A Middle English Text Revised by a Renaissance Reader: John Wotton's Annotations to British Library MS Sloane 249 (ff. 180v-205v)

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ABSTRACT
BL MS Sloane 249 ff. 180v-205v is a fifteenth-century gynaecological treatise in the tradition of Gilbertus Anglicus' *Compendium medicinae*, classified by Green as *Sickness of Women 2* (Green, 1992: 81-82). Unlike other Middle English gynaecological treatises, the text of this manuscript is thoroughly glossed by his Renaissance owner, one John Wotton, MD (Green, 2003: 383), who considered its language obsolete and unusual. His annotations, which include corrections, additions, eliminations, substitutions, etc., shed light on the changing vocabulary, morphology, grammatical constructions and even on stylistic preferences. The aim of this paper is to classify and comment on these annotations and to stress their importance for the historians of the English language.

KEYWORDS: marginalia, intertext, annotations, glosses, Early Modern English, John Wotton, scientific discourse, Sloane 249

I. INTRODUCTION
Our knowledge on older stages of a language is based by force on written evidence. Major literary works, minor ones, documents, diaries, letters, handbooks, dictionaries, grammars and other written materials constitute the main sources of information for the historians of the...
English language. Many of these texts have generated a response in their later readers recorded under the form of annotations, glosses, deletions, marginal notes, etc. — the so-called metatext — which may also provide a valuable insight into the changing state of the language. However, they have not received considerable attention. Occasionally, they have even been omitted in academic editions (see Alonso-Almeida & Rodríguez-Álvarez, 1996) neglecting thus an excellent working ground for the philologists.

With this article, we intend to claim the importance of the metatext. Devised to clarify the reading of the text, the metatext reveals the reader, copyist or corrector's knowledge of a previous stage of the language and, so, it allows us to establish the progress of linguistic changes. Our main concern will be to make a classification of the different annotations to BL MS Sloane 249 (ff. 180v-205v), paying attention to their contents, form and place in the manuscript. Since the text is heavily annotated, we have made a selection of those notes that best illustrate the most frequent modifications. Therefore, punctual changes will not be included in our general classification, as they do not conform a pattern of recurrence which may help to understand the glossator’s aim. The methodology we will follow has already been tested by scholars working on Propertian manuscripts (López-Cayetano & Rodríguez-Herrera, 2000; García de Paso-Carrasco & Rodríguez-Herrera, forthcoming; Rodríguez-Herrera & Curbelo-Tavío, forthcoming) and has proved effective and appropriate to our purposes.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANUSCRIPT

MS Sloane 249 ff. 180v-205v² (henceforward S249) is housed in the British Library, London. This English manuscript was copied following the tradition of Gilbertus Anglicus’ thirteenth-century Compendium medicinae, and it has been listed by Green under the heading of “The Sekenesce of Wyumen” Version 2 (1992: 81-82). Originally, the Compendium medicinae was devised as a comprehensive work in seven distinct books with the aim of covering both “universal” and “particular” diseases. Here, the gynaecological content is included in the last book (Rubrice septimi libri), together with some venereal diseases, a discussion on venoms and other miscellaneous medical topics. The novelty of S249, and of several other fifteenth-century texts in Anglicus’ line,³ consists in compiling all the gynaecological information into a monographic treatise. In fact, S249 began its existence as an independent fascicle on obstetrics and gynaecology until an almost unknown Dr. John Wotton bound it to his own collection of remedies entitled Collectiones medicinales ordine alphabeticis instructae (Green, 1992: 62).

S249 is a relatively slim volume composed of fifty-one folios comprising a thirty-two lines prologue (f. 180v), an introduction to the female physiology and its natural tendency to moistness (ff. 180v-181v), and a total of twenty-three chapters dealing with women’s diseases. As a rule, all chapters observe the essential two-fold pattern found in nosiest gynaecological corpora of the Middle Ages. First, there is a short theoretical framework of the sickness, where a basic etiologic and symptomatic description is given. Secondly, each chapter counts with a
therapeutic or practical side (whose beginning is sometimes signalled by the Latin word Cura \[f. 182v, l. 26; f. 188r, l. 33; f. 193r, l. 29\]) that contains a number of suitable remedies (in form of recipes) to prevent, heal or, in extreme cases, alleviate the effects of the sickness just introduced. This therapeutically-based part is the longest in the chapter and denotes an instructive mood.

III. THE GLOSSATOR AND HIS PURPOSE
Even though the authorship of the glosses is not definite, several facts hint at John Wotton's hand. First of all, this gynaecological treatise was bound in the sixteenth century together with other writings on women's diseases by a John Wotton — also spelled Woot and Walton (Green, 1992: 62; Rowland, 1979). Although no biographical or professional information on John Wotton is available. Green (2003: 382) has related him to an Edward Wotton (1492-1555), an Oxford born doctor learned in Greek and very fond of correcting and annotating his own published works (Leclerc, 1855: 251). In addition, Edward Wotton's professional background and even his relationships with Conrad Gcsner, the editor of the Byzantine translation of Muscio's Latin Genecia, suggest a possible connection with John Wotton, a doctor himself greatly concerned with obstetrics and gynaecology, as his compilation of remedies shows (see II. Description of the manuscript). Therefore, we think that John Wotton possibly corrected and annotated the manuscript in an attempt to update its fifteenth-century English.

Our initial assumption was that Wotton simply corrected old-fashioned words and spellings to make the text closer to a Renaissance reader. However, the clarity and consistency of his corrections and additions throughout the volume point to a different intentionality. He not only replaces obsolete words or spellings sparsely, but also changes most occurrences of function words or suffixes otherwise easily identifiable. As a result, he consistently changes initial thoms for th- in definite articles, or deletes final -(e)n of infinitives. Besides, he often makes it clear where additional passages must be inserted by using carets, and, if a new recipe is added at the bottom of the page, a cross signals the exact place of inclusion in the body of the text (f. 191r); vertical strokes bracing successive lines indicate deletion of complete paragraphs (f. 192r); and he even makes second decisions by putting already corrected excerpts between square brackets (f. 192r, ll. 7-13).

To sum up, the insertion and deletion of letters, words and texts are accurately indicated as if another reader were to use and had to understand Wotton's notes. He does not only make great efforts in correcting $249$, but also wants his annotations to be read in the right place and the deletion of certain passages to be unmistakably distinguished, as our survey of glossographical marks will show. Having this in mind, we do not consider it unreasonable to think that his ultimate purpose was to arrange the manuscript to be copied, or rather, printed, a hypothesis which may explain the volume, clarity and consistency of his glosses.

Apart from this intrusive reader, a second hand has also been identified in the manuscript
who is responsible for the addition of a few Latin words that point to an author learned in classical sources—e.g. Gordonius (f. 191v, l. 19). Besides, this second glossator seems to be familiar with the proper Latin scientific names of plants—e.g. Arche/thermis (f. 184v, l. 12)—or body parts—they must take the manrice of an hare & the Cunt [et vulsum eius] (f. 205v, l. 11-17). Finally, he is also concerned with the identification of topics by Latin headings—Secreta mulieres (f. 184v and f. 185r, head margin) or Semenis generatio (f. 189r, right margin).

IV. A CLASSIFICATION OF THE GLOSSES IN S249
The gynaecological treatise included in S249 is heavily annotated. Our examinination of the manuscript has rendered an average number oscillating between 60-62 annotations per folio. Folios 19, 193r, 194v, 195r or 198v, for instance, surpass the limit of 85 glosses each, whereas, at the other end of the scale, folios 180v, 203r and 203v are the least glossed (all of them being under 20). The principal glossator of the manuscript, namely doctor John Wotton, improves the rendering of the original text by applying a personal glossographical technique. By glossographical technique we mean the way in which Wotton decided to gloss, remark and correct the manuscript’s format, internal structure and contents, thus changing both the initial arrangement of the text and the medical information. His choice to gloss S249 neither results in a fixed scheme of frequency nor of presentation but varies in manner, size, location and function, as explained below.

IV.1. Manner
The glosses written in S249 pursue a triple objective: (a) to delete, (b) to replace and (c) to add new letters, words, phrases or even sentences. In order to fulfill such tasks, Wotton uses different methods:

(i) Underlining the letters, words, phrases or sentences to be modified. This type of incursion predominates over the rest. If the glossator offers an alternative for the underlined element, a caret (^) is often inserted in the exact place where the new letter(s) or word(s) should be located.

(ii) Crossing out the element that has to be changed, either with a single or a double line. This happens less commonly in S249. Even though the first three lines of the text (f. 180v) count with five instances, the practice suddenly decreases to the point of sporadic appearance (as on f. 183v [l. 2], f. 188v [ll. 13-14], or f. 198v [l. 6]).

(iii) Inserting marginal braces ({l}) with the purpose of deleting whole sections of the manuscript. With the exception of the first two lines on f. 204v (linked in content with f. 204r), there are two left-margin braces for all the remaining lines. One indicates that a strophe (ll. 3-6).
two drynkes ([l. 7-14) and a plastre ([l. 15-18) intended to provoke the woman’s menstruation should be elided; the other brace refers to the suppression of a whole chapter ([inc. f. 204v] Dyvers tymes it happeth of diuers women a mischeuos; [expl. f. 205r] [. . .] but when tyme of voydaunce ben in pe ix dayes forseid). In this case, the meaning of the brace is reinforced by the systematic underlining of each line’s first word, thus hinting to the glossator’s insistence on the need to remove this passage.

(iv) Inserting square brackets to eliminate an excerpt. It is only used three times on three consecutive folios (192r [l. 7-13], 192v [l. 17-22] and 193r [l. 33-38]). On each folio, there is a bracket in the margin—the right in the two rectos () and the left in the verso ()—that extends vertically all over the relevant lines. All three brackets are also accompanied by the word dottied? that may also point to the need of expunging such content.

(v) Cancellating, that is, using a superimposed ‘X’ for deletion. This method is found just once in S249. The right margin of f. 191r records an extra recipe to elaborate a stew for the mother which is cancelled and then rewritten at the bottom margin as if it were a footnote.

(vi) Superimposing letters on others, with the purpose of correcting an old-fashioned spelling of the word (ley-they [f. 181v, l. 2], bin-thin [f. 182r, l. 25], pies-thies [f. 182v, l. 3], perof-therof [f. 188r, l. 27]). Sometimes, it is combined with underlining, as in yif-yff (f. 181r, l. 12) or come be orifice-come the orifice (f. 196v, l. 22).

IV.2. Size

The glossator’s intervention in S249 ranges from the substitution, deletion or addition of letters (kalament-calamin [f. 201r, l. 17]), words (Also done yeven a woman [f. 199r, l. 38]) or short phrases (But neuerthelesse /theye have naturall purgations of bledyng [f. 181r, l. 1]) to the paraphrasing of medium-length passages (f. 199r, ll. 10-11; f. 201v, ll. 24-28). Although rarely, Wotton also eliminates longer sections of S249; there are examples on f. 186v (ll. 1-6), f. 200v (ll. 20-24) or f. 204v (ll. 3-36). Normally, the deleted passages do not present any gloss to their content.

IV.3. Location

The glosses in S249 are variously placed both inside and outside the main text. They are chiefly located inter lineas, the rule being to note the letters or words above the underlined element using a smaller sixteenth-century handwriting (e.g. ff. 181r, 184r or 187v). To a lesser extent, the glossator also writes in the lateral margins, aligning his words with the line in question (f. 185r, f. 196v). Finally, Woton’s glosses are seldom displayed in the head and bottom margins (f. 191r, f. 205v), often resulting from lack of interlineal space.
IV.4. Function
From a contemporary point of view, the writing of glosses and commentaries in S249 performs a double function: (i) it indicates how the glossator's grammatical, semantic and organizing mind works, and (ii) it may provide the subsequent reader with plenty of information on the historical development of the English language, especially on its transition from the fifteenth to the sixteenth century. Due to the heavy annotation, the reader obtains abundant examples of the evolution of linguistic levels such as morphology, syntax and lexicon, as well as of Wotton's stylistic changes to improve the scientific discourse in S249.

V. MORPHOLOGICAL CHANGES
Wotton's modifications in the morphology of determiners, nouns, adjectives, pronouns and verbs show some sixteenth-century changes that can ultimately be reduced to the deletion of suffixes still used in late Middle English.

V.1. Determiners
Regarding determiners, Wotton eliminates the Middle English forms the too and thetother as a result of a misdivision of put one and putother—and uses the one and theother instead:

[1]
on the too one foot (201r, 35)
the other on the tother side (197r, 11)

The Middle English thilke, apparently a fusion of the + ilke was abandoned progressively and was replaced with these during the sixteenth century (OED 1992; Rissanen, 1999: 195):

[2]thilke/membres [these] [partes] (201v, 10-11)

V.2. Nouns
(i) Plurals in -(e)n are substituted by -s plurals in the text. This fact calls our attention, for both plural forms were frequent in the sixteenth century, e.g., ashes/ashen (Lass, 1999: 141). The plural form eyen is usual by mid-seventeenth century (Wallis, 1653: 77, quoted by Lass, 1999: 141) and it can still be traced in the eighteenth-century (Greenwood, 1711: 49, quoted by Lass, 1999: 141):

[3]
the eyen (181v, 18)
as it were axen [ashes] (182r, 26)
her grete too (toos) (189r, 18)
the yolkes of eyren [eggs] (193r, 4)

(ii) Although in Middle English biological gender had already superseded the grammatical one (Lass, 1992: 106), the fifteenth-century scribe still used some pronouns that retained the old
grammatical gender of their referents. Wotton makes them agree with the natural sex of their referents in the real world changing thus their gender:

- lieure wyn is discolorèd & thin & harke iii ^r it hym small grauel (1 8 2 r, 25)
- inaketh tie liet to closyn hym ^r it selfe c to gedre more than hec it shuld do by kynde (1 8 7 v, 37-38)
- shuld make tykelying in the marice / & for shec it wyll come adowne (r 8 9 v, 6-7)

V.3. Pronouns

(i) With respect to the pronominal system, th- forms are used in the manuscript for the nominative and genitive cases of the third person plural, whereas the h- form is still present in some oblique cases. Wotton extends the th- forms for all cases since "by the beginning of the sixteenth century the modern paradigm is fully established" (Lass, 1999: 120):

- nougliit accordyng to her ^r not fit for them ^r (1 8 1 v, 24)
- & maketh her ^r causest them ^r (1 8 1 v, 31)
- to bote her ^r powde thcm ^r in a mortere (1 8 4 v, 6)

(ii) Although self had been added after the pronouns since Old English times, simple personal pronouns with reflexive meaning, as the ones in S249, are still in use up to the end of the fifteenth century (Mustanoja, 1960: 153). The glossator adds self or selves, depending on the number of the pronoun. Themselves, with final -s, which emerges at the end of the fifteenth century (OED 1992; Mustanoja, 1969: 147), is one of the forms added by Wotton:

- they deciuer thcm ^r selves ^r of iiatere (1 8 2 v, 24-25)
- & kpt hyr ^r selfe ^r froii all drinks (1 9 3 v, 20-21)

(iii) Occasionally, possessive pronouns are preceded by the preposition of in Middle English (Mustanoja, 1960: 158). The glossator deletes it and uses the synthetic form instead:

- the ^r her ^r woinbe of her (200 v, 17)

V.4. Adjectives and adverbs

The relic suffix -lich from OE -lic is eliminated by the annotator in adjectives and adverbs, a change that according to Nevalainen took place in late Middle English (1999: 405):

- AId that conieth swyftlich forth oute (1 8 5 r, 1 1-12)
- bringeth it forth the dede childe meravelouslich (1 9 0 r, 18)
- when the iidoir falleth from hir kyndeliche place (1 9 0 r, 29-30)
- ydressed hym rightlich (1 9 6 v, 30)
V.5. Verbs

(i) Wotton consistently deletes from the text the infinitive suffix -en which, according to Lass (1999: 98), had almost disappeared well into the fifteenth century.

\[9\]
they also ben shamefull to shewen and to tellen (180v, 9)
it is profitable to vsen such suppositories (183v, 3-4)

(ii) In the same vein, our Renaissance annotator removes 3rd person plural final -en and -th:

\[10\]
there ben many women that haven (180v, 7)
they that ben of high complexion & both norisshed with liote metes (181r, 4-5)
women that ben of a high complexion & faren well & lyvyng moche case haven this purgacion offter than oons in a moneth (181r, 14-16)

(iii) Likewise, initial y- (formerly the Old English prefix ge-) to form past participles, which had survived throughout the Middle English period as a southern form but had almost ceased to be used by the late fifteenth century (Lass, 1999: 147), is also deleted:

\[11\]
And women that ben y stopped contynuelly (182r, 29-30)
to be y bathed in suche herbes (183r, 16)
medycyns & plastres there ywriten (184v, 23-24)

(iv) The expressions of command addressed to the second person singular in S249 render the author’s instructions to the reader/healer. In the fifteenth-century text, the formulation of these orders fluctuates from the combination of the periphrasis let + plain infinitive (in [12]) or do + plain infinitive (in [13]) — constructions for the first person plural (Mossé, 1952: 108; Mustanoja, 1960: 475) — to the plain infinitive alone. The annotator levels out this variation and reduces them all to the bare infinitive:

\[12\]
let make a stowe of herbes (183r, 1)
operwhiles lette inake herre right sory (183r, 6-7)
let bath herre (183r, 9)
But seth all these things in water till that water be blak & thyk & lette wrap the man oper
be woman in a sheete (186v, 29-30)
Aid from thenavell downwarde to herre priue membre letanoynten her (188v, 26-27)

\[13\]
than dode ric her with a clothe (183v, 28-79)

The following passage records the different formulations of coriand: let seth, do stuphe and lay in coordinate constructions as a clear instance of their identical function:

\[14\]
let seth them yn water & do stuphe her in that sething of tho herbes Also long as she may
And when she gothe of the stuphe lay the herbes to the moder A good suppositoric (193r,
(v) According to Lass (1999: 176) *hen* as the third person plural of the verb *to be* survives as an archaic form to the 1530s, and although *are* begins to be used by sixteenth-century writers, the form *he* emerges as the first choice. The fifteenth-century text and Wotton’s sixteenth-century corrections match this scene: the annotator erases final –*n* of the form *ben*, which prevails in the original treatise against a few occurrences of *he*, but *does* not introduce the form *are*.

\[\text{[15]}\]
\begin{itemize}
  \item they also *ben* shamefull (180v, 9)
  \item they that *ben* of high *complexioi* d. *beth* norrisshed with hote metes (181r, 4-5)
  \item woniein that *ben* with childe (181r, 7)
  \item yif such humours *ben* resolved in to wynde (182v, 8)
\end{itemize}

VI. SYNTACTIC CHANGES
The glossator is aware of the syntactic changes that English has undergone since mid-fifteenth century and consequently modifies the text updating those constructions that we specify in more detail below.

VI. 1. Word order
(i) In Middle and Early Modern English SV order is the most usual; however, we may encounter cases of inversion. In the next example from S249, inversion is triggered by the fronting of the object (Mossé, 1952: 127), which is also supported by the presence of a heavy subject (Rissanen, 1999: 266):

\[\text{[16]}\]
\begin{itemize}
  \item this medicyne *taught* the Prior of Bermondeseye *to* (*taught*) A woman (185v, 8-9)
\end{itemize}

In this case, the glossator *does* not only place the verb after the subject but also deletes the preposition *to* before the indirect object. The reason is evident: once the possible confusion as regards the syntactic functions of the *Prior of Bermondeseye* and *A woman* is removed by the new word order, the preposition *to* before the indirect object is not considered necessary. This is then another instance of the careful and thorough correction undertaken by Wotton.

(ii) As Rissanen remarks, in the course of the Early Modern English period “there seems to be a trend from [adjectival] postmodification to premodification” (1999: 209). That could explain why Wotton alters the few cases of noun+adjective order present in S249, even though it was “especially common in scientific and legal texts […] and persists into the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries” (Lass 1999: 116):

\[\text{[17]}\]
\begin{itemize}
  \item take *[^fine] bole* *fyne* (187r, 21)
  \item take *[^c]orne* *oyle* *continu* (188v, 22)
\end{itemize}
with \( \text{clare} \) wyne \( \text{clare} \) (190v, 25)

This trend to premodification has also affected the common Middle English construction \( \text{adj+noun+and/or+adj} \) (Mossé, 1952: 123; Fischer, 1992: 214; Rissanen, 1999: 208-209) which is gradually superseded by \( \text{adj+adj+noun} \) in Early Modern English. Following this drift, whenever two modifiers are involved, Wotton places a post-positive modifier before its head and next to other premodifiers:

\[
\begin{align*}
[18] & \\
\text{it is profitable to ven such stippositories a cowre days other a fuye} & \text{\( \text{or five dayes} \)} \\
\text{before that tyme (183r, 3-4)} & \\
\text{four \( \text{venber} \) or \( \text{fuye} \) yeares} (200v, 7)
\end{align*}
\]

VI.2. Expression of subject and object

(i) A pleonastic use of personal pronouns is not rare in Middle English, mainly in order to avoid ambiguity where the subject is detached from its verb (Mustanoja, 1960: 137-138), as in [19]. Wotton avoids these cases of double subjects deleting the personal pronouns:

\[
\begin{align*}
[19] & \\
\text{for women aftir they ben with childe for to they be declyuerd they ie have sought this} & \text{purgacioti (18Ir. 9-10)}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
[20] & \\
\text{the iisiyddewyf she shall orderyie} (197r, 16)
\end{align*}
\]

(ii) Regarding direct objects, they are not often expressed in S249, as they can be easily inferred from the context. Nevertheless, Wotton took the trouble to insert object personal pronouns wherever needed:

\[
\begin{align*}
[21] & \\
\text{And yif bow take stuccf mawe of a sokyng hare or of a sokyng Calfe & dost beynce it to} & \text{poudre / \& medliest \( \text{it} \) with poudre (186r, 28-31)}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{take lynedce / aall hole & sche it in shepes mylke oher gotes mylke \& let \( \text{her} \) ete it} & \text{(186r, 34-35)}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{leto wrap the man oher be woman in a shefe \& sit \( \text{them} \) yan hat bathe} & \text{\& let \( \text{them} \) vser rosted inetis (186v, 30-31)}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{withholden there wombe \& cliipen \( \text{it} \) hard to gedre with her lioides (188r, 11-12)}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{But before \& aftir thou niyght yeven \( \text{her} \) nedeycyns (189r, 9-10)}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{And first anoynte [them] with hotc oyle of rosce (201r, 25-26)}
\end{align*}
\]
VI.3. Articles and possessive adjectives

(i) The definite article was not felt necessary in Middle English if the noun was already specified by any other means, e.g., an off-phrase (Fischer, 1992: 219; Mustanoja, 1960: 268). Mustanoja adds that in many of the cases where the definite article is left out, the noun is preceded by a preposition, as in [22] (Mustanoja, 1960: 269). The examples below illustrate these articleless uses modified by Wotton, who introduces definite articles following the Early Modern English practice:

[22]
Aid thay have such purgacioiis fromi the tyme of twelve wynter (181r, 2-3)
in the tyiiiic of hir a3es yif her triacle (189r, 1-2)

[23]
hat plastre shall be the qualitie of a pawiie of the haide (192r, 14-15)

(ii) Likewise, the annotator inserts indefinite articles, which were quite infrequent in Middle English (Fischer 1992: 230). By the sixteenth century, the absence of a was considered an archaism (Traugott 1972: 134):

[24]
let the woman stande there ouere & lente he siiloke come in to here prive membrc or in to
^to a mannes fundamont (186v, 19-21)

(iii) Possessive adjectives for bodily functions and body parts are used consistently in the Middle English treatise; Wotton just corrects the instances without a determiner or, alternatively, with a definite article:

[25]
If they liave their purgacion in this tyme (181r, 12)
so that the pipe entre in to that of the priue membre (191v, 29-30)
mending his hede on the bost nianerc or his feet rightlych (197v, 9)

VI.4. Coordinate constructions

In coordinate constructions where the coreferential element (verb, preposition, article, adjective, etc.) is repeated, the annotator eliminates the second occurrence:

[26]
ilorished witht liotc illetes & with liote diyiikes (181r, 5)
for as moche as ther maiiy wuiliien that haue liiay divers maladies & have humours
(181r inferior margin = 18r v, 1)
botht iii A man & in A woman (189r, 28)
as it wre child quyk & meveth but noght so swyftly / But it mevethdedely (199v, 29-30)
VI.5. Number agreement

According to Fischer, Middle English is characterised by looseness of concord or agreement (Fischer, 1992: 364; Mossé, 1952: 110); agreement awareness, she adds, had its origins "in rules laid down by grammarians and schoolmasters in the Renaissance and after" under the influence of Latin. Wotton endorses this concern making corrections where appropriate:

[27]

Many of the sekenesse[s] (181r, 21-22)

for to help women of these sekenesse[s] (182v, 26-27)

VI.6. Impersonal constructions

Impersonal constructions without an expressed subject were frequent in Old English, their number even increased in Middle English, but, conversely, during Early Modern English the tendency was to express the subject. Thus, impersonal constructions of the type me repenteth became gradually personal ones in Early Modern English, resulting in either if repenteth me or I repent through a process of reanalysis (Rissanen, 1999: 250). The only example of such an impersonal construction in S249 was modified by the glossator, who also replaced the verb:

[28]

Also yif hit hezke that it brynneth [she perceive it hot and burninge] (187r, 34-35)

VI.7. Relative constructions

(i) The combination the which was extensively used during the late Middle English period, probably under the influence of French, although native origins have also been pointed to (Mustanoja, 1960: 198). In [29], Wotton eliminates the article before which, but this is not the norm because he maintains the elsewhere in the manuscript (e.g. Jois of arthiem with the which medle all the opher poudres [196r, 10-11] or Thurgresont of the which thing [199v, 14-15]):

[29]

Other medycynes there Beth the which yif / woman drynke hem they will naiken here to have a purgacion (184r, 2-3)

a bathe of herbes in the which the women (199v, 33-34)

(ii) Which is preferred to that for no evident reasons as in:

[30]

fenugrek that [which] is moche better (185r, 36)

the inoder that it ne is [which is not] nought tryve to defie (193r, 27-28)

In [31], though, the proximity of a previous relative clause introduced by that may have moved
Wotton to replace it by which in order to avoid repetition. Once again, he reveals his meticulous character as an editor.

\[31\]

grete sykencsse that the woman hathe y hade & hat[en] which hath y febled hir moche (198r, 35-37)

(iii) When a preposition precedes the relativiser and the antecedent is a person, whom is favoured:

\[32\]

There be aliother women in the which whome often tymes there marice will come doune (205r, 12-13)
yif it be so a woman desire to conceyve of a man that by whome she wolde conceyve (205r, 36-37)

(iv) Finally, Wotton’s decision to delete short relative clauses enlivens the rhythm of the text which becomes more fluent:

\[33\]

comfort of the child bat is whyn hir (195r, 37)
A precious stone bat[ed] hight isapis (199r, 36-37)
to help women that they [to be] were deliuered of child (199r, 37-38)

VI.8. Negative constructions

The few negative correlative constructions ne ... nought in the fifteenth-century text are substituted by postverbal not, which has become the common negator by late Middle English (Fischer, 1992: 280; Rissanen, 1999: 271). In S249, Wotton preserves the particle not (written originally as nought), which is the prevailing form used in isolation in postverbal position [34]; however, he does modify the correlative construction [35]:

\[34\]

And yif the child conieth nought [not] outewards (198v, 12)

\[35\]

for women after they ben with childe for to they be deliuered they ne haue nought [not]
this purgacioi (18Ir, 9-10)
that it is [which is not] nought nyght to defie the fleumatyk honours that beth (193r, 27-28)

VI.9. Modal auxiliaries

(i) By the use of modal auxiliaries we convey emotional and cognitive processes, since they alter the meaning of a statement by implying certain attitudes, convictions, feelings, deductions, etc. In his choice of auxiliaries, the glossator shows again his discriminating use of the language; nevertheless, he cannot escape from the changing state of the language and, as a result, is not consistent. May, for instance, is replaced by can in [36], but is maintained elsewhere in the text.
probably because the meaning "have the physical power to" was just shifting from may to cun at the moment (Traugott, 1972: 118). Wotton just shows a change in progress by using both modal verbs with the same meaning:

[36] for to help women of these secknesss there ben manydiuers medycynes as blode lettynge in oher placess to deliere hem of blode that they may/could/ought/ not ben ypurged of (182v, 26-29) feblenesse of the woman that May/ought/cannot withheld the blode withynhere (185r, 7-8)

In the next example cannot introduces overtones of a higher degree of impossibility than may:

[37] The dropsy of the modir cometh oherwhils of witlioldyng of blode that a womaii shulde be purged of & than she May/cannot ought be yheled But sile be purged of that blode (192c 6-9)

(ii) If the doctor/annotator relies on the efficacy of a treatment, the sense of prediction is better expressed by shall or will than by may, that is why already in Middle English shall is frequently used in prophecies (Fischer 1992: 264):

[38] lette hir vset to be y bathed in suche herbes as j spake of rather Sr she May/shall be holpen (183r, 16-17) Also yf the mydryf/wette her handes in oyle of pulio[...] Sr pan aioynt the orifice / of here prysse membre it shulld/will iiake tykelyng in the marice (189v, 4-7)

(iii) Finally must is used instead of mowen to emphasise the necessity to do something, or, rather, the prohibition to do something:

[39] they mowen/must/reseyven none stron medycyns to purgen hem (188v, 6)

VII. LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC CHANGES

There is a high percentage of lexical modification in S249. The deletion, substitution and addition of new meanings to the text is, again, part of Wotton's attempt to update and make it as comprehensible as possible to a sixteenth-century audience. Whenever the glossator underlines a word or phrase for the semantic improvement of the manuscript, he is also showing us his disagreement or non-familiarity with that element. Moreover, Wotton is fully conscious of the internal workings of the text as well as of the grammatical rules to collocate words into meaningful sentences. In this way, he even adapts the semantic context surrounding the new term to obtain a coherent lexical set.

The semantic glosses in S249 do not only affect words but also complex structures which are rewritten using alternative combinations of English lexis. The next pages of this article are
devoted to outlining the changes in the primary signification of our manuscript. This analysis
discloses a twofold characteristic scheme: (i) modifications by which the underlying (or
intrinsic) meaning remains unaltered, and (ii) modifications by which the underlying meaning
varies.

VII.1. The underlying meaning remains essentially the same

Wotton’s intervention in the lexicon of S249 produces no change in the denotational meaning
(Lass, 1992: 464-465) whenever he resorts to synonymy or to the substitution of an obsolete term
for another.

VII.1.1. Synonymy

If synonymy is words or expressions that "are identical or similar in meaning and that can be
used interchangeably in at least some contexts" (Greenbaum, 1996: 420), a considerable number
of the lexical substitutions found in S249 can be said to have a synonymic nature. However, the
lexical substitutes of the underlined words are not always strictly speaking synonyms; they rather
tend to be near-synonyms. The presence of two words doing the same work in a language is
considered to be “uneconomical”; for this reason, differences in style, collocation, meaning and
grammatical potential emerge among them (Greenbaum. 1996: 409).

In S249, the glossator frequently uses synonymy to reformulate the scribe’s lexical
idiosyncrasy, mainly by means of replacement and addition of terms and expressions.

VII.1.1.1. Absolute synonymy

In absolute synonymy, one word is often replaced by an equivalent of the same grammatical
category; here, the meaning in context does not vary and there is no nioing or insertion of new
elements [40]. If necessary. Wotton also changes the orthographic shape of the contiguous words
[41] or makes them concord [42].

[40]
Aid yit tllis withheldynge stoppynge be ol colde (182r, 17-18)
& tllis medicyne bothe bringeth forth hope doe childe & quyk wiere euer etier it be in the
bobains wone & the if speedyly /sorte (184v, 23-25)
Also thare with gotes mylke that is full profitable for this sekenesse for becau se it nia keth
be blode thik ... (186r. 10-11)
Aid tllis akes firte ciidurcth ocher whiles two daies or bre (188r. 2-3)

[41]
Witholdynge of this blode tllat they move nought have here purgacions in due tymes
coynry in * divers wai es * divers inanors (18 v, 7-8)
Take mummicil queyanuilliaisk tllic harte horney bren till be white & of euery chofthes
vichte inoche * alike quantite * (186r. 23-25)
Regarding phrases and short sentences, absolute synonymy refers to the paraphrasing of the same idea, this time using a construction with modified spelling, word order and lexis:

And other whiles ther waxeth wannesse in thir visage, in thirere faces. (181v, 26-27)

In the examples included so far, Wotton repeatedly replaces a word or expression with an absolute synonym. Less frequently, our glossator redefines the lexicon in S249 by adding synonyms. With this practice, he expresses the same concept through another lexical item:

And profitable bledyngs ben atte the veynes of the gretc tnon / & to be yparsd or skarrefied on the of the legs byneth the sperlyuere. (182v, 30-32)

VII.1.1.b. Near-synonymy

This term refers to the substitution of a word for another exchangeable in a limited number of contexts. Although both options have identical referential meaning, the glossator's choice is affected by two major parameters:

(i) Register

When Wotton introduces a more formal alternative in the manucript, he is being conscious of the specific linguistic needs of scientific discourse. A distinction between everyday and technical jargon should be made, even though the dynamics of the language prevents a clear-cut "dividing line between technical terms [and expressions] and terms in general use" (Greenbaum, 1996: 416-417). With his choice of vocabulary, Wotton upgrades the degree of formality in the text and characterises it with a new scientific touch where precision and clarity are fundamental.

And long withlioldyng of this blode maketh women other whiles to fallen in to A dropscy
and otherwhiles & liiketh hem \[cause the them\] to have be Emerawde\[s\] (181r. 30-32)

Also the tuniust es bathes y madc of water that alym de plume is soden yn for it experte \[is proved\] & Aluchil techeth it \[is soden yn\], in the 2° Chapitre (187v, 11-13)

it have\[suffer\] the grettest secklesss of tile body the whiles they leven than to ben y heled (188v, 1)

Also doth xv . grayics of pyonys soden in wyne & ydoneke fordo be suffocacion of the modir & helpe\[s]\[s\] that sorow\[s\] \[sodium\] disease \[disease\] (192v, 27-28)

(ii) Collocation

The coocurrence or juxtaposition of words into prefabricated lexical units is known as collocation (Greenbaum, 1996: 427). In a number of occasions, the glossator substitutes a word for another with the intention of making the collocations more appropriate to the context. Two grammatical categories stand out:

ii.a. Prepositions

[46]

The first is stoppyng of the blode that they shuld have in \[be\] purgacion and be purged as I haue saide (180r, 24-25)

Also stuphes ben profitable to \[for\] them ymade of herbes that will & mowe open the veynsc of tile liiidor (182v, 34-35)

let hir bleden a littell \[a little\] in \[in\] he Arnie & sethe ete her drynke a littell Rubarbe iij \[iij\]. (185v, 15-16)

Aiid amon\[g\] \[among\] \[all\] things that nieii vse Fys & Whete thikketh noioe a mannes blode (186r, 19-20)

And she niadc a plastre of diptayne of Ioso & of saueray & leyde it \[about\] her priue shape with oute (193r, 34-35)

ii.b. Adjectives

[47]

& that is \[conveniente\] profitable \[list\] leaste \[leaste\] tiely fall in to a Cardiacle other in to A dropsey (182v, 29-30)

Also a worthiifull \[good\] scrup that myghttich bringth forth the corupt blode fro the moder (184r, 15-16)

Also in to the droppe / of the inodir the chekes beii neesshe & sowthe and febllich \[of\] a warned \[youuleued\] ... (193r, 19-20)

they haue contynuallly\[shy\] a contynuall feuer but nough to strong\[shy\] \[sharpe\] (194v, 10-11)
VII.1.2. Obsolescence

Not infrequently, the glossator erases obsolete or old-fashioned words. Indeed, the majority of glossaries and "old-word dictionaries of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries indicate the extent to which Old and Middle English texts had become incomprehensible" (Nevulainen, 1999: 347). Although obsolescence is a relative concept, often depending on the reader's standards and linguistic background, Wotton's practice in S249 may provide us with a set of lexical items —mainly, nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives and conjunctions that either had already lost currency by his age or were beginning to fall into disuse:

[48]

Withholdyng of this blode that they inowe ought to have libur purgacioun in due tymes coynyn in divers inaners And of diverse occasions (181v. 7-9)

Another suppositorie, take the rote of smallach the mountaine quantete thyrre fyncre all grene (183v. 14-15)

& sith it eftfennes against a litell & let it kate (185v, 6-7)

& lete hir vsen to drynk water of rosse or o flantor ober or reyne water or el water that mastykis sodell yl ober or wylic y liieded with water (186v. 33-35)

Also take a quyksturtille & brene her al all quyk burne him alivse with the feberes (187r. 1-2)

Also rym A taketh that al lialiauer stilkynge thinges in this cause shall be put benepe forsh (192r. 21-22)

& perfo foulc grete huinours makei grete swellying as it were anothuer liialiauer of ydrosie that is cleped called aschites (199v, 24-26)

VII.2. The underlying meaning is modified

Sometimes, Wotton's massive annotation of S249 is directed to change the textual meaning by including more specific information on a topic. Such a modification of the underlying meaning in the manuscript is carried out through the following methods.

VII.2.1. Introduction of new words

With the insertion of new words and expressions in context, the essential meaning of sentences is affected. As a result, there arises a deviation from the original sense which can range from a minimal shade of meaning to a totally different idea, as represented in the passages below:

[49]

For as moelie as tliere ben many women that havcn many divers liialadyes and seknonses nyged to the deth (180v, 1-2)
The adverbial substitution *nygh-euen* implies a qualitative change in meaning; *euen to the deth* has much more drastic connotations than *nyghto the deth*. The first expression emphasises the malignity of certain exclusively female diseases, as surprising as it may seem; *nyghto the deth* is somewhat milder, carrying the sense of “closely related”.

[50] other of moche wakyng other of iiocie thenkyng° ssadness [other of grete Angre other of iiocie sorowe other of iiocie fastynge]/(1 81v, 12-14)

*Thenkyng*, as a synonym of meditation, does not necessarily involve the feeling of sadness, although it may be responsible for such a state of unhappiness. By replacing the general term *thenkyng* for the specific sadness, Wotton is reformulating one of the possible causes for the *withholdyng of this blode* (1 81v, 7)

[51] & bringen forth children that ben measles® lepers or have some other such fowle sekenesse (181v, 28-30)

Here, the infectious disease known as *measles* (variant form of ME *measles*, in Latin *rubeola*) is substituted by *lepers*. Notwithstanding their similarity (both are characterised by the presence of pustules in the skin), an expert on gynaecology and obstetrics may have preferred to distinguish *measles*, a term formerly “applied to the pustules of the eruptive diseases in general” (*OED*, 1902), from *lepers*, a more precise word.

A variant version consists in combining the replacement of a word or phrase with the addition of (a) new one(s) to present a finely-tuned scientific discourse:

[52] The neyieetli is tic° fallynge downe and | goyngoute of the iiioder benethen forth | 81v, 3)
And otherwhiles in this tymethey have willo° desireand have | coiiipany with men (181v, 27-28).
Aid yif it be in the fifti iiiaiere thow myght knowe it by the febleness° [weaknes & faynyness] of the woman’s body (185r, 21-23)
Aid let eiere blode atte the vayisc of iir Arinc Aid to be cupped vndire iir tetes Aid abouten the reynes and the lentes & to be garsed on her legges to withdrawing the blode awayewards from he° withdrawe & diverte the blood from ye another| moode/(185r, 35-39)

**W1.2.2. Introduction of time-references**

Wotton also attempts to be more concrete in the overall arrangement of the gynaecological content. The introduction or change of time-references turns to be an organising technique that helps the reader to understand better the internal relationships among the elements in a recipe. Therefore, the interpretation of the theoretically-based content and the application of the therapeutics to female patients are stepped as accurately and orderly as Wotton believes pertinent. For this purpose, he made use of time and spatial connectors and expressions:
Therefore firste of all ye shall understandyn that women have lesse hete in there bodies than men haue (180r, 33-34)

And aboute that tyme of the mone that they shuld have there purgacioii yif they have none let them bledyn a good quantite of blode atte hir grete toe. And a nopear the nexte day ther oons by the morowe (183r, 12-15)

let sute but stande till hit be colde. & clenste thereof as nochie as she may dyrne atte ons.

when then it shall do it to deluyere a woman from hir child (84v, 32-33)

& do then wrap all her body al aboute with an liote double shete. than and afterward make her a fumigacion (200r, 3-5)

ffirst immediatly after but she is anoynted & pan wrapped in a shete & the balles forseid (200v, 9-10)

VZZ2.3. Introdution d extra information

The modification of the meaning underlying the text is also accomplished by inserting new medical or remedial data. Once more, concreteness and effectiveness in the transmission of the scientific discourse are guiding the glossator. He is specially concerned about anatomical precision, as seen in:

The fifie is when the moder is flawe fro [flared within and without. /] withynforth (181r, 31)

And is claped Cole then they felen breiynyn & prikyng of heathe with yn fort [ & outward] & here vyn is of an high colour & fatty & yn tyue of lair purgacioii a thre dayes or tij that they be delyvered (182r, 12-16)

let them bledyn a good quantite of blode atte the paiie in hir grete toe (183r, 14-15)

The precipitacion of the moder is a nopear sekenesse when the modir falleth from hir kyidelled [ & natural] place (190r, 28-30)

And also y haue seid inola wexeti in the inarice as it were a child that is quyk & irieveth [ by the matrice] but noght so swyfily (199v, 27-29)

Furthermore, Wotton is also retrieving his medical expertise and general knowledge on the topic to fill in the evident contentual lacunae probably due to scribal errors. The information is introduced here without making any changes to the sentential syntax and hence prescrving the overall coherence of the text:

But neuerthelesse [ theye haue iaturall purgations ] of bledynyng to make there bodyes clenste & hole froin sykeiiesse (181r, 1-2)
& beron strawe the poudre of mastik & of [Franke] encense & of hartes hornes (190v, 32-33)
Womenn when they ben with child ^ have often tymes therre legges wollen swollen
[and for this disease ](202v, 5-7)

VIII. SCRIBAL ERRORS
As just mentioned in the previous section, Wotton introduces or deletes some words that the original scribe seemingly forgot or repeated:

[56]
The nioder is a skyn that the childe / is enclosed in (181r, 20-21)
Makeii oper ^ wo^ meii oper whiles to thirst hir wombe to gedre (188r, 12-13)
let her ^ h^ be dieted (191r, 32)

IX. TOWARDS A MORE SCIENTIFIC STYLE
We have already seen how some words with general meaning (nouns and verbs mainly) have been replaced by more specific words or even medical terms (see examples in [45] above). Wotton also added notes that explain physiological processes more accurately [57], and time adverbs and linkers were inserted to indicate the different steps of a treatment with more precision [53]. However, these are not the only modifications that suggest an intention to reshape the text into a more scientific pattern. Wotton wanted to avoid any confusion that could arise in the reading of the original text and made use of strategies such as repetitions [57], deictics [58] or endophroric references [59] to contribute to a clearer understanding of the treatise:

[57] many of the sekenesse that woineii havyn comen of greuances of this moder that we clepyii the marys / The first ^ greef is stoppyng of the blode (181r, 21-24)

[58] CURA ff or to help women of these sekenesse there ben many divers medycenes as blode lettyng ... And these profitable bledyngs (182v, 26-30)
yif thou yceve her drinky of hir clarette made with ^ this ^ syrup (184r, 32-33)

[59] lette the woman sitte beryii afterwards a good while & sethen lette hir wash her prevy inciubre as depe as she may reche jnwards & thus do a good while with ^ the sayed ^ water (183v, 26-28)

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References to other parts of the text, though, were already present in the original copy, but their formulation nearly always involved the presence of the author in the form of the first person. Wotton removed this personal implication, and new expressions in the passive voice, a distinctive characteristic of scientific texts, were introduced (Taaivsainen, 1994):

{[60 1994: 331] in the bathes ymade of siche herbes as y speke of right nowe: + ar before mentioned (183r, 10)

in suche herbes as j ar spake of rather before (183r, 16-17)

bathen hir wyth such herbes as y seid rather ar before spoken of (183r, 30-31)

put it yp ayeti as y ssayed we have before (197v, 4)

X. CONCLUSION

The numerous sixteenth-century annotations to the fifteenth-century text of S249 have proved an outstanding corpus to trace some of the most relevant changes in progress during the transitional stage from late Middle English to Early Modern English. The glosses seem to be the work of a John Wotton, a former owner of the manuscript, who took the pains to delete, replace and add letters, suffixes, words, constructions and even complete passages to update the language of this gynaecological treatise. His selective and punctilious character has thus provided us with an excellent real testimony of those language issues that may have posed difficulties to a sixteenth-century reader. Likewise, the text has turned out to be a good sample of the development of scientific style. Many of the changes Wotton has made reveal an awareness of some of the features that characterize the scientific/medical discourse: an adequate terminology, use of deictic and repetitions to make references clear, absence of the first person personal pronouns, use of the passive as a formula of detachment and an accurate time sequence of treatments.

For all this, we consider it necessary to devote some time to the transcription and study of the glosses and modifications added or made to any historical written piece since they may constitute as good a source for the history of the English language as the text itself. In the case of S249, our view is that conventional editorial methods, such as the inclusion of glosses within the body of the text or in ancillary notes, are unsuitable for a clear rendering of the original text and its metatext. The number, length and elaboration of the glosses reach such an extent that they almost constitute a rewriting of the fifteenth-century manuscript, somehow resulting in a new "text". A face-to-face arrangement of both text and metatext would eliminate an otherwise entangled layout of the edition and would facilitate their reading and comparison. Besides, it would allow an overall perusal of S249 and its sixteenth-century glosses, which eventually would help modern readers to tackle with some of the ongoing changes in Garly Modern English, and, particularly, with the evolution of medical discourse.
NOTES

1. For a recent study of glosses in another gynaecological manuscript, see Domínguez-Rodríguez, forthcoming.

7. Refer to eVK 1956.00 (Voigts & Kurtz, 2000)

3. S249 is predominantly written in English, except for the folios 202v-204r where three Latin chapters are included, namely (inc.) *Ad menstrua provocanda* (ff. 202v-203r), (inc.) *Ad restringendum coysteram* (ff. 203r-203v), and (inc.) *De tumore mamillarii* (ff. 203v-204r).

4. In Jacobus Sacchi’s *De editione* of the *Compendium medicinedi Gilbriani* (Liguriae morborum [m] universali[m] qua[m] particularissimorum medicinae [el] cursus cum ossibus, the Tabulariabuculorum librorum compendi Gilbriani* is preceded by a brief indication of the general contents and structure to be found in the volume: *Presens opus est morborum universalium quom particularium* Gilbrianci duaitut inceptum libris (second folio after the frontispiece).

5. See Green (1992: 78-82) for the complete classification.

6. Alonso-Almúdina (2002-2003: 15-18) has established an outline of the internal organization of four treatises (MS Yale 47, MS Sloane 5, MS Sloane 3486 and MS Hunter 307) belonging to “The Sekenessed Wymmen” *Version I*. Apart from certain differences in content, his outline could be also extended to S249.

7. In S249, the illeaded theory is normally preceded by a short title like The 12 chapitre is to make a woman able to conceyn children / yf god will (f. 201r, ll. 13-14). But there are also a few other chapters without a title. In these, the topic is explicit in the first two lines (e.g. *Gronesse hat wemen haren in beryng of here children cometh in two maners* [f. 196r, ll. 36-37]).

8. Additions by this second Iliaed arc marked in italics.

9. There is no definite explanation for the lower quantity of glosses in those three folios. To our understanding, it is possible that the coileit of 180v influenced the glossator’s decision of not annotating the passage. Foliol 180v shows the prologue to the gynaecological treatise, expressing the original author’s intentions when writing the text: *It will write of women pryvete sekonesse the helping & that can woman may help another in herse sekenesse & rought dyrkentirir prestees to sychyngs men[ll. 23-26]*: therefore, the glossator’s inclusion would hide or alter its function in the overall manuscipt. On the other hand, fff. 202v-204r present three chapters fully written in Latin. Both f. 202v and f. 204r introduce the phenomenon of code-switching: f. 202v illoves to Latin after 14 lines (dealing with uteriue canceur and the swelling of legs during pregnancy), whereas f. 204r reintroduces the vernacular by line 28 (to speak about different techniques to provoke women’s nienstruation). Although the English passages are correspondingly annotated, the Latin part has almost no glosses. The same happens with the Latin oil folios 203r-204v: it is scantily glossed. If it is understandable that the glossator of S249 wanted to illodernize and improve its medical discourse, we wonder whether he thought of no use to annotate the words of a language that had been long established as the vehicle of science.

10. The glossator’s crossing out is to be distinguished from the original scribe’s correction of errors (such as repeated words or misspellings) when copying the text. See, for example, f. 181v (ll. 21), f. 183v (ll. 11) or f. 191v (ll. 2).

11. Expunction is an obstrusive iliacatiof of erasure in illeaded manuscripts, where a row of dots is placed beneath the letter(s) or word(s) to be deleted (Reitz, 2004. *Online Dictionary for Librarians and Science*).
12. Folios 180r-180v in S249 contain "a brief spiritual regimen for alleviating all manner of illnesses and other grievances of life" (Green, 2003: 380), which originally preceded the gynaecological content of this manuscript but was cancelled out at some time (maybe, by John Wotton himself).

13. The corrected item in each pair of examples comes in second position

14. See note 13

15. In all the examples we have maintained original underlining and crossing out only in the word(s) relative to the discussion; other glosses in the passages have not been recorded to avoid confusion. The words between [..] reproduce super lineam annotations; the words between square brackets refer to marginal notes. At the end of each example, the number of folio and the corresponding line(s) are included between brackets.

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