

# [For the Cure of an Obstinate Herpes] Dr. William James Almon

**Date:** Transcribed sometime after 7 July 1802.

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Mr. Lewen

Publication Format

Manuscript

Type

Medicine

Symptoms

herpes

pimples

discharge

irritation

acrimony

Ingredients

cabbage leaf

vinegar

distilled vinegar

salt

calomel

Gold Sulphuratum Aureum

Squill

Places

Cheltenham

England

Great Britain

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 treating pimples of diseased limbs with prepared cabbage leaves and a Latin prescription, pp. 267-68.

## Transcription

Cheltenham

7th July 1802.

Mr. Lewen's

Letter to Mrs

Dyoll -- his

Sister for the

Cure of an Obstin-

-ate Herpes--

The best application is the common Cabbage leaf properly prepared by heat. The method of doing it is this:

The thick stalky part of the leaf should be cut flat with a knife. It should then be laid upon a shovel full of live Coals or embers for a few seconds till it wilts, and after turning it till it is thoroughly done, but not ~~scorched~~ scorched it should be ~~prepared~~ pressed in the hand till the juice can be squeezed out.

It will then be as soft as almost a piece of Velvet,

and in the application in question -- the whole

Limb should be wrapt up in these three or four-

~~tense~~ thick, and renewed night and Morning

In the course of a few days they will be found to have

drawn the sharpness of the humour out, and

instead of the discharge of the Pimples being

watery, as at first, it will become thicker, and

the irritation will become less, at this period the

leaves should be left off, and the best dressing would

be probably equal parts of [sperm Cito arote]

and the best distilled vinegar rubbed lightly

together, and spread on thin rags. If this

application should not get it well, it will be proper to

Have recourse to a slight course of Alternative Medicine,

by this means the Activity of the disease would in all

probability be abated, and its duration would be shorter.

Rx Calomel G[ran]a xij. Sulp. Aur. Ant.  
G[ran]a XXIV  
Pil'e Scillæ ?i. M[isce]. Fiat Pil. No XXIV e  
quibus summat [sic] Mane hora somni quotidie\_\_

-- But in general nothing is to be done effectual in similar complaints until the heat and acrimony of the discharge has been subdued by the means above mentioned -- It will be advisable four or six times a year to take three Gr of Calomel at bedtime & work it off the next morning with some salts--This will serve to prevent acrimony from collecting in the constitution --.

**Translation** (Latin at Botton of second image and top of third image)

Recipe: 12 grains of calomel. 24 grains of Gold Sulphuratum Aureum.  
1 scruple of Squill Pills. Mix. Make 24 pills in number, of which he should take every day in the morning at the hour of sleep. 1There seems to be an error or missing word in this prescription: perhaps “mane [et] hora somni quotidie”, “every day in the morning and at bedtime”.

*Translation and transcription by Winston Black*

For the Cure of an Obstinate Herpes recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:  
<https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/243>