

The practice of inoculation consider'd ... to which is added, some interesting advice to the patient under his preparation; with remarks on the use of mercury / [Richard Hawes].

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Hawes, Richard, writer on popular medicine.

Publication/Creation

Bury (St. Edmunds]) : W. Green, 1767.

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THE
PRACTICE
OF
INOCULATION
CONSIDER'D,

WITH RESPECT TO THE MOST MATERIAL POINTS OF IT;

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

SOME INTERESTING ADVICE TO THE PATIENT UNDER HIS PREPARATION; WITH REMARKS ON THE USE OF MERCURY,

BY

RICHARD HAWES.



BURY:

Printed and Sold by W. GREEN, Bookseller, in the Cook-Row.

M,DCC,LXVII.

(Price 6d.)



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T H E
P R A C T I S E O F
I N O C U L A T I O N
C O N S I D E R ' D.



THE Practise of Inoculation is now
so well received from the surprizing
Success of it, that it is become
almost universal in this Kingdom;
and as this Practise hath for a considerable
Time past engaged my chief Attention, I hope I

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shall,

shall, with the rest of the Inoculators, be allowed the Liberty to speak my Sentiments freely, with respect to some material Points of it, and which I flatter myself, will not be intirely uselefs.

To ensure Success then, as far as lies in our Power, the first Consideration ought to be the Patient's Constitution, and in Consequence of that, his Preparation ; for since there is an almost infinite Variety of Temperaments amongst Men, it is obvious to the meanest Capacity, that the same Medicines and Regimen cannot be suitable to every-one.

OF all the preparative Medicines we know, there is not one seemingly of so great Efficacy as *Dulcified Mercury* ; but it would be very injudici-

ous

ous in us to infer from hence that it is always proper; on the contrary, there are some Habits or Constitutions in which it will always be highly injurious.

M O S T of the Mercurial and Antimonial Preparations in Use amongst us are of such Force and Energy, that it must be look'd upon by every sensible Person as a presumptuous Rashness in any one to prescribe them, who is not tolerably well acquainted with their several Qualities, and with the Changes and Alterations they are likely to make in the Fluids and Solids of an Animal Body.

W H E N rightly and properly administer'd the happiest Success may be expected from them, not only in defending us against the dreadful Ravages
of

of the Small Pox, but also in the Cure of many acute and chronic Distempers, which may have baffled the Physician in his Attempts upon them with most of the other Articles in the *Materia Medica*; but when such Edge-Tools as these are taken up by the ignorant and unskilful, the unhappy Consequences, which must follow from their Mistakes and Mismanagement, are too frequent and too sorely felt, to require a Recital here.

For the right Application and general Use of these Medicines, we are exceedingly indebted to the late learned Doctor *Quincy*, who labour'd hard for the Improvement of Pharmacy, and was indefatigable in his Enquiry into the Properties of these two wonderful mineral Bodies, which are the Basis
of

of so many excellent Medicines in Use amongst us, as will appear by this striking Passage of that ingenious Author. “ The most obstinate Distempers, “ *says he*, and those which most elude the Force “ of Medicine, have their Seat in the minuteſt “ Vessels, and in the most remote Scenes of animal Action. ” Medicines therefore, which either spend themselves in the first Passages, as all the coarser *Stimuli* do, or have not Moment enough from their Specific Gravities when further divided, to force thro’ the minute Canals, as the vegetable Sudorificks are found not to have, will neither of them answer in such Cases ; so that the sole Art herein seems to consist, in procuring Medicines not irritating enough to affect the larger Vessels, but

capable of sufficient Comminution for their Conveyance into the most minute ones, and with momentum sufficient to conquer such Obstacles, as lodge therein, and these seem most likely to be had from the Union of metalline with saline Particles.

It is no very difficult Matter, by large and repeated Doses of *Mercury*, and an over strict Regimen to secure the Patient from having any Eruptions at all; but then I would fain know, what mighty Advantage is gain'd to the Party, who perhaps with getting rid of his Fears of the Small Pox, at the same Time takes Leave for ever of that, which constitutes every Happiness here, his Health.

I cannot but express my Dislike of such a vast

Expence

Expenditure of the Humours and bodily Strength before Inoculation, as some People occasion by their Manner of Preparation; since it is manifest beyond Contradiction, that 'tis not some thousands of Eruptions which will at all endanger the Patient's Life; and I dare confidently affirm, that the Practitioner who shall confine himself to Evacuants of a moderate Strength, not insist on too severe a Regimen, and proceed with his Patient afterwards as in the natural Small-Pox, will best support the Credit of this very valuable Discovery. Besides, in my Opinion, there is more Danger to be apprehended from a Person's being reduc'd too low, (even whilst he labours under the Symptoms of the Disorder) than from his having a plentiful Eruption;

ruption; certainly we can sooner lessen the Quantity of Humours when redundant, than supply the Want of them when deficient: On the other Hand, it is by no means proper to allow our Patients the Gratification of their Appetite in high-seasoned and unsuitable Food, or to indulge them with Wine and strong Liquors; for such a Method as this might be productive of worse Consequences than the contrary Extreme. All that I am contending for, is this; that it should be a general Rule with us (as far as we are able to judge from the Pulse and other Circumstances) to reduce, or bring our Patient to that *Medium State*, in which little Danger is to be fear'd from too great a Quantity of the Disease, and that Nature or the

vital

vital Powers should be left with sufficient Strength to separate and expel the poisonous Matter, so intimately mixed with the Blood and Juices.

SOME are of Opinion that it is only necessary that the Party to be inoculated should be in a perfect State of Health, and that few or no evacuating Medicines, or particular Regimen previous thereto, need to be enjoined: To which, I answer, that tho' this in general might succeed very well, yet I cannot but disapprove of such a Neglect; and for this Reason, that in the Course of a considerable Share of Practise, it will now and then happen that a Person who has been very exact in his Preparation, shall yet for all that have too much of the Small-Pox. In this Case we might

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with

with very great Reason conclude, that if this Patient had been inoculated without paying a due Regard to Medicines and Diet, the Disorder would have proved fatal to him. This Idiosyncrasy, or peculiar Disposition, cannot be known but by the Event, on which Account, the most judicious and experienced will sometimes find themselves deceived in their Prognosticks, tho' founded on the strictest Observation, and therefore we cannot be too much on our Guard, before we communicate the Seeds of this Disease.

It may be observed that some few Others, who have been extremely careless, nay even intemperate, during the Time fixed on for their Preparation, yet have had the Disease in so mild a Manner,

ner, that the Variolous Fever has scarcely made it's Appearance ; this however is what no one has a Right to expect, and it is a dangerous Hazard to run,

IN Plethoric Constitutions, we shall never repent ourselves in ordering two or three brisk Purges during the Preparation ; nor where the Patient abounds with Blood, in drawing away more or less of that Fluid, taking Care at the same Time, that the Strength is properly supported by a moderately nourishing and light Diet. Surely there is a vast Difference in the Constitution of a very robust Man accustomed to Exercise, compared with that of an infirm Valetudinarian, confined to a sedentary Manner of Living.

S O M E-

SOMETIMES it may not be amiss to take away a little Blood, (where there is no real Indication for Bleeding) with a View to enquire more particularly into the State and Condition of it.— This Investigation of the Blood has been useful in the Beginning of Fevers.

IT would be a very great Injustice done to this Subject, not to take Notice of the prodigious Advantage, we have in the inoculated Patient, even tho' he may chance to have the coherent or confluent Kind of Pock; for when the Eruption is complete, the Fever goes off almost always contrary to the Course of the Disease when received in the natural Way, and never returns afterwards, at least with any Degree of Violence: However,

I cannot too seriously recommend to those who intend to be inoculated, an exact Observance of the Rules and Directions laid before them, since such a Procedure renders safe and mild one of the most dreadful Distempers known in the World: Further, it would be no small Encouragement to Inoculation in general, if they would consider themselves as Valetudinarians for some little Time after their Recovery; to be very circumspect and moderate in their Diet, thereby properly to supply the Wast made; and by gradual Means, and not too early, to engage in the Pleasures and Entertainments of their Acquaintance; but such is the Carelessness of many of our Patients, that they seem not only to think themselves secure from the Distem-

per we are now treating of, but also from every other that is common to us.

I cannot forbear mentioning one unfortunate Circumstance, which Inoculation, as well as the Inoculator seems to lie under, and it is this, that they must in Effect be accountable for the Life and Health of the Patient, notwithstanding he may have pursued Methods quite contrary to those laid down for the Preservation of them.

T H I S Practise is now grown so familiar amongst us, that divers Persons, without the least Pretension to any Knowledge of Physic vouchsafe to take it up ; and although there is in general so little Danger attending it, even by the common Methods of Purging only in the Preparation, yet from what

has

has been said by several learned and ingenious Men, who were influenc'd by no Motive but the Public Welfare ; I cannot easily perswade myself, that People of good Sense and Circumstances will choose to risk their Lives in the Hands of such Practitioners, whose Confidence is only equal'd by their Want of Judgment.

IT may be objected to, and said, that these Points ought to be controverted and settled by Physicians ; to which I answer, that they are certainly the most capable Judges, as well of this as of every other Branch of the Healing Art ; but that the necessary Confinement to this Practice would be inconsistent with their great Design of curing all the Diseases we are expos'd to, whereby
they

they impart so much Good to Mankind : Besides, as I observed just now, Inoculation is grown so common, that it ceases to be thought of so much Weight as to require the Attendance of an Apothecary, much less that of a Physician ; however, it is much to be feared that this great Security will be the Cause of bringing into Disrepute and at length overturning, one of the greatest Benefits conferred upon us for the Preservation of the Human Race.

THE Shortness of this Account, as well as my attempting to say any Thing on the Subject, seems to stand in Need of an Apology ; 'tis true I might have added to it the Rise and Progress of this artificial Way of implanting the Small Pox, with it's

Intro-

Introduction into *England*; but my Design was chiefly to give the Reader some Idea of the Nature of Inoculation, whereby those, who shall be inclined to go through the Disease in this easy Manner, might better judge of the Propriety of the Method recommended to them, and with more Exactness regulate themselves under their Preparation; since it is certain that almost all the Miscarriages, which have happened, may justly be attributed to an Error in this particular.

Now it may be expected that I should give my Reasons for publishing the above; and they are chiefly these; that from the strictest Scrutiny I have been able to make into the Practice of others, I have found that those who are best ac-

acquainted with the Natural Small Pox, lest they should injure the Constitution, are apt to allow their Patients too much Liberty under their Preparation, depending chiefly upon their Skill of conducting the Distemper afterward; whilst the other Party, regardless of any Thing else but their Recovery from the Small Pox, reduce their Patients so very low, that many of them never more regain their pristine State of Health.

To conclude, As this Practice is allow'd by almost all to tend to the general Good, it were to be wished that the few who stand out against it, wou'd be more moderate in their Censures upon the Practisers of it, and not treat them for the future as Enemies to Society, nor endeavor to influence

ence the Minds of others with unreasonable Prejudices, even tho' the Small Pox should chance, now and then, to break out by the natural Infection in Consequence of it; for there can be Nothing so universally useful, but some few Individuals must suffer by it.

F I N I S.



ERRATA

For Practise read Practice in
several Pages.

f. Wast & Waste

f. perswade & persuade

f. inconstant, & inconsistent

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-1 5-16

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