

Surgeon's Journal of Her Majesty's Female Convict Ship *Hector*
 Mr Morgan PRICE, Surgeon
 from 19th May 1835 – to 24th October 1835
 Adm.101-032-9]

Medical and Surgical Journal of Her Majesty's Convict Ship *Hector* between the 19th may 1835 and the 24th October 1835 during which time the said ship has been employed in a voyage from London to Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land

PA310508.JPG

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.
Dyspepsia PA310509.JPG	1	Mary Harvey Æt. 42 – Convict July 1 st at Sea.	<p>Complained this day of having suffered very severely for the last three days from sickness, vomiting – [rumination?], heart burn, and stomach complaint – an most of the symptoms nearly occurring together – constipated bowels – there is a evidently (sic) morbid state of the stomach and a deficient(sic) of Gastric secretion- it appears by her own statement that she had been for a considerable time past habituated to drinking of spirituous liquors and otherwise had been loose and depraved – is a native of North Yarmouth – she was admitted to Hospital.</p> <p><i>Rx. Magnes Alb. ʒiij</i> <i>Pulv. Rhei ʒj</i> <i>Tinct. [Lav.?] Comp. ʒj</i> <i>Aqua Puræ ʒ iv Mft Mistura – capt. coch ij ampla tertia quaque hora</i></p> <p>2nd Bowels have been freely acted upon – Pulse 110 – furred tongue – disagreeable taste and breath exceedingly offensive – disrelish for food – nausea and vomiting continuing.</p> <p><i>Rx. Pill. Aloes. C. myrrh. gr vij</i> <i>Sapon. Venit ʒfs</i> <i>Syr. Symp. q.s. Mft</i> <i>Divid in pill no iij S.S.</i></p> <p><i>Rx. Infus Sennæ ʒ fs</i> <i>Tinch Sol opii ʒj Mft Haust. S.S.</i></p> <p>3rd Bowels freely opened and the patient in every respect feels much better.</p> <p><i>Rx. G. Magnes Alb. ʒiij</i> <i>Tinct. Cinnam. ʒ iij</i> <i>Aquæ Puræ ʒ I Mft Mistura. capt. coch iij ampla tertia quaque hora.</i></p>
PA310510.JPG			<p>4th Pulse 120 – Tongue furred – loss of appetite – vomiting continuing and evidently a defective billiary secretion which probably is combined with a disease state of the Liver – a Pill containing two grains of Submuriate of Mercury administered morning and evening – continue the alkaline medicine.</p> <p>5th Continues much in the same state as yesterday – the patient was placed in a tepid bath and medicines as before prescribed.</p> <p>6th The mind is greatly depressed – Pulse 110 – furred tongue – vomiting and nausea has ceased – bowels regular and the patient evidently much better.</p>

PA310511.JPG			<p>Tepid bath repeated – continue the Pills and the alkaline medicine.</p> <p>Great degree of weakness both the body and spirits – tongue furred – Pulse 100 – bowels regular – small quantity of wine has been allowed her but it has almost instantly produced acidity on the stomach and weak brandy & water is substituted.</p> <p>Light nourishing diet allowed her.</p> <p>8th Patient gradually continuing to improve and under the several treatments which has already been adopted and the attention paid to the state of the bowels – The alterative Pill was continued until the 14th when Pytalism appeared and it was then discontinued and the patient was discharged cured on the 25th.</p> <p>Cured</p>
Pyrexia	2	Charlotte Chapman Æt 22 – Convict At Sea July 22 nd	<p>Was suddenly attacked with acute pain of the Thorax – respiration exceedingly difficult – part affected very sensible to the touch – discoloured appearance of the countenance – Pulse quick and hard.</p> <p><i>Ven. Sect. ad Brach. ℥xx</i> <i>Applic. Emplast. Lyttæ magn. sterno.</i> <i>Rx. Hydr. Subm. gr v</i> <i>Pill. C. Comp. gr xij</i> <i>Confect aromat q.s. Mft Bol. S.S. quamprimum superhibend haustum sequenter.</i> <i>Rx. Magnes. Sulph. ʒj</i> <i>Aq. Puræ ℥fs</i> <i>Tinct. Sennæ ʒij M</i></p> <p>23rd Pulse not so quick as yesterday but struggling and oppressed – heat of the skin much increased, respiration not much relieved – Rigors – Patient only able to lie on the affected side – Bowels have been frequently opened during the night and this morning – Patient not much relieved- <i>V. Sectio ad Brach. ℥xx</i> <i>Rx. Aqua Ammon Act. grfs</i> <i>Potas. Nitrat ʒj</i> <i>Tinct. Digitalis ʒfs</i> <i>Syr. Symp. . q.s. Mft mistura – capt. coch. iij</i> <i>ampla quartis horis.</i></p> <p>24th Had a restless night – Pulse quick and irregular -Pain of the Thorax not so acute but still continuing frequent light shiverings patient unable to lie on either side with greater ease – respiration less painful and not so oppressed - Bowels well opened – continue the saline mixture as yesterday prescribed – <i>Rx. Antim Tart g ij</i> <i>Pulv. Antim. gr xx</i> <i>Confect aromat q.s. Mft divid in Pill no. x Capt. j</i> <i>4^{tis} horis</i> Diet low.</p>
PA310512.JPG			<p>25th Respiration much easier and less painful – Pulse 90 in the minute – no cough and the patient evidently much better. Bowels quite free – medicine as before presc^d.</p> <p>26th Improving from this period ‘til the 10th August patient progressively getting better and was discharged cured.</p> <p>Cured</p>
PA310513.JPG			

Dyspepsia	3	Elizt ^h Armstrong Æt 43 July 25 th At Sea	This day complained of sickness at stomach – vomiting – Heartburn – Constipated bowels – and by her account had not been relieved for several days – breathing slightly affected – this woman has been much addicted to drinking spiritous liquors – she was admitted to Hospital and the following medicine administered. <i>Rx. Hyd. Sub. griv</i> <i>Pill. Col. C. grx</i> <i>Ol. Cinnam g^u ij Syr. Symp q.s. Mft divid in Pill. no. ij – capt s.s.</i> <i>Rx. Mag. Sulphat ℥fs</i> <i>Infus Sennæ ℥j Mft Haust. S.S.</i>
PA310514.JPG			26 th Hickups continuing – Pulse 112 in the minute – bowels still costive and every remission of Symptoms present as yesterday – Had an Enema immediately administered – prescribed the following medicine <i>Rx. Liquor Pottass. ℥j</i> <i>Aqua Calcis ℥vj Mft mistura. Capt. coch ij ampl. bis in die.</i> 27 th Bowels freely opened – Pulse quick and small – furred tongue – Breath exceedingly offensive and nearly a complete disrelish for food – almost a constant thirst – great uneasiness of mind – discontinue medicine as prescribed yesterday – <i>Rx. Tinct. Rhei ℥ ij</i> <i>Mistura. Cretae. ℥ ij</i> <i>Tinct. Cinnam. ℥fs Mft mistura capt coch ij ampla tertia q. hora</i>
PA310515.JPG			28 th Almost constant vomiting – Hickups and almost all the symptoms continuing without any alleviation as yesterday – <i>Sulph. Quin. gr ij bis die</i> 29 th Considerable better – Continue medicine as before. 30 th Patient evidently much better and the morbid acidity of the stomach in great degree corrected. Continue medicine as before. 31 st Bowels have not been acted upon for the last 24 hours – discontinue the medicine as before prescribed during the operation of the laxative medicine. <i>Rx. Hydrarg Submur gr v</i> <i>Pill. Col. C. ge x</i> <i>Pulv. Zingib. gr j</i> <i>Syr Symp q.s. Mft M Bol S.S.</i> <i>Rx Infus Sennæ ℥ ifs</i> <i>Mgnes. Sulph. ℥fs Mft Haustus S.S.</i>
PA310516.JPG			Bowels freely opened – it appears to me there is a difficient (sic) state of billiouy secretion combined with a disease state of the Liver or Spleen – exceedingly debilitated. Continue the alkaline medicine as before prescribed. <i>Rx. Hydr. Submuriat. gr ij</i> <i>Pill. Hydrarg. gr iij M hora somni</i> 2 nd Much better. Continue medicine as before. 3 rd Improving. Medicine as before 4 th Debility exceedingly great and scarcely able to walk with' assistance – oedematous enlargement of the lower extremities - continue <i>the Sulphat. of Quinæ</i> and the alkaline medicine – nourishing diet and every means adopted to restore strength and from this period until the

			20 th the patient continuing gradually to improve – Laxative medicine occasionally administered and attention paid to diet were the only treatment judged necessary to be adopted.
Icterus PA310517.JPG	4	Isabella Watt Æt 24 Convict July 31 st at Sea	<p>Complains this day of pain and uneasiness in the right Hypochondrium extending to the shoulder and right arm, this woman has been greatly addicted to drinking and there is evident a considerable derangement of the System – yellowness of the skin and of the Tunica conjunctiva – disagreeable taste in the mouth and every symptom of marked interception of excretion of bile – constipated bowels – Is a native of Aberdeen and is now nursing an Infant of seven months old</p> <p><i>Rx. Hydrarg. Submur. gr xij</i> <i>Pulv. Rhei ʒj</i> - <i>Scammon gr iij</i> <i>Sape Ven ʒj</i> <i>Syr. Sympl. q.s. Mft</i></p> <p><i>Divid in Pill no. vj – Capt. ij tertia quaque hora donec calvus fuerit</i> – a draught consisting of <i>Magnes Sulph. & Infus. Sennæ</i> administered after each dose of the Pill.</p> <p>August 1st Had two evacuations during the night and with the exception of pain in the right Hypochondrium other symptoms continuing as yesterday- medicine as before prescribed to be continued. Patient in the evening was placed in a tepid bath.</p> <p>2nd Bowels freely opened – great indisposition to exertion – heat and itching of the skin – continue the Pills.</p> <p>3 Pulse 110 – considerable less yellowness of the skin and Tunica conjunctiva and the complaint assuming a more favourable appearance – continue the Pill – patient placed in a tepid bath.</p> <p>4 Slight diarrhoea – skin and eyes requiring their natural appearance and the patient evidently improving continue the Pills – Tepid bath in the evening.</p> <p>PA310518.JPG August 3rd (sic) Pulse 100- clean tongue – no pain in the right Hypochondrium and the patient in every respect much better – in consequence of a slight Pytalism the Pills were omitted and a mixture consisting of <i>Infus. Gentianæ</i> administered. This treatment continued until the 25th when the Patient was discharged cured.</p> <p>Cured</p>
Paralysis PA310519.JPG	5	Patience Merchant Æt 53 Convict 22 August At Sea	<p>Was admitted to Hospital. It appears that the individual has been labouring under symptoms of Paralysis for some time years past but the attacks have not of late been severe – on her embarkation on board this Ship it appeared that only the muscles of the lower extremities are partially affected – since which period she has suffered very severely from Sea Sickness which has produced debility and great depression of the mind which no doubt has aggravated the complaint and at present she has Paraphlyia (sic) of the lower Extremities and unable to move without assistance. The treatment has been regulated by the apparent cause as the deprivation of power been adynamia - stimuli of a potent description</p>

<p>PA310520.JPG</p>		<p>August 23rd</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>28th</p> <p>29</p> <p>30</p> <p>31</p> <p>Sep^r 1st</p> <p>Cured.</p>	<p>have been adopted such as warm bathing – friction to the skin by the hand – blisters and synapisms to the sole of the feet – the absence of febrile excitement or cerebral disorder permitted me to administered the following medicine.</p> <p><i>Rx. Conf. Aromat. ℥ i</i> <i>Ammon. Carbon. ℥fs</i> <i>Tinct. Val. ℥ij</i> <i>Aqua Pure ℥vj Mft mistura capt. coch. iij quartis horis</i></p> <p>Pulse 115 – slept well during the night – bowels have not been acted upon since her admission to Hospital – a purgative consisting of decoction of aloes compositum administered- the extremities continuing much in the same state as yesterday. <i>Omitt^r medⁿe ut heri prescripta.</i></p> <p>Bowels have been acted upon freely and the patient feels much the same as yesterday – <i>omitt^r mistura aloes comp.</i> – continue the stimulating treatment as before prescribed.</p> <p>Patient is this day enabled to move and slightly use her extremities – bowels free – medicine as before continued - wine and full diet allowed her.</p> <p>Patient much better – the system being in a very debilitated state – medicine as before continued and the following tonics presc^d.</p> <p><i>Rx. Sulph. Quin. gr xij</i> <i>Acid Sulph ℥fs</i> <i>Infus. Gentian. ℥ vij Mft mistura – capt. coch ij ampla quartis quaque horis</i> – wine and nourishing diet allowed.</p> <p>Much better is enable to walk and cross the Hospital without assistance. Medicine and diet as before.</p> <p>Bowels have not been moved since yesterday morning – discontinue medicine as before prescribed during the operation of the purgative medicine – which has been administered this day.</p> <p>Bowels have ben freely acted upon and the patient in every respect much better – continue the tonic medicine – wine and nourishing diet.</p> <p>Improving –medicine and diet as before</p> <p>Continue much the same – medicine as before</p> <p>From this period until the 16th Patient continued in Hospital – Bowels from time to time regulated by gentle Cathartics – Tonic medicine – continued with nourishing diet and the patient was this day discharged cured.</p>
<p>PA310521.JPG</p> <p>Dysenteria</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Jane Campbell</p> <p>Æt 52 Convict</p> <p>September 28th</p> <p>At Sea</p>	<p>Is a native of Scotland and from what I can learn has been a habituated drunkard. The system is greatly emaciated – had some time previous to her embarkation two attacks of Paralysis and had for a long time been subject to bowel complaint and incontinence of urine attended at times with sense of griping pains – The general appearance of this woman when she embarked on board of this Ship was such that I was of opinion that she could not survive the voyage and reported her state of health but I did not succeed in obtaining her removal – during the voyage she was supported by every possible means and nourishing diet that I could command – wine – Brandy and water etc. During the continuance of warm weather the complaint greatly aggravated and there was evident mark of deranged state of the Liver and a disease state of the</p>

PA310522.JPG		Cured	mucus membrane of the Intestines – on our approach to cooler Latitudes the disease assumed a milder character and the general treatment throughout the voyage which I considered most necessary to be adopted – was nourishing diet – Brandy and water and every means to sooth the mind & which had the desired effect and she was landed with the reset of the Prisoners in a apparent better state of health than when she embarked at Woolwich.
Rheumatism PA310523.JPG PA310524.JPG	7	Elspet Leslie Æt51 Convict September 30 At Sea October 1 st	<p>For some time past this woman has suffered from obtuse pain extending along the muscles of the lower extremities and a diffused swelling of the left knee accompanied by inflammation – The Patient appears to have been much exposed to cold and various privation and in early period of life indulged in every species of intemperance - The bowels generally costive – a purgative medicine administered.</p> <p>Bowels have been freely acted upon – enlargement of the knee much increased sine yesterday and considerable appearance of redness and exceedingly painful – during the day fomentations kept constantly applied and at night a cataplasm.</p> <p><i>Rx. Hydrarg. Submur. gr ij</i> <i>Opii. Pul. gr j</i> <i>Conec. Aromat q.s. ft Pill Hora Somni S.</i></p> <p>2nd Had a very restless night, pain in the knee exceedingly acute a paralytic debility in the parts affected – fomentations and applications as yesterday continue. Repeat the purgative medicine – discontinue the Pill at night.</p> <p>3rd The parts affected being exceedingly tender and painful to the touch – improvement has been derived from the application of fomentation – slept well during the night – continue medicine and application as before <i>Antiphlogistic regimen.</i></p> <p>4th Pulse strong and full – dry skin – slept well during the night – bowels have not been acted upon since yesterday morning – Purgative medicine administered. <i>Rx Hydrarg Subm. gr ij</i> <i>Pulv. Antim. gr iij</i> <i>Opii gr fs ft Pill</i> <i>Hora Somni S.</i></p> <p>5th Bowels freely opened – considerable improvement of the knee and the patient in every respect much better – Continue the Pill at night</p> <p>6th Pulse full and hard – of the evening of this day the Patient was seized with considerable vascular action – difficult in respiration attended with general excitement – I considered it necessary to take from the arm 20 ounces of blood and which almost immediately gave relief – continue the pill at night.</p> <p>7th Pulse 100 – had a restless night – bowels free – breathing has again become greatly oppressed and I consider it necessary to repeat the bleeding. <i>Rx. Tinct. Digitalis zij</i> <i>- Scillæ zij</i> <i>- Lavend zij –</i> <i>Aqua Puræ Mft mistura – capt. coch. ij ampl. 3^{tis} q. hora</i></p>

			<p>8 Much better, Continue medicine as yesterday 9th Improving – as before 10th Much the same 11 Slight Pytalism and soreness of the Gums – discontinue the Pill at night – <i>Rx. Pulv. Ipecæ. Comp. Æifs Hora somni</i> 12th Swelling of the knee nearly reduced – continue medicine as before. 13 Improving – medicine as before 14 much the same 15 as before 16.17.18 convalescing – from this period until 25 Patient continued on Sick List – Cathartic medicine occasionally administered and on the 26th was discharged cured. Cured</p>
PA310525.JPG Fever	8	Helen Baldock Æt 23 Convict October 2 nd At Sea	<p>Pain in the head and back – bowels regular – Tongue clean – Pulse 120 – Skin hot <i>Rx. Hydrarg Submur. gr v</i> <i>Pulv. Rhei gr x ij M statim S.</i> Medicine has operated three times – she complains of headache and general pains and soreness – Pulse 120 – skin hot – face flushed <i>Ven. Sec ad Brach ʒ xij</i> Considerable better – skin dry and hot – Pulse 96 – Tongue clean <i>Rx. Soda Carbon ʒ ifs</i> <i>Magnes Sulph. ʒ iv</i> <i>Aqua Puræ ʒvj Mft mistura. capt. coch ij magn tertia quaque hora</i> Continue much the same as yesterday – Pulse 120 -- considerable tension of the abdomen – <i>Rx. Hydrarg Submur. gr i</i> <i>Opii gr fs</i> <i>Pulv. Ipecau C. gr ij M s.</i> Improving – continue the effervescent mixture and Pill – Much better – continue medicine as before – Nearly well – medicine as before Better – <i>omit^r med^m</i> Cured Well</p>
PA310526.JPG	9	Eliz th Seth Æt 37 Convict October 3 rd At Sea	<p>A native of Scotland. This woman in describing the nature of her complaint observed that a natural wasting of the body with slight tickling cough – a loss of appetite accompanied with a weakness of the whole body – it is very evident that this individual has been much addicted to drinking spiritous liquors and had otherwise been a very depraved and lose character – is of a very delicate make and had been nursing a child until very lately - The digestive organs are now greatly disarranged and the patient is in a very debilitated state – a dose of Castor Oli immediately administered 4 Bowels have been well acted upon – depression of spirits and general languor very great – Pulse scarcely perceptible and the patient is of a scrofulous disposition – the following medicine prescribed. <i>Rx. Infus. Gention ʒ vj</i> <i>Potass. Subcarbon. ʒ ij Mft mistura Capt. coch ij amp bis die</i></p>

<p>PA310527.JPG</p> <p>PA310528.JPG</p> <p>PA310529.JPG</p>			<p>5 There seems to be a morbid state of the mesenteric Glands which probably is the cause of the bodily emaciation and the loss of appetite – continue the Tonic medicine</p> <p>6 From the peculiar state and appearance of the patient and the exceeding depression of spirits of the patient I am very apprehensive of the result of this case – bowels have been opened twice during the last 24 hours – continue the medicine as before – Two grains of Sulphate of Quinine given twice a day -nourishing diet allowed etc–</p> <p>7 There is an evident disposition to œdematous swellings of the legs and feet – languor – lassitude and depression of spirits very marked – Continue medicine as before –</p> <p>8 No abatement of symptoms – the patient brought on deck occasionally as far as practicable with safety during the day – every means resorted to restore the digestive powers by stomachic bitters. etc</p> <p>9 No better – depravity and loss of appetite and considerable wasting of muscular flesh – paleness of countenance – swelling and prominence of the abdomen -œdema of the lower extremities. Bowels irregular – a Cathartic pill consisting of <i>Hydrarg Submuriate</i> and <i>Pulv. Antim.</i>, administered – and a dose of neutral Salts in two hours afterwards.</p> <p>10th Continues much the same, bowels have been acted upon freely - I am apprehensive of introducing the mercurial treatment as the patient is exceedingly emaciated and I am induced to continue the Tonic remedies and nourishing diet.</p> <p>11 No worse – continue the Tonic medicine</p> <p>12 Digestive and alimentary canal are evidently much impaired – continue the medicine as before presc^d.</p> <p>13 Improving – half an ounce of neutral Salts administered.</p> <p>14 Enlargement of the extremities and prominence of the abdomen nearly reduced and the patient evidently improving – Tonic medicine and nourishing diet continued.</p> <p>15 The general character of the disease has assumed a very favourable appearance for the last few days and the digestive organs are greatly improved – continue the Tonic medicine – nutritious diet allowed – Two gills of wine given her daily.</p> <p>16 Improving – continue medicine as before</p> <p>17 Much the same – medicine and diet as before</p> <p>18 Bowels confined – <i>Habeat Solutio Magnes Sulphat. ℥ʒs statim</i> –</p> <p>19 Much better – Bowels freely opened -Tonic medicine continued as before – nourishing diet etc – from this period ‘til the 30th the patient continued gradually to improve – bowels from time to time regulate by small doses of neutral Salts _ & continued the Tonic medicine</p> <p>Cured ‘til the 25th and the patient was discharged cured.</p>
<p>Rheumatism</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Ruth Harris 24 Convict October 10th At Sea</p>	<p>Was seized last evening with severe pain under the point of the left scapula it attacked her quite suddenly and on moving or breathing is exceedingly painful – Pulse 89 – Skin hot. Tongue moist and clean – volatile Liniment</p>

		Cured	<p>with half an ounce of Terebinth used to part affected three times a day</p> <p><i>Ven. Sectio ad Brachis</i> ℥xx and a dose of Laxative medicine administered.</p> <p>Has passed a bad night and complains of severe catching or stitches in the side whenever she attempts inspiration – bowels freely opened – repeat the Bleeding to ℥xv which almost instantly relieved the patient – a pill consisting of Calomel – Opium & Ipecac given her at night. She continued on Sick List ‘til 20th October when she was discharged cured.</p>
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Morgan Price
Surgeon Superintendent

GENERAL REMARKS

The preceding Journal containing a few cases of not of great or particular importance during a voyage from Woolwich to Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land. The ship was of a less Tonnage than usual taken up for the conveyance of Female Prisoners to the Colony – being only 338 Tons having on board including the Ship's Company upward of two hundred individuals and the unusual length of the voyage and the very indifferent manner the Prison and between Decks was ventilated is rather extraordinary that no illness of any consequence appeared on board during a voyage of one hundred and twenty-nine days – and more particularly when nearly the whole of the convicts free women and children had been embarked a considerable time previous tour leaving Woolwich and the majority of them had suffered severely from a very tedious voyage from Scotland in a small sloop and were consequently very crowded and their health had suffered greatly. A few cases of accouchements occurred and does not require any particular observation as all did well – and on the arrival of the Ship in the Colony all the Prisoners, free women and children were landed in a clean and healthy state.

Morgan Price
Surgeon Superintendent