

An essay on the origin and discovery of the medicinal virtues of the spirits of turpentine : Dedicated to ... Princess Charlotte of Wales / [Anna Keane].

Contributors

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Charlotte Augusta, Princess of Great Britain, 1796-1817.

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ESSAY

ON THE

MEDICINAL VIRTUES

AN ESSAY, &c.

THE

ARTS AND MANUFACTURES

OF GREAT BRITAIN

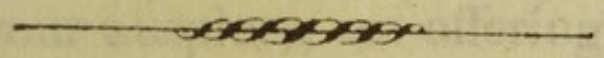
AN ESSAY, &c.

AN
ESSAY

ON THE
ORIGIN AND DISCOVERY

OF THE
MEDICINAL VIRTUES

OF THE
Spirits of Turpentine.



DEDICATED TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
Princess Charlotte of Wales, &c. &c.

By **MRS. ANNA KEANE.**

Dublin:
PRINTED BY W. ESPY, 59, DAME-STREET.

1816.

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DEDICATED TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

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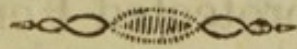
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Dublin:

PRINTED BY W. EARL, 52, DAME-STREET.

1816.

*To Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte
of Wales, Saxe, Coburgh, Saalfeld.*



MADAM,

Permit me to usher into the world under your auspices, an offering in itself of such value as to be in no danger of being despised from the humility of the hand that presents it, were it in any wise to stand indebted for its lustre to the graces of elocution or to the ornaments with which the pen of the writer might invest it, never should I presume to solicit your Highness's protection, but if the subject come, recommended by intrinsic worth as eminently connected with the public

weal, then do I feel satisfied, your Highness will consider only the subject itself, regardless of the manner, nor stoop to reflect on the obscurity of the individual from whom it flows, but that whatever bias may exist upon your Highness's mind will be on the behalf of an unprotected Female; your firm and dignified deportment, the offspring of a feeling heart and noble soul, give every encouragement to such assurance.

To you madam, the rising generation of your own sex in particular, look up as the guardian of their virtue and dispenser of blessings, and therefore, any productions of this nature you seem to challenge as your just and peculiar right.

Accept then this tribute of an humble individual, whose fervent prayer is, that you and your august consort, may long enjoy

your high state of splendid dignity, together
with all the pleasures and domestic blessings
of private life,

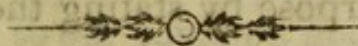
And who can unfeignedly subscribe
herself Madam, with the most pro-
found respect and admiration, your
Royal Highness's most attached, and
most obedient humble Servant,

ANNA KEANE.

Your high state of splendid dignity, together
with all the pleasures and domestic blessings
of private life, which you enjoy, and which
And who can ungrudgingly subscribe
to itself, Madam, with the most pro-
found respect and admiration, your
Royal Highness's most attached, and
most obedient humble servant,

ANNA KEANE.

AN ESSAY, &c.



HAVING read in the Dublin Examiner for July last, an opinion on the use of the Spirits of Turpentine in cases of Puerperal Fever, and Bowel Complaints, and a wish expressed to have the Faculty acquainted with the first ideas that suggested its use.

I shall state the means by which I came to a knowledge of its Medicinal Virtues; although at first supposing the Faculty already aware of its properties, it had been my intention to have used it and other Medicines equally successful in Consumptions, in these cases which might occur within the sphere of my own observation, until I heard that the Puerperal Fever raged with such fatal violence in the Lying-in Hospital, and that Spirits of Turpentine had never been administered in that Disease.

Not having the honor of personally knowing any of the gentlemen who preside there, Divine Providence, as it were, opened a door for the happy communication. Doctor Brennan with whom I was then acquainted, having hinted to me his intention of going in as a student, in order to learn the profession of an Accoucheur; I confirmed his purpose by stating the experienced efficacy of the Spirits of Turpentine in Puerperal Fever, the humanity of the act, and the advantages that might arise to both of us from the discovery of a Medicine so valuable in this and other cases, (being ignorant at the time that students were not allowed to administer;) but from the mode in which its value was made public, I gave up my hopes of any regard from the faculty, which then, as now, would have been very acceptable to me, and declined giving any further instructions on the matter, though much pressed to it; its chief virtues being already imparted to the public in the manner stated; silence had been my choice were I not in a manner commanded to speak by the publication that attracted my notice, written commendatory of the use of Spirits of Turpentine, and calling for an account of the discovery, with an appeal made to the Public to compensate the author of such a valuable specific. I humbly

therefore set forth my prior right to whatever merit it possesses, and to any compensation it may be thought to deserve.

When first I became acquainted with this medicine, my circumstances were such as would have made me happy to have laid before the public any thing that might have tended to our common good without looking for any reward, and would have done so, but for the reasons already mentioned. Such a change, however, has since taken place, that any situation or other advantage offered to me or to either of my sons would be of essential service, being now depending solely on their exertions for support, who still are mere youths; the elder of whom is assistant at the Classical School of the Rev. Mr. White, of South Frederick-street, who, from a knowledge of our distressed situation, caused by the desertion of our natural protector, kindly sheltered us from the attacks of a persecuting enemy, who, not content with having by the power of wealth wrested from us a small Family property, which cannot be recovered, without a tedious suit in Chancery, endeavoured also to cut off from us all means of subsistence, by depriving my elder son of his liberty, in virtue of a debt alleged to be incurred by him during his minority, for board and

clothing, and for which the only claim and demand made contrary to all the modes of usual etiquette, was by the actual arrest and imprisonment of his person, and he only effected his liberty, until the decision of a Trial, thro' the kindness of the Rev. Mr. White, and Mr. Morrison of Dawson-street. My younger son had been Clerk to the late worthy and lamented Robert King Arthur, of Cumberland-street, by whose death he lost both his situation and a sincere friend.

But to return; to the use and value of this specific, which (like many truths in science, more grand perhaps in operation though not more important in effect) owes its discovery to accident. In 1797, I had occasion to use the Spirits of Turpentine in extracting paint from cloth, and having burned my hand with a curling-tongs, the Turpentine got by chance to the burn, and gave me at first some pain, but after a little time it subsided, and the burn, though severe, was entirely cured without blister. I was from this led to suppose that it would remove inflammation in general; being extremely subject to the Tooth-ach, it occurred to me to try the effect of the Spirits of Turpentine*, which I accordingly did, by dipping a bit

* *In using it for the Tooth-ach it should not be let to touch the teeth.*

of Lint in it and laying it on the Gum near the Tooth affected, which I always found to have the desired effect, of removing the anguish, and producing tumours like Gum boils, which afterwards discharged without any return of pain; I then began to conceive that Turpentine might be equally serviceable in cases of inflammation internally.

It may be remembered, that in the autumn of the same year*, there was a fatality amongst Cats attributed with reason as appeared to me, to be inflammation in the bowels, having three Cats affected with it, I gave the Spirits of Turpentine diluted with two waters to one of them, which recovered, but the other two died, and this I afterwards gave with success to many other Cats; these experiments confirmed me in the efficacy of Turpentine in inflammation, but fearing it might possess other properties not equally salutary with those already mentioned, I was delicate of administering it to any but the brute species, till convinced by repeated observation that it did not contain, when used with judgment, any quality in itself injurious to the constitution, or in cases of inflammation, counteracting its main effect.

* 1797.

The first person I dared to give it to was my own son, who after violent heat from hurling, was severely attacked with shivering and pain in the head, limbs, and small of his back, attended with lassitude, word was brought at a late hour to our summer residence, where I then was, that my son was dangerously ill, he had been left in town to attend his school, I immediately set out but did not arrive in town till after twelve at night, when I found it extremely difficult to procure medical aid, and the symptoms were so alarming that I dreaded any delay might prove fatal, I immediately by decoction relieved his bowels, and then gave him a tea-spoon full of the Spirits of Turpentine in half a wine glass of Daffy's elixir, with a little brown sugar to induce him to take it, but without much effect, in about an hour I repeated the Turpentine with the sugar only, in a little after he fell into a light slumber, attended with a slight perspiration, which though it is true, might have arisen from the decoction, convinced me at least the Turpentine had done no injury, he awoke in something less than an hour astonishingly refreshed, having got rid of the chill, though still feverish, his pulse laboring, near two hours having elapsed without the operation of the medicine, I repeated the elixir with better than twice the quantity of Turpentine,

which acted freely, he then complained of heat and itch in his skin, from which I perceived that nature assisted, as I concluded, by the Turpentine, was making an effort to throw the disease to the surface, I gave him nearly another tea-spoon full of Turpentine and put him into warm water up to the neck, after which, from an anodyne draught he fell into an easy sleep for about three hours, during which the eruption began to make its appearance, and completely covered him before twelve o'clock next day, I still kept it out with warm bath, and very moderate use of the Turpentine, with care he was recovered in less than three weeks.

I next ventured to administer in a case of Child-bed fever, when other means proved ineffectual, conceiving the disease to be inflammation arising from obstructions; the woman was a servant of my own, on the third day after a good delivery she complained of a severe stretching pain in the lower parts of the abdomen, which increased so that she could not bear the pressure of the bed-clothes, it was attended with a cough, succeeded by the bilious vomit and irritation in the bowels, the medicine ordered in no wise assuaged pain, the symptoms became frightful, a twitching in the nerves, cold extremities, haggard countenance, receding pulse, and

total debility, in so much, that she only could utter a monosyllable now and then, her life being now depaired of, I thought I might without dread of future injury to my feelings, venture on the Spirits of Turpentine; about four in the afternoon of the second day of the disease, I gave her a desert-spoonful of undiluted Spirits of Turpentine on soft sugar, which was swallowed with difficulty, having previously applied jars filled with warm water to her feet, one to her seat, and another to the bottom of the abdomen, in about twenty minutes she said, oh! ma'am I am better, and desired more of the medicine, of which (though from her sudden ease I apprehended mortification,) I gave a table-spoonfull, and covered the entire abdomen with a piece of flannel steeped in it, still keeping up the external heat, in less than two hours her pulse became more regular and spasmodic affection quite ceased, the abdomen was still sore though not so hard, but an injection of light gruel in which there was a table-spoonfull of Turpentine, to use her own phrase, gave her great comfort, and bringing on an action in less than ten minutes, almost entirely removed the pain, she was very anxious for more of the medicine, I accordingly gave her a table-spoonfull with twenty drops of Laudanum, *from*

an ounce phial, which threw her into any easy sleep with soft perspiration till near morning, when she awoke much refreshed, and as she herself thought quite well, asking for something to eat; with a very moderate use of Turpentine, and very low diet, she quickly recovered, and on the tenth day after delivery, was able to attend herself and child.

This woman being the wife of a Soldier, with whom she went abroad, it is not in my power to have her acknowledgment, but fortunately I can obtain the testimony of another woman, wife of a Gardener belonging to myself, whose case was nearly similar. In the summer of 1803, being then five years married, without having children, she miscarried from some strain in the fourth month of pregnancy, but struggled to attend her business for two days, but on the third she was obliged to keep her bed, and complained of a violent head-ach, shivering, soreness of the abdomen, and total obstruction. I gave her an ounce of Castor Oil, with a table spoon full of the Spirits of Turpentine, and assisted it with a decoction in which I put another table spoon full, and used the same external application as in the case of the other woman; upon her bowels being relieved she be-

came less restless, and felt something warmer, but the fever had not much abated. Upon the operation of the Medicine, I increased the Turpentine, which produced every favourable effect. Her drink was warm pennyroyal-water, with a little sugar, and light gruel; though now apparently recovered, I did not allow her to leave her bed till after the ninth day from her miscarriage, each day giving her a tea spoon full of Turpentine on Sugar, and occasionally a dose of Castor Oil, after which no symptoms returned.

This woman can also testify as to the case of a labouring man seized with inflammation in the bowels, under which he continued for some hours before I saw him; I found him lying in a Cabin actually writhing in agony, encreased by burned Spirits, administered for relief; I gave him a table spoon full of the Spirits of Turpentine*, (a quantity, I think, should never be exceeded where the constitution is not well known, as its diuretic properties, if profusely administered, in some habits would cause dangerous irritation in the Kidneys and

** I make this remark, as I have heard that it has been administered in very large quantities, and even in cases where it is not serviceable at all, and to infants two tea-spoonfulls diluted in some drink should scarcely ever be exceeded.*

Bladder, of which I have experience in my younger son, to whom such a quantity would be of serious and alarming consequence.) But to return to the case—not finding this gave all the relief I expected, in half an hour, I repeated the dose, which in five minutes produced the most happy effect, causing, as usual, perspiration, which I encouraged by ordering warm bathing to his Feet, and hot application; at night I gave him near another table spoon full, and he was next morning able to attend his work.

There are many other cases, besides these already mentioned or hereafter subjoined, the testimony of some of which I cannot obtain, from the impossibility of finding the individuals, who are mostly of the lower class*, and of the others from a peculiarity of circumstances with a family to whom I have already alluded; as those who wilfully injure usually become from the repetition of wrong, the more inveterate in hatred, and the less disposed to render the most common offices of justice to the objects of their oppression.

* *It was chiefly to the lower class, who had not the means to procure professional assistance, that I administered the Turpentine.*

I here subjoin those testimonies I was able to procure.

To MRS. KEANE,

DEAR MISTRESS,

I have a perfect recollection of my illness. In the year 1803, as you have read it to me, just after my husband went as Gardener to Mr. Keane, and also of the attention you paid me, not suffering me to take any medicine but from your own hand*, and to which I am certain I owe my recovery. I also recollect the cure you performed on the man who worked at the Tower, who was seized with a dreadful pain in his bowels, and was so bad that he was not expected to live. I am certain the medicine you gave me was the same I now taste, and this I am ready to assert, if required, on affidavit.

her

ELIZABETH X LEARY.

mark.

Acknowledged in presence of WM. WHITE, (signed.)

The Medicine this woman tasted was Spirits of Turpentine.

* I prevented her taking any thing but from my own hand, lest the woman who went to see her should administer something that might counteract the effect of the Turpentine.

To MRS. KEANE.

MADAM,

I am perfectly satisfied that you should make use of my acknowledgment of your having early in the year 1809 administered to me the Spirits of Turpentine for a pain in the stomach, which always relieved me.

I am Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

Batchelor's-walk,

GEORGE ROBINSON.

To MRS. KEANE.

DEAR MISTRESS,

At your request I give the particulars of my illness, which was cured by you with some strong smelling medicine on sugar, I was effected with a stitch under my left shoulder and pain in my stomach, which was greatly swelled, a shivering cold, and my nails turning quite purple, in two hours at any rate, my left side was exactly from my head to my very toe, like as if I was rubbed with nettles, all over in white blisters which gave me ease, and under your care with the help of God, I

got quite well. I recollect you often giving it to me when I was unwell. I remember also, that when the women were dying in the Lying-in-Hospital, about the harvest of the first year I went to live with you in Exchequer-street*, of your saying that you wished you could get any one to go into the Hospital and give the same medicine you would have them cured, and I am willing to make affidavit of this, if it can serve you or your Children.

And am your faithful, humble Servant,

her

ELIZABETH × FORSTER.

mark.

Acknowledged in presence of WM. WHITE, (signed.)

To MRS. KEANE.

Donnybrook, 22d August, 1816.

MADAM,

At your request I give the particulars and time of your recommending to me the use of the Spirits of Turpentine, having been attacked with a gravely† complaint,

* *This woman went with me to Exchequer-street, in February, 1812.*

† *The Spirits of Turpentine as far as my knowledge extends, had not been administered in this case before.*

in the summer of the year 1812, you desired me to take a tea-spoonfull of the Spirits of Turpentine at night, for one week, which entirely removed the complaint, likewise by your advice I have given it to my workmen in cases of bowel complaint, and always found it efficacious, and am with every thanks,

Your sincere well-wisher,

PATRICK DILLON.

The two following letters are from respectable Farmers of the County of Wicklow, to prove the efficacy of the other medicine alluded to for consumption.

To MRS. KEANE.

*Kilmullen Lodge, New-town-mount-Kennedy,
County of Wicklow, August 24th, 1816.*

MADAM,

I feel pleasure to certify that you have made an effectual cure of my son Johnny, that was exhausted and spent to an anatomy in a decline, and that, when all hopes was given up of his recovery, when you took him into hands, and for which his mother and I return you many thanks.

And believe me Madam, to be your

Sincere friend and well-wisher,

ADAM BYRNE.

Lemore, Newcastle, County of Wicklow,

August 24, 1816.

To MRS. KEANE,

MADAM,

It gives me the greatest pleasure to acknowledge that I consider that I am indebted to you, from the medicine you gave me, to my recovery, after I had been two months, or thereabouts, unable to leave my bed, and the Doctor had given me over, in a galloping Consumption, as it was termed. I had not taken your medicine more than a week when I was relieved of the Cough and pain of my side, and wasting perspiration totally gone; and I was so recovered that in eight days time I could walk about the room, and at the end of three weeks or a month at farthest I was able to go to the Fair of Newtown, which I am sure I never would have done only for the medicine you gave me. I would wish to recommend it to every one in consumptions, as I am sure that under God it will recover them, and that it is very agreeable to the taste, revives the spirits, and gave an appetite. I had only occasion to use about three pints,

ADAM BYRNE

which restored me to perfect health, which I pray you and your family may long enjoy,

And am, Madam, with many thanks,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES BELL.

Thus have I simply detailed the process by which I was led to discover the medicinal virtues of the Spirits of Turpentine, in which I encroach not on the ground of the learned profession. Mine was merely for its known efficacy in one case providentially discovered, reasoning from analogy to try it on another, and thus repetition of experiment establishing it as a specific in diseases of a certain peculiarity of feature, to extend its application to all cases similar in nature. I encroach not on the honours, *that* may be justly due to Doctor Brennan, in the numerous cases he has adduced of successful application; the gratitude of the Patients relieved should to him be more immediately directed as the agent of this cure, but the honor of priority of introduction, (if honor it may be called) is *mine*, as, I trust, has been amply proved by me in the cases adduced, of

application many years before ever the Doctor had applied it, and who learned it *only* through *my* communication. A case also I here cited, wherein I have used it with effect, to which, but by myself, it has not been known to be so applied, and which came not within the sphere of the many boasted cases which the Doctor urges of its valuable and important uses. Is then honor due to this discovery? Are reward and gratitude to be its meed? Does the eye of impartial scrutiny search only for the source in which it has originated? Surely in public feeling, humility will not fail to find patronage, nor will advocates be wanting to stand forward in her support.

The writer of these pages deems it not incongruous with the female character in the support and maintenance of her just rights, especially under the peculiar circumstances of her situation as before detailed, thus to obtrude herself on public notice, impressed with a lively hope that while all the glory can only be ascribed to the author and giver of all good things, the humble instrument of the communication of his blessings may not be overlooked.

FINIS.

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ESSAY

CONTAINING THE EVOLUTION

OF THE

BY JOHN KELLY, M.D.

I have been thinking much lately of the
 various ways in which we are
 connected to the world around us.
 It seems to me that we are
 all part of a great whole,
 and that our actions have
 consequences that reach far
 beyond our own little sphere.
 I am sure that you will
 agree with me in this.
 I am, dear friend,
 ever your affectionate
 friend,
 J. B.

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 various ways in which we are
 connected to the world around us.
 It seems to me that we are
 all part of a great whole,
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