

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: 366f; 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 (2); the letter <d> with a looped stem (4); the letter <k> with its characteristic right-arc'd 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);

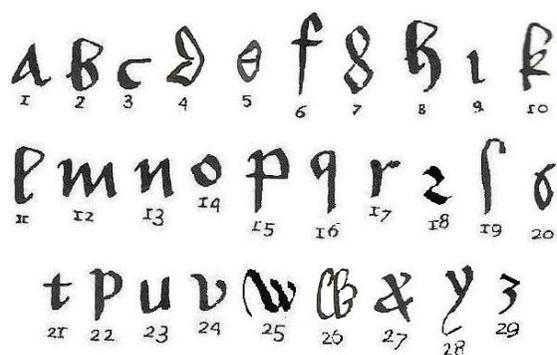


Figure 1. Inventory of letterforms in MS Wellcome 537.

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;² c) insertions, both of single letters and words, have been inserted in their proper sequence in the body of the text;³ 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 text⁴

{f. 15r} . ihc .

¶ here begynneþ þe practise of the sighte of vrynes . Hit is to vndurstonde þat who so wille loke an vryn : *him* behoueþ to *considere* þe þinges / Firste he muste aske þe age of þe pacient or seke body . *and* how longe his sekeneþ 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 substaunce of þe vryn wheþer hit be þicke or þynne . *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 region þey ben yn : *and* if þey be oueral *in* liche colourid . or if hit be more remise *in* oon region : þan *in* anoþer . or if hit be of twoo colouris : or if hit be oueral *in* liche colourid . boþe *intencioun* *and* *remissioun* . {f. 16r} Than hit behoueþ *principally* to wyten by *consideracioun* of þe vryne *and* by *askyng* 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^t > *with* or þ^e > *þe*. Superfluous breuigraphs 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.

in þe begynnynge . or ellis in state . or in þe ending . Also when þu hast vndirstonde . al þis . and þe vryne of þe pacient . is brouzte to þe : þu muste considere þre þingis in euery 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 euery man is body is foure qualitees . hete and colde . moyste {f. 16v} and drye : hete and colde : þey ben causers of colours . Drynes and moystenes : þey ben cause of substaunce . /hete\ is cause of rede coloure . drynes is cause of þyn substaunce . moystenes is cause of þycke substaunce . As þus . if þe vryn of þe pacient be rede and þicke : it signifieþ þat blode haþ more *dominacioun* þan an oþer . Why : For blode is hote and moyste . If it be rede and þynne : hit sheweþ þat colere haþ *dominacioun* . For why . colere is hote and drye . If þe vryn appere white and þicke : hit betokeneþ fleume . For fleume is colde and {f. 17r} moyste . If þe vryn shewe white and þynne : it sygnifieþ 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 coloure : like to kamellis flesshe . whiche is a colour white douny . and in substaunce hit is þyn . The whiche sweweþ⁵ and signifieþ þe droppesy . or a wynde vndur þe syde . þe stone . þe hede ache . a posteme in þe longis . or a {f. 17v} or elles a fleume . ¶ Plumbæ : is an vryn in colour lyke to lede . whiche signifieþ þe falling yuel . or membris 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 signifieþ a feble hede . or a feuer . or a colde stomake . or a brennyng vndur þe lyuer . or wastynge of longes . ¶ Plumbæ : is an vryn in coloure {f. 18r} like to lede . as hit writen tofore of colour pallida ¶ Viridis : is an vryn þat is grene in colour like to þe caule leaf . whiche betokeneþ wasting of kynde/li\ hete . þe morfu . or þe hede ache . or þe iaundyse . or chasing of þe lyuer and wasting of kyndeli hete . ¶ Inopos : is an vryn in colour like to a man is lyuer . or to olde rede wyne yturned into blackenes . whiche betokeneþ þat þe galle brenneþ þe lyuer . and þerof commeþ þe iaundise . or hit signifieþ a veyne roten /or broken\ of the /r\eynes . or to myche delynge wiþ a womman . {f. 18v} ¶ Subpalida : is an vryn in coloure /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 ¶

⁵ 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 feuer acute *and* sharpe . *and* vndursette at þe herte . defaute of wynde *and* a drie coughe . ¶ Subcitrina ⁑ is an vryn *in colour* . like to þe iuse of an appel oryngē . whiche betokeneþ a feuer agu . *and* þe same as doþe cytryne {f. 19r} *coloure* but not so myche . ne so *perfitte* . ¶ Subrufa ⁑ is an vryn *in colour* like to golde *and* siluer medelid togedir . whiche betokeneþ a feuer *tertian* . or a posteme vndur þe ribbes . or þe goute . or a tisike . /or\ shortenēs of wynde . *and* simple bitternes *in taste* *and* grete dryness ¶ Subricunda ⁑ is an vryn *in colour* like to a flaume of fyre not sente oute . This betokeneþ as doþe subrufa . but þat þe yuel is more greuouē in þis ⁑ þan hit is in þat other . {f. 19v} ¶ Rubea ⁑ Rede vryn is *in colour* like to safron *in dorte* . whiche betokeneþ a feuer þoroughe chafyng of þe lyuer . or a feuer quarteyn . or ellis a posteme of þe longis . begymnyng of a dropesy . or of a morfu . ¶ Citrina ⁑ is an vryn like to þe *coloure* of an appelle of an oryngē . whiche betokeneþ wasting of þe splene *and* of þe lyuer . *commyng* of þe frenesy . *and* hete aslaked *in* a feuer *tercian* . ¶ Subrubea ⁑ is an vryn *in colour* like to safron belynge . whi{f. 2or}che betokeneþ a feuer 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 *perfitly* . ¶ Alba ⁑ is an vryn *in colour* as clere welle water . and hit betokeneþ wasting of þe splene . or þe dropesy . or þe stone *and* greuaunce *in* pissyng . or pissyng ageyne wille . or þe emoyraudis . or stopping of floures . cha{f. 21r}fyng of þe lyuer . wodenēs . *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 feuer quarteyn . or a blacke iaundise . peryl of deþe *in* shorte tyme . ¶ Glauca ⁑ is an vryn like *in colour* to a shenyng horne . And hit betokeneþ a posteme *in* þe riȝt side . or a feuer etike . or /a\ bladder on the longis .

¶ Her endeþ þe significacioun of /þe coloures\ 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

akyngē þeryn . ¶ A . cercle þat is white *and* þycke . signifief þat fleume haþ duracioun in þe hynder parte of þe hede . for þat is his resting place . ¶ A . cercle white *and* clere . signifief þat malencoly haþ duracioun on þe lifte syde of þe hede . for þat is his sete . ¶ A . cercle þat is rede *and* þicke . signifief þat blode haþ duracioun in þe forehede . for þat is his sete . ¶ A . cercle rede *and* clere : signifief þat colere haþ duracioun . {f. 22r} in þe riȝte side of þe hede . for þat is his restyng place . ¶ If a cercle shewe or appere grene : hit betokeneþ grete ache in þe hede . *and* vnder þe riȝte side . ¶ If a cercle appere white : hit signifief grete ache in þe hynder party of þe hede . ¶ If a cercle appere rede : hit betokeneþ ache in þe forehede . And if hit appere blacke : hit signifief þe falling yuelle . ¶ If þer be in a cercle smale bollis as þey were of reyne water : hit betokeneþ a wynde in þe {f. 22v} hede . risyng oute of þe stomake . ¶ If þer be in a cercle mottis as ben in þe sunne : hit betokeneþ a reume of þe hede . or þe pose . or deffenes . or heuynes . ¶ If þer appere in a cercle a tree : hit betokeneþ a posteme in þe bladder . or ellis in þe lyuer . ¶ If þer appere in a cercle fattenes : hit signifief a feuer . or ellis streitennes at /pē\ 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 quarteyn . ¶ Water ful of smale þedis : betokeneþ dry complexioun . or ellis a posteme in þe riȝte side . ¶ White grauel appering in a cercle signifief þe stone in þe bladder . Rede grauel : betokeneþ ache in þe reynes . *and* also a spice of þe stone . Blacke grauel betokeneþ ache in þe rigge bitwene þe kidneys . Shales as hit were of fysshes betokeneþ stopping of floures . *and* a scabbe in þe matrice .

¶ here endiþ þe cercles {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* proued of two þinges significatife . or forsoþe hit signifief of þe lyuer *and* of þe veynes . or of þe bladder *and* of þe reynes . Of oþer þinges hit is yppirliche significatyfe . ¶ But in vryn lokeþ *and* beholdeþ diuerse þinges . þat is to wite . substaunce . coloures . regions . *and* þe contentes . An oþer is because {f. 24r} of substaunce . An oþer is because of coloure . An oþer is becau⁶ of residens . Now in euery man is body is foure qualitees . hete *and* colde . moystenens *and* drynes . hete *and* colde : þey ben cause of

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 : þey ben cause of substaunce . As þus hete is cause of rede coloure . Colde : is cause of white coloure . Drines : is cause of þyn substaunce . moystenes : is cause of þicke 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 fourþe : is þe grounde . ¶ By þe cercle : is seen þe sekene of þe hede *and* of þe brayne . By þe body : alle yuelis *and* sekene of þe spirituel membris *and* of þe stomake . By perforacioun : sekene of þe lyuer *and* of þe splene . By þe grounde : we shewen accidentes of þe reynes *and* of þe matrice . *and* of þe priue membris / ¶ An vryn haþ þre regions . þat is . þe neþereste bygynneþ fro þe grounde of þe vrynal *and* dureþ {f. 25r} by þe space of two fyngers / þe myddel regioun begynneþ þer as þe neþer endeþ : *and* dureþ to þe cercle . þe whiche cercle is þe ouermeste regioun . And when þer is *in* þe ouermeste regioun as fome : hit signifieþ ventosite bulnyng vppe *in* þe veynes of þe vryn . or ellis inflacioun . or oþer vices or sekene of þe lungis . ¶ If /so be þat\ þe cercle be picke : hit signifieþ 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 signifieþ digestioun of þe mater *and* of þe yuel . In þe neþermeste regioun if þer appere grauel or litil stones . hit sheweþ /þat\ þe paciente is ful of litil stones . *and* is greued with þe vice of þe stone . Oþerwhile þe residence is blacke : if þat falle *in* a feuer quarteyn . or for kyndely hete yquenchild : hit is a signe of deþe . If it be for expulsioun of venomous mater whiche is putte oute by þe vryn : hit is a token of helþe / ¶ If an vryn be white at morwe *and* brovne after mete : hit {f. 26r} signifieþ gode helþe *and* welle . ¶ If an vryn be fatte *and* trobely : hit betokeneþ water *in* þe bowwelis / ¶ If an vryn be riȝt rede *and* clere . hit signifieþ a brennyng feuer / ¶ If an vryn be oueral rede *and* þicke with a blacke cercle : hit signifieþ grete sekene *and* feruent . *and* but if he swete : hit is deþe / ¶ If an vryn be white *and* þynne *and* a litil dymmy : hit signifieþ a coldenes *in* þe body . ¶ If an vryn be dymme *and* sumdel rede . with a blacke cercle : /it\ signi{f. 26v}fieþ a badde stomake . do medisyn . ¶ If an vryn be clere *and* haþ a blacke cercle : hit is deþe . ¶ If an vryn be þynne . *and* grene abouen : hit signifieþ a colde complexioun . *and* if *in* þe casting be blode abouen : it is a tisike . ¶ If an vryn be dymme *and* blacke abouen . or vndir þe cercle *in* þe casting : hit betokeneþ luste of kynde . *and* he wolde haue a woman to pley / ¶ If an vryn be þicke *and* trobely like horse pisse . hit signifieþ grete hede ache . do to him medisyn . {f. 27r} ¶ If an vryn be fatte *in* þe bottym . *and* white *in* þe myddes . *and* rede abouen . hit

is a feuer *quarteyn* . ¶ If an *vryn* appere *flessheli and* haue *drestis in* þe *bottum* as *shauyng* : hit is a *dropesy* . Also if hit be as *whey* aboute . *and clere in* þe *myddis* . *and shadweþ beneþe* : hit is þe *colde dropesy* . ¶ If an *vryn* haue *drestes 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 contentes and* *smale* as *mottes standing in* {f. 27v} þe *myddes* of þe *water* . hit *signifieþ* a *posteme in* þe *side* . ¶ If an *vryn* haue *in* þe *bottum* like *gobettis* of *flesshe* of *smale shawyng* : þat is a *token* of *stopping* of þe *reynes and* also of þe *pipis* of þe *lyuer* . do to *him* *medisine* ¶ If an *vryn* /be\ *blacke and grene with* *longe contentes* like to þe *sparme* of *man* . hit is þe *palsy* . *and* hit be *frotthi and* like *lede in* þe *myddes* : it is þe *same* / ¶ If an *vryn* haue *greynes vndir* þe *sides* of þe *cercle* : hit *signifieþ* a *stomake* *ful* of {f. 28r} *humours* . *and brennyng* at þe *breste* . do to *him* *medisyne* . ¶ If an *vryn* haue *askes* aboute : hit /is\ *harme in* alle þe *spiritual parties* of al þe *body* . do *medisine* / ¶ If an *vryn* haue *contentes* *white and* *blacke in* þe *bottum* : hit is *costifnes* / ¶ If an *vryn* abide *longe lefting þinne* : hit *signifieþ* *swelling in* þe *body* . *and moche reume and* *humours þeryn* . ¶ If an *vryn* be *þycke and* *litol in quantite* : hit is *token* of þe *stone* / ¶ If an *vryn* be *frotthi and* *clere and* *litol in quantite and* also *rede* : {f. 28v} hit *signifieþ* *peyne in* þe *rizt side* . / ¶ If an *vryn* haue *grete froþe* after þe *casting* . hit *signifieþ* *wynde in* þe *bowel\is and* *peyne vndir* þe *sides and* *bad stomake* / ¶ If an *vryn* be *rede* as *brennyng golde* : hit is þe *dropesi* of *deþe* / ¶ If an *vryn* be as *brennyng 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 *four* *signifien* *excesse* of *digestion* / {f. 29r} ¶ Vryn of þe *coloure* of a *man* is *lyuer* / Vryn of þe *coloure* of *blacke water* / Vryn þat is *grene* as a *caule* *lefe* / These *thre* . *signifien* *moch* *adustioun* *and* *brennyng* . ¶ 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* *mortificacioun 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 *four* *signifien* *indigestioun* / ¶ Vryn like to *iuse* of *flesshe* *halfe soden* . þe *iuse* *yput* *oute* / Vryn like to *flesshe* *soden* þe *iuse* *not* *yputte* *oute* / These *ij*° *signifien* 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* /rinde\ / These *ij*° *signifien* *myddel* *digestioun* / {f. 30r} ¶ Vryn

þat is as golde *and* siluer meddelid togeder / Vryn þat is as golde purid . þese ij^o signifiē parfite digestioun / And þis vryn rufa : betokeneþ helþe *and* gode disposicioun of man is body / Vryn subrufa signifiēþ gode helþe : but not so perfite in ony maner as doþe rufa . ¶ Vryn þat is of þe colour of an oryngē appel . Whan hit is white *and* a myddel substaunce . *and* when þe cerce is of þe same colourē : hit is praisable / Vryn þat is of colour as is þe iuse of an appel oryngē : is not so {f. 30v} parfite as is colour citrine : for citrine is best colour / ¶ Vryn þat is of colour as is þe rede rose betokeneþ a feuer : þat is callid effimera . *and* if a man pisshe contynuelly : hit signifiēþ a feuer contynuel . ¶ Vryn þat is of colour as blode in a glasse : betokeneþ a feuer of to moche blode . *and* þan anoon a man muste be letid blode . but if þe mone be in þe signe of geminorum . ¶ Vryn þat is grene as is þe caule lefe when hit is pissid : *and* afterwarde appereþ rede : {f. 31r} hit betokeneþ adustioun *and* sore barnyng . *and* hit is mortal *and* deþe / ¶ Vryn þat is rede in al maner . remeued fro cleernes : betokeneþ declynyng of þe yuel . *and* amendyng of þe sekenes . ¶ Vryn þat is rede meddelid sumwhat with blackenes : betokeneþ þe yuel of þe lyuer . *and* of þe herte . ¶ Vryn þat is pale as flesshe halfe soden : betokeneþ defeccioun or feblenes of þe stomake . *and* lettynge of þe secounde digestioun . ¶ Vryn þat is white as is welle {f. 31v} water in hole men : hit betokeneþ 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 perillous as hit is in a man / for þe inordenaunce of þe matrice . but neuer þe late in sharpe feueres : hit is deþe / ¶ Vryn in colour aboue : as whey of mylke . *and* byneþe shadueþ abouten þe myddel regioun clere . hit betokeneþ þe dropesy / Also if þe vryn of him {f. 32r} þat haþ þe dropesy be rufa . or subrufa . hit betokeneþ deþe / ¶ Vryn þat is white douny . as is camelle flesshe : betokeneþ multitude of corrupte humours . which befallē 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 betokeneþ helþe . In a feuer quarteyn : hit is euermore deþe / {f. 32v} ¶ Vryn in colour as /a\ shenyng horne betokeneþ 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 . betokeneþ 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 . betokeneþ þe feuer etike . ¶ Vryn in þe grounde of þe vessel vnto þe myddil clere {f. 33r}

after picke *and* bynne 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 acetosum fleuma / If þe cercle of þe vryn be not resting but tremblyng : hit betokeneþ rennyng of fleume {f. 33v} *and* of oþer humoures fro þe hede . by þe necke to neþer parties / ¶ Vryn picke *and* mylky *and* litil in quantite *and* fatte byneþe with shalis : betokeneþ þe stone / *and* if þe vryn be withoute shalis *and* be picke *and* mylky *and* litil in quantite : hit signifieþ þe fluxe in þe wombe / Vryn picke *and* mylky *and* haþ meny dropes in þe ouer parties : signifieþ þe goutte 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 brennyng 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 þoroughe alle þe vryn : hit betokeneþ roting of al þe body / Vryn in whiche frustis apperen litil *and* brode : hit signifieþ excoriacioun of þe bladder / Vryn motty : signifieþ by longe tyme þe stone in þe reynes / ¶ Vryn þat is white wiþouten feuer boþe in man *and* womman oþer {f. 34v} while hit signifieþ harme in þe reynes . *and* oþerwhile in wommen hit signifieþ impregnacioun . *and* cesyng of childe berynge / ¶ Vryn of hem þat ben with childe / If þey oon moneþe or two or iij^e florisshe 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 ypostasi *and* a picke in þe grounde . Hit was wonte an ymage to appere in þe glasen vessel / If þilke vrin be of a womman : hit signifieþ þe concepcioun to be made . *and* {f. 35r} if þe ymage of him þat shewiþ appereþ in þe vrin of a seke man : hit signifieþ feuers interpolatas . or ellis sekene of þe lyuer . or drawyng of lengþe of þe sekene / ¶ Vryn fomy : signifieþ ventosite of þe stomake in wommen . or hete from þe nauyl to þe þrote *and* grete dryness *and* þurste / Vryn of a meyde shal be as þe iuse of an oryngge appel . where vrin liuida *and* ful clere declareþ þe meyde stedfaste / Vrin trouble in þe whiche sede appereþ in þe grounde : hit signifieþ þe womman to be with a man {f. 35v} late / Vryn of a womman picke : declareþ hir to be corrupte . þe foreseide vrin namely trobul in whiche sede appereþ in þe grounde of þe vessel / For if suche vrin be in a man : hit declareþ him to haue delite with a womman / Vryn of a womman þat is menstruate makeþ a bloody

vryn / If þis blode be cruidd 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 excesse of hem . and nowe foloweþ remedy and medysyn for meny of hem þat ben rehersid .

MEdisyn for colour as camelle flesshe / Take þe crophe of sauge . 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 ¶ Plumbea 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 hony and streine it {f. 37r} and vse þis drinke erly and late / ¶ Subpallida vrina . For þis . take poudre of grete toonecrasses 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 . alloes . 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 clarified and boyle hem togedre and make þerof a confeccoun 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 boyle 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 þis . take þe bone of an hertis herbe *and* make þerof /a\ poudir *and* medle hit with diacameron . *and* vse þis poudir /in\ þy potage or ellis in þy drinke . ¶ Lactea vrina . For þis . take þe sede of white popy *and* bray hem smale *and* putte hem in letuse water or in þe iuse þerof . *and* medle hem togeder *and* drinke þat licoure . *and* vse hit . And anoynte þy templis with þis onyment made of henbane . letues . popi *and* mandrake . *and* vse hit daily . ¶ Subuiridis vrina . For þis . {f. 40r} lete þe seke blede vnder þe ancle . or in þe veyne of þe arme . *and* lete him take a pynte of white wyne . *and* þeryn boyle a dramme of aloes *and* anoþer of epatice *and* drinke of þat a sponeful /at\ morowe *and* anoþer at euen . first *and* last / ¶ Alba vrina . For þis . take saxifrage . gromel . persile . *and* sage . yliche quantite *and* boyle hem in gode stale ale . *and* vse þat drinke on þe morowe *and* at euen . *and* also make of þes herbes a poudir *and* vse hit daily in þy potage . ¶ Nigra vrina . For þis . drinke {f. 40v} þe iuse of celidon *and* of moleine *and* triacle with wyne . *and* drinke hit at morwe *and* at euen . ¶ Glauca vrina . For þis take þe iuse of tansy . þe /ribbe\ worte *and* boyle hem in /white\ wyne with a litil hony *and* vse hit And þus þis practif of fisike endeþ /

¶ Of euery sekenes thre tymes þer be þat muste be obserued *and* tendrid . þat is to wite . þe begymnyng . þe state *and* þe ending / If a man sekele of þe axes *and* be in þe begymnyng {f. 41r} þerof : take for him percelly *and* fenel . an handful of eche . *and* seþe hem in a galoun of welle water vntil halfe be almoste wateri . þen take halfe an handful of violettis *and* putte þerto . *and* let/t\ e al /þis\ seþe til hit be incorporate *and* of oon strengþe . þen streyne hit þoroughe a lynen cloþe *and* close hit in a close vessel . *and* vse þis drinke fyue daies contynuelli vij spoonful at morwe *and* at euen as moche luke warme . *and* sanaberis . . or sumwhat more of almondis . *and* a gode handful of violettis . . {f. 41v} ¶ For him þat is in þe axes in state . Take sage . meyntis . foþebistil . *and* lady þistil *and* sorel yliche moche . *and* wasshe hem clene *and* bray hem in a mortar *and* take þe iuse of hem *and* putte in a potel of mylke . þen sette hit ouer þe fire *and* lete hit seþe til þe mylke may take þe vertu of herbes . þen take a quarte of gode stale ale *and* put þer to . or þre peyntes if hit so nede . *and* make a possette *and* vse þe drinke ix daies in al dryness *and* hetis nyzt *and* day as ofte as þu wilt . *and* þu shalt be hole by þe grace of god . {f. 42r} ¶ For him þat is trauelid with þe feuers daily or oþer . eiþer day . Take camylmelle *and* stampe hit . þen streyne oute þe iuse þorough a canues . /þen\ take þat *and* sette /it\ ouer þe fire *and* lette hit seþe . *and* alwey scome away þe fome til hit be clere . *and* if þu wilt þu may put a quantite of sugur

þerto to make hit þe more liking *and* when /it\ 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* dauntlyoun 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 tyme ¶ For him þat pisseþ blode / Take wilde sage . saxifrage . percely yliche moche *and* stampe hem . *and* put þe iuse in a potel of mylke *and* lette hit seþe a while . þen streyne hit . *and* vse þe drinke ¶ For dymnes 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 medisyn luke warme last when þu goest to þy bedde / ¶ For þe coughe / Take elemini fenel sede . longe piper . commyn . *and* hony as sufficeþ . Of elemini take . dragme . ʒ . ʒ . handful of fenel sede *and* longe piper ana . dragme vj . of commyn halfe an vnce . *and* seþe al in a quantite of hony as nedeþ *and* vse þe drinke . first *and* laste / ¶ Electuary for þe coughe / Take cynamun . 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* clarified hony as nedeþ *and* make electuari *and* vse hit ¶ Sargarismus . for purgyng of þe hede / Take mustard staffeacre . pelleter . cokil . comfery spiconarde . hony . vinegre . or white wyne menge al togeder *and* take ij^o sponful þerof *and* holde in þy mouþe *and* rensen hit wel þerwith . vntil þe fleume descende . þen spet oute þat *and* take more . so ofte . til þu be esid ¶ For a collerike 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 haþ by þis sekenes / Take borage . violettes . sorel . letwis . endif . souþeþistil . stra/u\bery leues . mary goldes . þe tendrons of vynes . dauntlyon . pety morel . malowis . sengryn . persely . langedebef . an handful of eche with þre or iiij^e stickes of likeris ybrusid . to powder . *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 iiij ages in whiche euery humoure haþ his duracioun to her likenes . þat is childehode . bachelorhode . manhode .

and fadirhode / Childehode is fro þe begynnyng of birþe into xv 3ere / bachelerrhode . fro xv /3ere\ vnto xxx . 3ere / manhode fro xxx 3ere vnto lx 3ere / faderhode and olde age fro lx 3ere vnto þe ende of man is lyfe / ¶ And þer ben iiij cesons in þe 3ere 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 beste 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 / Malencolious folke ben best in ver and somer . {f. 45v} and worste in haruest . and wynter is not gode / Also þer ben iiij 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 iiij parties of þe worlde . eest . west . souþe and norþe / ¶ Collerike folke ben wel while þe sonne and þe wynde ben eest . west . or norþe / and þey ben yuel . while þe sonne and þe wynde ben souþe / for þat is her quarter / Sanguyne folke ben yuel when þe sonne and þe wynde ben eest . for þat is þeir quarter . and þey ben wel when þe sonne and þe wynde ben souþe . west or norþe / Fleumatike folke ben wel when þe sonne and þe wynde ben eest . souþe or norþe / and þei ben werste when þe sonne and þe wynde ben west /for þat is þeir quarter\ / Malencolious folke ben werst when þe sonne and þe wynde ben norþe {f. 46r} and þey ben wel when sonne and þe wynde ben souþe . est . and west / souþe is þeir quarter / Nowe folweþ þe reinyng of þe iiij^e humours in euery man or womman . ¶ Fro þe iij of þe clocke after mydde nyzt vntil ix of þe clocke before no\u/ne . regneþ sanguyne / and from ix of þe clocke afore none vntil þre after no\u/ne . regneþ colerike / and from þre of /þe\ clocke after none vntil ix before mydnyzt . regneþ fleumatike / and from ix of þe clocke before mydnyzt vntil iij . after mydnyzt . 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 federfoy . eldren fumetory 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 medisyn be wel vsid ¶ For þe iavndise take greynes clowes mases galenga notemygges of eueryche of þes an halfe peny

worþe / of ysope of hertistonge of celidon ylichemochē and seþe al in þre quartis of white wyne vnto þre pyntes . and vse þis medisyn warme at morwe land at euen . vj or vij sponful at ones.

Appendix 1

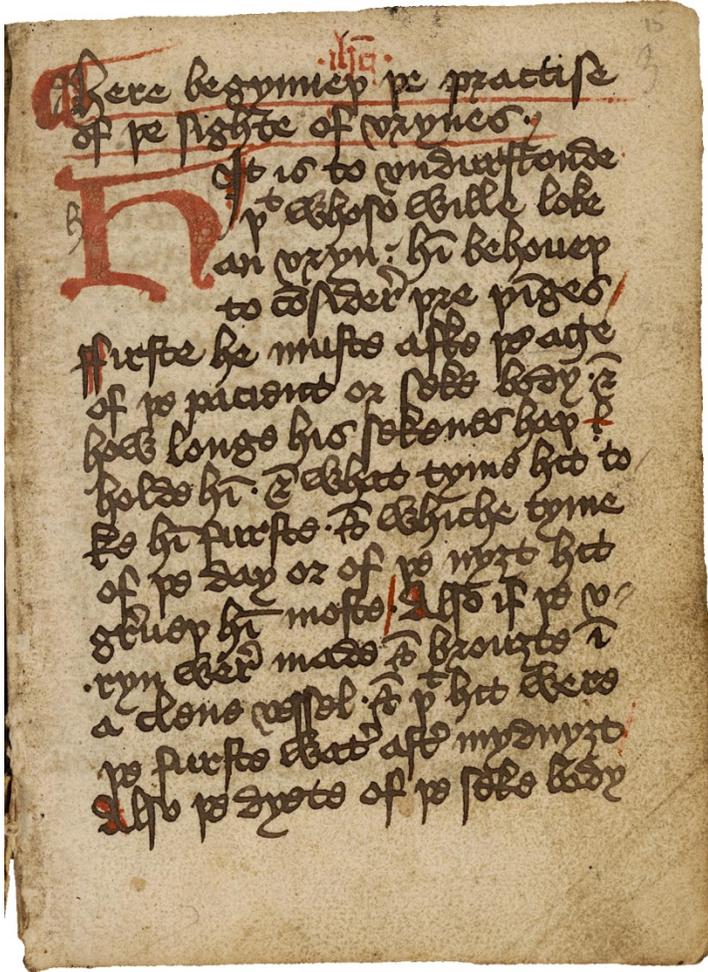


Figure 2. MS Wellcome 537, f. 15r.

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