

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Bethesda, Maryland

1730
The ... of ...



1730 Mrs Joanna Stephens
on
the Stone and Gravel

A Most Excellent

C U R E

F O R T H E

S T O N E and G R A V E L,

As Published by

Mrs. Joanna Stephens,

For which DISCOVERY she is allowed Five Thousand Pounds by Act of Parliament.

To which is added,

A Compleat LIST of the Nobility, Gentry, Physicians, and Surgeons, who are appointed by Parliament to examine the said MEDICINES.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the Benefit of Mankind
in General.

A Most Excellent

C U R E

FOR THE

STONE and GRAVEL.

*The DISCOVERY, as published in
the London Gazette, by Authority,
is as follows.*

MY Medicines are a Powder, a
Decoction and Pills.
The Powder consists of Egg-
shells and Snails, both calcin'd.

The Decoction is made by boiling
some Herbs (together with a Ball which
consists of Soap, Swines Cresses burnt to
a Blackness, with Honey) in Water.

The Pills consist of Snails calcin'd,
Wild Carrot-Seeds, Burdock-Seeds, Ash-
en Keys, Hips and Haws, all burnt to a
Blackness, Soap and Honey.

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The Powder is thus prepared.

Take HENS Egg-shells well dreined from the Whites, dry and clean, crush them small with the Hands, and fill a Crucible of the 12th Size (which contains nearly three Pints) with them lightly; place it in the Fire, and cover it with a Tile; then heap Coals over it, that it may be in the midst of a very strong clear Fire till the Egg-shells be calcin'd to a greyish White, and acquire an acid salt Taste: This will take up 8 Hours at least. After they are thus calcin'd, put them in a clean dry Earthen Pan, which must not be above three Parts full, that there may be Room for the swelling of the Egg-shells in baking. Let the Pan stand uncover'd in a dry Room for two Months, and no longer. In this Time the Egg-shells will become of a milder Taste, and that Part which is sufficiently calcin'd will fall into a Powder of such a Fineness, as to pass through a common Hair-Sieve, which is to be done accordingly.

In like Manner, Take Garden-Snails with their Shells, clean'd from the Dirt, fill a Crucible of the same Size with them whole, cover it, and place it in a Fire, as before, till the Snails have done

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fmoaking, which will be in about an Hour, taking Care that they do not continue in the Fire after that. They are then to be taken out of the Crucible, and immediately rubb'd in a Mortar to a fine Powder, which ought to be of a very dark-grey Colour.

Note, If Pit-Coal be made use of, it will be proper, in order that the Fire may the sooner burn clear on the Top, that large Cynders, and not fresh Coals, be placed upon the Tiles which cover the Crucibles.

These Powders being thus prepared, take the Egg-shell-Powder of six Crucibles, and the Snail-Powder of one, mix them together, rub them in a Mortar, and pass them through a Cypress-Sieve. This Mixture is immediately to be put up into Bottles, which must be close stopp'd, and kept in a dry Place for Use. I have generally added a small Quantity of Swines Cresses burnt to a Blackness, and rubb'd fine; but this was only with a View to disguise it.

The Egg-shells may be prepared at any Time of the Year, but it is best to do them in Summer. The Snails ought only to be prepared in May, June, July
and

and August; and I esteem those best which are done in the first of these Months.

The Decoction is thus prepared.

Take 4 Ounces and a half of the best Alicant-Soap, beat it in a Mortar with a large Spoonful of Swines Cresses burnt to a Blackness, and as much Honey as will make the Whole of the Consistence of Paste. Let this be form'd into a Ball.

Take this Ball and green Chamomile, or Chamomile-Flowers, sweet Fennel, Parsley, and Burdock-Leaves, each one Ounce. When they are not Greens, take the same Quantities of Roots; cut the Herbs or Roots, slice the Ball, and boil them in two Quarts of soft Water half an Hour, then strain it off, and sweeten it with Honey.

The Pills are thus prepared.

Take equal Quantities by Measure, of Snails calcin'd as before, of Wild Carrot-Seeds, Burdock-Seeds, Ashen Keys, Hips and Haws, all burnt to a Blackness, or, which is the same Thing, till they have done smoaking; mix them together, rub them in a Mortar, and pass them through a Cypress-Sieve. Then take a large Spoonful of this Mix-

ture, and 4 Ounces of the best Alicant-Soap, and beat them in a Mortar, with as much Honey as will make the Whole of a proper Consistence for Pills. Sixty of which are to be made out of every Ounce of the Composition.

The Method of giving these Medicines is as follows.

When there is a Stone in the Bladder or Kidneys, the Powder is to be taken three times a Day, viz. in the Morning after Breakfast, in the Afternoon about Five or Six, and at going to Bed. The Dose is a Dram Averdupoiz, or 56 Grains, which is to be mix'd in a large Tea-Cup full of White Wine, Cyder, Small Punch; and half a Pint of the Decoction is to be drank, either cold or milk-warm, after every Dose.

These Medicines do frequently cause more Pain at first, in which Case it is proper to give an Opiate, and repeat it as often as there is Occasion.

If the Person be costive during the Use of them, let him take as much Lenitive Electuary, or other Laxative Medicine as may be sufficient to remove that Complaint, but not more: For it must be a principal Care at all Times to prevent a Looseness, which would car-
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ry off the Medicines; and if this does happen, it will be proper to increase the Quantity of the Powder, which is astringent, or lessen that of the Decoction, which is laxative, or take some other suitable Means by the Advice of Physicians.

During the Use of these Medicines, the Person ought to abstain from Salt Meats, red Wines, and Milk, drink few Liquids, and use little Exercise, that so the Urine may be the more strongly impregnated with the Medicines, and the longer retained in the Bladder.

If the Stomach will not bear the Decoction, a sixth Part of the Ball made into Pills must be taken after every Dose of the Powder.

Where the Person is aged, of a weak Constitution, or much reduced by the Loss of Appetite or Pain, the Powder must have a greater Proportion of the calcin'd Snails, then according to the foregoing Direction, and this Proportion may be increased suitable to the Nature of the Case, 'till there be equal Parts of the two Ingredients. The Quantity also of both Powder and Decoction may be lessened for the same Reasons: But as soon as the Person can bear it, he should
take

take them in the abovementioned Proportions and Quantities.

Instead of the Herbs and Roots above-mentioned, I have sometimes used others, as Mallows, Marsh-mallows, Yarrow red and white, Dandelion, Water-Cresses and Horse - Radish - Root; but don't know of any material Difference.

This is my Manner of giving the Powder and Decoction. As to the Pills; their chief Use is in Fits of the Gravel, attended with Pain in the Back and Vomiting, and in Suppression of Urine from a Stopage in the Ureters. In these Cases the Person is to take five Pills every Hour, Day and Night, when awake, till the Complaints be remov'd. They will also prevent the Formation of gravel Stones in Constitutions subject to breed them, if ten or fifteen be taken every Day.

June 16,
1739.

J. STEPHENS.

At a Meeting of the Trustees appointed by an Act of Parliament to examine Mrs. Stephens's Medicines, on Wednesday, March 5, 1739-40, in the Prince's Chamber adjoining to the House of Lords, four Persons appeared before them on whom these Medicines had been tried, viz.

1. Mr.

1. Mr. Gardiner of Fetter-lane, aged 61, who had the usual Symptoms of a Stone in the Bladder, with violent Pains for several Years. He was search'd by Mr. Nourse, Surgeon, Dec. 30, 1738, when both he, and Mr. Wall, Apothecary, felt a Stone in the Bladder. Mr. Gardiner took the Medicines about eight Months, voided many Pieces of Stone in that Time, was freed from all his Symptoms, and being searched again, first by Mr. Sharp, Sept. 14, 1739, and then on the 30th of November following by Mr. Nourse, Mr. Cheselden, M. Sainthill, and Mr. Belcher, Surgeons, at Child's Coffee-house in St. Paul's Church-yard, no Stone could be found.

2. Peter Appleton, of Black-Fryars, aged 67, who had the Symptoms of a Stone in the Bladder for more than seven Years, with excessive Pains for the five last Years of that Time. He was search'd, July 6, 1739, by Mr. Sharp, and found to have a Stone in the Bladder, which Stone was also felt by Dr. Pellet, Dr. Nesbit, Dr. Whitaker, and Dr. Hartley, and judg'd by all present to be a large one. He took the Medicines for about five Months, during which Time he voided a very large Quantity
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of Stone in Flakes and small Fragments. He grew quite free from all his Complaints, and was search'd again, first by Sharp, Nov. 9, and afterwards by thirteen Physicians and Surgeons, Nov. 30, at Child's Coffee-house in St. Paul's Church-yard, but no Stone was found.

3. Henry Norris, of Leather-Lane, aged 55, who had the Symptoms of a Stone in the Bladder for about a Year and half, Aug. 17, 1739, he was search'd at St. George's Hospital by several Physicians and Surgeons, who all felt the Stone. He took the Medicines about four Months, and voided only a thick Sediment in that Time, however, he was entirely freed from all his Symptoms; and being searched again, Dec. 14, at St. George's Hospital, by eight Physicians and Surgeons, no Stone could be found.

4. William Brightby, of Colchester, aged 79, who had the Symptoms of a Stone in the Bladder for more than three Years. He was search'd, Sept. 8, 1739, at Guy's Hospital, by Dr. Gardiner and Mr. Sharp, and found to have a Stone. He took the Medicines for about four Months, voided many Pieces of Stone during that Time, became free from all
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his Symptoms, and being search'd again at Guy's Hospital, Jan. 19, 1739-40, by Dr. Gardiner, Mr. Sharp, and Mr. Belcher, no Stone could be found.

After these Persons, and other Evidence had been produced, the following Certificate, being that which is requir'd by the Act of Parliament, was sign'd by all the Trustees that were present at this Meeting, except Dr. Pellet and Dr. Nesbit, who having some Doubts with Respect to the Words *Dissolving Power*, chose to give the separate Certificates hereunto annexed.

The Certificate required by the Act of Parliament.

March 5, 1730.

We whose Names are underwritten, being the major Part of the Trustees appointed by an Act of Parliament, intituled, *An Act for providing a Reward to Joanna Stephens, upon a proper Discovery to be made by her, for the Use of the Publick, of the Medicines prepared by her for the Cure of the Stone*, do certify, That the said Joanna Stephens did, with all convenient Speed after the passing of the said Act, make a Discovery to our Satisfaction, for the Use of the Publick.

Jo.

Jo. Cant.	Tho. Oxford.
Hardwicke C.	Stephen Poyntz.
Wilmington P.	Stephen Hales.
Godolphin C. P. S.	Jo. Gardiner.
Dorset.	Simon Burton.
Montagu.	Peter Shaw.
Pembroke.	D. Hartley.
Baltimore.	W. Cheselden.
Cornbury.	C. Hawkins.
M. Gloucester.	Samuel Sharp.

Dr. Pellet's Certificate.

I am satisfy'd from Experience, and do hereby certify, That the Medicines published by Mrs. Stephens for the Cure of the Stone in the Bladder, are often useful and efficacious in that Case. Witness my Hand.

March 5, 1739.

Tho. Pellet.

Dr. Nesbit's Certificate.

The Case of Appleton I take to be as strong a Proof of the Utility and Efficacy of Mrs. Stephens's Medicines within the Meaning and Intent of the Act for providing a Reward to Joanna Stephens, &c. as can be had from one Experiment during the Life of the Patient, because I am thoroughly satisfied that Appleton had a Stone in his Bladder before he took the Medicines, and I do now believe he has not one.

F I N I S.



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