

[Doctor Garthshore's Treatment of Scrophulus Swellings] Dr. William James Almon

Date: Circa 1793. | 1793/01/01 to 1793/12/31

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Publication Format

Manuscript

Type

Medicine

Symptoms

scrofula

swelling

scrofulous swelling

scrofulous glands

Ingredients

warm sea water

sea water

water

salt water

bread

rye meal

lard

vinegar of squills

gum ammoniac

burnt sponge

vegetable ethiops

seaweed

seaweed pods

Places
London
England
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

Advice for treating a child's scrofula symptoms from a letter sent to Nova Scotia's Chief Justice, Andrew Strange, and based on the recommendations of Dr. Garthshore, pp. 231-32.

Transcription

MARGIN:

Extract of a Letter
to the Honble
And[rew] Strange Esq.
Chief Justice of
Nova Scotia - respect-
ing a disease knee
of a Girl aged
Years. The daughter
of M^{rs}. Bailey his
house keeper.

—
Nothing is so difficult as to give any advice about a disease at such a distance of time after the account was given, and when it will be so long before the remedy mentioned can be made use of.

The child is most probably scrophulus, the knee is merely a symptom of the state of the constitution, and the chirurgical treatment must depend upon the judgement of an experienced surgeon according to the state of that the swelling is in. Fomenting with warm sea water, and applying poultices of warm seawater

Doctor Garthshore's treatment of Scroph-
-hulus swellings

and bread or Rye meal and lard useful are in almost all scrophulous swellings. ~ Blisters round the knee are

sometimes useful, and a plaster made of Gum Ammoniac softened with vinegar of [Squilles](#). But the grand matter is rectify the child's constitution, and that will be best done by constant sea bathing and by taking at least once or twice a week so much of the sea water inwardly as to purge gently. at the same time the child may take inwardly decoctions of Bark, and the root of Mezerion: the former especially if the child be weak, pale & relaxed. If she has any scroph-ulous glands about her neck, armpits or elsewhere, she ought to take powders of the burnt sponge, or vegetables ethiops, with a small proportion of Sal: polychrest. all these things must be regulated by the judgement of the medical Gentlemen on the spot. These are the most effectual remedies to which may be added sea [weede] applied to the knee or rather that kind of slime which is found in the pods, may be often rubbed on the swelling

MARGIN:

1793

London S^t. Martin,

{...} 6 March

Annotations

[Dr. Garthshore](#)

Maxwell Garthshore (1732-1812) was a Scottish Physician and author of two books on obstetrics.

[Squilles](#)

Flowering bulbs used for a variety of medicinal purposes. (Also squills)

Doctor Garthshore's Treatment of Scrophulus Swellings recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:

<https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/207>