An Explosive Treatment for Angina

Richard Bogle FRCP PhD
Some Account of a Disorder of the Breast

“They are seized while they are walking, especially if it be up a hill and soon after eating, with a painful sensation in the breast, which seems as if it would extinguish life, if it were to increase or continue; but the moment they stand still, all this uneasiness vanishes.”
REMARKS ON ANGINA PECTORIS.

BY JOHN WARREN, M. D.

In our inquiries into any particular subject of Medicine, our labours will generally be shortened and directed to their proper objects, by a knowledge of preceding discoveries.

When Dr. Heberden, in the London Medical Transactions, first described a disease under the name of Angina Pectoris, so little had it attracted the attention of physicians, that much surprise was excited by the communication. From the most striking and distressing symptoms, with which it was attended, and which were strikingly apparent about the breast, it received from him its denomination; and he soon after published farther remarks on this subject, with the history of a case and appearances on dissection.

That all the cases which this author had noticed as accompanied with affections of a somewhat similar nature, were instances of true Angina Pectoris, is by no means probable; for not less than one hundred of those were supposed by him to have fallen under his observation. Of those, three only were women, one a boy; all the rest were men, and about the age of fifty.

In the same work were communicated some observations on this disease made by Dr. Wall, who likewise added a case of dissection.

Dr. Fothergill, in the fifth volume of the London Medical Observations and Inquiries, 1774, published his remarks upon An-
Treatments for Angina
Antoine-Jérôme Balard and Ascanio Sobrero

Amyl nitrite and Glyceryl trinitrate
Nobel, Nitroglycerine and Dynamite
Constantine Hering & Glonoine
Frederick Guthrie    Benjamin Ward Richardson
Arthur Gamgee

PROF. MAREY'S SPHYGMOMOGRAPH.

A, the pulse spring; B, the tracer, or writing lever; C, the lever for transmitting motion from the former to the latter (A to B); D, the pressure screw; E, the body of the instrument; F, the box containing clock-work; G, the traveller; H, the screw for adjusting pulse spring at a proper obliquity.
Thomas Lauder Brunton

Before dose

Two minutes after dose

Eight minutes after dose

Nine minutes after dose
“As I believed the relief produced by the bleeding was due to the diminution it occasioned in the arterial tension, it occurred to me that a substance which possesses the power of lessening it in such an eminent degree as nitrite of amyl would probably produce the same effect.....On proceeding to try it on the wards...my hopes were completely fulfilled.”

Thomas Lauder Brunton
Lancet, 90:97-8 (1867)
Nitroglycerine as a Remedy for Angina Pectoris

William Murrell
Lancet, 113:80 (1879)
“My heart trouble will keep me here in Paris for another few days at least...Isn't it the irony of fate that they should be prescribing nitroglycerine for me.... They call it Trinitrin, so as not to scare the chemist and the public.”

Letter to Sohlman from Alfred Nobel, 25th October 1896
Nitrates for Clinical Use
Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine 1998