[John Bremner Case with Medicines] Dr. William James Almon

Date: Late 18th century; exact date unknown.

Contributors
Contributor Role
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Dr. William James Almon

Publication Format
Manuscript

Type
Medicine

Symptoms
head pain
headache
pain
pimples
paroxysm
sizy blood

Ingredients
thin gruel
rhubarb
bark
[LL]
calomel
honey
purgative powder

Places
Halifax
Nova Scotia

Source: Manuscript Notebook of Dr. William James Almon
Institution: Nova Scotia Archives | **Source Origin:** Almon Family Fonds | **Reference:** MG 1 / Microfilm Reel 10,045

Description

A case study describing treatment for sporadic head pain that includes prescriptions in Latin, pp. 59-60.

Transcription

Mr. John Bremner, |a clerk| Aged of a plethoric habit
was attack'd early this Morning with a most violent pain
in his forehead between his two Eyes, his body was open
and he appeard the day before perfectly well. I found his
pulse very little alterd from health, his appetite was
good and he was free from fever, the part paind was
hot to the touch and a few pimples appeared on it -- free from
Any nausea: [VS] was used immediately to 12oz; the Blood
was a little sizy and I order'd him the following

Rx Calomel_ ?v. Pulv. Purg. ?i. Mel
q[uantum] s[ufficit] fiat Bol[us] stat[im]
sum[endus]

to abstain from Animal food and to drink thin
gruel for his common drink _ In the Evening
the Bolus had operated and his headach was easier
The Headach returnd this Morning about the time
it did yesterday but was not so severe: Bolus still
Operating; the Afternoon & Evening he was entirely
free from it__
The Headach returned this morning rather earlier than
yesterday |about 6 AM| was extremely severe: large
Blisters were applied behind his Ears yesterday morng
which not drawing so well as I could wish worsened
today: as the Disease now evidently provd itself to be
an Intermittent, a quotidian type: the Intermission
perfect: I recommended as soon as his paroxyism was
Over to begin with a tea spoonful of the Cortex

in wine & water every hour: as he was rather
[--tive] to take a few grains of Rhubarb with
each dose until this was removed--
14- this morning about seven AM. he had some little
symptoms of his complaint: but nothing to speak
of- 15Grain of Rhubarb purged him twice: has
taken his bark constantly & is to go on with
it -- as the Cortex purges him 5 drops of LL was added to [each] dose
15-: Scarcely any symptoms of his complaint this Morg
is to go on with his Bark, rests well at night
16- Free from any complaint is to have Meat for Dinner
and continues his Bark
18- Went to the counting house to do duty this Morng.
has taken nearly [AR]: of Bark since the 15th--

21- Remains perfectly well--

Translation (from line 10)

Recipe: 5 drams of calomel, 1 dram of purgative powder, and as much honey as needed. Make a pill, to be taken immediately.

Translation and transcription by Winston Black

Annotations

John Bremner

The remedy used to treat Bremner appears also in "Table of the Effects of Medicines," Manuscript Notebook of Dr. William James Almon, pp. 95-97.

John Bremner Case with Medicines recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:
https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/197