[Untitled Method of Curing Cancers / Antiscorbutic Drops for Gout] Edward Ash

Date: The cure was effected between 23 June 1787 and 7 January 1788. This report was printed in Nova Scotia in 1789. | 1787/06/23 to 1789/12/31

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Publication Format
Print

Type
Medicine

Symptoms
cancer
ulcer
discharge

Ingredients
diachylon
gum

sublimate of mercury
bread poultice
milk
olive oil
bark
antiscorbutic drops

Places
Soho Square
Drury Lane
Holborn
Union Court
London
England
Nova Scotia

Source: Nova Scotia Calender, or an Almanack [...] by Metonicus (print)
Institution: Nova Scotia Archives | **Reference:** AK.AY.N85M / No Microfilm Available

Description

A plaster remedy for treating cancer followed by a case study attesting to the benefits of Mr.Spilsbury's antiscorbutic drops.

Transcription

The following method of curing cancers, is said to be infalliable, "Spread a plaister of diachylon with gum, upon thin leather, the size of the cancer: suppose the plaister to be as large as a crown piece, or a Spanish dollar, sprinkle on it a scruple of corrosive sublimate of mercury, finely powdered; and so in proportion to a larger or smaller plaister. This plaister must be applied to the cancer, and remain on it forty-eight hours; but if there is any apprehension that it has not done its office in that time, it must remain longer. Then, take it off and apply a poultice of bread and milk with a little olive oil, which must be renewed frequently, until the cancer comes entirely out, by the roots as it were. The part is then to be dressed, digested, and cured as a common ulcer. A purge or two with calomel must precede the application. No other preparation is necessary, unless the patient is gross, and requires a cooling regimen. Bark is sometimes necessary to forward the digestion and cure."

The following new cure was thought so very extraordinary, and such a wonderful instance of the power of medicine, that several respectable house keepers have attested the same -- Mr. Edward Ash, Taylor, at Mr. Cook's Butcher, No. 63, Drury-lane, London, was violently afflicted with a scorbutic, corrosive, painful humour on both his hands, which almost drove

him to distraction, discharging a glutinous disagreeable coloured matter, which caused his hands and fingers to swell so much, that for five weeks he labored under a most calamitous situation. He could not extend his fingers they being drawn up, neither could he dress or undress, or feed himself; his hands were wrapped up in linen. After having taken various medicines to no purpose, on the 23d of July 1787, he applied to Mr. Spilsbury, in Soho-Square, for his Antiscorbutic Drops; -- by the use of which he experienced benefit in three weeks. By continuing the Drops six weeks, he recovered the use of his hands, tho' in a weak state; still persevering in the medecine some weeks longer, he is this day, Jan. 7, 1788, perfectly restored to his health and strength, and not a symptom of his complaint remains.

(Signed) EDW. ASH.

Witnesses to the above being a true case, Mr. Alexander Robertson, Cheesmonger, No. 122, Drury-lane; Mr. William Boak, Hosier, No 246 Holborn; and Mr. Robert Poulton, Glass-Cutter, No. 16, Upper Union-court, Holborn.

Annotations

diachylon

An adhesive plaster made from oil and a variety of plants. Now commonly referred to as lead plaster.

calomel

Another term for sublimate of mercury.

Untitled Method of Curing Cancers / Antiscorbutic Drops for Gout recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes: https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/91