

[On the Cure of Ulcerated Legs] Dr. William James Almon

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Type

Medicine

Symptoms

ulcers

ulcerated legs

ill stomach

inflammation

discharge

urinary discharge

disorder

sores

Ingredients

nitre

ammonia

camphor

jalap

ethiops

calomel

phagadenic

Places

Newbury

London

Halifax
Nova Scotia

Source: Manuscript Notebook of Dr. William James Almon

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Description

A remedy for treating leg ulcers including a Latin prescription, pp. 35-40. Almon's version appears to be excerpted from surgeon William Rowley's *An Essay on the Cure of Ulcerated Legs, without Rest*, 2nd Ed. (London: F. Newbery, 1771).

Transcription

1[Johnston] with New Observations and Improvements London Printed for F. Newbery-- 1771Mr. Rowly
in an Essay on the Cure of Ulcerated Legs
without rest- says the Medicine which I most
depend on in the Cure in [Nitro](#), which I commonly
order in large doses and in a dissolved state, joined
with the spirit Sal: Ammonia or Camphor
which will prevent its having those ill effects on
the stomach, most frequently complained of. 2Formula Rx [untranscribed Latin]

I most commonly begin with one scruple, and
according to the constitution of the patient and
circumstances of the case increase the dose to one
dram & a half, which I order to be taken three or
four times a day, dissolved in any convenient liquor
with the addition of twenty or thirty drops of Spt
Sal: Ammoniac or with some of the Julepium e Camphor;
which last I prefer to the volatile spirit in cases
which are violently inflammatory.

The Laxative which I order for the irregular Patients
is composed of about one fourth of Put[s]: Jalap to three
fourths of powder'd [Nitro](#), which may be given from
[di] to [Zr] and at the same time the Nitrous draught
must not be omitted--

These remedies most commonly occasion very great pain
all round the Ulcers, when they are first taken, but
the pain gradually decreases as the Ulcers advance in
their Cure; and they promote in general, a most
copious Urinary discharge.

I shall not give any description of dressing, as it will be unnecessary--

In some particular cases when the patient has been of a robust Constitution or in very foul Ulcers, which have a foetid discharge, I have succeeded by giving the [Calomel](#) from three to give grains every Night; and every third morn'g a gentle Cathartic; at the same times I have fumigated the Ulcer with Cinnabar & Ethiops Mecurial equal parts--

He disapproves of Issues, Rest & Horizontal Position of the limb in the Cure of Ulcers: -- and goes on to say the Ulcers which I propose curing by [Nitre](#), or the Phagadenic, all old callous Ulcers, and every Ulcer attended with inflammation-- He gives upwards of thirty cases to illustrate his practice and concludes with some General Observations, the only case in which he forbids exercise in the cure when an Ulcer happens to be on any part of the Gastrocnemius Muscle or on the upper part of the Tendo Achilli: for the pressure and Action of these Muscles will infallibly prevent the incarnation of the Wound in common and a Cicatrization can scarce ever be obtained without rest --.

Mr. Bell divides Ulcers into two general classes in the first he comprehends all such as are merely local, and that do not depend upon any disorder of the system.

In the second class are included all such ulcers as are the consequence of, or that are connected with, any disorder of the constitution. ~

Under the first division of Ulcers, are considered the following different species~

1. The simple purulent Ulcer
2. The simple vitiated Ulcer
3. The fungous Ulcer
4. The sinonous Ulcer
5. The callous ulcer
6. The carious ulcer
7. The cancerous ulcer; and
8. The cutaneous ulcer

In the second class of Ulcers, are included all such sores as are the consequence of, or that are connected with, any disorder of the system.

The different species of which are

1. The venereal ulcer
2. The scorbutic ulcer; and
3. The Scrophulous ulcer

Mr. Bell concludes his Treatise upon Ulcers with the following General Coorollaries.

1. It appears, that except in a few instances,

[Vizt in Sues] Veneria, Scrophula, and Scurvy, that Ulcers are always to be considered merely as local affections.

2. That, excepting in on or other of the above mentioned disorders, the varieties in the matters discharged by Ulcers depend always on some particular affection of the Solids in the part diseased and not on any morbid state of the blood or other fluids. ~

3. That Ulcers appear to be useful or otherwise to the Constitution, not by the quality quality of matter afforded, but by the quantity; and accordingly, that the cure of even the oldest sore is render'd perfectly safe by the introduction and preservation of such

of such an issue as will yield the same quantity of fluids the system has by means of the Ulcer, been accustomed to throw off. ~

4. That in the cure of Ulcers, the first circumstance to be determined, is, whether they are to be considered as general or topical complaints. If they appear to be of the former kind such remedies must be administered as are known to be most effectual for the correction of the disease they happen to be connected with: in other respects the treatment of such sores is nearly the same with those originally of an unmixed simple nature. ~

5. That in the topical treatment of ulcers of every kind, the principal object to be had in view, is, to reduce them as nearly as possible to the state of simple purulent sores; for which purpose the different remedies have been

pointed out in the several proceeding sections.

6. That Ulcers being once reduced to this simple state above mentioned, their farther treatment, in general, becomes a very easy matter; the cure being there to be entirely affected by a proper attention to three following circumstances ~

3The remaining text is partly obscured by an unrelated newspaper clipping.1. To, the introduction of an issue, as was lately

[...] of such a size as may carry off nearly
[...] quantity of fluids the system has
[...] of the sore been accustomed to get
[...] ~

[...] the preservation of the matter discharged,
[...] purulent form, the several means
[...] which have been already fully pointed out; but the principal of these, it may be remarked, are, the avoiding every kind of irritations, by using the [the mildest] dressings only: and preserving in the parts affected, a proper degree of heat ~

—
[3] To the application of gentle compression, not only upon the ulcer itself, but on the neighbouring sound parts also: This, in the cure of every sore, has been shown to be a very material piece of practice. ~

Annotations

Nitre

Potassium nitrate in mineral form, known also as saltpeter or saltpetre. (Also niter)

Calomel

Mercury chloride, once used as a purgative as well as an insecticide and fungicide.

On the Cure of Ulcerated Legs recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:

<https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/248>