
On the anatomy of the breast, by Sir Astley
Paston Cooper, 1840

Rare Medical Books

1840

On the anatomy of the breast - Secretion of milk in the male

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SECRETION OF MILK IN THE MALE.

“ THIS case occurred in a robust, sanguine soldier, twenty-two years old. * * * * When eighteen years old, he often felt a pricking sensation in his breasts, and slight periodical colic. About a year later, he observed, after each occurrence of such symptoms, a slight swelling of, and milky discharge from, the mammæ; and during work, his shirt was several times a week wetted with it. When in the hospital for acute rheumatism, a considerable quantity of milk was found to be secreted. On examining the breast and nipples, the latter were found highly red, erectile, somewhat cracked at their apices, and much higher than in men generally, and surrounded by a somewhat darker areola, through which a subjacent vascular net-work could be seen. On pressing the papillæ, two or three fine streams of milk would jet out of minute orifices; it had a blueish-white colour, and a very sweet taste. The secretion was constant, but increased at various periods, especially at night, producing a somewhat painful sensation till it was evacuated. The usual quantity was from half an ounce to an ounce daily, but sometimes not more than two or three drachms. On one occasion, a wine-glass full was drawn off, and in the fortnight that he was

under observation, ten or eleven ounces were secreted. After the evacuation of it, he said he always had head-ache, faintness, and sometimes pains in the abdomen. Diet had no material influence on the secretion. Collected in a glass, and left quiet, cream soon separated, and sometimes the milk at once coagulated. After some hours' standing, the butter separated, and floated at the top in yellow drops. The milk had a slightly alkaline reaction. Its specific weight was 1·024; and it contained, according to the analysis of Mayer, in 100 parts,—

Fat	1·234
Alcoholic Extract	3·583
Watery Extract	1·500
Insoluble	1·183
	7·500
Total solid contents	7·500

[Dr. SCHMETZER of Heilbronne, in SCHMIDT's *Jahrbucher*, Juli 1837.—From the *London Medical Gazette*, vol. xx. p. 846.]
