

ordered by brother Leonard when prior, for saving to the order the advowson of Blewbury ("pro salvatione advocacionis ecclesie de Blebury"). Prior Lardner died in 1329 and Phillip de Thame was Prior in 1338, Leonard de Tybertis was Prior between these two dates, and consequently the Hospitallers secured the advowson of Blewbury about the year 1335.

*(To be continued).*

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## **Eighteenth Century Remedies.**

*By Emily J. Climenson.*

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**A**MONG the great number of letters of the eighteenth century I possess either of my great-great aunt, Mrs. Montagu, or written to her, are many singular medical remedies. Great must have been the courage displayed to swallow some at all; and boundless the faith to attribute to them their healing powers!

For toothache, Mrs. Delany recommends: "Little trefoil leaves and yarrow pounded, and made into a little pellet put in the tooth, or tied up in muslin and held between the teeth."

Quicksilver was given to Deborah, Mrs. Montagu's maid, for worms. Hemlock was recommended for consumption.

Calves pluck water for want of appetite. Lady Medows, sister of Mr. Montagu, had cancer, from which she died; she was dosed with Vipers salts. Speedwell was considered a cure for rheumatism.

When Lord Bath (Pulteney) had a cold, to which he was often subject, he would eat a roast lemon, and Mrs. Montagu would prepare it for him. He also took lemon and wormwood, and Viper salts.

Oil of earth worms and opodeldoc was applied for lumps and swellings.

Saffron in tea was for heaviness of spirits or ennui, and was constantly taken by Mr. Robinson (Mrs. Montagu's father), when he was bored with living in the country, which he detested, and worried with his nine children.

When Mr. Brockman, of Beachborough, was in love with Elizabeth Robinson in 1742, and she rejected his suit, her father recommended the unfortunate lover to swallow asafoetida pills as a love cure.

When the celebrated Lord Godolphin's physician, the eccentric Dr. Monsey, imagined he had a polypus in his heart, he sat continually taking asafoetida pills for it. When Mrs. Montagu paid her first visit to Denton, her husband's place near Newcastle-on-Tyne, which in those days was looked upon as we should of a journey to the North Pole, Dr. Monsey writes her strings of advice as to her health. He says, "in high fever you may be blooded 5, 6, or 7 ounces, and if you flag, a blister will set matters to rights. I say nothing of vomits, you can't bear them, but you will gently purging, your lemon mixture and contrayerva with a little saffron, be cautious of hot medicines, but do not wholly throw them away, as to spasms and cramps they are such Proteuses, one does not know how to catch or hold them, Valerian and Castor are in such reputation for vanquishing those Hussars. Asafoetida you can't bear, I wish you could . . . if feverish three spoonfuls of a decoction of the bark by boiling one ounce and a half in a quart of water to a pint, and if your stomach flags put in from five to ten drops of Elixir of Vitriol, so arm'd a common cold will not have courage to attack you." Dr. Gregory and Dr. Cullen in a joint recipe for Mrs. Montagu written from Edinburgh, recommends powdered crabs eyes for her spasms ! Dr. Gregory's son was the inventor of that excellent but nauseous remedy, Gregory's powder.

Early in the 18th century, circ. 1742, Devil's drops were the fashion, but Mrs. Montagu's father warns her as a young girl that they are to be considered worthy of their name ; to them succeeded Ward's drops, and afterwards, as a sort of *vox populi* remedy, James' powders.

Dr. Collet recommends Mrs. Montagu to be bled, "a large orifice made and small quantity of blood taken, swallow milipedes ! and take riding exercise on a pillion" for liver trouble. A pleasanter remedy was that prescribed by two Northumberland doctors for Mr. Rogers of Denton Hall, when, his leg swelling, they feared dropsy and he was ordered two bottles of Hock daily !

Writing about wine reminds me that in the funeral expenses of Mrs. Rogers in 1734 one dozen of Sack wine cost £1 2s. 6d.

After the Duchess of Portland's confinement in 1739, Dr.

Sandys bled her for a feverish cold on the Monday and Thursday after her child was born !

In a letter from the Earl of Bath from Tunbridge Wells in the year 1762, he thanks Mrs. Montagu for the rosemary garters she had sent him for cramp, and pronounces them as successful. How they were made does not appear, but a friend of mine, who is an expert on the 18th century, and whom I consulted, tells me he was recommended to place rosemary under his mattress for cramp and it relieved it.

In 1738, the wet nurse to the Marquis of Titchfield, afterwards the third Duke of Portland, had had chicken-pox, Mrs. Robinson gives her daughter the following recipe for the Duchess : "For the wet nurse after the chicken-pox, that she may become new milch again, a handful of camomile flowers, a handful of penny-royal, boiled in white wine. and sweetened with treacle, to be taken at going to rest."

As to bleeding, cupping and blistering, endless mentions are made, it was indeed "the survival of the fittest" then !

When my husband's grandmother, who had brought him up, died in 1866, a huge four-poster bedstead with scarlet moreen curtains, valences and bedspread, came with other furniture to Shiplake. These scarlet-draped beds were thought to be beneficial in fevers, especially scarlet-fever, so that the patient should see red as well as being red himself to enable the rash to come out !

But I have rambled on enough, and too much I fear, but will end with Mr. Jekyll's witty epigram on doctors.

Dr. J. Letsom was a well known doctor in Mr. Jekyll's day, he wrote :—

"When folks are sick and send for me  
I purges, bleeds and sweats them,  
If after that they choose to die  
What's that to me ? J. Letsom."

and this :—

"A single doctor like a sculler plies,  
The patient lingers and by inches dies ;  
But two physicians like a pair of oars,  
Convey him quickly to the Stygian Shores."