

By the Commissioners appointed to  
take care of Sick and Wounded  
Seamen, and for Exchanging  
Prisoners at War.

**W**HEREAS the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, have been pleased by their Order of the 23d of *January*, 1740-41, to direct Us to provide a sufficient Quantity of *Elixir of Vitriol*; and to supply all His Majesty's Ships and Vessels with so much thereof, as we think proper, according to their respective Complements of Men: And whereas, We have made such Provision, and shall do the like, from time to time, as there may be Occasion; and judge that a Proportion thereof, at the Rate of two Pounds and an half for every hundred Men, will be fitting for each such Ship and Vessel; you are hereby required, pursuant to their Lordships said Order, immediately to apply to Us for your Proportion accordingly, if the Ship or Vessel to which you belong, be in any Port of *Great-Britain* or *Ireland*; or if Abroad, to our Surgeon or Agent, where you are Stationed; and to do the like, from time to time, as you shall have Occasion for further Supply; and as it is to be delivered in Bottles, containing half a Pound each, you are to give a Receipt for the same, expressing the Quantity you receive in Words at Length; and to govern yourself in the Use of the said Medicine, suitably to the following Instructions, *viz.*

I.

For all Inflammatory Fevers, you may give it in thin Barley-Water, acidulated to a grateful Taste, and sweetned by Sugar; the Patient to drink plentifully of it during his Illness, at least two Quarts in Twenty-four Hours.

II.

As Scurvys often succeed those Fevers, the Blood being impoverished by long Illness, and the Patient's Food nothing but Salt Provisions in a long Voyage, which will not easily be digested; he should be purged once or twice with proper *Catharticks*, and then take Twenty-five or Thirty Drops of the Elixir, in three or four Ounces of thin Barley-Water, three Times a Day for a Fortnight.

As Scurvys often afflict Seamen, from a constant Use of Salt Provisions, without any other Distemper preceeding; on the first View of

this Distemper, which will be easily perceived by the purple and livid Spots on the Legs and Arms, and often all over the Body, with swelling of the Legs, and sometimes the Gums become fœtid, stinking and rotten; you may in this Case, let the Patient take Five and Twenty or Thirty Drops of this Elixir, in a sufficient Quantity of thin Barley-Water, three Times a Day for a Month or Six Weeks, till the Symptoms are quite vanished, and he becomes well. If his Gums swell, be stinking, or rotten, which will be often the Case, make this Gargazim; Take Barley-Water eight Ounces, Syrup of Honey of Roses one Ounce, Elixir of Vatriol a sufficient Quantity to make it sharp enough; and let the Patient wash his Mouth therewith, three or four Times a Day, and it will take off the stinking Fungus Flesh, and be of great Service in the Cure.

## IV.

In all Intermitting Fevers and Agues of all kinds, where the Jesuits Bark will be of Service, you may give Fifteen Drops of this Elixir, in a sufficient Quantity of Rice-Gruel, after every Dose of the Bark; and it will very much contribute to the Cure.

## V.

It may be of Service in all Sorts of Fluxes; proper Medicines being first used to carry off the peccant Humour, and clear the Stomach and Intestines; as Ippocacuana, Powder of Rhub. torrified, &c. it will brace up the relaxed Fibres of the Stomach and Intestines, and give a good Appetite. It would be best for these Distempers, to give it in Rice-Gruel, or small Cinnamon-Water.

## VI.

It is often of Service in Heftick Fevers, and even Consumptions; proper Medicines being premised. But as there cannot be any direct Method prescribed without seeing the Patient, and observing the different Symptoms, it must be left intirely to your Judgment, who have the Care of People in these Distempers.

## VII.

You are to keep an exact Journal of the Use you make of the said Medicine, and of the Success it shall be attended with; particularly in Inflammatory Fevers, Scurvys, Intermitments, and Fluxes, and to lay the same before Us at the End of every Year; and at the Conclusion of the Voyage, if the Ship to which you belong be employed on Foreign Service; or every Six Months, if in the Channel; or oftner, as Occasion may require.

And lastly, As this Medicine will prove a considerable Expence to the Crown, you are to be very careful, that neither any of it be wasted, or in any wise misapplied; nor the Bottles carelessly broken or lost; and that at the End of the Voyage, the Remainder of the Medicine, together with all the Bottles and Stopples, empty as well as full, be returned either to this Office, or to our Surgeon and Agent at the Port, where your Ship shall be paid off, for which he is to give a Receipt; a Copy whereof you are to transmit to Us, that such Agent may be charged therewith.

*To the respective Surgeons of  
all His Majesty's Ships  
and Vessels.*