

The medicinal virtues of tar water fully explained ... To which is added the receipt for making it, and instructions to know by the colour and taste of the water when the tar is good, and of the right sort. Together with a plain explanation of the Bishop's physical terms / [George Berkeley].

Contributors

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THE
Medicinal VIRTUES
OF
TAR WATER

FULLY EXPLAINED,
BY THE
Right Rev. Dr. GEORGE BERKELEY,
Lord Bishop of CLOYNE, in *Ireland*.

To which is ADDED,
The RECEIPT for making it, and Instructions to
know by the Colour and Taste of the Water
when the *TAR* is good, and of the right Sort.

TOGETHER WITH
A plain Explanation of the BISHOP'S *Phy-
sical* Terms.

*Designed for the Benefit of all who drink it, and those
who make it themselves.*



DUBLIN Printed.

LONDON Reprinted, for the Proprietors of the
TAR-WATER Warehouse, behind the *Thatch'd-
House-Tavern*, in *St. James's-Street*; and Sold
by *M. Cooper* in *Pater-noster-row*. 1744.

[Price Six-pence.]

THE
MEDICAL VIRTUES

OF
THE
WATER





T H E
Medicinal VIRTUES
O F
TAR-WATER, &c.



THE Bishop, by way of INTRODUCTION to the following Piece, assures the Reader, that nothing could, in his present Situation, have induced him to be at the Pains of writing it, but a firm Belief that it would prove a valuable Present to the Public. What Entertainment soever the reasoning or rational Part may afford the Mind, he ventures to say, that the other Part seems so surely calculated to do Good to the Body, that both must be Gainers. These Considerations have moved him to communicate to the Public the salutary Virtues of Tar-water ; to which he thought himself indispensably obliged, by the Duty every Man owes to Mankind. And, as Effects are linked with their Causes, his Thoughts on this low, but useful Theme led to farther Enquiries, and those on to others remote, perhaps, and speculative, but he hopes not altogether useless or unentertaining.

unentertaining. His Lordship having premis'd thus much, he proceeds to give the following Account of its Virtues, and the extraordinary Effects it has, in establishing a vigorous State of Health, added to a long Life.

THE Infusion of Tar in Water hath been used in some of our Colonies, as a Preservative or Preparative against the Small-pox, which foreign Practice induced him to try it in his own Neighbourhood, when the Small-pox raged with great Violence. And the Trial fully answered his Expectation ; all those, within his Knowledge, who took the Tar-water, having either escaped that Distemper, or had it very favourably. In one Family there was a remarkable Instance of seven Children, who came all very well through the Small-pox, except one young Child, which could not be brought to drink Tar-water, as the rest had done.

Several were preserved from taking the Small-pox by the Use of this Liquor : Others had it in the mildest Manner ; and others, that they might be able to take the Infection, were obliged to intermit drinking the Tar-water. He found it might be drank with great Safety and Success for any length of Time, and this not only before, but also during the Distemper. The general Rule for taking it is, about half a Pint in the Morning on an empty Stomach, and two Hours after Supper, which Quantity may be varied, according to the Case and Age of the Patient.

It seemed probable, that a Medicine of such Efficacy in a Distemper attended with so many purulent Ulcers, might be also useful in other Foulnesses of the Blood ; accordingly he tried it
on

on several Persons infected with cutaneous Eruptions and Ulcers, who were soon relieved, and soon after cured. Encouraged by these Successes, he ventured to advise it in the foulest Distempers, wherein it proved much more successful than Salivations and Wood-drinks had done.

His Lordship having tried it in a great Variety of Cases, found it succeed beyond his Hopes, in a tedious and painful Ulceration of the Bowels, in a Consumptive Cough, and (as appeared by expectorated Pus) an Ulcer in the Lungs; in a Pleurisy and Peripneumony. And when a Person, who for some Years had been subject to erysipelatous Fevers, perceived the usual fore-running Symptoms to come on, he advised her to drink Tar-water, which prevented the Erysipelas.

He says, he never knew any Thing so good for the Stomach as Tar-water: It cures Indigestion and gives a good Appetite. It is an excellent Medicine in an Asthma. It imparts a kindly Warmth and quick Circulation to the Juices, without heating, and is therefore useful not only as a Pectoral and Balsamic, but also as a powerful and safe Deobstruent in cachectic and hysteric Cases. As it is both healing and diuretic, it is very good for the Gravel. He believes it to be of great Use in a Dropsy, having known it cure a very bad Anasarca in a Person, whose Thirst, though very extraordinary, was in a short Time removed by the drinking of Tar-water.

The Usefulness of this Medicine in inflammatory Cases is evident, from what has been already observed. And yet some perhaps may suspect that, as the Tar itself is sulphurous, Tar-water must be of a hot and inflaming Nature. But it is to be noted, that all Balsams contain an acid Spirit,

rit, which is in truth a volatile Salt. Water is a Menstruum that dissolves all Sorts of Salt, and draws them from their Subjects. Tar, therefore, being a Balsam, it's salutary Acid is extracted by Water, which yet is incapable of dissolving it's gross resinous Parts, whose proper Menstruum is Spirit of Wine. Therefore Tar-water, not being impregnated with Resin, may be safely used in inflammatory Cases: And in Fact it hath been found an admirable Febrifuge, at once the safest Cooler and Cordial.

Tar was by the Ancients esteem'd good against Poisons, Ulcers, the Bites of venomous Creatures, also for Pthysical, Scrophulous, Paralytic and Asthmatic Persons. But the Method of rendering it an inoffensive Medicine, and agreeable to the Stomach, by extracting its Virtues in cold Water, was unknown to them. The Leaves and tender Tops of Pine and Fir are in our Times for Diet-drinks, and allowed to be antiscorbutic and diuretic; but the most elaborate Juice, Salt, and Spirit of those Evergreens are to be found in Tar; whose Virtues extend not to Animals alone, but also to Vegetables. Mr. *Evelyn*, in his *Treatise of Forest Trees*, observes with Wonder, that Stems of Trees, smeared over with Tar, are preserved thereby from being hurt by the invenomed Teeth of Goats and other Injuries, while every other Thing of an unctuous Nature is highly prejudicial to them.

Tar and Turpentine may be had, more or less, from all Sorts of Pines and Firs whatsoever; and that the native Spirits and essential Salts of those Vegetables are the same in Turpentine and common Tar. In effect, this vulgar Tar, which Cheapness and Plenty may have rendered contemptible,

temptible, appears to be an excellent Balsam, containing the Virtues of most other Balsams, which it easily imparts to Water, and by that means readily and inoffensively insinuates them into the Habit of the Body.

Turpentine is on all Hands allowed to have great Medicinal Virtues. Tar and it's Infusion contain these Virtues. Tar-water is extremely pectoral and restorative; and, if we may judge from what Experience his Lordship has had, it possesseth the most valuable Qualities ascribed to the several Balsams of *Peru*, of *Tolu*, of *Capivi*, and even to the *Balm of Gilead*; such is its Virtue in Asthma's and Pleurifies, in Obstructions and ulcerous Erosions of the inward Parts. Balsams, as hath been already observed, are apt to offend the Stomach; but Tar-water may be taken without offending the Stomach: For the strengthening whereof it is the best Medicine, he says, he has ever tried.

Warm Water is of itself a Deobstruent. Therefore the Infusion of Tar drank warm, is easier insinuated into all the nice capillary Vessels, and acts, not only by Virtue of the Balsam, but also by that of the Vehicle. It's Taste, it's diuretic Quality, it's being so great a Cordial, shew the Activity of this Medicine. And at the same Time that it quickens the sluggish Blood of the hysterical, it's balsamic oily Nature abates the too rapid Motion of the sharp Blood in those who are hectic. The fine Particles of Tar are not only warm and active, they are also balsamic and emolient, softening and enriching the sharp and vapid Blood, and healing the Erosions occasioned thereby in the Blood-Vessels and Glands.

Tar-Water possesseth the stomachic and cardiac Qualities of *Elixir Proprietatis*, *Stoughton's Drops*,
and

and many such Tinctures and Extracts, with this Difference, that it worketh it's Effect more safely, as it hath nothing of that Spirit of Wine, which, however mixed and disguised, may yet be well accounted a Poison in some Degree.

Another Way wherein Tar-water operates, is by Urine, than which perhaps none is more safe and effectual, for cleansing the Blood and carrying off it's Salts. But it seems to produce it's principal Effect as an Alterative, sure and easy, much safer than those vehement purgative, emetic and salivating Medicines, which do Violence to Nature.

An Obstruction of some Vessels causeth the Blood to move more swiftly in other Vessels, which are not obstructed. Hence manifold Disorders. A Liquor that dilutes and attenuates resolves the Concretions which obstruct. Tar-water is such a Liquor.

It is the general Opinion that all Acids coagulate the Blood. *Boerhaave* excepts Vinegar, which he holds to be Soap, inasmuch as it is found to contain an Oil as well as an acid Spirit. Hence it is both unctuous and penetrating, a powerful Antiphlogistic, and Preservative against Corruption and Infection. Now it seems evident, that Tar-water is a Soap as well as a Vinegar. For though it be the Character of Resin, which is an inspissated gross Oil, not to dissolve in Water, yet the Salts attract some fine Particles of essential Oil; which fine Oil serves as a Vehicle for the acid Salts, and shews itself in the Colour of Tar-Water; for all pure Salts are colourless. And though the Resin will not dissolve in Water, yet the subtile Oil, in which the vegetable Salts are lodged, may as well mix with Water as Vinegar doth,

doth, which contains both Oil and Salt. And as the Oil in Tar-water discovers itself to the Eye, so the acid Salts do manifest themselves to the Taste. Tar-water therefore is a Soap, and as such hath the medicinal Qualities of Soaps.

It operates more gently as the acid Salts lose their Acrimony being sheathed in Oil, and thereby approaching the Nature of neutral Salts, are more benign and friendly to the animal System: And more effectually, as, by the Help of a volatile smooth insinuating Oil, those same Salts are more easily introduced into the capillary Ducts. Therefore in Fevers and epidemical Distempers it is (and he has found it so) as well as in chronic Diseases, a most safe and efficacious Medicine, being good against too great Fluidity as a Balsamic, and good against Viscidity as a Soap. There is something in the fiery corrosive Nature of lixivial Salts, which makes alkaline Soap a dangerous Remedy in all Cases where an Inflammation is apprehended. And as Inflammations are often occasioned by Obstructions, it should seem an acid Soap was much the safer Deobstruent.

Even the best Turpentine, however famous for their vulnerary and detergent Qualities, have yet been observed by their Warmth to dispose to inflammatory Tumours. But the acid Spirit being in so great proportion in Tar-water renders it a cooler and safer Medicine. And the ætherial Oil of Turpentine, though an admirable Drier, Healer, and Anodyne, when outwardly applied to Wounds and Ulcers, and not less useful in cleansing the urinary Passages, and healing their Ulcerations, yet is known to be of a Nature so very relaxing, as sometimes to do much Mischief. Tar-water is not attended with the same ill Effects,

which I believe are owing in a great Measure to the ætherial Oil's being deprived of the acid Spirit in Distillation, which vellicating and contracting as a Stimulus, might have proved a Counterpoise to the excessive lubricating and relaxing Qualities of the Oil.

Woods in Decoction do not seem to yield so ripe and elaborate a Juice, as that which is deposited in the Cells or *Loculi Terrebinthiaci*, and spontaneously oozes from them. And indeed, though the Balsam of *Peru*, obtain'd by boiling Wood and scumming the Decoction, be a very valuable Medicine, and of great Account in divers Cases, particularly Asthma's, Nephritic Pains, nervous Cholics and Obstructions, yet he thinks (and says by Experience) that Tar-water is a more efficacious Remedy in all those Cases than even that costly Drug.

It hath been already observed that the restorative pectoral antihysterical Virtues of the most precious Balsams and Gums are possessed in a high degree by Tar-water. And he does not know any Purpose answered by the Wood-Drinks, for which Tar-water may not be used with at least equal Success. It contains the Virtues even of *Guaiacum*, which seems the most efficacious of all the Woods, warming and sweetening the Humours, diaphoretic and useful in Gouts, Dropsies and Rheums, as well as in the foul Disease. Nor should it seem strange, if the Virtues obtained by boiling an old dry Wood prove inferior to those extracted from a Balsam.

There is a fine volatile Spirit in the Waters of *Geronsfer*, the most esteemed of all the Fountains about *Spa*, but whose Waters do not bear transporting. The stomachic, cardiac, and diuretic Qualities

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ties of this Fountain somewhat resemble those of Tar-water, which, if he is not greatly mistaken, contains the Virtues of the best Chalybeat and sulphureous Waters; with this Difference, that those Waters are apt to affect the Head in taking, which Tar-water is not. Besides, there is a Regimen of Diet to be observed, especially with Chalybeat Waters, which he never found necessary with this. Tar-water layeth under no Restraint either as to Diet, Hours, or Employment. A Man may study, or exercise, or repose, keep his own Hours, pass his Time either within or without, and take wholesome Nourishment of any kind.

The Use of Chalybeat Waters, however excellent for the Nerves and Stomach, is often suspended by Colds and inflammatory Disorders; in which they are acknowledged to be very dangerous. Whereas Tar-water is so far from hurting in those Cases, or being discontinued on that Account, that it greatly contributes to their Cure.

Cordials, vulgarly so called, act immediately on the Stomach, and by consent of Nerves on the Head. But Medicines of an Operation too fine and light to produce a sensible Effect in the *Primæ Viæ*, may, nevertheless, in their Passage through the Capillaries, operate on the Sides of those small Vessels, in such manner as to quicken their Oscillations, and consequently the Motion of their Contents, producing, in Issue and Effect, all the Benefits of a Cordial, much more lasting and salutary than those of fermented Spirits, which by their caustic and coagulating Qualities do incomparably more Mischief than Good. Such a cardiac Medicine is Tar-water. The transient Fits of Mirth, produced from fermented Liquors,

are attended with proportionable Depressions of Spirit in their Intervals. But the calm Chearfulness arising from this Water of Health (as it may be justly called) is permanent. In which it emulates the Virtues of that famous Plant *Gen Seng*, so much valued in *China*, as the only Cordial that raiseth the Spirits without depressing them. Tar-water is so far from hurting the Nerves as common Cordials do, that it is highly useful in Cramps, Spasms of the Viscera, and Paralytic Numbness.

Emetics are on certain Occasions administered with great Success. But the overstraining and weakening of Nature may be very justly apprehended from a Course of Emetics. They are nevertheless prescribed and substituted for Exercise. But it is well remarked in *Plato's Timæus* that Vomits and Purges are the worst Exercise in the World. There is something in the mild Operation of Tar-water, that seems more friendly to the OEconomy, and forwards the Digestions and Secretions in a Way natural and benign, the Mildness of this Medicine being such as he has known Children take it, for above six Months together, with great Benefit, and without any Inconvenience; and after long and repeated Experience, he does esteem it a most excellent Diet-drink fitted to all Seasons and Ages.

It is, he thinks, allowed, that the Origin of the Gout lies in a faulty Digestion. And it is remarked by the ablest Physicians, that the Gout is so difficult to cure, because heating Medicines aggravate its immediate, and cooling its remote Cause. But Tar-water, although it contain active Principles that strengthen the Digestion beyond any Thing he knows, and consequently must be highly useful, either to prevent or lessen the following

lowing Fit, or by invigorating the Blood to cast it upon the Extremities, yet it is not of so heating a nature as to do Harm even in the Fit. Nothing is more difficult or disagreeable than to argue Men out of their Prejudices; he does not therefore enter into Controversies on this Subject, but if Men dispute and object, shall leave the Decision to Time and Trial.

In the modern practice, Soap, Opium, and Mercury bid fairest for universal Medicines. The first of these is highly spoken of. But then those who magnify it most, except against the Use of it, in such Cases where the Obstruction is attended with a putrefactive Alkali, or where an inflammatory Disposition appears. It is acknowledged to be very dangerous in a Phthisis, Fever, and some other Cases, in which Tar-water is not only safe but useful.

Opium, though a Medicine of great Extent and Efficacy, yet is frequently known to produce grievous Disorders in hysterical or hypocondriacal Persons, who make a great Part, perhaps the greatest of those who lead sedentary Lives in the Islands. Besides, upon all Constitutions dangerous Errors may be committed in the use of Opium.

Mercury hath of late Years become a Medicine of general Use. The extreme Minuteness, Mobility, and Momentum of its Parts, rendering it a most powerful Cleanser of all Obstructions, even in the most minute Capillaries. But then we should be cautious in the Use of it, if we consider, that the very Thing which gives it Power of doing Good above other Deobstruents, doth also dispose it to do Mischief. He means its great Momentum, the Weight of it being about ten Times that of Blood, and the Momentum being the joint Product of the Weight and Velocity, it must needs

needs operate with great Force ; and may it not be justly feared, that so great a Force entering the minutest Vessels, and breaking the obstructed Matter, might also break or wound the fine tender Coats of those small Vessels, and so bring on the untimely Effects of old Age, producing more, perhaps, and worse Obstructions than those it removed? Similar Consequences may justly be apprehended from other mineral and ponderous Medicines. Therefore upon the whole, there will not perhaps be found any Medicine, more general in its Use, or more salutary in its Effects than Tar-water.

To suppose that all Distempers arising from very different, and it may be, from contrary Causes, can be cured by one and the same Medicine, must seem chimerical. But it may with Truth be affirmed, that the Virtue of Tar-water extends to a surprizing Variety of Cases very distant and unlike. This he has experienced in his Neighbours, his Family, and himself. And as he lives in a remote Corner among poor Neighbours, who for want of a regular Physician have often Recourse to him, he has had frequent Opportunities of Trial, which convince him, it is of so just a Temperament as to be an Enemy to all Extremes. He has known it do great Good in a cold watery Constitution, as a Cardiac and Stomachic ; and at the same Time allay Heat and feverish Thirst in another. He has known it correct costive Habits in some, and the contrary Habit in others. Nor will this seem incredible, if it be considered that middle Qualities naturally reduce the Extreme. Warm Water, for instance, mixed with hot and cold, will lessen the Heat in that, and Cold in this.

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They who know the great Virtues of common Soap, whose coarse lixivial Salts are the Product of culinary Fire, will not think it incredible that Virtues of mighty Force and Extent should be found in a fine acid Soap, the Salts and Oil whereof are a most elaborate Product of Nature and the solar Light.

It is certain Tar-water warms, and therefore some may perhaps still think it cannot cool. The more effectually to remove this Prejudice, let it be farther considered, that as, on the one hand, opposite Causes do sometimes produce the same Effect, for Instance, Heat by Rarefaction, and Cold by Condensation, do both increase the Air's Elasticity; so, on the other hand, the same Cause shall sometime produce opposite Effects: Heat for Instance thins, and again Heat coagulates the Blood. It is not therefore strange that Tar-water should warm one Habit, and cool another; have one good Effect on a cold Constitution, and another on an inflamed one; nor, if this be so, that it should cure opposite Disorders. All which justifies to Reason, what he has often found true in Fact. The Salts, the Spirits, the Heat of Tar-water are of a Temperature congenial to the Constitution of a Man, which receives from it a kindly Warmth, but no inflaming Heat. It is remarkable that two Children in his Neighbourhood, being in a Course of Tar-water, upon an Intermission of it, never failed to have their Issues inflamed by an Humour much more hot and sharp than at other Times. But its great Use in a Small-Pox, Pleurifies and Fevers, is a sufficient Proof that Tar-water is not of an inflaming Nature.

He dwelt the longer on this Head, because some Gentlemen of the Faculty have thought fit to declare

clare that Tar-water must enflame, and that they would never visit any Patient in a Fever, who had been a Drinker of it. But he will venture to affirm, that it is so far from increasing a Feverish Inflammation, that it is on the contrary a most ready Means to allay and extinguish it. It is of admirable Use in Fevers, being at the same Time the surest, safest, and most effectual both Paregoric and Cordial; for the Truth of which, he appeals to any Person's Experience, who shall take a large Draught of it Milk-warm in the Paroxysm of a Fever, even when plain Water or Herb-Teas shall be found to have little or no Effect. It seems to his Lordship that its singular and surprizing Use in Fevers of all kinds, were there nothing else, would be alone sufficient to recommend it to the Public.

The best Physicians make the Idea of a Fever to consist in a too great Velocity of the Heart's Motion, and too great Resistance at the Capillaries. Tar-water, as it softens and gently stimulates those nice Vessels, helps to propel their Contents, and so contributes to remove the latter Part of the Disorder. And for the former, the irritating Acrimony, which accelerates the Motion of the Heart, is diluted by watery, corrected by acid, and softened by balsamic Remedies, all which Intentions are answered by this aqueous acid balsamic Medicine. Besides, the viscid Juices, coagulated by the febrile Heat, are resolved by Tar-water as a Soap, and not too far resolved, as it is a gentle acid Soap; to which we may add, that the peccant Humours and Salts are carried off by its diaphoretic and diuretic Qualities.

He found all this confirmed by his own Experience in the late sickly Season of the Year One thousand seven hundred and forty one, having had
had

had twenty-five Fevers in his own Family cured by this medicinal Water, drunk copiously. The same Method was practis'd on several of his poor Neighbours with equal Success. It suddenly calm'd the feverish Anxieties, and seem'd every Glass to refresh, and infuse Life and Spirit into the Patient. At first some of those Patients had been vomited; but afterwards he found that without vomiting, bleeding, blistering, or any other Evacuation or Medicine whatever, very bad Fevers could be cured by the sole drinking of Tar-water Milk warm, and in good Quantity, perhaps a large glass every Hour taken in Bed. And it was remarkable, that such as were cured by this comfortable Cordial, recovered Health and Spirits at once, while those who had been cured by Evacuations often languished long, even after the Fever had left them, before they could recover of their Medicines and regain their Strength.

In Peripneumonies and Pleurifies he has observed Tar-water to be excellent, having known some pleuritic Persons cured without bleeding, by a Blister early apply'd to the Stitch, and the copious drinking of Tar-water, four or five Quarts, or even more in four and twenty Hours. And he recommends it to farther Trial, whether in all Cases of a Pleurisy, one moderate Bleeding, a Blister on the Spot, and Plenty of tepid Tar-water may not suffice, without those repeated and immoderate Bleedings, the bad Effects of which are perhaps never got over. He thinks that a pleuritic Patient betaking himself to Bed betimes, and drinking very copiously of Tar-water, may be cured by that alone without Bleeding, Blistering, or any other Medicine whatever: His Lordship has found this succeed at a Glass every half Hour.

He has known a Bloody-flux of long Continuance, after divers Medicines had been tried in vain, cured by Tar-water. But that which he takes to be the most speedy and effectual Remedy in the Bloody-flux, is a Clyster of an Ounce of common brown Rosin dissolved over a Fire in two Ounces of Oil, and added to a Pint of Broth, which not long since he had frequent Occasion of trying, when that Distemper was epidemical. Nor can he say that any to whom he advised it miscarried. This Experiment he was led to make by the Opinion he had of Tar as a Balsamic: And Rosin is only Tar inspissated.

Nothing that he knows corroborates the Stomach so much as Tar-water. Whence it follows, that it must be of singular Use to Persons afflicted with the Gout. And from what he has observed in five or six Instances, he verily believes it the best and safest Medicine either to prevent the Gout, or so to strengthen Nature against the Fit, as to drive it from the Vitals; or, at other Times to change a worse Illness into the Gout, and to get rid of it: Doctor *Sydenham*, in his Treatise of the Gout, declares, that whoever finds a Medicine the most efficacious for strengthening Digestion, will do more Service in the Cure of that and other chronical Distempers, than he can even form a Notion of. The Bishop leaves it to Trial, whether Tar-water be not that Medicine; he is perswaded it is, by all the Experiments he could make. But in all Trials he recommends Discretion; for Instance, a Man with the Gout in his Stomach ought not to drink cold Tar-water. This Essay leaves room for future Experiment in every Part of it, not pretending to be a complete Treatise.

It is evident to Sense, that Blood, Urine, and other animal Juices, being let to stand, soon contract a great Acrimony. Juices, therefore, from a bad Digestion retained and stagnating in the Body, grow sharp and putrid. Hence a fermenting Heat, the immediate Cause of the Gout. The curing this by cooling Medicines, as they would increase the antecedent Cause, must be a vain Attempt. On the other hand, Spices and spirituous Liquors, while they contribute to remove the antecedent Cause, or bad Digestion, would, by inflaming the Blood, increase the proximate or immediate Cause of the Gout, to wit, the fermenting Heat. The Scope therefore must be, to find a Medicine that shall corroborate, but not inflame. Bitter Herbs are recommended; but they are weak in comparison of Tar-water.

The great Force of Tar-water, to correct the Acrimony of the Blood, appears in nothing more than in the Cure of a Gangrene, from an internal Cause; which was performed on a Servant of his own, by prescribing the copious and constant Use of Tar-water for a few Weeks. From his representing Tar-water as good for so many Things, some perhaps may conclude it good for nothing. But Charity obligeth him to say what he knows, and what he thinks, howsoever it may be taken. Men may censure and object as they please, but he appeals to Time and Experiment: Effects misimputed, Cases wrong told, Circumstances overlooked, perhaps too, Prejudices and Partialities against Truth, may for a Time prevail and keep her at the Bottom of her Well, from whence nevertheless she emergeth sooner or later, and strikes the Eyes of all who do not keep them shut.

Boerhaave thinks a Specific may be found, for

that peculiar Venom, which infects the Blood in the Small-pox, and that the Prospect of so great a public Benefit should stir up Men to search for it. Its wonderful Success, in preventing and mitigating that Distemper, would incline one to suspect that Tar-water is such a Specific, especially since he has found it of sovereign Use as well during the Small pox as before it. Some think an Erysipelas and the Plague differ only in degree. If so, Tar-water should be useful in the Plague, for he has known it cure an Erysipelas.

Tar-water, as cleansing, healing, and balsamic, is good in all Disorders of the urinary Passages, whether obstructed or ulcerated. Doctor *Lister* supposeth, indeed, the Turpentine act by a Caustic Quality, which irritates the Coats of the urinary Ducts to expel Sand and Gravel. But, it should seem, this expelling diuretic Virtue consisted rather in the Salts than the Resin, and consequently resides in the Tar-water, gently stimulating by its Salts, without the dangerous Force of a Caustic. The violent Operation of Ipecacuanha lies in its Resin, but the saline Extract is a gentle Purge and Diuretic, by the Stimulus of its Salts.

That which acts as a mild Cordial, neither hurting the capillary Vessels as a Caustic, nor affecting the Nerves, nor coagulating the Juices, must in all Cases be a Friend to Nature, and assist the *Vis Vitæ* in its Struggle against all kinds of Contagion. And from what he has observed, Tar water appears to him an useful Preservative in all epidemical Disorders, and against all other Infection whatsoever, as well as that of the Small-pox. What Effects the Animi Pathemata have in human Maladies, is well known, and consequently the general Benefit of such a Cardiac may be reasonably supposed. He

He says, that he has often known Tar-water procure Sleep, and compose the Spirits in cruel Vigils, occasioned either by Sickness or by too intense Application of Mind. If he may trust what Trials he has been able to make, Tar-water is good in the several kinds of Scurvy, acid, alkaline, and muriatic, and he believes it the only Medicine that cures them all without doing Hurt in any. As it contains a volatile Acid with a fine volatile Oil, why may not a Medicine cool in one Part and warm in another be a Remedy to either Extreme? He has observed it to produce a kindly genial Warmth without Heat, a Thing to be aimed at in all Sorts of Scurvy. Besides the Balsam in Tar-water sheaths all scorbutic Salts alike: And its great Virtues as a Digestor and Deobstruent are of general Use in all scorbutic, and, he may add, in all chronical Cases whatsoever.

He cannot be sure that he has tried it in a scrophulous Case, though he has tried it successfully in one that he suspected to be so. And he apprehends it would be very serviceable in such Disorders. For although Doctor *Gibbs* in his Treatise of the King's Evil derives that Disease from a coagulating Acid, which is also agreeable to the Opinion of some other Physicians, and although Tar-water contain an Acid, yet as it is a Soap, it resolves instead of coagulating the Juices of the Body.

For hysterical and hypocondriacal Disorders, so frequent among us, it is commonly supposed that all Acids are bad; but he will venture to except the acid Soap of Tar-water, having found by his own Experience, and that of many others, that it raiseth the Spirits, and is an excellent Antihysterick, nor less innocent than potent, which cannot be
said

said of those others in common Use, that often leave People worse than they find them.

In a high Degree of Scurvy a mercurial Salivation is looked on by many as the only Cure. Which, by the vehement Shock it gives the whole Frame, and the sensible Secretion it produceth, may be thought to be more adequate to such an Effect. But the Disorder occasioned by that violent Process, it is to be feared, may never be got over. The immediate Danger, the frequent bad Effects, the extreme Trouble, and nice Care attending such a Course do very deservedly make People afraid of it. And though the sensible Secretion therein be so great, yet in a longer Tract of Time the Use of Tar-water may produce as great a Discharge of scorbutic Salts by Urine and by Perspiration, the Effect of which last, though not so sensible, may be greater than that of Salivation; especially if it be true, that in common Life insensible Perspiration is to Nutrition, and all sensible Excretions, as five to three.

Many hysteric and scorbutic Ailments, many Taints contracted by themselves, or inherited from their Ancestors, afflict the People of Condition in these Islands; often rendering them, upon the whole, much more unhappy than those whom Poverty and Labour have ranked in the lowest Lot of Life; which Ailments might be safely removed or relieved by the sole Use of Tar-water; and those Lives, which seem hardly worth living for bad Appetite, low Spirits, restless Nights, wasting Pains and Anxieties, be rendered easy and comfortable.

As the Nerves are Instruments of Sensation, it follows that Spasms in the Nerves may produce all Symptoms, and therefore a Disorder in the nervous System shall imitate all Distempers, and occasion,

occasion, in appearance, an Asthma for Instance, a Pleurisy, or a Fit of the Stone. Now whatever is good for the Nerves in general, is good against all such Symptoms. But Tar-water, as it includes in an eminent Degree the Virtues of warm Gums and Resins, is of great Use for comforting and strengthening the Nerves, curing Twitches in the nervous Fibres, Cramps also, and Numbness in the Limbs, removing Anxieties and promoting Sleep, in all which Cases he has known it very successful.

This safe and cheap Medicine suits all Circumstances and all Constitutions, operating easily, curing without disturbing, raising the Spirits without depressing them, a Circumstance that deserves repeated Attention. And Experience sheweth this to be true. For the fermented Spirit of Wine or other Liquors produceth irregular Motions, and subsequent Depressions in the animal Spirits. Whereas the luminous Spirit lodged and detained in the native Balsam of Pines and Firs, is of a Nature so mild and benign, and proportioned to the human Constitution, as to warm without heating, to cheer but not inebriate, and to produce a calm and steady Joy like the Effect of good News, without that sinking of Spirits which is a subsequent Effect of all fermented Cordials. He may add, without all other Inconvenience, except that it may, like any other Medicine, be taken in too great a Quantity for a nice Stomach. In which Case it may be right, to lessen the Dose, or to take it only once in four and twenty Hours, empty, going to Bed, (when it is found to be least offensive) or even to suspend the taking of it for a Time, till Nature shall seem to crave it, and rejoice in its benign and comfortable Spirit.

His Lordship says, he has been surprized to see
Persons

Persons fallen away and languishing under a bad Digestion, after a few Weeks, recover a good Stomach, and with it Flesh and Strength, so as to seem renewed, by the drinking of Tar-water. The Strength and Quantity of this Water to be taken by each individual Person is best determined from Experience. And as for the Time of taking, he never knew any Evil ensue from its being continued ever so long; but, on the contrary, many and great Advantages, which sometimes would not perhaps begin to shew themselves, till it had been taken two or three Months.

He further observes, that after having said so much of the Uses of Tar, he adds that being rubb'd on them, it is an excellent Preservative of the Teeth and Gums; that it sweetens the Breath, and that it clears and strengthens the Voice. And, as its Effects are various and useful, so there is nothing to be feared from the Operation of an Alterative so mild and friendly to Nature. It was a wise Maxim of certain antient Philosophers, that Diseases ought not to be irritated by Medicines. But no Medicine disturbs the animal OEconomy less than this, which, he says, if he may trust his own Experience, never produces any Disorder in a Patient when rightly taken.

He tells you of a Person who took a large Glass of Tar-water just before Breakfast, which gave him an invincible Nausea and Disgust, although he had before received the greatest Benefit from it. But if the Tar-water be taken and made in the Manner prescribed at the End of this Essay, it will, if he mistakes not, have enough of the Salt to be useful, and little enough of the Oil to be inoffensive. He means his own Manner of making it, and not the *American*; that

that sometimes makes it too strong, and sometimes too weak ; which Tar-water, however it might serve as there used, merely for a Preparative against the Small-Pox, yet he questions whether it may be fitly used in all those various Cases, wherein he has found Tar-water so successful. Persons more delicate than ordinary may render it palatable, by mixing a Drop of the Chemical Oil of Nutmuegs, or a Spoonful of Mountain-Wine in each Glass. It may not be amiss to observe, that he has known some, whose nice Stomachs could not bear it in the Morning, take it at Night going to Bed without any Inconvenience ; and that with some it agrees best warm, with others cold. It may be made stronger for brute Beasts, as Horses, in whose Disorders he has known it very useful.

In very dangerous and acute Cases much may be taken and often ; as far as the Stomach can bear. But in chronical Cases, about half a Pint, Night and Morning, may suffice ; or in case so large a Dose should prove disagreeable, half the Quantity may be taken at four Times, to wit, in the Morning, at Night going to Bed, and about two Hours before Dinner and Breakfast. A Medicine of so great Virtue in so many different Disorders, and especially in that grand Enemy, the Fever, must needs be a Benefit to Mankind in general. There are nevertheless three Sorts of People to whom he would peculiarly recommend it : Sea-faring Persons, Ladies, and Men of studious and sedentary Lives.

To Sailors and all Sea-faring Persons, who are subject to scorbutic Disorders and putrid Fevers, especially in long Southern Voyages, he is persuaded this Tar-water would be very beneficial. And this may deserve peculiar Notice in the present

sent Course of marine Expeditions, when so many of our Countrymen have perished by such Distempers, contracted at Sea and in Foreign Climates ; which, it is probable, might have been prevented, by the copious Use of Tar-water.

This same Water will also give charitable Relief to the Ladies, who often want it more than the Parish Poor ; being many of them never capable to make a good Meal, and sitting pale, puny, and forbidden like Ghosts, at their own Table, Victims of Vapours and Indigestion.

Studious Persons also pent up in narrow Holes, breathing bad Air, and stooping over their Books, are much to be pitied. As they are debarred the free Use of Air and Exercise, this he will venture to recommend as the best Succedaneum to both. Though it were to be wished that modern Scholars would, like the Ancients, meditate and converse more in Walks and Gardens and open Air, which, upon the whole, would perhaps be no Hindrance to their Learning, and a great Advantage to their Health. The Bishop tells you, that his own sedentary Course of Life, had long since thrown him into an ill Habit, attended with many Ailments, particularly a nervous Cholic, which render'd his Life a Burthen ; and more so, because his Pains were exasperated by Exercise. But since the Use of Tar-Water, he finds, though not a perfect Recovery from his old and rooted Illness, yet such a gradual Return of Health and Ease, that he esteems his having taken this Medicine the greatest of all temporal Blessings, and is convinced that, under Providence, he owes his Life to it.

The Bishop's Receipt for making Tar-water.

POur a Gallon of cold Water on a Quart of Tar, and stir and mix them thoroughly with a Ladle, or flat Stick, for the Space of three or four Minutes, after which the Vessel must stand eight and forty Hours, that the Tar may have Time to subside, when the clear Water is to be poured off and kept for Use, no more being made from the same Tar, which may still serve for common Purposes.

Copy of a LETTER receiv'd from a Gentleman relating to Tar-water.

S I R,

*Admiralty Coffee-House,
Wednesday, at Breakfast.*

SEEING in the Papers of a Letter coming out next Week, in opposition to that excellent Medicine *Tar-water*, generously given by that good Bishop the Author, I think that all Persons that have found Benefit by it, ought, out of Gratitude, and in Justification to their Benefactor, to make it publick. I therefore am surpriz'd to see (tho' I have heard so many say that they have receiv'd its Benefits) that not one grateful Person should dare acknowledge it in publick. As I bought the *Tar-water* of you, I give you the inclos'd Account of my Case, and Benefit I receiv'd, and wish you wou'd get it inserted, in hopes others will do the same; and if it cost any thing, I will call and justly pay you, tho' I am,

Yours unknown,

A. B.

P. S. It's greatly feared, that some Persons, for a little Gain, will make more of the Water than the Bishop orders, which they ought to be caution'd against,

My

My CASE.

I have for a long Time labour'd under a weak Stomach and bad Digestion, which brought upon me a vast Depression of Spirits, and a consumptive (as I imagin'd) Constitution, attended with vast swell'd Legs. But having purchas'd a Bottle of Tar-water of you, the second Glass I took found out my Disorder in my Stomach, and (thank God and the good Bishop) brought from thence, what I wou'd not have there again upon any Consideration, and is not fit here to be mention'd, and have, by continuing it, first once and now twice a Day, restor'd my Appetite and Spirits to Admiration, and almost quite abated the Swelling in my Legs; for which I publicly return my Thanks to the generous Benefactor.

If am too long in the Style, you may shorten it, but not the Substance, or Facts.

Advertisement from the Daily Advertiser in Answer to the Letter.

A Letter having been sent to one of the Proprietors of the *Tar-water Ware-house*, behind the *Thatch'd-House Tavern*, in *St. James's Street*, dated *May 23d*, from the *Admiralty Coffee-house*, and sign'd *A. B.* requesting that the said Letter may be inserted in the *Newspapers* for the Good of the Publick, the Letter-Writer expressing many signal Benefits he has receiv'd from drinking *Tar-water*: This is therefore to inform the said *A. B.* that if he pleases to send his Name at Length, he may depend on his Letter being inserted.

Another LETTER from the said Gentleman.

S I R,

Your's in Yesterday's *Advertiser*, in Answer to *A. B.* was not seen by him till late in the Afternoon, so cou'd not be answer'd sooner.

The

The Letter I wrote you is Fact and Truth, and will, thank God, now bear Addition, my Strength daily getting ground of my Disorders, and am, I conceive, quite recovered. But, good Sir, I do not live in or near *London*, and am transacting Business, which I shall hardly accomplish this Fortnight; till then, it may not be proper to insert my Name, as desir'd. The only Motive that induc'd me to write to you, was in Gratitude to my Benefactor for so speedy a Help; when the same Disorder, (as I conceive by its Symptoms) about a Year and a half ago, cost me upwards of a Hundred Pounds for a patch'd-up Cure, besides lying near six Months bed-ridden, and in my Chamber; and the Relief I first then found, was in the same Way as I have by that excellent Remedy *Tar-water*, which, with the Treatise, I intend to pursue.

If you have been, or are, at any Charge, and want to know or see me, leave a Letter for *A. B.* at the *Admiralty Coffee-house*, till call'd for, and it shall be answer'd.

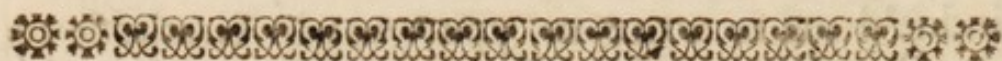
Sunday, *Your very humble Servant,*
 May 26th, 1744. *A. B.*

The Seal is my Coat of Arms, so you may guess partly who I am by that.

CONCLUSION.

AS there is as great a Difference in *Tar*, as in any Commodity whatsoever, the Persons who intend to make it, are caution'd as to the following Particulars, lest *Plantation Tar*, or *Tar* us'd before, should be impos'd upon them: The true Properties of the right *Tar-water* are, That there should be an Acid in the Taste, the Water when made should be as transparent as Sherry; and the
 Smell

Smell quite even, and no way offensive to any, but those who have an Antipathy to the Smell of *Tar* in general. Whereas the other has none of the Acid, which is the principal advantageous Property, but has a rough, bitter, smoaky Taste, that kind of *Tar* not properly impregnating with the Water.



A plain EXPLANATION of the *Bishop's*
Physical Terms.

- A**ntiphlogistick, *A Medicine for curing Inflammations.*
 Anasarcha, *Swellings that pitt, occasion'd by a Dropsy.*
 Acrimony, *a Sharpness or Tartness.*
 Anodyne, *A Remedy which alleviates or takes away Pain.*
 Anti-Hysterical, *What cures Hysterical Disorders.*
 Alkali, *A fix'd Sort.*
 Acids, *All Liquors and Substances that are sour.*
 Antiscorbuticks, *Medicines good against the Scurvy. a*
 Alteratives, *Medicines which have no immediate Operation, but gradually change the Habit of Body.*
- C
- Capillary Vessels, *The smallest Blood Vessels, called so from their being almost as small as a Hair.*
 Caustick, *Corroding, Burning.*
 Chalybeat, *Impregnated with Steel.*
 Coagulating, *Curdling, Thickening.*
 Cardiac, *Cordial good for the Heart.*
 Corrosive, *Gnawing, Fretting, Eating away.*
 Condensation, *Making thick and closer.*
 Culinary, *Catchings.*
 Concretions, *The Juices grown thick.*
 Cutaneous Eruptions, *Breakings out on the Skin.*
 Cachectic, *A bad Habit of Body or Constitution.*

D

- Detergent, *Cleansing.*
 Diaphoreticks, *Creating Sweat.*
 Deobstruents, *Medicines that open Obstructions.*
 Diuretic, *Any thing that provokes Urine.*

Emeticks,

E

- Emeticks, *Vomits*,
 Elasticity, *a Springiness, or a Power Bodies have to return to their first Place of Condition, out of which they had been forc'd.*
 Epidemical, *Universal, General.*
 Excretions, *The Separation of excrementitious Humours from the Aliments of the Blood.*
 Expectorate, *to bring up Phlegm.*
 Erysipelas, *An Inflammation of a hot, reddish Colour, St. Anthony's Fire.*
 Erosions, *Acid Fluids, or Humours.*
 Emollients, *Softners of any Humours.*

F

- Fluidity, *An Aptness to flow.*
 Febrifuge, *A Medicine serviceable in any Fever.*

G

- Gangrene, *A Corruption of a Part, generally beginning by a Blackness and Mortification.*
 Genial, *Cheerful.*

H

- Hystericks, *Medicines proper for Disorders in the Womb.*
 Hectick, *A slow continual Fever.*
 Hypochondriacal, *Spleenatick or melancholly Disorders.*

I

- Ipecacuanha, *Indian Root for a Vomit.*
 Inspissated, *Thickened.*
 Inebriate, *To intoxicate.*

L

- Lubricative, *Making slippery, soft, and yielding.*
 Lixivial Salts, *An Alkali extracted from calcin'd Herbs, &c. by means of boil'd Lye.*

M

- Mobility, *Aptness and Ability to move.*
 Menstruum, *All Liquors which are used for Dissolvents.*
 Muriatick, *Briny.*

N

- Neutral Salts, *Which partake of the Nature of an Acid and an Alkali.*
 Nutrition, *Nourishing.*
 Nephritick Pains, *Pains in the Reins or Kidney.*

O

- Oscillation, *A continual Motion, like that of the Pendulum of a Clock.*

P

- Paroxysm, *An Access, or Fit of a Fever, &c.*
 Peccant, *Offending, Hurtful.*
 Putrefaction, *Corrupting, Making rotten.*

Pathemata, *Passions or Affections.*
 Perspiration, *A Breathing or Sweating out of Humours through the Pores of the Body.*
 Pus, *Phlegm or Matter.*
 Purulent, *full of Corruption, or Sores.*
 Pectorals, *Medicines good for Distempers in the Breast.*
 Pituitous, *Phlegmy.*
 Peripneumony, *An Inflammation of the Substance of the Lungs, accompanied with a sharp Fever, hard Breathing, a Cough, and a heavy Pain.*

R

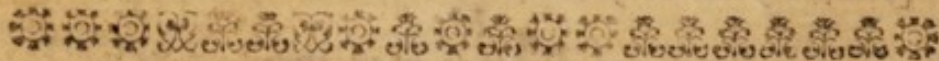
Resinous, *full of Rosin.*
 Rarefaction, *Making thin.*
 Ramification, *A Collection of small Branches; shooting out from any great one, as from Arteries, Veins, or Nerves.*

S

Spasms, *Cramps.*
 Stimulus, *A Property in sharp Bodies, which occasions a Shaking or a Windiness in the Fibres,*
 Stimulating, *Moving or Provoking.*
 Scrophulous, *Scorbutick Swellings, such as the King's Evil, &c.*
 Secretion, *A Separation of one Fluid from another.*

V

Viscera, *Bowels.*
 Vellicating, *A convulsive Twitching of the Fibres.*
 Vulnerary, *Healing of Wounds.*
 Viscidity, *a thick C'aminefs or Sliminefs.*
 Volatile, *So light and airy, as to be apt to evaporate.*
 Ulcerations, *A Breaking out into Sores.*
 Unctions, *Oily, fat, greasy.*



To the P U B L I C K.

THE Right, Genuine *Tar-Water* is sold at the *Ware-House* behind the *Thatch'd House Tavern* in *St. James's-Street*; at *Mr Amcy's* at *Charing-Cross*; *Mr. Gardner's*, opposite *St. Clement's Church* in the *Strand*; *Mr. Corbett's* in *Fleet-Street*; *Mr. Robinson's* in *Ludgate-Street*; *Mr. Smith's* in *Cannon-Street*; *Mrs. Cooper's* in *Pater-noster Row*; *Mr. Bakewell's* in *Cornhill*; *Mr. Broaders* in *Bury-Street, St. James's*; and, for the *Conveniency of Water-Carriage*, at *Mr. Purnell's* at *Hungerford Stairs*. Price Six-pence a *Quart-Bottle*, seal'd up, with *Directions*.