

**A treatise on the King's Evil, setting forth a new theory on that disease, and a new method of curing indurated and ulcerated glands of the neck / [T. Durant].**

**Contributors**

Durant, T.

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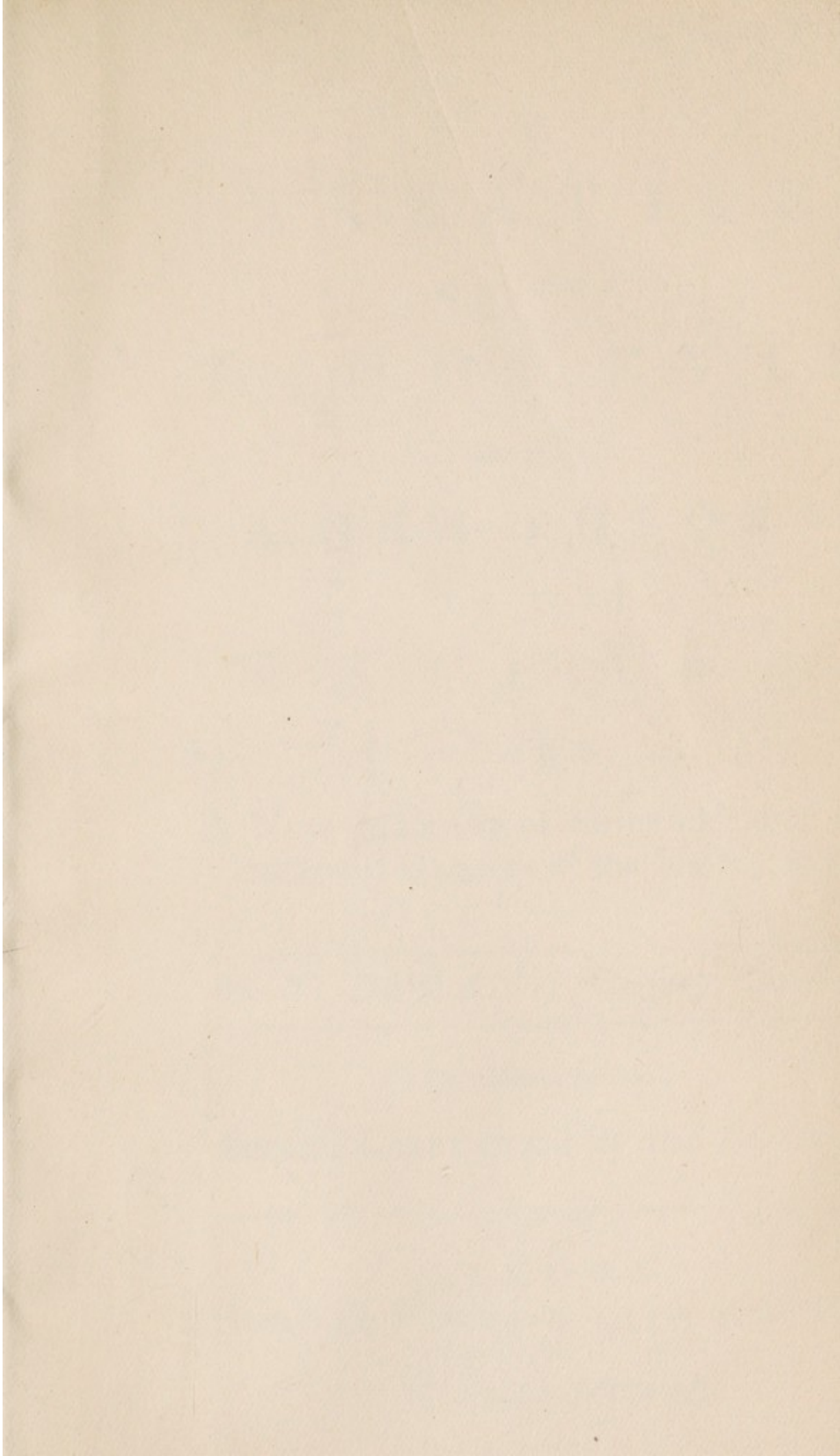


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A  
T R E A T I S E  
O N T H E  
K I N G ' S E V I L,  
Setting forth  
A N E W T H E O R Y  
O N T H A T  
D I S E A S E;  
A N D

A N E W M E T H O D of curing indurated and  
ulcerated G L A N D S of the N E C K, &c.

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By *T. DURANT*, Surgeon, London.

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To which are added,

Several C A S E S cured by the A U T H O R.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for T. WALLER, opposite Fetter Lane,  
Fleet street. 1762.

[Price One Shilling.]







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T H E  
P R E F A C E.

**I**T has been the Opinion of some of the greatest Professors of Physic, that it would be for the Improvement of this Science, if particular Persons were to employ their whole Study to the Cure of particular Diseases. By this Means the Treatment of some very obstinate Complaints, which are now stiled the *Opprobrium Medicorum*, might be brought to a Degree of Certainty, and this odious Epithet obliterated, from the Practice of Physic.

For which Reason, I applied myself to the Cure of the King's Evil, finding it generally



unsuccessfully treated in the common Way of Practice; and that, therefore, Persons labouring under this Affliction, usually run to Quacks and Nostrum-mongers, for Want of better Assistance from the regular Practitioners.

How far I have succeeded, will appear from the Facts annexed to this Tract, which, without Doubt, will convince the Public, that such as are afflicted with this Disease, may have a moral Certainty of being relieved by my Method; having discovered some Medicines, which have a specific Virtue in this Complaint; but as they cannot do the Work alone, they must be assisted by various other Remedies, as the Nature of the Case, and other Circumstances require.

For, as my Practice is established upon a sound Theory, I frequently introduce, by Way of Assistance, such other Medicines as are indicated by the Appearance of the Alterations



terations in the Symptoms, to hasten the Cure.

What is said by physical Writers, of the Cure of the Scrofula is unsatisfactory; however, Mention is made of the Method of those I could get the best Information from. But if this appears insufficient, the Reader will at least see, that I have taken Pains to inform myself of what has been said, by those who have treated best upon this Subject.

If any should find Fault with me, for not publishing the Particulars of my Practice, my Comfort is, in this Reflection, that I shall oblige many, by putting them in the Way to be relieved; and that Proficients in Physic may also be the better for this Treatise; a sure Way being chalked out to them to cure this Distemper, according to the Proverb, *Verbum Sapienti.*



I can, by no Means, flatter myself of meeting with more Candour, from envious and self-interested Men, for introducing a sure Method to cure the Evil, than Mr. *Guy* received for curing Cancers. Although his Skill is acknowledged by all honest Men, yet his Fame is most invidiously attacked in the midst of his Successes.

Fetter-lane,  
Fleet-street.



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

**T**HE Scrofula, Scrophula, Struma, or King's Evil, has been but slightly treated upon by the antient physical Writers; and some of the Moderns, who attempted to be more explicit about the Nature and Cure of this most obstinate Disease, have left it almost under the same Difficulties they found it. This has, perhaps, been the Reason, why three of the most celebrated Authors of our Age, *Sydenham*, *Boerhaave*, and *Hoffman*, have made no Mention of it in their Writings.

It is not to be doubted, but they were very well acquainted with the Nature of the Disease; but as they probably could not point



out a rational and effectual Method of Cure, they rather chose to be silent, than to perplex the Minds of their Readers with a Number of Remedies, which they could not vouch the Effects of.

An ingenious Tract upon this Subject, was published in 1759, by *William Scott*, M. D. who treats it in a methodical Manner; shews a great deal of Reading, by his many judicious Quotations, and points out the Remedies proper for a Cure, but mentions not one Case, where they have been successful; so that we may conclude, the Author speaks rather from theoretical than experimental Knowledge.

The Cure of this obstinate Complaint, being ever attended with great Difficulties, might be one Reason, why, in former Times, Recourse was had to the Touching of our Kings for the Evil (from whence, by the bye, it took its Name of the King's Evil); it being at that Time, perhaps, deemed incurable, except by some supernatural Power, which Priest-craft industriously propagated to be conferred upon the Lord's Anointed;



Anointed; and which made the Clergy also more considerable, inasmuch, as they were the Instruments of this Holy Unction.

Doctor *Friend*, in his *History of Physic*, Vol. II. says, that the *French* Historians trace up this Usage of Touching, in their own Nation, by undoubted Authority, as high as the eleventh Century, in the Reign of *Philip* the First; but can give no Account that can be relied on, how much more antient it was, though some pretend to trace it as high as *Clovis*. There is the like Reason to think, even by this Passage, as well as what is hinted here and there in our *English* History, that the same Usage had, for some Centuries at least, prevailed here, and they who carry it up as far as the Time of *Edward* the Confessor, Cotemporary with *Philip* the First of *France*, seem to have good Grounds for their Opinion; at least I see no Proofs which can be brought against it. If the Monkish Writers are supposed to be all partial, and inclined to flatter the Crown, there are others, whose Veracity cannot be called in Question. Sir *John Fortescue*, a very learned and wise Man, in his Defence



of the Title of *Lancaster*, just after *Henry* the Fourth's Accession to the Crown, represents the Gift of Healing, as a Privilege, which had, for Times immemorial, belonged to the Kings of *England*; and he is so particular as to attribute this to the Unction of their Hands, which is used at the Coronation: And therefore says, that \* *Queens* can have no such Gift, because in this Case, that Part of the Ceremony is left out. And Archbishop *Bradwardine*, who died in 1348, and who appeals to the World for the Cures performed by the Royal Touch, uses very strong Expressions concerning the Antiquity of it, which surely he would never have done, had it been so modern a Practice as some may think it.

There is no Doubt that many Cures were performed that Way; for *Wiseman*, in one of

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\* However, as it is well known, that Queen *Elizabeth* and Queen *Ann* did touch for the Evil, the Judge doubtless meant Queen Consorts only, as those who are Queens of their own Right, are inaugurated with all the Regal Ceremonies.



his chirurgic Treatises affirms, that in his Attendance as Serjeant Surgeon, he had been an Eye-witness of many Hundreds of Cures by his then Majesty's Touch, without any Assistance from Surgery; nay, he doth not scruple to say, that the said Touch had cured more in one Year, than all the Surgeons in *London* had done in an Age.

But whether this was effected by the inherent Virtue in the Person who touched, or by the superstitious Faith of the Patient, is the Question.

For it is well known, that many Princes, who administered this Kind of religious Operation, were far from being qualified to be favoured with such a peculiar Power from the Divinity; it must therefore be ascribed rather to the Force of Imagination in the Patient, which often produces surprizing Impressions upon the Human Body; witness the unaccountable Effects of the Longings in pregnant Women, &c.

But as these supernatural Means are laid aside, it behoves us to consult the Science of  
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Physic and Surgery, for proper Remedies; and, in order thereto, it is necessary to investigate the nature of the Disease, to find out what Means ought to be pursued to remove it.

The Scrofula, or Evil, is a hard Tumor, commonly of the same Colour with the Skin, chiefly on the Sides of the Neck, about the Mastoid Muscles, behind the Ears, under the Jaws, and Chin, &c. either moveable or fixt, single or in Clusters, it running sometimes from the Ear, down to the Clavicle, like a Bunch of Grapes.

There is hardly any Part of the Body, either external or internal, free from this Disorder. Its Seat is in the Glands, but particularly the salivary ones, though it also often attacks the cellular Membrane; and when the Distemper has continued some Time, the Muscles, Tendons, Articulations of the Bones, and even the Bones themselves; and from the different Parts affected, it bears different Names. Thus when the Lachrymal Glands are seized, it is called *Lippitudo* or *Sclerophthalmia*; if the *Parotis*,

or



or *Maxillary*, a *Struma*, *Scrophula*, or *Parotitis*; if the Sublingual, *Ranula*; if the Glands of the *Larynx*, *Aspera arteria*, or the *Thyroid Gland*, *Bronchocele*, *Peristhymia*, *Boccium*, or *Hernia Gutturalis*; if the Axillary, *Struma*, or *Scrofula*; if the Inguinal, *Bubonosa*; if the Joints of the Fingers, or their Bones are affected, *Pædarthrocace*; but in the Breast, Lungs, and Mesentery, it commonly goes under the Name of *Scirrhus*. And the white Swellings of the Knee, and *Spina Ventosa* of the Bones, and Rickets in Children, are doubtless of the same Kind.

As the cellular Membrane is liable to this Disorder, it is easy to imagine, that any Part of the Body may suffer. Thus we see sometimes, round or oblong, indurated Tumors upon the Bodies of the Muscles of the Arms, or Legs and Thighs, moveable or immoveable, which in common are looked upon as incised Tumors of the *Atheroma*, *Steatoma*, or *Meliceris* Kind, or perhaps are taken for a *Sarcoma*, or fleshy Excrecence; but as they are frequently attended or succeeded by Indurations and Swellings of the whole



whole Limb, and give way to Remedies proper for the Struma, there is no Doubt, but that they are of the same Kind, and that the scrophulous Matter affects the cellular Membrane, as well as the conglobate Glands of the Neck, *Axilla*, and *Inguen*.

When the Lungs are infected, a *Phtyfis Pulmonum* ensues, and generally proves mortal; and we commonly observe, upon inspecting Persons who died Consumptive, that the Lobes of the Lungs are full of Tubercles, which, when they break, occasion incurable Ulcers, and consequently Death.

In the Liver are also often found Tubercles, but these are commonly called Scirrhuses, as well as the Hardness frequently observed in the *Uterus*, *Ovaria*, and urinary Bladder. And it is generally seen, that strumous Patients have a Fullness in the *Hypochondria*, owing to a preternatural Swelling of the Liver, which is usually disordered in them, for Reasons as shall be mentioned, when we come to treat of the Cause of this Disease.

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When this viscid acrimonious Matter falls upon the meseraic Glands, it hinders the Chyle from passing freely into the Mass of Blood, and an *Atrophy*, or Wasting of the Body ensues. They commonly complain of a Tightness, Uneasiness, and Hardness of the Belly, attended with Costiveness; which Symptom, undoubtedly, is aggravated by the undue Secretion and Excretion of the Bile, from the disordered Liver.

Children, and those of a lax Habit, are chiefly liable to this Disease; for which Reason it is, that the Females are more subject to it than the Males, and young People more than those in Years. *Wise-man* relates many strumous Cases, of which a few are, about Two or Three Years of Age; about Thirty, under Fourteen; Thirteen, between Fourteen and Twenty-five; Seven, between Twenty-five and Thirty-six, and only one Woman of Forty. But *Hildanus* mentions a Man of Seventy, who had it from his Youth; and it is not an uncommon Case, to see a scrophulous or scirrhus Testicle in Men of

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advanced



advanced Years, after the Venereal Disorder ill cured. But that it is chiefly incident to Childhood, is affirmed by *Hippocrates*, *Aphorism* 25. Sect. iii. where the Struma is mentioned, as one of the Diseases peculiar to Children, beyond the Age of Dentition. Also Observation teaches us, that they have it before that Age, when they are born of strumous Parents, or those that have the Venereal Taint, or when they have suck'd Nurses thus contaminated, and that it comes upon Persons of riper Years, as just now mentioned.

The proximate Cause, in general, is imagined to be a viscid Humor, infarcting and obstructing the Ducts of the Glands, with this Distinction; that whilst the Tumors remain inert and loose, they are thought to be benign and curable; but when they are fixt or suppurated, and spread like a corrosive Humor, that then, they proceed from the *Atrabilis*, and are scarce curable at all.

The remote Cause is such as occasions a Laxity of the Solids, together with an inert Viscidity of the Fluids. Of this Kind  
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are the Errors that are committed in the *Non-naturals*, as they are commonly called, *viz.* Air, Meat and Drink, Motion and Rest, Sleeping and Waking, Excrements and Things retained, and the Affections of the Mind.

Humid or damp Air must be injurious to the human Frame in general, as it relaxes the Solids, and mixes more Phlegm with the Blood, than is necessary to carry on its due Circulation; and consequently, as it grows inert, may stagnate in the narrow Convolutions of the Glands, and form the Evil. On the other Hand, if it is too dry, it may be hurtful in the opposite Sense; for the Blood becoming too glutinous, for Want of due Proportion of Serum, to pass freely through the Glands, Obstructions may be formed there; though this is not so often the Case as the other, for the Air in general contains Moisture enough to supply the animal Functions. But if there should be any Suspicion of either of this Kind of Air being injurious, it ought to be changed.



But the Nourishment we take, has a still greater Share in the forming or aggravating the Evil. When Children suck Milk, that is disposed to turn sour in the Stomach, this Acidity is apt to make the Bile inert; from hence the Chyle is not well attenuated, which brings on a Viscidity of the Juices, and Infarctions of the Glands. And in this Light it appears plain, that Alum, in the Bread we daily eat, must be very pernicious to the human Frame in general, and to tender Infants in particular; with Respect to whom, it may very justly be looked upon as a slow, but sure Poison, as it curdles the Milk in the Stomach, it often causes the watery Gripes, Obstructions in the mesenteric Glands, and lays the Foundation of this and other chronical Diseases. — And in short all such Diet should be avoided, as will render the Juices viscid, and unfit to pass through the long and narrow Convolutions of the Glands. Hence we suspect, that living upon Milk alone may be injurious; as, by its glutinous Quality, it thickens the Blood, which consequently passes through the Glands with more Difficulty, and therefore,



fore, in this Case, we recommend some animal Food may be given between, to prevent, by its active alkaline Salts, the Torpidity the Blood and Lymph may receive from the viscous Nutriment of the Milk. Likewise, we should have Regard to the Quantity, as well as the Quality of Children's Food. Their Appetite is often greater than the digestive Power of the Stomach, which must occasion Crudities: For the same Reason, they should not be permitted to be constantly eating, as some of them do, and to be admonished to chew their Victuals; for as most Disorders, incident to Children, have their Seat in the *Prima Via*, the Stomach and Bowels, they are chiefly owing to this Mismanagement—All Kinds of Salt Meat should be avoided, as also high-seasoned Meats, because the former, by their acid Quality, are apt to coagulate the Lymph too much, and the latter render it acrimonious, beyond its natural Standard—Hog's Flesh is also pernicious, whether fresh or salted; for as it is of a loose Texture, it furnishes too viscid a Nutriment, and when pickled, the coagulating Nature of Salts rather adds to that Quality. And in short, such a Diet should be recommended,



mended, as will produce a Chyle, as free from Crudities and Salts, as the Nature of Things will admit of.

Exercise, every one knows, is greatly conducive to preserve Health ; as on the other Hand, the Want of it is the Source of a Train of Diseases, and therefore is particularly recommended, to be given to Infants that have not the Use of their Limbs, to procure it themselves. Those that are farther advanced, should be prompted to use as much Exercise as they can ; and when the Constitution will bear it, the Cold-Bath, or Bathing in the Sea, may be of great Service, by Way of giving a sudden Shock, and Contraction to the Solids, and accelerating the Motion of the Fluids thereby. But this ought to be recommended with great Caution ; for if the Patient's Constitution is so languid, as not to be able to resist the great Impetus, from the Contraction of the Cold, they will be injured by it, instead of mended ; and I fear that the present fashionable Way of Bathing in the Sea, often rather hinders than promotes the Cure of this Disease, when injudiciously applied.



As to sleeping and waking, it should be observed, that as Sleep relaxes, it should not be indulged too much, yet it ought to be allowed in Moderation, so far as is necessary to recruit the animal Strength. Patients, under this Complaint, are generally costive; particular Care should therefore be had, to keep them constantly open, and all the Secretions and Excretions regulated, so as to reinstate Nature in her orderly Functions.

The Affections of the Mind can hardly be supposed to have any great Influence upon young Infants; however, as the Serenity of Mind is a great Promoter of the vital Functions, they should be indulged, and kept from fretting as much as possible; and when they are farther advanced, they should be encouraged to keep up their Spirits, to correct that Languor, which they are commonly subject to, in this Distemper; and this Consideration may be extended, with due Allowance, to those of riper Years.

To trace out farther the remote Cause, we should take into Consideration, what we  
have.



have observed in treating these Patients, *viz.* that when an Emetic is given, what they discharge is bitter and sour, and that as the Cure advances, this Symptom abates: It is therefore very reasonable to suppose, that the Bile is greatly concerned in this Distemper, but in what Manner is not very clear—it has been found, by observation, that when Dogs have had their *Pancreas* cut out, they have been immediately affected with strumous Glands; probably for the Want of the pancreatic Juice to dilute the Bile, and make it mix intimately with the Chyle, in order to dissolve it, so as to render it fit to pass through the smaller Vessels. Now, as a considerable Acidity seems to be lodged in these Patients Stomachs, may we not suppose, that this acid Fomes is the original Cause, as undoubtedly it vitiates the pancreatic Juice, and makes it too acid; which, instead of diluting and attenuating the Bile, coagulates the alkaline Substance of it, and renders it unfit for the Office it is designed. Taking this for granted, it follows, that when the Bile is become inert, and does not do its function properly, then the Chyle is not duely prepared, but glows  
glutinous.



glutinous. And as *Hippocrates* observes, that a Defect of the Digestion, in the first Passages, is not to be repaired in the rest; therefore the Chyle being vitiated, the mesenteric Glands are soon obstructed, and at last the whole Mass of Blood is contaminated; hence the Obstructions of the Glands in the Struma are easily accounted for. — It may be observed here, that Children are often troubled with big Bellies; which, by this Theory, is easily explained; for, by their eating improper Things, and filling their Stomachs before the Digestion is performed, Crudities must ensue, which infarct the meseraic Glands, and occasion the Intestines to grow rigid and inflated, succeeded by a hectic Heat, *Atrophy*, and sometimes by scrofulous Tumors in the Neck, and other Parts.

But when the Evil comes by Inheritance from scrofulous Parents, or such as have a Venereal Taint in them, we must extend our Views farther, and suppose, that Children receive from the first, the original coagulating Seeds, which propagate upon the Offspring, the Distemper *sui generis*, and

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the last, in whom the Disease has been silenced, perhaps so far as not to exert its direful Effects; yet so much of it is left, as may convey to the Child, such a Quantity of those virulent Salts, as is sufficient to coagulate the Lymph, and bring on Obstructions of the Glands, and form the Scrofula. From hence it appears plain, that no particular *Nostrum* will do for this Disorder; because, those who have it by Inheritance, must be treated differently, from such as have acquired it since their Birth, and the Remedies adapted to the proper Cause, the Distemper arises from.

The Scrofula comes also frequently after the Small-Pox and Measles, if the Blood is not sufficiently cleansed of the glutinous morbid Matter, by due Purgation; as also after Inoculation, when it has not properly taken Place. The Reason of which seems to be, that as we cannot be sure of the Time, when the Blood is disposed to receive the Infection, therefore, when it is done at an improper Time, the Juices are put into a Fermentation, not sufficient to throw off the variolus Matter, and remain in a State of Viscidity,



Viscidities, accompanied with Acrimony, the Parents of this Disease: And that this must be frequently the Case appears plainly, if we reflect how often it happens, that Children and others do not take the Small-Pox, though they are with those that have it; and we have known Persons inoculated in vain, who got the Distemper afterwards in the natural Way. Therefore it should seem, that those who have the Small-Pox in the natural Way (as by this Means, Nature brings about a perfect Depuration of the morbid Matter) stand a better Chance, with regard to the Consequences, than those who are inoculated.

We may infer, from these Remarks, that the proximate Cause of the Scrofula is, as before mentioned, a preternatural Viscidity of the Lymph, and not an Acrimony or Acidity. For if there was any considerable Degree of any Kind of Acrimony, that occasioned these Tumors, they would, in all Probability, inflame much sooner, and come to Suppuration easier than they are generally observed to do. And though *Wiseman* is of Opinion, that it is owing to a particular



Acidity in the Serum of the Blood, which, wherever it settles, coagulates and grows hard; yet, that this cannot be the case, appears plain; because, neither the Taste, nor chymical Experiments, shew any Acidity in the Serum or Tumor; and the celebrated Dr. *Boerhaave* asserts, that he could never discern any Acid in the Blood and Serum at all.

All Nature is simple and plain in her Operations, and when we find a plain Cause, we should not perplex our Ideas with searching for more intricate ones. The Viscidity of the Lymph will account for all the Phænomena of the Scrofula in the Glands, which is easily conceived may be infarcted thereby; as also that flat and hard Tumors of the scrofulous Kind, may happen in other Parts of the Body, when the viscid Lymph, having its thinner Particles absorbed, is protruded forth into the cellular Membrane.

*Avicenna* observes, that those who have short Necks, are very much disposed to have this Disease there — *Lommius* remarks, that Children who have depressed Temples, and  
large



large Jaw-bones, are frequently affected with the Evil — Others pretend, that a great Vivacity and Acuteness of Understanding, often precede this Complaint; and on the other Hand, *Paracelsus* says, that Ideots are often affected with it, which implies a plain Contradiction, and therefore it should seem that these Observations are rather accidental, than essential to the Disease itself. But supposing them to be founded in Nature, yet as they are not commonly attended to, we will not dwell on them here, but only observe, that a soft, indolent Swelling of the Upper-lip, is the commonest Sign of a scrofulous Habit, and is almost a constant concomitant Symptom of it.

The Patients generally perceive a Tightness of the *Abdomen*, and Swelling, attended with a dull Kind of Pain, proceeding from an Obstruction of the meseraic Glands, where the Disease commonly makes the first Attack. Then follows a Tumefaction of the Neck, and Induration of the Glands, and a fresh red Colour of the Cheeks, occasioned by the Pressure of these Tumors upon the jugular Veins, which impedes the  
Return



Return of the Blood, and consequently the Face must appear flushed with a red Colour.

These Tumors, at first, are soft and elastic, so as to yield a little to the Touch, which distinguishes them from the *Atheroma*, *Steatoma*, and *Meliceris*; which, in general, are not so moveable and elastic when pressed upon, because they are not inclosed in a Gland.

In the beginning, little Granulations are perceived under the Chin, in the maxillary and parotid Glands, and down the mastoid Muscle, which increase gradually, and when grown big, become hard and fixt. When the *thyroid* Glands grow scrofulous, they may, by pressing upon the *Aspera Arteria*, suffocate the Patient, and when the Glands of the *Oesophagus* are infected, the Passage being shut up, they may be starved for Want of Nourishment; Instances of which are mentioned by *Tulpius*, and *Hildanus*. Obs. Med.

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When the Humors have stagnated some Time, a preternatural Heat is raised, which brings on a Kind of Suppuration; the Discharge is not laudable Matter, but rather an acrimonious Ichor or curd-like Pus; which latter seems to be small Particles of Fat, coagulated in its Cells, and not mixt with the purulent Matter of the Glands. Besides these, various other Substances have been observed in scrofulous Glands, such as cartilaginous, terrestrial, and lapideous Concretions; Dr. *Haller* makes mention of chalky, stony, and sandy Consistences; and *Glisson* has observed Worms in some of them.

As the Integuments grow thin, from the Loss of Substance, occasioned by the Discharge, the Orifice of the Ulcer becomes wider by Degrees, and the Lips appear tumid, from the Pressure of the Air, and dry for Want of Nourishment.

The Matter now becoming very acrimonious, fungous Flesh arises; and as it insinuates itself into the cellular Membrane, produces  
sinuous



sinuous Ulcers, denudes and erodes the Muscles and Tendons, and often renders carious the Bones themselves.

The white Swellings of the Joints, and *Spina Ventosa*, are also commonly owing to a scrofulous Cause — When an Obstruction is formed in the small Vessels, that secrete the Marrow from the Blood; or if the Marrow grows so viscid as to stagnate in its Cells, and there grows acrimonious, a Suppuration ensues, and a Caries of the Bones.

When many Glands come to be in a State of Suppuration, and a Quantity of that Pus is absorbed into the Mass of Blood, it grows acrimonious, and a symptomatic Fever is raised, which is not curable, unless the Disease be first removed, and therefore generally terminates in a hectic Fever, which consumes the Body to Skin and Bones, till at last, Nature being quite exhausted, Death puts a Period to their long Sufferings. And if a Diarrhæa is raised, by the morbid Matter falling upon the Intestines, it shortens the Scene of Woe and Misery.



As to the Prognostics of this Disease, *Hippocrates* observes in *Prædictor*, L. II. Sect. ii. that Children are frequently troubled with the Scrofula, and are easily cured. But when it happens to those, who are arrived to the State of Puberty, their Cure is attended with more Difficulty; and that it seldom or never arises in Man's Estate, but that they are affected with Cancers, either occult or prominent, to their latter Days of Life.

*Baglivi*, *Prax. Med.* L. I. says, the Diseases of the Lymph are very difficult to cure, and by an easy Transition, degenerate into a Scrofula, Scirrhus, and Inflammations, and terminate in an incurable Hectic; for it is difficult to bring into Motion again, the Lymph concreted in the Glands, by some Acid; and one of the Glands thus affected, draws the others into Consent very soon, and lays the Foundation of great Diseases.

*Turner*, in his Art of Surgery, Sect. xi. says, that this Distemper is uncertain in its Event, according to its different Nature and



Degrees. Thus, if it be hereditary, or arrived to any Height, the Mesentery is commonly obstructed, and the Patient dies tabid. Or if the Joints are affected with white Swellings, the Bones are generally fouled, before the Matter appears outwardly, and the Ligaments rotten. No better is to be expected, where it has taken hold of the small Bones of the *Carpus* or *Metacarpus*, the *Tarsus* or *Metatarsus*, known by the Thickness of the Joint, Finger, or Toe affected, even before it inflames or suppurates, when it proves a Work of long Time (these small Bones, as well as the Heads of the Joints, being difficultly exfoliated) and very uncertain in the Issue or Conclusion — On the other Hand, if there appear only some glandulous Swellings under the Chin, or about the Neck, provided they are securely situated; if they are not resolved by a physical Regimen, and suitable external Applications, they may be taken out by Incision, or wasted away by Escharotics, and the Patient thereby freed of the Distemper; though, sometimes, an unseemly Stigma remains after, in the Room of a Cicatrix.



For the Manner of extirpating these Tumors with the Knife, the Reader may consult *Heister's Surgery*, where he will find a succinct Account of the Manner of performing this Operation.

In general, the Prognostic of this Disease is, that when it is hereditary, or got from the Nurse, and both internal and external Parts are affected, it is difficult to cure, and sometimes incurable. When a venereal or scorbutic Taint is mixt with it, the Disease is greatly aggravated; and when it is of long standing, when the Strength is already much broke, and colliquative Discharges come on, accompanied with a dry Cough and hectic Fever, little or no Hope remains.

To cure this Herculean Disease, we should direct our Intentions to the removing the Obstruction of the Glands, by inciding the Viscidity of the Humors, and correcting their Acrimony, and then to destroy the Tumor, by internal or external Application. But when the Fluids are in so acrimonious a



State as to attack the Bones, topical Application avails but little, the Chief depends upon internal Means ; and these failing, Amputation must take Place, which frequently proves only a temporary Relief, the morbid Matter not extirpated, falling afterwards upon some other Part, and destroying the Patient at last.

In this wide Field, we meet with no Assistance from the most celebrated modern Authors, as before observed ; we must therefore have Recourse to such Information as can be collected from others — from the Antients also we can get no great Light concerning this Disease ; for *Hippocrates* says little or nothing about the curative Part of it ; *Galen*, indeed, is somewhat more explicit, L. xiv. C. 11. *de Methodo Medendi*, he says, that with the Disease, the Part itself is to be removed, which is to be done two Ways, either by extirpating it, with the Knife, like a Cancer, or by putrifying or resolving it, with proper Remedies. And these, he says, in *Lib. de Medicinis*, C. 11, are the Powder of Lupins boiled in Oxymel ; another, the Dung of an Ox or Goat boiled  
in



in Vinegar, and applied ; or Lime mixt with Honey, Oil, or Hog's Lard ; or *℞. Axungiæ veteris, Sem. hyosciami, Picis, Olej. antiqui. Stercoris citrini Gallinæ aa. p. æq. commisce & appone* : As to Internals, we can find none mentioned by this Author.

*Aretæus*, when he treats of the Scrofula, he looks upon it as an inflammatory Tumor, and therefore mentions it under the Head of the *Angina*.

*Celsus, de Re Med. L. v. C. 28.* recommends *Veratrum alb.* to be given often, and until the Tumors are dissolved ; and to apply, externally, such Remedies as will either dissipate or carry off the Humor. Some, says he, make Use of the Cautery or Caustics to extirpate them, but they are always tiresome to the Physician, and that the Vulgar had a Notion, that eating a Snake or Serpent (*anguem*) was a Cure for the Evil.

*Albucasis* says, that when these Glands are enlarged to an extraordinary Bigness, so as to reach down almost to the Clavicles, in such Case they are commonly scirrhus, and we  
may



may easily know from Anatomy, if we were not warned by *Aetius*, that the Distemper, in its own Nature, is incurable, for neither inward or outward Medicines can dissolve it, and Repellents would rather do Mischief, by throwing the Matter back upon some other, and perhaps nobler Part; and that no prudent Surgeon should attempt to extirpate such a large Tumor, for Fear of cutting an Artery or Vein, or the *recurrent Nerve*; and gives a sufficient Caution to any young Surgeon, in telling the Story of an ignorant Operator, who, by wounding the Arteries of the Neck, killed the Patient upon the Spot.

To insert here the various Methods of treating this Disease, from the many Authors who have severally wrote on this Subject, would swell this Treatise beyond the Bounds proposed. And as, from the Quotations above, it appears, that the Antients shew but little Skill in the Cure of this Complaint, let us take a Review of some of the Moderns, among whom our Countryman, *Wiseman*, is one of the most conspicuous. He recom-



recommends *Cathartics*, *Alteratives*, *Millepedes*, *Lac Asinin*, and *decoct. Sarsæ*. Externally the Indications are, Resolution, Suppuration, and Extirpation. The softer Strumas, says he, are often discussed; *Strumæ pblegmonoides* are frequently suppurated, but those that are old, hard, and crude, are seldom brought to a kindly Suppuration. If a Struma is free and moveable, Extirpation with the Knife is the readiest Cure; but if the Indurations are great, and lie deep, Extirpation is better attempted by Caustics; amongst which he recommends, as the best for this Purpose, that which is made of *Calx viv.* boiled in a *Lixivium* with Soap. The Aperture being made by this Caustic, the Tumor should be consumed by Escarotics; for which, the Powder called *Sine Pari*, prepared of equal Quantities of *Mercur. sublim.* *Auripigment*, and *Calx viv.* should be made Use of. *Mercur. præcip.* with or without *Alum. ust.* is milder, but not so potent in its Operation. For farther particulars the Reader is referred to the Author himself.



Some have advised, that Medicines for the Evil should be taken from the last Quarter, to the new Moon. And Dr. Fuller affirms, that a Decoction of the *Fol. Tussilaginis*, taken inwardly, a long Time, cures the King's Evil, above all Things he had made use of, *vid. Med. Gymnast*, p. 93. The *Paronychia fol. Rutaceo*, is also deemed a Specific, infused in Beer. *Etmuller* recommends an Infusion of Rosemary like Tea, and a Decoction of *Rad. Scrophular. Lamium album*, boiled in Milk, coagulates it. The Whey taken inwardly, and the Curd applied to the Ulcers, is said to cure the most deplorable Strumas, without any other Assistance.

The Philosophical Transactions take Notice of a Struma cured by the Application of a dead Man's Hand; and a very extraordinary Passage is found in *Zacutus Lusitanus praxis admirand.* L. i. Obs. 101. where he inserts the following Plaster, which he calls God to witness, never fails to dissolve the Struma, or to bring it to Suppuration, *viz.*



℞. Rad-Bryon, magn. in taleolas sect.  
 lbs. frige in Sartagine in Ol. Oliv.  
 dulc. lbij. donec contabescant, cola &  
 adde Terebinth. abietis lbs. Ceræ flavæ  
 ℥v. M. f. sec. art. Unguent.

Upon the solemn Affirmation of this Author, I was induced, in the beginning of my Practice, to prepare this Ointment, but am sorry to say it, that it did not answer, in my Hands, the Character he gives of it.

Dr. Scott, in his ingenious Dissertation on the Scrofula, says, this Disease in general, seems to owe its Rise to a Laxity of the Solids, and Lentor of the Fluids, and therefore thinks Bleeding improper, except in Cases of a *Plethora*, or when the Tumor is occasioned by some external Injury; otherwise it would weaken the *Vis Vitæ*, and tend to increase the Laxity of the Habit. But he recommends Emetics, such as not only evacuate the pituitous Colluvies, but also at the same Time, by their gentle Stimulus, strengthen the *Prima Via*, viz. *Vin. Ipecacue. Oxym. Scillitic. Sal Vitrioli*, a strong Infusion



of *Chamæm.* or *Card. Bened.* &c. and that, perhaps, some of these might answer very well, if given by Way of Alteratives, in small and repeated Doses.

As the Physician ought always to have in View these chief Indications, to resolve and attenuate the Fluids, and to strengthen the Solids, Soap is particularly recommended, as an attenuating, deterging, stimulating, and deobstruent Medicine, and a Corrector of the Acidity which commonly prevails in the *Prima Via*.

The attenuating Gums, as *Ammon. Ass. fætid.* *Galban.* *Myrrh.* *Sagapan,* &c. by their stimulating Quality, communicate an Elasticity to the Solids, and consequently serve to brace up and strengthen them—To this Class also belong the Vegetables of the aromatic Kind, whose Action depends upon the same Principle, viz. *Herb. Absinth.* *Cochlear.* *Fumar.* *Nasturt.* *Rosmarin.* *Salv. Flo.* *Chamæm.* &c. *Rad. Angel.* *Calom. aromat.* *Gentian.* *Helen.* *Irid.* *Rapban.* *Scill.* *Valer. Slv.* *Zedoar.* *Zingiber.* *Sem. Anisi.* *Cardamom.* *Carui.* *Fæniculi.* *Sinap,* &c. *Lign. & Cort. Guaiaci.* *Sassaf.*  
*Sarsaparill.*



*Sarsaparill. Cort. Aurant. Cinnamom. Macis.*  
&c. and their Extracts and chymical Oils.

Dr. *Fothergill*, in the *Medical Observations and Inquiries*, mentions, that he had cured, with a Decoction of *Cort. Peruvian*. People of both Sexs, infested with painful Ophthalmies of swelled Lips, and the like Complaints, which had eluded many efficacious Medicines given before. He observes, that it doth not avail much, where the Bones are affected, nor where the Scrofula attacks the Joints, or the Membranous Covers of the Muscles, in which Case the *Periostium* seldom escapes without some Injury, and the Bone itself is injured of Course. Here, says he, the Bark, instead of lessening the feverish Heat, it rather adds to its Force, and if it doth not increase the Mischief, it seems at least to hasten its Progress.

Dr. *Scott* recommends farther, alkaline Salts, as *Sal Absynth. CC. Succin. Viperar. Spong. ust. Æthiop. vegetabil. &c.* as also neutral Salts, as *Spir. Minder. Tartar. solubil. Sal Polychrest.* He also prescribes alterative mercurial Preparations, which should be



given slowly, and determined chiefly to the urinary Passages, *viz.* *Æthiop. min. Pil. Æthiop. Pil. Mercur. Pil. Plummer. &c.* He likewise mentions, *Steel, antimonial Preparations, Millepedes, mineral Waters, Sea-water* issues; and adds, that some pretend to cure this Disease with the *Decoct. Tussilag. fuller.* the *Decoct. Paronych,* and the *Rad. Scrophular.* and Asses Milk, by Way of Restorative; for all which Particulars, the Reader is referred to the Treatise itself.

These Kind of Processes, I pursued in my first Attempt of curing this Disorder, but finding, by Experience, that they did not answer my Wishes, whilst I confined my Intention to the Viscidity of the Lymph, in order to correct that, and to evacuate it by Urine or Stool; I extended my Views farther, to find out the Cause of this Languor of the Fluids, to direct my Intention of Cure to the Root of the Disorder.

I found then, by Observation, that these Patients in general have a Fullness in the *Regio Hypochondriaca,* as well as a Swelling of the *Abdomen.*



The Swelling of the *Abdomen* proceeds, without Doubt, from the meseraic Glands being obstructed and increased in Bulk, by the Lodgment of a viscid Humor, and the Fœces not being discharged duely, for want of a proper Admixture of the Bile. But the Fullness in the *Hypochondrium* cannot be owing to this Disorder of the *Abdomen*, tho' some have thought the Tension of the Belly might occasion it, by pressing the Parts upwards. I therefore suspected the Liver to be affected, and found, that when a Vomit was administered, the Contents that were voided to be extreme bitter and sour, and the *Hypochondrium* to subside; and that, as the Cure goes on, the Bitter and Sourness abate, proportionably with the subsiding of the *Hypochondrium*.

This Sourness is doubtless from the pancreatic Juice, which is not duely mixt with the Aliments, being hindered by the tumified Liver, and in that Quality is discharged in the Vomit. And that these Juices are brought up in such Quantities from the Stomach in this morbid State, is probably owing



ing to some Ducts hitherto undiscovered, that convey the Bile and pancreatic Juice immediately into the Stomach.

As these two Juices serve to attenuate the Aliments in the Intestines, a Viscidity of the Humors of the Body must ensue, when they do not do their Office; and therefore it may easily be accounted for, that an Infarction of the Glands becomes the natural Consequence of their Inactivity.

And that Children are more subject to this Disorder than grown People, may be explained in this Manner — Their Diet is chiefly Milk, which, properly taken, affords the kindest Nutriment to the Body; but when used without Moderation, as is commonly the Case with Children, the Juices become too phlegmatic, and acquire a Viscidity, which will occasion Swellings of the Glands, especially when we consider, at the same Time, that they are apt to eat all Kinds of Trash, and frequently fill their Stomachs again, before the Digestion of the former Food is compleated, Crudities are brought on, Obstructions of the meseraic Glands,  
the



the Juices of the Body grow viscid, and also the Bile itself; which not being prepared in, and secreted from, the Liver as it ought to be, occasions that Fullness of the *Regio Hypochondriaca* before mentioned.

When Children are nourished with the Milk of diseased Women, it is natural to conclude, that their tender Juices may easily be contaminated, so as to produce this Disorder.

The Scrofula happens also frequently after the Small-Pox and Measles. When the morbid Matter is not duely carried off by proper Evacuations, there remains a Lentor in the Blood, which not passing freely through the Convolutions of the Glands, a Stagnation of viscos Matter ensues, and the Glands are tumified and grow hard.

This Disease is also sometimes hereditary, in which Case we may suppose it either to proceed from the Conformation of the Parts, or the Seeds of the Distemper being lodged in the Juices; and although this Case has been hitherto deemed incurable, yet I make



no Doubt of either curing, or so far destroying it, as to prevent any bad Consequences arising from it.

When it proceeds from Parents, who have some remains of the Venereal Taint, I find this Disease more tractable.

In all these Cases, we meet with the pathognomonic Sign, the Fullness in the *Hypochondrium*; which is owing to too much Bile, being collected and detained in the Liver; and this may proceed from various Causes. In Children, the Viscidity and Languor of the Juices, produced by the Quality, Quantity, and irregular Indigestion of their Diet or Food, may naturally be supposed to occasion also a Viscidity of the Bile, and its Stagnation in the Liver. And a similar Kind of Reasoning may easily account for the Appearance of this Symptom in the other Circumstances. Which, as my present Purpose is chiefly Practice and Matters of Fact, I shall leave to the Physiologists to deduce, as to them seem most reasonable.



These Considerations determined me to direct my first Intention, to remove the Fullness in the hypochondriac Region, and soon found, that this being lessened, the Patients lost that Listlessness so peculiar to this Disease; that their Proneness to sweat abated, that they had a better Appetite, more regular Stools, and a more lively Aspect. After this, I proceeded to Remedies, peculiarly adapted to incide the Viscidity of the Lymph, to correct its Acrimony, and to remove the Obstructions in the Glands, which, though it generally proves a Work of Time, yet I have the Satisfaction to produce here some of the most difficult Cases, brought to a happy Issue at last. Some of these Patients might have been cured much sooner, if they had been kept to the Remedies more regularly and constant, but thro' the Frowardness of the Children, and the foolish Fondness of the Parents, the Means were often neglected.

As there is a prevalent Opinion, that Children out-grow this Disease, I think it my Duty to inform the World; although it



sometimes happens to cease making any external Havock, yet, I am certain, that the Seeds of it remain in the Constitution; and if they are not destroyed by a Consumption (which is often the Case) they will propagate the Distemper from Generation to Generation.



## C A S E I.

October 15, 1761.

**M**Y Son, *Benjamin Boulton*, when about two Years of Age, received a Blow upon his left Hand, which soon after began to swell and grow very painful; the Small-Pox immediately succeeded, and the Swelling encreased; Sores also broke out on the Breast and on the Arm: A neighbouring Surgeon opened and dressed the Hand for two Years, extracting rotten Bones with excessive Torments, without any Mitigation of the Pain. I applied to a very eminent Hospital Surgeon, who told me it was the Evil, and an incurable Case. I heard of a Gentleman remarkable for his Diet-drink, which having procured, he drank it for two Years, without the least Benefit. I asked the Advice of another Hospital Surgeon, who informed me it was the Evil, and that the best Method to be taken, was to send him to the Sea, and make him drink the Water: After this, I was told of an Advertisement which promised a certain Cure; I got the



Pills, Plaisters, &c. all to no Purpose: But fearing his Hand would rot off, I put him under the Care of Mr. *Durant*, Surgeon, who has made a perfect Cure of him.

Fetter - Lane,  
Fleet-Street.

BENJAMIN BOULTON.

When this Lad was put under my Care, he was about eight Years of Age, of a thin, weak Habit of Body; had two Cicatrices, one on the Breast, the other on the Arm; a fordid Ulcer in the Hand, and the metatarsal Bones carious; the Hypochondria swelled, Belly depressed and costive, with profuse nocturnal Sweats; Stomach extreamly weak, with frequent Vomitings, and a hectic Fever.

The first Symptom I directed my Attention to, was the Swelling of the Hypochondria. This being abated, I proceeded to unlock the Obstructions of the mesenteric Vessels, and afterwards persisted in, for the remainder of the Cure, the Plan laid down in the foregoing Treatise. And although this must be looked upon as an hereditary Case,



Cafe, any Person may convince themselves that the Lad is made perfectly well.

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## C A S E II.

October 5, 1761.

**W**ILLIAM NELLER, the Son of *William Neller*, a Tanner, in *Wild's-Rents, Long-Lane*, in the Parish of *St. Mary Magdalen Bermondsey, Southwark*, gave me the following Account. When about seven Years of Age, I was seized with the Rheumatism in one of my Arms, upon the Curing of which, several hard Lumps appeared in my Neck, that broke out into Sores. My Friends applied to a great many eminent physical Gentlemen in the *Borough*, for a Cure for me, who physicked and plaistered me to no Purpose. I then went for Relief to *Dr. Ward*, behind the *Change*, and received a good many small Pills from him, but their Operation was so violent, that my Mother prevented my taking them all, fearing they would kill me. I next got into one of the most famous Hospitals of this City; where I was cut, plaistered, and purged for  
 Twenty-



Twenty-five Weeks, and then, turned out incurable. Afterwards I was put under the Care of a great Hospital Surgeon for three Months, without receiving the least Benefit. After four Years fruitless Attempts, aged Eleven, I heard that Mr. *Durant*, Surgeon, was remarkable for curing my Complaint, upon which I was put under his Directions, and have received a perfect Cure.

WILLIAM NELLER.

The aforefaid *William Neller*, applied to me *May 7*, 1760. Upon inspecting him, I discovered two large indurated Glands in the Neck perforated, and an incised Wound, about two Inches long, in the right Groin, with various Sinusses of great Length branching different Ways, all discharging a curdled Lymph. He complained of Pains in the Stomach, Bowels, Back, and Hips; he had a Lameness in one of his Legs, and his Head was inclined to one Side; his Belly was tense and hard, and the Hypochondrium swelled.

I treated him according to my Method, having Regard first, to the Fullness of the Hypo-



Hypochondrium and Tension of the Belly, which being subdued, my specific Applications took Effect; and without any cutting whatsoever, the Ulcers filled up gradually, and are now perfectly healed; the indurated Glands softened, and disappeared at the same Time, and the Child is grown lusty and strong, and perfectly well.

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### C A S E III.

October 7, 1761.

**M**ASTER *George C——e*, the Son of an eminent Engraver of this City, was put under my Care, *May 28, 1760*, aged ten Years, of an active lively Disposition and full Habit, with a Lameness of one Leg. The Hypochondria and Abdomen tumified, and several Glands, running down the mastoid Muscles, indurated. The Scrotum very much enlarged, with two scrofulous Ulcers, exuding a brown and yellowish Lymph. The spermatic Cords and Epididymi very hard and thickened. A Cicatrix on one of the Phalanges of the Fingers, occasioned



occasioned by an exfoliation of the Bone; also he had a Tinea Capitis.

By my Method I soon stopt the Progress of the very alarming Complaint, and of the scrofulous Ulcers in the Scrotum, which threatened Destruction to the Testes. The Ulcers being healed, the Epididymi and spermatic Cords also lessened by Degrees; and though the Cure went on slowly, on Account of the Disease being so rooted in, we met with no untoward Accident during its Progress, and now is brought to a happy Conclusion; his Virility secured, and he is well of all the other Complaints.

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#### C A S E IV.

October 15, 1761.

**M**ASTER C—e, Brother to the foregoing George, was put under my Care, June 10, 1760, then about twelve Years old, of a thin weak Habit. The Hypochondria and Abdomen swelled. The parotid and submaxillary Glands, on the left Side, very large, hard, and prominent.

The



The sublingual Glands, with divers others, leading down the mastoid Muscle, scirrhus. His Breath so foetid, that his School-fellows shunned him. Gums rotting, bleeding, and of a livid Colour. Copious nocturnal Sweats, with great Languishments, and a dry short convulsive Cough, with a hectic Fever.

My first Attempt was, to stop the Progress of this consuming hectic Heat, which being accomplished, I gradually subdued the Hypochondria and Abdomen; afterwards my Medicines insinuated themselves into the Habit in such a Manner, as perfectly to eradicate the scrofulous Taint out of the Juices of the Body.

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### C A S E V.

**S**ARAH PATTEN, living in *Alston-street, Shoreditch*, aged about thirteen Years, was put under my Care, *June 11, 1760*, almost blind, with scrofulous Tumors about the Eye-lids. The Parotid, submaxillary, and sublingual Glands were large and indurated,



indurated, most of them discharging a clear corrosive Lymph. The axillary Glands, of the right Side, were enlarged to the Size of a Hen's Egg, so that it impeded the Motion of her Arm, and hindered her working. Cicatrices upon both her fore Arms, Breasts, &c. The Hypochondria and Belly swelled. She complained of a great Sourness, attended oftentimes with Pains in the Stomach, and had a voracious Appetite.

This Girl being very poor, and living at a great Distance, much perplexed my Intentions; however, being willing to cure her, I gave her my Medicines, with general Directions for using them, desiring to see her in a week or fortnight's Time: She began at first taking them regularly, and finding great Benefit, not only persisted in the Use of them for some Time, but brought her Sister *Elizabeth* (mentioned in the next Case) to be my Patient. She being now almost recovered of her Blindness, and the Lump in the Axilla very much reduced, her Mother sent her to work. From this Time, I seldom saw her oftener than once in a Month or five Weeks, and afterwards she totally neglected



neglected coming. About five Months after I went to enquire about her, when her Mother told me she grew very strong and obstinate, and she believed if she had taken her Drugs, she would have got a perfect Cure; and that she not only omitted taking them, but was so obstinate as to refuse taking any more.

I found the Glands in the Axilla almost free, her Eyes gave her very little trouble, and all the other Complaints greatly mended.

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C A S E VI.

**E**LIZABETH PATTEN, Sister to the fore-mentioned *Sarah*, aged about nine Years. She had the sublingual Glands indurated, with a constant Pain in the Stomach, and Tension of the Hypochondria.

This



This poor Girl labouring under all the Difficulties of Indigency with her Sister, took my Medicines with the general Directions, and although I did not see her quite so often as her Sister, yet she is compleatly cured.

F I N I S.

IV C A S E VI.

**T**HE FORE MENTIONED CASE, aged about nine Years. She had the tubercular Glands indurated, with a constant Pain in the Stomach, and Tenderness of the Hypochon-



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