

Experiments lately made by several eminent physicians [T. Atwood, J. Mackenzie, T. Cameron and J. Wall], on the surprising and terrible effects, of almond-water and black-cherry-water. With The Cherry-planter's queries and objections, relating to those experiments. Containing the learned and facetious arguments, and demonstrations on both sides the question ... / As the same were lately published ... in the Worcester Journal ... To which are added, some letters and verses refused publication.

Contributors

Cherry-planter.
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163
Experiments
made by several
Physicians
on the terrible effects of
Almond-water etc.

Box 57-99

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EXPERIMENTS

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EXPERIMENTS

Lately made by several
EMINENT PHYSICIANS,
ON THE
Surprising and Terrible Effects,
OF
Almond-Water and Black-Cherry-Water.

WITH
The CHERRY-PLANTER'S *Queries* and *Ob-*
jections, relating to those EXPERIMENTS.

CONTAINING
The *learned* and *facetious Arguments*, and *Demon-*
strations on both sides the Question.

ALSO,
The Expostulatory Verses of *Thomas Cherry-Tree* the Elder,
to the Authors of his *Condemnation*.

LIKEWISE,
A DISCOURSE on *Ecclesiasticus* 38. 1. *Honour*
the Physician, with the Honour that is due to him,
because of Necessity, for the Lord hath created him.

As the same were lately Published in several Letters, in-
serted in the *Worcester Journal*; Printed by Stephen
Bryan.

To which are added,
Some LETTERS and VERSES refused Publication.

Est Modus in Rebus.

Hor.

L O N D O N :

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EXPERIMENTS

EMINENT PHYSICIANS

ON THE
Scurvy and Tertiary Effects

OF
Scurvy and Tertiary Effects

WITH
The Cherry-Pit's Secret and Other
Remarks relating to those Experiments.

CONTAINING
The Facts and Reasons, and Divergent
Opinions on the Question.



The Experimental
to the

A DISCOURSE
ON THE SCURVY
AND ITS TERTIARY EFFECTS

As the same were lately published in French, Italian, and
German in the Medical Journals; Printed by S. P. ...

Some Letters and Verses
in Honour of the Author

By ...

LONDON



EXPERIMENTS

O N

ALMOND-WATER, &c.

To the Printer of the Worcester Journal.

S I R,

Worcester, Oct. 11, 1740.

AS it is the Duty of all those who are concern'd in the Practice of Physick, to advertise the Publick, whenever any thing which has been receiv'd into common Use, either as Food, or Medicine, is found to be pernicious; you are desired to insert the following Account of some Experiments which have been lately made at this Place, by Us, who have subscribed our Names hereto.

The surprizing and terrible Effects of the *Laurel-Water*, by which it appears to be one of the most active and violent Poisons yet known, induced Us to make some Experiments on other Simple-Waters, which, from their sensible Qualities, seem'd to be of the same Class with that, though they had not been hitherto suspected of any

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Viru-

Virulency. Our first Trials were upon the Water drawn from *Bitter Almonds*; which being by an almost universal Custom, become a Substitute in the Shops for *Black-Cherry-Water*, We thought it became Us to examine whether that was entirely free from any noxious Qualities. Indeed, we thought we had good Reason to suspect its bad Effects, some amongst Us having seen some Experiments made with the *Chemical Oil* drawn by Distillation from the dried *Almond-Cake*, a few Drops of which would kill a Dog almost instantaneously. And as the *Almond-Water* must have all its Flavour and Taste from this Oil; it seem'd reasonable to conclude, that this Water was a Poison of the same Nature, only a little more diluted. And, indeed, upon Trial, we found that the *Almond-Water* was as fatal, and as speedy in its Effects, as the *Laurel-Water* itself. About two Ounces of it threw a middle-fiz'd Dog into Convulsions as soon as he had swallowed it, and very few, out of several that we tried it upon, survived it above one or two Minutes. In the manner of its Operation it exactly resembled the *Laurel-Water*; occasioning the same Variety of Convulsions as that does. Hence then we had all the Reason in the World to banish this *Succedaneum* from the Shops. But as this Water in Taste, Smell, and all its sensible Qualities, exactly imitates that, for which it is substituted;

we

we thought it still worthy our Enquiry, whether the genuine *Black-Cherry-Water* itself was salutary and innocent or not. To this Purpose, we procured a sufficient Quantity of *Cherry-Stones* (the Flavour of the Water arising entirely from the Kernel) and distilled a Simple Water from them; and this likewise, upon Trial, was found to be endued with the same poisonous Qualities as the former, though in somewhat a less Degree, there being about a double Quantity of this required to produce the same Effects; but in that Quantity the Event was exactly the same as from the *Almond* or *Laurel-Water*.

We thought it therefore incumbent on us to acquaint the Publick with the dangerous Qualities of these Waters, for which there has hitherto been so great a Demand. And that the Experiments we made might stand in the fairer Light, we have subjoined the manner in which the *Almond* and *Black-Cherry-Waters* we made use of were drawn; which was done (by our Direction) by Mr. *Davis*, a very honest and ingenious Apothecary of this Place.

He took one Pound and half of the dried *Almond-Cake*, and adding to it a Quart of Water, drew from it in a Cold-Still, a Quart of *Bitter Almond-Water*.

To fourteen Pound of *Black Cherry-Stones* bruised, he added a Quantity of Water sufficient to prevent burning, (which in this Ex-

periment was about six Gallons) and drew off in a Hot-Still seven Quarts. The first Quart that run he reserved by itself, and with that we made the foregoing Experiments.

*Tho. Atwood,
James Mackenzie,
Tho. Cameron,
John Wall.*

October 31, to November 7.

The PLANTER to Mr. BRYAN.

S I R,

*Thame in Oxfordshire,
Oct. 25, 1740.*

THE Account lately published in your Paper, of the surprizing and terrible Effects of *Black-Cherry-Water*; made me almost resolve to cut down all my *Black-Cherry-Trees* (which are just arrived to their Perfection;) but having considered the Matter a little better, do beg leave by your Means, to lay the following Articles of Enquiry before the learned Publishers, for their Answer; apprehending it will be acceptable to all that traffick in *Black-Cherries*, as well as to

Your Humble Servant,

The PLANTER.

1st, Whether the genuine *Black-Cherry-Water*, ought to be made only from the Pulp of the *Cherry*, or from the *Kernel*, or both?

2^d, Whether the Subject ought or ought not to be fermented, before it is committed to Distillation? And whether the Simple-Water drawn either way, will be equally poisonous?

3^d, Whether the *Cherry-Stones* used in the Experiment were not obtained from the Distillers, after having been infused a considerable Time in Spirits, to make *Black-Cherry-Brandy*?

4th, Whether one Spoonful of right *French Brandy* will not kill a Dog? And whether one Spoonful of the same Brandy, being diluted with two Spoonfuls of Water, and given to three several Dogs, one Spoonful to each, would have the least Effect on any of them?

5th, Whether the most innocent or salutary Fruit, or Vegetable, may not become poisonous by a particular Treatment?

6th, Whether there are not some Roots, Fruits and Vegetables poisonous to Men, which serve for Food or Physick to other Animals, *Et e Converso*?

Lastly, Whether there are not many Animal, and Vegetable Poisons, which, if truly corrected, or exactly dosed, may prove powerful Remedies?

November 7, to 14.

Mr. DAVIS to Mr. BRYAN.

S I R,

AS I apprehend that it is below the Gravity of our Physicians to enter into any Dispute with a Planter who conceals his Name; and as I was employed to distil the Waters used in the Experiments, I shall take upon me for once, to answer his Queries, that your Readers may judge how pertinent and momentous they are,

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

WILLIAM DAVIS.

Query 1st, Whether the genuine *Black-Cherry-Water* ought to be made only from the Pulp of the *Cherry*, or from the *Kernel*, or both?

Answer. The Dispensatory will inform him, that it ought to be made both from the *Pulp* and *Kernel*. A Poison seems to lie in the *Kernel*, though the *Pulp* is harmless. How would the Planter like to breakfast on *Ratsbane* and *Plumb-Gruel*?

2d, Whether the Subject ought or ought not to be fermented, before it is committed to

to Distillation? And whether the Simple-Water drawn either way, will be equally poisonous?

Answer. Hey day! Sure the Planter is no Apothecary. The Dispensatory again will tell him, that the *Black-Cherries* ought not to be fermented, in order to make the Simple-Water. Neither were the *Bitter-Almonds*, nor *Black-Cherry-Stones* fermented, to make the Water used in the Experiments.

3d, Whether the *Cherry-Stones* used in the Experiment, were not obtained from the Distillers, after having been infused a considerable Time in Spirits, to make *Black-Cherry-Brandy*?

Answer. No: Never infused in any Spirits.

4th, Whether one Spoonful of right *French Brandy* will not kill a Dog? And whether one Spoonful of the same *Brandy* being diluted with two Spoonfuls of Water, and given to three several Dogs, one Spoonful to each, would have the least Effect on any of them?

Answer. Our Physicians made no Experiments with *Brandy* at my House; when they do, I shall tell him how many Spoonfuls will kill a Dog.

5th, Whether the most innocent or salutary Fruit, or Vegetable, may not become poisonous by a particular Treatment?

Answer.

Answer. I don't know any innocent or salutary Vegetable, that will become poisonous by a simple Distillation; and that was all the Treatment which the Vegetables used in the Experiments underwent. But supposing the *Bitter-Almond*, and *Black-Cherry-Kernel* harmless, and that the Waters drawn from them become poisonous by Distillation only; is not that poisonous Quality, however acquired, a sufficient Reason for rejecting them?

6th, Whether there are not some Roots, Fruits and Vegetables poisonous to Men, which serve for Food or Physick to other Animals, *Et e Converso*?

Answer. Here the Querist insinuates, that the Waters used in the Experiments might do Men no harm, though they poisoned Dogs. Our Physicians, indeed, carried their Trials no farther than on Dogs; but if the Planter will present himself to me, I am ready to satisfy his Curiosity. But lest the Gentleman should be too forward, as he has given some *Latin* in this Query, I shall attempt a Syllogism. The *Laurel*, *Bitter-Almond*, and *Black-Cherry-Kernel Waters*, poison Dogs in the same manner; but the *Laurel-Water* poisons Men, as well as Dogs: *Ergo*: The *Bitter-Almond*, and *Black-Cherry-Kernel-Waters* may poison Men, as well as Dogs.

Lastly,

Lastly, Whether there are not many Animal, Mineral, and Vegetable Poisons, which, if truly corrected, or exactly dosed, may prove powerful Remedies?

Answer. When the Planter shall teach the World, how the poisonous Waters mentioned in the Experiments, may be corrected, or so exactly dosed, as to become powerful Remedies, it is possible they may again be prescribed: Till then, I hope the Planter will singly enjoy all the Credit and Advantage of using and recommending such Remedies.

As the Planter seems very fond of *Queries*, I'll favour him with a short one.

Query. Whether Roots, and Fruits are not Vegetables?

November 14 to 21.

The PLANTER to Mr. BRYAN,

S I R,

IN your Journal of the 7th Instant, I presented the learned Publishers of the *Experiment on Black-Cherry Water* with a few Questions; in hopes to have that Matter set in a clearer Light, and to prevent (if possible) the Destruction of our Cherry-Trees, or else to convince us that we ought to part with
C them

them chearfully ; and expected a satisfactory Answer on the Subject ; but instead of that I find in your Yesterday's Paper, which I met with (on my Journey) this Morning at *Evenham*, a pretended Answer, (that extorted a Smile from me) signed *William Davis* ; who, if he had not signified the Part he bore in the Experiments, I should (by his Answers and Reasoning) have guess'd him to be a *young Apothecary* ; (there appearing too many Oversight, even at once reading, for a Man of a compassionate Disposition, to take Advantage of) and as such, I may perhaps, at a certain Time, prevail with my Wife's Mother, who is an Apothecary's Widow to reply ; she being a very *honest* and *ingenious* old Woman, has for many Years used to distil *Simple-Waters*, and *dispense* Medicines, but is exceeding cautious in her *Practice*, and will not venture to prescribe so much as a Clyster, without a *Physician's Advice* ; which makes her greatly *esteemed* and much *recommended* by *them*, unto this Day.—If the learned Publishers of the said Experiments, have not *Leisure*, or *Inclination*, to answer me themselves, but will please to *Patronize* any other of Mr. *Davis's Performances*, (for *This* I dare say they will not) I shall then take Notice of them, in a manner suitable to the *Gravity* of the Gentlemen's *Profession* ; (which I take to be the *Gravity* meant by Mr. *Davis*) but that the Publick may not be impos'd upon
by

by any thing that is spurious; I must insist, that these Words be inserted in such Performance.

By the Order of *Tho. Atwood, James Mackenzie, Tho. Cameron, John Wall,* Doctors of Physick; or by other proper Titles;

and conclude thus, DAVIS Assistant.

We shall then see, how much better a Figure this little Gentleman (for I guess at his Size by his Pertness) will make, with *HIPPOCRATES's* Cap on his Head; and shall treat him, after his Advancement to that Dignity, tho' with less Elegance of Style, than the Subject may require; yet with that Freedom and Plainness, as becomes a fair Disputant, and am

Sir,

15th Nov. 1740.

Your humble Servant,

The PLANTER.

Master Bryan,

15 November 1740.

ON reading your News-Paper of yesterday, I find a Question put by Mr. Davis a Potecarrier about Roots, Fruits, and Vegetables; now I being a Gardiner, tho' no Scollard, but willing to let you see I am no Dunse, do here send him an Answer.

Quæſtion, Whether Roots and Frutes are not Vegetables?

Anſer, No; for they are only Parts of Vegetables; but if this Potecarier can tell me of any particular Root, or Fruit, that is a complete Vegetable, I will ſend to Mr. *Millerd*, to put it down in his Book.

Your Servant,

ADAM APPLETREE-ROOT.

November 21 to 28.

Mr. DAVIS to Mr. BRYAN.

S I R,

AS I can't ſuppoſe, that a Perſon of the Planter's great Ingenuity, would ever loſe Sight of his Subject, in any Diſpute; I muſt believe, that his laſt Letter contains a full and ample Proof of the ſalutary Virtues of *Black-Cherry-Water*, tho' it does not ſo readily appear to People of leſs Penetration than himſelf. For the Benefit therefore, of ſuch People and myſelf, I ſhall endeavour to draw his Argument into a narrower Compaſs, that it may have it's full Force, and convince every Body, that the Dogs which died immediately on ſwallowing the *Black-Cherry-Kernel Water*, were not at all the worſe for it.

His

His Argument, when stript of the Wit that darkens it, runs thus: He smiled at *Evesham*, and is of a compassionate Disposition: But there is some Honesty in his Family, on the Wife's Side: *Ergo*, *Black-Cherry-Kernel-Water* is very wholesome, and a powerful Remedy. This, it must be owned, is a very extraordinary Argument; but for that very Reason, it is the best Proof the Planter could give of his great Sagacity and Judgment; for what would ordinary Arguments avail against Matter of Fact? Another Instance for his wonderful Acuteness in Disputation, is his Answer to my Query about Roots, &c. which is so excellent in it's kind, that it deserves to be a little farther illustrated. — Suppose then, that a Physician had prescribed a vegetable Diet, and the Patient should confine himself to roasted Apples; yet according to the Planter, this Patient transgresses Rules, because he does not swallow the Tree. Or, suppose that the Planter should bring his Action against any rude Fellow, for giving him a Kick on the Breech; the Planter, by his own Reasoning, would be cast, by the Fellow's pleading that he did not kick his Ar--e, for it was only a Part of it. But I shall contend no more with this very subtle Gentleman, while he continues in Disguise, and shall only once for all advise him to subscribe his real Name to his next Performance, that the Weight of his

Character

Character may add Force to his Arguments
in Favour of Poison.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

WILLIAM DAVIS.

THOMAS CHERRY-TREE *the Elder, to the*
Authors of his Condemnation.

SINCE you have learnedly decreed,
That I and all my Sons must bleed;
Let me a dying Question ask,
(The Answer's not so hard a Task,)
Why should not Plumb-tree share my Fate?
And rot unpity'd by the Great;
For it's presum'd his Fruit produces,
As poisonous and pernicious Juices.

We hear the young Trees in the Nursery
of the late *Jonathan Minchin*, lately adver-
tised in this Paper, are not yet all dispos'd of.

November

November 28 to December 5.

The PLANTER to Mr. BRYAN.

S I R,

BY your last *Friday's* Paper I find, that Mr. *Davis* is not thought a fit Person to be intrusted with HIPPOCRATES's *Cap*; but instead of that do perceive, he has been presented with another Sort of *Cap*, made with a particular kind of *soft Paper*, which becomes him very well; and shall therefore now pay him my Compliments, as a Person of such Distinction deserves.

As to that Part of his Letter relating to the Experiment on *Black-Cherry-Water* I must be so candid as to admit, he has reduced the Argument to a Point, so exquisitely fine, as not to be discerned; the Style is transcendently sublime; and the Arguments to support the Experiment, are universally allow'd to be *unanswerable*, by reason they surpass all *human Understanding*: So that this *Cap* (tho' of an *inferior Title*, yet being of *greater Antiquity*,) hath performed more than HIPPOCRATES's *Cap* could have done.

It seems Mr. *Davis* has thought proper to remove the Burthen, from off the *Gardener's* Shoulders, and place it on mine; I will endeavour to remove it thence, and defend myself as I can, against one that makes so ungenteel an Attack on my *Back-parts*. He puts the Case thus.

' Suppose

‘ Suppose a Physician had prescribed a vegetable Diet, and the Patient should confine himself to roasted Apples; yet according to the Planter, this Patient transgresses Rules, because he does not swallow the Tree.

‘ Or, suppose that the Planter should bring his Action against any rude Fellow, for giving him a Kick on the Breech; the Planter by his own Reasoning would be cast, by the Fellow’s pleading that he did not kick his A---e, for it was only Part of it.’

The Gardener (whom he calls the Planter) asserted that *Fruits* and *Roots*, were only *Parts* of Vegetables, and not compleat Vegetables; and this will very plainly appear, in the supposed Case; by only making Use of the Word *Food*, instead of the Word *Diet*.

Thus, if vegetable *Food* were prescribed, the Patient would eat only that *Part* of the Vegetable proper for *Food*; not that *Part* proper for *Fuel*; and could never mistake the *Fruit* for the *Wood*, or transgress the Physician’s Rules; unless he meant by the Word *Diet*, that his Patient should swallow the Tree. The Patient would also confine himself to that *Sort* of vegetable *Food* proper for *Men*; unless he should prove to be an *Ass*, for then he would chuse *Thistles*.

As to the other Supposition; I think the Apothecary, who is frequently obliged to stoop to the Ar---e, might have thought on a Case
in

in his own Way ; by supposing the *rude Fellow*, to have thrust his Nose into the *Aperature* ; for this would have distinguish'd the *Part*, and removed the pretended Difficulty in Pleading, beyond the Possibility of a Mistake ; which Gentlemen of this *Cap* are apt to run into.

Having now performed the disagreeable Task of *threshing* so much *Chaff*, and finding no *Light* will be afforded me by the *Publishers* of the *Experiments on Almonds and Black-Cherry-Water* ; I shall now venture to examine into the *Processes*, by comparing them, with what I call the *genuine Processes*.

And first as to the *Almond-Water*.

‘ *Mr. Davis, took 1 Pound and a half of the dried Almond-Cake, and adding to it a Quart of Water, he drew from it, in a cold Still, a Quart of bitter Almond-Water.*’ And with two Ounces thereof killed a Dog.

The *Apothecary's* general Rule (as my Wife's Mother informs me) is to draw 4 Quarts of *Almond-Water* from 4 Ounces of *Almond-Cake*, this just gives an agreeable Flavour to the Water, which is used as a Vehicle. Ergo, *Mr. Davis's* drawing but 1 Quart of Water from 24 Ounces of *Cake*, must make his Water 23 times stronger of the *Kernel*, than that of the *Apothecary's* : And thus render it unfit for use.

Indeed I distrusted whether 1 Quart of Water could be drawn, after the manner of

Mr. *Davis's* Process ; my Wife's Mother tried it for me, and though she could not go thro' the Process for the *Stink*, yet believes the Thing possible to be done, but not without much burning the *Paste* ; (for it will be nearly of that Consistence when committed to the Still) which gives a *nasty, hot, empyreumatick Taste*, to the Water, and greatly enhances the *Malignity* of it. Therefore I do not call this genuine Water.

Now for the *Black-Cherry-Water*.

Mr. *Davis*, to 14 Pounds of *Black-Cherry-Stones bruised*, added a Quantity of Water sufficient to prevent burning, (which in his Experiment was about 6 Gallons) and drew off in a hot Still 7 Quarts ; the first Quart that run he reserved by itself ; and with four Ounces thereof he kill'd a Dog. This he calls the *genuine Black-Cherry-Water*.

The *London Dispensatory* published by the *College of Physicians*, directs the Process thus :

From 12 Pounds of Black-Cherries bruised with the Stones, draw 1 Gallon.

I having no Opportunity of comparing the Difference of Weight between the Cherry and the Cherry-Stone of recent Fruit, was obliged to make use of some *Black-Cherries* which had been infused in Brandy ; but all that would run was pour'd from 'em three Months before : I weigh'd 1 Ounce of these *with the Stones*, and then (after rubbing off all

all the fleshy Part with a dry Cloth) weigh'd the Stones, and found them to be 1 Quarter of an Ounce bare Weight ; so that the *Fruit* was to the *Stone* as 4 to 1.

I therefore think Mr. *Davis's* Process liable to *two Objections* ; the one for *leaving out the Cherry*, and the other for using *too great a Proportion of the Stones*.

As to the *Cherry*, 'tis plain that 3 *Parts* in 4 of the requisite (and 'tis presumed of the best) Ingredients were left out ; for, the Denomination is usually taken from the better or prevailing Part : Therefore *this Black-Cherry-Water cannot be genuine*.

And as to the second, 'tis plain that if 3 *Pounds of Cherry-Stones* are sufficient to *flavour 4 Quarts of Water*, then 14 Pounds of them must make these four Quarts of Water 3 *times and above an half stronger* ; and consequently must make 1 Quart above 17 *times stronger of the Kernel* than it ought to be, and remove it so much further from being *genuine* ; and I believe the *Disproportion* would have appeared to be much greater, had the *Fruit I made use of been fresh gathered*.

That *Brandy* and *Spirit of Wine* are both obtain'd from Vegetables by *simple Distillation* ; and that *Brandy* is not, but that *Spirit of Wine is poisonous to Men*, I think cannot be deny'd ; and therefore Vegetables may become poisonous by such a particular Treatment, tho' Mr. *Davis* knows it not.

The *College Prescription* does neither direct nor forbid *Fermentation* in their Process for *Black-Cherry-Water* ; and as their Dispensatory was published for the Use of Persons suppos'd to be *skill'd in Pharmacy*, therefore they do not descend to every minute Circumstance, but leave this Process as they do others, to be performed *according to Art* ; the present Method of preparing it at the *Apothecary's Hall, London*, is by the Help of *Fermentation* ; and my Mother's Husband always prepared it in that Way, as she tells me : Every common Distiller knows that nothing *spirituous or salutary* can be obtained from *Black-Cherries* by *simple Distillation*, without being previously fermented.

For the Consolation and Benefit therefore of all *Planters, Fathers, Mothers, Midwives, Nurses and Children*, I will here transcribe the Opinion of the celebrated Dr. *Quincy* concerning this useful Vehicle, when made as it ought to be. He says,

The Water from Black-Cherries seems by much the best we have in the Shops, for a Vehicle ; the Kernels give it an agreeable Flavour ; and there is so much of a Spirit in the Juice, as preserves it the Year round, when carefully distill'd, without Decay. Quincy's Dispensatory, 9th Edition, Page 358.

As Mr. *Davis* seems to lay much Stress on the *Weightiness of Names and Characters*, I will in this give him the Turn of the Scale,
to

to help his own *Arguments*, chusing myself to *argue*, rather from *Demonstration* than *Sound*: And shall therefore take leave of the Publick as an Author; and continue to subscribe myself, as before,

Sir,

Thame, 2d Dec.

1740.

Your humble Servant,

The PLANTER.

December 12 to 19.

Mr. TURNOR to Mr. BRYAN.

S I R,

THE Planter having entertain'd your Readers for some time with *such Wit as he could afford*, has at last come to the Point in Dispute; and my Master having determined to contend no longer with *Shadows*, has given me leave to answer him. Had the Planter began where he now concludes, with making Objections to the Waters used in the Experiments, and argued in a Gentleman-like manner, with his Name affix'd to his Performances, it is very probable that the Publishers would either have answered his Objections, or acquiesced in his Demonstration

tion (*as he calls it*) that those Waters are not poisonous.

But instead of treating our Physicians in a candid generous Manner, a *Person noted for Self-sufficiency and Prating* assumes the Name of a Planter, challenges our Doctors to dispute with him, *modestly* asks them how the genuine Black-Cherry-Water ought to be made, that is, whether they could read the *Dispensatory*, bids them tell him whether Brandy would kill a Dog, with several other Queries equally *pertinent* and *edifying*; and notwithstanding such Usage, wonders that they would not answer him. *Risum teneatis?*

But who can express the Indignation of the Planter, when he found his Queries answered by only a plain Apothecary; he presently dropt his Subject to chastise *my Master*, and in his Fury compared him to a very *honest* and *ingenious old Woman*, much esteemed by the Physicians for being exceeding cautious in her Practice. What a sad Character is here! It might be no great Loss to his Neighbours, if the Planter should follow the old Woman's Example.

Perhaps it hurt his *Spleen* that our Physicians call'd Mr. Davis an *honest* and *ingenious Apothecary*: But pray, Sir, does this exclude others from *deserving the same Character*? It is evident that these Words were not intended to depreciate other Apothecaries, but

but to satisfy the Publick that the Experiments were *faithfully* made.

As to the Planter's Animadversions upon my Master's last Letter, I shall easily grant that any *Delicacy* in Wit is above his Comprehension ; but that *his Understanding* should be the *Test of Wit*, I shall never allow.

I now come to that Part of the Planter's last Letter where his great Strength lies, *viz.* his Examination of the Processes by which the Waters used in the Experiments were drawn. After quoting the Process he goes on thus :

‘ The Apothecary's general Rule (as my
‘ Wife's Mother informs me) is to draw 4
‘ Quarts of Almond-Water from 4 Ounces
‘ of Almond-Cake, this just gives an agree-
‘ able Flavour to the Water, which is used
‘ as a Vehicle. *Ergo*, Mr. *Davis's* drawing
‘ but one Quart of Water from 24 Ounces
‘ of Cake, must make his Water 23 times
‘ stronger of the Kernel than that of the
‘ Apothecaries. And thus render it unfit
‘ for Use.’

There is no *general Rule* among the Apothecaries for making Bitter-Almond-Water, for 'tis a *direct Fraud*, and ought not to be made at all. It has indeed been kept by most Apothecaries as a *Substitute* to the Black-Cherry-Water, but every Apothecary made it according to his own Fancy ; and the common Way was to throw some Handfuls of
Almond-

Almond-Cake, *by guess*, into the Still, and draw off some Water, agreeable to the Artist's Palate.

My Curiosity prompted me to make some Bitter-Almond-Water exactly according to the Planter's *Rule of drawing 4 Quarts from 4 Ounces of Cake* : And tho' I never tasted any so weak before that was fresh drawn, yet I cannot call it *wholesome* ; for *ten Ounces of it kill'd an exceeding strong Dog*, in the Presence of three of our Physicians, in less than six Minutes ; and *four Ounces slew a small Dog*, in the Presence of two of our Physicians, *in less than three Minutes*.

N. B. Before the same Gentlemen, two very strong Dogs took the last Running of the Cherry-Stone-Water, which threw them both into Convulsions immediately, and kill'd the one in about a quarter of an Hour, and the other in a few Minutes. As to the Waters used in the Experiments, the Truth is, our Physicians desired my Master to draw the Bitter-Almond-Water *pretty strong*, that the bad Effects of it (in case it had any) should soon appear without Loss of Time ; and he drew but one Quart from 24 Ounces of Cake, because he thought he should not have Occasion for more.

The Planter's Objection to this Process is founded upon a manifest Fallacy, by which he designed rather *to cast a Mist before the Eyes of the Ignorant, than to discover the Truth* ;

Truth ; for he says that *Mr. Davis's drawing but 1 Quart of Water from 24 Ounces of Cake, must make his Water 23 times stronger of the Kernel than the Apothecary's Water* drawn by the Planter's Rule as above. Here he supposes that the Almond-Water used in the Experiments was impregnated with the *whole Virtue* of the 24 Ounces of Cake ; whereas every *Apprentice* in Chemistry can tell him, that after the first Quart was drawn off, the remaining Cake, by a fresh Affusion of common Water, would yield many Quarts of Almond-Water, *full as strong as the first*. The same Fallacy runs through his Examination of the Black-Cherry-Kernel-Water.

The Planter proceeds. ‘ Indeed I distrust whether one Quart of Water could be drawn after the Manner of *Mr. Davis's Process* : My Wife's Mother tried it for me, and though she could not go throughout the Process for the Stink, yet believes the thing possible to be done, but not without much burning the Paste, (for it will be nearly of that Consistence when committed to the Still) which gives a nasty, hot, empyreumatick Taste to the Water, and greatly enhances the Malignity of it. Therefore I do not call this genuine Black-Cherry-Water.’

All the Physicians in Town tasted the Bitter-Almond-Water used in the Experiments, and *know* that it had *no empyreumatick*

Taste : Nay, we could draw the same Quantity of Water from a much *larger Quantity* of Cake, without any such Taste, because we always fill the Bottom of our Still with Water, and cover the Water with a Copper-Plate tinn'd, on which we lay the Cake, so that it cannot *possibly* be burnt. I believe the Planter is a *Stranger* to this Method of Distilling ; for 'tis the Fate of Persons that follow different Employments, never to be expert in any.

The Planter entertains us next with his Examination of the Black-Cherry-Water.

After quoting the Process, *viz.*

‘ Mr. *Davis* to 14 Pounds of Black-Cherry-Stones bruised, added a Quantity of Water sufficient to prevent burning, (which, in his Experiment, was about six Gallons) and drew off in a hot Still seven Quarts ; the first Quart that run he reserv'd by itself, and with four Ounces thereof he kill'd a Dog. This he calls the genuine Black-Cherry-Water.’

Does he so ? I'm sure neither the *Publishers*, nor Mr. *Davis*, ever call'd the Waters used in the Experiments by the Name of the *genuine Black-Cherry-Water* ; and yet the Planter would be affronted if I should call him a *Liar*, for *affirming that they did*. They always distinguished it by the Name of *Black-Cherry-Stone* or *Kernel-Water*, that it should not be confounded with the *genuine Black-Cherry-*

Cherry-Water of the Shops ; and all that our Physicians proposed by publishing the Experiments made with Black-Cherry-Kernel-Water, was to acquaint the Publick that the genuine Black-Cherry-Water is *poisonous in so far as it partakes of the Kernel* ; and they left it to every Man to judge for himself, whether he ought in Conscience to prescribe it or not. For, supposing, as the Planter pretends, that the Flavour of the Kernel was 4 times, or (according to his *wicked Blunder*) 17 times as strong in the Waters used in the Experiments, as it is in the genuine Black-Cherry-Water of the Shops, why should a *Child be made to swallow the seventeenth Part of a Dose of Poison* ?

Let it be granted that 17 Grains of Arsenic are required to kill a Dog, what a Consolation must it be to a Parent, that he need give his Child but one *Grain* !

‘ The Planter affirms that the College
 ‘ Prescription does neither direct or forbid
 ‘ Fermentation in their Process for Black-
 ‘ Cherry-Water ; and that the Method of
 ‘ preparing at the Apothecary’s *Hall, London*,
 ‘ is by the Help of Fermentation.’

The College most certainly intended that the Black-Cherry-Water should be drawn without any *previous Fermentation* ; for as it is ranked in the same Class of Simple Waters with those that are never fermented, such as

Mint-Water, Rose-Water, &c. they would have exprefly ordered us to ferment the Black-Cherries, in cafe they had intended to make that Water an Exception from the reft.

As to the Apothecary's Hall, or common Diffillers, I neither know nor care what they do ; for it is our Bufinefs to prepare Medicines faithfully, according to the *Dispensatory*, and *Physicians Prescriptions* ; and I hope the *Planter* will for the future obferve the fame Rule.

The Paragraph concerning Brandy and Spirit of Wine is foreign to the prefent Difpute, and too trifling to deferve any Answer : For Brandy and Spirit of Wine are not obtained from Vegetables by *simple Diffillation*, i. e. not without a *previous Fermentation*, which gives the Spirit. This Instance therefore is ridiculous : For there is no Analogy betwixt thofe Spirits and the Waters ufed in the Experiments ; which being *unfermented*, had not their natural Qualities at all altered.

And as to his Quotation from Dr. Quincy, it is very true that he fpeaks favourably of the Black-Cherry-Water ; and fo do many more befides him ; but Quincy was a very *honest* as well as a very *ingenious Apothecary*, and, no doubt, would have altered his Opinion, had he been prefent at the Experiments ; but little fhuffling Souls cannot be perfuaded that
it

it is great or noble to acknowledge or retract
any Error.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

WILLIAM N. TURNOR.

N. B. The satyrical, or lampooning Poem,
receiv'd from some unknown Hand, on our
worthy Physicians, the Printer is determin'd
to give no Place in this Paper, not only on
account of its being contrary to the Rules of
good Manners, but also from what is enjoin'd
us by Holy Scripture. See *Ecclus.* xxxviii.

December 19 to 26.

S. R. to Mr. BRYAN.

S I R,

*Your last Paper having Reference to a Text
in the Apocraphy, I turned to the Place,
and could not help collecting together some
scatter'd Thoughts, which occur'd to me on
the Subject of Physick and Physicians, which
I here send you for the Entertainment of
your Readers ; and am,*

Sir,

Your humble Servant,

S. R.

THE

THE Art of Physick seems to take its Rise from the Fall of *Adam*, whose eating the forbidden Fruit brought on him and his Posterity not only the Curse of a spiritual, but also of a temporal Death : From that time the human Body (after a physical Manner) became subject to Decay, and at length to Dissolution.

The Supreme Being having Compassion on the Frailty of human Nature, immediately undertook the Cure of the Soul ; and Self-preservation prompted the Individual to study the Means of prolonging Life ; but as the World became more populous, this Study advanced to a Science, and fell into the Hands of certain learned Persons, stiled Physicians, whose Art, in its full Extent, takes in no less than the whole Compass of Nature.

The Education of a Physician is attended with no small Expence ; but then it is generally bestowed on Gentlemen of plentiful Fortunes, who can very well support it, without being beholden to their Practice. Taking the requisite Degrees may indeed have its political Use, but adds nothing to the Honesty or Skill of a Physician.

The Power of Healing being thus dignify'd and extensive, no wonder that the wise Man should enjoin us to *honour the Physician with the Honour that is due unto him, because*
we

we may have Need of him, for the Lord hath created Him. (1)

Our blessed Saviour's whole Life was one continued Scene of Charity and good Works, both to the Souls and Bodies of Men; he came to seek and to save, to find proper Objects, both of his Goodness and Power.

Now the Qualifications that will entitle him to this *Honour* as a *Debt*, are first, an Ability; and secondly, an hearty Endeavour to heal the Bodies of Men; those who can afford it, at a moderate Expence; and those in low Circumstances, without any Expence at all. The Method in *Holland* is well worthy Imitation, where the Physician has a certain and very moderate Fee whenever he is sent for; but in some Places in *England* it frequently happens, that the Patient suffers more by the Expence of a Cure, than by the Severity of the Distemper; and Multitudes chuse rather to trust Nature alone, than call in the timely Assistance of a Physician.

I shall here beg leave to point out some of the Methods, by which I apprehend this *Honour* may be either lessened, and by degrees lost, or preserv'd and encreas'd. Thus:

If a Physician happens to have too quick a Sense of a real or suppos'd Injury or Indignity, this may prove very fatal to the Patient, and especially in case of a Consultation; where the not being first sent for, the meeting with

(1) *Ecclus.* xxxviii. 1.

some little Contradiction, the Mistake of a Servant, or perhaps the Omission of a Fee, may cost the Patient his Life. And this Dr. Garth seems to take Notice of in his *Dispensary Poem*, where, in giving a Description of the Engravings on *Querpo's* Shield, he has these Words ;

*The Artist too exprest the solemn State
Of grave Physicians, at a Consult met ;
About each Symptom how they disagree,
But how unanimous, in case of Fee.*

Or if a Physician should form Schemes to distribute his Bills within certain Limits, and encourage and promote the Business of a favourite Apothecary, or of those only within a Circle of his own making, to the utter Exclusion, and perhaps Ruin of others equally deserving ; and in order to this should dictate unto, or even use his Interest with a Patient to leave his old Apothecary, and employ one of the Physician's recommending, this may give reason to suspect an Understanding between them ; besides, it is breaking in upon that natural and acquired Interest which every one has obtain'd in Business ; and consequently must bring Discredit on the Practitioner in particular, and on the Practice in general. It is a common Saying, That a good Opinion is half a Cure ; 'tis therefore not only unjust to others, but also cruel to put a Patient under the Difficulty and Uneasiness,

finess, either of going against the Bent of his own Inclination, or of disobliging the Physician into whose hands he has committed himself ; hard must be the Struggle between Liberty and Restraint at such a time : Such unfortunate Patients may be compared to the poor Woman in the Gospel, *who suffered many things of the Physicians, and spent all she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse* (1). Such Methods as these must needs make the Art of Physick to languish, diminish the Honour justly due to a faithful Physician, and stir up that just Resentment and Contempt, which Dr. Garth represents arising in the Goddess of Health, to see,

“ *How sickning Physick hangs her pensive*
 “ *Head,*
 “ *And what was once a Science, now's a*
 “ *Trade :*
 “ *Her Sons ne'er rifle her mysterious Store,*
 “ *But study Nature less, and Lucre more.*

The Means therefore to preserve and encrease this Honour of a Physician, must be a quite contrary Temper and Behaviour ; the wisest of Men tells us, that *before Honour is Humility* (2), this will take off the Edge of our Resentment, and open our Eyes to see our own Failings, as well as our Neighbours.

(1) Mark v. 16.

(2) Prov. xv. 33.

St. Peter warns us *against being exercised with covetous Practices* (1); and St. Luke cautions us *to take heed and beware of Covetousness* (2). This will of course wean us from that Partiality which a covetous Disposition is naturally prone to. These two important Points gain'd, will be a Means to uncramp and open the Mind, enlarge the Understanding, and put it on studying the Art of Healing, as a thing distinct from Self-Interest. It will put a Physician on visiting the Poor, not only for a time, to get Practice and Experience, but for a continuance, after these are attain'd : And thus, by the Divine Assistance, always accompanying such honest and laudable Endeavours, I am persuaded that a greater Progress in Knowledge, and a larger Accumulation of Honour, and even Profit, may be made in one Year, than can be obtain'd in many Years without it. *This is the Physician whom the Lord hath created to be a Blessing to Men, and to be had in Honour by them.*

I would not, by any thing before said, be construed to depreciate or undervalue our worthy Physicians, some of whom I know to be of long standing, and of great Ability and Reputation ; and believe they would scorn, knowingly or designedly, to engage in any Measures which tend to the lessening

(1) 2 Pet. ii. 14.

(2) Luke xii. 15.

or dishonouring this Noble, and almost *Divine Art*.

N. B. The Planter's Answer to Mr. *Turnor's* Letter, may be expected in our next.

January 9 to 16.

The PLANTER to Mr. BRYAN

S I R,

WHEN a Person has taken a formal Leave, he ought to assign some Reasons for his return to the Publick: And what better Reason can be given, than his being called back again by those who occasion'd his appearing at first, to answer the Imputation of *Blundering* and *Falseness*. This happens to be my Case, with respect to the Processes on *Almond* and *Black-Cherry-Water*, inserted in your Journal of the 24th of *October* last.

My Property being concern'd, I propos'd some suitable *Questions* for better Information, and treated the Subject with a Deference due to Physicians. But seeing these *two Processes* are endeavour'd to be supported and defended by such *extraordinary Methods*, I can now no longer smother my Sentiments, or help looking on them otherwise than as a couple

of *illegitimate Children*, wandering from place to place, deserted by their *Parents*; — who, tho' they might have a *natural Fondness* for them at their first Appearance, and acknowledge them for their own, yet when the *Brats* meet with a cold Reception, or become the Subjects of *Mirth* and *Banter* abroad, then they must undergo the common Fate, of being at least tacitely *disown'd* by their *natural Parents*, who themselves now seem to look ascew at them, and take no care for their Support, but yet do, underhand and privately, contribute all that can be afforded to their *Maintenance*, tho' it be in a very frugal Manner. These *two Children* (for I call them such, the Brain having its Issue as well as the Body) were first set to be nursed by Mr. *Davis*, a very *honest* and *ingenious* Apothecary of *Worcester*, who nursed them about three Weeks, till he was quite weary, and his Friends asham'd; he has therefore now committed them, Cradle and all, into the hands of his Apprentice, Mr. *W. N. Turnor*; who, tho' but a Youth, yet being of a vigorous Constitution, has given ample Proofs of his *Ingenuity* and *Ability*, and may now emphatically be called a *nursing Father*. If it should happen to be beneath the *Gravity* of Mr. *Turnor* to dandle these Children till they can stand on their Feet (for they are very backward,) tis hard to say what *Turn* they will take next; but, without the Spirit of Prophecy, it is
easy

easy to foresee they will drop to the Parish at last, unless the Parents think fit to take them home to themselves.

The *real Author* of the Letters subscribed by Mr. *Davis* and Mr. *Turnor* is no Secret ; it is the same *logical Gentleman* who set out with an *innocent Heydey !* proceeded next to an *angry Kick on the Breech*, now ends with bestowing on me the *decent Appellation of a Liar*, and requires me to subscribe my *real Name*, and argue with him like a *Gentleman*, *Risum Teneatis !* I shall therefore for the future, occasionally distinguish this *Gentleman* by the Name of the *Letter-writer*, whose Arrows, tho' seemingly dipt in the *Bitter-Water*, have no Effect for want of Aim : were I dispos'd to be *personal* towards him, *Materials* are not wanting, and that he will know, if I but perceive them to glance.

The *Letter-Writer*, conscious of having offered an imply'd Injury to others, in distinguishing and exalting the *single Character of Mr. Davis*, has in one Part of his Letter (of his own accord, without being called upon) been so gracious and condescending as to acknowledge that there are in your City *more honest and ingenious Apothecaries*. But the rest of his Letter abounding with *Crudities*, must be imputed to his having lately been obliged to swallow too plentiful a Meal of *Roots, Fruits, and Vegetables* ; which, it seems, are not as yet digested.

Mr.

Mr. *Turnor* tells us, that his Master being determined to contend no longer with *Shadows*, i. e. to take a great deal of Pains, for no other Purpose than to become a *Jest*, has given him leave to take his Place ; and then proceeds to shew wherein his great Weakness lies.

And first, as to the *Almond-Water*, he tells us, “ there is no general Rule among the
 “ Apothecaries for making *Bitter-Almond-*
 “ *Water* : For it is a direct Fraud, and ought
 “ not to be made at all ; [with which I entirely agree] “ but that the common way was
 “ to throw some Handfuls of Almond-Cake,
 “ by guess, into the Still.” [This I deny.]

I am not for encouraging any Frauds, (tho' innocent) but believe Mr. *Turnor* or his Master will not deny they have made some hundred Gallons of this *Almond-Water*, and sold and used it as *Black-Cherry-Water*, without poisoning any One ; that it would much lessen the *Apparatus* in his Shop, were there nothing but genuine *Drugs*, and that it would put them frequently to their Shifts, were they not in some Cases to use Substitutes. My Wife's Mother tells me, her Husband never made this Water by guess, nor did any of the Trade she ever knew in 40 Years Practice, but always made it by the Rule of four Ounces to the Gallon : So that if any ill Effects should at any time happen, it must be from this random or guess-work
 Manner

Manner of preparing ; for she assures me, that to her own Knowledge, no less than a Quart, or 32 Ounces of it, has been taken by a single Person in 12 Hours time, without any apparent Inconvenience, altho' Mr. *Turnor* says he kill'd a very strong Dog in less than *six Minutes with 10 Ounces of it*. So that (tho' this is a large Dose to be taken in six Minutes time) if it proves any thing, it amounts to no more than an Answer to the Converse of my 6th Query, 'Whether that which is
' poisonous to some Animals, may not serve
' for Food or Physick to Men?' The *Letter-Writer* next proceeds to shew the Fallacy of my Assertion, 'that Mr. *Davis's* drawing but
' one Quart of Water from 24 Ounces of
' Cake, must make his Water 23 times
' stronger of the Kernel than the Apothecary's
' Water drawn after the Proportion of four
' Ounces to the Gallon ;' and builds his Reasoning upon a *Supposition* I never made, or so much as imagin'd, *viz.* that the *Almond-Water* used in the Experiments was impregnated with the *whole Virtue of the 24 Ounces of Cake*. For, thus :

If four Ounces of the Cake will impregnate one Gallon of common Water with its Virtue, to a *certain determinate Degree or Strength*, as the Apothecaries used to make it, after this is poured off, the Remains will yet impregnate the like Quantity of common Water with its Virtue, *to a certain determinate Degree,*

Degree, but far *weaker*, and *less* than the former : Now therefore 24 Ounces of this Cake treated in like manner with *one Quart of Water*, must consequently impregnate the *first Quart of Water* with its Virtue, to a certain determinate Degree or Strength, 23 times more or greater than the *first Quart of Water* drawn from one Ounce of Cake ; and will afterwards, notwithstanding, on the Affusion of more common Water, impregnate the same with the Remains of its Virtue. And this every *Coffee-drinker* is capable of demonstrating.

But this Assertion of the *Letter-Writer's*, as it may proceed from Inadvertency or Inattention, is more excusable than what he charges me with in the next Paragraph ; where, after repeating some of my Objections to the Process on *Almond-Water*, which concludes thus, ‘ therefore I do not call this *genuine Water*,’ he, pretending to cite my very Words, expresses it thus, ‘ therefore I do not call this *genuine Black-Cherry-Water*.’ Every one that reads my last Letter, in your Paper of the 5th of *December*, will disprove this Quotation, and call it not only a Blunder, because it is false ; but also a *wicked Blunder*, because *designedly false*.

The *Letter-Writer* next proceeds to give a Description of the Method Mr. *Davis* took in drawing the *Almond-Water*, by the help of a Still contriv'd to work with *Water underneath*,

neath, in the manner of a Balneum Vaporis ; which, in the Process, was fallaciously call'd a cold Still ; and even makes this an Occasion to extol Mr. Davis's Ingenuity for imposing on the Physicians, and dealing so disingenuous with their Readers, by casting this Mist before their Eyes.

The *Letter-Writer* finding the Waters too strong for him, is with much Reluctance brought to acknowledge the *Truth* thro' the Mouth of Mr. *Turnor*, thus ; ‘ The Truth is, the Physicians desired my Master to draw the *Bitter-Almond-Water* pretty strong, i. e. 23 times stronger than usual ;’ and gives this admirable Reason for it, ‘ that the bad Effects of it should soon appear, without Loss of Time ;’ which amounts to the same as if an Experiment were to be made with *Brandy*, and a Man should be obliged to swallow a Glass of *Spirit of Wine* instead of a Glass of *Brandy*, that the bad Effects of it might soon appear without Loss of Time. It is indeed asserted by the *Letter-Writer*, that there is no Analogy between *Brandy* and *Simple-Waters* ; because the former proceed from *Fermentation*, but the Ingredients of the latter ought not be *previously fermented*. I will therefore endeavour once more to clear his Eye-sight by the Help of one indisputable Authority, tho’ there are many might be produced to the same Purpose. The great *Boerhaave*, in his

new Method of Chemistry, (translated by Dr. Shaw, and illustrated with his Notes) under the chemical History of *distill'd Waters*, after delivering the Process on recent Vegetables *without a previous Fermentation*, he proceeds to the *Process on them with a previous Fermentation*; and Page 58 he tells us, that the Waters drawn after such *Fermentation*, are much better fitted for keeping than those drawn *unfermented*, and will long continue good and perfect, even for seven or eight Years; and that, because the SPIRIT in them prevents their corrupting and growing mothery.

Now it is well known, that the *Fruit* and *Seed* is of a more compact and elaborate Contexture than either the *Leaf* or *Blossom* of a Vegetable, and contains a more fix'd Oyl than these; and must therefore be broken by Fermentation, before they yield forth their Virtues in Distillation. And Dr. Shaw, in his Notes, Page 59, justly observes, ' That
' the whole Art of Pharmacy consists in
' treating the *Materia Medica* in a manner
' suitable to every Subject, so as to gain from
' it the Parts and Virtues that are wanting;
' and that it is a Jest for any one to set about
' writing *Parmacopæias*, or even *extemporaneous Prescriptions*, before he is Master of
' so much Knowledge; and by so doing
' shall only expose himself to the Laughter of
' such as are Judges in this Way.'

The *Letter-Writer* having now, as he thinks, pav'd the Way for an easy Admission, advances boldly to the *Black-Cherry-Water Process*, which he will not allow to be 17 times as strong as the *genuine Black-Cherry-Water* of the Shops, for the Reasons before given and refuted concerning the *Almond-Water*, and calls it a *wicked Blunder*; but finding the Word *GENUINE* to stare him too strong in the Face, he flatly denies that he ever call'd the *Black-Cherry-Water* of his Process, by the Name of *genuine Black-Cherry-Water*; and in his Wrath says, I should be affronted if he should call me a *Liar* for affirming he did; thereby reducing himself under the Dilemma of acknowledging, either, *that he did not thereby intend to make the genuine Black-Cherry-Water*; or else, if he did, *that he has erred preposterously in his Process*. I shall therefore only recite his own Words in the *Worcester Journal* of the 24th of *October* last, and leave my Readers to construe them as they please: Where, after telling us that the *Almond-Water* (*not his Almond-Water*) was, by an almost universal Custom, become a Substitute in the Shops for *Black-Cherry-Water*, he proceeds in these Words.

‘ But as this Water, in Taste, Smell, and
 ‘ all its sensible Qualities, exactly imitates
 ‘ that for which it is substituted, we thought

‘ it still more worthy our Enquiry, whether
 ‘ the *GENUINE Black-Cherry-Water* it-
 ‘ self was salutary and innocent or not ;’
 and then tells us the Effect of it, and sets
 down the Process. Can Words be framed
 stronger to express the Writer’s Meaning, the
GENUINE Black Cherry-Water ? Or
 can they be more delusively apply’d, if he
 had no such Meaning ? — Mr. *Turnor*
 (speaking magisterially) says, he cares not
 what they do at Apothecaries-Hall, or I sup-
 pose at the College, *i. e. how Medicines are*
prepar’d at these Places ; but says, it is their
 Business to prepare Medicines faithfully, ac-
 cording to the *Dispensatory* and *Physicians*
Prescriptions : But how can one Man in this
 Case serve two such contrary Masters at one
 and the same time ; he must either adhere
 to the *Dispensatory* and disobey the *Physicians*,
 or adhere to the *Physicians* and disobey the
Dispensatory ; he cannot serve *Truth* and
Falsehood.

The *Letter-Writer*, when he speaks of
Poisons, turns them all into *Arsenic*, which
 he thinks is an Instance sufficient for his Pur-
 pose ; but how many Poisons are there, that
 are not absolutely such ? being only so when
 taken to a certain *Degree*, or under certain
Circumstances ; thus *Elaterium*, *Scammony*,
Gamboge, and *Opium*, may prove highly ser-
 vicable in a very *small Dose*, where the

Quan-

Quantity of 17 Grains, or even seven Grains, may prove mortal.

In like manner the *Black-Cherry-Water*, made according to the Dispensatory, tho' taken in large Quantities, may prove *salutary* or *innocent* ; yet the *Black-Cherry-Water* (or Kernel-Water as it is now call'd) as drawn by Mr. *Davis*, may prove *poisonous*, even in a *small Quantity* ; but as the learned Dr. *Mead*, in his curious *Treatise on Poisons*, Page 137, says, 'It is not worth Notice to dispute how far Poisons are medicinal, since it is notorious enough that Medicines do sometimes prove Poisons.' To which I shall beg leave to add, 'and may at any time be converted into Poisons by a particular Treatment.'

As to Mr. *Davis's* and his Apprentice's Experiments made before the *Physicians*, of killing exceeding strong Dogs, and slaying small Dogs, i. e. exceeding weak Dogs, it is time enough to take Notice of these Experiments, when the *Physicians* think them worthy exhibiting to the Publick.

And having now gone thro' the *Letter-Writer's* Defence, I shall conclude with him, 'That little shuffling Souls cannot be persuaded it is great or noble to acknowledge or retract an Error ;' and therefore I hope he will take Opportunity of giving the World a Proof of the *Greatness and Steadiness of his Soul*, by ingenuously acknowledging

ledging himself to be either *convinced* or *persuaded* that he is in the Wrong.

Your humble Servant,

The PLANTER.

The Planter being streightned for time, could not revise this Paper before it went to the Press, and therefore did send after it some few Errata of his own, and the Printer's ; which occasion'd the under-written Errata and N. B. to be inserted as from the Printer.

Errata. In the 3d Line of the Planter's Letter, *for*, to assign some Reason to the Publick, *read*, to assign some Reason for his Return to the Publick. Line 51, of the same Column, *for*, bestowing one the decent, *read*, for bestowing on me the decent.

N. B. The Planter, since his sending to the Printer this long Answer to that of Mr. Turnor, (or the *Letter-Writer*, as he stiles him) has sent two Letters more, the one containing no less than 19 Alterations and Additions to this his long Answer : The other Letter contains Erratas, *viz.* Column 2, Lines 51, 52, 54, *for* Gallon, *read* Quart. Lines 54, 55, *instead of*, from the four Ounces of Cake, as before-mention'd, *read*, from one Ounce of Cake.

But

But as the Words, *Gallons*, are no Mistakes of the Printer, but were mentioned in the said several Lines in his written Letter, as well as the four Ounces of Cake, it either looks as if Mr. *Davis* or Mr. *Turnor* has followed him so close, as to confound him to such a degree that he knows not what he writes ; or that his Instructress (*his Wife's Mother*) is got so far in her Dotage, that she knows not what she says ; wherefore the Printer hopes they'll not think it worth their while to make any farther Replies to this restless Disputant, especially since he still continues in Obscurity, refusing to subscribe his real Name, notwithstanding so often required.

January 31, 1740.

To the Printer of the Gloucester Journal.

S I R,

I Suppose you are no Stranger to what has of late passed in the *Worcester Journal*, printed by *Stephen Bryan*, for and against the Use of the genuine *Black-Cherry-Water*, and whether it hath *surprising and terrible Effects*, so as to kill almost instantaneously, as the *Worcester Physicians* have published in the
same

same Paper of the 24th of *October* last ; or whether it is *safe and innocent*, as I (the *Black-Cherry Planter*) have asserted. It being thus my Lot to be engaged in a Dispute with the *Physicians*, they have hitherto been pleased to answer me in the Names of *Wm. Davis*, a plain Apothecary of this Place, and *W. N. Turnor*, his plain, but master-like and scurrilous Apprentice ; but the Physicians have declin'd answering me as from themselves, on pretence of not subscribing my Name.

To remove this frivolous Excuse, and prevent the Dirt I perceiv'd was raking up from falling on any but myself, I sent the under-written Letter to Mr. *Bryan*, to be inserted in his last *Thursday's* Journal of the 29th instant ; which he has, for *weighty Reasons*, totally suppress'd. I therefore request the Favour of your Paper to do me that Justice his denies. At the same time, not to be ungrateful, I here thank him for appointing the two above-nam'd Persons to be my Attendants, which he very properly placed (almost breathless) behind me. They have, 'tis true, with great Labour, acquired the Reputation of *two celebrated Zanies*, by acting the Part appointed them by the *young Gentlemen* behind the Curtain, yet are both very awkward and raw in Things solid, and make a very odd Figure in the Eye of a Man of common Sense. I therefore promise, if they become

honest

honest and *ingenious* in my Service, and continue *tractable*, so as to leap over a Stick at the Word of Command; I will then promote them, and bestow on each of them a *new Livery*, with a laced Cap and Shoulder-Knot, instead of the *Party-colour'd Patch-work Garment*, (bestowed on them by the above Gentleman) which they now wear. I hope I shall be able to teach them better *Manners*, and *Language*; and to perceive, that there is a *real difference* between *black and white*, and between simple Waters, that are *genuine*, and those that are *not genuine*.

I likewise design Mr. B-----n the Present of a handsome *Badge* for his Back, made of the best burnished *Saturnine Metal*, having in relievo thereon the Figure of a miserable looking old Wretch, with a piece of Gold in his right Hand, and a Looking-glass in the left; and encompassed with this Motto, *Shew me a Teague, I will shew you a K-----*.

My Letter to the Printer of the *Worcester Journal*, was as under.

S I R,

THE expectation you gave of publishing my last Letter, and deferring it for three Weeks together, occasioned the making some few immaterial Alterations, which you have greatly magnified, and are therefore at liberty to print the Letters you mention;

H

you

you might at the same time have thanked me for correcting *your Errors*, whose Province was only to *Copy*.

Tho' a mere Name is an idle Thing, yet if the *Physicians* themselves require mine, I will oblige them therewith; who am till then

Your humble Servant,

27 *January*,
1740.

The PLANTER.

P. S. When you have shewn this (as it seems you did my last) to the Gentleman that added the *N. B.* 'tis probable he may prevail with you *to suppress it*; but the Truth will come out, on Paper, Post, or Wall.

N. B. These two last Letters were suppress.

January 23 to 30.

Mr. TURNOR to Mr. BRYAN.

S I R,

IT is obvious to the rational and unprejudiced Part of your Readers, that our Physicians could have no private View, in describing a Dispensatory Water, agreeable in its Taste and Flavour to many, and which they had often prescribed before they knew the bad Effects of it: But after those bad Effects were once discovered, how could they in Honour or Conscience conceal them, and there-

thereby become accessary to the Death of such as might be destroyed by them ?

It is also manifest, that the Bitter-Almond, and Black-Cherry-Kernel-Waters, whether they are strong, according to my Master's Processes, or weak, according to the Planter's Rule, are *always poisonous*, and consequently *never to be trusted in any Form*. Nor is it less evident, that the common Black-Cherry Water is *greatly to be suspected of Poison*, in as much as it partakes of the Kernel.

It is likewise Matter of Fact, that the *poisonous Quality* of the Laurel-water, was discovered by its killing two *Women*, who drank each a Glass of it, tho' afterwards it was found to kill Dogs also. See *Philos. Transact.* N^o. 418. Now the Bitter-Almond and Black-Cherry-Kernel Waters, having exactly the same *Taste and Smell* with the Laurel-water (which put our Physicians on making the Experiments) and having poisoned *Dogs*, in the same Manner with the Laurel-water; is it not reasonable to conclude, that they would poison *Men* also ?

But if in spite of *Reason and Experiment*, there be still among your Readers, some who think the Waters in dispute *innocent or salutary*; the Planter shall, if he pleases, erect his Stage, harangue his Mob, and dispense his *Favourite Liquor*, without any Interruption from me for the future; for when a Man has great *Assurance*, little *Business*, and *just a smattering of Letters*, like the Planter, which

makes him (to use *Rocheſter's* Phraſe) *have Need to write*, there will be no End of his Impertinence. All I ſhall deſire is, that when this Gentleman mounts his *Theatre*, the firſt Experiment may be made upon himſelf.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

W. N. TURNOR.

N.B. The Planter ſeems to have been put to Shifts for Matter to fill up his long Letter, when he lays hold of what muſt appear to every one, to be only a meer Slip of my Pen, or of the Preſs; I mean, my inserting the Words *Black-Cherry-Water*, after the Proceſs for *Almond-Water*. But as every candid Reader will readily perceive the Cauſe of this, and the like Errors, I ſhall not trouble you with a long Sheet of *Errata* about them.

January 30. to Feb. 6.

To the Printer of the Worceſter Journal.

S I R,

WHEN a Gentleman has been regularly bred to a Profeſſion, and has for ſeveral Years dedicated his Time and Attention to it; it is ſcarce poſſible but he muſt underſtand it better than any other Man, who has neither been inſtructed nor employ'd in it,

it. Thus much, I believe, will be granted by all Men of Sense or Modesty. But your Correspondent the Planter, it seems, is of another way of Thinking: for without the least Pretence to Education or Learning, he takes upon him to contradict your Physicians in a *Point of their own Profession*, and modestly assures the Publick, that he knows more of the Matter than all of them put together. He pretends, indeed, that his Property is concern'd, and he must defend it at any *Rate*. It may be so, and it must be own'd, that the Physicians have no such *Plea*, nor any *private View*: but might not the Mistress of a Gin-shop, with equal Justice exclaim against the Physicians for cautioning her Customers against Drunkenness? Her Property, like the Planters, arises from Persons *poisoning themselves with her Liquors*. Nay, but my Waters are not poisonous, says the Planter; he gives us not only his own Word, but his Mother's, that they are very wholesome. Moreover, he quotes Dr. Quincy, who has been *dead these twenty Years*, and affirms, with great Truth, that he also speaks well of the Waters in Question, and that the Experiments which were publish'd *last Autumn*, have not made the Doctor to alter his Opinion in the least. He squeezes his Brain, for the best of his Wit to divert the Mob, that his Packets may sell the better; and to shew his Breeding, produces a Quotation out of *Shaw's Translation of Boerhaave's Chemistry*,
tho'

tho' it happens unfortunately to be nothing to the Purpose.

But the most artful Thing of all is the unmerciful Length of his Harangue. He might be very certain that no Man would ever answer it; for human Patience is not sufficient for the Drudgery of going thro' such a confused Heap of Absurdity and Impertinence.

But to cut this Gentleman off short, who grows so much upon us in Length every Fortnight, there needs no more than fairly to state this Dispute in its true Light, which Mr. *Davis* and Mr. *Turnor* seem to have omitted; and then leave it to the Decision of the Publick, whom it chiefly concerns. The true Point in Debate then is, *Whether this single Planter knows better than all your Physicians, what is wholesome or unwholesome in Medicines?* If he really does, let him speak out at once, and convince the People that your Physicians know nothing of their Business; and that *He alone, without Parts or Learning*, can best direct them how to preserve or regain Health. I only beg, that when he has gain'd his Point, he would be so good as to acquaint us with his real Name and Place of Abode, that we may know where to apply for the best Advice. And for his Encouragement, I will take upon me to promise him, that this Scheme (if he can bring it to bear) will turn to much better Account than his selling Cherries, or writing foolish

foolish Letters, or any other Business he ever had in his Life.

*I am, Sir,
Your most humble Servant,*

Bewdley, January,

B. T.

24, 1740-1.

Thame, 9th March, 1740.

To the Printer of the Gloucester Journal.

S I R,

MY last Letter to you, being meer Matter of Complaint, I suppose was the Reason you did not insert it in your Journal; and therefore, have here drawn up the whole Controversy, in a short Compass; that your Readers may be able, at one View, to form a Judgment, of the Matter in dispute; concerning the Experiments lately made on *Almond-Water*, and *Black-Cherry-Water*, (so call'd) by the *Worcester* Physicians; which they publish'd in the *Worcester Journal*.

It seems these Gentlemen were induced to advertise the Publick, against the use of these Simple Waters, which they pronounced to be *active* and *violent Poisons*; from the *Analogy* they bore to the *Laurel Water*, never used in Medicine, mentioned in *Phil. Trans.* N^o. 418. which kill'd two Women at *Dublin*, that drank each a Glass of it.

The

The Process, by which that Water was made, is no where exhibited, as I can find ; but it seems to have been made, as *strong as possible* ; because, although, they there used it *frequently*, yet they used it but *sparingly* ; just to give a Flavour to their Creams, and Puddings, and sometimes to relish a Dram ; and tho' it had been many Years in use, at *Dublin*, yet no inconvenience ever appeared ; till taking the above Quantity, discovered the Dangerousness of it : which was a sufficient Reason, for the Physicians *there*, to give publick Warning, against the use of a Liquor, in which, so *small an Error* might prove mortal.

Now, the *Almond-Water*, being only used as a *Succedaneum* to the *GENUINE Black-Cherry-Water*, I shall confine my self to the latter ; as order'd to be made by the *College of Physicians, in London* ; thus,

From 12 Pounds of Black Cherries bruised, with the Stones, draw 1 Gallon. By which Process, 'tis impossible the Water should taste *strong of the Kernel* ; for it will be but just flavour'd therewith.

Whereas the Waters drawn for the mention'd Experiments, were utterly deprived, of receiving any Benefit from the *Juice* ; it being drawn from the *bruised Stones, without the Fruit* ; and that *17 times stronger of the Kernel*, than the Process directs ; as I have before proved ; besides the *Pulp to the Stone*, (as I have before shewn) is as 3 to 4 ; but the
Pulp

Pulp to the Kernel, as I have since examined, appears to be as 17 to 18, or thereabout; so that no less than 17 Parts in 18, of the necessary, and 'tis presum'd, of the best Ingredients, were *left out* of the Process; and with about 4 Ounces of this Water, thus drawn, they kill'd a Dog. Which *excessive Strength of the Kernel*, and *great Retrenchment of the Fruit*, I thought to be a sufficient Objection to the Experiments; yet being desirous to satisfy my self farther, I caused a middle sized Dog, to be confined from Liquids, and fed him with dry Meat till he was very thirsty; and then offered him some of the *Genuine Black-Cherry-Water*, (made by Fermentation) taken from a known Quantity, a little sweetned with Sugar; which he lapped freely, and by weighing the remainder, I found, the Dog had swallow'd 12 Ounces of it. I also caused another middle sized Dog to be confined, and when he was quite hungry, I fed him with Bread soaked in the *Genuine Black-Cherry-Water*; and on weighing the Bread and Water (separately) which was left, I found, he had swallowed 16 Ounces of Bread, which had soak'd up 20 Ounces of the Water. Neither of these Dogs have since shewn any the least Sign of Uneasiness; but continued, and are at this time to all appearance, *as brisk and lively* as ever.

But as to the *Almond-Water*, (if it were allow'd to be used) yet, the random Way of making it by Mr. Davis's Apprentice, and such giddy Youths, as make *Rochester* their

chief Study, may probably do harm, and afford a Caution, against the use of it.

I shall pass over that weak Objection, which has been so much rely'd on ; that a *Poison lies in the Kernel* ; and therefore, the *Genuine Black-Cherry-Water* itself, so far as it partakes of the *Kernels*, must be *poisonous* ; with only observing, that if this Argument holds, then the *Black Cherries*, eaten with their *Kernels*, and all Medicines that partake of *Opium*, *Helebore*, *Mercury*, &c. (which latter are class'd among Poisons) must be also *Poisonous* ; than which, nothing can be more ridiculous, because every Day's Experience evinces the contrary.

I shall likewise overlook the *Oprobrium*, that was intended me, by the *infallible Gentleman* (so *universally Learned*, and of such *extensive Parts*) who has hitherto been the only Person, that has wrote in Defence of the Experiments ; in so many different Disguises, and under the *borrowed Names and Characters*, of no less than 4 different Persons ; and do give him this friendly Caution, (since himself attributes the many Falsities and Absurdities which appear in his Defence, to his *slippery Pen*) that he would use a more *steady Pen* for the future ; because a *slippery Pen* in the Hand of a Physician, may prove as dangerous a Weapon, as a *Paralytic Lancet*, in the Hand of a Surgeon.

Having an aversion to all *Cant Patriotism*, in every Shape ; I shall frankly acknowledge

myself concern'd. in Point of *Interest*, to support the *Black-Cherry Tree* : Yet if it can be made appear, that the *Simple-Water* I contend for, in the moderate, and proper Use of it, (for there is no Danger of its being drank to *Excess*, or as a *Cordial*) ever *killed*, or so much as *endangered the Life* of any one Person or Brute (which is more than can be said of many celebrated Medicines,) no one shall sooner subscribe, to the rooting all those Trees out of the Nation, than my self.

But when a Person *solicitously* endeavours to persuade People, that all his Studies are directed for the sole Good of others, *exclusive of Self*; it ever creates a Suspicion, and puts me in mind of a suitable Reply, made by an honest substantial Farmer, (a Neighbour of mine) to a *young Physician* whom he sent for, in a dangerous Fit of Illness. — The Physician, after he had prescribed, asked the Patient, who was his Apothecary? The Farmer readily answer'd, he always made use of Mr. *Fairchild*, to whom this cautious Physician, with an Air of Importance, reply'd, (shaking his Head) O! I never prescribe to that Shop; but will with my own Hand, give the Bill to Mr. *Gracefist*; for he is a very *honest and ingenious Man*, and I know will take particular Care of it. Gramercy Sir, says the Farmer, pray take your Paper again; you be not the Gentleman I want; *for I want a Man's Doctor, but I find you be a Shop Doctor*; and thus dismiss him in a dark Night, thro'

dirty Roads, to attend his *Officinal Patients* at home.

Far be it from me, so much as to attempt, *invading the Province of a Physician*; which I apprehend (as such) does not extend to *Brutes*; but surely, every one that has the Use of his *Senses*, may take the Liberty of examining a *Simple Water*, that is publickly offered to the Examination of the *Senses*, without such an invidious Imputation.

As I am a Stranger to most of the Gentlemen concerned in publishing the Experiments; I can frame no other Notions concerning them, but what I am furnished with by my Correspondents, and those I converse with: From whence I conclude (that in this one Instance) their Zeal preceded their *Judgment*; for what is meant by Mr. *Davis's Water* being *strong*, and the genuine Water *weak*, as is admitted and owned, I know not; unless it was *sensibly* so, to the *Taste, or Smell, or both*: which alone must make a wide and irreconcilable *Difference* between *his Water* and the *genuine Water*, in its *sensible Qualities*: Therefore the Analogy and *Foundation*, on which these Experiments are built, appearing groundless, the Superstructure must consequently fall.

I have great Reason to believe, that the same *projecting Gentleman*, who first set this Matter on foot, and hath exerted himself so much in Defence of these Experiments; since his Defeat in the Country, (there being 99 in 100 against his Opinion) in order to *support*,
and

and *advance* his Reputation, has been using *Artifices*, to procure the *Black-Cherry-Water*, to be left out of the next Edition of the *London Dispensatory*; but with what Success, a little Time will discover: I should rather think, the learned, and judicious Editors, if they *distrusted* its being innocent, would make proper Experiments, for the *Publick Satisfaction*, before they either *expresly*, or even *tacitely condemn* a Vehicle, which has so long *universally obtained*; is *very acceptable to the Taste* of the languid and drooping Patient; has been *intentionally prescribed*, by the *ablest Physicians in this Kingdom*, even in the Case of *Convulsions*; and is esteemed for its *agreeable Flavour*, far preferable to the *Herbaceous Simple Waters*; which are apt to excite a *Naucea* in weak Stomacks. Therefore, if any *Errors* have been committed, in the drawing of this Water, no doubt they will be *guarded against*, and *stand corrected* for the future.

But whatever be the Fate of the *Black-Cherry-Tree*, I shall enjoy the Satisfaction of having (tho' in a homely manner) published the Sentiments of most People, on the Subject; and thus endeavoured to prevent its *Condemnation* unheard: and being truly sensible of my own Deficiencies herein, I should be glad to see them supply'd by some Person of Ability, which shall be always gratefully acknowledged by, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

The PLANTER.

P. S.

P. S. It is worth Enquiry, whether the Simple-Water made from Pepper, Mint, Green Walnuts, &c. after the same Proportion of Strength as Mr. Davis's Water, will not have the like Effect?

N. B. *This Letter was not published.*

*On the Black-Cherry-Water Experiments,
By an Unknown Hand.*

SOME modern Ph——ns of deep Penetration,
Employing their Thoughts for the Good of the Nation,
Distrusted rank Poison in Black-Cherry-Water,
Whilst the learn'd of the College ne'er dream't of the Mat-
This Water, from dry Cherry-Stones, they'd distill; (ter:
And resolv'd, the Dog Noddy should taste of their Skill.
But having no genuine Stones of their own,
(Those of Cherries, I mean) to practice upon:
They found out an honest ingenious Assistant,
Who a Still had at hand, and some Stones not far distant;
And gave him a Process for genuine Water,
The like never before, or will be hereafter.
The Med'cine prepar'd, poor Noddy's ty'd close,
And forced to swallow the Chymical Dose;
He grinn'd and return'd the horrible Draught,
The Dog was d——d sick, but the Doctors all laught;
Noddy roaring amain, some respite did pray,
D——stbrow down at random without more delay;
'Till the Dog, quite spent out, and the Doctors all tir'd,
Twixt Rage and Compulsion, poor Noddy expir'd.

Next Time, O! ye Sages, examine the Juice,
And see what Effects the Fruit will produce;
T'impregnate * with Kernel and Cherry contrive,
The dry Stones may destroy, whom the Pulp wou'd revive.
Keep due Heat, Time, Proportion; let run, what run shou'd,
Then never distrust, for your Water'll be good.

* By this is meant Fermentation.

N. B. The Worcester Printer refused these Verses a Place in his Paper, for being contrary to Holy Scripture.



