

The curiosities of common water : or the advantages thereof in curing cholera, intemperance, and other maladies : gathered from the writings of eminent physicians, and also from more than forty years' experience : to which are added some rules for preserving health by diet / by John Smith.

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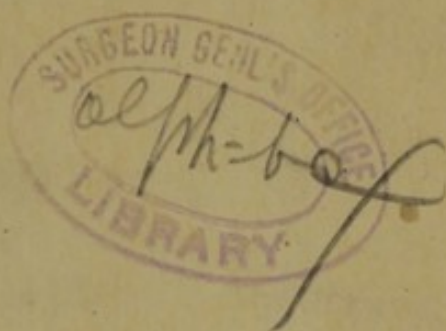
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SMITH (John)

The curiosities of
Common water xxx



1832



Robert Darguson

THE

CURIOSITIES

OF

COMMON WATER;

OR THE ADVANTAGES THEREOF IN CURING

CHOLERA, INTEMPERANCE, AND OTHER MALADIES,

GATHERED FROM THE WRITINGS OF EMINENT PHYSICIANS;

AND ALSO

FROM MORE THAN FORTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE.

BY JOHN SMITH, C. M.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

SOME RULES FOR PRESERVING HEALTH BY DIET.

THE FIFTH EDITION.

WITH ADDITIONS,

COMMUNICATED BY RALPH THORESBY, F. R. S. AND OTHERS.

LONDON PRINTED:

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PREFACE.

A NEW title to an old work is sometimes palmed upon the unsuspecting reader, for well known reasons. In the present case it is avowedly prefixed ; not because the work would otherwise remain unheeded, and pass into oblivion ; but because the present dismaying accounts of *cholera* and *intemperance* (briefly noticed in this pamphlet) are become subjects of general attention. The publisher confidently relies on the undivided patronage and support of those who hold in due estimation the health and best interests of the community. The work in question was first printed in London, in 1712 or 1713, and reprinted in Boston, N. E. 1721. The author was, probably, an English clergyman of lowly grade ; whose aim was, like his Divine Master, to go about doing good. His language is pure English, pertinent, and generally easy to be understood by those for whom he wrote : and the subject has an extensive bearing on the health of the present generation. Medical men, who acquiesce in aiding their fellow mortals at the expense of their pecuniary interests, will admit the utility of such publications.

A few fastidious individuals of both sexes, perhaps there are, who will cry, Shame at it ! I can only say, *Honi soit, qui mal y pense*. Our Author appears to have exhibited his vouchers with due caution, admitting but little hearsay testimony, although rather credulous. At the close of the work, the publisher has given brief notices of a part of the authors quoted by our worthy Divine, while composing his interesting opusculum. — It is again prepared for the press, with a very few alterations, and submitted to the candid consideration of candid readers, in the belief that it will subserve a useful purpose.

T. L. J.

CAMBRIDGE, JULY, 1832.

PREFACE

A new rule to an old work is a common thing, and the unsuspecting reader, for well-worn reasons, is in the present case it is scarcely possible, and because the work would otherwise remain unnoticed, and pass into oblivion, but because the present distinctive character of the work is its terseness (briefly noticed in this pamphlet) and brevity subjects of general attention. The publisher accordingly relies on the undoubted patronage and support of those who hold in due estimation the health and best interests of the community. The work in question was first printed in London in 1714 or 1715, and reprinted in Boston, N. H. 1741. The author was, probably, an English clergyman of some rank; whose aim was, like his Divine Master, to do about doing good. His language is pure English, pertinent, and generally easy to be understood by those for whom he wrote; and the subject, an extensive bearing on the health of the present generation. Medical men, who acquiesce in aiding their fellow mortals at the expense of their pecuniary interests, will need the utility of such publications.

A few excellent individuals of both sexes, perhaps their sex, who have seen the same in it, I can only say, "I can only say, I can only say." (Our Author appears to have made up his thoughts with due caution, examining but little part of his testimony, without other evidence. At the close of the work, the publisher has given a list of names of a part of the authors quoted in a variety of places, while the compiler has inserted, upon occasion, a few more, and submitted to the reader a comparison of several subjects in the belief that it will advance a useful purpose.

Cambridge, May, 1833.

THE
CURIOSITIES
OF
COMMON WATER.

FOR the benefit of mankind in general, I have taken pains to give the world an account of what I have found written in the works of the most eminent Physicians, concerning the good that mankind may receive from the use of Common Water; and of the informations I have had concerning the benefits thereof from others by word of mouth; and of what I have discovered by my own experience, from frequent trials during a time that hath intervened from that of thirty to seventy-four years of age: which is sufficient to confirm the stupendous effects thereof in many particulars, that shall be mentioned as my own discovery with respect to this excellent remedy, which will perform cures with very little trouble, and without any charge, and is also to be had wherever there are any habitations, which is what can hardly be said of any other thing: so that, in some sense, Water may be truly styled an universal remedy, since the diseases it either prevents or cures, may have this remedy applied to all persons, and in all places where men do inhabit.

The first commendation of Common Water that I shall mention, is that which is written concerning it by Dr. Manwaring, in his Method and Means of enjoying Health; wherein he saith, that Water is a wholesome drink, or rather the most wholesome — being appointed for man in his best state: which doth strongly argue that drink to be the most suitable for human nature — answering all the intentions of common drinks, for it cools, moistens, and quencheth thirst; it is clear, thin, and fit to convey the nourishment through the smallest vessels of the body; — and is a drink that is a rule to itself, and requires little cau-

Excellency
of Water.

tion in the use of it, since none will be tempted to drink of it more than needs : and that, in the primitive ages of the world, Water drinkers, he says, were the longest livers by some hundreds of years ; -- nor so often sick and complaining as we are.

Dr. Keill,* when he treats concerning the stomach, in his *Abridgment of the Anatomy of Human Bodies*, saith, that Water seems the fittest to promote digestion of the food which we eat ; all spirituous liquors having a property by which they hurt, rather than help digestion ; the sad effects of which they are sensible of, he saith, who by a long use thereof have lost their appetite, hardly ever to be restored without drinking Water, which seldom faileth of procuring a good appetite and a strong digestion. With which Dr. Baynard does agree in that affirmation : " That Water liquefies and concocts our food better than any fermented liquor whatsoever." *Hist. of Cold Bathing*, p. 440.

Dr. Prat, in his treatise on Mineral Waters, shows it to be his judgment, that, if people would accustom themselves to drink Water, they would be more free from many diseases ; such as trembling, palsies, apoplexies, giddiness, pains in the head, gout, stone, dropsy, rheumatism, piles, and such like : which diseases are most common among them that drink strong drinks, and which Water generally would prevent. Moreover, he also saith, that Water, plentifully drunk, strengthens the stomach, causeth an appetite, preserves the sight, maketh the senses lively, and cleanses all the passages of the body, especially those of the kidneys and bladder.

It is also said by Dr. Duncan,† in his treatise on Hot Liquors, that when men contented themselves with Water, they had more health and strength ; and that, at this day, those who drink nothing but Water, are more healthy and live longer than those who drink strong liquors, which raises the heat of the stomach to excess, whereas Water keeps it in a due temper. And he adds in another part of the book, that by hot liquor the blood is inflamed ; and such, whose blood is inflamed, live not so long as those who are of a cooler temper : a hot blood being commonly the cause of fluxes, rheums, ill digestion, pains in the limbs, headach, dimness of sight, and especially of hysteric vapours. He also imputes the cause of ulcers to a hot blood, and declares, that if men kept their blood cool and sweet, by a moderate and cooling

* See Appendix A. † See Appendix B.

diet, they would never be troubled with ulcers, or other breakings-out. Which coolness of the blood will be well performed by drinking a large draught of Water in the morning, which will carry off the bilious and salt recrements by urine. And if Water is drunk also after dinner, it will cool a hot stomach, and prevent the rising of those fermentations which cause winds and belching after meat. So that if persons who are liable to these disorders, will leave off strong liquors and a hot diet, and drink Water, they will procure better health to themselves than they had before.

Sir John Floyer,* also, in his treatise on Cold Baths, does affirm, (p. 109, ed. 5,) that Water-drinkers are temperate in their actions, prudent, and ingenious; they live safe from those diseases which affect the head; such as apoplexies, palsies, pain, blindness, deafness, gout, convulsions, trembling, madness, and the drinking of Water cures the hic-cough, fœtor of the mouth, and of the whole body; it resists putrefaction, and cools burning heats and thirsts, and after dinner it helps digestion. — And if the virtues of cold Water were seriously considered, all persons would value it as a great medicine, in preventing the stone, asthma, and hysteric fits; and to the use of this children ought to be bred up from their cradles. And in page 434 he saith, that as Water is in chief the universal drink of the world, so it is the best and most salubrious. And in page 437, that he hath known where a regular drinking of spring Water hath done considerable cures, by washing off the acrid, scorbutic salts from the blood, and strengthening the coats and fibres of the stomach and bowels, and hath brought on a good appetite, and a strong digestion.

Having read over an old book written by one Sir Thomas Elliot,† intitled, *The Castle of Health*, he there declared from his own experience, that in the county of Cornwall, though it was a very cold quarter, the poorer sort, which in his time did never, or but very seldom, drink any other drinks but Water, were strong of body, and lived to a very great age: to which relation that of Sir Henry Blount is very agreeable, who affirmed in his book of *Travels into the Levant*, (where, under the Turkish government, the use of wine was forbid, and where the common drink is Water,) that he then had a better stomach to his food, and digested it more kindly, than he ever did before or since.

* See Appendix C. † See Appendix D.

And in the treatise on the Vanity of Philosophy, written by Dr. Gideon Harvey, it is affirmed by him, that it is not heat that causeth a good digestion, but a proper ferment, or liquor provided by nature, to dissolve the food into a substance like unto pap made with fine flour, which dissolvent, he saith, is much depraved by hot spirituous liquors ; and therefore he commends Water above all other drinks to promote digestion.

Water drinking is also said by Dr. Allen to be good to prevent two deplorable distempers, the gout and the hypochondriac melancholy ; — for, says he, the gout is generally caused by the too great drinking of fermented liquors, and is never said to have assaulted any drinker of Water ; and he saith also, that melancholy hypochondriac is kept off longest by drinking Water instead of strong drink. To which, let me add, that I once knew a gouty gentleman, who, to avoid his drinking companions in London, retired to New Brentford, where I then lived ; in which town by a very temperate diet of one meal a day, and drinking only water, he lived two whole years free from pain : but being visited by one who came that way, and invited to drink but one bottle of Claret between them, he fell next day into a terrible fit of the gout, which held above a month after ; of which being recovered, he by the same course continued well till I left the place, which was about a year and a half after.

The good properties of Water are further manifested in preventing the accumulation of gravel in the kidneys ; for Zacchia Paolo,* in Consul. 17, as he is quoted by Salmon, affirms, that nothing does so much abate the heat of the kidneys, and free them from those recrements which cause pain in the back, one great sign of gravel, as Water does ; but he adviseth to drink it warm, by the use of which, he saith, the unnatural heat in time will be so extinguished, that no more of that matter causing gravel will be produced in the body. Which assertion by experience I have found to be true ; for observing much gravel to be voided by me, as also abundance of matter floating in the urine like bran, with a great number of recrements like cuttings of hair, some above an inch long, which substances were found in all the water that I made in above twelve months ; for which I could get no remedy ; I

* See Appendix E.

was advised to drink water, which in about half a year did entirely free me from those symptoms, which some out of ignorance imputed to witchcraft, so that from that time to this present I never have been troubled with it.

Water also is commended as efficacious to prevent the forming of the stone in the bladder, for it hath been observed, that in some who have been cut Stone in the Bladder. for the stone that new stones have been formed, so that some young persons have been cut several times. Now to prevent this, the drinking of Water hath been advised with success ; for by this that intemperate heat in the body was abated which did occasion the distemper. Some have advised to drink it warm, and others cold, and in particular Van Heydon, a physician of Ghent in Flanders, in his book, entitled, *Help for the Rich and Poor* ; which he saith, in page 49, is sufficiently insinuated by Piso and Alexander, who do assure us, that the taking a draught of cold water in the morning hath done so much good, that several after the voiding of a stone never had any more stones grow in them.

Which experiment may give light to the discovery of a way to cure the stone without cutting ; for if the growing of new stones can be prevented by drinking water, let it be hot or cold, it may prevent a stone from growing bigger when begun ; and if the adding matter to increase a stone new begun, can be prevented, nature in time may waste that which is begun, especially if some drops of sweet spirit of Nitre be added to all the water drunk, which will powerfully help to cool, and is known to be an admirable mover or provoker of urine, and will waste a stone, and make it crumble like Fuller's earth, if applied to a stone taken from the body. Or, the water may be sweetened with honey, which is now much in use among the gentry, as I am informed by an ingenious apothecary ; who told me that among them at present, pump water and honey were in great repute to give ease in gravel. And there is so near an affinity between gravel and the stone, that what is proper for one, will be suitable to both, and will prevent the growing of both.

Water is also styled in Sennertus' works,* *The Balsam of Children*, the drinking of it by the mother being one of those things whereby children may be Beneficial in Child-bearing. strengthened in the womb, and will prevent those injuries that are done them by drinking strong liquors ; which

* See Appendix F.

Sampson's mother was not allowed to do, for she was commanded not to drink wine or strong drink, (Judg. xiii. 4.) But I will not say, if all women should do this, their children shall be as strong as Sampson was ; yet this I will say, if they would do this, they would find their children more free from distempers and frowardness, and so much more easy to nurse and bring up, and be less liable to an immature death ; the want of which abstinence from strong drinks is the cause why so many rich people find it hard to bring up children, in comparison to what is done by the poor ; for these last are born of mothers who not only are prevented from being gluttons by their want of dainties, which are deceitful meat, (Prov. xxiii. 3,) but they seldom taste wine or strong drink ; whereas the rich not only feed high, but they also drink strong drinks, which in most constitutions do over-heat and corrupt the humors of the body, and that blood by which their children are nourished during their pregnancy. Which injury to unborn infants would be prevented, if the mother would be temperate in diet, and drink water, especially at meals, by which the blood of the mother would be kept cool and clean ; which must needs communicate a healthful substance to the child within her, and prevent very many of those distempers, which infants do bring with them into the world.

And here it may be proper to add, what by divers experiments hath been found to be true, that the drinking of water by nurses while they give suck to children, will wonderfully increase milk in those that want it, as every one will find, who can be persuaded to make use thereof. I have advised many to make use of it, who have found that by drinking a large draught of water at bed time, they have been supplied with milk sufficient for that night, when before they wanted it, and could not be supplied by any other means. And besides, they who have found their children restless, by reason of too much heat in their milk, do find them much more quiet after their milk is cooled by water drinking.

By drinking water also, the want of food for a time may be suffered without starving ; for I have been informed by a credible friend, who was an officer at sea, that being sent down to Stafford to take care to see some men conveyed on shipboard, that had been pressed by act of Parliament for the sea service ; he found in the prison where they were kept, a lusty fellow, who had declar-

Increases Milk
in Women.

Stays
Hunger.

ed, he would starve himself rather than go to sea, and taking particular notice thereof, he found upon due inquiry, that for twenty days he had refused to eat any manner of food, only he drank each day about three pints or two quarts of water, hoping thereby to get himself discharged : But when he found his pretensions to be in vain, and that in about two days they should all march for London, he condescended to eat some food, beginning with a little, and in the march he was observed to travel as well as the best man. — I find also an account in Dr. Car's Letters, of a certain crack-brained man, who, at Leyden, when the Doctor resided in that University, pretended he could fast as long as Christ did ; and it was found that he held out the time of forty days without eating any food, only he drank water, and smoked tobacco. And I once had a sad complaint from a poor old woman of the greatness of her want, affirming that oftentimes she had not eaten any food for two or three days ; upon which I asked her, if she did not then suffer much uneasiness in her stomach ; she said she did, but found a way at last to assuage her hunger by drinking water, which did satisfy her appetite.

Water is also of great use to strengthen weak children, for we are informed by Dr. Joseph Browne, in his Strengthens weak Children. treatise of cures performed by cold baths, that the Welsh women do preserve their children from the rickets, by washing them night and morning in cold water, till they are three quarters of a year old, p. 79. And it is said by Sir John Floyer, in his treatise on Cold Baths, that a lady in Scotland, who had lost several children through weakness, did, by the advice of a Highland begger woman, preserve those she had afterwards, by washing them daily in cold water. And I myself did advise a neighbour, whose child had begun to be ricketty, to treat the child in the same manner ; but she, instead of washing it, dipped it over head and ears every morning, it being then in the summer time : the event of which was, the child became strong, and had a good countenance, though before it was in the face very pale and wan. Which shows how great the power of water is, when used outwardly to invigorate the spirits and strengthen nature.

It is also a known custom, to prevent the swellings that follow bruises in the faces of children, by immediately applying thereunto a linen cloth four or Swellings from Bruises. six times double, dipped in cold water, and new dipping it

as it begins to grow warm ; for the cold repels or prevents the flowing of humors to the part which otherwise would cause great swelling, and after turn blackish : and if, upon neglecting to do so, a swelling should succeed, it may be discussed by fomenting night and morning, for an hour at a time, with water as hot as can be endured ; for that will give vent to the humors to transpire through the skin, or dissolve them, so as to make them capable of returning back.

Moreover, by means of water all sickness at the stomach may be cured, which is done thus : Take four quarts of water, make it as hot over the fire as you can drink it ; of which water let a quart be taken down at several draughts ; then wrap a piece of old soft linen or cotton round a small piece of a stick, till it is about the bigness of a man's thumb, tie it fast with some thread ; and with this, by endeavouring gently to put it a little way down your throat, provoke yourself to vomit up again most of the water, then drink another quart, and vomit up that, and repeat the same the third and fourth time. You may also provoke vomiting by tickling your throat with your finger, or the feather end of a goose quill ; but the cloth round a skewer maketh one vomit with most ease, which is done with no trouble when the stomach is full. And by this way of vomiting, which will be all performed in an hour's time, that viscous and ropy phlegm in the stomach, which causeth the sickness, will be cast up, so that the party in the time will be free from all that inward disturbance, if you use the remedy at first ; but if the sickness hath continued for some time, it will require the same course once or twice more, which may be done in three or four hours, one after another, without any other inconvenience, besides that of being a little sore in the breast the next day, which will soon go off by the force of nature. Which remedy, by forty years' experience, I look upon to be infallible in all sickness at the stomach, from what cause soever, and for all pains in the belly which seem to be above the navel ; for these are nearly all in the stomach, as by long experience I have found : which pains are generally counted the colic ; but it is not so ; for true colics are always below the navel, in the gut colon. And by this means I have eased very great pains caused by eating mussels that were poisonous ; and it is also a certain cure for all surfeits or disorders that follow after much eating ; so that the lives of multitudes might be saved by this means, who for want of expelling what offends, do

often die in misery : for by thus cleansing the stomach at the first, the root of diseases proceeding from surfeiting or unwholesome food, or any viscous humors from a bad digestion, are prevented ; the stomach being the place in which very many distempers do at first begin. No man was more subject to sickness than myself before thirty years of age ; but since I found out the way of vomiting with water, which is now above forty years, I never have been sick for two days together : for when I find myself ill to any great degree, I betake myself to this way of vomiting, which in an hour's time restores me to ease, and perfectly removes my illness ; and the same benefit all my family find in it ; as do others also whom I can persuade to try the experiment ; which is such, that no physician whatever can advise a better to the King himself, should he fall sick. For, in the first place, it is not a nauseous remedy, it does not make the patient sick, as the best of all other vomits do ; and then it is a vomit which is at our own command, since we can leave off when we please ; and it very generally works a cure to all sick stomachs.

Some few indeed pretend they are not able to vomit by this means. Now, if they cannot vomit, let them take a pint of water when they find themselves ill from eating, and do so every three or four hours, eating no more till they are hungry ; and they will find the water digest and carry off what was offensive. The ingenious Dr. Cheyne,* in his treatise on the Gout, doth affirm, that warm water drunk freely in a morning, fasting, and at meals, (and I say cold water is as good,) hath been a sovereign remedy for restoring lost appetites, and strengthening weak digestions, when other more pompous medicines have failed. And he adviseth gouty persons, after excess either in meat or drink, to swill down as much fair water as their stomach will bear, before they go to bed, whereby they will reap these advantages, — either the contents of the stomach will be thrown up, or both meat and drink will be much diluted, and the labor and expense of spirits in digestion much saved. And indeed I have found by long experience, that nothing causeth so good a digestion as fair water : but this requires time to free us from the uneasiness that an ill digestion causeth, whereas vomiting is an immediate remedy, and frees a man from it upon the spot.

* See Appendix G.

We are told by Sir John Floyer, in his treatise on Bath and Mineral Springs, that vomiting with water is very useful in the gout, sciatica, wind, shortness of breath, hypochondriac melancholy, and falling sickness; which distempers are generally derived from evil matter contained in the stomach, as is likewise giddiness in the head, and apoplexies, with which myself once seemed to be threatened; for after eating a plentiful dinner, I was seized with giddiness, and the sight of my eyes became so deranged, that things seemed double, which was accompanied with a strange consternation of spirit; and having read, that apoplexies generally seize after eating, I immediately called for water, and not daring to stay till it was warmed, I drank it cold, and by the help of my finger provoked vomiting: upon which I did immediately overcome the evils I was threatened with, the symptoms before mentioned being the same as did precede the fit of an apoplexy in another person, as himself afterwards told me, who died of it the third fit, about a year after.

As for people who are troubled with shortness of breath, it is certain from experience, that vomiting with warm water three or four times will afford certain relief. And the same may be prevented by drinking nothing but water afterwards, either cold, or warmed with a toast: for upon doing this, the difficulty of breathing will apparently abate; which water, if you please, may be boiled with honey. And I knew one, who by this means, as he was advised by me, lived comfortably in this city two or three winters, but having undertaken business which did occasion drinking strong drinks, was the next winter carried off by the distemper; wine, ale, or brandy, being as bad as poison to people troubled with shortness of breath. So that nothing but water ought to be drunk in that distemper.

Some people are taken with violent vomiting, and the excess thereof in some hath been so great, as to endanger their lives, yea, cause death: in which case water will be very helpful; for if a pint of it warmed be drunk after every vomit, it will prevent that violent straining, wherein lieth the danger of all vomiting, because to strain violently, when but little will come up, does endanger the breaking of some inward vessel. And besides this, the offending matter will be sooner loosened from the internal part of that bowels, the stomach, and cast out, upon which the vomiting will sooner cease: for after this manner the fa-

mous Sydenham, a most honest writer, did overcome the cholera* morbus, or vomiting and looseness, so common in his time, and was found by the weekly bill to kill more than now die of convulsions ; for his way was to boil a chicken in four gallons of water, which made a broth not much differing from water, of which he ordered large draughts to be given, and some of it to be taken by clyster, till the whole quantity was spent, if the vomiting did not stop before ; which did so take off the sharpness of the matter offending, and wash it out, that the party in a little time became well. And the same was the practice of Sigismundus Grasius, who commends pure water in a vomiting and looseness to be drunk in large quantities ; for thereby, he saith, the corrosive and sharp humors will be so weakened, that they will no more offend : and, he saith, it may be drunk cold, if the patient be strong, otherwise let it be warmed.

And in common fluxes without vomiting, a quart or more of warm water drunk, will so weaken the sharpness whereby the distemper is caused, that it will Fluxes. soon be overcome, and the gripings eased ; and in the bloody-flux, which is the most dangerous of all fluxes, the ingenious Cornelius Celsus† adviseth a large drinking of cold water as the best of remedies : but then no other substance must be taken till the disease is cured. And another great physician, by name Lusitanus, affirms, (Cent. 1. Obser. 46,) that he knew one, who, being in the summer time afflicted with the bloody-flux, did drink a large quantity of cold water, and did thereby recover. This large quantity therefore of water in these fluxes, doth so correct the sharpness of the humor offending, that it can have no power to cause pain, or corrode the vessels, and cause bloody digestions or stools.

Water also is a drink that conduceth above all things to cure consumptive people, for the digestion being Consumptions. weakened, is the cause of producing a strong, fretting nourishment ; which is injurious to the tender substance of the lungs, and which constringes and stops up the lymphatic vessels through which the nourishment is to pass to all the parts ; so that by degrees the body for want of due supplies consumes : which obstructions, and that acrimony which causeth them, will be opened and sweetened by the plentiful use of water, if taken before the lungs become ulcerous. Which cure of consumptions by water is

* See Appendix H. † See Appendix I.

recommended in the writings of Dr. Couch, who in his *Praxis Catholica* tells us, that he knew a man cured very soon of a consumption by drinking pure water. And it is said by another, that some have been cured of consumptions by drinking no other drink but water, avoiding all malt liquors and sharp wines: for wine or any other strong liquor is pernicious in this distemper, whose original is affirmed by Dr. Coward to be very often in the stomach.

Some there are who are much troubled with flushing heat
Flushes. in the face, and others with heat in the back; in both which cases, water used as common drink, is the best remedy, with a spare, cooling diet. And it is also excellent for such as have red blotches in their face, which proceeds from a hot, fretting blood, which by water drinking and a moderate diet, will be kept under. For, as Dr. Duncan, before quoted, doth affirm, those who keep their blood cool and clean, are never troubled with breakings out, like many others, who may be known to be drinkers of strong drinks, and use a hot, full diet, by their faces being full of blotches.

Water is also commended by the learned for the colic;
Colic. thus Riverius* affirms, that in the colic large drinking of water hath been found to be an excellent remedy: and it is said by Fortis, that when he practised at Venice, he often gave cold water in the colic with good success. With whom an English physician, Dr. Wainwright, in his mechanical account of the six non-naturals, concurs; for he saith, that water drinkers are never troubled with the colic, and that many thereby have been cured when all other remedies failed.

And in the small-pox, water hath also been proved to be
Small-Pox. an excellent drink. Salmon, in his *Synopsis Medicinæ*, saith, that in this distemper you may safely give the sick fair water, of which, says he, they may drink liberally to quench thirst; the want of which plenty of drink hath been the death of many a patient. Which opinion of his was right, as by experience I have found in two of my own children, when sick of this distemper; to whom, after I had given a gentle vomit of emetic tartar, I gave no other drink but water, and they both recovered safely, and were not in the least light-headed, as two others before were in the same distemper, when treated

* See Appendix J.

otherwise. And I remember that one Dr. Betts being consulted in a case where the eruption did not come out kindly, did order two quarts of cold water to be drunk as soon as could be ; upon which they came out according to expectation, and the party did well.

It is also certain, that in what we call burning fevers, water is found to be a safe and effectual remedy. Burning
Fevers.
It is said by Dr. Primrose, in his Popular Errors, that many great physicians have commended the drinking cold water in diseases, and they attribute to it the chief place in fevers, where the sick must drink largely ; for thus taken, it will quench all heat, p. 374. And Galen is said, by an English author, to reprove Crasistratus for denying cold water in burning fevers ; and says, that this is a remedy for any fever, provided it be drunk in great abundance. With which opinion I find Dr. Oliver to agree, who in his essay on Fevers, says, that in fevers we must drink oftener than thirst calls for it, and such draughts as are plentiful ; and the drink he prescribes, is either cold water or barley-water. Dr. Wainwright affirms, also, that water is proper in fevers, and that the ancients gave as much of it, as the patient could drink. And by another it is said, that if you give the patient nothing but water for three days, that in the third day the fever will be cured generally ; but if it is not, give for food a little barley-broth, and the fever will not exceed the seventh day. And by another we are informed, how one in a fever, that was past hope, being forbidden to drink water, which he greatly desired, did find means, in the absence of his nurse, to get a large pot full, which he drank off, and lay down again, being well cooled ; after which he fell into a sweat, and so was cured. And I find that Dr. Cook of Warwick, in his book of Observations on English Bodies, does prescribe, for the cure of fevers, first a vomit, and afterwards as much cold water as the patient can drink ; and he saith, that if he sweat upon it, the sweat must be continued as long as can be. And it is said by another, that it is an excellent remedy in fevers, to drink a quart of hot water, and sweat upon it, being covered warm. There is also one Dr. Quinton, who, in his book of Observations, writes, that to one in a malignant fever, whose pulse was so low it could scarcely be felt, there was three quarts of water given at several draughts, to make him vomit ; but it did not operate that way, yet the event was this ; that it did refresh him,

much raised his pulse, brought him into a breathing sweat, and passed off by urine : which lowness of the pulse my own experience hath often found to be raised by drinking water plentifully. And I know a woman, who, though she in a fever had the advice of two doctors, yet became distracted : I bid the nurse give her a pint of cold water, which she drank up, and in three or four minutes came to her right senses ; and desiring to drink more, she recovered. And I have observed, that when, in fevers, the patient can relish no other drink, yet water is always drunk with pleasure, as it also will always be after the eating sweet things, that spoil the relish of other drinks ; which is one excellence peculiar to water, and shows it to be most agreeable to the nature of mankind, though now so much slighted. And besides this, it is a drink that will not turn sour in the stomach, as all fermented drinks will do, to the increase of distempers already begun there.

And as for the gout, which Dr. Harris* saith, in his Anti-
 Gout. Empiric, is gotten either by high feeding, or drinking much wine, or other strong drink ; it may be cured, as that author doth affirm, by a very spare diet, and drinking water : according to what is said also by Sir Theodore Mayerne, who, in his Medicinal Counsels, adviseth to leave off all strong drinks in this disease, and drink only water. And Van Heydon saith also, in his treatise on Help for the Rich and Poor, that there is not any greater remedy for the gout than drinking water, not only by young, but old men ; many of whom, he saith, have drunk cold water for many weeks, which hath succeeded so well, though they were far gone in years, that they found great ease thereby, without that offence to the stomach, or hindrance of digestion, which some did seem to fear. And he also commends the large drinking of water in the sciatica or hip gout, he having often cured this distemper, by this means, in less time than could reasonably be expected ; and the same myself have found to be effectual in a pain in the shoulder, which had continued very bad for three months. For, being taken with a fever, I drank in one day about four quarts of water ; which, though it did not make me sweat, because I lay not in my bed, yet it cured me so that I slept well that night ; and in the morning when I rose, I did find that the pain in my shoulder was not felt, neither did it ever

* See Appendix K.

return. And the same success I have had in the pains of other parts, whereby I judge, that in very many pains not caused by violence, the drinking of water is proper, as well as in the gout; and accordingly I find cold water advised to be drunk largely for the cure of the headache from hard drinking; that pain proceeding from the same cause the gout does, namely, from heat, as all pains do, that are not from bruises.

It is said also by Dr. Wainwright, that in the itch, scurvy, leprosy, and in all hot, inflammatory distempers, Inflammatory distempers. such as pleurisies, rheumatisms, and St. Anthony's fire, water is a proper remedy; but he adviseth to drink it hot in some cases, as doubtless it ought to be done in pleurisies. He also saith, that water is proper in headaches, catarrhs, vapors, falling sickness, dullness of sight, melancholy, shortness of breath, scurvy in the mouth, and windiness in the stomach: and, for wind in the stomach, I, by long experience, have found it the best remedy, who, in the former part of my life through a disorderly diet, and drinking strong drink like others, was never free from windy belchings, and sometimes very sickish qualms after meals; from which at length I was delivered, by drinking only water at meals, so that for above forty years I have been seldom troubled: and if I find myself troubled, a pint or more of cold water, in less than half an hour, will set me free, by drinking of it.

And that water is the best remedy for the mischiefs that come by hard drinking, experience teacheth; Hard drinking. there being nothing that so effectually frees from those nauseating and reaching qualms the next morning, as the drinking a pint or more of fair water; which effectually allays the inflammation of the bowels, occasioned by strong or hot drink, which spoils the strength of the stomach, as it doth the strength of all other parts; nothing being a greater enemy to the vigour of the nerves and sinews, since by much drinking, men make themselves unable to stand or go: which effect would never follow, if liquors that abound with spirits, were strengthening; and if they were strengthening, the fibres of the stomach would not be so weakened after drinking strong drinks, as to make men sick; which sickness will soon be recovered by the drinking cold water, this being also the best remedy, if taken largely, for that heat of urine which is often occasioned by hard drinking.

In colds, water is the best of all drinks to prevent floods of rheum from the nose and mouth, as my long
 Colds. experience testifies, and the drinking thereof will prevent coughs ; for a cough will seldom succeed a cold if water is used from the first as common drink : and if, through neglect, a cough should become troublesome, the use of water, avoiding all wine and strong drink, will contribute much to the cure. Some order the water to be drunk warm, but others say, that the drinking it cold vastly excels the using it hot in a cough. It is said by Van Heydon, that some may think it strange to advise water in such diseases, which most do account to proceed from crudity or indigestion ; but he says, that in any disease where the case is dangerous, the use of water is the only friend to nature ; cold water being a preventer rather than a cause of crudity, since by all experience, it is proved to be a promoter of a good digestion : and at this time I know a woman, seventy-eight years of age, who for this ten years past hath had a great cough, and spit much tough phlegm, that this present winter (1722,) hath been persuaded to leave off all strong and small fermented liquor, and drink only water at meals, and sometimes a dish or two of tea ; and hath found herself much less subject to cough than before, and scarce coughs at all in bed, though subject before to cough very much in the night. She also drinks at bed time half a pint of cold water, and the same quantity first in the morning, and finds herself more comforted by it at so great an age, than wine hath at any time afforded.

It is generally the opinion of most physicians, that wine
 Strong drink and strong drinks are not proper for children,
 hurtful to and that the smaller and cooler their drink is,
 Children. the better it will be with them ; and that nothing conduceth more to the health of children than drinking water, which will prevent the foundation of those diseases that are caused in many by strong drink, and do show themselves in their more advanced age, wherein many also do suffer much by the mother's ill custom of making them gluttons, by constantly cramming their stomachs with food, many being thereby destroyed among the children of the rich before they come to years of maturity ; when the children of poor country people, who fare hard, stand their ground till full grown : for fewer children die in the country than in great cities, where luxury in diet doth more abound ; which is one reason why so few house-keepers in London were born in it, the great supply of inhabitants be-

ing from the country, children being brought up more hardy there than in London, where great numbers are killed by over-pleasing their palates : which mischief would be in a great measure prevented by their being accustomed to eat less, and drink water ; which, by experience, is found to make young children free from that frowardness which is commonly caused by a sharp and hot or feverish blood, which engendereth wind, and causeth pain and gripes : for there is no pain but is the consequence of heat, or inward as well as outward inflammations.

To what hath been said, may be added this consideration, that when the best physicians are baffled by some distempers, they advise their patients to use the water of some mineral spring ; tacitly acknowledging thereby, that all their prescriptions may be excelled by water. They pretend indeed, to ascribe its effects to some minerals with which the waters are tinged : but Dr. Baynard, in p. 438 of Sir John Floyer's Cold Bathing, tells of a certain person who used to frequent Tunbridge, by which he found much benefit ; but being hindered from going thither one season, did drink the same quantities of water taken from the pump of a spring in his own yard, which did him as much service : whereupon he wrote thus on his pump :

“ The steel is a cheat ;
’T is water does the feat.”

And, indeed, if we consider how many diseases and pains proceed from a sily, thick blood, which cannot pass as it ought to do through the finest pipes that convey the blood to the several parts of the human frame, pure water, without minerals, drunk to the quantity of a quart or three pints in a morning, will attenuate or thin the blood sufficiently : nothing, as Boerhaave affirms, being a greater diluter of thick blood, than warm water drunk in great quantities. Which to thin the blood may be best, though to strengthen the stomach, it is best drunk cold ; having the same effect inwardly, in some cases, as cold bathing hath outwardly ; its use outwardly being also great. For,

Water, I have found, by long experience, to be of excellent use in burns and scalds ; for in all burns and scalds that are slight, if the part is plunged immediately into cold water, the colder the better, the pain will instantly be taken off ; and it will fetch out the fire, if continued so long as will be required to do it by any other remedy. And if the burn be so considerable, that other rem-

Burns and
Scalds.

edies must be applied, none of which will take off the smart of themselves in less than two or three hours; yet if you apply cold water presently, after other applications are made to the part, the pain will immediately cease, till the remedy becomes effectual: so that the ease water will give in such cases, makes it of good use. Which remedy, as it hath not been discovered till now, appears to transcend all other remedies in this case; because, in a moment, the great smart will be eased, if the water is cold, and will be felt no more, if the part afflicted be kept immersed in it till the fire is extinguished, either by the water, or the medicine applied. Besides, it is a remedy every where ready at hand, which cannot be said of any other; which generally requires so much time to get it ready, that much pain will be endured, if blisters do not arise, which do much increase the trouble. If the part burnt or scalded cannot be dipped in water, you may apply water to it, with double linnen cloths dipped therein, and new dipped as they grow warm; by which means I have cured burns and scalds in the face without blistering, when applied immediately before blisters did arise.

I once knew a large ulcer in the foot, made by the running of melted brass into the shoe, that was kept in hand by a surgeon nine weeks, without any probability of healing, because of the great inflammation that attended it; but the party being a lover of angling, was persuaded to go with some others to Hackney river: some of them went bare legged into the water, to come at a certain hole where much fish was sometimes found. The sport was so good that the lame man, having pulled off his stockings and plasters, went in also, where he staid above two hours, and coming out again he found the ulcer, which appeared very red and angry when he went in, did look pale; he put on his dressings and came home, and in less than a fortnight his ulcer healed up; which doubtless was occasioned by the abating of the inflammation by the coldness of the water. And I have had an account also from an acquaintance that was surgeon to a merchant ship, that their gunner, at a time when their captain treated some friend on board, going to charge a gun that just before had been fired off, the cartridge he was ramming down took fire, whereby he was blown into the water, and had some of his fingers blown off, and it was about an hour before a boat could be got to take him up: but they found that the coldness of the water had almost stopped the

bleeding, and the cure was effected so speedily, that other surgeons wondered at it ; which he imputed to the water, which kept back the humors, by its coldness, from flowing to the part at first : so that there was no impediment from inflammation, to hinder healing ; for the chief impediment to healing, is inflammation in wounds or ulcers.

And as for strains and sprains in the joints, cold water affords the best and most speedy remedy, as Van Heydon affirms ; who saith, that by bathing in cold water all harm so received may, by this remedy, be cured more safely and more speedily than by any other, without loss of time, cost, or trouble ; for no more is to be done, as I have often found, than, as soon as can be, to put the part into a vessel of cold water for about two hours, which will prevent all swelling and pain, by repelling or keeping back the humors that otherwise would flow to the part. And if it should be the shoulder, or any other part, which is so hurt, that cannot well be immersed in water after this manner, water may be applied, by dipping towels folded up into it, and laying them to the part, as is done, in effect, to the wrenched joints of horses, about which, if you wind oftentimes a thick rope made of hay, and then cast upon it divers times a pail of cold water, the wrench will be cured ; which experiment is now commonly practised by those concerned about horses.

Bathing in cold water hath also been found to be a good remedy to strengthen weakness in the joints, as Sir John Floyer, in his treatise on Cold Bathing, hath showed ; and which by experience I found to be true in a certain woman, who complained of great weakness and pain in her ankles. I advised her to dip the part in cold water every morning for a quarter of an hour, and do the same at night ; and in about twenty days she became as strong in that part as she was in the other. And Sir John tells us of a boy who could not stand, his limbs were so weak, that by bathing in cold water, perfectly recovered his strength in a little time.

Great pain in the head hath been also cured by this means ; for, we are told by Van Heydon, that one Sir Toby Matthews had for twenty years been troubled with great pain in one side of his head, and a great defluction of rheum from his nose ; but he at last was cured, by applying cold water to the part every day for about a quarter of an hour : upon reading of which, I tried the experiment upon myself, who for a long time had been troubled

with the running of much clear water from my nose, with great spitting of thin rheum : for I let a water-cock run upon the mould of my head every morning, by which, in about six weeks time, I was eased of my trouble. And since that I had a credible information of a certain servant maid who was afflicted greatly with a rheumatism and an intolerable pain in the head, who being put into St. Thomas's hospital, her nurse was ordered by the doctor to apply to her head towels four times double, dipped in cold water, changing them as they became warm, which she was to continue doing four or five hours ; in which time she was freed from that pain in the head, and was afterwards cured of the rheumatism by other means.

The want of sleep in fevers my be cured likewise by the application of cold water : for to a near relation in a fever, who could not sleep for three days and three nights, I ordered a towel to be several times folded up, then to be dipped in water and a little wrung out, and so laid upon her forehead, and to be new dipped as it grew hot ; which in about two hours time so cooled her head, that she fell into a sleep, and continued in it five hours : and I ordered the same to be done the next night, with the same success. And we find that Dr. Cockburn,* in his treatise on Sea Diseases, did order for the want of sleep in fevers, to dip a towel, four times doubled, in oxycrat, which is six parts water, and one part vinegar, to be bound about the head and temples ; which, he saith, will cause sleep with wonderful success. But cold water only will have the same effect, as I often have proved.

And that the use of cold water in swoonings is of great effect, common experience teacheth : for, if a dish or cup of cold water is thrown strongly upon the face, the person in an instant will recover, though for a time he seemeth dead, and perhaps might not have recovered in some cases, if cold water had not been so applied ; such faintings being sometimes deadly, which proceed from poisonous vapours ascending up to the brain from a foul stomach ; for such effects there are, as I have found by experience, who, in my young days, did swoon away twice ; at both of which times I was sensible of a collection of wind in my stomach, from whence I plainly felt a fume or vapour ascend to the head, that in an instant deprived me of all

* See Appendix L.

sense : but being both times in the company of a person who had seen the thing tried, he dashed some cold water against my face, which I remember made me start, as if I had been suddenly awaked. And I am apt to think, that some die in such a fit, when none are near to help them ; and especially when so taken in their sleep, which I believe none need fear who live temperately, or that eat no suppers ; none who have refrained from suppers, having been ever found to die in sleep.

Dangerous bleedings at the nose have also been cured with cold water largely drunk ; syringing cold water up their nostrils, and applying towels round their necks dipped in cold water, changing them as they grow warm ; for it is said by a good writer, that this will so cool the heat of the blood, and by the coldness of the water syringed up the nose, so contract the mouths of the veins which bleed, that it will put a stop to the bleedings. Such bleedings have also been stopped by dashing cold water often into the face, as a French writer hath affirmed, whose name was Flamand ; and the same also is affirmed by Cook, in his Marrow of Surgery.

Cold water is an absolute cure for all small cuts in the fingers, or other parts, for if when cut, you close the cut up with the thumb of your other hand, keeping it so closed for a quarter or half an hour, this will infallibly stop the bleeding : after which, if you double up a piece of linen cloth five or six times, dip it in cold water, and apply it to the part, binding it on, this, by preventing inflammation and a flux of humors, will give nature time soon to heal it without any other application, as is seen in the common practice of surgeons when they let a man blood ; for all the application they make to the vein so cut, is a pledget of linen dipped in cold water, and bound on with a fillet : for all wounds without loss of substance will heal of themselves, if inflammation be prevented, and the lips of the wound are kept close together.

We also are told by Van Heydon, that in his time some were of an opinion, that a person bit by a mad dog might be preserved from that symptom called the Fear of Water, which generally follows, and proves so mortal, by applying cold water to the place bitten : and this, he says, they conceive to be no unlikely thing, if there is any credit to be given to what Cornelius Celsus writes, who saith, that the only remedy in this case is to throw the par-

Bleedings at
the nose.

Small cuts.

Bitings of
a mad dog.

ty who is in this condition, or hath the fear of water upon him, into a pond or river, and when plunged over head and ears, to keep him in the water till filled with it, whether he will or no ; and by this means both his thirst and dread of water will be cured. For if this immersion be of use when the party is so far gone, why should it not be of greater force in preserving from it, if speedily applied and repeated ? Now though this is mentioned by him as a probable opinion, yet experience in our days shows, that the plunging the patient into the salt water either of the river of Thames about Gravesend, or in the salt springs in Cheshire, is the best means to prevent any evil succeeding the bite of a mad dog ; they must indeed be dipped so often, as to be almost drowned before the danger is over : but it is a question whether the saltness of the water contributes any thing to this cure, since Boerhaave, the present Professor at Leyden, affirms, that when men bitten by a mad dog are arrived to the fear of water, called an hydrophobia, they may be cured, by blinding the patient's eyes, and throwing of him into a pond of water often, till he seems not to be afraid of it, or but very little, and then force him to drink large quantities.

And we are told by Dr. Edward Browne, that a person
Falling Sick-
ness. troubled with the falling sickness, by happening to fall into a cold spring (I suppose it was in the time of his fit) was freed from his distemper all his life after : and he saith there is no need of preparing the body for it in this, as in some other cases. But the patient, when plunged into a cold bath, ought to continue in the bath each time about three or four minutes : for in plunging over head and ears at his first entrance into a cold bath, the brain will be so sensibly affected, as to be relieved from the distemper, which is a kind of convulsion proceeding from an inflammation, or some other cause ; but we want more experiments to confirm this notion : which notion may be worth noting, that the thing may be tried in others, to see whether it will succeed as it did in this person. For it is said by the ingenious Dr. Pitcairn,* a Scotchman, some time Professor at Leyden, that there is no such thing as the art of curing, but only the practice. Remedies were found out by chance, p. 264 of his works ; for when remedies thus happen to be discovered, and prove often to be effectual, the remembering that remedy, to apply it in a like case in practice, brings reputation to the prescriber ; but if it fails, some other experiment must be tried, which, were

* See Appendix M.

physic an art, need not be done, because the rules of art are certain, and men depend upon them as such.

It is also said by the same Dr. Browne, that ^{Madness and Melancholy.} madness and melancholy, with all their retinue, may find better effects from the use of bathing in cold water, than from other violent methods, with which people so afflicted are now treated; for, says he, that which will make a drunken man sober in a minute, will certainly go a great way towards the cure of a madman in a month. Now it is most certain, to my own knowledge, that if a drunken man be plunged over head and ears in cold water, he will come out of it perfectly sober: and some I have known, that in such cases have been recovered by barely washing their heads in cold water. Which forementioned opinion of Dr. Browne is confirmed by the practice of Dr. Blair, who, in a letter to Dr. Baynard, declares, that he cured a man raving mad, who being bound in a cart, stript of his clothes, and blindfolded, that the surprise might be the greater; he on a sudden had a great fall of water let down upon him from the height of twenty feet, under which he continued so long as his strength would permit: and after his return home, he fell into a sleep, and slept twenty-nine hours, and awaked in as quiet a state of mind as ever, and so had continued to the time of writing that Letter, which was twelve months. Distractions also in fevers, of which there are divers instances in the history of cold baths, has been cured by being plunged in cold water.

Which relation seems to make that a more probable truth, which was related in a letter from Sir John Floyer to Dr. Browne, and printed by that Doctor; wherein it is said, that in Normandy they immerse fools, or dip them in cold water, to cure them: a hot brain being the cause, perhaps, of several disorders in the understanding, and is in great part found to be true, in the ridiculous behaviour of some drunken men, which, when their heads are become cool, abhor what they before did do or say. Now if such dipping would cure fools among us, great numbers might be made more happy than they are, by being so dipt.

Dr. Browne, in his discourse on Cold Baths, affirms likewise, that to bathe in cold water hath been ^{King's Evil.} found to be the quickest, safest, and pleasantest cure for the king's evil; and he tells us, in p. 85, of a Yorkshire gentleman, who was grievously afflicted with this distemper, having great ulcers in the glands of his neck,

which were so much enflamed, as to bring him very low ; but being advised by Dr. Baynard to bathe in the cold bath, he in a month's time was perfectly cured, his ulcers being healed up, contrary to the opinion of the most learned physicians.

We also find mention, in the description of the Scottish islands, of an odd remedy commonly made use of there for the cure of the jaundice ; which is this : they strip the patient naked, lay him upon the ground on his belly, and pour unawares upon his back a pail of cold water. And also pains in the joints, as Dr. Curtis tells us, will be cured, by holding the part under the stream of a pump or cock ; and fomenting with cold water is commended as good to assuage hot swellings. And I know a person who had often been subject to blood-shot or inflamed eyes, who afterwards, upon the beginning of the same distemper, took, by advice, a ball of linen rags, dipt them in cold water, and applied them to the part, cooling them by new dipping as often as they grew hot : which application was continued three hours, in which time the humor was so repelled, as to be troublesome no more ; for the party, to my knowledge, hath had no sign of that distemper since, though the same had been very troublesome many times before.

It is also advised by Dr. Gideon Harvey, to wash the eyes well twice a day in cold water, as the best remedy to prevent defluxions on them, and preserve the eye-sight, which it greatly comforts. And this I have found true for many years, my eyes being often apt to be dim and stiff, so that I could scarce open my eyelids ; which, upon washing for a minute with fair water, hath been felt no more for a good while after. Besides which benefit to the eyes, authors say it is also good to preserve the memory, if the whole forehead be washed twice a day ; which also is a certain cure for itching in the eyes, as authors tell us. And indeed washing with water will free mankind from a troublesome itching in any other part of the body, let it be ever so private, as Cook, in his Observations on English Bodies, doth expressly declare from experience.

Some people are troubled with a callosity, or hardness of the bottoms of their feet, which is so troublesome, as to be a hindrance to their easy walking ; for which a cure is prescribed by Dr. Cook ; that is, to soak

them well in warm water, till the hardness is softened, and then scrape it off with the edge of a knife : and if the feet burn with any unnatural heat, the bathing often in hot water will cool them, by giving vent to what offends.

And the plentiful drinking of water is commended in the scurvy, whether hot or cold, by Dr. Pitcairn, Scurvy. to dissolve the scorbutic salts and carry them out by urine, whether they are acids or alkalies ; and myself having formerly been extremely troubled with the scurvy, which often made me faint and weak, and my pulse so low as scarcely to be felt, did find at last that the pulse would infallibly rise upon drinking a pint or more of cold water, and in a little time I should again become brisk and strong : for I have often observed, that upon a disorder of the stomach, the strength of the bodily members soon would fail, and as easily be recovered when the disorder of the stomach was removed ; yea, by long experience, I have found that nothing conduceth so much to bodily strength as a stomach in right order, which requires temperance and cooling diet to bring it into order, when distempered.

To what hath been already said, I will add Asthma. an account taken from a credible person, of a man in the parish of Shoreditch, who was desperately ill of an asthma, or shortness of breath, and deep consumption, for which he had tried many remedies to no purpose. At length he was advised by a physician, being poor, to drink no other drink but water, and eat no other food but water-gruel, without salt or sugar ; which course of diet he continued for three months, finding himself at first to be somewhat better, and at the three months' end he was perfectly cured : but for security sake, he continued in that diet a month longer, and grew strong and fat upon it. But his diet he had no mind to, till he was thoroughly hungry, and then he eat it with pleasure ; in which perhaps consisted the best part of his cure, it being an advantage to health never to eat till hunger calls for food.

And I remember a young woman, a burnisher of silver, who had a desperate cough, for which she had Cough. taken many things of an apothecary to no purpose ; at length the journeyman told her, his master said he could do no more : but, said the fellow, I would advise you every morning to wash behind your ears, and upon your temples, and on the mould of your head with cold

water ; which she told me she did, and was perfectly cured of her cough by that means.

There are divers other cases wherein the use of water hath done much good. I knew an ancient Difficulty in making water. practiser in physic, who told me, that in many difficulties of making water, he advised the patient to put the parts into water as hot as he could endure it, which in a minute did cause him to make water ; and that women have had the same benefit by sitting over hot water. And he often had advised them who were costive, to sit over a pot with hot water in it ; which soon was attended with an easy discharge.

And it hath been observed that froward children have been made much more quiet, by washing their lower parts every morning with water, to wash off the salts of their urine, which usually stick in the pores of the skin, and are fretful and uneasy, and nothing cures their soreness about those parts like it. Nor is there any thing more effectual to cure men, who are galled with riding, than to wash themselves well when they go to bed, with cold water ; and washing the breast every morning with cold water, will make those hardy, who before were apt at every turn to take cold. To which I will add this, that Sir Theodore Mayhern affirms in his Medicinal Counsels, that in most diseases of the head, there is nothing better than to bathe it with cold water, which, in a desperate pain in the ears upon taking cold, I have found to be true ; for the pain seemeth to vanish upon applying to it about thirty minutes, a towel doubled up often, and wet in cold water ; and though it returned again some hours after, yet ease was obtained the same way, and the cure perfected in four times doing : which cure of a pain gotten with cold, by a cold application, will not seem so strange, when we consider that in the northern countries, mortifications from cold are no ways to be cured but by applying cold snow.

In short, water when rightly made use of, doth appear from the accounts beforementioned, very effectual to prevent and cure many diseases, but more especially the inward use thereof : for to use the words of the ingenious Dr. Curtis, in his essay for the Preservation and Recovery of Health, the habitual use of water for common drink preserves the native ferment of the stomach in due order, keeps the blood temperate, and helps to spin out the thread of life to the longest extent of nature ; it makes the rest at

night more quiet and refreshing, the reason and understanding more clear, the passions less disorderly; and in case of eating too much, a large draught of cold water vastly exceeds any other cordial to cause digestion: water being not so void of stimulus, he saith, as many do imagine. Besides which commendation of it by this doctor, it is certainly a drink that will not ferment in the stomach, nor turn sour, as wine and strong malt drinks will do, to the hindering of a good digestion, which all acidity in the stomach certainly doth, when it abounds there; and is best corrected by weakening or making it less sour, by drinking good store of water, as the experience of above forty years' practice hath assured myself and many others. For though water is accounted a contemptible drink, yet by beginning to make use of it at about thirty years of age, before which I was often out of order, and continuing the use of it ever since, drinking very little wine or strong drink, I have attained to the age of seventy-four years; when thousands in the mean time, who delighted only in drinking strong beer, wine, and brandy, have not lived half so long: which makes good that saying in the Scriptures, that wine is a mocker, and strong drink is raging, and he who is deceived thereby is not wise, (Prov. xx. 1.) since it no ways contributes to long life; for it is certain that thousands in the world live as long who drink no strong drink, as any drinkers of it do. Some indeed, from an extraordinary strength of nature, have been hard drinkers, and yet die old; but for one who does this, perhaps an hundred are destroyed by it before they come to half the time of life: and generally we shall find that very strong and healthy constitutions, at the long run, are ruined by riot and excess, there being no certain safety in any way of living, but that of temperance and moderation. Nature in some may a long time withstand the abuses offered to it, but at last it will yield to its enemies; and those who live the longest in an intemperate course, might, from the strength of their constitution, have lived much longer, had they eat less, and used themselves to drink more water; which drink, as it is most friendly, and longest will preserve the life of a strong constitution, so it is absolutely necessary for those that are weak and sickly, and are naturally subject to the gout, the stone, shortness of breath, wind, ill digestion, and such like.

But the chief use of water in preserving of health, is by using of it as a vomit, as before

Useful in
Vomiting.

was shown, which is an infallible and the most speedy remedy that ever was found out for any stomach sickness, or pain there ; for to vomit with warm water will effectually remove it in one hour, and be a means to prevent great fits of sickness, and preserve the lives of many thousands to old age, by cleansing the stomach from that tough, slimy, or corrupt matter that offends, and is the cause of all mortal diseases ; especially of an apoplexy, which, though counted a disease of the head, yet hath its original from a foul stomach, which nothing doth so effectually cleanse as vomits : according to that of Dr. Curtis, who saith, that vomiting with warm water or carduus tea, is very beneficial to bring up that which fluctuates in the stomach, and that tough, ropy phlegm which sticks fast to the wrinkles and folds of that bowels, and which purges do often pass over and cannot remove. Which way of vomiting with warm water, is ten times more easy and pleasant than that which is effected by the use of a nauseous tea made of carduus, which physicians do sometimes advise ; and it is also such as can do no harm by violence, as other vomits made from antimony sometimes do, for want of drinking after each vomit a pint or more of water-gruel, or warm water, since you may stop when you please, by forbearing to drink more warm water when you vomit with water.

And here it may not be amiss to relate what I some years ago discovered, in order to men's freeing themselves from sickness that may happen after eating ; for being invited to dine at a certain table, where there were several good dishes of meat, I was over-persuaded to eat more than I should do, and in a little time after dinner found myself begin to be sick. I went out and in a private place attempted to vomit, by tickling my throat with my finger, but could not vomit as I designed to do ; only by this means I raised up two or three mouthfuls of thick tough phlegm, upon which I found myself better, and my sick qualm went off. I took the hint it gave me, and have done the same several times since, and find that the getting up the phlegm, which like yeast upon beer, works up to the mouth of the stomach, a man may free himself from some kinds of sickness after eating. And I remember it is an advice given by one Vaughan, in a book long since printed, entitled *Directions for Health*, for men who feed high, to put their finger in their throat when they rise in the morning, to make themselves puke, or void the phlegm which can be

raised, as an excellent way to preserve health; and it is said also to be an absolute preservative from the gout.

I will conclude with this note, that in such distempers where water drinking will be available for a cure, the same must not be drunk sparingly, but plentifully, as Gripings. (for instance) to ease the gripings in a looseness or flux: for if but a pint of water should be drunk, ease would hardly succeed; but drinking in about an hour's time a quart or three pints, the sharpness and evil quality of the humour offending will be so far diluted or weakened, that immediate ease will follow. If the season be too cold to drink cold water, you may warm it a little upon the fire, or put a hot toast of bread in every pint: and the same is true in fevers, or in pains from gravel or the colic: a small quantity will not be effectual in these cases, for in the colic a quart is necessary, which ought to be carefully noted, and in a fever a little water will rather increase the burning, which large draughts, often drunk, will soon take off. Rest, fasting, and drinking much water, after a vomit or two, is a course that never yet hath failed to cure fevers, by clearing the stomach of that sordid filthiness which causeth the distemper; for a happy issue will certainly follow such a course, if the fever is simple, and not complicated with such other distempers, which will resist all remedies: for in many cases nothing can prevent mortality, as is evident by the death of the best physicians themselves, and by the death of many, who consulted with them for a cure, since many die under the hands of the most able doctors, as well as quacks.

I will add to what hath been said, one experiment more, that is very material, and that is, being very Grief. hypochondrical, and of a melancholy temper, I have often been strangely dejected in mind when under grief for some misfortunes, which sometimes have been so great, as to threaten danger to life; in which fits of grief I always found the parts within my breast very uneasy, and sometimes continued long: but now I have found a good remedy, for upon drinking a pint or more of cold water I find ease in two or three minutes, so that no grief seems to afflict. Which experience I discover for the sake of others in the same circumstances, being verily persuaded that the stomach sympathizeth with the mind, and this becomes the cause of that uneasy sensation and pain perceived there; for which, cold water I have found to be the best remedy in

myself, and I believe others may find the same benefit, who will make use thereof upon like occasions, and it gives also relief to people under frights.

There is also another experiment that I have often seen of good effect ; and that is, that if persons, subject to what is called vapors, or that are afflicted with fits, commonly called the fits of the mother, will but drink water when they find their fits approach, it will immediately yield relief. There is in this case a mealy julep prescribed by Dr. Bates, which is to take a spoonful of fine wheat-flower, an ounce of fine sugar, and a pint of water, brew them together, and drink it off : this is pleasanter than water alone ; but water of itself will be as effectual, or rather better, as hath been often proved upon persons in those fits.

Some perhaps may desire to know how to distinguish good from bad water ; and the way to do this is by the taste and scent ; for if it have no taste nor smell, being purely fresh, not salt nor sweetish, nor ill-scented, it is good, provided it be pure and clear ; of which kind is the common water used in London, when well settled, or in fair weather. As for those who are curious, and will be at the charge, they may procure the best water for drink by distillation, either in an alembic, or in a cold still used in drawing any cold water from herbs ; for no earthy or metallic substance, nor any kind of salt will rise in distillation : so that the water so distilled will be pure and admirable to drink when cold, and will keep as long from stinking as any of the cold distilled water in the apothecaries' shops ; according to what Dr. Quincy hath affirmed about it in his Dispensatory.

Those who have not the convenience of distillation, may boil it a little as they do for tea ; for then, when kept a while after it is cold, it will become more fine, by suffering any mixture contained in it to settle to the bottom of the vessel wherein it is contained, and that will render it still more pure : in short, all water that will make a good lather with soap, is wholesome to drink without boiling, but none else.

Since the collecting together the forementioned accounts, I have met with a book written by Dr. Boerhaave, the present professor of physic at Leyden, in Holland, who affirms, that drinking water made very warm, is a good remedy to pacify griping pains in the stomach ; and that it is proper to bathe wounds in the face with it,

Vapors.

How to distinguish water.

Pains in the stomach.

when they come to be just healed, so that the place be kept continually wet, which I conceive is best done by applying often linen cloths wet, and binding them till they begin to be dry, for this will prevent scars : and he saith, that warm water is better to attenuate, or thin the blood, than cold water.

There is also published lately a book of experiments made with water, by Dr. Hancock, a divine, called *Febrifugum Magnum* ; wherein he saith, that Fevers. drinking a pint or quart of cold water in bed, will raise a copious sweat, and cure all burning fevers, which at once taking hath done the business : it will raise a sweat without much more covering than ordinary. And he further affirms, that the same taken at the beginning of the cold fit of an ague, and sweating upon it, at two or three times taking, will cure that distemper. A large quantity of hot water, I know, hath been advised to take off the cold fit of ague, but the party was not ordered to sweat. Which discovery of the reverend doctor about fevers, is confirmed by the following accounts, which I received from a worthy gentleman, Mr. Ralph Thoresby, F. R. S.* to whom they were transmitted by Mr. Lucas, a pious and learned gentleman of Leeds in Yorkshire, who says, that

“One captain Rosier fell into a violent fever, which as soon as he perceived, he said he must have some cold water. The gentlewoman, at whose house he lodged, not thinking that proper, boiled the water (unknown to him) and put some spirits therein, and sent it up cold ; but he smelt it before it came to his head, and refused to drink it, saying, he knew what he did, for he had several times tried it. Afterwards some clear water being brought, he drank it, sweat profusely, and was well the next day.

“Another captain of a ship also took the same method, when he, or any of his men, fell into a fever, which had the desired success.”

Mr. Lucas adds, in another letter to the same gentleman, “That his own wife fell very ill of a fever ; she drank water, sweat very much, and thereby recovered.”

All which instances corroborate the new way of curing fevers, so lately discovered in this city by Dr. Hancock ; who

* Author of *Ducatus Leediensis*, or *Topography of Leeds*, which the learned Bishop of Lincoln, in his Preface to the new edition of Camden's *Britannia*, styles, an useful and accurate treatise.

also saith, he has had long experience of curing common colds with cold water ; and this is done by drinking a large draught of water at going to bed, another in the night, and another in the morning : which, he saith, will soon thicken and sweeten and digest that thin sharp rheum, that provokes coughing to no purpose : for the rheum, when thin, is hard to be brought up ; but when thickened, it will come up easily, and the cough will soon go off. Which agrees with what I before affirmed from my own long experience.

He also affirms from his own experience, that using sometimes to take a walk of eight or ten miles in a morning, he found that water gave twice as good breath for that purpose as wine or ale ; and if it would do this for a man who had no asthma, he doubts not but it would do the same in one troubled with one. And he also affirms water to be the best remedy for a surfeit, to the truth of which I can testify by long experience.

He also affirms, that drinking cold water hath been found good in rheumatisms, and that to one so afflicted
 Rheumatism. he had advised to drink it as he lay in his bed, and it took off the fit ; but if hot water attenuates the blood most, as Boerhaave affirms, it is then best to drink of it warm daily to a good quantity : for, as Pitcairn observes, it is then the best dissolver of all kinds of salts in the body, which it will carry off in the urine, if drunk plentifully ; for by urine salts are evacuated, as is evident by the taste.

And it is his opinion, from the long experience he hath had of the effect of water in keeping the stom-
 Gout in the stomach. ach in order, and making it tight and strong to perform its operations, and digest all humors, that it will cure the gout in the stomach ; and perhaps it may do it better than wine, which I have known to fail. And I do not wonder that the same liquor, which is the principal cause of the gout in other parts, should not be a help in that part, but rather kill, as it often is found to do, though the strongest wine is drunk.

In short, he affirms, and that with great reason, that sweating in fevers by drinking cold water, is more natural than to do it with hot sudorifics, which often do harm in the beginning of fevers, except a good store of cooling, moistening liquors are drunk with them, they being more apt to inflame than cool and quench heat in the body ; and for that reason sweating hath not been often advised by physicians,

because they were ignorant of this way of sweating to cure fevers, by drinking cold water.

Which cure, he said, did succeed in one who was his relation, at the fifth day after his falling sick ; to whom he gave a dose of water after he was in bed, and he sweated profusely for twenty-four hours, and thereby was cured. Half a pint, he saith, is enough for a grown child : a pint to a man or woman, though if they drink a quart it will be better. And in scarlet-fevers, small-pox, or measles, though the water will not cause sweat, yet it will so quell and keep under the fever, that the eruptions will come out more kindly ; which is a confirmation of what before was said about Dr. Bett's prescribing two quarts of water, when the small-pox did not come out kindly ; the water affording matter to fill them up, according to what the author observes of a certain person, in the *History of Cold Bathing*, (p. 347,) that he could give an hundred instances where people of all ages have been lost by being denied drink in the small-pox ; for it hinders the filling of the pustules.

And Dr. Hancock sets down an account of the author of the *Free Thinker*, concerning a woman, who, in the last great plague, fell ill of that distemper, Plague. who got her husband to fetch her a pitcher of water from Lamb's Conduit ; she drank plentifully of it, but did not avoid the cold, and so did not sweat ; however she was cured. And he gives us another relation of an Englishman, formerly resident at Morocco, that fell ill of the plague at that place, and getting water to drink, fell into a violent sweat, and recovered ; from whence he concludes, that water is good in the plague ; agreeable to what is related in Sir John Floyer's book of *Cold Baths*, wherein it is said, that but two died of the plague who lived over the water upon London bridge, (p. 223,) the coolness of the air being supposed to contribute to their health who inhabited on the water in that manner, their blood being cooler than others. It is said, also, the watermen escaped better than others.

I will here add to what the doctor hath said before concerning the cure of fevers, that if the fever be accompanied in the beginning with any great illness at the stomach, nauseating or vomiting, it will be the surest and safest practice to clear the stomach first, by vomiting with warm water, as before hath been directed ; for I cannot believe it possible for the stomach to be cleared from foul humors by sweating : it may do, if no great sense of disorder is perceived

there, but it will certainly be the safest to cleanse the stomach first, which is the place where all the diseases are originally begun; for then sweating with cold water afterwards may turn to good account. Indeed I have not made any trial of it since the doctor's book was published, but I have a very good opinion of his accounts therein given concerning the benefit of water, having had so much experience thereof in my own practice for above forty years; for so long it is since I first began to collect those accounts, and make those experiments, which are herein made public for the benefit of all.

And thus, for the common good of mankind of all ranks and degrees, I have gathered together all the accounts I have observed in physic books, relating to the use of common water in preventing and curing diseases; to which I have added some experiments of my own, which by numerous trials I can warrant as sure and certain, especially that of curing any sickness in the stomach upon the spot, by vomiting with warm water; which is an experiment, that, if put into common practice, would prevent many thousand fits of sickness in a year among mankind, and also a great number of untimely deaths; for it takes away the cause of all stomach sickness, which is the root or first beginning of most of the evils that afflict the body.

*Some Rules for preserving Health by Diet, collected from
Physical Authors.*

BY RALPH THORESBY, F. R. S. *et al.*

IN a little treatise, entitled, "Kitchen Physic," written by Dr. Cook, the Author declares, he can hardly be told of any disease which he cannot relieve or cure by a proper Diet, p. 39. And in the same book we find his opinion to be this, that all tender, sickly people, and all aged and decrepit persons ought to eat often, and but a little at a time, because weak and wasted bodies are to be restored by little and little; and by moist and liquid food also, rather than by solid, because moist and liquid diet does nourish soonest, and digest easiest.

Those, he saith, that eat much, and get little strength by eating, show that they have used themselves to too full a diet; and the more you cram such bodies, the less they

thrive by it, but rather grow worse and worse ; because by much feeding you do but add to the bad humors wherewith the body is already filled, which should rather be wasted by purging and using a spare diet.

And a spare diet he describes to be this ; that we never eat at once, till the appetite is fully satisfied, and never to eat, till we have an appetite ; and men never have a true appetite, till they can eat any ordinary food. And he adviseth to keep constantly to a plain diet ; for those, he says, enjoy most health, and live longest, that avoid curiosity and variety of meats and drinks, which only serve to entice to gluttony, and so work our ruin.

Another saith, that the less food the sick person eats, the sooner he will recover ; for it is a true saying, the more you fill foul bodies, the more you hurt them. The stomach being the place where diseases begin, when that part therefore is weak, and out of order, and cannot make a good digestion when much is eaten, raw or crude humors then must needs be bred, and bad humors cannot produce good blood.

All men do find by experience, that in the morning before they have eaten, they are light and pleasantly easy in their bodies, but after they have indulged their appetites with plenty of food, they find themselves heavy and dull, and often sleepy : which sufficiently shows that those full meals are prejudicial to the welfare of the body ; for a moderate meal would have continued the ease and lightness they before found in themselves, and would have refreshed any faintness that emptiness might occasion. And he certainly, who useth the most simple meat and drinks, avoideth the snare of provoking his appetite beyond the necessities of nature ; whereas variety enticeth to a fresh desire of every dainty, till at last the stomach is gorged, and made incapable of performing a good digestion ; and this produceth those crudities, which are the cause of all diseases, and of so many sudden deaths.

It is generally observed, that the most unhealthy are found among those who feed high upon the most delicious dainties, and drink nothing but the strongest and most spirituous liquors ; whereas others, who want this delicate fare, are seldom sick, except they have such insatiable appetites as to eat too much ; which a man may do of the plainest diet ; whose belly is his god, as an Apostle expresses it. But though men may glut themselves with coarse food, yet coarse food and long life are very consistent, as

appears by John Bill, mentioned in the History of Cold Baths, p. 408, whose food was bread, cheese, and butter ; and drink, whey, butter-milk, or water ; and yet he lived 133 years, was a strong, strait, upright man. And the food of John Bailes, whose age accumulated to 128, was for the most part brown bread and cheese, and his drink, water, or small beer, and milk, p. 416. He had buried the whole town of Northampton twenty times over, except three or four, and said strong drink killed them all.

Dr. Pratt adviseth to sup sparingly ; for to sup sparingly, he saith, is most healthful, because of the experience of an infinite number of persons who have received the greatest benefits from light suppers. For the stomach not being over burdened, the sleep is more pleasant ; and from sparing suppers the breeding of those humors is prevented, which cause defluxions, rheumatisms, gouts, dropsies, giddiness, and corruption in the mouth from the scurvy : and from light suppers a freedom from sickness and reaching in the morning is obtained, and concoction is made perfect, which prevents obstructions.

Another saith, it is well known, that many indispositions are cured by fasting, or a very spare diet ; for what is taken into the stomach being no more than can be well digested, the chylous juice, so rightly prepared, is conveyed into the lacteal vessels, and from thence into the blood : so that nature being duly supplied with well-concocted nourishment, the corrupted blood will free itself from that corruption in time, by throwing it out, through the pores of the skin, in perspiration, and supply itself with the purer juices ; and in this way, consumptions and scurvies, and other chronical distempers, will be overcome : which way of curing disease, by fasting, swine do naturally betake themselves to, who, when sick, will eat nothing till they recover, as they always do after they injure themselves by over-eating ; in which they are imitated by all who delight in gormandizing or gluttony, though not in using the same means of recovery.

That men in health may prevent diseases, it was advised, that one meal should not be eaten, till the other, which was eaten before, was passed off clean out of the stomach ; which never is done till the appetite of hunger is found to call for another supply : by means of which constant observation, the food will be converted into good chyle, which is a milky substance, good blood will be bred, and from good blood gen-

erous spirits will be produced, out of which a healthy constitution will ensue ; but, on the contrary, too great a quantity of food being taken for pleasure only, which the stomach cannot well digest, the chyle will be raw and corrupt, which will foul the blood, and render the body disorderly and unhealthful.

Others say, that abstinence and sobriety free from most diseases, especially catarrhs, coughs, wheezings, giddiness, pain in the head and stomach, sudden death, lethargies, gout, and sciatica, an ill digestion being the cause of all these ; it also prevents pains in the spleen, stone, and gravel, and a dry itch ; it makes the body vigorous and nimble, maintains the five senses in a good state, preserveth the memory, quickens the wit, and quencheth all undue lust in mankind ; and, in short, all misers, who eat and drink but little, live long.

Two meals a day is said to be sufficient for all persons after fifty years of age, and all weak people ; and the omitting of suppers does always conduce much to the health of the weak and aged ; since if no supper be eaten, the stomach will soon free itself from all tough, slimy humors, wherewith it is slabbered over on the inside, and thereby the appetite will be renewed, and digestion made more strong and vigorous. Moreover, all that are troubled with sweating in the night, any ill taste in their mouths, belching, and troublesome dreams, must avoid suppers : for in sleep the fibres of the stomach relax, and are not able to contract themselves so strongly, as when awake, to embrace the food, and by trituration reduce it into a pap fit to pass out into the other bowels, out of which the nourishment is sent to other parts.

It was said by Dr. Curtis, that though those who used a spare diet, cannot well bear long labor ; yet such people, when their exercise is suitable to their strength, do live longer than those of a robust constitution, that think large feeding adds strength ; especially such as, being strong, use no exercise proportionable to it, to consume the superfluities which a full feeding doth occasion : so that the only way for those to live long, who have much wealth, and need not labor for a livelihood, is to live temperately : and this temperance doth consist in not letting the common custom of meals invite you to eat, except your appetite concur with those times. We must not indulge the cravings of a depraved appetite, as those do who eat to please their fancy,

and not the necessities of nature ; and when we do eat, we must not think that the more plentifully we eat, we shall be more strengthened, for it will not prove so. A little well digested will make the body stronger, than the being glutted with superfluity, most of which will be turned into a corrupt juice, and must be cast out by physic, or else sickness will ensue, and the easiest physic is that which the Germans call the *hunger cure*, if continued a due time.

It is the opinion of learned men, that the early distemper of the bodies of children, called the *rickets*, proceeds from the fault of their mothers, in making them gluttons from their cradles, gorging them with food till they loathe it, out of a mistaken opinion, that this is the way to make them thrive and grow strong : which excess is not only the cause of this disease, but of the immature death of many ; and in others it lays the foundation of many distempers, which afflict those afterwards who live to years of maturity : and as they gorge them with food, so they vainly think to cherish them with strong drink, than which nothing can be more pernicious to the health of children, whose diet should be little and often, and their drink cooling. As it also should be when men arrive at the time of becoming children again in old age ; that is, in an helpless state, which should be prevented as much as can be, by a cooling, moistening diet, in opposition to the hot and dry, and withered state of age ; for it is heat and dryness that are the cause of most old men's miseries, especially the wasting of the substance that fills the parts with moisture, and keeps the body plump and smooth ; they who style wine *the old man's milk* being greatly mistaken, for milk cools, and wine heats.

It was the opinion of Dr. Pitt, who was formerly physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, that fasting, rest, and drinking water would cure most diseases ; and there seemeth to be a great deal of reason in what he asserted. For fasting will give time to the stomach to unload itself of the cause of distempers, the cause of all diseases being begun in that bowel only ; to which cleansing, the drinking of water plentifully will much contribute, which also will keep the action of the stomach upon the hinges, by filling it when empty ; at which time there will be need of rest, for thereby the body will be less fit for business : though the mere drinking of water, which affords nourishment sufficient for the growth and support of all vegetables, will, in

some measure, supply the want of food, as hath been shown in the example of two, who were supported a long time by nothing else. In short, the best way for a sick man to recover, is to eat little or no food till he finds an appetite, according to that saying,

Spare diet will the most diseases cure,
If a due time you can the same endure.

And fasting from food may be continued long enough to be a remedy for many diseases, with the assistance of common water; by the drinking of which warm, in a due quantity, without a total fasting, two persons, I am informed, were recovered out of consumptions, with which they were extremely weakened, and that in about six weeks' time; as was another by drinking milk and whey, equal parts, made blood hot, without using any other diet, which is thought to be far more effectual than ass's milk, whose virtue consists in being thinner than other milk.

But besides a spare diet, cool dry air is also very helpful to preserve men in health, who are not sick, for it mixes with the blood, and without it the motion of the blood and spirits can never be preserved, as appears by diving vessels, in which men cannot live when the air therein is made hot by their own body and breath: and is proved also by an experiment of Dr. Croone's, who stifled a chicken, till it seemed quite dead; and yet by blowing cool air into the lungs, with a small pair of bellows, it revived. Hence it appears, that the common custom of managing sick people is very pernicious, and so far from helping them to recover, that it is sufficient to make a healthy person sick; for were a person, who was not sick, confined for three or four weeks in a room, made hot like a stove, and kept in his bed, with the curtains drawn, and all the windows close shut, and the room made unpleasant with the nauseous fumes of physic, and a close-stool, which will almost make a fresh man sick when he just enters into it; we can never think that this is the way to recover one that really is sick, and wants the fresh air and reviving scents to cherish his blood; a fresh, open, sweet air being one principal means to strengthen the body, make a good appetite and digestion, and render the spirits brisk and lively: for the fresh air can be prejudicial to none, whose bodies are clothed warm, either in bed, or sitting in a chair in their chamber.

Some years since a neighbour became very feverish, and his wife persuaded him to go to bed; and hearing of it soon

after, I gave him a visit, where I found the windows close shut, the curtains of the bed drawn, and the room very hot, for it was in July; he was burning hot, and complained for want of breath. I drew open the curtains, covered him warm, and then opened the windows, and the wind blew into the room: upon which he soon told me his shortness of breath had left him. I persuaded him to drink some water, which he found did much refresh him; and after I had taken my leave of him, he called for more water; and while he had the cup in his hand, an apothecary came in, whom his wife had sent for, who, finding him about to drink the water, told him, if he did it he was a dead man; but instead of forbearing, he drank it up in his presence. Upon which the other took his leave, and told him, he would say no more to him. However, before night, the person got up, went abroad, and was cured of his fever; which is one instance, among many others, which might be given, of the benefit of fresh air to a person who is kept warm in his bed; for thereby his body was cooled inwardly, and his breathing made more free, by the air which was drawn into his lungs to refresh and comfort the blood as it passed through them.

I shall only add, that by keeping the blood cool as well clean, is to be understood, not only moderation in diet, but to feed most on cooling food, made of wheat, barley, oatmeal, rice, and ripe apples, as also on milk; which, joined with oatmeal, is the chief food of those lusty and strong men, the Highlanders of Scotland, who abound in children, as Dr. Cheyne tells us in his treatise on the Gout, p. 108. Edit. 4; which demonstrates milk and oatmeal to be a most strengthening food, and such as keeps the blood in due order; so that therewith men may subsist, though they abstain from beef, pork, and venison, and all other meats hard to digest, and drink water as the Highlanders do. Of the efficacy of which cooling milk diet, the said Dr. Cheyne gives a notable instance in a doctor that lived at Croyden, (p. 103,) who had been afflicted with the *falling evil*; for, by slow observation, he found the lighter his meals were, the lighter were his fits. At last he also cast off all liquids but water, and found his fits weaker, and the intervals longer; and finding his disease mend, as its fuel was withdrawn, he took to vegetable food and water only, which put an entire period to his fits without any relapse; but finding vegetable food windy to him, he took to milk, of which he eat a pint for breakfast, a quart for dinner, and a pint for supper, without fish,

flesh, bread, or any strong or spirituous liquor, or any drink but water, with which he lived afterwards for fourteen years, without the least interruption in his health, strength, or vigour, but died afterwards of a pleurisy. Which is a confirmation of what Dr. Cook did affirm, of the possibility of curing diseases by diet only that is temperate and cooling.

In short, temperance, or a spare diet, void of dainties, never was injurious to the strongest constitution, and without it, such as are weak and sickly cannot long subsist; for the more such persons eat and drink, the more weak and disordered they will still find themselves to be; so that if the strong despise temperance, yet the comfort of weak, sickly, and pining people does depend entirely upon their constantly observing it: which, when they are accustomed to it, will be easy to do; so that they will deny all intemperate desires with as great pleasure, as they before did delight in what is falsely styled good eating and drinking; for nothing of that is good, which is injurious to health. It is custom only that makes men hanker after gluttony and drunkenness, and a contrary custom will make men abhor it as much: and therefore it is a wonder the rich do not strive to attain it; for

A fatal error 'tis in men of wealth,
To feed so high as will destroy their health.

Temperance being that which will enable them to live most at ease, and enjoy their wealth the longest; this, and water-drinking, being the surest way to bring men to old age, though it hath not power to make the aged young.

APPENDIX.

A.

James Keill, a native of Scotland, was born in 1673, and published "A Compendium of Anatomy," and other works. He died prematurely in 1719, from the application of cautery to a cancer in his mouth.

B.

Daniel Duncan, born at Montauban in Languedoc in 1649, was of Scotch descent, an eminent physician and medical writer, and Professor of Anatomy and Chemistry at Berne. In 1699 he was sent for to attend the Princess of Hesse Cassel, who had symptoms of threatening illness, induced by the excessive use of tea and other hot liquors, which led him to write a treatise against that practice, published subsequently by the persuasion of his friend Boerhaave. In 1714 he obtained his favorite object of settling in London, and when he reached his seventieth year, put in practice his previous resolution of giving his professional services only gratuitously; in which he steadily persevered during the remaining sixteen years of his life; though, in 1721, he lost the third part of his property by the South sea (bubble) scheme.

C.

Sir John Floyer, well known by his writings on the Asthma and Cold Bathing, was born at Hinston in Staffordshire, about 1649. Graduated at Oxford. Settled in business at Litchfield, where his attention and skill procured him extensive reputation, insomuch that he was knighted as a reward for his talents. He strongly advocated the use of cold bathing, particularly in chronic rheumatism and nervous disorders; and he ascribed the increasing prevalence of consumptions to the discontinuance of the practice of baptizing

children by immersion! He is said to have been one of the first who reckoned the number of pulsations of the artery by a timepiece.

He published several works, one especially on the Asthma, under which he labored from the time of pum̄berty. Notwithstanding which he lived to be an old man.

He remarked, that if the virtues of cold water were seriously estimated, it would be highly valued as a great medicine in preventing the Stone and Asthma.

But few surgeons are familiar with lithotomy. The utility, or rather the predominant success or failure in one hundred cases, I have no way of estimating; and I fear that the present mode of practice (by gentle or simple) in cases of gravel, adds not to the laurels of the faculty.

Five thousand pounds sterling were paid to Mrs. Stephens for her secret remedy by the British Parliament! Our author would probably have managed better, for half that sum. Medical men of much intellect and patient investigation are earnestly solicited to do justice to such an important subject, by testing the correctness or error of Mr. Smith's brief remarks on those maladies.

Too many cases of Asthma are the consequences of gormandizing. And if you and I persist in so doing, we must abide the consequences. Is not gluttony denounced in holy writ, with other misdeeds? If we listen not to Moses nor Solomon, wo betides us.

D.

Sir Thomas Elliot was born of a good family in Suffolk, early in the sixteenth century. He published a work about the year 1541, called "The Castle of Health," which was much admired, even by some of the faculty. In this *he is a strong advocate for temperance in sexual pleasures*. He also notices that catarrhs were much more common than they had been forty years before, which he ascribes to free living, and keeping the head too much covered. He was a courtier, a favorite of Henry VIII., and generally beloved for his virtues and accomplishments.

E.

Zacchia Paolo was an eminent physician, born at Rome in 1585, distinguished by his learning and accomplishments as well as professional skill. He was physician to Pope

Innocent X. and author of various publications high in repute. He died in 1659.

F.

Daniel Sennertus was born at Breslaw in 1552. The plague prevailed seven times at Wittemburg, while he was professor there. Yet he never quitted his post, nor withheld his services even to the poorest sick; however, he was at last a victim to that disease in 1637. He distinguished himself greatly by his eloquence and sound knowledge; and his publications concurred in raising his fame, inso-much that he was consulted by patients from all parts of the world, towards whom he evinced great disinterestedness.

G.

George Cheyne was born in Scotland in 1670. He wrote a celebrated "Essay on Health and Long Life," and his English Malady or "Treatise on Nervous Diseases, Gout," &c.

H.

Cholera. We have not hitherto had any trust-worthy accounts of pestilence in New England. From Morton's New England's Memorial, A. D. 1650, we learn, that *putrid sore throats* and Cholera were rife and alarming. His words are, "This year there was more than ordinary mortality in the country, especially about Boston, and mostly among their children, (new diseases, the fruits of new sins,) since which time several diseases have been in the country, more frequently than formerly: as, namely, *gripings in the bowels, with violent vomiting and purging*, which hath taken away many: as also a disease in the mouth or throat, which proved mortal to some in a very short time: as also great distempers of colds," &c.

Dr. Douglass wrote on the epidemic fever and angina ulcusculosa occurring in his day. Lieut. Gov. Colden's letter to Dr. Forthergill eulogizes the work.

We have to regret that *Dr. Sydenham* wrote so briefly on the *Cholera*, which was epidemic and very fatal in 1669. He was born at Winford Eagle, in Dorsetshire, about 1624, and became the first physician of his age. He appears to have paid but little attention to the prevailing medical doctrines: being early persuaded, that the only mode of acquiring a

correct knowledge of his art was to observe diligently the progress of diseases, whence the natural indications of cure might be derived; in which opinion he had the sanction of Mr. Lock. The very general praises bestowed on him by subsequent writers amply prove the solidity of his title to high reputation. But at this period there are some who assert, that he was not aware of its possible infectious nature; and that he was equally in the dark respecting the Small Pox, although he wrote masterly on the subject. A mass of recorded facts relative to the former is accumulating. The mode of cure for Cholera, adopted by that very honest man, was rational; and probably as successful as any would be, in such complaints. He does not say he used opiates as freely as is now done.

His mode of promoting puking, for the moment, by draughts of weak chicken tea, was philosophical; tending to wash away, dilute, and disarm the acrid fumes of the malady. (Dr. Douglass, the most sagacious physician of his day in Boston, gave the salt of vitriol.) Timid people are terrified at an injunction to swallow, and use otherwise, *one, two, three, or four* gallons of warm water. If the half of *one* should suffice, so much the better. But if the patient should prefer taking the like requisite quantity of breakfast tea (without sugar or cream), and with or without one twelfth part of milk, it might be admitted. A gentleman of well earned eminence of this vicinity, now living, by inadvertence, swallowed a few grains of Corrosive Sublimate. He was advised to drink mere warm water, at short intervals, till his puking ceased. Three or four quarts answered the purpose. Just so, in extreme cases of *Cholera*, the acrid contents of the stomach and bowels may be obtunded, and made less and less offensive, by using enemas of warm water and laudanum every half hour; not omitting however to maintain moderate warmth in the upper and lower limbs, which is *indispensable* in such cases. For many years last past a tea of mustard has been used as an auxiliary to tartar emetic. In a pultaceous form, if time permits, it should not be omitted. A discreet use of opiates, the oil of mint, and diluted spirits, or *strong tea* or coffee, or weak chicken or veal broth, are eligible. Camphor also merits notice. *A saturated solution of it in Olive oil* deserves a fair experiment. Dry heat, applied judiciously, is powerful: and we have to regret that *Jennings'* portable vapour bathing apparatus is so little heeded. Perhaps its

apparently unreasonable price (\$10) has driven it from due notice. Its value and utility are unquestionable. Why are the Dispensaries in Boston destitute of that apparatus? The young physicians there would be interested in repeated trials of it. In Boerhaave's lectures, vol. vi. on *Sudorificks*, we may find important hints about dry heat. Wealthy people might, with as much apparent propriety, neglect buying a night (or nursery) lamp, as Jennings' patent vapour apparatus! Perhaps it may not be often wanted by them; yet some of their poverty-stricken neighbours may suffer severely for the want of it. It has been observed, that there lies no *writ of error* in the *grave*! but the sickness is finally concluded by the knowledge or ignorance of the physician, and in such rapidly destructive cases, whatever attempts are made for curing the patient must be done *instantanter*. High and tremendous is the responsibility.

Dr. Tissot was an eminent physician, born in the earlier part of the past century, who wrote on various important subjects in French. His works were translated into most of the languages of Europe. He wrote for himself, for the affluent in his palace, and the pauper in his hovel; for the sober, thoughtful, sedentary, literary man; and the inconsiderate of both sexes *after puberty*. His brief description and treatment of *Cholera morbus* deserves notice, and is here quoted with a confidence of its merit.

"This disease," he says, "is a sudden, abundant, and painful evacuation by vomiting and by stool.

"It begins with much flatulence, or wind, with swelling and slight pains in the belly, accompanied with great dejection, and followed with large evacuations either by stool or by vomit at first, but whenever either of them has begun, the other quickly follows. The matter evacuated is either yellowish, green, brown, whitish, or black; the pains in the belly violent; the pulse, almost constantly feverish, is sometimes strong at first, but soon sinks into weakness, in consequence of the prodigious discharge. Some patients purge a hundred times in the compass of a few hours: they may even be seen to fall away; and if the disease exists in a violent degree, they are scarcely to be known within three or four hours from the commencement of these discharges. After a great number of them, they are afflicted with spasms, or cramps, in their legs, thighs, and arms, which torment them as much as the pains in the belly; when the disease rages too highly to be assuaged, hickups, convulsions, and a cold-

ness of the extremities approach ; there is a scarcely intermitting succession of fainting, or swooning fits, the patient dying either in one of them, or in convulsions.

“ This disease, which constantly depends on a bile raised to the highest acrimony, commonly prevails towards the end of July and in August ; especially if the heats have been very violent, and there have been little or no summer fruits, which greatly conduce to attemper and allay the putrescent acrimony of the bile.

“ Nevertheless, however violent this distemper may be, it is less dangerous, and also less tormenting than Iliac passion, many persons recovering from it.

“ 1. Our first endeavour should be to dilute, or even to drown this acrid bile, by draughts, by deluges of the most mitigating drinks ; the irritation being so very great, that every thing having the least sharpness is injurious. Wherefore the patient should continually take in, by drink, and by way of glyster, either barley-water, almond-milk, or pure water, with one eighth part milk, which has succeeded very well in my practice. Or he may use a very light decoction, or ptisan, as it were, of bread, which is made by gently boiling a pound of toasted bread in three or four pots of water for half an hour. In Switzerland we prefer oat-bread. We also successfully use pounded rye, making a light ptisan of it.

“ A very light, thin soup, made of a pullet, a chicken, or of one pound of lean veal, in three pots of water, is very proper too in this disease. Whey is also employed to good purpose ; and in those places, where it can easily be had, butter-milk is the best drink of any. But, whichever of these drinks shall be thought preferable, it is a necessary point to drink very plentifully of it ; and the glysters should be given every two hours.

“ 2. If the patient is of a robust constitution, and sanguine complexion, with a strong pulse at the time of the attack, and the pains are very severe, a first and in some cases a second bleeding, very early in the invasion, assuages the violence of the malady, and allows me more leisure for the assistance of other remedies. I have seen vomiting almost cease entirely after the first bleeding.

“ The rage of this disease abates a little after a duration of five or six hours : we must not, however, during this remission, or abatement, forbear to throw in proper remedies ; since it returns soon after with great force, which return

however indicates no alteration of the method already entered upon.

“3. In general, the warm bath refreshes the patient while he continues in it; but the pains frequently return soon after he is taken out, which however is no reason for omitting it, since it has frequently been found to give a more durable relief. The patient should continue in it a considerable time, and during that time, he should take six or seven glasses of the potion No. 32,* which has been very efficacious in this disease. By these means the vomiting has been stopped and the patient, upon going out of the bath, has had several large stools, which very considerably diminished the violence of the disease.

“4. If the patient's attendants are terrified by these great evacuations, and determine to check them (however prematurely), by Venice treacle, mint water, syrup of white poppies, called diacodium, by opium or mithridate, it either happens, that the disease and all its symptoms are heightened, to which I have been a witness; or, if the evacuations should actually be stopped, the patient, in consequence of it, is thrown into a more dangerous condition. I have been obliged to give a purge, in order to renew discharges, to a man, who had been thrown into a violent fever, attended with a ranging delirium, by a medicine composed of Venice treacle, mithridate, and oil. Such medicines ought not to be employed, until the smallness of the pulse, great weakness, violent and almost continual cramps, and even the insufficiency of the patient's efforts to vomit, make us apprehensive of his sinking irrecoverably. In such circumstances indeed he should take every quarter or half quarter of an hour, a spoonful of the mixture No. 50,† still continuing the diluting drinks. After the first hour, they should only be given every hour, and that only to the extent of eight doses. But I desire to insist upon it here, that this medicine should not be given too early in this distemper.

* Potion No. 32 is ordered thus: take *three ounces* of Tamarinds, put them into a pint of boiling water; and after boiling them a few minutes, strain the liquor. The whole may be taken in six or eight doses every *ten minutes*, while the patient is in the tepid bath, if it be used. Or while suitable efforts are making to keep the limbs in some degree of warmth.

† Potion No. 50 is the syrup of Diacodium (white poppies) two ounces, and equal quantity of Elder-flower water, or the tea of its leaves, or spring water.

"If the patient is likely to recover, the pains and the evacuations gradually abate; the thirst is less; the pulse continues very quick, but it becomes regular. There have been instances of their propensity to a heavy kind of drowsiness at this time; for perfect refreshing sleep advances but slowly after this disease. It will still be proper to persevere in the medicines already directed, though somewhat less frequently. And now we may begin to allow the patient a few soups from farinaceous mealy substances; and as soon as the evacuations accompanying this disease are evidently ceased, and the pains are vanished; though an acute sensibility and great weakness continues, beside such soups, he may be allowed some new laid eggs, very lightly boiled, or even raw, for some days. After this, he must be referred to the regimen so frequently recommended to persons in a state of recovery; when the concurring use of the powder No. 24,* taken twice a day, will greatly assist to hasten and to establish his health."

During the summer months, almost every year, instances occur, when people, through indiscretion, indulge in drinking too much cold water. Spasms or cramp frequently result from it. In all such cases, free draughts of *warm* water, breakfast tea, or mint, or almost any pleasant aromatic herb, or diluted spirits, should be given as speedily as possible.

I.

Aurelius Cornelius Celsus was a celebrated medical writer, and probably a physician, at Rome, in the first century. His eight books on Medicine "*De Medicina*" have gained him deserved celebrity. In surgery particularly he has been greatly admired. He also wrote on other useful subjects. He strenuously advocated the use of cold and tepid water on many occasions.

J.

Lazarus Riverius was born at Montpelier in 1689, and published some valuable works. His "*Praxis Medica*" passed through numerous editions in different languages.

* No. 24 is an ounce of cream of tartar divided into eight parts.

K.

Walter Harris, who was born about 1651, was physician in ordinary to William III. He wrote a treatise on the Diseases of Infants, and published it at the suggestion of Dr. Sydenham. He also left a treatise on the Plague: and a collection of medical and surgical papers, which had been read before the College of Physicians, and are meritorious. Dr. James availed himself of them while publishing his Dictionary, and probably they were not subsequently printed.

L.

William Cockburn was physician to William III. He published a treatise on Sea diseases, and some other works.

M.

Archibald Pitcairn was born at Edinburgh in 1652, completed his education at Paris, and settled in his native place. He had large practice and extensive reputation. In 1692 he became Professor at Leyden but being unpopular, he resumed his practice at Edinburgh. His practice was far more acceptable than his theory.

*Wm Douglass M. D. native
of Gifford in the County of Haddington
Vid. his Memoirs published
in the Massachusetts Med.
works. in 1831. by T. L. J.*



