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Fowler T (1785). Medical reports of the effects of tobacco in the cure of dropsies and dysuries.... London: J Johnson.

Title pages

MEDICAL REPORTS,
OF THE
EFFECTS of TOBACCO,
Principally with Regard to its
DIURETIC QUALITY,
IN THE CURE OF
DROPSIES,
AND
DYSURIES:

TOGETHER WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS, ON
THE USE OF CLYSTERS OF TOBACCO, IN THE
TREATMENT OF THE COLIC:

By THOMAS FOWLER, M. D.

Physician to the General Infirmary of the County of Stafford.

*Si quid novisti rectius istis,
Candidus imperti: Si non, his utere mecum.*

H O R.

L O N D O N.

Printed for J. JOHNSON, No. 72 St. Paul's Church Yard, and
WILLIAM BROWN, Corner of Essex Street, Strand.

MDCCLXXXV.

To
Dⁿ Withering
from his most obedient
Hble Servant

The Author

P R E F A C E.

THE Nature and Causes of Dropsies, have been investigated at large, and the Indications of Cure clearly laid down, by many eminent Writers; in particular by Boerhaave, Hoffman, and Cullen, in their general Systems of Practice; and by Monro, Wilks, and Others, in Essays professedly written upon the Subject. But the Indication of the *most Importance*, that of evacuating the Waters by the Use of Medicines, has in general, been attended with the greatest Difficulty.

Diaphoretics, Sudorifics, and Sialagogues, have very seldom produced the desired Effect. Emetics and Purga-

tives, have sometimes been successful in carrying off the Waters ; but, much oftener, have only diminished them to a certain Degree, and for a short Time: because the Debility which they occasion, is found to dispose the Habit more strongly to a Reaccumulation of extravasated Fluids. Which Consideration, may justly render it doubtful, whether upon the whole more Harm than Good, has not been done by these Medicines, in the Treatment of Dropsical Patients.

But the same Objection cannot reasonably be made against the Use of Diuretics ; because they seem to produce their Effects, without inducing Debility : and therefore are the only Class of Evacuants, which Authors have unanimously agreed to recommend ; and yet the strongest Advocates for Diuretics, acknowledge the *Uncertainty* of their Operation.

Induced by these Considerations, the Author of the following Reports has made Trial of a greater Variety of diuretic Medicines in Dropsical Cases, than have generally been used ; in Hopes of finding some one, more efficacious than the Rest :

In drawing up the subsequent Cases, the Author being desirous, to avoid the Prolixity of Repetition, and the Obscurity of extreme Brevity, has only given a few Cases at large ; but has added Others in an abstracted Form ; in which, he has attempted to concentrate all that was useful in each. The Former will afford a sufficient Specimen of the Method and Cure, with which the Originals of the abstracted Ones have been collected ; and enable the Reader to form a tolerable Judgment, of the Degree of Credit, to which the whole is intitled.

If the following Reports should be favourably received by the Public, it will encourage the Author to lay before them (upon the same Plan) an Account of some other Medicines, which from his own Experience, he has found efficacious in different Diseases.

Stafford Jan. 14, 1785.

The five following Cafes of Dyfury, from Gravel, were strongly characterized; two of them were in a fhort Time cured, and three materially relieved by the Infufion; which alfo fpeedily cured the Complaints of Northwood and Brookshaw, although not apparently arifing from Gravel.

The Dyfury of Mrs. T. was attended with violent and irregular Paroxyfms, and in this Cafe, the Infufion neither promoted Urine, nor procured Relief. It was obferved that the Vertigo was very flight, perhaps the Medicine was underdofed.

To fpeak however in more general Terms, the Infufion appears to be powerfully anodyne, and diuretic in Cafes of Dyfury; thereby abating Pain, relaxing the urinary Paffages, and promoting Urine; and in Dyfuries arifing from the Gravel, greatly facilitating the Expulfion of calculous, or gritty Matter.

But in order to exhibit in a clearer Point of View, the Effects of the Medicine in Dysuries, the following Account is added, containing all the Cases of this Kind in which I have tried it.

C U R E D.

	No. of Cases.
Four Cases of Dysury;	} 10
Five Cases of Dysury, from Gravel;	
One Case of Dysury, from bloody Urine.	

R E L I E V E D.

Two Cases of Dysury;	} 7
Five Cases of Dysury, from Gravel.	

N O T R E L I E V E D.

One Case of Dysury.	1
Total	<hr style="width: 50px; margin: 0 auto;"/> 18

It is somewhat singular, that the Infusion proved Diuretic in sixteen, of the preceding eighteen Cases, and only Laxative in two; as we shall find these Operations in a different Proportion, when we come to examine its Effects, upon a larger Scale, including many other Complaints besides Dysuries.

C H A P. III.

Observations on the Use of Clysters of Tobacco, in the Treatment of the Colic.

I Have prescribed Clysters of the Infusion of Tobacco, in several Cases of the Colic, (after the usual Means had failed,) with considerable Success. They seem to act, principally by their anodyne, nauseo-relaxant Effects upon the System, and stimulating Effects upon the Rectum ; thereby procuring some immediate Ease, and a speedy Expulsion of the obstructing indurated Fæces.

I have already observed in the Preface, that Clysters of Tobacco are sometimes administered in modern Practice; and it is much to be regretted, that they are not in more general Use ; for I am thoroughly persuaded, that in Cases of the Colic, they would prove more successful, than any other Kind with which we are acquainted.

In order to give a more correct Idea of the ordinary Operation of the Infusion, I shall here exhibit a comparative View, of its principal, or most general Effects on the human System, in one hundred and fifteen Cases : of this Number,

It proved Diuretic in	93
and Laxative in	40
It caused Vertigo in	79
and Nausea in	52

It is of material Consequence, to be accurate in the Doses of an active Medicine ; and therefore Attention ought to be paid to this Circumstance. The Mode of Drops, has been generally thought the most convenient, for the dosing of liquid Medicines, of the more active Kind ; although there are more Circumstances, which are liable to vary the Size of Drops, than most People are aware of.

If however the Infusion be carefully dropped, from a two Ounce-Vial, with a broad Margin, and little more than half full, it will be found accurate enough for our Purpose.

ing resolved to give a faithful Account of his own Experience and Observations, he has conducted the Investigation thereof with the same Caution and Diligence, as if the Subject had never been before treated. Each Case has been particularly described, and a Report has been made of the Effects of the Medicine upon every Patient.

The Result of this Inquiry has afforded him very favourable Ideas upon the Subject; and he hopes to prove, by a considerable Number of Facts, that Tobacco may, under proper Regulations, be administered internally, not only as a safe, but as an efficacious and valuable Remedy; especially, as a *powerful Diuretic*, in Cases of Dropsies and Dyfuries. This Property, however, among the vast Number that have been attributed to it, seems scarcely to have been hinted at by Authors.

A Medicine possessing this Quality in an eminent Degree, has long been acknowledged to be a Defideratum in Phytic; and let it be considered as a further Recommendation, that it is found in a Vegetable. Because the Productions of Nature are generally *constant* and *uniform*, while those of Art are too often *variable* and *uncertain*; which is the Case in some of our most powerful chemical Remedies.

In drawing up the subsequent Cases, the Author being equally desirous to avoid the Prolivity of Repetition, and the Obscurity of extreme Brevity, has only given a few Cases at large; but has added others in an abstracted Form, in which he has attempted to concentrate all that was useful in each.