

# [Remedy to be Administered in Cases of Swallowing Pins or Fish Bones] Dr. William James Almon

**Date:** 1786/12/05

Contributors

Contributor Role

Compiler

Contributor Name

Dr. William James Almon

Publication Format

Manuscript

Type

Medicine

Symptoms

swallowing a foreign object

iliac passion

cholic

pains

Ingredients

tartar emetic

eggs

egg whites

Places

Bambrough Castle

Northumberland

Paris

Scotland

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 remedy for dislodging pins and fish bones using egg emetics, pp. 79-80. The remedy was evidently transcribed from the December 5, 1786 issue of the Halifax Gazette, and later appeared as a slightly expanded version under the above title in The Monthly Monitor and Philanthropic Museum, Vol. 2 (Haddington: George Miller and Son, 1815), p. 280. Original source unknown.

## Transcription

1{...} {...} keeping Pins in the mouth {...} successful method of relief by Dr. Turnbull, from the Halifax Gazette December 5 .. 1786 \_The swallowing of pins has often been the cause of many grave and dangerous effects, and it is presumed often fatal; for upon dissecting the Patients who appeared from the Symptoms to have died of the iliac passion, cholic, & they have been found to have died of pains been killed by pins &c. In April, 1777 a Young Woman who had swallowed a very large pin (which stuck far [in] that part of the esophagus, which enters into the thorax) was brought to the Hospital at Bambrough Castle, Northumberland. As I then had the [honor] of the princiapal management of that Hospital, I was sent for and found the Patient in great pain. Having some time before considered the nature of this accident and concluded that if any thing could be given, that would pass easily, and when in the stomach coagulate into a [glaisy] mass, it might probably bring up any thing lodged in the passage. Immediately gave her four grains of Tartar Emetic dissolved in warm water, and then made her swallow the whites of six Eggs, and in about three minutes she brought up the coagulated mass, with the pin and was effectually achieved.\_ The same method so as attended with similar success in an instance nearly resembling the above. A Maid servant in Scotland, went to bed with [twenty] four pins in her Mouth, the consequences of which was, that in the night the family

the family was alarmed with her cries. Mr Baillie [her master] order'd her an Emetic and the whites of the Eggs as above, and the whole number of [pins] came up, and are now preserved in the family, as a curiosity.\_ The same method I have used with success for fish and other sharp bones.

Mr. Turnbull, M D.

Remedy to be Administered in Cases of Swallowing Pins or Fish Bones recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes: <https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/211>