

A treatise of the pestilence, with its pre-vision, pro-vision and pre-vention, and the doctor's method of cure / From the manuscript of an eminent physician, who practis'd in the last great plague in London.

Publication/Creation

London : J. Roberts, 1721.

Persistent URL

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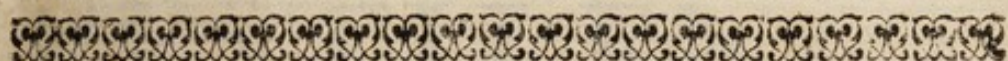
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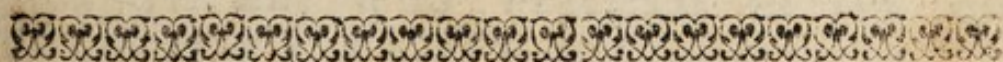
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A
TREATISE
OF THE
PESTILENCE, &c.



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T R E A T I S E
O F T H E
P E S T I L E N C E
W I T H I T S
*Pre-vision, Pro-vision and Pre-
vention,*
A N D T H E
D O C T O R's
M e t h o d o f C u r e.

From the MANUSCRIPT of an Eminent
Physician, who Practis'd in the last
Great P L A G U E in *London*.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. Roberts near the Oxford-Arms in
Warwick-Lane. M,DCC,XXI. Price 4 *d.*

Januar. 172 $\frac{1}{2}$.

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January 1751



(6)

TREATISE

Pestilence, &c.

THE Causes of this Disease are Three, yet all subser-
vient, one to the other.

The First Cause is the great Conjunction of the superior Planets meeting in Signs, ruling such and such Countries and Cities, or in Signs opposing, or squaring such Signs.

The

The Second is a corrupt and unwholesome Air, which is caused by such meeting of the Planets.

The Third is putrified Humors, hot Blood, adust and burned, caused by breathing in such corrupt Air ; and if the Diet before was perverse, it adds Fuel to the Fire, and fills the Body with superfluous Humours.

A Word or two now to satisfy Men, concerning the common Fear of Infection, which makes many rich Men, who might and ought to maintain poor visited People, yea, many Physicians, whose Duty it is to administer Physick to them, fly away, so that in Time of great Infection, you may hear more cry out for Want of Bread and Means necessary, than for Anguish of the Disease.

Hence also came that unnatural and inhuman Custom of shutting up Houses and burning of Towns that are visited, thereby saddening and dejecting their Spirits, and thereby making Way for the Disease, as I shall shew anon ; and taking Men from their usual Employments,
which

which is a Digester of Humors and a Preserver of Health; nay, if the Disease be infectious (as in their Opinion it is) it is plain Murder to shut Men up in an infected and mortal Air.

But I shall prove by solid Arguments, that the Pestilence is not infectious.

My first Argument I frame thus,

That Disease that infecteth one Man that cometh near it, infecteth all Men that come near it,

But the Plague infecteth not all,
Therefore, it infecteth none.

The *Minor* is clear as the Sun,

My *Major* I prove from the universal Course of Nature: The Fire warmeth one Man, it warmeth all: The Water that wetteth one Man, it wetteth all; because their Nature is so to do: A Sword that woundeth one Man, it woundeth all that are struck with it, the universal Current of Nature runneth so; therefore the Plague, if it infect one Man, must infect all.

Objection.

Objection. But some will say, all Mens Bodies are not full of Humours, if they were, all would be infected.

Answer. I answer, Then by my Opposite's Argument, the Fault lies in the Humours that are within the Body, not in the Infection which is without; if he fly, will these putrify'd Humours continue in his Body and he remain in Health? If so, how then come Diseases?

Or will an infected Air change a Disease (which would be but bad at the best) if so, shew a Rule in Physick and I am satisfy'd?

But cleanse the Body of these Humours, let all Men do so, and then come to a visited Person, and then by my Opposite's own Confession, they will not be infected; and then can the Disease be infectious and infect Nobody?

My Second Argument I frame thus,

That Disease, the reigning of which may be foreseen by more secret Causes in Nature, long before it come, cannot be
in

increas'd by visiting the Sick, nor diminished by abstaining from them,

But the Pestilence may, and always is foreseen long before it comes,

Therefore you will have it never the sooner by visiting those that are sick of it, nor escape never a Whit the longer, by abstaining from it.

The *Major* is clear: If the Cause comes the Effect must needs follow.

For Proof of the *Minor*, I shall produce Twelve Signs of a Plague to come, which appear, some of them above a Year; yea, some of them two Years before it comes.

The *First* is, *Phænomena* in the Air; great Meetings of superior Planets, whereby, not only the Time, but also the Place where the Pestilence will most rage, may be gather'd, as this Autumnal Pestilence in *London*, 1645; was by Mr. *Booker* in his Almanack for that Year which was penn'd at *Midsummer*, 1644.

Also by Mr. *William Lilly* his *Anglicus, Peace or no Peace*, left at the Printers, *December*, 1644.

The Learned in Astrology may satisfy themselves without me ; also Blazing Stars, and other strange Meteors and supernatural Sights and Apparitions in the Air.

The *Second* is the changing of the Seasons ; Hot Weather out of its Season ; Cold out of its Season ; Hot and Dry Weather, a long Time upon South Winds, and many Rains upon North Winds.

The *Third* is, when the Small-Pox and Meazles vex not only Children, but Men and Women of perfect Age, especially in the Spring.

The *Fourth* is, when the Winds hold a long Time in the South or West.

The *Fifth* is, a dark and troubled Air a long Time, without either Rain or clear Weather, or if after a long Draught, it rain without Thunder.

The *Sixth* is, when Women conceiv'd with Child do suffer Abortion from every slight Cause.

The

The *Seventh* is, when in Summer Time after Rain, Abundance of Frogs of divers Colours gather together.

The *Eighth* is, a great Number (more than ordinary) of Flies, Spiders and creeping Things are seen in the Spring.

The *Ninth* is, Death of four-footed Beasts and Fishes.

The *Tenth* is, Birds forsaking their Nests and leaving their Eggs.

The *Eleventh* is, Dearth of Corn and Grain.

The *Twelfth* is, a hot and moist Temperature of the Air.

Object. But, say some, if the Plague be not infectious, what is the Reason, when it comes into a House, sometimes all the House are sick of it, and sometimes die of it.

Answ. This might be sufficiently answer'd by a Retortive; If so be the Plague be infectious, what's the Reason, many

Times, but one in a House hath it, and all the rest, tho' perhaps they kept a worse Diet, yet escape: Any that hath any Judgment in Nativities, can give a Reason for it easily.

Well, be it infectious or not infectious, prevented it may be, as may other Demonstrations of the Planets, if Discretion be used; and therefore now to the Purpose.

And in the First Place, let them who would avoid this Disease, avoid the Fear of it; for Fear changeth the Blood into the Nature of the Thing feared, the Imagination ruling the Spirits naturally, as is manifest in Womens Conceptions.

Secondly, Let your Body be kept soluble: If it be not so naturally, take a Scruple of *Pilula Ruffi Pestilenciales* at Night when you go to Bed.

Thirdly, If your Body be full of Blood, bleed so much as Strength and Age permit.

Take

Take a Spoonful of Vinegar of Squills, three or four Times a Day, *viz.* at Ten of the Clock; after Dinner at Four a Clock in the Afternoon, and after Supper.

Take the Quantity of a Hazle-Nut of that Electuary invented by *Mithridates*, that renowned King of *Pontus*, and the first Author also of that Electuary, that beareth his Name to this Day *Mithridate*.

Let all Passions and Perturbations of Mind be avoided, together with all violent Motions, for these inflame the Blood, so also doth drinking much Wine.

Let the House be kept clean and pure, and always a good Fire in it.

Let the Diet be of good Juice, quick of Digestion, and let him eat sharp Things with his Meat, such as Vinegar, Verjuice, Oranges, Juice of Limons and Citrons, or Pomegranate, and let all Fruits be avoided, except such as are sour.

Let

Let not the Stomach be charged with Excess of Meat or Drink.

In Summer Time, let the Blood be cool'd with cool Herbs, Endive, Lettuce, Purslain, Succory, and let the Drink be Whey with them.

Let him use the Smells of *Labdanum*, *Styrax Calamitis*, Camphire, Cinamon, Nutmegs, Wood of Aloes, liquid *Storax*, &c.

Lastly, These are Preventional being taken inwardly, and resist the Disease, *consideratis considerandis*, viz. Angelica-Roots, Zedoary, Bole-Armenia, *Terra Lemnia*, Treacle, Mithridate, Tormentil and Petasitis Roots, and Citron-Pills, with many other Things too tedious to rehearse.

And thus much for Prevention.

I come now for Provision for it, when Prevention is too late. And first of all, that Provision may be timely, I begin with the Signs of one infected, which are Twelve.

The

The *First* is, when the outward Members be cold, the inward Members being burning hot.

The *Second* is, Heaviness, Weariness, Sloth and Indisposition of the whole Body, and Difficulty in Breathing.

The *Third* is, Pain and Heaviness in the Head.

The *Fourth* is, Carefulness of Mind and Sadness.

The *Fifth*, a marvelous Inclination to Sleep, for the most Part; for Want of Rest makes 'em light-headed.

The *Sixth* is, a Frowning Eye.

The *Seventh* is, Loss of Appetite:

The *Eighth* is, immoderate Thirst and often Vomiting.

The *Ninth* is, Bitterness and Driness of the Mouth.

The

The *Tenth* is, a Pulse small and deep.

The *Eleventh* is, the Urine for the most Part turbulous, thick and stinking; altho' I have seen the Urine of some, that from the Beginning of the Disease, to the Time of their Dissolution, differ nothing from the Urine of healthy Men. Indeed, the Prognostication, in my Opinion, was the worse, for I (as yet) never knew but two, whose Urine was so, and both were deliver'd by Death, and not preserv'd by Physick; and therefore considering that *Urina est Meretrix*, you must have an Eye to the Precedent and subsequent Signs and Sign.

The *Twelfth* and most certain Sign of all is, if there appear Risings behind the Ears. under the Arm-Holes, or in the Groin, without any manifest Cause known, or if Carbuncles arise suddenly in any other Member.

Prognostica.

These when they appear, shew Nature is strong and able, because it thrusteth the Venom from it in the Beginning
of

of the Sickness, yea, many Times before the Body perceives it self sick.

These Carbuncles appearing, shew which of the Vitals is most affected with the Malady; for if they appear about the Ears, the Brain is most annoy'd, because that is the Purging-Place for the Brain.

If the Rising appears under the Arms, the Malady lieth heaviest upon the Heart, for that is the Purging-Place of the Heart.

But if it appears in the Groin, the Liver is most infected, for the Groin is the Purging-Place thereof.

But if no Rising at all appears, it fore-shews Weakness of Nature, and it is most dangerous; for Nature is weak and not able to expel the Venom.

When those Spots appear that are called Tokens, they shew the whole Blood universally corrupted, but of these hereafter.

Cure, Vomit.

If you feel your self infected first upon a full Stomach, take a Vomit presently.

Bleeding.

Also in the Beginning of the Disease, let him bleed on that Side that the Rising appears; if it appears in the Neck, bleed him in the *Cephalica* on that Arm, viz. if it be on the Right, bleed him on the Right Arm, if on the Left side of the Neck, on the Left Arm.

If the Rising appears under the Arm, bleed him in the *Basilica* of the Arm on that Side the Carbuncle appears.

But if it appears in the Groin, breath the Vein in the Ankle of the same Side.

If none at all appears, consider which Parts are most grieved with Pains and Aches, and proceed in blood-letting according to the former Rules.

Sweating.

Sweating.

Sweating also is a sovereign Remedy, which you may effect by such Medicines as these, *Mithridate*, *Venice-Treacle*, *Mattiolus* his great Antidote, his *Bezoar-Water*, *Serpentary Roots*, *Electuarium de Ovo*.

Let his Blood be cool'd with this or the like *Julep*, and let him drink no other Drink.

Julep.

Take the Shavings of Harts-horn and Ivory, of each half an Ounce; of the Flowers of Violet, Rosemary and Marygold, Burrage, Bugloss, Clove-gilly-flowers of each two Drams; of the Roots of *Petasitis* and *Zedoary*, of each three Drams, of the Roots of *Scorzonera* one Ounce, boil them all in a Pottle of Water to a Quart, adding towards the End of the Decoction, of Saffron and Cochineel, of each ten Grains; strain it and add to the Decoction, Syrup of Violets, Clove-gilly Flowers and *Melissaphilli Fernelij* of each an Ounce, Oil of Sulphur twelve Drops; let him drink a Draught of it as often as he is a dry.

Glister.

If his Body be astringent keep it soluble with Glisters.

Sleep.

Provoke him to Sleep with *Diafcardium* if he sleeps not ; but have a Care of Opiates in the Beginning of the Disease.

If he vomit much (as some Vomit up all they do eat and drink) stay it with *Spiritus Menthae*.

For Risings.

If any Swelling arise, consider first whether it be likely to break or not ; that you may know ; if it lie deep in the Flesh and look white, it is not likely to break ; you must then anoint it with the Oil of Lillies or Camomil.

If it rises to a Head, looks red, and lies not deep it will break, then take a young Pigeon and pull off the Feathers from

from her Tail, and hold her bare Fundament to the Swelling, and it will draw out the Venom.

Sometimes the Swelling falls down again and looks black, and that comes through Cold taken and is a desperate Sign, for you must be very careful of taking cold in this Disease,

But when it is too late to prevent, the Remedy is presently to take a Pigeon, and with a sharp Knife cut her through the Breast to the Back; break her open, and apply her (yet alive) to the Place.

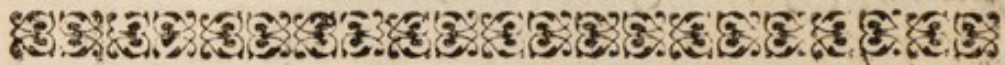
If this do no good, apply a Cupping-Glass to the Place, for though this Remedy be desperate, I have known it save a Man's Life.

When the Sore is broken, apply a Mellilot Plaister to it, and tent with *Limentum Arcei*, and make no great Haste to heal it up.

Tokens.

Tokens.

The Remedy for those that have Tokens is something more desperate, which is this, Whilst the natural Heat remains, wrap him up naked in a Blanket wet in cold Water, and that will set him in a most violent Sweat and purge out the Corruption from the Blood.



F I N I S.

