

**Some papers proper to be read before the R---I Society, concerning the terrestrial chrysipus, golden-foot or guinea; an insect, or vegetable, resembling the polypus, which hath this surprising property, that being cut into several pieces, each piece becomes a perfect animal, or vegetable, as complete as that of which it was originally only a part / Collected by Petrus Gualterus. [Really by H. Fielding] But not published till after his death.**

### **Contributors**

Fielding, Henry, 1707-1754.

Gualterus, Petrus.

Walter, Peter, 1664?-1746.

Trembley, Abraham, 1710-1784. Some papers lately read before the Royal Society, concerning the fresh-water polypus.

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FIELD  
SOME (P) 1729  
P A P E R S

PROPER to be Read before the

R——L SOCIETY,

Concerning the

Terrestrial CHRYSIPUS,  
GOLDEN-FOOT or GUINEA;

A N

INSECT, or VEGETABLE, resem-  
bling the POLYPUS, which hath this sur-  
prising Property, That being cut into several  
Pieces, each Piece becomes a perfect Animal,  
or Vegetable, as complete as that of which it  
was originally only a Part.

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COLLECTED

By PETRUS GUALTERUS,

But not Published till after His Death.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for J. ROBERTS, near the *Oxford-Arms*,  
in *Warwick-Lane*. 1743.

[ Price Sixpence. ]



FIELDING, H.

77294



PHILOSOPHICAL  
TRANSACTIONS.

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For the YEAR 1742-3.

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The CONTENTS.

*Several Papers relating to the Terrestrial CHRYSIPUS, GOLDEN-FOOT, or GUINEA, an Insect, or Vegetable, which has this surprising Property, that being cut into several Pieces, each Piece lives, and in a short time becomes as perfect an Insect, or Vegetable, as that of which it was originally only a Part.*



PHYSIOLOGICAL

TRANSACTIONS

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For the YEAR 1742-3.

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THE CONTENTS.

Several Papers relating to the  
essential Curvature, Golden-Fiber,  
or Guinea, in Insects, or Voge-  
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Property, that being cut into se-  
veral Pieces, each Piece lives, and  
in a short time becomes as perfect  
an Insect, or Vegetable, as that of  
which it was originally only a  
Part.

A 2  
Adm'd



Abstract of *Part* of a Letter  
 from the *Heer Rottenscrach*  
 in *Germany*, communicat-  
 ing Observations on the  
 CHRYSIPUS.

S I R,

SOME time since died here of Old-  
 Age, one Petrus Gualterus, a  
 Man well known in the Learned  
 World, and famous for nothing so  
 much as for an extraordinary Collec-  
 tion which he had made of the Chry-  
 sipi, an Animal or Vegetable; of  
 which I doubt not but there are still  
 some to be found in England: How-  
 ever, if that should be difficult, it may  
 be easy to send some over to you; as  
 they are at present very plentiful in  
 these Parts. I can answer for the  
 Truth

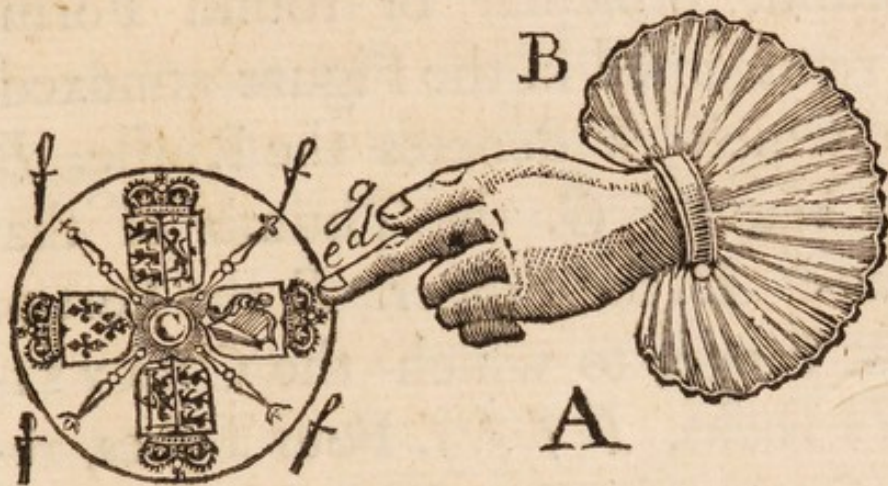


*Truth of the Facts contained in the Paper I send you, as there is not one of them but what I have seen repeated above twenty times, and I wish others may be encouraged to try the Experiments over again, and satisfy themselves of the Truth by their own Eyes. The Accounts of the Chrysi, as well as the Collection itself, were found in the Cabinet of the above-mentioned Petrus, after his Death: for he could never be prevailed on to communicate a Sight of either while alive. I am, Sir, &c.*





*The Figure of the TERRESTRIAL  
CHRYSIPUS sticking to a Finger.*



*Observations and Experiments  
upon the TERRESTRIAL  
CHRYSIPUS, or GUINEA,  
by Mynbeer Petrus Gual-  
terus.*

*Translated from the FRENCH by  
P. H. I. Z. C. G. S.*

**T**HE Animal in question is a  
terrestrial Vegetable or Insect,  
of which mention is made in the  
*Philosophical Transactions* for several  
Years, as may be seen in N<sup>o</sup>. 000.  
Art.



Art. 0000. and N<sup>o</sup>. 00. Art. 002.  
and N<sup>o</sup>. --- Art. 18.

THIS Animal or Vegetable is of a rotund, orbicular or round Form, as represented in the Figure annexed. In which *A.* denotes the Ruffle. *B.* the Hand. *G.* the Thumb of that Hand. *D.* the Finger. *E.* the Part of that Finger to which the CHRYSIPUS sticks. *F. f. f. f.* Four Tubes, representing the Πέδιον\*, or *Man's Staff*, mentioned by *Galen* in his *Treatise de Ufu Partium*; and by *Aristotle*, in that little Book called his Ἀρχιβιβλίον, or *Master-Piece*. The Το θυλυκον, or *Woman's Pipe*, an oblong perforated Substance, to which the said Πέδιον directly tend, is represented by the Letter *C.* *The Mouth of the Chrysipus is in this antierour Middle, it opens into the Stomach, which takes up the whole Length of the Body. The whole Body forms but one Pipe, a sort of Gut which can be opened but at one end, i. e. at Letter C.*

\* See *Philos. Transact.* concerning the *Arbor Vitæ*, anno 1732.



THE Size of the Body of a *Chrysipus* varies according to its different Species.

I know two Species only, differing in Extent almost one half; which, for Distinction sake, I call the *Whole Chrysipus*, and the *Hemi-Chrysipus*. The latter of these is by no means so valuable as the former. The Length of the  $\pi\epsilon\tilde{\eta}$  differ likewise in proportion to the different Size or Extension of these two.

THE  $\pi\epsilon\tilde{\eta}$  of those of a modern Growth are so imperfect and invisible to the naked Eye, that it is much to be feared the Species will soon be entirely lost among us: And indeed in *England*, they are observed of late to be much rarer than formerly, especially in the Country, where at present there are very few of them to be found: but at the same time it is remarked, that in some Places of

B

the



the Continent, particularly in a certain Part of *Germany*, they are much plentier ; being to be found in great Numbers, where formerly there were scarce any to be met with.

I have not, after the minutest Observation, been able to settle with any degree of certainty, whether this be really an Animal or a Vegetable, or whether it be not strictly neither, or rather both. For as I have by the Help of my Microscope discovered some of its Parts to resemble those of a Lion ; I have at other times taken notice of something not unlike the *Flower de Luce*. Not to repeat those Parts above-mentioned, which bear great Analogy to the *Ἄρθρα* of the Human Body. On their Extremities (if they are not very old) may be seen certain Letters forming the Names of several of our Kings ; whence I have been almost inclined to conclude, that these are the Flowers mentioned by *Virgil*, and  
which



which appear to have been so extremely scarce in his Time.

*Dic quibus in terris inscripti nomina Regum*

*Nascuntur flores.*

Particularly as he adds,

—*Et Phyllida solus habeto.*

Of which we shall take notice hereafter, when we come to speak of its Properties. What hath principally dissuaded me from an Opinion of its being an Animal, is, that I could never observe any Symptoms of voluntary Motion: But indeed the same may be said of an Oyster, which I think is not yet settled by the Learned to be *absolutely* a Vegetable.

BUT though it hath not, or seems not to have any progressive Motion of its own, yet is it very easy to com-



communicate a Motion to it. Indeed some Persons have made them fly all over the Town with great Velocity.

WHAT is said of the *Polypus*, in a late excellent Paper communicated to the Royal Society, is likewise applicable to the *Chrysis*.

‘ THEY make use of their progressive Motion, when communicated to them, to place themselves conveniently, so as to catch their Prey. They are voracious Animals; their  $\pi\epsilon\tilde{\eta}$  are so many Snares which they set for Numbers of small *Insects*. As soon as any of them touches one of the  $\pi\epsilon\tilde{\eta}$ , it is caught.’

BUT then it differs from the *Polypus* in the Consequence: for instead of making the *Insect* its Prey, it becomes itself a Prey to it; and instead of conveying an *Insect* twice as large as its own Mouth into it, in  
imitation



imitation of the *Polypus*, the poor *Chrysipus* is itself conveyed into the *Loculus* or Pouch of an *Insect* a thousand times as large as itself. Notwithstanding which, this wretched Animal (for so I think we may be allowed to call it) is so eager after its Prey, that if the *Insect* (which seldom happens) makes any Resistance, it summons other *Chrysi* to its Aid, which in the end hardly ever fail of subduing it, and getting into its Pouch.

THE Learned *Gualterus* goes on in these Words: ‘ A *Chrysipus*, by  
 ‘ the simple Contact of my own  
 ‘ Finger, has so closely attached itself  
 ‘ to my Hand, that by the joint and  
 ‘ indefatigable Labour of several of  
 ‘ my Friends, it could by no means  
 ‘ be sever’d, or made to quit its Hold.’

As to the Generation of the *Chry-*  
*sipus*, it differs from all other Ani-  
 mals or Vegetables whatever: for  
 though



though it seems the best supplied for this natural Function, Nature having provided each Female Part with four Male ones, which one would think sufficient; yet it may be said, as of the *Polypus*, they have no distinguished Place by which they bring forth their Young.

*GUALTERUS* judiciously remarks \*: ‘ I have (says he) some of  
 ‘ them, that have greatly *multiplied*  
 ‘ *under my Eyes*, and of which I  
 ‘ might almost say, that they have  
 ‘ produced Young-ones from all the  
 ‘ exterior Parts of their Body.

‘ I have learned by a *continual*  
 ‘ *Attention* to the two Species of  
 ‘ them, that all the Individuals of  
 ‘ these Species produce Young-ones.

‘ I have for Sixty Years had under  
 ‘ my Eye Thousands of them; and  
 ‘ though I have OBSERVED THEM CON-  
 ‘ STANTLY, AND WITH ATTENTION,  
 ‘ fo

\* Vid. Remarks on the *Polypus*, pag. 6.



‘ so as to watch them Night and Day,  
 ‘ I never observed any thing like the  
 ‘ common Animal-Copulation.

‘ I tried at first two of them ; but  
 ‘ these I found would not produce a  
 ‘ compleat *Chrysis* ; at least I had  
 ‘ reason to think the Operation would  
 ‘ be so slow, that I must have waited  
 ‘ some Years for its Completion.  
 ‘ Upon this, I tried a Hundred of  
 ‘ them together ; by whose marvel-  
 ‘ lous Union (whether it be, that they  
 ‘ mix Total, like those Heavenly  
 ‘ Spirits mentioned by *Milton*, or by  
 ‘ any other Process not yet revealed  
 ‘ to human Wit) they were found in  
 ‘ the Year’s End to produce three,  
 ‘ four, and sometimes five complete  
 ‘ *Chrysi*. I have indeed often  
 ‘ made them in that Space produce  
 ‘ Ten or Twenty ; but this hath  
 ‘ been by some held a dangerous Ex-  
 ‘ periment, not only to the Parent  
 ‘ *Chrysi* themselves, which have by  
 ‘ these means been utterly lost and  
 ‘ de-



‘ destroyed, but even to the Philo-  
 ‘ sopher who hath attempted it : For  
 ‘ as some curious Persons have, by  
 ‘ Hermetic Experiments, endangered  
 ‘ the Loss of their Teeth, so we, by  
 ‘ a too intense Application to this  
 ‘ *Chrysean* Philosophy, have been  
 ‘ sometimes found to endanger our  
 ‘ Ears.’ He then proceeds thus :

\* ‘ ANOTHER Fact, which I have  
 ‘ observed, has proved to me, that  
 ‘ they have the Faculty of multi-  
 ‘ plying, before they are sever’d from  
 ‘ their Parent. I have seen a *Chryseus*,  
 ‘ still adhering, bring forth Young-  
 ‘ ones ; and those Young-ones them-  
 ‘ selves have also brought forth others.  
 ‘ Upon Supposition, that perhaps  
 ‘ there was some *Copulation between*  
 ‘ *the Parent and Young-ones*, whilst  
 ‘ they were yet united ; or between  
 ‘ the Young-ones coming from the  
 ‘ Body of the same Parent : I made  
 ‘ divers Experiments, to be sure of  
 ‘ the Fact ; but not one of those Ex-  
 ‘ periments

\* Remarks, Pag. 7.



periments ever led me to any thing that could give the Idea of a Copulation.'

I now proceed to the Singularities resulting from the Operation I have tried upon them.

A *Chrysipus* of the larger kind may be divided into one and twenty Substances (whether Animal or Vegetable we determine not) every Substance being at least as large as the original *Chrysipus*. These may again be subdivided, each of them into twenty four; and what is very remarkable, every one of these Parts is heavier, and rather larger than the first *Chrysipus*. The only Difference in this Change, is that of the Colour; for the first Sort are yellow, the second white, and the third resemble the Complexion and Substance of many human Faces.



THESE subdivided Parts are by some observed to lose in a great degree their adherescent Quality : Notwithstanding which, *Gualterus* writes, that, from the minutest Observations upon his own Experience, they all adhered with equal Tenacity to his own Fingers.

THE Manner of dividing a *Chrysis* differs, however, greatly from that of the *Polypus* ; for whereas we are taught in that excellent Treatise abovementioned, that

\* ‘ IF the Body of a *Polypus* is cut  
 ‘ into two Parts transversly, each of  
 ‘ those Parts becomes a complete  
 ‘ *Polypus* : On the very Day of the  
 ‘ Operation, the first Part, or ante-  
 ‘ rior End of the *Polypus*, that is, the  
 ‘ Head, the Mouth, and the Arms ;  
 ‘ this Part, I say, lengthens itself, it  
 ‘ creeps, and eats.’

THE

\* See *Polypus*, pag. 8, 9, 10.



‘ THE second Part, *which has no*  
 ‘ *Head, gets one* ; a Mouth forms it-  
 ‘ self, at the anterior End ; and shoots  
 ‘ forth Arms. This Reproduction  
 ‘ comes about more or less quickly,  
 ‘ according as the Weather is more  
 ‘ or less warm. In Summer, I have  
 ‘ seen Arms begin to sprout out 24  
 ‘ Hours after the Operation, and *the*  
 ‘ *new Head perfected in every respect*  
 ‘ *in a few Days.*’

‘ EACH of those Parts, thus be-  
 ‘ come a perfect *Polypus*, performs  
 ‘ absolutely all its Functions. It  
 ‘ creeps, it eats, it grows, and it mul-  
 ‘ tiplies ; *and all that*, as much as  
 ‘ a *Polypus* which never had been  
 ‘ cut.’

‘ IN whatever Place the Body of  
 ‘ a *Polypus* is cut, whether in the  
 ‘ Middle, or more or less near the  
 ‘ Head, or the posterior Part, the



‘ Experiment has always the same  
‘ Success.’

‘ If a *Polypus* is cut transversly, at  
‘ the same Moment, into three or  
‘ four Parts, they all equally become  
‘ so many complete ones.’

‘ THE Animal is too small to be  
‘ cut at the same time into a great  
‘ Number of Parts; *I therefore did*  
‘ *it successively.* I first cut a *Poly-*  
‘ *pus* into four Parts, and let them  
‘ grow; next, I cut those Quarters  
‘ again; and at this rate I proceeded,  
‘ *till I had made 50 out of one single*  
‘ *one:* And here I stopp’d, for there  
‘ would have been *no End of the Ex-*  
‘ *periment.*’

I HAVE now actually by me feve-  
‘ ral Parts of the same *Polypus*, cut  
‘ into Pieces above a Year ago; since  
‘ which time, they have produced a  
‘ great Number of Young-ones.’

‘ A



‘ *A Polypus may also be cut in*  
 ‘ *two, lengthways. Beginning by the*  
 ‘ *Head, one first splits the said Head,*  
 ‘ *and afterwards the Stomach: The*  
 ‘ *Polypus being in the Form of a*  
 ‘ *Pipe, each Half of what is thus cut*  
 ‘ *lengthways forms a Half-pipe; the*  
 ‘ *anterior Extremity of which is ter-*  
 ‘ *minated by the half of the Head,*  
 ‘ *the half of the Mouth, and Part of*  
 ‘ *the Arms. It is not long before*  
 ‘ *the two Edges of those Half-pipes*  
 ‘ *close, after the Operation: They*  
 ‘ *generally begin at the posterior Part,*  
 ‘ *and close up by degrees to the an-*  
 ‘ *terior Part. Then, each Half-pipe*  
 ‘ *becomes a Whole-one, complete: A*  
 ‘ *Stomach is formed, in which no-*  
 ‘ *thing is wanting; and out of each*  
 ‘ *Half-mouth a whole-one is formed*  
 ‘ *also.*

‘ I HAVE seen all this done in less  
 ‘ than an Hour; and that the *Poly-*  
 ‘ *pus*



‘ *pus*, produced from each of those  
 ‘ Halves, at the End of that time  
 ‘ did not differ from the Whole-ones,  
 ‘ except that it had fewer Arms; but  
 ‘ in a few Days more grew out.’

‘ I HAVE cut a *Polypus*, length-  
 ‘ ways, between Seven and Eight in  
 ‘ the Morning; and between Two  
 ‘ and Three in the Afternoon, *each*  
 ‘ of the Parts has been able to eat a  
 ‘ *Worm as long as itself.*’

‘ IF a *Polypus* is cut lengthways,  
 ‘ beginning at the Head, and the Sec-  
 ‘ tion is not carried quite through;  
 ‘ the Result is, a *Polypus* with two  
 ‘ Bodies, two Heads, and one Tail.  
 ‘ Some of those Bodies and Heads  
 ‘ may again be cut, lengthways,  
 ‘ soon after. In this manner I have  
 ‘ produced a *Polypus* that had seven  
 ‘ Bodies, as many Heads, and one  
 ‘ Tail. I afterwards, at once, cut  
 ‘ off the seven Heads of this new  
 ‘ *Hydra*:



‘ *Hydra* : Seven others grew again ;  
 ‘ and the Heads, that were cut off,  
 ‘ became each a complete Polypus.’

‘ I CUT a *Polypus*, transversly,  
 ‘ into two Parts: I put these two  
 ‘ Parts close to each other again, and  
 ‘ they reunited where they had been  
 ‘ cut. The *Polypus*, thus reunited,  
 ‘ eat the Day after it had undergone  
 ‘ this Operation: It is since grown,  
 ‘ and has multiplied.’

‘ I took the posterior Part of one  
 ‘ *Polypus*, and the anterior of ano-  
 ‘ ther, and I have brought them to  
 ‘ reunite in the same manner as the  
 ‘ foregoing. Next Day, the *Polypus*  
 ‘ that resulted, eat: It has continued  
 ‘ well these two Months, since the  
 ‘ Operation: It is grown, and has  
 ‘ put forth Young-ones, from each  
 ‘ of the Parts of which it was formed.  
 ‘ The two foregoing Experiments do  
 ‘ not always succeed; it often hap-  
 ‘ pens,



‘pens, that the two Parts will not  
‘join again.’

‘IN order to comprehend the Ex-  
‘periment I am now going to speak  
‘of, one should recollect, that the  
‘whole Body of a *Polypus* forms  
‘only one Pipe, a sort of Gut, or  
‘Pouch.’

‘*I have been able to turn that*  
‘*Pouch, that Body of the Polypus,*  
‘INSIDE-OUTWARDS ; AS ONE MAY  
‘TURN A STOCKING.’

‘I HAVE several by me, that have  
‘remained turned in this manner ;  
‘THEIR INSIDE IS BECOME THEIR  
‘OUTSIDE, AND THEIR OUTSIDE  
‘THEIR INSIDE : They eat, they  
‘grow, and they multiply, as if  
‘they had never been turned.’

Now in the Division and Subdivi-  
sion of our *Chrysis*, we are forced  
to



to proceed in quite a different manner; namely, by the Metabolic or Mutative, not by the Schyftic or Divifive. Some have indeed attempted this latter Method; but, like that great Philosopher the Elder *Pliny*, they have perished in their Disquifitions, as he did, by Suffocation. Indeed there is a Method called the *Kleptiftic*, which hath been preferred to the Metabolic: But this too is dangerous; the Ingenious *Gualterus* never carried it farther than the Metabolic, contenting himself fometimes to divide the original *Chryfipus* into twenty two Parts, and again to fubdivide thefe into twenty-five; but this requires great Art.

It can't be doubted but that Mr. *Trembley* will, in the Work he is pleafed to promife us, give fome Account of the Longevity of the *Polypus*. As to the Age of the



*Chryſipus*, it differs extremely ; ſome being of equal Duration with the Life of Man, and ſome of ſcarce a Moment's Exiſtence. The beſt Method of preſerving them, is, I believe, in Bags or Cheſts, in large Numbers ; for they ſeldom live long when they are alone. The Great *Gualterus* ſays, he thought he could never put enough of them together. If you carry them in your Pockets ſingly, or in Pairs, as ſome do, they will laſt a very little while, and in ſome Pockets not a Day.

\* WE are told of the *Polypus*,  
 ' That they are to be look'd for  
 ' in ſuch Ditches whoſe Water is  
 ' ſtock'd with ſmall Inſects. Pieces  
 ' of Wood, Leaves, aquatic Plants,  
 ' in ſhort, every thing is to be taken  
 ' out of the Water, that is met with  
 ' at the Bottom, or on the Surface of  
 ' the Water, on the Edges, and in  
 ' the

• *Polypus*, pag. 12.



‘ the Middle of the Ditches. What  
 ‘ is thus taken out, must be put into  
 ‘ a Glafs of clear Water, and these  
 ‘ Insects, if there are any, will soon  
 ‘ discover themselves; especially if  
 ‘ the Glafs is let stand a little, with-  
 ‘ out moving it: for thus the In-  
 ‘ sects, which contract themselves  
 ‘ when they are first taken out,  
 ‘ will again extend themselves when  
 ‘ they are at Rest, and become  
 ‘ thereby so much the more re-  
 ‘ markable.’

THE *Chrysis* is to be look'd  
 for in Scrutores, and behind Wain-  
 scotes in old Houses. In search-  
 ing for them, particular Regard is  
 to be had to the Persons who in-  
 habit, or have inhabited in the  
 same Houses, by observing which  
 Rule, you may often prevent throw-  
 ing away your Labour. They love  
 to be rather with old than young  
 Persons, and detest Finery so much,



that they are seldom to be found in the Pockets of laced Clothes, and hardly ever in gilded Palaces. They are sometimes very difficult to be met with, even though you know where they are, by reason of *Pieces of Wood, Iron, &c.* which must be removed away before you can come at them. There are, however, several sure Methods of procuring them, which are all ascertained in a Treatise on that Subject, composed by *Petrus Gualterus*, which, now he is dead, will shortly see the Light.

I come now, in the last Place, to speak of the Virtues of the *Chrysipus*; In these it exceeds not only the *Polypus*, of which not one single Virtue is recorded, but all other Animals and Vegetables whatever. Indeed I intend here only to set down some of its chief Qualities; for to enumerate



merate all, would require a large Volume.

*First*, then, A single *Chryſipus* ſtuck on to the Finger, will make a Man talk for a full Hour, nay will make him ſay whatever the Perſon who ſticks it on deſires : And again, if you deſire Silence, it will as effectually ſtop the moſt loquacious Tongue. Sometimes, indeed, one or two, or even twenty, are not ſufficient ; but if you apply the proper Number, they ſeldom or never fail of Succeſs. It will likewiſe make Men blind or deaf, as you think proper ; and all this without doing the leaſt Injury to he ſeveral Organs.

*Secondly*, It hath a moſt miraculous Quality of turning Black into White, or White into Black. Indeed it hath the Powers of the Prismatic Glaſs, and can, from any Object,



Object, reflect what Colour it pleases.

*Thirdly*, It is the strongest Love-Powder in the World, and hath such Efficacy on the Female Sex, that it hath often produced Love in the finest Women to the most worthless and ugly, old and decrepit of our Sex.

To give the strongest Idea in one Instance, of the salubrious Quality of the *Chrysipus*; It is a Medicine which the Physicians are so fond of taking themselves, that few of them care to visit a Patient, without swallowing a Dose of it.

To conclude; *Facts like these I have related, to be admitted, require the most convincing Proofs. I venture to say, I am able to produce such Proofs.* In the mean time,



time, I refer my curious Reader to the Treatise I have above mentioned, which is not yet published, and perhaps never may.

*F* *N* *I* *S.*





( 22 )

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W. H. L. S.





