

Letters to the Editor

PARISH OF CRAMOND

Sir, Dr George Beveridge has shown me the article on Cramond (issue 30/1 pp. 355–9).

I shall be grateful if you will let your subscribers know that Reference 2: John P Wood's *Parish of Cramond 1794*, has been reproduced in facsimile by Cramond Heritage Trust. It is ISBN 095147412X and can be obtained from any bookseller price £15 (or £14.99). John Wood did not produce an index but I have made an attempt at one. I shall be glad to supply copies to your subscribers on receipt of a C5 stamped addressed envelope.¹

GF Morris

REFERENCES

¹ Please address index requests to:

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WILLIAM WITHERING: A BIRMINGHAM LUNATIC

Sir, Professor M.R. Lee has given an interesting illustrated biological sketch of the multifaceted personality of William Withering.¹ He ended his article with quotations from his hero's epitaph and from Milton.

I wish to quote the following lines, which epitomise the effect of digitalis on the heart – from a late edition of Withering's *Botany*, as quoted by the late A.R. Cushny in his article on William Withering.²

The foxglove's leaves, with caution given,
Another proof of favouring Heav'n
Will happily display;
The rapid pulse it can abate;
The hectic flush can moderate
And, blest by Him whose will is fate,
May give a lengthen'd day.

JR Sankaran

REFERENCES

- ¹ Lee MR. William Withering: A Birmingham Lunatic. *Proc R Coll Physicians Edin* 2001; **31**:77–83.
² Cushny AR. William Withering. In: Cope Z, editor. *Sidelights on the History of Medicine*. London: Butterworth and Co.; 1957; 200–9.