

AN ASSESSMENT OF PUNCTUATION IN SOME MIDDLE ENGLISH GILBERTUS ANGLICUS'S VERSIONS OF 'THE SEKENESSE OF WYMMEN'

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RESUMEN

El sistema de puntuación de la lengua inglesa medieval carece de reglas específicas que rijan su uso. Dicho uso de los signos de puntuación suele presentar dos funciones: (a) dividir los textos para señalar la estructura o (b) guiar la manera en la que el texto se debe leer. Sin embargo, siguiendo a Lucas (1971), en este artículo, se demuestra que el empleo de estas marcas cumplen otros propósitos como, por ejemplo, la asociación de unidades lingüísticas. Otro objetivo importante de este trabajo es la de sugerir un modelo combinado de puntuación que consiste en la realización de un análisis previo de la estructura del texto que nos permita asignar una función a los signos dentro del modelo de Lucas (1971).

ABSTRACT

The present paper suggests a model of punctuation which consists in a reworking of the one presented by Lucas (1971). This new approach to medieval punctuation requires a previous study of the structure of the text, which helps us to assign the function of a particular punctuation mark.

1. INTRODUCTION

Medieval punctuation has been a neglected field of study, especially in the cases of non-literary texts. Scribal punctuation has been often labelled as “irregular”, “erratic” and “inconsistent”¹. Nevertheless, recent contributions (Rodríguez-Álvarez², Pahta³, Alonso-Almeida⁴) have suggested that the use of punctuation symbols shows some degree of consistency⁵, based upon the medieval notions of structure and reading. Rodríguez-Álvarez⁶ and Pahta⁷ have also claimed that, in the specific case of non-literary texts, Latin has played its role, as copyists have reinterpreted sentence and phrase division in Latin texts in terms of punctuation symbols and stereotyped expressions.

The rendering of modern punctuation symbols to editions of medieval texts is also questionable, since editorial works hardly offer an explicit account of the policy followed. Although it is true that sense and meaning may be altered as a consequence of imposing modern punctuation to any sort of medieval texts, this fact becomes significantly problematic for texts such as medical or alchemical treatises, to the extent that it can distort reality, producing ill effects in the experiments proposed. If you think for instance of the case of medieval medicinal recipes, the final therapeutic solution suggested in those recipes depends entirely in the correct reading of the text, and that implies a complete understanding of the punctuation used by the scribe.

The research presented here constitutes an approximation to the study of punctuation in medieval gynaecological treatises of the ‘the sekensse of wymmen’ group assigned to the tradition of Gilbertus Anglicus *Compendia Medicinæ*⁸. The ultimate goal is to describe the punctuation systems used by the different copyists of the MSS in order to produce a critical edition of these texts, a project currently underway in the University of Las Palmas. In doing so, the researchers of this project want to avoid any sort of bias in randomly applying reading pauses without a clear statement of the intended editorial policy. This research on punctuation is based on previous works by Lucas⁹ and Görlach¹⁰, from which I have outlined the theoretical framework described in section 3, below.

This said, my main objectives in this paper are the following:

- a) to offer an account of punctuation practice in some gynaecological texts of the 'the sekenesse of wymmen' group,
- b) to suggest the possible equivalencies of these symbols in present-day English.

The paper is organised in this manner. In section 2, I describe the gynaecological texts and their punctuation symbols. After this, I offer an account of the theoretical framework, which I shall follow to analyse the data. Such a framework is based primarily on Lucas¹¹, already validated in Alonso-Almeida¹². The value of this framework lies in the fact that a previous study of the structure of the texts is required before engaging in the description of scribal punctuation. Section 4 included the analysis of punctuation in terms of this framework. Finally, the conclusions are given in section 5.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE DATA

In this section, I shall first describe the gynaecological MSS used as data in this work. Such a description includes a brief account of the structure presented in these treatises. This done, I concentrate on the description of the punctuation symbols found in these texts.

2.1. *The gynaecological MSS*

The data I shall analyse consist in the full texts of the gynaecological texts found in the following MSS: (a) Yale Medical Library MS 47 (henceforward Y47)¹³, (b) British Library, MS Sloane 5 (S5), (c) British Library, MS Sloane 3486 (S3486), and (d) Glasgow University Library, MS Hunter 307 (H307)¹⁴. All the manuscripts have been written in the fifteenth century, although, in the case of H307, language suggests an earlier date, such as late fourteenth-century or earlier fifteenth-century. Following the division proposed in Green¹⁵ according to the sources of these treatises, all of them belong to the Gilbertus Anglicus's *Compendium medicinae* group (ca. 1230)¹⁶. This group is further divided into MSS of the Version 1, to

which all our MSS belong, and MSS of the Version 2. In Version 1, some parts of the *Compendium* are not included, and the scribes altered their texts in a variety of ways, such as the abbreviation of some chapters, and the split of one chapter into two. S5, S3486, Y47 and H307 belong to this group¹⁷. In Version 2, Version 1 is included, and enlarged. It also includes pictures of *foetus-in-uterus*, and the use of Latin is widespread. Often the text is introduced by a prologue which justifies the necessity of having a manuscript of this sort, as shown in the following quote: “in helping of women I wyl wright of women prevy sekenes the helpyng, and the oon woman may helpe another in her sykenesse & nocht diskuren her previtees to suche vncurteys men” (MS Sloane 2463, f. 194r, in Rowland)¹⁸.

The organisation of contents of the MSS is identified in terms of chapters and sections, which distribute the information. The chapter is the first structural component of the treatise, and each one is further arranged in terms of informative sections. Before describing the structure of the chapters, I shall concentrate first on the introductory chapter, as it presents a fairly different organisation of contents, which I outline in (1), below.

- (1)
- (Topic introduction)
 - Topic description
 - Problem
 - Solution
 - Additional explanatory information
 - Disorder of natural solution
 - Treatise organisation of contents

The section in brackets remains optional in the MSS; Y47, for instance, includes the statement “Here begynnes þe sekenesse of wymmen wech ys clepid þe moder id est matrix” (f. 60r)¹⁹, whereas S5 begins straightaway from the section here labelled as *topic description*. This topic description section distributes a basic account of what the manuscript is about in further subsections, namely *problem* and *solution*. The former

constitutes the reason why the MS is needed: “ye schal vnderstonde þat wymmen hafe las hete yn þem þen men and more moystnesse for defaute of heete þat schuld drye hyre humours and hyre moystnesse” (Y47, f. 60r), being the solution described in the next section. In this case, the solution is Nature itself. The third main section deals with the problems that arise from a disorder of the natural solution, which implies the action of human beings. This disorder generates diseases, which are mentioned in the section entitled *Treatise organisation of contents*. Here, we find the division of the treatise in chapters.

The chapters show a different distribution of information, as outlined in (2):

(2)

Title – sickness
 Description of sickness
 Causes
 Symptoms
 Solution: remedies
 Ingredients
 Quantities
 Preparation
 Application
 Dosage
 Use
 Duration of treatment
 Evaluation of remedy

The *title* precedes main text, often signalled by the use of any typographical conventions, and indicates what the chapter is about. The *description of sickness* is an account of the disease for what a remedy will be suggested. This section includes the *causes* and *symptoms* of the disease in question, so that the practitioner or midwife may produce their diagnosis, thus facilitating the treatment. The *solution* section presents the therapeutic remedies in the form of recipes to solve the problem and these solutions are presented in the chapter by using expressions such as “for this sickness

you must use...”, “for helping women of this sickness”, and the like. This part of the chapter may contain more than one recipe, being each one normally introduced by expressions such as “another”, “or”, “other medicines”, and so on. As shown by Görlach,²⁰ the remedies are internally organised in subsections, some of which are optional²¹.

The *recipe title* indicates the purpose of the recipe but, most importantly in these tracts, the beginning of a new recipe, since recipes run one after the other, and there is not any other means of distinguishing them. Examples of these titles in Y47 are: “An oper”, “A gode suppositoires to purge wymmen”, “Also”, and “for þe flux”. An introductory sentence takes sometimes the role of the titles. Such an introductory sentence may also specify clearly any aspect of the disease for which the remedy is specially prescribed, as in the following example for ache of the matrix: “But for ache that comt after þat a woman hath jbone childe [the recipe follows]” (S5, f. 172r^b).

The *ingredients* section presents the material and the amount of them needed to prepare the solution. In the following section, *preparation*, the way in which elements should be combined is included. The *application* section offers directions as to how the finished product should be applied, and, occasionally, it provides instructions regarding dosage and duration of treatment. Finally, the recipe ends with an evaluation of the treatment prescribed²². The following example taken from the chapter “Cancer of the matrix” illustrates this division into sections (square brackets indicate the section):

(3)

for icching & for bleyneþ þat ben in þe modir [title] ¶ Take a ripe gourde & pare it wiþoute & clense it of þat þat is wiþin it & siþe stampe it smal & þan set it ouere fier in a pot with oile & wex and schepis talowe & whan þei ben wel sode togidre cast þerto þe poudre of mastik & olibanum & let hem boile wel togidre & siþe clense it pourZ a cloþ [ingredients + preparation] & þerwiþ anynte it within [application] & þis oynement is good for brennyng [evaluation of treatment]

(H307, f. 162v)

In (3), the title consists in a prepositional phrase introduced by “for” and followed by a noun and a relative clause, which specifies to what “icching” and “bleynes” the author is being referred. The ingredients and preparation sections are combined in one single section beginning with the imperative form “take”, which stands as a key word in medieval recipes to indicate the beginning of the remedy after the title. Here, we find a number of imperative forms, which is characteristic of the instructive nature of the recipe text-type. The application section contains information about the exact place where the preparation should be applied on the patient, as well as the duration of treatment and dosage. Finally, the evaluation of treatment states the positive results, which can be achieved by using this therapeutic ointment.

Syntactically both the text preceding the recipes and the recipes themselves show complete sentences. The recipes are characterised by the massive use of imperative forms, whereas the text preceding them contains forms in the present simple indicative due to its descriptive character. Semantically, the texts aim at describing illnesses related to women and at prescribing remedies to cure them. Thus, the main lexical fields used in the tracts are related to female body parts, diseases and herbs.

2.2. *The punctuation symbols*

The gynaecological tracts exhibit the following means of registering punctuation²³:

- a) The *punctus* (•) or point is placed above the line of writing and is used in all the tracts²⁴.
- b) The *punctus elevatus* (¶) only appears in H307, and consists of a point on the line of writing and a ‘tick’-shaped stroke on the top of it.
- c) The *pes positurae* (?) is used by the scribe of S5. Although I shall represent this sign as indicated in brackets, that is a combination of colon and point, its shape in the MS presents also a sort of hook; the horizontal stroke of this hook originates from the point to the right and, then, moves downwards towards the line of writing in a semi-circular style. Graphically, this part of the symbol could be described as type of number ‘7’, but with a rounded shoulder.

- d) The *punctus geminus* or colon (:) is used exclusively by the scribe of H307, and its identification poses no problems, as the scribe separates it from the text by leaving an empty space both before and after this symbol.
- e) The *virgula* (/) or virgule is a slanting bar or slash, and it is used in H307 and S5. In Y47 and S3486, it appears in combination with the point (/•), and it also combines with another virgule in H307 (//). The single virgule is quite problematic in H307 and S5, since some letters end in an otiose slanting stroke, which may be misread as a virgule. A similar problem happens with the reading of the ampersand symbol in H307, as the left side of this graphics is drawn with a slanting bar, which extends from the line of writing to the head of this symbol. The shape of this line is sometimes semicircular and joins the foot of the ampersand with its head. Considering this, I have decided not to count this line as a virgule, unless there is a clear evidence that it is indeed a virgule.
- f) The paragraph mark (¶) is used in H307, S5 and S3486. The shape of this symbol is different in all the texts, and, in the specific case of S5, this mark is very similar to a majuscule letter <p> with the lobe at the left of the shank. The lobe is half-filled in black. In S3486 and H307, it is represented as a majuscule letter <c> with a crossing vertical stroke, written in darker strokes and with a bigger size in H307. In S5, the paragraph is also combined with the point (¶•).
- g) The hyphen (–) is used in H307, and it consists in a horizontal stroke and appears normally at the end of the sentences. S5 and S3486 present a sort of wavy hyphen, and it very often appears with several others of this kind.

The following section deals with the description of the theoretical framework, which I shall follow to perform the analysis of the punctuation practice in the MSS under study.

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This section describes the model I shall apply in order to interpret the punctuation system used by the scribes of the gynaecological treatises described in section 2.1., above. This model is a reworking of Lucas²⁵, which concentrates on the use of punctuation in Capgrave's *Chronicle*. The value of the model proposed by Lucas is that it reconciles the two sides of punctuation. In other words, his model lets the identification of punctuation symbols to mark reading pauses and to mark the structure of the texts. My reworking of this model consists in considering the concept of "standardisation of arrangement" suggested by Görlach²⁶ in his analysis of the recipe text-type. In this study, Görlach divides the structure of the recipe text into different sections according to topic. This division is beneficial for the study of punctuation, as it helps us to predict where a particular punctuation symbol is likely to appear, as I have already shown in my study of the punctuation practice of the scribe of MS Hunter 185²⁷.

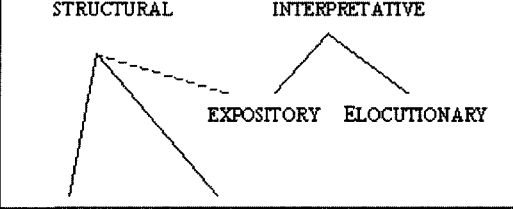
In this research on the text of MS Hunter 185, I prove that the study of medieval punctuation requires a previous analysis of the internal organisation of contents of the recipe text. Likewise, the study of punctuation symbols in gynaecological texts relies heavily on an earlier description of their structure, as carried out in 2.1., above. By doing this previous work, we avoid biased interpretation of data by imposing our understanding of sense-units upon the medieval notion of sentence structure. The ultimate benefits for editorial work is that we refrain ourselves from forcing particular readings of the texts, which may vary from editor to editor.

3.1. Lucas's model for the analysis of punctuation

Lucas²⁸ proposes a model for the study of punctuation practice, which is schematised in the following manner:

(4)

DESCRIPTION OF CATEGORY-TYPE	CATEGORIES	
INTENTIONAL	STRUCTURAL	INTERPRETATIVE
FUNCTIONAL	GRAMMATICAL	NOTIONAL



The structural category deals with the organisation of information in the text, and it depends directly on the intention of the writer. From the perspective of function, this category of punctuation divides into two, since it can be grammatical, separating sense-units, or notional when it is used to associate structurally independent (groups of) sense-units. The interpretative intentional category serves the function of showing the writer's attitude to what he has written. This includes the use of expository punctuation, i.e. punctuation symbols to clarify the sense of the text, and the use of elocutionary punctuation, i.e. punctuation to indicate how the text should be read aloud. According to Lucas²⁹, the structural and interpretative uses of punctuation are not mutually exclusive, nor are the uses of expository and elocutionary punctuation. He claims that a given mark of punctuation is likely to be described in terms of structural and interpretative punctuation, no matter whether one function outstands the other³⁰. Similarly, the author's primary intention to clarify the structure of the text does not impede a secondary function of the same punctuation mark to indicate how a specific linguistic string should be read.

(6) below exemplifies all these uses of punctuation:

(6)

[the Earl of Westmoreland]... inqwyred why þis puple was gadered.
& þe archbishop answered ageyn³¹.

þat men shul of pité gyue hem good. long aftir þe fadir of on of hem
cam to London³².

In þe ix Zere of þis kyng John Wyclef þe orgon of þe deuel. þe enmy
of þe church. þe confusion of men. þe ydol of heresy...³³

The use of the point in (6a) may show a grammatical function, hence separating two independent sense-units. However, it could also own a notional function as the sentence after the point represents the answer to the indirect question placed before the point. In this context, two sense-units will be associated. In (6b), the primary use of the point is expository as it disambiguates alternative readings. In other words, the point indicates that the correct reading is to interpret the word “good” as an attributive particle complementing “hem” and not as an adverbial modifying “long”. In (6c), the primary use of the point is elocutionary, since it aims at indicating reading pauses rather than at associating or separating noun phrases.

3.2. *Division of the gynaecological treatise in sections*

As I have pointed out in 2.1 above, the text of the gynaecological MSS can be divided into sections in the fashion proposed by Görlach³⁴ for the medical recipe text. This is what he calls “standardisation of arrangement”. These sections constitute meaningful linguistic informative chunks, which are topic-related and structurally independent one from the other. Thus, in the case of punctuation used at the verge of each section, this can be interpreted in terms of Lucas’s theory as having a primary grammatical function.

Another important aspect of the division of the text in sections is the presence of certain linguistic elements³⁵, which allows the identification of each section. These linguistic elements are the form of the headings, the use of stereotyped expressions such as “another”, “also”, “for to help women of this sickness”, “other medicines are...”, “the tokens thereof are these...”, etc.; the use of specific verbal forms, and the specific use of vocabulary. As regards verbal forms, I have already mentioned in 2.1. that the main distinction between the recipe text and the text before it is the massive use of imperatives in the former, whereas the latter was characterised by the presence of the present simple tense used to describe

the disease. The imperative form is used in the recipe text in nearly all sections. Thus, another way to identify the sections within the recipe text is by means of the semantics of the verbs. The ingredients sections nearly always begin with the word “tak(e)”. The preparation section contains verbs related to cooking, such as “hete”, “boyle”, “brent” and “temper”. In the case of the application section, the verbs frequently found at this point are related to “therapy” verbs, which indicate how the medicine should be used, such as “wete”, “ley”, and “put”. Another set of verbs frequently found in this section is the causative type, as shown in the following sentence taken from Y47 for staunching blood flux (underlining shows the causative verb): “Also take hertes horne wel ybrent and egge schelles tyl þey be whyght but take iij somych of hertes horne • as of þe egge schelles • and poudre al to gedre • and let hyr vse þat in hyr potage • in sauce • & yn drinke” (f. 65r). The evaluation of treatment differs with the previous section in the sense that the verbal forms frequently associated with this part are future and present simple tenses, as in “it wyll deliuer hir of hir corrupt sede” (f. 66v), “ffor þat makeþe a woman sone to be delyuerd of child” (f. 70v).

As for the main lexical fields associated to sections in the gynaecological texts, these are the following:

- a) names of body parts associated to the description of sickness section and the application section: “moder”, “wombe”, “nauyl”, “ancle” and “veyne”.
- b) names of diseases in the description of sickness section: “precipitacyon”, “aposteme”, “cancur”, “woundes”, “suffocacyon”.
- c) names of herbs in the ingredients section: “loryf leuys”, “madyr”, “mugwort” and “perytory”.

3.3. *Combining Lucas’s model and Görlach’s concept of standardisation of arrangement*

Once I have described Lucas’s model for the study of punctuation and Görlach’s concept of standardisation of arrangement, let us see how the consideration of the latter in Lucas’s model may benefit our understanding of medieval punctuation practice. Firstly, recall that Lucas claims that the structural functions of punctuation are grammatical and notional, and

the interpretative functions are expository or elocutionary. Thus, the division of the gynaecological texts into sections suggests that punctuation marks at the beginning of a section are grammatical, as they separate independent sense-units. Likewise, the marks found within the sections are likely to be notional or expository, since they either associate sense-units or clarify the sense of the text.

This information helps us predict and disambiguate the function of punctuation marks, especially in those cases where Lucas's model cannot account for it satisfactorily. Besides, the unmasking of the functions of punctuation marks following this theoretical framework guarantees an interpretation of these marks free from bias, and, hence, we avoid forcing particular readings of the text by imposing our notion of structure, thus disregarding the scribes' punctuation practice.

4. ANALYSIS

In this section, I shall comment on the uses of each of the punctuation symbols described in section 2, above, following the guidelines shown in the previous section. For each one, I will offer examples from the MS(S) where they appear. After that, I chart and summarise the results from my discussion on scribal punctuation usage.

4.1. *The punctus or point*

The *punctus* is the most common symbol in the MSS, with the exception of S5 where the scribe uses quantitatively more paragraph marks than any other punctuation symbol. The inevitable result of such overuse is the variety of purposes fulfilled by the point, which cover all the categories described in section 3.1., namely functional and intentional. For the sake of clarity, I will divide the different uses of this mark in sections.

4.1.1. *To separate sections within the treatise*

As commented in section 3.2. above, the texts are clearly organised in sections. Though this is not a must in the scribal activity, the copyists very

often signal the beginning and the end of sections in texts by the insertion of punctuation marks, depending on the intended sharpness of the break between two running sections. In this sense, the point in our MSS are used to separate off the many sections within the gynaecological treatise without imposing a strong fracture among them, since the aim is to organise the information to assist the comprehension of readers as well as to indicate the relationship of sections within each chapter. The following examples illustrate this³⁶:

(7)

- a. A prophetabull baþe for þis sekenes • and also for þe flux •• Take a gode quantity of reyne watre • and þe fyfþe part of strong vynegre & seþe þer yn þe rynde of a blak plumtre And of a noot tree • & roses • & plantayne • conferee • daycy • ribwort • mynt oke appulls • pentafilon • hulles • of akkehornes • and of chestaynes •• seþe al þese til þe water • be blakes & þikke • and make þer of a • baþe & cetera (Y47, 65r-65v).
- b. •• Anoþer take þe floure of cockil & medle with coton & make a suppositorie þerof •• Anoþer take of pelletorie of spayne & of piretre ana... (S3486, 142r).
- c. •• þer ben many dyuerse toknes to knowe þe oon fro þe oþere • for þis swellyng comþ sodenly : þe oþere doiþ not so/ (cause section) (H307, 153v).

In (7a), the points indicate the division of the recipe into sections. The first one separates off the title from the ingredients section, which is in turn separated from the following section, i.e. the preparation section, by means of another point. Likewise, in (7b), this punctuation mark shows the beginning of different recipes with the same therapeutic effects, all of them considered independent units within the gynaecological treatise within the section labelled as “solution” in (2), above. In (7c) the point marks the beginning of the causes section. In all the uses, the function of the point is grammatical as it establishes clearly the organisation of the contents in each chapter. In a sense, this particular use could exhibit a notional function, as it also makes clear the relationship of one section with the coming one. Before describing the next section, I want to call your attention to the fact that S5 does not show the same usage.

As a matter of fact, several points seemed to me at first to own this particular grammatical function, but a later analysis revealed different uses, which I shall comment later on in due time.

4.1.2. *To link structurally independent linguistic units*

Points are also used with a notional force to associate structurally independent units, rather than to separate them off. I have found those uses in the MSS, which I classified in the following manner: to indicate (a) the link between coordinated phrases and between coordinated clauses and (b) the link between subordinated sentences. The instances in (8) below exemplify this.

(8)

- a. But eiþer whiles þere ben corupte humouris in þe modur withoute þe veynesin þe holewnesse of the modur and þei lettyn wymmen of her purgacions And iij humouris þere ben þat ben jwont to be in þe modyr ** flewme ** malencolie ** and colre (S5, 160v).
- b. þei hau þis purgacioun euery moneþe ones but if it be wymmen þat ben wiþ childe ** or wymmen þat ben of drie complexioun and trauelen moche (H307, 150r).
- c. kynde haþe ordeynd wymen a purgacioun at certeyn tymes of bledynge to make her bodies clene and hole fro sekeneſe ** And þei hau sich purgaciouns fro þe tym of xij wynter of age to þe age of fyfty wynter (S3486, 140v).
- d. ** if it be in þe furst maner þe womannes veynes ar þen ful of blode in dyuerse place ** And if it be in þe secounde maner... And if it be yn þe þryd maner þe blode comeþe softly... ** And yf it be in the fourth maner þe blode ys watree and þynne... and if it be yn fyrþe maner þou maist knowe it be febulnes of þe womman / And if be in þe sixt maner þe blode comeþ contynually (Y47, 64r).

The use of the point in (8a) is to relate the paratactic noun phrases, which refer to the humours. In the same vein, (8d) is also a list of symptoms, which are given in the form of conditional sentences. Such conditional structures are independent one from the other, but, here, the point, far from realising only a structural use, its primary function is notional,

since it pursues to associate the components of a same section to create a sort of unity to this part of the treatise. As for (8b), the scribe has used the point to link two coordinated noun phrases joined by the use of the adversative particle “or”. The structure of both phrases are identical: NP → noun + þat-relative clause, and, on the basis of this structural uniformity, the scribe avoids the repetition of the string “if it be...”, which underlies in the linguistic unit after the particle “or”, which will be realised as follows: “or if it be wymmen þat ben of drie complexioun”. Finally, the function of the point in (8c) to join two coordinated clauses is again notional, since the two sentences are much related in meaning. Both sentences offer complete meaning on their own, but they are so tightly associated by topic that the scribe has felt necessary to indicate this by means of a point. Actually, the sentence after the point comes to add more meaning to the first; specifically it fills part of the interpretative space left over by the string “a purgacioun at certayn tyme”. In this way, the purgation of blood does not take place at “certeyn tymes”, but it rather occurs “at certeyn tymes... fro þe tym of xij wynter of age to þe age of fyfty wynter”.

4.1.3. *To show the fronting of clauses and phrases*

Another important function of the point is to indicate the fronting of a clause or a phrase, probably for stylistic purposes. Obviously, this implies that the primary use of the point in this context is elocutionary, since it shows the attitude of the writer to his writing. Let us consider the examples in (9), below.

(9)

- a. •* and in þe tyme of hir purgacioun þei be delyuered of litil matir (H307, 151v).
- b. springe þer vp on þe powder of scamonye • and put it yn •* in like wyse ye may do with þe rote of lupynes (Y47, 62v).
- c. ¶ An yf hit comt grete plente of blode •* lete diete hur with metis and drinkys þat genderyn but litel blode as frute and herbis (S5, 163r).

The examples (9a) and (9b) present the fronting of the prepositional phrases “in þe tyme” and “in like wyse”, respectively. In the case of the latter, the point is needful as the reader may interpret the string “in like wyse” as belonging to the previous sentence, and not with the following one. In (9c), the IF-clause occupies the thematic position, and for this reason, the main clause postponed to a secondary position in the sentence is indicated by means of the point.

4.1.4. *To indicate the relationship between phrases within a clause and the relationship of words within a phrase*

Sometimes the scribe needs to associate phrases within a sentence for a variety of reasons, mainly to assist readers’s comprehension. The same happens with the constituents of a phrase. On some occasions, the main reason to alert the reader of the underlying link between two phrases is that such phrases are given in two distinct points of the sentence, to the extent that the reader may not identify the connection. Thus, the main function of the point is expository, since it cannot be accounted otherwise. The following excerpts show the use of this mark in these contexts:

(10)

- a. þe colour of her bries & her yren •* is cler rede (S3486, 141r).
- b. wymmen beyng of hye complexion þat faren well and hafe mych ese •* hafe þis purgacion ofter þen oones yn a moneth (Y47, 60r).
- c. Sleyng of þe modir comeþ of a kene colrik humours •* þat cleueþ aboute þe modir (H307, f. 154r).

In the case of (10c), the point is given before the verb, thus separating it from the subject. However, the function of the point is not to separate the subject from its verb, but rather to link them. The reason for this lies in the fact that the noun phrase, which functions as subject, is a complex one, being formally formed by a noun phrase which also embeds two coordinated prepositional phrases. In this context, the scribe might have felt that there was a long distance between the head of the noun phrase (subject) and its corresponding verb phrase, and hence, to avoid confusion, he added the point as an indicator of the relationship of those elements.

Another possible function of the point in this context is elocutionary, as the scribe's intention is to slow the pace of reading so as to make the reader aware of the internal structure of the sentence. Likewise, the example in (10b) indicates the relationship between the structure before the point with what comes after it. The noun phrase that performs the subject function is located far away from its verb due to the embedding relative clause that modifies the head "wymmen". As in the previous example, the primary function of the point is expository, and the secondary function is elocutionary. Finally, the point in (10c) is used to indicate the relationship between the constituents of a phrase. In this particular example, the relative clause introduced by "þat" is preceded by a point which relates it with its antecedent "humours".

4.2. *The punctus elevatus*

The *punctus elevatus* has been found only in the text of H307, and its use is confined to show the relationship between two independent sentences and between two clauses in a same sentence, as shown in (11):

(11)

But nepeles kynde haþ ordeyned wymmen a purgacioun at certeyn tymes of bledyng to make her bodyes cleene and hool fro siknesse ¶* and þey han suche purgacioun fro þe tyme off • xij • wynter age in to þe age of fifty wynter (H307, f. 149v-150r).

let hir baþe hir in water þat bockis & peritorie ben sode in & frote wel hir wombe wiþ al þe erbis and whan sche comeþ out of þe baþ ¶* make a plasterof peritorie... (H307, f. 162r).

In the case of (11a), the *punctus elevatus* functions notionally, since the writer wants to make clear that there is some kind of connection between the sentence before the sign and the one after it. Particularly, this association relies on topic, as the second statement presents an aspect of menstruation, i.e. its duration during a woman's life. As for (11b), this symbol is used elocutionary to indicate the fronting of the time adverbial clause and its main clause.

4.3. *The pes positurae*

This symbol only appears in S5 to show the end of a chapter, as seen below:

(12)

Eiþer take þe oþer medicynesse that were jtolde in the capitell of fleying of þe moder ? (S5, f. 170va).

The example in (12) represents the final statement in the chapter “A posteme of þe moder”. Here, the *pes positurae* separates off this chapter from the following one, namely “Woundis in þe moder”.

4.4. *The punctus geminus*

The only instances of this sign restricts to the text of H307, and they are, as follows:

(13)

- a. Dropesie of þe modir comeþ oþerwhil of wiþ holding of blod þat a womman schulde be purgid of þan sche may not be helid but if sche be purgid • oþerwhil it comeþ of fleumatik humours /& of wynd þat ben in þe modir/ and þouZ a womman swelle with þis dropesie as þouZ sche were with child • þer ben many dyuerse toknes to knowe þe oon fro þe oþere • for þis swellyng comeþ sodenly :* þe oþere doiþ not so (H307, f. 153v).
- b. & let hir fette an horn on hir scheer with out ony gersyng :* & let hir smelle stynkyng þingis & orible (H307, f. 158r).
- c. A good fumygacioun to awake hem in þe tyme of hir accesse /& speke / take of peusedanum • Z • vij • of galbanum • Z • iij • & of cost as moche • of pepir • xj • greynes & a litil baume • þilke þat moun be stampid :* stampe to poudre • but resolute galbanum in vynegre /& cast herof on coles /& let hir hongre hir heed ouer þe smoke (H307, f. 158r).
- d. whan þe modir is yn :* tak þe poudre of gallis notemugis spike-nard & clowes & tempere þat poudre wiþ piliol oile & do þat into a smal lynen cloþ & mak it of þe schap of an ey & put it into þe

priuy membre to lette þe modir þat sche falle not out aZen (H307, f. 160r).

- e. þat wiþholden þe blod þat þei schulden be purgid off :* or þan þei conseyueden / oþerwhil it comeþ for þe child is deed (H307, f. 163v).

The functions of the *punctus geminus* in these examples fall into two main categories, namely grammatical and notional, as I shall now explain. The instances given in (13a) and (13e) are used notionally. In the specific case of the former, the punctuation sign is intended to establish a contrast between two tokens; each one being the symptom of dropsy attributed either to the action of “fleumatik humours” or “of wynd þat ben in þe modir”. As for the latter, the *punctus geminus* introduces an apposition that relates to a case of natural retention of menstruation, i.e. when a woman carries a foetus in her womb. The rest of the examples, i.e. (13b-d), are grammatical, and they separate sections in the running text. Although (13b) is an entire section itself, the part after the colon can be understood as another step in the process of treatment, independent from the previous one in the sense that it does not follow the same kind of preparation. This use of the punctuation mark can be also labelled as notional, since it makes clear that both actions in the therapeutic process aim at helping the woman to overcome this sickness.

With respect to (13c) and (13d), the *punctus geminus* serves the function of separating off sections within the treatise. The first case marks the end of the ingredients section in the recipe and the beginning of the preparation one. In (13d), this punctuation mark shows the beginning of the recipe text.

4.5. *The virgula, or virgule*

After the point, the virgule is the most common medium of registering punctuation in the manuscript under analysis, although it does not cover as many functions as the point does. Broadly speaking, the virgule is used to fulfil two major uses: (a) to separate sections in the treatise, and (b) to link structurally independent linguistic units. I shall explain these uses separately in sections, below.

4.5.1. *To separate sections in the treatise*

In this particular case, the virgule functions grammatically, and it marks the beginning of a new section. Examples are, as follows:

(14)

- a. /* A prophetabull baþe for þis sekenes • and also for þe flux • Take a gode quantyte of reyne watre... (Y47, f. 65r).
- b. And aboute þat tyme of þe moone þat þei schulen haue her purgacioun if þei han noon let hem blede a good quantite at þe greet too • & an opere day at hir opere too /* and euery woke ones let hem vse to be baþed in erbis as I seide raþer & sche may be holpe þouZ hir siknesse haue durid longe (H307, f. 152r).
- c. /* A gode suppositorye to purge þe humouris ¶ Take þe... (S5, f. 161v^b).

In the examples shown in (14), the virgules in the first and the third instances are used to separate sections. In both cases, the punctuation symbol indicates the beginning of a new recipe, separating the title from what comes previously. In (14b), the virgule shows the beginning of the dosage subsection, which belongs to the application section. It should be noted that this part of the therapeutic advice precedes the remedy itself, i.e. “let hem vse to be baþed in erbis”.

4.5.2. *To link independently linguistic units*

H307 exhibits a nice example of linking independently strings of discourse, i.e. independent sense-units, in the treatise introductory chapter, but which share common purpose within the overall chapter:

(15)

& þis blood þat passip fro wymmen in þe tyme of her purgacioun comeþ out of þe veynes of þe modir / ¶ þe modir is a skyn þat þe child is closid inne in his modir wombe / and many of þe greuaunces þat wymmen han comen of þe modir /* oon is stoppyng of þe blood þat þei schulden be purgid of as yseide /¶ An opere is to moche flowyng of þis blood & in vntyme & þis siknesse feblþ

wymmen moche /* an opere siknesse is suffocacioun of þe modir /*
 an opere is precipitacioun of þe modir /* an opere is whan þe modir
 is flawe wiþ inne /* an opere is a postum of þe modir /* an opere is
 swellyng of þe modir /* an opere is greuance in bering child &
 hardnesse or þan þei be delyuered /* an opere is going out of þe
 modir byneþeforþ /* an opere is wiþ holding of þe secoundyne /*
 an opere is ache of þe modir (H307, ff. 150r-150v).

All the instances of the virgule highlighted in (15) pursue to associate apparently independent linguistic strings. I say “apparently” because there is nothing in the preceding text, which can give us an idea of the role of these sentences at this point in the manuscript. It is just once we get familiar with the gynaecological text, that we realise that the intention of the writer here is to indicate the organisation of the treatise contents. Thus, I think that the function of the virgule is basically notional, as there is a thematic connection among the statements. Yet, the virgule may have a secondary elocutionary function, as the addition of the virgule in this context seems to suggest a scribal intention of slowing down the reader’s reading pace, so that they become fully aware of the type of information the treatise includes.

4.6. *The paragraph*

This punctuation mark is used extensively in S3486 and H307, especially to indicate the beginning of a new section within discourse. However, there is another major use of this symbol, namely *to indicate that a word belongs to the preceding line*, which falls in the interpretative category.

4.6.1. *To indicate the beginning of a section*

The following examples illustrate the grammatical force of the paragraph mark to divide the contents into several sections:

- (16)
- a. ¶* Also when sche comeþ out of þe baþ if she be a rich woman
 yuiur hir ... • Also ciclamen strawed... • Also þe iuse of verveyne... ¶*

Toknes when a woman shal sone be delyuered...sterynge & mevyng
(S3486, ff. 146v-147r).

- b. ¶* Also a plastre maad of þe musilage of musilage... / also tak þe
poudre of gipsum... ¶* Tak clene stone... ¶* Tak mummye encense
mastik... ¶* Also take hertis horn... ¶* Also þe iuys of mugwort
drunke... ¶* Or take encense & mynte... (H307, ff. 155v-156v).

In both the examples in (16), the paragraph mark is used to separate different sections in the chapter. In the specific case of (16a), this punctuation mark is used in the first instance to show the first recipe in a list of remedies prescribed to prevent women from suffering while “beryng childe” (S3486, f. 146v). The beginning of the following remedies is shown by the use of the point. This is done differently in (16b), since the scribe keeps using the paragraph mark for the beginning of all recipes, save for the second one, which is introduced with a virgule “/also tak þe poudre...”. In (16a), the second paragraph mark also indicates the beginning of a new section, namely the symptoms section, which normally starts with the word “toknes”.

4.6.2. *To indicate that a word belongs to the preceding line*

Whenever a word (or words, or a portion of a word) does not fit into its corresponding line for any reason, either because there is no more space to write a final word, or because the scribe realises that he has missed a word in a line, the copyist adds this missing word in a following line. He signals this fact to the reader by placing a paragraph mark before the missing word. This function of the punctuation mark, exclusively recorded in the text of H307, is elocutionary, in the sense that the reader is advised how the text should be read. In the following examples, I indicate a new line in the manuscript by using the label [new line].

(17)

- a. & of þe modir smerte wiþinforþe for keneschip [new line] of þe
cokil • anoynte it with oile of roses or of violet or with [new line]
Sleyng of þe modir comeþ of akene ¶* siche oþere// [new line]
colrik humours... (H307, f. 154r).

- b. & it schal saue þe skyn fro bre [new line] Moche wynd þer is also
 in þe modir • oþerwhil ¶* kyng [new line] þat greueþ women ful
 moche (H307, f. 160v).

In the first example above, the string *siche opere* belongs to the previous line to refer to any type of oil to be used in the therapeutic treatment. In (16b), the scribe cannot write the entire word in its corresponding line, and finishes it at the end of the next one with a preceding paragraph mark to notify this to the reader.

4.7. The hyphen

The use of this symbol is very specific in all the instances, as it serves the function of indicating the end of a chapter. However, when used in this fashion, a series of hyphens are normally given so as to occupy the remaining space in a given line. On some occasions, the hyphen is doubled, one on top of another, and that shows that the end of a particular word is offered at the beginning of the new line, in the same way as we do today. I include examples of these uses in (18), below:

(18)

- a. ¶ Also take a quyke tyrtyll & bren hir all qwik with þe ffederis and
 take an vnce of mummye and as myche of sanndragon and bren
 hem þer wibe in an erþen potte al to poudre and let hir vse þat in
 potage and in sauce and in sauce and in drinke ——* (S5, f.
 164v^b).
- b. and þei han oþerwhil an vnskilful appetit to metis þat ben not
 acor=* [new line] ding to hem (H307, f. 150v).

In the first example, a series of hyphens has been used to indicate the end of the chapter entitled “To myche flowing of blode”, which begins in f. 162r^b. In the last example, a double hyphen indicates the reader that the end of the word is given in the next line. The hyphen in (18a) owns a grammatical function, since it separates chapters within the treatise, and, in the specific case of (18b), the hyphen is intended to show a correct reading of the text, and it has an elocutionary function.

5. MODERN PUNCTUATION APPLIED TO ME TEXTS

The analysis of punctuation carried out in the preceding section allows me to suggest a number of Present Day English equivalents, which may take over the role of medieval punctuation symbols. For that purpose, I shall first summarise in the following table the main (basic) uses of all the punctuation signs used in the texts studied in this paper³⁷:

(23)

USES	SYMBOLS						
	•	¶	□	:	/	¶	—
(a) To show numerals and measures	*						
(b) To separate sections within the treatise	*			*	*		
(c) To indicate the end of a chapter			*				*
(d) To indicate the beginning of a section						*	
(e) To link structural independent linguistic units	*	*			*		
(f) To show the fronting of clauses (and/ or phrases)	*	*					
(g) To indicate the relationship between phrases within a clause, and the relationship of words within a phrase	*						
(h) To indicate an apposition				*			
(i) To indicate that a word belongs to the preceding line						*	
(j) To join syllables							*

As deduced from the table in (23), the *punctus* is used in a variety of ways, whereas the rest of symbols owns a more specific usage. The main function of the point is grammatical, as it divides sections within the treatise. This is the case of the *punctus geminus* and the *virgula*, too. When these symbols are used in this manner, the likely equivalent in the modern system is the point. This is also true of the *pes positurae* and the hyphen when used grammatically, as in (23c) and (23d). In the case of (23f), PDE punctuation can also show this by the use of a comma, just after the clause, which has been fronted. As for (23j), the same convention is followed nowadays.

The use of punctuation for (23e) is more ambiguous, since a careful analysis of the context where a particular string of language is embedded will determine whether the medieval symbols used can be replaced either by a point, a semicolon or a comma. With respect to (23f), that is a comma in the modern system. Finally, (23a), (23d), (23g) and (23i) does not find any equivalences, and thus, it must be left unrecorded in a critical

edition. Particularly, (23i) is very uncommon in writing nowadays, and hence, punctuation does not consider this possibility.

With this, I want to make clear that the use of punctuation marks in medieval texts is extremely systematic, although scribes are not systematic in conferring one function to each symbol. The fact that each scribe uses their own punctuation system may lead us to think of a random and careless usage of medieval symbols. However, after my analysis of the data in section 4, above, I have noticed that, despite the array of functions each symbol has, all scribes are very precise and transparent in their use of punctuation symbols within the limits of their own conventions.

6. CONCLUSION

My primary objective in this paper has been to describe the main functions and uses of medieval punctuation symbols, as used in some Middle English gynaecological treatises. For such description of data, I have outlined a theoretical model based on Lucas³⁸ and Görlach³⁹, which reconciles both the structural and the interpretative functions of punctuation. The application of this model to my data has shown (a) that the majority of symbols serve the function of organising the treatise contents in terms of thematic sections, and (b) that signs are rarely used randomly by the scribe, as has occasionally been suggested by some scholars. Furthermore, I have also found out that another important function of some marks is that of clarifying particular readings of the text. This is strongly connected with the intention of the writer to show how words, phrases and clauses in his treatise should be combined for an exact understanding of the text.

Another substantial contribution of this paper is to show that scribal punctuation systems should not be overlooked by medieval texts editors, as, very often, such punctuation conventions carry particular meanings, not expressed verbally. These particular meanings may be eventually lost by the use of modern punctuation without a previous analysis of the text. This analysis must consider the scribal organisation of his own discourse, even at a microlevel, so as to grasp, at least tentatively, the complexity of text construction in the medieval period. The benefits of doing this result

in an unbiased edition of a medieval text, since the editor does not rely on *ad hoc* interpretations of punctuation symbols, but rather on an organised interpretation of these Middle English signs.

NOTES

- 1 An example of this is found in N. F. Blake's *History of the English Language* (Basingstoke, 1996), pp. 161-162. He quotes the opening lines of the *Canterbury Tales* from the Hengwrt manuscript, and analyses the use of the virgule concluding that "its function is not altogether clear. It usually comes at the end of a phrasal unit, but it does not seem to have specific metrical purposes... In so far as we can tell, the punctuation fulfils a rhetorical rather than a grammatical function; it may have been intended to indicate where a pause in reading should occur. Inevitably, pauses are most likely to occur at the end of phrases or clauses". In my opinion, Blake is right when he labels the use of the virgule (and of other punctuation marks) as rhetorical, but I disagree with him in the sense that, in the specific case of the virgules in the opening lines, they indicate reading pauses alone. The problem, I think, lies in the fact that Blake only considers the use of the virgule with respect to what comes earlier ("at the end of phrases and clauses") and barely to what comes after this punctuation mark. Let us briefly consider the use of the virgule taking into account what comes before and after it in the following instances in Blake (1996: 161) (the numbers in square brackets are mine): "Whan that Aueryll with his shoures soote [end of line] The droghte of March [1]/ hath perced to the roote [end of line]" (ll. 1-2), "Whan zephirus eek [2]/ with his sweete breeth [end of line] Inspired hath in euery holt and heeth [end of line] The tendre croppes [3]/ and the yonge sonne [end of line] Hath in the Ram [4]/ his half cours yronne [end of line] And smal foweles [5]/ maken melodye [end of line]" (ll. 5-9) and "Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages [end of line] And Palmeres for to seeken straunge strondes [end of line] To ferne halwes [6]/ kouthe in sondry londes [end of line] And specially [7]/ from euery shyres ende [end of line] Of Engelond/ to Caunterbury they wende [end of line] The holy blisful martir [8]/ for to seke [end of line] That hem hath holpen whan [pat they weere seeke [end of line]" (ll. 12-18).
- The use of the slash in all cases is rhetorical, not for showing reading pauses, as Blake suggests, but for indicating the relationship between phrases in a clause (Alonso Almeida 2001: 224). Thus, in terms of Lucas (1971; see section 3.1. in this paper), the specific function of the virgule is expository, since it aims at clarifying the sense of the text. Particularly, [1] shows that the subject of the

- verbal phrase “hath perced” is “that Aueryll” and not “the droghte of March”, and so does [5]. In [2] and [7], the virgules indicate the inclusion of a prepositional phrase before the verbal phrase to which they belong. In [3], the role of the virgule is that of separating two noun phrases, which seem to be coordinated by the particle “and”. However, this makes clear that the *and*-connection should be established between the two clauses and not between the two phrases. [4] introduces the direct object corresponding to the split verbal phrase “hath yronne”. Example number [6] indicates an apposition, which is related to the previous linguistic string “halwes”. Finally, [8] alerts the reader that the string indicating purpose “for to seke” belongs to the verbal phrase “wende”, which is found in an earlier line. In short, this function of punctuation shows the intention of the writer towards his texts, as he indicates how the phrases should be combined for a logical reading of the text. In this sense, this function of punctuation reconciles both the structural side and the rhetorical side of punctuation.
- 2 See A. Rodríguez-Álvarez *Documentos notariales vernáculos del condado de Durham (siglo XV): estudio y edición* (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and Córdoba, 1997) and ‘The Role of Punctuation in 15th-century Vernacular Deeds’, *Folia Linguistica Historica* 19 (1999), pp. 27-51. In these works, she describes the use of punctuation in fifteenth-century vernacular deeds of the county of Durham.
 - 3 See P. Pahta *Medieval Embriology in the vernacular: The Case of ‘De spermate’*, *Mémoires de la Société Néophilologique de Helsinki* 53 (Helsinki, 1998). Pahta’s editorial work includes a section on punctuation in her study of ‘*De Spermate*’. However, this procedure is not always included in editions, as shown by the works of R. Hallaert (*The ‘Sekenesse of wymmen’. A Middle English Treatise on Diseases in Women*. Brussels, 1982) or M. S. Odgen (*The ‘Liber de diuersis medicinis’ in the Thornton Manuscript* (EETS, 1938), to mention a few.
 - 4 The work by Alonso-Almeida ‘Punctuation Practice in a Late Medieval English Medical Remedybook’, *Folia Linguistica Historica* 21.1-2 (2001), pp. 207-232, describes the punctuation system used in a fifteenth-century medical English *receptarium*.
 - 5 Other studies in this vein are P. G. Arakelian ‘Punctuation in a Late Middle English Manuscript’ *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen* 76 (1975), pp. 614-624; and J. Lennard ‘Punctuation: And –‘Pragmatics’’, in *Historical Pragmatics*, ed. A. H. Jucker (Amsterdam, 1995), pp. 65-98.
 - 6 In ‘The Role of Punctuation...’, the author describes the influence of Latin texts on the segmentation of legal texts. She also unravels the linguistic devices used to express the beginning of sections, which are normally calques from Latin.
 - 7 *Medieval Embriology*, p. 137.
 - 8 See M. Green ‘Obstetrical and Gynaecological Texts in Middle English’, *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 14 (1985), pp. 53-88.

- 9 P. J. Lucas 'Sense-units and the Use of Punctuation-markers in John Capgrave's *Chronicle*', *Archivum Anglicum* (N. S.) 2 (1971), pp. 1-24.
- 10 M. Görlach 'Text-types and Language History: The Cookery Recipe', in *History of Englishes. New Methods and Interpretations in Historical Linguistics*, ed. J. Svartvik and H. Wekker (Berlin, 1992), pp. 736-761.
- 11 'Sense-units and the Use of Punctuation-markers...' (1971).
- 12 Alonso-Almeida 'Punctuation Practice...'
- 13 See Alonso-Almeida and Rodríguez-Alvarez 'The '*Sekenesse of nymenn*' Revised', *Manuscripta* 40.3 (1996), pp. 157-164, for a revision of Hallaert's edition.
- 14 The scribe of H307 has wrongly repeated folio notation 162 twice, for what should be originally folio 163. I shall keep this in this paper and I refer to them as 162 and 162 bis.
- 15 'Obstetrical and Gynaecological Texts in Middle English'.
- 16 Gilbertus Anglicus presumably studies at the school of Salerno. However, some critics have claimed that he was trained in the School of Montpellier, or at the University of Paris (Talbot 1978: 402), but the fact that he shows a deep knowledge of the Salernitan practices in his *Compendium*, since he quotes from the Salernitan masters, locates Gilbertus Anglicus at Salerno.
- 17 For a more detailed description and grouping of ME gynaecological MSS, see Green M. Green 'Obstetrical and Gynaecological Texts...'. In this paper, she also establishes the difference between the different MSS included in Version 1. For instance, Y47 belongs to the group within Version 1, which circulated within the *Compendium* during the medieval period.
- 18 B. Rowland *Medieval Woman's Guide to Health: The First English Gynaecological Handbook* (Ohio, 1982), p. 58. For a review of Rowland's, see L. E. Voigts and J. Stannard in *Speculum* (1982), pp. 422-426. They found several mistakes or omissions in her work at different levels, namely codicological, palaeographical, lexical and historical.
- 19 My reading. All abbreviations have been silently expanded in this paper.
- 20 'Text-types and Language History...'
- 21 Alonso-Almeida 'Punctuation Practice...' (2001), pp. 209-210, includes a brief description of the medical recipe-text, also following Görlach's 'Text-types and Language History...' (1992). For an account of the Middle English recipe as a text-type, see R. Carroll 'The Middle English Recipe as a Text-type', *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen* 100.1 (1999).
- 22 These statements of efficacy have been studied by T. Hunt *Popular Medicine in Thirteenth-century England* (Cambridge, 1990), C. Jones 'Formula and Formulation: 'Efficacy Phrases' in Medieval English Medical Manuscripts', *Neuphilologische*

- Mitteilungen* 99.2 (1998), pp. 199-209, and Alonso-Almeida and Cabrera-Abreu 'The Formulation of Promise in Medieval English Medical Recipes: A Relevance-Theoretic Approach', *Neophilologus* 86 (2002), pp. 137-154.
- 23 I follow the terminology used in M. B. Parkes *Pause and Effect. An Introduction to the History of Punctuation of in the West* (Hants, 1992). The punctuation symbols in brackets are used in the present study to conventionally represent the symbols used in the MSS.
- 24 One general use of the point in the texts is that of introducing numerals, which was an extensive practice during the medieval period, as pointed out by Denholm-Young in *Handwriting in England and Wales* (Cardiff, 1954), p. 78, to differentiate numerals from other graphics in the manuscripts. In addition, the abbreviations to express measures in the MSS are also included in-between points, as shown in the following example from H307: "A good fomygacioun to awake hem in þe tyme of hir accesse & speke take of pensedanum · Z · vij · of galbanum · Z · iij · & of cost as moche · of pepir · xj · greynes" (f. 158v). In this excerpt, the symbol "Z" that stands for the word "dram" is also signalled by the use of points.
- 25 'Sense-units and the Use of Punctuation-markers...?.'
- 26 'Text-types and Language History...?', p. 746.
- 27 'Punctuation Practice...?.'
- 28 'Sense-units and the Use of Punctuation-markers...?', p. 3.
- 29 'Sense-units and the Use of Punctuation-markers...?', p. 3.
- 30 'Sense-units and the Use of Punctuation-markers...?', p. 4.
- 31 'Sense-units and the Use of Punctuation-markers...?', p. 18.
- 32 'Sense-units and the Use of Punctuation-markers...?', p. 23.
- 33 'Sense-units and the Use of Punctuation-markers...?', p. 19.
- 34 'Text-types and Language History...?.'
- 35 'Text-types and Language History...?', p. 746.
- 36 Asterisks show the precise marks of punctuation being referred to in the descriptions of punctuation marks.
- 37 I do not include the different combinations of punctuation marks in this chart, since, in the MSS, combinations of, say, the paragraph and the virgule or the paragraph and the point, are used in the fashion of any of the two marks.
- 38 'Sense-units and the Use of Punctuation-markers...?.'
- 39 'Text-types and Language History...?.'