prevent a relapse (especially in those Ulcers which have been of long standing) it is common to produce an artificial discharge, by means of an Issue : but in general, and those persons in particular, who are expos'd to any laborious exercise, seldom enjoy this supposed cure

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any long time ; for on using their former exercise, the Ulcer commonly breaks out again.

This is well known by Surgeons as a fact, and whoever will attend to a number of these cases cured in the above method, which is the common practice of the Hospitals in general, will be well convinced of the truth of what is advanced. The following quotation from Mr. Sharp will give a perfect idea of the present mode of practice in the cure of Ulcerated Legs.

“ Bleeding and other evacuations will be  
 “ serviceable, and above all things, *Rest*,  
 “ and a *Horizontal Position*; which last  
 “ circumstance is of so great importance  
 “ to the cure of Ulcerated Legs, that un-  
 “ less the patient will conform to it strict-  
 “ ly, the skill of the Surgeon will avail  
 “ nothing; for as the indisposition of  
 “ these Sores is in some measure owing to  
 “ the gravitation of the humours down-  
 “ wards, it will be much more benefi-  
 “ cial to lie along, than sit upright, tho’  
 “ the leg be laid on a chair, since, even  
 “ in this posture, they will descend with  
 “ more



“ more force than if the body was reclined.

“ Ulcers of many years standing are  
 “ very difficult of cure; and in old people the cure is often dangerous, frequently exciting an Asthma, a Diarrhœa, or Fever, which destroys the patient, unless the sore breaks out again; so that it is not altogether adviseable to attempt the cure in such cases, but only the reduction of them into better order and less compass, which, if they be not malignant, is generally done with *Rest*, and proper care. The cure of those in young people may be undertaken with more safety, but we often find it necessary to raise a Salivation to effect it, tho’, when compleated, it does not always last, so that the prospect of cure in stubborn old Ulcers, at any time of life is but indifferent.”

Bleeding and other evacuations are certainly serviceable in the cure of Ulcers of the Legs: but as to lying in bed during the cure (with all respect due to a Practitioner of such great merit) I must beg



leave to be of a contrary opinion, for the reasons before-mentioned, i. e. the patient, after keeping his bed for two or three months, and by the assistance of the common remedies, or Salivation, the Ulcers are supposed to be cured ; on using exercise, they most commonly break out again, and render the patients as miserable as ever. This is a principal objection to this method of Practice ; for in the method of cure which I follow, the patients are very rarely liable to a relapse ; because I order them to use considerable exercise during the cure, and by internal remedies, endeavour to supply the want of Rest, and the position, esteemed so useful in curing Ulcers of the Legs . and this is effected by promoting a large discharge of urine, with gentle cooling purges ; which methods, by proper management, will cure in general the most inveterate and obstinate Ulcers.

Neither can I agree with Mr. Sharp, that the cure in old people is so difficult as is imagined, producing Asthma, Diarrhœa, or Fever ; experience in a number of such cases



cases proving the contrary ; instances of this sort I must acknowledge to have seen happen, but then very rarely ; therefore I should not hesitate in attempting the cure in the generality of obstinate cases which offer, even though the patients are far advanced in years, or the Ulcers have been of long standing ; however, I believe it may be a good practical caution, where the patient has been afflicted with any of the fore-mentioned complaints ; in my own practice, I have cured a great number of these cases in old people, and yet not the least inconvenience has happened during the cure, nor after the cure has been confirmed

As to reducing Ulcers into better order and less compass, by means of Rest and care, can answer but very little purpose, unless the patient keeps his bed during life, which Remedy, I believe, most will think worse than the Disease ; however, these rules, so positively laid down by Mr. Sharp, has deterred many Surgeons from attempting the cure in old people in general, and very frequently in other cases, where



where the cure might have easily been effected, without any inconvenience whatever to the patient.

Salivation, in these cases, in my opinion, is very absurd in general, and even cruel, unless the case was Venereal; for such a powerful Mercurial course, does greatly weaken and relax the most athletic and strong; were I not to mention the danger and ill effects, in the more tender and delicate constitutions; but what renders this practice still more disagreeable is, that it does not in general prove successful; which Mr. Sharp himself acknowledges; and I have seen a number of patients salivated in these cases, and to all appearance cured; but in a short time after, the sores have broke out again, and the patients have been under as unhappy circumstances as before the cure was attempted; with this difference, that a good constitution has been in a great measure destroyed by this fruitless and unsuccessful attempt, which in some instances, no means whatever, after this severe course, can repair.

In some particular cases, and where the patient has been of a robust constitution,  
or



or in very foul Ulcers, which have a fœtid discharge, I have succeeded by giving the Calomel, from three to five grains, every night in a pill, and every third morning a gentle cathartic; at the same time I have fumigated the Ulcer with Cinnabar and Æthiops mineral equal parts; and in this manner I have successfully cured some few obstinate cases, where my method and others have failed; and in other cases where the Ulcers were very large, callous and foul, in order to reduce it to a more simple state the sooner, I have used the Fumigation, and I am of opinion with success; but it must not be used in any inflammatory case, as it will put the patient to much pain, encrease the inflammation, and not answer any curative intention whatever. The procuring an artificial discharge by means of an Issue, notwithstanding it is almost an universal practice, I must positively declare, that I have never made use of this imaginary assistance; and yet I flatter myself, that my success has been much greater than those who have used it. The trifling  
discharge



discharge of an Issue is very inconsiderable; tho' I know that many of the Profession are of opinion, that something very essential is obtained by this means; however, I will not take upon me positively to condemn a practice so established by custom; I will mention my objections, and then leave every Practitioner to his own discretion, either to neglect or adopt the Issues. It is imagined, that when an old Ulcer is cured, that the constitution has been so much used to a discharge, that unless we assist Nature by means of an Issue, that there will be a translation of matter to some more noble part, as the Brain, or the Lungs, &c. and that it prevents their breaking out again. Which opinion, tho' very common, I am persuaded is more the effect of false Theory, or the present defective treatment, than to be found by real observation in Practice; especially if the case is treated with proper internal remedies during the cure; besides this, patients in general cannot be very happy, for often, the pain occasioned by the Issue is equal to that of the Ulcer, when in its worst



worst state, in which case it must be immaterial to the patient, whether he has the Ulcer or the Issue to torment him: and by my own observation on the practice of others, I have frequently known it not to answer the end expected, the Ulcer has broke out again, and been as troublesome as ever; however, if an issue can be of service, I would advise it in women after the cure, between the age of thirty-four and fifty, for reasons so obvious to Practitioners, that I need not mention them.

Those cases which may be imagined to arise from a Venereal cause, may be cured by a much easier and milder method than Salivation; a light Mercurial alterative course, assisted with the Fumigation, will in most cases prove successful. Tho' I have observed, that these methods which are mild, frequently occasion feverish heats, and probably, by encreasing the blood's motion, greatly disturb the whole body; however, when this has happened I have commonly succeeded, by ordering the Nitre in full doses joined with Cam-

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phor,



phor, which, in my opinion, has greatly assisted in hastening the cures; but if the Nitre is given in that timorous manner, too commonly practised, not the least good effect whatever will be produced.

Great care is necessary to acquire a just account of the patient's method of living, it is what I have always had a very strict attention to: indeed a great part of the cure depends upon this knowledge, and by timing the medicines in such a manner, as to prevent those patients, who will disregard all rules in diet, from doing themselves an injury, and protracting their cures; to such I have been often obliged to order gentle laxatives to be taken, after every meal, by which means I have kept off all inflammation in the legs, and prevented that freedom of diet which some patients will make use of, from entering the Lacteals.

*Nitre*  
The medicine which I most depend on in the cure is Nitre; which I commonly order in large doses, and in a dissolved state, joined with the Spt. Sal. Ammoniac. or Camphor, which will prevent its having  
those



those ill effects on the stomach, most frequently complained of. I most commonly begin with one scruple, and according to the constitution of the patient, and circumstances of the case, encrease the dose to one dram, or one dram and half, which I order to be taken three or four times in the day, dissolved in any convenient liquid, with the addition of twenty or thirty drops of Spt. of Sal. Ammoniac, or with some of the Julepium e Camphora; which last I prefer to the Volatile Spirit, in cases which are violently inflammatory; tho' I believe their effects are nearly the same in correcting the Nitre, and rendering it less liable to disturb the constitution; for I am very sensible, that Nitre given in the large doses which I have mentioned, would produce very alarming effects in a number of patients, unless given in the manner which I have recommended.

The laxative which I order for the irregular patients, is composed of about one-fourth of Pulv. Jalap, to three-fourths of Powdered Nitre, of which may be given

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from one scruple to half a dram, and at the same time the nitrous draught must not be omitted.

These remedies most commonly occasion very great pain all round the Ulcers, when they are first taken, but the pain gradually decreases as the Ulcers advance in their cure; and they promote, in general, a most copious urinary discharge. What great assistance this discharge of Urine, or by what means Nitre given in this manner produces such good effects, I shall not take upon myself to determine, but leave it to be accounted for by the Theorists. What I have attended to are facts, and it is a matter of no very great consequence with me, as the patients are cured, whether my method agrees with the common received opinions or not; as I am conscious, that I have discharged my duty in making my observations public, in a practice which for some years, in repeated instances, has proved successful.

I shall not give any description of dressings, as it will be unnecessary; indeed the dressing is of no very great consequence



sequence in the cure ; for in a number of foul Ulcers, which have callous bottoms, and are of a greenish hue, no dressing whatever will answer any end, not even the celebrated Præcipitate digestive, so universally used ; for notwithstanding what Mr. Sharp has advanced, “ that it brings on a good digestion in twenty-four hours” ; I must positively declare, that I have dressed a great number of these cases (and particularly those mentioned in the following sheets) where this boasted remedy has not produced the least good effect in a number of days, nor any dressing whatever, till the cause of the disease has been removed in the constitution ; and then a good digestion has succeeded ; for it appears very clear to me, that external applications, however extolled, will not produce good effects, till nature is assisted by proper internal remedies.

I know, that the Cortex Peruvianus has been, and is at this time highly esteemed by some Surgeons in the cure of Ulcers ; but by becoming fashionable, it  
is



is often injudiciously given. The Nitre likewise may be unskilfully ordered, and then will be productive of disagreeable consequences; some few instances of this sort I have observed, and as a caution, one I shall relate; for it requires an immense experience to know the certain effects of any medicine of efficacy in every constitution; and I believe most gentlemen in the practice of Physic will acknowledge, that they have been deceived in these points; I must say, that in the greatest number of cases Nitre will succeed, but nothing would appear more prejudiced to men of understanding, than to make use of one medicine in every case that offers, notwithstanding it has in a number of instances proved successful; for by this means a good medicine may loose its deserved reputation, after a few unsuccessful attempts, in cases, perhaps, which were diametrically opposite to its intention.

The Ulcers which I propose curing by Nitre are the Phagædenic, all old callous Ulcers, and every Ulcer, attended with inflam-



inflammation. In some old Ulcers, which are commonly callous both at their bottom, and for a considerable space round their edges, I have observed, that the first sign of amendment is the callosity all round softening, next the callosity at the bottom of the Ulcer appears rather loose, as though Nature seemed pushing off this obstruction to the cure, with a generation of new flesh underneath; and I have greatly assisted the separation, by paring it with a knife, which never occasions any pain, as these callosities in general when loosened, are most commonly insensible.

Thus have I given an account of my method of treatment; I shall now proceed to relate some cases, which I have selected out of a great number cured; and must advise those who attempt to succeed in this practice, that they do not condemn it, if it don't immediately answer their expectations; but persevere a few weeks, gradually increasing the dose, and ordering the patient to use exercise; on which last circumstance, tho' it will occasion pain, I place great dependance; for it must appear



pear very rational, that were the cure of an Ulcer is effected without rest, there will be no probability of its being afterward affected by exercise.

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## A Collection of OBSERVATIONS.

### OBSERVATIONS I.

**M**R. Edwards, in Smart's Buildings, Holborn, aged fifty, applied to me for the cure of four large painful Ulcers of the Leg, which had callous foul bottoms; they discharged a thin acrimonious serum, which greatly inflamed the Leg, and occasioned a great itching, which if scratched, was sure to occasion an ulceration, and was a certain proof of the bad habit of his body. These Ulcers had been of about seven years standing, and he had been under the care of some eminent Surgeons, without obtaining a cure.

I began, by giving the Nitre in considerable large doses, with the Spt. Sal. Ammoniac. and he living freely, I directed



rected the laxative to be taken once or twice in the day occasionally, to keep his body gently open, by which means, in about four weeks, the Ulcers were reduced to a mild healing state, and the inflammation subsided; and by continuing the remedies, with the most simple dressings, as the Ung. ex. Altheâ, or Cerate with wax and oil, in about nine weeks the cure was effectually compleated, without any regard to Diet or Rest, and without any inconvenience to the patient whatever; however, after the Ulcers were perfectly cicatrised, I continued the remedies for near three weeks; and as a confirmation of the cure, the sores have not broke out again, tho' he has used the greatest freedom in Diet ever since, which is near four years.

## OBSERVATION II.

**M**R. Paterfon, aged Fifty, in High Holborn, had a large, foul and collous Ulcer on the inner part of the ankle, with a great callosity all round the wound. This Ulcer had been of twenty-two years  
D
standing,



standing, and had resisted all the common methods of cure; he had been twice in St. George's Hospital near twenty years before his application to me; at which time the Surgeons advised him to undergo the Amputation of the Limb; which he refused; and finding such little encouragement towards the cure, he bore it patiently for these term of years. I began the cure with common dressings, such as the Præcipitate Digestive, for near three weeks, Salts and Manna, &c. without the least signs of amendment, for the bottom of the wound remained hard, and was of a greenish colour; I then began by giving the Nitre, in doses of half a dram, four times in the day, joined with the Spt. Sal. Ammoniac. and ordered the Purging Powder occasionally; and by continuing this method of treatment, with simple dressings, in about nine weeks the cure was radically compleated, without observing the least restraint in Diet, or any Rest from his business, which was very laborious. This cure has remained well ever since, which is now above four years.

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## OBSERVATION III.

**M**ARY COLE, the corner of West Street, St. Anne's, applied to me for the cure of five or six large Ulcers in each Leg, of various dimensions; indeed the whole Legs were almost covered with sores, the generality of them were callous, and their bottoms all foul, discharging a most disagreeable fœtid matter, attended with great inflammation, pain and swelling; these had been of some years standing, and had resisted the most regular methods of Practice. I began the cure by Bleeding, she being of a sanguine habit, and ordered the Nitre in large doses, beginning with half a dram, and encreasing the dose gradually to two scruples and a half, joined with the Camphorated Julap, which in about six weeks reduced the Ulcers, tho' very deep, to a mild state; the callosities were all softened, and the greenish colour at their bottoms appeared of a lively red, with new granulations: at this time, finding her sores much better,



the neglected taking her medicines, by which, in about three weeks after, the Ulcers began to have their former foul appearance: however, on using the Nitre again, and continuing it in full doses, in about ten weeks all the Ulcers were perfectly cicatrised, notwithstanding the patient used her common exercise, which was laborious, during the whole cure; nor did she observe the least restraint in Diet. It is two years since the cure; it remains sound, and the woman is in good health.

## OBSERVATION IV.

**M**R. Bird, Surveyor and Measurer, of Queen Street, Bloomsbury, had a large, foul and callous Ulcer on the Leg, which had been of long standing, and had resisted the common dressings and methods of cure; the whole Leg was violently inflamed, and very painful, rendering him scarce able to stand; this patient being of a Plethoric habit, and living freely, I began the cure by Bleeding, and ordered the Nitre in doses of half a dram four times in the day, joined with the Volatile, and a gentle Laxative was occasionally



sionally given to keep his body open. On his first taking the Nitre it occasioned uneasy sensations in the Stomach; but to remedy this, I ordered a larger quantity of the Spt. Sal. Ammoniac. which had the desired effect in correcting the Nitre; and by this means I was enabled to encrease the dose of Nitre to one dram, at the same time in proportion adding a greater quantity of the Volatile Spirit; by continuing this course, in four weeks, the Ulcer was considerably better, the inflammation subsided, and there appeared all the prospects of an approaching cure; and by continuing this treatment, in about five weeks after, the Ulcer was perfectly cicatrised.

This cure has remained well ever since, which is now upwards of five years, and the patient has remained in sound health.

#### OBSERVATION V.

MR. Conner, in Long Alley, near Sun Street, came with several small Ulcers in each Leg, and inflammatory scorbutic eruptions in every part of his body.  
The



The Ulcers had been of about eleven years standing, and was originally owing to a scald on the Legs, in a French prison, from which time fresh Ulcerations had been breaking out in each Leg; indeed, the whole Legs were full of Ulcers, and inflammation, owing to the acrimonious discharge from the sores. I began the cure by Bleeding, and then gave the Nitre, joined with the Volatile, two scruples, four times in the day; which he continued taking, and using exercise for one month, at which time all the eruption in every part of his body nearly disappeared, and all the Ulcerations on his Legs were nearly healed. Upon this I gave him orders to continue the medicine six weeks longer, by which means his cure was effected, and he has remained in perfect health ever since, nor have the Ulcers broke out again since the cure, which is two years.



## OBSERVATION VI.

GEORGE MILLS, Turnham Green, applied to me for the cure of three Fistulous Ulcers on the Leg, which were deep, tho' externally very small and callous; the discharge was thin, and so acrimonious, as to excoriate and inflame all the lower part of the Leg. This man had been seven weeks in Edinburgh Infirmary, three months in Middlesex Hospital, and twice in St. George's Hospital, above two months each time. In these several places he had been treated in the most strict and common methods of cure, and when discharged, was to all appearance cured; but on using his exercise, the Ulcers soon broke out again, and at the time he applied to me, was incapable of working at his business. I ordered him immediately to use his daily labour, and gave him two ounces of Sal. Nitre, dissolved in a quart of water, with the common quantity of Spt. Sal. Ammoniac; to take a tea cupful four times in the day, and by continuing



tinuing this method, without observing any particular dressings, in three weeks after, which was the second time of my seeing him, the inflammation was entirely subsided, and the Ulcers healed; however to confirm his cure, and to prevent a relapse, I ordered him to continue taking the medicine, for a month longer. The Ulcers have not broke out since, which is now above a year and half.

## OBSERVATION VII.

**M**R. George Lutey, Castle Street, Long Acre, aged Fifty, had been afflicted a long time with a painful old Ulcer, which had a thin corrosive discharge, with a violent inflammation all round. He had been under the care of a Person, famous for the cure of these cases, near six months before he applied to me, without obtaining even relief, but had been tormented from time to time by his Operator, with the indiscriminate use of corrosive dressings, in expectation of a good digestion; but finding these methods fail, he



he applied to me for his cure. On pursuing my Nitrous method, with the most simple dressings, his cure was effected in three weeks ; and the Ulcer has remained well ever since, which is now between three and four years, notwithstanding he has used great freedom in Diet.

## OBSERVATION VIII.

JOSEPH Ingham, Publican, Newtoner's Lane, had two foul Ulcers on the lower and outer part of the Leg, which had been of a long standing, and had resisted the common methods of treatment, under a Surgeon who had attended it for near twelve months before his application to me. There was a considerable inflammation all round the wound, with great swelling. I first began the cure by Bleeding, and then ordered purging medicines, such as the Salts and Manna, which was continued near three weeks without the least good success ; for tho' these Ulcers were not large, yet they occasioned the most excruciating pain in walking ; (many instances of this sort I have observed) upon which I began with

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the Nitre, ordering two ounces to be dissolved in a quart of water, to which was added three drams of the Spt. Sal. Ammoniac. This remedy was not taken many weeks, before very good effects were produced, and the wounds shewed evident signs of amendment. Before the use of the Nitre, his habit was so bad, that if on any part of the inflamed Leg any friction was used, which he sometimes could not avoid from its itching, a sore was sure to be the consequence; however, by a repetition of the Nitre, this disagreeable symptom left him, and the cure was easily effected.

## OBSERVATION IX.

**J**OHN Lee, servant to Mr. Moor, Snowhill, had been lame and incapable of working at his business for a considerable time, having a large painful Ulcer near the ankle, which had been of seven years standing; the bottom was as hard as horn, and a great callosity all round the edges for a considerable space; and the Leg was much inflamed. This Ulcer had been twice under



der cure in Bartholomew's Hofpital, which had been effected by the Horizontal Pofition, and common remedies; but on ufing his neceffary exercife, the Ulcer foon broke out again after his difcharge. He had not been able to walk, or ufe any exercife, for fome time before his application to me, without fuffering the moft violent pain. I began the cure firft by Bleeding, and then ordered the Nitre as ufual, gradually increafing the dofe to one dram, four times in the day, and ordered him to work at his bufinefs, which was that laborious one of fawing timber; and by continuing this method, in about four weeks, the Ulcer was in a healing ftate, but was very large and deep, owing to the great callofity, which was pushed off by a generation of found flefh underneath; I affifted the feparation, by paring it with a knife; when after thefe means the Ulcer was in a mild fimple ftate, and by a perfeverance in this method, the Ulcer was cicatrifed in little more than three months, from his firft application for my affiftance.



## OBSERVATION X.

**M**R. J. Boiffant, Jun Great St. Andrew-  
Street, Seven Dials, of a plethoric  
habit, had a very large, deep, and foul  
Ulcer on his Leg near the ankle, attended  
with inflammation and swelling. I began  
the cure, by ordering the common Reme-  
dies and Rest, and dressed him with the  
Præcipitate digestive for near three weeks,  
without the least advantage, the Ulcer ap-  
pearing nearly the same as when I first be-  
gan the cure. I then began giving the  
Nitre, with the Spt. Sal. Ammon. which  
I ordered in large doses, and more freedom  
of exercise, and was not disappointed in  
my expectation, for in eighteen days the  
inflammation was entirely subsided, and in  
a month the Ulcer was reduced to a mild  
state. I repeated this method, and accom-  
plished the cure in about six weeks after.  
He has remained well ever since, which is  
now above three years.



## OBSERVATION XI.

**E**LEANOR WELLDON, Snow-hill, had been afflicted with several large Ulcers on the Legs for thirteen years, and had been in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and had applied to different surgeons without obtaining a cure. These Ulcers were large and superficial, with a varix of the veins in different parts of the Legs; they had foul greenish bottoms, and discharged a very fœtid disagreeable matter. I began the cure by giving the Nitre in full doses, and ordered a gentle Cathartic pill to be taken every night, to keep her body soluble, she being subject to a costiveness. And by these methods these Ulcers, which had for such a long space of time resisted every method of cure, in about six weeks after appeared of a lively red, and good disposition to heal, and the patient could, without any inconvenience, walk for a considerable time, which before her application occasioned the most violent pain. By persevering in this method, without any dressing but the Ung. ex Altheâ, in seven



ven weeks after, the Ulcers were perfectly cicatrised,

## OBSERVATION XII.

**M**R. Woodward, Turner, in Little St. Andrew's Street, Seven Dials, had been afflicted with callous Ulcers on each Leg, one Leg had been bad near eleven years, and the other four, during which time he had applied to different Practitioners for a cure, but without success. I began his cure by the Nitre, and ordered him to use free exercise, which in a few weeks had very good effects; for the Ulcers were disposed to heal, and the inflammation was entirely subsided; and on continuing the remedies, and using exercise, the cure of these obstinate Ulcers were positively confirmed in about three months, and have not broke out since, which is a considerable time.

OBSER-



## OBSERVATION XIII.

ELIZABETH MANSELL, Newington, between the age of Fifty and Sixty, was brought to me with several large Ulcers in each Leg, which were not deep, but very foul ; the whole Legs were inflamed, and appeared one continued scab ; except the space which the Ulcers took up, which from their number and size were considerable. This case had been twenty-six years standing, and the cure had been attempted both in an Hospital, and by many Surgeons, but without success. I am sensible, that in a case of so many years standing, the patient so far advanced in years, and the prejudiced notion of the morbid matter being translated to some other part, with the unsuccessful attempts in the cure ; all these reasons would have deterred the generality of Surgeons from attempting it. However, from the violence of the inflammation I was determined to try the Nitre, which she took four times  
in



in the day, about two scruples, joined with the Julep. e Camphor. and it was attended with success; for in six weeks she walked from Newington to my House, and all the Ulcers were manifestly better; the scab for the greatest part had fallen off the Legs, and the Ulcers appeared of a lively red. She continued these methods for about three months longer, and by these means, with no other external application than the Ung. ex Alth. softened with Ol. Lin. per. expressionem, she was cured. This cure remains sound, the woman gets her livelihood by nursing the sick, and she continued the use of the Nitre four months after the Ulcers were cicatrised without any inconvenience whatever.

## OBSERVATION XIV.

**A**NN JONES, Nottingham Court, Castle Street, came with a very large foul Ulcer on her Leg, attended with great pain, inflammation, and swelling; she had applied to Gentlemen of eminence for her cure, who advised her to go into an Hospital, declaring  
it



it impossible for her to be cured without Rest. This opinion was given some months before she applied to me, and for want of proper assistance, the wound had been gradually enlarging, both in circumference and depth. I first began with common dressings, and made use of the præcipitate digestive, but without any success. Upon this I gave the Nitre, with the Volatile, in large doses, and she being of a sanguine habit, I bled her, and gradually increased the dose of Nitre to one dram, four times in the day, and it proved successful; the foul appearance at the bottom was changed, and shewed a good disposition to incarn. By a continuance of this method, and simple dressings, in ten weeks, the cure was effected; tho', during the whole cure, I ordered her to use free exercise; and after the cicatrification, I directed her to continue the medicines for one month.

### OBSERVATION XV.

MR. Schoolmaster, Theobald's  
Row, made application to me for the  
cure of an old callous Ulcer, which had  
F been



been of long standing, and had resisted many attempts which had been made for the cure ; and amongst the rest a Quack, who by means of powerful Mercurials inwardly, and astringent applications externally, to make good his boasted promise, dried up the sore ; which, however, in a short time after, broke out again, and became as troublesome as ever ; and had the appearance of a very inveterate Ulcer, discharging a thin acrimonious serum ; which greatly inflamed the Leg, and in some parts occasioned an excoriation. Under these circumstances, I began the cure with Nitre, which soon altered the discharge, and brought on a good digestion, tho' the Ulcer was dressed with nothing else than the Yellow Cerate, softened Ol. Lini. Finding this method so successful, I repeated the remedies, and by this means this obstinate Ulcer was soundly healed.

## OBSERVATION XVI.

MRS. Milnes, Mercer Street, Long Acre, applied to me for the cure of an Ulcer on the lower part of the Leg, which



which had been formerly an old grievance, the discharge was thin and acrimonious, attended with great pain and inflammation. At first I ordered the Nitre, three times in the day, half a dram each time, joined with the Spt. Sal. Ammon. and occasionally ordered a Laxative, which, however, did not immediately answer my expectation; on which I took a large quantity of blood from the arm, and repeated my remedies, and not without success; for soon after the Ulcer began to incarn from the bottom, and by repeating the remedies the cure was effected in seven weeks from her first application.

## OBSERVATION XVII.

MRS. Nichols, at Greenwell's, Grocer, in Holborn, near sixty years old, applied to me for the cure of an Ulcer, which was very foul, attended with inflammation, and very great pain. She informed me, that this Leg had been diseased near thirty years; originally owing to a Fever settling in it, to use her own expression. About four years before she applied to me,



she had been under the care of an eminent Surgeon, who would have advised her to have undergone an Amputation ; as the most effectual cure, at the same time declaring it dangerous, and impossible to effect the cure, by common remedies. I began the cure with Nitre one scruple, four times in the day, joined with the Julep. e Camphor, which had very excellent effects ; for in about fourteen days, the Ulcer shewed evident signs of the efficacy of the medicines ; upon which I increased the dose to half a dram, and in about two months, I had the happiness to cure this obstinate Ulcer, without the least inconvenience to the patient whatever, she using considerable exercise during the whole cure.

When she first took the medicine, after each dose, she felt very great pain all round the Ulcer ; which effects I have observed in other cases ; and where it has happened, the cure has been sooner performed than could be reasonably expected.



## OBSERVATION XVIII.

MARY WEMS, in Parker's Street, had been afflicted, between three and four years, with an Ulcer of the Leg, which was quite superficial, but very large, and the bottom was foul, hard, and livid; I at first dressed it with different kinds of Escharoticks and digestives, and ordered purges to be taken occasionally, but without any success whatever. She had been in St. Bartholomew's, and St. George's Hospitals, and discharged as cured, but the Ulcer broke out again afterwards. Finding the case so obstinate, I despaired of success, as I had used the Nitrous remedy for near two months, without any great advantage, except the Leg being much easier; but on repeating the medicines and bleeding the patient, in three weeks after, I could observe the edges of the Ulcer to appear white, which encouraged me to persevere in my method, and by which means the cure was effected.

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## OBSERVATION XIX.

**M**R. Smith, opposite Burlington Mews, Swallow Street, was brought to me for the cure of a very large foul Ulcer, which was owing originally to a scald from melted lead, and extended over the greatest part of the Gastrocnemius Muscle, which laid it bare; the whole Leg was violently swelled, inflamed, and so excessively painful that he could not put it to the ground, or bear the least weight on it; he had been in an Hospital, and the Gentlemen advised him to undergo an Amputation, which he refused. When I first saw him his case was truly deplorable; but I ordered him my Nitrous remedy, and advised him not to attempt any exercise, as the Leg was swelled to such an enormous size; by a continuance of the remedy, and giving him gentle Catharticks, in fourteen days the Leg was considerably less, and the Ulcer, though very large, appeared much better; upon which I ordered him to use gentle exercise, and in one month after he went to work at his business, which was a stand-



a standing one; and by continuing these methods the cure was effected, and the patient is in good health at this present time.

## OBSERVATION XX.

**M**ARY LOVELOCK, St. Giles's, near  
Sixty years old, had a foul callous Ulcer on the lower part of the Leg, which was originally occasioned by a fall near 35 years before she applied to me: it had been cured in the Hospital, by means of Rest, and other common remedies; but soon after her discharge had broke out again; and had been very bad for some years, frequently rendering her incapable of working at her business, which was washing, the Ulcer being exceedingly painful, with inflammation and swelling all round. I began with half a dram of Nitre, four times in the day, and occasionally repeated the Purge; by these means, in about four weeks, the Ulcer was quite easy, and shewed evident signs of amendment, notwithstanding she used very hard exercise. From this time I increased the dose of Nitre to two scruples, which succeeded so well, that



that in eight weeks after the cure of this obstinate Ulcer was compleated, and the only dressing I made use of was the Ung. ex Altheâ.

## OBSERVATION XXI.

**E**Lizabeth Buckley, High Street, St. Giles's, aged Fifty, came with two large Ulcers, one on each Leg, near the ankles; one was about the circumference of a crown piece; and the other about four inches long, and two inches broad; they were both remarkably hard and foul, and had been seven years bad since the last temporary cure, which had been performed by means of Rest, and a Salivation. Her Legs were very much inflamed and swelled, and she was rendered incapable of doing the necessary business for her support. I ordered her the Nitrous remedy, directing exercise, which at first occasioned very great pain; but by persevering in this method, and occasionally giving the Purge, in about eight weeks the callosities were all softened, and the wounds were in a state of incarnation; tho' I was obliged



liged to make use of the Lap. Infernalis, to destroy the callosity at the bottom of the Ulcers, which had the desired effect in promoting the separation; and by pursuing these methods with common dressings, in three months the cure was compleated.

## OBSERVATION XXII.

**A**NN BROUGHTON, near Seventy, of a healthful habit, applied to me for the cure of three small Ulcers on the Leg, which discharged a thin acrimonious serum, and violently inflamed the parts all round. I began the cure with common Dressings, and ordered her Salts and Manna twice in the week, but without any success. One symptom in particular, which attended this patient was this; whenever she laid in bed the pain was more violent than when she used exercise. I then began the cure with Nitre in small doses; and gradually encreased the dose to half a dram, three times in the day, which had good effects, the inflammation occasioned by the acrimony of the discharge abated; and in two months the cure was effected; the pa-

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tient



tient using her ordinary exercise during the cure.

## OBSERVATION XXIII.

**T**ABITHA BYAT, aged Fifty, had an Ulcer on the Leg near the ankle, which rendered her incapable of getting her livelihood; the whole Leg was violently inflamed, and swelled; and on using the least exercise was very painful. I ordered the Nitre, which succeeded so well, that in about fourteen days she stood at washing; after which time I ordered her to continue using exercise, and repeated her medicines, which in about six weeks after finished her cure.

## OBSERVATION XXIV.

**M**R. Carrol, Cross Lane, Newton Street, had a large painful Ulcer, which had been of long standing, and had been cured by the common methods; but on receiving a slight blow it broke, and soon became very inveterate, and foul; the discharge was so acrimonious, that it excoriated the parts all round. I began the cure  
with



with Nitrous remedies, which soon reduced it to a mild state; and by persevering in this method, and occasionally ordering a dose of Salts to keep his body soluble, the cure of this Ulcer was effected.

### OBSERVATION XXV.

Where the Nitre produced dangerous effects.

**M**<sup>R S. P</sup> upwards of Sixty years old, applied for the cure of three large Ulcers, which were very foul at their bottoms, but were not cal-  
lous, attended with considerable inflam-  
mation all round their edges. I began  
the cure by ordering Nitre one scrup-  
ple, four times in the day, but without  
the least success, for in four days the Ul-  
cers became considerably larger, and a part  
of the Leg appeared livid, threatening a  
mortification ; under these alarming symp-  
toms, I immediately ordered the Bark, in  
large doses, joined with the Confect. Da-  
mocrat. to prevent its purging, and in a  
few days it proved successful ; all these  
disagreeable symptoms disappeared, and



the Ulcers were in a short time brought into a good healing state. The cure was afterwards performed by a repetition of the Bark, and common dressings.

This is the only instance I have had, for some years, where the Nitre has produced such ill effects; but it is striking, and a sufficient caution, that some attention is necessary in administering this Remedy; and especially in delicate constitutions.

#### OBSERVATION XXVI.

Cured by the Fumigation, and Alteratives.

**M.** B. had three large Ulcers on the Leg, which were very foul, and discharged a thin greenish serum, which was very foetid; and all round the edges there was a considerable callosity. I first began the cure with Nitrous remedies, but without success; I then administered the Bark, but with no better effect; this last remedy occasioned a violent inflammation all round the Leg, and great pain. Having some reasons to conclude this case Venereal, I first directed Bleeding, afterwards a Purge, and ordered the Calomel & Sulp. Antimon.



mon. Præcip. in small doses in a pill, to be taken morning and evening; and used the Fumigation of Cinnabar and Æthiops mineral equal parts, which in a short time produced very good effects; the callosities softened, and the Ulcers appeared in a good healing state; by continuing this method, the cure was absolutely compleated in about nine weeks; after which I ordered her to drink decoction of Sarsaparel. and milk.

This Patient lived rather irregular, and used considerable exercise during the cure; and she has remained well ever since, which is now five years.

#### OBSERVATION XXVII.

Which was Venereal.

A Woman applied to me for the cure of an Ulcer of the Leg, which had been of long standing; the bottom was foul, and the edges callous, and of a livid colour, discharging a green acrimonious serum. She had pains in her bones, which were nocturnal; and on her skin in some parts were tetters or scaly eruptions. These  
symp-



symptoms and appearances convinced me, that the case was Venereal ; upon which I began the cure with a light Mercurial Alterative course, and fumigated the Ulcer with Cinnabar, and gave Decoction of sarsaparel which in a short time had very good effects, in bringing on a good digestion of the Ulcer ; tho' I observed, that the Alteratives accelerated the blood's motion, occasioned feverish heats, and an uneasiness in the whole body ; but this I remedied, by giving Nitre, joined with Camphor at proper intervals ; by which means the rapidity of the blood's motion was abated, and the feverish symptoms were entirely removed. I continued this course, and in ten weeks I effected a positive cure. In similar cases I have sometimes used the Decoction of Sarsaparel. and Corros. Sublimate, without the Fumigation, and in a number of cases with success ; but in particular those Venereal cases, which have resisted every other method.

OBSER-



## OBSERVATION XXVIII.

A Servant of the Rev. Mr. Price, Ep-  
 som, applied to me for the cure of an  
 Ulcer of the Leg, which had been bad  
 many years; he had applied to different  
 Surgeons, and various methods had been  
 made use of to effect a cure, but without  
 success. The Ulcer was small, on the  
 inner part of the ankle, and a very great  
 callosity surrounded it. It was very foul,  
 and accompanied with varices or dilatation  
 of the veins of the Leg, which were en-  
 larged to a considerable size. I began the  
 cure by Bleeding, and then gave him the  
 Nitre in doses of a scruple, joined with  
 the Spt. Sal. Ammoniac. The reason of  
 my beginning with so small a dose, was  
 owing to a complaint which he had been  
 a long time afflicted with in his stomach:  
 but this dose not having any ill effect, I  
 soon increased it to half a dram, and af-  
 terward to two scruples, which had very  
 good effects; he being costive, I ordered  
 him a Calomel pill of three grains, to be  
 taken occasionally, which had the desired  
 effect.



effect, and I believe greatly assisted the cure, which was effected in about four months, without his observing any particular diet or rest; but on the contrary, used considerable exercise. Since the cure I have advised him to wear a strait stocking.

## OBSERVATION XXIX.

**M**R<sup>S</sup>. G had been afflicted twelve years with an Ulcer of the Leg, which was very painful, and rendered her incapable of walking. This Ulcer was superficial, the bottom of a livid colour, and very hard, with a considerable callosity surrounding it. I began the cure, by ordering the Nitre four times in the day, joined with the Laxative Powder, and Spt. Sal. Ammoniac. And this method I continued for above two months, without any considerable alteration, the Ulcer having nearly the same appearance as when I first attempted the cure. I then ordered the fumigation, and repeated the remedies, encreasing the dose, and in about one month after, could perceive a  
fur-



surprising alteration in the Ulcer for the better ; and she was capable of walking four or five miles ; the greatest part of that livid foul appearance had sloughed away, and the Ulcer was reduced to a simple state. By a repetition of the methods, and proper dressings, I effected a cure, great freedom of exercise being used during the greatest part of the time.

## OBSERVATION XXX.

**M**R. T Martin's Street, Leicester Fields, had two large Ulcers, one on each side, about an inch above the ankle ; they were both very large and deep, with foul bottoms ; there was a very great callosity all round the Ulcer, for a considerable space, and the whole Leg was swelled and inflamed, from the parts where the callosity terminated. These Ulcers had been in this state for ten years ; and had a very foul disagreeable appearance. I began the cure with Nitre, and Spt. Sal. Ammoniac. in large doses, gave a Calomel pill occasionally, and fumigated the Ulcers with the Cinnab. &c. These methods

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had



had not been pursued for a month, before the Ulcers appeared much better, and a great quantity of the callosity separated and floughed away. I continued this method six weeks longer, when the Ulcers were nearly healed, and by a repetition, in a fortnight after the cure was compleated. What was very remarkable in this case was, the Ulcers incarning from the sides, and not from the bottom, till the whole part was filled, and then the parts inosculated into one another, as in a fresh incised wound. During the whole cure, the discharge was thin and yellow; which, however, was no impediment. In the course of my practice, I have seen other cases nearly similiar in circumstances to this already mentioned.

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

**I** Have found, since the publication of my first Edition, that private persons, who have bought the book, have attempted the cure of their Legs themselves; and I have not been surpris'd, when they have informed me of their disappointment. It  
requires



requires true chyrurgical knowledge to make use of the methods which I recommend, and no person should attempt these means without first applying to a Surgeon; and as I find by a number of applications, that my methods have been misapplied; I find it necessary to make the following remarks.

In the first place, I find that the Nitre has been indiscriminately applied; and tho' attended with great success in many instances, as I am informed by Surgeons who have used it; yet in some cases it has done mischief, notwithstanding the cautions I have laid down in the former part of the book; and some have imagined, I mean no other method of cure than Nitre. I must declare, that I am in continual practice, and I believe seven at least out of ten are cured by this means; but I often call in other aids in cases that require it, and not unfrequently when I use the Nitre. Many efficacious remedies, according to the circumstances of the case, and the constitution of the Patient, are absolutely necessary, in the application of which the utmost skill is required, and for which I can give no particular rules, but



must leave every Gentleman to his own discretion.

I have likewise been misunderstood in what I have advanced on the dressings. I don't mean, that proper dressings are not to be used; indeed I am quite sensible, that various dressings are necessary according to the rules of art, and which every Surgeon I suppose understands; I meant that an entire dependance should not be laid on dressings, nor the digestive, as mentioned by Mr. Sharp; for I am inclined to believe, that this ingenious Surgeon, as well as others, attributed to his dressings, what was produced by Rest, Internal Medicines, Salivation, &c.

As I am now treating of the discharge of Ulcers, I must observe, that very few cases agree with the rules laid down by chirurgical writers; and any Surgeon, who will attend, and draw his conclusions from practical observation, will agree with me in what I am going to mention. However, it will most commonly hold good in my method of treatment. That a thick, or well coloured matter, is not obtained during the whole cure of many Ulcers;  
yet



yet the parts fill up as found, as when a good matter is discharged; and this I can prove by a great number of cases, which I daily have under my own care. Nay, so far is it untrue, to suppose wounds are not in a healing state, but when a good digested matter, or, to use a common phrase, laudable pus is discharged; that not one case in ten, will be found to have any such discharge during the whole cure. For my own part, I consider an Ulcer when incarning, to be in a disposition to heal; and I am always indifferent as to the discharge, for I have seen many cases, where a thin serum has issued the whole time of cure from the Ulcer, and yet it has gone on as agreeable as where it has not happened.

Another observation I have made in Ulcers, which, tho' it does but seldom happen, yet I think it worthy of notice. The generality of opinions are, that Ulcers heal up from their bottom; but I have seen cases, particularly in very large Ulcers, where the granulations have been pushed out from the sides, and the bottom has scarce been altered during the whole cure;



cure; in this case the sides have united together by inosculation, as in fresh incised wounds. In such, I have likewise observed, the discharge to be very ferrous. I have produced such cases when under cure, to other Surgeons of my acquaintance, who have expressed rather a surprise on the occasion.

Although I have recommended exercise in the cure, I must observe, that there happens one case, where this rule must not be observed, and even where rest is absolutely necessary: this is a case which very rarely happens, but yet it is necessary for me to mention it, as I have met with it in the course of my own practice. It is when the Ulcer happens to be on any part of the Gastrocnemius muscles, or on the upper part of the Tendo Achillis, for the pressure and action of these muscles will infallibly prevent the incarnation of the wound in common, and a cicatrization can scarce ever be obtained without Rest.

To conclude, I am very happy in finding that my new method of Practice succeeds in different parts of the Kingdom;



dom; and I flatter myself, that when the merits of it are better understood by Practitioners, it will prove of great service to mankind.

F I N I S.

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