

## FIFTH BOOK.

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### PREFACE.

HAVING gone through those disorders of the body, which are principally relieved by diet, we must now proceed to that branch of physic, which depends more upon medicines. The ancient authors put great confidence in them; so did Erasistratus, and those, who styled themselves empirics. Their efficacy was still more extolled by Herophilus and his followers; insomuch that they attempted to cure no distemper without them. They have written a great deal also concerning the virtues of medicines; such are the treatises of Zeno, or Andreas, or Apollonius, who was surnamed Mus. Not without reason Asclepiades, in a great measure, laid aside the use of them; and because almost all medicines offend the stomach, and afford bad juices, he chose to apply all his care to the management of the diet. But, though this be more useful in most distempers, yet many disorders are incident to our bodies, which cannot be totally removed without medicines. It is fit to observe, in the first place, that all the branches of medicine are so connected together, that they cannot be entirely separated; but each derives its appellation from that which is principally made use of in it. And, therefore, as that which cures by diet sometimes employs medicines; so the other which chiefly works by medicines, ought also to take in the diet, which is of great service in all disorders of the body. But since all medicines have some peculiar powers, and often give relief singly, often mixed, it seems not improper, first of all, to mention both their names and virtues, and the compositions of them; that our work may be shortened, when we come to the curative part.

## CHAPTER I.

## MEDICINES FOR STOPPING BLOOD.

BLEEDING is stopped by copperas, which the Greeks call chalcantus (*χάλκανθος*), chalcitis,\* acacia, lycium with water, frankincense, aloes, gum,† calcined lead,‡ leeks, blood-herb, either Cimolian or potter's chalk, misy,§ cold water, wine, vinegar, alum,|| melinum,¶ scales both of iron\*\* and copper; and of this last there are two species, the one of common copper, the other of red copper.

\* Pliny (lib. xxxiv. cap. 2.) says, this was an ore of copper, and found in Cyprus. Dioscorides describes the best chalcitis as resembling copper, easily friable, having shining veins. Lib. v. cap. 889.

† *Gum*, when mentioned alone in any of the ancient authors, is understood to be the same with what now bears the name of gum Arabic.

‡ *Plumbum combustum*.] The process for this is mentioned by Dioscorides under the correspondent Greek name. It was prepared by putting very thin laminæ of lead, with sulphur strewed upon each of them, into an earthen pot, and keeping them on the fire, stirred with an iron rod, till the lead was converted into ashes. It was afterwards rubbed in a mortar, and washed by repeated affusions of water, till no dross swam at top.—*Dioscorid.* lib. v. cap. 870.

§ *Misy*.] This has the same virtues as the chalcitis, and they only differ in the degree of strength. The best comes from Cyprus, of a gold colour, hard, and, when broken, shining and stellated.—*Dioscorid.* lib. v. cap. 891.

|| There are several kinds of alum mentioned by the ancients. Dioscorides says the scissile; round and liquid, were applied to medicinal purposes, and that the scissile was the best. Lib. v. cap. 897.

¶ *Melinum*.] As, in this place, Celsus mentions only simples, he cannot intend by this word, oil of quinces; so that it must either be a kind of colour, that came from Melos, or else the Melian alum; in which last sense the comma ought to be expunged between *alumen* and *Melinum*. But it is necessary to observe, that mentioning this species of alum in the sixth book, he calls it *Alumen Melium*, which in other editions is *Alumen Melinum*.

\*\* *Iron scales* are reckoned to have the same virtue as its rust, but not so efficacious.

## CHAPTER II.

## AGGLUTINANTS AND RESTRINGENTS.

A WOUND is agglutinated by myrrh, frankincense, gum, especially acanthine, fleawort, tragacanth, cardamom, bulbi, linseed, cresses, white of an egg, glue, isinglass, the white vine,\* snails bruised with their shells, boiled honey, sponge squeezed out of cold water, or wine, or vinegar; or sordid wool dipped in the same, if the wound be slight; also cobwebs.

Both scissile alum, which is called schiston (*σχίστρον*), and the liquid are restringent, also melinum, orpiment, verdigris, chalcitis, copperas.

## CHAPTER III.

## MEDICINES FOR PROMOTING A SUPPURATION.

MATURATING and suppurating medicines are nard, myrrh, costus, balsam, galbanum, propolis,† storax, both the soot of frankincense‡ and its bark, bitumen, pitch, sulphur, resin, suet, fat, and oil.

\* Paul. Ægineta mentions the *Ampelos leuce*, or *white vine*, which he said was also called *bryonia*. Lib. vii.

† *Propolis* is a glutinous matter, of a fetid smell, found in the honeycombs, which Pliny says serves to keep out the cold. Dale calls it bee-bread. Others call it bee-glue.

‡ Dioscorides orders it to be made thus.—With a pair of small tongs light a bit of *thus* at a lamp, and put it into a new hollow earthen vessel, which is covered with a concave copper one, with an opening in the middle, and carefully anointed over; on one side or both put small stones to the height of four fingers, to show if it burns, and that there may be room to put in other bits, before the first be entirely extinguished; and continue this, till you observe a sufficient quantity of soot collected; always wetting the external side of the copper with a sponge dipped in cold water. For thus all the soot will be fixed, when this is not too much heated; otherwise it would fly off again by reason of its lightness, and be mixed with the ashes of the *thus*. Lib. i. cap. 85.

## CHAPTTR IV.

## MEDICINES FOR OPENING WOUNDS.

WOUNDS are opened like mouths in bodies, which, in Greek, is called anastomoun,\* by cinnamon, balsam, panaces, long cyprus, pennyroyal, white violet flowers, bdellium, galbanum, turpentine and pine resin, propolis, old oil, pepper, pellitory, ground pine, stavesacre, sulphur, alum, seed of rue.

## CHAPTER V.

## CLEANSERS.†

CLEANSERS are verdigris, orpiment, which, by the Greeks, is called arcenicon (*ἀρσενικόν* this, in all respects, has the same properties with sandarach,‡ but is stronger), copper scales, pumice, iris, balsam, storax, frankincense, incense bark, both pine and turpentine resin liquid, flower of the wild vine, lizard's dung, blood of a pigeon, and ring-dove, and swallow, ammoniacum, bdellium (which has the same virtues as the ammoniacum, but is not so strong), southernwood, dry figs, gnidian berry,§ shavings of ivory, omphacium,|| radish, the coagulum of blood, but especially that of a hare (which has the same properties of others, but in this case is most efficacious), ox gall, raw yolk of an egg, hartshorn, glue, crude honey, misy, chalcitis, saffron, stavesacre, litharge, galls, copper scales,¶ blood-stone, minium, costus, sulphur, crude pitch, suet, fat, oil, rue, leeks, lentils, vetches.

\* This word Celsus here translates literally, *to open like a mouth*.

† [Although the present medical vocabulary is more elegant, and perhaps more express than that in use in Dr. Greive's time, yet I have thought fit to retain his, lest I should be led to deviate too much from his translation.]—G. F.

‡ This is the mineral sandarach, or red arsenic.

§ Modern botanists are not agreed what this berry of the ancients was; some taking it for the mezereon, or spurge olive, others for the spurge flax.

|| Of this there were two kinds, the one the juice of unripe olives, and the other the juice of unripe grapes. *Plin. lib. xii. cap. 27.*

¶ This must be an interpolation, as in this same chapter, which mentions only the class of cleansers, copper scales occurred before.

## CHAPTER VI.

## CORRODING MEDICINES.

CORROSIVES are liquid alum, but more especially the round, verdigris, chalcitis, misy, copper scales, especially of the red kind, calcined copper,\* sandarach, minium from Sinope, cassia, balsam, myrrh, incense bark, galbanum, liquid turpentine resin, both kinds of pepper, but chiefly the round, cardamom, orpiment, lime, nitre, and aphronitre,† seed of smallage, narcissus-root, omphacium, bastard sponge, oil of bitter almonds, garlic, crude honey, wine, mastich-tree, iron scales, ox-gall, scammony, staves-acre, cinnamon, storax, seed of rue, resin, seed of narcissus, salt, bitter almonds, as well as their oil, copperas, chrysocolla,‡ calcined shells.

## CHAPTER VII.

## EATING MEDICINES.

THE medicines, which eat away the flesh, are the juice of acacia, ebony, verdigris, copper scales, chrysocolla, Cyprus ashes,§ nitre,

\* The metal was calcined by being put into a pot, *stratum super stratum*, with sulphur and salt. Or else the copper was kept for several days in the fire in a pot by itself. Others again added alum to it, or sulphur alone, which last gave it a sooty colour. It was washed in a mortar, and the water changed four times a-day, till no froth arose in it. *Dioscorid.* lib. v. cap. 861.

† *Aphronitre.*] The spume or froth of nitre was of a purplish colour, and the lighter the better. It had the same virtues as nitre.—*Id.* lib. v. cap. 905.

‡ I have here retained the original word, because naturalists are not agreed, that it was the modern borax. Dioscorides says the Armenian is the best, and in colour it resembles leeks. What is full of earth and stones is to be rejected. Lib. v. cap. 878.

§ I do not remember that this is mentioned by any other ancient author; but it has probably been the ashes of the tree or plant of this name, or, perhaps, some particular kind of ashes brought from the Island of Cyprus.

cadmia,\* litharge, hypocistis,† diphryges,‡ salt, orpiment, sulphur, rocket, sandarach, salamander,§ bastard sponge, flower of copper,|| chalcitis, copperas, ochre, lime, vinegar, galls, alum, milk of the wild fig-tree, or of sea spurge, which, by the Greeks, is called tithymallus (τιθύμαλλος), animal gall, soot of frankincense, spodium,¶ lentil, honey, olive leaves, horehound, blood-stone, and the Phrygian,\*\* and Asian, and Scissile†† stones, misy, wine, and vinegar.‡‡

\* The best is the Cyprian, called botryitis, solid, moderately heavy, being clustered like a bunch of grapes, of the colour of spodium, and being broken it appears cineritious and eruginous within. There are other kinds of it inferior, known by the names onychitis, zonitis, and ostracitis. For burning cadmia it is hid in live coals, till it grows diaphanous, and runs into bubbles like the scoria of iron; afterwards it is extinguished in Aminæan wine. Some burn it thus three times, till it be perfectly converted into ashes; and then they use it instead of spodium. It is washed in a mortar, and the water changed, till no dross appears on the top. *Dioscorid.* lib. v. cap. 858. I have here mentioned particularly the burning and washing of cadmia, because it may serve to show the nature of this process in other minerals, when our author prescribes such; and Dioscorides, in mentioning them, often refers to cadmia as the general example.

† *Hypocistis* grows near the roots of cistus. The juice of it is inspissated like the acacia: and it has the same qualities. *Dioscorid.* lib. i. cap. 128.

‡ *Diphryges* is not known in medicine at present. Dioscorides says, "There are three species of it. One of the metallic kind, found only in Cyprus, which is first dried in the sun, and then burnt by laying sticks all round it. Whence its name from being twice torrifed. A second kind is found at the bottom of the copper furnaces after smelting. The third is the pyrites stone calcined for several days in a furnace, till it have the colour of cinnabar. The taste of diphryges is eruginous, astringent, and vehemently drying upon the tongue." *Lib. v. cap. 894.*

§ The animal so called is here meant, and Dioscorides ascribes to it this virtue. It was burnt, and the ashes made use of. *Lib. ii. cap. 255.*

|| *Flos æris* is obtained, when the melted copper runs from the furnace, by pouring cold water upon it to refrigerate it. For by the sudden check, this substance is, as it were, spued out, and concretes into flowers. *Id.* lib. v. cap. 862.

¶ *Spodium* was scraped off the walls of furnaces mixed with sparks, and sometimes coals; that which was generated in the gold furnaces, was reckoned best for the eyes. *Plin.* lib. xxxiv. cap. 13.

\*\* This was made use of by the dyers in Phrygia, whence its name. The best is pale-coloured and moderately ponderous, not firm in its concretions, and having white veins. *Dioscorid.* lib. v. cap. 915.

†† *Scissile.*] This is produced in the western Iberia. The best is of a saffron colour; easily broken and split; in its contexture it resembles the sal ammoniac. *Dioscorid.* lib. v. cap. 919.

‡‡ *Vinegar* is superfluous, because mentioned before in the same chapter.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## CAUSTICS.

CAUSTICS are orpiment, copperas, chalcitis, misy, verdigris, lime, burnt paper,\* salt, copper scales, burnt lees, myrrh, dung of the lizard, the pigeon, the ring-dove, and swallow, pepper, gnidian berry, garlic, diphryges, both the milks mentioned in the last chapter, hellebore both white and black, cantharides, coral, pellitory, frankincense, salamander, rocket, sandarach, staves-acre, chrysocolla, ochre, scissile alum, sheep's dung, flower of wild vine.

## CHAPTER IX.

## MEDICINES FOR FORMING CRUSTS UPON ULCERS.

THE same medicines form crusts upon ulcers, as if they were burnt by fire, but particularly chalcitis, especially if it be calcined, flower of copper, verdigris, orpiment, misy, and the efficacy of the last is increased by calcination.

## CHAPTER X.

## RESOLVENTS FOR CRUSTS.

THE crusts (eschars) of ulcers are resolved by wheat meal with rue, or leeks, or lentils, with the addition of some honey.

## CHAPTER XI.

## DISCUTIENTS.

FOR discussing the collections, which have been formed in any part of the body, the following things are very powerful: south-

\* It must be observed the paper of the ancients was made from the papyrus, or paper-reed.

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