

# [Considerations on the Use of Injections in the Gonorrhoea] Dr. William James Almon

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Manuscript

Type

Medicine

Symptoms

heat

pain

vomiting

inflammation

priapism

running

discharge

phymosis

paraphimosis

swelling

fever

puffiness

Ingredients

salt

water

camphorated spirits

apirits

vinegar

gum arabic

cream of tartar  
sal saturni

Places  
Halifax  
Nova Scotia  
High Holborn  
England

**Source:** Manuscript Notebook of Dr. William James Almon

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## Description

Detailed recommendations for treating gonorrhoea and its side effects from the book *Considerations on the Use of Injections in the Gonorrhoea* by High Holborn surgeon William Cribb (Holborn: W. Flexney, 1773). The excerpt transcribed in the Almon Notebook includes descriptions of treatments for men and women as well as ingredients and prescriptions in Latin, pp. 85-89.

## Transcription

If the symptoms are mild, as is generally the case in the beginning, with little heat and scarce any pain, it is easily cured for this. Rx [untranscribed Latin] to this may be added occasionally a small quantity of Bole or {...} will if thrown up twice or thrice a day after making water with the assistance of proper internals, speedily effect a cure. But when the Inflammatory symptoms are high attended with priapisms, [cordre] & then the Indications [dinctus] to cool the heat, abate the pain and lessen the stimulus. We should not at this time by any means stop the running; the Vessels must be allowed to empty themselves; otherwise the great quantity of fluids determined to these parts, by the increased stimulus, would if suddenly stopped, bring on a greater degree of inflammation from the obstruction, and after a few days the quantity of matter becoming too great for the elasticity of the vessels, would break down with double violence\_\_ + I believe there are few of the Profession, who have not observed, that after a sudden stoppage of large discharges, they have returned with in a much greater proportion, to which has been added a difficult of cure, proportion to the relaxation occasioned by the too great distention of the vessels. --  
Neither are the Prostrates, or vesicules [semicrali], or the

testes themselves, on this instance out of danger; inflammations are easily extended to the neighbouring parts, and the glandular will in a particular manner

be liable to partake of it. The Sal Saturn: therefore in this instance is preferable to either of the other salts, and this also should be largely diluted, so as to prevent any stimulus. For the inflamed urethra, a few drops of the [Rectum Lytharigites] or of sal saturni from half a grain to a grain in an ounce of water, or any light emollient decoction thrown up the Urethra three or four times a day, will soon alleviate the most violent painful symptoms. it must be observed the oftener you use them the weaker they must be; and when the pain is excessive, warming the mixture will assist the quieting property. ~ When the pain abates the Injection should be used cold, as it braces the fibres more effectually than when warm. If after using this Injection for eight or ten days, the pain and inflammation being gone off, the discharge still continues, and in equal quantity, no errors in internals or regimen having been committed, it will be proper to lay aside the Sal: Saturn and try the Vitriol [untranscribed Latin]-: being with one grain to an ounce: it will seldom be necessary to increase the quantity to more than two grains: the [untranscribed Latin] becomes in this case, a better medicine, as it is more powerfully astringent.-- an addition of Bole to the solution of Vitriol heighten (in my opinion) its efficacy as an Astringent--

Some prefer the salts united, supposing they have superior efficacy when used together: but I think their virtues are more successfully obtained, when used separately, in the manner above mentioned. -

Others again approve of Camphor largely diluted, even in the inflammatory state, and think it appeases pain. I have frequently used the following formula with good success--

Rx [untranscribed Latin]

When the running has been of long continuance, as is frequently the case where internals have been wholly trusted to: the pain and inflammatory symptoms being gone off, it becomes necessary, in order to restrain it, to have recourse to more powerful astringents, even though the colour of the discharge should not be such as we could wish. ~~

We often find, from previous bad habits of body, or from the long continued relaxation of the Vessels, that the discharge bears an ill aspect long after the infectious quality is removed. However an exact inquiry into the previous symptoms, and method of treatment should be made that proper internals may

be given -- In this case the Sal: Saturn will be little service,  
the Vitrol: Alb will be proper to begin with. if this does not  
answer you may try the Vitrol {...} and if this fails, We  
may have recourse to the cuprous salts; these may be also assisted by  
a combination with Sal: Ammonia or Aq: [Cakis]

Cure of the  
Phymosis,  
Paraphymosis  
and  
Hernia Humonalis

In the Phymosis, Paraphymosis, & Hernia Humonalis.  
applications are exceedingly useful, either applied as  
Injections, Embrocations or in the form of Cataplasms, in  
the latter complaint they should be made stronger and  
more stimulating \_\_ at the beginning a suspensor, a  
recumbent posture, and an embrocation of Goulard's Sat:  
-[urine] water with the addition of Camphorated  
spirits, or vinegar \_\_ But if the swelling be greatly  
enlarged and violently painful - VJ - Opium: and Cataplasms of the  
above ingredients - Sal: Cathart et Marna - with frequent  
draughts of neutral medicines according to the violence  
of the fever \_

Cure of the  
Gonorrhoea in  
Women \_\_

With respect to Women the advantage of  
Injections of this kind, are even greater than to men \_  
in the decline of the disease, some Women, especially those of  
a lax fibre require stronger injections than men.

Considerations on the use of Injections in the  
Gonorrhoea, by Willm Cribb, Surgeon.

13 \_ Major C: W\_ Symptoms: a discharge of yellowish matter  
from the Urethra, without pain or Ordor [Urine]  
ordered the Mucilage of Gum Arabic two Ounces to a Quart  
with two drams of Cream Tartar -- to be used as common Drink

14 \_ Much the same

Rx [untranscribed Latin]

20 \_ There is a puffiness about the Glans penis which took  
place a few days ago, {...} complains of a slight Chorde  
but is free from any other inflammatory symptom.

Rx. [untranscribed Latin]

26 \_ The Inflammatory symptoms entirely subsided - the discharge  
much lessened --

31 [untranscribed Latin]

Continues the mucilaginous drink

3\_ 10. [untranscribed Latin] Running decreased and free  
from pain --

15 \_ Much the same. [untranscribed Latin]

23 \_ [untranscribed Latin]

30\_ The discharge buttrussing - Rx Pul: Peruvian

Annotations

**priapisms**

Prolonged and painful erections.

**sal saturni**

The alchemical term for lead acetate.

**Phymosis**

Inflamed and tight foreskin.

**Paraphymosis**

Retracted and immovable foreskin.

Considerations on the Use of Injections in the Gonorrhoea recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:

<https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/247>