

William Clowes, A right frutefull and approued treatise,
for the artificall cure of that malady called ... the
Evill (London, 1602). STC 5446

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A RIGHT
FRVTEFVLL
AND APPROVED

Treatise, for the Artificiall Cure of
that Malady called in Latin Struma, and
in English, the Evill, cured by Kinges and
Queenes of England.

Very necessary for all young Practizers
of Chyrurgery.

Written by William Clowes, one of her Maiesties
Chyrurgions, in the yeare of our Lord. 1602.

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Imprinted at London by Edward
Alde. 1602.

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The Epistle to the Reader.

When I considered with my selfe (curteous and
friendly Reader) the graue & wise saying of *Tully*:
that Honour maintaineth Artes, wherby men
are greatly addicted to study: So, as it is said, if
a man looke into the course of this world, and into
humaine affayres, yee shall finde that such Artes
as serue the peoples necessity, & haue their necessarie vse
in the common wealth, haue been greatly esteemed,
and the Professors thereof highly rewarded. Amongst
a number of which lawdable Artes & Sciences, let vs
make our consideration of Chirurgery, the maintainer
and restorer of our healthes: For it is a most true
receiued opinion amongst worthy writers, that Chirurgery
is (indeede) an ancient part of Phisicke, as it
appeareth by *Iaques Guillemeau* of Orleans ordinary
Chirurgian to the now French King: who auoucheth,
that before Phisick was inuented, created, or found
out, Chirurgery was practized, and sufficiently
knowne in al places: as it appeareth (saith he)
by the testimonie of *Homer*, in the second booke
of his *Ilyades*: who wrote the valiant enterprises,
and trauels of *Vlisses*, as did *Ti-*

tus Liuius, the worthy actes and monuments of the Ancient *Romaines*. Moreouer, it is said, that *Apollo* for his skill, and *Æsculapius* his sonne, were honoured (as Gods) of al the worthy *Grecians*; *Podalerius* and *Machaon* the two sonnes of *Æsculapius*, were had in great honour & reputation, at the siedge of *Troy*, vnder *Agamemnon*, Captaine of the *Grecians*. Moreouer, *Hippocrates* the paragon of all ages, was highly esteemed by the *Athenians*: *Erasistratus*, of Noble *Saleucus*: *Diocles*, of *Antigonus*: *Oribasius*, of *Iulian*: *Dioscorides*, of *Marcus Antonius*, and *Cleopatra*: who followed the warres ouer *Ægipt*, *Parthia*, *Armenia*, *Persia*, *India* and *Siria*: and all to augment and encrease their knowledge & skill. Last of all the said Worthyes, I heere nominate *Gallen*, who is called the light of all good learning: and hee also was greatly honoured of *Traian* the Emperour, and he followed the warres with

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him, ouer all *Asia* and *Europa*: I had heere likewise thought good to haue spoken somewhat of *Paracelsus*, but I must confesse his Doctrine hath a more pregnant sence, then my wit or reach is able to construe: onely this I can say by experience, that I haue practised certaine of his inuentions Chirurgicall, the which I haue found to be singular good, & worthy of great commendations. How be it, much strife I know there is betwen the *Galenistes* and the *Paracelsians*, as was in times past betweene *Ajax* and *Vlisses*, for *Achilles* Armour. Notwithstanding, for my part I will heere set vp my rest & contentation, how impertinent and vnseemely so euer it make shew: That is to say, if I finde (eyther by reason or experience) any thing that may be to the good of the Patients, and better increase of my knowledge & skill in the Arte of Chirurgery, be it eyther in *Galen* or *Paracelsus*; yea, *Turke*, *Iewe*, or any other Infidell: I will not refuse it, but be thankful to God for the same. How be it, I will in no wise meddle with their Infidelity, though I imbrace their knowledge and skill in humane verities and inuentions, be it eyther in Phisicke or Chirurgery, or any of the other laudable Sciences. Now I will discourse no further, vntill a more fit opportunity be offered: But very briefly I meane heere to demonstrate and deliuer vnto the friendly Reader, the cure of a certaine vnnaturall tumor or abscesse, called in Latin, *Struma*: of the *Arabians*, *Steophala*: but generally, in English, it is called, *the Kings or Queenes Euill*: A disease repugnant to nature: which grieuous malady is knowne to be miraculously cured & healed, by the sacred hands of the *Queenes* most Royall Maiesty, euen by Diuine inspiration and wonderfull worke and power of God, aboue mans skill, Arte and expectation: Through whose Princely Clemency, a mighty number of her Maiestyes most Loyall subiects, and also many strangers borne, are dayly cured and healed, which otherwise would most miserably haue perished. For many of them (their pouerty was such) were not able to pay but a very little or nothing at all for their cure. And so I heere conclude, that as God by his diuine giftes, doth cure this *Strumous* Malady: so also of his great goodnes, he doth giue Artificiall giftes, for the curing of the said Infirmitie. But whereas Artificiall giftes doe many times fayle thee, doe his deuine giftes take place & reuaile: as after more at large shall appeare.

William Clowes, one of her Maiesties
Chirurgions.

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AN

INTRODUCTION,

With an Apologie or answere to certaine malicious back-byters.

It is certainly affirmed, and confidently reputed and holden, of diuers worthy Phisitians and Chirurgians, both Ancient and such as haue florished of late yeeres, which haue intreated of the Cure of the before named dolorous Maladie: and they all by one vniforme consent and voice, conclude and agree, that it is a *Glandulus Tumour* or swelling, hard, knotty, and kyrnelly, hauing their beginning and growing, contrarie and besides nature, and is ingendred of grosse matter and Phlegme: And (as saith *Iacobus Ruffus*) they are most commonly included within their peculiar *Cistis*, filme or skinne, as is *Steatoma*, *Atheroma*, and *Meliceris*: which aforesaid skin is knowne to be engendred of a colde congealed, tough, glewish humour or substance of the Kirnels, whereof a skinne is made which compasseth them about: Howbeit I haue seene (and also it is a most experimented truth) that some kindes of these Phlegmaticall Abscessions,

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when they haue been besiedged as it were, or beset with vehement daungerous accidents, as heereafter shall be declared, which in continuance of time haue bin the cause they haue growne corrupted & vnmoouable, or fixed vnto the parts adioyning: whereby after there hath bin seperation made, there hath not bin found any bladder or skin at all, notwithstanding the great care & diligence that then was had.

This most miserable infirmity (saith *Paulus Ægineta*) doth scituate or seate it self in the fore part of the necke & vnder the Chin: also on the sides of the cheekes, & sometime spreadeth it selfe vpon the brest, & vnder the Armpits, & Groynes, & some be deeply lodged a far off in the

flesh, & also do oftentimes possesse the great Vaines and Arteryes called Carotides: And those that are thus vexed & subiect to this troublesome Infirmitie, are for the most part Phlegmatick persons, greatly giuen to ouermuch Idlenes & slouthfulnes of life, & are addicted to excessiue and inordinate eating of grosse & Flegmaticke meates: which manifolde Malady, I haue also found by experience, that the Cure thereof stretcheth it selfe beyond the bounds of other ordinary sicknesses & diseases. *Cornelius Celsus* likewise saith, that *Scrophula* is a *Tumour*, in the which are certaine kynrels ingendred of matter and bloud, and doe most chiefly grow in the fore part of the Necke, & in the Arme-pits, the Groyne, & in the sides, and hath bin found in Womens brestes.

Vigo a man (for his learning and experience in this Cure, & in many other great Infirmities) as it appeareth, was wonderfully graced with the good opinion and fauour of the time wherein hee liued, & since his death greatly honoured by dyuers learned Writers, and many other men famous in Phisicke and Chyrurgery: He also sayth, that *Scrophula* taketh the name of *Scropha*, which signifieth a Sow, that is a Glutto-

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nous and Phlegmaticke beast: and it groweth in them by reason of their ouermuch eating. There be othersome againe which say, that it is called *Scrophula*, eyther because that Soves which giue sucke be subiect to this disease, and that is by reason of their greedy eating: or else because the Sow that giueth Milke brings forth many young ones at once.

Now heere it is to be further noted, that *Vigo* doth not promise or warrant alwaies, and to euery one a certaine absolute Cure, but doth (as I, and many other also haue done) ascribe the praise and dignity thereof vnto Kings and Queenes of England, and of France: In deede I haue oftentimes read, and I haue also been credibly enformed by Master *Francis Rasis*, and Master *Peter Lowe*, two of the French Kinges Chyrurgians, that the French King doth also Cure many *Strumous* people, onely by laying on of his hand, and saying: *God make thee whole, the King toucheth thee; or, The King toucheth thee, the Lord make thee whole.*

It is further said, that this disease happeneth not alwayes vnto young children, which bee subiect to much crudity, & rawe humours by voracity: but likewise vnto middle aged persons, of a stronger constitution; and

also vnto very olde folkes. Many therefore imitating *Vigo* and other of our Sages, & graue learned Fore-fathers, doe affirme that these *Scrophulous Tumours* bee the lesse daungerous to be cured by the Arte of Chyrurgery, which is taken in the beginning of the sicknes, so far forth as it wil please Almighty God to giue a grace and blessing to our labours. But vndoubtedly, if it be of any long continuance, the Cure thereof may prooue very hard and difficult: yea, if it be in the bodies of yong persons: But in olde folkes I haue obserued very sildome, that they do receiue any curation perfectly,

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by the Arte of Chirurgery. I meane, that it is then aboue my learning and weake capacity to cure the same, if the disease bee confirmed, hauing certaine occult and hidden, hard, knotty, kyrnelly swellings, (being deeply lodged and placed in the flesh) but especially about *Trachea Arteria*, or the winde Pipe, or neer the *Nerui Recurrentes*, or amongst the great Veynes and *Arteries* before named: these (indeede) I holde to bee for the most part very daungerous to be attempted, for feare of violating or touching the said principall Vessels, eyther by incision or Caustick remedies, which often times bring with them many vnfortunate *Symptomes* or iniurious accidents, as heereafter more at large shall appeare.

Also, it is hard to cure a noysome, corrupt and malignant vlcerous *Struma*, which doth many times degenerate into incurable, Cancerous & rebellious *Phistulous Vlcers*: Likewise, I hold it for a certaine truth, that the Cure is not to be attempted by the Arte of Chirurgery, if a man haue it by inheritance, and so naturally borne from their Parents: These kindes of *Scropholus* abcessions doe rather presage a Diuine and holy curation, which is most admirable to the world, that I haue seene and knowne performed and done by the sacred and blessed hands of the Queenes most Royall Maiesty, whose happinesse and felicity the Lord long continue.

But sith the barrenesse of my learning, and wit is such, and that my memorie will not affoord mee, heere orderlie to set downe in fewe words, that which I doe conceiue and vnderstand, touching this my determined purpose, for the Cure of this haynous *Maladie*: which, in the Pilgrimage of my practize and contemplations, I haue most diligentlie obserued, not onely by mine owne selfe, with such portion of knowledge as the Lord

hath endued me withall: But also I haue been a diligent and a painfull obseruer of the labours and practises of others, being men of great knowledge and sound iudgement in the Arte: Wherefore to make heere manifest, the cause which hath pricked mee heere forward to leaue my other affaires, and so to drawe me from my ordinarie practises and studies, being more beneficiall for my maintenances, is not that I goe about heereby to impaire the credit or reputation of others, being more auncient Professors. It is (the Lord God knoweth) farre from my true meaning, they are those whome I loue, honour and reuerence: Neyther doe I heer ambitiously goe about with the sweet impression of fayre promises (greater then my abilitie is) to teach and instruct, or curiously to set downe, a better and perfecter way of curing this haynous Malady (then others more learned men before me) I may not well say so. Neuerthelesse, he hardlie may be accompted for a good Soldier, which hath learned no more then his Captaine hath taught him: or a barren sconce, that hath no inuentions in it: But I will confesse heere the onely cause, (why I haue enterprized, or taken vpon me to write of this forenamed Infirmitie) is I protest, a token of my loue and diligence towards all young Practisers of this noble Arte of Chirurgerie, (howsoeuer otherwise, a painfull and tedious trauel vnto me.) Notwithstanding, I could in no wise satisfie the expectation of certaine of my vnfaigned friends, but that I must make here a true & briefe rehearsall of my owne obseruations and knowledge, touching the cure of the foresaid Euill, which a long time I haue practised. How be it, being sorry to minister offence to any, by reason of publication heereof. Notwithstanding, I haue been crediblie enformed, and also it is vnto my selfe well knowne, there bee some whome I litle suspected, and lesse thought vpon, would

haue been so wilfully bent, without iust cause to giue occasion of offence, and did seeme as it were to repine and mislike of this my enterprise: and as it were, did partly reiect my knowledge and iudgement, concerning the Cure before named: and in the presence of certaine persons of good sort, brake out with ambitious curiosity, and said I was not capable of the Theoricke of this my Subiect, and so wanted knowledge

of my selfe to publish these matters, which I haue heere taken vpon mee in some measure to performe: and thus went about, not onely to discredit mee, but likewise to put me to vtter silence, as though I had spent all the daies of my life in the rude woodes or wilde Forrest of Ignorance. Which thing as it greeued me to heare, so in maner it forced mee to answere: Let these men sooth themselues (I say) neuer so much, they are knowne to be of no such deep learning nor exquisite Literature, as they would make the world beleue: Howbeit, if it please these enuious men to speake & iudge of me with equity & right: it is wel knowne to most men, that I haue studied & practised this worthy Arte of Chirurgery, sithence the 4. yeare of her Maiesties Raigne, *Anno Dom. 1563.* Where, first I serued in her Highnes wars at *New-hauen*, vnder the commaund of the Right Honorable *Ambrose Earle of Warwicke*, Knight of the Noble Order of the Garter, then Lieuetenant of the Army & Forces in those parts. After which seruice being ended & before, I was appointed Chirurgicalian, to serue in her Maiesties Nauy in her ships Royall, & also in other men of war: within a smal time after, I was imployed in the *Hospitalles* in *London*, and there practised the said Arte of Chirurgery for certaine yeeres, vntill I was sent for vnto the wars in the Low Countries, by the Noble Earle of *Leicester*: and further, commaunded by her Maiesty, with all speed to repaire vnto the said Earle,

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where I continued for the space of 9. Moneths: & since & before I haue had conference, & also often practised, with the best and skilfullest Chyrurgians, both English and Strangers, within the City of *London* and else where: and now as it were, partly ouer-worne with yeares and Seruices. Nothwithstanding, by her Maiesties fauour and good liking (whome the Almighty long preserue) now I am sworne & admitted one of her Highnes Chirurgicalians. And therefore in all reasonable likely-hood, I am not so barren or grosse witted, and vnlearned in the Arte, as some haue termed mee to bee. And yee shall further vnderstand, it was not long before, it pleased some of them to say, they had graced me with the good opinion they had of me: and moreouer stood in the gap of my defence against other such, which then were also sore troubled with the Fluxe of a fowle mouth, & vsed me at their pleasures for their common Tabletalk, with scoffing, fleering, and deriding aboue manners and modesty. The same being tolde mee, me

thought it was a strange alteration: howbeit, I did take their good speeches very kindly, and so would haue done still, if it had pleased them to continue in the same good opinion of me, or to haue bin silent. But it is truly said, *Hanibal* knew wel how to subdue the *Romanes*, yet he knew not how to entertaine his Victories. It is not enough for a man to haue begun a good worke, vnlesse he stil preseuer & continue in the same: Wherefore I wil heere abreuiate my speeches, wishing to God, that this my labor were so perfect, that I needed not to regard the curious examination & censure of any aduersary: neyther will I detaine you with many moe circumstances, but here acknowledge my own vnworthynes. And therefore I beseech thee friendly Reader, in a word to suffer mee with pacience to signifie vnto you, that I doe not heere peremptorily goe about to teach or instruct

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such persons which are already grounded in the principles and knowledge of this Arte: But my onely meaning is to direct my whole course, according (as I haue obserued) the best learned haue heeretofore done in all times and ages, that is vnto the *Iunior* or yonger Chyrurgions: who, as it were, haue made but an entrance into the practice of the said facultie, whose skill (peradventure) is as yet not so profound, that they are able to search or obtaine the knowledge out of strange tongues, so farre fourth that they cannot possibly in a short time come to the highest of that knowledge, which they hartely wish for. Indeede, it is (I suppose) vnpossible in the whole course of mans life, euen vnto that *Period*, which (of the Learned) is called *Mans Age*: that hee is able without great care, study and much diligence, to labour commendably, and with a good conscience to worke in the Vineyard of Chyrurgery: yet I know there be many young Students in the Arte, will be alwaies ready, and most willing to discharge their duties in such matters as they shall take vpon them to deale in, whether it be in this kind of cure, or otherwise. And also will be very carefull, not onely for conscience sake, but euen by a naturall desire, to seeke to increase their skill and necessary knowledge, and therefore it is truly said: the good intent of such honest and well meaning persons, requireth a fauourable acceptation, which is as well to be esteemed, as the performance of them that be best able. And these will bee ready to manifest the same by yeelding some fruite of their painfull labour and diligence: And now I wil leaue off discour-

sing, and begin to speake of my determind purpose, and to make the same more plainely knowne, which I haue heertofore kept secret vnto my selfe: howbeit, the greatest secret that is, may no longer be called a Secret, when the whole multitude is made acquainted with it.

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A most miraculous Cure, healed onely by the Queenes most excellent Maiesty, when neither Phisicke nor Chirurgery could take place or preuaile.

Amongst an infinite number (which I haue knowne dayly cured by her Highnes, of the foresaid euill) this cure following is worthy of great admiration: there came into my handes not many yeares past, a certayne Stranger, borne (as he said) in the Land of *Gulicke* neere vnto *Cleaueland*. This Stranger had been in Cure a long time before he came vnto me, with diuers skilfull Chirurgians, both English and Strangers, being then greatly molested and sore troubled with diuers pernicious *Cancerous Fistulous Vlcers* in certaine places of his body: likewise he had many knotty swellings or abscessions, gathered together vpon heapes in the fore part of his necke, neere vnto the Winde-pipe, and some in the hinder part of the necke: and also amongst the principall and notable vessels, *viz.* the great Sinewes, Vaines and Arteryes, and therefore could not without great perill and danger be safely taken away, eyther by Launce or Causticke remedies, by reason of their neere knitting together, & were also very vnfit, to be brought to suppuration. The cause was, they were for the most part ingendred of dull and slowe or tough

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slimie matter, for the which I craued now and then the

aduyce and counsaile of diuerse learned and expert Phisicians and Chirurgians, onely to preuent and auoide those pernicious daungers that oftentimes doe follow: Howbeit, (in conclusion) notwithstanding all our turmoiling, much care, industry and diligence, with the application of most excellent medicines (very remediable and appropriat for that cure) yet was his grieffe rather the worse then better. For looke what way soeuer we tooke with approoued medicines, some milde, some vehement, and some stronger (which by naturall reason and common sense, were very good and commendable) yea, and which brought oftentimes all his Vlcers to bee very neere whole: Yet vpon a sodaine (without any iust cause to vs knowne) his sores did putrifye and breake foorth againe, with much loathsome filthinesse, so that I feared his Vlcers would gangrenize, by reason of the concursion and vigour of the vnexpected accidents, so that his disease wearied vs all. In the end, after hee had been twelue or thirteene monethes in my cure, perceiuing we all mist of our expected hope and purpose for the curing of this Infirmitie: And likewise himself being ouertyred with extreame paines and grieffe, so that oftentimes hee bewailed his owne great misery and wretchednes: for which cause hee went his waies, and came no more vnto mee for any cure: but by the counsaile of some of his owne countrymen and friends, made meanes (vnknowne to me) vnto other of my fellowes the Queenes Maiesties Chirurgians, which are in place of preferment before mee. Who pitying his miserable estate, vpon a time (amongst many others) he was then presented vnto our most Sacred and renommed Prince the Queenes most excellent Maiesty, for the cure of the said Euill: which through the gift and power of Almightye God, by her

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Graces onely meanes laying of her blessed and happie handes vpon him, shee cured him safely within the space of sixe monthes. Heereby it appeareth it is a more diuine then humane worke, so afterwards vpon a time I did meete with him by chaunce in *London*, but I did not wel know him, his Colour & complexion was so greatly altered & amended: And being in very comely maner attired, otherwise then before I had seene him, and he tolde me who he was: Then I asked him how he did with his grieffe? he answered me, I thank God and the Queene of England, I am by her Maiesty perfectly cured and healed: and after her Grace had touch-

ed me, I neuer applyed any Medicine at all, but kept it cleane, with sweet and fresh cleane cloathes, and nowe and then washed the sore with white Wine: and thus all my griefes did consume and waste cleane away. And that I should credit him the more, he shewed mee the Angell of golde which her Maiesty did put about his neck, truely a cure (as I haue said) requireth diuine honour and reuerence: And heere I doe confidently affirme and steedfastly beleue, that (for the certaine cure of this most miserable Malady) when all Artes and Sciences doe faile, her Highnesse is the onely Daystarre, peerelesse and without comparison: for whose long life, much happines, peace and tranquillity, let vs all (according to our bounden dutyes) continually pray vnto the Almighty God, that he will blesse, keepe and defend her Sacred person, from the malice of all her knowne and vnknowne enemies, so that shee may for euer raigne ouer vs, (if it please the Lord God) euen vnto the ende of the world, still to cure and heale many thousands moe, then euer she hath yet done. Amen.

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An obseruation for the Cure
of Struma, performed by me vpon a woman
dwelling in the County of Essex. 1602.

Amongst others that I haue cured this present yeere *Anno 1602.* there repayed vnto me, a woman being about the age of thirtye yeeres, dwelling in the County of *Essex*, three miles from my now dwelling house at *Plasto*, in the parish of *Westham*, within the said County: which woman was a long time molested and troubled with certaine Carnosityes and hard *Strumous* swellinges vnder her Chinne, some mooueable and some vnmooueable: the which woman I did take in cure, for the said infirmity, and after speeches had, I perswaded her

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that shee would permit mee to take her *Strumous* swellings away by Incision, but it fell out shee shewed her selfe faint-hearted, and so vnwilling to suffer that acti-

on by Incision. Notwithstanding, she hauing an ardent desire and affection to bee cured by mee, was very willing to indure and abide the force and painfull working of the Causticke, which was performed as followeth.

The incredible operation of this simple Causticke now following is aboue beliefe, being indeed made but onely of the powder of new quick burnt Lime-stones, as they come out of the Kyll, and of Sope well mixed together, *An. q. s.* Heere some peradventure wil say, it is a great vanity in mee, to commend a remedie which is well knowne already, (it will doe that it is prescribed for) but I will leaue to answeere such obiections, and will proceede with matter of more importance, that is to wit: After I had well defended the partes about, then I applyed vpon these swellinges, the aforesaid Causticke, which she reasonable well endured, for the space of three houres: and then I remooued it, and in place thereof I applyed other medicaments, onely to mollifye and loose the Askers, which was made by the said Causticke, and also I gaue with her (of the same remedy) home to her house, to dresse her selfe with all: where shee remained for the space of fiue daies, in the end yee shall note, she returned againe to me, being very faint, pale and ill coloured, thereat I much maruailled, to see so sodaine an alteration: then I demaunded the reason of her, shee answered and said it was by reason of the bad sent and ill sauours of the Askers, and of the filthy corrupt matter, which did run from the foresaid Cauterized *Strumous* swellings, that greatly offended her stomacke, and by reason of the sensibilitie of the griued partes, which were sharpe, mordant and

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byting, and that was after the Askers were remooued: and further, she confessed in the end, that she was quick with childe, which troubled her greatly, all which causes being considered, I very much feared an vntimely birth, but I tolde her she was much too blame, that she did not acquaint me therewith, before I tooke her in cure. Howbeit, God did so open my knowledge and vnderstanding, that all thinges fell happily out, better then we looked for. So after, I appointed her to bee drest twice a day with conuenient remedies, and then by the vse of some metalline instruments, onely to apprehend and to pull out part of the foresaid *Strumous* swellings. So, according as I haue said before, those which are Masters and Professors, chosen to performe

the like operation, ought indeede to haue a Lyons heart, a Ladies hand, and a Haukes eye, for that it is a worke of no smal importance. Then by the applycation of these two noble compositions, being irreproouable and most iudicially penned, and of great truth and probability in this cure, that is *Vnguentum Apostolorum mesuæ*, & *Vnguentum Ægyptiacum*, with other worthy Agglutinatiues and drying medicaments, often times before named, and thus she was perfectly cured within the space of 10. weeks. Friendly Reader, the cause chiefly which hath mooued mee to publish this obseruation amongst the rest, is partly (as I haue before said) to render some fruites of my labours, studies and time spent, which as it may heere appeare, is no afternoone mans worke, as some rake-shames & belly Gods haue falsly and slaunderously so reported: but the troth is I haue carefully laboured heere, also to admonish eue-ry young practiser of Chirurgery, which is rightly called *filius Artis*, that hee in no wise attempt the like cure, vpon any woman with childe, without some sage aduise: for great was the troubles and daungers

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that was like to haue followed, but happily were they preuented through the helpe of Almighty God, &c. Now heere I will forbear any further to discourse heerein, but I will set downe certaine Prescriptions worthy of obseruing, which I haue gathered out of *Plinie*, (a most worthy writer) for the cure of the fore named Euill, the which I wil heere set downe word for word, as followeth.

The cure of the King or Queenes
Euill, after Plinius Secundus
description.

The bloud of a Weizell is good for the Wennes called the King or Queenes Euill, when they be exulcerate and doe run: so is the Weysell it selfe sod in Wine, and applyed. Prouided alwaies, that they run not by the occasion of any launcing or Incision, made by the Chirurgians hand: and it is commonly said, that to eat the flesh of a Weizell is as effectuall for the cure: so are the Ashes of a Weizell calcined vpon the fire made of Vinetwigs, if

they be incorporated with Hogs grease. *Item*, take a greene Lizard and binde it to the sore, but (after thirtie daies) you must doe so with another, and this wil heale them. Some make no more a doe, but in a little boxe of siluer, keepe the heart of a Weizell, and weare it about them. If a Woman or a Maide bee troubled with the Kings or Queenes Euill, it were good to make a Plaister or Linament of old shell Snailles, and

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let them be stamped shelles and all (especially such as be sticking to the rootes of shrubbes of bushes. The Ashes of a Serpent *Aspis* calcyned are likewise very good for this disease, if they be incorporated with Bulls Tallow, and so applyed. Some vse Snakes grease and Oyle together: also a Linament made of the ashes of Snakes burnt, tempered with Oyle and Waxe. Moreouer, it is thought that the middle part of a Snake (after the head and tayle bee both cut away) is very wholesome meate for those that haue the Kinges Euill: or to drinke the Ashes, being in the same manner prepared, burnt in a new Earthen pot neuer occupied. Marry, if the said Snakes chaunce to be killed betweene two Cart trackes where the wheele went, the Medicine will worke much more effectually. Some giue counsell to apply vnto the affected place Crickets digged out of the earth, with the mould and all that cometh vp: also to apply Pigeons dung, onely without any thing else, or at the most tempered with Barly meale, or Ote-meale in Vineger: likewise, to make a Linament of Mouldwarpes ashes, incorporate with Hony. Some there be that take the Liuer of a Moule crushed and bruised betweene their hands, working it to a Linament, and lay the same to the sore, and there let it dry vpon the place, and wash it not in three dayes. And they affirme that the foote of a Moulde is a singular good remedy for this disease: others catch some of them, and cut off their heads, stampe them with the mould that they haue wrought and cast vp aboue ground, and reduce them into certayne trochescs, which keepe in a boxe or potte of Tinne, and vse them by way of applycation, to all *Tumours* and *Impostumes*, which the Greekes call *Aposthemata*, and especiallie those that ryse in the Necke: but then they forbid the Patient to eate Porke, or any Swine,

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during the Cure. Moreouer, there is a kinde of earth-Beetles, called *Tauri* or bulles, which name they took of the little Hornets that they carry, for otherwise in colour they resemble Tickes, some terme them *Pediculos terrarum* or earth Lice: these worke also vnder the ground like Wantes, and cast vp mould which serueth in a Linament for the Kings Euill, and such like swellings: also for the Goute in the feete, but it must not be washed off in three dayes space. Howbeit, this is to be noted, that the medicine must be renewed euery yeere, for the same mould will continue no longer in vertue then one yeere: In some, there be attributed vnto Beetles, all those medicinall properties which I haue assigned vnto Crickets called *Grilli*. Moreouer, some there be, who vse (in maner and cases afore said) the mould which Antes doe cast vp. Others (for the Kinges Euill) take vp as many Maddes or Earth-wormes in number, as there be Wennes gathered and knotted together, and binde the same fast vnto them, letting them dry vpon the place, and they are perswaded that the same Wennes will dry and consume away together with them. There be againe, who doe get a Viper, about the rising of the Dog-starre, cutting off the head and tayle, (as I said before of the Snakes) and the middle part betweene they burne: the Ashes that come thereof, they giue afterwards to drinke for three weekes together, euery day as much as may be comprehended and taken vp at three fingers endes, and thus they cure the Kings Euill. Moreouer, there bee some which hang a Viper by a Linnen threed, fast tyed somewhat vnder the head, so long till shee be strangled and dead, and with that threed binde the Wennes or Kings Euill aforesaid, promising vnto the Patient assured remedye thereby. They vse also the Soves called *Multipedæ*, & incorporate the same with a fourth

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part in proportion of them, of true Turpentine: and they be of that opinion, that this Oyntement or Salue is sufficient to cure any Impostumes whatsoever. *Ætius* also sayth, if a man should eate a Viper, it is a most notable thing: whose authority others also haue followed in administring vnto *Strumous* persons *Trochiscos Viperinos*, or the Pilles of Vipers, with good & happy successe. Also it was said, it was the experience in times past of countrymen, that if any had eaten a Snake, hee should bee deliuered from *Struma*. Thus much touching *Pliny* his maner and order which hee

hath published, for the Curing the Kings or Queenes Euill.

The conclusion.

And thus (friendly Reader) it were a great argument of folly & shameles impudency in me, worthy to be laughed at, once to think that I could heer any way instruct the learned Phisitian or Chirurgian, in the Cure of the Kinges or Queenes Euill, before named. I am not so full of childish toyes: but if I were, I doe full well know they might by their prouident wisdomes and learning easily circumuent mee, though I doe confesse, I am not altogether insufficient to performe this enterprize I haue heere set downe and taken in hand. The onely cause why I haue done it, is (as I haue before said) for the benefit of all young Students of Chirurgery, who haue a long time expected the comming forth and the publishing of this Booke: whose honest zeale and affection towards me, hath induced mee the rather to set forth the same. But before I would attempt it without good aduise, I did first intreate diuers

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Phisitians and Chirurgians (men of a singuler perceiuerance, in perusing and examining the same) of whom I haue had a faourable acceptation: And this I did of purpose, least some might (otherwise) lay stumbling blocks in my way, onely to impeach these my painfull labors & trauels. And so I do make a final end, acknowledging as I did in the beginning, *That the gift of healing, is the gift of God*: howbeit, I doe not heere presume, or once take vpon me to enter into the high cure of the said Euill vsually called *Schrophula*, in such wise as God hath giuen diuine & peculiar giftes vnto Princes: but my full intent hath alwaies been onely to direct the true path-way of Artificial gifts (which God of his great goodness giueth to men of Arte) knowledge & skil in Phisick & Chirurgery, which is performed & done by the application of interiall & exteriorall medicamentes, appropriate & approoued profitable therfore. For it is a true saying: *God hath created medicines of the earth, for the reliefe & comfort of man*; and it is said: *He that is wise wil not refuse it*. And thus last of all, I thought it not impertinent, heere to diuert & digresse from the matter, & wholly attribute all diuine honor & reuerence, for the great cure of the fore-

named Euill, (by Gods gracious good gifts) vnto our most prouident, wise & vertuous Princesse, the Queenes most Royall Maiesty: For whom let vs all pray, that the Lord God Almighty & eternal Sauour wil send her Highnes still long and long to raigne ouer vs, to our great ioy, happines & comfort, so that she may liue long, and many happy yeeres & daies, to hold vp the Scepter of this Kingdome, in Christ Iesus. Amen.

The Lord of Hoastes, preserue these coastes,
Our gracious Queene defend:
And graunt her peace may still increase,
Vntill this world shall end.

FINIS.

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Friendly Reader, I hope you shal not think your time & trauel mispent, if you will be pleased to vouchsafe, with diligent regard, the carefull reading of this small Treatise: wherein it may so fall out, that some blemishes or ouer-slips hath passed, notwithstanding, all the watchfull eyes and great paines and care hath been taken to the contrarie. For the which, if any such faultes happen to bee, then I desire thee (curteous and friendly Reader) to censure it with fauour, & eyther with your pen amend what is amisse; or otherwise, returne me a friendly admonition, which at the next impression shall willingly be amended, sith at this time the number is not many, which I haue caused to be Printed. Then as for the enuious, idle & ignorant Momus, (of whome I know I shall be priuily pinched) of such bad persons I refuse and disdaine to be censured, and iudged by: And thus I leaue thee (friendly Reader) in the Lord Iesus.

From my now dwelling house at Plasto in the Parish of Westham, in the County of Essex.

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This Booke was examined, seene & allowed to be Printed, according to order appointed: And are now to bee solde at Master Laybournes, a Barber Chirurgian dwelling vpon Saint Mary Hill, neere Billings-gate.

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Philemon Holland (transl.), The historie of the world.
Commonly called, the naturall historie of C. Plinius Secundus,
2 vols. (London, 1601). STC 20029

2:378

The bloud of a weazill is good for the wens called the Kings evill, when they be exulcerat and doe run: so is the weazill it selfe sodden in wine and applied; provided alwaies, that they run

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not by occasion of any launcing or incision made by the Chirurgians hand. And it is commonly said, that to eat the flesh of a Weazill, is as effectually for the cure. So are the ashes of a Weazill calcined upon a fire made of Vine-twigs, if they bee incorporat with Hogs grease. *Item*, Take a greene Lizard and bind it to the sore; but after thirtie daies you must doe so with another, & this will heale them. Some make no more ado but in a little box of silver keepe the heart of a Weazill and wear it about them. If women or maids be troubled with the kings evill, it were good to make choise of old shell-snailles, and to stampe them shells and all into a plastre or liniment: but especially such as be found sticking to the roots of shrubs and bushes. The ashes of the serpent *Aspis* calcined, are likewise very good for this disease, if they be incorporat with Buls tallow and so applied. Some use snakes grease and oile together: also a liniment made with the ashes of snakes burnt, tempered either with oile or wax. Moreover, it is thought that the middle part of a snake, after the head and taile both be cut away, is very holsome meat for those who have the kings evill: or to drinke their ashes, beeing in the same manner prepared and burnt in a new earthen pot never occupied, marie if the said snakes chaunced to bee killed betweene two cart-tracts, where the wheelles went, the medicine will worke much more effectually. Some give counsell to applie unto the affected place Crickets digged out of the earth, with the mould and all that commeth up: Also to applie Pigeons dung onely without any thing else, or at the most to temper it with Barley meale or Oatmeale in vinegre. Likewise to make a liniment of a Moldwarpes ashes incorporat with honey. Some there be who take the liver of a Moule, crush and bruise it betweene their hands, working it into a liniment, and lay the same to the sore, and there let it drie upon the place and wash it not off in three daies. And they affirme, That the right foot of a Moule is a singular remedie for this disease. Others catch some of them, cut off their heads, stampe them with the mould that they have wrought and cast up above ground, & reduce them into certain trochisks, which they keepe in a box or pot of tinne, and use them by way of application to all tumors and impostumes which the Greekes call *Apostemata*, and especially those that rise in the necke: but then they forbid the patient to eat porke or any swines flesh during the cure. Moreover, there is a kind of earth-Beetles called *Tauri*, *i.* Buls: which name they tooke of the little hornes that they carie; for otherwise (in colour) they resemble tickes; some tearme them *Pedunculos terræum*, earth-lice: These also worke under the ground like wants, and cast up mould, which serveth in a liniment for the Kings evill, and such like swelling, as also for the gout in the feet, but it must not be washed off in three daies space. Howbeit, this is to be noted, that this medicine must be renewed every yeare, for the said mould will continue no longer in vertue than one yeare. In sum, there be attributed unto these Beetles, all those medicinable properties which I have assigned unto the crickets called *Grylli*. Moreover, some there be who use in manner & cases aforesaid, the mould which Ants doe cast up. Others for the Kings evill take just as many mads or earthworms in number as there bee wens gathered and knotted together, and bind the same fast unto them, letting them to drie upon the place: and they are persuaded that the said wens will drie away & consume together with them. There be againe who get a Viper about the rising of the dog star, cut off the head and taile, as I said before of snakes, and the middle part betweene they burne: the ashes that come thereof, they give afterwards to be drunke for three weekes together, every day as much as may be comprehended and taken up at three fingers ends: and thus they cure and heale the kings evill. Moreover, there bee some that hang a Viper by a linnen thread fast tied somewhat under the head, so long untill she be strangled and dead, and with that thread bind the foresaid wens or Kings evill, promising unto their patients assured remedie by this meanes. They use also the Soves called *Multipedæ*, and incorporat the same with a fourth part in proportion to them, of true Terpentine: and they be of opinion, That this ointment or salve is sufficient to cure any impostumes whatsoever.