

macopœia so potent in producing suppurative action as bark, and of all forms the simple tincture is the most efficient, in full doses of two or three drachms diluted with water. By the term suppurative action, I understand the conversion or breaking down of a mass of lymph, itself quite incapable of removal by the absorbents, into fluid pus—in fact, into abscess.

There is no form of abscess more illustrative of these truths than the disease when situated in the mammary gland, on which I have so often spoken in this theatre. It appears in weakly constitutions following long and severe confinements with loss of blood, or a low and unnutritious diet, erroneously supposed to act as a preventive to inflammation, which, in truth, it actually fosters.

I speak of common *mammary abscess*, which appears at varying periods after confinement, in its first stage of deposit of lymph, when occupying a greater or less portion of the entire gland. Now let me assure you that we have no means within the circle of our present knowledge of obtaining the absorption of this solid mass or throwing it back on the constitution. Neither iodine, nor leeches, nor fomentations, nor purgatives, or other supposed remedies confidently proposed by young medical men, who, unfortunately observe little, and think less, are at all available to good. Yet you are aware that they are the agents which two-thirds of you at least would resort to, I am sure of this, for I am told so at every college examination. Pray understand the absolute impossibility of getting rid of this once deposited mass by the means alluded to, and which you are all prepared to adopt. I will not go so far as to say it may not be at least partially dissipated by absorption, but not by your means.

The proportion of the deposit that may be absorbed depends on the stage it has arrived at. If much advanced it will pass on almost entirely into suppuration. It has already entered on that of suppurative action, it will not remain stationary, and it must advance, but whether its progress towards its necessary consummation be slow or rapid, depends on your treatment. I say, in all abscess give bark freely, and generally wine, and the larger quantity of each that your patient can bear, the earlier will this solid mass break down in the centre and form a large abscess, which, when matured, and not before, should be freely laid open with the knife. If the deposit be recent, and the