

**A full examination ... of ... Mrs. Stephens's cures, and medicine for the stone and gravel : In two parts I. Containing nine of the principal cases, first published by D. Hartley, now here stated in a very different manner ... The second part contains Mrs. Stephens's receipt, with ... observations ... thereon / [By Denis de Coetlogon].**

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A FULL  
EXAMINATION,  
AND

Impartial Account

Of all relating to  
Mrs. STEPHENS's *Cures*, and *Medicine*  
FOR THE  
*STONE* and *GRAVEL*.

In Two PARTS.

I. Containing Nine of the principal CASES,  
first Publish'd by *D. HARTLEY*, now  
here stated in a very different Manner: With  
some few Hints on a dissolved *Stone* in the  
Bladder.

It is herein also observed,  
That the *Author* of the present Papers did discover  
and make known the said MEDICINE of  
Mrs. *Stephens*'s long before she made it publick.

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THE SECOND PART

CONTAINS

Mrs. *Stephens*'s RECEIPT, with the pro-  
per OBSERVATIONS and EXPLANA-  
TIONS thereon, &c.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for T. COOPER, in *Paternoster-Row*. MDCCXL.

[Price One Shilling, or Six-pence each.]



## ADVERTISEMENT.

SINCE this Pamphlet has been printed, I was yesterday inform'd by some Adherents to Mrs. *Stephens* (said to be related by D. *Hartley*,) That there were two Patients, who some time ago had been sound by proper Operators, who found Stones in them; and they having taken Mrs. *Stephens's* Medicines, were now found, upon second Examination, to be without any. I shall not here make any Objections to this Account, as that some have been sound, nay even cut too by some of our most famous Operators, and thereon by them declared to be without any Stones; and yet have been found to have had considerable Stones still remaining in them, whether when yet alive or dead; whilst others have been cut by such also for the Stone, who had none, &c. But rather putting these Relations now given out concerning this Success, upon the most favourable Issue for the Purposes desired and proposed, I need only in that Case recommend the Reader to the Perusal of the *Postscript* to my first Letter herein; where I allow, and am satisfy'd, that it will be so in some Cases; nay, that even *Water alone* will some times have *such-like Effect*. And should this be call'd in any great question, after what has already been said in this Pamphlet: I can, on such occasion, even call upon one of the *Trustees*, to whom I then made such Relation, probably, at least, a Year and a half ago, Dr. *T——r* present, and I think Sir *H——* also; at that time inviting the said Gentleman to go and see a Stone of a considerable Size, so broke and brought away by such-like Means, all into broken Pieces of *Laminæ*, so that they can as yet be put together so to make up the whole Stone. Although I am of opinion this operating *Trustee* never had the Curiosity to enquire, or ever to see it. But let us now suppose the very best we can of this Medicine, I shall then only here add, that in such case (for Reasons before hinted) I imagine I even then deserve the best Share of such Reward. Though according to all Appearance, as Matters seem to be carried on at present, some seem to be much more eager than my self, at strenuously endeavouring to procure or get such Reward to be the most speedily deliver'd; possibly, lest the worst might befall. —







## P R E F A C E.

*THE following Cases, and Papers, have lain by me a considerable time (as observable by them;) in a word, some from the time of Mrs. Stephens making any great Noise in the World. I have accordingly published them, much as they were originally writ. So that if the Manner or Parts of such accounts should appear to be writ at different times, it need not seem very strange. Neither have I carefully endeavour'd to polish the Style, not judging that greatly necessary to spend much time therein.*

*I have nevertheless endeavoured to keep as near and exact to Truth as possible; and if therefore, notwithstanding this, there should happen to be any thing herein inconsistent, or contrary to that strict Veracity I have aimed at, I can only sincerely assure my Reader, that it was no way intended. Neither do I imagine, that if there should be any thing improperly represented, that it will be found to be in any very material Point; if it should, which I flatter my self it will not, none shall be more ready to acknowledge such Error, and to make proper and publick Atonement for it. I do at the same time most sincerely and solemnly declare, that I have not hitherto, neither do I now owe the least ill Will to Mrs. Stephens, as some may but too readily suggest or imagine: For why should I indeed? since she never inclined, intended, or did me the least Injury that I know of; unless I would suppose her having injur'd or mistreated the Society, of which I am a Part. Tho' even*



in this particular, I should be more ready to blame others than her.

But why as yet, I pray, must a Man be looked upon as an Enemy to this notable Female? Is it so, because he is willing and ready to instruct or inform his Society, so to avoid the Errors they are like to fall into? Is not this his Duty to the Society of which he is a Member? Nay, even to Mankind in general: Or is it not what they are reasonably to expect of him? And is he not to aver Truth without Fear, or Favour, to any particular? 'Tis well if those who judge otherwise, be not Enemies to their Society, and Mankind in general.

Yet whatsoe'er I may have said in the following Papers, or howsoe'er I may (by some) be represented, perhaps, in being thought in what I have writ concerning this Female Practitioner, to have done it in an over-pointed Style or Manner, if it appears so to them, yet I know not but it is fully as allowable where the publick Interest is at stake, as all or any part of this I have so said.

At the same time I cannot but say, howsoe'er severe I may herein appear to have been, it would even to me seem hard, should she receive nothing from the Publick for her Discovery (since invited or advised thereto;) and that too, notwithstanding her Discovery, may not appear to me the most sincere: Yet how much that Gratuity ought to be, or what Share she deserves of that Sum specified by the Publick, is what must be left as the Publick or the Trustees shall think proper to determine. Or as yet whether, or how far such who have advised or tutor'd her to her own Disadvantage, ought accordingly to make good such Gratuity, or Satisfaction, she may be judg'd to deserve, is what I must leave to others to decide.

As to publishing who I am, it will easily enough be known, should that be necessary. And should the Name only serve to shew who gains the Victory on this Subject



ject against such Opponents, it seems hardly worth the while.

In fine, my Reader may likewise observe by the second Letter at the end of the Cases, that I no way seem to have meant any ill Will to Mrs. Stephens.

N. B. It may not as yet be altogether improper I here acquaint my Reader, that the other, or Second Part, is call'd, Mrs. STEPHENS's Receipt for the Stone and Gravel, with proper Observations and Explanations thereon, &c. writ by me also, and publish'd some Months since: Such therefore as have already purchased that, may have this present Part by it self from the Publisher.

It may not likewise be improper to inform my Reader, that the foresaid Part, call'd, her Receipt, with proper Observations thereon, &c. thus first publish'd; the Pamphlet-sellers have frequently, when call'd for, instead thereof (from what I have observed) delivered, or sold to the Purchaser, quite another Pamphlet, (in behalf of Mrs. Stephens) call'd Truth unmask'd for the publick Good, &c. Of which idle Pamphlet I have spoken a Word or two, at the end of the Observations on the Receipt. This said Pamphlet has so been given in place of mine: That, 'tis true, likewise has her Receipt therein, with a few Cases before published (by D. Hartley) to make a Pamphlet. Yet how such Blunder so happens I cannot say (since intirely different Titles) unless designed by those Venders, the more to promote the Sale of the other. Although I more readily judge it to be, that having sold mine, and having still the other by them (to save Trouble,) give the Purchaser that which remains with them. So that he who desires to have the right, must examine the Title, which in full is,

Mrs. STEPHENS's RECEIPT for the Stone and Gravel, with proper Observations and Explanations.



planations thereon. Together with some Hints concerning the *Preamble* to the Act of Parliament on that Subject. To which are added, some few Thoughts how most properly to encourage valuable Discoveries, or real Improvements in *Physick* or *Surgery*. Printed for T. COOPER, at the *Globe* in *Paternoster-Row*. 1739. Price Sixpence.

*Quære.* Whether if this Medicine be often found useful (by the long Continuance thereof) there will not consequently be a Necessity of often repeating it? if not always to use it during Life; and still more, as the Patient grows in Years: Since *Stones* and *Gravel* still are engender'd from the same Causes, particularly the older the Patient grows.

*Secondly,* Whether by the long Use of such strong Diuretics, so greatly forcing Nature out of her usual Road, we do not thus much change her common Course? so as to alter the whole Animal Oeconomy, and the usual Secretions (hardly well to be recover'd in old Age,) Nature and the whole Fabrick by this Means suffering. And lastly, thus becoming so much the sooner destroy'd.



# ERRATA.

Page 7, l. 22, for *no* read *on*. P. 9, for *Kerry* r. *Cary*. P. 24, l. 13, for *her* r. *him*. And the Marks \* † to the Notes at bottom should be in the place of each other. P. 31, l. 15, for *seem* r. *seem'd*; and l. 31, *at, may have in* ———



## A full EXAMINATION of Mrs. *Stephens's* Cures, &c.

**H**AVING had the Curiosity to examine several of the Patients of Mrs. *Stephens*, in relation to the Cures for the *Stone or Gravel* perform'd by her; I found them, as near as I can possibly judge, to be in the following Manner:

### I.

Mr. *Bull*, at the *Globe* in *St. Paul's Church-yard*, having been much troubled with the *Gravel*, and being under her Care: I found him according to his own Account to have been a Person who used to drink his Bottle of Wine *at least one a Day*, (of red Port;) though others have alledged to me, it was oftner more likely *to be two*. Whereas, now being better, by the Use of her Medicines, &c. for many Months, it is to be observed that during all this time he quite alter'd his former *Regimen of Life*, as that of eating no dry salt Meats, *drinking no red Wine*, but instead of the Quantity and Quality aforesaid, only *half a Pint a day of white Wine*, add to this, about *a Quart of Water* during that time (in which her Medicine is dissolved) not used before. And though I do not insist from this, on the Invalidity of *her Medicines*, or that they were of no Use; yet surely had he used none such, but only to have observed the same Regularity and Abstinence here specify'd, in relation to *Aliment*, he unquestionably must have found himself better. This is more fully and particularly proved, even eight Months after taking the said Medicines, when he found him-



self greatly better: he, nevertheless, in *November* last, 1737, again fell very ill; but then it was alledged, that he had not so duly, or had some time neglected the taking her Medicines. Upon this Pretence, I then, or on his Recovery, asked him, Whether he had not, during such time, altered his Method of Living, or to have been a little more free in that? Which he frankly owned me he had; and thus it plainly proved to me, that his Indisposition, in a great measure, depended on the Irregularity of his Living, as has been observed.

N. B. This Patient is still troubled with the same Malady, proportionably to the Irregularities of his manner of Living.

## II.

I shall here also observe, that I spoke on the like Occasion with the Honourable Mr. *Carteret*, whose Case may be as published by D. *Hartley*. Yet this I think may not be improper also to be added, according to that he related to me, *viz.* of his Abstinence (since taking the said Remedy) from all salt Meats as above; and tho' always moderate in Wine, yet since the taking Mrs. *Stephens's* Medicines, drinks not above half his usual Quantity of Claret at dinner, and full as little if any *at supper*; whereas he used formerly to drink his Pint or so at each Meal: he now also allow'd himself more frequent Draughts of small Beer, which he used not before. This, with the Use of a Pint and a half of Water her Medicine is mix'd in, for a daily Addition, must surely make a great Alteration in the *alimentary Way*, and must accordingly, of itself, prove to be a much more *diluent Method* than formerly; and consequently he might find himself better had he even taken *no such Medicines*, tho' allowed also to be useful, as other proper Medicines likewise might have



have been, especially if continued so long as these were, to wit, off and on, now at least two Years ; and for ought I know still was in Continuance thereof to the last. But in fine, dying about a Month ago, on opening him there were still two Stones found in his Bladder, big as small Chesnuts, though probably about three Years he had used this Medicine. But then the Answer first was, that he did *not continue it regularly*, or had not perhaps taken it for a Year. Yet on second Consideration, the *Assistants* to this good Woman, or her *Confederates*, next observ'd, they saw'd *the Stones* in two, and thereby demonstrated to the Learned in Politics, that her Medicine had had most extraordinary Effects towards wasting them, not perceptible before, and might consequently have dissolved the whole, had not the Patient thus unluckily made his final *Exit* before this great Cure was duly performed.

### III.

Thus then it may not be improper to observe on what has been already said, that Mr. *Snape* the *Turner* in *Panton-street*, (a Case also publish'd) drank large Quantities of *Decoctions* of Herbs, as *Mallows*, &c. at his first setting out, before the Use of her Medicine, as well as the using of considerable Quantities of *Oyl and Rum*, which did accordingly bring away very large Quantities of *Gravel and Stones*, of the latter, at least, *thirty small ones*: at the same time often using likewise the *Lenitive* Electuary ; which *Lenitive* he every now and then continues to use even since the taking of her Medicines, proposing still to go on with it at proper times. And tho' he is now easy and free from voiding of Stones, yet still continues to void a *glazy Size* with his Urine, the common Humour attending or producing Stone and Gravel. 'Tis true he takes notice, that for all the Stones he voided



before the taking of her Medicines, to wit, the *Bolus's and Powders*, yet he found himself no way relieved of his Pain; but then it is also as observable, that for the space of at least six Months time, during the taking of her said *Bolus's and Powders*, he found himself no better neither; until the drinking of her *Bottle of Water* each day, with the Soap dissolved therein: after the Continuance of which for some short time, he then begun to find himself better, and so mended daily. Now from what has been said, it seems pretty evident, that *Stones and Gravel* were brought away from him most plentifully before the taking of any of her Medicines, that is, as has been said, by the sole Use of the *Mallow Drink, Oil and Rum*. So that had this been continued as long as her Medicines were, it seems, beyond all Controversy, he would have found himself as well, if not sooner. Nor need it seem strange, that he did not find himself as yet relieved on his voiding the said first Stones, since there were many still behind, which occasioned such remaining Pain and Uneasiness; yet when the whole was brought away, such Disorder must consequently cease, whether so brought away by one, or t'other. He also freely owned to me, that the Use of her Medicines much *cloy'd or pall'd his Stomach* (as I observ'd,) and the same was also confirm'd to me by *several others* who took it, (though it may not do so with all, or to have the like Effect;) yet this was absolutely denied by D. *Hartley* when I mention'd it to him, its ever doing so.

Mr. *Snape* was lastly taken ill (on a *Sunday*) of a violent Pain towards the Neck of his Bladder, (supposed to be from a Stone there,) upon which the Apothecary being called, he administered a Glyster or two, which had a good Effect, since the Patient thereupon found himself much easier. However he made no Urine, and still continuing indisposed,



posed, D. *Hartley* attended him, together with Dr. *Shaw*; they thought fit, it seems, to advise and order him to take Mrs. *Stephens's Medicines*, and she being accordingly call'd upon for her Assistance, did make him up her Medicines, 'tis said, more strong than usual; of which they gave him so much, that he could take no more; and so refused the farther Use thereof, the former proving no way useful; continuing still to grow worse, and voiding no Urine. Upon which Mr. *Hawkins* was called in, to sound or relieve him, tho' that also was to no Purpose or Advantage. It was next, 'tis said, proposed to hurry him up and down in a Coach (as to *Kensington*,) but the Patient refus'd to comply, saying, that such-like violent Motion would kill him; and to me indeed it seems to have been an odd and desperate Proposal on that Occasion; in fine, on *Friday* he died. In the mean time, our Practitioner goes on in like Manner.

## IV.

Dr. *Hartley*, after having used her Medicines (without at the same time, as he says, so much as knowing what they are) now for about the space of \* twelve Months, freely owns he finds himself *no better*. I cannot but say then, that 'I very much question, that it would have been possible to have persuaded him to the Continuance for a twelve Month of any one Medicine or Method that could be communicated to him, even by the ablest Hand of the Profession: What can we say then for such an *enthusiastick Credulity and Infatuation*? A Man of Learning! and one bred to the Profession! thus to confide and absolutely and only to depend on the hidden *Nostrum* (at least to him) of an *innocent Woman*. Alas! for Learning, and alas! for Degrees; for if this be the Case, then this good Female

\* Now near three Years, and we hear of no Amendment.



male surely deserves 'em also. But it would seem probable that this *honest Gentleman* has not seen or known a Sufficiency of *Practice*. He drinks only a very little *white Wine*, and daily takes her Bottle of *Soap-Water* with her *Powders*; he alledges indeed, that by the Use thereof he brings away Gravel, &c. and so he would with a continued Use of all *Diluents*. But he observes to us, that the Urine he voids, as well as that of others who take her Medicines, is greatly impregnated with certain *alkaline Particles*, &c. Yes truly, I allow it, and that it is the finest or more subtile Parts of her *alkaline Powder* or *Shells*, which mixes with the Blood and is separated with the Urine: turning to a *green* when mix'd with *Syrup of Violets* (he so much wonders at) and from this same Reason also it ferments with Acids. Nay, it is plain, this very subtile Powder, so separated with the Urine which falls to the bottom of the Pot, together with the common *glary Size* attending those Maladies, is thus plaister'd together, (which she and her Adherents call all Sand, or the Stone dissolved:) And this I do positively insist upon. Not but that I allow, if there is yet Sand, or Gravel, it may also be brought away, or mix'd therewith. Nay, I will even also admit, that Pieces of Stones be brought away by the Use of proper Medicines, or that some Stones, by accident, and indeed likewise even by the proper Means of Art and Medicines, may be crumbled, or separated, and brought away in pieces; of the Truth of which, I am well satisfy'd. Yet I do not from thence infer, that it is therefore practicable on all manner of Stones: However, I am nevertheless also of Opinion, that there are few Patients, or none, but may be render'd tolerably easy during Life, by proper Method or Means taken (without cutting) if they be *governable*. The Gentleman, indeed, upon talking with him on the



the Regulation of *his Diet*, &c. acquainted me, that he had before the Use of *Mrs. Stephens's Medicines* been for a Year or two on *Vegetable and Milk Diet*, together with *Bristol Water*, yet found himself no way better by this *abstemious Method*. I then observ'd to him, that there could hardly be two Liquids, in all likelihood, more improper for him than that of *Milk and Bristol Water*: And that I was not therefore any way surpriz'd that he had not found himself better, by any such Method; it being plain to me, that Milk is not of the most *diluent kind*; this last being so very necessary in all such Cases; and that the *Bristol Water* is as little, or less so, appears as plain from its *limy, chalky, or astringent Quality*. Nay, is it not unquestionable, that the most certain Use of this Water is in the *Diabetes*? that is in short, to remedy our *pissing so often*; whereas in that of Gravel, &c. *Diuretics*, and the powerfulest *Diluents*, which consequently make us piss the most frequently, are accordingly found to be the most useful. As to his *Experiments*, made on his own Urine (in taking *Mrs. Stephens's Medicines*,) as well as on those of different Waters, or Mixtures, &c. for the Trial of *dissolving of Stones*; that Water is one of the most considerable we very well know, as we have frequently before hinted, and often spoke of. Now as to the Why, *New-River Water* should alone have a greater Effect, than when mix'd with her Powder, in relation to diminishing or wearing of the Stone, it no way appears strange to me, tho' greatly intricate and wonderful to him: To me it appears as an *Astringent, or Alkali*, put into this *common diluent Water*, which being thus clog'd, consequently has thus a less dissolving Quality, as all Liquids, or Menstrums, are only capable of dissolving their proper Quantity of any thing put into them; and thereafter becomes *less strong or efficacious* for any such-like farther Use.

But



But what is it this learned Person *labours so hard at*? What is it that all these so very painful and troublesome *Experiments drive at*? Why, truly, to prove that *Mrs. Stephens's Medicines* are the greatest *Dissolvers of Stones of any thing he has experimented*. Now there might perhaps be several Particulars in his Experiments to be call'd in question: But to make short Work, allowing him all that he wants to prove, yet I shall not therefore allow him, that the greatest or most violent and sudden *Dissolvers, Stone-Breakers, Drivers, or Lithontriptics*, are consequently *the best, the most safe, or the most advisable* in all Cases. Nay, that which is the least so, is that which in many Cases, is the most safe, and the most adviseable to be used.

## V.

Mr. Screen, at the *Seven-stars* in the *Old-Baily*, seems in a great measure to confirm what has been last hinted at. When I first call'd to enquire about the Nature of his Case and Condition, I found him to be in so much Agony and Pain, that he desired to be excused speaking to me until he found himself better; though this was at least *eight Months* from the first taking, and the Continuance of her Medicine. But it was alledged, he had neglected, intermitted, or had not taken it so regularly as he ought to have done; tho' it seems rather greatly to be suspected, that he took full as much thereof as his Case required. The second time I call'd, I was told he was better; yet whether gone out (as they told me) or otherwise, I know not, but I did not see him. About three Months thereafter he died: and when open'd by Mr. Freke, he acquaints us with one Kidney being ulcerated, and intirely perish'd; whilst several entire Stones were found in the other. I have not much to advance on this Account: nor any Reflections to  
make



make of such Stones found there, their not being dissolved after the so long Use of that Medicine, to wit, about eleven Months. Since a Medicine may even be a good one, and yet not sufficient to dissolve all *Stones*, or to perform all Cures; yet this I think may properly enough be remark'd, that besides loading a weak Stomach with such a Quantity of nauseating Stuff, neither Liquid, nor Powder seem'd much adapted, or very proper, for any Ulceration, could she have discover'd that. Nay, it may I think be freely said, they appear'd very improper; nor would perhaps even those, or many of the Profession have discover'd it; though some possibly might have suspected some *such Malady* from *Symptoms*, &c. However that be, considering his low State of Health, his great and continued Agonies, a wise, discreet, cautious, and prudent Physician, would not have inclined to have advised any violent Medicines, or that which put him to so great Rack and Pain; but on the contrary to have advised that only which was *gentle, safe, and easy*. It is most certain, that all diuretic Medicines improperly used, destroy and are greatly hurtful to the Urinary Passages: for which Reason, they ought to be used with great Caution in such Cases; or where the Parts are tender, inflamed, or ulcerated, because they will so be made worse. Thus the Son of *Theophorbus*, mention'd by *Hippocrates* in his fifth Book of *Epidemicks*, died the third Day by the Use of a strong Diuretick.

## VI.

Mr. *Preston*, a Gentleman of the Law, in *Kerry-street*, a temperate Person, and naturally a strong well-built Man; consequently able to bear a stronger Medicine than the former; being also afflicted with the Gravel; after seven or eight Months continuance with her Medicine found himself much



better, yet still voided the like *glary Size*, common to such Cases, and as spoke of in Mr. *Snape's* Case. He had, however, according to his Account, taken many Medicines before (taking to hers,) which probably had some Effect, in having carried off part of the Load of Gravel, or the fizy Humour; at least prov'd some kind of Evacuation, which was no Disadvantage to the Use thereafter of Mrs. *Stephens's* Medicine: However, during the foresaid time of his Continuance to such Medicines before hers; he then also kept to the constant Use of the *Bristol Water*; of which I have before observed the Impropriety in the Case of D. *Hartley*: So that it appears no way strange to me, if he found no great Advantage thereby, and that on his changing such *dry, chalky, constipating Drink*, for that of Mrs. *Stephens's* soft, oily, *salt or soapy Water*; he thus on the other hand found himself much better thereby. Nor is it any way material, its having been ordered by this, or t'other, since the best Practitioners may sometimes order improperly, or are liable to Mistakes. He farther observed, that Milk did not agree with him, rendering him *costive* (whether much used during the said time I know not) but this Observation *on Milk* is more particularly confirm'd, the Impropriety thereof, as hinted in the Case of D. *Hartley*. The Charge of this good Female's Medicines (as the said Mr. *Preston* observed) supposing him to have continued it a Twelve-month, must amount to about 50*l.* which Charge he seem'd to complain of; and as he is very frugal, and greatly willing to save Charges, so because I told him I knew the Composition, he appeared sufficiently willing to be instructed therein; to which I insinuated, that I could not observe what Advantage I or the good *Woman* should reap by acquainting him therewith; though I had at the same time, in general,



ral, told him, that it was Soap and a *testaceous Powder*. However, Mankind esteem those Things most which are kept *as Secrets*, and are the most *bid from them*; thus chusing to pay the most liberally for being *deceived*, or kept in the dark; very rarely valuing *plain or open Truths*; and consequently they must e'en be left to go on in their own way.

## VII.

Mr. *Pain*, Butler to the late Serjeant *Bains*, I was next inform'd of, as being quite well, and entirely cured, under the Care of Mrs. *Stephens*; he inform'd me he had taken her *Bolus's* and *Powders* for some very considerable time, that is for many Months, to little or no Purpose: after which she judged proper instead of the *Soap-Bolus's* to give him the *Bottle of Soap-Water* daily, which he no sooner the first time *tasted*, than that he *cry'd out to her*, *This is Soap*: on which she, *laughing*, replied, *What if it is?* at the same time owning it to be *so*; yet then also pretended and told him, That was not the *principal Thing therein*. He, after some Continuance herewith, found himself considerably better, especially after one very severe Fit he had therewith; at which time he voided a somewhat *softish Substance*, supposed (if I mistake not) to be a *softned Stone*. In a word, he continued at this about a Year and a Quarter, before he judged himself sufficiently well to leave it off, altogether. During which time she advised him not to drink *red Wine*, nor to eat *Cheese*, *Oysters*, or *toasted Bread*. The first of which was, no doubt, very proper to abstain from, and possibly the second was as well let alone; but what there was much material or injurious in the last, to wit, the *toasted Bread*, is what I cannot well observe, unless that it was dryer than when untoasted. Thus then



it is to be taken notice of, that there was here also an Alteration made in regard to his Aliment (as observ'd before;) he now drunk only a little *white Wine*, with her *Bottle of Water* each Day, more than usual, for *twelve Months* or longer. But even since this time, tho' pretty brisk and well when I saw him, yet he told me, he still continued to void the same *glary Size* as before spoken of: Nay, he even likewise farther complain'd of Increase of Pain, and Disorder of another Ailment: He said, 'tis true, he was afflicted with it before, though not so much, which I know not that I am at so much Liberty to name, since some incline not to discover the like Ailment, tho' I may, I think, say, that a Weakness or Bearing-down of some Parts, (supposing it so) I shall not, however, over positively affirm that to be increased by the great Use of this *saponacious Medicine*. But even at best, is there any great Miracle in all this? to find a Person relieved of such a Malady after a continued Use of Medicines for *fifteen Months*? Yes, say they, but we have long tried a *Physician*: Yes, say I, but longer still when they have tried both.

N. B. He has had another Fit lately.

### VIII.

Mr. Bolton from *Newcastle*, one likewise quoted in D. Hartley's Cases, a Patient also of Mrs. Stephens's, who I believe did continue her Medicines in the like regular Manner as is mention'd in his Case; after ten Weeks taking it, he thought of leaving it off (as there spoke of) till encouraged by me to go on with it *for two or three Weeks longer*, (he being come for that Purpose;) after which he accordingly begun to find himself more easy, as there said; though before this, she so over-loaded and *over-dos'd* him with her Medicines, as to put him to inexpressible and insufferable Pain: When on his great Complaint thereof to me, I advis'd  
and



and also told him, to tell her, that I recommended it as the safer Method to forbear both as to Quantity and Frequency of taking her Medicines; so that for some days he took not above half such Quantity as before, until he found himself more capable of going on with the *full Quantities*. I, all along, or even before he begun to take it, told him *I well knew what the whole was*, and as I judg'd it might be of use to him, more especially the *Liquid*, so I rather encouraged him in the Continuance thereof than otherwise: Although according to his own Confession, *the Powders did never agree with him*, much injuring his *Asthma*, he also freely and frequently owned to me (as well as confirmed by his Nurse) that, of the *palling* and entirely taking away his *Stomach*, or *Appetite*, by the great Loads, or the so frequent Use of the *Powders and Soap-Water* (though no way taken any notice of in his Case;) yet how could it well be expected *otherwise* in one in the 68th Year of his Age? From hence then it was plainly observable, both by himself as well as *his Nurse*, &c. that he eat little or nothing, at least, much less than usual; so that it might be considered as a kind of an *artificial Starving*: Nor could there thus consequently be such an Increase of *Humours*, *Size*, or so, to create sandy Substance. To which may be added, a greater Care and Use of more soft, light, and easy digesting Aliment, a still greater Abstinence from *strong or spirituous Drinks* than before, with the additional Quantity of a *Quart of Water* daily more than his usual. This I may say, with the long Continuance of the *Oil and Salt* therewith (so frequently used by the Profession,) or *Sugar*, a kind of *Salt also*, as Syrups are, is it, I say then, any way *miraculous*, strange, or wonderful, that any such Person should find himself better, or relieved thereby, after the so going on (with all the Care, Exact-

ness,



ness, and Observation imaginable) for seven or eight Months together? But why, say they, did not Physicians do it? I can only say, that if it is his or any other's Misfortune not to meet with, to know, find out, or to distinguish a knowing and *able Physician* from another; or not to know how to chuse, or to decide by common Sense and Reason rather than from common *Vogue*, great Hurry and Confusion (even in Business) Show, or Interest; this or such-like Incapacity, or Deficiency of Discernment, *is not my Fault*. But who, I say, would continue or go on with such a Load of *nauseous Stuff* with so much incredible Patience and Observation for so long together, with any, even the ablest Physician *in Town*? but to have changed him, and probably *half a Score more in a far less Time*. Or is it yet any strange or uncommon Thing to find a Patient very greatly, or much relieved after some Months Use only of the *Scarborough or Tunbridge Waters* (also thereby to void Stones and Gravel, &c.) so to carry off a Fit, or Ailment of *such-like Malady*? Surely this is what is, and daily may be observ'd by all Men. To conclude then as to the particular Case of Mr. *Bolton*; whate'er Advantage he might reap by my *Cautions* of *Forbearance* of her Medicines, when over-done; or by my Advice of *Continuance* thereof, when he was grown *tired*, and ready to give them over; it was not only he that reap'd the Benefit thereof, but she solely reap'd the *pecuniary Profit*, as well as *the sole Credit and Reputation of the whole*.

## IX.

Mr. *Stiles's Case*, also published by D. *Hartley*, in his last Book of Cases, being the 47th there mentioned; rather supposes than proves the said Patient's Malady to have been a *Stone*, or *Gravel*: Since he owns, that he voided neither by the Use  
of



of Mrs. Stephens's *Medicine*, though continued for *five Montbs.* But grew free, says this Author, from his Complaints, and has continued so ever since he left off the Medicines, which is more than half a Year, February 7, 1738-9. As to the Veracity of this Account, I humbly beg this ingenious Author's Pardon, if I do, and must needs differ with him in that Particular (though he perhaps then knew no better.) Yet it is certainly true, that this very worthy Gentleman Mr. Stiles, with whom I was well acquainted, had been ill of a feverish Malady for the Space of three or four Weeks, that is towards *Christmas*, about three Months after the taking of Mrs. Stephens's Medicines, and towards six Weeks before the foresaid Date, as may be observed from this same Author's Attestation as above.

And now I am next willing to remark on the same Subject, that soon after the Date here mentioned (if not still much indisposed from that very Time I speak of) this same greatly esteemed Person, did again fall ill of a long and lingering Illness, seemingly tending to the *Icteric*, or *Jaundice*-like kind of Malady; of which Indisposition D. Hartley can be no way insensible, since he attended him therein until he gave him over. The Patient lastly died thereof several \* Months thereafter, and in such a very hard and deplorable State, as that his Condition was highly to be lamented by all who knew him.

During which time of D. Hartley his attending him, this Practitioner observing the Difficulties, or Improbability of over-coming and curing his Malady, did accordingly prove inclinable to have some other

\* Six Months Illness, and it is even asserted, that he was taken so before the Date mentioned by D. Hartley: Nay, that he then attended him before the 7th of Feb. 1738-9, and presented him with the said Book when ill in Bed.



other Physician called in, so to bear somepart of the Blame (if afterwards judged to be a mismanaged Affair;) in short, to take a Share with him in the Discredit of the Patient's Dying, and not to have that to happen under his own Hands alone.

And thus it was that another Physician of Eminence, &c. was call'd in, at which Readiness of the said noted Practitioner's coming (on such-like Occasion) I must freely own, I was not a little surpriz'd, and even sorry to hear he should be so ready, in the least to have been concerned with any such undertaking Practitioner; in all Appearance, more fit to join with Mrs. *Stephens* than with those of a more regular Education. Nay, it is even related by this same *worthy Family*, that it was as yet further intended for the Patient, still to have taken the *said Female's Medicine* in case he should, a little, have recovered from the very bad and so low State he then was in.

And now it may not be amiss I acquaint my Reader, that this same Gentleman Mr. *Stiles*, had for a very great number of Years been regularly attended, with long and frequent Fits of the Gout, (particularly of latter Years,) and which indeed he was never any more visited with (at least no way regularly) after the having taken this *said Woman's Medicines*; which seems to me to have had the following Effect, to wit, the occasioning a far greater *Secretion of Urine* than he used formerly to have before taking of that Medicine; in a word, it seems plainly to have altered the natural Course of the *gouty Humour*, usually in his Blood, by the uncommon Force and extraordinary Tendency of such Medicines, carrying or hurrying the said Fluid to the Kidneys; at the same time dilating, forcing, and opening, as they went, the Vessels thro' which they pass'd, particularly those of the urinary Kind, on which they principally operated.

And



And then so it was, that though some Humours might thus be discharged, and the Patient become a little more easy for some short Time (perhaps from the same kind of Humour likewise attending the Bladder.) Yet, upon the whole, the general Course of the Fluids and Humours, being thus more especially discern'd, and carried off this Way ; the Course of Nature must consequently become so entirely alter'd, and not any more as formerly to discharge the foresaid common gouty Humour, as it had usually done before on the Extremities, such as the Feet, or Hands. And thus also it appears to have been, that upon leaving off the said saline, soapy Medicines, or Diuretics, the same generated gouty Humour then came to be mix'd with the whole Mass of Blood ; Nature not being able any more (from Reasons before hinted at) to throw it into the Extremities as she usually had done.

From hence it likewise seems apparent, that the said *Icteric* or Jaundice-like Malady ensued : more especially on the entire leaving the farther Use of such salt or soapy Medicines, so much given with the greatest Success in all *Icteric* Ailments. In a word, even so it happen'd, together with a Mortification of one of the Extremities (to wit, the Foot,) that this greatly to be regretted Patient made his final Exit. As to the Veracity of what here may be advanced, I do appeal to that Family, &c. and I dare say they wish he had never used her Medicine.

And now without troubling the Publick or myself further, in running after a Multitude of People, or examining any farther (since that would be endless) these nine Cases here related, will I imagine be fully sufficient to satisfy such who truly incline to examine, with the greatest Impartiality, into that Affair.

And next, it may not be altogether amiss, that I take some Notice also of the fifth Conclusion in



this Author's Book, where he says, *It appears from the Experiments of Mons. Litter, in the Memoirs of the Royal Academy, for the Year 1720, from those of Dr. Hales, in his Hæmastatics, and from what I have here publish'd, that common Water of several Sorts, is able to dissolve a Variety of Stones taken from the Human Body. This shews, that an acrimonious Menstruum is not necessary for that Purpose: and that even the mere Aqueousness of Urine, may perhaps have a dissolving Efficacy, if its concreting, incrusting Quality could be first destroy'd.* I must now, on this Remark of the ingenious Author, observe to my Reader, That a few Weeks, or Months at farthest, before the publishing his excellent Book of Cases, in conversation I then acquainted him, that *Stones and Gravel* were frequently passed and brought away (possibly consum'd also) by the sole Use of *Tunbridge, Scarborough, or other Water.* To which his Answer was, *He did not know any thing of that;* though he would now, by what he relates above, seem to be of another Opinion.

However, let this Gentleman's Practice, of which we have been speaking, or his Opinions, be what it lists, 'tis certain that by following this good Woman, several such-like Patients have been inconsiderate enough, likewise to follow him; and he has thus crept into a pretty deal of Practice in that Way. Neither are even some Apothecaries backward (so they find their Account therein) to be concerned in such-like Business. But why, indeed, may it not well be allowed in them, when even the Physicians of the Hospitals receive her into their Hospitals, with her Directions for such-like Patients; to their Credit be it recorded to all future Ages.

But to conclude; after my Readers have perused the foresaid Cases, together with the Part (by me also first published) call'd *Mrs. Stephens's Receipt,*  
with



*with proper Observations and Explanations thereon, &c.* they may then be more able to discover, whether in the whole I have done Justice to *that Person*, and *her Cause*, as well as to *her Adherents and Followers*. Thus they, as well as the *Trustees*, or the *Publick*, may likewise farther observe, whether I have not in *Reality*, or in *Effect*, made a *true and effectual*, as well as a *sincere Discovery of the real effective Medicine*; which was pretended to as a *mighty Secret*, and at last discover'd by her for the *publick Benefit*. That I discovered and made it known, at least, a Year or more before she did, and that too without the least Preliminary, interested bargaining for a Gratuity, or any certain Reward, from any Particulars, such as with the Subscribers to her, or the Publick. But since now her Discoveries have been thought worthy, nay have even been determined and agreed upon, with her (by way of Bargain) to be deserving of full Encouragement, and a generous Reward; I must refer, and can only leave it to such, or the Publick, to determine also, whether he who in Effect, frankly, freely, and generously, before discovered it (as above) without then any farther interested Views, does not now nevertheless (since the fore-said Determinations have been made in her behalf by the Publick) even fully as well deserve (if not more) such Reward, or the larger Share thereof, than even she this notable *Female*, in her fore-said interested manner of doing, as well as seemingly (when considered) the insincere manner of the Discovery, more observable, by my Remarks on her *Receipt*.

Yet it may, 'tis true, still be alledged, that I did not make such a very formal and open Discovery thereof in the *Gazette*, or *publick Papers*, as she has done. To this I readily and easily reply, that I apprehend, I did all that any private Person could well be supposed to have been able to do, as may



better be observed from the Letters here inserted. Could any private Subject do more (who has not extraordinary Interest in what may concern the Publick) than first to address himself to one at the head of the Profession, who has great Interest with Mankind, and in high Credit with them in the way of his Profession? acquainting such that he intended to publish a Letter in the publick Prints, directed to him (the said Physician) with his Name thereto, as well as that of the *Author*: Which Letter the Author then delivered to him (and which heread) therein actually discovering the Purport of the whole Secret, as is observ'd in the Letter hereto annexed. Upon which the said noted Practitioner was pleased to excuse himself (as there likewise related) desiring, at the same time, that I would not mention his Name therein, insinuating that this *Female* had many Great Men of high Distinction, who supported her Interest, and that he might consequently thus disoblige such, and by them probably he would only be consider'd as an invidious Person, or an Enemy to the good Woman. What was I next then to do, but to endeavour to publish it in one of the publick Papers? Which was also shun'd by such Proprietors of that Paper, or Papers, as has been said, to wit, for fear of such Great Personages (her noted Patrons,) or that of being prosecuted by Law for prejudicing or hindering of her *Subscription*.

And next, besides all these Difficulties, to hinder my then farther Proceedure in this Affair, I as yet considered, and also very well knew, that if notwithstanding all these Hazards, or Difficulties, I nevertheless should persist, and at that time publish the same; what would it then have avail'd? or what would have been the great Use thereof? Since hardly any one Person would have been any way satisfy'd therewith: Nay, possibly even but few if any of the Profession; since they as most others would still have been hoping for far greater Dis-



Discoveries : as well as that most or all would nevertheless have remain'd in doubt, whether it was the same Medicine used by her. In fine, they would never have been satisfy'd of its being the Right, until they had it from herself.

Thus, then, I must now leave what I have here said to the more serious Consideration of my penetrating Readers, or the Publick, whether or not I have said and done sufficient on this Subject? And whether I accordingly deserve their farther Notice, Consideration, or Reward?

*The following LETTER was intended to be put into the Grub-street Journal, (whilst yet in Being,) and was accordingly read before that Society; but they insisting that the Author should sign his Name thereto (for their farther Security) and he refusing, that it was drop'd.*

To the Author —————

S I R,

**I**T has hitherto, you know, been the common Opinion, that every Individual is obliged, all he can, to serve the Publick. Yet this, at present, seems to be a very unfashionable Opinion, and not much minded. Let that however be as it will, I know not, as to my own Particular, whether on the old-fashion'd Way of Reasoning, I can properly reckon my self called upon in behalf of the *Publick*, occasion'd by the Advertisements lately address'd to it concerning Mrs. Stephens's *Medicine*. Yet lest it should be so, that I ought to appear in the Cause and Defence of *Truth*, I have accordingly here ventured to send you the following Hints for *publick Use*, if the *Publick* shall judge them any way worthy their Acceptance. I thought at first then to have address'd this Letter to some one at the Head of the Profession, supposed to be a better Judge of these Matters than you may be; but



but having now altered my Design, for Reasons I shall not trouble the Publick or you with, I will suppose you, Sir, to be *Fore-man* of the *Jury*, or general Assembly of the Profession and Mankind, so to determine with their Assistance, as you judge most proper. I shall first then acquaint you, that on my informing some of *Reputation* in the Profession, that I could give some farther Light, and a more particular Account of these Matters than that hitherto publish'd by D. *Hartley*; it was, at the same time, ask'd me, Why I did not then do it? To which I reply'd, What is there to be got by so doing? The Answer was, *Reputation*. *Reputation!* said I; all to be expected is, that the Profession in general (may probably) be but too ready to say, Foh! this Scribler has acquainted us with *nothing new*; or instructed us *in naught but what we knew before*, and so much for *Reputation*; otherwise at best, *Probitas laudatur & alget*. So the Good-man, or Author, may gain his belly-full of *Praise*, or *Reputation*, yet starve at the same time. I could methinks write a whole Volume on this Subject of *Reputation*. Nay, when it has even rose to the greatest heighth, there has but very rarely been much got thereby in the way of *writing* of Books: The Lord *Bacon* and *Hudibras* died in a starving Condition, for all their *Reputation*. And 'tis well if Sir *I—c* had died much better, had it not been for a certain *Chance*, well enough known. Neither did *Milton* or *Dryden* fare much better. But to bring it more home to the present purpose; you will no doubt, with the foresaid Assistance, be very sensible, Sir, that in spite of all the *Reputation* gain'd in this way by writing physical Books in *Ratcliff's* time, yet whilst he lived he still run away with the *Money*. Nay, I have heard a noted Author, and great *Practitioner*, facetiously say, That there was much more got by writing of *Bills than by writing of Books*; and I dare



dare venture to affirm, that most such, as well as *Ratcliff*, were or are of the same Opinion. In a word, I find, that (as times go) when a Man has *Money* he has *Reputation*; whether he attains to such *Riches* by Marriage, Recommendation, or otherwise. However, I am not quite so stiff, but that I can freely enough drop some Hints (to the Publick) on this Subject, without being at the same time much solicitous, or any way anxious of gaining either *Interest* or *Reputation* thereby. I believe then I may venture to say, that I was the first who frankly and openly declared this good Female's *Medicine* to be *Soap*; to wit, the *Pills*, or *Bolus*, made up with some Testaceous Powder, or such-like, to disguise it. The Liquid being the same dissolved with Water, sometimes more or less disguised, &c. Thus I have since heard some of the Profession (as if their own Discovery, without the least Notice of me) most learnedly holding forth on the great Virtues of *Soap*. It is, however, well enough known, that *Soap Draughts* have frequently and many Years ago been *advised for Gravel*, &c. Now, as to the Powders in particular, I have already asserted them to be *burnt Oyster-shells* mix'd with Nitre; or that prepared, *as the Sal prunell*. (often very unequally dosed by her in the like intended Papers.) The Account of these Medicines I long since sent to *Newcastle*, to Mr. *Bolton's Son* (who I doubt not will own it) even before, or as soon as his Father began to take the *said Medicines*: at the same time, facetiously telling him they might thus also go on and practise in like manner at *Newcastle*. Thus then as I have already, and do still assert this to be so, I do at the same time affirm, that when discover'd for the proposed Reward, it will not be found any way materially to differ from this. Now, as to the Dosings, that, Sir, ought to be according to the Discretion of the *Physician*; duly



duly proportion'd to the Patient his Case and Constitution, &c. a Knowledge this good Female appears but too much a Stranger to, of which I could give many Instances were it necessary, or worth the while, besides that of Mr. Bolton in particular, who intermitted or lessen'd his Quantities to at least one half; or even a whole Day's Intermission, *when violently rack'd with Pain by her over-doing.* Neither do I think that he will deny, I advised him so; since I even bid him to tell Mrs. Stephens, *That I advised both him and her so to do, as being the most safe Method to be followed.* I also told her when he was ready to leave it off (as mention'd in his Case,) *still to continue it for some Weeks longer, since he came so far for that Purpose, and that he had begun it:* That I, at the same time, likewise told him it was *no Secret to me;* nay, that *I had cured such Malady by a much more easy Method.* And now it may not be amiss I also observe, That even she herself appears plainly not to know the Cause, or the Reason of some time succeeding, and other times to have worse Success; nor will others in general know it any more than she, even *when she has discover'd her Medicine.* Mr. Bolton (probably her best Instance) likewise allows, and affirms, that the *\* Powders did never agree with him, still injuring his Asthma, &c.* But now, Sir, if then it should thus come to appear, that *I long since, or even now, have discover'd this Medicine without any View of Reward,* yet I cannot imagine but that I should *deserve at least as well one half of the said Reward,* as the Proposer thereof *deserves the other.* But this must be left to the Discretion and Consideration of the Contributors †, whether reasonable, &c. Neither has she already been *ill rewarded* for what she

\* This was whilst the private Subscription went on.

† N. B. Calcin'd Shells, whether of Eggs, or Oysters, are much the same in virtue.



*she has hitherto done.* Yet alas! Sir, what be all these mighty Feats thus perform'd? To me I most sincerely do declare they no way appear so wonderful, as to some (even of the Profession, which I am sorry to say.) Do not all men, the least observing, find that hundreds of People daily are relieved, and void *Stones* and *Gravel* by the Use of the *Scarborough* or *Tunbridge Waters*? more especially useful when used with *Exercise*. Thus also, every one of the Profession will I believe readily enough agree, that *Oil* and *Syrup*, as that of *Marsh-mallows*, &c. continued for the space of a *Twelve-month* (as *she* does) or even a *less Time*, will bring away *Gravel*, &c. and so also render the Patient much more easy: This, in effect, being only *Oil* and *Salt*, as *her's* is, tho' not so *violent a Salt*. Tho' none of the Profession surely would be able to persuade a Patient to continue such Remedy *so long*, even though so much more agreeable than *her's* is. But I cannot forbear taking some little Notice of those of the Profession, the Recommenders of this Medicine to the *Publick*, as *miraculous*, or a *none-such Remedy*. Have they then thus studied, and received *Degrees* of being *sufficiently knowing* in this *Profession* (perhaps from such also, but too much deficient;) and, at the same time I say, so much to *admire*, *follow*, and *take the hidden Nostrums* of a Woman, not in the least pretending ever to have studied this *Art*, the *Nature of Medicine*, *Aliment*, or that of *human Bodies*, &c. Nay they even owning also to have continued such on themselves near twelve Months, without *the least Success*; and so still to go on: *Verily, Verily*, if this be *the Case*, that *she still knows more than they do*, methinks *she* even full as well deserves *her Degrees also*: or such of the Profession who admire her, should e'en study under *her*, or serve *their Time to her*. Have not some in



*this Way greatly admired, and run after a Rabbit-Woman, or an itinerant pretending Oculist? Yet that those not bred to the Profession should be fond of running after such Novelties, seems no way strange; since this Town must still have a May-pole once a Year at least, to dance and stare at! For my own part (being one of the Profession) were I possessed with such an unknowing, idle Way of Thinking, I would directly renounce all Pretensions thereto, as finding my self too greatly insufficient——or otherwise I should imagine, that a true Knowledge of Cures is only to be attain'd by chance. I am, at the same time, heartily sorry to say so much on this Head, being I take the principal Recommender to be both a Man of Merit and Integrity, (but Truth will out on this Occasion,) yet I know not, I say, whether he might not be full as successful in another Way. Nevertheless, for all that has been advanced, I would not have the World in the least to imagine, that I am above learning from wild Indians, or even from Brutes themselves, the Use of the most simple Roots, or such-like, any way new, or truly useful. But this Medicine has in reality been robbed from the Profession, having been used and taught by them many Ages ago. Now, Why then, cry they, do not the Physicians use it? I say they do when needful; yet cannot so effectually persuade a Continuance as this good Woman can. Let it suffice, I say, that all Lithontriptics, or Stone-drivers, do bring away Gravel, or even sometimes may wear away or diminish some Stones; but such are to be used properly, and that too by a skilful Hand. Nay, it seems indeed beyond all dispute, that the most violent Drivers, and the quickest Stone-breakers (supposing such) are at the same time the most dangerous; probably sufficiently to be proved from the extravagant Use of this very Medicine. So  
that*



that they may save themselves the *Labour* of proving it to be the *very greatest*. Neither is it any way reasonable to suppose, as some may, that I am in the least an *Enemy* to the *Proposer*, being, as has been observed, I have even advised the Continuance of her *Medicine*, yet I am not for *her* or her *Adherents* endeavouring to run *such great Lengths* therewith. Thus, I have done no less with relation to *Ward's Drops* (to wit, antimonial Wine) also *borrowed* or *stole* from the *Profession*; nor do I know that the one deserves a *publick Reward* any less than the *other*: And I could, methinks, provide *the Publick* with a *Sufficiency* of full as good *Nostrums* as these are, at the same *Price*. Thus then I am an *Enemy* to none but the *Enemies of Truth*. *Amicus Plato, amicus Socrates, sed majus amicus veritas.*

In fine, Sir, as this Subject may require some farther *Eclaircissement* for *publick Use* (as has been observed) and that this may draw to some Length, as in writing of *Cases*, or farther *Illustrations*, &c. which such an *Epistle* as this will not admit of; would it not then be a much more reasonable *Proposal*, since such *Methods of Rewards* seem to become *fashionable*, to satisfy the *Publick*, with a small *Treatise* on this Head? After a *reasonable Gratitude* is fix'd (left to their own Generosity;) which *Treatise* shall satisfy them, or the *proper Judges appointed*, that such Method there proposed is a much more *safe, practicable* and *experimented Method* than that proposed by *Mrs. Stephens*, or otherwise *no such Gratitude* to be given. This, I hope Sir, need not appear to be an *unfashionable* or *unreasonable Proposal*, for attaining to a *modish Reputation*. Neither was I ever against *proper Gratuities* from the *Publick* to such as any way made *Improvements* in *Physick*, because I even proposed it to *Secretary Addison* and *Stanhope*, the giving of *proper Rewards* to



*such who were judged to have any way improved Physick, so as to be approved of by the proper Judges, constituted for that purpose by the Publick.*

*I am, S I R, ———*

N. B. As I am not the most fond of appearing, or signing my Name, in the publick Prints, yet I am not so shy, or backward, but even so to satisfy the publick if requir'd: In the mean time, any Particular, who inclines to take the Trouble, may inform himself of the Printer of this Paper. [*Which the said Printer objected to, as too much Trouble, and not (he said) customary, &c.*]

P. S. Some of the most *eminent* of the Profession seem to require, as a sufficient Proof of the *Excellency* of Mrs. Stephens's Medicine for dissolving the Stone, &c. that two Persons, by them made choice of, (properly examin'd with the Catheter by a Lithotomist approved by them) should be the Trial, or Test, they seem most inclined to approve. For my own part I insist not on any such Trial, since I think it may be a very good Medicine, as has been said, and yet not be sufficiently effectual on all Stones. Neither can I altogether agree, but that some Stones are wrought upon, or diminished, even in the Bladder, whether by Art, or Nature, (nay it plainly appears to me as above hinted,) so that I do not pawn my Reputation on the foresaid Proposal, such as think proper to put it to this Issue may. In the mean time, I have methinks at present said sufficient on the Nature and Quality of this and such-like Medicines.

If said that — Physicians have been tried unsuccessfully before the successful Use of this Medicine, or that of Drops, Pills, &c. I shall only now add, *I do believe it.*



*The underwritten LETTER was left some Weeks with the Daily-Post, there to be inserted; but Difficulties arising, I withdrew it.*

To the Author of ———

S I R,

**I** Freely own to you I have of late amused myself with the publick Papers, in which I observed a *Proposal of a Cure* for the Benefit of the *Publick* (to wit, that of *Mrs. Stephens.*) I thought indeed I could also have said something to the purpose on this Subject, and did accordingly commence a Letter to one judged to be sufficiently knowing in this way; but he declined appearing in the Affair; which might possibly render me also less inclinable to publish my Name. On which I then alter'd my first Intention, and instead thereof directed it to the Author of the *Grub-street Paper*. But being first obliged to read it to those judged proper to examine what goes into the said Paper, no Objection was made to the Performance; but it was by them thought necessary I should sign and publish my Name thereto; it being urged as an Argument, that *D. Hartley* had done so: To which I answered, that I was not unwilling to tell them my Name, and that they might even declare it to whomsoever should ask it; yet I could see no necessity for appearing with my Name in *common News-papers*, unless on some more extraordinary Occasion: nor was it any Example for me that *D. Hartley* did so. Now should I repeat all that passed on this Head, I know not whether sufficiently amusing to the Publick, yet shall venture so to do, since principally relating thereto. I shall however leave insisting or taking notice of so weak an Argument, (urged by them) as that a Person who keeps not an *Equipage equal to another*, is not therefore in Reason or

*Ar.*



*Argument* a sufficient *Match* for him ; but I shall rather chuse to observe, it was advanced that this good *Female* had many great *Personages* who had taken her under their *Protection* ; and consequently that there might be risk in attacking *her Method of Cure*, or that which had been advanced by Dr. or Drs. — Nay, that even the *Law* possibly might likewise be call'd in to the *foresaid Power*, should any one advance what might any way prove prejudicial to her *Subscription*, more especially since *already so well begun*, and the Publick appearing *so very well inclined thereto*. I farther plainly perceived that the Company I was in, much inclined *to have her Secret for nothing* ; so *others* were but so good as to pay for it. Which made me *shrewdly suspect*, that the Publick in general might be of some such like *Opinion*, and consequently I should only have the *Devil to my thanks*, should I be any Hindrance to their receiving such Benefit. D. Hartley was looked on as an excellent good Man on this Account, though I know not that he well could do much less, *all Things duly consider'd*. One of the same Company also alledg'd, that all *Physicians* hardly or ever meant any good to the Publick, either by *writing or otherwise* ; thinking only of their own *private Interest*, and that *all they did was so*. I own I shrewdly suspected this Gentleman to be a Follower of the L. — from his singular Manner of Reasoning. Though I could not allow but that there were in the *physical Profession*, as in other *Societies*, some more or less *publick-spirited Men*. I was even whisper'd by the same well-disposed good Gentleman, not to be so *splenetic*, but e'en to let this *good-natured honest Female* get her *Subscription*. I must readily own that some of these Arguments, especially the latter, bore some weight with me ; particularly when I consider'd the *Favour I owed to the fair Sex* ; and that even thus *to seem to attack a Female,*



*male*, appear'd to be *very unmanly*. Though I could not convince my self, but that I had rather directed my Arguments to such *Males* of the *physical Tribe*, as appear'd so deeply to be engaged therein, so strongly pushing on *their Philosophy* on us, along with *her Practice*. But besides the Reasons here given, for now declining my publishing the said Letter, I farther observed, that those of the Profession appeared to be well enough satisfy'd that others did engage in *such Affairs*, so that they might reap their Advantage also, tho' they declin'd meddling therein themselves: That is, they approved of *catching of Fish*, but not of *wetting their own Feet for them*. So that which might be judg'd to be the Business of every one, seem to be that of no one. All these Considerations, I say, together with the *Duty* and great *Regard* I owe to the *fair Tribe*, made me thus resolve, and at the same time to acquaint you, That I since observe by the publick Papers there are two others who interrupt, or interfere, with *her Scheme*, to wit, the *all-dissolving Powder*, and the *stewd-p—s Project*, stole from *D—by*, &c. But it is time I should say something in behalf of this *good Female*, so well inclin'd to serve the *Publick*, tho' *too much for one Person to do, or to make up so much Physick as alledged by her*, &c. She, I say then, surely deserves *that Sum* proposed, full as well as *Godard* did from *K. Charles*, for the Discovery of *his Drops*, or as another did since that time. ——— Nay, I know not whether she may not deserve it e'en as well as some who may have in some other way. For my own part, I must at the same time declare, that the Profession surely (if not the Publick also) appear at least thus far obliged to her, that she seems indeed to shew them (farther proved by others who have *Nostrums*,) that when they are once assured, they have a *tolerable* or *proper*



*per Medicine* for any *Malady*, they do not too soon or over-readily leave it ; and so to fly straight to another (too common with many of the Profession, who scarce know the utmost Limits of their Medicine) but as she (who knows no other Remedy) they ought, I say, to continue it to the last, at least until sure, they have tried the utmost Effects of such *Medicine*, and so find it will not answer before they take to another. If thus, they then, or the Publick, do but receive such Benefit alone from her, she surely deserves such Reward. In fine, I could methinks bring many strong Arguments for the Reasonableness of her having, some such-like Sum given her ; though I am apt to think, she might get more by going on in practice without the Discovering it, so that it may be some question whether it be doing her real Service in pushing her to the Discovery thereof. Yet this must be left to her own particular Consideration, and that of her Friends. Thus from this my perplex'd way of *resolving*, or *doing and undoing*, you may easily apprehend, Sir, how very difficult and uncertain it often appears to be, to please the *Publick*, even when we strive most thoroughly so to do. Yet, in spite of all here said, should there yet remain a farther Inclination of still seeing my *fore-said Letter*, I know not whether, in such case, more could be said, than that of Submission to the *major Vis*. Nay, should even her *noble Patrons* insist on any such *Publication*, what could be said, but that *Obedience* were better than *Sacrifice*? And now, Sir, though charg'd by one of the *fore-said Company*, that my *principal View* in writing the *fore-said Letter*, was merely to acquire a private Gain, or Interest thereby ; yet you may observe by this, that I can easily enough thus lay it aside, without troubling myself farther about the *Publication*. Though I cannot by any means comprehend, but  
that



that the Interest of a *Particular* may also be consistent or *blended* with that of the *Publick*, and probably when so, it is the most *solid and real Interest* of both. Neither can I persuade my self, Sir, that you have any Business at all, or any thing to do with the Name of a Correspondent who sends you a *Letter*; since you never pretend to put in any, without the due Examination thereof, whether or not fit for the *Publick*, as being either profitable or amusing to Mankind. Now if unfit, why would you publish it? Or if hazardous, still what Business have you with the Name? (unless you were only employ'd as common Printers for an Author.) Since if you incline not to publish such Letter, on your own *Bottom*, why rather not to dissuade such Person from the *Publication* thereof, than to strive to involve him in trouble, where he reaps *none of the Profit*? What gets your Correspondent by sending, or complementing you with a Letter, to oblige the *Publick*, and to improve your Paper? Is it not you who reap all the Profits thereof? And by which some acquire considerable Estates. Nor can I by any means imagine, as you seem inclinable to have us think, that it is any Favour done to us, to put in a *proper Letter* into your *Paper*, but that the Favour is unquestionably done to you, when any such Correspondent inclines to spend *so much of his Time* in any such-like Way. If, Sir, you have any Objections, or Observations to make on this, you are at full Liberty so to do.

*From, S I R, Yours, &c.*

N. B. I shall not pretend to determine whether some more, even of the Profession, may privately be inclinable to have this *Nostrum discovered*, as believing



lieving to reap Advantage thereby. But I shall only say, that in whatsoe'er Light this Letter may be consider'd, as being advantageous to this honest Female, or otherwise ; yet this I will still continue to add, that even her Friends (if not the Profession also) without so duly considering the Proofs proposed and demanded from her, are likely to involve her into a Scrape, which probably cannot redound to her or the Publick's Advantage ; which seems plainly to appear to me. Now whate'er I may have advanced, yet I am no way unwilling to assist her with my best Advice, to shun that Rock (for the sake of Truth) by her proper Application to me for better Instructions. But I am well satisfy'd, that when discovered, we shall hear of fewer Cures than now : Nor will it be minded, nor will hardly any then know the proper Use thereof ; which she herself even now does not.

*F I N I S.*





