

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS
TO THE
MEDICAL ASSISTANT, &c.

BY THOMAS DANCER, M.D.

*N. B. This Work is sold at his Majesty's Printing-Office, and
at the Shop of Messrs. Meyer and Schutze, Kingston.*

ADVERTISEMENT.

A NUMBER of *Errata*, in the References to the *Formulae* in the MEDICAL ASSISTANT, having escaped Notice, they are, in the following Pages, corrected; the *Formulae* likewise, that were by Mistake omitted, are now printed: Some new Remedies are added, along with a few Remarks, that may render the Work a still more useful one for Families and Plantations.

ERRATA

IN

The References to the Formulæ, &c.

- Page 71, paragraph 2, *instead of* Clyster, No. 40, *read* Clyster, No. 63.
74, last line, *instead of* No. 9, *read* No. 17.
108, paragraph 2, "Antimonial Opiate," *instead of* No. 47, *read* No. 17.
119, 2, "Gargles," *instead of* No. 54, *read* No. 76.
120, 6, "Gargles, No. 54," *read* No. 76.
132, 1, "Astringent Injection and Suppository, No. 41, 42," *read*
No. 64, 65.
141, near the bottom, "Oil of Amber, No. 61," *read* No. 39.
169, *dele* the Numbers, and *read*, See Index to Country Remedies.
256, paragraph 1, *dele* No. 131, then *read*, No. 90, 91, 92.
257, last paragraph, "Astringent Injection, No. 132," *read* No. 64.
Ib. last line, *read*, or Clyster, No. 33, (B.)

Other ERRATA, not corrected.

- Page 112, line 13, *read* "harassed by want of sleep."
114, 20, *instead of* itching of the Arms, *read* itching of the Anus.

FORMULÆ

OMITTED.

No. 125. *Lotion of Sal Armoniac, to be used in Sprains and Inflammations.*

Take Vinegar and Water, equal parts, or 2 parts Water and 1 Vinegar; and add Crude Sal Armoniac, in the proportion of 1 or 2 dr. to a quart.—Camphorated Spirits may be occasionally added.—A sufficient quantity of this should be kept always ready in every Hot-House.

No. 126. *Collyria, or Eye-Waters.*—See p. 243.

(A.) Take White Vitriol, 1 dr.—Dissolve in a quart of Boiling Water; then add a small quantity of Camphorated Spirits, and strain through paper or fine linen.—This, like the foregoing *Formula*, should be kept always prepared.—A few drops of Laudanum may be occasionally added before use*.

(B.) COLLYRIUM.

Take Sugar of Lead, and dissolve in Rose-Water, or in pure common Water, in the proportion of 2 or 3 gr. to the oz.—To this a small quantity of Camphorated Spirits, or a few drops of Laudanum, may, as directed above, (A.) be added.

(C.) COLLYRIUM.

Take Spirits of Mindererus, (see additional *Formula*, p. 346,) and Rose-Water, or pure common Water, equal quantities.—To which may be added a little Camphorated Spirits, or Laudanum, as directed above, (A.) (B.)

(D.) ALUM POULTICE FOR THE EYES.

Take a piece of Alum, and the Whites of two or more Eggs.—Shake them together till a curd is formed, which separate carefully from the Alum, and spread on Lint.—To be applied to the closed Eye-Lids at bed-time.—This may

* It was before remarked, p. 243, that *Collyria* are much more beneficial when used by means of an Eye-Cup. Eye Cups may be had of Mr. *Merris*, Druggist, in Kingston.

FORMULÆ OMITTED.

may be more advantageously prepared, by putting the Whites of the Eggs into a leaden or pewter vessel, and rubbing with Alum; and, instead of applying it simply, it may be mixed with Conserve of Roses, or bruised Rose-Leaves, bruised Pomegranate-Flowers, &c.

No. 127. *Eye-Ointments.*

- (A.) Take Simple Cerate *, 5 parts.—Finely prepared Lapis Calaminaris, 1 part.—Mix well together, by rubbing on a China tile or plate.
- (B.) Take Simple Ointment †, 6 parts.—Powdered White Vitriol, 1 part.—Mix well together, by rubbing as above, (A.)—A small quantity of the above, or of any other of the common Eye-Ointments, is to be applied to the Edges of the Eye-Lids, by means of a Hair-Pencil or Feather, as directed, p. 244.

* Simple Cerate is made by melting Olive-Oil, 6 parts.—White Wax, 3 parts.—Spermaceti, 1 part.

† Simple Ointment is made by melting together Olive-Oil, 5 parts.—White Wax, 2 parts.

ADDITIONAL
REMEDIES and REMARKS.

INFLUENZA.—Since the publication of the Medical Assistant, an Epidemic Catarrh, or Influenza, has occurred, which spread itself over the whole island, and was particularly fatal to Negroes. It is proper to remark, that the Treatment found successful in this part of the country, was the Antiphlogistic one, recommended in *pages 116 and 138*. When the Pulse continued very strong, and the Pain did not abate after repeated Bleedings, the Tincture of Fox-Glove was in many instances of great use. A Practitioner of this Town observed, that a number of his Patients, labouring under this Catarrh, were afflicted with Strangury; for which the *Balsam Capivi* was found an effectual Remedy, whilst it also proved an useful Expecto- rant.

Tetanus.—Sundry new Remedies have been suggested against this direful Malady, so common and so fatal in the West-Indies. One proposed by Dr. Mease, of *Philadelphia*, both against this Disorder, and the *Hydrophobia* *, promises, from the trials made of it, to be of the greatest use in the former, if not in the latter. This Remedy is the Powder, or Tincture, of *Cantharides*, which is to be given in such Doses † as to bring

* Observations on the Arguments of Dr. Rush, in favour of the inflammatory Nature of the Disease, produced by the Bite of a Mad Dog; by James Mease, M. D. *Philad.* Also, Medical Repository, Vol. IV. *New-York*.

† Ten or fifteen drops of the Tincture every hour till Strangury, or considerable heat, and pains in the bowels, be produced. On the same principle, *viz.* That of exciting Strangury, or counter-irritation, *Cantharides* are successfully administered in Hooping Cough, and Pleurifies.

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bring on a considerable degree of Strangury ; upon which its efficacy depends. The Gripes, Bloody Stools, &c. which may be occasioned by the Medicine, are of less consequence than the Spasms; these symptoms, when the spasms are got the better of, will admit of speedy alleviation, from the use of demulcent Drinks, and emollient Clysters.

Dysentery.—*Dr. Wright*, formerly of this island, and the author of several papers on the subject of West-India Diseases and Remedies, has lately published a new edition of a Work by *Dr. Grainger*, of *St. Kitt's*, with Notes. *Dr. Wright* has repeated his recommendation of a remedy, formerly found very successful in *Dysentery*, *viz. Lime-Juice and Salt* * ; and adds, that it is found no less beneficial in *Cholera Morbus*, *Hooping Cough*, and in *Diabetes*. Another Remedy in *Dysentery* has come lately into use, and is highly spoken of; this is the *Zezebery*, a species of *Sesamum* or *Vanglo* †. Without calling the good effects of this Remedy into question, the same, it is presumed, may be expected from other Demulcents, or from the Mucilage of other Plants similarly obtained. When therefore the *Zezebery*, as it is called, is not at hand, it may be worth while to try the Mucilage of *Ochro*, the wild *Ochro* (*Malachra capitata*), or any of the Malvaceous Plants ‡.

Dirt-Eating.—When the author suggested the trial of Mercury in this Disease, he did not know that it had been recommended by others §, and

* Lime-Juice, 3 oz.; as much common Salt as will dissolve therein; add a pint of Water, and 2 oz. of Sugar.—Dose, 2 table-spoons full every 3 or 4 hours.

† See Captain *Huxley's* Letter to an Honourable Member of the House of Assembly. The efficacy of this Medicine, as an *auxiliary* in the cure of *Dysentery*, has been confirmed by *Dr. George Spence*, of Falmouth, in *Trelawny*. See *Cornwall Chronicle*.

‡ A Gentleman of the parish of *St. David*, *Mr. Bull*, has shewn me a Plant, (the *Hibiscus malvaviscus*), that gives out an abundant quantity of clear, colourless, and tasteless, Mucilage; and which no doubt will be found to answer the same purposes as that of the *Vanglo*.

§ See *Dr. Chisholm*, in the *New-York Medical Repository*.

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and found unsuccessful. A regard to truth obliges him now to say, that, from the reports he has received of the cases where it was employed, his expectations have been disappointed. It has in few instances done any good, at the same time it does not appear to have done much harm.

Yaws and Leprosy.—The *Nitric Acid*, and the *Oxygenated Muriate of Potash*, from the Reports of Dr. Chisholm, and some other Gentlemen in the Windward Islands, appear to have great efficacy in these Diseases*.

Ulcers.—The Nitric Acid Bath, or Nitric Acid added to Fomentations, has been found highly serviceable in Phagedænic, Gangrenous, Sores.

Ring-Worm.—Tobacco-Ashes; Infusion of Fox-Glove; Solution of Borax in Vinegar.

Worms.—It was mentioned, page 563, that the Bark of the *Melia* †, Hoop-Tree, or Bead-Tree, had been given in the East-Indies as a febrifuge; in North-America, the inner Bark of the Root is employed for killing Worms. “The Root of this Tree has a thin reddish Bark, or outer Skin, which is deleterious, and must be carefully scraped off from the second, or inner thick white Bark: Put a handful of the shavings of this white Bark, in a quart of Water; boil over a slow fire, to a pint; when settled, pour off, and sweeten. Dose, a wine-glass full, three mornings successively: After which, a Cathartic (Castor-Oil) is to be administered.” Worms of every species are destroyed by this Medicine; for an account of which I am indebted to Mr. Hylton, a gentleman of great philanthropy, and most diligent inquiry ‡.

* See *Chisholm* on the Pestilential Fever of Grenada, &c. Vol. II.

† *Melia Azaderach*, *Linn.*

‡ A specimen of the Root of this Tree, and the Bark proper for use, as a vermifuge, may be seen at the shop of *Mr. Menzies*, Druggist, in *Water-Lane*.

