

Surgeon's Journal of Her Majesty's Female Convict Ship Persian
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ADM 101 058 -07

Medical and Surgical Journal of Her Majesty's Convict Ship Persian between the 11th April 1827 to 10th August 1827 during which time the said female convict ship has been employed in a voyage from England to Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land

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Nature of Disease	No. of Case	Men's Names, Ages, Qualities, Time when and where taken ill, and how disposed of.	The History, Symptoms, Treatment, and Daily Progress of the Disease or Hurt.
Pulmonary Complaint PB010119.JPG		Elizabeth Rowley Prisoner, Found sick when I joined at Woolwich on the 11 th of April 1827	<p>This woman complained to me when I first came on board and from what I collected from herself, the History of her complaint appeared nearly as follows – She has been indifferent for upwards of three months, previous to her coming on board this vessel for Van Diemen's Land, during that time she has been unremittingly complaining of periodical headaches, and also of an occasional cough with difficult respiration: is apparently much debilitated and enervated. During the above mentioned time, she has been bled, leeches, Blistered for the complaint, with occasional benefit – At present she is evidently a good deal debilitated, and complains of a pain over the Sternum, and of a cough, which appears dry, and without any natural expectoration – Pulse 80, tongue natural, respirations 18 in a minute, Bowels she says are regular. Appetite bad; looks Gloomy and desponding – <i>Rx Olei Ricini Zfs Aqua menthe Zj m ft Haustus Statim sumendus</i> ----- 12th Bowels opened complains very much of debility, and I cannot get her persuaded to sit up even for an hour – Gave her some Sago and Wine for Dinner ----- On enquiry of the Nurse, who slept close to her, I was told that her cough as troublesome during the night, and she stated herself to have a fixed pain in the Breast, although no active inflammation could have been going, when her pulse, her skin, and excretions were as before described – <i>VS ad Zxij Vesp. Emp. Vesicatorium parti dolente applicatum</i> – 13th – Blister rose well, and is certainly a good deal better – Bowels rather confined. <i>Haustus ex Olei Ricini repetatur</i> - Strength supported with Sago, combined with a very small proportion of wine ----- 14th During the day, the Castor Oil operated several times, Blister dressed, and she states herself to be much better. Is able to get out of Bed, and to come on deck, and take fresh air- 15th From this time her health gradually, but very slowly improved, until the 22nd instant when I put her off the Sick List; she however laboured under considerable debility, and was given occasional Medical Comforts.</p>
Pectoral Complaint PB010120.JPG		Mary Cuttle Prisoner Aetat 28 Complained 14 th April 1827 at Woolwich	<p>This woman is an extreme bad Character – Stated herself to have a pain in her side, which she mentioned frequently to my Predecessor, and complains much of not having been attended to – The pain, according to her statement catches her when she takes a full inspiration, her pulse is natural, as well as the heat of the Surface of the Body, tongue clean, bowels rather confined – <i>VS ad Zxj – Haust Cathart</i> = 15th = She now states that the pain</p>

			in the side is much better, and that her Bowels were well opened by the Cathartic Draught – In a few days she ceased calling on me – Cured –
Pectoral Complaint		Bella Smyth Prisoner Ætat 28 Entered sick list 14 th April at Woolwich	Complains of pain in her side, with slight cough pulse natural. Is of a very full habit of Body <i>V/S ad Zxiv. Haust Cathart statim</i> – 15 th States herself to have been much relieved by the Bleeding, salts operated briskly – In a few days she ceased calling on me at the Visiting Hour – Cured
PB010121.JPG		Mary A Wilby Ætat 50 Entered sick list 25 th April Has three Children passengers on Board	<p>This poor woman is a free passenger going to join her husband at Van Diemen's Land; and I may in this place mention that her constitution is apparently much Debilitated and enervated – From the moment this vessel left Woolwich (April 13th) up to this date she has been nearly all along confined to bed, and has suffered most distressingly from Sea Sickness, which has exhausted and enervated her very much – Her complaint appeared to me, to require no particular attention, it was treated as the others are who have suffered from sea sickness – I.E. With a small allowance of Sago and Wine for dinner, occasionally changing for Rice etc The afternoon of this day (25) being mild, I recommended the woman to dress her, and bring her on deck, in hopes that the fresh air might recruit her – About 3 P.M. was attacked with cold shiverings which resembled an attack of Ague, and which caused her immediately to be placed in bed and covered with warm Blankets; during this time she experienced the most violent retching and vomiting, which terminated in the most complete state of Asphyxia that I have ever witnessed – The whole surface of the body was as cold as if Dead, pulse gone, and respiration also; her head resting upon my hand, to all appearance a lifeless corpse – Under such very alarming symptoms, the aqua Ammonia was applied to the nostrils, and I was happy to find, after ¾ of a minute's extreme anxiety for her; that she took in a deep inspiration, and as soon as the faculty of swallowing was returned, I gave her some warm Brandy and water; the heat of surface now began to return, and with it the pulse, and muscular motion, but talks very incoherent, and has done so during the greater part of the night – A stove with clear burning coals kept in readiness with which she was supplied with warm drink during the night: She appears so exscausted and emaciated, and suffers so much from the ship's motion, that I am doubtful if e shall be able to remove her to the distant Land she looks for –</p> <p>26th Talked very incoherent during the night, she however answers in a rational manner this morning Pulse 60, heat of surface natural, irritability of stomach still very distressing – gave her a little warm wine and water part of which retained, sent her a cup of coffee, which she soon rejected – Gave her one grain of Opium to allay the irritability of stomach, and as she complained of pain on pressure over the stomach, I applied a Blister over that Organ – 11 AM Administered a Cathartic Enema 12 the irritability continues. Gave her the effervescing draught with 15 drops of Opium – Some Alvine matter was brought away by the Enema, at 6PM repeated the</p>
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PB010123.JPG			<p>effervescing draught with Opium, and with evident advantage – two stools from the Enema – 27 Spent a very good night, irritability of stomach <u>very</u> much diminished. Blister rose well – Support her with wine, Sago Broth and the like – Towards the evening the irritability of stomach again increased, looks very wild, and talks incoherently: Throws her hands about, and at times has the appearance as if she picked the Bed clothes. Effervescing draught with opium given as before -28th – Spent a middling night, and the sickness of stomach is much diminished by the draught and Opiate – The Cathartic Enema was repeated this morning bringing away several dejections. PM Every thing given during the course of this day has been retained and the woman is evidently much better -29th – Spent a good night and appears better today – From this day her strength was supported with Sago, and wine, and occasionally a little warm Brandy & water, until the 14th when I considered her sufficiently strong to place her off the List but still very debilitated.</p>
		<p>Mary Williams alias Holt Ætat 19 placed on the list 28th April Channel -</p>	<p>This poor woman has been a long time afflicted with fits of Hysteria she has had two or three attacks already which were severe, but did not consider it necessary to place her on the List, until now; When recovering from a fit she complained of distressing pain across the forehead, pulse hard and rather frequent, tongue dry, face flushed. <i>VS ad Zxiv.</i> Bowels confined. Gave the Cathartic Mixture. PM Bowels freely opened and she observes, that the Bleeding has been of essential Service to her, her headache having been removed by it <i>Haustus Opiat. Hora Somni.</i> -29th – Spent a good night, pain across the forehead nearly remove -30- Continues improving, and has experienced no fit since last Bled, since this her health appeared to improve, and although the fits returned, the attacks were not so frequent, nor the fit so violent.</p>
PB010124.JPG		<p>Ellen Tarrant Prisoner Ætat 25 placed on the Sick List Monday April 30th</p>	<p>She complains of pain in the right Hypochondrium, which according to her statement she has experienced for some time. The pain is a good deal increased on pressure, and shoots to the tip of the Shoulder of the same side – complains also of a sense of heaviness in the side. From these symptoms, as well as from her complexion, and from the irregular state of her Bowels, I am of opinion she labours under chronic Enlargement of the Liver. Blister was applied to the part affected – Bowels opened – May 1st – Blister rose well giving relief, Bowels opened – Five grains of the Blue Pill were now given night and morning in the form of Pills, to be continue until the mouth becomes slightly affected. These Pills were continued until her mouth became affected, and with it all the symptoms of the Complaint disappeared</p>
		<p>Charlotte Williams Prisoner Ætat 19 entered Sick List April 30th at Sea</p>	<p>Was this day placed in the Hospital, and for some time she has suffered very much from the motion of the Ship being greatly debilitated & enervated at present – However an eruption gave her considerable uneasiness, which as visible on the forehead. It consisted of a</p>

			number of Papulæ clustered together, threatening the formation of an ulcer – These papulæ appeared to indicate secondary symptoms of Syphilis. Taking into consideration the mode of Life which she has been living previous to her Conviction, I prescribed five grains of the Blue Pill night and morning, hoping soon to affected her constitution. On the 7 th of April her mouth began to be affected, and with it the eruption appeared to give way. The Pills were continued on to then 17 th when all symptoms of the complaint having disappeared the Pills were omitted, and she was discharged Cured.-
PB010125.JPG		Eliz th Allander Ætat 50 entered the Sick List Saturday May The 5 th Off Madeira	From this woman's statement, she has frequently been afflicted with inflammation of the eyes – Both appear now afflicted with it, the right eye more especially – Complains of great pain in the eyes, intolerance of light and the other symptoms which usually attend this Disease – Gave the Cathartic mixture, and applied a Collyrium consisting of two grains of the Sulphate of Zinc to one of Water, to the eyes -6 th – Bowels feely opened, light diet prescribed, acute pain of the eyes diminished, but it is still considerable 8 th Dropped the Tincture of opium into the affected part, and with evident advantage night and morning – This was continue night and morning, together with eye wash, and opening medicines and on the 17 th the eyes were recovered, but weakly –
		Catherine Blakeney Ætat 27 ent sick list Monday 7 th of May 1827 At Teneriffe	This woman had made too free with either wine or Spirits, while lying at Teneriffe - She complains of acute lancinating pain in the Abdomen accompanied with frequent desire for natural evacuations. Complains of thirst and headache, pains of the Belly. Skin hot, tongue foul. Is of a stout plethoric habit of Body <i>VS ad Zxij. Haust Cathart. Haust Op. Hora Somni</i> -8 th – Several stools from the Cathartic, slept better, tongue cleaner, and appears on the whole better – <i>Pulv. Ipecac. Comp. G^rx Hora Somni</i> – From this time all unpleasent symptoms disappeared, and she w as removed from Sick List.
		Mary Wilby Free woman Ætat 50 entered sick list 17 th of May at Sea	This poor woman was discharged from the list only a few days ago; from exposure to cold, or from some other cause of that description, she is attacked with some pulmonary complaint. She now complains of a severe, acute, and a fixed pain in the right side, with a cough and difficult respiration, more especially on a full inspiration. Pulse small and quick, and Body much debilitated and enervated. <i>Haustus ex Olei Ricini Statim P.M. Emplastrum Vesicatorium parti dolente applicatum.</i> -18 th - Bowels freely opened. Blister rose well, and it has completely removed the pain in the side and the difficult respiration – Blister soon healed and the complaint was removed, although she still continues to suffer in the most distressing manner from sea sickness
PB010126.JPG		Ann Bowen	She complains of a cough and difficulty in her

		Free woman Ætat 30 Complained on Friday the 6 th Of May at Sea	respiration, especially on a full inspiration; a cough as also present. Tongue foul, heat somewhat increased. Bowels confined: The place where the free women are placed is situated close to the main Hatchway, consequently more exposed to atmospheric changes especially at night, which no doubt as the cause of her Complaint – <i>Haust. Cathart. Statim</i> . P.M. Bowels freely opened. <i>Emp. Vesicat. Parti dolente applicatum</i> – 7 th – Blister rose well, febrile heat has subsided, respirations 18 in a minute, pain and difficulty in her respiration nearly removed: <i>Pulv. Ipecac Comp G^{rs} x Hora Somni Sumend</i> -8- No pain or difficulty in breathing this morning <i>Haust. Cathart. Repatatur</i> – 9 th Bowels opened: from this time she gradually improved.
		Mary Wilby Free woman Ætat 50 Complained Saturday 12 th may	This poor woman whose case has been related before, now complains of a cough and difficult respiration with other Pneumonic symptoms no doubt produced by the same causes as the case before related, her situation in the ship being the same; and it is difficult to prevent these occasional slight cases of Pneumonia, as it is necessary to admit s much pure air below as possible – woman greatly debilitated and complains of most excruciating pain when coughing – <i>Haustus ex Olei Ricini in Aqua menthe Zj Statim</i> - P.M. Bowels opened <i>Emp Vesici parti dolente applicatum</i> -13- Blister rose well, giving great relief, dressed -14 th - From this time the Pneumonic symptoms vanished, but the woman still continued to suffer in the most severe manner from Sea Sickness and Debility.
PB010127.JPG		Eliz th Protman A child about 8 years of age Complains on Monday the 14 th May at Sea	This poor child has been complaining of a convulsive sonorous cough, accompanied with deep inspirations and at the end of each fit vomiting sometimes accompanied with Blood at the end of the Paroxism – The disease has of late increased, and it is now necessary to do something for it – Complains also of a fixed pain at upper part of Sternum. <i>Haust Cathart. Emp Vesici parti dolente applicatum</i> -15 – Blister rose well, and it appears to have given much relief, because the fits of coughing are by no means so severe, and the pain at the upper part of the chest much relieved by it – <i>Rx Tinct Opii Spt ætheris Nitrosi partes aequales i.e. guttas decem Aqua Menthe Unciam. M. Hora Somni Sumendus</i> – By keeping the child's Bowels regular, and by the occasional use of the draughts, the cough was soon removed.
		Thomas Hunt Boatswain of the Persian, complained Tuesday 15 th May At Sea	Complains of severe headache, of weight and heaviness over the region of the stomach. Pulse frequent, full and hard, face flushed, eyes suffused; Heat of surface much above the natural standard; skin arid and parched: tongue dry – Placed him under the forecandle, where the free air was admitted. <i>VS ad Z xx. Statim: Haust Cathart.</i> P.M. Bowels opened. Headache still very great, head, face, and neck sponged frequently with vinegar and water, and renewed as frequently as the heat increased – 16 th Febrile Symptoms are diminished. Heat of Surface above the natural standard therefore sponged as often as the urgency of the Symptoms required. - Three grains of Antimonial powder and three of the

			Submuriate given twice a day -17 – Symptoms of the disease are now removed, but a good deal of debility remains – A light and nutritive diet as now prescribed, and in the course of ten days he returned to Duty.
PB010128.JPG		Eliz th Chittenden Prisoner Ætat 40 Complained At Sea May the 16 th	This woman had been selected to act as Matron of the Prison, and she now began to exhibit symptoms of mental aberration –The first incoherent idea was, that she had been poisoned by some of the Prisoners, and that she was shortly to die; and she had expressed the greatest fear lest that her clothes or any other property which belonged to her, should be made away with by the Prisoners. I talked with her for some time upon many subjects, and she was evidently incoherent upon many points I received her into the Hospital where it is my intention to keep her until the voyage has ended, as her messmates are generally <u>Bad Characters</u> , and perhaps may have aided in producing her complaint by frequently annoying her. About 8P.M. was sent for from the Hospital, the woman Chittenden very refractory, noisy, & incoherent, wishing to turn out all but one, whom she considered a Friend. I endeavoured to quiet her mind, and she soon got more composed and went to Bed – 17 th – Spent a very bad night, talked aloud all night aloud disturbing all hands. Face flushed, eyes heavy and watery, pulse, and heat of surface both natural. From these and other symptoms I was of opinion that there was a congestion of Blood about her head, and it was not without great persuasion, that she allowed me to take away about sixteen ounces of Blood from her arm. <i>Haust. Cath. Statim.</i> P.M. Bowels freely opened and she appears better from the Bleeding but is still incoherent - 18 th – Spent a restless night, mental disease very considerable. Low diet, rest etc prescribed. This plan was continued until the 22 nd when she first shewed symptoms of returning sense. Bowels opened – 23 rd Spent a good night slept sound, is very sensible today all her former Ideas of Poison, and stealing having vanished. To conclude now from the notes of the day Book from which I extract this; this woman from this date gradually recovered.
		Daniel Martin Able seaman Belonging to the Persian as placed on the List, Thursday the 31 st of May	This man was wounded by the upsetting of the rope Machine, and was lifted up apparently insensible, and covered with Blood. On examination a wound was found over the forehead and extending transversely nearly two inches, exposing the Bones. He soon however came to himself, and when the Blood was washed away, it was found that the mischief done was not great – The lips of the wound were now carefully brought together, and kept in their situation by adhesive straps; the Patient placed in Bed, and his Bowels freely opened – June 3 rd The wound on dressing it this day seemed nearly all united, and by a few dressing it united in the most favourable manner –
PB010129.JPG		Mary Welby	About 6 P.M. this poor woman was taken suddenly ill.

<p>PB010130.JPG</p>		<p>Free woman Ætat 50 Complained June 2nd at Sea</p>	<p>During the course of the day a dispute arose between her child, and one of another free woman's; this naturally set the mothers at variance, and this poor woman having been labouring under the greatest debility before, fainted during the scuffle. On recovering a swelling suddenly made its appearance over the stomach, and the tumour was so rapidly formed, and of such a size, as to give a good deal of alarm – The tumour was of an unequal size, and it was relieved by frequent eructations of wind – She complained of the most acute pain over the part, and the swelling was disposed to shift along the course of the intestinal Canal – From the facts before stated I considered her complaint <i>Tympanitis Intestinalis</i> – With a view to carry off the wind I directed Purgative Enemas to be given every second hour. Gave her also half an ounce of castor Oil, in an ounce of peppermint water – 3rd – The Enema's brought off during the night, a good deal of alvine indigested matter, with wind, giving the greatest relief, and the swelling was greatly diminished. Cathartic repeated. -4th – Swelling gone; but found that she had been delirious during the night, and that she had been spitting up Blood in coagulated lumps, and brought up by coughing, and not mixed with the contents of the stomach; I therefore suspected it to come either from the Lungs or fauces – Pulse small, weak, often irregular, and she is observed to pick the Bed clothes – Bowels freely opened, stools Black foetid, with indigested lumps. <i>Emp. Ves. Sterne applicatum</i> -5th – Blister rose giving slight relief; spent a bad night, occasionally delirious, picks the bed clothes, and has other bad symptoms about her – Gave her a Basin of soup, and support her strength with arrowroot, wine, and every thing that the ship can afford -6th – Spent a good night and feels herself much better – from this time, no blood was coughed, and the swelling did not appear again and by great nursing and care, she was safely landed at Van Diemen's Land.</p>
		<p>Robert McClelland Esquire Attorney General for Van Diemen's Land Complained at Sea Monday the 11th day of June</p>	<p>This gentleman shewed some extraordinary Symptoms before this time but as these symptoms were of a very delicate nature, and of the greatest importance to the individual himself, I took no notice of them, either in this, or the Journal for the Navy Board until the 11th day of June – He began by stating to the Master of the vessel and myself, that a conspiracy was set up against him by the Master, the Principal officer and myself; and that he wished all his Trunks, Boxes etc to be sent on shore, at the same time shewing great wildness of his eyes and countenance, and talked very wild and incoherent – Here I think it necessary to observe, that previous to his embarkation, he had been under the Medical care of Mr Abernathy for a considerable time, for diseased digestive organs, induration of one of the Testes, Hæmorrhoidal discharge and a complication of Diseases – Before he left the Channel he shewed much indecision in his Character, as he urged greatly to be landed near Plymouth stating that he had mislaid his Warrant of appointment, and that he could not proceed without it – The fact at this time was, he dreaded so long a voyage, and had no wish to proceed, as the Warrant was afterwards found where he</p>

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himself had safely placed it – From the first sailing up to this date, he has been labouring under Hypochondriasis to a very great degree, fearing all the evils that could possibly happen, from the most slight and imaginary causes – He brought with him Medicines prepared from the prescriptions of Mr A to last for the voyage, and never consulted me, which was my principal reason, why I did not mention his case before – At the very first he as greatly debilitated & emaciated – During the early part of the voyage he applied himself with unusual diligence to the study of Law, which application, combined with other causes, may have affected his mind so much, as to exhibit strong symptoms of mental aberration which he does at present.

June the 12th. He sat up all night and no arguments that either the Master or myself used, could get him to go to bed – He sat with his elbow upon the Bed, his face resting upon the palm of his hand, labouring under great Melancholy; about 2 in the morning he dressed himself in his best Clothes, came on deck, and demanded the reasons why he was not landed at Hobart Town. He got on the Forecastle, a place one could hardly suppose him capable of getting on, in consequence of his extreme debility and emaciation; and looked wildly and anxiously about for Land. During this time he was carefully watched by the officer, lest that any accident should happen to him – When he came down he came to me, and awoke me, requesting me for God’s sake to direct the Master to put him on shore – I told him of the unusual hour that he disturbed every one, and mildly represented to him the erroneous impressions that he laboured under, and that he was upwards of one thousand miles from any Land; I requested him to be more tranquil & composed, but all to no purpose. He now stated that if he was not landed immediately he would take no nourishment.

13th Refused Breakfast and dinner, and about 7 PM he sent for the Master and myself, and when seated in his cabin, he observed that he had a communication of the greatest importance to make to us –He stated that he now had little time to live in this world, and that he was anxious to go out of it as an honest man – He then with apparent steadiness of mind mentioned his Debts; a Gentleman the name of Cooke, who he said went security for him for the sum of 140£ - He requested us to sell every article of Property which he had on Board, which was considerable, and that his debts should be cleared off – I respectfully represented to him the false impressions which he had imbibed, and told him that they no doubt arose from his long Bodily affliction, I also requested him to call in the aid of our Holy Religion, and look forward to more prosperous and happy days. I told him also that his constitution appeared to me to be yet tolerably good, and that he need not fear dying from natural cause – He at once stated that there were other means of dying, and now requested a Prayer Book to be given him, requesting us to retire in a very strange and incoherent manner – Under such circumstances, I consulted with the Master, and we were unanimously of Opinion, that we should not be justified

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if we allowed the Attorney General to remain alone, after what had taken place: we therefore requested Mr Kennedy, his clerk to remain with him – He soon requested Mr Kennedy to allow him to retire into the Quarter Gallery, the door of which he immediately bolted, and secured, and which Mr K reported to us – I was firmly of opinion that the man now laboured under such mental aberrations, as to mediate mischief to himself, and was determined to take upon myself the responsibility of preventing an accident if possible; we therefore broke open the door, and we found the Prayer Book in one hand, the candle in the other, and found in his Pocket a double bladed penknife – All cutting instruments were now removed and his cabin secured in a manner that he could not escape –

14th Spent a very bad night, slept a little towards morning. Appetite midling, but because that he cannot go on shore he refuses all support. Pulse 76, tongue foul, Bowels generally costive, and he says have been so for a long time. 15th Slept a little, took some tea for Breakfast, but cannot prevail upon him to take any Medicine, as he is the most stubborn patient that I have ever seen, and fears taking anything lest that he should be poisoned.

16th Continues very incoherent – He insists that the ship is at Anchor; and that Boats have been alongside, and taken all the Prisoners and Passengers on shore,, and although he was permitted to look over the ship’s side, to see the sails set , yet was insensible to the ship’s motion through the water – He will take little or no nourishment, at least not sufficient to sustain Life for any length of time, and he locks himself in his cabin (which is well secured lest that he should throw himself overboard) and he will hardly permit anyone to speak with him, lest that (as he says) he should be given up to the fury of the Populace – All the arguments that I can use are lost, I can get him to take neither nourishment nor medicine – During this day one scanty alvine evacuation –

17th Spent a restless night, debility and emaciation gradually increase, and unless he is sent on shore, he will take no nourishment, at least not so much as will be sufficient to support life for many days.- In a conversation with him today he says that he did not fully understand the Criminal Law Practice to fill the situation of Attorney General of Van Diemen’s Land as it had been done by his Predecessor in office; which cause together with the one before named may have produced the unfortunate symptoms before named.

20th Nothing having occurred particular in his case between the 17th and this date; during this time the only thing used is one cup of tea without bread; still continues to think the ship at anchor, the Prisoners landed & Complains of Acidity of the stomach, and with the greatest difficulty I got him to take a draught containing one Drachm of Magnesia two scruples of Aromatic Confection in an ounce & a half of peppermint water – This relieved the acidity and towards the evening he had one alvine evacuation –

21st Debility and emaciation gradually increase, and I find it a most difficult and most painful task to manage him under these circumstances – He requests his razors

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to be given, but on account of the mental affections, of which I have minutely, and carefully spoken, I think it correct to withhold them, and he throws out hints, that if he be not given them, that he will starve himself to Death; an event which one may suppose him to have in contemplation from the inflexible manner in which he has hitherto refused both nourishment and medicine – I have remonstrated with him full ten times a day, I have pointed out to him that no man can have the Fear of God before his eyes, who will continue in the same obstinate manner to hasten his own Dissolution, by abstaining from all kinds of food, and that it became him to look forward to a future and happy state, which he could never expect if he continued in the same inflexible manner not to take any food – He turned a Deaf ear to all I stated;- His mental aberrations remain the same I.E. He supposes the ship to have arrived at Hobart Town, and he has written a letter to the Chief Justice there, which he requests me to send immediately on shore; he supposes Boats are constantly passing from the ship to the shore, and fears much lest that he should be given up to the fury of the Populace; supposes that he has been tried and condemned, and that an order has been issued to execute him on Board – In vain do I attempt to point out his errors – In vain does the Master point out to him on the Chart the Latitude & Longitude of the vessel by the observations last taken, but such is the mental affection that it is impossible to bring him to our opinion – Insists on sitting up all night, which increases his disease; I was therefore reluctantly compelled to use force to take off his clothes and put him to Bed.

22nd Gave him a Tea spoonful of the Electuary of Senna – toward the evening Bowels opened twice – Took one cup of Tea

25 Bowels costive; emaciation and debility still continue to increase; about 7 P.M. Took a Cathartic pill – Pulse 64 intermits much, cheek bones very prominent, features shrunk, tongue dry & coated, hectic flush over the face, abdomen tender. I am now fearful that inflammation of the abdomen will take place, unless that he be speedily relieved – I find it now totally impossible to manage him unless I throw away all delicacy, as he considers himself a lost man, and most obstinately refuses every thing

26th Repeated the Pills. 2 P.M. No action from them, they were therefore repeated washing them down with a little warm Tea. Debility and emaciation are now at the lowest ebb, and it is evident he cannot last much longer, unless something favourable takes place soon –

June 27 – All mental understanding having now completely vanished, and as he evidently must go to that Bourne from whence no traveller returns; I came to the resolution of throwing up Cathartic Enemas by force; and when his bowels are opened by supporting Life by Nutritious Enemas, and opium, in order that they may be retained: When throwing it up he promised to take what I wished. Gave two Cathartic Pills.

28th Bowels opened once. *Habt Haust ex Olei Ricini* – P.M.[two?] copious evacuations from the Oil and is evidently relieved – through the fear of the enema I got him to take a Basin of Tea morning and evening and a

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PB010136.JPG			<p>little fowl soup for Dinner – I have now stated enough to shew the state of this Gentleman during the passage and the extreme anxiety I had respecting him – should any one wish to follow up the daily note which was made until landing him at Hobart Town; Van Diemen’s land, it will be found in the Journal transmitted to the Navy Board – Suffice to say that there was no improvement in his mental affection when we landed him, he still fancied that he had been tried and condemned, and was soon to be given up to the fury of the Populace; that all his property was thrown overboard, and he at times said that the Master, the mate and myself had divided between us; that we had been at Sydney and that he had been deceived by us, with many other absurd things; and when coming up the Derwent he looked out of the Scuttle and said that it was London – The Governor called upon him when he landed, and the Colonial Surgeon was obliged to force Castor Oil down his throat.- I am happy to say that after remaining in this state for upwards of one month, he began to see the deceptions under which his mind laboured; his bodily health shewed symptoms of improvement, and in a short period he gradually recovered -</p>
		<p>Mary Page Prisoner ætat 22 Complained at Sea the 15th day of June</p>	<p>This woman appeared to have been exposed to the atmospheric changes, as she slept close to the fore hatchway – Complained this evening of a Rheumatic affection of the lower jaw, face swelled and painful; <i>Habeat granas decem pulveris Ipecac. Comp.</i> 16th Slept very bad; the Rheumatic complaint has now shifted its situation to the knee and ankle joint of the right side: Both joints are now considerably swelled, painful to the touch and on the slightest motion. Pulse full and frequent, tongue dry, is very restless, complains of thirst; heat of surface somewhat above the natural standard. <i>VS ad Zxyj - Haust Cath. Statim</i> –P.M. Bowels acted upon thrice by the purgative. <i>Volat Linament</i> (sic) rubbed over the inflamed parts – Powder repeated – 17th The Bleeding has evidently had a good effect, the febrile heat of the skin is now much diminished; the joints however continue swelled and very painful. <i>Volatile</i> –Linament continued - Powder repeated at Bedtime- 18. Repeated the Cathartic – She is now able to move about a little. During the day Bowels opened – <i>Habeat Pil Hydr. 1. Hora Somni</i> – The Blue Pill was continued for seven days, her mouth became slightly affected, and the Rheumatic affection of the joints gradually disappeared</p>
PB010137.JPG		<p>Ann Wilkinson ætat 22 Prisoner Complained 22nd of June at Sea</p>	<p>This woman had a situation close to the fore hatchway where she slept, and from being more exposed to the changes of the Atmosphere; I find that colds, Pneumonic complaints are more frequent with Prisoners living here, than in any other part of the ship – she stated that she had been very ill all night, and rested badly – Complains of a severe headache, more especially over the orbits, face much flushed, eyes heavy and watery, tongue dry and</p>

			<p>parched, heat of surface considerable above the natural standard, pulse frequent and hard; respiration 19 in a minute. Bowels confined – In consequence of exhibiting these symptoms I removed her immediately into the Hospital, and placed her on the best and most airy cradle – <i>VS statim ad Zxij</i> – More could have been taken away with advantage, but considering the length of the voyage, and the time we are necessarily compelled to be on Salt Provisions, I thought it prudent to stop here – <i>Haust Cath</i> – PM The Bleeding gave relief, and the Bowels have been opened –</p> <p><i>Rx Pulv. Antim. Hyd. Sub.partes æquales I.E. granas tres. Hora Somni Sumendus</i></p> <p>-23rd – Slept a little Headache and other febrile symptoms have very much diminished, but still considerable – <i>Haust Cathart Repetatur</i> – Powder repeated at bed time – <i>Aqua Hordeata ad libitum</i> –</p> <p>24th Bowels very open, Headache and the other febrile symptoms very much diminished, slept a good deal during the night.</p> <p>25th From this time she gradually improved, no recurrence of the fever took place; the only thing necessary was to procure the alvine evacuations by Purgatives –</p>
PB010138.JPG		Ann Protman Free woman Complained 9 th July at Sea	<p>This poor woman has been suckling a large male child during this long voyage, and I have frequently recommended her to wean it, but to no purpose. She is of a weak and very delicate constitution at the best of times, and by no means adequate to nourish a child under salt diet – Previous to this she seemed debilitated and emaciated, and complained of a slight sponginess of her gums, in consequence of which I placed her on the Preserved meat diet list with a few others –</p> <p>-About 6 PM was attacked with sold shivering, the rigors of which were extremely severe, and lasted about an hour; it was succeeded by a hot, and then a sweating stage, leaving her more and more exhausted –</p> <p>10th Complains of much debility and I now enquired of her if she has ever been afflicted with fever and ague before- she stated that she had been attacked by this complaint before coming on board, and no doubt from her debility the dampness of the vessel with other causes have predisposed her to relapse into this Complaint –</p> <p>Bowels open – During this day gave 2 drachms of Bark every second hour about 6 PM she again experienced the Paroxism as before</p> <p>11th Bark continued carefully throughout the day – strength supported with wine arrow root, and fresh animal food send from the Cabin –</p> <p>12th Did not experience the febrile paroxysm last evening as was customary. Medicine continued</p> <p>13 <i>Haus. Cathart.</i> – Medicine continued as before by continuing the Bark the fever was stoped and such liberal diet as given her by the Master, that she completely recovered</p>
PB010139.JPG		Mary Wilby	This poor woman has been very frequently attacked

		<p>aetat 50 Complained At Sea on Thursday The 12th day of July</p>	<p>during the whole of the voyage with different complaints, and now labours under the greatest general Debility – She has never been able to sit up for an hour at any time without falling into a state of fainting, which requires her to be placed in the horizontal posture immediately, and from which it is difficult to rouse her by Volatile Stimuli – During the late rainy weather, a good deal of water was unavoidably shipped down the main hatchway, leaving her place wet and damp, and from which she caught cold – She now complains of a fixed, and of an acute pain in the right side, about the middle of the sixth rib, this pain is increased in the most distressing manner when she coughs or takes a full inspiration, pulse small, weak and somewhat sharp, tongue foul – when the cough comes on a quantity of coagulated Blood is expectorated, accompanied with a Hawking noise – Her Debility is so great that it appears not prudent to hazard venesection – <i>Haust ex Ol. Ricini statim – Emp Vescit. Parti dolente applicatum.</i>- 13th Bowels opened frequently by the purgative: Blister rose well, and gave considerable relief – Support her strength, with Sago, wine, and every luxury that the ship can afford, which the Master of the Vessel, much to his Humanity generously gives. I.E. fowl soup, fresh meat etc appetite midling – from this time she gradually improved until we arrived at Hobart Town, Van Diemen’s Land on the 5th day of August, and she soon went on shore to her husband but in a weak and Debilitated state.</p>
<p>PB010140.JPG</p>		<p>Eliz Byate A Child of one of the Prisoners about 12 years of age Complained 13 of July</p>	<p>The Mother of this child (a Prisoner) stated to me that this child had fallen off much in flesh during the voyage – The Girl appears emaciated, complains of wandering pains in her Belly; she is sometimes costive, sometimes free in her Bowels – Is attacked with fever and slight convulsion at night, which disappears during the day – She is observed frequently scratching her nose and anus; these symptoms with the others before enumerated disposed me to suspect intestinal irritation by worms – <i>Rx Pulv Jalap Comp ðj Hy Sub G^r iij Statim</i> 14th Several Brisk evacuations from the medicine, and I could not gain the information whether any worms came away, although I requested the Mother to look out for me: I however found the child much improved – Two or three purgatives more effected a cure, and the child was perfectly healthy when she arrived here.</p>

GENERAL REMARKS

We have now been successful, through God's assistance, in carrying out all hands who embarked on board the Persian to Van Diemen's Land without a Death or Casualty of any kind; although the situation of some was very critical, and I am not without hope that when the Prisoners are inspected; they will be considered to be in as good health, as could be expected, when we take into our consideration the great length of the voyage, and a constant gale of wind from the Cape of Good Hope to this place.

I feel much pleasure in observing, that no one instance of Scurvy made its appearance during the voyage, which I have understood has frequently occurred in Male ships, and perhaps this may be accounted for, partly on account of the careful manner in which the Provisions were cooked, the Prisons cleaned and dried, and the healthful exercise at times enjoyed by the Prisoners; Partly also to the daily allowance of Wine, Lemon juice and Sugar served out to each Prisoner, these things united may have arrested any disposition in the constitution of Prisoners to engender that Disease. Perhaps also the fondness of women to make use of their oatmeal as Gruel, and to use a less quantity of salted animal food than Males generally do; may have contributed to the same result - To whatever causes it may be referred, no symptoms of this disease appeared, and I hope it will be allowed that the prisoners have arrived as healthy as could have been expected under existing circumstances -

My unwearied application and care as constantly directed to the 24 Article of my instructions respecting the prevention of Prostitution between the Prisoners and Ship's crew, and I feel proud to say, that every officer in the Ship shewed the most moral and praise worthy example in this respect, and further, such was the strict watch kept over all the actions of Prisoners, that I am firmly of opinion that an opportunity was not given for even an occasional Disgrace of the kind with any of the seamen, a fact that perhaps will hardly be credited. Should these circumstances prove correct when the proper Officers make their investigation, the praise of it entirely due to the Master Mr Plunkett and the Chief Officer, Mr Wellbank, for the active support and assistance which I have uniformly had from them in order to obtain these desirable ends.

Respecting the fitting up of the vessel every thing appears to me to be as complete as possible, and fully sufficient to carry into effect your instructions respecting the prevention of Prostitution between the Prisoners and seamen, and the only thing I consider necessary to mention in this place is, that no place where solitary confinement can be favourably carried into effect, is to be found on Board; the Hold which is the usual place of confinement upon these occasions, in long voyages is found to be full of moisture and dampness, and therefore likely to cause Pulmonary and Rheumatic complaints if the individual be confined for any length of time. In order therefore to avoid these inconveniences, I should beg leave to suggest that a small dark cell, having sufficient number of air holes; and being furnished with a Bed place, should be fitted up under the Hospital, or in any other part of the Ship where it could be found most convenient and suitable, in which refractory female prisoners may be confined for one, two, or more days, upon Bread and water, and prolonging the time according to the nature and degree of the offence, and from what I have observed, I am convinced that it will be an instrument of terror in the Surgeon's hands, and by it he will secure more orderly conduct from the Prisoners, than any other mode of punishment hitherto adopted. In the pages of the Journal transmitted to the Navy Board, it will be seen that I have had occasion to confine a Prisoner in the Hold for a short time, and I have uniformly found that they feared solitary confinement more than any other; and the conduct of the Prisoner has been much improved by it. If therefore a small cell were fitted up, it could be kept dry and always ready for the reception of a refractory Prisoner, and the confinement of the individual more effectually secured - As in instance where prompt measures as well as a place of confinement are essentially necessary, I shall mention the following by way of illustration.-

It was the custom to send all the Prisoners off deck a little before dusk in order more effectually to prevent all criminal intercourse between the Prisoners & seamen, and when the chief officer and myself were proceeding on this Duty on the 2nd of May; one woman (Mary Page) most positively refused to go below, and while the chief officer was enforcing his orders, she struck him a violent blow on the face with her fist - He immediately collared her, brought her aft, and explained the facts to me. I directed her to be Handcuffed, and to be conveyed below, and placed in solitary confinement. A few of the Prisoners who were disposed to follow the example of this woman, now quietly went below, and the Prison was secured for the night as usual. I think it right to mention, that when the Mate was carrying the woman aft, he ordered a petty officer to assist him, and he positively refused to obey the order, observing at the same time that he had nothing to do with the Prisoners - Although the fact was not known at the time, it was afterwards proved that a number of the women had agreed to resist being put below at the usual time that evening, and that no assistance should be afforded to the officers by the seamen; when however the time arrived, the woman Page was the only one that resisted, as is stated in the above - Perhaps on this occasion they were excited to it by the seamen. Had not prompt measures been used on this occasion, the vessel must have been in the most disorderly state for the remainder of the voyage! Had a

place of confinement been fitted up, such as has been hinted above, I should have had it in my power to have made an example of her, and by it to have intimidated others from similar measures in future.

In the case now before us, we have an example in which the officers in charge of a female Convict ship, are occasionally thrown into the most critical situations, requiring from them the most prompt measures, as well as the greatest command of temper on many important occasions. A number of unfortunate, and ill disposed women are assembled together, during a long and tedious voyage, and in different climates; over whom the most moral example of others has little or no effect, and who are at all times prone to follow the immoral habits of their former Life, and desirous of running the greatest risks to obtain these ends. – We have them suborning the Allegiance(sic) of the seamen from the Master and officers of the vessel, and when the time arrived for securing the Prisoners the Surgeon, the Master and Mates of the vessel stand alone against the Prisoners and seamen, and who are expected fully to discharge the Duty confided to them!! Fortunately in the instance to which I have here alluded, when the woman was secured then Prisoners offered no resistance, but went below and no case of the kind occurred during the remainder of the voyage.

From what has been stated before, I think that if a small dark cell were fitted up (which could be done at little expense) in any part of the ship found to be most eligible, where fresh air could be freely admitted, appears to me essentially necessary for the better management of Convict ships during long voyages – Another mode of punishment which I think ought to be in the Surgeons power, is confinement by handcuffing – In the case before mentioned the handcuffs were procured from a Police officer, a passenger on Board, and I have found that mode of punishment very serviceable in preventing crime, and it always has a good effect, ensuring orderly conduct for some time to come. I should therefore beg leave to suggest that about half a dozen be allowed to each ship and to be used when instances of refractory, and ungovernable conduct present itself in any of the Prisoners.

I shall now conclude these short observations; by congratulating myself in carrying out the Prisoners and Passengers generally in good health, and without any complaint whatever; and without any casualty by Death, Accident or otherwise.

I may also observe that perhaps no vessel has arrived here, in which a Criminal Intercourse between the Prisoners and the seamen of the Ship; was more effectually prevented than in the Persian

James Patton M.D. R.N.
late Surgeon Superintendent
Persian

Hobart Town
Van Diemen's Land
August the 22nd 1827