

Holinshead, speaking of Edward the Confessor, the first English monarch of whom the power to heal was recorded, says "that he used to help those that were vexed with the disease commonly called the King's Evil, and left that virtue, as it were, a portion of the inheritance of his successors, the kings of this realm."

There is no record that the first four Norman monarchs attempted to heal the malady by touching; but the cures of Henry II. are attested by his chaplain, Peter de Blois. John of Gadesden, who was physician to Edward III., (about 1320,) in a work upon the scrofula, recommends that, after all other remedies have been tried and failed, as a last resource, the patient should repair to the Court in order to be touched by the King. Sir John Fortescue, Lord Chief Justice in the reign of Henry IV., and Chancellor to Henry V., represents the practice as having belonged to the kings of England from time immemorial.

Henry VII. was the first who established a particular form and ceremony, and introduced the practice of presenting to the sufferer at the same time a piece of gold, which was worn suspended from a ribbon around the neck.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, William Tooker published a work upon the subject of the cures effected by the royal hand, under the title of "*Charisma, sive Donum Sanationis.*" He was a witness to many cures where a perfect cure and restoration to health occurred from the Queen's touch, without any relapse or return of the original malady. There is an anecdote, taken from "*Charisma,*" of a Roman Catholic who lived in the time of Elizabeth, and, being very firm in his communion, was thrown into prison for his recusancy. There "he grew terribly afflicted with the King's Evil, and, having applied himself to physicians, and gone through a long fatigue of pain and expense without the least success, at last he was touched by the Queen and perfectly cured. And being asked how the matter stood with him, his answer was,