

# [Observation on a Species of Leprosy] Dr. William James Almon

**Date:** Late 18th century; exact date unknown.

Contributors

Contributor Role

Compiler

Contributor Name

Dr. William James Almon

Publication Format

Manuscript

Type

Medicine

Symptoms

leprosy

lepra ichthyosis

Ingredients

elm tree bark

juniper

mercurials

antimonials

nitre

tar water

Places

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 method for curing leprosy with a decoction of elm bark, p. 20.

Transcription

Observation on a species of Leprosy properly  
fermed *Lepra ichthyosis*.

The description of its peculiar appearance being well known we shall only mention our author's method of Cure, which is by a substance of the vegetable class, viz- the inner bark of the elm tree, a remedy which has cured all the cases of this kind, that have occurred to him, three of which he relates, in which the juniper decoctions, mercurials, antimonials, nitre, tar water, the bark and warm bathing had failed. In these cases from three ounces to a pint of the elm decoction were taken every day. At the same time the body should be kept rather laxative, a large proportion of vegetable diet should be used, the least perspirable meats should be avoided, and if the disorder be obstinate the decoction should be continued for some months or repeated, if the disorder returns with the cold weather.

Annotations

[nitre](#)

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

Observation on a Species of Leprosy recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes:

<https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/436>