

The excellent properties of BRANDY and SALT, as an efficacious medicine in several dangerous diseases incident to mankind. Published by WILLIAM LEE, Esq., of Leeds, for the benefit of the community.—With a Preface by a Clergyman of the Church of England. Liverpool: Lace and Addison, Standard Office, North Crescent. 1840.

PREFACE.

Mr. Lee's statements respecting the sanative properties of Brandy and Salt have already excited so general an interest, and the salutary effects of the medicine recommended therein have been so numerous and extraordinary, that in presenting these statements to the public in the form of a pamphlet, it appeared to me desirable to avail myself of the opportunity thus afforded of offering a few prefatory remarks, with a view to this singular remedy being more extensively adopted.

The human mind being fond of novelty in medicine as in almost everything else, medical men have done well in cautioning the public against what are popularly called quack medicines; because medical compositions are and have frequently been made by ignorant and designing men, which have often done incalculable injury to the human frame and constitution: but I am of opinion that this caution ought not to form a general rule without an exception. It ought not, I think, to be issued against a remedy the composition of which is perfectly simple and well known, and its adoption if not efficacious yet quite harmless. This remark applies to the medicine under notice, and should be allowed the benefit of it, even if this preparation of Brandy and Salt were a quack medicine; but I have been informed that it is no such thing, but is the invention of an eminent French physician, among whose papers, which Mr. Lee was permitted to inspect, the prescription was found, together with a history of the various cases in which it had been successfully applied. Mr. Lee being a gentleman of large and independent fortune, has been actuated by no sordid motive in recommending it to the public after he had acquired confidence in its virtues from a long course of experience. The writer of these prefatory remarks, though quite unable to compete with Mr. Lee in point of fortune, will not yield to him in the purity of the motive by which he is prompted in the present undertaking. I maintain the principle that the interest of the community is the interest of each individual composing it; and that if this principle were better understood, felt, and practiced, the amount of selfishness would daily decrease, and men would, in that golden, peculiarly happy, and elegant line of Goldsmith, more frequently

—learn the luxury of doing good!

One instance produced by Xenophon in testimony of the friendly disposition of Cyrus, the son of Darius and Parisatis, was the circumstance of his sending his friends portions of such viands as had peculiarly pleased his taste, accompanied by the observation that as he had been pleased with, he wished his friends also to taste them. Now, though I cannot pass any eulogium on the taste of Brandy fuddled with Salt, as a Yorkshire man would say, I have, in my own personal experience, found such benefit from taking it, and know of the happy effects it had produced in many others to whom I have had the pleasure of recommending it, that I am actuated on this occasion simply by the desire of communicating to others what has been, under Providence, so serviceable to myself; and I conceive that if I had refrained from so doing, I should have been deficient in the principle and feeling not only of a philanthropist but also a Christian.

Some medical gentlemen have, with all due deference, I think without proper consideration, cautioned their patients against the preparation in question, on the ground of its liability to produce inflammation; but it appears to me most surprising that it should be productive of internal inflammation, seeing that, when applied as an embrocation, it acts as a most powerful and steady sedative. These gentlemen hesitate not to prescribe brandy and water sweetened with sugar as a tonic to very weak patients; why, therefore, should they consider diluted brandy and salt so dangerous, the only alteration being the substitution of the salt instead of the sugar? If this preparation has an inflammatory tendency, let them prove that it has this effect; but I believe that they would not enter the lists with me in this contest. The diluted brandy and salt has over the diluted brandy and sugar, not only a medicinal, but a moral advantage; because a too great fondness may be engendered for the latter: while there need be no apprehension whatever that such a habit for the former will ever be contracted, notwithstanding the old proverb, that habit is second nature and the force of acquired tastes.

As I purpose taking a future opportunity, should my life be spared, of entering more fully into detail on the subject of this excellent medicine, I shall close these remarks by recommending to those who may be induced to take it, perseverance in its use, and a total discontinuance of that mode of living which has a tendency to foster the malady for the removal of which they have recourse to this preparation.

BRANDY AND SALT.

We copy the following letter on the efficacy of "Brandy and Salt" as a family remedy for all diseases, from a late number of the Leeds Intelligencer; the editor of which paper observes, that "Mr. Lee writes enthusiastically, but it is because his experience warrants him in assuming a confident tone."

ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN GENERAL, BUT PARTICULARLY TO THOSE PROFESSIONAL GENTLEMEN WHO HAVE THE CARE OF HOSPITALS, THE GOVERNORS OF COLONIES, AND RELIGIOUS MISSIONARIES.

Perhaps an humble individual like the one who writes this address will be thought pre-

sumptuous in laying it before the inhabitants of this great empire, but as he has no interest of his own to serve, and he has some years ago made a discovery which, though very simple, is very useful for the health of man, and therefore the most conducive to his happiness: among the discoveries in medicine, he believes it to be the greatest, perhaps it can truly be said to be the greatest that ever was made, of any description, and there are a great many by which money may be got, yet they are nothing without health, as that gives the true enjoyment of life. With a moderate use of this cheap and almost universal remedy, sickness, sores, and lameness of various descriptions are cured, as I have proved in innumerable instances, not only upon myself but upon my friends, neighbours, servants, and workmen, of which, if I were to give the detail, no periodical publication could insert it. It not only cures ordinary complaints, but it cures such as have long been considered incurable, without the use of the knife; it is of the greatest efficacy in the cure of cancers, of which it has already cured several; and the best of it is, that the cures are effected without pain; of course, a great many persons, in consequence of its universality, will be slow to use it; but I can assure all such that they have no occasion to have the least fear of any bad effects from it, as I can truly say that I believe it never did the least harm, and I do not write without experience. I can only account for its curing complaints which appear of an opposite character, by the supposition that all complaints, of whatever description, have their commencement and are continued by inflammation, against which it is the most powerful antidote which, I believe, is at present known. In the reduction of inflammation of fractured limbs, I believe this remedy would be of great advantage, and for incurable sores, in our hospitals, where there are great numbers of miserable beings who drag on existence through sleepless nights from one day to another, this remedy would be of great relief to them; though it might not cure the sore, it would so far relieve it (I write from facts not opinions) as to enable them to sleep at nights, and after a fortnight's application, enable them to leave the hospital and resume their work. I have not the least doubt but of those who have long been confined and under treatment for sores of this description, one half of the beds would be at liberty in a month; though this would be the result, I am afraid that medical gentlemen will be slow to adopt this remedy, as it is not ushered into the world in the name of some eminent man of great science; but they ought to recollect that many useful discoveries have been made by men of comparatively little learning, and science has contributed nothing to this discovery; it has all been done by the situation in which I was placed, which has enabled me to get to know many of its good properties, as it is generally used by my numerous servants and work people.

If this address falls into the hands of any person who wishes to do good to his fellow-men, and he from situation can spread the knowledge of it in those countries where inflammatory complaints are prevalent, such as the plague in Turkey, the black and yellow fever, in the West Indies, Sierra Leone, and other parts of Africa, the cholera in the East Indies, with all the bites and stings from noxious animals and reptiles, he will confer benefits which will be lasting on the countries in which they may be propagated, for it has only to be known and applied, and there is no danger of its ever being forgotten: and I beg of all such that they would have the goodness to cause the diffusion of the knowledge of it to be as free as this communication of its discovery.

DIFFICULTY TO INDUCE PERSONS TO USE THIS REMEDY.—Though I can attest from actual knowledge of facts which are stated in this paper, that it has cured all these complaints of which I have given the cases, yet there are a great many persons who think it impossible, and facts are nothing against such persons' opinions. In a neighbouring town there were three families, the children of which were afflicted with ringworms upon their heads, to whom it was recommended; two of the ladies used it, by washing the crowns of the heads of their children, and they were soon cured; indeed, the effects would be felt upon the first application; the other lady would not use it, and the children suffered for a long time after.

A lady of my acquaintance was attacked with a complaint, which at the commencement would have been easily cured, but when the use of it was urged upon her, said she would not be cured by this remedy, and as she is now dead she has not been cured by any other.

THOSE TO WHOM IT DOES NO GOOD.—There is a large class in society to whom it does no good—they are those who will not use it; but I have no doubt that they are daily diminishing in number, for after any one has applied it to any complaint, the benefits are so manifest, that it would be to suppose them not endowed with common sense not to apply it again in case of need; it only requires very little reflection to know how to apply it to any complaint, whether external or internal, and there is not the least fear of any bad effects from it. An experience of several years has convinced me that it has never yet done any harm, but its efficacy is much more certain when it is used clear.

INFLAMMATION.—I saw it stated in a newspaper that a professional gentleman had published a treatise to prove that complaints of all kinds are caused by inflammation; this coincides with my opinions and observations, and this being the case, it is not surprising that this remedy has cured almost every complaint to which it has been properly applied, or has greatly relieved them; but the universality of its efficacy has been thought by some a great objection to it. A lady to whom it was recommended said, "I have no faith in it, for you say that it cures so many complaints; if you said it only cured one, I could use it for that, but as you say there are so many, I will not use it for any." This may be wisdom, but as I have known

it cure the head, ear, and tooth-ache, inflammation in the eyes, ague, cholera, pains in the side, chilblains, burns, and scalds, cancers, and several others, and some of them scores of times, I should be wanting in my duty if I did not recommend it for them.

CANCERS.—It has been applied in six cases of cancer, five of which it has cured, and that without pain; even the first application did not give pain but relief; three of these were very severe, and had been of long continuance; the other two were at the commencement, and to the sixth it was applied but once, which brought on a great bleeding, which, I believe, was necessary, as he was much better after it; but it alarmed his friends: they called in his medical advisers (he being a wealthy man, he had the best the place could afford;) they were very much offended by its application, and said they would not come again if he continued to use it; he therefore promised he would not use it again, and I believe he kept his promise, as he died in less than twelve months after; and judging from the others, I have no doubt but he would have been cured if he had not been prevented from applying it. The other five were all poor, and are cured and living at present, or were a short time ago; the rich was not cured, and is dead: I wish this last had been otherwise, as he is said to have been a worthy man.

SPRAINS.—Many persons suffer from sprains for months, who might be cured by fomenting the part with this remedy, in a few days, and some of them a few hours. I have known several who have suffered for weeks, though under very able doctors, cured in a very short time with it.

OPEN SORES.—Soon after my return from England to La Ferté Imbault, in France, in July last, I was informed that one of my cottagers had not been working for two months, from illness. When I saw him, he said he had got bled the beginning of May, and that his arm had inflamed. On application to the doctor, he was told he must poultice his arm; he did so, but at the end of the first month it became a frightful sore. Upon application to his doctor, he said he must continue to poultice it; he did so, but his arm continued to get worse, and in consequence of want of sleep, he was reduced almost to a skeleton. I told him to send to the castle for some of the remedy, and throw his poultices into the fire, if he did not wish to lose his arm. He applied the remedy that afternoon, and I saw him two days after; he was totally changed in appearance, he said he had slept well both nights; and he was enabled to resume his work ten days after.

Another man, soon after, had the misfortune to have one of his hands severely bruised by a cart, and part of one of his fingers taken off. Such remedies were applied as were in general use in the country, and I did not see him for some time after this accident. When I first saw him, I thought mortification had begun. The first application caused great pain, which continued for half an hour, but further applications were not so painful; the hand got better each day, and he is now cured of that which would have cost him his life. The bone, to the joint of the finger, came away, and it is cured also.

One of my gamekeepers had the misfortune to have his face much burnt by the blowing up of a quantity of gunpowder; he could only see with one eye, and that very little. The remedy was applied in the first half hour after the accident, and though it gave pain in the commencement, he had the courage to continue it; the result was, that after five or six applications, it gave him no pain, and he was cured in fifteen or twenty days, and his sight, which had been weak for many years, is now better than it ever was.

CONSUMPTION.—The experience of last year has furnished a case which appears most surprising of all; it is that of a young man, the only son of his mother, and she a widow. He appeared in the beginning of last July to be on his death-bed; his complaint a consumption; he was only able to be removed to have his bed made; the application of the remedy appeared to be too late, however, it was made, and the manner and results were as follow:—First, the crown of his head was well washed with the remedy, after which, and immediately, he took two table spoonfuls diluted with hot water, and a piece of soft linen was steeped in the remedy, and when doubled into several thicknesses, was laid upon his breast, in order, if possible, to allay the dreadful cough which was very distressing, and came on in paroxysms, the phlegm hard and yellow. He was requested to take two table spoonfuls every morning before he broke his fast, diluted with hot water, which he did. I inquired every day if there was an alteration, but for six or eight days the answer was no, and I gave him up when he stated there was no alteration. He said that he coughed always, and the phlegm had become white and frothy, which continued the same for some weeks; but in about six days after the first change, he said that he had got such an appetite he could eat anything; he began then to gain strength and sat up, and went to visit his neighbours. Soon after a great pain began in his left side, with much inflammation, but on application of the linen steeped in the remedy, the pain was removed, and in a week it burst, when his cough ceased entirely, and though the discharge was great, he continued to gain a little strength,—his appetite good, and he continued to take the remedy as before. A clever medical man, who happened to be in the village about this time, said he would get better, which was the general opinion in the village, if he could pass the winter, which he did, and was living when I left La Ferté Imbault; but I am afraid that the abscess in his side will be too much for him, as it was then open, and the discharge was considerable before this was formed. I considered him cured, and I ceased to call upon him, but I have not the smallest doubt if he had begun to use the remedy in the early

stage of his complaint, that he would have been cured. Now I put it to the medical gentlemen who attend upon such cases, and the friends of such as are in consumptions, if it would not be well to follow such treatment?

ADDRESS TO THOSE GENTLEMEN WHO HAVE THE CARE OF HOSPITALS.

From the foregoing cases which have all occurred since my visit to Leeds last year, I think it is the duty of all gentlemen who have the care of hospitals, &c., to make use of this remedy, and I have no doubt if they condescend to use it, a great many may be cured, and the beds set at liberty, and instead of the patients being a dead weight upon the community, they will be able to get their livings and support their families, though they are now dragging on a life of misery; and those who are afflicted with sores which cannot be cured, may be so far relieved as to be able to get their livings also in comparative comfort, which may be exemplified by the cases of two men in the village near my house in France, who are afflicted with incurable sores upon their legs. Before they used this remedy, their lives were truly lives of misery, but now they have very little pain and they are able to work, and, in case of necessity, they can walk two miles to their work. The leg of one of these men is little more than the bone and sinews. The manner of applying it will easily occur to those gentlemen who are accustomed to such things. If one gentleman in each hospital would adopt it, I have no doubt but in a short time it would be the practice of all, the effects would then be so decisive and cheering,—it soon removes all stiffs and other impurities from the sores.

ADDRESS TO GOVERNORS OF COLONIES WHERE INFLAMMATORY AND INFECTIOUS DISORDERS ARE PREVALENT.

As I have a great desire that a knowledge of this remedy and its effects should penetrate into those regions where inflammatory complaints are prevalent, I have made and forwarded this address, in order that the benefits arising from it may be known; and to those who are residing in or bordering upon the Turkish Empire or Egypt, I beg of them to have it propagated, free from expense, in those countries, as I have not the least doubt that it would cure the plague and most other inflammatory complaints, if applied in its early stages. Not having seen the plague, I can give no certain rules for its use, but it is always best to begin with washing the crown of the head, and if the throat and mouth are sore, gargling the throat and washing the mouth, as well as filling the ears one after the other, and letting it remain for fifteen or twenty minutes in each ear. The patient ought to drink two table spoonfuls, diluted with hot water, every two or three hours, or even oftener, as the case may require, and also the part discoloured or inflamed should be fomented with it.

For those countries where inflammatory fevers and cholera are prevalent, the same method of treatment will do. Sore throats and inflammation of the brain are often the accompaniments of such disorders, and the administration of the remedy should be prompt and incessant in all possible ways, and if professional gentlemen are not at hand, no one ought to be afraid of administering it, as they may be sure it will do no harm.

ADDRESS TO MISSIONARIES.

Missionaries ought to get a knowledge of it. It is so very prompt in its operations in acute complaints, such as inflammation in the brain and bowels, that it might be used by them with the most happy results in more ways than one.

OMISSIONS IN FORMER PUBLICATIONS.

I neglected, when I first published an account of this remedy, to explain that it ought to be used perfectly clear; that after the component parts were put together they should be well shaken for several minutes, and after left to clear; but let them always remain in the same bottle. The clear part only should be applied, as the particles of salt cause pain and irritation; when clear it gives no pain except upon open sores, and that is only momentary.

METHOD OF MAKING THE REMEDY.

Fill a bottle three-quarters full with brandy, after which add as much salt as will fill the bottle for corking; shake it together for ten minutes; let the salt settle to the bottom, and be particularly careful to use it when clear—the clearer the better. Many persons have made a great mistake in shaking it up before it is used. The efficacy is not near so great, and to open sores the application is much more painful from the particles of salt which are not dissolved in the brandy, but the salt and the brandy should remain together, and when all the brandy is used off, more may be added to the salt, and shook for ten minutes. Though it is ready for use in twenty minutes after it is put together, it is good at any time after, and it is a perfect medicine, as it has the rare quality of being greatly efficacious for either external or internal application.

In conclusion, I beg to say to all, that this address is made for no other purpose than to do good. I should wish it not to do injury to any man, or any class of men, but as it is well calculated to be of great use to the mass of mankind, I hope that it will be considered in that light.

I am sincerely their servant,
WILLIAM LEE.

OLD STANZA.—The only stanza extant, of the old ballad of "The Beggar of Bethnal-green," from whose history Knowles has drawn the incidents of his play, is as follows. The ideas have been often copied, but the beauty of the original invariably lost:—

"Adowne his necke his reverend lockes
In comely curls did wave;
And on his aged temples grewe
The blossomes of the grave."