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THE  
ANNALS  
OF  
PHILOSOPHY.



NEW SERIES.

JULY TO DECEMBER, 1821.



VOL. II.

OR THE EIGHTEENTH FROM THE COMMENCEMENT.



*Printed by C. Baldwin, New Bridge-street;*

FOR BALDWIN, CRADOCK, AND JOY,  
PATERNOSTER-ROW.



1821.

## ARTICLE V.

*On the Origin of the Name of Calomel.* By Mr. W. R. Whatton.

(To the Editor of the *Annals of Philosophy*.)

SIR,

Manchester, Sept. 10, 1821.

IN the *Annals of Philosophy* for October and December last, are inserted some observations and queries relative to the origin of the name of *calomel*, and the manner in which the mercurial preparation, usually known by that appellation, became so designated.

With a view to the elucidation of this subject, I have consulted the following authors :

- Joan. Baptist. Montani, *Medicina Universa*, pub. 1587.  
 Hieronimi Mercurialis Opera, died 1606.  
 Joannis Renodei *Dispensatorium*, pub. 1615.  
 Barthol. Perdulcis *Universa Medicina*, died 1621.  
 Sennerti Opera, died 1637.  
 Theodori Turqueti *Mayennæ Praxeos in Morbis Internis Syntagma*, died 1655.  
 Ejusdem Turqueti Opera.  
 Riverii *Observationes*, died 1656.  
 Ejusdem Riverii *Praxis Medica*.  
 Twelferi *Pharmacop. August. Reformata*, pub. 1661.  
 Joan. Baptist. Sitoni *Miscel. Med. Curios.* pub. 1677.  
 Raymondj Jo. Fortis *Consult. et Respons. Centuriæ Quatuor*, pub. 1677.  
 De Blegny *Zodiacus Medico-Gallicus*, pub. 1682.  
*Lexicon Medicum Castellanicum*, pub. 1682.  
 Boneti. *Index Medico-Practic.* pub. 1683.  
 Nichol. de Chesneau *Observationes*, pub. 1683.  
 Jo. Hartmanni *Oper. Omn. Med. Chym.* pub. 1684.  
 Freind de *Purgantibus*, pub. 1719.  
 Boerhaave de *Medicamentorum Viribus*, pub. 1720.  
 Ejusdem Boerhaavij *Materia Medica*, pub. 1720.  
 Quincy's *Complete Dispensatory*, pub. 1720.  
*London Pharmacopœia*, pub. 1720.  
 Clarkii *Hist. Lumbricorum*, pub. 1725.  
 Hoffmanni *Clavis Pharmacop. Schroeder*, pub. 1742.  
*Pharmacop. Edinburgensis*, pub. 1744.  
 James's *Medical Dictionary*, pub. 1745.  
 Lewis's *Experimental Hist. of the Mat. Med.* pub. 1768.  
 Alston's *Lectures on the Mat. Med.* pub. 1790.

Of these, Montanus, Mercurialis, Renodeus, and Perdulcis, do not mention any other preparation of mercury than the unguen-

tum hydrargyri, and the sublimatam; Sennert is the first who notices the mercurius dulcis, and its method of preparation; and none, prior to Quincy in 1720, speaks of calomel, with the exception of Turquet, De Riviere, and Bonet.

Sir Theodore Turquet de Mayenne, knight, and Baron of Aubonne, was a Frenchman, and born in the year 1572. He took the degree of Bachelor of Medicine at Montpellier in 1596, and the Doctorate in 1597. He was a scholar and chemist of the first eminence, and Physician to the King of France; and in 1616 was invited to England by the British Ambassador, where he successively became first Physician, by patent, to James I. and Charles, and died very rich, and with a high reputation, at Chelsea, in 1655. He wrote *Praxeos Mayennæ in Morbis Internis Syntagma*, and the *Opera Medica*, both which were published after his death, the one in 1690, and the other by Dr. Browne in 1703.

Sir Theodore Turquet is the earliest author to whom I have been able to trace any mention of calomel, and that not as a new preparation, but merely as a name of his own choosing, expressive of the qualities of the mercurius dulcis of Sennert.

As Turquet was a physician in most extensive practice, an excellent and experimental chemist, and a man of high rank in the service of the King, and every where enjoying the greatest popularity, it is not improbable that to him will attach the merit, if any exist, of adopting the curious designation in question. At the end of his last work is given an ample *Pharmacopœia*, including a large number of chemical preparations of different kinds of his own invention, among which stand the mercurius niger, or æthiops mineralis, and the clyssus mercurii, very similar to the mercurius dulcis, except that it was only three times sublimed, and afterwards well washed in cinnamon or rose water. This form of preparation had its name from the Greek *κλυζω*, to wash.

In the course of his works, Sir Theodore makes use of the terms pulvis calomelas, ♀ calomelanicus, mercurius calomelanicus, calomelanicus sublimatus dulcis, and calomelanicus optim. præparat. indifferen ly, by all which he means to express himself as speaking of the submuriæ hydrargyri. At p. 20, lib. 2, he writes, as if feeling his way in the use of a new formula, “D. Brochant sumpsit mercur. calomelanic. et Guttæ a ʒss; nauseam levem passus est citra vomitum, dejecit duodecies, et biliosa;” and some time after we have the doses, accompanied by this observation, “mihi notæ et millessima experientiâ. fœlicissimè comprobatæ mercurii præparationes sunt, aquila rubra, pulvis calomelas, mercurius lunaris, præcipitatum album, et (quod meum est inventum) clyssus metallorum. Horum doses sequuntur: aquila rubra datur per se a gr. xij ad gr. xx. c. theriacâ; calomelanicus sublimati dulcis a ʒj ad ʒss; mercurij lunaris gr. vj. and gr. viij, vulgaris dosis gr. vj; clyssj (sive mercurij universalis) ʒj ad ʒss.

Contemporary with Turquet were Du Chesne and De Riviere, and in compliment to the former, we meet with a composition called after his name; Turquet, therefore, tells us, that the "Pilul. *Quercitani* constabat ex ʒj vel ʒss coch. minoris et gr. xij. merc. calomelan." This, moreover, was the celebrated pan-chymagogus *Quercitani*; and the mercurius dulcis mixed with scammony, noted by Mr. Gray in his communication of Dec. last, as spoken of by Riviere, is, in like manner, the *Calomelanos Turqueti*, given in his *Observationes*, and not in the *Praxis*; and also in the *Epistola apud Hildanum* of Doringius, noticed by Bonet, and so called after Sir Theodore. To prove that mercurius dulcis and calomel were one and the same preparation, I quote from the *Syntaxma*, p. 287, de *Hydrope*, a sentence of a case "datum Chelsej, Junij 26, 1651. *Elaterium commodè et feliciter cum merc. dulci jungitur; viz. ejus gr. ss vel ad summam gr. j cum. gr. xij. xv. vel xx merc. dulc. calomelan.*" Of the origin of the word various solutions have been offered. Quincy thinks the mercurius dulcis was called calomel after the sublimation had been frequently repeated; and so says the *London Pharmacopœia* for 1720. Gmelin's notion, from *μελι*, honey, alluded to by Mr. Gray, might do, as in *apomel*, *hydromel*, and *oxymel*, but, unfortunately, we have *calomelanicus sublimatus dulcis*, a repetition by no means necessary.

Dr. James gives *καλος*, good, and *μελας*, black, from its virtues and colour, and says, that "it formerly meant mercury well pounded with sulphur, and reduced to a black substance, but now calomel, in the common acceptation, means the mercurius dulcis six times sublimed." Dr. James is followed in this idea by Dr. Alston, Dr. Hooper, and many others.

The application of the name, as here specified, is, I think, sufficiently controverted by the fact, before observed, that the mercurius niger, or *æthiops*, was an invention of Turquet's, and is not mentioned until after the use of the word calomel had become frequent. They are also to be found in the same pages in different prescriptions, and could not be one preparation.

It is true, however, that from the trituration of the *oxymuriate* with the current mercury, a dark cineritious tint is produced, by which, before the sublimation, the latter part of the name might in some measure be accounted for; but when the complete process for producing the *submuriate* is gone through, that is, removed, the powder assumes a most beautiful white. Was the word, therefore, indicated by the different appearances of the two stages of preparation? and would the use of *καλος* and *μελας* so applied be a sufficient explanation of the term? I should conceive it would not. As a last resource then, what would be thought of the suggestion that the enigma might possibly be solved by *καλος*, good, or excellent, and *μήλης*, a searcher, from *μηλόω*, to search.

I observe Turquet himself never uses the word *calomelanos*, as

others do after him, but only *calomelas* and *calomelanicus*; the idea, therefore, will be less objectionable, inasmuch as it will not be necessary to account for the first of these terms, if it originate from an erroneous conception of Turquet's meaning, and one may suppose the second and third to be latinised in the same way, for example, as *panchymagogus*, from *παν*, all, *χυμος*, humour, and *αγω*, to draw, a conceit of Du Chesne's, not now minded.

The synonyms met with in the course of these inquiries are :

<i>Aquila alba,</i>	<i>Manna metallorum,</i>
<i>Aquila cælestis,</i>	<i>Mercurius dulcis,</i>
<i>Aquila mercurii,</i>	<i>Mercurius dulcis sublimatus,</i>
<i>Aquila mitigata,</i>	<i>Mercurius dulcis vulgaris,</i>
<i>Calomelas,</i>	<i>Mercurius dulc. officinalis,</i>
<i>Calomelanos,</i>	<i>Mercurius edulcoratus,</i>
<i>Calomelanos Turqueti,</i>	<i>Mercurius dulcificatus,</i>
<i>Calomelanicus subl. dulc.</i>	<i>Mercurius sublimat. dulcis,</i>
<i>Draco mitigatus,</i>	<i>Mercurius calomelanicus,</i>
<i>The dragon tamed,</i>	<i>♁ calomelanicus,</i>
<i>Dulcified mercury,</i>	<i>Mercurius loticus,</i>
<i>Dulcified sublimate,</i>	<i>Panacea mercurialis,</i>
<i>Manna cælestis,</i>	<i>Panchymagogus Quercitani.</i>
<i>Manna mercurii,</i>	

I am, Sir, &c.

W. R. WHATTON.

## ARTICLE VI.

*Astronomical Observations, 1821.*

By Col. Beaufoy, FRS.

*Bushey Heath, near Stanmore.*

Latitude  $51^{\circ} 37' 44.3''$  North. Longitude West in time  $1^{\circ} 20.93''$ .

Oct. 24. Emerision of Jupiter's third satellite.....	{ 10 <sup>h</sup> 34' 22'' }	Mean Time at Bushey.
Oct. 28. Emerision of Jupiter's first satellite.....	{ 10 35 43 }	Mean Time at Greenwich.
Oct. 28. Emerision of Jupiter's first satellite.....	{ 9 09 51 }	Mean Time at Bushey.
Nov. 4. Emerision of Jupiter's first satellite.....	{ 9 11 12 }	Mean Time at Greenwich.
Nov. 4. Emerision of Jupiter's first satellite.....	{ 11 05 19 }	Mean Time at Bushey.
Nov. 6. Emerision of Jupiter's first satellite.....	{ 11 06 40 }	Mean Time at Greenwich.
Nov. 6. Emerision of Jupiter's first satellite.....	{ 5 32 50 }	Mean Time at Bushey.
Nov. 6. Emerision of Jupiter's first satellite.....	{ 5 34 11 }	Mean Time at Greenwich.