

**THE TREATMENT OF SECONDARY,
CONSTITUTIONAL, AND
CONFIRMED SYPHILIS: BY A
SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL METHOD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649504404

The Treatment of Secondary, Constitutional, and Confirmed Syphilis: By a Safe and Successful Method by Langston Parker

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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LANGSTON PARKER

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TREATMENT
OF
SECONDARY SYPHILIS.

By the same Author,

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TREATMENT OF SYPHILITIC DISEASES,

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OF
SECONDARY, CONSTITUTIONAL, AND CONFIRMED
SYPHILIS,
BY A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL METHOD.

WITH
NUMEROUS CASES, AND CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS,
ILLUSTRATING ITS EFFICACY, AND MODE OF APPLICATION, IN THE MORE OBSTINATE
AND COMPLICATED FORMS OF THE DISEASE.

BY
LANGSTON PARKER,
SURGEON TO THE GUERN'S HOSPITAL, AND PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY AND
PHYSIOLOGY IN QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM, ETC. ETC.



LONDON:
JOHN CHURCHILL, PRINCES STREET, SOHO.

MDCCL.

PREFACE.

THE work I now publish (my third on the same subject), is not an essay on the nature, pathology, or causes of syphilitic diseases, but a clinical account of the best mode of cure. In this country, at least, we know that such diseases are rarely to be cured without mercury; and even those empirics who advertise a cure without this drug, give it, whilst they condemn it, as an examination of their remedies at once shows.

Whilst on the one hand I admit, with the best surgeons, that in this country, and in private practice more especially, the difficulty, and even impossibility, of curing venereal diseases without mercury, I think that the ordinary modes of its exhibition not only frequently fail in curing the diseases for which it is given, but a class of affections are constantly produced which are the result of mercurial treatments, so that on many forms of constitutional syphilis being presented to our notice, it is difficult to say how

much is the result of specific disease, and how much due to the remedy which has been employed for its cure; frequently, indeed, a peculiar constitutional affection has been produced, which has entirely changed the natural and regular course of the malady, and which would not have existed if mercury had not been given.

In the course of an extensive practice in syphilitic diseases for fifteen or sixteen years, the evils just detailed have constantly been forced upon me. On the one hand, patients are frequently presented to notice who cannot take mercury internally in any form, whilst another class have taken this remedy, under various forms, internally, and yet their diseases are not only uncured, but other symptoms have been added which have still more complicated the original malady.

Again, ordinary mercurial treatments, if they cure the disease for which they are prescribed are attended with a variety of evils which are exceedingly annoying to the patient, and in many instances make the remedy worse than the disease.

The plan of treatment which the following pages advocate and illustrate, does away with all the evils generally attributable to mercurial

treatments, whilst it possesses all their advantages. It does not, in ordinary cases, require confinement; it never impairs the appetite; does not produce salivation, or ulceration of the mouth, mercurial erythismus or blotches on the skin; and if associated with internal treatment by mercury, reduces what is required to an exceedingly minute quantity. In addition to this, treatments according to my plan are safer, quicker, more certain, less frequently followed by relapses, indeed very rarely so, and again are capable of working cures in obstinate cases which have resisted all other modes of treatment.

The method which I practise consists in applying the vapour of the bisulphuret, grey oxide, binoxide, or iodide of mercury in a moist state, to the whole surface of the body, by which, after the continuance of the process for twenty or thirty minutes, profuse perspiration is induced. This process is repeated as frequently as the nature of the case may require till a cure be effected, and is or is not associated with internal medicines.

The dry mercurial vapour has been long employed in the treatment of various forms of syphilitic disease, and has had many advocates; but

whether from the imperfect mode of its application its effects have been uncertain, and it has fallen into disuse. A German surgeon, named Werneck, has used it more methodically, and his success has been much more satisfactory. The method I employ has vast advantages over the dry fumigation; its effects are certain, and can be regulated to a great nicety, and the heat and moisture produced during the time the patient is exposed to the vapour of mercury, by inducing profuse perspiration, contribute, no doubt, materially to the perfect cure of the disease. However, I have constantly succeeded with this plan when the dry fumigation has failed altogether, or produced little effect.

The speedy and perfect cure of many of the cases detailed in the following pages has been very remarkable, as a perusal of their history will show; and a vast number of patients have been perfectly and permanently restored to health by comparatively short treatments by this plan, after the failure of all ordinary treatments pursued through a long series of years.