A

TREATISE

OF THE

Nature and Uſe

OF THE

Bitter Purging Salt.

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NATURE and USE

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Bitter Purging Salt.

Eaſily known from all Counterfeits by its Bitter Taſte.

Written Originally in Latin, by *Nehemiah Grew*, Doctor in Phyſick, Fellow of the College of Phyſicians and of the Royal Society.

And done into Engliſh.

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TRactatum hunc, cui Titulus, *De Salis Cathartici amari, in Aquis* Ebeſhamenſibus, *& hujuſmodi aliis contenti, Naturâ & Uſu*; Authore *Nehemia Grew*, M.D. Regalis Collegii Medicorum *Londinenſium*, & Regiæ Societatis Socio, dignum judicamus qui imprimatur:

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TO THE

Two Famous and Celebrated

SOCIETIES.

OF

Royal Foundation.

As well that instituted for the Advancement of

Natural Knowledge,

As the other, especially for that of

Medicine,

NEHEMIAH GREW

Wisheth all Happiness.

I Present you, *most Excellent Sirs*, with the following *Treatise*, in *two Parts*. The *First* whereof, *Of the Nature of the Bitter Waters, and of their Salt*, I drew up long since,

ſince, as a *ſhort Paraphraſe* upon one *Titl* of Nature, to be inſerted into the *Pandect* of *Materia Medica*, with your good liking.

The above-mentioned *Salt* more than 15 Years paſt *, at a *Publick Meeting* o *Philoſophers*, the Lord *Brouncker* being then *Preſident*, was by me ſhewed to the *Boara*

Afterwards, ſome of You, my *Learnee Brethren*, began to make it your ſelves and alſo to preſcribe it in your *Practice*.

The *latter Part*, *Of the Uſe of the Water and of their Salt*, required the Proof of ma ny Years Experience; and *my own* to be added unto *Yours*. Of what ſingular *Uſ* therefore, in many, and thoſe, great anc dangerous *Diſeaſes*, it is to be accounted both *You*, my *worthy Colleagues*, and my ſelf alſo, can give our united Teſtimonies But whether I have promis'd any more than the *Medicine* will make good, I am content ſhould be referred to Your Judg ments and unqueſtionable Experience here in. Its *Uſe* undoubtedly is of that large Extent, that as *Common Salt* is the *Sauce* o

* Now near eighteen Years.

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moſt *Meats*, ſo this may not improperly be ſtiled, *The Seaſoner of Medicine.*

In reckoning up the *Diſeaſes* for which it is moſt effectual, I thought fit to mention ſome other Remedies, as apt Aſſiſtants herein. With this Intent, that I might not ſeem, after the way of *Mountebanks*, to boaſt of ſome new-invented *All-heal.* Yet I have hardly any where ſet down an entire *Method of Cure.* Foraſmuch as what I have here written is intended for the *Uſe*, not of *young Beginners*, but *experienced Phyſicians*, eſpecially thoſe who practiſe in *Places* remote from this *City* : Whom, if I have ſhewed the *Virtues* of a *Medicine*, until now a Stranger to them ; it will be believed, I have done a Work, as not to them unwelcome ; ſo, not vainly intended for the *Publick Good.* And therefore alſo as well as I could, what *you your ſelves* have wiſhed ſhould be done : Who envy not others your own Experience, nor aim at the *Monopoly*, but juſtly claim the *Cuſtody* of *Natural Knowledge*, and of the *Health of Mankind.*

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PART the FIRST.

Of the Nature of the Bitter Purging SALT.

CHAP. I.

Of the Means whereby the Bitter Purging Waters *came first to be commonly known.*

OF all the *Bitter Purging Waters*, those near to *Ebesham*, called *Epsom*, in the County of *Surry*, were about the year 1620. upon notice given of 'em by a Country-Fellow, the first generally known.

For the first ten Years they were made use of only by some of the poor neighbouring People, externally, in washing their Old Sores.

Afterwards, the Lord *Dudly North*, Father to *Francis*, not long since Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of *England*, being of a melancholick Constitution, and having formerly drank the *Spaw-Waters* in *Germany*; thence took the hint to try the virtue of these also near *Epsom*: hoping, I sup-

ſuppoſe that he had met with the like *Chalybeate* or *Iron* * *Waters*, here at home.

But notwithſtanding that, in this reſpect they anſwer'd not his Wiſh and Expectation; yet he did not conclude he had tried them in vain; when he perceiv'd they purg'd him, as a Medicine ſent from Heaven, with much Relief.

By his Example many others were incourag'd to try the Operation of theſe Waters. And among the firſt, the Illuſtrious Princeſs *Maria de Medices*, Mother to the Wife of King *Charles* the Firſt; the Lord *George Goring*, Earl of *Norwich*, and many other Perſons of Quality.

Theſe, and all others who drank of theſe *Wells* frequented them not as yet for their Pleaſure but only for their Health; and therefore ſent either for their own, or ſome other neighbouring *Phyſicians*, of whom they received Direction how to drink them.

Upon this, Phyſicians began to come to theſe Wells of their own accord; by whoſe Authority they became of ſo great account, that no leſs than two thouſand People have met there in one day, to drink, or to divert themſelves.

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* *Chalybeate or Iron-Waters.*] The Author here complies with the Name in uſe, tho' perhaps improper: for which have heard him give this Reaſon, becauſe we have no know way of making a volatile Vitriol, or Spirit of Iron; whereas the Spirit contained in theſe Waters is volatile in a high degree. So that we may rather ſuppoſe them to be impregnated with either a Marchaſite, or ſome ſuch Mineral as uſeth to be a Companion to Iron.

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A while after, *viz.* about thirty years paſt, many *Londoners*, not having Time, or Mony enough, to ſpend at theſe Wells, procured the Waters to be ſent them thence.

Which occaſion ſome taking hold of, furniſhed themſelves with great Quantities, which they ſold to *Apothecaries*, and thoſe who were *advis'd* to drink them, as is alſo done to this day. The Reaſon why the *Wells* are leſs frequented by *Ailing* People now, than heretofore, not being becauſe *Phyſicians* now-a-days have a meaner Opinion of them, but becauſe the number of thoſe who drink the *Waters*, either at home, or at other *Wells*, daily encreaſeth.

For not long after thoſe near *Epſom* came to be generally known, divers others of the ſame *nature* being found out, either upon ſearch, or by *chance*, came into ſome Note and Uſe. The Names of the chief whereof I have hereunto ſubjoin'd.

At	*Barnet*	in	*Hartfordſhire.*
	North Hall		*Hartfordſhire.*
	Acton,		*Middleſex.*
	Cobham,		*Surrey.*
	Dulwich		*Surrey.*
	Stretham		*Surrey.*

Beſides theſe, the Curioſity of many being excited, may perhaps hereafter diſcover as many more yet unknown to us; eſpecially with the help of this Indication, that ſweet Springs commonly break forth about the *Tops* of Hills; but *Theſe* for the moſt part, at the *Bottom.*

CHAP. II.

Of the Nature of the Bitter Purging Waters.

THeſe *Waters* are indeed but moderately ye ſenſibly Bitter, but ſcarce of any othe taſte *.

Some in the account they give of their Tra vels, tell us of *certain bitter Springs* near *Syria* an *Egypt*. And S. *James* in his General Epiſtle, int mates as if *ſweet* and *bitter Waters* were both *equa ly* known to the People in the *Eaſtern* Parts. A which *bitter Waters* may poſſibly be of this kind

Theſe Waters are not all equally *bitter* c *ſtrong*, but ſome of them work a little more tha others: of the ſtronger ſort are thoſe of *Du wich*; of the more gentle, thoſe of *Epſom*.

Theſe Waters, while in their own *Wells*, a without Scent; but being kept cover'd in *Veſſe* for ſome days, or weeks, eſpecially in Summe they will corrupt and ſtink; which ſometim happens to all others, even *Spring-Waters* ther ſelves, in Ships which ſail near the *Equator*.

This *Water*, tho' mix'd with a ſmall quantity *Syrup of Violets*, yet no way alters its *blue Colour* which thereupon remains the ſame as if it ha been any other *Spring-Water*. B

* *Scarce of any other Taſte.*] The Reader is to obſerve th this is ſaid of the Waters, not of the Salt hereafter deſcrib'

But a little Water impregnated with *Unslackt Lime*, being added to this Water, it becomes, as if with a few drops of *Milk*, of a *bluish* and *semi-perspicuous Grey*: and within about an hour, the coagulated parts, which cause that *Colour*, settle in the form of a *whitish Cloud*; produced by the union of the *Lixivial Salt of Lime* with that in the *Purging Waters*, which is potentially *Acid*.

All these *Purging Waters* will curdle Milk, if put to them when they boil, or are *boiling hot*; but not if mixed *cold*.

Any of these *bitter Purging Waters* being evaporated, or steamed away in a *Glass*, glazed, or other convenient Vessel, yieldeth both a certain *Cremor* at the top, and also a *Setling*; of both together about *six*, *eight*, or *ten Drachms* out of every Gallon of Water.

This *Cremor* * is of an Ashen *Colour*, and in its whole substance *stony*, and seems to be of the nature of some sort of *Plaister*; but certainly not of the *Lime-stone*: for every one knows that *burnt Lime-stone*, upon pouring even cold Water upon it, grows very hot, and sends forth a great and thick Steam; and being applied to any part of our Body, hath a burning quality, and is there-

* *This Cremor is* ——*stony, and of the nature of some sort of Plaister.*] And I have seen Stones taken out of the Ground where these purging Springs arise, of this nature; some of them opacous, of the Colour of the *Lapis Judaicus*, and some of them transparent, but all of them glossy; and figur'd on one Edge with a sort of Indenture.

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fore used by Surgeons as a *Potential Caustick*. But the said *Cremor* being in a Crucible equally *burnt*, neither produceth, upon the affusion of Water any steam, nor grows hot, nor so much as in the least affecteth that most tender part, the *Tongue* it self.

Sometimes it consisteth (as that of *Acton* Water) of most extream small and thin shining *Plates*, very friable or brittle, and altogether tasteless, tho' burnt as aforesaid; yet upon the affusion of any Acid Liquor, and especially of *Spirit of Nitre*, will cause an Ebullition with some seeming heat.

The lesser part of the *Sediment* or *Setling*, is in Substance the same with the *Cremor* now described; the rest is all Salt, but consisting of two sorts, the one a *Muriatick Salt*, the other that which is proper or peculiar to these Waters; the Nature and Virtues whereof I here intend to shew.

In *Epsom* Water, the *Muriatick Salt* is about a twentieth part of the *Saline Mixture*. In that of *Dulwich*, it is in a greater Proportion: And so in most of those above-mentioned. 'Tis both in its *Acrimonious Taste*, and the Figure of its Chrystals, not unlike to Common Salt: Whence it is, that those Waters which have less of this Salt in them work off more gently.

The other Salt is that, as I have said, which is special or proper to the *Purging Waters*: 'Tis made

made in the ſame manner * as any *Lixivial Salt*, *viz.* by Evaporation, Filtration, and Chryſtallization; Calcination only being omitted. In this Preparation, firſt the Earthy or Plaiſtery part is to be ſeparated from the *Saline*, and then the *Muriatick Salt*, with the brown and dark *Liquor* from that which is the proper Salt of the Waters.

CHAP. III.

Of the Nature of the Proper, *that is, of the* Bitter Salt of the Waters.

THis Salt, if perfectly prepared, is as beautifully *white* as the new fallen *Snow*.

Undiſſolved, it hath the ſame bitter *Taſte* as the *Waters* themſelves, but in a much higher degree: and is alſo acuated with a certain *Pungency*, which is very penetrating, but without any *Acrimony*.

But if one *Drachm* of this Salt, or thereabout, be diſſolved in a Pint of common Water, that is, in the ſame proportion as it hath to its own ſubterraneous Water; this *Common Water*, as it hereby obtains the ſame property of curdling

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* *'Tis made in the ſame manner as any Lixivial Salt.*] That is, in the ſame general way; and ſo I am well aſſured it is. But alſo that the particular way of Evaporation, Filtration, and Chryſtallization here uſed, is very different from that uſed in the making of any Lixivial Salt.

Milk, so is ennobled with the very same (almost simply) *bitter Taste*, as the *Mineral Water* it self and with the same Purging Virtue; and may therefore not unaptly be distinguished, both from that called *Sal mirabile*, made of *Oil of Vitriol* and *Common Salt*, and from all other Salts, by the Name of the Bitter Purging Salt.

This *Bitter Purging Salt*, according as the Water wherein it resides is *more or less boiled*, and the *degree of cold* whereto it is afterwards expos'd and other Circumstances, shoots into *Chrystal* differently *siz'd*, but in Figure, whether small or great, much alike: for most of them, if they have room to shoot in, are so many small *Rectangular Prisms, with four Parallelogram Plains*; and, with two of them a little less and opposite somewhat flattish. Sometimes they are Sexangular, with two more *Parallel Plains*; but those so very small as hardly to be discerned. About half an Inch in *length*, exceeding their *thickness* five, six, or seven times. Stand upon a crusty *Base* of the same Salt. Their upper ends much vary'd, with *sometimes three, usually four inclined or sloped Plains, making Obtuse Angles with the Parallelograms aforesaid*, so as to be either pointed, or more often edg'd like a Chizel: of which upper Plains there is a *Pentangular* or *Sexangular* one, commonly greater than all the other three put together: to this an opposite, which is *Quadrangular* or *Pentangular*; the other two *Triangular*, and very small, sometimes hardly discernable without a Microscope. These

These Chrystals, in their being of a long Figure, come nearer to *Nitre* or Salt-Petre; and in being Rectangular, to Common Salt, than to any other Species of Salt.

The same *bitter Purging Salt*, being dissolved in fair Water, and let to stand for some days in a Glass, it shoots round about the sides of the Glass, into branched Chrystals, in imitation of little Shrubs. For the producing of which Figure, the now describ'd Chrystals of this Salt, as also those of *Nitre* (which ends sometimes with Right Angles, sometimes Acute) are made very fit, *viz.* by the application of the Sloped Plain of one Chrystal to the *Parallel Plain* of another. In like manner as I have shewed * the Generation of the Leaves of Plants, to be performed by their own Salts. Where, by the way, it is to be noted, that in that Discourse, I have represented the Figures of *Nitre* and other Salts, not altogether as we see them shoot, but as it is probable, they exist in the Plants themselves.

* *Anat. of Plants, Book 4. Part 1. Chap. the last.*

Put five Drachms of the *bitter Purging Salt* into a Bottle, with half an ounce of fair Water, and shake them very well; with this Agitation alone, and the gentle Warmth of the Hand, even in Winter, the Water will quickly imbibe all the Salt, a few Grains excepted; this Salt being much more dissoluble than most other Salts.

'Tis also distinguish'd from all other Salts by its spe-

ſpecifick Gravity; that is, the weight hereo compared with the Bulk. As it is heavier tha *Alum*; ſo much lighter than *Common Salt*: an alſo than *Nitre*; as will appear hereafter in th 5th Chapter.

A Solution of this Salt, and another of Sa of *Tartar*, or of any other *Lixivial*, or Urinou Salt *, being mixed, produce a white *Coagulum* or Curd; or a certain kind of Neutral Salt, t ſted neither like the one, nor the other, but i ſome ſort Aſtringent.

Oil of Vitriol, very ſtrong, and newly mad being drop'd upon this Purging Salt, cauſeth moderate Ebullition. Whereby it appears t partake of an *Alkaline* Principle †, which is a ſo capable of becoming in ſome ſort *Lixivial*.

But no other Liquor, that I know of, whethe *Alkaline* or *Acid*, being dropped upon the ſai Salt, gives it any manner of Motion or Heat.

This Salt being put in a Crucible, into a pre ty bright Fire, it melts or flows much after th manner of Alum, and huffs up in the form of white, porous, and blubber'd *Calx*. Yet is th *Calx* almoſt wholly diſſoluble in a ſufficient quan

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* *Urinous Salt.*] Such as the Volatile Salt of Harts-horn Soot, *&c.* † *An Alcaline Principle, capable of becoming i ſome ſort Lixivial.*] Obſerve that theſe two are to be diſtin guiſhed, *viz.* as the Genus is from the Species: For mo Lixivial Salts are Alcaline; but there are many Alcaline (i Teſtaceous Salts actually exiſtent in Shells unburnt) whic are not Lixivial.

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tity of fair Water, excepting perhaps a fortieth part of the whole: But the *Lime-ſtone* is nothing ſo.

This ſame *Calx*, burnt in a Crucible, for an hour in a good ſtrong Fire, grows almoſt as hard as a *Baſtard Alablaſter*. Neither doth it afterwards become ſofter, upon its being expos'd to the *Aer*: much leſs doth it crumble into Pouder, after the manner of *burnt Lime-ſtone*.

By being thus burnt, although it loſeth ſome part of its *weight*, yet not of its *bitter Taſte*, which on the contrary, is hereby augmented *.

The ſame *Calx*, with *Spirit of Salt*, *or other Acid Liquor*, maketh an Ebullition more or leſs conſpicuous, according to the Strength of the affuſed Spirit; and may therefore be accounted in ſome ſort *Lixivial*.

A pound of this *Salt* being put into a *Coated Glaſs Retort*, and diſtill'd in a *Reverberating Furnace*, will afford in a *Receiver*, a little better than half a Pound of a certain *Acid Spirit*, both in Scent and Taſte ſomewhat like to the *Spirit* of Common Salt.

Oil of Vitriol dropped upon *Spirit* of Common Salt, cauſeth a kind of thick and fumy ſteam, which alſo happens from the ſame Oil, if very ſtrong, when dropped upon the Spirit of the *Purging Salt*.

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* *Its bitter Taſte is hereby augmented.*] Which ſhews the fixedneſs of its Principles, by the Union whereof the bitterneſs is produced.

It

It is very well known, that all Acidulated *ron-Waters*, will turn Purple with the Infusion a Dyer's *Gall:* As will also White-wine *Vinega* but of a duller Colour. But the same Infusio with the Spirit of the *Purging Salt*, though a *Acid*, yet makes no alteration: nor with Spir of *Sulphur*, nor with Oil of *Vitriol*; whereby, well as by sundry other ways, the different n ture of these and other *Acids* is discovered.

Having poured some *River-water* into *eig* Drinking-Glasses, and given them all the sam *blue* Colour with a few drops of Syrup of *Violet* I let one of them stand without any thing el superadded. To another, I put a little *Nitr* To a Third, as much of the *bitter Purging Sal* To a Fourth, the Infusion of *Quick-Lime* mad with fair Water, commonly called *Lime-Wate* To a Fifth, a solution of the *Calx* of the *Purgin Salt*. To a Sixth, the Infusion of *white Tartar*. T a Seventh, the distill'd Spirit of the *Purging Sal* To the last, a little both of the *Calx* of the *Pur ging Salt*, and of *Lime-water*.

In the *three first*, the *blue* Colour remaine without alteration, saving that it grew a littl paler.

In the *fourth* and *fifth*, the said *blue* was pre sently changed into a *Green*: but in the former somewhat *muddy* and a little *paler*; in the latte deep and clear, like that of an *Emerald*.

In the sixth and seventh, it turn'd Purple: bu in the former, *dull*; in the other, like that o an *Amethyst*.

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The *green* Colour, which in the *fourth* and *fifth* vanished in the space of three hours; in the *last*, was deeper and more permanent.

From this manifold Experiment we may observe that *Nitre*, although upon deflagration, it yields a *fixt*, and that a *Lixivial Salt*; and by distillation, an *Acid* Spirit: yet having neither a *Lixivial* nor an *Acid Taste*, it gives the Syrup neither a Green Colour nor a Purple. And by parity of Reason, we may conclude the same of the *bitter Purging Salt*: that is to say, that it is compounded of some Parts potentially *Acid*, that is, capable of becoming *Acid*; and of others which are *Alkaline*, and also capable of becoming in some sort *Lixivial*.

And that it really consisteth of both the said Principles, is evident from the *Acid Taste* of its Spirit; and the *green Colour* given to the Syrup by its *Calx*, in like manner as by *Lime water* and other *Lixivial Liquors*.

And in the last Glass, the *Colour* is therefore deeper, and more *Permanent*; because it is produced by the joint efficacy (as Ink of two *Astringents*, so this (of two *Lixivial Salts*, both that of the *Cathartick*, and that of *Lime*.

And it is plain, that the Being of these Salts and their Force in the changing of *Colours*, doth not wholly and altogether depend upon the Fire, because that the Infusion of *white Tartar*, gives the Syrup a purple Colour, as well as the Spirit of the *Purging Salt*.

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Laſtly, let it be noted, that I have called th *Alkaline* Principle of the *Purging Salt*, ſuch a one as is capable of becoming, in ſome ſort *Li ivial*: for neither in the *Calx* it ſelf of this Sa (as hath already been obſerved in this Chapter is there any *Lixivial Taſte.* Notwithſtandin which, from the Experiments afore-related the Purging Salt may be argued, before it hat felt the Fire, to be in part *Alkaline*; but whe it is well burnt, to be in ſome ſort *Lixivial* albeit we may not ſo properly call it *Lixivia* nor perhaps by any other Name which Uſ hath approved: For the Furniture of Words i in nothing more ſcanty *, than it is in Philoſo phy; to wit, in that Philoſophy, which, as th Handmaid of Nature, obſerveth her Varieties e very where admirable, with exacteſt Diſcrimi nation and Diligence.

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* *The Furniture of Words is in nothing more ſcanty, than it i in Philoſophy.*] The Occaſion of many falſe Conceptions o things, entertained and defended by unthinking Men, wh having no other Images of things, but ſuch as anſwer to ſome word in uſe; conclude the number of proper Words and of things to be the ſame.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Qualities whereby the Bitter Purging Salt *differs from* Alum, *and from* Common Salt.

From the Experiments already brought, and next to be alledged, being throughly understood and compared *, it will appear that the *Bitter Purging Salt*, altho' it hath some qualities in common with other Salts, yet is truly, or specifically different from them all.

'Tis thought by most to be produc'd of some certain *Aluminous Mine*; but upon no good ground. For how can that be proved? because it curdles Milk? 'Tis no proof at all. For by the same absurd Argument, *Vinegar*, *Wine*, *Ale*, and whatsoever else curdles Milk, wou'd be proved to be *Aluminous*.

Nor yet because it huffs up and blubers like *Alum* when it's melted. For as much as melted *Borax* huffs up in the same manner: but *Borax* doth not coagulate Milk, and so is not *Aluminous*;

* *From the Experiments — compared:*] For tho' some of them may seem to be of less moment, taken alone; yet none of them but is of necessary use, not to be jointly considered towards the Author's giving of full satisfaction to the Reader in what he asserts; whom I have heard to say, That in Philosophy sometimes, a twopenny Experiment is of more value, than many of those pompous ones which glitter with Gold and Pearls.

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neither therefore is the *bitter Purging Salt*.

Again, of an ounce of *Alum* burnt in a Cr cible for half an hour, there remains half a ounce of *Calx*; to which *Calx* if you pour sufficient quantity of fair Water, till it hath in bibed all the dissoluble Parts, there will still lie the bottom of the Vessel above two and fift Grains of a simple and insipid Earth; which more than six times as much as that which settl from the *Calx* of the Purging Salt dissolved i like manner.

Neither is the *Spirit of Alum*, distilled with strong Fire at all like the Spirit of the *Bitter Pu ging Salt*, as having a more *Acrimonious Tast* and nothing so pleasant; besides that it strike the Nose, which is specially to be observed, wit a base *stinking Scent*, altogether like that of tru Spirit of Sulphur *, which the *Germans* call *Ga Sulphuris*, or that of melted and flaming *Brimstone*

Add hereto, that the Taste of *Alum* is so diffe rent from that of the *Purging Salt*, that nothing can be more: For whereas that is not at all *bitter* but plainly *rough* or *acerb*; this, without an *Acerbity*, is plainly *bitter*.

They are likewise distinguished by their very different Figures. For the Chrystals of *Alum*

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* *The True Spirit.*] Which cannot be made (as that com monly called the *Spirit of Sulphur*) by Distillation, but by placing flaming brimstone and fair Water so together, tha the Water may receive and imbibe the steam of the Brim stone, which either is, or contains the *Gass* or *True Spirit*.

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that is the factitious, being in their *heigth a little flat, are comprehended within eight Plains*; two of which, that above and that below, are Sexangular, and Parallel one to another: the greater and lesser Sides of each of these Plains, being alternately composed, so as the three greater are opposite to the three less. About these stand six *Quadrangular Plains*, with their Sides and Angles both unequal; the greater and the less *alternately sloped* towards the Centre of the Chrystal. But how very unlike this Figure is to that of the Crystals of the *Purging Salt* before describ'd, is visible enough by comparing them together.

Neither is there any better ground to account the Purging Salt a Species of Common Salt; from which being perfectly refined, it differs as much in Taste, as it doth from *Alum*.

As also in Figure; the Crystals of Common Salt not shooting in length, but so as to come very near the Figure, yet a little below the Altitude of a Cube *.

Farther, the *Purging Salt* being put in a Crucible, into a strong Fire, it flies little more than half away, and that in an invisible Steam: but Common Salt committed to the same Heat; as, when melted, it becomes much more fluid; so it evaporates in a thick Steam like to Smoak, hard-

* *A Cube.*] The Crystals of Salt produced by evaporating the Water of the *Salt-Sea* in *Judea*, are most of them exact Cubes.

ly

ly an eighteenth part of the whole remaining in the Crucible.

Neither (which may seem strange) doth t Spirit of *common Salt* curdle Milk after the sa manner as doth the Spirit of the Purging Sa I deny not indeed but that the Spirit of comm Salt being poured, tho' in a moderate quantit upon Milk unmixt with any other Liquor, a when it boils, will make it curdle. Wherefo not to conclude upon Uncertainties, I made t Experiment in the following manner.

To a Pint of *boiling River-water* impregnat with a Dram of the Purging Salt, I put three four spoonfuls of Milk, and so let the Warer bo again; upon which the Milk turn'd to a Cur swam upon the top of the Water.

And so it did in like manner, upon mixing Drachm of the Spirit of the Purging Salt, i stead of the Purging Salt.

Lastly, instead of the Spirit of the *Purging Sa* I put the Spirit of *Common Salt* (rather strong than the Spirit aforesaid) and then the Milk the Water, both of them in the same proportio as before; and so let the Water boil agai which done, the Milk notwithstanding contin ed in its own natural Fluidity, without makin any Curd.

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* *Remaining*] And that which doth remain is not *Sal* but a true *Caput Mortuum*, of a kind of Brick-Colour, indi soluble in Water, and so without any Taste.

CHAP

CHAP. V.

Of the Qualities whereby the Bitter Purging Salt *differs from* Nitre, *and from the* Salt of Lime.

NOR can we for any better Reason, look upon the Bitter Purging Salt, as a sort of Nitre; from which it were sufficiently distinguished, if only by its *bitter Taste*.

And no less by its Figure; the Crystals of *Nitre* being comprehended, not within four *Parallelogram Plains*, but always six *Plains*; not within *Right Angles*, but *Obtuse*. And because the Tops of these are terminated, scarce ever with four, commonly with two, often with six sloped Plains; and those more equal than in the Purging Salt.

Likewise, in that being cast into the Fire, it is no ways inflammable. Much less doth it spend it self in bright and sounding Flames, as *Nitre* doth, till it is almost consumed. I say, *almost*; for I deny not but in the 3d Chapter I have already intimated, that a very small part hereof (about a *twentieth*) after the Deflagration is ended, remaineth Fixed. Which yet is not at all Nitrous, but in Taste, and other qualities, truly Lixivial; being that which they who make *Nitre*, mix with it out of Wood-Ashes.

Again, the *Purging Salt* being held in a Spoon

over the *flame of a Candle*, it melts within half th the minute of an hour; and huffs up with blub bers in the ſame manner as if caſt into the Fir Whereas *Nitre*, with the ſame ſort of heat, w hardly melt at all; but requires at leaſt an eigh fold ſpace of time, and a very bright Flame.

On the contrary, altho' it is melted more di ficultly, yet with much greater fluidity; for b ing placed in a Crucible, in a good ſtrong Fi it doth not blubber as Alum, or as the Purgi Salt, but like Roſin, or Metal, plainly flows.

Nitre alſo, melted in a Crucible, ſends for a thick and dark Steam; whereof there is Appearance ariſing from the Purging Salt, th with the moſt vehement heat.

They are moreover diſtinguiſhed by the Pr perty of curdling Milk. For half a Drachm the Purging Salt, being put into half a pint boiling Milk, makes a conſiderable Curd, wi a very thin Whey: But *Nitre* being added Milk in the ſame manner, and in a much great proportion, doth not curdle it at all.

The *Solubility of Nitre* is likewiſe leſs by thr degrees, than that I have before prov'd to belo to the Purging Salt. For half an ounce of f Water being well ſhaken; and aſſiſted only w the Winter-warmth of the Hand, will diſſol no more than a Drachm and half of Nitre.

They are likewiſe different in weight, where I made the Experiment in manner following. put *Oil of Turpentine* into a Cylindrick Glaſs,

it rose to the height of three Inches; then putting into the same Glass, two Ounces of the Purging Salt, the Oil advanc'd to a fourth Inch. But the like quantity of pure *Nitre* being superadded, the Oil then ascended further, not more than three quarters of an Inch. Wherefore *Nitre* is heavier by one fourth * part, than the *Purging Salt*.

And yet *Water*, if impregnated with the *Purging Salt*, takes up less *space* (the *Bulk* of the *Salt* consider'd) than if with *Nitre*: That is, *Water* being put into the Glass with these *Salts* instead of the *Oil*; upon the dissolution of the *former*, it will subside or sink lower, than of the *latter* †.

Lastly, Let *Dantzick Vitriol*, *Sal Armoniack*, and instead of *Nitre*, the *bitter Purging Salt*, be mixt in the same proportion, and distill'd in the same manner as is done for the making of *Aqua Regia*. If then the *Purging Salt* were a sort of *Nitre*, the *Water* distill'd from the said Mixture would dissolve *Gold* as well as the *Aqua Regia*. But we find no such Gold-dissolving Power in this Water.

Much less is it the *Nitre* of the Ancients: For neither is it that *Egyptian* kind, so often men-

* *By one fourth Part*] That is, three times the Bulk of Nitre, makes equal weight with four times the Bulk of the Purging Salt. † The Reader cannot so well understand this Experiment, except he have recourse to that Lecture, which the Author read some years since before the Royal Society, of the Solution of Salts in Water.

tioned

tioned by *Hippocrates*: nor that, not unlike i
deſcribed both by *Dioſcorides* and *Pliny*, to be *Pu*
ple, and of an *Acrimonious Taſte*; nor yet tha
which *Aetius* preſcribes, as if a *Bole*, to be burn
and quenched in Wine.

Neither in the laſt place can it be properl
entituled, a *Limy Salt*: For the Purging Salt, c
the Purging Water it ſelf, put to Milk, makes
much harder Curd, and more plentiful tha
Lime-water, that is, the *Infuſion of Burnt Lim*
And what if it were produc'd by both alike
How many Liquors afore mention'd, curdl
Milk, which are no more *Limy*, than they ar
Alaminous?

Spirit of Nitre dropped upon the *Cremor* o
the top of *Lime-water*, or even upon *Lime*
Stone when unburnt, maketh a conſpicuous E
bullition. But the Purging Salt is with this Spi
rit, not at all affected.

There is no where found two more differin
Taſtes, than thoſe of the Purging Salt, and c
Lime-Water; this being Lixivial and Sweet
that in a manner Cold and Bitter.

Lime-Stone burnt and unſlackt, being ſprink
led with a little Water, preſently crumbles int
Powder. On the contrary, the pouder'd *Cal*
of the Purging Salt, immediately becomes
hardiſh Subſtance, and continues for ſome Mi
nutes almoſt like a Stone.

The Spring-Water near *London*, and notifie
by the Image of the *Holy Lamb*, and commonly
called

called *Lambs-Conduit Water*; by pouring upon it a little *Lime-water*, presently grows whitish, with a kind of *grey Coagulum*, as doth the Purging Water. But Water impregnated with the *Calx* of Purging Salt, maketh the said *Lambs-Conduit* Water nothing muddy, nor colour'd, but it continues altogether as clear, as when it was unmixed.

Fair Water being impregnated with the bitter Purging Salt, and then evaporated, yields the same Salt again in Quantity and Quality, most entire. Contrariwise, the Salt of *Lime-Water*, evaporated in the same manner, is wholly turn'd into a *tasteless* and *stony* Substance †: The Cause whereof is, for that the Salt of the *Lime-water* is so far agreeable, and throughly united to some

† *The Salt of Lime is turned into a tasteless and stony Substance.*] From which Experiment may be made this Remark, That the reason why Mortar is so good a Cement, is because the Salt contained in the Lime, not being dissolved like other Salts, but hardned, and really petrified by the *Aer*, becomes the Cement of the other parts of the Lime, whereby the whole Mass is in time converted again into a Stone. And that probably the Mortar which the *Romans* used, was harder than that we commonly meet with now-a-days; either because they made it of such Lime as had a greater Plenty of this Salt, or by burning it otherwise than is now usual, the Salt was laid more open to the *Aer*; or else by pouring upon unslackt Lime, not common Water, as is now always done, but Lime-water; whereby the Salt, bearing a greater proportion to the Earth, the whole Mass might acquire a greater Hardness, and in a less time. 'Twere easie to be tri'd.

other

other Aerial Salt, as therewith to conſtitute Third ſort of Body different from them both. I like manner, as of the beſt Oils of *Vitriol*, an of *Anniſe-ſeeds*, mixt together, is produc'd a *R ſin*, properly ſo call'd, and if waſh'd, altogeth taſteleſs.

The proof whereof we may alſo make by th following Experiment. Let ſome *Lime water* b kept a Week, or longer, both in a corked Bo tle, and in an open Veſſel: In the Bottle the to of the Water remains naked; but in the ope Veſſel, where the Air hath a free acceſs to th Water, it is cover'd with a *Cremor* inſipid, an ſtony, properly ſo called.

But Water, in which the *Purging Salt* is diſſo ved, being committed to the *Air* for many day in an open Veſſel, affords not a jot of the ſai ſtony *Cremor*; nor is that *Cremor* produc'd upo boiling the *Purging Waters*, at all of a *Limy* Na ture, as is before proved.

Add hereto the extream difference in the *ſolu bility* of theſe two *Salts*: for half an ounce of th Purging Salt, without any heat or much ſhaking is eaſily and preſently diſſolv'd in two ounces c fair Water: whereas half an ounce of the Sal contained in *Quick Lime*, requires, to imbib it all, no leſs than two Gallons and half of fai Water; that is, three hundred and twent Ounces, or a hundred and ſixty times as muc Water as the former. For ſo much fair Water neceſſary to the Edulcoration of an Ounce c

Quick

Quick Lime: which being done, there remains about half an Ounce of a most light and insipid *Calx* in the bottom of the Vessel.

To conclude, the *bitter Purging Salt*, were very eminently distinguished from all other Salts, if no other way than by its *Medicinal Vertue*; as in the *Second Part* of this *Treatise*, concerning its *Use*, will plainly appear.

In the mean time we will suppose that some small Portion both of *Nitre*, and *Common Salt*, and also of Plaister, may sometimes be mixed, not only with the Purging Waters, but wirh the Purging Salt it self. And what then? when it is probable, that in all Nature there is no where to be found a Body absolutely simple. Who knows not that *Silver* is mix'd with *Lead*, or *Copper*, *Gold* with *Silver*, in the same *Mine*, *Vein*, or even Lump of Ore? Yet *Silver* and *Copper*, or *Silver* and *Gold*, do not therein constitute a third Metal; but are two or more co-existent, yet separable Metals.

Nor moreover is the Identity of Bodies sufficiently defin'd, by their agreement in some *Qualities*: For so *Lead* or *Gold* do agree; both of 'em are Bodies hard, opacous, malleable, meltable, heavy, *&c.* and are both therefore Metals. But nothing is Gold, which hath not all the qualities of Gold. Yet Gold differs not in more, or more eminent respects, from Lead, than doth the *bitter Purging Salt* from all the Salts aforementioned: And is therefore a very noble Salt of a distinct kind.

CHAP. VI.

Some further Obſervations *of the Nature of a* Bitter Purging Salt.

OF the ſpecifying *Qualities* of this Salt afor deſcribed one of the principal is, its mea ly and almoſt ſimply *bitter Taſte*; with reſpect which, the Cryſtals of Silver, of all other Sal that I know of, come the neareſt. For theſe a indeed *bitter*; but alſo in a high degree; and th *bitter* is alſo joined with the greateſt Auſterity

I have elſewhere * obſerv' that the *Lapis Calaminaris*, an *Silver*, have ſome *Qualities* com mon to them both. I dropt therefore upon th Stone a little Spirit of *Nitre*; and after the Ebu lition thereupon ariſing was over, I dilute the Mixture with fair Water. This Wate like the Cryſtals of Silver, is not only rough i the higheſt degree †, but very *bitter*. The onl Mineral that I know of, endued with a *bitte* Taſte, except the Salt of Silver, and the Purgin S l:

But whether the Purging Salt is the Produc of any perfect or imperfect Silvert Mine, or an

* *In the ſecond Diſcourſe of Mixture.*

† *Rough in the higheſt degree.*] As in all likelihood, it alſ becomes in the Stomach and Bowels, when it there meet with ſome fretting Acid: and thereby ſometimes proves a potent Aſtringent in *Diarrhœas* thence ariſing.

to

to which the *Lapis Calaminaris* is of kin, or rather of ſome other; not having as yet been able to get the Mother-Mineral hereof, I leave undetermined.

However, from the foreſaid Experiments, thus much is evident, That the *Bitter Purging Salt* is compounded of ſuch certain Parts as are Potentially Acid, that is, capable of becoming *Acid*, and of others which are *Alcaline*; and that theſe are ſuch as are alſo capable of becoming, in ſome ſort, *Lixivial*.

Now in *Salts* compounded of divers Principles, the Proportion, Nature and Union of the Principles are to be conſider'd. There ſeem to be ſome *Acid Particles* mixed even with *Lixivial Salts*; but in a ſmall Quantity. On the contrary, in *Tartar*, that is, the *Salt of Wine*, there is a leſs quantity of thoſe parts which are *Potentially Salt*; but of the *Acid* a far greater. And in much a like manner, in the *Bitter Purging Salt*. With this difference, that in the former, ſuch Parts as are actually *Acid*, are mixt with the *Alcaline*; in the latter, ſuch only as are potentially *Acid*.

Again, all Salts made of Lees, are *Acrimonious*. But thoſe commonly called *Teſtaceous*, are, not without ground, accounted more mild: As are alſo ſome *Acid Liquors* above others, as the Juice of *Wood-Sorrel*, an Infuſion of *Cremor Tartari*, and the like. All which are excell'd, in Lenity, by the Purging Salt. Which tho' upon Diſtillation, it yields an *Acid* Spirit; yet there is nothing of

Acri-

Acrimony, or Acidity, to be perceiv'd in the Sa it self; but only in its Principles, when severe and defiled with a most vehement Fire.

Neither is this Salt of a flat Taste; but extrean subtil and penetrating; and upon that score, the more effectual remedy. And its admirabl Subtilty hereby further appears, in that pene trating all manner of earthen Vessels, if not ve ry well Leaded or Glaz'd, it gathers all ove their Outsides in a sort of Pile like that of th *Amianthus* or *Thrum-stone* *.

The Principles also of this Salt, are much mor inseparably mixed, than in *Tartar*, and man other Medicines. Their Union being so clos and inward, that the one, *viz.* that which i Potentially Acid, seems not, tho' with a reverbe rating Fire, by very much more than one half, to be parted from the other. Whence it is, tha whereas all other gentle *Catharticks*, do many times deceive the Physician; this Salt never fails to purge. For of all Medicines, those act upon the humours of the Body with the greatest certainty, which by the force of the Humours are least alterable. Of which number, the said Salt and other Minerals are to be accounted.

Lastly, this Salt, altho' compounded of divers Principles, yet is it, if duly prepar'd, very pure; so as not to be alloy'd with the thousandth part

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* *In a sort of Pile, like that of the Amianthus.*] As also many other Salts do, when they shoot not under Water, but in the *Aer*, and so under the government of some Aerial Salt.

of

of any ſort of Body which is a ſtranger to it. For if you evaporate ſome diſtill'd Water impregnated with an Ounce of this Salt; it will yield not one Grain of any Heterogeneous Salt, nor of the ſtony Sediment, nor of the like *Cremor*; but the ſame Ounce of a more pure Purging Salt.

PART

PART the SECOND.

Of the USE of the Bitter Purging SALT.

CHAP. I.

The Use *of the* Bitter Purging Salt *more generally considered.*

THe *Use* of the *Purging Waters* near *Epsom*, and others of the same kind, is so great and manifold, and so well known to our *London Physicians* of any standing and practice, that they who make a doubt of it, are hardly to be allow'd the hearing. They are experienc'd to be a very effectual remedy in sundry great Diseases, without the conjunction of any untoward Quality, and whereof, if duly prescribed, the Patient is never surpriz'd with any *ill Effect*.

One

One thing, and that with ſome ſhew of Re-ſon, perhaps may be objected; That theſe Wa-ters afford a ſtony *Cremor* upon boiling. When it may be doubted, whether they may not all afford ſome Matter apt for the breeding of Stone in Humane Bodies.

But this Objection is contrary to all Exper-ence; as well that whereof I have before give an account, as that we have in the daily Practi of Phyſick. For by what hath been ſaid, it ap-pears, That this kind of ſtony *Cremor* gathers the top, neither of the Purging Waters, nor *Lime-water* it ſelf, unleſs it be expos'd in an ope Veſſel, to the Air. And therefore alſo, that n ſtony Matter is bred of theſe Waters in a Man Body.

But is not the Air mix'd with the humours a Man's Body? Be it ſo: and ſo it is likewi with all Water; as is certain from Experimen made in the Air-Pump. Yet that which woul never have any Lapidifick power, were it not a ſiſted with a free Influx of the External Air. Be-ſides that, the Air paſſes not into a Man's Body without being ſtrained.

And as to practical Experience, there are ſom known not only to my ſelf, but to other Phyſici-ans, who albeit they have drunk the ſaid purg-ing Waters plentifully, and many days together for twenty or thirty Years; yet have alway been free from the Gout and Stone, either in th Kidneys or Bladder; and are in perfect health a

thi

this present Time. And the Lord *North* before mention'd, who drank of those both at *Epsom* and *Barnet*, lived free of the said Diseases to the Age of Eighty five.

I add further, That *Lime-water* it self, which upon the access of the Air to it, presently breeds a stony *Cremor*, is yet frequently, and very safely prescribed by Physicians.

And our *Londoners* constantly make use of *Lime-water* for the refining of Sugar. By means whereof the *Molosses* are more easily separated from the Crystallized or Candied Part, which thereupon becomes perfectly pure and white.

But if the purging Water it self is to be look'd upon as an excellent Medicine, how much rather the Salt which is made of it? For that which is objected against the Use of the Water, should it for Argument sake be granted; yet is of no force against the Use of the Salt, as being depurated from all Lapidifick Matter.

The Water also, if fouled with overmuch of the *Muriatick Salt*, will sometimes work a little harshly. But the afore-commended Salt, being clear'd of that Dreg, is one of the easiest of purging Medicines.

'Tis also perfectly free from that malignant Quality belonging to most Purgers. It never ferments the Humors; never causes Sickness, or Swooning, or any Gripes; never fails the Physician by mere Motions to Stool, nor affrights the *Patient* by over-purging.

Be-

Besides, the Waters are not always of equ strength, but of more or less, both in Wint and Summer, as the Season is wet or dry. A some who sell these Waters, when they find the store begins to fail, will venture to adultera them with *common Water*; whereby the *Physicia* tho' he prescribe the usual Quantity, yet sometimes deceived in his Expectation of t usual Success. But the Salt prepared of the W ters, if pure and perfect, is always alike, and the like purging Virtue.

Physicians too in *London*, for the most pa prescribe the Waters, not to be drunk raw, b boil'd; For so the quantity of the Waters bein lessen'd, and yet the strength encreas'd *, the work off the *Stomach* and *Bowels* more advant giously. In Summer they should be boil'd t two thirds; in Winter to one half, which r quires two or three hours: Whereas the purgin Salt of the Waters being dissolv'd in any conv nient Liquor, perhaps a little boil'd, is a Med cine always ready, very convenient to the Apo thecary's hand, and more to the Patient's Case who in urgent Diseases lies in much pain, whil he stays for a long and tedious boiling, and thereby sometimes put in danger.

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* *The Strength encreased.*] That is, proportionably t the Quantity of the VVater; the Virtue of these VVater not lying in a Volatile Spirit, as in those of *Tunbridge* and th like, but in a fixed Salt.

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The laſt, though not the leaſt thing we may here conſider, is, That the Waters, if kept a little longer than ordinary, eſpecially in a hot Country or Seaſon, will be corrupted and ſtink: Whereas the Salt extracted from them, continues every where, and always incorruptible.

But I foreſee that ſome may doubt of the Wholſomeneſs even of the *Salt* it ſelf, becauſe that upon Diſtillation it yields an Acid Spirit.

But this Objection lies as much againſt the Uſe of the Waters themſelves, for that in theſe the ſaid *Salt* is contained.

And we may as well ſuſpect the eating of Sugar or Honey, or the whiteſt Bread: from each of which a *Spirit* may be diſtilled, not only as *Acid* as the Spirit of the purging *Salt*, but alſo very *Acrimonious*. Wine alſo, and the moſt wholſome Food, when as their Principles either by Fermentation, or otherwiſe, are once depraved, do always partake of hurtful, and ſometimes of poiſonous *Qualities*. Even the Food of Infants, their Mothers Milk, if ſet ſo as to ſtand warm, will grow ſowre in a ſhort time. But the purging *Salt*, taken diſſolved in any proper Liquor, doth not thereby ſuffer a Diſſolution of its Principles, but retains its *Eſſence* or Nature unaltered; as much as do any of the above named ſorts of Food when we eat them. For as the *Salt* it ſelf, ſo any fair Water in which we drink the *Salt* diſſolv'd, gives the ſame moderately *bitter Taſte*, without the leaſt *Acidity* join'd with it.

CHAP. II.

Of the Way of Prescribing the Bitter Purg ing Salt.

IT may be taken in any Liquor, agreeable the Patient's Constitution or Palate: Spring-Water, distill'd Water, or any other ve clear; a *Decoction* of *Pearl'd Barley*, thin *Wat Grooel*, or very thin *Panada*; *Posset-drink*, *Whe* and the like. I often use fair Water, a lit boil'd and season'd with *Mace*; whereof I p scribe a Quart or three Pints, or two Qua impregnated with half an Ounce, or an Oun or more of the Purging Salt †; as for exampl Take of Spring-Water two Quarts, *Mace* Drachm: Boil them a little, and in the Liqu dissolve an Ounce or ten Drachms of the *bi*

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* *Whey.*] The English Reader may be minded, that u Whey is to be boiled, lest the Salt should make it curd if not before it is drunk, yet in the Stomach. † *Impr nated with half an Ounce or an Ounce of Salt*, &c.] It here requisite to admonish an English Reader, That in ta ing the *Purging Salt*, he is to be guided in the manner, tim and quantity, by his Constitution and Disease. And th in making a judgment of these, he is not to trust hi self too far, but as his safest Course, to be advised by a Ph sician.

Pu

Purging Salt, for an *Apozeme* to be drank in the morning fasting, hot, warm, or sometimes cold, in the space of two Hours, with a little Exercise.

This Apozeme may be taken either by it self, or in the working of other purging Physick.

It is also convenient, upon occasion, to quicken the Operation of the Salt, by adding either *Sena* or *Manna*, or both of them to the *Mace*: as in the following or other like form.

Take two Quarts of *Spring-Water*, *Mace* a Drachm, *Alexandrian Sena* two Drachms, or three. Boil them a little; and then add an ounce of the *Bitter Purging Salt*. of the best *Calabrian Manna* an ounce and half, or two ounces; and so run the Liquor through a Sieve.

The Lord *Dudley North* was the first who drank the *Purging Waters* with Milk. But they lay heavy upon his Stomach, because he mixed them cold. Afterwards Physicians alter'd the Waters with Milk, when they boil'd. Which way, those who have a mind, may very safely take the Salt itself; as thus:

Take three Pints and a half of *Spring-Water*, of the *Bitter Purging Salt* an Ounce, or ten Drachms. Mix them, and when the Water boils; pour upon it half a Pint of new Milk, and strain the Liquor from the Curd.

In Summer, when the *Medicinal Waters* are every where frequented; this Salt cannot be taken in any thing better, than in *Tunbridge Water*,

ter, or any other *Chalybeate* kind, or in the pu
ging *Water* it ſelf.

A Drachm, or a Drachm and half of this *Sa*
taken in the firſt *three* or *four* draughts of *Tu*
bridge Water, or any other of the ſame ſort, a
repeated for ſome Mornings, prepares the H
mours, and clears the way, for the intend
Drinking bout.

The *Chalybeate Waters* do ſometimes bin
Which Inconvenience is remedied, by putting
little of this *Salt* into the firſt or laſt Glaſs.

It is alſo very uſefully taken in the purgi
Waters themſelves. VVhereof if every draught
impregnated with a Drachm of the purging *Sa*
they will work off much more certainly, a
with half the number; and ſo be leſs burde
ſome to the *Stomach*.

Nor can any thing be more proper, tha
ſometimes to ſharpen Clyſters, with Thr
Drachms, or half an Ounce of purging Salt, i
ſtead of that which is commonly called *S*
Gemma.

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CHAP. III.

Of the Use *of the* Bitter Purging Salt, *more particularly: And first, in Diseases of the* Stomach.

WHat I am about to say of the *Purging Waters*, and of their *Salt*, is not grounded upon mere *Conjecture*, but the long *Experience* of other very Learn'd *Physicians*, as well as my own. Who all of us, in the *Diseases* hereafter mention'd, have made use of both the aforesaid Remedies with very good Success.

First then, the *Purging Waters*, or the *Salt* made of them, are a most friendly Medicine to the Stomach, *viz.* in promoting both an *Appetite* and a good *Digestion.* Partly, from one of its Principles, which is *Potentially Acid*; and partly from the addition of the *Alcaline*, and thereby the *Bitterness* of the whole. And from the former so much the rather, because it affords a Spirit somewhat of kin to the Spirit of *Common Salt*, the Seasoner of all Food: yet from the latter withal, seeing we experience the *Stomach* to be strengthen'd with most things which are *bitter*. And 'tis well known that they are compounded *Salts* which whet the Appetite most of all. For *Pickles* are generally made not with *Brine* alone, but with the addition of *Vine-*

gar. And good Claret, as at Meals it is the mo acceptable; so is it impregnated with a greate quantity of *Tartar* (a compounded Salt) than ny other Wine. The Salt too of *Steel* (whic is a compounded one) among other Stomachic Medicines, is none of the least note. And tho two universal Digestors, Bread and Spittle, which the one contains an Acid Salt, the oth an Alcaline, being mixt together, perform th office of a *compounded Salt*. In a word, the Fe ment or Digester of the Stomach it self, is com pounded both of *Alcaline* and *Acid* Parts; tho derived from the Arterial Blood, these in pa from the *Nerves*, or the *Dregs* of the Anim Spirits: in proof whereof there are sundry A guments, which I shall not here insist upon. S long then as the Stomach is furnish'd with bot these Salts in a suitable measure, the business o Concoction is rightly perform'd: But if eithe of them be predominant, sometimes *Acid* Salt and sometimes *Alcaline*, are necessary to restor them to a due proportion.

When by eating or drinking over-much, c that which is unwholsom, Concoction is faulty *Vomiting* often follows: For the staying wherec the Purging Water, or the Salt made of it, is a excellent Medicine. For the same reason as tha so celebrated Mixture of Salt of *Worwood* an the Juice of *Lemons*. And is herein superiour t it, in that it both destroys and expels from th Stomach all kinds of Peccant Salts, as it wer with one stroak.

Where

Wherefore alſo in the *Stomach-ach*, and other like Pains, nothing is ſafer or more effectual than the aforeſaid Medicine.

And ſo likewiſe in the *Hypocondriacal Affection with heat*.

In theſe Diſeaſes, I have ſometimes preſcribed the Purging Waters, or the Salt made of them, alone. But ordinarily not without the Aſſiſtance of Bleeding, Vomiting, and other like Remedies. It being the part of a prudent Phyſician, eſpecially in great and dangerous Diſeaſes, not to betruſt his *Patient's* Health, and the Valuation of his own Fame, to any one Remedy *, tho' never ſo highly in vogue.

Now theſe Remedies are, according unto Indications, infinitely to be vary'd. Some Forms whereof, notwithſtanding, the Learned Reader may be pleaſed to look over, as here they follow.

To quicken a decay'd Appetite.

Take a Flask of *Spaw water*, or a Quart or three Pints of any other Chalybeate Water; or

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* *Not to betruſt——to any one Remedy.*] The Engliſh Reader is here again admoniſhed, for two Reaſons, not to be over-buſie with this Medicine, ſo as to uſe it upon all occaſions; as we ſay, hand over head. Firſt, becauſe he can very ſeldom be a competent Judge of his own Caſe; nor therefore whether the Salt be proper for it, or no. And, Secondly, becauſe, tho' it ſhould be ſo, yet he skills not thoſe other Remedies uſually neceſſary to be joined with it; and ſo may be the Author of is own hurt, not ſo much in what he doth, as in omitting what he ſhould have done.

if not to be had, of *Mac'd Water*; of the *Bitt*
Purging Salt half an Ounce, six Drachms or a
Ounce: Mix, and drink them fasting, and a litt
warmed.

And for the better drinking of all sorts o
Chalybeate Waters *, if the Physician thinks fi
a little warm, without the loss of its most *sub*
tile Spirit: The *Bottle* in which they are kep
being set in a Vessel of *hot Water* for some M
nutes of an Hour, is then to be open'd, and a
ter the pouring out of every Glass, to be we
stopped again.

While these are drinking, let the *Patient* tak
an hour before Dinner *twenty*, *thirty*, or *fort*
Drops of *Elixir Proprietatis* †, in a spoonful o
Sherry or *Purl Royal*: And let him continue the

---

* *And for the better drinking all sorts of Chalybeate Wa*
ters] The Readers may ask, But how can we come b
these Waters at a distance from the VVells? And it may b
asked with a little Indignation, VVhy any part of *Englan*
should want good *Tunbridge* water, when we have the *Spaw*
water (the Spirit whereof is altogether as Volatile as that
of *Tunbridge*-water) at a far greater distance? It is but put-
ting it into the same kind of Flasks, with long and slender
Necks, and stopping them with the same care, (with Corks
dipped in melted Pitch, and thrust into the Flasks at the
same instant in which they are filled, and then covered with
some of the same Pitch, and over that with a Piece of soft
Leather) and the thing is done. And then the Trial whe-
ther this Care hath been used, is easily made, by its turning
Purple, upon mixing a little of it with the Powder of a
Dyer's Gall. † *Elixir Proprietatis.*] That made with Oil
of Sulphur, is best in this case.

Use

Use of these either every, or each other Day, repeating them four, five, or six times. Or,

Take two Ounces of the Conserve of *Roman Wormwood*, Conserve of *Garden Scurvy-grass* an Ounce, preserv'd *Ginger* half an Ounce, *Species Aromaticæ Garyophillatæ* || a Drachm and half, *Winterane Barque*, and the true *Salt of Wormwood*, of each a Drachm, Syrup of *Clove-July flowers*, enough to make them into an Electuary. Let the *Patient* take as much as a large Nutmeg going to Bed, and of a small Walnut an hour before Dinner, with a little of the aforesaid Wine, or without it, if it gives him the *Head ach*. Or,

Take of the new and bright Filings of *Steel* three Ounces, of the tops of *Roman Wormwood* half a Handful, the Root of *Roman Cyperus* and *Calamus Aromaticus*, of each a Drachm, the lesser *Galangale*, *Cinamon*, and *Saffron*, of each half a Drachm, and a Quart of *White wine* or *Sherry*. Let them be digested with a gentle Heat, or stand in a warm room, in a *Bottle* well stopped, for three days, shaking them every day. Pour off the *Infusion*, and let the *Patient* take two, three, or four Spoonfuls every day, two hours before dinner.

To stay Vomitings.

Take of any *Chalybeate Water*, or instead of that, three Pints, or two Quarts of Spring-wa-

|| *Species Aromaticæ Garyophillatæ*] A Compounded Powder in the *London Dispensatory*.

ter

ter ſeaſon'd with *Mace*, of the *bitter Purging Salt* ſix Drachms, an Ounce, or ten Drachms. Mix, and drink them faſting warm, or cold, as you like them beſt, repeating them thrice, or oftner, if need be, either every, or each other day; and join herewith the following Pills.

Take *Red Roſes* and ſtrong *Cinamon*, of each a Drachm, *Cloves*, and *Salt of Steel* of each a Scruple, *Saffron* half a Scruple, the Chymical *Oil of Mint* eight drops, and as much Syrup of Steel as will make them up into twenty four Pills. Let the *Patient* take three of them every day, two hours before a Dinner of Spoon-meat, and as many going to bed.

A *Fomentation* made with a hot *Infuſion* of *Mint* and *Red Roſes*, and an ounce of *Venice Treacle* in Claret-Wine, may ſometimes be of great uſe.

In the Pain of the Stomach *like the* Cholick.

Take of the beſt *Sena* two drachms, *Mace* a drachm: Boil them in a ſufficient quantity of *Spring-water*, to three Pints or two Quarts; and to the ſtrain'd Liquor add ſix drachms, an ounce, or ten drachms of the *Bitter Purging Salt*, *Syrup of Steel* an ounce and half; for Purging *Apozeme*, to be drunk in the Morning after the uſual manner. Or it may be made without *Sena* *, and taken either by it ſelf, or with the following Pills.

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* *Or without* Sena.] That is, when it gripes the Patient.

Take

Take of the Stomach-Pill with Gums † twenty five Grains, fine Filings of Steel ten grains, Syrup of Steel a few drops: Mix, and make them into four Pills, to be taken going to bed. The next Morning take the *Apozeme* as aforesaid; and so for three days together, or longer.

Sometimes it may be convenient to mix with the *Pills* the *Extract of Gentian*, or some other bitter Extract:

As also half a Grain, or a Grain of *London Laudanum*, if the Pain be great.

In the Hypocondriacal Affection with Heat.

Take of any *Chalybeate Water* a Quart, three Pints, or two Quarts; dissolve in each draught half a drachm or a drachm of the *bitter Purging Salt*, to seven or eight draughts, and drink them cold.

Or instead of *Chalybeate Waters*, it may be taken in simple Milk water, or distill'd from the Leaves of *Borage* and *Burnet*.

In the Heart-Burning.

In which Disease the Salt may be successfully taken in like manner, as in the last aforementioned.

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† *The Stomach Pill with Gums.*] A Pill in the *London Dispensatory*.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Use of the Bitter Purging Salt, *in* Diſeaſes *of the* Guts, *and Parts adjacent: And fir in the* Cholick.

IT is not neceſſary to pre-moniſh the Learned and Experienced *Phyſician*, that in this Diſeaſe, letting Blood is ſeldom or never to be omitted, and to be done in the firſt place.

Next, it is very adviſable, that the following or other like *Clyſter*, be injected.

Take a Pint of the *common Decoction* for a *Clyſter* *, adding to the other Ingredients to be boil'd three Drachms, or half an Ounce, of the beſt *Sena*. In the ſtrained *Liquor* diſſolve half an Ounce, or five Drachms of the *Bitter Purging Salt*, of the Species *Hieræ Picræ* † a Drachm and half, or two Drachms; brown Sugar 2 Ounces. With this, or ſome ſuch *Clyſter*, the Pains are often diſſipated, or at leaſt the way is open'd for the Paſſage of internal *Medicines* through the Bowels.

A Scruple, or half a Drachm of *Pilula Ru-*

* *The common Decoction for a Clyſter.*] That is, a Decoction preſcribed under that Title in the *London Diſpenſatory*.
† *Species Hieræ Picræ.*] A compounded Powder ſo called in the *London Diſpenſatory*.

dii *, together with a Grain, or a Grain and half of *London Laudanum*, are oftentimes given with good ſucceſs.

And ſometimes *Quickſilver*, if the *Patient* ſwallows enough of it, as four or ſix Ounces: and eſpecially if it be taken in about two Ounces of the *Tinctura Sacra*; that is, the Tincture of the Species *Hieræ Picræ*, made with White-wine, or in ſome other convenient Purger.

But of all other *Medicines*, the Purging Waters, or the *Salt* made of them, is the nobleſt, being taken in the following, or other like manner.

Take of *Spring*, or *River-Water* ſeaſoned with *Mace*, three Pints and half, *Chamemile-flower-water*, or *Mint water*, ſix Ounces; of the *Bitter Purging Salt* an Ounce or ten Drachms; and an Ounce and half, or two Ounces of the beſt *Manna*: Mix them for an *Apozeme*. Let the *Patient* take about half a Wine-Pint at a draught hot, and all of it in an hour, or an hour and half: altho' he ſhould vomit ſome part of it.

This *Medicine* is ſometimes more effectual, if if aſſiſted with the following.

Take of the *Tinctura Sacra* two, three, or four Ounces; and hereof a ſpoonful or two, before every draught of the aforeſaid *Apozeme*.

In the Worms.

The ſame Salt, if the *Nurſe* mixes a Drachm,

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* *Pilulæ Rudii.*] A Pill in the *London Diſpenſatory*.

or

or a drachm and half, with any Food, commonly made for Children, without Milk, will expel the Worms.

Especially if the Physician shall premise the taking in some convenient manner, a Grain of *Mercurius dulcis*; or of the *Crystals* or *Salt* of *Silver*; or two or three Grains, according to the Age of the *Patient*.

Or if the *Purging Salt* be dissolved in bitter Clysters.

In Nephritick Pains.

In this Disease, as well as in the *Cholick*, 'tis proper, for the most part, to begin with *Bleeding*; and oftentimes also to repeat it.

To which also a Vomit of *Vinum Benedictum*, or *Sal Vitrioli*, especially if the Patient be inclinable to vomit, is very aptly subjoin'd. For by virtue hereof, not only the Stomach it self (sometimes the first in fault) is unloaded; but all the Nervous Parts bordering on the *Kidneys*, and extreamly suffering in this Disease, are relieved.

After this, especially if the *Patient* hath no Stool with the Vomit, let the following Clyster be injected

Take of *Chamemile flowers* a handful, *Cumine-Seeds*, *Sweet Fenil seeds*, and *Parsley seeds*, all bruised, of each an ounce, *Marsh Mallow* Root

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* *Nephritick Pains.*] That is, Pains in and about the Kidneys or Reins.

sliced

ſliced and bruiſed, two ounces: Boil them in a ſufficient quantity of fair *Water* to a Pint. To the ſtrain'd Liquor add half an ounce of *Turpentine* diſſolved in the Yolk of an Egg, half an ounce of the *bitter Purging Salt*, and Syrup of *Marſh-Mallows* three ounces. Mix them for a Clyſter.

If the Pains are very great, add to the Clyſter forty or fifty drops of *Cydoniated Liquid Laudanum*. Upon the working of this, or the like Clyſter, the Patient oftentimes, will make Water with, or without a Stone or Gravel, and the Pains go off.

But if they are ſo pertinaceous, as ſtill to continue, we muſt have recourſe to the following Apozeme, as the moſt promiſing Remedy.

Take of the *Decoction of Pearl Barley* ſeaſoned with *Mace*, three Pints, or two Quarts; ſix Drachms, or an Ounce of the *bitter Purging Salt*; Syrup of *Marſh Mallows* three or four Ounces. Mix them for an Apozeme, to be taken hot, in an hour, an hour and half, or two hours, or thereabout, altho' the Patient ſhould vomit ſome part of it.

In Hot Urine.

In which *Diſeaſe* the ſame *Apozeme* is available, whether it proceedeth from the ſharpneſs of the Blood, or a *Venereal Gonorrhæa*.

In an Iſchury.

And ſo likewiſe in an *Iſchury*, or total Suppreſſion of *Urine*; whether it happens without a

Stone,

Stone, or without one big enough to ſtop th Paſſages of *Urine*.

Yet if the *Diſeaſe* hath been of ſome days continuance, the *Patient* muſt preſently bleed, an plentifully. Next, inject a pretty ſharp *Clyſte* with Syrup of *Spina Cervina*, the *Bitter Purgin Salt*, &c. During the Operation whereof, it wi be very uſeful to drink the aforeſaid *Apozeme* or ſome Draughts of it. Eſpecially, if a ſpoon ful of the following Mixture be taken before e very Draught.

Take *Fenil* and *Saxifrage Water*, of each a Ounce and half, Salt of *Amber* a Drachm, *Tartarum Vitriolatum* a Scruple, prepar'd *Millepede* two Drachms, Syrup of *Marſh-mallows* an Ounce Mix them.

In a Diabetes.

In which moſt dangerous Diſeaſe, if there be need of ſome very gentle Evacuation, the ſaid Waters, or Salt, in regard either of them moves very eaſily, and cools much, is of all others the ſafeſt, if not the only Purge. With the help whereof, in conjunction with the conſtant uſe of *Chalybeate Waters*, of any ſort, and alſo of *Hypnoticks* *, I have reſtored ſome (but thoſe indeed *Young*) when near dying, unto perfect Health.

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* *And alſo of Hypnoticks.*] That is, ſleeping Medicines: very uſeful and neceſſary in this Diſeaſe, tho' the Patient be faint and weak; becauſe that Sleep ſtops all Evacuations but Sweat.

In

Bleeding likewise in this Disease is seldom to be omitted. Yea, to be repeated, if the Patient be somewhat more feverish.

Neither are Vomits of less use: both as they rid the Stomach of its morbifick Load, and also pump up the *Gall*, which stagnates in its own Bladder: And should therefore be repeated at convenient Intervals, if there be need. Especially, if these and other *Remedies*, proving less successful, shall give cause to suspect there are some *Stones*, which by their Number or Bulk, stop the Canale, by which the *Gall* passes into the *Guts*: in which case we must persist with a prudent Resolution.

But in any sort of *Jaundies*, with *Stones* in the *Gall*, or without, the *Purging Water* or its *Salt*, is very properly given in the following or other like manner.

Take of *Pilula Ruffi* half a Drachm, *Rhubarb*, and *Volatile Salt of Urine*, of each half a Scruple, Syrup of *Wormwood* enough to make them into six *Pills*, to be taken going to bed. In the Morning following let the Patient drink this *Apozeme*.

Take two Ounces of the Shavings of *Hartshorn*; boil them in three Quarts of *Spring-water* to two: Then add *Mace* and *Turmerick*, of each a Drachm; and having boil'd them a little, dissolve in the strain'd *Liquor* the *Bitter Purging*

 Salt

Salt and Syrup of Steel, of each an Ounce, i
an *Apozeme*, to be drank as usually.

If the Physician sees it convenient, instead
the forementioned Pills, he may give the follo
ing Draught.

Take an Ounce and half, or two Ounces
the *Tinctura Sacra*, an Ounce of Syrup of *Cyc*
ry made with *Rhubarb* *, *Tartarum Vitriolat*
half a Scruple. Mix them for a Draught to
taken about six or seven a-clock in the Mo
ing. And after two hours let the *Patient* dri
the Apozeme before prescrib'd: And so rep
them every, or each other Day.

If *Aloetick Medicines* heat the *Patient*, the
fusion of *Rhubarb*, &c. may do better.

CHAP. V.

Of the Use of the Bitter Purging Salt, *in* Dis
ses *of the Head. And first, in* Madness.

IN *Madness*, besides *Bleeding* and repeated
mits, it is likewise often necessary to use
phalick Ointments, a *Seton* in the Neck, *Blister*
Plaisters, especially laid on the *Legs*, *Purges*, a
other Remedies.

To further the Operation of *Purging Me*

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* *Syrup of Cichory made with Rhubarb.*] A Compoun
Syrup in the *London Dispensatory*.

cin

nes, whether prepared with *Hellebore*, or o-
ers, nothing can be more proper than the
rging Water, or their *Salt*, given in this or c-
er like manner.

Take the Leaves of *Bawm* or *Borage*, of each
handful: Infuſe them in two Quarts or five
nts of boil'd *Spring water* while 'tis hot, and
: them ſtand in a Veſſel well covered for half
hour. Add to the ſtrain'd Infuſion an
unce or ten Drachms of the *Bitter Purging Salt*,
rup of Violets three Ounces; Mix them for
Apozeme to be drunk by it ſelf, or with any
nvenient Purge inſtead of *Poſſet drink*. Or,

Take an Ounce of the *Bitter Purging Salt*:
iſſolve a Drachm in a Draught of *Spaw-water*,
of any other *Chalybeate* kind; and let the Pa-
ent drink eight ſuch draughts.

The ſame *Water* or *Salt* may likewiſe be very
efully taken in the ſame manner, in the Inter-
ls of other *Purgations*; eſpecially in Summer.
or it greatly allays the *Maniacal Turbulency* of
e Humours and Spirits.

In the Head-ach.

In which Diſeaſe, and the rather if proceed-
g from a *hot Cauſe*, or join'd with a *hot Conſti-
tion*, there is nothing in the Art of Phyſick
hich I have found more effectual than the fol-
wing, or ſuch like method.

Firſt, let a ſufficient Quantity of Blood be

taken away from the Arm, or elſewhere, as ſh
ſeem moſt convenient.

Next, let a Vomit be given, or omitted,
the *Patient*'s Strength, and other Circu
ſtances ſhall direct: And then the followi
Medicines.

Take prepar'd *Scammony*, powder'd *Rhuba*
and *Mercurius Dulcis*, of each ten, twelve,
fourteen Grains, Syrup of *Spina Cervina* enou
to make them into five Pills, to be taken at fo
or five a-clock in the Morning, and let the I
tient ſleep upon it. After three hours, let h
drink this *Apozeme*.

Take of *Spring-water* ſeaſon'd with *M*
three Pints or two Quarts, ſix Drachms or
Ounce of the *Bitter Purging Salt*, and Syrup
Violets two Ounces: mix and take them by co
venient Draughts, and keep your ſelf warm
the working.

Let the ſame *Apozeme* be repeated with t
Pills now before preſcrib'd, every third or fou
day; and on the days between by it ſelf. A
in like manner continu'd, if need be, for a Fo
night or three Weeks.

In the Megrim.

It is neceſſary alſo in this caſe, to begin w
Bleeding; and the rather, if it proceeds fro
drinking over-much Wine: and firſt, by ope
ing a Vein in the *Arm*.

Next, by *Cupping-Glaſſes* applied with *Sca*

ficati

ſication †, not only to the *Shoulders*, but to the *hinder part of the Head* it ſelf, being firſt ſhaved. To which *Part*, as well in this *Diſeaſe*, as in the *Head-ach*, and *Inflammations of the Eyes*, I commonly order them to be applied, rather than to any other, and with better ſucceſs. After Bleeding, give the following *Medicines*.

Take of *Pilula Maſtichina* || two Scruples, and five Drops of Chymical *Oil of Majorane*: Mix, and take them going to bed. On the next Morning drink this *Apozeme*.

Take *Spring water* ſeaſon'd with *Mace*, a Quart or three Pints, four Ounces of the *Water of Sage of Virtue*, of *Sweet-Majorane water* two Ounces, and ſix Drachms of the *Bitter Purging Salt*: Mix, and take them in the uſual manner.

Sometimes it may be uſeful to take a ſpoonful of the following *Mixture* before every draught.

Take the Leaves of *Sweet-Majorane* and *Sage of Virtue*, of each two Drachms, *Gentian-Root*, and the Species of *Hiera Picra*, of each two Scruples, and four Ounces of *White-wine*. Digeſt them twelve hours in a Bottle well ſtopped,

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† *Cupping-Glaſſes applied with Scarification.*] This Operation, as it is commonly performed in *England*, is both frightful and painful. But the Glaſſes being warmed with a Lamp, inſtead of being filled with flaming Tow; and a Phlebm uſed (by Filliping) inſtead of a Launce, after the *German* way; it is altogether as eaſie as bleeding at the Arm.

|| *Pilula Maſtichina*] A Compounded Pill in the *London Diſpenſatory*.

and

and then let the *Tincture* be ſtrongly preſſ out, and ſtand, till the muddy Parts being ſe led, it becomes clear.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Uſe *of the* Bitter Purging Salt *in ſom other* Diſeaſes. *And firſt, in* Mother-Fits.

IN which caſe, after the more grievous *Sym toms* are allay'd by the uſe of *Opiates* *, te or twelve Drachms, or two Ounces of th *Tinctura Sacra* (made with two parts of *Whit wine*, and one part of *Hyſterick Water* †) may b given, for the moſt part, with good ſucceſs.

But if the Phyſician ſees it convenient to giv a more temperate Purge; that ſo often com mended, in regard it works ſo gently, may b ſafely drunk: and with the greater Benefit, inſtead of *Maced Water* the *Purging Salt* be di ſolv'd either in the *Spaw water*, or that of *Bawn*

In the Wandring Gout.

Which is commonly, but erroneouſly, calle a *Rheumatiſm*. For that this falls upon the *Mu*

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* *By the uſe of Opiates.*] The Engliſh Reader is here a moniſhed to be very wary in medling with this ſort of Me dicines, whether liquid or ſolid. A Doſe containing a Gra or a Grain and half of *Opium*, not to be exceeded, witho ſpecial Occaſion and Direction. † *Hyſterick Water.*] Compounded Water in the *London Diſpenſatory.*

cul

cular Parts, that only on the Joints. 'Tis a ſtubborn Diſeaſe, and often requires a good Set of Remedies.

Begin with *Bleeding*, and repeat it every, or each other day, to the fourth, or if need be, to the fifth or ſixth time.

After the firſt or ſecond *Bleeding*, I find a *Vomit* to be, oftentimes, of very great uſe. For ſo long as the *Sromach* is foul, it ſends new Matter every day to the *Blood* and *Joints* to feed the *Diſeaſe*.

But for *Purges*, and thoſe of the ſtronger ſort, albeit they are ſometimes for a few days to be *deferr'd*: yet are hardly ever to be *omitted*. One good *Purge*, commonly more prevailing * againſt this Diſeaſe than three or four *Bleedings*.

Now the Operation of theſe *Purges*, in regard the Patient is ſeldom without ſome Fever †, is much more gently performed, and without putting the Humours into a Ferment, with the help of the *Purging Waters*, or their *Salt*; which may be taken with them in the following manner.

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* *One good Purge prevailing more than three or four Bleedings.*] And beſides the ſpeeding of the Cure, the ill Effects which ſometimes follow upon the taking away ſo great a Quantity of Blood, are avoided. † *The Patient ſeldom without ſome Fever.*] Which may give occaſion to ſome, even Phyſicians, to ſuſpect the uſe of ſtrong Purges in this Caſe. But his Fever is not a *Febris Synochus*, that is, the ordinary ſort of continual Fever; much leſs with any malignant Properties, which ſhould forbid the Purgation here preſcribed.

Take of the Powder of *Rosinous Jalap* half Drachm, six Grains of prepar'd *Scammony*, Ca*lomel* half a Scruple, Syrup of *Spina Cervina* e nough to make a *Bolus*, to be taken at five a clock in the Morning, and let the *Patient* sleep up pon it. And after three hours drink this *Apozem*

Take an ounce and half of *Pearl Barley*, thre ounces of *Corins*: Boil them in Spring-wate enough, to a Quart and half a Pint, or thre Pints and half; adding towards the end of th boiling, half a Drachm of *Mace*. In the straine *Liquor*, dissolve an ounce of the *bitter Purging Sal* and half an ounce, an ounce, or an ounce an half of the best *Manna*, for an *Apozeme*.

If the *Patient* is not easily wrought upon, an other *Coindicants* also shall direct it, let hin take six drachms or an ounce of Syrup of *Spin Cervina* in the first draught: And let the *Bola* be repeated with this or the like Apozeme, eve ry other, or third, or fourth day, as shall seem best to the Physician, or with longer Interval till the *Patient* is perfectly recover'd.

In the Beginning and Increase of the *Disease* every, or at least each other Night, and con stantly after *Purgation*, a convenient Opiate * i to be given, whereby to hinder the Effervescence of the Humours, and their renewed In flux upon the *Joints*.

When, either because the *Fever* is somewha

* *A Convenient Opiate.*] Here the English Reader is agai admonished, as a little before in this Chapter.

high

high, or the *Patient* weak, Purgation is for ſome time to be deferr'd: *Bliſtring Plaiſters* being applied about four Inches above or below the diſeas'd Joints, give great Relief. And ſometimes the ſerous Part of the Blood is ſo very hot and unbridl'd, as to baffle all the aforeſaid *Remedies*, till by the help of *Bliſters* it is in ſome meaſure ſeparated from the *red*, which is the ſofter part of the *Blood*.

In this *Diſeaſe*, thoſe *Medicines* which provoke *Sweat*, altho' plentifully, yet hardly do any good. But *Diureticks* are taken with advantage: for which reaſon alſo Apozemes impregnated, as aforeſaid, with the *Purging Salt*, are the more convenient; as working both by *Stool* and *Urine* at the ſame time.

While the Patient is under cure, let him abſtain from *Wine* and *winy Liquors*, and all *Malt Drinks* unboiled. Freſh and clarify'd, that is, boil'd *Whey* is of all other Drinks, the moſt excellent * †. *In*

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* *Whey, of all other Drinks, the moſt excellent.*] That is, in this caſe. For what can better ſubdue the Acrimony of the ſerous Blood, than to dilute it with ſo ſoft a Liquor of its own kind? † Whereas this Diſeaſe as uſually managed, will hold and vex the Patients for ſix Weeks or two Months, and ſometimes longer: The Author has aſſur'd me, that by the Method he hath here preſcrib'd, he has commonly ſet them up in a Fortnight or three Weeks at the moſt; and that ſome of them have been perfectly recover'd in a VVeek or ten Days: eſpecially upon giving, after once or twice Bleeding, a good briſk Vomit, where there hath been great occaſion for it.

In ſome ſorts of Itch.

Not that which is contagious or catching, but bred of the *Scurvy*; ſpreading ſometimes all over the Body, ſometimes confined to the *Pudenda*, or ſome other certain Parts. In both which Caſes I have often found the laſt preſcribed *Apozeme*, repeated with or without other Purgers, to be effectual; and have bleſſed ſome with the Pleaſure of *Eaſe*, after they have been tortured and tir'd out with perpetual ſcratching. Eſpecially if they have been conſtantly kept to a good quantity of the *Chalybeate* Waters, inſtead of all other Drink.

The ſame Apozeme after the *Small Pox* are ſhell'd off, is very properly us'd.

And with moſt Purges in the room of Poſſet-drink.

To conclude, thoſe who upon a long Journy and chiefly in Summer, are wont to be *coſtive*; by two or three Drachms of this *Salt* taken in a draught or two of Spring-water, will hereby keep themſelves ſoluble, and very cool.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Miſ-uſe *of the* Bitter Waters, *and of their* Salt.

IT behoves a Phyſician, not only to ſhew the uſe of Remedies, but alſo to caution the Reader

der to beware of their *Mis-use*; whereby is done a threefold Injury, to the Patient, the Physician and the Medicine it self.

This therefore, the Virtues whereof I have now enumerated, is in some *Diseases* by no means to be prescribed: And in some others, regard is to be had to the Causes and the Symptoms.

In all *Dropsies* whatsoever it doth hurt: Because that here the native Heat is very languid, and that stock of Spirits which is seated in the *Grumous* part of the Blood, very poor. Where likewise the use, even of a Liquid Diet, hastens the float of the *Serum* of the Blood, upon the Parts which lie already, as it were, under Water.

As also in a *continual Fever*, even the ordinary kind. Wherein, tho' the Cause is sometimes, by little and little, to be purged off: yet is this to be done, rather with such *Medicines* as are moderately *Hot*, as the *Decoctum amarum*, *Pilula Ruffi*, and the like *; and by which, the Concoction of the Humours is promoted at the same time. And therefore, whatsoever may prove a

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* *The Decoctum Amarum, Pilula Ruffi, and the like*] Dispensatory Medicines; which the Author allows to be sometimes given in a continual Fever: and he speaks to Physicians. But the English Reader is to take the same care, not to be over-busie with Purges in a Fever, as not with Opiates in any Case. Because that in many Fevers, no sort of Purge can be safely given. And if given at the beginning of a Fever (as is sometimes unwarily done, before the Fever apparently shews it self) it commonly proves fatal to the Patient.

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hinderance herein, by over-cooling, we must beware of it.

Neither is it any way serviceable in an *Ague*. Nor to Girls in the *Green sickness*. Whose Feverish Heats are kindled from too much *Acidity*, some where or other in their Humours, which are to be sweetned with more potent *Alcalies*.

'Tis also to be denied to those that spit Blood. Lest by its great and penetrating subtilty it should open the Mouths of the *Arteries*.

And in the *Disease* call'd *Cholera Morbus*. Wherein those sudden *Evacuations* which are made, are follow'd with a great sinking of the Spirits. Which kind of *Motions* made by *Nature*, while she trips with over-much haste, are rather to be quieted with Cordials and Opiates *, given now and then. But after the force of the *Disease* is broken, if there be need of any farther *Evacuation*, and the Patient be of a *Bilious Constitution*, whether *Native* or *Adventitious*, he may then drink the said *Salt* to good purpose.

'Tis also to be forborn in a *Palsie*: Lest the *Muscles*, which are already destitute of their Native Heat and Vigour, should thereby be more weakned. Yet if the *Disease* is bred of a *Hot*

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* *To be quieted with Cordials and Opiates.*] The English Reader is again admonished to use the same Caution, with respect to all sorts of Opiates, as in the foregoing Chapter. And the rather here, because in a Disease which often happens unto young Children.

Cause,

Cause, as *Wine*, or any Winy Liquor; I have prescrib'd it both safely, and with Effect.

'Tis not to be allow'd to *Women with Child*, but with Circumspection.

Nor in a Suppression of Urine, before it appears, all things being well weighed, that it depends neither upon an *Ulcer* in the Bladder, nor a *Stone* too big to pass; in either of which Cases, the Patient is to abstain from all Diureticks. But otherwise I have often given this Medicine with very good Success; that is to say, in bringing away the Urine, and Stones with it, not of the least size.

FINIS.