get hold of a macerated purgative drug—for example white hellebore, scammony, or any other strongly (purging) substance—, (then) let (the patient) drink half a mitqāl from the theriac, and if this has no effect administer the cathartic—the theriac, you see, is (normally) a very effective (remedy), but if one has to follow it with (another) drug you know it is weak (and) unreliable; the second method of testing (the theriac) was used by Galen, who took a grown-up weather-beaten cock with a dry constitution, let a venomous animal creep towards it to bite, and fed (the cock) some of the theriac, either before sending off (the creeper) or after—if (the cock) got over it and lived, the theriac was potent, if (the cock) perished, it was bad (and) unreliable;131 the third method of testing the theriac has been used by some people in recent times, and if you wish to see (for yourself) how that works take a (potentially) lethal drug—either opium or another—, feed it to a cock or a dog or some such animal, then give it (a dose) of the theriac, and you will (soon) find out whether it is good or bad. This is (all) we have to say about theriac trials, so (be sure to) remember it.

Chapter Fifteen
on
the Description of (how) to Treat
the Teeth and the Gums, Nutritive(s),
(the Treatment of) Freckles, Tetter, Mange,
the Prevention of Geophagism, the
Treatment of Scabies, Styptic(s), and Cosmetic(s)

131 καὶ γὰρ ἐστίν ὡς ἀληθῶς παρὰ τοῖς ἀνθρώποις ἀπασίν ἣνδοξότατον διὰ τὸ ἀπταστὸν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας καὶ διὰ τὸ δυνατὸν τῆς ἐνεργείας οἶτε γὰρ τις δηχείς ποτὲ ὑπὸ τῶν ἀναιρεῖν εἰσφέρον τὴν ἐπαγγείλαν εὐθὺς πιὼν τὴν ἀντίδοτον ἀποθανόν ιστόρηται οὐτ’ ἀν προπιόν τις εἶτ’ οὐ μετὰ πολὺ δηχεῖς ἰσχυρότερον πρὸς τὸ ἀποκτεῖναι τὸν ἰδίον ἐσχε τοῦ βηθίου ὑπὸ πολλάκις καὶ τῶν ἄρχουσιν διὰ ἐξοσσίαν θανάσιν καὶ ζωῆς ἐσχούντες εἶτα τὸ κρίνειν τὸ φάρμακον ἠθλοντες εἰ τοῦ οὕτ’ ὑπὸ ἐπαγγελλέται καὶ δρᾶν δύναται ἐπὶ τῶν ἰδίων πονηρῶν καὶ παρανόμως πράξεων καταπελθόντων ἀποθανόντων δοκιμάζουσιν αὐτὸ ἰδίως ἡμεῖς μὲν ἐπ’ ἀνθρώπων τὴν κρίσιν αὐτοῦ ποιεῖσθαι μὴ δυνάμενοι ἐπὶ τῶν ἄλλων ζῶν τὸ αὐτὸ δρᾶντες τὴν ἀληθῆ τοῦ φαρμάκου κρίσιν εὑρίσκειν πειραμάθεα ἀλεκτρύνας γὰρ λαβόντες τοὺς μὴ ὅσοι γέ τινες οἰκοδίαις τὸ ἐστίν καὶ ἦμιν ὀμορφότης ἄγριοι δὲ μᾶλλον τυχάνουσιν ὄντες καὶ ἔρρητον κεκραμένοι τὸ σῶμα οὕτως αὐτοῖς προβάλλωμεν τὰ θηρία καὶ τὰ μὲν εὐθὺς ἀποθνήσκει τὰ μὴ πιόντα ὅσα δὲ πέπωκεν ἰσχύει καὶ μετὰ τὸ δήμα τὴν ἱδίω ἐξεί, see Galen (Kühn) 14/214f.
The prescription of the rose coolant
(made in the) ‘Aḍūdī (hospital)
Burnt coriander, Persian roses, pomegranate flowers, yellow myrobalan, and the fruit of the tarfa two dirham of each; purslane seeds three dirham; sumach four dirham; tabasheer half a dirham; sal ammoniac half a dirham; camphor one qīrāṭ. All (this) is pounded, mixed together, and used.

(The) sūrintīḥān\textsuperscript{132}
Pomegranate rinds thirty dirham; pomegranate flowers, oak galls, alum, and turmeric ten dirham of each; sumach fifteen dirham; Indian emblic six dirham. These ingredients are brought together by pounding and straining, and (then) put on the gums.

A sharp (remedy) from Chaldae\textsuperscript{133}
(made in the) ‘Aḍūdī (hospital)
(Burnt but) not slaked lime five ratīl; orpiment and gum-senegal half a ratīl of each; alum from ruddy (earth) one fourth of a ratīl. (This) is pounded, strained through a cloth of silk, covered with wine vinegar, and mixed together in the sun during the days of summer.

A coolant for (the treatment of) hot toothache
made up by Hārūn\textsuperscript{134}
Roses, pomegranate flowers, the fruit of the tarfa, sandalwood sawdust, yellow myrobalan, roasted coriander, roasted purslane seeds, and turmeric three dirham of each. Pound (this), strain it, and rub it over (the teeth) in the morning, also pressing it against the bases of the teeth.

\textsuperscript{132} sūrintīḥān < Syriac sūrintikon “medicamentum pro morbis oris” < (?) στερεωτικόν “strengthening, consolidating”, see Payne Smith Thesaurus 2/2586 and Liddell/Scott Lexicon 1640.

\textsuperscript{133} Qaldīqūn < Χαλδαϊκόν “Chaldaean”, see Liddell/Scott Lexicon 1971.

\textsuperscript{134} On Hārūn see note 17 above.