

From a handwritten letter from Carroll Bates to Roswell Bates

Potsdam, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1859

Dear Father,

The man whom you saw with me at Stockholm sick of fever has been very sick much worse and now is just getting well cannot sit up more than half an hour at a time. That woman Mrs. Jennings is much better. The Irishman with the dropsy is nearly well. The treatment has been Tinc. of Iron, iodide of Potass, Eluterium, Cream of Tartar, Julup, Buchu, Spts Nitre, Digitalis squall [?] and calomel, Gin & berries, Wine of colchicum & Cream of Tartar which last two combined have done far the most towards drawing off the water.

You will remember Doct. Goss settled that Malpractice case by paying \$200.00 The man has now sued Doct. McChesney for Malpractice in advising the seaton which was passed through the cyst. Doct. McC will want your help. Says "he would give a great deal to see your face."

Asked me to write to you about the case and get your opinion of the practice. Did you ever introduce a seaton in such a case? Etc. etc. I hope the Doctor will not get beat. He is not able to pay such an unjust demand.

Two weeks ago the Poor Master of Norfolk sent me a man with Scrotal hernia, as Docts. Floyd & Thompson called it, to fit a truss for him, he had worn a truss sometime by these doctors advice but it hurt him and caused much pain. I examined the man and found an engorged testicle with hydrocele. Sent word to the Poor Master what the disease was and that possibly the engorgement might prove to be cancerous (Scirrhus) and if so the man would have to loose [sic] his testicle. The case is now in my hands. I let out the water that I could more carefully examine the testicle and found it about two thirds as large as a goose egg, irregular in form and nodule very hard, could not distinguish the epididymis. The cord is entirely healthy. Some pain in testis but more up in the body and a dragging from the back. But the man has not suffered much pain except from the weight of the organ. The testes was somewhat swollen [sic] several years ago but recovered. Has been a little troublesome about 3 years, but more especially within three months.

I have treated him one weak [sic], Perfect rest, calomel, Dover & antimony three times a day and oin't. of iodide of Potassal and Mercurial oin't rubbed over the scrotum, {???}. I think the testis has diminished a very little. What is your experience in such cases, Will I cure it or will I have to castrate? The case is good both as to pay (county poor) and for my reputation it having been called hernia.

I have been very busy since you was here. While most of our Doctors are complaining of its being so distressingly healthy.

The roads are good. My health is very good, Charlotte is well and we have much for which to be thankful.

I am treating two cases of gonorrhoea and three cases of Syphilis primary. The chancres [?] in two cases were about a large as half a small pea and a week old when I first saw them, I have cauterized them thoroughly but am giving no medicine except to keep the bowels regular and, diet. The chancres in the third case are too large and extensive to cauterize. I wash with Black wash and give Mercury. Can you give me any advice about these cases? I have treated many cases of gonorrhoea but not much Syphilis.

Write soon,

Carroll