

An essay on the nature and cure of the King's evil. Deduced from observation and practice / [John Morley].

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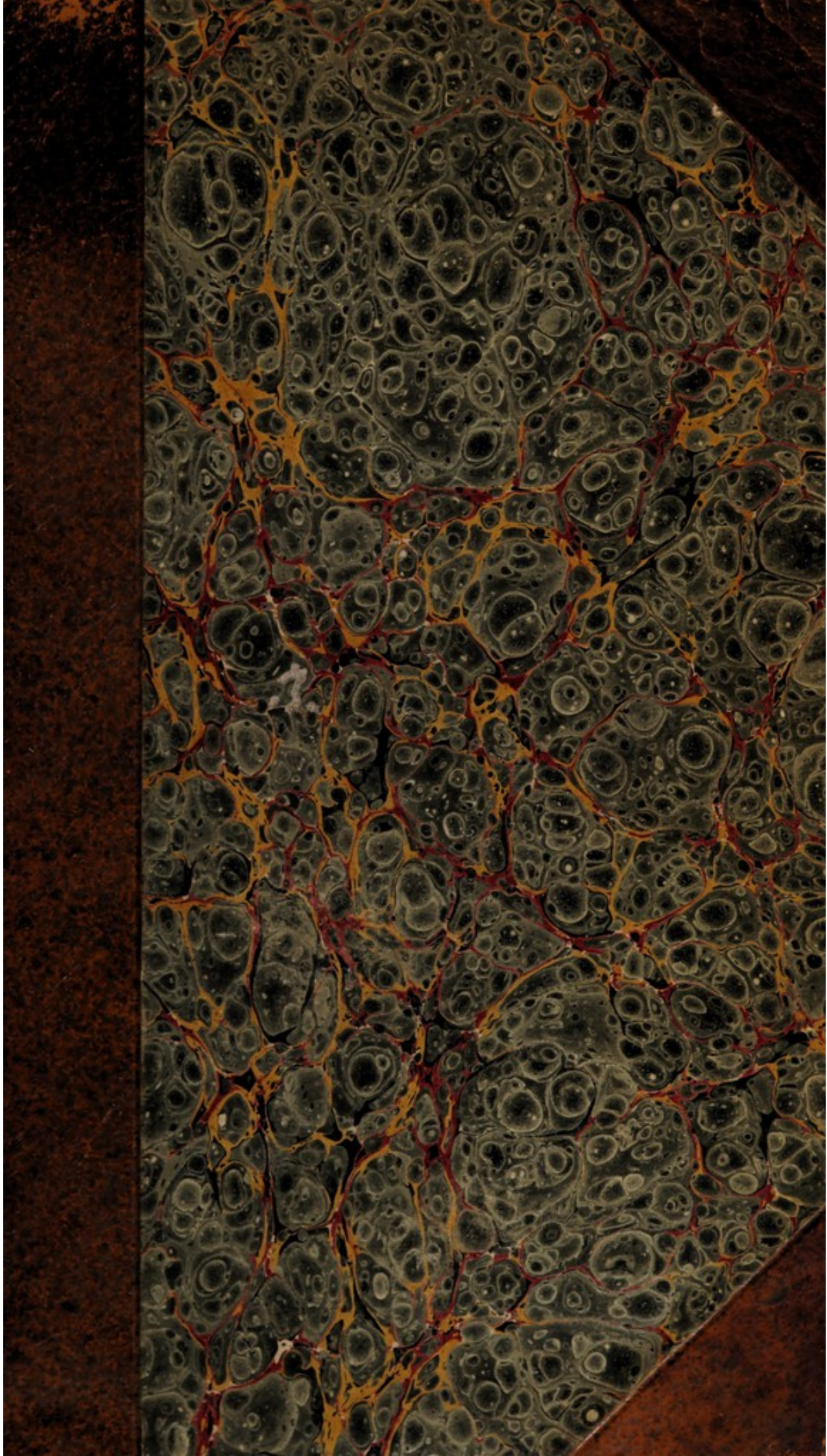
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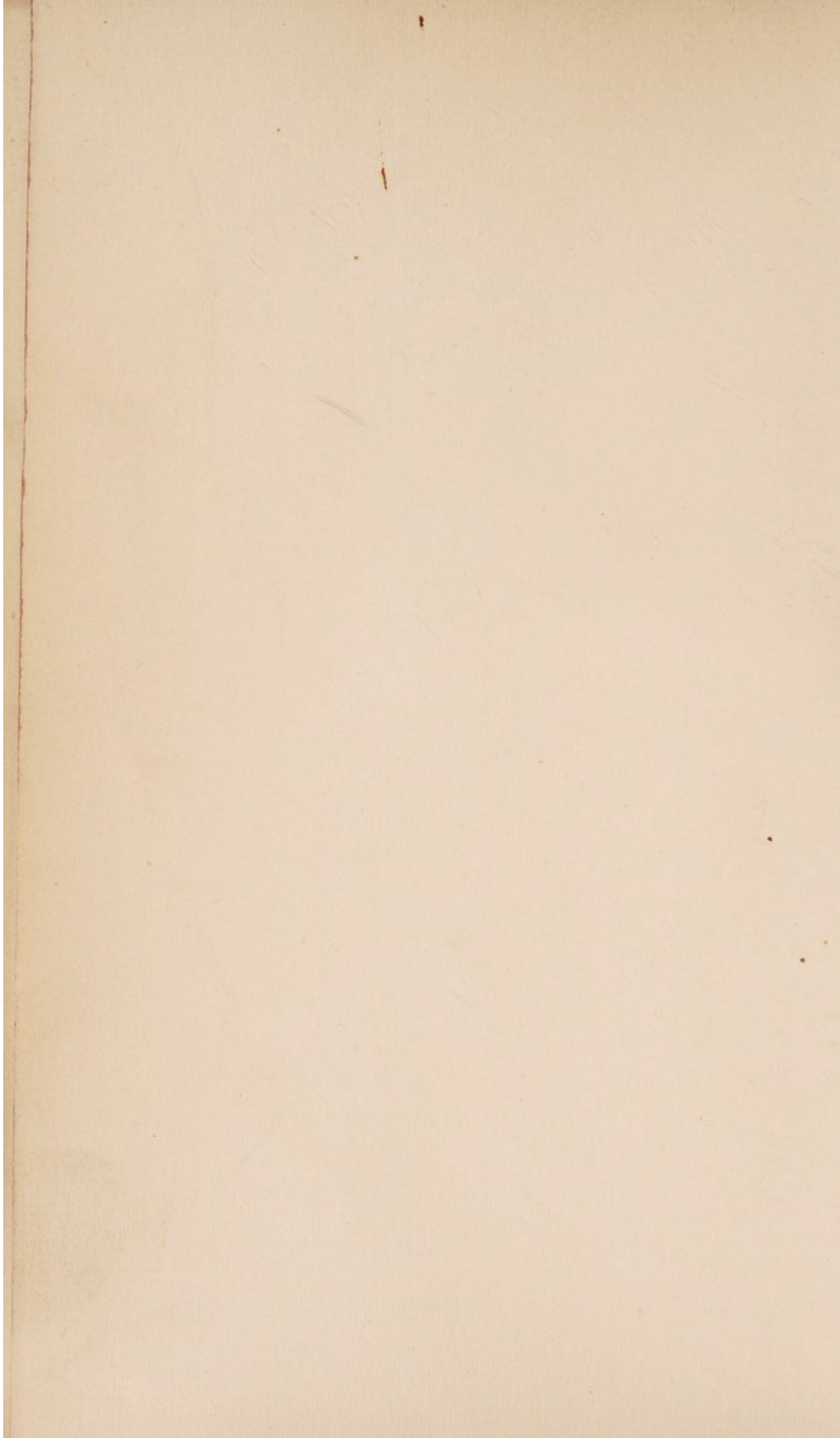
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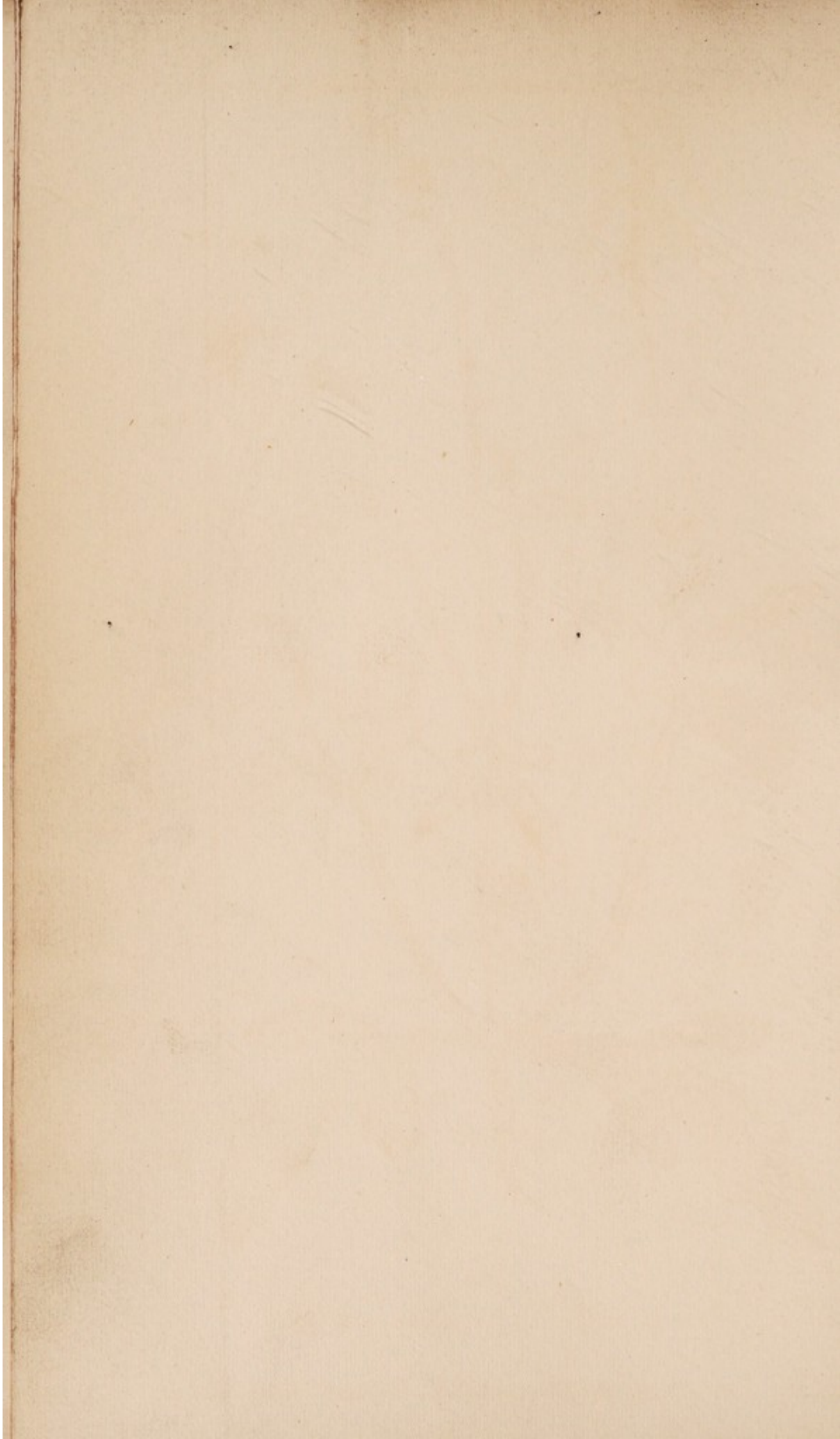
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The Common Purple Vervain

{ Flower.....A
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AN
E S S A Y
On the NATURE and CURE of the
K I N G ' s E V I L,
DEDUCED FROM
OBSERVATION and PRACTICE.

The FOURTH EDITION,
With ADDITIONS, and a great VARIETY of
CASES and their REMEDIES,

With a PLATE of the Herb V E R V A I N:
Published, for the Good of Mankind, particu-
larly the Common People.

By JOHN MORLEY, Esquire,
of *Halsted*, in *Essex*.

Facts are stubborn Things.

L O N D O N :

Printed for JAMES BUCKLAND, at the Buck,
in Pater-Noster Row. 1768.

[Price ONE SHILLING.]



AN ESSAY

ON THE NATURE and CURS of the
KING'S EVIL

REDUCED FROM
OBSERVATION and PRACTICE

THE FOURTH EDITION

1907

With ADDITIONS and a great VARIETY of

CASES and their REMEDIES

With a PLATE of the Test VERVAINE

Published for the Good of Mankind, particularly

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By JOHN MORLEY, Esquire,

of Hulse, in Northamptonshire.

Printed and Sold by

LONDON:

Printed for JAMES BUCKLAND, in the Strand,

in Pall-mall Row, 1768.

[Price One Shilling]

P R E F A C E.

HA V I N G some years since had a Method of treating scrophulous Disorders, or the King's Evil fallen into my Hands, and having, by many repeated Trials, found the great Success of such a Method, from such Numbers of Sufferers, as have put themselves under my Directions and found relief; and being daily importuned not to let the Method die with me, I some Years ago published two Editions of this Essay, to let poor Sufferers (in my 3d Edition, now all sold off) know where to apply for Advice (gratis), but did not then tell them any Receipts for the Distemper; I published those Methods, and Things, that the common People could easily procure, and safely apply (but some that were beyond their Management I reserved for another Opportunity.) I the more readily write this, that the poor Labourers and Handicraftsmen might not throw away their Mo-

ney and Time, after a Parcel of specious Advertisements, calculated to pick the poor Patients Pockets, and fill the Author's own. See! every News-Paper stult with physical Preparations, and observe the shameful Abuse of the Public, by their never-failing Medicines for every identical Disorder; from the learned MD's, with their Elixirs, Essences, and Tinctures, to the poor Corn-Cutter, with his Plaister for Toes; the grand Virtue and Design of all these fine pompous Advertisements, is to let the Reader know, how much Money he must bring with him, for a Viol of Essence, or a Box of Pills, how long they will last, and when the next Payment is to be repeated. Many eminent Practitioners have assured me, they really do not understand the Treatment of scrophulous Cases, as they usually withstand all the common Methods of Practice. I do not (in this Essay) pretend to inform the Learned in the Management of scrophulous Disorders, who are supposed to know them much better than I do; but only, to instruct the plain

honest

honest Artificers and Labourers, how, in many Cases, to cure themselves and Families, without physical Assistance, which their Pockets are unable to procure. What I here offer to the Public, is the result of much Reading, and many Years Practice, on above fourteen hundred Subjects; some hundreds quite cured, and many greatly relieved, some Limbs preserved condemned to Amputation, others cured turned out of Hospitals, as well as several Cases given over by the most eminent Physicians and Surgeons. I shall use the plainest Words, and most common Expressions, I can possibly think on, to instruct the Vulgar, and tell them the most simple and cheapest Remedies, and easiest to be procured by poor People, not much regarding Stile or Expression, so I may be understood by common Readers, for whose Use this is designed, and not to tickle the Ears, or please the Palates of the censorious Readers or mercenary Reviewers, who find fault with what they do not understand. I shall describe the King's Evil, or scrophulous Disorders

with their Appearances, in such a plain Manner, that the most unlearned may know it in common Cafes (where there is no Complication of other Disorders with it) without consulting Surgeons or Apothecaries, who (if they do know the Disorder) will seldom acknowledge it. I have observed, the better Sort are very averse from being told their Disorders are scrophulous, but are contented to have them called Scorbutick, and their Apothecaries humour them in the Deceit, for fear of losing the Family. When such Persons apply to me, and desire to know my real Opinion, I tell them my Sentiments in the tenderest Manner, and never mention such Persons Names, that I may give no Offence to any one; those that like to have the Disorder called Scorbutick may find Relief, if they chuse to have that Name given to their Complaints. Those that would deceive, let them be deceived. What I here relate is strict Truth; as I take no Money for my Advice, it cannot be supposed I can have any design to impose upon the Credulous. I shall relate
the

the Cases and their Remedies, with the Success that followed; the Persons whose Names I mention are referred to, for a Confirmation of what I assert. Let not the Simplicity of the Process, or Slowness, or Progress of the Cure dishearten the Patients, or the Ridicule of Mr. Apothecary, &c. be any Hindrance to the Use of the Things I recommend; but let them not mix any other Prescriptions with mine; for it is very likely, such a Proceeding may defeat my Intentions in the Method of Cure.



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A N

ESSAY

On the NATURE and CURE of the

KING'S EVIL.

THE King's Evil is a name given to a very grievous and obstinate Disease, ever since *Edward* the Confessor's Time, because said to be cured by him and other succeeding Kings both of *England* and *France*. Above Ninety-two thousand Persons are recorded to have been touched for it by King *Charles* the Second only, and with what Success is variously related, disputed, and believed; all this I leave to others that have Time, to read Mr. *John Brown* (Surgeon to King *Charles* the Second) his Account of the King's Evil, and a great Number of other Writers on the same Subject. This Disease is either Hereditary or Accidental; but I find on a close Examination of the Sufferers, not one in twenty is without some
Family

Family Taint. The lowest Degree of this Disorder seems to be the Swelling of the Upper Lip, without any apparent Cause, which I look upon as an infallible Sign of the Evil in the Habit of Body, though no other Appearances. Sometimes both Lips, the Nose, and Cheeks inflame and swell, the lower Jaw-bones are often troubled with Swellings on and about them, and cause bad and rotten Teeth. Frequent Ulcers on the Gums, and many Swellings under the Ears, Jaws, and Chin, and many Parts of the Neck and Shoulders, sometimes smooth, moveable and not discoloured, or painful, at other Times, come to Sores, break and run much for a Length of Time, and are healed up with great Difficulty, and often break out again, if the Habit of Body is not altered. The Eyes are very frequently scrophulous, they looking inflamed, and of a dead reddish or leaden Colour, (and sometimes white Specks on or near the Pupil or Sight) which generally discharge great Quantities of clear, saltish, or scalding Water, which takes the Skin off the Cheeks as it flows down. Often small running Ulcers at the greater Corners of the Eye, which discharge a whitish thick Matter, which glues the Eye-lids together in a Morning, and which are opened with difficulty. When these Complaints with-

ing behind the Ears, Cupping, Setons, and a long Train of Etceteras, for Months together, we may venture to pronounce them scrophulous. What some People fancy to be the St. *Anthony's* Fire, is oftimes a Species of this Disorder. Swellings on the Knees and Elbows, without Redness or Inflammation, vulgarly called White Swellings, are to be accounted scrophulous. When Sores or Ulcers have been long near the Joints or Bones, and will not heal with common Applications, it is a shrewd Sign the Bones are foul or carious: In that Case, Pieces of Bone, sharp and ragged, seemingly Worm-eaten, and little Pieces like coarse Sand are seen on the Plaisters amongst the Pus or Matter when taken off. When the Gristles or Cartilages on the Head of the Bones are consumed, then follows a stiff Joint, by the Bones growing together; the Muscles under the Hams and the Inside of the Elbows, I have often found have been divided by the Knife, by unskilful Hands, so that Joint, has been rendered useless. I have met with Swellings within-side the Throat, and the Tonfils greatly tumefied and inflamed, and threatening a Suffocation, with no visible Appearances outwardly. This Distemper may shew itself like a Leprosy, with a very thick white Scroff on the Head and elsewhere. When the Disorder falls on the Lungs, then beware of a galloping Consumption,

sumption, as it is frequently called. After the Measles and Small-pox, weak Eyes, and running Sores are not unusual, which People seldom think proceeds from the Evil, but it is too often the Case. A very dry thick crusty Scab near the Elbows and Joints is sometimes seen, which when removed, is soon succeeded by others of the same Nature, which are difficult to cure, before the Constitution is amended. The Glands under Womens Armpits, frequently swell or tumefy, and their Breasts are invaded by hard, unequal, painful Tumors or Swellings, which have been too often mistaken for Cancers, and the Knife applied by mistaken Practitioners, to the irreparable Damage of the poor Sufferer; but if these Breasts are neglected or wrongly treated, they often degenerate into real Cancers, then every one knows the Case is deplorable. When the Bones are foul the Case is bad, though not always to be despaired of; sometimes the Marrow of the Bone is touched, or the Disease begins in the Bone itself, which may be observed when the Bones themselves seem swelled about the Head of them, and afterwards Sores break out and discharge a thin oily Matter, then is this, truly a deplorable Case. How often is the Disease conveyed to tender Infants, by scrophulated Nurses, who shall look like the Picture of Health (as many do) till

till they disclose their hidden Infirmities. When a Family of sound Health and free from all Humours, find their Children diseased in this and the like Manner, they are filled with Astonishment, and think it is impossible their Children should have the Evil, when there is not the least Traces of it either in Father or Mother's Family; but let them not deceive themselves, for alas! it is too common. If, upon a curious Enquiry amongst the Relations of a Family, any of the aforesaid Symptoms have been remembered, (tho' a Generation or two distant,) the Complaint may be suspected to be the Evil; it will lie dormant some Years, appearing and disappearing in some Families for many Generations, and show itself in many Forms, in all Ages, Sexes, and Conditions, from the Birth to the Age of 85, as I have experienced; one amongst numerous Relations or many Children of the same Parents shall only show it in one Instance, and all the rest be free and clear. This Disease appears in so many Forms, it would be endless to attempt any further Description, these being the most frequent Complaints in the simple King's Evil (without Complication) and I think sufficient to inform the common People in ordinary Cases, what they ail in general, without physical Advice, which they with Difficulty obtain. All these, and such like Complaints,

plaints, are removed by much Time, Pa-
 tience, and a steady Adherence to my Di-
 rections, even for Years in some Subjects.
 One constant Method I use to every Patient
 without Distinction, let their Complaints be
 what they will, if upon Examination I have
 Reason to suspect them to be scrophulous,
 is, to give them a Piece of fresh Common
 Purple Vervain-Root, about three or four
 Inches long, and the Size of the Patient's lit-
 tle Finger; all the Fibres are to be cut off
 smooth, and as little of the Bark as possible,
 to be worn, always at the Pit of the Stomach,
 tied with a Yard of white Sattin Ribband,
 half an Inch wide, round the Neck of Men
 or Women of an ordinary Stature; if taller,
 an Ell will be wanting, and Children in Pro-
 portion. To the better sort of Females I
 propose the Ribband to be fastened through
 an Eylet-hole in the Bosom of the Shift,
 and so worn, which will be no Eyesore; a
 Quarter of a Yard of Ribband will be
 enough; but no other coloured Ribband is
 proper; because the Dye in some Colours
 may be prejudicial; the Root must never be
 wetted, not when fresh gathered, but wiped
 clean with a dry Cloth; it must not be
 sown up or covered with any thing, but al-
 ways worn naked at the Pit of the Stomach.
 If it hurts or pricks the Stomach, the Fibres
 must be taken off smooth with a sharp Knife,
 as

as before when first used, preserving as much of the Root as possible ; I always cut a little Notch round the upper End of the Root, and tie the Ribband with a double fast Knot, lest it slip out and be lost ; when it has been worn a few Days, it will shrink by the Heat of the Stomach, then the Ribband must be tied faster. A Buckle or Button on the Bosom of a Man's Shirt will be convenient to keep the Root next the Skin, as well in Bed as up. Observe the Root be not decayed or rotten, but fresh and green ; and it is necessary to have a fresh one every Spring and Fall. When I put this Root about the Patient's Neck, I am not ashamed to say, " Pray God give his Blessing to these my Endeavours *," or some such short Ejaculation ; not by way of Charm, or such like Nonsense, but to remind the Patient of our Dependence on the divine Help, co-operating with the natural Means he has provided for our Comfort and Relief ; and surely there is as good Reason to beg his Blessing on this as our daily Food. Here methinks I see the Criticks smile and the Reviewers laugh ; but let them laugh that receive the Benefit, nor heed such Trifles. Trifles indeed ! See the Critical Reviewers, for June 1767, on the Third Edition of this Essay. The Public

* See Eccles. Chap. xxxviii. Verse 14.

are (no Doubt) much obliged to them, for making the Means of Recovery of the Health and Ease of their fellow Creatures, from their Maladies, the Objects of Ridicule and Banter. A Lady tells me,

Their Heads or Hearts unfound must be,
They cannot, or they will not see.

This Root being of such general Use in all Stages of the Evil, it will be proper to give a plain Description of the Herb Vervain, and the Place and Manner of its Growth, that it may be easier found and known by the unlearned Countryman. The common Vervain grows with a fibrous or stringy Root, of a light Brown Colour, very hard, bitterish, and irregular; sends up many Stalks half a Yard high, squarish, solid, somewhat rough, of a purplish Green, and branched; the Leaves stand upon the Stalks in Couples over-against each other, hairy on both Sides, wrinkled, and jagged, with deep Cuts, and wide at the Stalk End, something like Oak Leaves when half grown, of a deeper Green above than beneath. The Flowers are ranged in long Spikes, of a pale Purple, divided into five Parts at the Top, succeeded by four small longish Seeds joined together. The Flower is very small, the two uppermost Segments appearing like a Crest, and

turned

turned upwards. It grows very often in Highways, Court-yards, chalky, gravelly, and stony uncultivated Places, and blows in July, August, September, and October. Some call it the Holy Herb, some Juno's Tears, others Mercury's moist Blood; in Latin, *Verbena*; in Welch, Cas gangythrel. All the Herb is very bitter and astringent; it is much celebrated by ancient Authors, and but just noticed by a few Moderns, as being almost out of the fashionable Part of Practice, though formerly famed for numberless Virtues. This Plant, by a Chymical Analysis, yields several acid Liquors, abundance of Oil, pretty much volatile concrete Salt and Earth: From whence it is probable, that it contains some Sal Ammoniac, united with a good deal of Sulphur. It is vulnerary, cleansing, and opening. The other Medicines and Applications, with their Preparations, such as common People may manage, will be found interspersed amongst the Cases following.

C A S E I.

PHILIP WINTERFLOOD, late of *Halsted* in *Essex*, a Journeyman Barber, aged 35 Years, now living at the Sign of the *Peruke*, opposite the *White-Horse* at *Mile-End*, near *London*, was, for Eight Years past,

C

miserably

miserably afflicted with several strumous Ulcers under both Breasts (he was a fat Man;) some were above an Inch deep, and discharged much foul corrupted Matter, and had done so for Years, could get no Help, and had the Evil hereditarily in his Family many Years: This poor Man was in *Halsted* Workhouse, and under all the Disadvantages of bad Diet, and worse Attendance. The first Thing I did was to give him the Vervain Root to wear about his Neck, and ordered him some gentle Physic once a Week, viz. Syrup of Roses one Ounce, and Manna one Ounce, dissolved in a Pint of skimmed Milk, for one Dose; sometimes he got it, and sometimes he did not. I gave him a Phial of Liquor to wash his Sores with Night and Morning, viz. Vinegar one third, Red Port Wine one third, and Vervain Water distilled one third; and some Ointment to spread on a Rag, and lay on the Sores after washing them. The Ointment was made of green Vervain Leaves bruised, with about a tenth part of House-leek Leaves bruised, and both boiled in Pork Lard, till it was of a good Consistence, and all the watry Part wasted, then strained and kept for use. It may be made stronger by boiling the same Quantity of Herbs in the same Liquor as before. Note: Instead of distilled Vervain Water, which poor People

cannot

cannot so easily procure, the Infusion of the Vervain Leaves may be used; that is, hot boiling Water poured upon the Herb (like Tea) and covered, and when cold may be used in its stead; this Method cured this Man in six Months, and nothing else was used, and he continues well to this Day, which is above ten Years ago.

C A S E II.

Robert Heatherly, Son of the Reverend Mr. *Heatherly* late Minister of *Clavering* in *Essex*, formerly Master of the School in *St. Bartholomew's* Hospital, *London*, aged 23 Years, was an Out-Patient there for the King's Evil, had the second Joint of his Thumb so affected that the Bone was digested out, and many other Sores healed up and seemed cured; not long after the Disorder fell into both his Eyes, with some small unbroken Tumors in the Neck and under both Ears, and had been blind some Months. He came to me with both his Eyes covered, has been well some Years and is now in the Excise. I gave this Man a Root as usual, and ordered him a gentle Purge of half Manna and half Syrup of Roses in thin Milk, once a Week for three Months, and to leave off all Covering to his Eyes, and wash them often with cold Spring

Water, and dropping it into the Eyes, this restored him perfectly to his Sight.

C A S E III.

Anne Nunn, Daughter of *John Nunn*, Farmer, near *Laindon-hills* in *Essex*, aged 21 Years, had a large scrophulous Tumor opened on the right under Jaw-bone by *Mr. Earl of Hornden*; it discharged mostly a thin watery Matter, but as he could not heal the Wound she came to me, I gave her a Root as usual and ordered some gentle Purges, (but no Salts on any Account, for I always find them bad in scrophulous Cases) and gave her some *Vervain Ointment* for the Wound, which soon healed it up.

C A S E IV.

Elizabeth Reynolds, Wife of *Joseph Reynolds* of *Hasted*, Farmer, aged 25 Years, came with her Lips much swelled, and had been coming three Years; the Inside of the Nose and upper Lip broke out and very scabby, and a large uneven scrophulous Tumour had been increasing three Quarters of a Year under the right Ear, and several small Swellings on the left Side of the Neck. I dispersed all the Swellings, and cured her other Complaints, in six Months,

she

she has had no Returns, now five Years ago, First I gave her a Root, and purged her with gentle Physic as usual; I gave her some Ver-vain Ointment for the Lip and Nose, and ordered her to take some green Hemlock Leaves, and bruise and apply them warm once a Day to the large Tumor; in six Weeks the Tumor was greatly diminished, but the Hemlock worn constantly something affected her Head and Eyes, so I ordered it only to be applied at Night and so lie on till Morning, which in two or three Months reduced the Swelling entirely, and all the small Tumors vanished, and is now, and has been ever since in good Health and Spirits. *Note*, If the Hemlock affects the Head, as it sometimes will do, if applied near the Head and Neck, some gentle Physic must be often used, or the Quantity of Hemlock lessened; if neither will do, leave it quite off.

C A S E V.

William Ardley, Weaver, of *Coggeshall* in *Essex*, aged 40 Years, had been much troubled with the Tooth-ach and Ear-ach, then a sore broke within-side the left Cheek and discharged near a Pint of stinking matter at several Times, then a large Tumor arose on the left Jaw-bone and broke into three Ul-

cers, and discharged much Matter, when the Sore within the Mouth healed up, it was with Difficulty he could open it. I gave him a Root, and ordered him once a Week a Purge of Jalap, five or six Grains, more or less as it operated, two Motions a Day sufficient. Applied to the Sores without side the Cheek, a Poultrice of White Bread, Milk, White Lilly Roots, and Groundsel, all mashed together, and laid on warm Morning and Night; this sufficiently digested the Sore, then I healed it up with black Plaisters as follows: Take White Lead finely powdered, Ounces two, Oil Olive, Ounces four, mixed in a large earthen Pipkin; boil it over a slow Fire, and stir it all the Time with a Piece of Lead till it grows of a deep brown or blackish Colour, which costs an Hour or more; let the Pipkin not be above a Quarter full lest it boil over, which it is very apt to do, let it cool in a Gally-pot and keep it for Use; when you use it, warm the Point of a Knife and spread it pretty thick on black Silk or Linen Rag, and apply warm, and it will stick; do not pull the Plaisters off, lest you hurt the Sore; when it falls off itself, apply a fresh one as long as wanted.

C A S E VI.

Deborah Aston, Wife of *Thomas Aston* of *Heney* in *Essex*, aged 24 Years, when she came to me had a running Ulcer about the Middle of the Outside of her left Thigh, had been healing and running alternately for ten Years, a small Ulcer near the left Breast, and small Kernels sometimes about the Neck and Throat, which shewed the Complaint to be scrophulous; she had been twice salivated and much done to little Purpose. I gave her a Root, and ordered Rose Leaves boiled in Whey for a gentle Purge once a Week, and ordered her to wash the Ulcers twice a Day with a strong Infusion of Hemlock Leaves, and to apply a Rag spread with Elder Ointment over all. About two Months after she felt a Piece of Bone very loose, I ordered her then to apply much Lint wetted with the Infusion Morn and Night, and the Elder Ointment as before; three Weeks after she found the Point of a Bone sticking out, she herself, with the Point of a Penknife, enlarged the Wound and took out a Piece of Bone, and examining the Wound with her Finger took out two more Pieces, and much Blood followed; a Week after she brought the three Pieces to me, the Wound

lookt clean and healed up in a Month's Time; she has no Lameness, but walks well and enjoys good Health, and feels no more Prickings or Signs of any more Pieces of Bone; two of the Exfoliations are two Inches and a Half long each, and one Inch broad, and the other is two Inches long and three Quarters of an Inch broad, and all together weighing a Quarter of an Ounce; some Parts looked black and some white, and looked as if worm-eaten; the whole Length when laid together measured seven Inches. *Note*, Elder Ointment is made in the Spring, by boiling the young Leaves in Mutton Suet, till the Moisture is wasted, or in Pork-Lard; to make it strong, add the same Quantity of Leaves as before, after straining the first Leaves from the Liquor, and repeat this three Times; in Winter when no Leaves, take the tender Bark of the last Summer's Shoots, scrape and boil them as above, and keep for Use.

C A S E VII.

Robert Ruff, aged 23, Son of Mr. *James Ruff* Quarter-master of Sir *Robert Rich's* Dragoons, when he came to me was quartered at *Chelmsford* in *Essex*; a Monkey had bitten the left Side of his Neck which was
fore,

fore, he had many scrophulous Swellings under his Chin and round about the Neck, hard, and oftimes very painful, and many small Pustules breaking out like a salt Humour in many Parts. I gave him the Vervain Root to wear about his Neck, and ordered him a gentle Purge of Jalap in thin Milk once a Week; the other six Days to take a Dram of Antimony finely powdered, or levigated, mixt with the same Quantity of Loaf Sugar beat fine, and to wash it down with a Quarter of a Pint of Groundivy Tea, and to continue this Course six Months, and ordered him to use Vervain Ointment to the Sores. An Acquaintance of his, which he recommended to my Care, assures me he told him he had the Happiness of being perfectly cured, with God's Assistance, under my Hands; and declares no other Remedies he had ever used had any Effect but mine. This was three Years after the Cure.

C A S E VIII.

John Butcher, of Bocking in Essex, Bay Weaver, aged 30. He first felt a dashing Pain suddenly strike into the lower Joint of the Fore-finger of his right hand, and in about a Month all the other Fingers and Thumb were affected in the same Manner, and so contracted, that he could not stir them
even

even with the other Hand without great Pain. No Discolouration or any perceivable Tumor, Swelling, or preternatural Heat, to the Touch of himself or others. This Man I restored to the full Use of his Hand, Fingers, and Thumb, by the following Method; I gave him a Root as usual, and ordered a Purge of Rose Leaves, boiled in Whey, once a Week, and directed him to boil Cabbage Leaves bruised in Water, and bathe his Hand in the warm Liquor Morn and Night, for half an Hour at a Time, and to rub all the Joints after Bathing with the Vervain Ointment. This Man had several Relations troubled with the Evil, and therefore suspected his Complaint to be of that Nature, and treated him as a scrophulated Patient and cured him in two Months. He was discharged from the *Essex* Militia, and after Cure admitted again.

C A S E IX.

Robert London, Son of *Robert London* of *Bradfield Combust* in *Suffolk*, aged 32, had a Fever which held about a Week; three Months after, thirteen Tumors arose about the Legs, Thighs, and Buttocks, had been all opened by a Surgeon, and discharged monstrously, which had reduced him to a meer Skeleton; he was brought to me in a Cart with

with a Bed made in it, being unable to move Hand or Foot, or to be moved without great Trouble; I went out to see this poor Man in the Cart, he looked so like a dead Corpse, that People which saw him set out from Home never expected to see him return again alive, his Stomach gone, and Visage so ghastly. This Man's Sores were all tented, which I ordered to be pulled out, and all the Dressings to be laid aside, and ordered all the Sores to be gently syringed twice a Day with a strong Decoction of Hemlock, Milk-warm, and apply dry Lint, and lest it should stick, Elder Ointment spread on a Rag over all, and ordered him daily half a Dram of Antimony finely powdered, with an equal Quantity of Loaf Sugar, and to wash it down with Groundivy Tea. I also put a Root about his Neck, as I do to every one: in three Weeks Time his Stomach returned and his Sores began to heal, in two Months the Surgeon wrote me he was quite well; many call this the Running Evil.

C A S E X.

Susan Ottley, of *Bocking* in *Essex*, single Woman, aged 26 Years, she came to me with almost numberless Ulcers and fungous scabby Excrescencies from the Top of the right Shoulder down below the Nipple of the right Breast, and all hollow like a Honey Comb,

Comb; she had a deep Ulcer on the Inside the Arm, near the right Arm-pit, one near her Shoulder, and one within-side the Arm about three Inches above the Elbow, and one almost under the right Buttock, and Stomach, and bad Health and Complexion, had this Disease hereditarily, had one Sister died of it, and another had it in her Eyes, which I cured. This Person came and lived near me, so that I saw her once in eight or ten Days, by which Means I effected the Cure in the following Manner: I first gave her a Root, and applied a Plaister of Sperma Ceti and Sallad Oil to the Scabs on the Shoulder, Neck, and Breast, which made them shell off; afterwards applied the black Plaister, as in Case the Fifth, which being changed and renewed as Occasion required, at length healed up all the Sores; all the Time of her Cure I gave her daily a Dram of Antimony, finely powdered, mixt with half a Dram of Loaf Sugar, and to drink a Cupful of Groundivy Tea after it; if it gave more than two Stools in twenty-four Hours, I lessened the Dose, and sometimes increased it as I found her Body in Order; I continued this Course many Months; all her Sores are now well, and she has got a good Stomach, and a healthy florid Countenance, and so likely to continue. I advise her to purge gently every Spring and Fall with Jalap three or four Times.

C A S E XI.

Mary Bingham, Wife of *Adam Bingham*, Husbandman, late of *Cressing*, now living at *Patifwick*, in *Essex*, aged 28 Years, was led to me, having been totally blind for twelve Months past. Both Eyes looked as almost covered over with Cobwebs, of a dead Lead-colour, run much scalding Water, mixed with White thick Matter from the Corners of her Eyes, and almost continual dashing Pains about her Forehead, with many scrophulous Breakings out about the Corners of her Mouth, and several other Places. I gave her a Root of Vervain to wear about her Neck, and ordered her to purge once a Week, with dried Damask Rose Leaves, boiled in Whey, and gave her a Phial of distilled Vervain Water, to drop five or six Drops cold into each Eye, four or five Times a Day, and to wash them every Morning with the coldest Spring Water. This Method, in a few Months, restored her Sight, so that she can now see to spin, and any common Work. Three Years after this, she shewed me her Right Breast very hard and full of Pain, some Remainder of the old Complaint, for Want of proper Care, having fallen into it: I ordered her to poultice it with half White Nettle Leaves, and half Elder Leaves, warm. Morning and Night, and this has restored it well as the other;
this

this is two Years since, and as I have heard nothing from her, no Doubt but she continues well.

C A S E XII.

Eleanor Bullmer, keeps the *Golden Lyon* in *Newmarket, Suffolk*, aged 55, about seven Years since, had a violent Rash came out all over her, then fell into the Left Leg, and produced a very large foul, deep, stinking Ulcer, almost all round the small of her Leg, five or six Inches long; the Muscle that bends the Great Toe and Foot upwards; bare and dry as a horn, an Inch or more in Length, and grown about with much Proud Flesh. This woman had not been able to stir off her Couch for a Year and a Half without great Difficulty, and two Stilts under her Arms; and a great Physician told her, that if she went to an Hospital, the Ulcer might be healed in two Months, but in all Probability it would kill her. Living at *Newmarket*, several Physicians have seen her since I took her in hand: The Muscle of the Leg is rotted out, so that she cannot bend her Foot upwards, and must always go limping; she goes about her House without any Crutches, and now and then an under-hand Staff, especially up Steps: The Ulcer

is now very clean, and not above the Bigness of a Half Crown, and the Woman in good Health and Spirits, and able to manage her House herself, having, since I first saw her, lost her Husband, who fetched me to see her. I gave her a Root, judging the Case scrophulous, and ordered the Ulcer to be cleansed twiced a Day from its Filth, with a Decoc-tion of Hemlock, and then to apply the Herb bruised, with Pork Lard and fine Oatmeal, warm, as a Poultice, fresh twice a Day as long as wanted, and at the same Time to use the following Diet Drink: *viz.* Take Senna, two Ounces; of sharp pointed Dock Root, Half a Pound; the Great Water Dock Root, Half a Pound; Polypody Roots, Half a Pound; all sliced very thin; Crude Antimony grossly powdered, one Pound, and tied up in a Rag: Boil all in three Gallons of Sweet Wort, till one Gallon is wasted; strain it when cool enough; work it with a Spoonful of Yeast; add white Nettles, Green Broom, and Ground-Ivy, of each bruised a Handful; let all work together; when done, strain and bottle up close for Use. Of this Li- quor she drank a Coffee-Cupful, Morning and Night, and was to increase or lessen the Dose as it operated; two Motions in Twenty- four Hours are sufficient. This Diet Drink she regulated accordingly, and found great Effects from it. She was also to anoint her

Leg round the Ulcer with Elder Ointment. As the Ulcer is now brought to good Condition and small Compass, I think it much better for her Health at her Time of Life, than healing it quite up. Note. It is best in Summer Time to make but half the Quantity of Diet Drink at once, lest it turn sour and vomitive; it must then be thrown away, and fresh made. I also cured her Son of the Evil in his Eyes at the same Time; and in the same Manner as before related.

C A S E XIII.

John Nicolls, Son of *Zachariah Nicolls*, Miller, of *Little Ashen*, near *Dunmow* in *Essex*, aged 7 Years, had a scrophulous Swelling of the Great Toe of the Left Foot, and several small running Ulcers on the same, which discharged a thin Watery Icor, for Half a Year, and the Evil a little in the Left Eye. I gave this Child a small Root; ordered Syrup of Roses and Manna equal Parts, in thin Milk once a Week, for a gentle Purge, and to wash his Eyes with the coldest Spring Water every Day, and a Cataplasm of a Garden Snail out of a Shell, beat to a Mash, with the same Quantity of Garden Parsley, and applied to the Toe fresh twice in Twenty-four Hours; this perfectly cured the Disorder in three Months.

C A S E XIV:

Matthew Byford, Son of *Abel Byford*, of *Little Sampford*, in *Essex*, aged 18 Years; three Years since, a large Tumor arose on the upper Part of his Left Thigh, and had been broke into an Ulcer about a Fortnight, and run much thick Matter: An Inch above the Ulcer was a very red inflammatory Swelling, which seemed to communicate with the Ulcer: I gave this Lad a Root, and ordered to purge once a Week, with equal Parts of Manna and Syrup of Roses, dissolved in Cheefe Whey, for two Months, and to inject a Decoction of Hemlock into the running Ulcer; then to apply a Poultrice of half white Nettle Leaves (by some called Archangel) and half Elder Leaves, beat into a Mash, with a little Pork Lard and fine Oatmeal, fresh and warm, twice a Day, over both Ulcer and Tumor, which in three Months made a perfect Cure.

C A S E XV.

Elizabeth Golden, Wife of *John Golden*, of *Water Beauchamp*, in *Essex*, Husbandman, had a Year ago a most violent hot salt Humour invaded her Left Leg, and broke into numberless Water Bladders, itched much, and greatly inflamed, and the Flesh hardened; the Inside of the Thigh on the same

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Side

Side began to be affected in the like Manner; I advised her to drink Half a Pint of Tea made with the common Red Dock Roots sliced thin, Morning and Night, or boiled in Cheefe Whey; then to wash her Leg and Thigh all over with an Infusion of Green Hemlock Leaves, and to anoint the same with Elder Ointment; in three Months she came almost well, but complained of a Coldness at her Stomach, for which I ordered a gentle Purge of Jalap, with a little grated Ginger, once a Week. About two Months after she came to thank me, being quite free of her Complaints.

C A S E XVI.

Edward Howlet, of *Burnham*, in *Essex*, Husbandman, aged 30; about two Years ago a Tumour appeared and disappeared at Times near the Right Jugular for a Year; afterwards it swelled as large as a Halfpenny Loaf, then was poulticed by a Surgeon's Directions, but it did not suppurate or disperse, but was opened, and some Part cut away, and discharged a little thick bloody Matter; it had been cut eleven Times, as fast as the fungous kept growing, and discharged much of the same sort of Matter. Now he came to me, and the fungous was large and flat, with thick Edges, like a Cake laid on the Part; the Edges were ulcerated, it was three
Inches

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

C A S E XVII.

Elizabeth Hart, Daughter of *Thomas Hart*, of *Earls Colne, Essex*, Husbandman, aged 20 Years, had a Swelling on the Windpipe, which comprst it to a great Difficulty of swallowing, and her Throat very sore within-side; had been increasing two Years, the Lips often cracked and bled. I gave this young Woman a Root, and directed to purge gently often, with Syrup of Roses and Manna in Cheese Whey or thin Milk, and to apply a Cataplasm of a Garden Snail and Parsley bruised fresh, Morning and Evening; this brought out many small Pimples, which

discharged some little watery Matter, then died away, and in a Day or two others appeared and discharged in like Manner for some Time, until the Humour discharged itself that Way, and the Swelling all gone. I ordered her also to bruise eight or ten Millipedes or Sow Bugs, and make them into a Pill with fresh Butter, and going to rest to let it lye at the Root of her Tongue, and melt down leisurely, till the Soreness within-side the Throat was no more; this Method in three Months removed all her Complaints.

C A S E XVIII.

Joseph Traylin, of Topsfield in Essex, Cooper, aged 40 Years, had several Tumors and Ulcers on the back of his Right Hand, which rendered it uselefs, and some small glandular Swellings about his Groin and Arm-pits, has the Evil strong in the Family, found no Help from the Surgeon, then came to me as usual; I gave him a Root, and ordered to purge weekly for six Weeks, with Damask Rose Leaves boiled in Whey, and sweetened with Manna, and to apply a Poul-tice of White Nettle Leaves beat to a Mash, with a little Pork Lard, and fine Oat-Meal, fresh and warm twice a Day, to the Back of the Hand; in a Week he found great Benefit, and in a Fortnight more, the Swellings on the Back of the Hand are all down and well;

well; he came about two Months, his Hand quite firm and well, and all his other Complaints vanished.

C A S E XIX.

Mary Tyler, Wife of William Tyler of Haltsted, Husbandman, aged 36 Years, had the Evil breaking out all over her at Times for many Years; when she came to me had both Lips monstrously swelled, and her Mouth so very sore, that it was Pain to get her Victuals into it; her Nose swelled, and all the lower Parts of her Face and Chin almost one entire Scab, with many scrophulous Breakings-out on the upper Part of her Face; she was such a Spectacle she was ashamed any Body should see her; all her Neighbours told her she ought to cover her Face when she went into the Street; she had many other Breakings-out of the same Kind on both Legs and Arms, and all very hot. I gave her a Root, and ordered gentle Jalap Purges twice a Week; and for constant Drink, a Handful of Groundivy-Leaves, and about an Ounce of Common Dock Roots sliced thin, and boiled in two Quarts of Water, covered, till a Pint was boiled away, strained and kept for Drink the next Day, and so constantly, except she purged; the Mouth to be washed twice a Day with an Infusion of green Hemlock-Leaves, and all Scabs on the Face, Legs,

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and Arms, or other Places, but to be careful she swallowed none, or touched her Eyes, then to anoint with the Elder Ointment. As she lived by me, I saw her frequently, and sometimes found it proper to add half Hemlock Ointment to the other, that is made by boiling the green Leaves of fresh Hemlock, bruised in Hog's Lard, and strained; if it wants to be stronger, boil the same Quantity of the Hemlock-Leaves in the same Liquor two or three Times. She is now well, and her Face clean and smooth, and no scrophulous Symptoms; her Face being so much altered, many Town's Folks declared they did not know her.

C A S E XX.

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

I *John Hickman*, Gardener to the Right Honourable Lady *Bateman*, at *Yeldham* in *Essex*, aged 50 Years; six Months since having a violent Rheumatic Pain struck into my right Arm and Hand, with great Weakness, my Hand grew very thick, and my Fingers stood out stiff and immoveable, and quite useless, that I could not lift my Hand to my Head, nor take up an Ounce Weight off the Table with it; the Flesh pitted much without Heat or Discolouration. I had a
small

small Ulcer on the Wrist near my Hand. I was advised, and had a Letter of Recommendation to the most eminent Surgeons in *London*, to whom I applied without any Success. After I came home, I was advised to apply to Mr. *Morley*, and three Weeks after I had been with him I could stir my Fingers, and in ten Weeks Time the Swelling of my Hand was wholly gone, the Ulcer is entirely healed, and now by the Blessing of God I can use my Hand and do my Work as usual, and never was in a better State of Health in my Life, as witness my Hand,

February, 1766.

JOHN HICKMAN.

This Person was cured by the following Method; I gave him a large Vervain Root to wear at his Stomach, and directed him to purge once a Week with ten Grains of Jalap and ten Grains of Cream of Tartar, and to lessen the Quantity, if more than three or four Motions. I directed him to boil half a Pound of Salt-petre in a Quart of Spring Water to a Pint, and to apply Cloths three or four Times double wetted in the Liquor pretty warm, three Times in twenty-four Hours, a Quarter of an Hour at a Time, and to wrap up the Hand warm in Flannel, and also a Flannel Sleeve tight on the Arm;

gave him some Vervain Ointment, as in Case I. to the Ulcer, and after a Piece of Lead Plaister, as in Case V. to the same, which is sound and well.

As the foregoing twenty Cases and their Remedies are faithfully related, I recommend the farther Use (in similar Cases) of these safe, easy, and cheap Medicines, and Applications, to such unprejudiced persons as shall be inclined to use them, not in the least doubting the Benefit that may accrue to the Diseased by a steady and regular Adherence to my Directions. I have had Thanks from many Persons, for the Benefits they have received, by my Essay being put into their Hands; and observing, and using the Directions therein; without my personal Knowledge or Assistance. Amongst the Number of Cases now by me (which exceed fourteen Hundred), are some of scrophulated Breasts (by Surgeons generally called Cancers) and determined to be cut off, but are happily well, or in a fair way of being so. I do not pretend to cure all that apply to me, that would be absurd indeed: No, but I have been so fortunate as to cure some, given over by regular Practitioners, and recommended by them, to my Care. One Instance amongst others, as follows:

Mrs.

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

S I R,

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

Your humble Servant,

Surgeon in *Cavendish*,
Augt. 23, 1761.

RICHARD HAWES."

Mrs. *Brown* was a fat lusty Woman; aged 27. About a Year since a large Tumor rose in her Right Breast, and gathered in nine several Places, opened, drest, and tented by the Surgeon, and discharged much; but that being thought insufficient to lessen the Breast, two Setons were made quite through the Breast (which was very large) close to the Ribs, in the Form of a Cross,
and

and as the Silk rotted in two (by the Virulence of the Matter), in eight or ten days, more Silk was put in. Four Surgeons met to take off the Breast, and told her, if it was not taken off, she could not live to *Michaelmas* following; that her Breast would rot off in a Week or two, if not cut off. This was the State of the Breast, when I undertook it. The 30th of *November* following, I saw Mrs. *Brown*: all the Ulcers well healed, and the Breast firm, and herself in good Health and Spirits, without any Complaint whatever. *February* 27, 1762, she was with me again, and shewed me her Right Breast, found and firm, but told me, that about three Weeks before, on taking cold, she felt a dashing pain in her Left Breast, which she shewed me; there was a smooth soft Tumor rising on the upper Part, above the Nipple, which had increased fast, with some dashing Pains. I ordered her proper Remedies for this new Complainr. *April* the 4th her Husband came to tell me, the Tumor was broke and discharged in several Places round the Nipple. I directed accordingly, and *September* the 6th following, her Husband came again, and told me, her Breast had been quite well two Months past, and his Wife in good Health and Spirits; no Complaint at all; and that the Day before he came, she was delivered of a fine girl, and both like to do very well.

I saw

I saw her some Days after, examined her Right Breast, which had lost the Nipple, all continued firm and well; and also her left Breast, but she had no Milk in it; but no Complaint whatever. Mrs. *Brown* had Twins in a Year after, and has had several more Children; both Breasts continue well and firm, and the last Lying-inn she had Milk came into her Left Breast; which I think very extraordinary. It is easy to observe from this Case, that taking off Mrs. *Brown's* Right Breast would have availed nothing; from the left Breast being disordered in the same Manner: which plainly shews that amputating Limbs, or Members, are of little Service without the Constitution is amended; and then there is seldom any Occasion for the Knife at all. I have not mentioned the Methods I used in Mrs. *Brown's* Case, because they are beyond the Management of the Vulgar. I shall mention the two following Cases, to shew that no Age is exempt from this dreadful disorder. *Samuel Pain*, Son of *Samuel Pain*, Weaver in *Clare* aforesaid, was brought to me in the Month it was born with a large Ulcer on the Back of its Left Hand, was judged to be the King's Evil, by Mr. Young, a Surgeon of that Place, and by him recommended to my Care; this Infant was cured with a Root, some Vervain Water to cleanse the Sore, and Vervain Ointment

ment on a Rag to the Place. The Father sent me a Letter of Thanks, for making (as he expresses it) a safe Cure of his Child's Hand. It is evident from this Case, that very simple, gentle Methods are often very efficacious, if used in the Infancy of this Disease. The next Case is of *George Hogerall*, aged 88. He was formerly an Under-Gardener to 'Squire *Honywood* in *Essex*, but discharged some Years since. He was a fresh-coloured, healthy-looking Man, of his Years, as I have seen; has been so remarkably healthful all his Life, as never to take one Dose of Physick. In the 86th Year of his Age, the Sight of both Eyes left him at once; since which he has had several small scrophulous Tumors, broke on each Side his Neck, and discharged much, and seemed to be well digested. His Wife was with him (they had been married fifty Years) and confirmed the Account of his Health. I gave him my Assistance, and ordered him to call on me when he came this Way again. (They travelled the Country for a Maintenance.) This is almost three Years ago; and I have heard nothing of them since. He may possibly be dead; but I have Reason to think if he should, that the Disorder was not the Cause of it. Who could ever have thought, that the King's Evil should lie dormant so long, in the Constitution

tion of such a healthy Person, without the least Symptoms, until the Age of Eighty-seven Years, and then appear in its genuine Form? From these two Instances it is very apparent, that no age is exempt from its cruel Ravages. I have had Application by Letter from many Persons, desiring me to send my Medicines, and Directions, and my Charges for them, for which I should be punctually paid. To which I answer, that I cannot comply with their Requests, without first seeing and examining the Patients themselves, because there are so great a Variety of Symptoms, and Questions proper to be asked relative thereto (which no Letter can inform me of) that I can be no Judge of the Case, without a personal Inspection and Conference, and consequently, it is prescribing blindfold for a Malady that is not to be treated in such a superficial Manner. Many People fancy, if I send them a Vervain Root, and order a little Physick, it will cure all the Complaints, Symptoms and Appearances of this Disorder, not considering that such various Symptoms, Constitutions, and the different Parts affected, and its intimate Connections with other Diseases, require very differently appropriated Medicines and Applications, according to the Nature of the Case and its Combinations.

I shall only further add a few Observations on this Disorder: I have had many Persons that have been salivated, and taken many mercurial Preparations to very little Purpose; they are generally hurtful, and not seldom dangerous. I have found salt Water taken inwardly to have had bad Effects; outwardly it often dries up the Sores for a Time, which generally break out again near the same Places, and will continue to do so, unless the Habit of Body is altered. I very rarely order Bleeding, and never direct Vomits, which I think of no Use. Issues or Setons I do not approve, and generally dry them up, as they are apt to draw the Humours into, and inflame them, and are troublesome, without any Assistance towards the Cure, as I could ever observe. I do not order Salts of any Kind for physical Purgation, but always the most mild and gentle Directions for that End. Hemlock I have used outwardly numberless Times with great Success, but I administer none inwardly; if any Tumors, &c. are near the Head, it must then be used with Caution, as in Case IV. I never use Knife or Caustic to open an Abscess, never more than the Point of a Lancet, and that but seldom, for I find proper Poultices much more eligible on many Accounts, too long here to enumerate. I
advise

advise all People who are costive under this this Disorder, to keep the Body always soluble with very mild and gentle Purgatives; a little at a Time and often, is much more beneficial than strong Purges and seldom: Never to wear any Covering over the Eyes, but wash them often with cold Spring Water, which will strengthen them and repel the Humour, and the Purgatives will carry it off. These few Hints, I thought proper to add, to let People know, that it is gentle easy Methods, and not rough Prescriptions and painful Applications, that are most efficacious in this obstinate Disorder. Persons though ever so poor and distressed, are welcome to consult me, for further Advice, if they find or even but suspect themselves to be tainted with this Disorder, on any Morning (Sundays excepted) for I refuse no Body (if I am well). As I am often sent for many Miles to give my Advice to those, who are unable, or unwilling to come to *Halsted* to me. I visit any Persons of Credit and Reputation, at *London*, or within an Hundred Miles of it, if they send, or order, a Carriage for me, and pay all my Expences on the Road, out and Home; giving me a few Days Notice. I have had many Guineas offered me, but never took one Shilling. Sometimes, indeed, neighbouring Gentlemen and Ladies have given me small Acknowledgments

ments of Tea, Wine, Venison, &c. and when at a Distance, small Pieces of Plate, or other Presents have been sent from genteel Persons. I should not have said thus much; but I find some Gentlemen have expressed themselves at a Loss (as I take no Money) how to make me a Recompence for my Trouble; and others, fearing I should afterwards make a large Demand for my Assistance, have been deterred from consulting me; but I have no such lucrative Views; only the Good of my Fellow-Creatures at Heart. No body can be so mean and unreasonable, as to expect I should be Money out of Pocket for their Service. The Pleasure I take in relieving the Afflicted of my own Species, affords me the highest Content and Satisfaction.

Evil be to them, that Evil think.

F I N I S.

