

SPA MEDICINE

Patients, Practitioners and Treatments in Stuart and Georgian Bath

An anthology compiled by Trevor Fawcett

For George Tyndale Esq^r
℞ Vin Ipericacanth. ℥j
Oxygal Scillit ℥ss
Spiriit Lavend comp. ℥ss
f. Haustus quem catiā
cum s. q. Infus. Flor. Chamomel
℞ Tinctur Vitri Antimon ℥j
Sach Ammoniac ℥ss
Symp. e Roso ℥ij
In Maffara cujus capsula
cochlearis parvula in Aq. Bristolicas
tripl. ℥ss. horā ante prandium
Prestet in usū Ventri
A. Oliva prescripserit
Maij 12. 1756. ————— N. O.

Prescription written by Dr William Oliver for George Tyndale, 12 May 1756
(Bath Central Library, William Oliver prescriptions, A.L. 732, 737-44)

INTRODUCTION

THE HOT WATERS

What most recommended Bath as a place of healing was of course the promise of the mysterious, subterranean hot waters that gushed out copiously at several springs on the site and fed the three principal baths. Bathing in ordinary water of a comfortable temperature would have soothed certain physical conditions anyway, but common belief endowed the Bath waters with quite unusual extra healing qualities, making them a natural medicine for a huge range of complaints from paralysis, chronic rheumatism, skeletal deformities and gout to digestive disorders, skin disease and infertility. Categorised as hot and ‘dry’ (i.e. inducing thirst), they suited cool, moist, ‘phlegmatic’ illnesses best, and by the same token were inappropriate for conditions such as lung complaints and fevers. Theories of disease were currently in flux, as the long-held belief that chronic illness resulted from imbalances in the four cardinal humours (blood, phlegm, yellow and black bile) contended with newer doctrines about the chemical and mechanical nature of human physiology. Medical opinion agreed, nevertheless, that illness resulted when the free movement of bodily fluids became impeded by blockages in the ducts, vessels and internal organs that carried them and by impurities in the fluids themselves. The great aim of hot water treatments was therefore to help remove these blockages and expel impurities through sweating, urine, and evacuations – frequently with the additional aid of drugs taken before or during the water cure. It ideally required an extended course of treatment of many weeks or months. Actual immersion in the baths (or the alternative of dry pumping, when a particular part of the body was doused in hot water) was not the sole form of hydrotherapy. The waters might equally well be taken internally by drinking them straight from the pump or, if that proved impractical, in bottled form away from the springs.

Therapeutic drinking was little practised at Bath until after the Restoration of 1660, the start of our period. During the Elizabethan and early Stuart promotion of the spa, people mainly came to bathe. Only when new drinking pumps finally ensured a safe supply, uncontaminated by water from the baths, did water drinking take off at Bath, as it long had at Tunbridge Wells, Epsom and Harrogate, and abroad at Spa and Bourbon. By 1673 Bath was already sending bottled water to London and other places. Yet the impoverished Corporation remained slow to improve drinking facilities. It took the royal visits of 1702-3 to stir the city into action by erecting the first Pump Room, opened in 1706. At that stage drinking was being prescribed more commonly than bathing, and sometimes in quite large doses of six pints or more a day. Later on barely half that amount would be thought sufficient. Bathing proper may have declined for a time before returning to favour. One visiting doctor, John Quinton, noted in 1734 that he had ‘liv’d to see the ancient Custom of Bathing reviv’d, and more than double the Number of Persons who have Bath’d in this, than any preceding years...’.

None of the baths was really convenient, however, and all of them were unroofed and open to the elements – less than ideal when the main visiting season, formerly confined to the summer, evolved into autumn and spring seasons instead and eventually embraced the winter months as well. Moreover, the King’s and adjoining Queen’s Baths were all too public, overlooked by private lodging houses and from 1706 by the Pump Room itself. The Cross Bath served for some decades as the preferred bathing place for gentry, but like the nearby Hot Bath was quite small and short on amenities. From 1742 the Hot Bath had a further role as the resort of patients undergoing treatment at the Bath General Hospital. Both these baths were much rebuilt in the later eighteenth century, but various tinkering at the King’s and Queen’s Baths throughout the period brought only modest

improvement to the bathing arrangements. In due course two private baths increased the choice – the Kingston Baths from 1766 and the New Private Baths in 1789. The Corporation owned all the other bathing establishments and appointed the varied staff of sergeants (i.e. the two supervisors), bath guides and cloth women, as well as deriving considerable revenue from leasing out the mineral waters to a long succession of ‘pumpers’. The Pump Room itself – slightly improved in 1733, extended in 1751, and then magnificently rebuilt in the early 1790s – was a further civic responsibility.

That the waters were medically beneficial remained an article of faith to practitioners and patients alike, though exactly how they operated was guesswork, and what, besides heat, were their vital constituents aroused anxious debate. Sulphur was assumed to be a key ingredient from an early date thanks to its association with subterranean fire, its prestige in alchemy, its undoubted presence at certain other spas, and the apparent yellow-staining effect on items immersed in the baths. This notion was supposedly ‘exploded’ in 1674 when Dr John Mayow found no trace of sulphur, yet sulphur soon returned to favour alongside the idea that bitumen, nitre, or a ‘salino-sulphureous’ ingredient also played an active part, together with a volatile gas that escaped as the waters cooled. Writing in 1704 the elder Dr William Oliver spoke of ‘a *Chaos of Salts*’ plus ‘an exalted *Vitriolick Steel*’ that gave the waters their chalybeate quality. The influential Dr George Cheyne pictured the waters washing into the bloodstream where the contained sulphur and steel acted like a detergent, cleansing even the minutest vessels and bracing the bodily fibres. Imbibing the hot mineral waters at the fountainhead before they had gone flat was, for some observers, essential to their effectiveness, drinking them at a distance being ‘a splendid fallacy’ – a view naturally rejected by all those trading, either by civic authority or clandestinely, in bottled spa water, including the proprietors of several cold water medicinal springs near Bath, at Lyncombe, Rode and Middlehill.

The sulphur theory came under renewed attack in the 1750s when Charles Lucas, an Irish medic, analysed the waters afresh and detected no such component. His analysis again threw into question the very nature of the magic fluid on which Bath’s whole spa economy ultimately depended, not to speak of the reputation of the local medical establishment. A campaign to nullify Lucas’s finding was needed at once, and it took the form of a semantic sleight of hand. Dr Rice Charleton provided the main counter claim in 1754. The term ‘sulphur’, he wrote, should not be taken to mean the yellowish element known also as ‘brimstone’ that burned with a blue flame, but rather ‘in a much more extensive Sense, so as to comprehend all *unctuous Bodies* in general.’ Since Bath waters contained unctuous substances they merited being called sulphureous. And so the issue was glossed over, though henceforth there would be a greater tendency to see dissolved iron or ‘steel’ (i.e. a ‘chalybeate impregnation’) as the most active healing principle. This was Dr George Smith Gibbes’s contention still in 1803 for example. Alternatively one could point to Dr William Falconer’s claimed discovery that the waters contained carbon dioxide and that this was significant. The important thing was to maintain their mystique against the argument that the benefits of drinking were relatively minor compared with the effects of all the herbal and chemical medicines that were urged on patients, or indeed of the healthier lifestyle many of them adopted while at the spa, lighter diet, gentle exercise, and early nights, besides the change of scene. On the other hand the advantages of bathing in the waters, in contrast to drinking them, could more easily be shown – as in the statistics of full and partial cures achieved at the General Hospital - especially in cases of palsy, joint and muscular problems, and skin disease. More arguable was whether the simple heat of the baths produced the improvement or the much-contested extra ingredients?

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

If the first sites of organised medical practice were the hot baths, they were joined over the years by a variety of more specific institutions, starting with the Bath General Hospital (opened 1742) or, in a

lesser way, much earlier still (c.1609) with Bellot's Hospital, a short-stay house with medical supervision for twelve poor patients at a time. Like Bellot's, the Hospital admitted only officially nominated applicants from outside Bath. It was in effect an institutional means of controlling the numbers of the sick and lame poor who might otherwise resort to the spa claiming their natural right to the bounty of the hot springs, because any unauthorised arrivals could now be categorised as vagrants and summarily removed. Partly on these grounds the Corporation sanctioned the Hospital through an Act of Parliament in 1739 but took no civic role in its building, financing and administration which came instead under an independent charitable body of trustees. Dependent on public philanthropy, the institution stressed its rigorous standards, financial integrity, and medical usefulness from the very start. It was headed by an elitist panel of governors, advertised its presence nationally, issued annual reports, carried out weekly inspections, and appointed a team of honorary physicians and surgeons who, limited solely by the current state of Hospital finances, ruled on admissions, courses of treatment, and discharge of patients. Would-be patients were not put forward for admission by hospital donors and subscribers as was common elsewhere, but were sponsored by their own parishes and given money to cover their subsequent return after treatment. Around two-thirds of admissions came from the West Country. Published statistics claiming a high proportion of full cures or at least relief of symptoms kept up the Hospital's reputation and pointed to the value of systematic clinical observation of cases under its care, certainly as compared with the more haphazard records of other medics practising locally. With its carefully honed image the Hospital added undoubted lustre to the spa, but the irony was it offered nothing to the sick and disabled living at Bath itself, nor did it treat cases of acute illness. Here the gap was gradually filled by other medical charities.

In January 1747, more than four years after the Hospital, the Pauper Charity began its work. This was a scheme to provide the poor of the Bath neighbourhood with health advice and medicines. Modest at the start and reliant on voluntary subscriptions, the Pauper Charity was helping over a thousand patients annually by the 1750s, including migrant workers resident in Bath who had no recourse to poor relief. In 1764 it attempted to extend its remit beyond dispensing free medicines by opening a four-bed facility for surgical cases, but seems not to have raised the sum required. Eight years later, however, its funding was improved when it was allowed the proceeds of church collections similar to those organised to benefit the Hospital. The Pauper Charity continued to offer home visits by a physician or surgeon - as best it could with an often migratory clientele - and maintained a dispensary in Wood Street, before taking the radical step in 1792 of transforming itself into the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary at a new location on Lower Borough Walls. This housed several wards for patients suffering from acute infections, a room for out-patients, and a medicine shop served by a resident apothecary. The physicians attended daily, and a night nurse was hired as necessary. Praised at the time for at last removing the 'stigma' of Bath's failure to provide for its own poor, it was funded and governed by a body of mainly local subscribers who had the privilege of recommending their servants and others for treatment there.

Before this significant change of function the Pauper Charity had approached another organisation, the Bath Casualty Hospital, with a view to a merger, but had been turned down by the latter's small body of trustees who probably thought the two institutions incompatible. The Casualty Hospital had been established in January 1789 at a property on Kingsmead Street particularly to handle surgical cases. Although it began as an initiative of Walcot parish out of concern for accident victims among the many labourers working on local construction sites, in effect it covered all Bath and took in casualties of every kind, including victims of near drowning. It kept a dozen or so beds in the care of a regular surgeon and physician. Rather than admitting patients on the strength of subscribers' tickets, as the Infirmary did, the Casualty Hospital accepted any case of emergency, even when the chance of saving life seemed small. The need for such an institution was evident from the statistics of its first four years of operation when it treated over a hundred in-patients and six hundred out-patients. Eventually too small to cope with demand, and despite the objections of its long-serving surgeon James Norman, it merged in 1823 with the Infirmary to form a joint institution, the Bath United Hospital, forerunner of the Royal United Hospital of today.

Although the General Hospital, the Pauper Charity, its successor the Infirmary, and the Casualty Hospital were the most prominent, a number of other medical organisations arose to meet special needs. The Lying-in Charity of 1765 and the Puerperal Charity of 1792 assisted poor married women with the midwifery care, medicines, food, and warm accommodation they could not afford around childbirth, while the reform-minded Lock Hospital founded in 1816 catered to women afflicted by venereal disease. In 1811 the Bath Eye Infirmary opened, initially located at the end of Bath Street and offering under its expert practitioner, John Smith Soden, a more professional service than had ever been possible from oculists of questionable skill who had hitherto sporadically visited the spa. With smallpox still a persistent scourge, two Bath medics, William Street and David Kinneir, launched a (short-lived) inoculation centre for fee-paying customers at Lyncombe Spa in 1767, while the Somerset Jennerian Society held free vaccination sessions for the poor in 1806 at the Bath Infirmary and Dispensary following the serious outbreak of smallpox the previous year. Institutional medical provision in Georgian Bath also extended to the parish poorhouses who paid an apothecary-surgeon to attend surgical and midwifery cases at the poorhouse itself and in the parish generally, and to supply medicines as required. Nonconformist societies also assisted the sick poor after 1800.

PRACTITIONERS

Say, florid *Florifer*, if you can tell:
How many Patients you've dispatch'd to Hell?
Say *Harrington* of not inferior skill!
How many Church-yards thy Prescriptions fill?
Procus has laid his thousands on the Floor;
And modest *Bostick* his ten thousand more.
Big blust'ring *Cheyné*, not the last in fame,
Tho' the Muse lead up in the rear his Name,
Has sent such Colonies to *Pluto's* land;
The God was forc'd to beg he'd stop his hand.

It was easy to mock their shortcomings, as witness these few lines from 1737, but Bath's physicians probably had no worse a record than their colleagues elsewhere, given that some of their patients came to Bath only as a last resort when all other remedies had failed. The state of medical knowledge was still rudimentary - a mélange of theoretical principles often harking back to ancient Greece, many procedures governed by trial and error, and, by the mid-eighteenth century, a more 'scientific' approach based on systematic observation and the introduction of new drugs. Every Bath practitioner of course paid due tribute to the natural healing qualities of the hot springs; and there was some recognition of the importance of healthy lifestyle (including diet, fresh air and exercise), but little understanding of human physiological systems and no suspicion of the bacterial and viral nature of much disease. Opiates such as laudanum were widely prescribed, though the lack of reliable, fully effective anaesthetics limited the possibilities of surgical intervention.

Like society as a whole, the medical professional was hierarchical in character. Physicians ranked first, yet even here distinctions were made between 'regulars' with their Oxbridge education and 'irregulars' who had acquired their medical degrees at Edinburgh, Leyden, or other medical schools. Regulars might emerge from a university training with scant practical experience, and had much to learn on the job from older colleagues and from their humbler associates - the surgeons, apothecaries, midwives and nurses with whom they often worked in what the novelist Smollett called 'knots', i.e. informal (but mutually profitable) groupings. The physicians earned their way mainly by fee-paying home visits to private patients, though the rise of medical institutions like the Bath General Hospital

gave some of the leading lights an opportunity to win more public and social kudos by election to honorary hospital posts alongside their private practice. Drawn to the Bath honey-pot, more physicians took up residence there than were needed and not all thrived amid the competition. In the decades around 1700, the three or four who practised at the still modest spa might actually reside there for only part of the year, or, if they had settled, needed to depend on a 'riding' practice serving the surrounding countryside. As Bath increased, so did its doctoring capacity. By 1773 a city guide listed as many as seventeen local physicians and by 1800 there were twenty-two, matched in each case by an even greater number of surgeon-apothecaries. No wonder they all guarded their positions jealously and inveighed against any rivals they could stigmatise as visiting quacks.

Like the physicians, the surgeons and apothecaries had their own professional licensing bodies, but *their* training was largely through the apprenticeship system. Thus at Bath whole lineages of apothecaries linked back via apprenticeship to master apothecaries of the earlier eighteenth century such as Francis Bave and John Moore. What the surgeons and apothecaries may have lacked in medical theory they more than made up in practical, hands-on knowledge, which in the case of surgeons was in part acquired through post-mortem dissections. Although surgeons might occasionally undertake major operations (amputations, lithotomy, etc), most of their work lay in dressing wounds, setting bones, applying blisters and poultices, bloodletting, cupping, administering enemas, and treating venereal disease. Some had a sideline in midwifery, and a number gained prestige through posts in the new medical institutions – a well-known painting by William Hoare depicts a physician, the younger William Oliver, and a surgeon, Jeremy Peirce, seemingly consulting on equal terms as they examine patients for the General Hospital.

Their association with trade somewhat depressed the status of apothecaries who generally kept retail shops where they compounded and sold medicines listed in the *London Pharmacopeia*, and in addition stocked nationally advertised, packaged nostrums and other goods. On the other hand, a crucial court case of 1704 finally settled the right of apothecaries to attend patients, diagnose, and prescribe as long as they did not charge for visits but solely for medicines. Being cheaper than physicians, they were often a patient's first recourse, a physician being called in only if the case became complicated or risked a fatal outcome. Gradually they turned into something akin to general practitioners, prescribing on their own account as well as supplying medicines ordered by their physicians. Since the Bath cure was seldom left to the hot waters alone and almost always entailed a regime of dosing with pills and potions, the apothecaries (twenty seven of them listed at the spa in 1773) prospered accordingly, while their evolution into the general practitioner role left room for a new breed of non-prescribing chemist-and-druggists to appear on the high street as well. All through the period apothecaries were also prominent in Corporation affairs. No fewer than thirty-six sat on the elite City Council in the course of the eighteenth century (easily the largest occupational group) and nearly half of these served as mayor. Unlike the majority of physicians who were typically outsiders, the surgeons, apothecaries and hybrid surgeon-apothecaries tended to be local men with close family ties.

Besides these main categories of practitioner – sedulously listed in the guidebooks - a variety of other medical personnel fulfilled necessary functions in the health economy, ranging from countless unknown nurses who did much of the caring to the various specialist performers who visited from time to time or took up permanent residence. Bath was perhaps better served by dentists, for example, than any place outside London, though not until 1744 was it populous enough to tempt the first 'operator for the teeth', to settle there – John Goldstone, whose offspring served Bath as dentists and surgeon-apothecaries into the nineteenth century. Among the succession of visiting dentists were distinguished foreigners like Giovanni Ruspini and several French *émigré* practitioners, while Joseph Sigmond made a small fortune from dentistry practising at Bath post in the decades around 1800. Eye and ear doctors also came, and included two famous names – the oculist 'Chevalier' John Taylor, who had a European reputation for techniques such as 'couching' for cataract; and the aurist James Graham, a fanatical advocate of nature cures using electrotherapy and mud baths. Another regular visitor for over thirty years was Miss Plunkett (later Mrs Plunkett Edgcumbe), a specialist in treating

schirrous tumours. Few other medical women are actually recorded except nurses and, particularly, midwives. Notwithstanding the growing prominence after 1750 of male accoucheurs with their new obstetric instrument, the forceps, midwives remained important figures in local medicine, as is clear from the immediate replacement of the 'much esteemed' Mrs Tubb on her death in 1759 by a midwife from London, or the proud record of Mrs Godfrey who delivered Bath babies for sixty or more years until 1800.

A surprising number of contemporary Bath medics ventured into print and are represented in this anthology. Thomas Guidott and Robert Peirce in the Stuart years published dozens of case histories, for example, a theme developed more systematically in the eighteenth century with the statistical tables of patient outcomes produced by the younger William Oliver, William Falconer and others from their hospital records. From Guidott to C.H. Wilkinson in 1811 a score or more authors entered a much contested field with their analyses of the Bath waters and recommendations on bathing and drinking, while others extolled the virtues of cold springs in the neighbourhood, as William Hillary did for Lyncombe Spa. Some publications offered general advice to invalids, emphasising sensible diet and moderate living. George Cheyne, a national celebrity in literary circles, was especially persuasive here, having reduced his own enormous bulk by a vegetarian diet and daily exercise. Another varied group of writings addressed particular medical conditions and remedies – Anthony Fothergill on lead and copper poisoning, William Corp on jaundice, Caleb Hillier Parry on angina, Peter Canvane on castor oil, Daniel Lysons on camphor and cardamine, and William White on willow bark, to give a few notable examples. Several physicians, including William Falconer and John Haygarth, concerned themselves with community health and epidemic disease, and there was a growing interest too in psychological aspects of illness and placebo effects. On a different level, the bitter printed exchanges during the Archibald Cleland affair in 1744, the supposed plot against Charles Lucas and William Baylies in the 1750s, and the touchiness of the Infirmary and Dispensary over Dr Browne in 1797, all offer revealing insights into intra-professional rivalries, though James Graham's irresistible critique of orthodox Bath medicine provides the most entertaining account of them all.

PATIENTS

Hedonistic Bath was also a place of suffering. Men, women and children – residents as well as afflicted visitors from far and wide – spent their days there in desperate hopes of a cure or relief from a multitude of ailments, chronic illnesses, disabilities and injuries. Weak and in pain, some kept to their rooms out of sight. Others, more visible, hobbled about the town, risked outings in bath chairs and sedans, thronged the pump rooms, and repeatedly soaked in the hot baths. At the ladies' coffee-house, Elizabeth Montague grew weary of all the talk of ill health. Letters sent from Bath to relations and friends were full of progress reports, accounts of treatments, and references to medical personnel. And while it is true that the sound increasingly outnumbered the sick on the streets and in public spaces, the frivolities of the place never wholly disguised the fact that this was still a health spa.

Private patients travelling to Bath were often recommended to particular doctors by their own doctors back home or by friends. It was vital they trusted their medical advisors and the therapeutic value of the waters. Most did, even when improvement in their condition seemed slow. In spite of many relapses the Countess of Bristol kept faith over many weeks in 1723 with her apothecary William Skrine, believing in his long experience of the Bath cure and perhaps reassured by knowing he was, unusually in his profession, of the gentry class himself. Again, John Penrose, a gouty Cornishman, in 1766 professed implicit belief in *his* apothecary, Thomas Haviland, and followed his precise instructions on drinking specific amounts, and at specific times, alternately at the Cross and King's Baths – just in case any deviation from the rule might be harmful. The independent-minded Captain

Horatio Nelson, recuperating at Bath in 1781, likewise obeyed the physician Francis Woodward to the letter. And certainly some felt they owed their lives to their doctors – from the artist Gainsborough, treated by Rice Charleton in 1763, to the poet Coleridge, saved from a drug overdose by C.H.Parry in 1813.

Conversely, less effective practitioners would begin to rouse doubts in their minds of patients and their families who might then demand a second or third opinion or change their doctor altogether. Fanny Burney in 1818 lost faith completely in her sick husband's apothecary, G.E.Hay, and obliged him to summon William Tudor, the Queen's surgeon, for further advice. A Shropshire visitor in 1807, Katherine Plymley, took a serious dislike to the apothecary who attended her, and was shocked by the cold bath treatment the physician William Falconer ordered for her niece, a prescription which in fact proved fatal. Often of course there was no remedy available no matter how able the medic concerned, and the patient went on grimly suffering – the Earl of Chesterfield with his deafness, Mary Hartley with her part-amputated foot, the artist Joseph Farington with his haemorrhoids, all exemplified in this anthology. The statesman Edmund Burke admitted in 1797 that he was perfectly satisfied with his physician [C.H.Parry] '... but nature is too strong for him, and I grow worse hourly'. Eventually after four months, all hope of recovery dashed, he was taken home to die. The unluckiest of all were buried at Bath or went home in a hearse.

Until the charitable medical institutions came into being, the sick poor were frequently in a hopeless plight, not only ill but as a rule poorly nourished and living in crowded, unhealthy accommodation. They and their children were also more likely to succumb to the epidemic diseases – smallpox, measles, fevers, influenza – that periodically swept Bath. Compassionate Bath medics gave some free assistance and parish officers might help, but otherwise the labouring classes must have relied on folk remedies and self-medication. All classes used proprietary medicines - available in great variety (over 500 registered by 1800) from apothecaries, chemists-and-druggists and other outlets such as local newspaper printers whose newsmen carried them on their delivery rounds. Laxatives, emetics, cough mixtures, fever and sweating powders, opiates, ointments, lotions and many other branded remedies clearly served their purpose, though some of the most popular were inherently dangerous, containing antimony, mercury, opium and the like, and may have done more harm than good.

Further reading

Roger Rolls, *The Hospital of the Nation: the Story of Spa Medicine and the Mineral Water Hospital at Bath* (Bath, 1988).

A Pox on the Provinces: Proceedings of the 12th Congress of the British Society for the History of Medicine, ed. Roger Rolls and Jean and John R.Guy (Bath, 1990).

Anne Borsay, *Medicine and Charity in Georgian Bath: a Social History of the General Infirmary, c.1739-1830* (Aldershot, 1999).

A provisional list of Bath medics practising up to 1837 can be found at:
www.medicalheritage.co.uk/Bath/Bath%20Medics.html.

TESTIMONY

1662-1700

1 *1662 Stuart bathing procedures*

On the 20th July, at 5 o'clock in the morning, we went... to the King's and Queen's baths, and found there a lot of people, gentlemen as well as ladies and others. // N.B. It is the general custom to go there very early in the morning, and in the evening after the meal. One undresses to the undershirt in one's lodgings, the men put on underpants under their shirt, the girls and women an entire shift; so prepared, one is carried to the bath in a sedan or enclosed chair; at the steps to the water one strips off one's shirt and goes down the steps into the water, where men and women are waiting to help the strangers. All round and everywhere are seats in recesses, also rings to hold on to. If the seat is too low, one asks for a cushion, so I was given a stone, soft and smoothed by the water. The water is fairly hot, so that one nearly breaks out in sweat. It is customary to drink some hot wine boiled up with sugar and herbs to prevent faintness. Some people stay in the water for two to three hours. We saw a lady who had pumped on her shoulder and on her head 800 pumpstrokes, and a gentleman 1000 strokes of very hot water straight from the pipes from the first spring. For weakness, headaches, etc. some people get on doctor's orders 1800 strokes pumped on for several days. There are also people in the bath who are ready with knives, scissors etc. to cut people's corns, warts and nails, to earn some money. So too are some people, who, when one steps out of the bath, spread out a woollen cloth to prevent one from having to stand on the stone floor. One then drops the underpants, has a linen sheet and a bathrobe thrown round one's body, enters a sedan chair and is carried back to one's lodgings. There one goes to lie in the linen sheet in a warmed bed, and sweats profusely for one or two hours, whilst somebody dries off the sweat with warm dry towels, and one drinks some mulled wine to regain one's strength.

William Schellinks, *The Journal of William Schellinks' Travels in England 1661-1663*, translated and ed. by M.Exwood and H.L.Lehman. Camden 5th series, v.1 (London, 1993), p.106.

***William Schellinks, 1623-78, a Dutch artist travelling through England 1661-3.

2 *1663 Charles II and the Queen bathe*

On Tuesday their Majesties jointly entered the bath, which was made private on that occasion; and since the weather hath favoured them but twice with warmth convenient for that occasion.

Historical Manuscripts Commission 78, Hastings v.2 pp.142-3, Thomas Salusbury to Theophilus, 7th earl of Huntingdon, 12 Sep 1663.

3 *1664 Sir Robert Harley is encouraged by Dr Bave of Cologne*

Yesterday was my tenth bathing. I was somewhat strengthened by it, so as to sit upright with greater ease and to go with a little more steadiness. Doctor Baures [i.e. Bave] is my physician, who, according to his profession and nation is not wanting in giving hopes of perfect recovery; but the effects of the bath, he says, will be better discerned when gone hence. More than fourteen days longer it cannot be expected that there will be a possibility of bathing because of the increase of the cold winds; therefore against that time I desire the litter may be [brought] here.

Historical Manuscripts Commission 29, Portland v.3 p.288, Sir Robert Harley to Sir Edward Harley, Bath, 24 Sep 1664.

***Samuel Bave, 1588-1665, physician at Bath. Sir Robert Harley, 1626-73, son of Sir Robert Harley the puritan politician.

4 *1667 Swimming lessons*

[Betty has had no effect from bathing so far] ... but for Will and John it does very well with; it has taken away a great deal of John's yellownesse and makes him very merry; he is the only mirth we have in the Bathe, he is so taken with his guide that teaches him to swimme that he commends him so much that he desires me to take him to be my guide. I have been in the bath but once my selfe.'

Historical Manuscripts Commission 71, Finch v.1 p.467, Elizabeth, Lady Finch to Sir Heneage Finch, Bath, 6 Jul 1667.

***Sir Heneage Finch, 1621-82, later 1st earl of Nottingham and Lord Chancellor.

5 1673 *The new drinking pumps*

Among the many Springs in the King's Bath, there is a principal One called the Hot Spring, which is received by its self, without Communication, into a Lead Cistern, and that so close, that it is impossible any Drop of the other Waters can intermingle; over this Spring and Cistern, is, by the Order and Direction of an Honourable and Famous Physician, a Pump erecting, so that the Water from its single Effluence, shall, by Three several Conveyances, be distributed abroad in wonderful Quantities; insomuch that although the three Pumps should be in perpetual Agitation, yet, this noble and exuberant Spring, will remain inexhaustible; the Virtues whereof Fame, warranted by *Experience*, hath justly trumpeted forth to the World, insomuch, that they are not only made use of in the Bath, the several Places of the City and Neighbourhood, but also in Bottles and Runlets, at *Bristol, Gloucester, Worcester*, nay, *London it self*. Among many its Virtues, I shall give you Account of but few. Take your Proportion in the Morning, whether Two, Three, or more Quarts, as may be prescribed you, for Four, Five, or Six Hours after you have drunk them, you have no Thirst; whereas formerly, when they were not taken inwardly, the Bathers were so greatly afflicted with it, that, many times, weak Heads have been near an Intoxication, in only endeavouring by taking in other potable Liquor (moderately) to quench it; and all the Times these Sovereign Waters are in your Body, although they may give you several Stools, yet, it is without any Rumbling in your Body, or Laceration of your Guts, having a gentle and painless Operation, both by Urine and Siege; the Concomitant whereof, is an excellent Stomach, much better'd by Walking and Stirring your Body after the drinking them; and still as your Body empties, you may continue drinking more, the Waters being so innocent, that it is seldom or never heard, any Complaint that they have injured any one: And now... they are never out of Season; for that stately new erected Cross in the King's Bath, is a Defence and Shelter, as well from Winter's Blasts as Summer's Sun, and there are many convenient Rooms for Drinking of, and Bathing in them, which may invite those that have Occasion to make use of them at any Season; especially, since I shall give them this Assurance, That although there may be to Winter-Bathers more Expence in Fuel; yet, to recompence that, their Lodgings will be cheaper, and the Inhabitants are observed to be as active in their Attendance, and as ready to take your Money in hoary *December* as in fragrant *June*.

Henry Chapman, *Thermae Redivivae: the City of Bath Described* (1673, repr. in T.Guidott, *A Collection of Treatises Relating to... Bath*, London, 1725, pp.421-3).

***Henry Chapman, Bath innholder, Mayor in 1663-4 and 1672-3. The famous physician referred to was Sir Alexander Fraizer, 1610?-81, physician to Charles II. Siege – defecation.

6 1676 *Psychological factors also count*

As to Mr.Heneage and Mr.William going to drinke the Bath waters, I know what to wish, but not what to say. According to my present remembrance, the drinking of mineral waters was a practice wholly either not known or neglected or rejected by the ancients. // Two reasons I can give why they are so much in use in the present age. First, they keep their patients in physick all the spring in order to the preparation of their bodys; and in summer, when there is no place for other physick, they may [make] them more profitable by sending them to the waters... The other is the content they give to all persons under restraint, as wives and sonnes and daughters, who from hence take a convenient occasion of enjoying their pleasure. As to the benefit they bring to the patient, certainly change of ayr, regular diet, alacrity of conversation and exercise, which are always prescrib'd with the physick, work reall effects. Again, my Lord, I speak not out of opinion but knowledge, that the mere opinion or conceit that a patient hath of his physitian that he is under, or physick that he is in, does, of itselfe, reall cures...

Historical Manuscripts Commission 71, Finch v.2 pp.32-3, Sir Thomas Baines to Lord Chancellor Finch, 20-30 Jun 1676.

***Sir Thomas Baines, 1622-80, physician. Heneage Finch, later 1st earl of Aylesford, 1648/9-1719, lawyer and politician.

7 1684 *Three examples from Dr Guidott's list of Bath cases*

XXXVIII. // An eminent *Lawyer*, against the Advice of some *eminent* Physicians in *London*, came to *Bath* with great hazard of life in the Journey, miserably afflicted with swellings in the Feet, a *Dropsy*, and ill habit of Body; using the *Cross Bath* 3 or 4 weeks, to the *admiration* of himself and all Beholders, in great measure recovered. In *July* 1684, before he left the *Bath*, he declared publickly he was *cured*. // XXXIX. // Mr. *Charles Child*, Apothecary in *Bath*, having salt and *acid* Humours

defluxing with *much* pain on the muscles and *tendons* of the leg and back of the foot, in the nature of a *Rheumatism*, which made him lame; by the use of the *Kings Bath* 10 or 12 *times* received *remedy*, and walked as a sound man, 30 *September* 1684. Pain and weakness *sometimes* return, but are *always* taken off by the Use of the *Kings Bath*. // XL. // *Edward Shepheard*, Joyner, of *Bath*, troubled from his *Childhood* with a *Palsey* in the *Tongue*, that he could neither speak *plain*, nor swallow *well*, swimming in the *Bath*, and diving for *farthings*, as Boys use to do, applying his Mouth to a *Cock* then continually running, and taking the water to the *root* of the *Tongue* for a long time, at *length* recovered the use of his voice, and *strength* of the muscles of the *Tongue* subservient to the same; with a strong and *audible* voice he related the same 26 *September* 1684.

Thomas Guidott, *The Register of Bath* (London, 1694), pp.35-7.

*** Thomas Guidott, 1638-1705, Bath physician, author of several books on Bath waters and medical cases – see also nos 9, 18. Cock – water spout.

8 1687 *Celia Fiennes experiences the baths*

There is 5 baths: the Hot bath the most hot springs, its but small and built all round, which makes it the hotter: out of it runns the water into a bath called the Lepours: the third bath is called the Cross bath which is something bigger than the former and not so hot; the Cross in the middle has seates round it for the Gentlemen to sitt and round the walls are arches with seates for the Ladyes – all stone, and the seate is stone and if you thinke the seate is too low they raise it with a coushon as they call it, another Stone, but indeed the water bears you up that the seate seemes as easy as a down coushon; before the Arch the Ladyes use to have a laced toilet hung up on the top of the Arch, and so to shelter their heads even to the water if they please; you generally set up to the head in water; this Cross bath is much the coolest and is used mostly in the heate of summer; there are Gallery's round the top that the Company that does not bathe that day walkes in and looks over into the bath on their acquaintance and company. There are such a number of Guides to each bath, of women to waite on the ladyes and of men to waite on the gentlemen, and they keepe their due distance; there is a Serjeant belonging to the baths that all the bathing tyme walkes in galleryes and takes notice order is observed, and punishes the rude, and most people of fashion sends to him when they begin to bathe, then he takes particular care of them and complements you every morning, which deserves its reward at the end of the Season. When you would walk about the bath I use to have a woman guide or two to lead me, for the water is so strong it will quickly tumble you down; and then you have 2 of the men guides goes at a distance about the bath to cleare the way; at the sides of the Arches are rings that you may hold by and so walke a little way, but the springs bubbles up so fast and so strong and are so hot up against the bottoms of ones feete, especially in that they call the Kitching in the K[ing's] bath, which is a great Cross with seates in the middle and many hot springs riseth there; the Kings bath is very large, as large as the rest put together, in it is the hot pompe that persons are pumpt at for lameness or on their heads for palsyes; I saw one pumpt, they put on a broad brim'd hatt with the crown cut out, so as the brims cast off the water from the face; they are pumpt in the bath; one of the men Guides pumps, they have two pence I thinke for 100 pumps, the water is scalding hot out of the pump, the armes or legs are more easily pumped; the Ladyes goes into the bath with garments made of a fine yellow canvas, which is stiff and made large with great sleeves like a parsons gown, the water fills it up so that its borne off that your shape is not seen, it does not cling close as other linning which looks sadly in the poorer sort that go in their own linning, the Gentlemen have drawers and wastcoates of the same sort of canvas, this is the best linning, for the bath water will change any other yellow; when you go out of the bath you go within a doore that leads to steps which you ascend by degrees, that are in the water, then the doore is shut which shutts down into the water a good way, so you are in a private place, where you still ascend severall more steps, and let your canvass drop of by degrees into the water, which your women guides takes off and the meanetyme your maides flings a garment of flannell made like a nightgown with great sleeves over your head, and the guides take the taile and so pulls it on you just as you rise the steps, and your other garment drops off so you are wrapped up in the flannell and your nightgown on the top, your slippers, and so you are set in [a] Chaire which is brought into the roome which are called slips and there are chimney's in them, you may have fires; these are in severall parts of the sides of the bath for the conveniency of persons goeing in and out of the bath decently, and at the top of the staires stands a woman that layes a woollen cloth for you to set

your bare foot, and also to give you attendance; the Chaires you go in are a low seate and with frames round and over your head, and all cover'd inside and out with red bayes and a curtaine drawn before of the same which makes it close and warme; then a couple of men with staves takes and carryes you to your lodging and sets you at your bedside where you go to bed and lay and sweate sometye as you please; your own maides and the maides of the house gets your fire and waites on you till you rise to get out of your sweat. // All the baths has the same attendance, the Queens bath is bigger than the other three but not a neare so big as the Kings which do run into each other and is only parted by a wall and at one place a great arch where they run into each other: the Queens bath is a degree hotter than the Cross bath, and the Kings bath much hotter; these have all gallery's round and the pump is in one of these galleryes at the Kings bath which the Company drinks of; its very hot and tastes like the water that boyles eggs, has such a smell, but the nearer the pumpe you drinke it the hotter and less offensive and more spirituuous; the baths are all emptyed as soone as the company goes out, which is about 10 or 11 of the clock in the morning, then by sluces they empty at once the bath, so it fills againe, I have seen all the springs bubble up as thicke out of the ground when the baths have been empty, the bottom is gravell; so they will be full for the evening if the Company would go in againe, if so they empty them againe at night, and they are filled against the morning; and there will be such a white scum on the bath which the guides goes and scimms off cleane before any Company goes in, if they go in while this scum is on it gives them the bath mantle, as they call it, makes them breake out into heate and pimples; the like will be on them if they go into the bath before they have purged, especially in the hotter bath.

. Celia Fiennes, *The Illustrated Journeys of Celia Fiennes, 1685-1712*, ed. C.Morris (London, 1982), pp. 44-6.
 ***Celia Fiennes, 1662-1741, traveller and diarist.

9 1693 *Treat mother, treat baby*

A Child of Mr. *Richard Ford* Apothecary in *Bath*, sixteen weeks old, and from the time of his *birth*, troubled with much *phlegm* in the Chest, which caused an *Asthma* with very troublesome *Sweats*, sucking the Mother, who *drank* the *Bath* waters, received *cure*, and made the same *effect* as if the Child had *drunk* the waters *himself*. The *Father* gave Testimony 26 March 1693.

Thomas Guidott, *The Register of Bath* (London, 1694), p.110.
 ***Thomas Guidott – see no.7.

10 1693 *Dr Peirce cures a Scot but gets no follow up*

Major *Arnot*, a *Scotch* Gentleman of the County of *Fife* (but very well known in *England*) came hither in *April*, 1693 recommended to my Care by Dr.*Hacket* a Physitian, in *Edinburgh*, (to whom I was known only by name) the Major was upward of 60; he complain'd of a very great Pain and Weakness from his *Left Shoulder* downwards, to his Fingers end... He delighted much in Hawking, and imputed this Infirmary to his long and often carrying his Hawk upon that Fist, in all Weathers, and the frequent *Colds* that he had taken in the Pursuit of that Game. He had had, as he told me, about the *Musculus Biceps* of that *Arm*, a Swelling as big as an Apple, which was dissipated with Oyntments. Taking Physick for this... he had Pain also in his *Right Hip, Thigh* and *Leg*: And whether by Cold in his Journey hither... or by what other accidents I know not; he had withal a violent *Cough*, and discharged much and foul Spittle; he had little or no Stomach [for food], and sometimes cast up what he had eaten. He was subject to the *Stone*, and had formerly voided much *Gravel*, and several small *Stones*; one whilst he was here. // Making too much haste to be well (as too many do) he went presently into the *Bath*, and was ill after it, and (not till then) sent for me. // After due Preparation I put him first upon *drinking* the *Waters* because of the *Nephretick Distemper*; and withal to correct the Acrimony of this *Defluxion* to his *Arm, Hand* and *Hip, &c.* and then permitted him the *Bath* (to ease his Pain, and recover Strength in the weaken'd parts) but defending the *Kidneys* with a cooling *Liniment*. // He found not quickly a considerable Alteration to the better, but went on sometimes *drinking* the *Waters*, (which after a while, with some Assistances past very well with him) and sometimes *bathing*. At two Months end, or thereabouts, he went back perfectly recover'd, both as to *Cough, Stomach* and *Sciatica*, and had Ease and Strength in, and use of his *Arm*; look'd fresh, and better in his Countenance; was fuller and fatter much than when he came hither. Since that time I have

not had any Account of him, or from him, but would have been glad to have receiv'd it, though I had paid Postage for a Letter out of *Scotland*.

Robert Peirce, *Bath Memoirs* (Bristol, 1697), pp. 44-6.

***Robert Peirce, 1622-1710, physician at Bath 1653-1710 - see also nos.11,12. Nephritic – to do with the kidneys. Defluxion – flow of a humoral fluid.

11 1697 *An autopsy on Sir Robert Craven, sufferer from 'a stubborn Asthma'*

He soon began upon *drinking* these *Waters*, and had drank them, with little Interruption, Three Weeks or a Month; and, as he and we all thought with no small Advantage; for he had seldomer his *Fits*, and could walk a Mile or two. Presuming upon this seeming Amendment, his Lady and he walked one day to the farther end of *Lansdowne*, which is two Miles from this City, and were surpriz'd with an Approaching Storm; to avoid which they return'd home faster than ordinary; he put himself, by it, into a great Heat, but brought not presently his Fit upon him. He was wet also with part of the Storm, which fell before they could reach quite home; this gave him a Cold; that renew'd his Fits, and put him into a *Fever*, of which he dy'd, after Ten Days, or a Fortnight. I was forced to leave him to the Care of another Physician, being sent for to a Patient in the Country. His Case being very unusual, and having puzzled most of the Physitians that were concern'd with him, I was, at my Return, which was the same day he dy'd, very importunate to have him dissected, which, at length, I very hardly obtain'd, of his Lady to do. // What was most remarkable in the opening of him, in reference to the business in hand, was as followeth. // 1. It was the fattest Corps I ever yet saw open'd; cutting near an Inch thick in fat, all down the Breast and Belly: All the Intrals prodigiously Fat, yet was he not at all Ventrucose. // 2. The Heart, and all the Vessels from it, cover'd with Fat. // 3. But what was chiefly observable, as our purpose, was that upon throwing back of the *Sternon* upon his Face, the better to examine the *Pectoral Parts*, there appear'd a large flap of the *Glandulous Flesh*, and *Fat*, intermixed... upon both *Lobes* of the *Lungs*... // 4. There was also about Two Inches above the Heart, round the great Ascending Artery, a Substance which (at first view) look'd like another Heart, and almost as big, but upon further Search was found to be a *Callous*, as well as *Glandulous Substance*, interspersed with Fat... as big as Three or Four large Wallnuts which after it was dry'd... [I kept for a long time]... in a Paper in my Pocket... to shew it, until, at last, by lending of it, lost it; It weigh'd, after it was thus dry'd, and look'd like Glue, above an Ounce... In short, I at last cut off the *Trachea Arteria* as close to the *Throat*, as was possible, and took out the *Lungs and Heart*, and all together, and with a small pair of Bellows, blew up the *Lungs*; which when I did moderately, that Flap kept equal upon both *Lobes*, but when I gave a greater Blast than ordinary, it fell in between the two *Lobes* of the *Lungs*; which I thought gave reason to conjecture that to be the Cause of his (otherwise) unaccountable *Asthma*; which by Fits he had to the highest Degree imaginable, not only upon taking Colds, but from talking earnestly, or laughing, or any sudden Commotion, and would look black in the Face, like one more than half strangled.

Robert Peirce, *Bath Memoirs* (Bristol, 1697), pp. 280-3.

***Robert Peirce – see no.10. Ventrucose – swollen, corpulent. Sternon – sternum, breastbone. Trachea – windpipe.

12 1697 *Bucketting*

Before *Pumps* were erected, they used *Bucketting*, which was perform'd by taking up *Water* in Buckets, nearest the *Springs*, by two of the tallest, and strongest of the Guides, who stood close upon the largest Spring, and lifting up the full Bucket as high as they could, they let the *Water* fall leisurely upon the Part affected, by which it was thought that greater Impression was made, and the Warmth, and Virtue of the *Water*, reach'd farther in, than *bathing* alone could do, even in the hottest Places of that *Bath*. This they usually did in *Sciatica's*, *Palsies*, Cold and Wither'd Limbs, *Stupors*, *Dullness of the Head*, *Deafness*, &c. After the *Pumps* were brought into Use, this way of Embrocation ceased, the *Water* coming by them more immediately from the Spring, and therefore hotter, and with more intire Virtue, and falling with equal, if not greater, Force upon the Part affected, and consequently penetrating farther, and carrying in the Efficacy and Virtue of the *Water* into the most Innermost Parts.'

Robert Peirce, *Bath Memoirs* (Bristol, 1697), p.238.

***Robert Peirce – see no.10.

13 1700 *A sardonic view of the baths*

The first we went to, is call'd the *Kings*, and it joyns the *Queens*, both running in one; and the most Famous for Cures. In this *Bath* was at least Fifty of both Sexes, with a Score or two of Guides, who by their *Scorbutick Carcasses*, and *Lacker'd Hides*, you would think they had lain Pickling a *Century* of Years in the *Stygian-Lake*: Some had those *Infernal Emissaries* to support their *Impotent Limbs*: Others to scrub their *Putrify'd Carcasses*, like a *Race-Horse*. In one Corner was an Old Fornicator hanging by the Rings, loaded with a *Rotten Humidity*: Hard by him was a Buxom Dame, cleaning her *Nunquam Satis* from *Mercurial Drugs*, and the remains of *Roman Vitriol*. Another, half cover'd with *Sear-Cloth*, had more Sores than *Lazarus*, doing Pennance for the Sins of her Youth; at her Elbow was a Young Hero, supported by a couple of Guides, Rack'd with *Aches* and *Intollerable Pains*, Cursing of *Middlesex Court*, and *Beveridges Dancing-School*, as Heartedly as *Job* the Day of his Birth. At the Pump was several a Drenching their Gullets, and Gormandizing the Reaking Liquor by Wholesale. // From thence we went to the *Cross-Bath*, where most of the Quality resorts, more Fam'd for *Pleasure* than *Cures*, tho' they pretend it hath wrought Miracles on *Barren-Soil*, and wonderfully helps *Conception*... Here is perform'd all the *Wanton Dalliances* imaginable: *Celebrated Beauties*, *Panting Breasts*, and *Curious Shapes* almost expos'd to Publick View; *Languishing Eyes*, *Darting Killing Glances*, *Tempting Amorous Postures*, attended by soft *Musick*, enough to provoke a *Vestal* to *Forbidden Pleasure*, Captivate a *Saint*, and Charm a *Jove*: Here was also different Sexes, from Quality to the *Honourable Knights*, *Country Put*, and *City Madams*... The Ladies with their floating *Japan-Bowles* freighted with *Confectionary Knick-Knacks*, *Essences*, and *Perfumes* Wade about, like *Neptune's* Courtiers, suppling their Industrious Joints. The Vigorous Sparks, presenting them with several Antick Postures, as Sailing on their Backs, then Embracing the Element, sink in a Rapture, and by Accidental Design, thrust a stretch'd Arm; but where the Water conceal'd, so ought my Pen.'

Ned Ward, *A Step to the Bath, with a Character of the Place* (London, 1700), pp.157-9.

***Ned Ward, 1667-1731, satirist. Stygian – to do with the river Styx in Hades. Nunquam satis – never sated. Sear-cloth – waxed fabric. Jove – the god Jupiter. Country put – bumpkin. Japan bowls – lacquered or varnished bowls.

1701-1730

14 1703 *Dr.Bettenson's kindness*

19 Apr 1703 I went to the Bath with my wife, where she continued extream ill for 3 day[s], and then I sent for Dr.Bettenson who by the help of the waters and God's blessing restored her to a tollerable degree of ease and health in three days. He would take no fee it being his custom to take nothing of clergy men.

6 Jun 1703 I left my wife under Dr.Bettenson's care, who hath been very kind and generous to me.

5 Aug 1703 My wife returned from Bath having received wonderful benefit and advantage there in 12 weeks time. She is now as well as ever I knew her.

The Diary of Thomas Naish, ed. D.Slatter (Wilts Archaeol. & Nat Hist Soc, Records Branch, v.20, Devizes, 1965), p.50.

***Richard Bettenson, 1651-1724, Bath physician, gave £100 towards the first Pump Room.

15 1703 *Laudanum and the waters to combat the cholic*

23 Jun 1703 'Having missed the cholic since Friday I do not think of troubling Dr.Ratcliff, for I am afraid for such desperate pain there is no remedy but laudanum and the waters, which agree extremely with me in other respects... This morning as I was dressing I began to have the cholic: and though I had taken a quart of waters at 7 in the morning, and this began at 11, I sent for two quarts more, and drank them off as fast as I could, and I thank God it put off the fit. I hope it will do me no hurt.

26 Jun 1703 'Since this [letter] was begun a fit of the cholic has taken me, at first pretty severely, but taking one quart of the water, thank God, it went off in an hour and a half. Doctor Ratcliff is just gone from me, and says I have a distemper that is the hardest to cure, but that here is my only remedy,

and he believes them admirable: tonight he will have me take laudanum pills, and soon other prescriptions. I dread my stay here if I follow his order.

Historical Manuscripts Commission 23, Cowper v.3 p.35, Lady Mary Coke to Thomas Coke, written from Bath.

***John Radcliffe, 1650-1714, physician, first promoted, then disparaged, the Bath spa in favour of Tunbridge Wells - see also no.17.
Thomas Coke, 1674-1727, politician and court official.

16 1704 *The modern fashion of drinking the waters*

These Waters then are drunk hot for the most part from the Pump every Morning fasting, or else at Lodgings, as hot as they can procure them; they are drunk hot for the sake of the *Neutral Spirit* that circulates in them, which being somewhat akin to the *Universal Menstruum* or *Alkahest* in our Stomachs, does wonderfully recruit it when lost or broken; and really 'tis strange to see its Operations on weak *Stomachs* and decay'd *Appetites* which are soon restor'd by the drinking these Waters warm... The Custom of drinking these Waters at the Pump and warm, has not prevail'd long, at least has not been made so Universal, for tho' some drank them every Year, yet above 20 Years ago I remember very few came to *Bath* for any thing but the Bathing part.'

William Oliver the elder, *A Practical Essay on Fevers... to which is annex'd a Dissertation on the Bath-Waters* (London, 1704), pp.214-15.

***William Oliver, 1669-1716, physician to the Chatham and Greenwich hospitals, wrote also on the Bath waters. Menstruum and Alkahest were solvents.

17 1705 *The wicked calumnies of Dr Radcliffe*

...who can determine how far the *Atmosphere* of a malicious *Tongue*... may reach and convey with all its dire *Effects*? This Consideration made me curious to enquire what Learned *Arguments* you had form'd against our hot *Waters*... But after a long search after your Reasons, I can find nothing but *Humour* and *Caprice* at the bottom, and that you have no other meaning in what you say, than only gratifying a revengeful *Mind*. // For you say, // 1st, That you will put a *Toad* in our *Waters*. // 2^{dly}, That you will spoil the *Trade* of the *Bath-Waters* by G— you will. // 3^{dly} That you will bring our *Lodgings* to half a *Crown* a *Week*. // Enter *Almansor solus*. // I, *D.R.* by *virtue* of an *Imperial*, *Arbitrary* and *Uncontroulable* Power I have assum'd over the *feeble Bodies* and *weaker Minds* of my most *obedient Patients*, do command every one of them, as they will avoid my Displeasure, not to drink any *Bath Waters* more; for I say they are *Poysons* and not *Medicines*: And I do further declare I will ruin the pernicious *Trade* of *drinking* the *Bath-Waters*, maugre all the *Opinions* and *Judgments* of all other *Physicians* and this I will perform by G—d. When I have done this, their *Lodgings* will come to little.

A Letter from a Citizen of Bath to his Excellency Dr. R[adcliffe] at Tunbridg[e] (Bath, 1705).

***John Radcliffe – see no.15. Almansor – character in John Dryden's play *Almanzor and Almahide, or The Conquest of Granada*.

18 1705 *Drinking and bathing incompatible*

And whereas the Bath, in *former* times discreetly us'd, did *quicken* the Circulation, promote *Nutrition*, cure *Atrophies*, strengthen *Weaknesses*, confirm *Relaxations*, and relax *Contractions* of the Tendons, and all the *nervous* Tribe; the *nutritive* Juice and relax'd *Paralytic* Fibres are now so *diluted* and beyond all measure *soften'd*, with a *Deluge* of the Waters taken *inwardly* that... the good effects [that] were wont to be produc'd by *external* Applications of the *Water* to the parts affected are now *frustrate*, Cures not so numerous, and if any, perform'd in much *longer* time, since the use of the Bath hath become so *much* inferior to the *drinking* of the *Water*: and the Diseases [that] were *formerly* cur'd, according to antient method, *safely*, *quickly*, and *with ease* to the Patient, must now expect... not a *Cure* without a *Miracle*. // ... I write this out of no *other* regard than to the *Truth* of Observation, and the *general* Good of the Race of Mankind, for which all *Hot Waters* were at first *created*, by the wise Maker of the *Universe*; but the Bath oftentimes *interfering* with drinking the *Water*, a general Good cannot be obtained, till both are made and kept distinct.

Thomas Guidott, *An Apology for the Bath* (London, 1705), pp.88-9.

***Thomas Guidott – see no.7

19 1706 *A hospitable cold-water bath at Batheaston*

There are a great many Cold Baths lately Erected in *England*, and next to Mr.*Baynes*'s, is that at *Bathessen*, near *our famous Hot Baths*. It is a very Cold Water, soft and alkalious, for it will lather, which few Cold Springs will do, so the wholsomer to Drink. It rises on the side of a steep Hill, with a

brisk Current, and runs North-West and by North. 'Tis in the Grounds of Dr.*Panton*, and by him built, and made very convenient for all the uses of a Cold Bath. From it is a pleasant Prospect to the City of *Bath*, and other various and delightful Prospects of the Country; and besides these advantages, there is another also (but not to be spoken of) the Doctor keeps for his Friends, a Cup of Humming good Liquor there also; but *Mum* for that...

John Floyer and Edward Baynard, *Psychrologia, or The History of Cold Bathing*. 2nd ed. (London, 1706), part 2 pp.131-2.

***Sir John Floyer, 1649-1734, physician, studied the pulse, wrote also on asthma. Edward Baynard, b.1641, physician. Mum for that – keep quiet about that.

20 1706 *Saved from the brink by Dr.Baynard*

[As for]... a Lady of Quality, Madam *B*, who lay at Mrs.*Cranfeild*'s House near the Market Place; her case was so deplorable thro' a weak and decay'd Stomach, of a long standing, that she loathed every thing she either smelt or saw, and so weak and feeble she could scarcely stand; she vomited every thing that she took, whether Liquids or Solids, and [was] Melancholy to a strange degree, and emaciated to Skin and Bone; she took little or no Rest, her Pulse hardly perceptible, her Eyes sunk, often Ructations and sometimes Colick Pains, accompanied with Splenetick and Hysterick Fits, and generally clammy cold Sweats on her Head, Face, Arms and Hands, insomuch that she, and all her Servants, thought she could not live a Week. Being sent for to her, and finding her so extremely weak... at first we gave her but two or three Spoonfuls of the *Bath Water*, and about half an Hour after, one Spoonful of a bitter Infusion; an Hour after that a little more *Bath Waters*, then Bitters again, and so by degrees, from less to more, I brought her to bear half a Pint of the Waters hot from the Pump, which stay'd without loathing or vomiting; then she began to be better reconcil'd to the Sight and Smell of Meats, and to take a little Chicken Broth, &c. and in a Day or two more could bear a Pint taken at 2 or 3 Draughts, and then began to eat solid Meats, and in the space of nine or ten Weeks recover'd her Health even to admiration, insomuch that when she went into the Church, or to walk in the Grove, when she came out of her Chair, she was pointed at, saying, *there she is! that's she! that's the Lady that was so weak &c.*

John Floyer and Edward Baynard, *Psychrologia, or The History of Cold Bathing*. 2nd ed (London, 1706), part 2 pp.8-9.

***Sir John Floyer and Edward Baynard – see no.19. Ructations – belching.

21 1716 *The cold bath or not? Dudley Ryder sounds out Dr Charles Bave*

Found myself very weak and languid, my spirits failing, that I could not tell what to do about it. I sent for Dr. Baire [Bave] and talked with him about my constitution and was well pleased with his account of bathing and the cold bath, wherein he perfectly agreed with my notions of it and the use of it, except that he said one might be in danger of overdoing it, and besides that it is very much in vain by cold bathing to contract the vessels unless the blood be diluted and made thin and the deleterious ill particles that are got among be dissolved, that the blood may be easy to flow. And therefore the cold bath is very proper after having drank the hot bath waters, to strengthen and confirm the vessels. He told me it might do me harm but could [do] no good to drink the waters for so short a time as till Monday seven night, but three or four weeks would be of service to me. Upon which I wrote to my father [on] the state of my health and desired him to determine my stay or return.

The Diary of Dudley Ryder, 1715-1716, ed. W.Matthews (London, 1939), pp.243-4, 26 May 1716.

***Charles Bave, c.1675-1734, Bath physician – see also no.26. Dudley Ryder, 1691-1756, later a judge and Lord Chief Justice. Cold bath – probably Thomas Greenway's bath in Claverton Street, just across Bath bridge. Monday seven night – a week on Monday.

22 1720 *Advice to the gouty*

I'm of Opinion... a *Gouty* Person ought to avoid Intemperance, as he wou'd avoid the Bite of a Snake or mad Dog. But since such Accidents do happen, let the *Gouty* Person, after the Excess either in Meat or Drink, swill down as much fair Water as his Stomach will bear, before he go to bed; whereby he'll reap these Advantages: *First*, Either the Contents of the Stomach will be thrown upwards, and he freed from a great part of the Load. Or, *Secondly*, both Meat and Drink will be much diluted; and the Labour and Expence of Spirits in Digestion much sav'd. And *Thirdly*, the *Gouty* Salts will thereby be dissolv'd and distanc'd from one another; and so be more readily carry'd off by the free Perspiration, Sweating and Urine which ensue... But beyond all other Things, a well order'd

Course of *Bath Waters*, with *Chalybeats* and warm Bitters, and a frequent and regular Use of Stomach Purgers will be found to succeed best in *Gouty*, as well as other Chronical Cases.

George Cheyne, *An Essay on the Gout with an Account of the... Bath Waters*. 3rd ed. (Dublin, 1721), pp.34-5.

***George Cheyne, 1671-1743, Bath physician and celebrity, wrote also on diet, healthy lifestyle, and nervous debility – see also nos.30, 32, 36, 37, 41, 77. Chalybeates – medicines containing iron.

23 1723 *Lady Bristol relies on her apothecary's experience*

22 April 1723 ... at present I wholly depend upon Mr.Skrine, who has orderd me a fomentation when I go to bed.

24 April 1723...I was taken this morning at 4 a clock with a violent fit of the cholick, which proved to be hysterick, for it immediately threw me into fits; about 8 a clock my opium got the better and laid me to sleep for 2 hours... it shows me what abundant need I have of this odious place, and grieves me the more not to be able to make a right use of it by drinking the waters at the Pump, which till my legs is better is impossible; but they are so much mended this 2 days that I hope soon to be carried in a chair...

26 April 1723 ... a continual purging I have had for three days has brought me very low & dispiretted; but burnt ruebarb has had a very good effect, & I shall repeat it at night with something quietting, which Mr.Skrine tells me will prevent a return, & that I may begin ye watters again to morrow morning.

29 April 1723 ... I am better this evening, but cant expect much benefit from the waters while this flux (tho' I have taken rubarb) continues upon me, and till I have some success in drinking they will not allow me to bathe for fear of my hysterick disorder, tho' it woud certainly do me great service for my legs; I am to take a bollus night and morning, which Mr.Skrine says will both strengthen me and raise my spirits, and assures me this disorder is what frequently happens at the first taking the waters...

4 May 1723 I have been now a fortnight at this hatefull place without the least sign of any amendment, and am now interrupted again from drinking the waters or bathing so soon as I hopt for, having great dependance upon the lat[t]er for my poor legs, which are still in a sad condition, though I am now able to walk without a stick; but they swell so extreamly (especially my left) when I have been up but a few hours, that before night I am scarce able to bear the uneasyness they give me. I was last night forced to leave the ball and go to bed at 9 o clock, where I now am, and shall continue till I go to dinner, taking this opportunity, when I cant go to the Pump, to rest my legs as much as I can, so that I may not loose a moment in relieving some or other of my complaints, which I much fear are too many and great to be conquerd in the time I have here, which can be but 5 weeks drinking the waters...

8 May 1723 ... I have the good news to tell you of my being in the bath too day with less disorder than I coud possibly expect to my spirits, and with as much ease as I coud hope to my legs, for they don't feel so stiff, though they are so very much swelld, but Mr.Skrine gives me hopes even for that by telling me, if I will give him but time and patience, he is pretty sure (having had such success with my Lady Ranelagh) he coud not only cure me from what is occasiond by my fall, but alsoe what has so long troubled me; if he is able to perform the great things he promises, I believe it will reconcile you as well as my self to this hated place...

11 May 1723 I am sorry I cant end the week so well as I begun it, for the swelling of my legs are extream bad, and consequently very uneasy; but woud fain flatter my selfe that it proceeds from an accident that I have occasiond, for finding my self better I attempted to return my visits yesterday and Thursday, and walkd once to the Pump and twice to Church; whether this has put me so much back again I know not; but tis certain my legs last night were as bad as ever except the soreness; this happening when I thought my self in so good a way of recovery has (as you my imagine) put a good deal of damp upon my spirits, though I am easier too day, having been in the bath again; I am to take my rubarb too night, and a Monday begin with what Mr.Skrine has such faith in, and that I may have a fair trial I shall keep my self as still as I can...

13 May 1723 ...Mr.Skrine tells me my Lady Rochester's legs were as bad as mine... and that he quite cured her... with the same medicine he begins with me too night in a glass of the Bath water and the same in the morning at the Pump.

15 May 1723 I have begun the pills, which are to do wonders; they made me very weak at first, but M.Skrine tells me that must not discourage me, for he will answer for their success...

20 May 1723 ... I am vissibly mended, & hope I shall continue to do so since the thing I most apprehended (which was my legg swelling so immoderately) begins to abate, as Mr.Skrine assurrd me they woud, & tells me he never knew this medicen fail in that complaint...

25 May 1723 ...I am at last forced to give over all thoughts of bathing...last Thursday I was worse than ever with it, though I was not in for half an hour; but I fell into the most violent hysteric fit I ever had in my life...

27 May 1723 ... I am really as much better now as I coud hope... I stick... to Mr.Skrine's prescription... though all my friends here tease me to death to have more advice, but I don't think I can have better than one that has so long experience and practice as he has had of the effects of these waters, which has never yet faild to do me good, nor do I think they woud have lost their good effects now, if I had not been under the necessity of bathing for my nerves and cholick... and I see daily before my eyes such vast success in those cases that I cant despair...

Letter-Books of John Hervey, First Earl of Bristol. 3v. (Wells, 1894), v.2, Countess of Bristol to the Earl, letters 708, 711 713, 715, 719, 723, 725, 727, 729, 733, 737, 739.

***John Hervey, 1st earl of Bristol, 1665-1751, former Whig politician. William Skrine, 1672-1725, Bath apothecary, owner of Claverton manor and keeper of Hetling House. Bolus – a large pill.

24 1724 *Brisk sensations in the Pump Room*

...on the south side [of the Abbey Churchyard] are the justly-renowned hot springs, collected into a square *area* called the King's Bath. The corporation has lately erected a pretty handsome building before it, called the Drinking-room, for the company to meet in that drink the waters drawn hither by a marble pump from the bottom of the springs, where it is near boiling hot. The water is admirably grateful to the stomach, striking the roof of the mouth with a fine sulphureous and steely *gas*, like that of the German Spa or Pymont: though you drink off a large pint glass, yet it is so far from creating a heaviness, or *nausea*, that you find yourself brisker immediately, by its agreeable sensation on the membranes of the stomach: at first it operates by stool, and especially urine: it is of most sovereign virtue to strengthen the bowels, to restore their lost tone through intemperance or inactivity, and renews the vital fires by its adventitious heat and congenial principles... It is remarkable that at the cleansing of the springs, when they set down a new pump, they constantly find great quantities of hazel-nuts... These I doubt not to be the remains of the famous and universal deluge, which the Hebrew historian tells us was in autumn... The carrying the water to distant places to drink, seems only a splendid fallacy.

William Stukeley, *Itinerarium Curiosum* (1724), 2nd ed. 2v. (London, 1776), v.1 pp.146-7.

***William Stukeley, 1687-1765, antiquary, wrote on Stonehenge and druids. The German spa – i.e. Aachen. Pymont – another German spa, south of Hannover.

25 1725 *The sheer power of the waters*

I beg Leave to observe, That *Bath-Waters* require a more exact Preparation of the Body before we venture on them, and a stricter Regimen, when in the Course, than those of a less Degree of Heat, and Volatility: these will certainly do Harm where they do not do Good, and are not to be trifled withal; their Energy is great, and their Operations incredibly sudden, which should be no small Comfort to the well-advised Sick: For this Reason a Person in perfect Health, coming thither, had much better forbear drinking them hot, except a very small Quantity in the Cool of the Morning, and fasting an Hour after, at least; by which Means he will avoid some Inconveniences, and, probably, have the better Appetite to his Breakfast. // I can't forbear remarking one general Error; which is; That all Mineral Waters are too frequently drunk in so large Draughts, and so great Quantities, as to become evacuant, and the Patitent is never better pleas'd, than when his Waters pass well; but I advise the Use of them in *small Portions*, and at *large Intervals*, that so they may not, by their own Weight, be hurried out of the Body through the Pores, or Kidneys; but remaining first in the Stomach, and then in the Blood, a convenient Space, will much more effectually answer the Intent of an *Alterative* Course.

John Wynter, *Cyclus Metasyneriticus, or An Essay on Chronical Diseases* (London, 1725), pp.33-4.

*** John Wynter, physician – see also no.27. Alterative – a medicine changing vital functions.

26 *c.1725? Recommendations to a poorer patient*

Ye best Dochter name is mr.Beath [Charles Bave] you may Inquire for him near ye Cross Bath and take his advice before you goe Into ye Bath or any thing eles and tell him your Co[n]dicson and how Long you have been afflicted In your Distemper and he will give you his advice for not[h]ing or [to] any other power [poor] man that goeth there he being thought the best Dochter In that place and if you goe Into ye Bath you are to have a good gaid [guide] which will find you Close [clothes] to goe In with for 4d pr. Day and a flinen [linen] shirt which will cost you 3d a day and if you lodge at Jo:n Rows you may goe into ye hot bath which is close by which will safe you 6d a time In a chare hire and I think that ye hot Bath is as good as any of ye others not But you may goe to ye Kings Bath now and then But it will cost you 6 pence a day more ye giude is to have a flish [flesh] Brush and to Brush ye place afflicted when In ye Bath... and... I would advise you to be pumpt every time you goe Into ye Bath 200 strokes at a time ye Dry pump is 4d a hundred and the Wett pump is 2d a hundred.

Bath Record Office, 28/822, anonymous manuscript letter, c.1725?

***Charles Bave – see no.21.

27 *1728 Just give it time*

It is become a *Bath-Proverb*, and nothing is more ready in our *Mouths*, to silence and lull the Complaints of a dissatisfied and despairing *Patient*, than the comfortable Assurance, that, tho' he feels himself worse at present, he will certainly find Benefit when he is gone. // This *Prediction* (how crafty so ever it may seem) is not fulfill'd with regard to *Bathing* only, but *Drinking* the *Waters* also... for how many *relaxed Patients* go hence much weaker, and, to all Appearance, worse than they came, who in a short time after are most happily surpriz'd with a perfect Recovery?

John Wynter, *Of Bathing in the Hot-Baths at Bathe* (London, 1728), pp.60-1.

***John Wynter – see no. 25.

28 *1729 A case better suited to Bristol Hotwells*

But the Bath waters, (which I tried by Dr.Mead's advice), will not do with me. They put me into such pain upon the account of my disposition to the stone & gravell, that I was forced to run away to Bristoll for ease, &, I thank God, found it.

The Family Memoirs of the Rev.William Stukeley, M.D., and Correspondence. 3v. (Durham, Surtees Soc, 1882-7), v.1 p.223, W.Cant to William Stukeley, 3 Jul 1729.

***Richard Mead, 1673-1764, celebrated London physician.

1731-1760

29 *1733 Smallpox frightens them off*

I dined at Bath, where there is scarce any company, occasioned by the small-pox which rages there...

Historical Manuscripts Commission, 63, Egmont, Diary v.1 p.400, 13 Aug 1733.

***John Perceval, 1st earl of Egmont, 1683-1748, politician and diarist.

30 *1733 A vegetarian diet suits Dr Cheyne*

My *Regimen*, at present, is Milk, with *Tea, Coffee, Bread and Butter, mild Cheese, Salladin, Fruits, and Seeds* of all Kinds, with tender *Roots* (as *Potatoes, Turnips, Carrots*) and, in short, every Thing that has not *Life*, dress'd or not, as I like it; (in which there is as much, or a greater Variety than in *animal Foods*) so that the Stomach need never be cloyed. I drink no *Wine*, nor any *fermented* Liquors, and am rarely dry, most of my Food being liquid, moist, or juicy; only, after Dinner, I drink either *Coffee* or *green Tea*, but seldom both in the same Day, and sometimes a Glass of soft small *Cyder*. The thinner my *Diet* is, the easier, more cheerful and lightsome I find myself; my Sleep is also sounder, tho' perhaps somewhat shorter than formerly under my full *animal Diet*: But then I am more

alive than ever I was, as soon as I awake and get up. I rise commonly at *Six*, and go to Bed at *Ten*. The Order I find in this Diet, from much Experience, is that *Milk* is the lightest and best of all Foods, being a *Medium* between *animal* Substances and *Vegetables*; dress'd *Vegetables* less *windy* and griping, than *raw*; *ripe* Fruit than *unripe*; the *mealy* Roots more than the *fibrous*; and the *dry* than the *crude* *Vegetables*. I find much *Butter*, *Cream*, *fat* and oily *Vegetables*, and especially *Nuts*, both hard of Digestion, stuffing and *inflating*. When I am dry (which is rarely) I drink *Bath*, *Bristol* or *Pymont* Water.

George Cheyne, *The English Malady, or a Treatise on Nervous Diseases of All Kinds* (London, 1733), pp.361-2.

***George Cheyne – see no.22. Salladin – salad vegetables.

31 1734 *Bathing back in fashion*

I have liv'd to see the ancient Custom of Bathing reviv'd, and more than double the Number of Persons who have Bath'd in this, than in any preceding Years, and many extraordinary Cures made in *Scrophulous*, *Rheumatick*, *Paralitick*, and *Cutaneous* Diseases, by Bathing in the King's and Queen's Bath, when all other Medicines were try'd in vain.

John Quinton, *A Treatise of Warm Bath Water*. 2v. (Oxford, 1733-4), v.2 p.84.

***John Quinton, 1690-1743, physician.

32 1736 *George Lyttleton drinks down health*

I am so vastly recovered by these Waters... I can hardly think of being ever ill again after drinking down Health another Month; and must desire you for the future to consider me as being, next to the Royal family, the most incapable of Sickness, Pain, or any bodily infirmity, of all the Men you ever knew excepting only the Immortal Doctor Cheyney, who desires his compliments to you, and bids me tell you that he shall live at least two centuries by being a Real and practical Philosopher, while such Gluttonous Pretenders to Philosophy as You, Dr Swift and My Lord Bolingbroke die of Eating and Drinking at fourscore. The Doctor is the greatest Singularity, and the most Delightfull I ever met with. I am not his Patient, but am to be his Disciple... Lord Burlington has left Bath a great deal sooner than I hoped, or he intended, for fear of my Lady's catching the Small pox, which is very much here, and a bad sort.

The Correspondence of Alexander Pope, ed. G.Sherburn. 5v. (Oxford, 1956), v.4 p.46, George Lyttleton to Alexander Pope, Bath, 4 Dec 1736.

***George Lyttelton, 1st baron Lyttelton, 1709-73, politician and author. Alexander Pope, 1688-1744, poet and translator, friend of Ralph Allen of Bath. George Cheyne – see no. 22. Jonathan Swift, 1667-1745, dean of St Patrick's, Dublin, and author of *Gulliver's Travels*, etc. Henry St John, 1st viscount Bolingbroke, 1678-1751, statesman and writer. Richard Boyle, 3rd earl of Burlington, 1695-1753, statesman and patron of the arts.

33 1737 *The apothecary Stercorio's headquarters*

His Shop a nauseous, litter'd Magazine
Of all that is unwholesome and unclean.
From the low Roof on hempen Lines are hung
Dried Insects, Bladders, and stale Simples strung.
Here Cobwebs dangle from a Crocodile;
There Spiders spin from the Prescription-file:
Above on dusty Shelves in less'ning Rows,
Stand empty Gally-pots for idle Shews:
Beneath – in ranks, gilt-letter'd Draw'rs are seen,
Titled from damag'd Drugs contain'd within:
In this Glass-Case a Skeleton is stow'd;
And in that Box lies a dissected Toad.

Behind his Counter, lo! The Sloven sits,
Mixing a Cordial for *Sherbetta's* fits,
Round him in foul Confusion scatter'd lie
Spread Plaisters, Salves, And Med'cines, wet and dry:
Phials of Waters – Surfeit, Plague, and Mint;
A Mortar; and already pounded in't
Pearl-powder calcin'd from an Oyster-shell

Spirits t' infuse, and Whimsies to dispell:
 A Tincture here to save *Mercurio's* Nose;
 There *Coloquintida*, *Virginia's* Dose:
 On this side liquid Laudanum appears
 To lull *Podagro's* gouty Pains, and Cares;
 On that Chalybeat for *Acidia's* Case,
 To drive her Pallor downward from her Face.
 With unwash'd Hands each Med'cine he deals out
 Pills for within, or Ointments for without:
 Patients alike and Preparations blends;
 Careless to whom, or what – so he but sends.

[Mary Chandler?], *The Diseases of Bath: a Satire* (London, 1737).

***Mary Chandler, former Bath milliner, author also of a poetic description of Bath. Magazine – warehouse. Calcined – reduced to a powder by heat. Coloquintida – colocynth, a cathartic drug.

34 1737 *The intended General Hospital and clinical monitoring*

... the relief of our miserable fellow Creatures might be sufficient to induce all good-natur'd persons to support this Charity especially those who have themselves felt the Benefit of these healing Waters yet it may not be amiss to mention another very great advantage that will accrue to the Publick from such an Hospital being founded at Bath. All Physicians allow that the greatest certainty that can be attain'd to in the knowledge of the nature and vertues of any medicine arises out of the number of observations of the effect it has on human bodies in different circumstances; The World is indeed greatly indebted already to many Worthy and learned Gentlemen of the Faculty who have publish'd their observations on the Bath Waters and given the Historys of their Patients Cases with great exactness... but surely if the knowledge of the nature & Efficacy of these Waters could still be renderd more extensive and certain, it would be doing great Service to every individual Person in our Country or age who may hereafter have occasion for their use, [and] no Body can doubt but that this Hospital will greatly Contribute towards this desirable end, who considers that Persons of high Rank are too often negligent of their own health and by no means so exact in taking their Medicines abstaining from things hurtful or staying the due time as could be wish'd, and is indeed necessary in order to give the Physician a Sufficient Opportunity either of doing all the service their case would admitt of, or making observations for the future benefit of others. As in this Hospital every Person will be under the Government and direction of Prudent Physicians in all Circumstances regarding his health, so that a few years will furnish more Historys of Cases which may be depended upon (if the Physicians keep due Registers of their Sick under their Care) than any mans private Practice could have done in an Age; And as it is to be hoped that the Success which may reasonably be Expected from the Regularity of these poor Creatures may induce others of better Condition voluntarily to imitate them in the management of themselves, that they may receive the like Benefit, Every Body may see how great an advantage this may be to the Publick; the Sick will be heal'd, many Parishes will be eased of the Burthen of their useless poor Cripples, and the Knowledge and use of the Bath Waters will be greatly improv'd to the Benefit of all succeeding Generations.

Mineral Water Hospital, Trustees' Minute Books (Bath Record Office 0386/1/1), 16 Feb 1737.

35 1739 *Ducking one's head, stimulating the nervous juices*

That bathing of the head hath been much neglected, and has intirely been laid aside (if ever in practice) amongst the Ladies, appears from their coming to *Bath* with fine dressed heads: but I cannot see the reason of this custom; surely, whoever promiseth himself benefit from bathing, and is desirous to prevent head-aches, and sinkings, ought to plunge his head often, during the time he is in the *Bath*, and take care to dry the hair afterwards; this prevents an over-distension of the vessels in the head, which may be occasioned by a greater determinate flow of blood thither from the heat of the water on the immerged body, and is prevented by often dipping the head. There is likewise a speedier conveyance thereby made of the salubrious effects of the water to the scalp and brain, contributing to promote the secretion of the *Succus Nervosus* into the Nerves. Rubbing also in the time of bathing all

over with a sponge or brush, I take to be of great use, for facilitating the passage of the volatile stream through the inspiring vessels.

David Kinneir, *A New Essay on the Nerves and the Doctrine of Animal Spirits*. 2nd ed. (London, 1739), p.75.

***David Kinneir, Bath apothecary, later practised smallpox inoculation with William Street. Succus – juice, secretion. See also no.87.

36 1739 *Try mixing the waters then*

... I was forced hither & to Bristol on account of a Complaint I formerly mentiond to you. I believe the Bristol waters at the Hot Well would be serviceable, could I stay long enough, for they are apparently softer & as warm as New Milk, there, & known to be excellent in all Inflammatory Cases. But the Rigor of the Season & the Want of all Conveniencies to guard against it, of Coaches, chairs, & even warm Lodging, is too great to bear without hazard of Colds &c., which would do me, ev'n in this Complaint, more harm than I could expect benefit. I have therefore after a Fortnights tryal returnd to Bath where Dr Oliver & Cheyne advise me to mix Bristol water with a small quantity of Bath at the Pump, & with some other Medicines, which Dr Mead prescribd me to add.

The Correspondence of Alexander Pope, ed. G.Sherburn. 5v. (Oxford, 1956), v.4, p.206, Pope to Hugh Bethel, Bath, 27 Nov 1739.

***Alexander Pope – see no.32. William Oliver, 1695-1764, physician to Bath General Hospital 1740-61, wrote on gout and other cases – see also nos.47, 56, 57, 64, 65, 72, 73, 75. George Cheyne – see no.22. Richard Mead – see no.28.

37 1740 *Dr Cheyne advises the novelist Samuel Richardson*

Your present Complaint, as you very accurately describe it, is entirely nervous from Wind in the Primae Viae and Membranes of the Muscles and is of no Mannerr of dangerous consequence. If it comes to any Height so as to produce Terror or Confusion or inattention to Business your only present Relief is a Tea Spoonful or two of the Tincture of Soot, and Assa Foetida made on Peony Water in a cold Infusion drunk any Time in a Glass of Peper Mint Water Simple. This will make you break Wind plentifully and so relieve you. I have had that Complaint now and these Twenty Years... but the solid Cure is a Vomit every now and then; especially when very bad about the new Moon, but when tolerable twice a Year, Michaelmas and Lady-day. In short your total Case is Scorbutico Nervose from a sedentary studious Life. // I wonder you get not the Chamber-horse which is now so universally known and practiced in all the studious Professions in London. It is certainly admirable and has all the good and beneficial Effects of a hard Trotting Horse except the fresh Air. I ride an Hour every Morning and will do more when the Weather will not permit me to walk in my Garden or ride in my Coach. (Only remember the Board ought to be as long as the Room will permit 18 or 20 Feet, 16 at least, and the Chair you sit on with a Cushion on the Board as a Bottom to it with a two armed Hoop with a Foot-stool that with a sliding Board may be raised higher or lower.) It may be bought for a Couple of Pounds and is more necessary for Children or aged Persons than a Bed or a Cradle. You may dictate, direct, or read in it and it rides better double than single. I have found great Benefit by it. I desire you'll begin your cold Bath again forthwith; it cleanses as well as contracts. Your Diet is quite right, being that of the temperate healthy... I think a Glass, 2 or 3 at most, of good Raisin Wine, especially with Elder Berries the very best of all Cordials ... // I am extremely pleased with the Account of your Blood but more especially with the Account of your being no worse now. In the Spring you'll grow better and stronger towards Midsummer and till Michaelmas, and then you must careen again; but Good Blood is City Security for long Life and Health... Be sure to take a Scotch or Gum Pill or two once a Week.

The Letters of Doctor George Cheyne to Samuel Richardson, 1733-43, ed.C.F.Mullett (Columbia, University of Missouri Studies v.18 no.1, 1943), pp.59-60.

***George Cheyne – see no.22. Samuel Richardson, 1689-1761, novelist. Primae viae – principal passages. Assafoetida - a medicinal gum resin. Scorbutico nervose – nerve scurvy? Careen – undertake repairs (as a ship).

38 1740 *A bluestocking tires of all the talk of ailments*

The morning after I arrived, I went to the Ladies' Coffee House, where I heard of nothing but the rheumatism in the shoulder, the sciatica in the hip, and the gout in the toe. I began to fancy myself in the hospital or infirmary. I never saw such an assembly of disorders... I wish your Grace would consider Bath water is not Helicon, and affords no inspiration; and that there is no place where one stands in greater need of some thing to enliven the brain and inspire the imagination. I hear every day of people's pumping their arms or legs for the rheumatism, but the pumping for wit is one of the hardest and most fruitless labours in the world. I should be glad to send you some news, but all the

news of the place would be like the bills of mortality, palsy, four; gout, six; fever, one, &c. &c. We hear of nothing but Mr. Such-a-one is not abroad to-day; Oh! no, says another, poor gentleman, he died to-day. Then another cries, my party was made for quadrille to-night, but one of the gentlemen has had a second stroke of the palsy, and cannot come out; there is no depending upon people, no body minds engagements. Indeed the only thing one can do to-day, we did not do the day before, is to die...

The Letters of Mrs. Elizabeth Montagu, ed. M. Montagu. 3rd ed. 4v. (London, 1809-13), v.1 pp.72-3, Elizabeth Montagu to the Duchess of Portland, Bath, 27 Dec 1740. Helicon - fountain of the muses.

***Elizabeth Montagu, 1720-1800, author and bluestocking.

39 1742 *Drinking at Lyncombe Spa*

In general, the warmer Months are the most suitable Times for drinking the Waters of all cold mineral Springs: From *March* to *November* is the properest Season for drinking the *Lincomb Water*, though some have us'd it to very good purpose during the Winter. I own, I have advised very few to drink it at that Time, rather chusing that the *Bath Waters* should be used in their proper Course; but where these had been try'd without Effect, or the Nature of the Disease call'd for Assistance not likely to be procured from them, I have not scrupled to recommend the *Lincomb Water* at that Season of the Year. // The most proper Time of the Day for drinking any mineral Water is esteemed to be in the Morning before Breakfast; the Stomach being then empty, the Waters enter the Blood with the least Diminution of their Virtues; the Application of the corroborating mineral Principles of the Fibres of the Stomach and Intestines is likewise more immediate, which doubtless is of great Consequence, and perhaps the primary Cause of all those good Effects which follow the proper Use of chalybeate Waters. // A Glass of such Waters as are not purgative, but act as Alteratives or restorative Strengtheners, taken at Bed-time, is no less beneficial; they strengthen the Stomach, assist the Digestion, mix with the Blood, and promote the thinner Secretions without becoming disturbed either by the Passions of the Mind, or Exercise of the Body; nor are they found to be of less Use, if a Glass or two be taken a few Hours after Dinner. // The Quantity and Length of Time must be varied according to the Age, Constitution and Strength of the Patient, and the Nature and Cause of the Disease; and consequently must be very different in different Persons. But we may say, the proper Quantity in general is from half a Pint to a Quart or three Pints in the Morning, divided into three or four Draughts, at the Distance of half an Hour between each Draught, with suitable Exercise; and in most Cases half a Pint at Bed-time. // When the mineral Water is drunk in this Manner, and in these Quantities, it generally, tho' drank cold, gives an agreeable Warmth to the Stomach in a few Minutes time, sits light, creates a keen Appetite, and a good Digestion, remarkably raises the Spirits, and passes off freely and quickly by Urine. // Hence it is evident how well it is adapted to the Cure of those Diseases which proceed from Obstructions in the glandular Parts and minute Vessels of the Body, not attended with an immediate inflammation of those Parts: And it is no less evident, that this includes the major Part of chronic Diseases.

William Hillary, *An Inquiry into the Contents and Medicinal Virtues of Lincomb Spaw Water, near Bath* (London, 1742), pp.51-3.

***William Hillary, c.1700-63, physician and developer of Lyncombe Spa, a mile south of Bath. Alteratives – see no.25.

40 1742...*The wonderful oculist*

They write from Bath, that the Multitude of People that attended Doctor [John] Taylor there, with Defects of Sight is something so astonishing, that it employs every Body's Attention, every Day some Hundreds endeavouring his Assistance. // On Wednesday last most of the [medical] Faculty, as well as the Gentry there, were present at his recovering the Sight of many Persons, and at a Lecture the Doctor gave last Night at the Town Hall, to several hundred Spectators, amongst which were the chief of the Faculty; most of the Gentlemen and Ladies assisted. It appears that no less than five Persons, who were born blind, have this Week been recovered by Doctor Taylor. The Doctor will not leave Bath 'till Thursday come sevenight, the 30th, when he will be, the same Evening, at the Post House, Devizes, next Evening at Marlborough, and from there to London.'

Bristol Oracle 18 Sep 1742.

***John (Chevalier) Taylor, itinerant oculist with European reputation. Sevenight – a week.

41 **1743 *A star falls from grace***

This Week died at Bath, George Cheyne, M.D. and Fellow of the Royal Society, a Gentleman well known in the learned World by his Philosophico-Mathematical Tracts on various Subjects. He was educated by the famous Dr. Archibald Pitcairn, under whose Patronage he obtained, early, a considerable Reputation in Medicine; which procur'd him a happy Situation in a Place fam'd for the annual Resort of the Infirm, the Polite, and the Gay Part of the World, where he acquir'd general Esteem, and an easy Fortune; but, ambitious to become a Dictator in Physick, to which he was no way equal, he quickly wrote himself out of Character, had the Misfortune long to survive his Fame, and, at last, to fall into that Contempt, which is the natural Product of little Merit, and abundance of Vanity.

Bristol Oracle 16 Apr 1743.

***George Cheyne – see no.22.

42 **1743 *The General Hospital house visitors hear of trouble with the cook***

Monday Apl.4th 1743 // Visited all the Wards & offices & rec[eive]d a Complaint in the Dukes Ward against the Cook in not sending ye Patients Breakfast up hot, and abusing them, everything else in good order. // John Morris // Phil.Allen.'

Mineral Water Hospital, House Visitors' Book (Bath Record Office, 0386/1/40).

***John Morris, first apothecary to Bath General Hospital 1733-57. Philip Allen, b.1694, a governor of the Bath General Hospital, brother and business associate of the Bath entrepreneur Ralph Allen.

43 **1743 *The hospital surgeon's case: driven out by a jealous clique***

Mr.CLELAND not being call'd in, or made acquainted with what this *Party* of Governors had done, went into the Committee-Room, and asked Mr.*Brett*, the Register, their Determination; who desir'd him to look into the Books, and there He would see it: Which he did; and finding they had signed so *unjustifiable a Sentence*, as a *Dismission*, and no Crime alledged or specified against Him, He flew into a Passion, and let fall an unguarded Expression: But upon a Reverend Governor's reprimanding Him for it, He immediately asked Pardon, and desired Mr.Register to let him have Copies of the whole Proceedings. // Thus closed this *extraordinary Scene!*... So keen and enormous is the Appetite of those Two dreadful *Monsters, Malice and Revenge!* – But this *Step*, it seems, was necessary to be taken, in order to prevent Mr.CLELAND's Reputation from Rising, and his Character from gaining Ground. – It was believed, He had perform'd some extraordinary Cures; and it was even said, He had prolong'd the Life of Mr.*Brinsden*, a Gentleman who was much known, and had many Friends. – He had practis'd MIDWIFERY with Success: He had spoken his mind *Honestly* and *Freely*, in Relation to the particular Management of the BATH-WATERS; and had propos'd a Method of rendering them more useful and efficacious to the Sick and Lame, than they now are. Many of the Nobility, and several eminent Physicians and Surgeons had seen His Proposals and Machines, and approved of them. But such Proposals, in Defiance to Rules and Establishments, (practis'd and recommended by the present wise Men in Power, and perhaps by their Forefathers) were highly *treasonable*, and rejected *because He was a Stranger, and an Alien at BATH; and too likely (if the Schemes had taken Effect) to have Prosper'd and Fatten'd on Their Soil:* – So dangerous is it for a Man to attempt any *Improvements* in his Profession, where the Interests of Others are concern'd. – It is upon this Account, that He is now *compell'd* to APPEAL to the PUBLICK, Whether His Conduct and Actions, both in Regard to these Women He examin'd, and the Proposals He made... are to be approved of. – But, *Policy* required that a *Party* shou'd join in a Body, and endeavour to drive Him from their Territories.

Archibald Cleland, *An Appeal to the Public... relating to the Proceedings of a Party of the Governors of the New General Hospital at Bath* (Bath?, 1743), pp.39-40.

***Archibald Cleland, c.1700-71, surgeon to Bath General Hospital 1742-3 – see also nos.44, 46. Register – registrar.

44 **1744 *The hospital governors' answer: Cleland dismissed for indecent practices***

Mr.*Cleland* was then called in again, and desired to satisfy the Committee in the following Points: - First, *Why he examined Mary Hudson and Mary Hooke, who were not his Patients, and without acquainting their own Physician or Surgeon?* – Secondly, *If upon Examination he found any Disorder on these Women, why he did not communicate the same to their Physician, or Surgeon? –If he found no Disorder, why he repeated his Examinations?* // He made Answer, *That Sarah Appleby, deceas'd... had inform'd him, that it was the Desire of both Mary Hudson and Mary Hooke, that he should examine them in the same Manner he had examined her; and that he thought it incumbent on*

him, and every other Surgeon in the Hospital, To give Assistance to any of the Patients, and at any Time, when desir'd. As to Mary Hudson, he said, he had examined her, on Account of her Fits: That Suspicion he had she was with Child; and with a View to prevent the Hospital being impos'd upon; but he acknowledged he had been to blame, in not communicating his Proceedings to the Physicians and Surgeons, under whose Care the Patients were. // After this, Mr. Cleland was voted guilty of a Misbehaviour, by the unanimous Consent of all present. // And then the Question being put, Whether he should be DISMISS'D the Service of the Hospital, or only REPRIMANDED? – It was carried for the Former, Thirteen against Four... It appearing to those Thirteen, That the Affidavits of Mary Hudson and Mary Hooke, (the two Female Patients) contained nothing but the TRUTH: That Mr. Cleland had given no Satisfactory Reasons for the Examinations therein specified, even tho' these Patients had been under his own Care: And that the Charge of indecent Practices, in respect of the Two aforesaid Patients, had been fully made out against him, so as to render him UNFIT to be continued in the Service of the Hospital.

Bath General Hospital, *A Short Vindication of the Proceedings of the Governors of the General Hospital at Bath, in Relation to Mr. Archibald Cleland* (Bath?, 1744), pp.16-18.
 ***Archibald Cleland – see no.43.

45 1745 *The versatile waters*

The Waters are justly reckoned a Sovereign Remedy for indigestions and all other disorders of the Stomach. I saw examples of its virtues, while I was there [at Bath], both in debauchees and old people wch confirm me it has all the qualities of Medea's Cauldron, and that without the disagreeable Ceremony of being chop'd into pieces first. It may probably give you the Gout, but at the same time it will carry off the Cause... [It] will however, I can answer for it, remove your Complaint of Indigestion, and be very serviceable in carrying off the Gravel, wch you are so much troubled with. If these good Consequences don't follow from drinking the waters, I own they will lose all their Credit with me.

Letters of Spencer Cowper. Dean of Durham, 1746-64, ed. E. Hughes (Surtees Soc. Pub. v.165, 1956), p.41, letter of 23 Mar 1745.
 ***Spencer Cowper, 1713-74. Medea – a witch in the Greek legend of Jason.

46 1746 *Windy blood*

I can't say I have made any great progress since my last; but I think my Stomack is rather Better after my Puke, and my knees tho' but weak, yet, I find do not ach near so much after walking as they used to do. Mr Cleland took from me yesterday morn'g about 8 ounces of Blood, which he said was very good only windy, and that I had too much on't I having bled several times at the Nose... Mr Cleland has Syringed L[or]d Winch[elsea?]'s Ear... Mr Davison has had the Gout in his hands but is better.

Bath Central Library A.L. 662, T. Brasier to Fernando Fairfax (later Lord Fairfax), Bath, 27 May 1746.
 ***Archibald Cleland – see no.43.

47 1746 *Philip Doddridge passes on a country doctor's query to the younger Dr Oliver*

Q. whether he [Oliver] can contrive any Method for... drinking the Bath Waters at Home, & particularly whether there be any way of preventing the Gas (whatever that is, but I hope it is no harm) from flying off & whether if the Water was to be warmed in Balnea Mariae, & close sealed it might not be in some Measure advantageous.

R. [The waters] should be warmed by putting the Bottle, before the Cork is drawn, into hot water. As the volatile Part will be lost, for no Cork can confine it, I believe the Doctor will advise her [the patient] to put a few Drops of the Tinctura aromatica, and perhaps some light Preparation of Steel into the first, if not every Glass She drinks.

Geoffrey F. Nuttall, *Calendar of the Correspondence of Philip Doddridge DD, 1702-51* (Northants Record Society v.29, 1979), letters 1193 and 1196, 11 and 18 Sep 1746.
 ***Philip Doddridge, 1702-51, Nonconformist minister. William Oliver – see no.36. Balnea Mariae – bain-marie. Tinctura aromatica – aromatic tincture made from Jamaica pepper infused in brandy. Steel – a chalybeate medicine.

48 1746/49...*The diversions take precedence over the needs of the sick*

La mienne est bien foible... [My health is quite frail and my husband's [Lord Bolingbroke's] is hardly any better despite his taking the waters. His sciatica pain does not remit at all. I hope more from the pumping which he started on this morning, but the only place it can be done is so nasty and

so inconvenient that while seeking relief for one thing you are almost sure to catch a chill. Everything here is organised to suit the assemblies and balls and nothing for the comfort of invalids. In this matter you English are more heartless than the Germans, because at Aachen, you know, they are properly provided for anything to do with health.]

Historical Manuscripts Commission, 8th Report Appx, pt.1, p.567, Lady Bolingbroke to Lady Denbigh [original in French].
***Bolingbroke - see no.32 [Original text in French.]

49 1749 *The General Hospital's rules concerning patients*

XXI. THAT all Patients who, after their Admission, shall be found to have an Infectious Distemper, shall be Order'd into a particular Ward, appropriated for that Purpose. // XXII. THAT no Patient, Nurse, or Woman-Servant shall go out, without Leave of the Matron: And that no Patient or Servant Lodging in the House shall lie out of the Hospital, on any Account whatsoever, on Pain of Expulsion. // XXIII. THAT no Men Patients shall go into the Womens Wards, nor Women into the Mens, without Leave of the Matron. // XXIV. THAT no Patient or Servant shall Swear, Curse, or give abusive Language, or behave themselves indecently, in any manner, on Pain of Expulsion. // XXV. THAT no Patient or Servant shall presume to Play at Cards, Dice, or any other Game, within the Walls of the Hospital, or Smoak within the Wards. // XXVI. THAT such Patients as are able to Work, shall Assist the Nurses, and other Servants, in Nursing the Patients, Washing and Ironing the Linnen, Washing and Cleaning the Wards, and in doing such other Business as the Matron shall require. // XXVII. THAT such Persons as are able shall be allowed to go to their respective Places of Worship on Sundays, in the Forenoon and Afternoon; and that they shall return to the Hospital directly. // XXVIII. THAT each Patient shall wear a Badge, number'd; and that the Porter and Chairmen shall also wear Badges... // XXXIX. THAT no Patient shall loiter about the City, or go to an Ale House, on Pain of Expulsion.

John Wood, *An Essay towards a Description of Bath*. 2nd ed. 2v. (London, 1749), v.2, pp.297, 299.
***John Wood, 1705-54, Bath architect and urban developer.

50 1751 *Speech therapy now available*

Arriv'd in this City, and is now to be spoken with at Mr Arthur's, an Apothecary, on the South-Parade, Mr SAMUEL ANGIER, from London, who cures (or teaches to speak distinct and well) Persons who have Impediments, viz. Stuttering, Stammering, Lispering, Speaking in the Nose, &c. Any who have disagreeable Voices may be taught to alter them, so as to be agreeable. He also teaches the ART of Pronunciation, by which, Persons (with close Application) may soon be brought to speak and read in any elegant Manner, as well as have the above said Disorders remov'd.

Bath Journal 11 Feb 1751.

51 1751 *Resuscitation measures*

Last Sunday Morning, about Eleven O'Clock, as several Boys were playing near the Bridge, one Grist, a Youth about fourteen Years of Age, presumptuously went into the River, for the Water was then Brink high; as he did about 12 Months ago, when he was almost drown'd; but this Time his Life was despair'd of, being under Water for near ten Minutes: When taken up, there was not any Appearance of Life, but luckily Mr.Dodd, a Surgeon and Apothecary of this City, being near when the Affair happen'd, (and thro' him, under GOD, the Boy owes his Life) he bled him; and, by holding him up by the Legs, well rubbing his Body, and blowing a Pair of Bellows up his Fundament, after some Time, Life was perceiv'd in him: He was carried home, put into a warm Bed, and next Morning was perfectly recover'd.

Bath Journal 5 Aug 1751.
***John Dodd, c.1716-91, Bath apothecary-surgeon – see also nos.102-3.

52 **1751 Sample payments for the General Hospital apothecary's shop, 28 June-20 July 1751**

	£	s	d
To Sage & angellico	0	1	0
To 2 quarts of Juice	0	2	8
To maiden hair	0	3	0
To Bettony	0	0	6
To 2 pound of Millepidies	0	8	0
To Mint 73	0	6	1
To Baum	0	2	0
To Rose buds	0	1	8
To Turpentine	0	1	8
To 4 gross of Phial corks	0	1	0
To 2 Leeches	0	0	6
	1	8	1

Mineral Water Hospital, House Incidents Book (Bath Record Office, 0386/2/4).

***Angellico – Angelica. Maiden hair – Maidenhair fern, used in making a ‘capillaire’ infusion. Betony – a herbal ‘all-heal’. Baum – Lemon balm.

53 **1751 A commendable record on paralysis treatment all told**

We have a great Variety of paralytic Patients, and upon exactly examining our Books, from the first opening the Hospital to this present Time, I find the Account to be as follows: Admitted in Nine Years 310 Cur'd 57 Much better 152 No better 45 Incurable 42 Dead 12 Remain in the House 3. // From hence it appears, that more than two Thirds were either cur'd, or receiv'd great Benefit, and that only Twelve died in the Space of nine Years: All these Patients were bath'd twice a Week, and many of them three Times. And what is very remarkable is that of those who were cur'd, or discharged much better, above thirty were more than 40 Years, fifteen of whom were turn'd of 50, and five were 60 and upwards. Now let Appearances have their Force, Conjecture hesitate, and Reason judge. // Here it is of some Importance to observe, that these poor People lie under many Disadvantages, unfelt by Persons of Fortune: They live in a close confin'd Air, have no Exercise, and are not allow'd a proper Use of the Bath, which as it is now regulated subjects them to Inconveniences, which greatly obstruct the Good they might otherwise receive. // For want of a *sufficient Fund* too, (notwithstanding the Generosity of many Contributors) we are not yet enabled to admit the Number our Edifice was design'd for; by which means, many miserable Objects are obliged to wait so long after they are taken ill, that the Distemper becomes so fix'd and obstinate, that it is really surprizing that any Methods should be of Service. // And when I add, that the Generality of our Patients come as Incurables from other Hospitals, where there are Physicians of the first Character, and consequently where the best Means are used: How strong in Favour of Bathing (with such Obstacles) must be the above Account?

John Summers, *A Short Account of the Success of Warm Bathing in Paralytic Disorders*. 2nd ed. (London, 1751), pp.4-6.

***John Summers, physician to Bath General Hospital 1748-52.

54 **1752 Julia Trevelyan's son Jack wants smallpox protection**

I am sorry to find it will be attended with so much expence in this Neighbourhood, but as Doctor Moisey is so good a Physician and being used to Inoculation, I cannot help beging your consideration of it... and to make it as little expensive as I possibly can to you, Sir, I will be at half the expence as to Housekeeping, which I believe even so will be more than I can afford...

The Trevelyan Letters to 1840, ed. Mary Siraut (Somerset Record Society v.80, Taunton, 1990), Julia Trevelyan to her father-in-law Sir John Trevelyan, Bath, 10 Feb 1752.

***Julia Trevelyan, daughter-in-law of Sir John Trevelyan Bt, 1671-1755, M.P. Abel Moysey, 1716-80, physician to Bath General Hospital 1747-80 – see also 65, 66, 86, 90, 100.

55 **1752 Open to the elements, exposed to voyeurs, and unhygienic as well**

Diseased persons of all ages, sexes, and conditions, are promiscuously admitted into an open Bath, which affords little or no shelter from the inclemencies of the weather, such as wind, rain, hail, and snow: for, by the peculiar sagacity of the learned in that place, the bathing time is limited to the most severe season in the year. This being the case, it may be reasonably supposed, that many of the fair sex are withheld by modesty from going into the Bath, where they must not only mingle with male

patients, to whose persons and complaints they are utter strangers; but, likewise, be exposed in a very mortifying point of view, to the eyes of all the company, in the Pump-room, as well as to those of the footmen and common people, whose curiosity leads them to look over the walls of the Bath: some may be apprehensive of being tainted with infectious distempers; or disgusted with the nauseating appearances of the filth, which, being washed from the bodies of the patients, is left sticking to the sides of the place.

Tobias Smollett, *An Essay on the External Use of Water* (London, 1752), p.34.

***Tobias Smollett, 1721-71, novelist and historian.

56 1752-3 *A hospital readmission obtains no relief the second time round*

Sarah Hart of Eaton Aged 21 in a Letter to one of the Nurses in this House, says, The Leg that was bad when[I was last] with you, in about a twelvemonth after I came away Grew so well I could go without either Stick or Cruch & Continued so from Witsontide to Christmas; & I was very well in health during that time; my state of health changed then & my other Leg grew bad just the same as the other only the Cup boan not swelled nor my leg shortened. I am so bad I cannot help myself nor have been out of my room these fourteen Weeks & always in prodigious Pain; the anguish of this leg flys into the other & weakens it very much that it takes the use of it quite away; that Leg would be well if it was not for the Pain fleeing to it. I have strove for relief here but can get none so far that my Father & Mother has quite wasted their Substance. // Readm[itte]d]: 12 Augt 1752 [under] WO [Dr William Oliver]: Disch[arged]: 28 Feby 1753. No better [having been] a Patient 198 days.

Mineral Water Hospital, Case Book 1750-58 (Bath Record Office, 0386/4/1).

***William Oliver – see no.36.

57 1753 *Carefully controlled bathing should expel the gout*

After moderate evacuations, and a short course of drinking the waters, assisted with proper attenuating medicines, by which the viscosity of the juices may be dissolved, and the gouty moleculae, which were entangled in them, may be set free and broke in pieces, they should bathe in the Cross-Bath twice a week. By keeping in the moderate uniform heat of this Bath, which is not much above the heat of human blood, for half an hour at a time, the circulation, thro' most of the series of vessels then open, will gradually be restored, and such numbers of canals, which were very lately shut up, will again be made pervious, [so] that the bodily machine will have its full force of expulsion unresisted, and a regular fit will most probably be produced. // Every night of the day in which they do not bathe, they should put their legs into a pail of Bath-Water, moderately warm, for about ten minutes. I give this caution – *that the water be but moderately warm*, because the intention is to relax the solids, without rarefying the fluids too much. By this relaxation, the equilibrium of resistance in the whole body will be taken off, and nature will deposite what she wants to get rid of in the least resisting parts, which will apparently then be the feet... // The relief, which men crippled by the Gout expect from bathing, is, that the waters will gradually dissolve the gouty matter, wherever lodged; and that by softening, and relaxing the vessels, they will procure it to be thrown off by perspiration or sweat, or to be absorbed, and returned into the circulation, and by that to be driven out of the body with the larger secretions. Great care must therefore be taken, that this *matter* be not too suddenly dissolved in large quantities, by too long a stay in the bath, or too intense a degree of heat. Whether the last bathing has had this ill effect, the patient will feel, and the Physician will discover by the state in which he finds his patient the evening of the day he bathes. If he is feverish, he may be sure that some of the *gouty matter* is dissolved and got into the blood, and that nature is labouring to get rid of it. He must then wait 'till she has performed this necessary work, which will probably be in thirty or forty hours, by a turbid urine, or foetid sweat... // It is impossible to say exactly how long the patient should continue in the Bath, because the particular circumstances of each bather can alone determine it. But... staying in too long must be an error of dangerous consequence. Yet this is a very common mistake; for many people think, that the longer they stay in the water, the sooner they shall be cured, and act as wisely as the poor man did, who was ordered to take three purges in three weeks; but, to save time, took them all together. // This error, I must confess, is sometimes purely the patient's misfortune, and not his fault. The great concourse of bathers is now very disproportional to the conveniences of our baths for their reception. The passages out of them are so few, that a poor weak hysterical creature, who cannot bear the Bath above ten minutes, is often kept in it above half an hour,

and sometimes much longer, to the great peril of her life, at least to the irreparable damage of her health...

William Oliver the younger, *A Practical Essay on the Use and Abuse of Warm Water in Gouty Cases*. 2nd ed. (Bath, 1753), pp.84-5, 68-9, 74-5.

***William Oliver - see no.36.

58 1753 *Dr Hartley recommends bread and milk for an eye complaint*

I have known some very great disorders of the eyes cured by the diet of bread, milk and lime-water, with mercurial purges, and would advise in the case you mention a trial of it after the following manner. // Let the child take 8 or 10 grains of jalap with 4 or 5 of calomel twice a week, have a leech set to each temple every night for 3 or 4 nights, and then every other night, or seldom, for 6 or 8 times, and live entirely upon bread as his solid food, with equal parts of milk and lime-water just made warm enough to be pleasant, no other things however innocent they may be thought, or tempting to a child, must come within his lips on any account. All depends on this. In a month or six weeks he will probably be better, but must not abate of the rigour of his diet under three months. In that time he may begin to return as he can bear it without inflaming his eyes, to a common innocent diet, but should not drink any fermented liquor, not even small beer, for some years. As to external applications, I leave them entirely to Mr. Alexander, who is a very good judge... If he [the child] is very thirsty he may drink toast and water, a little warm. You will have great difficulty I fear both with him and his parents about so strict a diet, but he will probably lose his eyes if he does not comply, and really the least variation from it does harm.

W.B. Trigg, 'The correspondence of Dr. David Hartley and Rev. John Lister', *Trans. Halifax Antiquarian Society*, 1938-40, pp.270-1, letter of 18 Jan 1753.

***David Hartley, 1705-57, physician to Bath General Hospital 1744-48, developed psychological theory of association of ideas. Jalap – a purgative root.

59 1754 *Mouth and foot control*

JOHN GOLDSTONE. // OPERATOR for the TEETH. // In GREEN-STREET, BATH, // Makes an Incomparable TINCTURE, for the speedy and effectual Cure of the Scurvy in the Gums, Price One Shilling the Bottle. Likewise an excellent Powder and Dentifrice Opiate, for preserving and beautifying the Teeth, Price One Shilling. – He also bleeds, cuts Corns, and Toe-Nails, that grow in the Flesh, and prevents them from Growing so any more: Also sells Dragon Root for Cleaning the Teeth.

Bath Journal 15 Apr 1754.

***John Goldstone, first resident dentist at Bath from c.1744. Dragon root – dried arum.

60 1754 *An apothecary's comprehensive wares*

[WILLIAM] STREET, // APOTHECARY and CHEMIST, // In NORTH-GATE-STREET, BATH // Truly Prepares and Sells, // WHOLESALÉ or RETAIL, // CHEMICALS, DRUGS and GALENICALS, // As Cheap as in LONDON: // SELLS Likewise, the Bathing Spirit, Dr Bateman's Pectoral Drops, Bostock's Cordial, Bowden's, Ruleau's, Sandwell's, and Wilkinson's Issue-Plaisters, British Oil, Cephalic Snuff, Cripple Oil, Daffey's Elixir, Fryer's Balsam, Eaton's Balsamic Styptic, Godfrey's Cordial, Hooper's Female Pills, Dr James's Powder, Orange Orice, and Green Pease for Issues, Plain and Golden Spirit of Scurvy-Grass, Scotch Pills, Squire's Grand Elixir, Stoughton's Drops, Universal Balsam, Quicksilver Garters and Girdle,... an infallible Ointment for the Itch,... the Duke of Portland's Medicine for the Gout, a Spirit that takes Spots and Stains out of Linnen, without doing it any Injury, French Chalk, Writing Ink,... Drenches for the Yellows &c., a Liquor for the Foot-rot, fine Lucca Oil, Florence Ditto, Barbers Ditto, Gallipoly Ditto, Lamp Ditto, Linseed Ditto, Palm Ditto, Turpentine Ditto, true Flanders Oil Bays, Hartshorn Shavings, Sagoe, Vermicelli, true Gold and Silver, Dutch Metal, Almond Powder, Anchovies, Canary, Hemp, and Rape Seed, Candied Eryngo Root, Blue French Galls,... Gold-Beater's Skin, Spirit of Wine, Hungary Water, Ivory Black, Logwood,... Yellow Oaker, Vermillion,... a most excellent Tooth-Powder, and Lip Salve, Salop, Black and Castile Soap, Pitch, Black and Yellow Rosin, Spruce Beer, Bees Wax and Honey, Leeches and Vipers, and Dr Hartley's Lithontriptic Mass for the Gravel and Stone. – I have just brought Home, a fresh Quantity of Mineral Waters, viz. Bourne, Nevil Holt, German Spaw, Pyrmont, Road

[i.e. Rode], Scarborough, and Selters. Sells also, Sea Water, Tar Water, Common and Oyster-shell Lime-Water... [N.B.] Most Money for BEES WAX and HONEY.

Bath Journal 25 Nov 1754.

***William Street, c.1727-85, Bath apothecary and later banker, promoted smallpox inoculation with David Kinneir, Mayor in 1784-5 but died in office. Galenicals – medicinal herbs.

61 1756 *The doctor's child, the wet nurse and the virulent smallpox*

As I think it a Duty due to the Publick, to advertise as soon as discovered, any nefarious, wicked, infamous Persons... that the Community for their own Benefit may avoid them: I therefore in this publick Manner declare, that SARAH PHILIPS, WET-NURSE, IN KING'S-MEAD-STREET, BATH, is a most wicked and infamous Woman. // I had the Misfortune to put my only Child under her Care; whom she has abandoned in the most cruel and barbarous Manner, without giving me Time to provide another Nurse for its Subsistence... and for no other Cause, than my not consenting to her bringing my little Infant from Bristol, where I had sent it for Fear of its catching the SMALL-POX; which Distemper I apprehend might at this Time prove fatal to her, as she is breeding her Teeth, and which there is the strongest Reason to believe she would now have taken, had she been brought to Bath, as the disease is very rife here; and as the Infection is at THIS VERY TIME IN THE NEXT HOUSE to that in which my Child has her Lodgings. // As nothing but the most obstinate cruel Temper cou'd prompt a Woman to such an Act of Barbarity, as the refusing to continue suckling a little Infant, because the Father would not suffer his Child to be brought into the most imminent Danger of its Life; it is to be hoped that, for the Future, no Parent will ever commit a Child to the Care of so inhuman a Wretch. // RICE CHARLETON, *King's-Mead-Square*, BATH.

Bath Journal 21 Jun 1756.

***Rice Charleton, 1710-89, physician to Bath General Hospital 1757-81, wrote on the Bath waters, etc. – see also nos.65, 73, 76, 93.

62 1756 *The effect of the waters spoiled by the drugs*

The practitioner, who gives medlies of medicines, can not pretend to select or point out the individual simple in the multitude, that produced the good or the evil effect discovered... The same uncertainty must undoubtedly attend the practitioner, who prescribes a variety of medicines with Bath or any other of the most powerful mineral waters... And if he fails of curing, how unjust is it to lay the blame on the waters, which were either altered by mixtures of incongruous drugs, or not taken in a proper quantity to produce any good effect? // ... I have observed some [patients] coming contentedly, triumphantly home, vaunting of the skill of their physician and the extraordinary cure, through his means, wrought by the waters. Upon enquiry, and examining their voluminous collection of recipes, and the no less copious bills of apothecaries, a long catalogue of medicines has been given every day for some months, with a few ounces of the water once a day, perhaps not above once or twice a week, during a tedious, nauseous and expensive course. Yea, I have seen some of the prescriptions of one of the most famed practitioners of his time directing a medicine to be washed down, twice a week, with four ounces of Bath water; where as many pounds might have been safely taken. But, the prescriber himself, in that as well as others of his prescriptions, shewed he knew or thought nothing of the matter, or layed no more stress upon the water, than merely to keep the patient where he resided: For, he made Bath waters and green tea synonymous; bidding the patient drink four ounces of the one, or of the other. Who could refrene laughter, if the subject were not too serious?

Charles Lucas, *An Essay on Waters*. 3v. (London, 1756), pp.248-9.

***Charles Lucas, 1713-71, physician and Irish patriot, controversially showed the Bath waters contained no sulphur – see also nos.64, 69.

63 1757 *Degrees of heat*

... the Choice of the Baths in *Bath* is a Matter of the utmost Consequence to the Sick, since each of them is attended with a different Degree of Heat different from either of the other[s]; and since it is certain, that the Constitutions of different Persons, and even of the same Individual, at different Times, will be differently affected with the same Degree of Heat; so that the *Hot* Bath may be very dangerous and prejudicial, when the *Cross*-Bath would be extremely beneficial; and *vice versa*.

William Baylies, *Practical Reflections on the Uses and Abuses of Bath Waters* (London, 1757), pp.191-2.

***William Baylies, 1724-87, physician, later physician to Frederick the Great.

64 *1757 Dr Lucas versus Dr Oliver*

To DOCTOR OLIVER... It is said, Sir, that a set of gentlemen, who are no better intitled to practice physic at Bath, than others of his majesty's subjects, qualified by law, have formed an association, to exclude all men, that but differ with them in opinion, from practicing in this city; and this, by declaring, that the associated will not consult with certain men, of qualifications and characters that do no dishonor to the profession, and that may perhaps be found not inferior to any of the members of the association. // To a gentleman of your sense and learning, I need not attempt to shew how hateful, how illegal, how iniquitous such an association must be... it is a combination against certain individuals, to exclude them from the common benefits of society; it is a combination against the public, because it limits the patients in their choice of physicians; and it is a combination against the dignity and honor of the profession... // After this, how shall I tell, that same sets the learned and respectable Dr. Oliver at the head of such an association! How shall I believe it! Or how conceive, that I should be of the number excluded! If this report be false, you will assuredly acquit yourself of the charge, like a gentleman, like a physician: but, if it should be true, it is fit, and high time, the masque should be drawn off, and the public shewn, in a fair light, the kind of men that set themselves up as guardians to the health of the community... // But, if some must thus take upon them this antimedical dictatorial power, to determine who shall, and who shall not, be admitted to share in the practice at Bath; why this declaration against me?... Have you any objection against my moral character?... Can you object to my qualification in my profession? ... Are you angry, that, in treating [of the qualities of the hot] baths, I preferred, as I ever must, truth, the good of the public, and the honor of my profession, to all low private regards? You cannot surely, when you consider with what extraordinary tenderness I treated all of you who wrote on the subject, exposing your errors, not your names, till I was urged to it by an inviolable attachment to truth and the public good. ... I believe, with respect to a knowledge of these waters, the public will hardly allow you of your demand; unless you can cause the resurrection of your sope [soap] and sulphur [as alleged components of the waters], so fairly and justly exploded...

To DOCTOR LUCAS... In your essay on Bath waters, you have, according to the judgment of your best friends, in most opprobrious terms, abused and misrepresented all the gentlemen of this place, who have had a *regular* education, in the profession of physic. I am one of those *regulars* on whom you have there cast the most unmannerly, malicious and wicked reflections, your heated imagination could invent. // Surely, Sir, it was impossible that you should expect any kind treatment from the persons whom you had thus publickly injured! I have nothing to do with the conduct of my abused brethren. I can only say for myself, that if I should ever hereafter hold any consultation, controversy, or conversation, with the man from whom I have received such usage, I should esteem myself to be *really* as great a scoundrel as he has represented me to be. This is the only letter you will ever receive from your well-wisher, Wm OLIVER.

[William Baylies, ed.], *Letters of Doctor Lucas and Doctor Oliver, Occasioned by a Physical Confederacy Discovered in Bath* (London, 1757), pp.5-8, 12-13.

***Charles Lucas – see no.62. William Oliver – see no.36. William Baylies – see no.63.

65 *1757 Dr Baylies also under attack*

It cannot be pleasing to a humane mind, to have any disputes with his neighbours, and especially with his brethren. But necessity has no law... In justice therefore to my friends, to the public, and to myself, I am forced thus to make known, that the learned doctors, William Oliver, Abel Moysey, and Rice Charleton, celebrated practitioners of physic at Bath, have jointly resolved not to attend any patient in consultation with me: This, they declared first in most injurious terms to some of the patients at Bath, before their secret resolutions reached my ears; and upon my discovering of it, they avowed the charge, and offered terms of reconciliation, which no man of honour could possibly accept. Hence it is easy to see, that I must lye under this obloquy 'till the grounds of these proceedings are laid open; this I have done in... [a] simple narrative of stated facts, which I now submit to the judgment of the impartial public.

William Baylies, *A Narrative of Facts Demonstrating the Actual Existence and True Cause of that Physical Confederacy in Bath* (Bath, 1757), pp.v-vi.

***William Baylies - see no.63. William Oliver – see no.36. Abel Moysey – see no.54. Rice Charleton – see no.61.

66 1757 *Lord Chesterfield's deafness*

Upon my word I think myself as much obliged to you, for your voluntary and unwearied attentions to my intolerable deafness, as if your prescriptions had removed or relieved it. I am now convinced, by eight years' experience, that nothing can; having tried everything that ever was tried, and perhaps more. I have tried the urine of hares, so long and so often, that whether male, female, or hermaphrodite, I have probably had some of every gender: I have done more, I have used the galls of hares; but to as little purpose. // I have tried these waters in every possible way: I have bathed my head; pumped it; introduced the stream, and sometimes drops of the water, into my ears; but all in vain. In short, I have left nothing untried, and have found nothing effectual. Your little blisters, which I still continue, have given me more relief than anything else.

The Letters of Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th earl of Chesterfield, ed.B.Dobrée. 6v. (London, 1932), v.5 p.2259, Lord Chesterfield to Dr M.Monsey, Bath, 8 Nov 1757.

***Philip Dormer, 4th earl of Chesterfield, 1694-1773, statesman, author of famous letters to his son.

67 1758 *Authorised dissection of corpses*

On Monday the two Murderers (John Chester and Morgan Miles) were executed at the Gallows near Taunton, pursuant to their Sentence, and following the Order of the High Sheriff their Bodies were delivered to Mr.Palmer, Surgeon of this City, for the Instruction of his Pupil.

Bath Journal 10 Apr 1758.

***Thomas Palmer, surgeon to Bath General Hospital 1742-62, member of Bath City Council from 1746.

68 1758 *Hot sensations in the baths - but no absorption of fluid*

We will first describe the Effects Bathing in this Fluid has on a Person of a good Constitution when in Health, and then we shall be the better able to judge of its Effects on the Bodies of those which labour under this [disorder, i.e. loss of appetite] and many other Diseases. A Person in Health, when he enters the Bath of a Morning, finds himself very tranquil and easy, his Pulse beats about sixty-six Times in a Minute, (some more some less... but what I have inserted is a Medium)... [He] has not been long in this Fluid before he finds himself very uneasy, his Pulse now beats seventy-two Times in a Minute, his Face appears red, and his Veins very much swell'd; when he has continued about twenty Minutes in the Bath, he is almost ready to faint, his Pulse now beats eighty-five Times every Minute, his Face and Parts above Water are as red as Scarlet, he has a violent Head-Ach, and his Veins are swell'd almost ready to burst; in this Condition he comes out of the Bath, and afterwards in his Bed sweats violently, which decreases the Velocity and allays the Rarefaction of the Fluids, and of Course all his feverish Symptoms go off. I should likewise observe, that Persons which bathe in this Fluid have been thought to imbibe a great Quantity of it through the Pores of the Skin; but I can assure the World to the contrary, having weighed Persons when they entered and when they came out of the Bath, and found the Difference very immaterial, their Weight being rather less when they came out, than when they went in. // From whence we may conclude, that Bathing in this Fluid greatly increases the Velocity and Rarefaction of the [bodily] Fluids, and does not dilute them by entering the Body through the Pores of the Skin, as some have imagined...

J.N.Stevens, *A Treatise on the Medicinal Qualities of the Bath Waters* (Bristol, 1758), pp.76-8.

***J.N.Stevens, Bath physician, also wrote on fevers and an essay on the head and neck.

69 1758...*An unfair test of the waters*

... though this hospital [Bath General Hospital] was for the trial of Bath waters only, and an apothecary is not mentioned in any part of the act for its establishment... more than eighty pounds a year have one year with another been laid out in the purchase of drugs at the best hand; which if consumed in medicines prepared by practical prescriptions, and vended by any apothecary, must, at a moderate price, be charged at upwards of a thousand pounds. And if they have not been so used, why have the public been put to the expence of them? // Under these circumstances let any think how impossible it has been for cures to be wrought by these waters; especially as it is now manifest, that 'till Doctor Lucas published his analysis of them, practitioners were strangers to their natural contents, and daily administered with them many medicines absolutely contradictory to the real quality, and destructive of their grand agent, which renders them effectual. // This surely is a convincing proof... that the waters would be more effectual were their operation less interrupted with

medicines. // Besides, it has often been observed that the poor creatures in the hospital for cure have been suffered to walk home from the baths half covered with their wet bathing dresses; from a due consideration of which, and of the number of incurable and otherwise improper cases admitted into the hospital, we can no longer wonder that the use of the water on the hospital patients should not be attended with the desired success.

William Baylies, *An Historical Account of the Rise, Progress and Management of the General Hospital or Infirmary in Bath* (Bath, 1758), pp.128-30.

***William Baylies see no.63. Charles Lucas – see no.62.

70 1759 *A panacea for venereal diseases*

Is sold by Dr.RAYNES, Oculist and Operator for the Ears, an Antivenereal Medicine, which infallibly cures Gonorrhoeas or Claps, with all their attendant Symptoms of Heat of Urine, Running, Chordee, Phimosis, Periphimosis, Shankers, Buboës, and swollen Testicles, in a mild, gentle, and expeditious Manner, without Confinement, Hindrance of Business, or Knowledge of the nearest Friend. Those who suspect they have received an Injury may, by a Dose of it, be perfectly freed from all Apprehensions of that Kind; and if taken in Time, prevent it taking Place. It is but too common to puff with a Deal of Quack Cant, to put off spurious Medicines, to the great Prejudice of the Public: But where real Honour is concern'd, a Sufficiency may be commended in a few Words; as the Patient may depend on having an inevitable Cure, with the strictest Honour and Secrecy observ'd; and this several Persons have already experienced: And for those that may require Attendance, through Mismanagement or ill Conduct, the Doctor has provided Lodgings and Boarding, or Lodgings separately, in his own Neighbourhood; and performs all Operations that are essential to the Cure of the Bone Disease. He gives his Advice in all Cases of this Kind from Seven o'Clock in the Morning 'till Nine at Night.

Bath Journal 3 Sep 1759.

***Raynes, itinerant oculist/aurist, visited Bath 1759-89.

71 1759 *Rules for claimants*

CONDITIONS of Admission into the General Hospital at BATH. //First. // The Case of the Patient must be described by some Physician or Person of Skill in the Neighbourhood of the Place where the Patient has resided for some Time; and this Description, together with a Certificate of the Poverty of the Patient, attested by some Person of Credit, must be sent in a Letter, Franked or Post-Paid, directed to the Register of the *General Hospital* at BATH. // *The Age of the Patient ought to be mention'd in the Description of his Case, and the Persons who describe are desired to be particular in the Enumeration of the Symptoms; that so neither improper Cases may be admitted, nor proper ones rejected.* // Second. // After the Patient's Case has been thus described, and sent, he must remain in his usual Place of Residence, 'till he has Notice of a Vacancy, signify'd by a Letter from the Register. // Third. // Upon the Receipt of such a Letter, the Patient must set forward for BATH, bringing with him this Letter, the Parish Certificate duly executed, and allowed by two Justices, and Three Pounds Caution Money, if from any Part of *England* or *Wales*; but if the Patient comes from *Scotland* or *Ireland*, then the Caution Money, to be deposited before Admission, is the Sum of Five Pounds. // Fourth. // Soldiers may, instead of Parish Certificates, bring a Certificate from their Commanding Officers, signifying to what Corps they belong, and that they shall be receiv'd into the same Corps when discharg'd from the Hospital, in whatever Condition they are. But it is necessary, that their Cases be described, and sent previously; and that they bring with them Three Pounds Caution Money. // *The Intention of the Caution Money is to defray the Expences of returning the Patients after they are discharg'd from the Hospital, or of their Burial in Case they die there. The Remainder of the Caution Money, after their Expences are defray'd, will be returned to the Person who deposited it.* // *All poor Person coming to BATH, under Pretence of getting into the Hospital, without having their Cases thus described and sent previously, and Leave given to come, will be treated as Vagrants, as the Act of Parliament, for the Regulation of the Hospital, requires.* // *If any Patient should have the Small-Pox here, such Person must be remov'd out of the House, and the Caution Money defray the*

Expences thereof. // Likewise all Persons, who shall come into the Hospital without decent and necessary Apparel, must have such Necessaries provided out of the said Caution Money.

R.Olive, *A Sermon Preached at the Abbey-Church at Bath on...April 22, 1759, for the Support of the General Hospital* (Bristol, 1759), pp.45-6.

***R.Olive, vicar of Burnham, Bucks?

72 1760 A humble appeal for admission into the General Hospital

Mary Scriggins, has for 6 or 7 years past, been at intervals afflicted with violent pains in her limbs, which have been generally deemed rheumatic, but within these 12 months she has been render'd mostly incapable of her service, and now wholly so. Last autumn she went to Bath, and was under the care of – Henshaw, apothecary, for some weeks, and receiv'd great advantage by the use of the waters, under his prudent directions: she says he called her disorder a scorbutic rheumatism. However in this time she spent the little money she had saved in service, so far as to disable her from going to Bath again at her own expence, and as she finds her disorder coming on apace she is very desirous, if it may be thought well of, to be admitted into the hospital. She is about 40 years of age, of a pretty good constitution naturally, and has few or no complaints to make, except these great pains and weakness in her limbs, especially her arms and hands. // If she shall be deemed a proper patient to be admitted, please to send a line directed to Sarah Prankard, opposite the Drawbridge, on St.Austin's Back, Bristol.

William Oliver the younger, *Cases of Persons Admitted into the Infirmary at Bath under the Care of Dr. Oliver* (Bath, 1760), pp.31-3.

***William Oliver – see no.36. Jonathan Henshaw, c.1705-64, Bath apothecary, member of Bath City Council from 1740 – see also no.73.

73 1760 Mrs Delany reassures her sister

13 Nov My last conversation with Mr.Henshaw about you was to this effect: *That Bristol waters at this season of the year would do you as much good at home as on the place; that he was convinced your giddiness was a bilious disorder; that he was confirmed in that opinion by the bark and valerian not agreeing with you; that he thought no method so likely to succeed as constant medicines, but never violent physick;* and he gave me good comfort in saying he had had many cases just the same, and that he makes no doubt but being careful of cold, keeping your spirits up with amusements, and time would establish your health.

28 Dec [When you come to Bath]... you will see your old friend Henshaw. Dr.Oliver, you know, was my physician, and an old acquaintance; had I employed any other, it would have been Dr.Charleton, who is in great reputation.

The Autobiography and Correspondence of Mary Granville, Mrs.Delany, ed. Lady Llanover. 6v. (London, 1861-2), series1, v.3 pp.612-13 and 624-5, Mrs.Delany to Mrs Dewes.

***Mary Delany, 1700-89, famous for her flower pieces, friend of Jonathan Swift; Mrs Dewes was her sister. Jonathan Henshaw – see no.72. William Oliver – see no.36. Rice Charleton – see no.61.

1761-1780

74 1763 Bleeding not always the best course

Many may remember the case of Mr.S----n, a gentleman of the north. While he held the cards in his hands, he was almost every night taken with a slight epileptic fit. I almost affronted a *Right-Reverend* by opposing his being bled. I offered the simplest reason that I could suggest, viz. That his fit seemed only to be a symptom of a disease which arose from poverty of blood. I gave him a glass of cold water with spirit of hartshorn. In an instant he recovered, begged of the company, that they should not be alarmed on his account, and played on. // The Surgeons were so often summoned on Mr.Nash's account, that at length they made no haste. Was it any wonder that the blood should now and then be interrupted in vessels which had lasted fourscore years and upwards? ... Surgeons may boldly venture on the sanguine, robust, and plethoric. But, in public places, they need not in general be alarmed; the

fainting of invalids may wait until their physicians are called. Female faintings rarely require bleeding.

Alexander Sutherland, *Attempts to Revive Antient Medical Doctrines*. 2v. (London, 1763) v.2, pp.155-6.

***Alexander Sutherland, physician at Bath 1758-64, also wrote on Bath and Bristol waters – see also nos.75, 79. Richard (Beau) Nash, 1674-1761, celebrated Master of Ceremonies at Bath and Tunbridge Wells – see also no.77.

75 1763 *The case of George Whatley's gout*

George Whatley, Esquire, lived at *Marseilles* for many years. By inclination as well as example he led a sober life. He came to *Bath* for amusement. He drank the water wantonly for four or five months I often told him that he was playing with edge-tools. I asked him if he had any title to the *Gout* by inheritance. Scorning the admonition, he persisted. One night he was pained in both feet, with some degree of inflammation. I wished him joy of the Gout. Warm cordials, sinapisms, and other common means were used to produce a greater derivation of gouty matter to the extremities. I made him hobble about the room. But, in spite of art, the inflammation returned and fixed on the viscera, in the shape of grumblings, flatus's, and belching. His brain was slightly affected also, with excess of spirits. By the methods above mentioned the morbific matter was again driven to the feet; the head and bowels were relieved. But the gouty matter could not be confined to the feet above four hours. I advised him to continue the use of the water... // Impatient of a round of unavailing pains, he desired me to call in that physician who had chiefly suffered himself by the gout. Dr. Oliver was accordingly sent for, who counselled the same regimen. Finding little alteration, he would have some physician who might strike a bold stroke, as he called it, mean time proposing Dr. Frewen. Knowing this gentleman's particular practice in this disease, and dreading the effects in the present case, I told him I had no objection, provided he could withstand bleeding, which I knew the old man [i.e. Frewen] would instantly propose. This he undertook to do; the Doctor came. Retiring to the parlour, I recounted the patient's constitution, way of life, symptoms, &c. I told him particularly, that he had no title to gout by inheritance. Snatching up the pen, the first thing he proposed was to take away ten ounces of blood, which I objected to, alledging my fear. Thinking, however, that I could depend on the patient's resolution, I consented, and left the Doctor and him together. When I returned in the evening, I found the blood taken away, and all my fears verified to a tittle. This bold stroke removed that pain which I had endeavoured to increase. The disorders of his head and bowels were increased, with an additional tremor of the nerves, sweating, and weakness of the ankles. His high spirits were exchanged for despondency, peevishness, and repentance. Damning the profession, he dismissed us all. By two months perseverance in large draughts of water, which had, mechanically, produced the disease, he was restored to pristine health. // The liberty which I now take proceeds from medical justice, and no other motive. The *laudentia* of the art are no less instructing than the *juvantia*. Were physicians as ready to record their blunders as their great cures, the healing art could not have continued the guess trade that it now is. For the sake of patients yet unborn, I make the dead useful in their graves. Dr. Frewen had natural talents sufficient to have made him a second Hippocrates. But the truth is, his mind had been wedded to particular doctrines, before the study of physic was purified from its scholastic rust. To these he continued obstinate: he hated all reformers, Boerhaave in particular, because he was the prince. One black purge turned the stomachs of his patients for forty years...

Alexander Sutherland, *Attempts to Revive Antient Medical Doctrines*. 2v. (London, 1763), v.2, pp.158-60.

***Alexander Sutherland – see no.74. William Oliver – see no.36. Thomas Frewen, 1704-91, physician. Hermann Boerhaave, 1668-1738, influential Dutch physician. Hippocrates, the most famous doctor of Greek antiquity. Sinapism – mustard plaster. Flatus – wind. Laudentia and juvantia – tribulations and delights.

76 1763 *The artist Gainsborough pulls through*

...I have had a most terrible attack of a Nervous Fever so that for whole nights together I have thought it impossible that I could last 'til Morning. But Thank God I am greatly recover'd by the care & tenderness of Doctor Charl[e]ton Who apply'd the Bark & Saline Draughts so properly & cautiously that they have done wonders, tho. I must not forget a prescription of My Sister[']s... of six Glasses of good, old Port which she made me swallow one Evening when I should have thought two or 3 must have knocked me off the Stage. The truth is, I have apply'd a little too close for these last 5 years. *That* both my Doctors & Friends really think. I have got a Horse... and what I purpose is to be as

indolent as possible in every thing but Observing the exact quantities of food & Exercise best for me, and stick to the 6 glasses of Port at Night.

The Letters of Thomas Gainsborough, ed. J.Hayes (New Haven, Conn., 2001), pp.19-21, Thomas Gainsborough to James Unwin, 15 Sep 1763.

***Thomas Gainsborough, 1727-88, portrait and landscape painter, then living at Bath. Rice Charleton (whom Gainsborough painted) – see no.61. Bark – Peruvian bark or quinine.

77 1763 *Beau Nash averse to the cabbage and carrot cure*

It is well known, that Mr. *Nash* and Dr. *Cheney* had frequent Disputes about the non-Naturals and a vegetable Diet; in short, they often reasoned about Health till they made all the Company sick. *Nash* was for curing all Complaints with the *Bath Water*, and *Cheney* with Cabbage and Carrots; and their Disputes, which sometimes began with Temper and Joke, were frequently heightened to Clamour and Quarrelling... However... I have known *Nash* in his cooler Moments do *Cheney* the Honour to say, *That he was the most sensible Fool he ever knew in his Life*; and the Doctor with equal Justice observed, *That Nash was less of a Blockhead than he used to be.*

*The Jest*s of Beau Nash (London, 1763).

***Richard (Beau) Nash – see no.74. George Cheyne – see no.22.

78 1763 *High claims by the dentist Foy*

He perfectly cures the Scurvy in the Gums, by removing the yellow Crusts and black Spots which affect them, and are its immediate Cause; and this he does without injuring the Enamel, or hurting the Root of the Tooth, to the Preservation of which, and the Sweetness of his Patients Breath (a Matter of nice and peculiar Study) he always pays the strictest attention. // He fastens loose Teeth, preserves them from Decay, restores their Strength with that beautiful Whiteness they inherit from undisguised Nature, and gives Vigour and Firmness to the Gums. // He fills up hollow Teeth with either Lead or Gold, as the Patient shall chuse, so as to prevent them from aching, or giving any Manner of Trouble; and make them in every Respect as useful as if they never had been affected by Disease. // Without fastening any Instrument, he in a Moment removes Stumps of Teeth, with an Ease peculiar only to himself; of which Art he has given undoubted and repeated Proofs. // He makes and fastens artificial Teeth, in a Manner so elegant, that every one who has experienc'd them admits his Excellence; so that the Spectator shall not distinguish them from real, nor shall the Patient in their Operation feel the Difference; they supply all the Operations of Nature, and preserve all its apparent Beauty. // He cures all Disorders in the Mouth, Teeth and Gums, particularly those painful and spreading Ulcers, which affect the Mouth, Gums, and Tongues of Children, and sometimes of grown Persons. His Tooth-Powder, which is in no Manner corrosive, preserves the Gums and Teeth in the best Order, and cannot be equalled by any other Person.

Bath Chronicle 10 Nov 1763.

***Foy, dentist, worked at Bath as visitor or resident 1761-89.

79 1764 *An asthma remedy almost on the doorstep*

Mrs.Collins of this city, widow, aged sixty and upwards, has laboured under an *Asthma* for many years. On the least motion she panted for breath, and was taken with violent fits of coughing. Her flesh wasted, her strength failed; by all appearances, she seemed bending fast toward the grave. By the advice of an empiric she was, at last, pressed to try that healing fountain which springs up within a few yards of her own house, which she did, to the quantity of a glass, or two, a day only. She now lies flat in bed, sleeps well, eats heartily, her cough is vanished, she walks a dozen of turns on the parade without being fatigued; whenever she finds a difficulty of breathing, she flies to the pump, and forgets all her sorrow. She has, at different times, had the opinion of sundry physicians. To our common reproach be it confessed, Bristol water, bleeding, issues, pectorals, and every thing was counselled and tried, excepting the one thing needful; such strangers are we, even at this day, to the very tools by which we earn our daily bread.

Alexander Sutherland, *An Attempt to Ascertain and Extend the Virtues of Bath and Bristol Waters* 2nd ed. (London, 1764), pp.136-7.

***Alexander Sutherland – see no.74. Empiric – person without a regular medical training; a quack. Issue – an incision to cause a discharge. Pectoral – a medicine for chest infections.

80 1764 *The Pauper Scheme considers adding surgery to its brief*

The increased Resort of Strangers in the City of Bath, and the extensive Buildings carried on here, requiring the Service of a greater Number of laborious People than this City supplies; many Families of labouring Poor, from the neighbouring parishes, have come hither for Work: These useful People, as well as the Poor residing in this City, (who have no Relief from their respective Parishes) are, when attacked by Illness, Objects of the greatest Distress. To relieve them in this Extremity, the Physicians and Surgeons of Bath generously agreed to take them under their Care. // It is now proposed to annex to this charitable Scheme the Relief of the Poor in Chirurgical Cases, for whom as yet there is no provision in the City of Bath, and for the Reception of whom a proper Place will be fixed upon, (not exceeding four Beds) with all necessary Accommodations. To this End, the Gentlemen of the Faculty in every Branch being invited, have readily and generously agreed to give their Assistance; but as so laudable and extensive a Charity cannot be carried into Execution without the Concurrence of the benevolent and well-disposed Gentry resorting to this City, a Subscription has been begun with Success, and continues to meet with the desired Encouragement... Those who have contributed, and are willing to contribute to this Scheme, are desired to meet on Tuesday the 4th of December, at the Bear, at One o'Clock, to consider of all proper Regulations necessary for the Conduct of this Charity. Mr.WRIGHT. Mr.DITCHER. Mr.LYSTER. Mr.ATWOOD [Bath surgeons].'

Bath Journal 10 Dec 1764.

***Henry Wright, surgeon to Bath General Hospital 1742-94, Mayor in 1766-7 and 1776-7. Philip Ditcher, 1720-81, surgeon to Bath General Hospital 1744-81, Mayor in 1774-5. Henry Lyster, surgeon. Harry Atwood, 1741-1814, surgeon to Bath General Hospital 1781-1806, Mayor in 1800-01 – see also nos.153, 156.

81 1765 *Support for needy mothers: the Lying-in Charity*

Amongst the great Number of useful and charitable Schemes offered to the Consideration of the Benevolent, there is none, perhaps, more worthy public Attention than what is now proposed, for the Relief of poor Lying-in Women. The peculiar Circumstances of these most unhappy Objects of Compassion are well known and well-attested – but they are known to a few only... // The great Resort of poor Labourers and their Families to this City for Employment, sufficiently evinces the Necessity of this Undertaking, and at the same Time obviates the Objection of its being an Encouragement to Vice and Prostitution. // It is therefore proposed to raise a Fund by Donation, to supply poor Lying-in Women with Necessaries during the Month – such as Lodgings, Food and a Nurse; and as this Charity will be entirely unconnected with any other Scheme, it must necessarily incur a small Charge for Physic. Medicinal Help of every other Kind will be administer'd gratis. It may be proper to add, that no Persons will be deemed Objects of this Charity, but those whose extreme Poverty and wretched Habitations deprive them of other Means of procuring such Assistance.

Bath Chronicle 7 Mar 1765.

***Lying in, i.e. in childbed.

82 1766 *The respected Mr.Haviland*

11 Apr 1766 ...this morning, by advice of Mr.Haviland, an experienced Apothecary, who has lived in Bath upwards of thirty years, and been employed in the best Families, I began to drink the Waters, a quarter of Pint at seven, ditto at twelve in the morning, which I like very well.

16 Apr 1766 My Apothecary this Evening has ordered me, to drink now three times a Day from the King's Bath, and not to have any more from the Cross Bath, and hath increased the Quantity to a third, instead of a Quarter of a Pint, each draught; so now I am ordered to drink what they call the Middle Glass.

20 Apr 1766 I shall go, as often as I can, to the Pump-Room, that I may drink the Water as hot from the Pump as possible; for Mr.Haviland tells me, the nearer it is drunk to the Spring, the more efficacious it is.

22 Apr 1766 Your Mamma's Knee continues to vex her, as it did, with walking more than usual, it is at present rather worse: But there is no Remedy, but Time and Patience. She consulted Mr.Haviland about the Trembling of her Nerves, whether it were best to use the Waters: his Advice was not to meddle with them, tho' some recommend them in Nervous Disorders as more kindly and beneficial than any Medicine known in Nature. Fanny has consulted him, whether she should drink the Waters. Why, what is the matter with you? Nothing, Sir. Then endeavour to keep yourself well, while you are so.

7 May 1766 We intended to stay here six weeks, whereof four weeks elapsed last Tuesday: but I am advised by many to stay a week or fortnight longer. I shall consult Mr.Haviland about it, and, I believe, follow his Direction. He can have no Interest in keeping me here; for he seldom calls upon me; I take no Physic; and, if I stay a fortnight longer than my first Design, my Fee for his Advice will be just the same as if I go sooner.

12 May 1766 After Morning Prayers we all took a Walk to Mr.Haviland's. He lives... in Cross-Bath Lane [but he was out]... While we are at Dinner, in comes Mr.Haviland. We consulted him about my Case... and asked Leave to go Home. He advised, that as I was out, so far from Home, and found Benefit by the Waters, so much Benefit as he never saw a like Instance, we should stay a fortnight longer. So I have been advised by many others; but his Advice has weight with me.

1 Jun 1766 Mr.Haviland, my Apothecary's Bill is five shillings: so I sent him a Line and a Guinea... desiring him to accept the Overplus as a Token of my Respect for him.

John Penrose, *Letters from Bath 1766-1767*, ed. B.Mitchell and H.Penrose (Gloucester, 1983), pp.27, 37, 46, 90, 102-3, 154.
***John Penrose, 1713-76, vicar of St Gluvias (Penryn), Cornwall. Thomas Haviland, 1706-70, Bath apothecary, had a botanic garden and collected fossils. Overplus – surplus.

83 1766 *The actor David Garrick's bile*

My brother tells me, you have enquired after my health. I have been better, and worse; the bile, which is my chief complaint, is very uncertain in its motions, that it came upon me like a thief in the night. I went to bed very well the night before last, but was roused with such an overcoming sickness, that I was half dead for near 3 hours. The waters have made me better, but left a kind of hoarseness, and weakness in my bowels, which our friend Dr.Schenberg [Schomberg] combats most wisely with rhubarb, magnesia... I am now much better, but I fret myself a little to think that I cannot possibly venture upon Macbeth....

Historical Manuscripts Commission 30, Fortescue, v.1, pp.156-7, David Garrick to Richard Berenger, Bath, 21 Apr 1766.
***David Garrick, 1717-79, famous London actor and writer. Ralph Schomberg, physician at Bath c.1761-c.1777.

84 1766 *The distempers of Mr.Simkin B-N-R-D's family*

As we all came for health, as a body may say,
I sent for the doctor the very next day,
And the doctor was pleas'd, tho' so short was the warning,
To come to our lodging betimes in the morning;
He look'd very thoughtful and grave to be sure,
And I said to myself, - there's no hopes of a cure!
But I thought I should faint, when I saw him, dear mother,
Feel my pulse with one hand, with a watch in the other...
Thinks I – 'tis all over – my sentence is past,
And now he is counting how long I may last.
Then he look'd at ---, and his face grew so long,
I'm sure he thought something within me was wrong.
He determin'd our cases at length (God preserve us!)
I'm bilious, I find, and the women are nervous;
Their systems relax'd, and all turn'd topsy-turvy,
With hypochondriacs, obstructions, and scurvy,
And these are distempers he must know the whole on,
For he talk'd of the peritonoeum and colon,
Of phlegmatic humours oppressing the women,
From feculent matter that swells the abdomen;
But the noise I have heard in my bowels like thunder,
Is a flatus, I find, in my left hyperchonder,
So plenty of med'cines each day does he send
Post singulas liquidas sedes sumend'
Ad crepitus vesper' & man' promovend':
In English to say, we must swallow a potion,
For driving out wind after every motion;

The same to continue for three weeks at least,
 Before we may venture the waters to taste.
 Five times have I purg'd, yet I'm sorry to tell ye,
 I find the same gnawing and wind in my belly;
 But, without any doubt, I shall find myself stronger,
 When I've took the same physic a week or two longer.

Christopher Anstey, *The New Bath Guide* (1766; reprinted Bath, 1820), letter 2.

***Christopher Anstey, 1724-1805, satiric poet and Bath resident 1770-1805. Phlegmatic – cold, moist (humours). Flatus – wind
 Hypochonder – upper abdomen below the ribs.

85 1766 *The plight of many infants*

During Gestation, Nature prompts the Females of the Brute Creation to take moderate Exercise, and to do the Duties of Life as usual. But the Nurse or Midwife, knowing much better what should be done, directs the Woman, during Pregnancy, to alter her Way of Living intirely, and instead of taking Air and Exercise, to keep to her Chamber, and avoid all bodily Motion. // The Fate of the Child is still more piteous, instead of being allowed to exert its Muscles in performing the various Movements natural to its Age, it is bound fast with Bandages and swadling Clothes, and its tender Frame moulded into that Shape, which best pleases the absurd Notions of the Nurse. The Mother's Milk, which during the first Days after Delivery is admirably calculated for purging off the Meconium (the Retention of which causes many Disorders) is however judged improper for the Child, and therefore strictly forbid. And the important Office of giving Suck is committed to a Nurse, that being looked upon as too great a Piece of Drudgery for the Mother. It would be endless to enumerate the various Scenes of Misery the poor Infant undergoes too often during this State of Captivity, from improper Milk, from the Ignorance or Depravity of the Nurse, &c., [or] how some, by pernicious Cordials are kept constantly in a State of Intoxication, [and] others lulled into a lifeless Insensibility by Opiates and Narcoticks.

Bath Chronicle 11 Sep 1766, letter from Z.Z.

***Meconium – first faeces of new-born child.

86 1767 *Treatment for a small fever*

A fortnight ago I had a little return of my fever, which Doctor Moisy [Moysey] called only a *Febricula*, for which he prescribed phlebotomy, and, of course, the saline draughts. The phlebotomy did me good, and the saline draughts did me no harm; which is all I ask of any medicine, or any *medicus*.

The Letters of Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th earl of Chesterfield, ed.B.Dobrée. 6v. (London, 1932), v.6, p.2833, Lord Chesterfield to Dr M.Monsey, Bath, 23 Dec 1767.

***Philip Dormer, 4th earl of Chesterfield – see no.66. Abel Moysey see no.54.

87 1768 *An inoculation house at Lyncombe*

Messrs. *Street* and *Kinneir* take this Method to inform the Public that their House at Lyncomb's Spaw (where they inoculated last Year in the new-improved Method, with so much Success) is carefully aired and prepared for the Reception of Patients this SPRING, and will commodiously contain a Number not exceeding Forty. The House is so near to Bath, that the Patients may depend on the most Constant Attendance; and if there shou'd be a Necessity (which has not yet been the Case, all their Patients hitherto having had it in the most favourable Manner, and without the least alarming Symptom) one or the other of the Partners will sleep in the House. – The Terms of Admission are Four Guineas, and to Servants and poor People only Three. // For further Particulars enquire at Messrs.STREET and KINNEIR, Apothecaries and Chymists, in North-Gate-Street, BATH.'

Bath Journal 11 Apr 1768.

***William Street – see no.60. David Kinneir – see no.35. Lyncombe Spa lay a mile or so south of Bath.

88 1769 *A post-natal service for mothers*

As many LADIES suffer by not having their BREASTS properly drawn when they Lye-in: I take the Liberty to inform them that there is a very decent Woman who has made it her Business for several Years past, and really draws out the Milk with Ease and Judgment, so as to prevent a Milk

Fever and sore Breasts, if apply'd to in Time. – Enquire for Nurse Shipway, in Tucker's Court, Avonstreet, Bath.

Bath Journal 16 Oct 1769.

89 1769 *Castor oil comes more into use thanks to a Bath doctor*

It is universally allowed, by all the learned of the profession, that there is nothing more wanted in the *art of healing*, and particularly in treating all *bilious* cases, than a *vegetable purgative oil*, that will act gently in a small quantity on the bowels, with little or no irritation: these qualities the *oleum ricini*, or *castor oil*, possesses in an eminent degree; and tho' it is little known in Europe, yet it has been used these several years with great success in the English and French islands in America... // As this oil, since my first publication of this pamphlet [in 1766], is now become officinal (it being sold at the Apothecaries-hall and at several other shops in London and Bath) the seeds from which it is extracted may be easily imported, at a very reasonable rate, as the plant grows wild and in great quantity, in every one of the English and French islands. // We have the best and most valuable of our medicines in this manner from abroad; such as the *Peruvian bark*, *Rhubarb*, *Ipecacuanha*, &c.

Peter Canvane, *A Dissertation on the Oleum Palmae Christi... or... Castor Oil*. 2nd ed. (London, 1769), pp.1, vii.
***Peter Canvane, physician at Bath 1764-73.

90 1771 *Dr Abel Moysey earns another guinea*

[Moysey prescribed for James Woodforde's dying father] an opening draught... and to drink the Bath waters three times a day... and to drink it in the Pump Room... My Father gave him a guinea for prescribing as usual. The Doctor seems high and mighty but sensible. My Father's disorder is thought to be an irregular gout.

James Woodforde, *The Diary of a Country Parson... 1758-1781*, ed. J.Beresford. 5v. (London, 1924-31), v.1, p.104, 23 Jan 1771.
***Abel Moysey – see no.54. James Woodforde, 1740-1803, rector of Weston Longville near Norwich, diarist.

91 1772 *The baffling waters*

By the most exact analysis of the waters that has hither been made, chemists have not been able to gain a sufficient knowledge of their contents, to account for their various operations... If we search for iron, in order to account for their invigorating quality, we shall find they contain but a very small proportion of that mineral. When we endeavour to prove the good effect of Bath water in cutaneous foulnesses of the skin as proceeding from the sulphur to be met with in the water, it appears that even the existence of it is disputed. The existence of salt in these waters is more easily proved, but of what nature, or of how many kinds this salt may be, has occasioned much altercation and dispute. // Since then the impregnation[s] of our hot baths are so subtle as to baffle the inquiries of the most curious, and their virtues depend not upon one, but all the materials of which they are composed, blended together in an unimitable manner; we must necessarily have recourse to experience of their effects for ascertaining the propriety of their use. And here we find the following contrary qualities. – They frequently stimulate, and heat the body by their internal, or external use: yet will often allay thirst better than any other liquor. – By drinking and bathing they restore wasted paralytic limbs; yet by bathing imprudently they relax too much, and do harm in such cases. – They restore a lost appetite by a moderate use, but destroy it by being drank too long. – They will purge one person, and prove astringent to another; and have different effects upon the same person at different times, or in proportion to the quantity drank. – They sometimes prove diuretic, sometimes diaphoretic. – The different baths are also known to have different effects. Thus the water of the hot bath usually opens the body, that of the King's bath proves astringent. But the effects of these in some particular constitutions are directly the contrary.

Daniel Lysons, *Practical Essays on Intermittent Fevers, Dropsies, Diseases of the Liver...* (Bath, 1772), pp.134-6.
***Daniel Lysons, 1727-1800, physician to Bath General Hospital 1781-1800 – see also nos.92, 110,111, 122.

92 1773 *Dr Lysons experiments with camphor*

Being in perfect health, I was willing to try the effect of this draught upon myself, and took it at night going to bed. It occasioned an agreeable general warmth over the body, and I soon fell asleep. The next morning I awoke with that serenity, and pleasing sensation, which are usually felt by a person in perfect health in a fine spring morning... The night following I repeated the draught, and in

like manner slept after taking it, but was soon disturbed by a sudden shock, which obliged me to start up in my bed. The fresh air, being afterwards admitted at the window, speedily relieved my head, which was a little confused, and I passed a good night. // It is to be observed in the instances I have mentioned, that Camphire affected the head only when administered in a state of solution. For although I have given the bolus upon a great many more occasion than I have directed the draught, and repeated it upon these occasions much oftener, yet I never knew a single instance where it ever caused any alarming symptom. For this reason I have always ordered the bolus, except to some few patients whose delicacy, or particular circumstances, rendered taking any medicine in a solid form very inconvenient. // Such sudden affections of the head are well known frequently to attend the drinkers of most mineral waters, and especially of those taken from the warm springs at Bath. When a patient's vessels are overloaded, or oppressed by costiveness, he seldom escapes these kind of symptoms, which are by common experience found to be relieved by purging. The almost certain effects of cathartics in such cases (though bleeding may sometimes be necessary) very strongly prove the cause of such disorders of the head to reside chiefly in the stomach, and intestines. And as the effects of Camphire, when given in a fluid state, are nearly similar to those occasioned by the Bath waters, as I can testify from my own sensations, is it not reasonable to conclude that they are derived from the same source?

Daniel Lysons, *An Essay upon the Effects of Camphire and Calomel in Continual Fevers* (Bath, 1773), p.57-9.

***Daniel Lysons – see no.91. Bolus – a large pill.

93 1774 *Electrical therapy unsuccessful*

...the late Dr. *Harington* told me, that when it first became a fashion to electrify for medical purposes, he often tried this experiment on the hospital paralytics, but without success. // Several instances have occurred to me which support this remark, and among others the following one. // A young gentleman, after passing a very intemperate evening, was, on his return home, flung from his horse, and, being alone, lay all night in the road. The shock he received by his fall was so great, that many days passed before the assistance of a very eminent physician could restore him to his senses; when it appeared the fall had occasioned a hemiplegia of the left side. // He was sent to *Bath*, as soon as he could bear the journey. On his arrival, I found his leg and arm without motion or sensation; both his hearing and eye-sight, on the paralytic side, were extremely imperfect, and his speech so inarticulate as to be scarcely intelligible. // By the use of the waters, and other necessary measures, he regained his hearing, eye-sight, speech, the sensation of the whole side, and the compleat action of his leg; but neither bathing or pumping, with every aid that could assist their powers, had any effect on his arm; it remained always bent at the elbow, with the fingers shut into the palm of the hand, frequently agitated with convulsive catching, but incapable of voluntary motion. // This disappointment suggested to him the trial of Electricity; and, as the proposal was his own, he underwent it with the greater resolution. He used it everyday for a considerable time; gently, indeed, at first, but afterwards with a degree of violence I could by no means approve. The operation made the arm sweat profusely both during the time and for some hours after, but never, in the least, contributed to restore its use.

Rice Charleton, 'An Inquiry into the Efficacy of Bath Waters in Palsies'. 2nd ed. in *Three Tracts on Bath Water* (Bath, 1774), pp.34-6.

***Rice Charleton – see no.61. Edward Harington, 1696-1757, of Kelston, physician to Bath General Hospital 1740-50. Hemiplegia – paralysis of one side of the body.

94 1776 *Fewer medicines and more sensible living*

I have been very ill since I came here, but I hope that was owing to the fatigue of my journey, as I am now somewhat better. I have consulted Dr. *Delacour* who, I believe, has found out my disorder and tells me, that regularity in my food, good hours, and the waters will cure me. He says it is entirely bilious, and that there is a latent gout. He is a very sensible man, and certainly has done great cures by preventing people taking medicines, and making them live a little more according to the rules of Nature.

Historical Manuscripts Commission 9th Report, pt 2, appendix, p.480, Topham Beauclerk to David Garrick, 18 Nov 1776.

***Philip Delacour, 1710-80, physician at Bath 1773-80. Topham Beauclerk, 1739-80, friend of Samuel Johnson etc.

95 1776 *Dr.Falconer tests the qualities of different antiseptics on fresh meat*

But the most powerful of any of the antiseptics I tried, was the *juice of China oranges*; this preserved the meat firm, entire, and perfectly sweet for seventy-four days and upwards, which is eighteen times longer than the standard, and probably would have done it for a much longer time: whether it owed its extraordinary antiseptic property to its being converted into vinegar by fermentation, I shall not determine... *China Orange Juice* is... highly proper in all putrid cases; its effects in the sea scurvy are well known, and it appears equally proper in all kinds of putrid fevers. Its antiseptic powers appear by this experiment, to be very great, and to preserve not only the sweetness, but also the firmness of texture of the meat, which the other acids seemed rather to injure: Another circumstance that tends to recommend the use of this substance in putrid fevers, is, that it is considerably nutritive...

William Falconer, *Experiments and Observations... on Water Impregnated with Fixible Air* (London, 1776), pp.97, 122.

***William Falconer, 1744-1824, physician to Bath General Hospital 1784-1819, wrote also on Bath waters, hip disease, influenza, and other subjects - see also nos.98, 109, 155, 158, 163.

96 1777 *A review of the viscera*

ANATOMY. – To the FACULTY. // MR.ARCHER, Surgeon, proposes to read a COURSE of General LECTURES on the Structure and Uses of the various Organs of Man, at a convenient room in the neighbourhood of Queen-Square. // Syllabuses of the Lectures, Information concerning the terms for attending, and Tickets, may be had at Mr. Crook's [apothecary's] shop in the Square. The Lectures on the Viscera will begin on Friday next at four o'clock in the afternoon.

Bath Chronicle 20 Mar 1777.

***Clement Archer, c.1750-1806, surgeon, later lectured on agricultural chemistry. Charles Crook, c.1747-1843, Bath apothecary.

97 1778 *Wooden poles to help bathers*

But, above all things, there ought to be wooden poles, the length and thickness of the handle of a mop or besom, about six feet high, which would not only be a proper support for invalids, but likewise... would enable them to stay in the bath much longer, and with more comfort than they could otherwise: I mean, by affording a support for the hands OUT OF THE WATER: - for, it is astonishing and incredible to those who have not experienced it, what a comfort and refreshment it is to a person in the bath to hold their hands up in the open air: - insomuch, that were it not for *this* circumstance alone, I am certain the Guides could not follow that business long, - they would soon die, or live in a sickly debilitated state. For this reason, every body may observe, that the Guides, taught – nay compelled by nature, have all of them their hands almost constantly *out* of the water. – Besides, with such an assistance [as poles], the invalids would have less occasion for the attendance of the Guides; who, to those who are peevish, through disease, or who stay long in the bath, are unkind, and too often, cruelly and impertinently rude.

James Graham, *The General State of Medical and Chirurgical Practice... Exhibited*. 5th ed. (Bath, 1778), pp.29-30.

***James Graham, 1745-94, oculist, nature healer, advocate of mud baths and electrical therapy, friend of Catherine Macaulay – see also nos.125, 130.

98 1778 *Drinking spirits ill-advised*

... the most exceptionable direction with respect to diet, is that of substituting brandy or rum and water for common drink, in place of malt liquours, or other usual liquid drank at meals, and to quench thirst. // This, I am sorry to be obliged to observe, is now become too common a practice, and from being advised in extraordinary cases, as a temporary expedient by some eminent practitioners, is now commonly directed in almost all cases of weakness of the stomach and digestive organs by every apothecary, and that not as a thing of temporary necessity, but as a perpetual article of diet. I question, however, if any circumstance ever occurred in medicine more injurious to the science, or fatal to mankind, than this unfortunate piece of advice... And it seems particular unfortunate, that at a period when the wisdom and humanity of the legislature restrained the use of spirituous liquors among the common people of this country, and also prevented the distribution of the same poison among the American Indians, on the fullest proofs and conviction of its mischievous consequence, that the same

practice in effect should be advised by those whose duty and profession led them to study the health of their fellow creatures.

William Falconer, *Observations on Some of the Articles of Diet and Regimen Usually Recommended to Valetudinarians* (London, 1778), pp.43-4.

***William Falconer – see no.95.

99 1780 *Two nice physicians*

Dr Woodward called this morning, He is a physician here, and a chatty, agreeable man. // At dinner, we had Dr Harrington [Henry Harington], another physician, and my father's friend and correspondent, upon whose account he was excessively civil to me. He is very sensible, keen, quiet, and well-bred.

Fanny Burney, *Diary and Letters of Madame d'Arblay, 1778-1840*, ed. C.Barrett. 6v. (London, 1904), v1 p.332, 7 Apr 1780.

***Fanny Burney (Mme d'Arblay), 1752-1840, novelist. Francis Woodward, physician at Bath from 1770. Henry Harington, 1727-1816, physician to Bath General Hospital 1780-99, Mayor 1793-4, composed glees and founded Bath Harmonic Society – see also no.108.

100 1780 *The demise of Dr.Moysey*

Friday morning died of a dropsy in his stomach, Dr.Moysey, many years a physician of great eminence in this city. – To his powerful talents as a physician, he added uncommon industry, which did not relax till within a few days of his death. He always possessed a happy flow of spirits till within a few weeks of his dissolution, when a nervous malady preyed on his health, and gloomily indicated the event which has ensued. He was opened by his own request, and three quarts of water were taken from his breast, which might be said to have deluged his lungs... His fortune, which is supposed to be very large, he has bequeathed to his son, the present member [of Parliament] for this city, and to his daughter, the lady of the Rev.Mr.Richards, of Dorsetshire.

Bath Chronicle 17 Aug 1780.

***Abel Moysey – see no.54.

101 1780 *But they don't do it themselves*

... in more than five and thirty years acquaintance with the Bath Waters, and with many of the resident physicians, I never recollect to have seen one of them *in the hot water*...

Philip Thicknesse, *The Valetudinarians Bath Guide* (London, 1780), p.35.

***Philip Thicknesse, 1719-92, Bath controversialist and writer, a former administrator in Jamaica.

102 1780 *An affair concerning Dr Howard and the apothecary John Dodd...*

We have authority to assure the public, that the Dispute between Dr.Howard and Mr.Dodd is at length perfectly settled, to the satisfaction of both parties, by the acknowledgment of Mr.Dodd that he began the attack on Dr.Howard in the public market on the first day of November, and that he thinks himself wrong in so doing...

Bath Chronicle 16 Nov 1780.

***William Augustus Howard, 1750-1800, physician. John Dodd – see no.51.

103 1780 *...settled before witnesses*

In justice to Dr.Howard, and in support of truth, we declare that we were present when the concession or apology... was made by Mr.Dodd, apothecary, in Stall-street, to Dr.Howard, and that it was literally drawn up by Mr.Clement Cruttwell, surgeon, in Bath, and approved of by Mr.Dodd, and that it was at the particular desire and request of Mr.Dodd... that Dr.Howard was prevailed upon to deliver up the medicines prepared by Mr.Dodd... and that Mr.Dodd did further in our presence declare, that he would never in future say anything to the prejudice of Dr.Howard, but on the contrary would always speak of him in a handsome and becoming manner, both as a physician and a gentleman... G.STACPOOLE. SAM.ROGERS.

Bath Chronicle 21 Dec 1780.

***William Augustus Howard – see no.102. John Dodd –see no.51. Clement Cruttwell, 1743-1808, surgeon/accoucheur, later editor of theological works. Samuel Rogers, 1763-1855, poet.

1781-1800

104 1781 *The secrets of healing through Mesmerism*

Among all the Sciences which ever excited the curiosity of mankind, none has more pleased the curious, or astonished the vulgar, than the new *Philosophical Discovery*, called ANIMAL MAGNETISM. The recent effects produced, have so far convinced the doubtful, and confirmed the wavering, that it stands now on an unshaken basis, supported by the most respectable patronage of good and great minds. // As a variety of cases can be adduced, wherein Diseases have been alleviated, and even soundness of Health restored, 'tis therefore presumed, that the ingenious Lectures upon the subject, written by the Rev.J.Holloway, will be acceptable to many persons of distinction... THESE LECTURES will be read... in a genteel Apartment... [in] John-street, near Queen-square, by Mr.JOHN GILES... The Lectures comprise, 1. The principles of the Science. 2. Different modes of treatment. 3. How to remove complaints from one's own body. 4. A method of taking other sensations. 5. To relieve complaints of persons present or absent. 6. The Phenomena or Crises, and directions how to produce them...

Bath Chronicle 6 Jan 1781.

***Animal magnetism – a supposed life force capable of spiritual healing popularised by Franz Mesmer.

105 1781 *Nonsense, it's all down to suggestibility*

On seeing a very pompous account lately in your paper, setting forth the wonderful powers of *Animal Magnetism*, and its surprising effects in curing various disorders, both of body and mind, in persons absent as well as present, - I thought it a duty... to prevent, if possible, those enthusiasts from obtruding any more on the credulity of mankind... [Experiments have actually proved] that there is no such thing exists in nature as *Animal Magnetism*... [and] that it is principally the imagination powerfully acted upon, to which all the effects attributed to *Animal Magnetism* are to be attributed...

Bath Chronicle 20 Jan 1781.

***Animal magnetism – see no.104.

106 1781 *Young Captain Horatio Nelson gradually gets fit again*

22 Jan ... I have been so ill since I have been here, that I was obliged to be carried to and from bed, with the most excruciating tortures, but, thank God, I am now upon the mending hand. I [am] physicked three times a day, drink the waters three times, and bathe every other night, besides [not?] drinking wine, which I think the worst of all.

28 Jan ... I do not set under the hands of a Doctor very easy, although I give myself credit this once for having done everything and taken every medicine that was ordered, that Dr.Woodward, who is my Physician, said he never had a better patient... Although I have not quite recovered the use of my limbs, yet my inside is a new man; and I have no doubt, but in two or three weeks I shall be perfectly well...

15 Feb My health, thank God, is very near perfectly restored; and I have the perfect use of all my limbs, except my left arm, which I can hardly tell what is the matter with it. From the shoulder to my fingers' ends are as if half dead; but the Surgeon and Doctors give me hopes it will all go off... I must wish you a good night, and drink your health in a draught of my Physician's cordial and a bolus.

The Dispatches and Letters of Vice Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson, ed.N.H.Nicolas. 7v. (London, 1845-6), v.1, pp.35-8, Nelson to William Locker.

***Horatio Nelson, viscount Nelson, 1758-1805, was at Bath from the Caribbean recuperating from tropical illness. Francis Woodward - see no.99. Bolus – a large pill.

107 1781 *Sole & West, apothecaries, re-order from their Covent Garden supplier*

... the things in general gave satisfaction – all but the Extract Cathartic which was so liquid that we were obliged to evaporate again to the loss of three ounces and a half which Mr.West has desired me to apprise you of and which he expects to have deducted... Please to send by very first coach one or two dozen but not more of live vipers which we are very much in want of – I shall also be very much obliged to you if you can send at same time another large pewter syringe from the Pewter Shop, Hay Market or if none ready, for the man to make me one like what he made for me before which I have

broze [broke?], viz A pewter syringe in shape of a throat syringe only made to hold as much again and the spout a little less than for the throat – he will probably remember what sort of one he made for me before – if he has none made reserve it for my next order as the vipers we must have directly.

G.M.Watson, 'Some eighteenth century trading accounts' in *The Evolution of Pharmacy in Britain*, ed. F.N.L.Poynter (London, 1965), pp.51-2.

***William Sole, 1741-1802, Bath apothecary partnered by Thomas West, had botanic garden, wrote on mints and grasses.

108 1782 *Physicians' fees*

'Formerly', said the Genius, 'the physicians of the place attended here [i.e. the Pump Room] to meet the company in a morning; and then a fee at coming, and a fee at going away, generally satisfied the physicians of that day. But... // Physicians now expect a fee at least every other visit they make, which renders physic expensive not only at Bath, but in every other place.'

Henry Harington, *Bath Anecdotes and Characters, by the Genius Loci* (London, 1782), pp.138-9.

***Henry Harington – see no.99.

109 1782 *The 'flu at Bath*

This disorder attacked all persons indiscriminately, from the highest rank to the lowest; valetudinary persons seemed equally liable to it with people in robust health, but not more so; all ages were affected, from children in the cradle to extreme old age, and the male and female sexes equally. It seldom proved fatal, except to some very old persons, who died as it were suffocated with the catarrh; and unless some very rash or obviously improper methods had been pursued; such as sudden exposure to cold, violent evacuations, &c... // I had conceived hopes, that the inhalation of the steam of warm liquors, by its immediate application to the membranes of the throat and nose, which are in reality the seat of the disease, might have been of great service; but I found myself disappointed in this expectation. I tried it at first with one part vinegar to three of water, but found this to excite a cough and irritation. I afterwards tried warm water alone, but did not find that either the catarrh or cough were relieved by it, and the latter rather seemed to be aggravated. // Opiates, however, moderately administered, were of the greatest service in abating some of the most troublesome symptoms of the disorder, particularly the cough and catarrh, and abating that restlessness which during the prevalence of the fever was particularly disagreeable and uneasy. They were also of the greatest service in promoting a gentle expectoration, by thickening the mucus of the glands of the nose and fauces, and encouraging at the same a gentle perspiration. // The mode of treatment above recommended is such as has been advised formerly by the most eminent writers on this complaint.

William Falconer, *An Account of the Epidemic Catarrhal Fever Commonly Called the Influenza as it Appeared at Bath in... May and June 1782* (Bath, 1782), pp.8, 23-4.

***William Falconer – see no.95. Fauces – upper part of he throat.

110 1783 *Cardamine for epilepsy – made from just the petals please*

The Epilepsy... had often been removed by my Calomel Pills, but... if they did not remove it alone, I always found them of great service as preparatory to the administration of the flowers of the Cardamine, which I had proved to be the most effectual remedy I know of in that disease; provided the flowers were well dried by a gentle fire, powdering them as soon as dried, and keeping them for use in bottles well corked. The method, by which the most efficacious powders have been prepared, has been drying them in a tin dripping-pan, or pewter dishes, before a common fire. Those which are prepared by the collectors of medicinal herbs for the Apothecaries are usually dried hastily upon stoves, and very often not powdered 'till wanted. // Another obstacle I apprehend to the efficacy of the flowers of the Cardamine is, that I fear too much of the Stalk of the Plant is often dried, and reduced into powder with the flowers; whereas the virtue of the medicine consists in the flowers and principally in the very fine thin petals: So that, to have the medicine in its greatest purity and perfection, only the petals should be used; and the more of the other parts of the plant is used, the more imperfect the medicine will be.

Daniel Lysons, *Practical Essays upon... Fevers, Dropsies, the Epilepsy, the Colic...* 2nd ed. (Bath, 1783), pp vi-viii.

***Daniel Lysons – see no.91. Cardamine – plant of the Lady's Smock or Coralroot genus.

111 1783 *Skin complaints among General Hospital patients*

The Bath Waters have long been celebrated for the removal of these complaints; and hence a large proportion of the patients in the Bath Hospital are always found labouring under leprous and other cutaneous eruptions. The water by softening the skin, and opening the perspiratory vessels, lets go the impacted acrid serum, at the same time that a drying quality in the water heals the ulcerated parts, by which means patients are often cured by bathing alone. But the Bath Waters are usually taken inwardly at the same time to expel the acrid humour by the skin, and ointments used to lubricate it. // Although patients are frequently completely cleansed in this manner, yet after some months they often apply for readmission with the same complaints. For this reason I commonly order the Elm decoction, to be taken inwardly at the same time they bathe, and when dismissed from the Hospital, give them instructions to prepare the decoction for themselves, and to use it for a considerable time. Whether this measure properly observed, and persisted in, will prevent the re-admission of such patients will hereafter be known; but from the experience of...[various] cases, there is the greatest reason to expect it will.

Daniel Lysons, *Practical Essays upon... Fevers, Dropsies, the Epilepsy, the Colic...* 2nd ed. (Bath, 1783), appendix pp.104-05.
***Daniel Lysons – see no.91.

112 1783-4 **Mary Hartley's agonies: the trauma of a part-amputated foot**

13 Oct ...she keeps very poorly and indeed she have not one moment eas[e] day nor night she have had several returns in her Bowels with voilent retchings and when that is easier, then her leg is in great Pain, she have a nother fresh gatheren in her leg. Sir C Hawkens saw it to day but he says he hope it wold all go on well tho her suffering is very great... she takes a good deal more lodamam, but have had some very bad nights...

16 Nov I am very sorry to say that my dear mistress had a very bad night and have been very bad all day and very low, she says she never sufferd more than she have thes 2 days and nights, since her foot was taken of[f]... she have taken 40 drops of Lodamam besides her Anidyne and can not get ease nor rest...

18 Nov My dear mistress had a little better night, but have been in a great deal of pain all day, and she have violent spasms, that she can not hold her Leg still, but when she have taken great Quantity of Lodamam... Mr Wright have taken a little bit of bone of[f] from the Instep bone, but she did not suffer much pain.

19 Nov ...Mr Wright have agen bigin borin, he bored a good deal isterday and to day he has bord this out, which I have sent to you as I think you will like to see how it go on, I am very [sorry] to say Mr Wright is Very Ill with a bad Cold and he says if it was not for my mistress he should not go out... my dear mistress wold be very unhappy... [if] he cold not come to her...

26 Nov Mr Wright found this morning that her Enkel [ankle] was very much sweld and very red, and he was afraid thear was a gethering aforming in the outside of the Enkel and that something wold come out and this gethering is the cause of the voilent pain that she have sufferd for this fort nite back... he put a poultis on this morning, and this after none he found it so much worse, that he have poultisis [?] and fommented it... I have this moment sent for to give my mistress a glister [clyster]...

15 Dec Sir C Hawkens was hear to day he sheack [?] the Eal [heel?] bone, he was afraid it will be a long will before all or part will come out.

17 Dec ...her leg looks very well but she bore the dressings very bad... she takes her Lodamam & a great Quantity of Asafettata [asafoetida] which seems to give her some relase...

20 Dec Isterday there was appearance of a swelling on the Instep, and when Mr Wright came to dress it to day he found that it had basted [burst?] and discharged a great deal of matter which was the cause of her having such a good night, and I thank god she lucks better...

21 Dec There was a very great discharge of matter from her Enkel this morning.

4 Feb My dear mistress... cold not bear to day to let Mr Wright boor the bones...

5 Feb Mr Wright ses the leg go on very well but he bore a little agane to day but my mistress cane not bear it, it give her so much pain...

7 Feb Mr Wright bore it to day and there was a good deal of bone came of[f], and my mistress did not suffer so much pain.

10 Jun ...the new pleas [place] that is break out lucks very well, and thear is a great discharge from it. Mr Wright says thear is nothing appears bad in the Wound, and he hopes that will soon get better, he have bord the bone for this and on 3 last days and my mistress bord it better.

13 Jun Mr Wright bore it to day and there was a good deal of bone came of[f], and my mistress did not suffer so much pain.

Berkshire Record Office D/EHY/F100 (on microfilm), letters from Ann Toll, servant of Mary Hartley, to David Hartley, M.P.
***Mary Hartley, daughter of Dr David Hartley (see no.58) and half sister to David Hartley, M.P. Sir Caesar Hawkins, Bt., 1711-86, London surgeon. Henry Wright see no.80. Lodamum – laudanum. Anodyne – painkiller. Asafoetida – see no.37.

113 1784 *That unique elixir from the Bath mountains*

These two mountains [Claverton Down and Lansdown], thus tinged by rain-water falling from the proper heights, meeting in some caverns in the valley, and there fermenting, produce that hot, milky, soft liquid, called BATH WATER; far beyond any hot mineral water for its delicacy, and is thought to be superior to any other hot water hitherto discovered on the habitable globe for its comfortable heat, as it possesses that milkiness, detergency, and middling heat, so friendly to weakened constitutions, which all other hot waters want in the due degree; either being too hot or too cold to do any great good in cases where they are prescribed. // These waters are beneficial in almost all chronical distempers, and can hurt in none, except in haemorrhages, inflammation, or bad lungs, unless they be over-dosed in quantity, or too high or too hot a regimen be joined with them; for they are very grateful to the stomach, have a fine sulphureous steely taste, like that of the German Spa, or Pymont; and procure a great appetite, and good spirits, if cautiously managed; but if high meats and strong liquors be indulged, they create inflammatory disorders; they are of a strengthening, cleansing, attenuating, opening nature. They comfort the nerves, warm the body, and are good in all constitutions: And among the many complaints for the cure of which the Bath Waters are remarkable, the *Gout*, perhaps, bears the first place; in bringing the paroxysms of this disorder to a happy crisis, by fixing them in their proper situation in the extremities, and thus relieving the head, stomach, and vital parts; in promoting the exit of the gouty matter by an easy and gentle perspiratory discharge, and thus, in a manner most agreeable to nature, giving a full and complete termination to the paroxysm, and by that means rendering the intervals more complete, and the limbs less likely to become rigid. In this disorder, the Bath Waters inwardly taken are unparalleled; nor are they less efficacious in certain stages of it, when externally applied. Bathing, in a decline of a fit of the Gout, either universal, or pumping on the part, has been found highly efficacious in promoting the exit of the gouty matter; and thus, in all probability, preventing the generation of those chalky concretions, which are so often the effects of a fit of the gout imperfectly terminated. // These waters are good in scorbutic rheumatism, and old wandering pains in any parts of the body, by bathing and drinking when the pains are not attended with any feverish heat. They are very beneficial in all disorders of the paralytic kind, in palsies, convulsions, contractions, rheumatism, and lameness of all kinds; the bilious colic in particular is singularly relieved by their use, as are, obstructions of the liver and spleen, jaundice, scurvy, loss of appetite, and hysteric and hypochondriac disorders, when proceeding from weakness of the stomach. They likewise remove all sorts cutaneous disorders, (particularly the leprosy) by washing off those malignant salts that occasion those maladies, when taken inwardly, and discharging them by perspiration in bathing; the sulphureous particles too in the water entering into the skin, and dissolving the salts which are lodged near the surface. And it is the given opinion, if any of the preceding disorders fail of relief by the Bath Waters, it is because the patients will not allow time enough for their cure; or else are too loth to take pains, or cannot keep to such regular diet, as is absolutely necessary in stubborn cases.

The New Bath Guide (Bath, Cruttwell, 1784), pp.12-13.
***German spa and Pymont – see no.24.

114 1785 *Easing and jolting the jaundice away*

During his stay in the [hot] Bath, [the jaundice sufferer] should move about, and endeavour to dislodge whatever may obstruct the ducts, by variously inclining his body, and by gently pressing or rubbing the region of the liver and stomach. // On his return home, instead of going to bed, he should exercise on a chamber-horse, and occasionally have those parts rubbed by the hand of some attendant well oiled, to prevent that excoriation or soreness which would arise from dry friction. But should he

be so languid on his return as to be obliged to lie down, he ought only to be thinly covered in order to avoid profuse sweating, which would be injurious by weakening the system. // If the weather be fair and mild, and the strength of the patient permit, it will be highly proper for him to exercise on horseback, or in a carriage on a rough road, about six or seven hours after bathing, or when the physic hath done operating. Horse exercise indeed should be daily made use of by those who are able, either on the road or in our riding-schools; and those who cannot pursue such exercise, must never neglect employing the chamber-horse. Great benefit also is to be derived from proper friction, that is, from rubbing the region of the liver and stomach twice or thrice every day, for half an hour at a time at least.

William Corp, *An Essay on the Jaundice...* (Bath, 1785), pp.57-8.

***William Corp, apothecary/physician at Bath 1785-7. Chamber-horse – exercise chair.

115 1785 *Industrial diseases*

WILLIAM HINTON, aged 44, of the parish of St.John's in the city of Gloucester, was admitted into the infirmary there for a paralytic weakness in the hands and wrists, occasioned by his employment in pointing pins, which exposed him to the dust of the materials. Having received little benefit, he came into the Bath hospital, March 15, 1785, and remaining till July 27, 1785, was discharged nearly *cured*. // He drank the waters, pumped daily on the hands, used a volatile liniment, and had blisters applied to the wrists. The symptoms arising from the use of the pin-dust are found to bear great resemblance to the effects arising from lead, in which cases, the Bath waters are found to be so remarkably efficacious.// Several patients injured by working in the brass-foundry, have been cured in the Bath hospital.

Bath General Hospital, *Narrative of the Efficacy of the Bath Waters in Various Kinds of Paralytic Disorders Admitted... 1775 to... 1785* (Bath, 1787), pp.31-2.

116 1786 *Beware ball nights*

Dancing, when used temperately, is a cheering salutary exercise; but at watering-places, and especially at Bath, where the opportunities are so frequent, persons who labour under various degrees of indisposition (the ladies especially) indulge themselves too much in this pleasant amusement; and many have been irreparably injured by excess in country-dancing; especially since the cotillion step has been adopted from our light-heeled neighbours, which renders the exercise much more laborious than formerly.

James Makittrick Adair, *Medical Cautions for the Consideration of Invalids, those especially who Resort to Bath* (Bath, 1786), p.107.

***James Makittrick Adair, physician at Bath 1785-6 – see also no.118. Light-heeled neighbours – the French.

117 1786 *Quick recovery of a hospital patient, but the hot springs rarely sufficient on their own*

WILLIAM TOOP. Of Frome, aged 35, ill two months with the loss of his lower limbs by going into the water to gather water-cresses, was admitted the 14th of July 1786. After a solutive Draught, he was immediately put upon drinking the waters, and ordered to bathe twice a week, and take 3 grains of calomel once a week; upon the third time of his going into the bath, his limbs, which had been totally useless, were restored to their strength, and he continued well to the time of his leaving the hospital, on the 10th of August 1786, having been in it only one month and two days. // The above case, and others that occur, seem to countenance an opinion entertained by some, that the Bath waters do not require any medicine to be taken with them, or during the time they are drank. But these waters are by no means a panacea, and often require assistance... And we often find it absolutely necessary to give a considerable quantity of medicine before the Bath waters can with safety be drank.

Bath General Hospital, *Narrative of the Efficacy of the Bath Waters in Various Kinds of Paralytic Disorders Admitted... 1775 to... 1785* (Bath, 1787), pp.18-19. Solutive draught – laxative.

118 1787 *Tickell's Aetherial Spirit attacked...*

Since my essay on *Quackery* has been printed off, I have had an opportunity of examining a *Nostrum* sold by an Apothecary of this place, and which, it is rumoured, some physicians here have recommended. – But, I am persuaded, rumour lies... because any man with a very moderate portion of chemical knowledge and at the expence of 3s.6d. may determine that the medicine which the vender has dignified with the title of *Aetherial Spirit*, is nothing more than dulcified spirit of vitriol disguised with a little cochineal. // I shall... enquire into the justice of Mr T[ickell]'s claim to the

credit of improving *Hoffman's* anodyne liquor (for he does not deny that it is the same medicine, only that it is improved)... and prove, irrefragably, that the pretension to improvement is fallacious... I have thought it my duty as a physician, and consequently an avowed enemy to all empirical pretension, to offer my remarks on Mr. T's nostrum; not only with a view to place this matter in a proper point of view, but for the information of apothecaries, who are not always *such expert chemists* as their brother T.

James Makittrick Adair, *A Philosophical and Medical Sketch of the... Human Body and Mind* (Bath, 1787), pp.249-50, 254.
***James Makittrick Adair – see no.116. William Tickell, apothecary at Bath 1773-1806, proprietor of the Aetherial Anodyne Spirit. Dulcified – sweetened.

119 1787 ... and defended

It is... hoped that the price set on it will not be thought unreasonable; as a few doses will often be sufficient for removing very dangerous symptoms, and in many cases prove a radical cure. // It would be absurd to suppose that I had not my own private emolument in view, in obtaining a Patent, but in this also, I have no less consulted the interests of the public. The process for making this medicine is both difficult and dangerous, and if conducted by an unskilful operator, both his life and property might be endangered. // I am perfectly prepared to meet the opposition of those who may be interested in depreciating the virtues of this medicine, or who may find themselves disposed to ridicule the idea of a patent: If to have discovered a remedy that promises to be of great public utility, which has succeeded in the cure of several diseases that were thought to be beyond the reach of medicine; and where all other means for relief had been tried in vain; if to have contributed to alleviate those miseries which are the common lot of mankind, and if the mode I have chosen for extending it to the afflicted is only meant as an indemnification for the time and trouble I have incurred in its prosecution; if these deserve ridicule, I shall receive it with great composure... The *learned* Doctor [Adair] says 'it is rumoured that some Physicians here have recommended this nostrum, but that he is perswaded rumour lies'. What answer can I make to this extraordinary suggestion! Is it possible for the Doctor to be ignorant of what is universally known? That the Physicians of the first eminence for erudition, liberality of sentiment and extensive practice have repeatedly recommended the medicine, and are at all times ready to vouch for its powerful effects, in cases which had appeared to be desperate, as every other means had totally failed.

William Tickell, *A Concise Account of a New Chymical Medicine, entitled Spiritus Oetherius Anodynus* (Bath, 1787), pp.148-9, 161.
***William Tickell – see no.118. James Makittrick Adair – see no.116.

120 1787 Precautions against typhus

[It turned out to be a false scare about the putrid fever at Bath but it] sold a vast deal of vinegar and camphor, and frightened us all away from each other's houses.

Gleanings from an Old Portfolio..., ed.Mrs Godfrey Clark. 3v. (Edinburgh, 1895-8), v.2 p.96, Lady Louisa Stuart to the Duchess of Buccleuch, Bath, 8 Nov 1787.

***Lady Louisa Stuart, styled countess of Albany, 1752-1824. Vinegar and camphor were considered disinfectants.

121 1788...The optician electrifies

B.SMITH, OPTICIAN, No.1, *Bond-street*, having constructed a MODEL of the HUMAN EYE, capable of being dissected, with the respective coats and humours perfectly distinct; so that the structure of that wonderful organ may be explained to the meanest capacity, the various optical effects produced, and the use of Spectacles for the various defects of sight particularly pointed out, submits it to the *public inspection*... Fire constant in the room, where persons may be electrified medically by shock, spark or passing the electric through the human frame, either local or general.

Bath Chronicle 10 Jan 1788.
***Benjamin Smith, 1753-1813, Bath optician and electrical therapist.

122 1788 An independent Casualty Hospital

We have the satisfaction to inform the public, that a Casualty Hospital for Reception of sudden Accidents, is opened in *Kingsmead-street*, under the direction of the Rev.Mr.Sibley, Rev.Thomas Griffith, Thomas Neave, George Ramsay, and William Anderdon, esqs., Trustees to the said Charity. – Dr.Lysons, Physician, Mr.Norman, Surgeon.

Bath Chronicle 10 Jan 1788.
***Daniel Lysons – see no. 91. James Norman, d.1827, surgeon to Bath Casualty Hospital 1783-1811.

123 **1788** *The modish physician*

The large wig, the huge gold-headed cane, the velvet suit, the solemn phizz of the Physician have given place to the fashionable curl, the Jemmy cane, and the polite address of the modern *Esculapii*.

Bath Chronicle 14 Aug 1788.

124 **1788** *Proprietary medicines available from Richard Cruttwell, printer*

For WORMS, and Children's Disorders.

Moore's Worm-Powder	1s.2d.
Story's, and Wilson's Worm-Cakes	1s.1½d.
Dalby's Carminative	1s.9d.
Godfrey's Cordial	0s.7½d.
Burchell's Anodyne Necklace	5s.6d.
Burchell's Sugar Plumbs for Worms	1s.1½d.
Eaton's Celebrated Styptic	5s.6d.

For PILES, FISTULAS, &c.

Hayward's Lozenges and Liniment for Piles	1s.1½d.
Pyrmont Tablets 2s.9d. Liniment	1s.9d.

For the ITCH, and Cutaneous Disorders.

Pike's, Jackson's, and Coke's Ointments	1s.10d.
Wilson's, Swinsen's, and Masson's Ointments	1s.2d.

For WEAKNESSES, &c.

Dr.Becket's Brown Tincture	3s.6d.
Dr.Smyth's Restorative Drops	11s.6d.
Dr.Hodson's Persian Restorative	8s.6d.

For a CERTAIN DISORDER.

Keyser's Pills	5s.6d.
Lockyer's Pills	2s.6d.
Dr.Hammond's Strong Specific Pill	5s.0d.
Leake's justly-famous Pills	2s.9d.
Dr.Smyth's Specific Drops 5s.6d. and	2s.9d.
Dr.Armstrong's Alterative Pills 2s.9d. and	5s.6d.
Dr.Boerhaave's Leyden Pills	4s.0d.
Dr.Becket's Essence	3s.6d.
Dr.Walker's Jesuit Drops, and Electuary	2s.9d.
Dr.Radcliffe's Drops and Pills	5s.6d.
Grubb's Patent Friar's Drops 7s.0d. and	3s.6d.
The Restorative Electuary	7s.0d.
Rymer's Detergent Pills 11s.6d. and	5s.6d.

To PREVENT IT.

Northall's Chinese Lotion	4s.6d.
Essence of Life	7s.0d.
Abbe Blendell's Chymical Specific	5s.5d.
Infallible Preventative by a Naval Surgeon	10s.6d.

Bath Chronicle 28Aug 1788.

***This represents only part of Cruttwell's list. A 'certain disorder', i.e. syphilis.

125 **1789** *All the wrong methods*

Great is the number of people, who from most parts of the world, resort to *Bath*, for the recovery of health; and much greater are the numbers that croud thither from various other motives. It is a melancholy assertion, but I believe a true one, that as many persons who come here well, die, or go away in a bad state of health, as there are of diseased who receive perfect cures. The former is owing, in my opinion, to the constant racket of amusements and dissipation; - to the crouds which are crammed up for many hours every night, in over-heated rooms, both public and private; - and above

all, to gaming, and to frequent and fatiguing dancing in that poisoned air . Need I mention, moreover, the fatal effects of tea, coffee, hot water, and hot – clayey – heavy indigestible bread, drenched with oiled butter in the morning, with poisonous wine at dinner; and soured with apathy, chagrin, the agitations of play and low spirits, at night. - Need I add too, the ridiculous and often fatal (at least for the progeny) tight lacing of the ladies of the *Ton*; and the *enervating, exhausting indulgencies*, and late hours, of both men and women of fashion! // That so many leave Bath in the same, or in a worse state of health than that there were in on their arrival, is to be ascribed, not so much to want of efficacy in the waters, as to the trifling and improper use of them, and to the irrational state of general medical practice... // A sick man comes to Bath for the recovery of his health – by the journey, by change of air and of the scenes of life, together with his *own prudence*, and [by] the natural *uncorrected* use of these excellent waters, he is restored. // Another comes; his disease is more obstinate, or he is not so fortunate: he languishes on, or grows worse through the ignorance, or perhaps knavery of those about him, or in consequence of using the waters, which are in his case highly improper. But, what's to be done! he is at *Bath* – he finds no relief from his physicians' prescriptions – he has consulted three of them – all eminent *in their way*; - his apothecary, too, is an exceeding good sort of a good-natured man – and as he is at *Bath*, why it was natural for him to try the waters. - // Well: A *third* miserable object arrives; - a debauched – debilitated Nobleman! – no, a well-fed rich Citizen: - he is beset and stunned the moment he arrives, with a dozen fiddles, *half*-viols and great Bells – the Doctor is sent for: - 'the Doctor is very busy; he is engaged at present (*at Cards*) but will wait on you as soon as possible'. He arrives. 'I am very bad, Doctor, very ill indeed! Extreme weakness, - and excruciating pain; - but here is a letter from my good friend Dr.-- , of London. – It will inform you – of my – my deplorable, my wretched situation.' - // Now, this happens to be really a case in which bathing in and drinking these powerful waters, *properly*, without any medical help, would immediately give the happiest relief; and, by persevering, would perfectly cure: strictly attentive to regimen, &c. he ought immediately to lave and refresh his painful, weary, dry, scorbutic, or leprous limbs in the luxurious tepid tide! - and while the greedy pores drank in for hours the milky antidotal balsam – he should quaff in full cups... the specific fluid. But, alas! the miserable man must first be prepared: - he must not touch, nor even think of the water, till he has taken several dozens of saline draughts, nervous alexipharmic bolusses, anodyne draughts (to settle the commotions raised by the nervous alexipharmic bolusses) – febrifuge powders, quart bottles of pectoral aperient apozem - and three doses of cooling physic – to unload and undo, what the saline draughts, the hot irritating bolusses, - the pectoral alozem – the febrifuge powders – the anodyne draughts, and the hot room with double doors, sand bags, and double listing, have done. He may now venture to drink the water; and, by and by, to bathe. – Well; he goes out and feels refreshed with the pure cool air: he drinks a glass of the water at the Cross Bath. – It is the most grateful, and the most comfortable liquor he ever tasted. – *Nature* is delighted with its simple, friendly, and very genial influence. – *She* calls aloud for more: but not one drop more for the whole world. The Doctor has ordered a gill glass twice a day; *in a few weeks* he may indulge him, and at the King's Bath, with even double that quantity... Next morning the patient is carried into the Bath –*Nature* is glad – *she* chuckles and exults in its soothing and most comfortable influences. – But, 'Mr.Norris', shouts the chairman, 'Master's time's up'. – Sir, says the guide, you must rise... 'Yes, Sir, you must rise; your time is up; you have been in ten minutes: - The Doctor orders you *not* to stay in no longer.' – Pray, stop a few minutes, says the Patient – it's so comfortable – I feel *so easy*'. – 'Come, come, Sir, you must rise.' – (that is, get out of the bath) 'it's two minutes more than your time.' – Well, to be sure, the Doctor knows best what's proper. – (His *own feelings*, and the loud, the importunate calls of *Nature* are nothing)...

James Graham, *A New, Plain, and Rational Treatise on the... Bath Waters* (Bath, 1789), pp.3-7.

***James Graham – see no.97. Lave – bathe. Alexipharmic bolus – an antidotal pill. Anodyne – opiate. Febrifuge – driving off fevers. Pectoral aperient apozem - chest decongestant.

126 1790-1804 *Appointments to the St Peter & Paul and St James joint parish poorhouse*

17 Aug 1790 Mr Nicholas Kelly appointed Surgeon and Apothecary from 24th Aug to Easter next, he to find proper medicines and to give due attendance in all cases of Surgery and Medwifry. He to attend the Poorhouse 3 times a week and so often as cases of emergency shall require. Each parish to

pay him £12-50 yearly. He also to attend the out Paupers, for which he is to receive yearly £15 from each parish. He to enter in a Book the day and hour of his attendances.

2 Jun 1801 On account of complaints by the Paupers and Mr Kelly's inability to pay the necessary attention to their cases, he is to be dismissed at Midsummer as Surgeon and Apothecary.

9 Jun 1801 Mr Robert Goldstone appointed Surgeon and Apothecary from Midsummer to Easter, under usual conditions. Each Parish to pay him £30 per annum.

11 Oct 1802 Serious complaints were made against Mr Goldstone for non-attendance on the sick paupers and other instances of neglect. He to attend the next Committee...

6 Apr 1803 Mr Goldstone attended, but no actual charge could be made against him.

5 Jun 1804 Serious complaints of the neglect of Messrs Goldstone in their attendance of the sick paupers, particularly in respect to Peter Danell and Mary Snailom and Susanna Hill. The Overseers to go into the matter and to report thereon.

13 Jun 1804 Resolved by large majority that a letter of dismissal be sent to Messrs Goldstone with a copy of this resolution. Mr White to be asked to assist as Surgeon and Apothecary to the sick paupers till the next general Meeting.

24 Jul 1804 Mr Wm White appointed Surgeon and Apothecary till Easter next. Each Parish to pay him at the rate of £30 per annum. He to keep a Minute Bok to enter the day and hour of his visits and the state of the sick poor at the time.

Bath: St Peter Paul and St James's Poor House Committee Book 1784-1812, transcribed C.W Shickle (Bath Central Library).

***Nicholas Kelly, surgeon/apothecary/accoucheur at Bath 1790-1805. Robert Goldstone, surgeon/apothecary/accoucheur at Bath 1799-1822. William White, 1762-1826, surgeon/apothecary to Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary, wrote on bilious fever, willow bark treatment, liver disease, and strictures – see also no.186.

127 1790 *On lead poisoning*

At first the poison generally exerts its virulence on the intestines under the form of colick, attended with severe pains, obstinate costiveness, and frequent retchings... These symptoms are generally succeeded by a paralytic affection of the extremities, accompanied with numbness, loss of motion, and frequent pains... In the first stage, the chief intention is to restore a free passage through the bowels... by a liberal use of opium and the warm bath... evacuants will then have their desired effect... When that remarkable transition of the disease from the bowels to the extremities, which so distinctly marks out the second stage, commences, the colick is immediately transformed into a palsy. // The indication now is to subdue the reliques of the poison which infest the nerves of motion, and also to restore the energy of those muscles whose action is impaired. Nothing bids so fair to answer this intention as warm mineral waters of the sulphureous and chalybeate kind, especially when they are used both internally and externally. Hence the surprising efficacy of the BATH WATERS, which have long been found super-eminently useful in this stage of the disease. // To those salubrious springs, as the *dernier resource*, invalids of this class continually repair from various parts of the globe, and particularly from the cyder counties. // Here, after the disease has baffled a variety of medicines, they often find a complete cure, and return home with joy and gratitude, leaving behind them their crutches as *votive tablets* in testimony of the superior efficacy of the water.

Anthony Fothergill, *Cautions to the Heads of Families... on Cyder-Wine... the Poison of Lead... the Poison of Copper* (Bath, 1790), pp.61-4.

***Anthony Fothergill, 1737-1813, physician at Bath 1782-1803, supporter of the Royal Humane Society. *Dernier resource* - last resort.

128 1790 *Resuscitation measures in cases of drowning*

I. THE RESTORATION of HEAT is of the greatest consequence to the return of LIFE: when therefore the body is taken out of the water, the cloaths should be stripped off, or if naked... covered with two or three coats, or a blanket... conveyed to the nearest house, with the head a little raised... [and] well *dried* with warm cloaths, and gently rubbed with flannels, sprinkled with rum, brandy, gin, or mustard. – FOMENTATIONS of either of these spirits may be applied to the pit of the stomach with advantage. – A warming pan covered with flannel should be lightly moved up and down the back; bladders, or bottles filled with hot water, heated bricks, or tiles wrapped up in flannel, should be applied to the soles of the feet, palms of the hands, and other parts of the body.

II. RESPIRATION will be greatly promoted, by closing the mouth and one nostril, while, with the pipe of a bellows, you blow into the other with sufficient force to inflate the lungs; another person

should then press the chest gently with his hands, so as to expel the air: thus the natural breathing will be imitated. If the pipe be too large for the nostrils, the air may be blown in at the mouth. Blowing the breath can only be recommended when bellows cannot be procured.

III. THE BOWELS should be very soon inflated with the *fumes of Tobacco*, and repeated three or four times within the first hour; but if circumstances prevent the use of this vapour, then CLYSTERS of this herb, or other *acrid infusions with salt*, may be thrown up with advantage. - The FUMIGATING MACHINE is so much improved as to be of the highest importance to the Public; and if employed in every instance of apparent death, it would restore the lives of many of our fellow creatures, as it now answers the important purposes of *fumigation, inspiration, and expiration*.

IV. AGITATION has proved a powerful auxiliary to the other means of recovery: one or more of the Assistants should there take hold of the head and arms, particularly of boys, and shake their bodies for five or six minutes; this may be repeated several times within the first hour. When the body is wiped perfectly dry, it should be placed in bed between two healthy persons, and the friction chiefly directed, in this case, to the left side, where it will be most likely to excite the motion of the heart.

V. When these Methods have been employed for an hour, if any brewhouse, bakehouse, or glasshouse, be near, where *warm grains, ashes, lees, &c.* can be procured, the body should be placed in any of these moderated to a degree of heat very little exceeding that of a person in health. If the warm bath can be conveniently obtained, it may be advantageously used in conjunction with the earliest modes of treatment.

VI. ELECTRICITY should be very soon employed, as it will increase the beneficial effects of the other means of recovery on the system...

VII. If sighing, gasping, convulsions, or other signs of returning life appear, a tea spoonful or two of warm water may be put into the mouth; and if the power of swallowing be returned, a little warm wine or brandy and water may be advantageously given. When this gradual approach towards recovery is observed, and breathing and sensibility returned, let the person be put into a warm bed, and if disposed to sleep, as is generally the case, give no disturbance, and he will wake, after a short time, almost perfectly recovered.

Bath Casualty Hospital, *Directions for the Recovery of the Apparently Dead by Drowning and the Various Kinds of Suffocation* (poster, Bath, 1790).

129 1791 *Psychosomatic effects*

To the unmedical reader, I do not know how to illustrate my assertion, that a close application of the Mind determines the blood to flow more particularly to the head, otherwise than by directing him to observe the countenances of those who play at cards for high stakes... In one who has been some time engaged in play, a greater glow of the face and fullness of the blood vessels of the eyes may be perceived, than before he sat down for that purpose. Hence on such occasions a complexion naturally pale will sometimes assume a ruddy appearance. The effects of such attention are very conspicuous in persons of a full and sanguine habit; and these will be often sensible of this determination to the head, by the increased heat they feel in the face when the short intervals of play permit the Mind to attend in some measure to the state of the Body.

William Corp, *An Essay on the Changes Produced in the Body by Operations of the Mind* (London, 1791?), pp.32-3.
***William Corp – see 114.

130 1791 *Graham's mud baths*

The Nobility, Gentry and Inhabitants of Bath are respectfully informed that the cold pure Virgin Earth – and the warm, medicated Mud-Bathing will be continued this and every day this week, God willing, under the direction of Dr.GRAHAM as usual, at Mr.BECK's, at the sign of the Full-Moon next door to the Old Bridge in Bath, daily, from eleven till three o'clock, for the natural, safe, speedy, and radical cure of those diseases and lamenesses which are found to be incurable by Medicines, and by medical and chirurgical Art. // ...[N.B.] The Doctor will be himself in person in the genial and generous Mud-Bath, the last three days of this week. // The Admission, as usual, comparatively nothing. To defray the very great expences, Ladies and Gentlemen pay 1s., poor people and servants 6d. // Dr.G. has himself been buried in the earth at least Two Hundred times; and the numbers of persons labouring under confirmed consumptions, leprosy, scurvy, King's-evil, rheumatisms, the dropsy, white-swellings, intolerable itchings, internal and external inflammations, swellings, and

ulcers, - and of nervous paralytic numbness, wastings, weakness, and lameness, who have been cured by GOD's blessing on the Earth-Bathing &c, under Dr.G's direction, in the course of seven years, have been, indeed, very great.

Bath Chronicle 24 Nov 1791.

***James Graham – see no.97.

131 1791 *A visiting émigré dentist advises the removal of plaque*

The unskilfulness of many Operators is the cause that so few people choose to have their teeth scaled; being free from present pain, they neglect the preservation of their teeth till they are cased over with a crust, which destroys the gums, and renders the breath offensive. Nothing is more neglected, yet nothing can be more useful, than the teeth. Nature, while she gives pain, seems to invite us to their preservation. We seldom bring any into the world, and, by this shameful neglect, we seldom carry any away. What is a beautiful woman without good teeth? Are they not her greatest ornament?

Bath Chronicle 8 Dec 1791 (advertisement by [J.M.A.?] Lemaire).

***[J.M.A.?] Lemaire, French émigré dentist.

132 1791 *The Casualty Hospital's report for 1791*

STATE OF PATIENTS. // Remaining in the House last year 7 // *Admitted this year, viz.* Fractures 18 Dislocations 1 Contusions 52 Contused, lacerated and incised Wounds 28 Scalds and Burns 3 [Total] 109 // Discharged well 91 at their own request 5 Died 7 Remaining in the House 6 [Total] 109 // *Out-Patients relieved* Fractures 7 Dislocations 4 Contusions 268 Contused, lacerated and incised Wounds 287 Scalds and Burns 34 [Total] 600 // N.B. Three persons, exclusive of the above, were taken out of the River, and brought to this Hospital, where every means were unsuccessfully used for their recovery. // *Several Ladies having humanely contributed sundry parcels of old Linen and cast-off Gloves, a continuance of the like favours will be very acceptable.*

Bath Chronicle 5 Jan 1792.

133 1792 *Fleecing tactics*

Dr Moore used to say, that 'at least two-thirds of the physician's fees were for prescribing for *imaginary* complaints'. – Among several instances of this nature, he mentioned that of a clothier, who, after long drinking the Bath waters, took it into his head to try the Bristol Hotwells. Previous, however, to his setting off, he requested his physician to favour him with a letter, stating his case to any brother Galen. This done, he got into a chaise and started. After proceeding about half way, he felt an itch to pry into the contents of the letter, when the following words presented themselves: *Dear Sir, The bearer is a fat Wiltshire clothier, make the most of him*'. It is unnecessary to add, that his cure was from that moment effected, as he ordered his chaise to return, and immediately proceeded home.

Bath Chronicle 22 Mar 1792, letter from 'Carbo'.

***Perhaps John Moore, 1729-1802, physician.

134 1792 *The Pauper Charity is revamped...*

The Managers of the Pauper Charity have new-modelled the institution, so as to receive patients labouring under infectious and acute diseases into an Infirmary, which is to be immediately opened for that purpose; and to save the expence they have hitherto incurred for medicines, they are henceforth to purchase their own Medicines from Apothecaries Hall, London, and have hired a Dispenser, at a moderate salary, to prepare them, who has no other emolument. The Infirmary is not to admit Casualties, as there is already in this city a benevolent asylum for such cases; we are sorry to find the circumstance has given umbrage to the former surgeons of the Pauper Charity. Surgical cases are, however, treated at the Dispensary as formerly. // The plan... not meeting the approbation of Messrs.Grigg and Day, who for many years past have given their assistance as Surgeons to that institution, they have this day unitedly resigned.

Bath Chronicle 5 Apr 1792.

***John Grigg, surgeon to the Pauper Charity 1787-92. William Day, surgeon/apothecary/accoucheur at Bath 1791-1831, surgeon to the Pauper Charity.

135 **1792 ... and becomes the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary...**

The Proprietors of our Theatre have generously agreed to give a Benefit on Saturday next to the Pauper Charity, now instituted upon a new and more extensive plan, and entitled *The Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary*, we doubt not that every description of the inhabitants will eagerly embrace this opportunity of affording their mite towards the establishment of a Hospital for the reception of the sick poor of this city, who have hitherto had no asylum, and whose distresses so particularly call for commiseration and relief. The Alfred Hotel will shortly be ready to receive the Patients of this benevolent institution, the necessary furniture, &c. being in great forwardness for that purpose.

Bath Chronicle 21 Jun 1792.

136 **1792 ... with a medical teaching function**

The Committee of Management of the BATH CITY INFIRMARY, having requested the PHYSICIANS of the CHARITY to take PUPILS, to have the benefit of attending their practice, Notice is given, that a LECTURE, introductory to a COURSE of CLINICAL LECTURES on the Cases of Patients in the Infirmary, will be delivered at the Infirmary, the 11th instant, at twelve o'clock, by one of the Physicians.

Bath Chronicle 6 Dec 1792.

137 **1793 To prevent the passing on of smallpox**

I Suffer no person, who has not had the small-pox, to come into the infectious house. No visitor, who has any communication with persons liable to the distemper, should touch or sit down on any thing infectious.

II No patient after the pocks have appeared, must be suffered to go into the street, or other frequented place. Fresh air must be constantly admitted, by doors and windows, into the sick chamber.

III The utmost attention to cleanliness is absolutely necessary: during and after the distemper, no person, clothes, food, furniture, dog, cat, money, medicines, or any other thing that is known or suspected to be bedaubed with matter, spittle, or other infectious discharges of the patient, should go or be carried out of the house till they be washed; and till they be sufficiently exposed to the fresh air. No foul linen, nor any thing else that can retain the poison, should be folded up or put into drawers, boxes, or be otherwise shut up from the air, but must be immediately thrown into water and kept there till washed. When a person dies of the small-pox, particular care should be taken that nothing infectious be taken out of the house so as to do mischief.

IV The patient must not be allowed to approach any person liable to the distemper, till every scab has dropt off; till all the clothes, furniture, food and all other things touched by the patient during the distemper; till the floor of the sick chamber; and till the hair, face, and hands have been carefully washed. After every thing has been made perfectly clean, the doors, windows, drawers, boxes, and all other places that can retain infectious air should be kept open, till it be cleared out of the house.

John Haygarth, *A Sketch of a Plan to Exterminate the Casual Small-Pox from Great Britain...* 2v. (London, 1793), v.1, pp. 62-5.

***John Haygarth, 1740-1817, physician and advocate of free schools and savings banks – see also 147, 155.

138 **1794 Appeal for an invalid chair**

WANTED, by a Person much afflicted with the Gout, a Second-hand MERLIN's CHAIR. // Whoever has such a one to dispose of, may hear of a purchaser... at the Christopher, in the Market-Place, Bath.

Bath Chronicle 17 Apr 1794.

***Merlin's chair – an invalid wheel-chair named after J.J.Merlin.

139 **1797...Henry Hunt summons surgeon Grant 30 miles from Bath about his father's gangrenous leg**

After the first salutation was over, the surgeons [Grant of Bath and Clare of Devizes] began to examine his leg; and Mr. Grant pointed out to Clare a deep red streak, that passed up the inside of his thigh, quite up to the body. He asked my father whether he had any objection to have his leg opened; to which my father promptly replied 'not in the least. I beg you will do any thing you think proper.'

Grant then said it would be necessary to make a pretty deep incision, to ascertain the state of the injured part. 'Proceed as you please, sir', said my father, 'I am quite capable of bearing pain.' Mr.Clare then made an incision in the calf of his leg, three inches deep, quite down to the bone, and five or six inches in length. The flesh appeared as black as mahogany, and very little blood flowed. This my father bore without the least flinching. Some cloths were wrapped round it, and they desired him to lie down, and compose himself a little... All this while I stood like a statue, watching every look of Mr.Grant with intense anxiety. 'Well, sir,' said Mr.Grant, 'I will consult with Mr.Clare, who understands these matter quite as well as I do, and, in fact, as well as any surgeon in England, and we will settle the course you shall follow. Your leg is in a dreadful state, but we will see what can be done for you.' // Mr.Grant now took my father by the hand, and was wishing him good morning, when my father, holding his hand, firmly raised himself upon his bed, and said, 'I am very much obliged to you, Mr.Grant, for the trouble you have taken to come such a long journey to see me; and my son will most cheerfully remunerate you. There is, however, one thing more which I shall request you to do before you leave me. It is that you will give me your candid and honest opinion of my situation. Have you any well-grounded hopes of my recovery?... I have... a perfect reliance on your judgment with respect to my case; you will see that I have nerve to hear my fate; and it will be a great relief to my mind... to be informed of it from your lips, rather than be left in suspense... Mr.Grant took my father's hand, and seriously delivered himself as follows: - 'After what you have said, sir; after the calm and manly appeal which you have made to me... I should be doing an injustice to my own sense of duty, and be imposing upon you, if I were to withhold any longer my honest opinion; which is this, that, as a mortification had taken place, for many hours even before Clare first saw you, and as it has approached your body, I cannot, unless some very extraordinary interposition of Providence shall occur, see any hopes of your recovery.'... Mr.Clare, at length, called my attention to the wish of Mr.Grant to return [home]; and the chaise being brought to the door, he reminded me of the doctor's fee. I asked Clare what would be proper: to which he replied that twenty guineas would be handsome. I, however, gave him thirty, with which he expressed himself very well satisfied...

Memoirs of Henry Hunt, Written by Himself... 3v. (London, 1820), v.1, pp.374-9.

***Henry Hunt, 1773-1835, radical politician. Alexander Grant, surgeon-apothecary at Bath 1791-1831 - see also nos.151, 153. Clare, surgeon at Devizes.

140 **1797 *Edmund Burke lingers four months at Bath in vain***

29 Jan [Burke to Dr C.H.Parry] ... the complaint has appeared in some what of another shape, and accelerated still more the decay of my flesh and my strength, so that I am little more than a shadow, much thinner than you have seen me at my worst. I mean to set out for Bath to morrow.

12 Feb [Burke to William Windham] I continue just as I was, with the difference of a bad Night – Doctor Parry has just given me a purgative Medicine, and I assure you I implicitly obey his directions. I cannot yet walk or stand firm, but I can read upon my back and dictate as I do now...

15 Feb [Burke to French Laurence] I am now in my third dose of physic which I have taken in the course of thirty-six hours. The symptoms of my disease have quite changed. I have hardly any excitation but my strength, rest, and flesh, are gone. Nothing goes through me. I cannot walk alone from my couch to my bed. The giddiness is not the effect of the Bath waters, for I do not drink them, nor have except two days in the beginning, and when I had no giddiness. The opiates I have totally left off. Yet things remain where they were. I am perfectly satisfied with my physician, both in point of skill and profession; but nature is too strong for him, and I grow worse hourly.

1 Mar [Burke to French Laurence] I enjoy much longer intervals of ease, I thank God, than I did some time ago and my Nights are a good deal better, but the radical complaint remains, tho' with less noise in the Symptoms. My head is perfectly relieved from that Giddiness which alarmed me more than any other Symptoms – I am told by others that my Strength is increased...

15 Mar [Burke to Earl Fitzwilliam] ... if compared with the degree of apparent strength which I had when I came hither, I am far worse than I was at my arrival. If I compare it with what I was at some of the intermediate times, I am much better; but I am still in an extream state of emaciation, and so feeble, that I cannot walk above a few steps without assistance; so, that if it were in my desire, it is not in my power to quit the place. I cannot say that I am much indebted to the use of the Bath Water,

of which I have drank but little, and irregularly. What benefit I have had has arisen from other methods prescribed to me by my Physician Doctor Parry.

21 May [Burke to Mrs John Crewe] ... all hopes of recovery to me... being totally at end, and the fullest trial having been given to these waters, without any sort of effect, it is thought advisable that I should be taken home...

The Correspondence of Edmund Burke. 10v. (Cambridge, 1970), v.9 ed. R.B.McDowell and J.A.Woods, pp.234-5, 241, 246, 267, 283, 357.

***Edmund Burke, 1729-97, statesman and writer. Caleb Hillier Parry, 1755-1822, physician to Bath General Hospital 1799-1817, wrote on angina, tetanus, elements of pathology, etc, and experimentally bred merino sheep.

141 1797 *The Infirmary's charge against Dr G.G.Browne...*

BATH CITY // INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY // At a Special Meeting of the Committee... it having appeared that Dr.Browne had twice officiously and clandestinely insinuated himself into the Infirmary to visit a Patient as a medical man, in opposition to the established Rules of this and every similar Institution; and not having made the required apology for the same, the Committee feel themselves obliged thus publicly to express their entire disapprobation of such conduct; and have in consequence come to a resolution of forbidding Dr.Browne from visiting in future any Patients in the Infirmary on any pretence whatsoever...'

Bath Chronicle 6 Jul 1797.

***George Gavin Browne[-Mill], 1774-1842, surgeon/physician, later attended Louis XVIII – see also nos.142-3.

142 1797 *...repudiated by Dr Browne...*

Upon reading the 'Resolution of the Committee of the Bath City Infirmary'... respecting my visits to the Infirmary; I have no hesitation in declaring that, I perfectly despise every possible meaning of the words 'officiously and clandestinely' as applied to me; and still more the attempt to depreciate my name... // I may be permitted to add that, I well know insinuations and unjust reports have been industriously circulated not only here but in London and elsewhere, by some person or persons of this place with an intention to injure me as a Professional Man. // It is true I went twice to the City Infirmary to see Mr.Starke's servant at his earnest request, but it was openly, and not in a medical capacity; nor did I ever prescribe for him after he was carried to the Infirmary... // ... I was on my first visit admitted by a man whom... I took to be a servant belonging to the Hospital, and asked him – Are any of the Physicians in the house? – No – I suppose I may go upstairs? Yes, Sir. And at the head of the stairs was shewn into the ward where the servant was by a woman whom I believe to be matron or one of the other nurses belonging to the house. – The next time I went, I walked up without making an enquiry, thinking it wholly unnecessary; however, on returning, I met on the stair-case the Apothecary of the Infirmary, and inquired of him if the poor servant was taking medicine, had been blistered, or allowed wine; to which he answered 'Certainly'. This was all that passed on the subject, and my reason for asking these questions was to inform Mr.Starke that every medical aid and support was given his servant which the nature of the case would admit of. // About four months back, I visited a servant of General Peche's, at his request as a friend, in the same Hospital, and one day met Dr.Moodie and I think Dr.Holman also; no notice was then taken nor a single observation made in my hearing at this time.

Bath Journal 10 Jul 1797.

***George Gavin Browne[-Mill] – see no.142. Burwell Starke John Moodie, physician to Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary 1789-1820. James Holman, 1761-1812, physician to Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary and to Bath General Hospital 1800-04.

143 1797 *...and by Burwell Starke*

...the very extraordinary Resolution of the Committee of the Bath Infirmary... puts me to the painful necessity of coming forward before the public... [with] a plain Statement of Facts... I brought from America a black man, one of the most useful and faithful servants that ever waited upon a gentleman, and whose attachment to me was such as induced him voluntarily to cross the Atlantic, altho' he had

never had the small-pox... Unfortunately his aversion to it, and my constant low state of health, prevented me from insisting upon his being inoculated ever since I have been in England. A few days after my arrival at Bath he was seized with the small-pox; and of course it became necessary to remove him from a Lodging and Boarding-house... [and] get him into some retired place, where he

might be well taken care of, and to get Dr. Browne... to attend him. This the Doctor knew; yet he was the first person who suggested to me, that it would be better, if it could be effected, to get him into one of the Hospitals, or the Bath Infirmary... I accordingly became a Subscriber to the Infirmary, and the Servant was sent thither. Being unable to go to see him, I intreated the Doctor to call from time to time to see him, in order that I might know accurately how he did, and that he wanted for nothing: these visits were made by the Doctor merely as my friend, and not in a medical character... we had frequently conversed upon the subject of the small-pox, a disorder of which I have seen a great deal... Dr. Browne only called twice to see the Servant; for I grew somewhat better, and was able to go to the Infirmary three times; twice out of the three, I saw nobody either in the Apothecary's shop, or the little room adjacent, & walking up stairs, unperceived except once by a little girl who offered to call any one I might want... The last time I saw him, I observe a visible alteration for the worse, and thought his case desperate. It immediately occurred to me that if any thing could save him it would be strong stimulants, from which I have sometimes known very powerful effects. Anxious beyond measure for the life of this, to me invaluable Servant, the moment I got to my lodgings, I addressed a hasty note to Mr. White the Apothecary. At this time I did not know, but that the Apothecary was the person, who chiefly attended to such Patients... had I been acquainted with Dr. Holman, or known with certainty that he regularly attended the Servant, I should have addressed myself to him, and in a different manner... BURWELL STARKE.'

Bath Journal 10 Jul 1797.

***Burwell Starke – see no 142???? George Gavin Browne[-Mill] – see no.141. William White – see no.126. James Holman – see no.142.

144 1797 *Cancer specialist (with specimens)*

Mankind never experienced a more happy relief in any of the afflictions incident to human nature, than in the admirable mode adopted by Mrs. PLUNKETT EDGCUMBE, of Bath, in the treatment of CANCERS. This valuable Receipt has been in the possession of her family for upwards of two centuries past, during which time it has been administered to the afflicted with increased success. This may be confirmed by paying a visit to *Mrs. Plunkett Edgcumbe*, at her house No.15 St James's-square, Bath; who has preserved several cancers in spirits, with all the fibres entire, which she has eradicated by her infallible method without ever having had recourse to what must be peculiarly shocking to female delicacy, the application of the knife, or the caustic. Persons who have cancers extracted by this happy process may keep them in their own possession, for the satisfaction of their friends and acquaintance.

Bath Chronicle 30 Nov 1797.

***Mrs Plunkett Edgcumbe, cancer doctor visiting Bath regularly 1767-1800.

145 1797 *The Puerperal Charity*

It was set on foot in the year 1792, by the sole efforts and benevolence of a professional gentleman, resident in the place, for the Relief and Support of Poor Married Women at their own habitations, and for providing them with necessaries and conveniences in the perilous hour of childbirth. By means of the donations which the institutor has been able to obtain for his plan, in the first year were relieved TWENTY-TWO objects of this description; in the second, NINETY-FOUR; in the third, ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SEVEN; in the fourth, ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT; and in the last, TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN: numbers, which contain such a remarkable series of increase, as sufficiently evince the humanity and utility of the undertaking. All these poor objects are in such low, and some in such distressful circumstances, that without the relief afforded them by this institution, they must, at the important period of their labour, and for some time after it, have undergone the greatest difficulties, even to the danger of the life or health of themselves and infants. For not only are safe and experienced midwives provided on these occasions, but the women are supplied with many necessaries and comforts requisite to their poverty and delicate situation; as coals, bread, sugar, and clothing, as far as the finances of the Charity will admit. In cases of difficulty, the humane institutor himself, and a humane physician, his disinterested co-adjutor, are ever ready to afford their advice and personal assistance. The good effect of all which regulations sufficiently appears in this important fact, that out of the number of SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

women delivered in five years by means of this Charitable Institution, *not one* has died in consequence of her labour.

[W.R.Wake], *Warm Water, or Popular Expositions of the Learned Motto on the Grand Pump-Room in Bath* (Bath? 1797), pp.41-3.
***William Robert Wake, curate of St Michael's, Bath.

146 1797 *Trusses, collars, braces and suspensors*

MRS.EREN // No.12 PULTENEY-STREET, BATH, // Respectfully informs her Friends and the Public, that she continues to supply them, and the Gentlemen of the [medical] Faculty, with every species of // BANDAGES and TRUSSES, // *On the most approved construction, and reasonable terms:* // Such as Ladies' Front and Back-Collars; Leather, Satin, Gasden, or Back-Braces, Drawing and Sash Monitors, Pinion-Boards and Stocks, Leg-Irons, Compresses for weak and emaciated Limbs. Suspensors may be had for Adults and Children, upon approved principles, by sending the exact dimensions of the parts to which they are to be applied. // She particularly recommends to Ladies in a Pregnant State, a SUSPENSORY BANDAGE, recommended by Mr.Grigg, surgeon in this city, in his Advice to the Female Sex, p.164, which if judiciously and seasonably applied, may prevent many complaints subsequent to delivery, the effects of weakness and relaxation. She therefore recommends it to every Lady as a part of her Child-Bed Apparatus.

Bath Chronicle 21 Dec 1797.

***Eren, Bath surgeon/trussmaker 1788-c.1795, succeeded by his widow. John Grigg – see no.134.

147 1798 *Newly arrived from Chester, Dr Haygarth quickly scores at Bath*

...I hear... Haygarth gets a vast deal of Business from the Bath Physicians, but here are People enough for all. No Place can be more crowded or more splendid than this Town is at present...

The Piozzi Letters: Correspondence of Hester Lynch Piozzi..., ed. E.A. and L.D.Bloom. (Newark, Del., 1989-), v.2 p.545, H.L.Piozzi to Thomas Pennant, Bath, 24 Dec 1798.

***John Haygarth – see no.137. Hester Lynch Piozzi [Thrale], 1741-1821, friend of Samuel Johnson.

148 1798 *Two applications of the Perkins metallic tractors*

A few days since... a youth about fifteen years of age was imprudently running in a street which was very slippery (occasioned by the late frost) and received a violent contusion in one of his knees; swelling with inflammation and blackness immediately took place, which rendered him unable to stand, nor could he bear the limb to be moved in the least degree without experiencing the most excruciating pains. On applying the Metallic Tractors for twenty minutes, the swelling, inflammation, and blackness, were entirely removed, and he became perfectly easy. On the following day, he returned to his usual occupation, and has not had any return of pain or stiffness since; and it is now four weeks since the accident happened... // JOHN MOODY (distributor of the Bath Chronicle) had, from April 1798 to November, been afflicted with violent pains in his head, attended with giddiness and night-sweats. He had been in the Infirmary and Dispensary for six months, without finding any benefit; and in that hopeless state was recommended to me [C.C.Langworthy] by his master. // I applied the Tractors to his head daily, for upwards of a month, and am happy to say, that the man is quite well, and has, for these last six weeks, returned to his usual occupation. Much might be said of this man's case, but Mr.Crutwell will with pleasure relate the cure to any one who may call on him for that purpose.

Charles Cunningham Langworthy, *A View of the Perkinian Electricity, or an Enquiry into the Influence of the Metallic Tractors*. 2nd ed. (Bath, 1798), pp. 93 and 96.

***Charles Cunningham Langworthy, 1771-1847, physician, proprietor of Kingsdown House asylum near Box, agent for Perkinian tractors – metallic bars used as wands. Elisha Perkins, then Benjamin Perkins, patentees of the tractors. See also no.155.

149 1798 *Better than quinine*

Notwithstanding this [willow] bark has been already strongly recommended to the attention of the public by Mr.James... its use has not yet become general. This, however, is not singular, since every new Medicine has always met with more or less of opposition at the beginning, and none more so than Cinchona [quinine], for which the present is proposed as a substitute... // As this bark is so easily got, every practitioner may have an opportunity of fully proving its efficacy and worth. 'But' (as Mr.James very justly observes) 'it seems to be the lot of human nature to overlook the merits of what is easily procured, and costs but little, and to be captivated with a commodity which can only be acquired with difficulty and expence. Thus we go to the western extremity of South America for a remedy of

disorders for which we have a better at home, and send annually out of the kingdom a considerable sum of money to purchase a bark, when we have a tree in our fields which offers us one of equal, if not superior virtue, and which may be cultivated almost without trouble or cost.' // Since the introduction of this bark into practice at the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary, as a substitute for the Cinchona, not less than twenty pounds a-year have been saved to the Charity, which circumstance will render it a very valuable article to all Hospitals where much bark is used.

William White, *Observations and Experiments on the Broad-leaved Willow Bark* (Bath, 1798), pp. ii-iii.

***William White – see no. 126. Willow bark – a source of salicylic acid, later synthesised into aspirin.

150 1798 *Testimony to daily immersion*

Sunday died Mrs. Rachael Whittick, near 50 years one of the Bath-Guides; who during that period was several hours every day immersed in the hot-baths, yet enjoyed good health in the lengthened period of four-score years and six.

Bath Chronicle 15 Nov 1798.

151 1799 *Styptic halts a nose bleed*

I went to church at ½ past ten. Mr Powys was just then taken with a bleeding at the nose, but as much used to it desired I do go and he would follow me, but having staid out ye Service in great anxiety, I return'd home and found it still bleeding, and had never seaced. I sent to the apothecary, who gave him something without effect, I then sent for Mr Gaunt, ye Surgeon, who advised me to send for Dr Mappleton as acquainted with his constitution, ye Dr being out, it was between 4 and 5 in the afternoon before he came, poor Mr Powys was near fainting, and I from my fears could hardly support it, but the Dr beg'd me not to be so alarm'd, as he was almost certain he could stop it by Ruspinis Styptic, which was directly sent for and almost as soon as applied stopt ye bleeding, and most thankful was I, as he was really nearly exhausted, and ye loss of blood must have been immense. The Dr told us he knew not what it is, but though a quack medicine, it was wonderful ye cures he had known by it, in wounds, inward bruises, or bleeding at the nose, and he advises every one to keep some in their house, which I certainly always shall...

S.P.Marks, 'The journals of Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys, 1738-1817: a half century of visits to Bath', *Bath History*, v.9 p.42, 2002, entry for 14 April 1799.

***Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys visited Bath frequently 1759-1808 – see also no.160. 'Gaunt' is probably Alexander Grant – see no.139. Mappleton, physician at Bath 1799-1803. The styptic was introduced at Bath by the Italian dentist Bartholomew Ruspini, visiting Bath from 1758.

152 1799 *Jane Austen concerned for her brother*

2 Jun 1799 What must I tell you of Edward...? He was better yesterday than he had been for two or three days before... He drinks at the Hetling Pump, is to bathe tomorrow, and try Electricity on Tuesday; - he proposed the latter himself to Dr.Fellowes, who made no objection to it, but I fancy we are all unanimous in expecting no advantage from it.

19 Jun 1799 Mrs. Williams need not pride herself on the knowledge of Dr. Mappleton's success here; – she knows no more than everybody else knows in Bath. – There is not a Physician in the place who writes so many Prescriptions as he does – I cannot help wishing that Edward had not been tied down to Dr.Fellowes, for had he come disengaged, we should all have recommended Dr.Mappleton; my Uncle & Aunt as earnestly as ourselves.

Jane Austen's Letters to her Sister Cassandra and Others, ed.R.W.Chapman. 2v. (Oxford,1932), v.1, pp.20, 22.

***Jane Austen, 1755-1817, novelist – see also no.162. James Fellowes, c.1771-1857, physician at Bath 1799-1822. Mappleton – see no.151.

153 1799 *Dr Parry identifies impeded arteries as the main cause of angina*

In a person evidently dying of Angina Pectoris, in the year 1775, Mr.HUNTER found the coronary arteries ossified; but, as far as I could learn, did not consider this state as having any important influence on the patient's health, and says nothing of it in any of his lectures or publications. Then Dr.JENNER discovered ossified coronaries in the heart of Mr.CARTER, of Dursley; and concluding that there was some relation between that disorder and the disease in question, predicted a similar appearance in the instance of Mr.BELLAMY. Here, however, as we have seen in the dissection, there was some difference; but such as, I think, confirms the opinion, that a principal cause of the Syncope Anginosa is to be looked for in disordered coronary arteries. Next followed the case of Mr.S., which

appeared to me so clear an instance of Angina Pectoris, that, relying on the sagacity of Dr.JENNER, I told Mr.ATTWOOD, and Mr.PERRY, previously to the dissection, that we should find the coronary arteries ossified. We did so; and these gentlemen now remain in Bath, witnesses of the truth of what I relate. Afterwards Dr.BLACK, of Newry, found ossified coronaries in a case of Angina Pectoris... In the mean time, Dr. JENNER conversed with myself, and many others of his friends, on the symptoms of Mr.HUNTER, and foretold diseased coronaries. Mr.HUNTER died; and the coronaries were found ossified. Lastly, in the recent case of Mr.M., Mr.GRANT, when about to open the body, asked me, in the presence of Dr.FRASER, and Mr.MAYHEW, apothecary, what appearances of disease I expected. I answered, that we should find dilated aorta and ossified coronary arteries. The event justified the prediction. // ... I cannot avoid concluding, that there is an important connection between the rigid and obstructed state of these vessels, and the disease in question.

Caleb Hillier Parry, *An Inquiry into the Symptoms and Causes of the Syncope Anginosa Commonly Called Angina Pectoris* (Bath, 1799), pp.107-9.

***Caleb Hillier Parry – see no.140. William Hunter, 1718-83, London anatomist/surgeon/physician. Edward Jenner, 1749-1823, pioneer of smallpox vaccination. Harry Atwood – see no.80. William Perry, physician, a governor of Bath General Hospital. Alexander Grant – see no.139. William Fraser, physician at Bath 1787-98, served on Bath City Council. Richard Mayhew, apothecary at Bath 1787-1802.

154 1800 *Progress in chiropody*

J.COLE, *Corn Cutter and Extractor* // No.5 Abbey-Green... // Takes the liberty of informing the Nobility, Gentry, and the Public in general, that he has, after several years close application and attention, discovered a certain, easy, and expeditious method of // EXTRACTING CORNS IN THE FOOT // AND RAISING SUNK NAILS // *With perfect safety and ease to the Afflicted,* // Whom he assures, that after he has the honour to attend them once, they will receive such immediate relief as will enable them to walk with as great comfort as if they had always been quite free from them. The number of excellent cures he has performed are too numerous to be inserted, and too well known to be doubted.

Bath Chronicle 16 Oct 1800.

1801-1825

155 1801 *A placebo trial of the Perkins tractors*

The Tractors have obtained such high reputation at Bath, even among persons of rank and understanding, as to require the particular attention of physicians. Let their merit be impartially investigated, in order to support their fame, if it be well founded, or to correct the publick opinion, if merely formed upon delusion... Prepare a pair of false, exactly to resemble the true, Tractors. Let the secret be kept inviolable, not only from the patient, but every other person. Let the efficacy of both be impartially tried, beginning always with the false Tractors. The cases should be accurately stated, and the reports of the effects produced by the true and false Tractors be fully given, in the words of the patients. // This hint, and in these terms, I communicated to Dr.FALCONER. He entirely approved the idea, and very readily consented to make the proposed trial upon the most proper cases which could be selected from his patients in the General Hospital. Of nearly the same shape as the metallick we contrived two wooden Tractors, which were painted to resemble them in colour. Five cases were chosen of chronic rheumatism, in the ankle, knee, wrist, and hip. One of the patients had also gouty pains. All the affected joints, except the last, were swelled, and all of them had been ill for several months. // On the 7th of January, 1799, the wooden Tractors were employed. All the five patients, except one, assured us that their pains were relieved, and three of them that they were much benefited by the first application of this remedy. One felt his knee warmer, and he could walk much better, as he shewed us with great satisfaction. One was easier for nine hours, and till he went to bed, when the pain returned. One had a tingling sensation for two hours. The wooden Tractors were drawn over the skin so as to touch it in the *slightest* manner. Such is the wonderful force of the Imagination! // Next

day, January 8th, the true metallic Tractors of Mr. PERKINS were employed exactly in like manner, and with similar effects. All the patients were in some measure, but not more, relieved by the second application, except one, who received no benefit from the former operation, and who was not a proper subject for the experiment, having no existing pain, but only stiffness of the ankle. They felt (as they fancied) warmth, but in no greater degree than on the former day. // This trial was witnessed by Dr. FALCONER, Mr. NICHOLLS, surgeon of the Hospital, Mr. FARNELL, apothecary of the Hospital, and myself, on both days; and on the second day by Mr. PHILLOTT, also surgeon of the Hospital. It need not be remarked, how completely the trial illustrates the nature of this popular illusion, which has so wonderfully prevailed, and spread so rapidly; it resembles, in a striking manner, that of Animal Magnetism... The whole effect undoubtedly depends upon the impression which can be made upon the patient's Imagination. // This method of discovering the truth, distinctly proves to what a surprising degree mere fancy deceives the patient himself; and if the experiment had been tried with the metallic Tractors only, they might and most probably would have deceived even medical observers.

John Haygarth, *On the Imagination as a Cause and as a Cure of Disorders of the Body, Exemplified by Fictitious Tractors*. New ed. (Bath, 1801), pp.2-4.

***John Haygarth – see no.137. William Falconer see no.95. Morgan Nicholls, c.1740-1817, surgeon to Bath General Hospital 1794-1817, served on Bath City Council. William Balme Farnell, 1749-1829, apothecary to Bath General Hospital. Joseph Phillott, c.1742-1833, surgeon to Bath General Hospital 1767-1820, Mayor 1805-6. Perkinian tractors - see no.148. Animal magnetism – see no.104.

156 1801 Joseph Farington, R.A., gets scant relief for haemorrhoids

24 Jan My complaint continuing... I consulted Mr. Sloper, the Apothecary, who examined the part and told me the Pile is internal, on the great gut, so that He cd. not apply a Leech, or anything else to it. He recommended to persevere in taking night & morning, an electuary with Sulphur, Cream of Tartar &c.

26 Jan My Complaint confined me to my lodgings till dinner time. – Mr. Sloper called. – He recommends a continuance of the Electuary – Sulphur &c.

27 Jan Met Dr. Parry who recommended me to take Lac Sulphur in some Liquor.

1 Feb Sloper came & sd He now saw that the disorder (the Piles) was the mere effect of irritation proceeding from debility... I called on Dr. Salt. – He recommended to me to refrain from the Electuary & Sulphur, - and to return to Rhubarb with a little magnesia, to which I have been accustomed. – He also recommended me to take a cup of Cold Camomile tea with a little ginger twice a day, - in the morning and at noon.

10 Feb I suffered the whole of last night exceedingly from my complaint and laid in bed till noon. – In the afternoon I was better and called on Dr. Salt who advised me to lay off opiates and to take some medicines which He prescribed.

15 Feb This morning at 10 I called by appointment on Dr. Parry & conversed with him on my Complaint. He thought it wd. be prudent for me to consult a Surgeon & recommended Mr. Atwood, the present Mayor of Bath. After having his opinion as to what might be *locally necessary*, he, Dr. Parry, would consider my case again... At half past one Mr. Atwood called on me. I stated to him my Case in the best manner I could. He recommended me to take Wards paste a medicine which He had known do much good. – Also to drink Senna tea with some Comoronds seeds in it occasionally. // Wards paste size of walnut twice a day... // He said my disorder proceeds from the bowels... In the course of 2 or 3 days He wd. be able to judge whether it might be necessary to apply Leeches to the part. – He saw nothing singular in my complaint. – His fee was a guinea.

20 Feb Mr. Atwood called on me today & examined the State of the Piles. He thinks it probable that there is a pile which may have become an excrescence, if so it must be cut off with a thread – at present He recommends a perseverance in taking Wards paste, and to keep the body open occasionally Senna tea, 2 or 3 spoonfuls at one or two o'clock, also to abstain from Port Wine & Brandy & water – and to drink some light white wine, Lisbon, &c.

22 Feb Dr. Parry I called on this morning... I told him that Mr. A. had been twice with me, & the last time had examined the part & was of opinion that a pile or excrescence, lodged, which, if not absorbed, must be removed by a ligature. – That He had recommended Wards paste and Senna tea to keep the body open... [Parry] spoke of Mr. Atwood as having been a pupil of Pott, and that He had been in a responsible situation in a London Hospital... After [church] service Mr. Atwood called upon

me... He recommends me to apply 3 Leeches to the part this evening, as they may allay the inflammation.

24 Feb Mr. Atwood called. He prescribed an ointment to be applied to the part affected, and recommended to me occasionally to inject *cold water*... // Sloper called & He acknowledged that to cure my complaint wd. be a work of time.

The Diary of Joseph Farington, ed. K. Garlick et al. 16v. (New Haven and London, 1978-84), v.4, pp. 1488-1507.

***Joseph Farington, 1747-1821, R.A., landscape painter. James or John Sloper, apothecary at Bath 1797-1822, served on Bath City Council. Salt – surgeon later resident at Bath. Caleb Hillier Parry – see no.140. Harry Atwood – see no.80. Electuary – medicine mixed with honey.

157 1802 *The ex-Prime Minister risks the waters and curtails the wine*

[If you come to Bath]... I may hope to give you a good glass of port or madeira. The regimen of Bath will not allow me to talk of a bottle... I am just beginning to try the water very gradually under the directions of Mr. Crook, an apothecary to whose care Farquhar consigned me, and who seems a sensible man.

Historical Manuscripts Commission, Rpt 7, Bathurst, p.30, William Pitt to Earl Bathurst, Bath, 28 Oct 1802.

***William Pitt the younger, 1759-1806, statesman. Charles Crook – see no.96. Perhaps Walter Farquhar, 1738-1819, London apothecary.

158 1802...*But wine and opium have their place*

[Out of the stimulant medicines] wine, when good, is perhaps the more generally useful in cases of emergency. It is now found that in low and putrid fevers, wine may be given with great advantage in larger quantity than was formerly thought practicable with safety, even to two or three bottles in twenty-four hours. In fevers, where the skin is moist, with a scalding heat to the touch, the pulse quick and low, the eyes moist or watery, the stools loose and foetid, thirst great, tongue foul, respiration difficult, and spirits depressed, there the use of wine is adviseable, and is indeed the principal remedy on which we must depend. The indication for wine is stronger, if any spots of a blue or purple cast appear on the body, or if a low muttering delirium comes on, attended with faintness; life then depends on active and quick exertions. If wine cannot be had, or not in perfection, or is not relished by the palate, good malt-liquor may be substituted in its room; and I have seen porter tried with the best effect in a case of this kind... // [Out of the medicines] that ease pain, and procure rest... *Opium*... has superseded in a great measure all the others... but the operation of this remedy is not so simple, but requires attention to regulate, and in some instances to counteract, some of its effects. Opium may be safely and properly administered in most cases of violent pain, attended with none, or but little fever or inflammation. Thus it is the principal, and indeed almost the only, remedy to be depended on, in those dreadful fits of pain which often attend the passage of a stone or gravel through the urinary passages. In such circumstances, opiates may be given with considerable freedom. The use of opium is in no instance more strongly manifested, than in the violent purging and vomiting that often comes on towards the latter part of the summer, or during the autumn, and is called the *Cholera Morbus*. Opium is likewise proper in the simple diarrhoea, or purging, that often comes on towards the close of summer. Opiates, judiciously administered, might often prevent many of the bad consequences that follow violent colics, the iliac passion, and inflammation of the bowels.

William Falconer, 'On the preservation of health of persons employed in agriculture', in Bath & West of England Society, *Letters and Papers*. Abridged ed. 2v. (Bath, 1802), v2 pp.121-3.

***William Falconer – see no.95. Cholera morbus – Bilious cholera. Iliac passion – obstruction of the small intestine.

159 1803 *The true value of the waters*

The reports of cases that have been admitted and discharged from the General Hospital at Bath, do not produce a conviction of the efficacy of these waters in any decided manner. As in other hospitals, medicines have been applied towards the relief of diseases equally with the Bath Waters. We could wish to examine the returns of those cured in other hospitals, where they have not the advantages of the Bath Waters. I do not doubt, that the numbers discharged cured from the Bath hospital, would far exceed the proportion from others; but still, as many patients are cured of the same complaints in other hospitals, such a proportion should be ascertained. Besides as the Hospital at Bath is restricted to particular diseases, the numbers cured of such disorders appear in a much greater proportion than where acute, as well as chonical cases are admitted.... // The eagerness in recommending a medicine is often the surest means of destroying confidence in it; and the great number of different ends the

Bath Waters are said to accomplish, makes them suspected... the Bath Waters have certainly been extolled for too many virtues, although a patient investigation of their real powers would have enhanced their value much more than such indiscriminate praise.

George Smith Gibbes, *A Second Treatise on the Bath Waters* (Bath, 1803), pp.13-14.

***George Smith Gibbes, 1771-1851, physician to Bath General Hospital 1804-18, proprietor of the Gibbesium spermaceti factory – see also no.162.

160 *1803 One good thing about the 'flu*

When the Influenza was so violent this Spring at Bath Dr Parry visited a hundred & 20 patients in two days, and Mr Crook, ye apothecary only wish'd he could have a Lease of this same Influenza for 8 years, he should not desire a better fortune.

S.P.Marks, 'The journals of Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys, 1738-1817: a half century of visits to Bath', *Bath History*, v.9 p.49, 2002, entry for Dec 1803.

***Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys - see no.151. Caleb Hillier Parry – see no.140. Charles Crook – see no.96.

161 *1804...The tariff for drinking*

The Members of the Corporation particularly such as are... of the Medical Profession must have often heard the complaint of the Visitors and Inhabitants of this City that a specific Sum has been demanded of them for drinking the waters contrary to former discretionary usage; while the Renter of the pumps on the other hand has had occasion as loudly to complain that many opulent Families have refused to grant her that fair remuneration which her attention trouble and heavy expenses so justly required and in so many Cases a shameful & total neglect of payment has taken place. // To obviate such Complaints in future it is proposed that a Table of the Regulations shall be placed... in some conspicuous place in the pump Room...

1. Each person for drinking the Water & for attendants pay one Guinea a month. NB paym[en]t not to commence until after a Trial of one Week of the Effects of the Water... 7s[hillings] for the week.

2. When the principal of the family pays one Guinea a month as above every other person belonging to the same family drinking the water shall pay half a Guinea a month including the attendants.

3. Although the Pumper be not allowed to demand a larger sum than the foregoing yet it is by no means intended to restrict Ladies and Gentlemen of Rank & Opulence from behaving with their accustomed liberality to the pumper and attendants when their Civilities or Additional Trouble point them out as deserving of further and more ample remuneration...

...Resolved that the Rules and Regulations be confirmed with the addition of Two Guineas a Year to be paid by each settled Inhabitant of the City who may drink the Bath or Hot Water.

Bath Council Minutes 11 Jul 1804 (inserted sheet) and 24 Aug 1804 (Bath Record Office).

162 *1805 Jane Austen's father*

He was taken ill on Saturday morning, exactly in the same way as heretofore, an oppression in the head, with fever, violent tremulousness, & the greatest degree of Feebleness. The same remedy of Cupping, which had before been so successful, w as immediately applied to – but without such happy effects. The attack was more violent, & at first he seemed scarcely at all relieved by the operation. – Towards the Evening however he got better, had a tolerable night, & yesterday morning was so greatly amended as to get up & join us at breakfast as usual, & walk about with a stick, & every symptom was then so favourable that when Bowen saw him at one, he felt sure of his doing perfectly well. – But as the day advanced, all these comfortable appearances gradually changed; the fever grew stronger than ever, & when Bowen saw him at ten at night, he pronounc'd his situation to be most alarming. – At nine this morning he came again – & by his desire a Physician was called in; - Dr.Gibbs – But it was then absolutely a lost case - Dr.Gibbs said that nothing but a Miracle could save him, and about twenty minutes after Ten he drew his last gasp.

Jane Austen's Letters to her Sister Cassandra and Others, ed. R.W.Chapman. 2v. (Oxford, 1932) v.1, p.40, Jane Austen to Francis Austen, Bath, 21 Jan 1805.

***Jane Austen see no.152. William Bowen, apothecary at Bath 1796-1812, partner of Spry, served on Bath City Council. George Smith Gibbes – see no.159.

163 *1805 Hip case statistics*

It is much to the credit of the Bath hospital, that a great degree of candour has been uninterruptedly preserved ever since its foundation, above sixty years ago, in representing the state of patients when dismissed. These, when minuted to be discharged by the attending physician, are again produced before some of the other professional persons, and examined as to the state they were in when admitted, which is compared with their state when examined, and both these are compared with the report of their state by the attending physician. They are again produced before the committee, and separately and regularly examined as to the same points; and I have repeatedly witnessed the committee requesting the attendant physician to alter the report, when it appeared to them that the amendment was more considerable than it was put down in the report; but I never knew the smallest hint offered, that the state of the patient was more favourably represented by the physician than it seemed to merit, on the examination before the committee. In short, it has been the invariable rule to err, if at all, rather on the side of caution, than on the contrary extreme, and to represent such patients only to have received benefit in any degree, whose cases exhibited obvious and undeniable marks of amendment, not such as are merely probable, or any wise equivocal. It appears from the... report of the state of the patients, that out of 556 persons admitted into the Bath hospital for hip-cases from May 1, 1785, to April 7, 1801, 103, or about 1 in 5.398 received a complete cure; that 168, or 1 in 3.3095 received great benefit, and were nearly recovered; that 111, or nearly one-fifth of the whole received some benefit, and that the aggregate of these three numbers, amounting in the whole to 382 or as 1 in 1.4555, or more than two-thirds, received advantage from a trial of the remedy. Of the above numbers four only died in the hospital of the disease, a very inconsiderable proportion, 33 or nearly a 17th part of the whole, were no better, 122 were deemed improper cases for a trial of the waters, and 13 were discharged for irregularity... [But the latter two categories, together with six patients who died, including two from smallpox, should not rightly be included.] This takes off 141 from the list, and reduces the whole number that should be considered on this occasion, to 415. The proportions then will stand thus.

Cured 1 in 4.1553 nearly.

Much Better 1 in 2.54, or nearly two-fifths.

Better 1 in 3.74.

Proportion of those who received benefit to the whole number as 9.2048 to 10, or above nine-tenths of the whole.

William Falconer, *A Dissertation on Ischias, or the Diseases of the Hip-Joint Commonly Called a Hip Case* (London, 1805), pp.30-33.
***William Falconer- see no.95.

164 *1806 The Jennerian Society's smallpox clinic*

VACCINE INOCULATION // As the dreadful ravages made by the Small-Pox during the last year must be universally recollected, the ROYAL SOMERSET JENNERIAN SOCIETY feel it their duty to make it known, that attendance is given by the Surgeons of the Society, EVERY MONDAY AT THREE O'CLOCK, at the BATH CITY DISPENSARY, for the GRATUITOUS INOCULATION of those who may apply... // At this Season, the Small-Pox appeared in the last year and between the months of April and October, 1805, Ninety-one Persons, principally infants under two years old, were destroyed by it in the parish of Walcot alone, the mortality in the other parishes of Bath being in fully the same proportion. // It is probable that the same disease may soon again make its baneful appearance. The inhabitants of this City, who from their condition and habitations, are peculiarly exposed to the dangers of Small-Pox contagion, are earnestly exhorted to avail themselves of this means of preserving their children from this loathsome disease, and for the omission of which they may be justly considered as highly responsible.

Bath Chronicle 1 May 1806.

***Edward Jenner – see no.153.

165 *1806 Medical testimony in an infanticide case*

Charles Crook... Apothecary... saith that from the first to the 18th day of May last he attended the said Sarah Webb... on account of violent pains in her Stomach and Bowells, that from her Symptoms he never had any reason to suppose that she had been pregnant with child... // William White... Apothecary... saith that the said Sarah Webb came to the Bath City Dispensary on the 21 day of May

last with a Complaint in her Stomach and Bowells which were very tender on pressure – that he never had any suspicion of her ever having been with Child and that she is now in the Dispensary and much better – and this Informant further saith that the Symptoms of the said Sarah Webb often appear in Women who have been in Child Bed... // George Norman... Surgeon ... saith that he has this day examined the Child found in the Wash house... and that from the putrid State it is in it is impossible to discover any Marks of violence on it – that it is a Male Child – and appears to have been Born in its proper time.

Bath Coroner's Inquests (Bath Record Office), 6 Jun 1806.

***Charles Crook – see no.96. William White – see no.126. James Norman – see no.122.

166 1807 *Katherine Plymley takes a dislike to her apothecary*

I was very unwell, my head ached violently & that sort of head-ache that indicated a disposition to a bad seizure... I followed Dr.DuGard's directions & applied Aether very plentifully to my head which was of great service. My Nieces were uneasy & sent for Mr.Bowen, an Apothecary of high repute... In about two hours his partner [Spry] arrived. My head was relieved before he came. He ordered something for my cold. I was particularly thankful to be better for from what I saw I shd not like to be attended by Mr.Spry... I believe [Bowen] is too much engaged to attend new patients. Perhaps I am spoiled by Dr.DuGard... I like Mr.Spry less than almost any medical man I have seen...

Ellen Wilson, 'A Shropshire lady in Bath, 1794-1807', *Bath History* v.4, 1992, 95-123, entry for 14 Feb 1807.

***Katherine Plymley, 1758-1829, visited Bath from Shropshire six times 1794-1807. Thomas DuGard, physician at Shrewsbury. William Bowen – see no.162. Probably Joseph Spry, apothecary, born c.1745.

167 1807 *The apothecary Mr Mixum [Bowen] reassures Dr Borecat [Burkitt]*

Pho, pho! Man, never despair! Only look round you, and see how many of your *more fortunate brethren* as you call them, who started here with no better prospects before them than yours, are now rolling about in their carriages. Have a little patience, Doctor, and you must succeed. Remember you have to play upon the *fears* and the *follies* of mankind... Why, man, even the inventing of a *lozenge* is a certain passport to fame and fortune amongst the *wise folks* at Bath. I know, at this moment, a worthy citizen, who, by the help of a little mother-wit, a good share of impudence, a certain quantity of *treacle*, *flower* [flour], and *syrup of poppies*, rolled up into the form of a lead pencil, cut into bits, put into boxes, and called lozenges for a cold, has in a few years feathered his nest as warmly as you could have done...

Richard Warner, *Bath Characters, or Sketches from Life by Peter Paul Pallet*. 3rd ed. (London, 1808), pp.68-9.

***Richard Warner, 1763-1857, curate of St James's, Bath, antiquarian, traveller and prolific author. William Bowen – see no.162. Berkitt or Burkitt, physician at Bath 1800-22.

168 1809 *Witness in a murder trial*

Mr. George Norman, examined by Mr. Moore.

A surgeon in Bath, knew the Bell public house in Bath, early on the morning of the twenty-third of December last was called in, two men he understood had been shot, he got there between one and two o'clock, went into the tap room, several persons were there, Guion, and Dyer the deceased were there, the latter lying on the settle, Dyer had a wound immediately underneath the point of his chin, it was a circular wound appeared occasioned by a ball or bullet, he examined the wound and passed the whole length of his finger following the wound, when he dissected the body next day, he found the ball had passed deep into the neck on the left side, and wounded the wind-pipe and the caroted artery, the wound in the artery would cause almost immediate death.

The Trial of James Taylor at the Taunton Lent Assizes... 1809 for the Wilful Murder of John Dyer... (Bath, 1809), p.22.

***George Norman, c.1783-1857, surgeon to Bath Casualty Hospital succeeding his father, James Norman, and later twice Mayor.

169 1811 *In favour of the private Kingston Baths*

When these springs came into my possession, I considerably enlarged the baths, which, in point of convenience, are not excelled by any in this kingdom. As the baths are much below the reservoir, they are rapidly filled by the water's columnar pressure in the space of six minutes; and as the source from whence they arise is extraordinarily abundant, a fresh bath, containing twenty hogsheads of water, at any required temperature, is given to each person... // It has frequently been suggested to me to have the reservoir open for the purpose of general bathing, constituting what is called an open bath; I have

always opposed such suggestions... Independent of [potentially dangerous variations in the water's] temperature, a bath constructed for the indiscriminate bathing of men and women at the same time precludes several advantages that might otherwise be derived from it. In many affections, more benefit is experienced by a person bathing without any covering; and to gentlemen it is at all times more agreeable, particularly in all cutaneous affections, where the active application of the flesh-brush is required. In a general bath this is necessarily inadmissible. // Independent of any objection as to promiscuous bathing, it is equally so in a medical point of view. A variety of persons, labouring under different complaints, all immersed at the same time, in the same medium, is, with respect to the constitution, more injurious than even respiring the confined atmosphere of similarly afflicted individuals. // With respect to the Kingston springs no such objection can possibly exist... the baths are filled with pure water, not determined from a repository which has already been subservient to the bathing process. The stream which supplies the Kingston pump-room is derived from the same pure source, unsullied by any adventitious circumstances.

C.H.Wilkinson, *Analytical Researches into the Properties of the Bath Waters*. (Bath, 1811), pp.3-6.

***Charles Hunnings Wilkinson, c.1763-1850, practised galvanic therapy, proprietor of the Kingston Baths, introduced gas lighting at Bath and founded the third Bath Philosophical Society.

170 1813 *Solicitous Parry saves Coleridge from a frightening opium overdose*

Yesterday was the first day, Mary! that I could leave my Bed, except in a Blanket to have it made... and tho' driven up and down for seven dreadful Days by restless Pain, like a Leopard in a Den, yet the anguish & remorse of Mind was worse than the pain of the whole Body... Dr Parry, who was called in by accident (for I was too wild with suffering to direct any thing myself) attended me day after day, & often twice a day, with parental kindness - Mrs May says, he did what she never knew him to do - stay with me two & three hours at a time - and to him under God's Mercy I owe that I am at present alive. For seven days consecutively I never swallowed a morsel - Dr Parry said daily - so much the better - why should you take what you cannot digest? - I shall put myself into a Post Chaise this afternoon, please God! and proceed to Bristol... Dr Parry says, it is quite necessary that I should be in Company & drawn away from my own Thoughts...

Collected Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, ed. E.L.Griggs. 6v. (Oxford, 1956-71), v.3, letter 910, Coleridge to Mrs J.J.Morgan, 19 Dec 1813.

***Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 1772-1834, poet and philosopher, then living at Ashley near Box already knew Parry's son. Caleb Hillier Parry - see no.140.

171 1814 *Acute sensitivity more a symptom of hysteria than of rabies*

When I read of the extreme irritability of a patient supposed to be rabid, so that the mere sight of certain colours, or of liquids, slight noises, and various other trifling irritations, are distressing, and even productive of convulsions, I own I consider these as very suspicious circumstances. Neither of them occurred in either of the patients I attended. But they are very common concomitants of high degrees of what is called Nervous affection. A Lady, whom I knew, could not endure to look at any thing of a scarlet colour. Another could bear the sight of no light colour whatever; in consequence of which, the papers and wainscot of her rooms were all tinged of a deep blue or green, and the light was modified by green blinds. If, also, at any time, I visited her in white stockings, I was always, at my entrance, presented with a black silk apron, with which I was requested to cover these offensive garments. I have seen a third patient, of this description, repeatedly thrown into violent convulsions by the noise produced by the falling of a pill-box, or even a black pin, on the floor.

Caleb Hillier Parry, *Cases of Tetanus and Rabies Contagiosa or Canine Hydrophobia* (Bath, 1814), pp.108-9.

***Caleb Hillier Parry - see no.140.

172 1815 *More straight talking from Dr Parry*

... I drove to Bath, for the advice of Dr.Parry, one of the most eminent physicians of the day, and under whose care one of my family had recovered from the very point of death. Dr.Parry and myself had been upon very friendly and intimate terms during the time I had lived in Bath, and he had always attended my family while I was there. // When I had described to him the way in which I was taken, and the extraordinary sensation and noise which I had in my head, which still continued like the singing of a tea-kettle, he said, 'You have had a narrow escape, sir; and had you not been a very temperate man, you would have never spoken again; you have had a violent pressure of blood upon

the brain, and you are wholly indebted for your safety to your temperate manner of living; if, however, you will put yourself under my care and strictly follow my advice, I am confident that I can effect a radical cure, so that you will be no longer liable to a return of your complaint. The means I propose will be slow and tedious, but they will be certain. If you return into the country, and follow the course usually pursued in similar cases, you will, in all probability, be apparently recovered, and as well as ever in a month; but then, take my word for it, you will be very liable to a repetition of the same sort of attack, which will very likely prove fatal.’ I told him that I would most certainly place myself in his hands, and scrupulously follow his directions. ‘Well, then’, said he, ‘I shall have you bled before you leave Bath, and my directions are, that you abstain from all fermented liquors, eat very sparingly of animal food, take regular strong exercise, and lose a pound of blood at least once a month, for a twelvemonth... you must take regular walking and riding exercise. To keep a man in good health, it is always necessary that he should take sufficient exercise to make it a labour; it is indispensable for the health of man that he should labour – and it will be absolutely necessary to your recovery, that you labour daily... I know that your system has received a violent shock, that the blood-vessels upon your brain have been distended, and thereby rendered liable to another and more fatal attack, unless it can be guarded against by a total alteration of your whole system, which can alone be accomplished by the means that I have suggested... I know if you once make up your mind to it, and give me your word that you will do it, that our object will be attained.’ // Thus it is, that a clever and intelligent physician, by flattering his patient, prevails upon him to encounter what would otherwise appear to be insurmountable difficulties, and thus it is, that human nature is able to bear so much. I promised strictly to abide by the prescription, both as to regimen, exercise, and bleeding. He then sent for Mr. George Norman, the surgeon, and I was bled immediately. This being done, the doctor said that he would call again in the morning, and see the bleeding repeated, and then I should have nothing to do but to return to my home in the country, and follow the plan that he laid down for me.

Memoirs of Henry Hunt, Written by Himself... 3v. (London, 1820), v.3, pp.269-73.

***Henry Hunt – see no.139. Caleb Hillier Parry – see no.140. George Norman – see no.168.

173 1816 *The Eye Infirmary*

It is apprehended that the Inhabitants and Visitors of Bath, and its vicinity, are not generally informed that an Establishment is instituted, at the *End of Bath-Street*, for the sole purpose of affording relief to that afflicted class of diseased poor which suffers from disorders of the eyes. Few persons, who have not been accustomed to visit the sick in a medical capacity, can form an adequate conception of the great number, especially among the lower classes, who are often in danger, from inflammations, accidents, and other causes, of becoming totally blind. // Before the commencement of this Institution, similar establishments were promoted in London, and several of the principal towns in the kingdom, with a view of advancing a line of practice, demanding, perhaps more than any other, that peculiar devotion of attention, that continued habit which can alone produce and confirm manual dexterity, so especially requisite in the conduct of the most delicate of surgical operations. It was also desirable to fix the attention of the public, and the confidence of the poor in particular, on such distinct establishments, with a view to counter the pernicious and nefarious practices of itinerant quacks, who, with matchless impudence, professing to cure the obviously incurable injuries of this tender organ, extorted, in many instances, the last shilling from the unhappy sufferer, and with equal atrocity, by a daring misapplication of powerful drugs, often converted a curable into an incurable disease; or, as the least injury, caused an aggravation of malady, by inducing a delay of application to an educated surgeon... // Admitted from January 1st, 1815, to January 1st, 1816, for the following diseases, 300 patients.

Acute inflammation	64
with pustules on the eye	11
with ulcers on the eye	20
with protusion of the iris	1
with purulent discharge	19
with mucous discharge	5
with lymph in the interior chamber of the eye	1

[Acute inflammation]	
of the iris	5
Syphilitic inflammation	2
Chronic inflammation	52
with diseases of the lids	19
with partial opacity of the cornea	10
with fungous growth of the conjunctiva	2
Cataracts	8
with gutta serena	4
Dulness of sight, from affections of the retina	24
Gutta serena	3
Pterygium	1
Staphyloma	4
Tinea of the lashes	17
Eversion of the lids	2
Encysted tumours in the lids	4
Abscess of the lid	3
Watery eye	4
Obstructions of the lachrymal passages	4
Abscess of the lachrymal sac and fistula lachrymalis	3
Wounds of the eye	4
Extraneous substances in the cornea	3
Injury of the eye from lime	<u>1</u>
	300
Patients remaining at the... last Annual Report	<u>31</u>
Total under cure this year	331
Of these, 296 have been discharged.	
Cured	273
Relieved	15
Incurable	<u>8</u>
	296
Remaining	<u>35</u>
	331

Total number of Patients received at the Eye Infirmary since its establishment in November 1811 - 1173.

JOHN SMITH SODEN, Surgeon

Bath Infirmary for the Cure of Diseases of the Eye, *4th Annual Report from January 1st, 1815, to January 1st, 1816* (Bath, 1816), pp.6-7, 10-11.

***John Smith Soden, 1780-1863, surgeon to Bath United Hospital and Bath Eye Infirmary – see also no.186.

174 *1816 A refuge and hospital for former prostitutes*

It was not... [announced Mr.Elwin at the public meeting of 1816] to be a place where the Idle could find ease, and the Profligate comfort. It was to be a house of solemn penitence for those who had been seduced from virtue... It was further proposed, to add a sort of *Lazaretto* of a kind already known to the public under the name of *Lock Hospitals*, in London, Manchester, and Liverpool, for the purpose of staying the dreadful ravages of a pestilence widely terrible to all families, and of a nature too disgusting to admit of public detail.

Bath Penitentiary and Lock Hospital, *Proceedings from the Commencement of the Institution in 1816 to... 1818* (Bath, 1818), p.7.

***Hastings Elwin was a key promoter of the Bath Literary and Scientific Institution opened in 1821.

175 *c.1816 Aid for a war victim*

Mr.G. came to Bath for the benefit of the waters in a case of partial paralysis of the arm. In the battle of Waterloo a ball passed through the muscles of the arm, without injuring the bone, but it was supposed had divided the nerve. In course of time the wound healed, but left a numbness of the muscles and weakness of the limb, which almost deprived him of its use: there was no deficiency of warmth, but merely of sensation. Previous to coming to Bath he had used electricity, blisters, and

stimulating embrocations, without effect. This gentleman went through a course of bathing and pumping, together with electricity, for a considerable time, without much apparent benefit. By perseverance, however, the motion and sensation were both restored, and he left Bath perfectly well.

John Hume Spry. *A Practical Treatise on the Bath Waters* (London, 1822), pp.292-3.

***John Hume Spry, Bath apothecary-physician – see also no.184.

176 1817 *The lingering death of a famous physician*

Parry's colossal form (tenacious of life) permits not his departure, but detains him here, helpless, hopeless, senseless, except to agonising pain; gout, stone, and palsey upon one man. Dreadful! and suspended... between life and death.

Autobiography, Letters and Literary Remains of Mrs Piozzi (Thrale), ed.A.Hayward. 2v. (London, 1861), v.2 p.198, 29 Mar 1817.

***Hester Lynch Piozzi (Thrale) – see no.147. Caleb Hillier Parry – see no.140.

177 1818 *As her husband declines, Fanny Burney loses trust in the apothecary*

His [D'Arblay's] incessant & always augmenting malady began, however, in the middle of January, to awaken a disturbance of mind that shook me irrepressibly, &, after a Night horrific – which ended by my sending to hasten the visit of Mr.Hay, the apothecary who had sustained my hopes & had persuaded himself that he had suggested a mode of cure: I now, for the first time, expressed to him a rising apprehension that we were not in the right path; that sufferings increased, & strength diminished, & that I began to feel a cruel anxiety... // [By 23 January D'Arblay] was cruelly worse, & told me he believed the advice... [to seek] further aid was good. I eagerly seconded the proposal, since it had his sanction, & we agreed to make the call through Mr.Hay, should nothing occur from him to change the plan. Mr.Hay was summoned to a conference in the Bed-Chamber. There M.d'A solemnly said There was no time to lose, that he felt an internal growing ossification that menaced his life, & that a consultation became necessary. Mr.Hay was struck, & rather frightened; he came to me, to prepare me, - I was ready prepared, to hasten... the scheme. He named Mr.Tudor, the surgeon to the Queen while at Bath, & the man of first eminence & experience. I besought he might be summoned instantly, & hurried Mr.Hay off for that purpose... // On Jany 24 – Mr.Tudor came – Oh, dreadful Day! – While my poor Patient prepared for him above stairs, I gave – as well as I was able – a succinct account of the case, in the presence of Mr.Hay. He heard me drily. His manner seemed ominous; & he appeared to hold all information previous to the sight of the Invalid a mere loss of time. // But – When he came down, after an interview & examination, his looks were even forbidding... I sought to steel my struggling alarm with an idea that he was a cold & hard Character; &, without venturing at a question, I hastily left them to their consultation. // I saw them, briefly, afterwards – Mr.Hay had lost his air of satisfaction & complacency, - Mr.Tudor was rigidly taciturn. – He merely enquired whether he should come again? Oh yes! yes! yes! – I cried - & they retired together.

The Journals and Letters of Fanny Burney (Madame d'Arblay), vv.9-10 ed. W.Derry (Oxford, 1982), v.10, pp.855, 858.

***Fanny Burney (Mme d'Arblay) – see no.99. George Edmund Hay, 1775-1844, Bath apothecary. William Tudor, 1769-1845, surgeon to Bath General Hospital 1806-36, later Deputy Inspector of Hospitals.

178 1818 *Three prescriptions for a baby*

May 27th, 1818. A child six months old. Has been ill two days; rather sick at the stomach, with frequent watery stools: belly tender under pressure, and has a slight degree of fever.

R. Pulveris Ipecacuanhae gr. vi. statim sumendus...[etc.]

[Make up Ipecacuanha powder 6 grains. To be taken immediately.

Make up Mercurous chloride (Calomel) 2 grains
Powdered rhubarb 8 grains.

The powder to be taken within three hours.

Make up Magnesia (Hydrated Magnesium carbonate) ½ scruple
 Magnesium sulphate 1 drachm
 Pepperwater ½ fluid ounce
 Distilled water 2½ fluid ounces.

The mixture to be taken in a child's spoon three times a day.]

[May 29th. The child was well.]

This is an instance of the disease in its pure form, as it occurs in infants; and of the mode of treatment which is uniformly successful. Sometimes a second powder is necessary; but very frequently they are cured at once.

John Ashley Gaitskell, *An Essay on Catarrhal Inflammation of the Intestines from Cold* (Bath, 1819), pp.31-2.
 ***John Ashley Gaitskell, surgeon/accoucheur at Bath 1819-37. [Text translated from the original Latin.]

179 1819 40 staff needed for 106 patients: the General Hospital's defence

To persons unacquainted with the economy of the Hospital, even eight chairmen, the actual number (and not a stud of 12, according to the insulting term and incorrect assertion of Mr.PARISH), may seem to be a costly appendage to the establishment, if their business consisted merely in carrying the patients daily to and from the Baths, whereas their duties comprise a great variety of labour. They carry out all summonses and letters; fetch Bath water for the patients; pump water for the wards; carry the patients to and from the pump and baths; carry coal to the different wards, and fetch the crippled patients from the different inns when they come to Bath, and carry them to the inns when discharged; cut out and carry up the breakfasts, dinners, and suppers to the patients; carry out the linen to the fields, when necessary; carry the wort from the brew-house to the cellar; and help to turn and sit up with the men-patients who are ill; wash the court-yard, and lower passages of the house; grind the malt; keep the lamps in order in the different rooms; carry water up stairs to wash the apartments on the first floor; bring home the wet linen in which the patients bathed, and deliver it to the nurses to be washed; and do such other servile business as the Matron, Apothecary, and Registrar shall direct. // Whether there are 40 servants or 31, including the eight chairmen, is immaterial; because the only question is, whether the service of any one individual could, with justice to the sick, be dispensed with. The men employed are, 1 Registrar, 1 Apothecary, 1 Laboratory man, 1 Baker and Brewer, 1 Porter, and eight Chairmen; 13. The women-servants are, 1 Matron, 10 Nurses, 2 Assistants, 1 Housemaid, 1 Cook, 1 Kitchen-maid, 2 Laundry-maids; 18: besides these, 3 women are employed occasionally to assist in washing; and permanently, but not fed and lodged, 4 Bath-guides, and 1 Cloth-woman. // It is not the office of these 40 servants to 'attend upon' 106 Patients in the manner represented in the Statement. The word 'attend upon' is an invidious expression. It signifies, in its obvious sense, attendance upon the persons of the sick. The Cook and the Kitchen-maid do indeed 'attend upon' the Patients, but in a more circuitous manner than the 10 Nurses and their 2 Assistants attend upon the women; or the chairmen attend upon the men.

Bath General Hospital, *Report of a Committee... to Examine a Statement Circulated by Mr.Parish Respecting the Finances and Administration of that Institution* (Bath, 1819), pp.16-18.
 ***J.Parish, resident in Great Pulteney Street.

180 1820 Anaemia in young women

OF CHLOROSIS. This is a genuine Bath water case, and cannot fail, by judicious management, to be amended by its use. It is, in every case, a disease... of 'inertia' of the system; and owes its rise and growth to depressing causes; and chiefly to confinement, and the want of that healthy excitement which air and playful exercise, at this period, can alone afford. Hence it is the disease of boarding school girls; of milliners' apprentices, &c. and of those unfortunate females, who, from an early age, are employed in factories; in whom the disease is further encouraged by imperfect nutrition. // That these are the true causes of chlorosis, supposing them to be otherwise doubtful, may be inferred from this – that a genuine case of the disease amongst the daughters of the country peasantry, except where evidently produced by defective nourishment, is a rare occurrence. // When a female, at a particular age, falls off in health, in appetite, and in spirits; when together with such symptoms, she becomes pale and bloated, with languor, general inaptitude for exertion, palpitations, oppressed respiration, hurried by the slightest effort; and when at the same time the expected change in the constitution does

not take place, a formidable disease is generating, which admits of almost certain relief from timely remedies; but which, if left to its own ravages, will speedily undermine the health, and set the powers of medicine at defiance. – Under such circumstances the Bath waters hold out a safe and almost certain remedy. But to insure their success they must be used at an early period of the disease, and persevered in both externally and internally, under proper directions for a considerable time; unless it more fortunately happens, which is not unfrequently the case, that the desired change is sooner effected. The salutary properties of the waters may also be materially assisted by the judicious interposition of suitable medicines.

John G.Mansford, *The Invalid's Companion to Bath* (Bath, 1820), pp. 90-1.

***John Griffith Mansford, surgeon at Bath 1820-42 – see also no. 181. Chlorosis - green sickness or anaemia.

181 1820 *Where to convalesce?*

The place of chief resort for the invalids of Bath in the summer is Coomb-Down; whose elevation above the city is about that just mentioned [500 feet]. Here the convalescent from acute, or from slow disease, may expect to find his recovery accelerated, and his strength recruited much more speedily, than could possibly be the case in the denser atmosphere of the valley. But where there is any disease of the lungs, the case is totally changed; and death, not recovery, may be hastened. . . . Suffice it to say here, that the indiscriminate resort to such a situation, healthy indeed for most, must be far from salutary to some. . . . Situations better adapted for those labouring under pulmonary diseases, especially during the winter and spring months, will be found at Weston: in the valley of Lyncombe; and at St.Catherine's. The latter village. . . . would if proper accommodations were erected, afford a warm and desirable retreat.

John G.Mansford, *The Invalid's Companion to Bath* (Bath, 1820), pp. 120-1.

***John Griffith Mansford – see no.180.

182 1820 *The senior surgeon's precipitate departure*

WHEREAS Mr.NORMAN, after Thirty Years active services, is *reluctantly* about to withdraw himself as a Trustee to the Casualty Hospital, in consequence of a junction being formed between that Charity and the Bath City Infirmary, whereby that *excellent* Constitution by which the Casualty Hospital has so long been governed with *perfect harmony*, sanctioned by and to the *entire* satisfaction of the Public, (as evidenced by their more than effective liberality,) has been wholly abandoned by a majority of the Trustees. He takes this method of requesting those Pregnant Women who seek relief, to apply in future at his house, No.24, NEW KING-STREET, any Monday at 11 o'Clock, and not at the Casualty Hospital, as heretofore.

Bath Journal 10 Apr 1820.

***James Norman – see no.122.

183 1822 *The frightful scourge of measles*

The measles carry off between eighteen and twenty children a day in Bath sometimes four dead in one house at one time.

Bath Central Library A.L.1445, Annabella Pierrepoint to Humphrey Sandford, Bath, 8 Apr 1822.

184 1822 *More apparatus in use at the baths*

THE HETLING PRIVATE BATHS, supplied by these [i.e. the Hot Bath] springs, are four in number, with dressing-rooms adjoining, and pumps in each bath. The baths are rather larger than those at the King's, and contain about sixteen hogsheads of water. They are 4½ feet deep, 12 feet long, and 7 feet 3 inches from shoulder to shoulder. They can be heated to any temperature under 113°. // One very great advantage attending these baths is the convenience of an invalid chair for assisting cripples in bathing. The patient seats himself in the chair, and by the assistance of a crane is let down into the bath, and after a sufficient time drawn up in the same way, without the smallest exertion or fatigue. // There is likewise a dry pump, and a shower bath, with dressing-room adjoining, which may be ordered at any temperature, and contains from one to fourteen gallons. An injecting [or enema] machine, similar to the one at the King's Bath, and dressing-room, with a closet contiguous, also form part of the convenience of these long-established baths. A vapour bath has of late years been added to the accommodations. . . // ... [a] vapour-bath, *of proper construction*, and judiciously

applied, is one of the most powerful remedies in a variety of formidable complaints; and we have no doubt, that in a very short time its penetrating virtues will be duly appreciated. // ... I have been favoured with an inspection of the portable vapour-bath, improved by Mr. Moody [of the Kingston Baths], and for which he has received a patent... His other vapour-baths for the application of vapour to any particular part, should be the model for those erected at the Hot Bath. On the whole we consider the

patent vapour-bath a grand desideratum amongst our medical resources; and its application is so simple, and its beneficial effects so decided in a multitude of disorders arising from checked perspiration, that we shall expect to hail the day when every private family will have a portable vapour machine as a necessary part of their establishment.

John Hume Spry. *A Practical Treatise on the Bath Waters* (London, 1822), pp.123-4, 165-6.
***John Hume Spry – see no.175. Moody, surgical mechanic at Kingston Baths.

185 1823 *Daniel Pring simply gropes in the dark*

Among the most obstinate and severe affections of the head which I have met with, have been a few cases in which disorder of the head appeared to substitute a disease of the skin, or of the scalp. In two cases of this kind, in which painful disorder of the head succeeded to the cessation of an eruptive disease of the scalp, every sort of treatment has been carried to its greatest possible extent, and tried in vain. Bleedings from the arm, from the temporal artery, by cupping, by leeches, blisters on the back and neck, between the shoulders, on the scalp, behind the ears, cold lotions, hot fomentations, setons, pustule eruptions produced on the scalp by emetic tartar ointment, the extraction of suspected teeth, nauseating and emetic medicines, a long course of purgatives, tonic remedies, as steel, bark, arsenic, ammonia, asafoetida, opium, &c.; vegetable diet, and starvation; animal diet, with ale and porter – The affection of the head has continued uninfluenced by any of these means...

Daniel Pring, *An Exposition of the Principles of Pathology and of the Treatment of Disease* (London, 1823), p.251.
***Daniel Pring, surgeon-physician, carried out colostomy operations, also wrote an essay on the absorbents. Setons – threads used to break the skin to achieve a discharge.

186 1823 *The birth of the Royal United Hospital*

At the Annual General Meeting of the Subscribers to the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary... on 27th of January 1823... the following Address was read... ‘The undersigned Physicians and Surgeons of the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary conceive that a brief statement of their opinions respecting the proposed junction of the Infirmary and the Casualty Hospital may not be unacceptable... They have for years been engaged in giving this subject their attentive consideration, and they do not hesitate to declare, that an Union of the Charities, arranged on principles of public utility, has their unqualified approbation and cordial support...

Physicians
JOHN MOODIE, M.D.
E. BARLOW, M.D.
C.H. HARDY, M.D.

Surgeons
WILLIAM WHITE
JOHN S. SODEN
RICH. WILSON BROWN^{*}

... and the following Resolution was passed UNANIMOUSLY. // That a junction of the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary and the Bath Casualty Hospital would be productive of great public utility and be highly beneficial to the sick poor.

Bath Journal 3 Feb 1823.
***John Moodie, physician at Bath 1789-1823. Edward Barlow, 1779-1846, physician to Bath General Hospital 1819-44, enthusiast of phrenology. Charles H. Hardy, c.1790-1843, physician to Bath United Hospital. William White – see no.126. John Smith Soden - see no.173. Richard Wilson Brown, c.1785-1860, surgeon to Bath United Hospital.

187 1825 *Tooth decay and fillings*

The teeth most liable to early decay are the first large double permanent teeth on each side of the upper and under jaws; and it appears chiefly on their grinding surface, and also on the sides or interstices... The best method to trace a decay in any tooth is by the use of little instruments, in the form of a broach, of various sizes, commonly so called and used by watch-makers, made sharp at the point, fixed in small ivory handles about two inches long, so as to enable the operator to direct them in the cavities with as little difficulty as possible, turning the handle of the little tool *gently* between the thumb and the next two fingers; and when the carious part has been well cleared on the inside of the

cavities, he must introduce a small piece of wood (the thickness and shape of a common skewer is the most convenient): the point of it must be prepared by the operator himself, who is the best judge of the size required, that it may not be too thick to clear the cavity with ease. Dip the point of the piece of wood frequently in a little of the preservative lotion (which should be at all times used as a most serviceable assistant in the preservation of the teeth and gums); brush the cavity thus prepared for several minutes, the tooth-brush dipped frequently in the lotion, which ought to be used warm in most seasons, especially should the defective tooth prove to be susceptible to pain. The cavity should be made dry with a soft piece of linen or handkerchief, pressing on the cavity to prevent moisture. The dentist should at the same time prepare the gold leaf or tinfoil to its proper form, and the quantity that he may judge necessary. The instruments for stopping teeth should also be in complete order; and the success of the operation depends greatly on the steadiness of the operator's hands. // On my arrival in this part of the country, in 1783, applied to me James Russel, esq. a gentleman residing with his family at Clifton, near Bristol. He suffered at that time great uneasiness on one side of his face. On examining his mouth, I discovered a considerable decay in one of his large double under teeth, on the outside of the crown or near the gums; and, after relieving it by the same sort of treatment I have just mentioned, stopped the cavity with fine tinfoil. I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Russel recently. He informed me that the same stopping and tooth remain perfect and firm to this day, and it is now one of the most useful teeth with which he masticates.

Joseph Sigmond, *A Practical and Domestic Treatise on the Diseases... of the Teeth and Gums* (Bath, 1825), pp.58-60.
 ***Joseph Sigmond, dentist at Bath 1788-1825.

188 1825 *The best tonic – only not for the gouty*

...I have been very ill & obliged to call in Mr Sowden [Soden] who has been very kind & attentive to me indeed – seldom missed a day seeing me for ten days – thank God am now much better, but very Weak yet my fever has left me & Mr S. wishes me only to take ye Pump Water twice a day without any other medicine – says it's the best Tonic I can take ... Lord Liverpool has been here some time & takes ye Waters twice a day, Lord Melville & Mr Can[n]ing have been here likewise, but they are said to be too Gouty for ye Waters – Lord Chief Justice Best is likewise here to take ye Waters he is very lame but appears in good Spirits...

Bath Central Library A.L.182, Sarah Webb to William Webb, Bath, 3 Jan 1825.
 ***John Smith Soden – see no.173. Robert Banks Jenkinson, 2nd earl of Liverpool, 1770-1828, statesman. Robert Saunders Dundas, 2nd viscount Melville, 1771-1851, statesman. George Canning, 1770-1827, statesman. Sir William Draper Best, 1767-1845, judge, M.P., Lord Chief Justice.

189 1825 *An outbreak of bilious cholera*

I am happy in being able to say my father is well. On Sunday week he was very ill but a few days restored him... The heat has been uncommonly oppressive and Cholera Morbus has carried off many persons in this neighbourhood in a few hours...

Bath Central Library A.L.1430, Annabella Pierpoint to Rev.Humphrey Sandford, Bath, 9 Sep 1825.
 ***Cholera morbus - Bilious cholera.
