Essays on the bilious fever : containing the different opinions of those eminent physicians John Williams and Parker Bennett, of Jamaica: which was the cause of a duel, and terminated in the death of both.

Contributors

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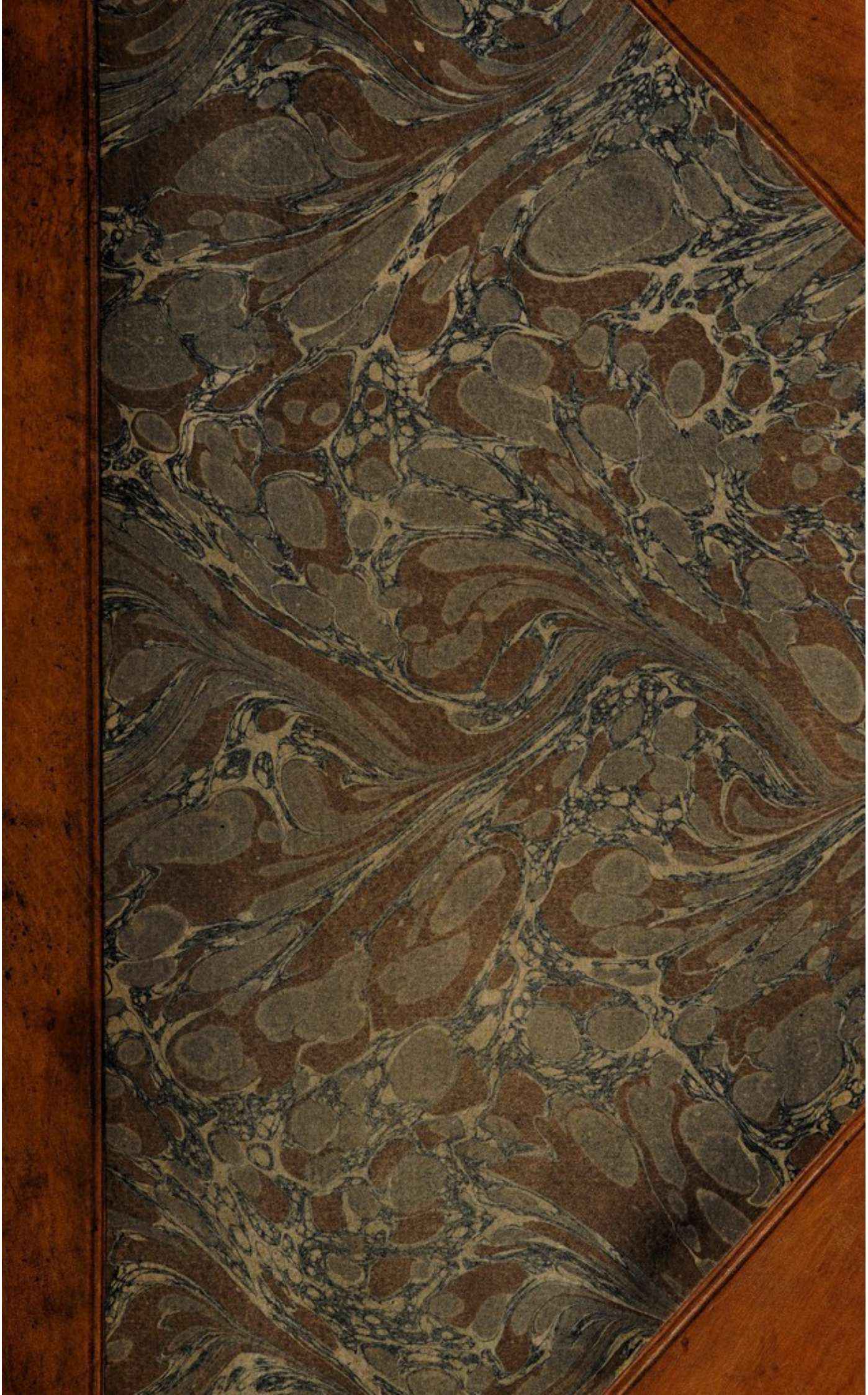

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WILLIAMS, J., and BENNET, P.

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ESSAYS

ON THE

BILIOUS FEVER:

CONTAINING

The Different OPINIONS of those

EMINENT PHYSICIANS

JOHN WILLIAMS

AND

PARKER BENNET,

OF

JAMAICA:

Which was the CAUSE of a DUEL, and terminated in the DEATH of BOTH.

Rarò Concordia Fratrum.

JAMAICA, PRINTED:

LONDON, RE-PRINTED:

For T. WALLER, opposite *Fetter-Lane*, in *Fleet-Street*. MDCCLII.

[Price Two-Shillings.]

29445 (2)

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TO THE

PUBLIC.

AN authentic account of the death of the unfortunate doctor *Williams* and doctor *Bennet* of *Kingston* in *Jamaica*, on the 29th of *December*, 1750, caus'd by the following Papers.

After a great deal of ill language they proceeded to blows, which caused challenges and acceptance, and the morning after doctor *Bennet* went arm'd with his sword and a brace of pistols to doctor *Williams*'s door very early, and knocked him up; *Williams* saw from his window who it was, and what he had to expect; upon which he loaded

his piſtols with *Gooſe*, or *Swan* ſhot; and ſlinging his drawn-ſword by a ribband upon his wriſt, came down, and opening the door, juſt ſufficient to admit his hand with a piſtol, poured a ſhot full into poor *Bennet*'s breaſt, who had delivered his own arms to his boy, whilſt he called *Williams* out; which when he had done, he continued to purſue *Bennet*, reeling to his boy, and wounded him with the other piſtol in his knee. *Bennet* by this time had gained his ſword only, which was faſtened ſo ſtrongly in the ſcabbard, that with all his endeavours he could not draw it. When *Williams* had fired his ſecond piſtol, *Bennet* turned upon him, thanked God he had power to be reveng'd, and whilſt he endeavoured to releaſe his impriſon'd weapon, begged of God to invigorate him a few moments; but *Williams* then gave him a mortal thruſt under his right arm, which pierced the lungs on both ſides; having done this he was turning to run for it, but that moment *Bennet* drew

his

his ſword, and made a paſs at *Williams*, which entering under the right clavicle or collar bone, pierced the internal jugular vein, and finiſhed its courſe in the ſhoulder blade, breaking off at the place of entrance; however, *Williams* run about ten or fifteen yards and then fell, ſuffocated with his blood, and never ſpoke more. The unfortunate *Bennet* ſurvived him about four hours, and then expired, in the moſt agonizing pains imaginable.

AN

ESSAY

On the BILIOUS, or YELLOW

FEVER

OF

JAMAICA.

Petet autem novum quoque consilium, non ab rebus latentibus (istæ enim dubiæ & incertæ sunt) sed ab his, quæ explorari possunt; id est, evidentibus causis.

A CORN. CELSI *Præf.*

By *JOHN WILLIAMS.*

PREFACE.

THAT no one hath yet endeavoured to explain to the public the nature and causes of this fatal bilious, or yellow, fever of Jamaica, *is somewhat strange; and it is the more surprizing as we have had physicians capable of doing it. Sure such a task would not be unworthy of those learned gentlemen fortune hath placed above the necessity of practising physic for a livelihood!*

To me it appears a debt due to mankind from every capable person to communicate what may be useful to society; and more particularly what tends to the immediate preservation of the species.

When I have talked with some judicious gentlemen about the nature and causes of this fever; and mentioned my design of writing upon the subject; the answer I commonly received was, That the disease was sufficiently known; but little could be done for the patient: and that, in its greater degree, this fever was generally incurable.

But as Lord Bacon *observes,* to declare diseases incurable is to establish negligence and carelessness as it were by law, and to screen ignorance from reproach *. *Whether the following sheets will give any light into this disorder; or whether the real nature and causes of this disease, together with the proper method of treating it are pointed out, I leave to capable judges to determine. Be the success what it will; the World ought not only to excuse, but applaud me; because the real motive that induced me to write upon this fever was, a sincere desire to serve mankind: which desire will be gratified if this essay should spur on others, perhaps more capable, to write upon the subject.*

What I have found by long and faithful observation and experience to be useful or hurtful I have pointed out. And if uncommon success in the cure of this fever is any proof of the justness of my practice, I have that to support it.

As I look upon the ætiology of this disease to be what is most wanted, I have confined this essay chiefly to that; touching but

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* *De augment. scient.*

lightly on the diagnostick or prognostick: For these parts of the practice of physic, in this disorder, are well known to all who have lived any considerable time in the country, or have attended sick strangers. Of the dietetick and therapeutick parts I have said enough to those acquainted with diseases: had I said more, it might not have rendered this essay more useful to those unacquainted with medicines and diseases.

Some few years ago when these papers were wrote, we had several advocates for the alexipharmic *or* sudorific *method: And as* Wainewright *observes,* we may conclude how fit they were to be trusted with the patient's life, who instead of curbing the too impetuous motion of the blood with cooling diluters, and moderate evacuations, spur'd it on faster with their heating cordials, and *alexipharmics**.

It appears to me that no man, let his genius or stock of learning be what it will, can be a judge of the disorders of this country without faithful observation and experience; yet the passion for novelty is so great amongst us that some persons sacrifice life itself to it.

———quæ tanta insania cives?

A new comer, whose head is filled with theory and darling hypotheses, by some will be trusted before a man who like honest and careful Sydenham *hath made himself acquainted with the diseases of the country, and prudently follows the vestigia of nature; never sacrificing his patient to any favourite hypothesis.*

Another shocking consideration is, that reputation in the practice of physic is not acquired by medicinal knowledge, experience, and those accomplishments which render a physician justly eminent in other places, but to the sanguine endeavours of party; so that men's lives are sacrificed to pique and prejudice; and that noble and useful art the practice of medicine (heretofore the study of princes) is now prostituted to the basest ends.

To relieve a fellow creature languishing under disease, or tortured with excruciating pains, is great and godlike: And whosoever is capable of doing this, must in the exercise of his profession (in my opinion) enjoy the greatest pleasure the human mind is capable of.

The honourable assembly hath wisely considered that the good, welfare and security of this island depends greatly on the in-

* *Chap. 5. sec. 20. of acute distempers.*

creaſe of its white inhabitants: and to that end hath given (according to the accuſtomed goodneſs and generoſity of that honourable houſe) the greateſt encouragement ever was given to ſtrangers to become ſettlers in this iſland. And ſhould not we as ardently ſeek after means to keep them alive when they do come here? I have ſeen ſeveral melancholy inſtances of ſtrangers who, upon their firſt arrival, by walking too briſkly, and careleſly expoſing themſelves to the meridian ſun, have fallen into this fever.

Strangers have too great a prejudice to our iſland; which I would willingly remove by ſhewing them we have no malignant or infectious air (as is generally imagined) but that the worſt of our diſorders are cauſed by errors in the nonnaturals which may be avoided, and prædiſpoſing cauſes in northern *bodies which may ſoon be removed; and that this fever of which they have ſo dreadful an idea may be prevented, or cured.*

Many obſervations and caſes (ſeveral of which I have by me) might be added: but what is already wrote may be ſufficient for a firſt eſſay.

I conclude with addreſſing myſelf to the reader in that trite quotation from Horace.

Vive; vale, ſi quid noviſti rectius iſtis,
Candidus imperti: Si non, his utere mecum.

Illam tantum mihi veniam peto, quod minus accuratè, quam propoſueram, morbi hiſtoriam ac curationem deſcripſero; cum non tam metam figam, quam animos iis addam qui feliciore ingenio præditi ad hoc opus poſtea ſe accingent, quod jam ego imperfectè molior.——*Syden.*

AN

ESSAY

ON THE

BILIOUS FEVER, &c.

THE bilious, or yellow fever, ſo called from the yellow appearance of the ſkin (commonly moſt remarkable in the *Tunica conjunctiva*) ſeems to be a diſeaſe not unknown to the antient phyſicians, as is generally ſuppoſed: For whoever will take the trouble to ſearch *Hippocrates*, will not only find this fever pretty well deſcribed, but alſo a proper method of treating it.

In his book *de Affectionibus*, he mentions a fever with a pain about the *Præcordia* and *Hypochonders*, particularly the right in the region of the liver; and when on the fourth or fifth day the fever is more violent, the pains increaſe and the patient appears ſomewhat bilious or yellow. And in his epidemics in the third conſtitution in *Thaſus* he mentions ardent fevers, in which a jaundice came on the ſixth day: Theſe were relieved by a critical diſcharge by ſtool or urine,

urine, or hæmorhage from the nose, or all together, as he instances in his patient *Heraclides*. The twelfth patient, in the third book of popular diseases, was seized with a violent fever in the beginning, which ended with all the symptoms of our yellow fever, black vomiting, hiccup and bleeding at the nose.

This author mentions frequently those symptoms, which are reckoned the diagnostics or distinguishing marks of this disease, as the vomiting of black humours, which he says indicates sudden death * and a fever with a concomitant jaundice ‡ which he represents as dangerous if the jaundice comes on soon †; which remark holds good here: and further he adds in the same aphorism, that in this case a loose belly is favourable. This also holds good in *Jamaica*; for a spontaneous diarrhœa coming on in the beginning of this fever is always serviceable, and it proves very dangerous to stop it with opiates or alexipharmicks. Indeed the fevers described by *Hippocrates* were not so soon determined; nor were his bilious or yellow fevers so acute as ours; they terminating commonly in seven or nine days ‖, sometimes in fourteen: This difference probably is to be attributed to the difference of climate and manner of living.

Celsus, the prince of the Latin physicians, mentions particularly the vomiting of black humours §, and says in this case the belly ought to be moved **.

Amongst later authors, I think *Hoffman* describes an ardent bilious fever much like ours; and also the choleric fever, which we frequently have here in the latter end of the year. ‡‡

I do not apprehend this fever is what we call a local disorder; for I have seen it upon the coast of *Africa*, and am well informed that in the River *Benin* they have a bilious or yellow fever acuter than what it was here, at the time of the expedition to *Carthagena*; the persons seized with this fever dying there in less than twenty-four hours. This disorder is generally brought on by suddenly cooling the body

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* *Lib. Prænot.* ‡ 1 *Epidem.* 11. 120. *de Cris.* viii. 20. *Aph.* 4, 64. *de Cris.* iii. 5, 18, iv. 11. *Coac.* i. 172. *Aph.* lxii. *Sec.* 4. † *Quibus per febres morbus regius ante diem septimum obortus fuerit, malum.* ‖ *De affect.* xiii. 9. § *Pessimum est atrum vomere.* ** *His recte alvus ducitur.* ‡‡ *De febribus acutis.* Sec. ii. Chap. 2.

and

and checking perſpiration after hard excerciſe in the heat of the ſun; for when the ſailors go to cut wood for the ſhip's uſe, they are obliged to row ſeveral leagues againſt a current, and then jump into the water in order to carry the wood on ſhore. *Bontius* gives an account of ſuch a fever in the *Eaſt-Indies*. Nor does this fever appear to have any particular conſtitution; for we have it at all ſeaſons of the year, and one of the higheſt caſes I ever ſaw was that of a gentleman who had it at a time no other perſon laboured under it.

This fever being ſo general and fatal at the time of the expedition, people looked upon it as a plague, and ſhunned the ſick as they would contagion. And probably at that time it might be contagious, for as *Bellini* obſerves "*Febris peſtilens cum nempe febris maligna privata, fit popularis, eorum quos invadit pleroſque necans & contagioſa.*"

As to that phænomenon, yellowneſs of the ſkin, it ought not always to be reckoned a diſtinguiſhing mark of this fever, becauſe it is a common appearance in all fevers where there is a ſtrong propenſity of the juices to putrefaction, as the celebrated *Boerhaave* takes notice †. Indeed in the bilious fevers there is a deeper and more remarkable yellowneſs; and perhaps *Galen*'s opinion may be right when he ſays, "*The bile offends more or leſs in all fevers.*" Be it as it will, I have obſerved in the *Carribee Iſlands* and *North America*, different ſorts of yellow fevers. Nay, even in this iſland of *Jamaica* I have obſerved different yellow fevers. For in the year 1744, after the hurricane, ſeveral people laboured under a putrid remitting yellow fever, ariſing from a manifeſt change of the air. In this fever, which I call a *central* fever, dangerous nervous ſymptoms ſoon came on, and bliſters, camphire and ſnake-root were ſerviceable: For the pulſe was low and oppreſſed, and the extremities cool.

So there cannot be a greater, tho' general miſtake, than to imagine all yellow fevers of the ſame *genus*; and that they ſhould be all treated in the ſame manner, as ſhall be obſerved below.

Many purſue Doctor *Warren*'s ſudorific method both in

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† *Homo qui humorum putredine laborat ſemper flaveſcit in cute exteriori*, Prax. Med. *This and all the ſubſequent quotations under the ſame title are from a ſpurious edition, far below the dignity of* Boerhaave.

the

the iſlands, and on the continent of *America*, in ſome parts it anſwers, in others is deſtructive.

Laudatur ab his, culpatur ab illis.

Several practitioners object againſt this method in different places, as too hot; being, it ſeems, convinced by their bad ſucceſs that it will not anſwer: yet all apprehending but one ſort of yellow fever, they follow implicitly doctor *Warren*'s method, or ſome other they are prejudiced in favour of by hearſay only, and proceed, very frequently, contrary to the endeavours of nature and indications of the pulſe, deſtroying the patient *ſecundum Artem*: fatal miſtake!

Doctor *Warren* wrote concerning a malignant fever in *Barbadoes*, and I don't doubt but that judicious gentleman hath laid down the beſt method he knew of treating it. I never read the treatiſe; but I had ſome acquaintance with the gentleman, and believe he juſtly merited the character he bore.

Shall the yellow fever of *Jamaica* agreeing perhaps only in one phænomenon (yellowneſs) with that of *Barbadoes*; or the fever on the continent (may be a third ſpecies of yellow fever) be treated after the ſame method, when experience, the beſt guide, convinces us they require different methods of cure? For inſtance, thoſe ſeiz'd with this fever in *Jamaica*, generally have a full frequent pulſe to the very laſt; nor is it ſunk much by evacuations; which in the begining they bear very well. A cooling regimen, ſolutive and diluting medicines ſucceed beſt, and the diſeaſe ſoon arrives to its *acme* or ſtate, and conſequently is ſoon determined.

In *Virginia* and other parts of the continent, the pulſe ſinks ſo as to be vermicular or ſcarce perceptible whether you uſe evacuations or no. The ſtrongeſt alexipharmics and ſudorifics (which, given in *Jamaica* in this ardent fever I treat of, would bring on a *delirium* or *phrenzy*, and deſtroy the patient) will ſcarce raiſe the pulſe, tho' given in immoderate doſes. In *Virginia*, we are to promote, at all events, the *concoction* of the febrile matter by the uſe of alexipharmics and ſudorifics, although by theſe we tranſlate that

febrile

febrile matter to the brain, bring on a *coma* or *delirium*, which is often the caſe, we muſt keep up the pulſe until the criſis; which generally happens on the ſeventh, ninth, and ſometimes the eleventh day. In *Jamaica* all we can do is little enough to ſuppreſs the fever; we give all ſuch things as powerfully cool, and condenſe the blood, thereby preventing the *formation* of the fever.

In *Virginia* nothing is ſo ſerviceable in the remiſſions as the *Peruvian* bark, or even in the height of the fever (after its firſt *ſtadium*) without regard to the exacerbations or remiſſions; which, by the way, is contrary to practice.

In *Jamaica*, the bark in all forms hath frequently been tried in the remiſſions, but without ſucceſs. Indeed it generally does much harm. Are not theſe diſeaſes and methods of cure diametrically oppoſite to each other? yet are they both yellow fevers.

What hath been ſaid may be ſufficient to prove that there are different yellow fevers; and that yellowneſs of the ſkin is not always a diſtinguiſhing mark of, and particular to this ardent bilious fever.

Let us now conſider the nature and cauſe of this dreadful fever of *Jamaica*, heretofore ſo fatal to ſtrangers. Let us trace it up to its origin if we can: For as the great doctor *Mead* obſerves, * "The firſt ſtep towards the cure "of a diſeaſe is to know its origin." Let us then reaſon from effects to their cauſes, that is, from the preſent ſymptoms or appearances, let us find the real diſeaſe; at leaſt let us honeſtly endeavour it, for the good of our fellow creatures.

We firſt know by experience what evacuations, medicines and regimen ſucceed beſt in this diſeaſe: And then, as the judicious *Sydenham* obſerves, we endeavour from the nature of the diſorder to account for their effects.

The diſtinguiſhing ſymptoms, or *diognoſtics* of this diſorder are, beſides what is common to fevers, great anxiety, heat and pain at the *ſcrobiculum cordis*, proceeding from an obſtruction of the bile and ſome degree of inflammation of the liver, which frequently cauſes a jaundice, bilious vomitings, or ejections, or both; ſometimes an acute, ſometimes a denſe pain about the region of the liver, all manifeſt

* *Preface to his eſſay on Poiſons.*

ſigns of inflammation and ſtrong propenſity of the juices to putrefaction. Sometimes, we find the right *hypochonder* tumified, frequently hard. Many cannot bear preſſure on the right ſide, or to lie on the left, as may be obſerved on proper examination, and a nice attention to the complaints of the patient. From theſe ſymptoms to worſe, —— ſtrong and continual convulſions of the *diaphragma*, intercoſtal muſcles, and ſtomach, æruginoſe vomitings, —— then vomiting of black aduſt blood, appearing like the grounds of coffee mixed with acrid unfiniſhed bile, the juices of the ſtomach and pancreas both very ſharp, —— bleeding from the emunctories, or delirium, or phrenzy; general gangrene and death. Theſe are indeed dreadful ſymptoms; but theſe it is our buſineſs to prevent, and I apprehend we may point out cauſes adequate to theſe effects, without accuſing our air of malignancy; without the *aliquid divinum* of *Hippocrates*, or occult venom, *&c.* and that in a plain and mechanical manner.

I am not ignorant, that to underſtand the remote cauſes of diſeaſes, as what they call the morbific diſpoſition of the air, the poiſonous effluvia or ſubtle *miaſmata* that occaſion fevers, or are ſaid to occaſion them, nor that particular bad contexture of the contaminated juices conſequent, is not abſolutely neceſſary to the cure of fevers. As *Pitcairn* obſerves, "No matter whether fevers are occaſioned by the "*miaſma* from without, or the humours be changed with-"in to morbific matter, for all things will happen in the "ſame manner."

It is ſufficient if we know how to remove that dyſcracy of the blood, to alter or to divide and attenuate the præternatural cohesions, correct its acrimony; and render it ſoft, ſmooth and balſamic as in a ſtate of health. It is enough generally if we underſtand the preſent phænomena and can aſcertain its genus by the preſent concomitant ſymptoms. Yet I believe it will not be denied, that ſometimes a knowledge of the remote and primary cauſes ſerves to illuſtrate the nature of the diſorder; and from that knowledge we may poſſibly draw indications for the cure.

The cauſes of this fever ſeem to be a ſudden check to perſpiration, a redundancy of bile, than which nothing is more likely to happen to ſtrangers, ſurely a moſt dangerous plethora! ſtoppage of ſome natural evacuations, drinking large

large draughts of cool liquors when the body is overheated, vehement exercise, hard drinking, &c. but above all, exercise that is violent or long continued in the heat of the sun.

Among the prædisposing causes we may reckon the rigid fibres and thick blood of *Europeans* and *North Americans*, their almost callous pores, which will not permit, if the expression may be used, an evaporation equal to the effervescence raised within; whence the thin fine parts only are drained off, or transude, whilst the more gross and fuliginous are confined in the vessels, or block up the passages.

These are, at least in my opinion, sufficient causes to deduce all the dreadful symptoms from, we see in the yellow fever, without having recourse to malignancy, or occult venom, &c.

e. g. Should a person sanguine and plethoric, with rigid fibres and stiff contracted pores (as most of the northern people have) use any vehement exercise in the heat of the sun; by this heat, and the action of the muscles, the blood would be greatly rarified, and the celerity of its motion increased; now, the tense muscular coats of the arteries strongly contracting, impel forward the blood heated and rarified, faster than it can pass into the veins; the thinner fine fluids from the extreme vessels on the surface of the body are in a great measure exhausted: for this consumption, as *Sanctorius* takes notice § must be the consequence of any violent exercise: and here, can be only of the finer fluids; for, as we before observed, the pores are too stiff, springy and contracted to admit through the grosser particles, whence the serum is inspissated; and by the increased velocity of the blood's motion too intimately mix'd and blended with the *Crassamentum*; and the more so, as the thinner parts are more exhausted; whence its disposition to stagnate, to stop the circulation of the *lymph*, which causes general glandular obstruction. Or, which is often the case I believe, when the blood is rarefied and expanded beyond the natural diameter of the vessels, the arteries forcibly, and perhaps suddenly contracting, force some of the globular part of the blood into the *Arteria serosa primi Generis*, their coats being much less capable of resistance than the sanguine arteries, consequently the more liable to distend: and some part of the yellow se-

§ *Exercitium animi & corporis violentum reddit corpora levioris ponderis.*

rum in the *vasa serosa primi generis*, is forced into the still finer and weaker vessels *arteria serosa secundi vel tertii generis*, or *vasa lymphatica*; whence that moderate yellowness in the beginning of this fever.

The liver, which is a soft and yielding *viscus*, being less capable of resistance than many outer parts of the body, the heated rarefied blood is thrust into it, in greater quantity than usual; and some part of the blood is forced into the lateral vessels of the *vena porta* along with the bile; whence a partial obstruction, and inflammation of the liver. The bile is regurgitated by the *vena cava*, whence a jaundice, or a deeper yellow.

From this extravasation, or ingress of fluids, whose compounding parts are too large to pass the vessels, must arise a most dangerous glandular obstruction, to stop the circulation of the *lymph*, &c. and of consequence a dangerous fever: for the blood now hath no longer *lymph* to cool and dilute it; but is rendered more acrid by the mixture of the bile; whence a putrefaction of the juices, an erosion of the vessels; or great relaxation from the long continued *plethora*; their contractile restitutive power being almost totally destroy'd; as well as the texture of the blood; whence bleeding from all the lateral vessels, general gangrene, death.

That this extravasation of the blood frequently happens; nay a rupture of the arteries themselves, (whose coats bear a much greater proportion to their diameters than the *arteria serosa primi generis*; and these again bear a much greater proportion to their diameters than the *arteria serosa secundi vel tertii generis &c.)* is pretty evident; for several persons have dropp'd down dead through excessive heat of the sun in *Philadelphia* and other countries, where the great heats are not so usual, nor fibres sufficiently relaxed to give way to the sudden expansion of the blood in the *carotid* and *cervical arteries*. Several after fighting or other vehement exercise, have died apoplectic by drinking cold water, or cooling too suddenly; which proceeded from too sudden a contraction of the arteries before mentioned, with their too great springiness and stiffness; for did they sufficiently dilate to the expansive force of the blood, this would not happen.

Where this extravasation happens within the *cranium*, it is plain the immediate consequence must be sudden death: and this often happens in the course of this fever, except pre-

prevented by plentiful bleeding in the beginning, or a large *hæmorrhage* from the nose.

But if an inflammation happens from the causes before observed in the liver (which seems to be frequently the case) an ardent fever with a jaundice must succeed; from whence may be deduced all the dire symptoms of this fever, without that vague notion of malignancy, as the learned *Boerhaave* observes * "From the various kinds of jaundice and affec-
"tions of the liver may be understood many symptoms
"occurring in acute diseases, whose reasons being unknown,
"have given birth to all the tales about malignancy in dis-
"eases; for, from the liver do depend all the bowels of the
"*abdomen*, and consequently all their actions of digestion,
"assimilation and nutrition, *&c.*" He says also that great anxiety (so remarkable in this fever) proceeds from stagnating bile §. Most of the antient physicians, *Greeks* and *Arabians* reckoned bile the cause of malignant and putrid fevers. *Barbette* of fevers in general, says very well,
"*Partes affectæ sunt ventriculus, intestinum duodenum, hepar,*
"*pancreas, glandulæ mesenterii causa succus pancreaticus non*
"*bene sese misceat cum bile, chyloque; sic bilis præternatu-*
"*raliter regurgitat per venam cavam ad cor totumque corpus.*"

Bellini reckons amongst the principal causes of fevers whatever accumulates bile §.

Hippocrates observes that persons labouring in the sun, such as mowers and travellers, overheat themselves in summer time; and by that means throw off too great a quantity of the thinner part of the blood, by which means the thick blood of those persons does not pass through the liver, but is there accumulated. What so often brings on this fever as overheating the body?

The constitution of the air, and the diseases in the *East-Indies*, according to *Bontius*, seem to resemble the air and diseases of this country. He remarks that the liver in that country, is very often inflamed by the pernicious custom of drinking *arrack* (very common amongst the sailors) and afterwards lying down exposed to the air and dews, and drinking, when much heated, large draughts of cold water;

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* *Aphor. pract.* § *Hinc ob stagnationem bilis anxietas oriebatur donec moriebantur ægri.* § *De febribus.*

from

from which obſtruction and inflammation of the liver, and an acute fever frequently mortal.

His account is ſo exactly parallel to the caſe of our *Britiſh* ſailors in the *Weſt-Indies*, by a too free uſe of rum, that I have quoted it below in his own words *. *Bontius* obſerves that the jaundice is often fatal in that country: and in all theſe caſes, where the liver is affected, he attempts the cure with phlebotomy, ſolutive purges and diuretics.

Let us now conſider the mechaniſm of the liver, its connexion with the other *viſcera*, the nature of the bile, and whether it is not very probable a ſtagnation may happen frequently in the fine ramifications of the *vena porta*. The liver, as before obſerved, is a ſoft yielding gland: from which looſe texture, I ſuppoſe an obſtruction and inflammation does not always give acute pain. It covers the upper ſide of the ſtomach, whence that *nauſea* and ſenſation of weight at the ſtomach, alſo vomiting; and is connected to the *diaphragm*, whence that dangerous ſymptom hiccup, as *Hippocrates* takes notice §.

The liver, beſides its vicinity, hath an immediate communication by blood veſſels; and derives its nerves from the ſame ſtock with moſt of the bowels of the *abdomen*; and the greateſt part of the blood of the whole *abdomen* paſſes through it. From its ſituation then, connexion and uſe, it becomes obvious, that terrible ſymptoms muſt neceſſarily ariſe from an ardent fever, cauſed by an inflammation of the liver; eſpecially in this hot climate, where the juices ſo ſoon incline to putrefy ‡.

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* *Nullum viſcus frequentius in his regionibus infeſtatur quam jecur; quod prætermiſſa jam toties dicta, victus ratione mala, a potu iſtius maledicti arac, non tantum in temperamento immutatur, ſed etiam in ſubſtantia ſua corrumpitur: dum enim ejus hauſtu ebrioſi iſti excalefacti; ingentem aquæ copiam in ventriculum ingerunt, ut conceptum æſtum reſtinguant, dein humi tanquam pecudes procumbunt, & in navibus ſe rori (qui poſt ſecundam aut tertiam nocti horam copioſe hic cadit) exponunt: unde venenatos vapores é terra erumpentes, intra corpus recipiunt, & ſic obſtructionem hepatis facillimé incurrunt, cui adeſt tenſiva in hypochondrio dextro gravitas, dolorque obtuſus ac quaſi pondere premens: difficilis quoque adeſt ſpiratio, propter gravitatem viſceris, diaphragma deorſum trahentis, cui mediante ligamento ſuſpenſorio annectitur: hæc infarctio ſi perſeverit, humor hepar obſtruens, dum non ventilatur facillimé putreſcit: unde febris etiam oritur ac ipſius hepatis inflammatio.*

§ *At jecore inflammatione laborante ſuccedit ſingultus.* Sect. v. Aph. 58.

‡ *Scimus omnem calorem humorum exſiccare, & ad putredinem aptos reddere, & hoc verum fundamentum eſt gangrenæ* Boerhaave Prax. Med.

As

As to the bile, when it offends in quantity and quality both, it appears to be an agent ſufficient of itſelf to cauſe all the train of terrible ſymptoms ſeen in this fever. For the bile conſiſts of oil and a penetrating ſharp ſalt; is ſoon made more ſharp, as well as increaſed in quantity, according to *Galen*'s obſervation, and by heat and an increaſed circulation, is ſoon diſpoſed to putrefy; when if mixed with the blood it turns the whole maſs into putrefaction, and is the cauſe of a mortal fever. The excellent *Boerhaave* ſays *Nil enim plus quam oleum acre alcalinum gangrenam facit. Acrid bile*, ſeems to be here that *oleum acre alcalinum.*

The ſame author on a particular *gangrene* (which I ſuppoſe may hold good in a general one) ſays. " A gangrene in an " ardent fever and the plague is incurable, becauſe in theſe " caſes it ſuddenly turns to a mortification; and is the " hardeſt of all to be cured (in acute diſorders) in oily alcaline or bilious diſpoſitions †."

That a ſtagnation of the blood in the fine ramifications of the *vena porta*, may very frequently happen, either (as before was obſerved) from a ſudden contraction of the veſſels upon the greatly heated and rarified blood, by which means ſome of the blood globules are forced into the lateral veſſels with the bile, and being too large to paſs occaſion an obſtruction, inflammation and jaundice *&c.* as before: or (which is more likely) as the *vena porta* diſcharges the duty of an artery, but hath not ſo ſtrong a muſcular coat as an artery of equal diameter; together with a ſlower motion of the blood, the blood drained too much of its ſerum ſtagnates in the extreme branches of the *porta* where they are inflected to form the beginning branches of the *cava*: the blood is drained of the ſerum by the glands of the *abdomen* before it arrives at the liver; and the liver itſelf is ſtocked with numberleſs *lymphaticks* at the entrance of the *hepatic artery*; ſo that there is a great probability the blood may arrive in the liver according to the forementioned remark of *Hippocrates*, too thick or too much drained of its ſerum. That the blood's circulation is obſtructed in the liver appears from the following

† *Gangrena in febre ardente & peſte eſt incurabilis, quia cito in putredinem vergit, ſi temperies oleoſa alcalina vel bilioſa, in morbis acutis peſſimum eſt.* Boerhaave Prax. Med.

obſer-

obſervations. In ſubjects who died of this diſorder, the liver was increaſed in bulk and greatly inflamed: on the concave part large black ſpots appeared; which were mortified parts of that *viſcus*. The gall bladder was frequently empty. The *meſenteric veins* in the inteſtines, which all deliver their blood into one large trunk which conſtitutes the *vena porta*, were vaſtly turgid with blood, and the whole inteſtinal tube appeared livid; the inner coat being covered with a gangrenous bloody ſlough, which when waſhed off the extreme meſenteric veſſels appeared blackiſh and turgid with blood. Some appeared which, by their contortions, minuteneſs and the tenuity of their coats might be thought the lateral veſſels, or glands which excerned in a natural ſtate only *lymph* or *mucus*; but being filled with blood I could not aſcertain their ſpecies.

There are ſtill two manifeſt cauſes of this diſeaſe not yet mentioned; one is, when an inflammation of the ſmall veſſels, conſtituting the larger, ariſes: which often happens from vehement exerciſe, or, long continued motion. This caſe may be ſeen in hares hunted, bulls bated, *&c.* Here the coats of the arteries being inflamed, the circular fibres of their muſcular coats are contracted into leſſer circles, and, at the ſame time, the heated, rarified blood is forcibly expanded, and preſſes ſtrongly againſt the ſides of the veſſels: is it not evident, that in theſe circumſtances, ſome part of the *craſſamentum* is moſt likely to be forced into the lateral veſſels? and what may be the conſequence was before remarked.

Ruyſchius takes notice of a man, who died through extreme motion; in whom the coats of the *Aorta* itſelf were inflamed, and from thence the artery was contracted.

The other caſe, yet unobſerved, is, when the fat, in perſons abounding with it, is melted by overheating the body (or perhaps by the heat of a *cauſus*, or burning fever) and is abſorbed by the *meſaraic* veins, and carried to the liver, where it ſtagnates in the *vena porta*, grows rancid; occaſioning the worſt ſort of obſtruction and inflammation.

This was the caſe of Captain *Gerrard Sias* of *Liverpool*, who lodged at *Eleanor Ward*'s; but he was happily relieved by a critical diſcharge of urine, which I took care to encourage: the urine, for two or three days, appeared like

like very fat thick broth: and I have ſeen it the caſe of thin perſons, as well as fat. Theſe are, at leaſt in my opinion, a ſufficient number of cauſes, either alone, or concurring with a *plethora*, *Bellinian lentor*, or whatever alterations may happen without, or exiſt within; laying aſide all *chimeras* about occult venom, malignancy, contagion from without, or a coagulating acid within; which ſeveral learned men have proved cannot exiſt in the blood.

Moſt perſons who have been long in the country, or have attended ſick ſtrangers, can make a juſt prognoſtic in this fever; even our nurſes. However, I ſhall give the following remarks. If a jaundice comes on ſoon, it is bad; if, with livid ſpots, which ſometimes, though, but rarely, appear, fatal. If the ſkin continues obſtinately dry and rough, the caſe is very dangerous: and the more ſo, as it longer continues; for theſe very ſeldom recover, be the pulſe ever ſo good, or other appearances ever ſo favourable. The pulſe is not to be depended upon; for many will have a good pulſe in this fever a few hours before death. If the vomitings are inceſſant, grow darker, and the hiccup comes on, it is generally fatal. If the face is greatly fluſhed, and the veſſels on the *tunica adnata* turgid with blood, as in an *opthalmia*, with a concomitant phrenſy, you may expect the patient's death in a very little time; eſpecially if the skin is dry.

But if the head continues clear, the pulſe is rendered ſoft, the pains, anguiſh and nauſea are relieved by bleeding; and the humours, which were forcibly thrown up from the ſtomach, are gently carried down by ſolutives, the patient afterwards is quieter, and thoſe jactations ceaſe, the skin grows ſoft and moiſt, and the patient hath better ſpirits, it is probable he will recover, for theſe are all good appearances.

I have often wondered, that livid ſpots are not often ſeen, conſidering the blood is diſſolved to ſuch a degree ſometimes, as to force its way tho' the skin itſelf; or burſts out from ſome ſmall twig of an artery on the ſurface: and this hæmorrhage is ſo violent, it cannot eaſily be reſtrained. This was the caſe of Doctor *Dwyer*, and of ſeveral others.

Before we point out a method of cure, drawn from the nature and ſymptoms of this diſeaſe, agreeable to the precepts of the beſt ancient and modern phyſicians in ſimilar

 fevers,

fevers, and what is more, confirmed by experience, it may not be amiſs to examine theſe gentlemen's reaſons, who are ſo fond of giving *alexipharmics* and *ſudorifics* in the very beginning of this fever.

Theſe gentlemen argue, that from ſome occult venom, contagion, miaſma, or *Je ne ſais quoi*, the texture of the blood is broke, whence it is turned into a vapid and putrid maſs, no longer fit for the uſes of the animal œconomy, runs off through the glands, ſtrainers deſtined to excern a much thinner liquor; therefore, imagine the blood to be in the ſame ſtate as in peſtilential fevers, and give ſudorifics, and what are called *alexipharmics*, as in the *peſtis*; inſiſting, the moſt likely means to ſave the patient, is to keep open the skin.

The yellowneſs, they apprehend, proceeds only from the broken texture of the blood; for, ſay they, take the red globules of blood, break them in a mortar, with the addition of a little water, and they will break into a yellow fluid. This theory ſeems to be built upon the ſuppoſition, that a ſubtle elaſtic air fills the *ſpherulæ* of blood; which *ſpherulæ*, or globules, when broke, and their elaſtic air exhauſted, the blood remains a vapid and putrid maſs, no longer fit for the ſecretions.

This, if I remember right, is the opinion of doctor *Mead*, in his *Eſſay on Poiſons*, and of doctor *Boerhaave*, in his *Practice of Phyſic*, and of ſeveral learned men. The reaſon doctor *Boerhaave* gives for this conjecture is curious, *viz.* That when the blood globules enter the extremities of the evaneſcent arteries, where the diameters are ſmalleſt in their communications with the veins, theſe change their ſpherical form into that of an oblong ſpheroid, afterwards reſuming it. But this change of figure is, I think, better accounted for, by corpuſcular attraction, or that power of coheſion there is in all bodies; for we ſee two *ſpherulæ* of quickſilver, when they approach very near the point of contact, by their mutual attractive force, change their figures into oblong ſpheroids. And I ſuppoſe, a particle of quickſilver is not filled with elaſtic air, in the manner they conjecture a blood globule is. This attractive force is no innovation in philoſophy or phyſic: it is what the ancients and moderns have acknowledged, both phyſicians and philoſophers,

losophers. Doctor *James Keil* says *, The attractive force is, *ceteris paribus*, proportional to the solidity of the particles——and that a spherical particle hath, *ceteris paribus*, the strongest power.

There is an experiment, which hath been made by *Morgan* and others, which seems to overthrow this hypothesis the sudorific gentlemen have embraced; which is, The blood globules, in vacuo, retain the same size and magnitude; when, if they were filled with elastic air, they would probably burst by the expansion of that included air, now the counterballance of the atmosphere is taken off; or be blown up to a much greater bulk, were they capable of distension.

Leewenhoeck, by the assistance of his glasses, observed every blood globule was formed of six globules of the yellow serum: and Sir *Isaac Newton* hath shewn, that the colours of all bodies arise from the determinate size and magnitude of their particles and their arrangement. If so, the blood, when broke in a mortar, and blended with water, may appear (for I never made the experiment) somewhat like the yellow serum in the *arteria serosa primi generis*: but cannot, I think, be of so deep a yellow as to colour the *lymph*, as we see in this fever, without the assistance of the bile.

It is probable the serum also may consist of, that is, each globule of it may consist of a certain number of the smaller globules of *lymph*; and so on to the still finer fluids, if any finer remain in the body: but, laying aside these useless conjectures, if the dissolution of the blood their way should be the case, why does it run off so near its natural colour and consistence, and not broke, and altered in texture and colour to a yellow fluid? Or, admitting their theory, do they not take the direct method to promote the solution and colliquation of the blood; to heat, divide, and turn to putrefaction, the already too much exagitated mass †.

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* *Prop. 2d. of Animal Secretion.*

† *Omnes morbi qui oriuntur a violento motu affecti sunt putredine & alcalescente, quod apparebit ex excretis, & si homo ille moriatur, totum cadaver, intra paucas horas, erit lividum fœtens admodum.*

How pernicious muſt the theriacal draughts, given by ſome in the beginning of this fever, be? How deſtructive *cardiacs*, *volatiles*, and all ſpirituous medicines * ? If they will have *alexipharmics*, why do they not give freſh lime-juice, which is, perhaps, the greateſt in the world? Lime-juice ſo powerfully prevents the diſſolution and fluxility of the juices, that it is almoſt impoſſible to raiſe a ſalivation by mercury, if the patient ſucks limes plentifully at the ſame time.

But theſe medicines, commonly called *alexipharmics*, hurry on the inflammation to a gangrene, as the excellent *Boerhaave* takes notice †.

I own, if ſweats break out ſpontaneouſly, they are critical, and ought to be encouraged, being a very favourable appearance; particularly, when they come ſoon and are general: then, indeed, they are the moſt agreeable evacuation to nature, in all fevers, and the ſureſt termination. But, according to the laws of animal ſecretion, we cannot expect them in ardent fevers (where, by the ſwift and rapid motion of the blood, the thinner parts are immediately mixed, and blended with the craſſamentum) by the uſe of ſudorifics: we may much more reaſonably expect them, from the uſe of ſuch things as powerfully ſuppreſs the heat, rarefaction and ebullition of the blood. To confirm this, large draughts of cold water, or other cool liquors, have occaſioned profuſe ſweats in fevers, when all the ſudorifics in the ſhops would not have had the ſame effect.

I have frequently obſerved, that after the uſe of cooling, diluting, relaxing, and ſolutive medicines, a ſweat would break out ſpontaneouſly, to the great eaſe and relief of the patient ‡; for lenient purges and ſolutives cleanſe the inteſtinal

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* *Sed medici ſæpe dant in febribus aquam aromaticam, ſal viperarum, & ſal corn. cervi. ſpirit. armon. hæc omnia incendunt & flammam & motum augent; hinc hæc, ſi non requirantur, viam in gangrenam parant.* Boerhaave *Prax. med.*

† *Medici recentiores ſæpe ſuaſerunt ægris ut aſſumant theriacam, camphoram, diaſcordium, & ſimilia, tum gangrena eo citius fit, quia eſt obſtructio; ſed cum motus ingens ad partem obſtructam irruat, nec interim ille motus hoc obſtaculum ſuperare poſſit, tum eo citius fit gangræna—ſic quoque diaphragma & pleura inflammari poſſunt & hæ inflammationes æque poſſunt abire in gangrænam.*

‡ *Ad ſudorem eliciendum, acria, ſpirituoſa, ſalina, opiata, ſtomachalia ſunt valdè noxia; nam hæc non laxant ſed aſtringunt, non diluunt, ſed ſiccant, ſudoris*

teſtinal glands, and promote perſpiration internally; which carries off a much greater quantity than could paſs through an equal ſurface of the ſkin; and much groſſer matter; ſuch as ſhould be carried off; for the fine fluids, forced off by the uſe of ſudorifics, are what nature would prudently detain to cool, ſheath, and dilute the hot and inflamed *craſſamentum*: alſo to temper the bile, if it offends in quality or quantity. Theſe ſolutives relieve wonderfully the overheated and overloaded viſcera, as they ſolicit an immediate diſcharge from the liver, ſpleen, and pancreas, *&c.*

If the bile offends in quantity or quality; I mean, if it is mixed with the maſs of blood in too great a quantity, or is grown more acrid than it ſhould be, I cannot ſee how we can attempt to throw it off through the pores of the skin.

It is true, doctor *Pitcairn* aſſerts, that the bile, in a jaundice, paſſes the pores of the skin, which, he ſays, are relaxed to ſuch a degree as to admit its excretion. With all proper deference to ſo learned and judicious a man, I muſt diſſent from him: we all know the nature of the bile; that it is a very groſs fluid, abounding with oil and a very ſharp ſalt; neither of which ſeparate, or united, as in the bile, will admit of rarefaction, although a degree of heat, much exceeding that of the human body, were applied to it; therefore, to me, it does not ſeem reaſonable, that ſo groſs and tenacious a fluid can paſs, at leaſt, in a conſiderable quantity, through the epidermis in a jaundice: indeed, we ſee the *lymph* and *mucus* tinged with it, which colours the body yellow; but I never obſerved any bilious ſweats which ſtained the linen yellow, as the urine always does in that diſorder.

If then the bile, in the jaundice, paſſes off only by the renal glands, it is not probable, in theſe ardent fevers, it can be forced through the skin, whoſe pores are now blocked up, and their diameters leſſened by the ſtimuli and increaſed tenſity of the fibres.

ſudoris per ſtragulorum gravitatem expreſſio & ſimilia ſunt rejicienda; diluentia, vero & luxantia ſunt optima, his enim fibra nimis contracta & accurtata fit longior ſine ruptura & magis explicabilis, hoc præſtat ſola aqua tepida & oleum lenitſime blandum (teſte Hippocrate) Boerhaave *Prax. Med.*

Nay, experience teaches us, that nothing relieves, or alleviates thoſe ſymptoms of ſtagnating choler, great anxiety and heat at the pit of the ſtomach, ſo much as ſolutives and diuretics mixed. Nor ought we to attempt the carrying it off any other way than by ſtool or urine; for vomiting is dangerous, never critical in this fever, but ſymptomatical; proceeding from an inflammation of the parts adjacent to the ſtomach, as ſhall be obſerved by and by.

Sure, were theſe advocates for ſudorifics acquainted with the animal œconomy (from the knowledge of which we can only draw true and juſt indications for the cure of diſeaſes) would they in ardent, rarefactive, and inflammatory fevers, adminiſter theriacal, ſpirituoſe, and volatile medicines, *&c.* which do ſo often, by the injudicious adminiſtration of them, bring on gangrenes, deliria, phrenzies, apoplexies or hæmorrhages?

Would they not uſe, much rather than theſe hot medicines, the fine vegetable acids (the greateſt *alexipharmics!*) which all-bounteous nature provides us ſo plentifully with, that they are to be found on every hedge? Did they know, that by the immediate action of theſe hot medicines upon the ſtomach, the deſcending trunk of the *aorta* is compreſſed; and conſequently, from that immediate compreſſion, as well as from the ſucceeding rarefaction of the blood, a greater quantity of blood muſt be determined to the already turgid blood veſſels of the head: for here are neither muſcles nor bones to impede its rapid motion to this part. What wonder then, if delirium, or phrenzy, or apoplexy is the conſequence of their adminiſtration? Beſides, when the liver is increaſed in bulk, and preſſes upon the ſtomach and parts adjacent, volatiles and cardiacs will act in conjunction with it, and the deſcending blood veſſels will be ſtill more compreſſed; the dangerous conſequences of which are obvious from what hath been ſaid before. This digreſſion upon the ſudorific or *alexipharmic* method, I hope, carries its excuſe with it.

Since it is plain from a juſt attention to the nature of the diſeaſe, as well as from the immediate putrefaction and livid colour of perſons who die of this fever, and inſpection of their viſcera, that whatſoever is the cauſe, the diſorder may be juſtly termed a general inflammation, often (if not prevented) terminating in a general gangrene, or death:

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ſo that we are to endeavour, by all poſſible means, to prevent this general gangrene. And here let us conſider by what means nature endeavours to help herſelf. Let us follow the foot-ſteps of that wiſe guide, and not contradict her in her intentions, or counteract her, as too many do.

The critical diſcharges here, are as uncertain as the critical days. Sometimes we have a criſis by the skin in ſweat, eruptions, or ſmall boils; which, as was obſerved, are the moſt favourable and ſureſt terminations of all fevers in this country: often by a diarrhœa, or urine. Twice I have ſeen a criſis by a bubo and parotis, as in the plague. Hæmorrhage from an artery is ſometimes critical, and ſaves the life of the patient; at other times, and that frequently, it carries them off.

Hippocrates, that accurate obſerver of nature and her operations and endeavours, ſpeaking of a fever with a concomitant jaundice, ſays, *Quoſdam etiam ſexto die morbus regius prehendit, verum iſtos per veſicam expurgatio, aut commota alvus, aut copioſa ſanguinis a naribus profuſio ſublevavit* *.

We ſhall now conſider the evacuations that may aſſiſt or contradict nature, how beſt to promote thoſe diſcharges which are critical, and in what ſtage of the fever ſuch evacuations are proper. As to ſweats, I think enough hath been ſaid, to prove they ſhould not be attempted by ſudorifics; nor can be expected from the uſe of them.

Vomits too are very injudiciouſly adminiſtred; for vomiting is always here ſymptomatical, proceeding from the inflammation of the liver and parts adjacent, as before obſerved; for, were it critical, as *Decker* takes notice †, then relief would enſue from the exhibition of a vomit: but experience convinces us of the contrary. *Barbette* ſays, vomiting and hiccup are concomitant with an inflammation of the liver §. And that this ſymptomatical vomiting is very dangerous ‖. If this troubleſome ſymptom is not prevented in the beginning, it grows more and more violent, ſo as to prevent the ſick from taking drink, food, or

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* *Epidem, lib.* 1. † *De vomitu.* § *Prax. med.* ‖ *Vide* Decker's *remarks on* Barbette, *publiſhed in* Latin, *at* Leyden.

medicine,

medicine, until it comes to the vomiting of black blood, mixed with aduſt bile, and the ſharp juices of the ſtomach.

It then appears to be our duty to ſuppreſs or mitigate this vomiting, if poſſible; or, to prevent it, by keeping open the body with ſolutives, from the beginning, and, by that means, direct the courſe of the bile and other ſharp humours downwards. Theſe ſolutives ſhould be continued, at leaſt, until the ſtate of the fever.

Hippocrates takes notice, and ſo does *Celſus*, that a looſeneſs ſuppreſſeth vomiting: we are convinced, by experience, it doth in this fever. Further, it will appear plain to any one who underſtands the animal œconomy, or the mechaniſm of vomiting, that where there is any inflammation of the viſcera, vomiting muſt very much increaſe the miſchief; and alſo, how likely it is to bring on an Inflammation of the diaphragm and intercoſtal muſcles; whence inceſſant vomiting and that dreadful ſymptom the hiccup.

Now, let us conſider bleeding, an evacuation that hath been much diſputed about. And here I muſt be of doctor *Sydenham*'s opinion, when, ſpeaking of the plague itſelf, he ſays, *They, who condemn bleeding, have not bled in time, or elſe, too ſparingly* *.

Bleeding ſeems highly neceſſary in the beginning of this fever; not only in eaſing the pains and anxiety, which are a great part of the diſeaſe, but alſo in reducing the degree of heat; for, as *Wainwright* obſerves, *The heat of an animal is in a compound proportion of his quantity of blood, and the celerity of its motion* §. So that, by diminiſhing the quantity of blood, we leſſen the heat and thirſt; for fewer of the thin parts will be diſſipated, and conſequently, by this, we reduce, in ſome degree, the fever. Beſides the heat acts as an univerſal ſtimulus, whereby the diameters of the veſſels, ſecretory and excretory, are ſtraitned; ſo that we cannot expect any relieving glandular diſcharge, until we have lowered the degree of heat. We ought then, by all poſſible means, to diminiſh the heat, to ſuppreſs the outrage, rarefaction, and efflatus of the blood, thereby

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* *De peſte,* § *De morbis acutis.*

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preventing the *formation* of the fever, and its dreadful consequences; for if we cannot prevent the *formation* of the fever, we can do but little in the course of the disorder: it proving of very bad consequence, to endeavour to force a crisis, when the fever is formed and fixed upon the whole system. This is agreeable to the precept of the divine old man, *Incipientibus morbis, si quid movendum videatur, move; vigentibus vero quiescere melius est* *. This author advises bleeding in acute disorders, where the disease is violent and the patient in the flower of his age, or hath sufficient strength to bear it †. *Aretæus* who, amongst the ancients, was next to *Hippocrates*, says, if there is any remarkable inflammation in the liver or præcordia, we should bleed the patient *ad deliquium*.

Riverius, speaking of the plague, says, *Si vero ipso morbi initio & viribus adhuc vigentibus vocatur medicus, & aut plethoram, aut febrem adesse advertat, metusque sit ne ad cerebrum aut partem aliam principem fiat metastasis sanguinis fieri videatur missio, & eam instituere intrepide poterit medicus, habita tamen, naturæ ægrotantis, & virium ratione, sic etenim modo dicta præcavebuntur imminentia pericula, febris compescetur & majus spatium sanguini ad circuitum suum continuandum procurabitur.* The *Arabians* bled plentifully in all ardent fevers, and in most acute disorders. *Prosper Alpinus* takes notice, that the *Ægyptians*, who are obnoxious to ardent and inflammatory fevers, not unlike these we have in *Jamaica*, bleed in all ages, sexes and constitutions, with great success §. And *Bontius* says, he did the same in the ardent fevers in the *East-Indies*. *Galen* says, we ought to regard only the strength of the patient, and bleed proportionably. *Willis* says, the hæmorrhages before and after death plainly demonstrate it was weakness to omit bleeding. Notwithstanding, I think, from the reasons and authorities above, corroborated by observation and success in practice, that we should bleed plentifully in plethoric northern people, who have the thickest and reddest blood,

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* *Sect. 2. aphor. 29.*

† *At in morbis acutis sanguinem detrahet, si vehemens fuerit morbus, & qui ægrotant ætate florenti fuerint & virium robore valuerint. De ratione vict. in morb. acut. 396.*

§ *De medicina Ægyptiorum.*

with tenſe elaſtic fibres; yet, after the firſt ſtage, or beyond the increment of the fever, it cannot be ſo proper: as it may interrupt nature in her intentions, and prolong the criſis, if it does no further miſchief. Nor ſhould we bleed, in my opinion, after the veſſels are in any conſiderable degree relaxed.

Arteriotomy is much commended by ſome of the ancients, in all high and inflammatory diſorders, where the blood hath too great a degree of exaltation.

I have ſeveral times divided the temporal artery, with great ſucceſs, where the patient was ſeized with a delirium or phrenſy, on the very firſt attack of the fever: which happens ſometimes to thoſe perſons, whoſe fever ariſes from extreme motion in the heat of the ſun.

An argument for arteriotomy (in my opinion, a very good one) is, many perſons, in the higheſt degree of this fever, have been ſaved by an hæmorrhage from an artery; even when there was not the leaſt hopes or proſpect of recovery. This happened in the caſe of the Hon. *Waſhington Shirley*, Eſq; commander of his majeſty's ſhip the *Renown*, who, in the beginning, had loſt a conſiderable quantity of blood; yet ſeveral hours after cupping upon the ſhoulders, when the ſcarifications were cloſed, the blood forced its way through, and he bled three or four days: and the ſcarifications, although very ſuperficial, were cauterized by his own direction, to ſtop the bleeding at laſt. This was the caſe of Mr. *Jones* the attorney (and many others) who bled immoderately from the noſe, had the vomiting of black humours, and hiccup; yet recovered by the hæmorrhage.

Arteriotomy or cupping with ſcarifications ſeems to excel venæſection, for the following reaſon: thoſe perſons who die of ardent fevers, or acute diſorders, have their arteries full and veins empty; on the contrary, thoſe, who die with ſlow fevers, or chronic diſorders, have their veins full and arteries empty *.

Solutive purges and apozems with manna, *&c.* ſeem to be abſolutely neceſſary in the beginning of this fever; for

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* *Bonetus in ſepulchreto anatomico*, & Herman. Boerhaave *de febribus in genere.*

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they cool and eaſe the patient immediately, moderate the heat, thirſt, and anxiety, prevent, as was before obſerved, that terrible ſymptomatic vomiting, ſo troubleſome in the courſe of the diſeaſe! Beſides, ſolutives are plainly indicated by nature; for a ſpontaneous diarrhœa is always a favourable appearance in the beginning of this fever: therefore, where there was not one, I have always endeavoured to bring one on.

The ejections diſcharged here are generally hot, ſharp, choleric or bilious; fermenting like yeſt, and commonly very fœtid: and as theſe are immediately derived from the liver, ſpleen, pancreas, &c. they muſt, and do wonderfully relieve thoſe *viſcera* in this, and in all central fevers.

In the epidemic bilious fever at *Piſa*, *anno* 1661, thoſe who recovered were relieved by a diarrhæa *.

One of the divine *Hippocrates*'s precepts is to purge in every acute diſeaſe the firſt day, if there is a propenſity of the humours to go off that way; for delay in this caſe is bad †, and by the way his purges were none of the mildeſt.

Riverius, in the plague itſelf, adviſes purging where there is *interna humorum corruptio* §, and that there is here, the very fœtid ejections demonſtrate.

Sometimes it happens we are called in too late, when the vomiting is ſo violent, that no ſolutive medicines, ſuch as manna, *&c.* though aſſiſted with lenient clyſters, will divert the courſe of the humours; nor will anti-emetics ſtop the vomiting any conſiderable time.

In theſe circumſtances, I have ventured to give (and it ſucceeded beyond my expectations) twenty or thirty grains of ſcammony or jallap, in an anti-emetic draught, repeating it if thrown up, or not anſwering my deſign in a little time.

I know the exhibition of theſe rough cathartics in a fever will be looked upon as ſtrange practice, and I have no example or authority to ſupport it among the moderns.

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* *Borell. apud Malpigh. vit. poſth. p.* 21, 22.

† *Sect.* 4. *aph.* 10.

§ *Ubi corpus cacochymicum invadit peſtis, aut huic interna humorum corruptio.* River. reformat. de peſte.

Indeed the ancients from *Hippocrates* down to *Asclepiades*, except the school of *Erasistratus*, gave purges in acute fevers; and their purges were most of them rough and vellicating. *Hippocrates* expresly directs scammony, where the stools are bilious *.

What induced me to try medicines of this kind was, what hath been taken notice of before, that where there was a smart diarrhœa, spontaneous or procured by medicine, the vomiting never was violent, if any at all: and the diarrhœa proved very serviceable in relieving or abating all other symptoms.

Further I considered the stomach would not bear any great quantity of the most agreeable liquor, much less a sufficient dose of manna or any other lenient purge or solutive medicine; which at this time must be given in a great quantity to increase the peristaltic motion of the intestines considerably; thereby forcing the humours strongly downwards. The anti-emetic draught generally stops the vomiting for a little time, until the *cathartic* passes the *pylorus*: so that it generally answered the intention, relieving that troublesome symptom, cooling and easing the patient, and reducing, in a considerable degree the pulse, pain and anxiety.

Clysters solutive and emollient are of great service, as they are an immediate fomentation to all the bowels of the *abdomen*; promote perspiration internally, soften and relax the tense and heated intestines, and gently sollicit the evacuation of the bile and other offending humours.

The use of clysters is so manifest, so obvious (especially during the ardency of the fever) that I have no further occasion to insist on their being serviceable; or to bring authorities (many of which I could) to support my opinion.

Blisters, the use and abuse of them, at what time and in what circumstances they should be applied, require much care and consideration, for they are often beneficial in fevers, and often very pernicious.

First, it may not be amiss to examine their action on the human body, secondly, to examine the opinion of a gentleman justly celebrated for his medicinal knowledge

* *Alvique egestiones biliosæ fuerint, scammonio exhibito moderate purgandum.* de Rat. vict. morb. acut. 401.

through-

throughout all *Europe*, who ſpeaks much againſt bliſters * and laſtly conclude with ſome obſervations of the learned doctor *Mead* upon the uſe of bliſters, with our own obſervations and reaſons.

Bliſters act by increaſing the reciprocal oſcillations between the ſolids and the fluids, ſtimulating, irritating, and exagitating the whole ſyſtem; as is plain by the bloody urine and ſtrangury they occaſion: hence it ſeems, they cannot be good in the beginning of ardent fevers where all irritation increaſes the general inflammation; and every cauſe of inflammation increaſed, it ſoon goeth into a gangrene. Yet theſe have been often applied in the very beginning of ardent and highly rarefactive fevers by ſome that practiſe in *Jamaica*; and without previous bleeding, relaxation, or conſiderable evacuation of any kind!

The learned *Boerhaave* ſays of bliſters, or cantharides. *Totum genus nervoſum ſtimulant, fibrillas & ſolvunt*, and, *puto vero maxime nocere ubi humores nimis ſoluti & acres ſunt, nec in morbis acutis, nec in inflammatione convenire, nec ubi eſt inclinatio in alcali; & miror quod à tot egregiis viris adhuc laudantur, nam faciunt febrem maximam, anxietates, halitum cadaveroſum, urinam fœtidam, &c.*

Doctor *Mead*'s obſervations on the uſe of bliſters, are contradictory to doctor *Boerhaave*'s opinion, and are confirmed by experience: for he ſays, that in the confluent ſmall-pox where the blood was in ſuch a ſtate of diſſolution, that livid ſpots appeared, and blood was diſcharged from the emunctories, he applied bliſters with ſucceſs where the patient was delirious.

I am far from believing that doctor *Boerhaave* himſelf would forbid the uſe of them in all ſtages of acute fevers: for certainly they are often indicated by nature; particularly when ſhe endeavours to throw out an eruption, which is always critical; and if nature, or the *vis vitæ* (which I mean by nature) hath not ſtrength ſufficient to do her work, it ſeems highly neceſſary that we ſhould aſſiſt her.

After the firſt irritation cauſed by cantharides is over, their ſubtle active ſalts dilute the blood by reſtoring the circulation of the *lymph*: for I ſuppoſe theſe ſcour the lymphatics as cathartics do the inteſtinesbreak and attenuate the

* H. Boerhaave Prax. Med.

putre-

putrefying, ſtagnating ſerumand fit it for excretion through the ſkin, whence that *halitum cadaveroſum* doctor *Boerhaave* mentions. Theſe ſalts alſo break and attenuate the putrefying ſtagnating bile; fit it for excretion by the kidneys, and carry it off that way with ſome of the groſſer parts of the putrefying ſerum, &c. whence that *urinam fœtidam*, this learned author takes notice of.

In all *central fevers*, bliſters are certainly ſerviceable by transferring the inflammation to the ſuperficies, by preventing an inflammation of ſome noble *viſcus*, by relieving the convulſions of the diaphragm and intercoſtal muſcles, occaſioned by the afflux of hot, ſharp rarefied blood on thoſe parts; whence a continual vomiting: that being a convulſion of the diaphragm and intercoſtal muſcles; as Monſieur *Chiraux* proves by experiment.

Experience teaches us that bliſters migitate violent vomiting and hiccup: yet I would by no means recommend the uſe of them in the beginning of fevers, whilſt the fervor of the blood and tenſity of the veſſels continues: for it is then our buſineſs to ſuppreſs the fervor and *efflatus* of the blood, and relax the ſolids.

After all, bliſters, in my opinion, are ſeldom neceſſary in this fever; in ſome few caſes I have found them ſerviceable; but they ought never to be applied without due care and conſideration.

And if we do apply them we ſhould ſupply the patient plentifully with diluents and ſmooth cooling drinks, ſuch as emulſions with gum arab, &c. And indeed theſe are neceſſary almoſt through the whole courſe of the fever: but now ſhould be given in greater quantities to ſheath and dilute the cauſtic ſalts of the cantharides.

In this fever, as in moſt acute diſorders, diluting and relaxing diet and medicines are moſt proper; and the patient ſhould be kept cool as poſſible; by no means ſtifling him up with a load of bed-cloaths. or excluding the air from him, according to doctor *Boerhaave*'s ‡ and excellent *Celſus*'s his advice; who ſpeaking of a patient in a fever ſays, *etiam amplo conclave tenendus, quo multum & purum ærem trahere poſſit: neque multis veſtimentis ſtrangulandus* †.

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‡ Prax. Med. † *Lib.* 3. *cap.* 7.

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It would be very happy for poor ſick ſtrangers, if we could get them large perflated rooms inſtead of the holes they are crammed into. What convinces me this laſt precept is right, I have often obſerved that thoſe perſons who had this fever on board of the veſſels in the harbour, who ſeldom drank any thing but cold water, no beds to lye on, or cloaths to cover them, with a free admiſſion of air, frequently recovered.

Such things as relax and dilute, muſt be proper here, for all the fibres are tenſe and dry; and ſo long as the heat, ſiccity, thirſt, and ſwift pulſe continue, ſo long all diluents, and the thinneſt fluids are proper; water itſelf is convenient; for the drought, and contraction of the veſſels are a very great part of the diſorder.

The warm bath, or rather partial fomentations with vinegar and warm water muſt be very ſerviceable, as they relax and cleanſe the cuticular glands.

Acids, of which this country produces the fineſt in the world, and perhaps the greateſt variety, muſt be very ſerviceable; ſo muſt vinegar and water mixed; and acid medicines ſuch as *ſpt. vitroli*, *ol. ſulph. per campanam*, *ſpt. nitri dulc. &c.* the nitral ſalts much diluted and given in ſmall quantities, elſe they increaſe thirſt: all theſe muſt be very uſeful judiciouſly exhibited; ſo muſt ſolutive acid fruits, ſuch as tamarins and caſſia boiled in water for common drink, according to the manner of the *Ægyptians* as *Proſper Alpinus* obſerves *.

Jamaica ſorrel or the jelly of it diſſolved in barley water, and all our fine vegetable acids, are not only moſt agreeable to the ſick, but are alſo the moſt ſerviceable, as they abate the inflammation, allay thirſt, reſiſt that general putrefaction of the juices, correct the bile, promote its diſcharge by urine, and gently open the body. So manna alſo diſſolved in barley water and acidulated with lime or lemon juice is a very pretty draught; and might be frequently taken to keep the belly ſoluble; and by that means eaſe the anxiety, heat and pain.

Briſtol hot-well water when it arrives here ſeems to be only the pureſt water; having loſt all the minera or calx it may be impregnated with at the well, as it is a pure cool

* *De medicina Ægyptiorum.*

drink,

drink, vaſtly agreeable to the ſick it may be drank plentifully after the increment, about the ſtate of the fever; then there cannot be a better liquor uſed to dilute, cool and temper the hot, inflamed and almoſt boiling blood; as well as to promote any critical diſcharge.

Galen reccommends the drinking of cold water in continual fevers; ſo do the *Arabian* phyſicians, particularly *Avicenna*, who gave it through the whole courſe of ardent and bilious fevers, as he ſays, to allay thirſt, and to temper and promote the concoction of the bile *; indeed warmed liquors or tepid are the beſt in the beginning becauſe they relax moſt. The divine *Hippocrates* in acute diſorders gave ptiſan of barley and the cooleſt and thinneſt food §, *Willis* barley-water with honey and vinegar. *Boerhaave* recommends in all diſorders where the juices are inclined to putrefy, tamarins, juice of lemons, rheniſh wine, buttermilk ſtrained through flannel to take out the butter and cheeſe. He ſays the poor people in *Amſterdam* at the time of the plague drank a mixture called *de tribus*, the baſis of which was vinegar; by the uſe of which liquor many recovered.

Tachenius in a ſevere plague in *Italy*, ſays he preſerved himſelf and ſeveral others by the uſe of acid ſpirit of ſulphur.

Sydenham ſays, in that worſt ſort of ſmall-pox where the humours were ſo ſtrongly inclined to putrefy, that nine out of ten died; (which, as he obſerves, ſcarcely happens in the plague itſelf:) until he gave the ſpirit of vitriol plentifully in ſmall-beer he found no remedy.

I have found the following medicine to be very uſeful in the beginning of this fever.

℞ Spt. nitri dulcis
—— ſalis dulcis aa drachmas duas.
—— vitrioli drachmam unam, miſce, ſumat gt. xxx vel xl ſubindè in quovis vehiculo.

This medicine greatly reſiſts putrefaction, and corrects the bile; for it is exceeding ſerviceable in ſome kinds of jaundice, as well as in this diſeaſe.

From all theſe obſervations we may fairly conclude, acids muſt be of great uſe here, where the juices are ſo ſtrongly in-

* *Lommius de febribus continuis.* § *De rat. vict. morb. acut.*

clined

clined to putrefy. But it is to be obſerved, that acids ſhould not be given through the whole courſe of ardent and putrid fevers; but only ſo long as the *alcaline putridity* continues.

As the fatal termination of this fever is a general gangrene, and the *Peruvian* bark is the beſt remedy known in local gangrene, we are ready to conclude from analogy, that it muſt be good here, until experience convinces us of the contrary.

It may not be amiſs to examine, why this noble medicine, given in the remiſſions of this fever, does not anſwer our intention. The action of the bark renders the fibres more tenſe and elaſtic, and enables them to ſubdue that lentor in the blood, the cauſe of intermitting fevers: to account philoſophically for its action is not to our purpoſe: we can only ſay then, from the ſpecific configuration of its particles, it hath theſe effects: but here, that very action, and thoſe effects produced from the bark are very pernicious: and muſt be particularly ſo when the cauſe is an inflammation of the ſmall veſſels conſtituting the larger. That the miſchief muſt be increaſed, is very obvious from the rough, conſtringing and ſtimulating power of the bark. Our utmoſt endeavours here, ſhould be to relax the veſſels; for the tenſity of the veſſels will hinder all the glandular diſcharges, and muſt alſo increaſe the pains, heat, ſoreneſs, anxiety, thirſt, *&c.*

In a particular gangrene in an extreme part, where the circulation is languid, and the veſſels weakned with contuſion, or any thing which hath occaſioned too great an afflux of blood on the part for ſome time, by which continued *plethora* the veſſels are overſtretched, and their contractile reſtitutive power, in ſome degree, loſt; or, in old age, where the blood is vapid, the caſe is quite altered; for here is no increaſed tenſity of the ſolids, nor *undue exaltation* of the blood. Young robuſt perſons, who have the tenſeſt fibres, are moſt obnoxious to this fever; to theſe alſo it proves moſt fatal: women and men of lax habits are ſeldom ſeized with it; or, when they are, come through with much leſs danger and difficulty.

This leads us to take notice, how fatal this fever hath been to ſtrangers, *Europeans* and *North Americans*, eſpecially to thoſe who abound with a great quantity of blood,

rich with ſalts *, are in the heat and prime of life, and whoſe fibres are tenſe and elaſtic: theſe are moſt obnoxious to inflammations, for the reaſons before given §, and are with the greateſt difficulty cured ‖.

When a ſtranger arrives here from a northern climate, the blood muſt be, in ſome degree, rarefied; which rarefaction may be called a *plethora*; for the veſſels do not relax immediately in proportion. The circulation is now rendered quicker by the ſtimulus heat, whence all the ſecretions, recrementitious and excrementitious, are increaſed; except, perhaps, the two expurgatory, by ſtool and urine; by which only the bile can be carried off, that is now ſeparated in a greater quantity than uſual by the increaſed circulation, heat of the climate, uſe of ſpirituous liquors, or whatever cauſes may increaſe the bile: hence a redundance of bile, which, together with that ſtiffneſs of the fibres, and richneſs of the blood, are obvious and ſufficient cauſes of their proneneſs to this fever.

Since this appears to be the caſe, would not the method of preventing the redundancy of bile, taking away the *plethora*, and relaxing the pores, be highly expedient for all ſtrangers at their firſt arrival, to be continued until ſuch time as their ſolids were relaxed, and juices aſſimulated to the air of the country?

The method I would propoſe is this. Upon the arrival of a perſon with a *Northern* conſtitution, let blood be drawn from his arm, if ſanguine and plethoric: this bleeding will leſſen the degree of heat, and abate the niſus of the particles of the blood. After bleeding, if no favourable lax intervene, take ſome ſolutive purge, ſuch as manna, and cream of tartar, once or twice a week, ſufficient to move the belly three or four times. Uſe every day, for ſome time, a warm bath, to relax the cuticular glands and promote a free tranſpiration, as well as cleanſe them of any

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* *Omnis homo qui perfecte ſanus eſt & abundat bono ſanguine, ille etiam eſt calidiſſimus, ideo nullus homo pronior eſt ad putredinem quam ille.* Boerhaave Prax. Med.

§ *Qui habent temperiem calidam morbis acutis ſunt valdè obnoxii.*

‖ *Illic homines putrifactionibus obnoxii & qui habent ſanguinem ruberrimum & craſſiſſimum; & fibras rigidas difficillime ab hoc morbo curantur. Vide* Boerhaave Prax. Med.

ſordes

ſordes that may obſtruct; rub dry with a cloth, and anoint with a ſmall quantity of fine oil, according to the cuſtom of the ancients, to prevent what is commonly called catching of cold: this warm bathing appears to me to be of great conſequence; therefore I think ſhould not be omitted. Perhaps, bleeding again, or, at certain periods, may be requiſite: but this ſhould not be ventured upon without advice; nor indeed bathing or purging: for theſe ought to be proportioned to the conſtitution, habit, age, ſex and temperament of the perſon; ſome requiring to bathe long and often, others, ſeldom or a ſhort time; others, who have habits ſufficiently relaxed, not at all: and perſons too much relaxed ſhould rather uſe the cold bath.

To keep the body cool, and to afford a conſtant ſupply to the blood whoſe thinner parts may be exhauſted, or too much diſſipated by exerciſe or the heat of the climate, drink ſmall but frequent draughts of ſherbet, or very weak acid punch: a draught, in the morning, may not be amiſs to cleanſe the urinary paſſages, where ſome foulneſs is apt to be accumulated during ſleep: or perhaps, tamarin-water, orange-whey, or ſucking ſome of our acid fruits would anſwer the intention as well; for, as was before obſerved, acid fruits and acidulated liquors cool and condenſe the blood, reſiſt putrefaction, correct the bile, and promote the diſcharge by urine.

As to diet, that which is light, cool, eaſy of digeſtion, and *aceſcent*, is the beſt; becauſe it prevents the *alcaline putridity* of the juices. But I would, by no means, adviſe any particular form; becauſe it is very certain, that free livers, provided they fall into no exceſſes, are not more liable to the ardent fevers of this country than the moſt temperate and exact; or, if they do fall into them, eſcape the beſt. Vinegar and ſalt reſiſt putrefaction; and, upon that account, ſeem to be neceſſary: in my opinion, it would not be amiſs to uſe them freely with all animal food.

Nothing conduces more to the preſervation of health, in this and all *Southern* countries, than a proper regulation of the paſſions of the mind. I ſay, in this and all *Southern* countries, becauſe in *Northern* countries the effects of the paſſions are not ſo violent, or ſo ſoon diſcernible; they

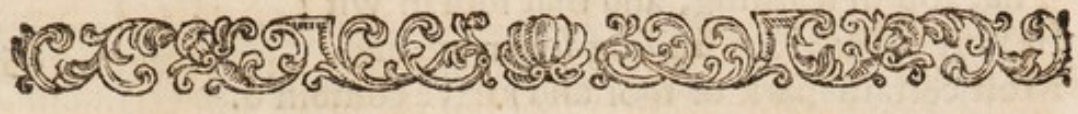
may help to lay the foundation of chronic diſorders in *Northern* countries; but here they will immediately bring on acute diſeaſes: thus, violent anger or extreme grief will immediately, or in a few hours, bring on a jaundice, or bilious fever; and the fear of dying, perhaps, kills more than the climate.

Thus have I faithfully deſcribed the nature and cauſes of this fever, as they appear to me, pointed out the *juvantia* and *lædentia*, and hope I have laid a foundation for a perfect knowledge of this diſeaſe; or given ſuch uſeful hints and obſervations as may be improved by ſome gentleman of ſuperior knowledge in the medical art. I apprehend, when the nature and cauſes of a diſeaſe are explained, the curative indications are obvious; and are to be found by experiments made with ſuch medicines as, from their known properties, are likely to ſucceed.

I ſhall conclude in the words of the great doctor *Mead*, *I have now finiſhed this eſſay ſuch as it is; contentious and ill-natured men may, probably, find fault with it, but I hope it will prove uſeful to my countrymen, which is to be deſired above all things; for a conſciouſneſs of an uſeful undertaking and an upright mind is beyond all praiſe: this ſatisfaction will never be wanting to him who ſhews that he has the public good at heart; and that he thinks himſelf not born for himſelf, but for mankind.*

And let me add, I fear not cenſure, nor deſire applauſe: he that diſapproves of this eſſay, let him ſhew his diſlike by writing better on the ſubject and I ſhall be ſatisfied.

AN



AN

EPISTLE

To the HONOURABLE

CHARLES PRICE, Esq;

CHARLES PRICE, whom all unprejudic'd commend,
The patriot firm, the generous friend;
Whether now labouring for *Jamaica*'s good,
Through parts impassable you form the road,
Or graciously preside in making laws, 5
With the whole senate's suffrage and applause,
Or gaily laughing o'er the flask you drain,
With native wit and humour entertain,
(If friends are wrong, you laugh at their expence,
Charm with your wit, and laugh them into sense.) 10
Deign to receive this verse the muse bestows,
From him whose breast (like yours) with friendship glows.
Say why envious calumnies impart
So much of pleasure to the human heart,
Why base detraction with low scurril wit, 15
Amongst mankind the gen'ral humour hit?
Why lying, quibbling enquiries are read,
And not what's good and useful in their stead?
'Tis pride and mean self-love are sure the cause,
Men rather blame than give the due applause. 20
Lo! envious *Bennet*, blundering *B——n*
Are seen, and read by almost half the town!

Bennet,

Bennet, whoſe trifling writings no point hit :
That fop in learning, and that fool in wit !
In him th' envious ſmiling ſneer we find,
Moſt certain mark of fool and knave combin'd.
Unhappy *Norton* fell beneath his skill :
The firſt eſſay he made, alas ! to kill.
O ! blind to merit, reaſon, ſenſe and truth,
Why will you truſt an unexperienced youth ?
Who vilely ſtrives to raiſe an obſcure name
By the deſtruction of another's fame !
I want, not I ! a character to raiſe !
Alike my ſcorn, their cenſure or their praiſe !
Grant, heav'n, the friendſhip of the virtuous part,
With ſoul benevolent, expanded heart
Who deteſt baſe envy, ſcorn low fraud and art.
Such is *T*——*y*, ſuch art thou, O *P*——*e*,
And *M*——*g* too, exempt from every vice !
In pow'r ſerenely good, humanely great,
Still may you ſhine through every ſtate !
Whilſt I, with gentle medic arts, aſſwage
The dreadful ravage of febrific rage.
Approv'd by *B*——*kcf*——*d* and the wiſer few,
I value not the carping, railing crew.

A PROSE

A PROSE

EPISTLE

To a POETIC

EPISTLE WRITER.

By PARKER BENNET, *M. D.*

Out of thy own mouth will I condemn thee, O thou evil ſpeaker.

I SHOULD not have preſumed to trouble the public a ſecond time with my low ſcurrilous wit, as you are pleaſed politely to call it, had I not ſeen myſelf ſo coarſly daubed in the epiſtle you lately exhibited to the public. And tho' I am not able to attack ſo great a poet in his own way, I hope I ſhall be allowed the priviledge of anſwering for myſelf in proſe, as your not ſubſcribing your name has robbed me of every other weapon but the pen. However, had you ſubſcribed it, you would not have been a bit the more known; as by the ſentiments, hand-writing, and many other ſymptoms (to talk in my own way) I can be at no great loſs to find out the author. And if I now declare that he is beneath my reſentment in any other way than that of ridicule, it is not the firſt time I have ſaid ſo, having frequently expreſſed myſelf to that purpoſe, upon hearing his behaviour on the death of Mr. *Naughton*, and

alſo

alſo being myſelf a witneſs to it on a late occaſion, when I condeſcended to a conſultation at the requeſt of a certain worthy gentleman. But my patient prevented my demeaning myſelf by diſcarding you, and then, I ſuppoſe, full of indignation and ſpleen, you ſat down to write the late ingenious lines. I can't blame you for ſhewing a little concern, at ſeeing a man, whom of all men in the world you hated moſt, preferred to yourſelf, and his judgment relied on, when yours was not taken the leaſt notice of; but you might have ſhewn your diſlike in a much more genteel manner, and have kept up to the character of the gentleman, though you were even concerned with a perſon of whom you have the meaneſt opinion. You ſee, Sir, that the worſt treatment cannot alter my good intentions to ſerve you; I thought the late applications would have taken effect, but am ſorry to find that the gangrene ſtill ſpreads; however, a little more of the cauſtic won't be amiſs, and when I have clipped and pared you into ſome reaſonable compaſs, and made you a fit companion for gentlemen, you may then venture upon a ſecond epiſtolary eſſay, and hope it may be more worthy the peruſal of the honourable gentleman to whom the preſent is dedicated.

You have attempted in this little performance two of the moſt difficult things in poetry, panegyric and ſatyr. They both require the niceſt touches of the pen, and the leaſt want of delicacy makes the one fulſome, the other low. When I ſee a cringing fop beſpattering a man of ſenſe with his nauſeous flattery, it puts me in mind of the fable of the aſs and the lap dog; and I really think his puniſhment ſhould be the ſame, that the aukward creature may know how to keep his diſtance, and learn the proper ſphere he was born to act in. You really make ſuch a droll figure in both theſe capacities, that I am convinced moſt people will conſtrue your panegyric into a libel, and your ſatyr into flattery; and to ſhew you that I won't advance any thing without reaſon, I will diſſect you, line by line, and ſhew you many faults in the few you have written; bad poetry, falſe meaſure, and vile logic, not to ſay any thing of the moral part.

Line 1. It is a very trite compliment of moſt panegyriſts to tell their patron, that all unprejudiced people unanimouſly join in their praiſes, and that they themſelves are ſenſible

ſenſible of it. Now, if this be the caſe, where can be the merit of verſifying a thing which every one knows, and putting a deſerving gentleman to the bluſh by the nauſeous repetition of virtues, which none can deny him to be poſſeſſed of? Had you even gone on in the ſame ſtrain you began with, a man of Mr. ——'s good ſenſe muſt be ſurfeited with the flattery; but what will he ſay when he proceeds in your deſcription? In the fourth line you make a pioneer of him; in the ſixth, a drainer of flasks (which, by the by, is not very compatible with the auguſt characters of ſenator, lawmaker, and patriot) and, in the ninth line, you deſtroy the character of a generous friend. If my friend is miſtaken in his judgment, it is not very generous to *laugh at his expence*; the ties of friendſhip are of too tender a nature to admit of the leaſt ridicule: the wound muſt be probed with a gentle hand, not dilated with an oyſter knife; and I am ſure it is no great compliment to ſay that a man would ſacrifice his friend to his jeſt. Laſtly, you poſitively declare, that whoſoever has been guilty of reading my lying, quibbling enquiry, received pleaſure from *envious calumnies*, *baſe detraction*, and *ſcurril wit hit their humour*; and, inſtead of reading what is *good and uſeful*, they prefer theſe ſame *lying*, *quibbling enquiries*, and at laſt, they are *proud*, *ſelf-conceited*, and rather *chuſe to blame*, than give the *juſt applauſe* to thoſe that deſerve it. This is really giving a man roaſt meat and beating him with the ſpit; certainly there is no gentleman that would not forego the one to avoid the other.

Line 13. This is abuſive to the laſt degree, and of all the odious compariſons I ever met with, this is the moſt ſhocking.

You dedicate in high heroic proſe,
And ridicule beyond a hundred foes:
From all Grubſtreet *do* P——*'s fame defend,*
And more abuſive call yourſelf his friend.

Line 14. I wiſh, Sir, you had ſcanned your verſes before you printed them, or given them to ſome one elſe to ſcan that underſtood it; for the *Muſe* ſeems to be very lame. Perhaps, the thorn you intended for my ſide has gone into her foot. I am ſure, no one that reads the 2*d*, 13*th*, 21*ſt*, 30*th*, 39*th* and* 41*ſt* lines, but will conclude, that ſhe was

either

either pricked, or had got the gout; and, in my opinion, ſhe muſt be out of her ſenſes if ſhe applied to your gentle, medic, aſſwaging arts, for relief in either the one or the other, unleſs ſhe wanted an eternal *quietus*; and then indeed two drachms of opium would do the job for her, as it has done for more people, than you ſuſpect, ever came to my knowledge. But theſe are dangerous ſecrets, and none but a great fool would tempt me in the manner you have done to make them public.

From the 13*th* to the 19*th* verſe, it is plain you deſcribe the *Enquiry into the late eſſay on the bilious fever*. I was the author of it, and defy you to ſhew the leaſt traces of envy, calumny, detraction, ſcurrility, lies, or quibbling, no more than you can produce one good or uſeful paſſage in *John Williams*'s eſſay, which you ſeem to point at in the 18*th* line. Before the enquiry was publiſhed, you were pleaſed to ſay that you read it, and it was full of lies. Now for convicting you! ——Whilſt the enquiry was in my hands, I am ſure I let no poets peruſe it; and it is not probable the printer would ſhew it you whilſt in his cuſtody. As to its being full of lies, every one knows that I aſſert only two things in the whole; the firſt is, that it was probable that *John Williams* had read doctor *Warren*'s treatiſe on the yellow fever of *Barbadoes*, (tho' he denies it) becauſe he had the book, and lent it to a gentleman that lent it to me. If you ſay that's falſe, I am ready to produce it with his own name ſigned on the back; and can the moſt prejudiced perſon in the world ſee any improbability in that? The other aſſertion was, that I heard captain *Shirley*'s caſe, and it appeared to me that it was not faithfully recorded. The thing was mentioned to me before ſeveral gentlemen that are not guilty of *falſifying*, who are all ready to atteſt the truth of what I ſay. Now, pray, Sir, at whoſe door does the falſity lie? If a man ſays that I lie, and I prove the contrary, his cenſure does not affect me, and all the ſcurrility recoils back upon himſelf. I don't think it a point of good manners to give any one the lie, but if it is ſo with ſome people, I am ſure they muſt have imported the faſhion from *Guinea*, where, I am told, it is a current compliment—what pity it is that your *pretty geniuſes* ſhould be contaminated with ſuch low converſation!

Line

Line 19. Here, Sir, you ask Mr. *P——e* a queſtion, that you may have an opportunity of anſwering it, and fixing the cenſure of pride and mean ſelf-love upon him if ever he read my enquiry. For my part, if it ſavours the leaſt of pride and mean ſelf-love to find fault with the idle nonſenſe of a conceited dunce, I own the charge, and am happy enough to have the majority of mankind on my ſide. Indeed I don't doubt but you have the ſame favourable opinion of your own judgment (in oppoſition to the majority) that a certain gentleman once had upon a jury. It ſeems eleven of them were clear in their opinions to bring in a verdict for the plaintiff; he would not come into it, and at laſt finding that he could do nothing, he grew very angry, and ſwore he never ſaw eleven ſuch poſitive fellows in his life.

The 20*th* line ſavours a little of paternal fondneſs, and is one of the ſymptoms that leads me to the diſcovery of the author.

Line 21. *Lo envious Bennet!* &c. It is very poſſible I may be envious, and deſerve all the hard names you are pleaſed to give me; but I can't ſay that you have advanced any thing that carries the leaſt colour of a proof. For my part, I can ſee nothing about you that I can envy, except you fancy that it is that affected foppiſh outſide of yours; I am ſure, a man of much meaner diſtinction than I am need not envy the contents of it. Had you charged me with envying Mr.—— the opportunities his power throws in his way, of doing ſervice to this iſland, of countenancing virtue and diſcouraging vice: with envying Mr. —— the good opinion of his country, which he has juſtly merited by public ſervices and private benefactions: with envying Mr. —— the benevolent temper that induces him to ſupport and patroniſe merit, you might have gained ſome little belief; and indeed I ſo far envy them, that if I were in the ſame ſtation of life, I ſhould wiſh for the ſame diſpoſitions to make a proper uſe of power or wealth: but to ſay that I envy you, is degrading me beyond any thing I ever expected.

Now let us examine your logic a little. The firſt ſyllogiſm is in the 23*d* line. *Bennet* wrote againſt *John Williams*'s yellow fever, *John* had ſo much of that ſame, that he was not put out of countenance in the leaſt, but

continues as forward as ever; *ergo*, his writings are trifling and hit no point. I am not at liberty to give my opinion whether they were trifling or not, but your logic does not prove them to be so: however they certainly did hit some points. In the first place, they hit the printer's point; for they put money into his pocket: secondly, they hit *John Williams*'s point, they put money into his pocket too; for three or four of his essays sold on my account, which would otherwise have rotted in his desk: and lastly, they have hit my own point, by making him pointed at.

A fop in learning is an affected coxcomb, that is always rapping out quotations from the poets upon every occasion before the ladies, to give them an opinion of his learning. A fool in wit is he that aukwardly attempts to be witty in either satyr or panegyric; now let the world judge between us, who is the fop in learning and the fool in wit. Oh, *John*! *John*! every body does not say that I am guilty of these things!

The second syllogism carries great conviction along with it, and runs thus. *Bennet* with an envious smiling sneer ridiculed *John Williams*, he that ridicules *John* is a knave and fool combined, *ergo*——I have just now thrown the fool's cap off my own head, and put it on a more deserving one, so that I am clear of that part of the charge. As to my being a knave, I have not been long enough in the country for you to be a judge of that. However, I dare venture to answer so far for my honesty, that if a poor sailor had a few pistoles to leave at his death, and devised them to myself and another gentleman jointly, I really believe I should be honest enough after the whole came into my hands, not to keep it to myself and leave my co-legatee the whole expence of the funeral, but should be just at least in trifles; because he that will not be honest in trifling matters can't expect to be trusted in greater concerns.

Unhappy Norton *fell beneath his skill,*
The first essay he made alas to kill!

Here, Sir, you shew a great deal of humanity; after breaking my head you apply a plaister to it. I don't know which is greatest, the reflection in the first line or the compliment in the second. As to the first, the only defence that

that I can make is this, that the power of life and death is not in my hands, and that if any of my patients die, I at leaſt give them a fair chance; but I know ſome people that won't even do that. Narcotic clyſters have killed more men than one, and tho' people always talk very largely of theſe things, it ſeldom comes to the doctor's ears, by which means he often concludes that the whole is a ſecret, and that every one he begged that favour of, will be ſilent, when, at the ſame time, ſcarcely any one but himſelf is ignorant of the judgment of the world upon the whole affair. Had I done what a certain man did, whoſe chriſtian name is *John*, (I who am a phyſician, and had regular education) I ſhould have expected to hold up my hand at the bar; nor would it be any excuſe to me, if I declared that I had frequently given twice as much to negroes on the coaſt of *Guinea*, as to the patient who died an hour or two after the application of a narcotic clyſter. But it is needleſs to multiply examples, when the gentlemen of the country, who are the only people that are to be the ſufferers, won't fall upon ſome way to prevent abuſes of this ſort, and encourage a ſcience, noble in itſelf and uſeful to mankind. I have now practiſed phyſic upwards of four years in the *Weſt-Indies*, and it ſeems Mr. *Norton* was the firſt eſſay I made alas to kill. I am ſorry, friend *John*, that I cannot return the compliment.

What if he fell beneath my skill?
He is but one, you many kill.

The 29*th* and 30*th* verſes are the ſecond edition of, O ye men of *Jamaica!* formerly ye were only blockheads, now ye are blinkers, blockheads, liars and ideots. Ye can't diſtinguiſh my qualifications or my antagoniſt's demerit. You muſt all own that my knowledge muſt be ſuperior to his, I have practiſed upon thouſands, he has not had half the opportunities I have of trying experiments upon *living men*, and reforming the practice of phyſic, by introducing curious unheard-of applications.

Line 31. *Who vilely*, &c. Indeed I muſt own, that his fame muſt be very obſcure indeed, that ſtands only upon your ſhoulders; and his ambition muſt be at a very low ebb, who can propoſe no other way of raiſing himſelf

ſelf than by treading upon you. Surely a man would not ride upon a monkey, for the benefit of overlooking a crowd; nor endeavour to ape a coloſſus by treading on a mole-hill.

Several of your lines ſmell very rank of plagiary; the whole looks ſo much like patch-work, that I can't help indulging the ſuſpicion. I am told Mr. *Pope* is a favourite author of yours, and by repeating now and then a few lines of his, you want to get the reputation of a man of taſte. I dare ſay, a parrot, with proper pains, may do the ſame; and I think he would be the wittieſt fool of the two. But, obſerve that I don't poſſitively aſſert all this; becauſe, in the firſt place, I don't recollect the particular volume and page from which you ſtole ſome of your verſes, nor have I a parrot to try the experiment upon. But I expect to meet with one very ſoon, and when I have attentively conſidered the qualifications of each mimic, and run the parallel as far as it will go, perhaps I may venture my lucubrations a third time into the world. I wiſh you would take example by me, to be cautious of what you aſſert; if you did, you would never have given me ſo many opportunities of diſproving you. But it appears very ſtrange, that a man who has ſo often been caught, can't have ſenſe enough to hold his tongue. You are like the jack-daw dreſſed up in peacock's feathers; had you been ſilent, you might have paſſed for what you really were not; but the ſame folly has expoſed the ignorance of both, and diſcovered the impoſture.

Line 44. Approved by *B——ckf——d.* I never knew a forward cringing fop in my life, that did not value himſelf upon a particular acquaintance with ſuch and ſuch gentlemen of diſtinction. Whenever he ſees any of them in public, the buſy creature makes the greateſt buſtle that can be to come at them; there he belches out ſome fulſome nonſenſe or other, and becauſe they are good-natured enough not to uſe him as he deſerves, he immediately gives out that they *approve of him*, and, if you believe his ſtory, they are never happy but in his company; when, at the ſame time, moſt people know that theſe very gentlemen deſpiſe him, and nothing but good manners prevents their ſhutting their doors againſt him. Now I will tell the world the occaſion of your aſperſing

Mr.

Mr. *B——kf——d* with the ſcurrilous imputation of your being *approved* by him. When you intended to publiſh a certain learned pamphlet for the benefit of the public, you ſent Mr. *B——kf——d* a copy of the manuſcript, and deſired his opinion of it. He, in return, wrote you a letter, which you were very fond of ſhowing; in which (*I am told*) he ſays, that he had not time to peruſe it, but that he did not doubt every thing that came from you would be of great ſervice to the world. Now, Sir, was this a ſmiling ſneer or not? None but a very conceited fool would have miſtaken it for a compliment; and I dare ſay, had you underſtood his real meaning, you would have been bold enough to tack the epithet of *envious* to his ſneer as well as to mine.

Now, friend *John*, I have given thee a little ſpecimen of what I have to ſay againſt thee. A word you know to the wiſe. I hope this anſwer of mine will be a means of ſaving many a poor gooſe-quil, many an unfortunate ſheet of paper, and many a bottle of ink: if it does not, depend upon this, that if ever I catch you libelling again, I am determined not to ſpare you; the whole ſtory of the n—c—k c—rs; the ſtory of the gentleman who called for his piſtols juſt after the n—c—k c—r, of which he died in a few hours, after his belly had ſwelled up as big as a barrel; the ſtory of the lady that died of c—rs after a difficult labour; the ſtory of the gentleman that was eaſed of his good ſtomach, his ſleep, and his good health, with many others of the ſame ſort, ſhall all out, I won't conceal a tittle: and if ever you are brought to anſwer for theſe things, the world cannot blame me for bringing them to light, as they muſt know you have brought it upon yourſelf. The flagrant abuſes you, in particular, have been guilty of deſerve the attention of the legiſlature, nor ſhall we ever ſee a reformation in the practice of phyſic, till the gentlemen who have it in their power think proper to ſupport the phyſicians in their juſt rights and privileges.

I thought to have been a little more full upon your poetry, but the faults are ſo flagrant, that I dare ſay every one will readily join with me, that *it is not poetry, but proſe run mad.*

A LETTER

A LETTER TO DOCTOR BENNET.

The Mouth of them that ſpeak Lies ſhall be ſtopped.
Pſalm. lxiii. ver. 12.

Advertiſement.

THIS LETTER *was wrote the morning after doctor* BENNET'S *extraordinary epiſtle came out, but ſome judicious gentlemen who honour me with their friendſhip, being of opinion I ought by no means to take notice of the* EPISTLE *on account of the lowneſs and ſcurrility of it, as well as the inconſiderableneſs of the author, I deferred the publication of it. Another reaſon I alſo had, I waited for an anſwer from a gentleman who was then in the country whoſe teſtimony I thought neceſſary towards overthrowing a* bold aſſertion *of doctor* BENNET'S.

A

LETTER, &c.

TO enter into a controverſy with you who are ſo much beneath my notice, and who have ſo ſmall a a ſhare of reputation to loſe, is what I never intended. For I could not imagine any man could poſſibly be ſo wicked as to invent falſhoods and forge calumnies to the prejudice of another's reputation and publiſh them in all companies as well as in print. But, Sir, when I prove that all your *bold aſſertions* are falſe and without the leaſt foundation, how muſt you appear to every juſt and good man? What will you have then to ſupport you but your native effrontery?

To place you and your writings in a fair and proper light I muſt begin with your Enquiry: A performance ſo mean, I ſhould not have mentioned it again, had you not obliged me to enter into my defence by your late modeſt and extraordinary epiſtle: Which, I aſſure you, I alſo deſpiſe and am unmoved at, becauſe I am not conſcious of any bad action or miſtake. But leſt ſome perſons who are ſtrangers to me, ſhould be weak enough to imagine my ſilent contempt might proceed from a conſciouſneſs of the truth of your aſſertions I am obliged to reply.

Then Sir, we begin with what you call your enquiry into the eſſay on the bilious fever; tho' in fact it is no enquiry at all, but a malicious attempt to cenſure and condemn what you are not at all acquainted with. And here let me aſk you, Sir, what could induce you, uninjured, unprovoked, to treat me in ſuch a ſcurril manner? Is it behaving like a gentleman to call a man knave, fool, impoſtor, *&c.* (or to inſinuate that he is ſo, which is the ſame thing) whom

you are not acquainted with; and whoſe manners and character you are an utter ſtranger to? Sure all honeſt and impartial men muſt condemn you, and plainly ſee this behaviour proceeds from a wicked heart and moſt malevolent turn of mind.

But you were pleaſed to take offence at the Preface, I hear; where I ſay, "A new comer muſt be liable to more "errors in his practice, than a perſon who hath had a great "ſhare of obſervation and experience;" or words to that purpoſe. Pray, Sir, is not this Truth? Would doctor *Mead* deny this? And would not that great man be at a loſs himſelf on his firſt arrival in a ſouthern climate? I ſee no reaſon you ſhould be offended at this, except that of its being *truth*, to which you appear an enemy in all your ſcribbling; for the Preface was wrote before you came to the country; conſequently could not be particularly applied to you: But if you, conſcious of your ignorance and inexperience, put on the cap becauſe it fitted you, I cannot help it.

I have declared my ſentiments honeſtly and freely (as I generally do) in the preface to my eſſay, giving the reaſons why I wrote it; which were a ſincere deſire to ſerve mankind; and becauſe I apprehended it a duty incumbent upon all men to communicate what they thought might be uſeful to ſociety. Theſe are ſufficient reaſons in my opinion, to the honeſt mind; and I think, no man deſerves contempt or ill-treatment for honeſtly endeavouring to ſerve or inform the public.

I kept this eſſay by me ſeveral years, that I might ſee from further obſervations and experience, whether my account of the diſorder, and reaſonings concerning it were right: I found they were, and publiſhed them. At the ſame time I did not impoſe them magiſterially; but deſired every gentleman vers'd in the practice of medicine, or acquainted with the diſorder to judge for himſelf; and deſired him to inform the public and me, if he knew any better method than I had laid down; or could give a better account of it than I had done. I had alſo the approbation of thoſe gentlemen I eſteemed the beſt judges; and I aſſure you, *uncommon ſucceſs* in the cure of this diſeaſe; as every *honeſt* apothecary who hath been concerned with me will atteſt, notwithſtanding you have in the preface to your enquiry wickedly inſinuated the contrary.

I write to you, Sir, cool and dispassionate. I am not stung to the quick as you are. I am really sorry one of the profession should be so vile and act a part so unbecoming a gentleman. I shall here assert nothing but truth, I can give upon oath; and I think no good or honest man should do otherwise, especially when those assertions strike at the moral character of any man.

You charge me in your enquiry with abusing doctor *Warren*, and say I accuse him with killing *secundum artem.* To answer this, I appeal to the essay itself, which if any gentleman will give himself the trouble to read, he will there find that on the contrary, I speak genteely of that gentleman.

In the next place you very genteely and modestly insinuate that I had read doctor *Warren*'s treatise, but did not understand it; and therefore imposed upon the public with a lye, in saying I had not read it. Well Sir, I will tell you how that matter stands. This essay was chiefly wrote in the year forty-five; and in the year forty-eight or forty-nine, doctor *Warren*'s treatise came to my hand for the first time: I read, and thought myself in some measure a judge of it; because I had been some time in *Barbadoes*; but seeing nothing in it could induce me to alter my essay I let it stand as at first. This you might easily have conceived, had you not been inform'd of it, was not your head or heart very bad. *But it is the mark of a disingenuous and malicious spirit to put a bad construction upon a matter that admits a favourable one.* Then you affirm on *credible information* you say, that the case of an honourable gentleman (whose name you have made free with without his leave, or the respect due to his family and station) is unfaithfully represented; that he had not the disorder I have represented him to have had; nor was in any danger when I was call'd to him. To prove this falshood, I shall only say, that before I published the essay I shew'd that part of it which related to the case of this worthy gentleman and asked him if it was justly represented; and with his leave I mentioned his name: and this said gentleman, his family and surgeon, *&c.* are ready to attest the truth of what I have wrote concerning him; and he hath already done me the justice in all companies, and at all opportunities to confirm the truth of what I have published. And this you know.

I shall

I ſhall leave the reſt of your carping and quibbling enquiry, not thinking it worthy notice; only, I muſt admire the ſpecimen you have given us of your learning in that unphiloſophic and abſurd account of the action of lime-juice upon mercury: (or their action upon one another) where you are obliged to make mercury an alkali right or wrong to anſwer your purpoſe. Upon my word, I think you ſhould be remitted back to your ſtudies.

Now let us take notice of the Epiſtle in verſe which gave ſo much offence. And here you muſt obſerve this epiſtle was wrote to divert an idle hour and not upon your account; you only came in *en paſſant:* it would have been deſcending too low to have wrote to *Parker Bennet.*

As to that part which is panegyric, I can affirm the author has expreſſed the ſentiments of his heart, perhaps in too warm and pathetic a manner, for perſons who never felt the enthuſiaſtic warmth of poetry; or conſider the licence allowed in this way of writing.

We will now examine the ſatirical part which hath ſtung Mr. *Bennet* ſo much.

" *Why lying, quibbling enquiries are read.*

I think I have already proved that in your enquiry you have aſſerted ſeveral falſhoods; and to prove your quibbling I refer to the enquiry itſelf; being confident whoever reads it, will at leaſt admit this to be true.

" Bennett *whoſe trifling writings no point hit*
" *That fop in learning and that fool in wit!*

Pray Sir, let me aſk you what point your enquiry hath hit, hath it hit either the *utile* or the *dulce*; are we inſtructed or entertained by it?

A fop in learning is an hypercritical gentleman who catches at ſyllables, and ſnaps at literal faults; who plays upon words, puns and quibbles. And a fool in wit is him who attempts to ridicule what is not the ſubject of ridicule: for, whether I am right or wrong, the eſſay cannot be the ſubject of ridicule.

" *In him the envious ſmiling ſneer we find*
" *Moſt certain mark of Fool and Knave combin'd.*

For this Sir, beſides common obſervation and experience we have the authority of Mr. *Savage*, and a conſiderable dramatic author who underſtood human nature very well. He ſays.

" *Nature*

" *Nature has ſtampt the villain on his face;*
" *He will betray thee, mark that envious ſmile!*

Fielding, who is alſo a good judge of human nature, ſays in his *Foundling*. " *The grinning ſneer is a mark the devil hath beſtowed upon his beſt beloved.*" This he exemplifies in *Bliſil*; a character much like yours.

Then

" *Unhappy* Norton *fell beneath his ſkill*
" *The firſt attempt he made — alas to kill!*

Here, Sir, according to your own obſervation a very great compliment is made you; for I muſt confeſs, ſeveral have died under my care. But to be ſerious, I am well inform'd Mr. *Norton* died of an intermitting fever, a diſorder we always have at that ſeaſon of the year; and it is highly probable, had you been acquainted with our fevers, he might have recovered as moſt others have done; or as he himſelf in his former fevers; for it was a diſorder he laboured under annually at the ſame ſeaſon of the year.

" *O! blind to merit, reaſon, ſenſe and truth*
" *Why would you truſt an unexperienced youth?*

Are you not, Sir, a *young man*, unexperienced in the diſorders of this iſland; and muſt not thoſe perſons be fools, from what hath been ſaid before, to truſt their lives to your care?

" *Who vilely ſtrives to raiſe an obſcure name*
" *By the deſtruction of another's fame!*

Your name at the time of writing your enquiry, or libel, call it which you will, was obſcure; and you endeavoured to make yourſelf known by attacking the reputation of another; and this as was before obſerved without injury done you, or provocation: actions of this kind in all ages and in the opinion of all men, have been eſteem'd baſe and unjuſt.

Now Sir, let us take a view of your genteel epiſtle in proſe in anſwer to the poetic epiſtle.

In the beginning you modeſtly affirm that my reſentment proceeds immediately from my being diſcarded by your patient, and that you had greatly condeſcended to conſult with me. Conſummate aſſurance! Pray, Sir, was I ever employed by any patient of yours, or did I ever demean myſelf ſo far as to *agree to conſult with you?* No! If you can prove that I did, load me with all the calumnies your fertile genius can

ſtill

ſtill invent, brand me with all the genteel appellations your ſpiteful heart can think of.

I ſhall be glad to know why you reckon ſatyr one of the moſt difficult things in poetry; becauſe, here you ſeem to differ in opinion with many great men. Sure your education muſt be very imperfect, or the turn of your mind very wrong; for you ſeem to be greatly deficient in phyſic, philoſophy, criticiſm and grammar. Well, Sir, we will paſs over your ribaldry and come to the next matter of fact. The ſtory of the two drachms of opium; which, in my abſence, you (too much like a *ſcold* I muſt confeſs) proclaim'd at every corner of the ſtreet and fixed upon a gentleman for your author, who denies and ſcorns to be the author of ſo baſe and injurious a ſlander; as you may ſee in his letter annexed. But it is needleſs to ſay more upon this ſtory becauſe you yourſelf declared to doctor *Brown* and others, that inſtead of two drachms of opium it was two drachms of liquid laudanum clyſter-wiſe. This, indeed, may be true, for it could do no hurt; but pray Sir, what proof or authority have you for even this? I cannot leave this ſubject without congratulating you upon the happineſs of your complexion, who (after you have proclaim'd in all companies and publiſh'd in print a ſlander) can without a bluſh, own the quantity of opium, or ſtrength of the medicine was repreſented, ten times as much as it ſhould have been.

Next in order, Sir, we come to the poor ſailor and his piſtoles. A man who had been in the ſame ſhip with me, ſent for me in the year forty-four; when I came, I found him dying in a negro-houſe: the poor man told me, he apprehended he ſhould die ſoon, therefore he was deſirous to make a will; for he had ſent home goods to a conſiderable value by the ſurgeon of the ſhip he belonged to, which he was to bring back returns for to this iſland. He begged that I would be his executor, I anſwered him, that being an executor was what I had always declined and deſired him to think of ſome other perſon. He replied he knew no perſon but me; and that he ſhould be extremely well ſatisfied if I would be ſo good as to undertake the matter. I told him that I could not comply with his requeſt; but as he knew no perſon he could confide in, there was a gentleman lived very near him, one Mr. *Peter French*, who, by what I had heard of him, would very readily undertake the affair;

and

and upon his further intreaty I consented to be named in his will with Mr. *Peter French* as an executor. Some time after this, he begged the favour of me, to take charge of a few pistoles he had by him; urging to me as a reason, that when he died, the negroes would plunder him. I call'd in a white person or two to see what sum there was, and made a memorandum of it which I left behind. Out of this money I paid some small debts and funeral charges which I can prove by receipts, making a fair account of the whole in my books, and gave his estate credit for the ballance; that in case of my death (being then sick) my executors might pay the small ballance due to his relations. As the money was given me in trust, before the poor man's death, I cannot see why I should have divided it with your friend Mr. *Peter French*; for I did not consider myself what you are pleased to call me, his co-legatee; though perhaps executor and legatee may be synonimous with Mr. *French*.

Here too, Sir, you have most unjustly slandered me, and obliged me to enter into a tedious detail of trifling circumstances. But you seem to think you have a right to asperse me without controul.

We are now come to the 42d page, where you pay the author of the epistle in verse (unwittingly I believe) a very great compliment; for you observe his lines smell very strong of plagiary; and you apprehend they are stole from Mr. *Pope*. Search for them through Mr. *Pope*'s works; and if you cannot find whence they are stole, you must at least allow them to be good because they are so much like Mr. *Pope*'s.

To save yourself from the falshood which would be fix'd upon you in regard to that worthy and learned gentleman Mr. *B——d* and his letter, you say, "*I am told.*" But I believe it is false, or whoever told it spoke false; as it is in my power to prove at any time.

The story of the gentleman whose belly swell'd up as big as a barrel; who call'd for his pistols, and in short who died by a narcotic clyster, I could never have guess'd at, had I not been inform'd by several persons (who were in the different companies you told it to) that the person you meant was Mr. *Thomas Hayes*. To prove the baseness, villainy, injustice and inhumanity of this report, I need only refer to the letters annexed.

The ſtory of the lady who died of clyſters after a difficult labour, I am intirely ignorant of, for I never in my life, that I remember, attended any woman in thoſe circumſtances, who died. The ſtory of the gentleman who was eaſed of his good ſtomach, his ſleep and his good health, is an old ſtory, perhaps of theſe hundred years ſtanding; a trite joke, modeſtly applied by Mr. *Parker Bennet* to me.

I cannot help making ſome few remarks on the improbability of theſe ſtories. Had I, or any other perſon, by ignorance or miſtake, ordered doſes of poiſon, would the apothecary be villain enough to make them up? or if ſuch accidents had happened, as the conſequence of ſuch applications, would not the town have rung of them? would theſe things be ſecret to their neareſt relations? would they *ſtill* employ me as they do? and have I ſo much of the good nature and ſubmiſſive temper as to induce the apothecaries to keep theſe errors ſecret. If I ever ordered any of theſe narcotic clyſters, there are, without doubt, preſcriptions for them. And now I do in this public manner challenge, nay more I intreat all the gentlemen who practiſe as apothecaries in this town to give thoſe preſcriptions of mine to *Parker Bennet*, and let him publiſh them. But if they have none ſuch, it is plain theſe tales ſo boldly and roundly aſſerted by you at every corner, and at every tavern and punch-houſe are falſe; and how wicked the publiſher, I leave the world to judge.

LETTERS.

To Doctor WILLIAMS.

Sir,

IN anſwer to your letter, I have told you before, what I now repeat to you, That I never knew you to preſcribe two drachms of opium in a clyſter, and that a report of that kind is falſe, as to any thing I know of the matter. The preſcription you enquired after has been ſought after, but cannot be found,

I am, Sir, your moſt humble ſervant,

J. BONNET.

Kingston, 20th Nov. 1750.

SIR,

IN answer to your letter to me of a report being spread that the late Mr. Thomas Hayes, *whom you attended in his last sickness, had some narcotic clysters administred to him by your order; and to which clysters nothing else but his death is attributed by the author of the said report in a writing lately published. As I was not only his apothecary, but also one of his most intimate acquaintance, you must imagine, I was very much surprised at such a false rumour, which is so remote from the least appearance of truth, that upon looking over my file I found the clysters to be extraordinary gentle ones; I think myself obliged therefore, to make this matter so clear, that every body may be competent judges of its truth, by inserting the prescriptions themselves in* English, *and by affirming that he had no narcotic nor even opiate medicines of any kind whatever given him during the whole course of his sickness.*

You prescribed him only two forms of clysters, the first was on the 28th of April 1749, *which was this: Take of the common decoction for clysters (which is a decoction of mallow leaves, chamomile flowers and fennel seeds) twelve ounces, of the syrup of buckthorn, and oil of olives each an ounce, sal. gem. (rock salt) one drachm, mix and make a clyster. The other, which is the fatal narcotic clyster, you ordered on the 22d* May *following, and, if possible, is milder than the preceding, and runs thus: Take of the abovementioned clyster decoction twelve ounces, of simple oximel two ounces. (Oximel is a mixture of two parts of honey with one of vinegar.) Salt polychrest forty grains, (the salt so called is only salt petre deflagrated with brimstone) oil of olives one ounce, mix and make a clyster.*

If any one has the curiosity to see the original prescriptions, they may be favoured so far by applying to Mess. Carruthers *and* Penny, *in whose shop the file now hangs.*

This, Sir, I presume is sufficient to satisfy reasonable men, and, as to its truth, I am willing to make affidavit thereof on call, and am your most obedient humble servant,

MATT. TURNER.

To Dr. Williams.

SIR,

AS I think myself strictly obliged to do justice to all mankind, I hereby declare that Mr. Thomas Hayes, *during his illness, which was in* April 1749, *never had (during the whole time you attended him) one grain of any medicine of a narcotic or opiate quality given to him, either by clyster, draught, bole, or any other form whatsoever, as may appear by your prescriptions which are all now upon the file, and were all, or most of them, made up by my own hands; and this I assert to be strictly true.*

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

JOHN JOHNSON.

27th Nov. 1750.

To Dr. John Williams.

AN

AN

ENQUIRY

Into the Late

ESSAY

ON THE

BILIOUS FEVER.

By PARKER BENNET. M.D.

Risum teneatis amici? HOR.

PREFACE.

WHOEVER undertakes to be an author, muſt write either for the amuſement, or improvement of the public: if he fails in the firſt, he is only laughed at; if unſucceſsful in the laſt, it is attended with more dangerous conſequences, in proportion to the weight of the ſubject he treats of. In phyſic the ſlighteſt errors are productive of the moſt melancholy events, and a man who publiſhes any thing that way, ought to do it with the greateſt care and fidelity, for his patients ſake, and no ſmall caution and circumſpection for his own; for he writes to men of ſenſe, learning and judgment, (ſuch every phyſician is ſuppoſed to be;) and to undertake the improvement of ſuch perſons, is in my humble opinion, making great pretenſions to a very extraordinary ſhare of merit. How far the candid gentleman, who lately publiſhed an eſſay on the *bilious fever*, has ſucceeded, the public are to be judges: but as it often happens, eſpecially in medical diſquiſitions, that every man may not poſſibly be a judge of the ſubject referred to his determination, I thought an enquiry into that eſſay would neither be diſagreeable to the public, or to the author. To the firſt, that they may be better acquainted with the merits of the cauſe, before they raſhly pronounce judgment; and to the laſt, becauſe, by this means, he will ſtand a better chance for finding out that truth he is ſo eager in the purſuit of. As to any obligation our publiſher may lie under to the perſon that is willing to ſhew him any little errors (the conſtant equipage of great men) we give up that point entirely, becauſe it is poſſible we may be able to point out a miſtake and not to rectify it. Yet that ought not to rob us of any ſhare of our merit, as to be made ſenſible of an error is the firſt ſtep towards correcting it———without then making any farther apology for communicating our thoughts on a ſubject every man has a right to give his opinion of in the freeſt manner, we ſhall now proceed to an impartial enquiry into the late eſſay on the *bilious fever*, by Mr. JOHN WILLIAMS.

Preface, p. 3, l. 31, and if uncommon ſucceſs. The ſucceſs this gentleman has met with in the cure of the *bilious fever*,

fever, is notorious: and certainly the opinion of ſo happy a practitioner, ought to have its juſt weight with every man who is not an errant ſceptic.

Ætiology comprehends not only the cauſes of the diſeaſe, but the diſeaſe itſelf, and its ſymptoms.

The *diagnoſtics* in phyſic ſignify thoſe ſigns or ſymptoms whereby one diſeaſe is diſtinguiſhed from another. Now, with great deference to this learned gentleman's judgment, I think he ought not "to touch ſo lightly on the *diagnoſis*" becauſe, I apprehend, it is very proper he ſhould tell us what the diſeaſe is, and how it is to be known from any other, before he preſcribes a method of cure. When a man tells us, it is a fair wind, it is very natural to aſk him, where he is going. Beſides he cannot be very full on the *ætiology*, or cauſe of the diſeaſe and ſymptoms, and not tell us what thoſe ſymptoms are.

A man who undertakes to make a good *prognoſis*, ought not only to be perfectly acquainted with the œconomy of all the natural, vital and animal functions in a ſtate of health, but ſhould alſo know every ſymptom that attends the leſion of each of thoſe functions, the ſympathies of the different parts, and their dependencies on each other. So that it would appear a great deal of ſagacity is requiſite to form a good prognoſtic, and every body knows that *nurſes* are a very judicious ſort of people, and often know more than the phyſician himſelf.

The ſecond paragraph in the 4th page is a very extraordinary one, and requires a ſmall paraphraſe, as poſſibly all our readers may not underſtand Latin; thus then he goes on. *Oh ye men of* Jamaica! *Are ye not a parcel of blockheads? to truſt your lives in the hands of a* NEW COMER! *of a man who has been at the univerſity! who has attended the naſty lectures of* Morgagni, Albinus *or* Monroe, *whoſe head is filled with the whymſical notions of* Boerhaave! *and who knows no more of diſeaſes than what he learnt by ſeeing the trifling practice of* European *hoſpitals!* ——— *come to me! I am your faithful* Hippocrates *of* Jamaica! *I make curious obſervations on the nature of the diſeaſes of your iſlands!* look into my book and ſee—— *I have not only read the books of nature, but of the learned alſo, as is evident from my* quotations

tions—*your accademical jargon never enters into my head— I abhor their principles, and despise the little trifling honours that are conferred on their pupils by those plodding fools.*

Previous to any other commentary, let me tell this author, that to brand any set of gentlemen with the invidious term of NEW COMERS, is not quite agreeable to that politeness a stranger is entitled to from every one, more especially from your *pretty gentlemen:* and this is the first time I ever heard of a man's being reproached for being a stranger. But perhaps his argument will lose a little of its weight when we assure him that some of us have been in *Africa*, on board *Guineamen*, and in other islands of the *West-Indies*, as well as he, consequently are equally intitled to write upon, and cure the *yellow fever*. Tho' we all despair of ever coming up to the late ingenious performance, which every body allows is new and curious.

In the next place give me leave to assure this gentleman, that physic is a science that is not to be acquired by mere dint of natural parts be they ever so strong, as can be made appear from a very obvious reflexion, *viz.* That men of the greatest learning, judgment and sagacity have spent their whole lives in pursuit of several parts of science that are only preparatory to the study of physic, or which make but a trifling part of the art itself. So that it seems a man who would make any figure in that profession, must spend a great part of his life before he can ever arrive at the knowledge of what is already discovered, and consequently cannot pretend to establish new doctrines, unless he is perfectly acquainted with the principles on which he must build his foundation. Now I conceive that whoever has been properly educated in universities, and has imbibed true and just maxims from able teachers, is the most proper person to investigate the nature of a new disease, nor will a medley of observations serve to give us a just idea of it unless the author shews a certain design and judgment in compiling them. To observe that a clock stands will not point out to us the method of setting it right, unless we know from what cause the defect arises. From all which we may infer that bare observation without some theory is a very trifling merit; and he that has been once initiated into the right road, stands less chance of losing

his way, than he who arrogantly trusts to his own judgment to find it out. For evidence to the truth of these assertions, I hope I may be allowed, as well as our author, to make what quotations I please. Look then into the first aphorism of *Hippocrates*, there he says, "Life is short, the art long, "occasion sudden, experience fallacious, and judgment "difficult." Where, by the bye, we may observe that great men will sometimes differ in their opinions. *Hippocrates* mentions the difficulty of that part of our art which Mr. *Williams* makes so light of, as to impute to *nurses*. I mean the judgment that is requisite to form a proper idea of the case under our consideration, and from thence to make a judicious prognostic of the event.

Notwithstanding what has been said, I cannot suffer my spirit of criticism to carry me so far beyond bounds, as to deprive the author of that reasonable share of praise which is due to his performance: let envy say what she will, even his enemies must allow, that there are in this small book a number of quotations from excellent authors: and my real opinion is, that every writer who succeeds in any undertaking for the public benefit, is used with great ingratitude, if (at least) the public approbation does not reward his past services, and encourage future attempts of the like nature.

At the end of the preface, all that know any thing of the matter, are exhorted in so pathetic a manner to put him in the right way if he should happen to mistake it, that I could not forbear accepting of the invitation, not only from a sincere desire of serving him, but (what is a more weighty consideration) to shew the *new comers*, where they may be taught better maxims, than what they learned at the university, and be preserved from *mistaken principles and ill grounded practice*.

I should be sorry if my criticisms should give our ingenious author any just cause of offence, but whatever length this argument may run to, I am determined inviolably to keep up the rules of good manners, which if once exceeded must necessarily block up every avenue to truth: and whenever that is the case, I am determined to leave off, as the subject does not seem to be worth a dispute that is more than verbal.

AN

AN

ENQUIRY

Into the Late

ESSAY

ON THE

BILIOUS FEVER.

WE cannot help obſerving in our firſt onſet, how eaſy it is to lay down rules, and how difficult to keep up to them. Our author, who declares himſelf in the preface an enemy to hypotheſes, ſets out in the beginning of his work with quotations to prove that the ancients were acquainted with our bilious fever. What is this but broaching an hypotheſis? And (if we confine ourſelves to his quotations) one that has all the appearance of an impoſtor. *Hippocrates*, and many other authors, ancient and modern, have, 'tis true, deſcribed ſeveral ſymptoms of the yellow fever; but that is no ſort of proof that they were acquainted with the ſame diſorder that infeſts this part of the world; becauſe this learned gentleman knows very well, that there are many diſeaſes, very different in their natures, which have ſeveral ſymptoms in common: and what is ſtill more, there are many accidents or ſymptoms that happen to people in health, which

attend others in ſevere diſorders. As for inſtance, hydropical people are troubled with great thirſt; ſo are they that have his bilious fever. Breeding women frequently have bilious vomitings, ſo have they that labour under intermittent fevers, as well as they that are ſeized with this yellow fever. He that drinks plentifully of claret ſhall have black ſtools, ſo has he that is infected with this heretofore ſo mortal diſeaſe. The urine of a man who eats aſparagus ſhall be as fetid as that which is deſcribed in this ſame fever as a mortal ſymptom. Theſe ſymptoms are called concomitant, to diſtinguiſh them from the diagnoſtic. The firſt are common to many different diſeaſes, the latter, the diſtinguiſhing mark of each proper diſeaſe; which is ſtill a further argument with me, why he ſhould not ſo lightly paſs over the diagnoſis. From what has been ſaid, we may venture to conclude, that it requires a little more judgment than this gentleman is aware of, to underſtand perfectly the nature of diſeaſes deſcribed in authors, and more eſpecially to make a juſt connection and analogy between what we read of, and what we ſee. And I will venture to ſay, that no man that does not underſtand what the diagnoſis is, can ever read authors to any great advantage.

Page 2. Is it not very ſtrange that this practitioner, who is ſo perfectly acquainted with the nature of this diſeaſe, and has met with ſuch uncommon ſucceſs in curing it, ſhould be ſo far miſtaken as to call it a jaundice? Any one who knows the ſymptoms of that loathſome diſeaſe, and conſults thoſe of the yellow fever as deſcribed by this uncommon practitioner, will find they differ greatly. In the caſe of *Heraclides* quoted from *Hippocrates*'s epidemics. The old man's words are, *Some alſo on the ſixth day were ſeized with a jaundice; but all theſe were relieved by a diſcharge of urine, ſtool, or bleeding at the noſe.* And this the young man ſays was a bilious fever. By the deſcription of that diſeaſe, the yellow colour is generally looked upon as a bad ſign and a diagnoſtic ſymptom, which the author in page 5 ſtill perſiſts in calling a jaundice. Now 'tis very well known that a ſupervening jaundice often carries off a fever, and in the very caſe before us (which our author has cited to prove that *Hippocrates* was acquainted with this fever of ours) we don't find that it was a

bad

bad ſign, but always diſappeared in a ſhort time by a critical diſcharge of urine, ſtool, or bleeding at the noſe. We muſt alſo obſerve in the 12th patient of the 3d book of *epidemics*, that all women's complaints ſucceeded a difficult labour, and from the leſion of theſe tender parts it is eaſy for any one that is acquainted with the animal œconomy to account for the enſuing ſymptoms. But this obſervable gentleman is an enemy to theory, and conſequently to reaſon.

Page 3, line 21. As *Boerhaave*, &c. Pray, Sir, be a little more clear in your evidence, and don't think to blind our eyes with ſuborning falſe witneſſes. *Boerhaave* denies the book you quote to be his; and if you want to know the private hiſtory of it, I will tell it you. It was wrote by his pupils, and very vilely compiled from his lectures.

Page 3. *Central fever.* How happy this gentleman is in his expreſſions!

Page 4. *Some object to doctor* Warren's *ſudorific method.* This candid author acknowledges in the ſame page, that he never read doctor *Warren*'s book. How then can he tell that this fever of *Jamaica* is not the ſame as that of *Barbadoes* deſcribed by him? But farther, let me tell him, that it is not quite decent to cenſure the works of a man he has never read. And, I believe, every one will acknowledge that his obſervations muſt be very trifling, who never ſaw the ſubject on which he pretends to criticiſe. Nay, it deſerves a more harſh expreſſion, to brand any gentleman who has not only wrote but practiſed with reputation, and ſuch as I wiſh this faithful obſervator may ever arrive at; I ſay, it deſerves a more harſh expreſſion, to throw on ſuch a man the inſolent imputation of killing *ſecundum artem.* But from reading this paſſage we may venture to conclude, that he who can ſo well deſcribe the method of killing *ſecundum artem*, muſt have been very well acquainted with it, perhaps experimentally. That he either did not comprehend, or wholly perverted doctor *Warren*'s meaning, will appear plainly by comparing his words in pages 4, 14, 16, 18, with a part of the doctor's book, page 61, which I muſt beg leave to tranſcribe.

I muſt now earneſtly deſire due notice may be taken, that tho' the method I uſe may be ſaid to be alexipharmic; yet it is by no means, hot, parching, or inflaming: and that this

moiſture

moiſture or ſweat I endeavour to exclude, is rather to be attributed to the quantity of tepid diluents, as ſage tea, ſack-whey, &c. *than to the real heat of the medicines themſelves. And I have often thought, that in malignant fevers, the alexipharmic practice has ſometimes been brought into diſreputation, either by the phyſician's overdoing, through too abundant zeal for it, or by uſing it at an improper ſeaſon, or for want of advertence to the great neceſſity of copious diluters: and perhaps this other reaſon may be properly enough aſſigned for the preſent great diſuſe of this practice amongſt moſt phyſicians,* &c.

From which it appears that Mr. *Williams* did not underſtand doctor *Warren*, tho' it is probable he did read him. I know he owned the book, and lent it to a gentleman who lent it to me. It is now in my poſſeſſion; his name is wrote on the back with his own hand, and I can't ſuppoſe he buys books to look at. If that was his taſte, I am ſure he would never have bought this book, as it is neither bound nor gilt. However, to diſmiſs this ſubject, it is well known that doctor *Warren* was a man of judgment and underſtanding, which he ſhewed not only in his writings but in his practice: I could wiſh his opponent would give us ſome reaſon to have the ſame opinion of him.

He tells us that the yellow fever of *Barbadoes* and that of *Jamaica* are not the ſame, yet has not been able to point out the leaſt circumſtance that ſhews it—how prodigiouſly minute he is in finding out unobſervable diſagreements amongſt the moderns, and how readily he has ſwallowed, (and what is worſe, inſiſts upon our ſwallowing, whether our ſtomachs can digeſt it or not) every minute circumſtance of antiquity that makes for his darling *hypotheſis*. A man that is fond of indulging theſe ſort of whims ſhould have a good memory, or it is ten to one he either contradicts himſelf in his facts, or in his rules and opinions prepares a rod for himſelf, which he puts into the hands of every *new comer*.

Page 4, line 21. *Experience*, &c. It is not every one that can make judicious obſervations without proper aſſiſtance; and this gentleman declares againſt all theoretical or rational knowledge in phyſic, as has been before proved.

Page 5, line 21. *Let us now*, &c.

Parturiunt montes naſcetur ridiculus mus. HOR.

Line

Line 22. *This diſtemper heretofore ſo fatal to ſtrangers*, &c. I am very proud this honeſt gentleman has been graciouſly pleaſed to teach us how to cure this *heretofore* ſo mortal diſeaſe: I heartily congratulate my fellow-creatures, and particularly fellow *new comers* on the happy diſcovery: we may now live in peace and ſecurity, Mr. *Williams* having routed our *heretofore* ſo mortal enemy; for which important ſervice his name ſhall be recorded to all poſterity in trophies of *braſs*.

Page 6, line 41. *Surely a moſt dangerous plethora*, &c. I wiſh he had told us what a plethora is!

Page 7, line 6. *Callous pores*, &c. Another happy expreſſion!

Page *ib.* line 8. *Whence the thin fine parts*, &c. The author ought to be more certain of his facts.

Page *ib.* l. 38. *Arteria ſeroſa.* Only a typograghical error! It ſhould be *arteriæ ſeroſæ*, becauſe I ſuppoſe there are more than one.

Page 8, line 2. *Arteria ſeroſa.* Again!

Page *ib.* line 5. *The liver*, &c. Pray, what does he make of the ſpleen?

Page *ib.* line 26. *Arteria ſeroſa.* Lord! what a ſad fellow this printer is! not content with miſtaking the poor gentleman's meaning in one page, he ſeems to have taken pains to continue in the error, no doubt with a malicious deſign; for had he only miſtaken this *arteria ſeroſa* once, all the fault would have been laid at his door, whereas, by continuing the ſame expreſſion, he knew very well that envious people would blame the author, and ſay he knew no better. But I hope we have put the ſaddle upon the right horſe.

Page *ib.* line 28. *Arteria ſeroſa.* Well! I cannot but lament the unhappy fate of authors, whoſe works muſt paſs through the rough jaws of ignorant printers. Theſe people are the midwives, or to uſe a more pure modern expreſſion, the *man-midwives* of wit; and (oh ſhame to their profeſſion!) are generally ſuch bunglers, that tho' the babe is in ever ſo fair a way, they often deſtroy it in the womb, or hurt it in the delivery: and many a poor piece, which, whilſt locked up from public peruſal, had bid fair for coming into the world, has been changed from a fine promiſing child

child into an ugly fairy brat, ſo deformed that nobody could have known it to be the offſpring of ſo excellent a father. I wiſh this may not be the caſe of our eſſay.

Authors frequently add a liſt of the *corrigenda*, and I think it is neceſſary this gentleman ſhould do the ſame; as it would not only make his eſſay more like a treatiſe, but be alſo a great addition to the bulk of it.

Page 8, paragraph 4th. *Where this extravaſation*, &c. What extravaſation! I always thought, that the ſpringineſs and ſtiffneſs of the veſſels would guard them ſufficiently againſt any rupture and conſequent *extravaſation*. *Extravaſation* and elaſticity I ſuppoſe are ſynonymus.

Page 9, line 16. *Moſt of the ancient phyſicians*, &c. I muſt beg leave to aſſure this author once more, that their authority won't do in all caſes. As for inſtance, they ſuppoſed the arteries to carry air; and though we ſtill retain the barbarous expreſſion, certainly we are not obliged to credit the aſſertion becauſe they ſay ſo——for my part, I wiſh (and I believe every body elſe wiſhes) that we had fewer quotations and more matter for our money; becauſe the new diſorders, which *new comers* are ſuppoſed to be unacquainted with, are not to be explained from old quotations. For if any light was to be had from them, give me leave to aſſure him, that ſome of us have read the ancients, and therefore ſhould certainly know ſomething of the matter. Beſides, if a man muſt publiſh, he had better give us ſomething of his own, and not be conſtantly belching out his raw indigeſted morſels of antiquity for the entertainment of his gueſts. Reading is like eating, the food may be originally good, but when once lodged in a weak ſtomach, is apt to be diſgorged; in which caſe, I believe nobody would be fond of uſing it at ſecond hand.

Page 10, line 9. *Let us now*, &c. This part (to allow the author his due) is entirely his own; and I believe would puzzle the greateſt anatomiſt in *Europe*. But there is no great pleaſure in poſing theſe plodding blockheads who pretend to know more than other people. In this our author has happily ſucceeded as he has not only puzzled fools, but wiſe men alſo.

Page 11. The chymiſtry of this part is equal to the anatomy of the other. I dare ſay the author never ſaw ſoap made, or if he did, never waſhed his hands with it. Had he attended to this it would have taught him that an acrid inactive oil and a ſharp ſalt mixed together, make a detergent penetrating thing called a *ſapo*, and that the bile being compounded of the ſame principles muſt partake of the ſame qualities.

Page 12, line 20. I never knew *that baiting of bulls and hunting of hares* would give them the *yellow fever*, as I never ſaw ſuch diverſions in this part of the world where it is endemical.

Page 12, line 37. Pray ſir did you ever read a ſtory of a cock and a bull? you ſay that fat people are ſubject to be melted down (I ſuppoſe like a tallow candle) whereby the greaſe "being abſorbed by the meſeraic veins, is carried to "the liver; where ſtagnating in the *vena porta* it grows "rancid, occaſioning the worſt ſort of obſtruction and in-"flammation: and a little after captain *Gerrard Sias* piſſed "it out like fat broth; and a little after, lean people melt "as well as fat."—Obſerve how little this author makes of us poor men; one while we are melted to broth, another time our blood is boiled to a black-pudding, and another time we are transformed into chocolate grounds. Oh wonderful effects of a fertile imagination!

Page 13. We have taken the liberty to throw all that is here ſaid into an aphoriſm, which every *new comer* that would make any figure in practice, eſpecially in the cure of the *bilious fever*, ought conſtantly to carry about him, and for its excellency and truth it ought to be written in letters of gold. "If a man recovers, he won't die this trip; "but if the reverſe he can't live."

Page 14. *Je ne ſais quoi* is a pretty philoſophical way of accountiug for things.

Page 15. *Arteria ſeroſa.* Miſerable! I am ſure this ſad printer was never the father of a book, or ſurely he could not treat another man's offſpring with ſo little tenderneſs.

Page 16. *Lime juice* the greateſt *alexipharmic* in the world, and prevents the diſſolution of the blood, as is evident from ſucking limes when mercury is given, which will prevent a ſalivation. The fact is true but the author plainly ſhews that he does not know how it comes to be ſo. Now

that I may in ſome meaſure comply with my promiſe of ſetting him right whenever he miſtakes his road; I will inform him how it comes to paſs that *lime juice* ſtops a ſalivation. He knows very well that there are two ſuch things in nature as acids and alcalies. Whenever theſe two are mixt together, an effervescence immediately enſues, by which both (if in proportionable quantities) loſe the reſpective qualities, and the mixture acquires new ones no-ways a-kin to the originals of which they are compounded, forming what we call in chymiſtry a *tertium quid*, diſtinct in its properties from both. Of ſuch jarring principles are mercury and lime juice compoſed, and it is eaſy to foreſee that upon mixing them the mercury muſt loſe its original qualities and acquire new ones. This does not look like any condenſing power in *lime juice*; and let me add, that all vegetable acids hitherto known attenuate, whilſt mineral acids are known to coagulate the juices. Which obſervation this profound caſuiſt muſt either have met with in chymical books or been taught by the profeſſors he has attended in the courſe of his ſtudies.

Ibid. Line 10. *but alexipharmics hurry on, &c.* why then is he fond of given his alexipharmic lime juice?

Ibid. line 13. *I own if ſweats, &c.* Here he ſhews that the ſalutary tendency of nature is to ſweat, yet exclaims againſt doctor *Warren*'s ſudorific method, which he owns he never read, and I am ſure he does not underſtand.

Page 17. The great doctor *Pitcairn* ſays that the bile paſſes the pores of the ſkin in a jaundice. This the learned Mr. *Williams* denies. *Pitcairn* alleges that the ſweat of icterical people ſhall tinge the linen cloths with a yellow colour; the learned Mr. *Williams* ſays not, *credat qui vult.*

Page 18. *Sure were theſe advocates, &c.* It does not appear from the inſtances before cited that the author is ſo good a judge of the animal œconomy as either *Boerhaave* or *Pitcairn*, and if a man brags of his talent that way, we are not obliged to believe what he ſays, but for the proof of it muſt appeal to his writings. We have had an inſtance of his acquaintance with the animal œconomy of the liver and uſes of the bile, for which we have ſufficiently founded his praiſe.

Theriacal ſpirituoſe and volatile medicines, as they act by a ſtimulus, excite a diſcharge of ſweat, whereby the blood

is

is rob'd of its more fluid parts and the remaining maſs is condens'd. Now in diſeaſes where there is a tendency to coagulation it is eaſy to foreſee the dangerous conſequences that attend ſuch applications; but I can't conceive there can be the ſame danger in a diſſolution, and if theſe medicines are attended with any bad effects, they are to be explained from other cauſes. A man ought to be very well acquainted with rational principles before he pretends to apply them to the cure of diſeaſes. The word reaſon is a dangerous weapon becauſe every one pretends to a great ſhare of it, and few are either endowed with it, or know how to make a proper uſe of it.

Ibid. Line 26. *for here, &c.* Rare anatomy! here he makes a pumpkin of a man's head, it having neither muſcles or bones to impede the rapid motion of the blood to theſe parts. I hope he does not think all ſculls alike. Beſides I would gladly know how the immediate action of hot medicines upon the ſtomach compreſſes the deſcending trunk of the aorta. This is a moſt plauſible way of reaſoning.

Page 19. line 3. *Let us follow the footſteps of nature, &c.* It is poſſible ſhe may run too faſt for ſome people to overtake her, and a man would not ſet a cow after a hare.

Page 19. This author ſo frequently confounds the jaundice and bilious fever together, that I muſt once for all aſſure him they are not the ſame. And (tho' he denies it) every one elſe knows that the ſweat of icterical people will tinge a linen cloth yellow, which that of a perſon in the *bilious fever* won't do, beſides many other material circumſtances too long to be inſerted here.

Ibid. line 26. Sweats in this diſeaſe ſhould not be attempted with ſudorifics: tho' ſweats are neceſſary and generally critical. *Hippocrates* I am ſure never wrote any thing to come up to this.

Ibid. line 35. This gentleman has ſaid a good deal on the inflammation of the liver, and has not yet proved it, ſo that all he has ſaid about it is *gratis dictum*, and we are not obliged to believe it.

Page 20, paragraph laſt. *Bleeding.* Here the author makes no diſtinction between fevers attended with a diſpoſition of the fluids to coagulate, and others to diſſolve. In the yellow fever the blood has every ſymptom of a tendency

to rarefaction, diſſolution, and conſequently mortification: bleeding we know is an excellent remedy for each of theſe!

Page 21. *Riverius*, the *Arabians*, *Proſper Alpinus*, *Bontius*, *Galen*, and *Willis*, (all quoted in one poor page) were never in *Jamaica*. Why then ſhould we appeal to them when we won't admit the authority of doctor *Warren*, who lived at *Barbadoes?*

Page 22. Captain *Waſhington Shirley*, &c. I have a good deal of reaſon to imagine that this caſe is not faithfully recorded. In the firſt place I am credibly informed that he had no *bilious fever*; ſecondly, the bleeding was not ſo conſiderable as this arteriotomical gentleman would have us believe, for in a night's time it would perhaps ſtain the ſheet as broad as the palm of one's hand, (which we know a drachm of blood will do) and that it continued to do ſo for two or three days: laſtly, how does he know whether this ſav'd his life? By what I could learn, his life was ſav'd long defore our author was ſent for.

Page 22, paragraph 5. *Apozems with manna*, &c. are abſolutely neceſſary. Doctor *Warren* ſays they are generally noxious. *Utrum horum mavis accipe.*

Page 23, line 10. *Fermenting like yeſt*, &c. Here he converts a man's guts into a beer barrel. *Hamlet* traces him to the ſtopping a bunghole, but he is here preferred to the barrel itſelf.

Page 24, line 16. *Periſtaltic motion.* Strange doctrine! That by encreaſing the periſtaltic motion we excite purging! When we know very well that the moſt robuſt people, who have the greateſt periſtaltic motion are generally coſtive. Indeed we don't deny that ſome purges encreaſe the periſtaltic motion, but we ought never to miſtake the effect for the cauſe.

Ib. line 30. No occaſion to bring authorities to ſupport his opinion. No indeed! Then, Sir, we are to ſwallow your *ipſe dixit* for goſpel.——But I need not ſay any thing more on this head, having already ſufficiently invalidated your authority.

Page 25, line 1. *Who ſpeaks much againſt bliſters*, &c. This perſon here meant he tells us in the note at the bottom of the page is *Boerhaave*, in all whoſe works 'tis very well known, that it is not againſt bliſters, but the imprudent uſe of them that he exclaims. I wonder the author

ſhou'd

ſhou'd be ſo fond of the authority of this *praxis medica*, (which every knows is a ſpurious faulty performance palm'd upon *Boerhaave*,) when he can as eaſily cite a good evidence as a bad one.

Page 25. line 3. *With our own, &c.* Which I expect will be excellent.

Ibid. line 5. *Bliſters, &c.* Here he condemns bliſters (the moſt powerful attenuants we know) in an inflammatory lentor and diſpoſition to coagulate. However I muſt agree with him that when they are uſed previous evacuations are neceſſary. At the end of the paragraph he puts a note of admiration, as much as to ſay, Lord how inferior the judgment of theſe people is to mine! We may eaſily ſee thro' the whole eſſay that the author has no ſmall opinion of himſelf, and no great one of us *new comers*. He is very right in calling it an eſſay, and I dare ſay every body that reads it will conclude it to be his firſt. However let him not be diſcourag'd, *Rome* was not built in a day, and no doubt his ſecond performance for the public good will be better.

Ib. line 30. *I am far from believing*, &c.

Who ſhall decide when doctors diſagree
And ſoundeſt caſuiſts doubt like you and me?

Ibid. line 39. *For I ſuppoſe*, &c. Pray, Sir, no more of your ſuppoſitions unleſs you can ſupport them with better reaſons.

Page 26. *Central fevers* again! To be ſure this gentleman muſt be a mathematician.

Ibid. line 11. Convulſions of the diaphragm, and intercoſtal muſcles occaſioned by the afflux of hot, ſharp, rarefied blood are relieved by the hot, ſharp, attenuating cauſtic ſalts of cantharides. This is what is vulgarly called taking a hair of the ſame dog that bit you.

He ſays that Mr. *Chiraux* proves by experiment that vomiting is a convulſion of the diaphragm and intercoſtal muſcles. He is ſo apt to miſquote and miſapply the meaning of authors, that I wiſh he had given us Mr. *Chiraux*'s experiment at full length. That in the action of vomiting, there is a convulſion of the diaphragm and intercoſtal muſcles no body will deny: but I am afraid he has miſtaken Mr. *Chiraux*'s meaning, imagining that theſe violent motions were the cauſe of vomiting, whereas it appears they are only the effect.

Ibid.

Page 26, line 19. What does he mean by the efflatus of the blood? Certainly not the rarefaction of it, when he has brought *Morgan*'s experiment in page 15, to prove that the globules are incapable of dilatation.

Page 20, line 29. What ſhall we make of this author! He transforms himſelf into ſo many Protean ſhapes, that there is no ſuch thing as laying hold of his meaning. One while we are to give acids and ſuch things as powerfully allay thirſt; another time we are to preſcribe neutral ſalts, which he acknowledges will create it. Were theſe directions to be exactly followed what a hurly burley ſhould we raiſe in the human conſtitution! I fancy more people would die of the doctor than this heretofore ſo mortal diſeaſe.

Ibid. paragraph laſt. If *Briſtol* hot-well water has any peculiar virtue that other water has not, it muſt be owing to its minera or calx, which this author is ſo fond of parting with. No body will deny the aſſertion of its being good in the yellow fever, but when it loſes the minera or calx wherewith it is impregnated at the well it becomes nothing more than common water.

Page 28, line 19. See our author's mixture *de tribus* in the next page. I wonder if one of theſe would not do as well. But I ſuppoſe a ſimple preſcription would fret the patient to death, when he reflects what a deal of money he muſt give for a little ſcrap of paper with only two or three words wrote upon it. Here he ſhews his judgment as well as policy.

Page 29, line 3. *So long as the alcaline putridity continues:* It would not have been amiſs had he laid down ſome rules to teach us *new comers* how long that is.

Ibid. line 15. *To account philoſophically for the action of the bark*, &c. This is a figurative way of writing called the bathos. The author undertakes great things, and when we come to him in expectation of meeting with ſomething very fine, we are fubb'd off with the genteel evaſion, that it is not to our purpoſe.

To account for its action from the ſpecific configuration of its parts, is as much as to ſay, I know nothing at all about the matter. Had he ſaid this, it would have been much more ingenuous and philoſophical, than to hurry over the ſubject, by giving us a diſtant hint that he could inform us, were it to the purpoſe.

Page

Page 29, line laſt. *Blood rich with ſalts*, &c. We *new comers* are all taught to believe that the beſt blood is the moſt mild, balſamic, and freeſt from theſe ſharp ſalts. Nay more, young, healthy, vigorous people have fewer of theſe ſalts than old diſeas'd perſons. However as we are now taught better, 'twould be very unreaſonable in us to adhere pertinaciouſly to our academical principles and favourite hypotheſes.

Page 30, line 19. *Since this appears*, &c. He has certainly got the moſt expeditious way of making things appear that ever I met with. He lays down *data*, none of which are prov'd, and from theſe makes his concluſion.

Ibid. line 28. *Niſus of the particles of blood*, *&c.* This wants to be explain'd, as I am convinced it is no typographical error.

Page 31, line 2. *Anoint with fine oil*, &c. I ſuppoſe this is to promote perſpiration.

Page 31, line 30. *It is very certain free livers*, &c. I would not by any means impeach this author's morals, but I am afraid, that other people who have not ſo great a regard for him as I have, will be apt to ſay, that he encourages toping a little too much, and tippling in the morning.

Ibid. line 34. *Vinegar and ſalt.* This finiſhes all. *After melting us down, boiling our blood*, &c. we are at laſt pickled and ſalted alive.

And now, reader, having taken up ſo much of your time, (I hope not idly) it is reaſonable I ſhould make ſome apology for it. Mr. *John Williams* having publiſh'd an eſſay on the *bilious fever*, I found, upon peruſing it, that it was not wrote with that correctneſs a ſubject of this ſort required, and which in ſhort might reaſonably have been expected from that gentleman. He has taken ſome pains to give the world a bad impreſſion of *new comers*, of which I happen to be one; and no one argument that he has made uſe of, tends either to our information in points of which we are as yet ignorant, or to clear up others that are ſtill in diſpute. He abounds with odd maxims and principles, that are neither founded on reaſon or experience, nor ſupported by the authority of antient or modern writers, all which I hope will juſtify a cenſure of this ſort. If a man happens to err in his judgment (which the beſt is liable to) for God's ſake let him give ſome plauſible reaſons for it, and not impoſe

poſe his whimſical opinions upon the world for certain truths. The ignorant may be taken with novelty, but it is a great inſult upon any man of reaſon to imagine his errors are to be palm'd upon him without any manner of rhyme or reaſon. The world may be deceived in private men but never in public authors, the author then hangs out his ſign and every man who walks the ſtreets has a right to ſtop and look at it. Nor are we to judge of him by other people's words, unleſs he applies them properly, and ſhews us that he has good reaſons for concurring with them. For once I will imitate him, and without giving any reaſons for it, quote a paſſage in *Baglivi*, which every one is at liberty to apply to what uſes he ſhall think proper. *Nec non etiam ut medicus ipſe, non amplius Græcis vocabulis armatus carnifex, ſed ut humanæ ſalutis cuſtos, & reſtitutor eſſe videatur.*

As I am now drawing near a concluſion, I muſt more immediately apply myſelf to the author, and adviſe him to be a little cautious in regulating the paſſions of the mind. I know very well that no one cares to have the deformities of his productions pry'd into, and 'tis too tender a point to exerciſe a man's paſſions upon. If any one has a deform'd child, it would not only be rude but barbarous to upbraid the parents with it; but ſhould they apply to any perſon to cure it, they could not take it amiſs to be informed how the caſe ſtood. This is the preſent caſe; and as I have not only ſhewn the reaſon but alſo the neceſſity of this undertaking from the author's own invitation, I muſt ſtill put him mind of the unreaſonableneſs as well as the danger of indulging the paſſions on this occaſion. But above all let me caution him againſt the *ſpleen*, as by that means it is poſſible he may pre-diſpoſe himſelf to catch the *yellow fever*. Which would not only be a private loſs to every perſon that has the happineſs of being acquainted with him (if any accident ſhould be the conſequence) but the public would ſeverely feel the calamity, as few people now-a-days ſeem to be endow'd with the ſame ſpirit for promoting the public good.

F I N I S.