

On Fistulae Hippocratesby Francis Adams

1are produced by contusions and tubercles, and they are also by rowing, on horseback, when blood accumulates in the near the anus. For, having become putrid, it spreads to the parts (the breach being of a humid nature, and the flesh in which spreads being soft), until the tubercle break and corrupt below the anus. When this happens, a fistula is formed, having an ichorous, and faeces pass by it, with flatus and much and abomination. is produced, then, by contusions when any of the parts about there are bruised by a blow, or a fall, or a wound, or by riding, or, or any such cause. For blood is collected, and it, becoming, suppurates; and the from the the same accidents happen, have been described in the case of tubercles.

2the first place, then, when you see any such tubercle formed, you cut it open while still unripe, before it suppurate and burst the rectum. But if a fistula be already formed when you undertake case, take a stalk of fresh garlic, and having laid the man on back, and separated his thighs on both sides, push down the stalk far as it will go, and thereby measure the depth of the fistula., having bruised the root of seseli to a very fine powder, and in some water, let it macerate for four days, and, mixing the with honey, let the patient drink it, fasting, to the amount three cyathi, and at the same time purge away the ascarides. Those are left without treatment die.

3the next place, having moistened the strip of cotton cloth, with juice of the great tithymallus, and sprinkling on it the flos, roasted and triturated, and having made it into a tent equal length to the fistula, and having passed a thread through the end the tent again through the stalk, and having placed the patient a reclining position, and having examined the ulcerated parts of rectum with a speculum, pass the stalk by it, and when it reaches rectum, take hold of it and draw it out until the tent be pushed, and be brought on a level above and below. When it (the tent?) been pushed inward, introduce a ball of horn into the rectum (the having been previously smeared with Cimolian chalk), and leave there, and when the patient wants to go to stool, let it be taken and again replaced, and let this practice be continued for five. On the sixth day let it be removed, and drawing the tent out the flesh, and afterwards pounding alum and filling the ball (pessary) introducing it into the rectum, leave it until the alum melts. the rectum with myrrh until the parts appear to be united.

4method of cure:- Taking a very slender thread of raw lint, uniting it into five folds of the length of a span, and wrapping round with a horse hair; then having made a director (specillum) tin, with an eye at its extremity, and having passed through it end of raw lint wrapped round as above described, introduce the into the fistula, and, at the same time, introduce the index of the left hand per anum; and when the director touches the, bring it out with the finger, bending the extremity of the end and the end of the threads in it, and the director is to be withdrawn, but the ends of the threads are to be knotted twice thrice, and the rest of the raw threads is to be twisted around fastened into a knot. Then the patient is to be told that he may attend to his matters. The rest of the treatment:- Whenever part of the thread gets loose owing to the fistula becoming putrid, is to be tightened and twisted every day; and should the raw thread before the fistula is eaten through, you must attach another piece raw thread to the hair, pass it through, and tie it, for it was this purpose that the hair was rolled round the raw lint, as it not liable to rot. When the fistula has sloughed through, a soft is to be cut into

very slender pieces and applied, and then flowers of copper, roasted, are to be frequently applied with director; and the sponge smeared with honey is to be introduced the index finger of the left hand, and pushed forward; and another of added, it is to be bound on in the same manner as in the operation hemorrhoids. Next day, having loosed the bandages, the fistula to be washed with hot water, and cleansed, as far as possible, the finger of the left hand by means of the sponge, and again flos aeris is to be applied. This is to be done for seven days, generally the coat of the fistula takes that time to fistula take time to slouch through. The same mode of bandaging is to be persevered afterwards, until the cure be completed. For in this way, the fistula forcibly expanded by the sponge will not fill up and heal unequally, it will all become whole together. During the treatment, the part be bathed with plenty of warm water, and the patient kept on spare diet. _____

_____5the fistula does not get eaten through, having first examined with a sound, cut down as far as it passes, and sprinkle with the aeris, and let it remain for five days. Then pour warm water it, and above lay flour mixed with water, and bind on it the of beet. When the flos aeris comes away, and the fistulous becomes clean, cure it as before described. But if the fistula in a part which does not admit of this treatment, and if it be, syringe it with the flowers of copper, and myrrh, and natron, with urine, and introduce a piece of lead into the orifice the fistula so that it may not close. Syringe the fistula by means a quill attached to a bladder, so that the injection may distend fistula. But it does not heal unless it be cut open. _____

_____6the anus gets inflamed, and there is pain, fever, a frequent desire going to stool without passing anything, and the anus appears to, owing to the inflammation, and if at times strangury come, this disease is formed, when phlegm, collected from the whole, is determined to the rectum. Warm things are beneficial in this; for these, when applied, can attenuate and dissolve the phlegm, dilute the acrid and salt particles, so that the heat subsides, the irritation in the rectum is removed. Wherefore it is to be thus: The patient is to be put into a hip-bath of hot water, sixty grains of the grana gnidia are to be pounded and infused a hemina of wine, with half a hemina of oil, and injected. This away phlegm and faeces. When the patient does not take the bath, boil eggs in dark-colored fragrant wine, and apply to the, and spread to the anus, and spread something warm below, either bladder filled with warm water, or linseed toasted and ground, and meal stirred up and mixed equally with dark, fragrant wine, and, and this applied very warm as a cataplasm; or, having mixed barley Egyptian alum pulverized, form into an oblong ball (suppository?) warming it gently at the fire, make it into a cataplasm, foment, it into shape with the fingers, and then making it quite tepid, it into the anus. The external parts are to be anointed cerate, and a cataplasm of boiled garlic, with dark wine diluted, to be applied. But if you remove these things, let him take the bath of hot water, and having mixed together the juice of srychnos, grease of a goose, swine's seam, chrysocolla, resin, and white, and then having melted in the same and mixed together, anoint these things, and while the inflammation lasts, use the cataplasm boiled garlic. And if by these means he be freed from the pain, is enough; but if not, give him the white meconium (Euphorbia peplus?), if not it, any other phlegmagogue medicine. While the inflammation, the diet should be light. _____

_____7strangury comes on in this way:-
The bladder being heated from rectum, phlegm is attracted by the heat, and by the phlegm

(inflammation?)strangury is occasioned. If, then, as is frequently the case,cease with the disease, well; but, not withstanding, if not, giveof the medicines for strangury. —————

—————8procidentia ani take place, having fomented the part with a soft, and anointed it with a snail, bind the man's hands together,suspend him for a short time, and the gut will return. But ifstill prolapse, and will not remain up, fasten a girdle round hisand attach a shawl behind, and having pushed up the anus, applyit a soft sponge, moistened with hot water in which the shavingslotus have been boiled; pour of this decoction upon the anus bythe sponge, then, bringing the shawl below between the legs,it at the navel. But if he wish to evacuate the bowels, letdo so upon a very narrow night-stool. Or, if the patient be a, let him be placed on the feet of a woman, with his back reclinedher knees, and when the bowels are evacuated, let the legs be extended.this way the anus will be the least disposed to fall out. Whenwatery and ichorous discharge flows from the rectum, wash it outburnt lees of wine, and water from myrtle, and having dried maiden-hair,and sift it, and apply as a cataplasm. But if there be a dischargeblood, having washed with the same, and pounded chalcitis, andshavings of cypress, or of juniper, or of stone-pine, or of turpentine,in equal proportions the apply as a cataplasm. Anoint the externalwith thick cerate. —————

—————9the gut protrudes and will not remain in its place, scrape theand most compact silphium (assafoetida?) into small piecesapply as a cataplasm, and apply a sternutatory medicine to theand provoke sneezing, and having moistened pomegranate rind withwater, and having powdered alum in white wine, pour it on the, then apply rags, bind the thighs together for three days, andthe patient fast, only he may drink sweet wine. If even thus mattersnot proceed properly, having mixed vermilion with honey, anoint. —————

—————10procidentia ani be attended with a discharge of blood, pare offrind of the root of wakerobin, then pound and mix flour with it,apply it warm as a cataplasm. Another: Having scraped off theof the most tender roots of the wild vine, which some call psilothrion,in a dark austere wine undiluted; then having pounded, applya tepid cataplasm; but mix also flour and stir it up with whiteand oil in a tepid state. Another:-Having pounded the seed of, pour on it a fragrant white wine, and then apply in a tepidas a cataplasm. —————

—————11if it be inflamed, having boiled in water the root of me ivy,powdered, and mixing the finest flour, and stirring it up withwine, apply as a cataplasm, and mix up some fat with these things.: -Take the root of the mandrake, especially the green (fresh), but otherwise the dried, and having cleaned the green root andit down, boil in diluted wine, and apply as a cataplasm; but themay be pounded and applied as a cataplasm in the manner. Another:-Havingthe inner part of a ripe cucumber to a soft state, apply ascaplasm. —————

—————12there be pain without inflammation, having roasted red natron,pounded it to a fine powder, and added alum and roasted salts,trituated, mix together in equal proportions; then havingit up with the best pitch and spread upon a rag, apply, and. Another:-Having pounded the green leaves of capers, put intobag and bind on the part; and when it appears to burn, take it awayapply it afterward; or, if you have not the leaves of capers,the rind of its roots, and having mixed it up with dark-colored, bind on the part in the same manner. This is a good applicationfor pains of the spleen. Of these

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poultices, those which are, stop the discharge; those which are emollient and heating,; and those which are attractive, dry up and attenuate. This is formed when bile and phlegm become seated in the parts. the anus is inflamed, it should be anointed with the ointment, ingredients of which are resin, oil, wax, plumbago, and suet, being all melted and applied quite hot as a cataplasm. END