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# Old Parr's last Will & Testament.

A most singular Document has recently been brought to light, written by the celebrated OLD PARR, who attained the almost incredible age of 152 years. It is written on parchment, and although upwards of 200 years old is in an excellent state of preservation. The following is an extract:—

*"These do certify yt ye undermentioned is ye method of preserving health, which by ye grace of Almighty God has caused me to attain to my miraculous old age. Albeit in my youth I was afflicted with ye Bloody Flux and King's Evil, but which all left me by using some dayes ye herbs as herein written."*

Here follows the receipt—

*"Moreover, I bequeath to my second Great Grandson ye method I employ for preparing ye medicinal. Given this day, and in ye 147th year of age."*

*"Winnington, Salop, Januarie 17th, 1630."*

**"Thomas Parr.**

This Engraving is from a painting by RUBENS, when at the age of 151. This singular character was the oldest man with one exception, in England ever produced; his biographer says, "the days of his youth, according to his own account, as a series of long and painful illness, but that by some secret means he cured himself, and was stronger than most men when he married his first wife, which he did at the advanced age of 88; he again married at the amazing age of 129; at 130 he used to thrash corn, and do any laborious work. He had seen ten Kings and Queens of England."

## THOMAS PARR,



**BORN 1483, DIED 1635.**

an eminent legal profession, being fully convinced of the power of his discovery to thoroughly eradicate disease and to prolong life.

Old Parr it is probable would have lived to a still greater age, but the Earl of Arundel, son of his old patron, took him to London to present him to King Charles I.; at court he fed high, and drank freely of the best wines, which was a great change to his former mode of living, and which brought on too great fullness of body, and obstructed the natural functions of the lungs. Parr on this occasion neglected his usual simple remedy, was treated for by the court physician, who did not understand his case, under whose unskilful treatment he died. His body was opened by the celebrated Dr. HARVEY, and was found to be in a most perfect state, a full detail of the appearances, which are very interesting, are published in the "Philosophical Transactions."

The Clergyman who holds the valuable document above-mentioned, has, by the assistance of a very able chemist and physician, caused the receipt of OLD PARR S to be made into Pills, and although only a few years have elapsed since the trial, an immense number of cures have been effected, more than one-half of which were considered incurable; and what is more remarkable, cases which possess the very opposites as regards outward symptoms: the balsamic and invigorating effects on the blood produced by these medicines is perfectly miraculous; many who have kept their beds for years have been so speedily reinvigorated with an infusion of new blood, and consequently of new life and strength, that their re-appearance amongst their fellow-beings, who had long given them up as incurable, is looked upon as the greatest of the many great wonders of this miraculous age. The whole of our system is built up from the blood—nerves, sinews, muscles, and even solid bone; this being the case, the grand object is to keep this precious fluid (the blood) in a pure and healthy state, for without this purity disease will show itself in some way or other thus diseases known by the names of—

Abscesses	Cholera Morbus	Epilepsy	Glandular swellings
Ague	Colic	Erysipelas	Head-ache
Aneurisms	Constipation of bowels	Faintings	Heart-burn
Asthmas	Consumptions	Foul breath	Hoarseness
Barrenness	Convulsions	Fevers of all kinds	Inflammation
Bilious complaints	Cramps	Female irregularities	Indigestion
Blotches on the skin	Croup	Fistulas	Jandice
Boils	Debility	Fits	Languor
Bowel complaints	Dropsy	Flux	Leprosy
Burns	Dimness of sight	Gout	Lethargy
Cancers	Dysentery	Gravel	Liver complaints

London: Published by Ingham & Coke 9 Crane Court Fleet St

Low spirits	Paralysis	Small pox	Tumours
Lumbago	Phlegm	Sore eyes	Ulcers
Measles	Piles	Sore throats	Veneral affections of all
Mordifications	Relaxations	Stones	all kinds
Nervous affections	Retention of urine	Strangury	Whooping coughs
Ossifications	Rheumatism	Strictures	White swellings
Pains in the bones	Ringworm	Thrush	Worms of every kind
Palpitations	Scald heads	Tic douloureux	Wens
Palsy	Scrofula, or kings evil	Trenblings	Weakness from whatever

Cases of the above description have all been cured simply by the use of PARR'S LIFE PILLS, thus showing that what has been considered different disorders, and requiring different treatment, all originated in the same cause, and can be cured by one uniform treatment. PARR'S LIFE PILLS, although powerful in conquering disease, yet are as pure and harmless as new milk, and may be administered with confidence to the invalid, however weakly from long ill health, who will soon enjoy those delightful symptoms of a return to strong health, viz., good appetite, sound sleep, and an increase of animal spirits.

To have produced a medicine so benign and mild in its operation and effects, and yet so effectual in searching out and curing disease of however long standing, exhibits on the part of Old Parr deep research and a thorough knowledge of his subject. Those who have been the instruments of restoring this long-lost secret to the world, feel confident when they make the assertion—that **SOME NEED DESPAIR**, that if only a fair trial be given, the result will be a restoration to health and happiness.

"Thus shall their humble labours merit praise,  
And future PARRS be blest with honor'd days."

## GENERAL AND PARTICULAR DIRECTIONS.

This fine herbal medicine is, if taken for the time and in the manner specified, warranted, on oath, to effect a cure.

The fine balsamic and invigorating powers it possesses are wonderful; a trial of a single dose will carry conviction that they are all that is necessary to invigorate the feeble, restore the invalid to health, and do good in all cases; no fear need be entertained, as they are quite harmless.

The heads of families should always have them in the house, as they may, with the greatest confidence be resorted to at any time or in any case.

Epsom Salts are sometimes had recourse to when a purgative is required, If the true nature of Epsom Salts, Seidlitz Powders, and all saline aperients were fully understood, they would never be resorted to—they occasion an excessive secretion and discharge of the natural moisture of the stomach and bowels, and this softens the contents of the stomach and bowels, and produces watery motions—the vessels after this unnatural draining are dried up, and a confined state of the bowels is produced, which if not carefully attended to, produces costiveness and all its train of evils: besides all salts are cold and gripping, to say nothing of the danger of mistaking oxalic acid for salts, which mistake has, in numerous instances, terminated fatally. Parr's Life Pills are now generally established as the most favourite Family Medicine.

**Indigestion, or Dyspepsia.**—It must be borne in mind, that indigestion is caused by a foul and bad state of the stomach, and a morbid action of the liver and biliary organs, and is the primary cause of more than half our disorders. These pills must be taken three pills at bed time, and two before breakfast, and continued for a month or six weeks; this will restore the stomach to a clean and healthy state, and a natural action of the liver.

**Gout, Rheumatism, Rheumatic Gout, &c.**—The exciting causes of these complaints may be traced to any general derangement of the system; frequent sources of their appearances are, Cold, Bruises, Sprains, free indulgence in wines, spirits, and highly-spiced foods; it is, however, an established fact, that in nine cases out of ten it is hereditary, thus proving, that before a cure can be effected a total change of the system must be produced. The powerfully invigorating and alterative properties of Parr's Life Pills, will, by a few weeks' perseverance, in taking 2 or 3 daily at dinner, infallibly produce this happy change. Many preparations advertised as specifics for these disorders, are merely opiates, which for a short time act on the nervous system, and thus deaden the sense of pain, but possess not the least power in removing the cause of the disorder, and which after the momentary relief afforded has passed, leaves the patient in a more helpless situation than ever. All opiates and stimulants cannot be too studiously avoided.

**Dropsy.**—This disease says Abernethy, is a "preternatural accumulation of serous or watery fluid in the cellular membrane, beneath the skin, or in different cavities of the body." The remote or occasional causes are various, hereditary or family predisposition; drinking cold liquids when the body is in a heated state, acute diseases of various kinds, as fevers, dysentery, &c., &c. These pills are justly esteemed as a powerful remedy for carrying off the collected water by stool, and by perspiration, one or two should be taken every hour until the bowels are freely unloaded. The patient may use as a drink, Cream of Tartar, made in the usual way.

**Sleep.**—Nothing has such a tendency to restore the system as sound and refreshing sleep; a popular writer beautifully remarks "All-healing sleep soon neutralizes the corroding caustic of care, and blunts even the barbed arrows of that marble-hearted fiend—Ingratitude;" and by a well-known poet it is described as "nature's sweet restorer," yet there are thousands who pass weary and sleepless nights without taking the trouble to ascertain the cause; many resort to opiates, and thus aggravate the evil. These pills will be found to soothe the irritated state of the nerves, and soon to bring the whole system into that cool and healthy state as will induce sound and refreshing sleep, and thus fit the mind and body for the varied duties of life, which henceforward will be performed with ease and satisfaction.

**Costiveness.**—Habitual costiveness is, if not removed in time, a cause of more than half the disorders, and pains to which humanity is subject; the medicines too generally had recourse to, do more harm than good, as they weaken the peristaltic action of the bowels, and thus aggravate, instead of removing the complaint. Let it be remembered, that costiveness is CONSTITUTIONAL, and therefore it is absurd to suppose a few doses of a purgative medicine can remove it: an entire change of the system must be gradually produced by taking steadily two or three pills daily, for three, four, or even six Months.

**Wind.**—This disagreeable and troublesome complaint is caused by an unhealthy state of the stomach; food, however good, especially vegetables remain too long in the stomach; the gastric juices are insufficient, or are too weak to perform their offices; this good food, therefore, becomes putrid, and generates wind; besides this, the breath is very offensive. Two, three, or four pills at night for a week will effect a cure.

**Gravel, Stone, and Urinary Affections.**—Take three every night, and two in the morning.

**Nervous Affections.**—This class embraces a wide range, and the unhappy sufferers endure more anguish and receive less pity from those around them, than from any other class of disorders; this in some measure may be accounted for simply because the symptoms are not so strongly defined as in other disorders; indeed in some cases no symptoms are recognized, and therefore the hasty conclusion is jumped at that all the ailments of the patient are imaginary, and not worthy of notice. There is no class of diseases requiring more kindness and care. 2 or 3 of these invaluable pills will speedily reanimate the spirits, improve the digestive powers, and restore the whole nervous system to a happy and natural state. In all varieties of this disorder, bleeding, leeching, or any other mode of abstracting blood must be by no means employed.

**Liver Complaints, Jaundice, &c.**—The whole host of disorders denominated Liver Complaints may be attributed to cold—anxiety—want of exercise—spirituous drinks—excessive use of mercury, &c.; these causes act powerfully on the Liver, and obstruct the due performance of its natural functions and secretions, and the healthy action of the liver is of such vital importance to the general health, that these interruptions if not attended to, too often terminate fatally. Should Jaundice occur it serves to remove all doubts with respect to this disease. Two or three pills every night, for a few weeks will restore the patient to perfect health. The causes of these diseases are specified above, which as a matter of course, should be carefully avoided.

**Bilious Disorders.**—There is nothing can form so useful and efficient an aperient as the Bile itself, which has been admirably adapted by nature to supply the bowels in a state of health with the requisite stimulus; but when this has from disease become either deficient in quantity, or deteriorated in quality, Medicines are justly entitled to consideration as the most effectual means of restoring a healthy secretion. These pills are all-powerful in removing the distressing symptoms attendant upon bilious obstructions, disordered state of the stomach and bowels—such as pains in the head, dimness of sight, sickness, oppression of the chest, lowness of spirits, with great apprehension of imaginary danger, and fear of sudden death, disinclination for active employment, and various other symptoms at all times troublesome, and not infrequently dangerous. By taking two or three doses of these pills, the symptoms above described are speedily removed, an unusual degree of serenity pervades the mind, the stomach and bowels are restored to their natural functions, and returning vigour is the result; by taking one, two, or three pills at bed-time, and repeated as occasion may render necessary. They operate pleasantly, without producing that irritation common to most advertised and powerful medicines, which too often augment the maladies they were intended to remove.

**Coughs, Colds, Asthmas.**—Three or four pills every night at bed-time they will remove the congealed phlegm in the throat which produces that unpleasant tickling sensation, which provokes cough, and destroys rest; sound sleep will be enjoyed after a few doses.

**Pregnancy.**—This period is one of vital importance, not only to the mother, but to the expected offspring; the violent morning sickness which some endure, is, in consequence of the violent retching, very dangerous; this, with all the other ailments experienced at this critical period, will speedily be removed by taking three pills at bed-time, after a very light supper.

**Fimples, Blotches, redness of the nose, and all skin diseases, as scurvy, scorbutic eruptions, itch, inflammatory affections, ulcers, scrofula—persevere with two at night and two in the morning; time and perseverance will effect a cure. All outward sores should be kept particularly clean; the application of a little cooling ointment, made of equal portions of olive oil and bees' wax, will be found of great service.**

**Female Complaints.**—Head-ache, nervous affections, all irregularities of the system, depression of spirits, foul breath, sallow complexion, &c.—take two or three pills at bed-time, regularly for a week, after which, a few as occasion may require, which will soon restore a healthful and juvenile bloom to the complexion.

**Barrenness.**—Time and perseverance will effect the desired object, unless some physical malformation renders it impossible. Old Parr preserved his virility till he was 130 years of age, and many cases might be cited when all hopes of having children had gone, that by taking two or three every other day have completely changed the system and rendered it productive.

**Aged People,** by taking two, three, or four pills occasionally, will be quite invigorated by the fine balsamic properties of this medicine; they prevent unpleasant accumulation.

**Children.**—Infants, however tender their age, may have half a pill mixed with a little conserve of honey; if three or four months old, one pill will be required: this excellent medicine has been the salvation of hundreds of children, during teething, croup, hooping cough, measles, and other disorders, which beset this tender age.

**Apoplexy.**—Names are frequently given at random by the ignorant. Apoplexy, if duly examined, may be traced as only aggravated lethargy, as lethargy is drowsiness. The veins being filled with corrupt, stagnant humours, diminish their capacities inwardly, and prevent the blood from supplying and nourishing the brain. Prevention is every thing, those who are the least disposed to apoplexy, should not fail to take these pills occasionally, they will certainly prevent the disease.

**Spring and Fall.**—The spring and fall of the leaf has been always remarked as the periods when disease, if it be lurking in the system, is sure to show itself. The coldness of winter renders torpid the acrimonious fluids of the body, and in this state of inactivity, their evil to the system is not perceived, but at the spring these are roused, and if not checked, mix up and circulate with the blood, and thus the whole system is contaminated. These pills taken three every night for two or three weeks will rid the body of all that is noxious, and produce health and comfort. Persons troubled with scorbutic affections are strongly advised to try them at this time of the year; in a few days they will see the powerful clearing properties they possess, and thus be induced to continue them. Recently, a remarkable case where a gentleman was so dreadfully afflicted with a scorbutic affection as to be quite unsightly, by a patient undeviating course of these pills, his system has undergone a thorough change, and his skin is now as fair and sound as of a healthy child. The fall of the leaf also is a time when the system, relaxed by the heat of summer, would be highly benefited by a few weeks' course of the pills, two or three every night; these will clear off sour and bad humours which heat invariably generates. The liver, which generally gets sluggish, will be put into healthy

action, and thus be able to perform the functions allotted to it; the body altogether will be reinvigorated and prepared to undergo whatever change the winter may bring on.

**Travellers.**—Commercial travellers are, of all men, the most social; their profession often places them in situations where they are obliged to freely patronize the science of gastronomy, and to yield to the seductive allurements of the "rosy god"; no harm from these indulgences would ever be felt if they would take two or three of these fine stomachic pills at night, which would without the slightest disturbance or pain clear off all acidities, which would otherwise remain in the stomach and bowels, and produce feverish head-ache, and all other unpleasant symptoms. On account of their mild and effective operation they are now more used by all travellers than any other medicines are. For sea voyages they are acknowledged to be all that is required, preventing all scurvy, &c.

**Diet.**—Next to the important part which PARR'S LIFE PILLS perform in assisting and regulating Nature in her varied operations—diet is worthy of the deepest consideration: it is very clear that man is constituted in such a manner as fits him to subsist on animal or vegetable food; reason therefore dictates that he should, when it is in his power, make use of this mixed aliment, taking care duly to regulate the proportion of each. The bland, invigorating, and life-prolonging power of this miraculous medicine, rightly named "Life Pills," are at all times of service to assist nature in her varied operations, but in none are they of greater use than in promoting a natural secretion of the juices of the stomach and biliary organs, without which, the whole system soon becomes deranged, and will if not immediately checked, induce a train of evils, which will hasten to premature decay.—Never forget that it is far easier and better to prevent than cure.

**General Remarks.**—In no one instance has this valuable medicine failed, when duly persevered in, to afford relief, even in the oldest and most inveterate cases; if any, from want of confidence or fickleness, discontinue their use too early, and thus leave unaccomplished what they desired, are they to attribute the fault to the medicine?—certainly not; but to their own love of change and want of patience. Celsus has justly remarked that "Diseases slow in their progress, go off very slowly; and that time is necessary to remove the deeply-rooted evils which time has occasioned." This should be borne in mind by all suffering from chronic disease deeply rooted in the system, to impart patience and perseverance in the use of this medicine, that where the disorder seems obstinate, they may rest fully assured that time will effect a perfect and radical cure. It seems needless to specify how they are to be taken in all cases; the patient will soon determine how they suit him; they may rest assured that the plan which is most agreeable to them is also best. Moderate exercise and abstinence from spirituous liquors is recommended to hasten the recovery of the patient. No restriction is required as to food; Parr's maxim was, "eat when you are hungry and drink when you are dry." The patient need be under no fear of catching cold. It is of consequence that the patient should have in this changeable climate, plenty of warm and clean clothing. Old Parr carefully provided himself against changes in the weather, with good clothing.

### IMPORTANT CAUTION!

It has been discovered, that vile attempts have been made to substitute base imitations for the genuine Medicine; in proof of which, attention is directed to the following advertisement, which appeared in the *Nottingham Review*, of Jan. 22, 1841.—

#### PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

I, THE undersigned JOHN CUBLEY, late of Derby, but now of the Town of Nottingham, heretofore a Schoolmaster, but now out of employment, do hereby acknowledge that I have lately got compounded some pills, which I have sold to different persons as "OLD PARR'S LIFE PILLS," by representing that I had purchased the Recipe for that celebrated medicine: such representation was, however, entirely false, and the proprietors of the genuine Old Parr's Life Pills have commenced legal proceedings against me for the above fraud. But I having expressed sorrow and contrition, and given up to them the names and addresses of each person to whom I have sold any of such pills, as well as of the druggist who compounded the same, and agreed to make this public apology, and pay all expenses, including this advertisement, the proprietors have kindly consented to forego such legal proceedings. I do, therefore, declare my shame and sorrow for having committed such an imposition on the public, and such a fraud on the proprietors of Old Parr's Life Pills, and further express my acknowledgments for their lenity. JOHN CUBLEY.

Dated this 28th day of January, 1841.

Witness—H. B. CAMPBELL, Solicitor, Nottingham.

In order, therefore, to protect the Public from such imitations, the Hon. Commissioners of Stamps have ordered "PARR'S LIFE PILLS," to be engraved on the Government Stamp attached to each box, without which none are genuine, and to imitate which is Felony.

Sold by most respectable Medicine Vendors in Town and Country; to be had wholesale of EDWARDS, 67, St. Paul's, London, in Boxes, Price 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and family boxes 11s. each. Full directions are given with each box.

The following case of cure is inserted to prove the virtues of Parr's Life Pills for a disease which the faculty call incurable. After reading this, no one will despair, "while there is life there is hope."

"To the Proprietors of Parr's Life Pills.

"Gentlemen,  
"I feel it a duty I owe to you and to the public at large, to acknowledge the most important benefit I have received from OLD PARR'S PILLS. I was for nine years a soldier in the 52nd Regiment of Foot, and was discharged in October, 1839, in consequence of ill health, (being deemed consumptive) after having the best advice Her Majesty's Service afforded. I returned to my native town, feeling that my days could not be long on earth. But by what almost appears an interposition of providence, my attention was directed to OLD PARR'S PILLS, and by taking only two 2s. 9d. boxes, I was completely cured, and am thus a living monument to the good effected by this most valuable Medicine. Within the last few days I have been on a visit to some of my friends in a neighbouring Village, where I was told that "it was like seeing one risen from the dead, to see me walking through their streets." I have recommended them to my neighbours, and many of them have experienced very great benefit from their use.

"I am, Gentlemen, your most Obedient Servant,

"Witness—JAMES BURGESS, Bookseller, Hinckley."

"JOHN OSBORNE."