A

LETTER

TO

SIR *JOHN SINCLAIR*, BART.

CONCERNING THE VIRTUES OF

THE MURIATIC ACID,

OR

SPIRIT OF SEA-SALT,

In the Cure of PUTRID DISEASES.

By SIR *WILLIAM FORDYCE*, M.D. F.R.S.

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M, DCC, XC.

Nihil magis igitur intereſſe ſalutis hominum puto, quam ut per manus Medicorum nova indies detegantur remediorum genera, vel jam detecta ſolidis obſervationum præceptis efficacius muniantur.

BAGLIVI *Oper. Lib. II.* § 9.

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

The EARL of *BUTE*.

MY LORD,

YOUR Lordſhip's zeal and liberality in patronizing every diſcovery, or attempt, which may conduce to the promotion of the ſciences and arts, or tend to add to the happineſs or embelliſhment of life, have been readily acknowledged, both at home and abroad, Nor is this declaration the language of flattery, or compliment, but the honeſt dictate of truth and juſtice.

The generous confidence with which your Lordſhip has honoured me, when

either your own health, or that of your family, has been concerned; and particularly in your laſt malignant fever, firſt encouraged me to publiſh my New Enquiry into the Cauſes, Symptoms, and Cure of Putrid and Inflammatory Fevers; wherein I endeavoured to lay down ſuch rules for diſtinguiſhing the one ſpecies from the other, as to determine with clearneſs the mode of treatment, whether by the antiſeptic, or the antiphlogiſtic plan.

In purſuing the ſame track, from which I have never ſeen reaſon to deviate, but on the contrary more and more reaſon to perſevere in it, I was led to examine with cloſer attention the powers of the Muriatic Acid, or Spirit of Sea-ſalt, in putrid diſeaſes, and eſpecially in thoſe that approach neareſt to the Plague: I mean the petechial, camp, and jail diſtempers, as well

well as the malignant ſore-throat, ſo frequently fatal in this country.

The devaſtation which the Plague not long ſince occaſioned at Moſcow and its neighbourhood, awakened, as your Lordſhip knows, at the Court of Ruſſia, a ſpirit of reſearch into the hiſtory of that dreadful diſeaſe, together with a ſtrict inveſtigation of the probable utility of every method by which its poiſon might be corrected, or its contagion circumſcribed. That the Muriatic Acid, which I have found beyond compariſon the moſt efficacious medicine hitherto uſed for ſtopping the progreſs of the putrid diſorders before mentioned, is likely to prove the beſt in this laſt diſtemper (the moſt cruel and calamitous of all others), I am, from the ſimilarity of their ſymptoms, deeply perſuaded.

My ideas on the ſubject I was ſome time ago prompted, by the very ingenious and

intelligent

intelligent Sir John Sinclair, Baronet, to communicate in a letter addreſſed to him, for the peruſal of Prince Potemkin, at Peterſburg, by whoſe favour I was furniſhed with every publication of that country treating of the Plague.

The intereſt, My Lord, which you take in every thing connected with the advancement of knowledge, and the welfare of mankind, united to the wiſh your Lordſhip has often expreſſed, that I would lay my experience and obſervations on theſe points before the public, has emboldened me to prefix your name to this little performance.

I willingly embrace the ſame opportunity to reprint the letter of your Reverend Son, on the ſubject of the Small-pox, that his philanthropy in promoting the bleſſed practice of inoculation, ſo happily ſucceſsful in

his

his very extenſive pariſh, and ſo highly becoming his character, may excite imitation.

I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt obliged,

And faithful Servant,

William Fordyce.

George-ſtreet, Hanover-ſquare,
June 1ſt, 1790.

DEAR SIR JOHN,

I HAVE perufed with particular attention, and equal pleafure, the works of Dr. Samoïlowitz, which you were fo kind as to put into my hands fome time ago, upon the Plague that happened at Mofcow and its neighbourhood, in the year 1778.

I am highly flattered by your having communicated to Prince Potemkin, what I had mentioned to you of the ftriking effects produced by the fpirit of *fea-falt* in all our putrid difeafes of the worft kind: I mean the Eruptive Fevers, the Petechial Fever, the Jail-diftemper, and the Malignant Sore-throat; the difeafes of which clafs refemble very much, in their fymptoms, the Plague of Mofcow, defcribed with fuch accuracy by

the learned and ingenious Phyſician above named.

If any ideas which I could ſuggeſt on this ſubject, might lead to the diſcovery of a medicine powerful enough to operate as a preventive of ſo dreadful a diſeaſe, or at leaſt to diminiſh the apprehenſion of its being ſo fatal as it has hitherto proved; I ſhould eſteem it the happieſt event of my life.

When I devoted myſelf to the ſtudy of phyſic as far back as the year 1743, there prevailed at Uppingham in Rutlandſhire, and the neighbouring villages, a malignant ſort of Small-pox, which juſtly alarmed that part of the country, inſomuch that every medical practitioner, who looked after the infected, was precluded from viſiting patients in other diſeaſes; by which means thoſe in that diſtemper came to be totally

deſerted.

deſerted. In this calamity the overſeers of ten or twelve adjacent pariſhes ſolicited from me ſuch phyſical aids as I was capable of giving. From a careful peruſal of Dr. Sydenham on the Small-pox, joined to the daily inſtructions I received from a favourite pupil of the immortal Boerhaave, I proceeded to take the beſt care I could of my new patients.

I ſoon diſcovered in what caſes the antiſeptic medicines, as oxymel, cream of tartar, lemon juice, the vitriolic and nitrous acids, with wine and opiates, were likely to be neceſſary or uſeful; and under what circumſtances recourſe was to be had to the lancet, and the antiphlogiſtic regimen.

From that period to the preſent, I have been naturally curious to examine the works of ſuch writers, whether ancient or modern, as might be able to furniſh me with inform-

ation concerning malignant diſeaſes, the moſt to be dreaded, and the moſt difficult to cure.

Excepting the boils and emerods recorded in the Old Teſtament, I have not met with an account of any diſtemper that could with propriety be termed peſtilential before the age of Hippocrates, the father of phyſic; who deſcribes an endemic to which he gives that name, and in which he mentions a variety of ſymptoms nearly allied to thoſe of putrid diſeaſes in our time, but not ſpecifically characteriſtic of the Peſtilence. Nor does the Plague of Athens, as repreſented by Thucydides, who was himſelf infected by it, and whoſe narrative is the beſt I have found in any ancient author, ſufficiently reſemble the Plague of London, Marſeilles, or Moſcow, to juſtify a compariſon between them. In ſhort, no hiſtory of the ſymptoms or cure of the Peſt, in the true ſenſe of that word, has been tranſmitted to us, as far as

I can

I can recollect, which could authorize or lead to a plan for preventing ſo formidable a malady, or for nipping it in the bud when it begins to appear:—a circumſtance that reflects double honour on the accompliſhed and magnanimous Empreſs of the North, for the directions ſhe gave on the breaking out of the Plague at Moſcow, of which the particulars have been deſcribed by Dr. Samoïlowitz, with a preciſion that renders of little moment all that had hitherto been written on the peſtilence in general.

His valuable work comes recommended by this peculiar advantage; that he deſcribes the diſeaſe in all its ſtages from his own experience as well as obſervation, having voluntarily taken up his abode in one hoſpital after another, for the benevolent purpoſe of receiving and attending the infected, from the firſt appearance of that moſt alarming diſeaſe; though he was not ignorant that

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the very touch of thoſe unfortunate perſons, or of any thing that had touched them, was fatal, unleſs where they, like him, had gone through its different ſtages.

So far did his humanity, heroiſm, and love of his country, carry that amiable man. How ſuperior to thoſe names that have been often ſo loudly, though ſo unjuſtly, celebrated for their atchievements in the deſtruction of millions!

What remains here is to point out, if poſſible, ſome ſimple, eaſy, and rational method of putting the human body, where the diſeaſe in queſtion prevails, into ſuch a ſtate, as ſhall probably guard it againſt catching the deadly poiſon. That ſuch a prophylactic may be found in the *muriatic acid*, or the *concentrated ſpirit of ſea-ſalt*, I am induced to believe for the reaſons, and from the facts, which I will now ſubjoin.

Almoſt

Almoſt thirty years have elapſed ſince I heard by accident of a dry-ſalter, who had acquired a great reputation and a large fortune, from poſſeſſing a ſecret that had enabled him to ſend out to the Indies, and other hot countries, beef and pork, in a better ſtate of preſervation than any of the trade. As he was obſerved to pour into each caſk a ſmall bottle of tranſparent liquor, it occurred to me, that this could be no other than the *ſpirit of ſea-ſalt*; and I began to wonder how a preparation, the greateſt antiſeptic in nature, and extracted from a material that had been in uſe from the beginning of time, for preſerving as well as ſeaſoning food, ſhould have remained unemployed for the purpoſe of preſerving from putrefaction the juices of the human body; while the nitrous and vitriolic acids had been ſo often uſed in the practice of medicine. It ſeemed the more ſurpriſing, now that chymiſtry had taught us to extract the

muriatic

muriatic acid, alike pleaſant to the taſte, and refreſhing to the ſenſes, at ſo ſmall an expence, from a material furniſhed by Providence in the greateſt plenty. If ſalt itſelf was found ſo beneficial for preventing putrefaction in animal ſubſtances, would not the extract from it operate in the ſame manner on our juices, with a power increaſed in proportion to its ſuperior purity and ſtrength?

About this time I attended the late Counſellor Cox, not leſs known for his convivial facetious qualities, than for his profeſſional talents. I had juſt been anointing his ulcerated tonſils, in a malignant ſore-throat, with the point of a feather, when he ſuddenly exclaimed, "For God's ſake, "Doctor! touch me again with that ſour "honey; it has done me more good than "a bottle of claret." What I uſed was a mixture of an ounce of mel-roſe, with ſixteen drops of the muriatic acid; which I

had

had been taught, by my late much-honoured friend Sir *William Duncan*, to apply as a gargle for the ſore-throat.

As this acid was ſold in the ſtreets of London where the Plague raged in 1666, and had been recommended for its ſingular antiſeptic powers, it ſeems odd, that in ſuch an extremity it was not tried by any practitioners of reputation; or they were not ſuch chymiſts as their poſterity.

It happened indeed to be ſold and recommended by an empiric, Conſtantine Rhodocanacides, a Greek, who called himſelf his Majeſty's chymiſt, and publiſhed a pamphlet in 1664, expreſsly on the internal and external uſes of the muriatic acid, of which he claims the honour of being the inventor; at leaſt, he probably diſtilled it in a purer ſtate than it had been done by any body before that period. He

 publiſhed

publiſhed at the ſame time ſeveral certificates of the great benefit that had been received from it.

In a variety of complaints he ſold it as a noſtrum, and calls it the Alexicacon Spirit of the World, recommending it in all caſes: "When, ſays he, we conſider the noble "and univerſal character of ſea-ſalt, the "ingenious muſt conclude, that a ſpirit "ſeparated from its dregs, and preſented "to us in its ſtrength and vigour, can-"not but be worth welcome reception." And then he goes on to recapitulate its uſe externally, as well as internally; recommending it as preferable to lemon juice and vinegar, as more healthily taken mixed with water, beer, ale, cyder, or wine, and as proper for all ſorts of cookery; adding, that no error can be committed in taking any quantity from ten to forty drops; and that, as a preſervative, that quantity will ſerve.

But

But if any man be actually ſick, he aſſerts its being a received preſervative againſt the Plague: yet we do not find any writer concerning the Plague of London, who either at that time, or ſince, has mentioned its internal uſe. I ſhould add, that he recommends the uſe of it to travellers by ſea or land, in the water and putrid things that they are forced to live on. It may be taken to the amount of one hundred drops, according to the quantity of malignant ſymptoms, in all their drinks, and mixed with all their foods, within the twenty-four hours.

From theſe hints, I was led on to uſe it internally in all putrid fevers, and malignant diſeaſes; and this I have done with continued ſucceſs ever ſince, eſpecially where I found the tongue black and dry, with a black glare on the teeth, and the worſt ſort of ſore-throat; and it has proved, in truth, wonderfully efficacious on ſuch oc-

caſions, in checking the dyſcraſy of the humours, in reſtoring the vital powers, that are more or leſs broken down according to the degree of putrefaction, and in changing the petechiæ from a purple to a brown, and ſtill more diluted colour, till they become quite evaneſcent.

But now, as the worſt ſort of malignant diſeaſes known in this country are attended with ſymptoms ſtrongly reſembling thoſe of the Plague itſelf, I mean in the mode of ſeizure, the ſwelling and ulcerations in the tonſils, parotid, ſubmaxillary, and inguinal glands, with the petechiæ correſponding to the buboes, carbuncles, and other eruptions, which appear, from Dr. Samoïlowitz's deſcription, to be the eſſential characteriſtics of the true Peſt; I cannot help thinking, that the ſame medicine which I have found ſo often an effectual remedy for the

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one, would ſeldom fail, under proper management, to prove a powerful antidote againſt the other.

I might here mention a great variety of caſes, to illuſtrate its ſurpriſing power in correcting the moſt putrid ſtate of the juices; but ſhall confine myſelf to a few, which I hope will be ſufficient.

The Rev. Mr. Stuart, ſon to the Earl of Bute, was in the year 178 taken with the uſual ſymptoms of a putrid fever, violent head-ach, pain in his loins, ſickneſs at his ſtomach, anguiſh about the præcordia, and extreme debility, with delirium. A vaſt number of the true petechiæ, purple as violets, perhaps not fewer than a thouſand, made their appearance at the ſame time. We had immediate recourſe to the muriatic acid in great abundance; giving him likewiſe camphor and Mindereri ſpirit, with

wines,

wines, pine-apples, grapes, and other ripe fruits. In the courſe of eight-and-forty hours, the ſpots were changed to a brown colour; and in a few days more, he was left in a ſtate of ſafety. I could not prevent his Noble Father from witneſſing, in perſon, the progreſs of a diſeaſe that often proves dangerouſly infectious. His Lordſhip obſerved, with aſtoniſhment and delight, the operation of this admirable medicine. He has ſince repeatedly expreſſed an earneſt wiſh to ſee its powers made public, from his conviction of its being calculated to prevent, as well as extinguiſh, the worſt ſymptoms of putrid diſeaſes.

I have often heard him mention at the ſame time, how ſenſibly he felt the ſalutary effects of the mel-roſe, ſaturated with the ſpirit of ſea-ſalt, applied to the tonſils by Sir William Duncan, about the year 1760, when his Lordſhip was ſeized with the ma-

lignant

lignant ſore-throat, to which, at that period, ſo many grown people, ſome of them of the firſt rank, beſides children, fell ſacrifices. This was among the firſt inſtances of its external application. Its internal uſe had not then been known, except to the Greek chymiſt.

When the late Earl of Morton charged me with the care of the preſent Lord, while a youth labouring under the ſame diſtemper, I comforted his Lordſhip extremely in the hope of preſerving his ſon, if I could have time to pickle his juices with the ſpirit of ſea-ſalt; which I did very largely, and it ſucceeded. After this, he recommended me warmly to thoſe of his friends who required ſuch pickling in ſimilar caſes.

The children of Mr. Jeacock, Belton-ſtreet, Long-acre, (attended by Mr. Tooſey, apothecary, in that neighbourhood) were

ſeized with all the worſt ſymptoms of the malignant ſore-throat. The eldeſt laboured under the additional one of bleeding at the noſe, and from his kidneys and bowels, in great quantities, and was loaded beſides with numberleſs petechiæ. They were recovered in the ſame manner, to the amazement of the father and the apothecary.

Mr. Gallini's ſon had the ſcarlet fever and the ſore-throat, in the moſt violent manner I had ever ſeen; he was covered all over with petechiæ. He owed his recovery to the abundant uſe of the muriatic acid. He alſo loſt his ſkin like a ſnake. It was ſtripped off his hands and fingers like gloves, which I carried home with me.

Mr. Barker, ſurgeon to the Second Regiment of Life Guards, wiſhed me to viſit a ſervant of Sir Henry Hamilton, who, though he had attended his lady without doors, as well

well as at ſupper the preceding night, was not able to ſtand the next day, apparently from mere weakneſs. Mr. Barker had found him, on examination, covered with purples, and a pulſe ſcarcely to be felt; on which he alarmed the family. I directed the uſual medicine. Our patient died in a few hours;—but I am ignorant how long the ſpots had been out. An earlier application, had the danger been known, would probably have ſaved him.

I was deſired ſome weeks ago by Mr. Bliſs, the apothecary at Hampſtead, to inſpect ſome eruptions of an uncommon kind on Maſter Plenderleith, who complained of ſuch an extreme debility as gave his friends great uneaſineſs. I immediately diſcovered the ſymptoms of the petechial fever. Beſides the uſual medicines, bark, camphire, and ſpiritus Mindereri, he took by my directions, every twenty-four hours, to the

amount of fourſcore drops of the muriatic acid, which in the courſe of a few days changed entirely the appearance of the purples, and left him in ſafety.

Having been requeſted, when it was too late, to look in on Miſs Grace of Cornhill, I found her dangerouſly ill of the malignant ſore-throat, with petechiæ and delirium. I directed the medicines as above mentioned. When I viſited her next morning, a nurſe and child were ſitting on the bed; of which I expreſſed the higheſt diſapprobation, from a fear of the child's catching the infection. When I returned, I found Miſs Grace a corpſe; and the child died the morning after. Three female ſervants had taken to their beds, with ſymptoms of the malignant ſore-throat, and innumerable petechiæ. Their tonſils and parotid glands were ſwelled externally to an extraordinary height, and their hands up to the wriſt were as purple as violets.

violets. From the quantity of bad ſymptoms, theirs were the very worſt caſes of the malignant ſore-throat I have ever witneſſed; yet they all recovered in the courſe of three weeks, by purſuing the ſame plan. To prevent the ſpreading of this diſeaſe in the family, I took every poſſible precaution, by ventilation and fumigation with vinegar and aromatics; which ſucceeded to my wiſh.

It were needleſs to quote more caſes in proof of the wonderful efficacy of the muriatic acid in the moſt malignant diſeaſes of this country; but it may be proper to add, that this truly antiſeptic medicine has been conſtantly uſed in the hoſpital of the Third Regiment of Foot Guards, by Meſſrs. Leſlie, Mearns, or Hay, for many years, with the greateſt ſucceſs in all putrid diſeaſes of that regiment.

What I have moſt earneſtly at heart is, from the detail above, to preſs the abundant uſe internally, as well as externally, of this moſt powerful antiſeptic, for preventing infection from the Plague in countries liable to its ravages; in thoſe, eſpecially, where the ideas of an unavoidable deſtiny contribute ſo unhappily to its propagation and mortality.

I am, with great eſteem,
Dear SIR JOHN,
Your moſt obedient, and
Moſt humble Servant,
WILLIAM FORDYCE.

ACIDUM MURIATICUM.

℞ Salis muriatici ſiccati P. libras decem,
Acidi vitriolici P. libras ſex,
Aquæ P. libras quinque.

Sali adde gradatim acidum cum aqua prius miſtum: tum diſtilla.

Hujus pondus ſpecificum eſt ad pondus aquæ diſtillatæ ut 1,170 ad 1,000.

Pharmacop. Londin.

CONSIDERING it as of importance to the interests of humanity, that the following facts should be generally known, I gave them to the Public, about two years ago, in the European and Gentleman's Magazines. They are now reprinted, for the information of such as may not have seen them in either of those publications.

To the Editor of the European Magazine.

George-ſtreet, Hanover-ſquare, April 12, 1788.

SIR,

HEARING lately of the great ſucceſs attending Inoculation for the Small-pox at Luton, in Bedfordſhire, I was naturally led to enquire into the ſeveral particulars relative to that matter. Amongſt other informations, ſome of them perhaps of doubtful authority, I have been favoured with the following authentic account by the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Stuart, rector of the pariſh. If you ſhould judge the communication to be of ſufficient importance to the public, I doubt not of your giving it a place in your Magazine; in which caſe it may be deemed a curioſity by ſome of your readers, to be informed, that Mr. Stuart is a grandſon of the late Right Hon. Lady Mary Wortley Montague, who firſt introduced inoculation into this country.

To

To Sir WILLIAM FORDYCE.

"SIR,

" In anſwer to your letter concerning
" the ſucceſs of the inoculation at Luton,
" I take the liberty of troubling you with
" the following facts.

" Towards the end of laſt ſummer, a
" ſmall-pox of the moſt malignant kind
" prevailed at Luton. Notwithſtanding
" every care that human prudence could
" ſuggeſt, as to cleanlineſs, medicine, and
" attendance, ſcarcely more than half of
" our patients ſurvived this dreadful diſ-
" eaſe; and, though they were kept at ſome
" diſtance from the town, it was found im-
" poſſible to prevent the infection from
" ſpreading. Alarmed at the danger, I en-
" deavoured to overcome the prejudice and
" fears of the people, and prevail on them

" to

" to be inoculated. Accordingly, in the
" courſe of three days, a ſurgeon of the
" neighbourhood communicated the infec-
" tion to 928 paupers, who were judged
" incapable of paying for themſelves; and
" ſoon after, to 287 more, moſtly at their
" own charge. Of theſe 1215, only five
" died, and thoſe under the age of four
" months; as you will ſee by the atteſted
" liſt which is incloſed.

" Mean time Mr. Kirby and Mr. Chaſe,
" the ſurgeons reſident at Luton, inocu-
" lated about 700 of the better ſort with an
" equal ſucceſs.

" Even from this ſtatement the advan-
" tage of inoculation is manifeſt; but the
" following circumſtances ſet this advan-
" tage in a ſtronger light. Many paupers
" have ſince ſhewed me the preparatory
" medicines, which, notwithſtanding all

" their promiſes to take, they had omitted;
" and the extent of the pariſh (it being
" nearly thirty-three miles in circumfe-
" rence) rendered it impoſſible to prevent
" their procuring ſtrong liquors. Theſe
" circumſtances, that few ſubmitted to re-
" gimen, and that ſome did not even uſe
" their medicines, which at the time in-
" creaſed my anxiety for the event, are
" ſurely convincing proofs of the little dan-
" ger attending inoculation.

" On my return to Luton, I mean to
" recommend annual inoculations at the
" pariſh charge. This may be ſupported
" on principles of œconomy, as well as on
" principles of humanity. The health and
" ſafety of the people ought ever to be the
" ſupreme object of parochial management.
" The life of an induſtrious parent is ab-
" ſolutely invaluable; and he who thinks

" it

" it can be rated too high, is no leſs igno-
" rant of policy, than deſtitute of feeling.

" For nine years that I have held the
" living of Luton, the average number of
" ſmall-pox patients is 25. Theſe at the
" loweſt computation ſtand the pariſh at
" two guineas each, excluſive of medical
" aſſiſtance. The diſeaſe is ſo apprehend-
" ed in the country, that the nurſes require
" double pay, and both they and the pa-
" tients are confined in an airing-houſe
" ſeveral weeks after the recovery. Should
" my plan of annual inoculations take place,
" the expence would not amount to the
" fifty guineas, which are now paid for
" thoſe who have the ſmall-pox naturally.
" But, alas! theſe fifty guineas are but a
" ſmall part of the real charge and incon-
" venience produced by this dreadful ma-
" lady. Its almoſt conſtant effect is a
" permanent augmentation of the pariſh

" expenditure. If a labourer dies, his fa-
" mily muſt be ſupported. If a mother is
" loſt, the children muſt be removed to
" a work-houſe, as their father cannot
" ſpare time for employments that are
" merely domeſtic. In a work-houſe they
" loſe innocence, reputation, and that ſenſe
" of independence which is the ſureſt prin-
" ciple of induſtry.

" I have troubled you with theſe obſer-
" vations, becauſe I am confident they are
" applicable to more pariſhes than mine;
" and becauſe I am equally confident, that,
" were inoculation generally practiſed, it
" would leſſen human miſery, ſave many
" a uſeful life, and even promote that œco-
" nomy which many think the only object
" worthy of attention.

" I am, Sir,

" Your faithful ſervant,

" WILLIAM STUART."

South Audley-ſtreet, March 1, 1788.

Copy

Copy of the attested List referred to in the preceding.

" A child of George Road had the thrush
" at the time of being inoculated, and sup-
" posed to die in consequence thereof. Aged
" 9 weeks.

" A child of Samuel Young died with
" the eruption on it. Aged 7 weeks.

" A child of John Flitton died three
" days after inoculation. Aged 12 weeks.

" A child of John Olney died in a fit
" the sixth day after inoculation. Aged 16
" weeks.

" A child of Waller died with the erup-
" tion on it. Aged 5 weeks.

" FRA. NASH, Churchwarden."

Luton, Jan. 6, 1788.

FROM the circumſtance of not more than two ſhillings being paid for inoculating each of the paupers mentioned in the foregoing letter, it appears at once, at how ſmall an expence a great many valuable lives may be ſaved to the public, by a little attention on the part of the nobility, clergy, gentry, and others.

In the very deſirable event of their adopting the benevolent ideas of my Honourable and Reverend Friend, I would remark, that the propereſt ſeaſons of inoculation are, when the juices are leaſt likely to be contaminated by infectious or contagious diſeaſes, which rage moſt in the autumnal months; begging leave at the ſame time to recommend the uſe of from 50 to 100 drops of the concentrated ſpirit of ſea-ſalt diluted in barley-water, or any other mucilaginous liquid, in the proportion of 50 drops to one quart, for preventing the juices from falling into

that

that putrid ſtate which renders the ſmall-pox ſo much more deadly.

I would farther adviſe an equally free uſe of the ſame ſpirit in every town and village through the kingdom, as a preſervative againſt infection, as well as a great aid in curing the worſt ſorts of putrid fevers, which have been of late ſo deſtructive in ſo many parts of England.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient ſervant,

WILLIAM FORDYCE.

POSTSCRIPT.

AFTER profeſſing to ſhew by what means contagious diſtempers may be rendered leſs fatal, I ſhould not forgive myſelf, if I did not here join the general voice of mankind, in deploring the death of the late Mr. Howard, that hero of humanity, to whoſe unparallelled labours and ſelf-denial, for the relief of the wretched in priſons and lazarettos, under the calamities of confinement, and the horrors of infection, every heart unites in paying the tribute of fervent veneration. The loſs of this extraordinary man I lament the more, that, having had a proper introduction to him after he went abroad, I came too late to make him acquainted with the ſuperior antiſeptic power of the Muriatic Acid. I had actually ſent a quantity of it to Mr. Baldwin, the Britiſh

Conſul

Conſul at Grand Cairo, for his trial, and Mr. Howard's, who, unwearied by toil, and undaunted by danger, in his glorious purſuit, for ſo many years, had reſolved to encounter the peſtilential airs of Egypt, the native country of Plagues. I am even willing to flatter myſelf, that if, before he went to Cherſon, he had known the medicine in queſtion, it might have ſerved, by way of preventive, to detain him a while longer on this globe, for the ſuccour of human miſery.

THE END.