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**Home F (1780)**. Clinical experiments, histories and dissections. Edinburgh: Creech; London: Murray.

**Title pages**

C L I N I C A L  
E X P E R I M E N T S,  
H I S T O R I E S,  
A N D  
D I S S E C T I O N S.

By FRANCIS HOME, M. D.

ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S PHYSICIANS, FELLOW OF THE  
ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH,  
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VERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

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AND WILLIAM CREECH, EDINBURGH.

MDCLXXXIII.

As there are many obstacles to the improvement of medicine, so there are several aids, which, if carefully attended to, will give it a great degree of certainty. One of these, is a description of all the circumstances preceding, attending, and following the administration of different remedies, in morbid cases. Remedies exhibited in such diseased states of the body, and the effects resulting from their operation, when accurately and faithfully described, are real experiments in this branch of natural knowledge, and tend to make medicine as certain as most other sciences.

With this view, during my attendance on the clinical ward for two summers, and a part of six winters, the following experiments were made, to ascertain the effects and value of several remedies in general use, and to discover new relations in others. To give these experiments the utmost degree of certainty, the day of the month, and the year in which the patients were received into the clinical ward, are constantly marked; so that any person may consult the cases in the clinical report-books, kept in the Infirmary, where he will find them at full length, as they have here been much shortened.

*Experiments upon some remedies used in the  
Hydrops.*

There is no disease which affords hospitals more numerous patients than the different species of Hydrops, and none of which fewer are cured. The incurable nature of hydropic affections, was of old remarked by Aretaeus: "Ab ipso pauci liberantur, idque felicitate, ac deorum potius quam artis auxilio." Modern physicians were they as honest, could say little more. All attempts, therefore, to gain ground in the cure of such diseases, are worthy of attention. I shall, therefore, relate the successful and unsuccessful experiments which have been made.

## CREMOR TARTARI.

Vincenti Manghini \* first proposed cream of tartar, as a cure for the ascites and anasarca and supported his proposal with sixteen cases, in most of which it had been serviceable.

Thus I have faithfully stated the facts, with every circumstance which appeared to me to belong to the disease, or remedy, of which we are treating. It now remains to draw some conclusions from the preceding experiments..

1. Of twenty hydropic patients, thirteen were cured, and seven were not cured of their hydropic symptoms; that is, certainly, a very great proportion of the successful to the unsuccessful cases, in a disease which is generally so very dangerous. A remedy, which cures near two thirds of those labouring under this disease, where nature lends but very little assistance, is a valuable medicine. Though this distemper is very subject to relapse, yet it has happened to none of them, so far as I know.

