

A N  
E S S A Y

ON THE  
MEDICINAL NATURE

OF  
HEMLOCK:

In which its extraordinary virtue and efficacy, as well internally as externally used, in the cure of CANCERS, SCHIRROUS and OEDEMATOUS TUMOURS, MALIGNANT and FISTULOUS ULCERS, and CATARACTS, are demonstrated, and explained: the whole being founded on observations made in a variety of the respective cases, where this remedy was administered by Dr. *Storck*, the Baron *Van Swieten*, Dr. *Kollman*, and others of the most eminent physicians and surgeons at *Vienna*.

Translated from the LATIN ORIGINAL,

Written by Dr. STORCK,

Physician in ordinary to the *Pazmarian* city hospital at *Vienna*.

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L O N D O N,

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MDCCLX.



TO HER  
SACRED CESAREAN, ROYAL,  
APOSTOLIC,  
M A J E S T Y,  
MARIA THERESIA,  
MOST AUGUST  
E M P R E S S  
OF THE ROMANS;  
Q U E E N  
OF HUNGARY, BOHEMIA;  
DALMATIA, CROATIA,  
SCLAVONIA, &c. ;  
ARCHDUCHESS OF AUSTRIA; &c. &c.

ANTHONY STORCK.

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses.

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M O S T A U G U S T  
E M P R E S S  
O F T H E  
R O M A N S !

**T**HOUGH all arts and sciences, re-established by your favour and extreme goodness, are cultivated and improved, in the most antient university of Vienna, with surprizing industry and unspeakable emulation: yet, it must be allowed, that medicinal knowledge increases and flourishes there, in a very eminent manner, above all others.

Nor is it a subject of wonder! since, not only the most able professors, persue with constant and unwearied application,  
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every means of instructing their pupils in all the principles of medicine; and rendering them perfect in that HYPOCRATIC practice, which is alone the true: but the practitioners themselves, bred up in this school, following the example of their masters, take the greatest pains, by the most intense study, and assiduous application, to extend the science of healing.

Not to be wanting, therefore, with relation to my own share in this important concern, I compiled last year, an account of facts observed in my hospital; and published them.

From whence I received the high satisfaction of seeing, that they were approved, and praised, though, perhaps, beyond their merits, by the most considerable persons of the profession.

Incited more strongly by this success, I have, the present year, also, exerted  
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*my utmost endeavours in making another collection.*

*But it was my opinion, that, above all others, the new experiments, I had made on the use of HEMLOCK, were of most importance to be communicated.*

*Of these I, therefore, wrote a most faithful account; and formed a little essay.*

*This new work, as I conceived it might prove of great utility to mankind, I have humbly presumed to lay at the feet of YOUR MOST SACRED MAJESTY; and to dedicate it to you.*

*Since, it is evident from a multiplicity of instances, that you always receive, most graciously, those literary performances, which tend to promote happiness and health: that you afford them your protection; and, from your*  
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*consummate benevolence, render them more extensively beneficial.*

*It cannot be doubted, moreover, but that this essay, having the sanction of your glorious name, will induce other physicians, to make further experiments, undertaken with due caution.*

*As to myself, whatever, for the future, it may be within the reach of my abilities to perform, for the alleviating or removing the sufferings of sick persons, I will (if it please God) endeavour to accomplish with the greatest ardour and industry.*





## P R E F A C E.

**T**HERE are many diseases, of the cure of which, even the most skilful, both of the antient and modern physicians, have been ignorant: as no remedy has been hitherto found out of force sufficient to overcome them.

Reason therefore suggests, and duty urges, that we should exert our utmost abilities to bring any such to light.

May it not be reasonably conjectured, that what we want of this kind lies concealed in plants, with whose virtues we are unacquainted; or of which perhaps we entertain an ill opinion?

I, indeed, myself, as it seems to me, have, in the use of hemlock, made proof of a medicine, that may be highly serviceable in resolving inveterate schirruses, and curing cancers,

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## P R E F A C E.

I do not, nevertheless, intend to exaggerate ~~here~~ the specific power of this plant; or to plume myself with the honour of any invention respecting it. All I desire is, that the fruits of my endeavours may be applied to the service of my afflicted fellow creatures, and may become beneficial to them.

I should be sorry, therefore, that any person should, through motives of envy or interest, prevent a fair trial.

This essay is divided into three chapters.

The first contains the description of the plant, and the remedy.

The second recites the cases in which this remedy has been administered.

The third presents some corollaries.



## CHAPTER I.

**I**N shady places where the soil is rich; and near ditches, and the fences of fields and meadows; grows an umbelliferous plant, which flowers in the month of July. Its leaves, affixed to long thick hollow footstalks, are divided, by various sections in the manner of sweet cicely (*myrrhis*), into many slender wings, of a blackish green colour. The *stalk*, which is tall, ferulaceous, smooth, light, thick, hollow within, and of a diluted green colour, but variegated with red spots like a snake, rises frequently to the  
B 2 height

height of three cubits. At the top are umbels; on which which grow *little white flowers*; that are succeeded by *seeds* resembling those of anise, but somewhat whiter. The *root*, which is about nine inches in length, and of the thickness of a finger, is hollow when it sends forth a stalk, but till then solid. The smell is disagreeable and stinking. See *Morison*, Vol. 3. p. 290.

Botanists have named this herb *cicutula vulgaris*; and, in the English language, it is called HEMLOCK.

*Pliny* writes, that the green stalks of hemlock were eaten by many without the least injury.

*Ray* affirms, that a person of the name of *Boullé* gave the root of hemlock, to the quantity of a scruple, in malignant and quartan fevers; and preferred it to all diaphoretics.

*Renealmus*, in observation 3 and 4, administered a scruple, or half a dram, of hemlock in substance, for the resolving the schirrus of the liver, spleen,

spleen, and pancreas; or gave an infusion made with a dram or two of the root of it.

Many officinal plasters, and unguents, receive the juice of hemlock into their composition.

Excepting this, it is, however, marked with black by almost all authors; reckoned among the poisons; condemned; and of course wholly banished out of medicinal practice.

It is found plentifully every where: yet has neither any use or place in gardens; nor is at present applied to the healing cattle, much less to the curing men.

Hence is it always produced in vain; and withers again without having answered any purpose.

We all know, nevertheless, that nothing has been created by God, which was not designed for some good, and use.

I was determined, by these circumstances, to examine the virtues of

## 4 CHAPTER I.

this herb preferably to all others; and, pursuantly to such intention, I consulted many of the antient and modern writers on the subject.

I found, however, in the course of my reading, that this herb had, in antient times, been much used, by external application, for the dispersing cold tumours, resolving schirruses, and mitigating the pains in cancers; and with great effect.

But that, internally given, all agreed in exclaiming against it as a most deleterious poison.

The first attempt was, therefore, to be made in the external use.

Accordingly I sewed up this herb dried, and cut, in a mattrafs, betwixt two pieces of linnen, in the manner of quilting. This mattrafs I let remain in boiling water for some minutes: and then, having pressed out the superfluous fluid, I applied it warm to the parts affected.

By

## CHAPTER I. 3

By this method, I sometimes stopt the progress of the worst gangrenes; and procured a separation of the mortified part from the sound.

To those, who could not bear, on account of the disagreeable stink, and the itching produced by them, the mattraffes that were boiled in water, I applied others boiled in milk.

These they bore with ease; and did not perceive any inconvenience from them: but all, on the contrary, found then relief.

In the case of a man, sixty years of age, for many years afflicted with the gout, I not only in a short time quieted the pains; but intirely softened and dispersed the gout stones.

The further consequence was, that when the fits returned, they were neither so violent, nor lasted so long.

In rheumatisms of long standing, and in the gout, I gave great ease to some patients, and wholly freed others,

by the pills below described, and the hemlock fomentation.

I failed, nevertheless, of doing service to some, even by a long continued course: but I did not, that I know of, do the least harm to any.

In schirrous strumas, indurations of the glands, and breasts, and very bad cancers, I saw and experienced very considerable effects.

But where tumours, that are inflammatory, or arise from hot humours, occur, with them such hemlock fomentation is less proper.

It may, notwithstanding, be of avail even in these cases, provided due evacuations be previously made.

Plasters, into the composition of which hemlock enters, have also great utility in medicine; and they often resolve and disperse what resists all others.

I began from thence to doubt, whether that resolving, penetrating, discutient power, might not reside in the juice of the hemlock.

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## CHAPTER I. 7

I, therefore, pressed out the juice from this herb; and evaporated it with a very gentle heat, in an earthen vessel, to the consistence of an extract.

As it would, however, have been criminal to have made the first trial of this extract on men, I gave a scruple of it, with a piece of flesh, three times a day, to a little dog that was hungry.

I then watched carefully, what changes might be produced in him.

He remained, nevertheless, well, lively, and waiting with eagerness for the piece of flesh.

The second day, the same quantity being given, I found no difference in the result.

Nor even on the third did I perceive any bad symptom in him.

Encouraged by this, I made the experiment on myself.

I took morning and evening one grain of this extract; and drank a cup-ful of tea after it.

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I attended then carefully to my regimen, that I might discover from thence, if any unusual effect was produced in my body.

I continued this dose for eight days, without perceiving the least inconvenience from it. I was active and strong; had my memory perfect; enjoyed a good stomach; and slept soundly.

The next week I increased the dose; and swallowed then, morning and evening, two grains: nor did any thing ill or unusual happen in my body from thence.

I was, therefore, now justified, in reason and conscience, to try this on others.

The fresh root, when it is cut in pieces, emits a milk; which is acrid and bitter to the taste.

I rubbed a small drop or two of this milk on the end of my tongue. It presently became stiff; swelled; and was very painful: and soon after

## CHAPTER I. 9

after I lost the power of speaking.

This untoward event frightened me; and gave me great apprehensions of the consequence.

I recollected, however, from what I had met with in reading, that acids resist the powers of such simples; and deprive them of their virulence.

I therefore washed my tongue all over with the juice of a lemon; and rubbed the end with it: after which I immediately felt great ease; the pains and tension went off; and I was able to stammer.

I repeated the same a quarter of an hour after, and then began to speak more freely.

The juice being thus applied several times more; at the expiration of two hours, my tongue regained its liberty; and all my fears vanished.

May it not be reasonably questioned from hence, whether the strongest poison does not reside in the milk of the root?

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When, however, the root is dried, and reduced to powder, it becomes less noxious.

For I have taken a grain, or sometimes even two, of such powder, without any ill consequence.

As soon as I was certain of this, I prepared the following pills.

Take of the fresh hemlock, as much as may be sufficient.

Press out the juice; and let it be boiled, while fresh, with a gentle heat, in an earthen vessel (often stirring it, lest it burn) to the consistence of a thick extract. Let this extract be formed, with as much of the powder of the leaves as may be necessary, into a mass for pills: from which, **let pills be made of two grains each.**

If the juice be expressed from hemlock, previously boiled for some time in a sufficient quantity of water, it will then make an extract less efficacious; but yet of some virtue.

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The pills may be covered with silver or gold; or sprinkled with various powders; that the disagreeable smell may be avoided.

The same extract may otherwise be administered in bolusses, mixtures, or any other convenient form; lest the patients may be disgusted with the continual use of the pills; and nauseate them.

In the early time of my practising this method, I always began with the least dose: and only administered, at first, one pill morning and evening. On the third or fourth day, I gave the same pill three times.

After eight days, I began to give two pills thrice every day; and, by increasing in this proportion, I gradually rose (if occasion required it) till I came to a dram, or a dram and a half, in the space of twenty four hours.

Though I have given these pills in a continued course, for a year or two, or more, even to persons in health, I never observed any bad effects to result from it. Since

Since then, I have constantly entered on the cure with a greater dose of the pills: and, where there was an appearance of a good habit and strength, I have given at first two, three, or four pills, twice or thrice in the day.

It is, notwithstanding, always best, to begin with a small dose: for there are *idiosyncrasies*, in which medicines otherwise greatly innocent are hurtful.

Hence, that we may incur no danger from these; and that we may gradually attain to the knowledge of the peculiar habit of such patients; it is best to proceed in the safe road.

At each time that the pills are taken, a basin of tea, or of mutton broth, should be also given after them.

If the powder of the root of hemlock be made into pills, with a sufficient quantity of the mucilage of gum tragacanth, a medicine is produced of great efficacy; but which requires greater circumspection in the use of it.

CHAP-

## CHAPTER II.

## CASE I.

A Very beautiful girl had for three years the left parotid intirely schirrous ; of a purple colour ; and sometimes acutely painful, though at other times free from all uneasiness. The tumour exceeded a man's fist in size.

Various remedies, as well internal as external, were administered by different physicians and surgeons : but they all proved ineffectual.

At length the patient applied to Mr. *Leber*, surgeon of the city hospital ; and he called me into consultation with him.

The case, and former prescriptions being duly examined, we perceived that remedies, highly resolvent and discutient, had been used, as well internally as externally.

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We concluded, therefore, that nothing of this kind remained to be tried, except malt spirit, and mercury sublimate.

Accordingly, a plaster of labdanum being externally applied, we gave the malt spirit, &c. ; and ordered the patient besides to drink plentifully of the decoction of the roots of grass, garden succory, dandelion, &c.

After taking these, with the greatest regularity, for three weeks, we did not perceive the least benefit, not even the least change.

We determined, therefore, to try the pills prepared from hemlock.

I began with only one grain morning and evening ; and each time I gave a cup-ful, or two, of the infusion of the flowers of elder.

At the end of eight days, the patient returned to us : and with great satisfaction declared, that the tumour was less, softer, and more moveable.



Surprized with the effect, we readily agreed, that the patient, who was extremely sollicitous to recover her beauty, should continue the remedy.

Eight days more being passed, she came again to us; but the disorder was nearly in the same state.

On this account, I increased the dose; and gave two pills, morning and evening.

In consequence of this, within three days after, the indurated part was more than half diminished.

The same dose of this remedy being still continued, all the hardness went off in six weeks.

There remained, nevertheless, a flaccid pasty bag.

I gave therefore a purge; and ordered the flaccid bag to be rubbed very often with a piece of linnen, impregnated with aromatic fumes of mastic, olibanum, myrrh, &c.: which was so efficacious, that in about six days the bag quite disappeared; by  
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which means, the girl intirely regained her former beauty.

I carried the girl, thus cured, to the illustrious president *Van Swieten*; and she herself related to him the whole history.

### C A S E II.

A Woman (about thirty years of age) had then, for several years, been subject to this disorder; that sometimes in the arm-pits, sometimes in the groin, and sometimes in the neck, there came swellings in the glands.

At first, on the application of a plaster, and taking a purge, these swellings always disappeared; but, in a greater length of time, they became more obstinate; and sometimes, on the use of plasters, turned into ulcers: which, a copious discharge of ichorous matter being made, after some weeks healed again of themselves.

The strength of the patient gradually diminished; the feet, and the  
axillary

axillary glands swelled: and, at length, the left breast enlarged also, and became intirely schirrous.

A plaster being then applied, an acute pain sometimes seized the breast: the indurated part turned into lumps; a purple colour came on, and afterward changed to livid; and, at last, the skin, breaking in two places with the greatest pain, formed two cancerous ulcers, discharging a most fœtid, and acrid ichor.

The pain was daily much increased towards the evening.

The affected person went to several physicians and surgeons; and took many medicines; but did not ever find any relief.

At last, on the fourteenth of September 1757, she came to me: and, having examined well the case, I thought it a very favourable opportunity for trying the pills: and I administered, accordingly, every morning and evening, two pills, each of which were

of the weight of one grain : giving her also an infusion of the leaves of the male speedwell to be drunk after them.

The twenty-second of September, I saw, with pleasure, that the livid was almost every where changed into red ; and thence into the natural colour : the pains were much mitigated ; and a thin pus-like matter appeared in the place of the ichor.

On the second of October, the colour of nearly the whole of the breast was natural ; the bulk, and hardness were less ; the pains slight ; and the matter good.

The fourteenth of October, the breast again began to swell ; becoming red, hard, and greatly painful : while, instead of pus, an ichor was discharged.

I was mortified at this ill success of my experiment ; but did not yet give up all hopes : for, on close inquiry, I understood, that the time of  
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the menstrual flux was then; and concluded the cause of the mischief might be deduced from thence: for which reason, I advised the patient to go on with the pills without intermission.

The next day the menses came down; the swelling of the breast went off; the natural colour returned; and the pains were diminished: on which account the patient persevered willingly in the course.

On the twenty-fourth day of October, I found the breast much less, as well as softer; with the matter good: and I directed, that now she should take three pills, every morning and evening.

On the third of November, there was a copious discharge of good pus from the ulcer; the breast was less; the patient felt frequent tinglings in it; and the tumours in the left arm-pit began also to be dispersed.

The nineteenth of November, the

patient informed me, that she had had the menses at the regular period; and that then her breast swelled again, and greater pains came on; but that, not discouraged by this, she had always continued the pills.

When I saw the breast, I found the part above the nipple almost of the natural softness, and magnitude; but the part below the nipple, hard as a stone. I therefore gave then four pills morning and evening.

The second of December, the patient returned to me dispirited; and complaining, that she could not sleep on account of very acute pains in the night; that her appetite was wholly gone; her mouth bitter and clammy; and that she had frequent foetid belchings.

But, at the same time, she confessed what was the cause of these symptoms. For she acknowledged, that a few days before she had eaten bacon, made hard by curing with smoke, and cabbage

bage badly boiled; and that thence the weight in the stomach and the nausea had been produced; and the pains increased.

I prescribed, for this reason, a purge composed of two scruples of pickt rhubarb, and one scruple of cream of tartar: which gave five stools; soon restored the appetite; and mitigated the other symptoms.

After this, I administered every morning and evening five pills, each of two grains weight: so that she now took a much larger quantity than before.

On the eighteenth of December, the patient told me, that, in the time of the menses, she had scarcely felt any pain; and that the breast had remained of its natural colour.

In examining the state of the tumour in the arm-pit, I felt, that it was much less, and very moveable. The ulcers were clean, and appeared disposed to heal; the pus they discharged

charged was small in quantity, and perfectly good in colour and consistence. The half of the breast above the nipple was intirely of its natural colour, size, and softness; but the half below the nipple, resisting all means, remained of a stony hardness. From whence arose a just ground of doubt of the practicability of discussing it. The patient, however, having seen so great a progress towards a cure, promised to continue the use of the pills, in the most regular manner, without intermission; and, indeed, begged, that I would not refuse to let her have them.

I now administered six pills every morning and evening.

The twenty-fourth of December, the patient felt extreme pain in the breast; which again began to be affected with redness, and tension.

But she declared, that these bad symptoms had come on during three preceding days, that the ulcers of the breast,



breast, covered with thick crusts, had been closed ; and the free discharge of the matter obstructed.

In order, therefore, to soften these crusts, I put on a plaster of spermaceti.

The next day the crusts fell off; and an acrid ferous humour flowed from the ulcers, succeeded by pus: and soon after the swelling of the breast diminished; the redness disappeared; and all the pain went off.

The twenty-fifth of January, the hardness below the nipple, which till this time had remained unchanged, began now to be discussed; the patient had no pain; and the menses returned at the regular period, without bringing on any bad symptom.

The third of February, the patient complained of continual belchings, and nausea; uneasiness at her heart; and stronger pains in her breast: and said she always felt the same when she eat garden-stuff. I found, nevertheless, with

with respect to magnitude, colour, and softness, the breast was the same as on the fifteenth of January.

As I believed the stomach to be loaden with what she had eaten, I administered a purge; which operated with great efficacy: and afterwards the course of pills was continued.

On the twenty-fourth of February, the patient was in good health; the schirrus in the arm-pit, was much less; and the hard part, which stuck below the nipple of the breast, was found to be much softer, and divided into six small lumps. It afforded me great satisfaction, to perceive, that this schirrus, which had been hitherto most obdurate, suffered at last a change.

The thirteenth of March, I found every thing in the same state, without the least alteration. I advised, therefore, that she should then take six pills thrice every day.

The tenth of April, things were nearly in the same condition: and the  
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the patient desired, that I would order her a purge; because she felt some weight and nausea.

I gave her, therefore, one dram of rhubarb: which brought away a great quantity of bilious matter; and she found herself well afterwards.

The twenty-fourth of May, the breast regained nearly its natural softness and size; the ulcers began to close; and only a little pus, of a perfectly good colour and consistence, was discharged. The tumour in the arm-pit was very small.

On the third of July, the whole breast was in its natural state; the ulcers were closed; and the tumour in the arm-pit scarcely exceeded the size of a pea.

I now directed, that she should leave off taking the pills at present; and resume them again after some weeks: that, by this method, I might perceive, whether, on the cessation, the breast would remain sound, or grow worse again.

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The twenty-sixth of August, I found every thing right ; and the woman in perfect health.

At the time I first undertook the cure, afterwards at the expiration of five months, and again when she was perfectly recovered, I took this woman with me to the most illustrious Baron *Van Swisten* ; that he might see the whole progress of the experiment. He always received great pleasure from it ; and, from his natural generosity, made the patient each time a present of money.

### C A S E III.

A Woman, twenty-four years of age, in all other respects healthful, found about a year before, in her right breast, a small lump, that was hard, and moveable. It gradually increased however in such manner, that, on the twelfth of October 1758, at which time she came to me, it had acquired the size of a goose's egg.

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I perceived, on examination, that it was really schirrous.

I administered, therefore, every morning and evening, three pills, of two grains weight each: and I directed, that she should drink after them, in the place of the infusion, whatever she liked most.

On the twenty-fifth of October, she came again to me: and I found the tumour softer, and a little less. She asked me, if it was not proper to apply a plaster: but I would not consent, as I was desirous to try what the pills alone could effect: and advised, therefore, that she might now, morning and evening, take four pills.

The sixteenth of November, I observed, that the schirrus was divided into many small lumps: and the woman rejoiced at this good success. She had the menses regularly, and did not, during the time of their being upon her, cease taking the pills; as she did not perceive the least inconvenience from it.

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I prescribed a purge; which operated well: and the swelling of the breast considerably decreased.

I afterwards ordered her to go on with the pills.

On the twenty-fifth of December, she returned to me: and the breast was almost in its natural state; only a small pasty lump remained.

The third of January, the breast had intirely regained its natural condition.

I then again prescribed a purge; and, from that time, I have never seen the woman.

#### CASE IV.

**I**N the month of August 1758, a virgin, eighteen years old, recovered in the hospital from an acute disease; and afterwards began to regain her strength. But she felt excessive pains in her left breast: which had now, for the space of seven years, been as hard as a stone.

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I gave her then pills of gum Ammoniac, Venice sope, sal polychrest, rhubarb, &c.: and the surgeon *Haffner* applied externally a cataplasm of Venice sope, dissolved in milk.

At first things changed for the better. The breast began to grow soft; and the pains to abate.

But after this, the pains again increased; and the breast became again harder, and purple. At length it grew livid; and after some days, the skin broke; and there was formed a foul ulcer, discharging a very great quantity of a very stinking ichor.

On this account, I applied externally the fomentation of the leaves of hemlock; and internally I gave, every morning and evening, three pills, of the weight of two grains each.

The pains were much lessened, even the same day, by these remedies.

On the third day, the lividness began to vanish; and thin pus appeared

peared in the place of the stinking ichor.

The seventh day, the whole breast was of a bright red; the ulcer was clean; the pains, which, in the day-time were slight, grew a little worse towards the evening. The matter in the ulcer appeared now good, and the breast soft.

The fifteenth day, the ulcer seemed disposed to heal; the breast was much softer; and almost of its natural colour; and the pains were slight, or none.

The twentieth day, the breast was less in bulk, and softer; and the ulcer closed.

The twenty-fourth day, excessive pains came on: which, at that time, began in the place where the ulcer was closed.

The use of opium became necessary to allay the pains.

The twenty-fifth day, the breast was extremely soft about the nipple; and



and some fluctuation was sensible, though obscurely. At night, it was requisite to administer opium again, on account of the excruciating pains.

I began, besides, to give, from this day, four pills, every morning and evening; and the hemlock fomentation was also diligently applied.

The twenty-eighth day, the fluctuation was manifest; and the pains extremely acute. The patient herself intreated, that the breast should be opened; which I also advising, Mr. *Haffner*, a most industrious surgeon of my hospital, performed it.

A copious quantity of matter flowed out, the pains then abated; and the breast collapsed; except that in one part only some portions of the schirrus remained. The colour of the breast was natural.

After this, we used nothing but the pills and the hemlock fomentation: that we might try what these alone could do.

A sufficiently great quantity of pus

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was

was every day discharged; and the schirrous remains were so quickly dispersed, that on the fortieth day scarcely any part was left; and the ulcer, being clean, began now to heal.

The fiftieth day, the breast was healed intirely; and the ulcer covered with a cicatrix.

This patient was, therefore, intirely cured by the pills and hemlock fomentation alone; and never perceived the least harm result from the use of them. She had daily well-concocted stools, except on those days when the opium was used.

At the close, I gave this patient a purge; which moved her very efficaciously four times.

At the end of three days afterwards, the menses came down for the first time; so that, being now perfectly well, she took leave of the hospital.

#### CASE V.

**A** Woman, twenty-eight years of age, six weeks after her last delivery, per-

perceived a pain in her right breast; and her child refused to suck it.

At first she applied nothing but a linnen cloth, impregnated with aromatics.

When, however, she perceived a hardness to come on, and the pain to grow worse, she put a plaster on the breast: but it turned red by that treatment; and the pains became so acute, that the poor woman could take no rest, either by night or day.

At length (in the eighth month) she was seized with a fever, attended with great thirst, and a difficulty in breathing. On which account, the mother and the child were both brought into my hospital.

I then determined to separate the child from the mother: but it would neither eat nor drink; and lost its strength by continual crying; though, when it was brought again to the breast, it became quiet; and afterwards slept soundly.

It was necessary, on that account, to let the child suck the mother.

As her fever was great, and her pulse high and hard, I ordered the mother to lose some blood. I applied an emollient cataplasm to the diseased breast : and I gave a resolving nitrous decoction, as well for her common drink, as by way of medicine.

Within two days, the pain in the breast became much gentler ; and the fever went off intirely.

I continued the remedies for three days longer ; and then almost all the pains were removed : but the induration remained the same. As the fever did not however return any more, I changed the medicines.

Externally I now put on a cataplasm of Venice sope, dissolved in milk ; and I gave, as an internal medicine, the following mixture :

Take of Venice sope, half an ounce ; and dissolve it in one pound of elder-flower water. Then add of sal polychrest,

chrest, one dram; and of syrup of succory with rhubarb, two ounces and a half. Mix them: and let the patient take one ounce every two hours.

I afterwards administered this mixture for ten days, without intermission: but did not, nevertheless, find any change in the breast; and the patient gradually took a disgust to the medicine. Moreover, the glands of the child's neck, though it was otherwise in health, began to swell, and grow hard.

For this reason, I gave to the mother, three pills, to be taken thrice every day: and I ordered, that she should drink an infusion of elder flowers plentifully after them.

Within three days, I felt the breast softer on the surface; and the patient said, that she breathed more freely; and made more urine than was usual.

The infant, rejecting the mother's breast, did not suffer any way.

After eight days, I found the schir-

rus in the breast divided into many small parts. The child fell into a gentle looseness; and the mother ceased to make so great a quantity of urine.

The twenty-fourth day, the whole breast was pasty: and the patient had a good stomach; and went to stool as she was naturally accustomed, before her illness. The child still continued to have a gentle looseness; but was not weakened by it: and the glands of its neck gradually returned to their natural state.

The twenty-fourth day, the breast was almost well: and the child was not any longer afflicted with the looseness.

The thirtieth day, I gave the mother one dram of pickt rhubarb; by which she was well purged: and, after some days, she went with the child from the hospital; both perfectly well.

I did not, in this case, increase the dose of the pills: nine every day proved to be sufficient.

*CASE*

## CASE VI.

A Man, sixty-four years of age, had a most stinking cancer; which eat away every thing from the corner of his mouth quite to his ear. All the remedies he tried, availed nothing against this disease. The Peruvian bark itself had no effect on it.

I gave, therefore, every morning and evening, six pills, with the infusion of elder flowers: and, externally, I applied a diachylon plaster.

The first day, the patient found no relief from it.

The second day, the pains abated: the patient slept at night: and the ulcer was less foetid.

The third day, an acrid serum flowed copiously from the ulcer; and the lips, which were before very much swelled, grew less.

The fourth day, the quantity of ichor discharged was less: and the stinking smell of the ulcer but slight.

The fifth day, a thin pus appeared, instead of the ichor; and the ulcer seemed to be pretty clean.

The sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth days, things were observed to be the same. The pains were slight; and the patient's appetite good.

The tenth day, the pains increased again; and the lips of the ulcer were in a state of tension, swelled, and very red.

The twelfth day, the serum again ran plentifully from the ulcer: by which the pains were mitigated; and the swelling of the lips diminished.

The thirteenth day, the ulcer was again foul; diffused a stinking smell; and excited great pain.

The fourteenth day, I augmented the dose of the pills; and gave eight, every morning and evening.

The fifteenth day, the ulcer discharged serum copiously; and the pains decreased much.

The sixteenth day, good pus was pro-



produced: and the patient was free from any pain.

The seventeenth day, the ulcer seemed clean; the pus perfectly good; and the pain was gone off.

The eighteenth day, things were found in the same state.

The nineteenth day, great pains returned again; and the lips of the ulcer swelled. On which account, the patient, having lost all patience, went into the country; and put himself under the care of a person, who kept a bagnio. The success of his plasters and decoctions was such, that the cancer spread itself over nearly the whole face of the poor man; and in about three weeks time occasioned his death.

The pills, during their use, checked the progress of the cancer: for it neither gained ground in extent nor depth: but, on discontinuing them, the patient soon grew much worse.

*CASE*

## CASE VII.

A Lady of a noble family thrust her breast too violently in hunting against the pummel of the saddle.

She did not suffer great pain from it: but after a week or two, she perceived, in the same breast, a small lump, of about the bigness of a pea. This lump, without giving any pain, increased gradually so much, that it exceeded greatly the size of a wall-nut.

In this state, the lady sent to me: and I then, on examining the case, gave her three pills, every morning and evening.

On the eighth day, she came again to me: but on inspecting the breast, I found no change.

The sixteenth day, the lump appeared soft on the surface. This lady never felt any pain in her breast: but while she took these pills, she had every day two or three loose stools more than usual. Her strength was  
not

not however impaired by it ; nor her stomach weakened.

At the end of a month, the lump appeared less in size, softer, and much more moveable.

The second month being over, the lump was less by almost one half ; and soft ; for which reason, I advised her to continue the pills regularly : but, from that time, I never saw her again.

She was always well, during the time she took the pills ; had the *menfes regularly* ; and did not, during the time they were upon her, omit taking the medicine : as she never perceived any harm to result from it.

### CASE VIII.

**A** Woman, forty-five years of age, came to me March 23, 1759, having her left breast very large ; hard as a stone ; immoveable ; first purple, and afterwards livid ; and most acutely painful. She could not, moreover, move the arm of the same side, on  
account

account of the pain of the breast, and the swelling of the axillary glands: and her respiration, on walking, was short, difficult, and subject to coughing.

There were indeed all the signs of a latent cancer.

She ascribed the cause and origin of this disorder to her husband: who, six years before, had prest too forcibly on this breast, in bed. From whence this lump, which had increased to so great a bulk, and turned into a cancer, arose soon after.

Before I administered any medicine to this woman, I took her to the Baron *Van Swieten*: who, things being duly weighed, acknowledged the case to be difficult, and worthy to become the subject of an experiment: and advised, that I should give her, morning and evening, three pills; and send her to him once every fortnight, that, by this means, he might be certain of the result.

The

The thirtieth of March, the woman came again to me, and said, that her pains were less; but that, in other respects, the breast remained in its former state.

I ordered then, that she should uncover it: and I saw immediately, the colour of the whole was changed in such manner indeed, that the part, which before was purple, was now of a bright red; and the part, which was livid and blackish, now purple. I also perceived, that, towards the arm-pit, the breast was softer: and I, therefore, advised, she should continue the pills regularly.

On the sixth of April, I took her to the Baron *Van Swieten*: and he was greatly pleased with the good effects of the remedy. For he saw, evidently, the colour, which before was cancerous, was now changed in some places into the natural; in others into a bright red; and was no where, at present, livid. The woman declared,  
also,

also, that the pains were less; but that her respiration was attended with the same difficulty, and coughing, as before. The Baron, on feeling the breast, found it every where softer near its insertion, and less. On which account, he gave the woman money, to encourage her to persist more willingly in the course.

The thirteenth of April, the breast was again softer, and a little less: but, above the nipple, there was a space, three inches long and two broad, which seemed no way changed; and was very red, and immovable.

I ordered then, that the patient should, from this time, take five pills, morning and evening.

The twentieth of April, at which time the patient went to the Baron *Van Swieten*, she complained, that the pains, returning by fits, were acutely pungent, rolling, and burning. Her cough was somewhat more frequent; and she said, that she perceived, in coughing, a greater pain in her breast; and that her  
lungs

lungs adhered, as it were, to it in such manner, as to draw it then inwards.

With respect to other matters, a part of the breast, towards the shoulder, of six inches breadth, was entirely in its natural state, as to softness, colour, and magnitude. From whence the Baron *Van Swieten* said, that the hardness of the breast had melted like ice.

The swelling above the nipple remained, nevertheless, yet unchanged.

In order to loosen the dry cough, I prescribed, besides the pills, a decoction of the roots and flowers of marshmallows; with the syrup of the same.

The twenty-seventh of April, the patient complained of the same cough and pains; but she observed, that she could contract the thorax much closer, than a fortnight before; and concluded thence, that the breast was less.

We persevered, therefore, in the dose of the pills, and the use of the decoction.

The

The fourth of May, we again went to the Baron *Van Swieten*. The breast was less, and softer, except the indurated part, which cohered firmly with the ribs above the nipple.

The twenty-eighth of May, the patient was better; the cough was less troublesome, the pains moderate, and the breast softer. The indurated part above the nipple continued in the same state; but the cough began to discharge a viscid phlegm.

On the first of June, the Baron *Van Swieten* had great satisfaction, in seeing the breast was grown less by two thirds.

But the patient complained of pains, and a troublesome cough in the night. On which account the Baron advised, that a dose of the mass for pills, prepared of hounds tongue, might be given her at night.

The twenty-fifth of June, the patient returned, rejoicing, that she had slept well, and seldom coughed; that  
almost



almost all her pains were gone ; and that her respiration was free. What she spit was purulent.

The indurated part above the breast began also to grow softer.

The twenty-ninth of June, the patient found her respiration become still freer, and she discharged with ease the purulent spittle : but the induration above the nipple was nearly in the same state. For which reason, I applied externally the fomentation of the leaves of hemlock.

The thirteenth of July, she came again ; complaining, that the indurated part above the breast began to be ulcerated, by the use of the fomentation.

In examining the breast, I perceived, that the epidermis had separated for a small space ; that the skin was broken ; and that an acrid ichor ran from that part.

But on inquiring more particularly into the cause, the patient confessed, that, feeling a disagreeable itching and

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tingling in the breast, she had scratched the indurated part of it with her nails, and rubbed it hard with her shift; and, from that time, had felt a violent burning; and been subject to the discharge of the ichor.

I ordered the fomentation to be continued: and gave her the pills morning and evening.

The twentieth of July, a pretty deep ulcer was formed: of which the lips were livid; and the ichor extremely stinking. The patient had also greater pains; and spit pus.

The twenty-seventh of July, the ulcer was still deeper; but the pains were abated. The ichor, which was discharged, stunk; and no pus was produced: but a broad hard foetid core, like leather, grew out of the ulcer: from whence it seemed, that the hard part above the nipple, which till this time resisted every thing, diminished now by exfoliation.

The purulent spittle was discharged  
in

in a large quantity : but the cough excited tension, and great pain in the ulcer.

The lips of the ulcer recovered again gradually their natural colour.

I received the patient in this condition into my hospital.

Mr. *Haffner*, the surgeon, dressed her twice every day ; and filled the ulcer with lint moistned in the infusion of hemlock : several cores like leather were daily thrown off : and the swelling much diminished. The patient had no pain ; she slept without opium ; but coughed frequently in the night ; and spit purulent matter.

The fifth of August, pus began to appear in the ulcer : almost all the bad smell went off : and the hard part diminished by suppuration. The lips of the ulcer were clean, and of a good colour. The strength of the patient was not defective : she spit freely, and breathed much more easily.

The sixteenth of August, I took her again with me to the Baron *Van Swieten*,

he was surpris'd, that the schirrus, before so obstinate, diminished now by a kindly suppuration; and afforded the greatest hopes, that the remaining small hard part, being consumed, the ulcer would close of itself.

Every thing succeeded extremely well: and accordingly the ulcer gave many signs that it would soon be healed.

The twenty-fourth of August, the patient complain'd again of a frequent cough; and great pains occasioned by it in the breast, which she said was, as it were, bound with a cord, that in coughing drew it to the hollow of her chest, with the most acute pain. From thence her nights were again disturb'd; and it was, therefore, requisite to have recourse to opium.

On the use of the opium, the patient was well; had a good stomach; increased in her strength; was less troubled with the cough; and spit the purulent matter easily.

The

The second of September, about eight in the morning, I saw her in a good way, got out of bed, and walking about; and she neither complained of any pain or cough.

On the same morning a quantity of wine was privately brought to her by some friends: and, when they were gone, she drank freely of it, with her stomach yet empty. From whence she was seized with a giddiness, and vomiting; fell down; and, within a few minutes after, died apoplectic.

We found many varicose veins in the dura and pia mater: and the cerebellum was compressed with a large quantity of grumous blood.

The whole middle lobe of the lungs on the left side was schirrous and heavy: but the upper lobe partly schirrous, and partly suppurated.

These two lobes were strongly conjoined with the fore part of the pleura; and would not admit of being separated without tearing.

The ulcer was clean, the muscles of the breast intirely sound, and the lips of the ulcer were perfectly well coloured; and had begun again to unite with the contiguous parts, and almost to join with each other. From all which, no body could doubt of the intire cure of this ulcer.

### CASE IX.

**A** Young woman, aged twenty-three, had had for two years the glands swelled, and schirrous, round her whole neck; from whence it was grown almost as thick as her head.

Many of these glands were exeded by cancerous ulcers.

The patient had not found the least relief from the innumerable remedies, administered by different physicians and surgeons, which she had tried: and at last came into our hospital.

Mr. *Haffner*, who is a very eminent surgeon, applied, and used every thing externally, which his art could dictate.

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I administered besides, copious decoctions; and pills from the ferulaceous gums, the resin of guaiacum, Venice sope, terra foliata tartari, the mass of pills from the cathartic extract; &c.

For six weeks, these remedies were regularly continued; but yet I did not perceive any amendment in the disorder.

The ulcers continually wept a fœtid and malignant ichor: and the ichorous matter corroded the cellular membrane; and produced sinusses, and fistulas.

These things being duly weighed, I gave her the malt spirit with mercury sublimate,

But this, though she drank a large quantity of decoction with it, occasioned pains in her breast: and she began to cough, and complained of a heat in the sternum.

I continued, nevertheless, the use of the malt spirit for a month: as the disagreeable symptoms, brought on by

the use of it, were afterward rendered much more gentle : but a slight salivation attended then this abatement of them.

On this account, I left off the use of that remedy ; and, applying externally the hemlock fomentation, gave thrice a day four of the pills ; and with them an infusion of ground-ivy, male speedwell, agrimony, &c.

The sixth day, the pains were abated : the lividness of the ulcerated glands was turned into a bright red, the ichor disappeared ; and a diluted pus succeeded it.

The tenth day, the swelling of the neck and glands was much less ; the ulcer pretty clean ; and the matter good. The patient, moreover, slept well ; had a good stomach ; and was free from pain.

On the twenty-first day, a cicatrix was spread over some of the ulcers ; the swelling of the neck was much less ; most of the glands had regained  
their



their natural state; and the sinusses were less deep.

I ordered then, that the patient should take six pills, thrice every day.

The thirty-second day, every thing seemed to be better: most of the sinusses were closed; except that two large callous fistulas remained on the left side. These, however, being cut, according to the practice of surgeons, were cured by the same fomentation, and the pills, within a fortnight: by which time nearly all the glands were restored to their natural state; and the scirrhus hardness could not any longer be felt; as nothing but a few pasty lumps were to be found.

I gave the patient then a purge, composed of half a dram of rhubarb, eight grains of scammony, and fifteen grains of sal polychrest: which worked six times without weakning her.

After this, she took for a month, six pills, thrice in a day: but nothing was now applied externally.

At

At the expiration of this month, she got perfectly well. This patient had the menses, during the whole time, at the regular periods : and the pills did not produce any disorder.

I kept her, after she was cured, for three weeks longer in the hospital ; that I might know, whether the swellings of the glands would return : or whether any of the sinusses, if prematurely closed, would again break open.

But she remained perfectly well : and I, therefore, dismissed her from the hospital ; after desiring her to come back to me, if any the least swelling should appear.

It is, however, now seven months since ; and I have seen nothing of her.

### *C A S E X.*

**I**N the case of a virgin, eighteen years of age, the submaxillary glands were become wholly schirrous ; and some of them were almost equal in bulk to a hen's egg.      I gave

I gave her, in those circumstances, six pills morning and evening: which she took for a whole month without almost any effect.

The sixth week, the tumours first began to soften, and grow less.

Afterwards, a pasty softness was observable throughout the whole compass.

The seventh week, I began to give her six pills, thrice every twenty-four hours; and I joined to them, every eight days, a purge of rhubarb.

By this method, the patient was perfectly cured in the space of three months.

### CASE XI.

A Woman, sixty seven years old, had a most foetid running cancer in her left breast: which was of so great an extent, that the superior extremity reached almost to the lower jaw; and the inferior went down quite to her belly.

The Baron *Van Swieten*, Dr. *Diet-*  
*man*

*man* the Dean, Dr. *Glasser* professor of anatomy, Dr. *Faus* professor of surgery, and others, who were examiners in the surgery-chamber of the university, first saw this woman, and sent her to me, on the twentieth day of June, 1759.

The whole breast was of a brownish black colour, and full of lumps. The ichor stunk most abominably, even at a great distance; and the patient could neither eat nor sleep for the pain.

I ordered, that she should take four pills, morning and evening; and I applied externally, during the day, the fomentation of the leaves of hemlock; and, at night, a diachylon plaster.

The twenty eighth of June, she came again, and told me, with great joy; that she did not at present feel so much pain; that she slept soundly at night; and did not perceive the bad smell so great as before.

On examining her breast, I observed

ferred a thin pus, instead of the ichor.

The sixth of July, the colour of the breast was reddish, the pus discharged by it good; its bulk less; and the fœtor weak. The patient said, also, that, in the mean time, a great many cores, which separated from the breast, had fallen off: and that every other, or every third day, a large quantity of serum was discharged from the breast; which was visibly reduced in size.

The twenty-second of July, all things were still more amended: and the patient complained of no inconvenience.

After this, I took her again to the chamber of the university, while the physicians were examining there.

The Baron *Van Swieten*, the Dean, and all the professors of physic, who had before seen this poor woman, were greatly surpris'd at the extraordinary effect; and sudden change.

For the breast was quite of its right colour;

colour; the stink scarcely any; the pus good; and the bulk of the cancer less by one half.

The Baron *Van Swieten* then gave the patient money; and advised her, in the most persuasive terms, to persevere regularly in the course.

The third of August, the breast seemed to be grown still less. But the patient was disturbed, at night, with pains, that came on towards the evening. This rendered a paregoric necessary: which removed all complaints.

The fomentation, and the pills, were continued constantly in the same dose.

The twenty-fifth of August, the cancerous breast was not much bigger than a man's fist: the pus was good: the smell gone off: and the strength of the patient, considering her age, as it ought to be.

The twenty-sixth of August, we again went to the Baron *Van Swieten*:  
he

he saw that every thing was extremely well; and was much satisfied with it. There was, indeed, the greatest ground of hope, that in a few weeks, if things continued to go on so, the cancer would be wholly dissolved.

The second of September, the patient was well in all respects: and the cancer was not now so big as a man's fist.

The sixth of September, she sent to me, to inform me, that sitting early the same morning in the street to sell fruit, she felt, in consequence of a strong blast of wind, a very great cold, in every part of her body: that soon after, she was seized with **excruciating pains in her belly**: which were followed by a violent and painful purging, which had much weakened her.

I ordered then, that she should leave off the pills; and I prescribed other medicines suitable to such a disorder.

The next morning, she took care  
to

to let me know, that the looseness and pains were the same; that she voided blood with her stools; that her thirst was great; and that she had frequent faintings.

On this account, I and Mr. *Laber* the surgeon, went to her the same morning: and I administered, both internally and externally, with the greatest attention, whatever I believed could be of any service: but all was in vain.

The third day, her face appeared like that of a corpse: and the fourth she died.

Mr. *Laber* cut off her breast after she was dead; and carried it to the chamber of the university, during the medicinal examination.

The Baron *Van Swieten*, and all the professors of medicine, saw the quick, and extraordinary good effect of the remedy, in this desperate case: and were, consequently, mortified, that the successful progress of the experiment



periment had been frustrated by the accidental death of the patient.

### CASE XII.

ON the fourth day of April 1759, professor *Haen* sent a woman to me: whose neck was full of innumerable schirrusses; of which many were turned into malignant ulcers.

Her whole left breast was also schirrous: and the part near the armpit was grown of a livid and purple colour: from whence, through a small orifice, a great quantity of burning, and corrosive ichor, issued out.

Besides these, she had also many schirrusses, both in the arm-pits, and the groin.

At first, I gave this woman four pills, thrice every day; with an infusion of the male speedwell, to be drunk after it.

The same day fortnight, the patient came again to me; and said, that, by the use of the pills, the ulcerated

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schirruffles discharged a much greater quantity of ichor: but that in issuing out, it did not excite so great a heat.

The colour of the schirruffles, before livid, were now natural, or of a bright red. Their magnitude was also less; and both her neck, and the glands, were more moveable.

The patient also felt herself easier in the arm-pits: for she could move her arms more freely; and bring them close to her body without pain: which was before impossible.

The livid colour almost wholly disappeared in the breast; which was softer, and less in bulk: and good pus ran from the small orifice in it.

I thought it proper, to continue still the same dose of the pills: and I delivered to her such a quantity, as might be sufficient for three weeks: that, as she lived at a great distance, she might not have occasion to come so often.

When she had taken these pills, she came to me again. Many of the schir-

schirruffes were now intirely gone away; several of the ulcers were spread over with a good cicatrix; the lumps in the arm-pits, and the groin, were become very small, and were all moveable, and free from pain; the breast was almost in its natural state, both as to size and hardness; and very little pus could be pressed out of the orifice.

I gave her then, the quantity of pills that would serve a whole month: but I did not order any increase of the dose.

At the end of the month, she came back to me; and asked me, whether she ought to continue the pills any longer or not; since she did not perceive in the neck, arm-pits, groin, or breast, any pain, or other disorder; as the ulcers were all healed; and the schirruffes grown so little, that she could bear them now without the least trouble.

When I examined the breast, I found it intirely in its natural state: the ori-

fice was well closed ; and the lump, towards the arm-pit, felt scarcely distinguishable, on account of its smallness.

The ulcers of the neck had firm cicatrixes : and the schirrusses were either gone away ; or were grown so small, that not a seventh part remained at present.

In the arm-pits, indeed, one or two small lumps, of about the bigness of a pea, were found ; but every thing else was soft, and in its natural state.

The patient said, that all the swellings had disappeared in her groin : and that, now, she could walk as freely as ever.

I gave her again the quantity of pills for a month : and I bid her return to me when she had taken them.

But, indeed, I have hitherto expected her in vain.

### CASE XIII.

A Girl, eighteen years of age, had had, for many years, the parotids,

tids, submaxillary glands, and whole neck schirrous; and so much swelled; that her neck was grown much thicker than her head.

The remedies prescribed by the most skilful physicians, and surgeons, afforded her not the least relief.

On the contrary, several parts began to grow livid; to be excessively painful; and at last to turn into stinking ulcers. Nocturnal sweats, depression of the strength, and wasting of the flesh, also came on.

Notwithstanding the girl was much beloved by those, in whose service she lived, yet it was necessary, on account of the shocking ulcerations, the great and malignant stink, and the danger of contagion, to remove her into our hospital.

Mr. *Haffner* the surgeon, and I, found, among the ulcers and schirruses, innumerable sinusses, and fistulas; and the patient was, moreover, very weak; and complained, that she

could not get any sleep on account of pains in the night.

It was requisite, on this account, to use opium in the evening.

I then gave her twice every day three of the pills, with an infusion of ground ivy, scabious, male speedwell, and a large quantity of milk. Externally we applied the hemlock fomentation.

The third day, the pains were much gentler, and the ichor ran plentifully. It was acrid, indeed, but not so stinking. The patient's neck also seemed somewhat less swelled.

The eighth day, there appeared to be good pus; several of the glands were become moveable; and the patient began to sleep without opium. The night sweats were also less profuse.

On the fourteenth day, the pus was good in almost every part; and the ichirrous tumours less.

I increased, then, the dose of the pills; and gave four, morning and evening. The hemlock fomentation was also diligently applied.      The

The thirtieth day, the nocturnal sweats were wholly gone off: many of the sinusses were closed: the ulcers were of a perfectly good colour: and some even were disposed to heal. There remained, nevertheless, three callous fistulas, which required to be cut according to the practice of surgeons.

On the forty-fourth day, some of the ulcers were healed: and the rest yielded good pus. The swelling of the neck was much less: and the patient had recovered both her appetite, and her strength.

The sixtieth day, nearly all the ulcers were closed: the swelling of the neck was gone down; the skin had regained its natural colour: and all the glands were less, and moveable. But, above the left clavicle, there stuck a schirrus, bigger than a goose's egg, which sounded like a cartilage, on being struck. This tumour had not suffered the least change, during the

whole time the remedies had been used.

The seventy-fourth day, many of the schiruffles were found divided into several small portions. One gland, in the left part of the neck, turned again into an ulcer; and ran purulent matter for three days. After which the whole bag collapsed; and within a few days a cicatrix was formed.

The ninetieth day, the neck had its natural colour and magnitude; not a tenth part of the swelling remaining now. The schirrus, above the clavicle, continued, nevertheless, in the same state: and, as it was immoveable, and resisted all the powers of medicines, we thought it adviseable to cut it out. But the patient would not consent: and, as she had now recovered her strength, and could move her neck easily, she went from the hospital home.

For two months, she omitted taking any medicines: during all which time, the



the schiruffles neither became bigger, nor less.

At length she came to me again, to ask whether she might not take the pills, in the house where she was a servant.

I advised her to it; and I gave her some, to be taken, three every morning and evening.

After three weeks, having used her quantity of pills, she came back to me; and the schiruffles were become less and moveable.

At the end of the fifth week, she returned again to me; and shewed me, with great joy, that the schirrus above the clavicle, which had been most obstinate, and which we before believed to be cartilaginous, was now less, and divided into six small lumps.

I was surprized to see the effect, I had so long time wished for: and I advised, that she should now take four pills, morning and evening.

After a month, I saw her again: and every thing was grown better.

She

She has now used these pills five months : and, at present, takes six thrice every day. She is strong, sleeps well, breathes freely, which before she could not, enjoys a good appetite, and has every day a natural and well concocted stool. All things promise a slow, indeed, but yet a perfect recovery.

#### C A S E XIV.

ON the twelfth day of September, a woman came to me, about forty years of age, whose right breast had been swelled for six weeks before ; and was now become schirrous.

The most learned Doctor *Collin* a physician, who did me the honour to be then with me, saw this woman at the same time.

I gave her at first three pills, thrice every twenty-four hours ; and I ordered that she should come again to me at the end of eight days.

She returned then greatly encouraged ; because the schirrus was softer, and moveable. I ad-

I advised her, therefore, to persevere strictly in the course.

Three days after, I took measures, that Dr. *Collin* should be again present when she came to me : and he admired greatly at the quick effect the remedy had on this woman : for more than half of the schirrus was gone away.

I delivered to her, then, a sufficient quantity of the pills to serve for a whole month ; that, as she lived at a great distance, she might not be obliged to come to me so frequently.

When she had taken these pills, the schirrus was scarcely bigger than an egg.

I ordered her at that time a purge ; and supplied her with pills for another month.

At the end of that month, I expected, and was very desirous to see her : but she never came to me again.

### CASE XV.

A Man, fifty-three years of age, by lying with an infected woman,  
con-

contracted the venereal disease: which partly from shame, and partly from want of money, he neglected.

At length the left testicle grew excessively painful; and became wholly schirrous: and the penis increased so much in bulk, as to far exceed that of a horse.

At last, fungous excrescences arose in three places on the penis: and, in a short time, turned into cancers, which stunk extremely.

The scrotum itself was, likewise, exceded by a cancerous ulcer: and the left testicle, being wholly laid bare, hung out of the scrotum in an ulcerated cancerous state.

Hence the poor man could neither lie down, nor sleep, on account of the pain: much less was he able to walk.

On this account he entered into our hospital, under these most deplorable circumstances.

Mr. *Haffner*, the surgeon, and I, were intolerably annoyed with the  
stink,

stink, while we examined the parts. The left testicle, hanging out of the scrotum, was wholly cancerous ; and more than twice as big as a man's fist.

Neither the penis, scrotum, nor testicle, could bear to be touched with the least force ; for it occasioned a great quantity of blood to issue out.

The patient frequently fainted from weakness : and the stink was so great, that we could not let him stay with the other patients ; but were obliged to put him in a separate room.

At first, I gave him, every day, one ounce and a half of the Peruvian bark : that, by this means, I might correct the acrimony ; and procure a separation of the corrupted part from the sound.

But the fourth day, he refused absolutely to take the bark any longer, in whatever form it was administered : nor did we, indeed, perceive any relief or change from it : but, on the contrary, he declined in his strength ; and intirely lost his appetite.

In

In this desperate case, I determined to try the pills, and hemlock fomentation.

At first, I gave him six pills thrice every day: and I made him use the fomentation diligently on the parts affected.

The pains abated the very same evening: and the poor man began to sleep naturally.

The next day, many putrid cores separated; the penis was less swelled; and the bad smell was not now so strong.

The third day, every thing appeared to be still better.

The fourth day, the pus was good in all the cancerous ulcers: the penis was less by one half: the testicle was also diminished in size, and softer: the ulcers had a kindly colour: and the patient slept without opiates; and began to have some appetite.

The eighth day, the penis was almost reduced to its natural size: the cancerous

cerous parts were much mended : the pus continued every where to be good : great cores separated themselves from the scrotum : and the testicle was soft ; and scarcely bigger than an egg.

The twelfth day, every thing appeared to be still mending.

The eighteenth day, no remains of the cancer could be seen : the testicle recovered its natural size, and colour : and what had been eaten away by the cancerous ulcer appeared to be growing again.

The lips of the scrotum, which were now of a perfectly good colour, began to unite : there appeared on the penis, in the place of the cancerous excrescences, flat ulcers that were very clean : and the patient was better in all respects ; and had more strength. I went on, therefore, to the thirtieth day with the same dose of these pills, and the hemlock fomentation : and then the scrotum was intirely healed : and the  
ulcers

ulcers on the penis much less and clean.

But the patient complained of being continually troubled with a disagreeable itching all over his body : on which account, lest any thing venereal, lurking in the blood, should produce other deplorable scenes, I performed the rest of the cure by antivenereal remedies.

In this case the pills, and fomentation, had been of greater avail than could ever have been hoped.

Dr. *Kollman*, physician to the army ; Mr. *Laber*, surgeon of the city hospital ; brother *Abdon*, surgeon among the brethren of the mercy in Leopoldina : and others of my friends of this profession, whom I took to see this patient, were greatly surprized at the quick, and scarcely to be hoped for effects of the remedy.

#### CASE XVI.

A Woman, thirty-six years of age, had, from some unknown cause,  
two



two fistulous ulcers in the left part of her neck; which produced so many, and such extraordinary sinusses, that Mr. *Haffner* could penetrate, with his probe, to the tongue; the sternum; and, between the *œsophagus* and the *asperia arteria*, to the opposite part of the neck: and what was more a subject of wonder, these sinusses had spread themselves through the whole thorax.

For when injections were made, according to the practice of surgeons, into the fistulas, the patient felt them penetrate, in the fore part, to the bed of the heart: and in the hinder part even to the loins.

This was readily believed by the surgeon: for, in order to fill the sinusses, six ounces of the injected matter were, for the most part, necessary.

We tried every thing that appeared plausible to us, or that the best authors had recommended in similar cases, to cure this disease.

But the whole intirely failed to pro-

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duce any effect: for, after harassing the poor patient in vain, for six whole months, with various decoctions, injections, fomentations, and other remedies, excessive pains came on; and her body began to be in a wasting condition.

For this reason, Mr. *Haffner*, and I, resolved to try the hemlock on this subject.

We, therefore, applied the fomentation to the whole neck and back.

Mr. *Haffner* injected, also, the fistulas and sinusses with a weak infusion of the hemlock, twice every day.

The patient took, moreover, morning and evening, six of the pills.

From the very first, the pains were allayed: and the patient slept without opium; which before she had not been able to do.

The third day, the surgeon found, that the fistulas took a less quantity of the injection.

The tenth day, the patient found her-

herself well : and every thing seemed to be healing.

The fourteenth day, scarcely two ounces of the injection could be thrown in.

The patient complained of tension in the back, heat in the sternum, and dryness in the throat.

On this account, I advised, that the surgeon should leave off injecting the infusion of hemlock : and only use, in its place, the decoction of barley, thrown in by the gentlest motion.

This being done, within three days after, every thing was healed ; and the fistulas had got firm cicatrices.

This woman was detained in the hospital six weeks afterwards ; and we never found the least return of her disorder.

### CASE XVII.

A Man, to whom an induration in the anterior part of the abdomen, of the length of a span ; and the breadth

of half a span, happened from the sudden suppression of a quartan, was cured intirely in my hospital, within the space of four months, by only using these pills, with purges at proper intervals.

I had, likewise, two other similar cases in my hospital at the same time ; of which the cure succeeded perfectly well by the pills.

The same even dissolved a schirrus of the liver ; and cured the jaundice caused by it : but a large quantity of whey was drunk along with them.

But, when, after intermittent fevers, the spleen is enlarged, and its substance becomes spongy, the pills conduce little to the cure : nor indeed do any other medicines at all avail under such circumstances.

### *C A S E   X V I I I .*

**I**N the case of a man, fifty years of age, blind with cataracts in both his eyes, and recovering from an acute disease in my hospital, the pills had so great an effect, that, in two months, he

he could not only walk without being lead ; but could distinguish objects, and colours.

### CASE XIX.

**I**N a girl, of the age of twenty-two years, the sight was rendered so weak by recent cataracts in both eyes ; that, without the greatest care, she could scarcely walk alone.

By the use of the pills, however, in ten weeks, the cataracts were entirely dispersed ; and her sight was so well recovered, that she could thread the smallest needle ; and spin in the greatest perfection.

Mr. *Laber* took this girl to the Baron *Van Swieten* ; and he heard a relation of the case ; and saw the effect of the remedy.

### CASE XX.

**A** Woman, twenty-five years old, had a schirrous struma ; which not only covered the fore part of her  
 G 3 neck,

neck, but extended itself into the cavity of the breast, and occasioned a difficulty of breathing.

By the use of the pills, in the space of four months, the struma was consumed, partly by suppuration, and partly by a gentle discussion; and the respiration rendered intirely free.

At the same time, she was cured of a deep and malignant ulcer in the left thigh; which had resisted the power of every medicament; and baffled, for more than half a year, all the art of the assiduous Mr. *Haffner*, the surgeon of my hospital.

These are trials, which I have made with complete success. I could mention others, indeed; but as they are not yet brought to a period, I chuse rather to pass them over in silence.

That my experiments may not, however, stand alone; and that I may not seem to rest the whole of a matter, that concerns myself, on my own authority; it is proper to give an account  
of

of others, that were made by men of the greatest character in the profession.

There were three sisters ; two of whom were suffocated by swelled and schirrous glands in the neck. The third, the Baron *Van Swieten* saved, and cured by these pills.

In a similar case, where art had been in vain almost exhausted of resources, and where even the force of electricity had been applied without success, the *Archiater Kestler* produced most extraordinary effects by the use of these pills. He did not, moreover, observe any bad symptom to result ; though, for a long time, he gave the patient every day thirty pills, each of two grains weight.

In the military hospital, at *Leopoldina* in *Vienna*, there was a soldier, in whom a schirrous of the right parotid increased to such a degree, that it covered all the side of his face quite to his eye.

This schirrus, accompanied with the greatest pain, a livid and blackish colour,

lour, and others the worst symptoms, threatned to become a very bad cancer ; which, it was to be apprehended, would terminate in a consumption.

Dr. *John Kollman*, physician to the army, who presided in this hospital, had recourse then to my pills ; and applied externally the hemlock fermentation.

By which means, he not only, in a short time, took away all danger of a cancer ; but dispersed, in a few weeks, nearly the whole schirrous swelling.

The honest soldier, not regarding, as of any consequence, the small remains of the schirrus, would not continue any longer in the hospital ; but went from thence to the army intirely well in all other respects.

A lady of great quality concealed a latent cancer in both her breasts, for three years.

At length the pains became intolerably acute ; and from thence livid lumps were produced in the breasts, which



which prefaged a cancerous ulceration of the worſe kind.

Being greatly affected with this, ſhe ſent for Dr. *Joſeph Pock*, a phyſician who practiſes in this city; and diſcovered her diſorder to him. He, on knowing theſe particulars, immediately concluded to give her my pills: which proved ſo efficacious, that, within three weeks, not only all her pains ceaſed; but both the blackiſh and livid colour diſappeared; and the natural returned.

After ſome days, the lumps diminiſhed.

In the ſpace of ſix months, the hardneſs on the ſurface of the breaſt began to ſoften.

After two other months, the large indurated part, divided into ſeveral ſmall lumps; which, on taking a purge, went away; and the whole bulk of the breaſt grew leſs.

This lady, ſeeing ſuch evident good effects from them, took the pills with the greateſt regularity, and confidence;  
and

and attested, that she not only found so great relief with respect to her breast, from the use of them; but that she was also freed by them from vomitings and the heart-burn, with which she was before troubled several times every day; and also from rheumatic pains, to which she was frequently subject.

In this most successful progress of the experiment, an acute inflammatory disease came on; which proved fatal.

The blood, taken from the veins several times, in this acute disease, was always rich; and very thick. Whence it appears, there is no reason, why any should fear, that these pills cause a putrid colliquation of the blood.

This lady took thirty pills every day, for many weeks; and never complained of any inconvenience from it.

Mr. *Ferdinand Laber*, surgeon to the city hospital, who merits the greatest regard, not only for his eminent abilities in his profession, but from his readiness to exert them, as well in fa-

vour

vour of the poor, as rich, made many experiments, likewise, with these pills.

He discussed the most obdurate schir-russes, in various parts of the body.

He palliated many cancers, not only in the breasts; but also in the face, eyes, nose, &c. ; and some he intirely cured.

He shewed all his patients, while under cure by this method, to the Baron *Van Swieten*, that he might be certain of the effect.

Mr. *Laber* gave these pills, with success, in various disorders also of the eyes: but where the disease was of long standing, it was, for the most part, in vain. There is no harm, however, in trying.

It is an observation, however, made by Mr. *Laber*, as well as myself, that none of those who used the pills for cataracts, or any other thickning of the humours of the eyes, grew worse; tho' they were not cured.

Hence it results, that the pills at least check the further progress of these kinds

kinds of disorders: and experience has taught, that in such cases, two, taken every morning and evening, are sufficient.

But the effect is sometimes extremely slow; and does not become sensible before the third or fourth month. Whence success is not to be despaired of, though no change be found in a few weeks.

While I am writing this, a woman of about thirty years of age is come to me, who was first sent by Mr. *Rechberger*, surgeon of *Saint Mark's* hospital, about three months ago.

This woman had had a schirrus in her breast for some years; which, by the use of various medicaments, began to pain her violently; and to threaten a cancer.

After considering well the affair, I gave her at that time three pills thrice every day.

Within a few days, the pains abated: but the schirrus remained unchanged.

I increased gradually the dose of the pills,

pills, till the patient took every day eight: and I continued this proportion for eleven weeks: when I still found, that no change was brought about in the schirrus.

From hence I doubted much of success: but the patient, satisfied with having her pains removed, took the pills with great regularity.

The thirteenth week, the schirrus began to soften; to divide into separate parts; and to be discussed so suddenly, that, in the space of ten days, scarce more than a twelfth part remained; and the remains, on being felt, appeared soft and paste-like.

## CHAPTER III.

### COROLLARIES.

*Corollary 1)* FROM the above premises, it may be inferred, that a remedy highly innocent may be prepared from the juice of hemlock, inspissated by a slow fire; and, which

which in every habit of body, sex, age, &c. may be given in considerably large doses.

2) That this remedy does not hinder any of the natural functions of the body, the secretions, nor the excretions.

3) That it acts in an insensible manner: neither exciting stool, vomit, urine, nor sweat.

4) That it discusses indurations, and schirruses; even in those cases, where other medicaments, the most penetrating, are not of the least avail.

It is, therefore, a medicament greatly discutient.

5) That what indurations, and schirruses, it does not discuss, it brings, for the most part, to a kindly suppuration.

6) That it stops the further progress of cancers.

7) That it corrects cancerous acrimony; and removes the bad smell.

8) That it converts the cancerous ichor into good pus.

9) That it quiets pains.

10) That it cures cancers. 11)

11) That it heals ulcers, incurable by other means.

12) That it closes, and consolidates, such fistulas, and sinusses, as resist all other remedies.

13) That it disperses œdematous tumours, even by external application.

14) That it restores the sight when taken away by cataracts, that are not of long standing.

15) That it removes, or, at least, stops the further progress of recent cataracts.

### ADMONITIONS.

1st) **T**HAT women who are afflicted with cancers or schirruses avoid great exercise, and all brisk motions of the body.

2d) That country air, and gentle exercise promote the cure.

3d) That anger, sorrow, and sudden fright, do harm.

4th) That acid, vinous, and austere, substances, are injurious; as are also farinaceous, crude, and unfermented.

5th)

5th) That attrition, friction, and pressure, are hurtful in schirruses of long standing; and in cancers.

Hence hard and strait stays, and rough shifts, must be avoided.

6th) That violent coughing is injurious. For it irritates the cancers, and makes them worse; causes hæmorrhages; and impairs the strength: by which means it retards the cure; and renders it almost impossible.

Women, who have a difficulty of respiration, and shortness of breath, and who, in coughing feel, very acute pains in a schirrous, or cancerous breast, attended with a violent constriction of the breast, as it were, by a cord, and a dragging of it seemingly into the chest by the action of coughing, have, for the most part, the lungs schirrous, and cohering in that part strongly with the pleura.

Hence a more difficult, if not impossible, cure.

I have learnt from experience, that these pills are not in the least injurious

in



in cases of the phthific: nor do they hinder spitting; but rather promote it.

### Q U E R I E S.

I HAVE, in a great variety of cases, tried the juice of hemlock, reduced to pills, alone; that, by this means, I might accurately inform myself what it could simply and solely perform.

But sometimes, I have found a quick effect; and, at other times, a very slow one. From whence it may be questioned: whether, in cases where its action is slow, the effect may not be accelerated by external remedies applied in various manners.

*Query 1st*) Whether it may not be proper to apply, several times in the day, the hot vapours of the decoction of hemlock to the part affected?

*Query 2d*) Whether, perhaps, it may not be more effectual to keep a cataplasm prepared from hemlock continually on the diseased parts?

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Many trials demonstrate, that such a fomentation is highly efficacious, in these circumstances.

There are, nevertheless, patients, who cannot bear this when laid on the naked skin. Whence,

*Query 3d)* Whether it is not better to cover the skin of such patients with a diachylon plaster; and to foment the part, with the cataplasm, while so covered?

*Query 4th)* Whether, while it is allowable to irritate the schirrus, it would not be of advantage, to put on a plaster of hemlock and labdanum, or galbanum?

*Query 5th)* Whether, it is not requisite, that purges should be given to patients under the regimen of these pills, where their strength appears to admit of it; as the discussed matter is not discharged by any sensible evacuation?

Trials, respecting this query, made on several patients, seem to render it  
advif-

advisable to do what is proposed. But necessity does not exact it.

*Query 6th*) If cases occur, in which acrid cancers send forth very deep roots, corrupt all the humours, and debilitate the solids, in such manner, that the pills alone cannot suffice; whether then would it not be proper to join the Peruvian bark to them? As, by this means, a medicine, indued with the virtue of each, and which would fully answer all intentions, might be prepared.

It is necessary, therefore, that every physician should vary the method, according to the attendant symptoms, by his own proper observation and judgment.

On the merits of what has been premised, I beg of all physicians whatever, that they will try and administer this extract on every occasion that shall present itself. But I intreat, that, at the same time, they will lay aside every kind of prejudice and jealousy;

from the consideration, how much the health of their neighbours is concerned in these matters.

If any bad consequence may be found to result, let them inquire carefully, whether it arises from the irresistible violence of the disease; from any mistake made by the patients, or those about them; or from the medicament itself; and let them not, from thence, condemn the remedy as hurtful, or inefficacious, without the strictest examination of the facts, and the maturest judgment on them. But if, after all, they know any better remedies, I do not desire they should neglect them in favour of this.



A D V E R -

# ADVERTISEMENT

OF THE

## TRANSLATOR.

AS the due trial of the virtues of the juice of HEMLOCK seems to be a matter of the greatest importance to the public, I thought it necessary to insert here a caution, that experience has already shewn to be necessary, with respect to the preparation of it as an internal remedy, in the form recommended in this work.

Dr. *Storck* has not explicitly directed, that the juice of the *hemlock*, used in making what he calls the extract, should undergo any depuration, before it be inspissated, in order to bring it to the consistence proper for forming pills.

In consequence of this, some apothecaries, who have attempted to prepare

pare the pills, have suffered the juice to settle; and used the depurated fluid freed from the sedimentary part: imagining, inadvertently, that in so doing, conformably to what is generally practised in similar cases, they were proceeding rightly.

But, by this treatment, the extract loses all the specific and peculiar flavour and smell of the plant; and, doubtless, in a great degree, its medicinal virtue.

The direction given by *Dr. Storck* himself is, to boil the juice while fresh (RECENS): which implies, that it should not undergo any previous change. Though this is not so clearly expressed in words; but that it leaves room for the mistake I have mentioned to have been already made by some; and for the prevention of which in others, this intimation is intended.

*BOOKS printed for J. NOURSE at the Lamb opposite  
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