

A sovereign remedy for the dropsy. Published by desire, for public benefit.

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
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SOVEREIGN REMEDY

FOR THE

D R O P S Y.

PUBLISHED BY DESIRE,

FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR J. DODSLEY, IN PALL-MALL.

M.DCC.LXXXIII.

Price 6 *d.*



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SOVEREIGN REMEDY

FOR THE

D R O P S Y.

TAKE of Broom-Seed, well powdered and sifted; one drachm; let it steep twelve hours in a glass and half of good rich white-wine, and take it in the morning fasting, having first shaken it, so that the whole may be swallowed. Walk after it, if you are able, or use what exercise you can without fatigue, for an hour and half; after which you must be sure to take two ounces of Olive-oil; and you must not eat or drink any thing in less than half an hour or an hour after taking the Oil. Repeat this every
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other day, or once in three days, and not oftener, till cured; and do not let blood, or use any other remedy during the course.

NOTHING can be more gentle and safe than the operation of this Remedy, and it often has little or no sensible one. If the Dropsy is in the body, it discharges it by urine, without any inconvenience: if it is between the skin and flesh, it causes blisters to arise on the legs, by which it will run off; but this does not happen to more than one in thirty; and in this case, no plasters must be used, for they would hinder the discharge; but you must apply red cabbage-leaves. If the disorder is caused by wind, it dispels the phlegm that detains the wind. It cures the Dropsy in pregnant women, without injury to the mother or the infant. It also cures the Asthma, Consumption, and Disorders of the Liver. It is good for the Bleeding at the Nose, and for venomous Bites and Poisons.

THE efficacy of the above remedy has been proved by the cure of upwards of fifty dropfical women with child, and by that of more than three hundred other people.

OBSERVATIONS.

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

THE foregoing Recipe was, many years ago, given to an English Countess by the then Prior of the Maurus Benedictines, of Corbie, in Picardy, with the strongest assurances of its efficacy. About eighteen years since, her ladyship gave it to a lady in England, whom she honoured with her friendship; and who in the year 1767 recommended it to a lady, who seemed to be in, or nearly in, the last stage of a Dropsy. She was so very much swoln, that she appeared like a woman in the last month of her pregnancy, and her disorder had resisted every thing that had been done for her by the faculty. She took the Broom-Seed, but could not take the whole of the Oil: however, in a very few months, her husband wrote a letter of thanks for her speedy and surprizing recovery.

SOON after, the report of this extraordinary cure induced another lady, who was afflicted with a Dropsy, to make trial of the remedy. She was not so much swoln as the former lady, but she was exceedingly emaciated, and was so weak, that she was carried like an infant into her carriage, when she went to take the air; and she had failed of relief from the advice of two of the most eminent physicians in London, who had pronounced it an Ascites, with encysted water. Happily they were too liberal-minded to set their faces against the remedy, as some others have since done, because it was not of their acquaintance. This lady followed the directions of the Recipe very exactly, and was restored to health in a few months.

THESE successes induced the lady, at whose desire it is published, to recommend the remedy with avidity whenever occasion offered; and it has pleased God to crown her endeavours with such wonderful success, that she thinks she may venture to affirm, that she has never known it fail to cure, when taken according to the Recipe, and while there was any degree of strength remaining; and that it is almost as certain a specific
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for the Dropsy, as the Bark is for the Intermitting Fever.

It is but just to confess, that it is not a new Recipe. It is to be found in Lemery's Recueil de Secrets, Paris 1740, tom. i. p. 192, where it has long lain too much neglected; and perhaps the candid and unprejudiced practitioner might find many salutary helps in the collections of that great chymist. But the great powers of a few capital medicines have led physicians to neglect and explode the use of almost every other. Persisting in the trial of remedies, which they have sometimes found successful, and the effience of which they can scientifically trace, they do not like to meddle with such as cure they do not know how, let their efficacy be ever so well, and often proved by the unlearned. A gentleman was advised by his physician not to take our remedy, because it would be too heating for him. Another was told, that it would be too violent in its operation. The lady who has so often administered it, has never heard any complaint of its heating; and, excepting in a late case, that of a lady whom it was thought to purge too much, its operation has always been very gentle, and it has cured with scarcely

any sensible increase of evacuation. The lady has given it to a woman with child, whom it cured of the Dropsy, and she came some months after to return thanks, with a healthy child in her arms. It has sometimes caused a somewhat uneasy sensation on the day on which it was taken; but this has happened to but very few out of many, and has never been more than might very patiently be borne.

A GENTLEMAN, far gone in a Dropsy, was attended by two very eminent physicians, who permitted him to take the Broom-Seed and Oil; but they gave him the first every day, and the latter only once in three days. In a very short time it evacuated a great quantity of water, and greatly reduced his size: but an inflammation appearing in or near one of his feet, it was thought right to discontinue the use of the remedy. He filled again, and the event was unhappy. Another gentleman, who took the Broom-Seed, could not be prevailed on to take the Oil. He complained that the Broom-Seed occasioned a great weight and uneasiness in his bowels; for which he took, on the intermediate days, a purging potion, and would not be persuaded not to do so. In this case also it was, as there
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was too much reason to fear it would be, unsuccessful.

FROM the failure of the Broom-Seed in the two last cases, there is reason to think that the Oil is an absolutely necessary part of the remedy. If the patient cannot possibly take so large a quantity of Oil, perhaps the best thing he can do will be to take every day half a drachm of the Broom-Seed, and one ounce of Oil; but the proportion of the latter to the former must not be abated.

Tho' this remedy most commonly proves gently laxative, yet it has sometimes occasioned costiveness. This complaint has been removed by rubbing the stomach and belly with * olive-oil, made a little warm by putting it to stand in hot water. But this does not always give relief; and if it should not, a clyster may be used, which

* In an alarming obstruction of the bowels, attended with a cholic, which had lasted three days, relief was obtained in less than a quarter of an hour, by rubbing the stomach and bowels with goose-grease. The patient was not dropfical, and had not taken our medicine. After the use of the oil, or of the goose-grease, a flannel should be laid on the parts.

may be made of warm water, with a tea-spoonful of common salt, or with a table-spoonful of castor oil. This remedy, however, ought not to be used without urgent necessity, and is only preferable to a purging draught, which, by carrying off the medicine, might prevent its efficacy.

IF the patient is too weak to use other exercise after taking the powder, the body and limbs may be rubbed with a flannel, from time to time, during the hour and half, giving rest at intervals, according to the strength; and indeed the practice of this exercise for some minutes, every night and morning, may be of great help.

THE quantities directed in the Recipe have been given alike to men and to women; and there has never been found reason to think, that it was too little for the one, or too much for the other.

IT is hardly necessary to say, that all the ingredients ought to be the best that can be had, particularly the Oil, which, if in the least rancid, might be hurtful. In England, it has generally been given in mountain-wine. The

Broom-Seed may always be had at Covent-Garden. To powder the Broom-Seed, lay it, for a little while, at a reasonable distance before the fire, and then grind it in a coffee-mill, and sift it through a gauze sieve, or a piece of muslin. Put it to steep in a phial, and cork it.

THE Dropsy of the breast assumes the appearance of, and is often mistaken for the Asthma. This very dangerous disease, the Broom-Seed and Oil have cured in a time so short, that those wondered, who had before seen many of its great effects.

ALL who are afflicted with any kind of Dropsy, and into whose hands this may happen to fall, are most earnestly entreated to make trial of it for a fortnight; in which time, it is hoped, it will speak for itself, and afford encouragement to persevere in the course. It must be acknowledged, that an unknown Recommender wants himself a recommendation: but it is offered to consideration, that no private interest is served by the publication; for the truth of which, Mr. DODSLEY, the Publisher, is appealed to.

F I N I S.

Broom-Seed may always be had at Covent-Garden. To powder the Broom-Seed, lay it for a little while, at a reasonable distance before the fire, and then grind it in a mortar, and sift it through a coarse sieve, or a piece of

As who are afflicted with any kind of Dropsy, and face with this kind, this may happen to fall, and not only self, or rather to make it all off, for a fortnight in which time it is best, it will be best for it, and after cannot