3 The Late Middle English Version of *Practica Urinarum* in London, Wellcome Library, MS 537 (ff. 15r-40v)¹

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1. Introduction to the edition

Mediaeval uroscopic treatises have been traditionally underestimated in the last decades, to such an extent that they can be safely deemed to be the Cinderella of the subject categories of Medicine, especially if compared with Herbals, Remedybooks and Leechbooks (Keiser 1998: 3661; Calle-Martín 2012: 243). Using Voigts and Kurtz’s electronic database of *Scientific and Medical Writings in Old and Middle English* (2000), Tavormina has found that the subject field ‘Urine and Uroscopy’ contains 408 texts, representing “the fourth largest in the entire database, preceded only by ‘Recipes’, ‘Alchemy’, and ‘Herbs and Herbal Medicine’” (Tavormina 2005: 40; 61). Unfortunately, however, many of these uroscopic treatises are hitherto unedited and, more importantly, they are still waiting for a patient scholar to investigate the textual tradition of the extant witnesses (Tavormina 2009: S33–S41). According to Tavormina, there is a scholarly gap in the field and further research is needed in the following three areas: a) the publication of more uroscopic treatises in the vernacular; b) the complete taxonomy of the texts in Middle English; and c) the relations of these texts to their Latin/English sources (2005: 41).

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Our analysis then falls within Tavormina’s first area and contains the semi-diplomatic edition of the Middle English version of * Practica Urinarum*, a small uroscopic treatise instructing the mediaeval practitioner on the examination of urine in the light of the following three elements: substance, colour and sediment. The text also reports what must be considered for the treatment of the patient, i.e. his/her age, duration of illness, the time of greatest suffering together with “further questions regarding the time of the specimen and the diet of the patient” (Keiser 1998: 3662). As far as we have been able to investigate, the text has been preserved (completely or partially) in seven different witnesses (Keiser 1998: 3852):

- London, Wellcome Library, MS Wellcome 537, ff. 15r-40v (c. 1460).
- Cambridge University Library, Gonville and Caius College, MS 336/825, ff. 132v-136r (1480–1500).
- Cambridge University Library, Trinity College, MS O.1.77, ff. 21r-29v (c. 1460).
- British Library, MS Sloane 2320, ff. 4r-9v (c. 1458).
- British Library, MS Sloane 3566, ff. 24r-33v (1450–1475).
- Boston Medical Library, MS Countway 19, ff. 14r-18v (c. 1460).
- Yale University Library, Takamiya 33, ff. 24v-37r (1480–1500).

MS Wellcome 537 has been used as the source text for the present edition, which is hitherto unedited. With the title *Miscellanea Medica VII*, MS Wellcome 537 is a relatively small volume written in octavo size, measuring approximately 14.5 x 11 cm. The volume houses a collection of eight anonymous treatises, both in English and Latin, on medical astrology, weather prediction, uroscopy together with a collection of medical receipts. The following collation relies on Moorat’s accurate description of the volume (1962: 394–395):

- [Anon.] Canon pro medicinis dandies (in Latin), ff. 6r-12r.
- [Anon.] Menses per circulum anni (in Latin), ff. 12v-14v.
- [Anon.] Seeing of Urines (in English), ff. 15r-40v.
- [Anon.] Medical receipts (in English), ff. 40v-46v.
- [Anon.] Practica medicinae (in English), ff. 48r-310v.
- [Anon.] Table of Golden Numbers and Dominican Letters, ff. 315v-318v.
- [Anon.] De cursu lunae (in Latin), ff. 318v-325r.
- [Anon.] On the Changes of the Moon (in English), ff. 326r-333r.

Even though the volume had been previously dated by Francis Douce (1757–1834) to the first half of the 15th century, Moorat reports that
there is an autograph letter to Dr Joseph Frank Payne (1840–1910) from Thomas Wright (1810–1877), proposing to date the composition of the volume to the year 1462 because “the whole of it is written in the hand which is common enough throughout the reigns of Henry VI and Edward IV” (Moorat 1962: 395). The palaeographic analysis of the scribe’s handwriting confirms it to be a hybrid script composed in the second half of the 15th century in the light of the overwhelming preference for the Secretary script, with just sporadic tinges of the Anglicana (Petti 1977: 15). Fig. 1 below reproduces the inventory of letterforms used in MS Wellcome 537 where the letters have been numbered for reference purposes. As shown, the Secretary script is witnessed in the use of distinctive letterforms, which sharply differ from the conventional cursive hand of the Anglicana. Among others, the following stand out: the single-lobed <a> with a pointed head (1); two-lobed <b> (2); the letter <d> with a looped stem (4); the letter <k> with its characteristic right-arced headstroke (10); the letter <l> with a lobed arm (11) (Clemens and Graham 2007: 167–168); the right-shouldered <r>, footed and sitting on the script line (17); the heavy ascender of the letter <v> (24); and the letter <w> already resembling a double v (25).

Already in the second half of the 15th century, “the two competing Gothic cursiva scripts often seem so intermingled as to have produced a new cursive book script, typically Secretary in ductus, but using Anglicana round e and sigma-shaped s as cursive features and liable to adopt other Anglicana letterforms” (Roberts 2005: 212–213; Derolez 2003: 162; also Denholm-Young 1954: 28–29; Hector 1966: 58). In this fashion, the Anglicana script is limited to the use of the following four distinctive letters in MS Wellcome 537: the round <e> (5);
the two-compartment figure 8 form of <g> (7); the sigma-like <s> (20); and the letter <w> consisting of a double <l> together with a 3 (26).

The principles of a semi-diplomatic edition have been adopted in the present edition so as to render an accurate reproduction of the source text, complying with the following guidelines, partially adapted from Clemens and Graham (2007: 75–81; also Calle-Martín and Miranda-García 2012: 67–68): a) the spelling, capitalization and punctuation of the original have been retained; b) abbreviations have been expanded with the supplied letter(s) italicized; c) insertions, both of single letters and words, have been inserted in their proper sequence in the body of the text; d) word separation has been normalized, regardless of whether words are run together without separation or whether a gap is left within a word; and e) lineation and paragraphing have been disregarded for reasons of space.

2. The Middle English text

{f. 15r} . ihc .

¶ here begynneþ þe practise of the sighte of vrynes . HIt is to vndur-
stonde þat who so wille loke an vryn : him behoueþ to considere þre
þinges / Firste he muste aske þe age of þe pacient or seke body . and
how longe his sekenes haþ holde him . and what tyme hit toke him
furste . and whiche tyme of þe day or of þe nyȝt hit greueþ him moste
. Also if þe vryn were made and brouȝte in a clene vessel . and þat
hit were þe furste water after mydnyȝt Also þe dyete of þe seke body
{f. 15v} wheþer he haþ vsed highe metis and drinkes : or ellis lowe . Also
hit behoueþ to consider þe substauunce of þe vryn wheþer hit be þicke
or þyme . and þe qualite wheþer it be highe or lowe of coloure . and þe
quantite wheþer it be litil or moche . and þe contentis . and þe cloudes
þat ben þeryn . And in whiche regioun þey ben yn : and if þey be oueral
in liche colourid . or if hit be more remise in oon regioun : þan in anoþer
. or if hit be of twoo colouris : or if hit be oueral in liche colourid .
boþe intencioun and remissiou . {f. 16r} Than hit behoueþ principally
to wyten by consideracioun of þe vryn and by askyngr also what þe
maledy is . wheþer hit be a feuer or anoþer maledy . and wheþer hit be

2 Superior letters are lowered to the line, as in w > with or þ > þe. Superfluous brevigraphs and otiose flourishes, in turn, have been disregarded.
3 Insertions above the line and in the margin have been noted with the use of slashes (/\) and double slashes (//\), respectively.
4 (c) Wellcome Library (London) as the owner of the manuscript.
i
þe begyynnynge . or elles i[n] state . or i[n] þe ending . Also when þu hast
vndirstonnde . al þis . and þe vrynge of þe pacient . is brouȝte to þe . þu
muste considere þre þingis in everie vryn . þat is to sey . þe substaunce .
þe coloure and þe sedymen . Oon is cause of colour . anoþer is cause of
substaunce . þe þirde is cause of sedymen . Now in everie man is body
is foure qualitees . hete and colde . moyste and drye . /hete/ is cause of colours . Drynes and moystenes : þey ben
cause of substau[nc]e . drynes is cause of þyn substau[nc]e . moystenes is cause of þycke substau[nc]e . As þus .
If þe vryn of þe pacient be rede and þycke . it signifiþ þat blode haþ
more dominacioun þan an oþer . Why : For blode is hote and moyste .
If it be rede and þynne hit sheweþ þat coler hath dominacioun . For
why . colere is hote and drye . If þe vryn appere white and þycke : hit
betokeneþ fleume . For fleume is colde and moyste . If þe vryn shewe white and þynne . it signifiþ malencoly . For malencoly is colde
and drye . When þu hast considerid wel as þis : þen beholde þe diuersite
of colours of þe vryns and þe cercles of hem . whiche now folowen .

Karapos . is an vryn in colour : like to kamellis flesshe . whiche is a
colour white douny . and in substaunce hit is þyn . The whiche sweweþ and
signifiþ þe droppesy . or a wynde vndur þe syde . þe stone . þe hede
ache . a posteme in þe longis . or a [f. 16v] or elles a fleume . ¶ Plumbea : is
an vryn in colour lyke to lede . whiche signifiþ þe falling yuel . or mem-
bris broken . or a palsy . or a feuer tertian . or difficulte of water making .
or womman is floures ¶ Pallida : is an vryn /in colour/ like to flesshe
halfe soden þe iuse not putte oute . which signifiþ a feble hede . or a
feuer . or a colde stomake . or a brennyng vndur þe lyuer . or wastyng
of longes . ¶ Plumbea : is an vryn in colour [f. 17r] like to lede . as
hit written tofore of colour pallida ¶ Viridis : is an vryn þat is grene in
colour like to þe caule leaf . whiche betokeneþ wasting of kynde/liȝt hete .
þe morfu . or þe hede ache . or þe iaundyse . or chasining of þe luyer and
wasting of kyndeli hete . ¶ Inopos : is an vryn in colour like to a man is
lyuer . or to olde rede wyne ytourneyd into blackenes . whiche betokeneþ
þat þe galle bremeþ þe lyuer . and þerof commaþ þe iaundyse . or hit
signifiþ a veye roten /or broken/ of the /r eynes . or to myche delynge
wiþ a womman . [f. 18v] ¶ Subpalida : is an vryn in colour like to iuse
of flesshe halfe soden . and þe iuse yputte oute . The whiche betokeneþ
a posteme in þe riȝt syde . or a tysike . or hardenes to make water ¶

\footnote{Probably an erroneous form for <sheweþ>. The e-MED notes a similar form (ie. swewe) which is identified as an error.}
Rubicunda: is an vryn in colour like to a flaume of fyre sentte oute. The whiche betokeneþ a feuere acute and sharpe. and vndursette at þe herte.  
Subcitrina: is an vryn in colour like to þe iuse of an appel orynge. whiche betokeneþ a feuere agu. and þe same as doþe cytryne.  
Subrufa: is an vryn in colour like to golde and silver medelid togedir. whiche betokeneþ a feuere tertiun. or a posteme vndur þe ribbes. or þe goute. or a tisike.  
Subricunda: is an vryn in colour like to safron belyng e. whi{f. 20r}che betokeneþ a feuere of corrupte blode /in þe veynes/. or a veyne broken in þe backe. or ellis þe floures of wommen.  
Rufa: is an vryn in colour like to pured golde. The whiche betokeneþ þe emoyraudis. or þe dropesy. or passing of floures.  
Kaynos: is an vryn in colour like to blacke wyne or to blacke water. And hit betokeneþ a crampe in þe veyne of þe herte. or a posteme in þe stomake. or ellis þe goute.  
Lactea: is an vryn in colour {f. 20v} like to whey of coughe mylke and hit betokeneþ deþe if þe paciente slepe not. or ellis a frenesy. or a longe /during/ feuer.  
Subuiridis: is an vryn in colour clere as þe welle water. And hit betokeneþ þe same as doþe þe rede coloure. but not so perfitle.  
Alba: is an vryn in colour as clere welle water. and hit betokeneþ wasting of þe splene or þe dropesy. or þe stone and greuauunce in pissyn. or pissing ageyne wille. or þe emoyraudis. or stopping of floures. cha[f. 21r]fyng of þe lyuer. wodenes. and in axces and feuer: hit is deþe.  
Nigra: is an vryn in colour like to blacke ynke or to a brent horne. And hit betokeneþ a feuere quarteyn. or a blacke iaundise. peryl of deþe in shorte tyme.  
Glauc a: is an vryn like in colour to a shenyng horne. And hit betokeneþ a posteme in þe riȝt side. or a feuere etike. or /a\ bladder on the longis.  
Her endeþ þe significacioun of /þe colours\ of vryns. Now we wille {f. 21v} declare and telle of þe Cercles of vryns and begynne at þe hede of man A Cercle þat is grete shevweþ þe feblenes of þe hede and moche
akynge þeryn. ¶ A. cercle þat is white and þycke. signifieþ þat fleume hæ duracioun in þe hynder parte of þe hede. for þat is his resting place. ¶ A. cercle white and clere. signifieþ þat malencoly hæ duracioun on þe lifte syde of þe hede. for þat is his sete. ¶ A. cercle þat is rede and þicke. signifieþ þat blode hæ duracioun in þe forehede. for þat is his sete. ¶ A. cercle rede and clere : signifieþ þat colere hæ duracioun.

[f. 22r] in þe riȝte side of þe hede. for þat is his restyng place. ¶ If a cercle shewe or appare grene : hit betokeneþ grete ache in þe hede. and vnder þe riȝte side. ¶ If a cercle appare white : hit signifieþ grete ache in þe hynder parte of þe hede. for þat is his resti

ng place. ¶ A. cercle white and cler. signifieþ þat malencoly haþ duracioun. ¶ If a cercle appere white : hit signifieþ grete ache in þe riȝte side of þe hede. for þat is his restyng place. ¶ If a cercle appere red. signifieþ þat colere haþ duracioun. ¶ If a cercle shewe or appere græne : hit betokeneþ græte ache in þe hede. and vnder þe riȝte side. ¶ If a cercle appere white : hit signifieþ grete ache in þe hynder party of þe hede. ¶ If a cercle appare red. signifieþ þat colere haþ duracioun. ¶ If þer be i

n a cercle small bollis as þey wer of reyne water : hit betokeneþ a wynde in þe hede. risyng oute of þe stomake. ¶ If þer be i

n a cercle mottis as bein in þe sunne hit betokeneþ a reume of þe hede. or þe pose. or deffenes. or heuynes. ¶ If þer appere i

n a cercle a tree : hit betokeneþ a posteme in þe bladder. or ellis in þe lyeuer. ¶ If þer appere in a cercle fattenes : hit signifieþ a feuer. or ellis streittenes at /þe\ breste. ¶ If blode appere in a cercle : hit betokeneþ breking of a veyne in þe backe. If þe /vryn\ appere blac[f. 23r]ke : hit betokeneþ deþe. which is causid of þe blacke iaundise. or ellis of þe feuere quarteryn. ¶ Water ful of smale þredis : betokeneþ dry complexion. or ellis a posteme in þe riȝte side. ¶ White grauel appering in a cercle signifieþ þe stone in þe bladder. Rede grauel : betokeneþ ache in þe reynes. and also a spice of þe stone. Blace grauel betokeneþ ache in þe rigge bitwine þe kidneys. Shales as hit were of fysshes betokeneþ stopping of floures. and a scabbe in þe matrice.

¶ here endiþ þe ciercles {f. 23v} of vryns with her significacions and now foloweþ þe contentes of hem. and þe passing excesse of hem. and þe oþer declaryng of which ben gode and holsum and commendable. Eche vryn is clensing of blode. as hit is propurly prouded of two þinges significatifte. or forsoþe hit signifieþ of þe lyeuer and of þe veynes. or of þe bladder and of þe reynes. Of oþer þinges hit is yppirliche significatife. ¶ But in vryn lokeþ and beholdeþ diuereþ þinges. þat is to wite. substaunce. colours. regions. and þe contentes. Anoþer is because {f. 24r} of substaunce. Anoþer is because of colour. Anoþer is becaus6 of residens. Now in euery man is body is foure qualitees. hete and colde. moystenes and drynes. hete and colde : þey ben cause of

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6 An erroneous form instead of <because>. The scribe does not provide the full form of this conjunction probably because the word is broken at the end of the line.
coloures. Drynes and moystenes: they ben cause of substaunce. As thus hete is cause of rede coloure. Colde: is cause of white coloure. Drines: is cause of þyn substaunce. moystenes: is cause of ðicke substaunce.

An vryn is deuided in foure parties. þe one party: is þe cer{f. 24v} cle. þe secunde: is þe body of þe eyre. þe þridde: is perforacioun. þe fourde: is þe grounde. ¶ By þe cerle: is seen þe sekenes of þe hede and of þe brayne. By þe body: alle yuelis and sekenes of þe spirituel membris and of þe stomake. By perforacioun: sekenes of þe lyuer and of þe splene. By þe grounde: we shewn accidentes of þe reynes and of þe matrice. and of þe priu membris. ¶ An vryn haþ þre regions. Þat is. þe þepereste bygynþ fro þe grounde of þe vrynal and dureþ {f. 25r} by þe space of two fyngers. þe myddel regioun begynþ þer as þe þeper endeþ: and dureþ to þe cerle. þe whiche cerle is þe ouermeste regioun. And when þer is in þe ouermeste regioun as fome: hit signifiþ ventosite bulnyng vppe in þe veynes of þe vryn. or ellis inflacioun. or ober vices or sekenes of þe lungis. ¶ If so be þat þe cerle be þicke: hit signifiþ to moche replecioun in þe hede and doloure or ache. A white cloude appering in þe myddel regioun: in hole men is an yuel signe. but in men þat haue þe feue{f. 25v}res. hit signifiþ digestiou of þe mater and of þe yuel. In þe ouermeste regioun if þer appere grauel or littil stones. hit sheweþ /þat/ þe paciente is ful of littil stones. and is greued with þe vice of þe stone. Oberwhile þe residence is blacke: if þat falle in a feuer quarteyn. or for kyndely hete yquenchid: hit is a signe of deþe. If it be for expusioun of Venomous mater whiche is putte oute by þe vryn: hit is a token of helþe. ¶ If an vryn be white at morwe and browne after mete: hit {f. 26r} signifiþ gode helþe and welle. ¶ If an vryn be fatte and trobely: hit betokenþ water in þe bowwelis. ¶ If an vryn be riȝt rede and clere. hit signifiþ a brennyng feuer. ¶ If an vryn be oueral rede and þicke with a blacke cerle: hit signifiþ grete sekenes and feruent. and but if he swete: hit is deþe. ¶ If an vryn be white and þymme and a littil dummy: hit signifiþ a coldenes in þe body. ¶ If an vryn be dymme and sumdel rede. with a blacke cerle: hit signifiþ a bade stomake. do medisyne. ¶ If an vryn be clere and haþ a blacke cerle: hit is deþe. ¶ If an vryn be þymme. and grene abouen: hit signifiþ a colde complexiou. and if in þe casting be blode abouen: it is a tisike. ¶ If an vryn be dymme and blake abouen. or vndir þe cerle in þe casting: hit betokenþ lust of kynde. and he wolde haue a woman to pley. ¶ If an vryn be þicke and trobely like horse pisse. hit signifiþ grete hede ache. do to him medisyne. {f. 27r} ¶ If an vryn be fatte in þe bottym. and white in þe myddes. and rede abouen. hit
is a feuere quarteyn. ¶ If an vryn appere flesshe and haue dreystis in þe bottum as shauynge; hit is a dropsy. Also if hit be as whey aboue. and clere in þe myddis. and shadweþ beneþe; hit is þe colde dropsy. ¶ If an vryn haue dreystes in þe bottum like gobettis of coles and ben departid asounder and not to grete; hit signifieþ a worme in þe body. do medisine / ¶ If an vryn haue blacke contenites and smale as mottes stonding in {f. 27v} þe myddes of þe water. hit signifieþ a posteme in þe side. ¶ If an vryn haue in þe bottum like gobett is of coles and been depaird asouñ and not to grete; hit signifieþ a worme in þe body. do medisine / ¶ If an vryn haue blacke coñtentes and smale as mottes stondiþ in þe myddes of þe water. hit signifieþ a posteme in þe side. ¶ If an vryn haue in þe bottum like gobett is of flesshe of smale shawynþ at is a token of stoppiþ of þe reynes and also of þe pipis of þe lyuer. do to him medisyne / ¶ If an vryn /be\ blacke and grene with longe contenites like to þe sparame of man. hit is þe palsy. and hit be froþthi and like lede in þe myddes; it is þe same / ¶ If an vryn haue greynes vndir þe sidis of þe cercle; hit signifieþ a stomake ful of humours and brenynþ at þe breste. do to him medisyne / ¶ If an vryn haue askes aboue; hit is harme in all þe spiritual parëties of al þe body. do medisyne / ¶ If an vryn be þycke and litil in quaðtite; hit is token of þe stone / ¶ If an vryn be froþthi and clere and litil in quaðtite and also rede; {f. 28v} hit signifieþ peyne in þe riȝt side. / ¶ If an vryn haue grete froþe after þe casting; hit signifieþ wynede in þe bowel/½is and peyne vnþir þe sides and bad stomake / ¶ If an vryn be rede as brenynþ golde; hit is þe dropsi of deþe / ¶ If an vryn be as brenynþ cole; hit is a posteme on þe lyuer. do to him medisyne.

URyn as flaume of fyre sente oute / Vryn as safron belynge / Vryn as safron dorte / Vryn as flavme of fyre not sente oute / These foure signifiant excess of digestion / {f. 29r} ¶ Vryn of þe colour of a man is lyuer / Vryn of þe colour of blacke water / Vryn þat is grene as a caule lefe / These thre. signifiant moche adustiouñ and brenynye. ¶ Vryn þat is pale of colour as is lede / Vryn þat is blacke in colour of adustion. as is ynke / Vryn þat is blacke in colour as blacke water. or as a blacke horne / These þre; betoken mortificaciouñ /and\ sleinge / ¶ Vryn þat is clere as welle water / Vryn þat is shenyng as a horne / {f. 29v} ¶ Vryn in colour as whey of mylke / Vryn þat is white douny as is þe flesshe of a camel / These foure signifiant indigestioun / ¶ Vryn like to iuse of flesshe halfe soden. þe iuse ypþte oute / Vryn like to flesshe soden þe iuse not ypþtte oute / These ijº signifiant þe begynnyng of digestioun / ¶ Vryn þat is as þe colour of þe iuse of an orynge appel / Vryn þat is like to þe appel of orynge /rinded\ / These ijº signifiant myddel digestioun / {f. 30r} ¶ Vryn
hat is as golde and siluer meddelid togeder / Vryn hat is as golde purid. these ij° signifien parfite digestioun / And his vryn rufa : betokeneth helpe and gode disposicioun of man is body / Vryn subrufa signifieþ gode helpe : but not so perfitely in ony maner as dòpe rufa. ¶ Vryn hat is of þe colour of an oryngé appel. Whan hit is white and a myddel substaunce. and when þe cercle is of þe same coloure : hit is praisable / Vryn þat is of colour as is þe iuse of an appel oryngé : is not so {f. 30v} perfit as is colour citrine : for citrine is best colour / ¶ Vryn þat is of colour as is þe rede rose betokeneth þat is callid effimera. and if a man pisshë contynuellly : hit signifieþ a feuer contynuel. ¶ Vryn þat is of colour as blode in a glasse : betokeneth a feuer of to moche blode. and þan anoon a man muste be letid blode. but if þe mone be in þe signe of gemonorum. ¶ Vryn þat is grene as is þe caule lefe when hit is pissid : and afterwarde appereþ rede :{f. 31r} hit betokeneth adustioun and sore baryng. and hit is mortal and deþe / ¶ Vryn þat is rede in al maner. remeued fro cleernes : betokeneth declynyng of þe yuel. and amendyng of þe sekenes. ¶ Vryn þat is rede meddelid sumwhat with blackenes : betokeneth þe yuel of þe lyuer. and of þe herte. ¶ Vryn þat is pale as flësshe halfe soden : betokeneth defficioun or feblenes of þe stomake. and letting of þe secounde digestioun. ¶ Vryn þat is white as is welle {f. 31v} water in hole men : hit betokeneth rawenes of humours. and in sharpe feuers : hit is deþe / ¶ Vryn in colour as whey of mylke with þicke substaunce. if hit falle in a womman : hit is not so perilouse as hit is in a man / for þe inordenaunce of þe matrice. but neuþer þe late in sharpe feueres : hit is deþe / ¶ Vryn in colour aboue : as whey of mylke. and byneþe shadueþ abouten þe myddel regiou þere. hit betokeneth þe dropesy / Also if þe vryn of him {f. 32r} þat haþ þe dropesy be rufa. or subrufa. hit betokeneth deþe / ¶ Vryn þat is white douny. as is camelle flesshe : betokeneth multitide of corrupte humours. which befalleþ in fleumatikes. ydropekes. podagres. and so of oþer. ¶ Vryn þat is blacke : may be of kyndely hete yquenchid. and þan hit is mortale and deþe / Or hit may be for expulsioun of venomous mater. whiche is putte oute by þe vryn. and þan hit betokeneth helþe. In a feuer quarteyn : hit is euermore deþe / {f. 32v} ¶ Vryn in colour as /a\ shenyng horne betokeneth yuel disposicioun of þe splene. and disposicion of þe feuer quarteyn / ¶ Vryn in colour as safron in dorte with þicke substaunce. and stinkyng and fomy. betokeneth þe iaundise. ¶ Vryn in colour as purid golde. and vryn as golde and siluer meddelid togedir. hauyng byneþe rounde resolucioun and white aboue : and sumwhat fatty. betokeneth þe feuer etike. ¶ Vryn in þe grounde of þe vessel vnþo þe myddil clere {f. 33r}
after þicke and þynne betokeneþ harme in þe breest ¶ Vryn þat is fomy and clere : and in colour as safron belinge : betokeneþ more harme in þe riȝt syde : þen in þe lifte side / ¶ Vryn if hit be white and fomeþ : hit betokeneþ more harme in þe lifte side : þen in þe riȝt side . for þe lifte side is more colde þen þe riȝte side . ¶ Vryn þat is þinne and pale and also cleer : betokeneþ acetonum fleuma / If þe cercle of þe vryn be not resting but tremblynge : hit betokeneþ remnyng of fleume [f. 33v] and of oþer humoures fro þe hede . by þe nekke to ðeþer parties / ¶ Vryn þicke and mylky and litil in quantite and fatte byneþe with shalis : betokeneþ þe stone / and if þe vryn be withoute shalis and þe þicke and mylky and litil in quantite : hit signifieþ þe fluxe in þe wombe / Vryn þicke and mylky and haþ meny dropes in þe ouer parties : signifieþ þe goto in membris of þe body . ¶ Vryn þat is pale bineþe in men : betokeneþ harme in þe reynes Vrin in whiche litil gobettis apperen . if hit be litil and trobelid [f. 34r] hit signifieþ bremyng of a veyne aboute þe reynes in þe bladder / ¶ Vryn in whiche quitoure appereþ in þe grounde of þe vessel : betokeneþ roting of þe bladder . or ellis a posteme / And if þer appere quitoure þoroughge alle þe vryn : hit betokeneþ roting of al þe body / Vryn in whiche frustis apperen litil and brode : hit signifieþ excoriaciouþ of þe bladder / Vryn motty : signifieþ by longe tyme þe stone in þe reynes / ¶ Vryn þat is white wþouten feuer boþe in man and womman oþer[f. 34v]while hit signifieþ harme in þe reynes . and oþer-while in wommen hit signifieþ impregnaciouþ . and cesyng of childe berynge / ¶ Vryn of hem þat ben with childe / If þey oon moneþe or two or iijflorisshe so : þeyr vryn shal be ful cleer . and hit shal haue a white ypostasy in þe grounde / And if þey haue foure moneþes þe vryn shal be clere . and haue a white ypostas and a þicke in þe grounde . Hit was wonte an ymage to appere in þe glasen vessel / If þilke vrin be of a womman : hit signifieþ þe concepciouþ to be made . and [f. 35r] if þe ymage of him þat shewþ appereþ in þe vrin of a seke man : hit signifieþ feuers interpolatas . or ellis sekenes of þe lyuer . or drawynge of lengþe of þe sekenes / ¶ Vryn fomy : signifieþ ventsosite of þe stomake in wommen . or hete from þe nauyl to þe prote and grete dryness and þurste / Vryn of a meyde shal be as þe iuse of an oryne appel . where vrin liuida and ful clere declareþ þe meyde stedfast / Vrin trouble in þe which sede appereþ in þe grounde : hit signifieþ þe womman to be with a man [f. 35v] late / Vryn of a womman þicke : declareþ hir to be corrupte . þe foreside vrin namely trobul in whiche sede appereþ in þe grounde of þe vessel / For if suche vryn be in a man : hit declareþ him to haue delite with a womman / Vryn of a womman þat is menstruate makeþ a blody
vryn / If þis blode be cruiddid in a womman: she shal seme with childe til hit be dissolu\ed as it is shewid in Antidoda.

Here endeþ þe tretise of þe cercles of vryns with her significacions. and also also þe propirtes [f. 36r] of vryns. and /þe\ ouer passing excess of hem. and nowe folowewe remedy and medysyn for meny of hem þat ben rehersid.

MEdisyn for colour as camelle flesshe / Take þe croppe of suage. and drinke trisandala. and auente þe in þe leggis / Or ellis take þe ynner barke of eldryn tree and grynde hit with ale and clense hit. and drinke hit seuene sponeful at ones and vse hit / al liuida ¶ Plumbnea vrina. For þis. take scamonie and do hit in a pere and roste hit and vse hit / Also make a poudre of þe rotis of pyony and persil rotis and þe barke of an [f. 36v] oke and vse hit daily til þu be hole / ¶ Pallida vrina. For þis. take mirabolane. indi. aloes. epatice. cene. sugur. of alle þes a dramme and make a poudre of hem and vse in þy potage or in drinke / ¶ Viridis vrina. For þis. take gynger. canel or synamon and sene. and tempere hem with clarified hony. and vse þis at morwe and at euen. ¶ Inopos vrina. For þis. take osemounde. saueyn. and gromel. and boyle hem in white wyne and a litil ony and streine it [f. 37r] and vse þis drinke erly and late / ¶ Subpallida vrina. For þis. take poudre of grete toonecrases sede. and vse hem in þy potage. ¶ Rubicunda vrina. For þis. take vynegre. mustarde and boyle hem togedir. þen take talwe as moche as a notte and do þerto. and ete þis when þe sekenes takeþ þe / vse also dyacameron and trisandala. ¶ Subcitrina vrina. For þis. take polipodium. anes. alloce. epatice. meddele hem with sugre. and make a poudre of þes: and vse in þy potage. [f. 37v] ¶ Subrufa vrina. For þis. take poudre of elenacampana. turmentille medle hem with hony clarifid and boyle hem togedre and make þerof a confeccioun and use hit day by dai / al subrubia. ¶ Subrubicunda vrina. For þis. / vse þe same medisyn þat longeþe to subrufa. as it is nexte afore. ¶ Rubea vrina. For þis. take triacle and boyle hit in þe iuse or water of moleyne and vse hit daily / Also take cassiafistula. tamarindes and triasandali and medle hem togedir and vse þe medisyn daily / [f. 39r] ¶ Citrina vrina. For þis. take fyges. licoris. ysope. elenacampana. horehonde. yliche moche. boyle hem in a galoun of water into þe halfe be wastid. and vse þis drinke. at euen and at morwe vij sponful warme. ¶ Subrubea vrina. For þis take water crasses and grynde hem smale and boile hem in wyne and vse it / ¶ Rufa vrina. For þis take hony and seþe hit til hit be harde and do þerto poudir of sene and gynger. and make a plaster of dewete and of wyne / If it be þe flores ley it on þe nauyl. [f. 39v] ¶
Kaynos vrina. For ḃis. take ḃe bone of an hertis herbe and make ḃerof  
\( \text{l} \) poudir and medle hit with diacamorem. and vse ḃis poudir \( \text{in} \) ḃy potage or ellis in ḃy drinke. ¶ Lactea vrina. For ḃis. take ḃe sede of white popy and bray hem smale and putte hem in letuse water or in ḃe iuse ḃerof. and medle hem togeder and drinke ḃat licoure. and vse hit. And anoynte ḃe templis with ḃis onyment made of henbane. letues. popi and mandrake. and vse hit daily. ¶ Subuiridis vrina. For ḃis. {f. 40r} lete ḃe seke blede vnnder ḃe ankle. or in ḃe veyne of ḃe arme. and lete him take a pynte of white wyne. and ḃeryn boyle a dramm of alloes and anoðer of epatic and drinke of ḃat a sponeful /\( \text{at} \) / morowe and anoðer at euen. first and last / ¶ Alba vrina. For ḃis. take saxifragr. gromel. persile. and sage. yliche quantite and boyle hem in gode stale ale. and vse ḃat drinke on ḃe morowe and at euen. and also make of ḃes herbes a poudir and vse hit daily in ḃy potage. ¶ Nigra vrina. For ḃis. drinke. {f. 40v} ḃe iuse of celidon and of moleine and triacle with wyne. and drinke hit at morwe and at euen. ¶ Glaucal vrina. For ḃis take ḃe iuse of tansy. ḃe /\( \text{ri} \)bbe/ worte and boyle hem in /\( \text{white} \) / wyne with a litil hony and vse hit. And ḃus ḃis practif of fisike endeb/. 

¶ Of euery sekenes thre tymes ḃer be ḃat muste be obserued and tendrid. ḃat is to wite. ḃe begynyng. ḃe state and ḃe ending. / If a man sekele of ḃe axes and be in ḃe begynyng. {f. 41r} ḃerof: take for him percelly and fenel. an handful of eche. and sēbe hem in a galoun. of welle water vntil halfe be almoste wateri. ṽen take halfe an handful of violettis and putte ḃerto. and lett\( \text{e} \) al /\( \text{pis} \)\/. sēbe til hit be incorpor- ate and of oon strengbe. ṽen streyne hit ḃoroughge a lynyen clope and close hit in a close vessel. and vse ḃis drinke fyue daies contynuell viij spoonful at morwe and at euen as moche luke warme. and sanaberis. . \( \text{or sum} \) what more of almondis. and a gode handful of violette. . {f. 41v} ¶ For him ḃat is in ḃe axes in state. Take sage. meyntis. foþeþistil. and lady þistil and sorel yliche moche. and washe hem clene and bray hem in a morter and take ḃe iuse of hem and putte in a potel of mylke. ṽen sette hit ouer ḃe fire and lete hit sēbe til ḃe mylke may take ḃe vertu of herbes. ṽen take a quarte of gode stale ale and put ḃer to. or ḃe peytmont if hit so nede. and make a possette and vse ḃe drinke ix daies in al dryness and hitis nyȝt and day as ofte as ḃu wilt. and ḃu shalt be hole by ḃe grace of god. {f. 42r} ¶ For him ḃat is travelid with ḃe feuers daily or ḃer. eipber. day. Take camylmelle and stampe hit. ṽen streyne oute ḃe iuse ḃorough a canue. /\( \text{ben} \)\take ḃat and sette hit\( \text{e} \) ouer ḃe fire and lete hit sēbe. and alwey scome awey ḃe fome til hit be clere. and if ḃu wilt ḃu may put a quantite of sugur
Þerto to make hit þe more liking and when hit is clere. take hit doune and lette hit kele. þen put hit in a close vessel. and vse þe drinke ix daies. vj or vij sponful at ones in þe mornynge and in þe euenynge luke warme. And þe þenke camelmyl ouerbitter: þu may take sorel. in þe selfe wise. [f. 42v] ¶ For to swage and abate þe malice of þe hote axes / Take mandrake. sorel. syngrene and dauntaun yliche moche. and seþe hem in barly mele and vynegre and make of þis a plaster. and ley hit to þe sides of þe seke and to his breste and to þe stomake and to þe powes of þe handes and of þe fete and he shal be be hole in short tymne ¶ For him þat pisseþ blode / Take wilde sage. saxifrage. percely yliche moche and stampé hem. and put þe iuse in a potel of mylke and lette hit seþe a while. þen streyne hit. and vse þe drinke ¶ For dymes of yen. take cen[f. 43r] tuary and planteyn yliche moche. seþe hem in white wyne and put a litil quantite of piper þerto. þen streyne al þorough a clene cloþe and drinke þis medisyne luke warme last when þu goest to þy bedde / ¶ For þe cough / Take elemini fenel sede. longe piper. commyn. and hony as sufficeþ. Of elemini take. for þe coughe / Take elemini fenel sede. longe piper. ke þe seþe he. and seþe al in a quantite of hony as nedep and vse þe drinke. first and laste / ¶ Electuary for þe cough / Take cyanamun. spice. gynger. [f. 43v] galangal. aneys. longe piper. dra/ga\gante. ana. dragme semis. þe kernel of pyne clene clensid. dragme. drie figes. dragme ij. and clarification hony as nedep and make electuari and vse hit ¶ Sargarismus. for purgyng of þe hede / Take mustard staffeacre. pellete. cokil. comfery spicarande. hony. vinegre. or white wyne menge al togeder and take iij. sponful þerof and holde in þy mouþe and rense hit wel þerwith. vntil þe fleume descende. þen spet oute þat and take more. so ofte. til þu be esid. ¶ For a collerieke man þat is dissesid with þe axes þat is caused of [f. 44r] brennyng coler and hete. and also for to ease þe grete dryness þat he háþ by þis sekenes / Take borage. violette. sorel. letwis. endif. souþepistil. stra/û\bery leues. mary goldes. þe tendrons of wynes. dauntaun. pety morel. malowis. sengryn. persely. langedebeff. an handful of eche with þre or iij. stickes of likeris ybrusid. to pouder. and al yput in a galoun of welle water and yconsumed and soden vntil halfe be wastid. þen take hit doune and streyne hit and put hit in a glas. or in a clene erþen pot wel closid. and vse þerof at morwe and at euen vj or [f. 44v] vij sponful luke warme and sanab/is\ Gargarismus. for þe hede þat is stoppid with reugme and viscous fleume.

[f. 45r] ¶ Ther ben iij ages in whiche euery humoure háþ his duracioun to her likenes. þat is childehode. bachelrholde. manhode.

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From Clerks to Corpora
and fadirhode / Childehode is fro þe begynnynge of birþe into xv ʒere / bachelerehode / fro xv /ʒere\vtnto xxx /ʒere / manhode fro xxx ʒere vnþ lx ʒere / faderhode and olde age fro lx ʒere vnþ þe end of man is lyfe / ¶ And þer ben iiiij cesons in þe ʒere apriped to þe foure complexions of men / ver . sommer . haruest and wynter / Ver . is hote and moyst / sommer is hote and drye / haruest is colde and drye / wynter is colde and moist / ¶ Collerike men ben wel in vere . and yuel in sommer / and wel in haruest and in wynter best at ease / Sanguyne folke ben ywel in ver . and better in sommer and haruest and wynter best at ease / Fleumatike folke ben wel in ver in haruest best and sommer best . and worste in wynter / Malencoligious folke ben best in ver and somer . {f. 45v} and worste in haruest . and wynter is not gode / Also þer ben iiiij wyndes . eest wynde is moyst and hote / souþe wynde is hote and drye / west wynde is colde and moyst / Norþe wynde is colde and drie / And þes ben þe iiiij parties of þe worlde . eest . west . souþe and norþe / ¶ Collerike folke ben wel while þe somne and þe wynde ben eest . west . or norþe / and þey ben yuel . while þe somne and þe wynde ben souþe / for þat is her quarter / Sanguyne folke ben yuel when þe somne and þe wynde ben eest . for þat is þeir quarter . and þey ben wel when þe somne and þe wynde ben souþe . west or norþe / Fleumatike folke ben wel when þe somne and þe wynde ben eest . souþe or norþe / and þei ben werste when þe somne and þe wynde ben west /for þat is þeir quarter / Malencoligious folke ben werste when þe somne and þe wynde ben norþe {f. 46r} and þey ben wel when somne and þe wynde ben souþe . est . and west / souþe is þeir quarter / Nowe folweþ þe reignyng of þe iiiij humors in euery man or womman . ¶ Fro þe iiij of þe clocke after mydde nyþt vntil ix of þe clocke before noþuþe . regneþ sanguynu / and from ix of þe clocke afore none vntil þre after noþuþe . regneþ colerike / and from þre of þe clocke after noune vntil ix before myndnyþt . regneþ fleumatike / and from ix of þe clocke before myndnyþt vntil iiij . after myndnyþt . regneþ malencoly / And euery man in þe tyme of þat humoure þat is most regnyng in him / and in þe tyme . þat his humour regneþ . is most greued .:. ¶ For þe morfu . wasshe al þy body with water þat stampid garleke is soden yn . and þy body is dried and clene . rubbe al þe morfu with garlike and affadile stampid togeder . and vse it so a while and drinke federtoy . eldren fumentory and rede docke rotes made in {f. 46v} tysane . and euery morwe erly drinke a gode draugte . and vse þis medisyn ix daies and þu shalt be clene of þe morfu with yn and wiþoute . if þe medisin be wel vsid ¶ For þe iavndise take greynes clowes mases galenga notemygges of eueryche of þes an halfe peny
worpe / of ysope of hertistonge of celidon ylichemoche and sepe al in þre quartis of white wyne vnto þre pyntes . and vse þis medisyn warme at morwe land\ at euen . vj or vij sponeful at ones.

Appendix 1

Figure 2. MS Wellcome 537, f. 15r.
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References


