

The image shows the front cover of a book. The cover is decorated with a traditional marbled paper pattern, featuring irregular, organic shapes in shades of cream, beige, and light brown, set against a dark green background. A vertical strip of plain, dark green material forms the spine on the left side. In the center of the cover, there is a dark green rectangular label with a thin gold border. The title is printed on this label in a gold, serif, all-caps font, arranged in five lines.

EDMONSTONE  
—  
PREVENTION  
OF AN  
EVIL

175  
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*Charles John Bird, M.D. & F.R.S.*  
*Mag. Coll. Cambridge.*

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T O H E A L T H,  
A N D  
I n i m i c a l t o E N J O Y M E N T.

By WILLIAM EDMONSTONE,  
Late Surgeon to the Eighty-ninth Regiment.

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*—Utilior et jucundior Preventio quam Curatio Morbi:  
et,*

*—Quo tutior eo suavior Voluptas.*

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L O N D O N :

Printed for the Author, and sold by SHEPPERSON and REYNOLDS, Oxford-Street; FAULDER, New Bond-Street; DEBRET, Piccadilly; T. and J. EGERTON, Whitehall; SCRATCHARD and WHITAKER, Ave-mary-Lane; RICHARDSON and URQUHART, Royal Exchange, and the other principal Bookfellers. 1784.

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as admissible ; but more especially on the conscious persuasion, that a due attention to the main, and more immediately essential part of my subject, will be productive of the most happy consequences to the community ; by obviating the progress of an evil, the prevalence of which calls loudly for redress.

The effects of this evil are not only of the most pernicious tendency to the health, but even fatal to many, of the human species ; in-  
 somuch that the state loses several thousands of its subjects annually, thro' the constitutional diseases acquired and entailed from this cause. Therefore should the present attempt to oppose it, prove adequate to the salutary design in view, I humbly flatter myself, that, in whatever light it may be held by the weak and narrow-minded, or by those who are otherwise  
 biassed,

biaſſed, it will find protection with the ſenſible and unprejudiced philanтроphiſt.

Encouraged from this idea, and likewise ſtrongly impelled from motives of the higheſt veneration for a character ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed for an honeſt ardour, and the moſt animated exertions in the ſervice of your country, I may ſay, for real patriotic virtue; and no leſs admirable for a peculiar benevolence and goodneſs of heart, which I have ſenſibly experienced, I could not then hesitate in determining to whom I ſhould addreſs a work, the principal object of which was—that of rendering utility to mankind.

But although I feel myſelf highly juſtifiable in ſuch a deciſion; and alſo anxiously wiſh for an opportunity of making my public acknowledgments to you; I muſt, at the ſame time

that I take the liberty of gratifying my inclination in this, apologize for a mode so unsuitable to the fashion of the times ;—a mode, however, which as I conceive it to be no way improper, I have been induced fondly to adopt, for the purpose of offering a grateful and merited tribute to the most liberal, and truly disinterested friendship.

I have the honour to remain,

With the greatest respect and attachment,

S I R,

Your much obliged,

And most faithful humble servant,

Newman Street, }  
Sept. 10, 1784. }

W. EDMONSTONE.

INTRO-

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## INTRODUCTION.

**T**HE evil, the prevention of which is the subject of this Essay, having been distinguished by different appellations according to its various forms and other circumstances, is vulgarly known by the general character of the Venereal Disease. It will appear, however, from what follows, that the characteristic name I have bestowed, is suitably adopted, and very applicable to its real qualities.

If we view it in the proper pathologic sense, it may well be pronounced a malady as injurious, and almost as fatal, to health, as any that we have knowledge of, or that can be pointed out in the extensive catalogue of diseases with which the human frame is liable to be inflicted. It must also be allowed, that not only its immediate, but even its very remote effects, are peculiarly inimical to every enjoyment: and I shall endeavour, moreover, to prove that there are moral consequences of much evil tendency belonging to it.

Therefore, it may be justly inferred, that the actual prevention of so pernicious and so complicated an evil, ought to be regarded as proportionably useful and highly important. But notwithstanding the obvious reason and propriety of such an opinion; and although it cannot be denied that the prevalence of this evil has done much real and manifest injury to a vast number of individuals, and, of consequence, to the community; it is nevertheless true and equally surprizing, that its baneful influence has been allowed to pervade this metropolis and country for several centuries, unopposed, and without ever having engaged an attention so serious as to become the object of a public institution for encouraging experimental investigation; and for inciting the emulous exertions of medical gentlemen to attempt the discovery of means that might prove adequate to prevent its further progress.

What has been the cause of this inattention in the legislature of our own and other countries, I shall not take upon me to determine; but a conviction of the essential good that would arise to mankind from the invention  
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and promulgation of a preventative of the venereal disease, has induced me not only to apply my particular attention to invent one; but also, having discovered it, to endeavour to propagate its use, by publishing it to the world.

Tho' from abundant experience, I am fully satisfied that the Prophylactic I recommend is qualified to answer the end which it is intended to fulfil; yet I did not feel this reason alone sufficient for reconciling me to the measure of publishing a work entirely of a novel complexion, (and upon that account the more arduous), had I not been encouraged to such an undertaking by some other gentlemen, who, having experienced its efficacy, were pleased to express their flattering approbation and wishes, that I should adopt the resolution of announcing to the Public what seemed so likely to be productive of general utility.

Such satisfactory considerations, favourably coinciding with my own inclination, have prevailed with me at length to overcome the obstacles of restraint which had long opposed it; and now operate with that degree of force  
which

which hath prompted me to undertake and enables me to execute the present work.

It is very well known to many of my acquaintance in London, that so long ago as the year 1773, I not only made use of a Preventative Liquid in my practice, but also once or twice gave intimation of it in the public papers, and had declared my intention of writing upon the subject : But finding myself at that time restrained from certain impressions of scrupulous delicacy, added to a want of more confidential experience, I was thence influenced to decline the immediate execution of what I had proposed, and to postpone my favourite intention of publishing my thoughts upon this topic, until time and circumstances might remove those embarrassments, and more fully determine me with respect to the propriety of the measure in contemplation.

Since then, I have been abroad, for several years, upon public service ; and had I not been so long engaged there in my profession as a surgeon to the army, it is very probable, that such a performance as I now offer might have been published much sooner. However, the disadvantage to me from the delay is amply

ply compensated by the additional confidence and pleasure resulting from a more extensive knowledge, and confirmed experience.

The circumstance of novelty connected with this little work, may render it either the subject of approbation or of censorious criticism, according as it shall meet the conceptions of those who are differently prepossessed: but time, which is the deciding arbiter, will ultimately adjust whatever at present may appear doubtful concerning its object, and I trust, will firmly establish the standard of more universal experience in support of what it recommends.

IN discussing the subjects of this essay, I shall endeavour to demonstrate,

1st, The propriety and utility of preventing the Venereal Evil.

2d, The practicability of the measure.

3d. The expediency of the present attempt to promulgate such means as are proper for this purpose.

4th,

4th, I shall explain the general nature, and specify the proper manner, and time of applying the preventative liquid recommended to the Public in the following sheets.

And, lastly, I shall subjoin some reflections relative to the practicability of totally extirpating the Venereal Disorder.

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AN ESSAY, &c.

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SECTION I.

*Of the Propriety and Utility of preventing the Venereal Evil.*

**T**HE idea of preventing the propagation of that evil commonly called the Venereal Disease, by a method which secures the individual from the injury of infection, in every instance where he indulges in a libidinous commerce, will very probably be reprobated and condemned by some persons, who will be apt to consider the attempt as an encouragement to a vice which requires still stronger restraints than any of those to which it is already subjected. Before, therefore, I proceed further, I think it necessary to remove the objection which may be urged on this foundation.

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They who would seriously urge the objection now mentioned, must adopt and take for granted the supposition, that the danger of contracting a painful, loathsome, and highly noxious disease, is a powerful and very generally deterring obstacle to illicit, libidinous enjoyment. But this is assuming a principle as true, of which not only there is no proof, but both reason and experience agree in proving the contrary.

There is, it is well known, a natural propensity to pleasure implanted in the human breast, which, being once opposed or subjected to restraint, from whatever cause, will become the more impatient and incontrollable; and in spite of every dangerous impediment will be apt to break through its coercive boundaries, upon certain emotions or desires being *excited*.

The degree and impulsive violence of those natural emotions will ever depend on and be proportioned to the operation of the restraining cause, prohibiting, as it were, the ardent struggles of animated passion; which gaining additional strength from the stimulus of opposition, will at length surmount every obstacle

to the favourite enjoyment; to which it then rushes with an irresistible impetuosity.

Thus the reciprocated action and reaction subsisting between any restraining cause, and the passions of sensual appetite of whatever kind, will always serve as a powerful stimulus to encrease the latter; which can never be subjugated by restraint, without the danger of becoming very inordinate indeed; and must then unavoidably prevail, unless where there happens to be an uncommon share of Platonic temperance to argue Reason's cause, in opposition to natural passion and inclination. I believe, however, few of the young men of this age, for whose sake and safety this publication is principally intended, are encumbered with that species of cold philosophic virtue: and I will appeal to the impartial testimony of their feelings and experience for the truth of what I have just now advanced with respect to the effects of the danger of the evil in question; and, that passion strongly excited cannot be absolutely controuled from that or any other obstacle.

Having so far by (I hope satisfactory) reasoning, endeavoured to obviate the erroneous  
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and ill-founded objection of its encouraging vice, should this be suggested against our salutary *plan*, I shall now take the subject up in an opposite point of view; that is, with a design to prove that the prevention of this evil, so far from tending to encourage vice, is on the contrary, calculated to counteract it; and if fully established, would have a very happy effect in diminishing the most wicked and dangerous species of it; which will easily be comprehended from what follows.

We will suppose, for a moment, that some men are (and undoubtedly there are some,) over-awed by the danger of this evil in direct violence to their passions; which being granted I humbly ask your rigid votaries of virtue, what would be the probable consequence to society, were this to be the general case? I believe the candid answer of truth to this question, would tend to convict such as I now allude to, either of an unpardonable error, or of dissimulation; and I am fully persuaded that every man who has but a moderate knowledge of the world will join with me in thinking that the existence of the shocking evil, which we  
have

have occasion so often to speak of, is a most dangerous enemy to female virtue.

For whenever it repels the amorous passion from that channel which it occupies, it will most probably direct its course to another of more safety, in quest of the object of concupiscence; which it there assails with every cunning address of disingenuous artifice, with every plausible but selfish stratagem of base design, commonly supported by the most assiduous importunity, unremitting attention, and indefatigable perseverance to crown the whole; until a conquest of the unguarded fair one so nobly, (or rather so dishonourably) fought for, is gained.

I do not judge it necessary further to explain the mode by which the danger of this evil may be said to operate as an enemy to female virtue; nor to point out more particularly how the prevention, and total removal of it, would consequently diminish, and render less frequent that species of libidinous vice, I have just now spoken of; as I conceive this will appear sufficiently obvious.

Having thus endeavoured to obviate an objection which may probably be urged against an attempt to promulgate means of securing the individual from the infection of the Venereal Evil; I now proceed more directly to shew the utility that may result from such an undertaking. The utility will be apparent from taking a view of the various evils which are known to be the consequences of the propagation of the disorder in question.

The evils that flow from the prevalence of the Venereal Disease, relate either to individuals or to the public. The evils incurred from it to individuals refer either to their bodies or to their minds. The bodily sufferings arise either from its more immediate or more remote effects. Pain and anguish, often of long continuance, are its immediate effects: its remote ones are so numerous and so complicated, that I shall only refer to them in a general way.

It would be needless to advert the attention of the reader to a number of affecting objects around us who carry about with them, and exhibit to public view, too striking marks of personal deformity from this cause; as that would  
only

only be renewing in our ideas such images of disgust as we would wish to avoid the recollection of. But besides these very obvious marks of personal injury, inflicted by this cruel enemy to pleasure, on those moving spectacles of misery, which are sufficiently impressive on our senses and feelings without any assistant description; there is a variety of occult deformities and defects proceeding immediately from the same cause, which delicacy forbids me to describe; but which nevertheless demand serious animadversion: as also many constitutional diseases more properly coming under the appellation I have bestowed, which we may reasonably presume, derive their existence, though very remotely, also, from this common origin having laid the foundation of an antecedent predisposition; a staminal debility.

The numerous diseases deducible from the above origin come under various denominations in medical practice; so that the idea of the first fundamental cause is entirely lost and forgotten: such are all those entailed by the original victims on their innocent posterity in the form of glandular and other cachectic affections: as also several diseases of the nervous kind.

I must forbear, however, here to enter into a more particular enumeration of the diseases I have referred to, as it would be foreign to the plan and limits of this work. I therefore take my leave of this subject at present; having in view to bestow further animadversions on what relates to it in a future publication; wherein the Venereal Malady, with the consequences of its improper management shall be considered, and the most adviseable mode of treatment pointed out.

I shall here take the liberty, in consequence of the hint which I have just thrown out, to observe, that there is too great a diversity of favourite plans, or methods, with different practitioners for treating this disease; nor is it probable that all of them can be right. I believe it may be safely said, that the whole injury accruing to health from this source is not to be imputed to the immediate specific action of the virulent cause of infection: for I have long been of opinion, that oftentimes, perhaps for the most part, it has only afforded occasion of adding secondary causes powerfully destructive, and in some instances fatal; and I am persuaded that the injudicious, the too  
fashion-

fashionable, the preposterous use, or rather abuse, of mercurial medicines has at least more than an equal share in producing those mischievous consequences to health, which are more commonly attributed to the disease.

I would not wish it to be understood from what I have so freely advanced relative to the use of mercury, that I mean to depreciate such an indispensable article of the materia medica; or to become a proselyte to another fashionable system of exploding the use of this most valuable drug, and pretending to cure the syphilitic disease, without its assistance. —No; such pretensions are merely machinations of medical deception, which can never be either devised or encouraged by those who have any claim to an acquaintance with that liberal science.

Besides the bodily persecution from this inimical disease, the mind also, must, inevitably participate very largely in the affliction, from the excruciating and intolerable reflection of having been so completely duped and overcome by the wanton influence of a domineering passion, betraying it, and leading the body to its own destruction, in prostituting health; which,

being the most valuable possession we enjoy, thus becomes often a permanent sacrifice to momentary pleasure.

From a view of what has been said, does it not appear to be our duty to use whatever means we are acquainted with for preventing the occurrence of such a grievous injury?—It most certainly is, as I really conceive, the duty of humanity so to do: it being always indispensibly incumbent on us, as rational beings, to endeavour to avert, and also to lessen and palliate, as much as in our power, every species of misery incident to human existence. We ought not therefore to suffer our Reason to be overwhelmed and perverted by ridiculous superstition, whimsical error, or senseless prejudice, in open violation of her kind dictates for our own preservation, as well as that of our fellow-creatures; whose unfortunate sufferings, though even they may have been incurred by wicked imprudence, we should nevertheless, be ever ready to soften and alleviate.

The tender impulses, and the truly sympathetic voice of Philanthropy, would here incline me to advert to the pitiable situation of prostituted (many of them also persecuted) females,

females, so numerously existing in this city; the majority of whom, I may venture to say, having been first prostituted through the deceptive means of cruel and infamous seduction, are afterwards persecuted by successive deluges of misery and distress.

Hitherto, in considering the utility of our preventative plan, I have been endeavouring to prove this with respect to individuals; but the same plan would also be very conducive to the public good. This I think is not to be doubted, as the objects of it are the subjects of the state; and cannot suffer materially from any general evil, without, in some degree, a general participation of hurtful consequences extended through the whole political body. And now I take permission to observe, that this evil affects the national welfare in a twofold, or in a primary and secondary way. The first of these alludes to the present disqualification of those labouring under it from being of the least service to the community, whilst they are long, and necessarily, suspended from their respective employments, during the time (which is too often the case) of a tedious, loathsome cure, perhaps

never to be compleated. The secondary effects alluded to, are those (of which I have made mention before) so commonly entailed to the offspring of the first sufferers; which may receive additional strength from their own imprudent debaucheries of the same kind; and the destructive consequences still continuing to be handed down, will naturally lay the foundation of much constitutional imbecillity. From which we may reasonably presume, that the state is deprived of a race so vigorous and healthy, as they otherwise would have been, had this exotic malady never appeared; and consequently sustains a material injury, the extent of which cannot be ascertained\*.

Thus I have endeavoured to confute the only objection that can be adduced against the propriety of our preventative plan, and to demonstratc its utility, both to individuals and the public.

\* Since I sent the above to be printed, I observe that a late medical writer has computed, that upwards of thirty thousand of our fellow-creatures in this island die, annually, of complaints which obtain the general name of a consumption: the source of which mortality he considers as originating in a great measure from the various successive degrees of venereal infection.

## S E C T I O N II.

*Of the Practicability of preventing the Venereal  
Evil.*

**I**T is universally admitted, that the production of the Venereal Disease, excepting those cases where the disorder is hereditary, does in every case depend upon the application of a certain poisonous matter to some part of the body; and that generally this application is to the parts of generation, in consequence of libidinous commerce with another person affected with the same disease.

This disorder is observed to appear under different forms and circumstances in different persons, and even in the same person on different occasions. Now, as we know that the natural texture and materials of the parts, to which the venereal poison is usually applied, are invariably the same in every subject; and as it is generally admitted, that the virus is, in all cases, specifically the same; so those differences must depend either on the adventitious diversity of the virus itself, or on the  
accidental

accidental different states of the parts to which it is applied.

To evince, therefore, the probable practicability of preventing the Venereal Evil, after the application of the virus; it will be proper to make some observations on the differences to which either the infection, or the parts usually exposed to it, are subject on different occasions; also on the great variety that occurs respecting the time of the appearance of any symptom of the disorder after the application of the virus; and on its more immediate effects resulting from these sources of diversity.

The venereal virus, though generally allowed to be of one and the same kind in all cases, is nevertheless subject to great variety, in respect to its power or readiness of action; and this, principally, according as it is more concentrated, or more diluted, with other matter.

The parts to which the virus is usually applied, are also, on different occasions, very differently circumstanced, in respect either of their susceptibility of being acted upon by the virus, or of the greater or less readiness with  
which

which they admit or favour its conveyance into the system.

These accidental differences belonging to the parts, will depend either on their greater or less sensibility or irritability; or on their being more or less covered with adhering matter.

Now a clear view of these circumstantial differences, respectively considered, will afford an explanation of the varieties above-mentioned, observable on different occasions, respecting the time of the appearance of any symptom of the disorder, after the application of the virus; and of its more immediate effects after its action has begun to take place.

We may observe, that before this disorder assumes the syphilitic form in the parts alluded to, the venereal poison sometimes remains there long, without shewing any signs of its presence; in which case, if none of the virus has yet been absorbed, it may still be prevented doing mischief at any period before that takes place. The slower action of the poison, in such cases, depends on the conjoined circumstances of its comparative weakness and accidental locality; viz. being deposited on the parts which are least susceptible: for when the  
virus

virus is of the weaker or more diluted sort, and it happens to be deposited on any part of the glans or prepuce, at some distance from the orifice, or outer extremity of the urethra, and there being an impaired susceptibility at the same time; then may it remain on that surface a considerable time dormant and inactive, until, the enveloped particles having acquired more strength by assimilating matter in contact, it becomes sufficiently potent to produce injury; when it will probably make its first impression where it has so long resided, by exciting inflammation and ulcer.

Let us suppose the circumstances to be exactly as I have just described, in every particular; and at the same time that there may happen to be some peculiar or extraordinary aptitude in the absorbents of that spot where the weak virus has been *deposited*; then do I imagine to be the most likely time for the infection to steal, as it were, imperceptibly into the system, without exhibiting previous marks on the genitals, or ever shewing any symptoms of its existence in the habit; for perhaps a great length of time afterwards.

Such

Such cases as I have lastly alluded to, are by far the most dangerous consequent on the Evil, the prevention of which I treat of; because from deceptive appearances, or rather from no appearance at all, the unwary sufferer is betrayed into a fatal neglect, often never to be compensated. Here a proper preventative application would have been of the most important use, and have afforded that security to health, that perhaps no means after can possibly effect, from the peccant cause lurking so long in the body, and becoming radically ingrafted into the habit.

We will next suppose that the infection, as above-mentioned, is still of the weaker, or more diluted sort; but that it is now deposited on, or closely near to, the extremity of the urethra, into which it will very readily insinuate itself; and this may possibly happen almost immediately after the impure embraces. The membrane of that passage, we know, is endued with the most exquisite sensibility, and in proportion thereto is the susceptibility by so much the greater than in the other external parts; therefore the virulent cause may by irritation alone, where irritability is so remarkable,

able, very soon produce symptoms of gonorrhœa, without the necessity of acquiring more strength, as in the other circumstances: and those symptoms will much sooner be excited, when the infectious matter, thus deposited about the orifice, is more fully impregnated with virulent particles.

In cases then, where the accidental locality of the virus favours the production of gonorrhœa, it is generally of sufficient strength to occasion the symptoms belonging to this form of the disease at the time it is first received, without the necessity, as I have already hinted, of being allowed longer time to become more active; which it might probably require for producing the symptoms of the other form. For I state it as a general position, that venereal matter is always capable of acquiring additional strength in proportion to the time it may have remained without counteracting means.

If the infection has been received from a person having the disease in the most inveterate, malignant form, it is probable that it will then, being more concentrated, and consequently more active, make its first impression externally,

externally, or wherever it may have been deposited, very soon; and always the sooner (*ceteris paribus*) in proportion to the degree of its virulence.

Now, since all venereal infection is specifically the same; and as, from what has been said, it appears that the difference of its operation, so far as it is to be considered by itself, is owing to the various modifications of its commixture with other matter; it therefore follows, that the same antidote which is qualified to counteract it in any one instance, will, upon being applied to it, prove fully sufficient for that purpose in every other. Hence the practicability of preventing the venereal evil, even after the reception of the virus, may readily be admitted; provided a liquid can be found which upon application to the part that received it (whether in the male or female) and before its hurtful effects have begun to take place, is capable of readily altering its qualities, and rendering it innocent: but if this liquid is also capable of acting upon the part of the body to which the virus is applied, so as to render this less subject to its impression, the practicability

bility of prevention is rendered still more probable.

I presume that those medical gentlemen who are of the opinion that all venereal contagion is specifically the same, and who also allow the efficacy of topical means, injection, as all that is necessary in curing gonorrhœa, will readily admit the far greater certainty of correcting the virus by the same means (I confine my idea to such only as I have a knowledge of) before it has had an opportunity by time to acquire more strength, or made any morbid impression: for there is no reason to suppose, nor indeed will it admit of doubt, but that a well appropriated medicine externally applied, and brought into immediate contact with the venereal poison before it has commenced its attack, and taken fast hold of the body which may have received it, will with far more certainty counteract and destroy it, than medicines introduced into the system, whose specific power (if by such they act) must be considerably changed and impaired by the process which they have necessarily to undergo in the body, before they can possibly arrive at the seat of the morbid cause,

or even join the mass of fluid which it may have contaminated.

Thus far I have endeavoured to evince, by reasoning from the nature of the thing, the probable practicability of preventing the production of the venereal malady, by the means lately mentioned applied after the reception of the poison, and before it has commenced its operation.

I now further affirm the actual practicability of it on the foundation of my own practice and long experience in the use of a liquid that I have invented;—the efficacious quality of which has been abundantly decided from real experiment: and had I no rational theory to adduce, or no collateral authority of note to refer to, (both of which I hope will ever have their weight, and I can safely congratulate myself upon having the advantage of them) to corroborate my opinion, and assertions with respect to the salutary properties of this liquid; my own satisfactory experience of it alone would sufficiently warrant me in expressing the most favourable and confident sentiments of its intrinsic value, and is the test of authenticity on which I more firmly rely.

Of this liquid I have had above eleven years knowledge; a time fully sufficient for me to become acquainted with, and to prove its real merit: in ascertaining which I have been at considerable pains, and have bestowed on it the most anxious and unremitting attention, in order to be enabled to judge of it with an adequate degree of certainty, before I ventured on the measure of making it generally public—a measure which I now feel myself fully authorized to adopt on the most substantial grounds.

Besides my use of the liquid I have mentioned, in this country; I have also had ample opportunities of trying it in a variety of different climates abroad, during the time I was on public service in America and in the West Indies; the result of which was invariably the same as I have already represented;—ever favourable: and indeed I have not yet known, or heard even of a single disappointment in any case where it was used conformably to my directions with respect to time and mode. For it is on the faithful presumption of an exact conformity and strict adherence to every particular of them, that I am to consider myself

self responsible for the certainty of its preventative effect in securing those who use it.

Should any doubt still remain with some, who, from prejudice or otherwise, may not enjoy an adequate faith in preventative means, I will most cheerfully, for their satisfaction, nay, I will very fondly indeed accede to any fair, I mean undeceptive, measure that they shall chuse to propose for further trials of the liquid, and will gladly seize upon every future opportunity within my power, that can exhibit such unequivocal cases as to afford them the most decisive and satisfactory proof of its efficacy that can possibly be obtained.

C 2      S E C

## S E C T I O N III.

*Of the Expediency of the present Attempt to promulgate proper Means of preventing the Venereal Disease.*

A VARIETY of different applications for preventing Venereal Injury has been taken notice of by medical gentlemen as likely to prove useful; none of which, however, as far as I know, have been found to answer that end so fully as to obtain the character of efficacy, or procure them a confidential recommendation from men of professional repute. This consideration, therefore, suggests the expediency of the present attempt to promulgate certain means invented upon rational principles, and known from experience to be qualified for the purpose intended.

Before I proceed to the description of the means now mentioned, I beg leave to make a few remarks on some particular articles that have been used for prevention.

Some preventatives which have been very speciously recommended, and publicly extolled  
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in this city as infallible ; are nevertheless represented to have done much mischief to several persons who were induced to have free recourse to the application of them. This may seem the more extraordinary, as they are said to be used merely externally, or in the form of a lotion only ; but indeed, from what I understand of the quality of such lotion, the urethra could not possibly bear the application of it.

The circumstance which I have heard most-ly complained of is, that of corrugating the part to which it had been applied, impairing its natural sensibility, and inducing in it a calous induration and rigidity. This effect, or change upon the part, is evidently owing to some very acrid or corrosive quality in the lotion applied ; which will act more or less powerfully, according to the greater or less degree of susceptibility or natural delicacy prevailing there.

Such applications, even although they may be most efficaciously qualified to destroy the nature of the venereal virus abstracted from the body, will nevertheless prove to be very inadequate to that purpose when the thing is

considered physiologically with respect to the body; for, instead of producing that grateful sensation on the nervous extremities of the different fine vascular organs of the glans penis, and orifice of the urethra, or of the vagina, which would be subservient to, and facilitate their salutary action, so essentially necessary upon such occasions, the irritating lotion would induce a sudden rigid contraction of the sensible mouths of those vessels, by which means it would be excluded from entering them; and, consequently, could not be depended upon to answer the purpose after the elapse of so much time after connection, as is said to be allowed; it then becoming occasionally necessary that some of the preventative should be received into the substance, and partially absorbed.

But further; such a lotion as I have been speaking of, is, independently of its quality, also very defective as to the mode of exhibition, or manner and time of using it considered together; and even on this account seems really destitute of principle.

The apparent simplicity, however, of this mode, which consists only in washing, is the very circumstance which the more readily reconciles

reconciles it to use; and the peculiar ease and conveniency of exhibition in this way serve as the greater inducement to make trial of the preventative article. But the success of such a mode is utterly precarious, on that plan of latitude given with respect to time, which further enhances a reconciliation to it; for although it may answer the intended purpose in many instances, its effect will entirely depend on conditional circumstances; the knowledge of which may easily be gained from an attentive review of the preceding and subsequent sections, wherein the principles supporting the propriety of this observation, and by which that is explained and proved are contained; as will sufficiently appear to those who are willing to enquire into, and sensibly consider this matter upon the foundation of reason, and agreeably to what is there advanced.

Some other articles have been proposed and also made use of for this purpose, on principles that are quite erroneous, and would defeat the very intention for which they are to be employed: such, for example, as unctuous applications, sometimes previously used with a view to obstruct the introduction of the infection,

tion, and shut it out; and also substances of the same kind, medicinally impregnated, to be used after the exposure to Venereal Injury. Such means employed with the former of these intentions might possibly enough afford a temporary preclusion of the virus; but at the same time would tend very much to encrease the danger of the injury, in a way that renders both of them equally objectionable—First, by entangling the infectious poison, and detaining it on the part until some of its particles sheathed over with the oil or other unctuous substance, as yet in a bland state, are absorbed; or should the absorbents not be so readily disposed to receive it, the oil remaining a greater length of time on the part, and there intercepting the perspirable matter, will from thence be apt to acquire an acrimonious rancidity, that by eroding some part of the surface, may possibly serve as an auxiliary to the virus, and finally co-operate with it in producing symptoms of local injury. Another very bad effect must attend the application of unctuous \* matter in such cases, whether made

\* Washing the parts with cold water only would be a much safer expedient, as that might possibly lessen the chance of injury; whereas the application of unctuous matter would inevitably encrease it.

before or after connection, or however impregnated; which is relaxing the tone, and thereby (independently of obturating the mouths) impairing, if not totally suspending the functions of the exhalant or excretory vessels of the part; on whose perfect condition or vigour the expulsion of the morbid cause depends.

A due attention to this last mentioned circumstance constitutes a principal indication, equally applicable in its principle, to the prevention or cure of Venereal Evil; and whether partial or universal.

I hope that the hint which I have just taken the liberty to offer, will not be looked upon as unseasonably introduced in this place; the design of it being to intimate the great importance of attending carefully to the vigour of either the general system, or of that particular part which may occasionally be the subject of our operations, in the respective plans of cure or of prevention.

The utility of this indication cannot in my opinion, be too forcibly inculcated; and I am persuaded, that the ideas forming such an opinion are not only clearly supported by  
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rational theory; but we have also had too many instances from experience of the pernicious consequences which have proceeded from a neglected attention to the indication in question.

Amongst such instances, many may be collected from those cases wherein mercury has been thrown into the body most profusely, with an intention to subdue venereal evil, to no other purpose than that of encreasing the mischief. The hurtful effects of mercury thus administered arise from its peculiar action on the several organs of the body; thereby destroying their tone and functions, and inducing general debility; from whence the system is robbed of that vigour so essentially necessary to overcome the morbid assailant; which, so far from ever yielding to such injudicious treatment, will be found from thence to have acquired more obstinacy, and to elude every other means for its removal; unless they shall be assisted by such as are qualified to obviate debility; and restore to a certain degree the impaired constitutional strength.

The indication, therefore, which I have stated, would admit of a very satisfactory explanation

planation on the foundation of pathologic reasoning, and of experience; but to attempt a farther illustration of it here, would be a deviation inconsistent with the plan of my intentions in this publication; in which I mean to confine myself to the consideration of local circumstances, (upon which only the theory of prevention is founded), without launching into a general disquisition on venereal symptoms; the investigation of which I intend to prosecute on another occasion: And reserving further animadversions on the different preventative articles; what has been already said, being, as I apprehend, sufficient to demonstrate the expediency of attempting to promulgate such means as are known from experience to be qualified for answering the intended purpose; I shall now proceed to give an account of those means as are more immediately the object of this little work.

## SECTION

## SECTION IV.

*Of the general Nature and Form, and also of the proper Manner and Time of applying the Preventative Liquid, recommended by the Author.*

**A** PREVENTATIVE of the Venereal Evil, as I have already observed in the Second Section, should be of a liquid form; in order that it may (besides some other intentions to be answered by liquidity) the more readily pervade every point, and if I may be permitted to use the expression, minutely penetrate into every sinus or lurking place where the venereal infection may have insinuated itself.

There are two essential properties which must indispenfibly belong to a liquid qualified for this intention, and upon which its salutary effects chiefly depend; the one specific, the other stimulant; by the former, the virulent matter of infection is to be corrected and destroyed; by the latter, a certain action is to be excited in the excretories of the part it is  
 applied

applied to, from which the virus will be thrown off, and expelled.

Now, as we know that very sensible membrane, the urethra, to be a part the most subject to an immediate attack from this cause; this knowledge is sufficient to convince us of the occasional necessity there must be of making the preventative application to that passage; and also suggests, that the Preventative should be of such a mild though gently stimulating quality as to render the free use of it perfectly safe to that, as well as to every other part liable to be affected by the venereal virus, previous to its introduction into the habit. We are therefore admonished, that a liquid for this purpose ought to be contrived with judicious accuracy, and a cautious attention; that in performing its intended office with efficacy, it shall not excite pain, or be productive of any other hurtful inconvenience.

A preparation possessing such qualities as I have described, is here presented to the public under the title of **THE PROPHYLACTIC LIQUID** \*.

\* The word *prophylactic*, particularly belonging to medical science, will of course I presume be familiar enough to every medical gentleman; but as it may not probably be equally understood

This liquid which I take upon me to recommend for the salutary purpose assigned to it, consists of an aqueous menstruum artificially impregnated with certain simple substances, partly vegetable and partly mineral, that are endued with similar properties with such as I make choice of in the curative treatment of venereal complaints; and is contrived on general medical principles consonant with those which regulate my plan of practical indications, and direct my intentions in the exhibition of internal medicines for that purpose.— My knowledge of it is by no means a recent acquisition, nor the production of accidental discovery; but the genuine fruits of mature deliberation, and well-digested thoughts, which have been long and attentively exerted towards a particular favourite object; and were at first suggested upon principles of rational probability, afterwards realized and confirmed on the solid foundation of experience.

derstood by all our readers, I shall take the liberty to explain it.—It comes from a Greek verb, signifying *to preserve*; and in medicine comprehends all that relates to the preservation of health, or the prevention of disease; in contradistinction to that part of medicine which treats of curing diseases, called THERAPEUTICS.

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The form under which this Preventative Liquid may be occasionally applied is of two kinds; lotion and injection. In the use of the former, the external parts on which the poison is supposed to have been deposited, are washed with the liquid; in the latter, it is applied by way of injection into the urethra in males, or into the vagina in females.

The manner of applying the liquid is different, according to the two different forms of lotion and injection. In men, the person who uses it is first to make water, and also to wash the external parts of generation well with cold water, and dry them with a cloth before the liquid is applied: having then poured into a cup a sufficient quantity of the liquid for the present occasion, a portion of it is to be injected with a very small syringe into the urethra, and retained there about the space of a minute; afterwards the prepuce being drawn back, this, together with the glans and the whole penis, are to be carefully washed over with the liquid remaining in the cup.

In females a similar process is to be observed, using a large female syringe to throw  
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the liquid into the vagina ; which operation should be repeated once or twice at the interval of about a minute ; and the parts adjacent to the vaginal orifice are to be well washed over by means of a piece of sponge, or soft linen, moistened with the liquid.

A single application made in the way I have described, in either sex, is generally all that is necessary ; but where a person discovers, from particular circumstances of a connection, that he has incurred very great danger of injury upon any occasion, by having exposed himself to infection of a highly malignant kind ; and more especially, when he also knows himself to be much pre-disposed, or peculiarly liable to such injury ; I would advise, in such circumstances, that the liquid be applied a second time in the manner above directed, either the same night, at the time of going to bed, or immediately after rising next morning.

It sometimes happens that the prepuce, from a natural straitness, cannot easily be brought back, so as to uncover the glans ; in which case some of the liquid must be thrown between them, and detained there for a little, in order that it may be intimately applied to every

every part of that surface where the infection lying hid very often commences its first attack.

Two other rules are moreover to be observed:—to avoid making water after applying the liquid as long as it can be held with ease, and not to dry the parts with a cloth afterwards.

The different modes of exhibition being described, the proper time of applying the liquid, which is a matter of great importance to attend to, is next to be considered.

As some men are averse to the operation of injecting, it may perhaps be satisfactory to inform them, that when it is convenient for them to apply the liquid immediately after connection with an infected person, the form of lotion alone will be sufficient without injection: but in the case of females who have so exposed themselves, this latter form is never to be dispensed with, for a very obvious reason.

Considering what has been premised, I cannot pretend to ascertain the exact time for allowing the infection to make such impression as may be supposed out of the reach of

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preventative

preventative means ; but we know from experience what is sufficient to guide us almost secure ; and it is our business, in the present plan, to fix upon such a period of time for the application of those means as we are certain comes within any space at which Venereal Injury has ever been known to appear after the time of impure connection.

I think it highly probable, that Venereal Injury may be prevented at any time before absorption takes place, or local symptoms appear, when the infection remains externally on the glans, prepuce, or other part of the penis ; or before it has produced symptoms of gonorrhœa, when taken into the urethra. But the mode of application which we intend to use, must ultimately regulate our determination in point of the time of making it ; it being obvious that the same method which might be very effectual in the former of those two circumstances I have just mentioned, where the virus remains on a part that is exposed, could have no effect at all in the latter, where the virus being conveyed to the urethra speedily insinuates itself so far within that passage as to get out of the reach of such application ;

application; whence is indicated the necessity of using some instrument of conveyance in the one case, which there is no occasion for in the other, in order to pursue the infection in its route, and overtake it before it may have produced morbid symptoms.

Now, as there are no visible marks, previous to the appearance of the disease, by which it is possible for us to distinguish between those circumstances which would render the one form safe by itself, or constitute the necessity of joining with it the other; we are necessarily obliged to rest our success on a judicious attention to time. The only alternative expedient of safety, therefore, where it is intended to prefer the form of lotion alone, which is the most simple and easy method, must consist in the application of it almost immediately after connection, which will supercede the necessity of using the injection; but if this measure has been delayed or neglected, then recourse must unavoidably be had to both these forms together, at a more convenient, but within a certain limited time.

The time which I fix upon for this purpose is limited within the space of ten hours after

dangerous connection; for although I have good reason to suppose, that in general a much longer delay than this might safely enough be admitted of, yet it is highly adviseable never to condescend to that unnecessarily; and as we cannot ascertain the degree of susceptibility in particular persons, or that of the virulence of the infection upon any occasion; (on which circumstances either the safety or the danger of such delay will always depend) it ought, therefore, to be an invariable rule to apply the prophylactic within the time already specified, when convenient; and, generally speaking, always as soon after that of suspected connection as absolute conveniency will allow.

Though I never have observed symptoms of gonorrhœa, or other venereal injury, to take place for several hours after the period within which I have limited the application as above; yet infection, we know, may be conveyed into the urethra in one tenth part of that time. How then can any external wash alone be depended on, when the liquid being exhibited in that form only, does not come in contact with the infection thus out of reach,  
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and consequently cannot possibly act against, or destroy it? whence there is an absolute necessity of employing an injecting instrument, after even a very short time has elapsed.

From what has been said, it will appear, that the lotion is indispensibly necessary on every occasion where the use of the preventative is requisite; but that the injection will become so only from delay: for the remarkable susceptibility in the membrane of the urethra, and great facility with which virus deposited about the orifice of that most sensible membrane may be taken into it, will not warrant the delay of one hour as safe where external lotion alone is to be the mode which we depend upon. But the case is widely different when, at the same time, we intend to add the use of injection: for although the infection may have been carried into the urethra, and lodged in any part of that canal, it may still be prevented doing injury, if none has already appeared, by means of an injection endowed with particular qualities; nay, the good effects of such means, in the way I have mentioned, are as certain as any axiom that medical science will admit, or practical observa-

tion support. But it will be invariably necessary to throw in the liquid before inflammation is excited, as that very circumstance would render it not only abortive, but hurtful: for it is impossible that any preparation, however well adapted otherwise, can answer the desirable purpose of prevention, without possessing a gently stimulating power.

This Prophylactic Liquid possesses such a power, by means of which it excites in the excretories of the glands of the urethra a temporary vigour and a salutary motion, which is very subservient to the expulsion of the virus; therefore, should the injection be used whilst the membrane of the urethra is in an inflamed state, it must necessarily encrease this; and though even it had not that effect, it could not always reach the seat of the infection, until the inflammation has been first subdued; after which, the injection may be used with great advantage for the complete cure of the disorder, and the prevention of a gleet.

I have been the more particular on this head, in order that my intentions with respect to the different forms and time of using the Prophylactic might be sufficiently understood.

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I am very sensible that I have made some deviation from methodical accuracy here, in point of repetitions; but I have been led to that from an anxious attention to the very great importance of this part of my work; as the success of the means very much depends on having the principles upon which they are to be exhibited rendered as plain as possible; and I hope this reason will be accepted of as a satisfactory apology.

I shall close this Section with observing, that notwithstanding the important utility of injections, both preventative and curative, and though so much approved of by the most competent judges, there is still an astonishing prejudice prevailing with many people against them: nay, the very name is to some quite alarming; and no doubt with some reason; for we are sufficiently aware that much mischief has frequently been done by injections improperly used. The same may also be said, and with as much truth, with respect to medicines internally used. In neither case, however, can we justly blame the respective modes of exhibition, abstractedly considered; but the abuse or misapplication of them; a

want of discernment in the practitioner, by making an injudicious ill-timed use of means, or, perhaps, applying the same indiscriminate means too generally. It is necessary that those should be varied according to conditional circumstances in the cure of every disease; as what would be very useful at one time, or stage of a complaint, might be as hurtful at another; and *vice versa*: but preventative applications are exempt from such conditional variations of management; for when they are to be made use of, we are to suppose that the parts are then in a sound, healthy state, and not in the least changed from their natural condition by any sort of morbid affection whatever; therefore the same application may invariably and very properly be used upon all necessary occasions.

*Reflections*

*Reflections on the possibility of extirpating the  
Venereal Disease.*

**T**HAT the prevention of the Venereal Evil within a limited time after the infection has been received, is absolutely certain, (so far as any thing depending upon human knowledge and execution may be deemed so) I have not the smallest doubt \*. Admitting then that unlimited experience will not fail to corroborate my assertions respecting the efficacy of the means which I have given an account of; and that the actual prevention of the evil in question has been already proved in the use of the Prophylactic Liquid; may it not reasonably be inferred, (judging *a priori*) that were its use to be universally extended, a complete prevention, and consequently a total extinction of the Venereal Malady might be eventually effected?

Indeed, I cannot see how this should bear the imputation of ambiguity, when we take

\* This may seem a boldly asserted opinion; but I am fully satisfied of being able to demonstrate the truth of what I have advanced by real and unequivocal experiment.

an unbiassed and impartial view of the matter. In the first place, the evil treated of is an exotic, which was accidentally brought into this country at a particular æra: as a disease, it is entirely adventitious in its nature, and not spontaneous, or such as we are constitutionally subject to: it is always communicated by a particular contact with an infected person; but never by any intermediate conveyance, as in the case of most, and I believe all other diseases produced from every other species of morbidiferous contagion.—When, therefore, we consider these circumstances; and also that we can easily subdue and remove the infectious injury from all those who are at present affected with it; and allowing me at the same time that credit for what I have asserted concerning the Prophylactic which I confidently claim a right to;—I say, those circumstances collectively considered, why should there be difficulty in acknowledging the possibility of extinguishing and entirely putting a period to the further progress of this horrid evil? I conceive, indeed, that this might be effected in a short time; even in the space of a few months; but  
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it would require a general concurrence, nay, an unanimous public exertion; as the executive plan could not be effectuated otherwise than by some institution regularly established by legislative authority, and supported on a public foundation.

Supposing, however, that the Venereal Evil were to be extinguished in this country by a temporary public spirited exertion of the state: it may be objected, that this would not secure us a permanent exemption from it; as we should still be liable to a revival of it amongst us by means of foreign communication. That no doubt would be the case; unless every country with which we have intercourse were at the same time also to adopt similar plans, and establish proper institutions for the same salutary purpose.

I cannot help thinking that such institutions would be highly laudable, and of very important benefit to mankind; but I fear there is too little reason to expect such a happy event as the universal establishment of them; and therefore, though on the conditions I have now stated, the total expiration of the Venereal

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real Evil appears pretty evidently to be possible; yet when we consider the complicated difficulties that obstruct the fulfilling of these conditions; we are led obviously to perceive the impracticability of accomplishing so desirable an end.

Whatever may be the ideas of some concerning a subject which I have first undertaken the discussion of, or whatever may prove the more general reception of this very imperfect performance in the world, I am happy in reflecting that I was incited to the execution of it from laudable motives only; and that my own positive knowledge of the object recommended, consciously suggesting and affording me a conviction of its utility, has been the prevailing cause of my determination in now making it public.

I shall only add, that notwithstanding such a preventative plan as I have hinted at should never be universally adopted, nor any public institution for that purpose be established, I am induced, with a peculiar satisfaction, to persuade myself, that what I have said on the subject of prevention will prove to have been  
well

well bestowed; as it will be the means of disseminating a very useful piece of information amongst a considerable number of individuals, who, duly impressed with a prudent regard for the safety of their health, will thereby be directed to a certain expedient of preserving it securely from the danger of Venereal Injury; of which salutary advantage they may very conveniently avail themselves.

So that in the limited point of view only, of the essential benefit to individuals, without arriving at the full and perfect accomplishment of the object \* at which I have aimed, I shall be highly gratified from the solacing reflection, that there is some merit in having rendered even a partial good to mankind.

For although I feel myself much satisfied under the pleasing influence of such an idea, and would esteem that alone as an ample compensation for whatever pains I have taken in forming this work, I have, nevertheless, still in reserve the additional satisfaction, not only in recognizing myself to be the author

\* A total subduktion of the Venereal Evil.

of an invention qualified for affording consummate utility; but also of enjoying the most flattering expectations, that the use of the Prophylactic will in time become generally extended, and as universally productive of public good.

T H E E N D.









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