

**A new method of curing the venereal disease much safer and easier than any hitherto used. With a confutation of the old hypotheses concerning that distemper. To which is added, a relation of two extraordinary cures ... perform'd by the author ... Done out of the French / [Jacques Bouëz de Sigogne].**

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A NEW  
METHOD  
Of CURING the  
*VENEREAL DISEASE*

Much safer and easier than any  
hitherto used.

WITH A  
CONFUTATION  
OF THE

Old *Hypotheses* concerning that *Distemper*.

To which is added,

A Relation of two Extraordinary CURES of  
another Nature, perform'd by the AUTHOR:

Together with a learned *Dissertation* concerning them.

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*The Whole Approved and Recommended by several of  
the most Eminent Physicians of PARIS.*

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Done out of the FRENCH of  
*Mons. BOÜEZ DE SIGOGNE, M.D.*  
Counsellor and Physician in ordinary to the *French King*  
in the Company of his Majesty's SWISS Guards.

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Printed for J. CLARK, under the Piazza of the Royal-  
*Exchange*, in Cornhill. 1724.



A NEW

# THE NEW

OF CURRICULUM

## NEWLY REVISIONED

THE NEW CURRICULUM

THE NEW

# COMPOSITION

THE NEW CURRICULUM

THE NEW CURRICULUM

A Revision of two previous editions

of the New Curriculum

by the same author

The New Curriculum

by the same author

The New Curriculum

by the same author

The New Curriculum

by the same author

The New Curriculum

by the same author

The New Curriculum

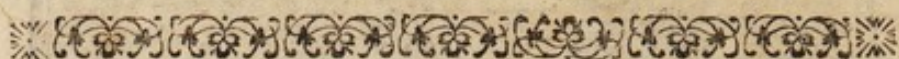




T H E  
A P P R O B A T I O N  
O F  
**D<sup>r</sup>. J. BAPT. DODART,**  
Counsellor of State in Ordinary, and  
First Physician to his Majesty Lewis XV.

**T**HE Author of this Book acquaints us with a new Method of curing the Venereal Disease, by Remedies, which will adapt themselves to the Temper and Disposition of a Patient; working either by Perspiration or by Urine, but more generally by Stool; and which cure him radically, without exposing him to the dangerous Inconveniences of Salivation. He relates several happy Experiments of it, try'd in part in the Presence of some eminent Physicians. His discoveries are founded upon the most Solid reasoning, on the different Ways of Secretion, and the Structure of those Organs that are subservient thereto. He enlarges on the Cause not only of that Disease, but likewise of all chronick Distempers; and proves the Necessity of using in all such Cases, Remedies drawn from Mettals and Minerals, and their Preference to those which are drawn from Vegetables. This Work cannot fail of meeting with publick Applause, for as much as it is full of Erudition, and containeth a great Variety of Reflections, no less useful, then they are agreeably treated of.





The APPROBATION of Dr. Boudin,  
Counsellor of State, first Physician in Ordinary  
to his Majesty, and late Dean of the Faculty  
of Paris.

**I** Have always lookt upon two things, as the principal Obstacles to the Progress of Physick, the one is the general Fondness Men have for Systems, which oblige young Physicians to spend a great deal of Time, which might be better bestow'd in making useful Observations, and fills their Imagination with well contriv'd Fables, but of no Use towards the Cure of their Patients, which ought to be the chief and only end of all their Studies and Labours. The other is not only their Neglect of, but likewise their dislike and repugnance both to the Search of new Remedies, and to the Application of them in their Practices when ever they have been discover'd by others more Courageous and Diligent than they.

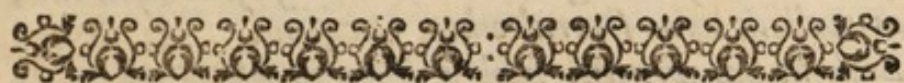
A Treatise that opposes two such Prejudices, cannot chuse but be very useful; the Author here proves irrefragably, that Hypocrates has rejected all Systems as useless, that he might the better apply himself to Observations, and the Study of proper Medecines. That which our Author has discover'd, for the Cure of Venereal Diseases, and proposes the Use of to other Physicians, seems to me infinitely preferable to Mercury, as commonly used. Every Body knows what Accidents may be justly feared, from Salivation procur'd by Friction; as well as what the Patients suffer during Thirty or Forty Days Application of Mercury. But our Author's Remedy doth never raise a Salivation; it only purges in the gentlest Manner without Gripings or Danger, and one beholds with Pleasure the most dreadful Symptoms disappear.



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pear, without the Patient's suffering the least Pain, or being hinder'd from his usual Business, when his Remedy has been administred at proper Times and Seasons. This is what I have seen several Instances of in Patients whose Cure I have attended from beginning to end, and this is the Testimony I owe to Truth. Given at Paris Nov. 21 1720.

BOUDIN.



The APPROBATION of Dr. de Chirac,  
Counsellor of State; Physician to his Majesty;  
late Professor of the University of Montpelier,  
Superintendant of the Royal Botanic Garden,  
and first Physician to his Royal Highness the  
Duke of Orleans.

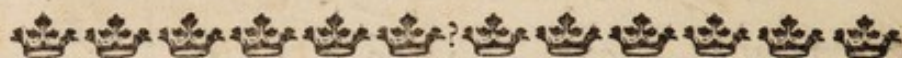
THE Cure of Venereal Diseases is liable to so many Inconveniences, both from the Insufficiency of the greatest Part of those who undertake it, and by Reason of the grievous Sufferings they expose their Patients to, who follow the old Method of curing. The Time it requires to perform it, is so long, and a Patients withdrawing himself for the space of forty or fifty Days, during which Time he must keep his Chamber, is so troublesome and often so suspicious, specially for Persons whose Stations oblige them to have a more than ordinary regard for their Reputation, that we can never sufficiently applaud those who have spent their Time and Labour in the Discovery and Improvement of such Remedies, as can thoroughly cure those who are afflicted with it, and free them from all the Inconveniences, and Disorders that attend the Ordinary Way of curing it.

Several



*Several Experiments have convinc'd me that the Remedy which Dr. Bouez de Sigogne, M. D. has by his great Labour and Industry discover'd, has all those Qualities in an eminent manner, and that it is even able to repair the Faults of the most common Specific, I mean of Mercury by Friction. He has cur'd Diseases which either Salivations could not remove, or having done so, have left some very grievous and suspicious Impressions on the Organs. What I have seen of the good Effects of his Remedy, obliges me to do him Justice upon this, as well as upon several other Occasions. As for the Book he has written, with a design to inform the World of the discovery of his Remedy, &c. I can only say that it well deserves to be read, and sufficiently shows that the Author has not wholly confin'd his Labour and Study to the Management of his Laboratory. Given at Paris Sept. 16, 1721.*

CHIRAC.



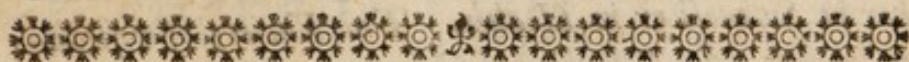
**The APPROBATION of Dr. Bassat,**  
Physician in Ordinary to the late Duke of Berry.

**T**HOSE Books which contribute either to the Ease or Preservation of Life, can never be made too Publick. This which treats of a new Method to cure the Venereal Disease is of that Nature, and how prejudic'd soever I was, that Mercury alone was able to root out that dreadful Distemper, I have at length been forc'd to yield to the Proofs I have seen of the Excellency and Efficacy of Dr. Bouez de Sigogne's Remedy, and the Testimony I ought to bear to Truth, obliges me to say that I have, upon several Occasions seen the happy Success of it, not only with Respect to several Persons  
whom



whom the Venereal Poison had so far destroy'd that they were judg'd incurable; but likewise with Regard to many others, who had fail'd several Times of being cur'd by the old Way; and what is most wonderful is that those Patients who have made Use of it, have been so far from being expos'd to the frequent Accidents, which are observ'd to attend the Operation of Mercury, that they have been still able to attend their Business, with as much freedom as if they had been in perfect Health; and as we can never sufficiently commend the Authors of such useful discoveries, I can say, to the Praise of Dr. Sigogne, and of his Book, that whoever reads it with due Attention, will find in it sure and solid Principles for the safe and useful Practice of Physick. Such is my Opinion. Given at Paris Nov. 15, 1721.

BASSAT.



## The Approbation of the General CENSOR of the Faculty.

**I** Under-written, Reader, Royal Professor, and Regent-Doctor of the Faculty of Paris, and Royal Censor of Books, have examin'd by order of my Lord Chancellor, this Manuscript entitled *A new Method to cure the Venereal Disease, &c.* It is a great Error to think that amongst those Diseases which Mankind is liable to, there should be any, the Study of which should be less noble, and to the Cure of which Physicians should think it a Disgrace to apply themselves. Such a Thought, which is nothing else but a Device of Ignorance, has nevertheless been favour'd by several Physicians, who being ignorant of their Duty, and of that which is the Glory of their charitable and extensive Profession, dare to look upon the  
Cure



*Cure of Venereal Diseases, as a thing unworthy of their Care. Happily for the Publick good, the Author of the Book we are now recommending, has been able to free himself from so contagious an Error. The easy Method which by his Labours and Study he has discover'd on this Subject, is so adapted to the Operations of Nature, that it is infinitely above all other Remedies that have hitherto been used in such Cases. He proves that agreeableness by solid reasoning, such as affords him an occasion to treat of it with a great deal of learning, and to enlarge upon the various Qualities of Vegetable and Mineral Medecines, and the divers Modifications the latter are susceptible of, and upon the Resistance of the former to all the Efforts of Art; on the Manner in which the Remedies drawn from the one and the other act upon the Structure of our Organs; and upon the Mechanism of all the Evacuations of our Bodies, whether in Sickneſs or in Health. This Variety of reflections makes up a Collection of Chymical, Anatomical and Physical Observations, the Solidity of which join'd to an eloquent and correct diction, makes the reading of the Book very instructive and agreeable. The Author is not contented with such reasoning, in order to prove the Usefulness of this Method, but backs it with Experience, and without Ostentation recites many Instances of the extraordinary Cures he has perform'd by it; which being very certain and well attested, do equally commend the Physician and his Remedy. Given at Paris Nov. 22, 1721.*

ANDRY.







A  
NEW METHOD  
OF  
CURING  
THE  
*Venereal Disease, &c.*



THE various Hypotheses which Men have invented, in order to account for the Operations of Nature, those agreeable Romances, may be justly esteemed one of the first and principal Causes of the little Improvements that have hitherto been made in Physick. This original Defect has spread itself from one Age to another, from the *Greeks* to our Times. The *Trituration* of *Erasistratus*, the *Substantial Forms* which have been brought from the Schools of the *Peripatetics* into the Colleges of Physicians; the *Four Qualities* of *Galen*; the *Acids* and *Alcali* of *Tachenius*; the *Fermentation* of *Willis*; the *Archæus* of *Van Helmont* have so confounded the Art, of itself



so difficult and intricate, that we cannot but think ourselves extremely oblig'd to such Persons, who, by an indefatigable Industry and Application, have endeavour'd to rescue a Profession, so useful and necessary to Mankind, from all those vain and whimsical Notions, so foreign and distant from the Simplicity of those Laws, which Nature follows in her Operations: Notions altogether pernicious and unsatisfactory, which we are every moment ready to depart from. It may be justly affirmed of the Authors of those imaginary Systems, that they call in question what they see with their Eyes, that they may guess at what cannot be seen, or observ'd, and instead of framing their Notions from the Operations of Nature, they would force her to act only according to their Conceptions. Their Mind once strongly prepossess'd with a favourite Hypothesis, makes every thing subservient to it. Doth a Patient complain of intolerable Pains? the *Equilibrium* of *Trituration* is spoiled or obstructed; the *Harmony* between the *Four Qualities*, Hot and Cold, Dry and Moist, is lost; the *Acid* prevails over the *Alkali*, or the *Alkali* over the *Acid*; the *Fermentation* of the Humours, like a strong Wine boiling in the Vessels, has set the whole Body on Fire, by reason of the Explosions of the sulphureous Parts of the Blood, which cause all those irregular Motions in the sick Persons; the *Archæus* is irritated, and will not be appeased, but by the Application of some powerful *Alkali*.

Thus it is that these Authors trifle with Nature, and the Credulity of Mankind; for a Man had need of a great deal of Faith, to give into these Whimsies. But the great *Hypocrates* was far wiser and better acquainted with Nature's Secrets, therefore has he not had his equal hitherto; nobody having follow'd his Principles. The Reputation of being an Author, or Inventor of a new System, has misled the Writers of all Ages; no Wonder then if they come so short of this great Master, that no one of 'em can be compar'd to him. But what Secret had this sublime Genius to attain to so eminent a Degree of Knowledge? None but that of freeing himself from the Tyranny of those Systems that were as much in vogue in his Days, as they are in  
ours;



ours; by an exact following of Nature, and examining her in all her various Ways, and Shapes, in which She did appear to him. He understood the Hypotheses of his Time, which made him reject them as vain and useless. It is, says he, (*lib. de vet. Medecin.*) neither Heat nor Cold, Dry nor Moist, that cause the Distempers incident to humane Bodies: *Neque enim siccum, neque humidum, & neque calidum, neque frigidum, neque aliud quidpiam putaverunt primi inventores hominem ledere.* But what is it then that can disturb the Animal Oeconomy? It is, continueth he, the Bitter, the Salt, the Sweet, the Acid, the Sharp, the Unfavoury, and an infinite Multitude of other Savours; whilst these keep an exact Proportion one with another, the Body is in perfect Health; which cannot be impair'd until some one or more of them prevail over the rest, and cease to keep a due Proportion and Harmony amongst themselves. *Inest enim in Homine & amarum, & salsum, & dulce, & acidum, & acerbum, & fluidum, & alia infinita omnigenas facultates habentia, copiamque & robur; atque hæc quidem juxta ac inter se temperata, neque conspicua sunt, neque hominem ledunt; ubi vero quid horum secretum fuerit, atque hoc ipsum in seipso fuerit, tunc & conspicuum est, & hominem ledit.* This is the Doctrine of *Hypocrates*, which we may justly call the Key of Nature. Setting therefore aside all other Hypotheses, let us follow these Principles which are those of Nature herself. Let us endeavour to find out proper Remedies to restore these Qualities or Savours to their primitive State; since it is their Disorder, which brings our Diseases upon us. Let us apply ourselves to recover their Order, by Medicines fit and proper to restore to their right Temperature those Humours which were either too bitter, or too sharp, too salt, or too sower. I own this to be the proper Work of Nature, and not the direct and positive Effect of Medicines; but these serve to remove those accidental Obstacles, which disturb Nature in her Operations, that thus disentangled, and restor'd to her natural and full Power, she may remove those Disorders, that did disturb and oppress her. The World will see hereafter, that the Success I have met with has convinced me of it; that I have been fortunate



enough to have found out one of those happy Remedies, which can in very little time safely and agreeably procure Health, by destroying those cruel and stubborn Diseases, which in the Opinion of almost all the Physicians, pass for incurable. This Remedy hath cost me a vast deal of Pains and Study, but they have at length been blest with the desired Success.

Neither are Hypotheses the only Obstacle to the Improvement of Physick; Reasoning, though useful and necessary to discover and distinguish one Distemper from another, and their different Degrees, has nevertheless been attended with this Inconvenience: Let a Young Gentleman spend his Life in the Study of those Authors, which are the most celebrated for good Reasoning, he comes easily to fancy himself an able Physician, and superior to the rest, in Proportion to his Strength and Capacity this way. But are Patients to be cur'd by mere Force of Arguments? True it is, that without Reasoning a Man cannot cure his Patients, but then he must reason justly, and thence proceed to the Application of proper Remedies. These Philosophic Physicians are perpetually mistaken. The true Knowledge of Nature escapes them, because they don't consult her. They are amaz'd to find that Nature has not operated according to the Conclusions they had drawn from their own Principles. They do nevertheless prescribe according to these Conclusions: No Wonder then if the Success so seldom answers so much Learning, and such deep and subtle Reasoning. This indeed is an excellent Way to procure the Admiration and Esteem of those that hear them; but a very indifferent one to cure their poor Patients. *Hypocrates* has defin'd a good Physician, not a Man that can argue well, but one that is *Medendi peritus*, that knows how to cure Diseases effectually.

The third Obstacle to the Progress of Physick, is, on the one Hand, the Indolence which is natural to Mankind; and on the other, the vast Extent of the *Materia Medica*. What Likelihood is there, that the Life of Man, short as it is, should be sufficient for such a Search, which that of all Men of all Ages put together would not be able to accomplish? Satisfy'd with such a strong and convincing Argument,



ment, they content themselves with studying those Discoveries, that have been transmitted to them by their Predecessors, whether by Writing or otherwise; they take their Word for them, and apply at a Venture, as they often did, the same Remedies, but with small Success. This is the Course which Men generally follow with Respect to Arts and Sciences. If by chance there happens to appear a Man of a more sublime and penetrating Genius, one that soars above the rest, what Pains doth it cost him before he can persuade the World to relish his Discoveries. *Aquapendente* dreading the Malice of the Inquisition, did not dare to divulge in *Italy* his new Doctrine of the Circulation of the Blood, which he had learn'd *F. Paul* the Monk; he found himself obliged to communicate it only privately to *Dr. Harvey*, who was then his Disciple; but lest the Doctor, being returned into *England*, should assume to himself the Honour of this noble Discovery, as he actually did, he thought it proper at the same time to communicate it to the *English* Embassador then at *Venice*: But the Embassador being wholly taken up with other Matters, let *Harvey* alone, who yet did not fail to meet with very great Opposition even in *England*, a Country blest'd with Freedom and Liberty, if ever any was. *Galileo* was kept five Years close Prisoner in the Inquisition, for having maintained the *Copernican* System: Neither could he recover his Freedom, till he had solemnly recanted it. Pope *Zachary* condemned as Heretics, all those who affirmed that there were any *Antipodes*: The *Spaniards* found the Advantage of not adhering to the Pope's Decision. What Opposition did not *Des Cartes* meet with, for having dar'd to inform the World of some gross Errours, which had been current till his Time, in several Parts of Natural Philosophy? He was an Atheist, and deserv'd to be burnt at a Stake. How long was it before the Use of Emeticks could be admitted in Physick? Condemn'd as it was by an Act of Parliament as a dangerous Poison, we had been at this Day deprived of the Benefit of so Excellent a Remedy, had it not been attended with wonderful Success, in saving the Life of the late King *Lewis XIVth*.



As Men of what Climate soever they be, are generally endowed with the same Temper and Genius; what Pains have the *Europeans* been forc'd to take, to undeceive the *Chineses*, who, fond of their Erroneous Astronomical Observations, could not be induced to believe, that they had been so long and so much mistaken, or that the *Europeans*, endow'd with a Superior Knowledge had reason'd more justly. This Distemper of the Mind has infected Men of all Sciences in general. Doth a Physician apply himself wholly to the Cure of any Distemper, or labour to find out either a new Method or a new Medicine, a Number of his Brethren are ready to cry out, a Mountebank, an Impostor! The Letters of *Guy Patinus*, a Man otherwise of some merit, are stuff'd with such Impertinences against Emeticks: It must be own'd that a Man had need of a great deal of Courage and more than Ordinary Strength of Mind, to Encounter and Conquer the Prejudices of Men. God has already so far favour'd me, as to enable me to find out one of the most useful Medecines to Mankind, and will I hope grant me Courage enough at the Expence of my Life and Fortune to defend it, assur'd as I am of its Efficacy from its extraordinary Success.

The Extent of the *Materia Medica* doth vastly exceed that of our Knowledge: What new *Salomon* could unravel all the various Virtues of Vegetables? what Labours, what Fatigues, what expence has such a Search cost, and to what Purpose has all this prov'd? *M. Denis Dodart*, the greatest Genius the last Age produc'd, and Father to the famous *M. Dodart*, first Physician to his present Majesty *Lewis XV*, has exhausted all the Force of Industry and Penetration which Man could be capable of, under the Eye and Direction of the Academy of Sciences, to force Nature to disclose those hidden Secrets, and Treasures that are shut up in Plants for the Preservation of Health. Above 1500 Plants tortur'd all manner of Ways, have only serv'd to discourage the Gentleman who did so vigorously attempt this Enquiry, and to oblige him to relinquish that pursuit. We labour under a moral Impossibility of going further, and if by chance a Man should be able to  
finish



finish such a Search, we must confess ingenuously, that but a small Advantage would thereby accrue, either to the Theory or the Practice of Physick: It has been observed long ago that Chymical Labour, and the Force of Fire, destroy the Medicinal Vertue of Plants and Animals. They spoil the just Proportion of their common Principles. An exact Dose appointed by Nature will have some good Effect upon a Patient, whilst that proportion lasts; but after it has been destroy'd by the Fire, those Plants either cease to be Medicinal, or else acquire some strange Quality very different from that which they naturally had. *Senna*, for Example, is a very good Purge, if taken as we receive it at the Hands of Nature; but its Principles, *viz.* Sulphur, Water, Earth and Salt, being once separated, by Chymical Analysis, they purge no more, neither separated nor reunited. The Salt becomes Diuretick, the Sulphur purges not at all, or very little, and this too not without Gripings, and Danger of Inflammation. That great Man, just now mentioned, was so fully persuaded that Fire spoils all, and produces new Compounds, that he never us'd any to analyse his vegetables; but made Use of different Mixtures of Salts to extract Tinctures from them, notwithstanding all which prudent Precautions, his Labours are become Useless; neither has Physick been any thing improv'd or enrich'd by them; but the Faculty hath contented it self with retaining a very small Number of Usual Plants, which they had either receiv'd from barbarous Nations, such as *Senna*, *Rhubarb*, *Mecoacum*, *Scamony*, *Sarsaparilla*, *Guacum*, *Jesuits-Bark*, &c. or discover'd by mere Chance, as *Mercury*, &c. All this will serve to clear an important Question, *viz.* whether Remedies drawn from Vegetables and Animals, are to be prefer'd to those which are extracted from Mettals and Minerals; these last seem in all respects to deserve the Preference: Mens way of living especially in great Cities, their strong Liquors, the sad and fatal Use of which daily encreases; so many kinds of them unknown to our Ancestours, and some of them made of Druggs brought from the furthest Parts of the World, such a Number of Sauces toss'd up with Ingredients fetcht from  
the



the remotest Climates, such rich Dishes, such exquisite Wines, the pernicious Art of Cooks, who may be justly call'd agreeable Poisoners, a soft, effeminate, lazy, and almost lethargick Life, which the richer sort of Men do give themselves up to, joined to the most unruly Passions; all these put together; produce so many kinds of Diseases, altogether new either in themselves or their Causes, or by a new Concourse of Symptoms, that one may boldly affirm, that old Physick Books, are of little or no Use, so greatly is the Shape of Diseases altered; such Degrees of Stubbornness are they come to; that the simplicity of Ancient Prescriptions is not strong enough, to overcome the Obstinacy of these new Monsters, design'd for the Destruction of Mankind; and may we not assign this as the true Cause why the Ancient Preparations with which *Hypocrates, Galen, Oribasus, Aretæus, Trallianus, &c.* wrought such wonderful Cures, are entirely set aside and forgotten. Those who make attentive Observations on the Miseries which Men willfully bring upon themselves, are made sufficiently sensible of the Weakness of those Medicines which our Ancestours found so much good by. It is very well worth observing, that ever since the Discoveries of the farthest Parts of *Asia* with their Riches, and of all *America* with her Treasures, the *Europeans*, charm'd with the delightful Rarities of those new Climates, (*in Tiberim defluxit Orontes,*) have began to seek for Remedies out of Mettals and Minerals, the Vegetable and the Animal kind not being powerful enough to eradicate those Diseases which have been caused by an inordinate Luxury, which has over-run all *Europe*, and which have their Original from those Rarities and Riches which are brought from the *Indies*. Before their Discovery which happen'd in the Year 1494, the Use of Mercury, Antimony, Vitriol, &c. in Physick was althgether unknown. Never was Chymistry cultivated with greater Care than it has been since then, the Necessity of it never having been felt so much before. The Reason of this is plain: Both the *Asiatick*, and *American, Indians*, as well as our Fore-fathers, did content themselves with simple Druggs which



which their own Soil did furnish them with, and they are sufficient for them; neither do they willingly venture upon ours, I mean our Chymical Preparations, which they find too strong for them, and have no manner of need of; the plainness of their Food not breeding in them any Distempers attended with such fierce Symptoms, and so hard to be carried off. The Humours being overcharg'd with an excessive Quantity of the Alimental Sulphur, become near as viscous as the very Glew it self: The Salts throw the Membranes into Convulsions, their Quantity irritating the nervous kind, Inflammations necessarily follow. The Tonick Motion of the Solid Parts is interrupted, the Humours stagnate, and all the Animal Functions grow languid; from whence proceed such Obstructions all over the Body, as can hardly be overcome by the most active Remedies, against which their Strength and Volatility often prove ineffectual: But let us more fully explain this Matter.

There is no Distemper, whether Acute or Chronick, (the Plague and Pestilential kind excepted) but proceeds from the same Cause, that is to say, the thickning of the Liquids. For as those Liquors are in their first Original no more than Jellies of those Animals we feed upon, 'tis no wonder they are so apt to coagulate. So long therefore as the Salts and Sulphurs of the Aliments swim in the Liquid, and those Salts and Sulphurs are separated, and kept in a kind of Fusion by the elastick Motion of the solid Parts, the Liquids have Liberty and Room enough to circulate through their Vessels; all the Functions are perform'd with ease, and the Body is in perfect Health; but 'tis soon alter'd, when the Motion of the Liquids either increases or decreases. The different degrees of thickness and thinness in the Blood, and Humours, as well as Sickness and Health depend upon the variation of those Motions, the more or less causing all the Difference; and the same Cause produces Symptoms accidentally different in a cute and chronick Diseases; the Functions are more or less vigorous, and the Parts move with more or less Force and Swiftnes: If the Symptoms are violent, an acute Distemper ensues; if they are less vehement, the Disease proves Chronick;



nical; one single Instance will evince the Truth of this Doctrine. In Apoplexies the Blood is of an extraordinary Thick-  
ness: It is much thinner in a Dropsy and Epilepsy. The Fierceness of the Symptoms considerably increases according to the Parts in which these thickned Liquids are stagnated: In the Head they produce a Disease attended with Death, but when they disperse themselves from the Head into the Limbs, without diminishing of their Thickness, they cause the Palsy, under which a Man may linger some Years. The same Cause therefore is capable of producing an acute Distemper, or one that is not so. Milk, in proportion to the Strength of the Acids which are mixt with it, turns quicker or slower, and the Whey in which the Curd *subsides*, yields different Tastes: The same thing exactly, happens in the Blood, which is of the same Nature with Milk, and according to the Efficacy of the Heterogeneous Ferment, doth coagulate an hundred different Ways, and with more or less quickness. The Animal Functions exactly follow these differences, whence either slow or acute Distempers are produced, which by their Symptoms do plainly show the various Degrees and Characters of their Ferments, and are diversify'd according to the Contexture, Situation, and Figure of each part of the Body. The vitiated Ferment, which causes the Head-ach in Fevers, being transfus'd into all other parts of the Body, causes in them more or less acute Pains, in proportion to their Hardness or Softness, or their Connexion with the other parts that are either nearer, or more remote from them. This is the Mechanism which is observed in acute Diseases, which likewise produces Chronical ones, all the Difference that is betwixt them being merely accidental. If the vitiated Ferment be so very slow, that it can only display it self insensibly, and after several Months, and sometimes after several Years, the Tonick Motion of the Solid parts will exactly follow the Progress of that Ferment, which will begin to show it self: The Scurvy will afford us an Instance of this. Flesh salted or smok'd, the Sea Air, &c. infuse a kind of Brine into the Blood by little and little, which in time becomes acrimonious to such a degree, that like *Aqua fortis* it corrodes



rodes the very Flesh and Bones. The Ptisick follows the same Mechanism, although produced by another Cause: The Dropsy is the very same, with this difference only, that the Patient doth nevertheless languish a great while after the Dissolution of the Blood; whereas in the Scurvy and Ptisick its Serosity becomes so sharp, that it quickly brings a Man to his Grave. It is one of Nature's Laws, that our Liquors, being coagulated by a vitiated Ferment, should be again dissolv'd; (as may be observ'd in Milk) nevertheless they do not return to their primitive Nature. The Serosity which follows such a Dissolution acquires new Savours variously vitiated; as the Whey, in which the Curd is dissolv'd, is of a quite different Nature from the Milk. In Apoplexies the Humours are of a different Character from those of the Scurvy and Ptisick; being extravasated in the Head, and not being able to loosen themselves from the Vessels which contain them, they overburthen and oppress, by their weight and Quantity, the principles of the vital Function, and by that means cause immediate Death; but if they can but get loose from the Head, and get into the Limbs, they do there, by their Viscosity, produce the Palsy, which is generally without Pain; which is the Reason why some have judg'd that Distemper not to be caus'd by the Acrimony of the peccant Humours. This Acrimony is less violent in the Rheumatism, than in the Scurvy, Ptisick, Pox, &c. but in the Apoplexy, Dropsy, &c. it is more so. Wine, according to the Soil that produces it, or the Degrees of Fermentation, or the various kinds of Analyses us'd in distilling it, yields very different Liquors. Those which are drawn from strong body'd Wines, retain a great deal of their Nature, but a small Wine cannot yield a strong Spirit; and that Wine, which is upon the fret, degenerates into a Hundred different kinds of Savours.

We have already excepted the Plague and Pestilential Diseases, out of this general Rule of Coagulation, followed by a Dissolution; altho' in the *East Indies*, and *America* (Countries often visited with that dreadful Calamity) this same general Rule has been observ'd to hold good; but it likewise



happens that, in Pestilential Fevours, the Pulse is of no service to the Discovery of them; nay often as regular as that of a Person in Health: We may therefore affirm that the Poison, or Pestilential Ferment is such, that it has no sooner infus'd it self into the Blood, but it immediately corrodes and breaks its Filaments, as being to the last degree caustick, and turns it into a mere Mass of the Sharpest and Hottest Serum, as the Plague Sore doth sufficiently prove. This fatal Abscess or Impostumation is caus'd by a new Coagulation of the Blood, which is gathered here and there into Swellings and Knobs; because its Principles are entirely destroy'd, without any Possibility of recovering them. This Mass of sharp and burning Serum sets the whole Body on Fire, and being a great deal too liquid, (whereas the Blood in its natural State ought to have a certain Degree of Thickness) it makes no Resistance, either in the Heart or Arteries, but they drive it about without any difficulty; which is the Reason why in the Pestilence and Pestilential Fevers, the Pulse is often regular and like unto the natural Pulse of a Man in Health. And this is an infallible Symptom of Death, it being impossible to restore the Blood to its first Principles.

From all which it follows, that the Liquids being overcharg'd with Heterogeneous, Acid, Sharp and very active Particles, produce acute Diseases, frequent in hot Countries, whose Air is fill'd with a subtle Niter, and whose Soil produces spirituous Fruits. The Distempers that happen in Climates where the Air is thicker, are of another Nature; the Juices of their Food being unwholesome, and the Air it self Foggy, Thick, and Damp, the vitiated Ferment which all these and an Hundred more, cause in the Body, is but moderately active, and doth leisurely display it self in the Blood; and this is the original Cause of Chronick Diseases.

This Doctrine is so far from being an Hypothesis, that it is the very History of Nature, of which there are as many Proofs as there are Symptoms of acute and chronick Distempers. The Heaviness and Pain of the Head, Stomach, and of the whole Body, the great difficulty of Breathing, of Stirring, of making Water, do sufficiently demonstrate that the Circulation



culation of the Blood, &c. is not free, that it is hinder'd and obstructed in their proper Vessels, that these are full of viscid and tenacious Humours, or a crude Lympha, which cannot assimilate it self with the Blood.

Doth not the Difficulty of stirring, which is generally the first Symptom the Patient feels, and which in Chronick Cases doth not show it self till a great while after, clearly demonstrate the Truth of our Doctrine, of the thickning of the Liquids, to which several other things, such as the Food, Air, the defects of the solid parts, an idle Life, Passion, &c. concurr? But it is sufficient here to point out to the general Causes of our Diseases, a more particular account would swell up to a great Volume: If the World doth me the honour to approve of this Essay, I may hereafter apply my self to the explaining the Causes of the greatest Distempers, according to the Plan we have just now given the Reader.

We come now to prove that Minerals and Mettals alone, afford true and proper Remedies against such great Diseases. I have been induced to apply my self to this, by the Example of very eminent Chymists: My Endeavours, or good Fortune (which you please to call it) has enabled me to find out a certain Number of Remedies, the Success of which having been so often, so long and happily experienced, ought to satisfy the World, as it has convinced me, of their Goodness; than which the Faculty hath not hitherto afforded better: Without therefore entring into an unnecessary Disquisition about the generation of Mettals, concerning which we can affirm nothing certain, it is agreed by all Chymists that their predominant Principle is Sulphur; that there is a greater Quantity of it to be found in Gold and Iron, than in any other Mettal. This Sulphur likewise is affirm'd to be full of Acids, that an Irod Rod being plung'd into melted Gold, is corroded by the Acidity of the Gold, and that the Acidity of the Iron doth turn it into Rust. Tinn is so full of Acids, that if you mix it with Salt-peter, and agitate it, it will sparkle and blaze: This Sulphur it is that communicates to the Tongue a sower vitrioline Savour, of which all other Mettals likewise participate: This Sulphur being thoroughly fix'd, produces perfect Mettals, such as Gold and Sil-



ver; but if it be less fix'd, the Mettals are softer, as Lead and Tinn, which are easily melted. To this sulphur Chymists add a Mettallick Earth, which they call Mercury. When a Mettal abounds with Sulphur, and has but a small Quantity of Mercury, it is both hard, and difficult to melt, but Fire soon makes it glowing hot. Lead, because it abounds with a predominant Acid, is easily united to soft Mettals, such as Copper, Iron, and Tinn, all which it corrodes and absorbs; And it is by these Means, that these soft Mettals are separated from Gold and Silver, if they happen to be mixt with them. Without pursuing these Enquiries further, it must be owned that Mettals, in their kinds, are the most perfect Operation of Nature; and that Sulphur, which is as their Soul, is the most digested, and hath a wonderful Subtility and Operation. Iron and Copper, though melted a Thousand Times, will send forth as strong and penetrating a Smell the last Time, as the first, their Virtue being as 'twere inexhaustible. This hath induced the ancient Chymists, *Paracelsus*, *Van Helmont*, *Basil*, *Valentinus*, and others to affirm that, they acted by Irradiation, and by their presence alone; and indeed they communicate their Tincture and Taste, without sensibly loosing any thing of their Weight, Smell, or Virtue. A few grains of *Crocus Martis*, given to a young Woman that has the green Sickness or Jaundice, or languishes under a *Cachexy*, though her Pulse be almost imperceptible, will in less than an Hour's Time, make it vigorous, and quick. Whence can such a wonderful Alteration proceed, but from a subtle Sulphur, infus'd into the Blood along which the Chyle? Mineral Waters not only never freeze, but continually smok, and some of them are so hott, that one cannot bear to touch them; such are the Waters of *Balaruc*, which give the Tincture of Mallows Flowers a red Colour, and dissolve the White of an Egg, without appearing viscous by it: These Mineral Waters, which are found in several Countries, are a kind of natural Tincture, which is made in the Bowels of the Earth; but whether they be natural or artificial, when a Man has found once the right Secret of making them, they convey an anodyne Sulphur into the Blood, which destroys its vitiated Heterogeneous Acidity, and dissolves



solves the Coagulation occasion'd by it. The Metallick Earth of Iron alone removes Obstructions, by absorbing those fix'd Acids, which are predominant in the yellow Jaundice and Green-Sickness. These precious Metallick Tinctures are not the Effect of ordinary Chymical Operations, that which appears a Tincture, being nothing else but a gross Separation of the Integrant Particles of the Mettal, which being reunited and melted, assume their primitive Form again. It is not of such as these, which are mere Impositions, that we flatter our selves to have found out the Secret. Some able Chymists have found Means to extract a very red Oyl from Gold, which swims upon the Surface of Water, others have extracted the like from Copper.

Mr. Boyle had found out the Secret of separating Mercury from Gold and Silver, by means of fixed Alcalious Salts, such as Salt of Tartar, and Salt Almoniac.

Mineral Salts, such as Vitriol, Salt-peter, common Salt, as well as those Minerals which participate of the Mettallick Nature, as Antimony, Mercury, and the Mettals themselves, agree in this one point, that they are the last Effort of Nature, which has, if I may so express it, treasur'd up in them, as in a little compass an almost inexhaustible and infinite number of Virtues. Those of the Animal and Vegetable kind, as they are much inferiour, so are they more easily destroy'd, both their Salt and their Sulphur being of a looser Nature, and not concentrated within such a narrow Compass. One single Grain of Vitriol will give a Taste to above 22000 drops of Water. The perpetual Pill, the Antimonial Cup, and Mercury, communicate their Virtue, without any sensible diminution, and a very small Quantity of any of them, is sufficient to impregnate several Tuns of Wine or Water. It is from these Observations, so well known to all Chymists, that we are, with great Reason, induced to affirm, that there is nothing in Nature so powerful as Mettals and Minerals to dissolve the Liquids of our Bodies, when they are become too gross and thick, which is the saddest Case that can befall us; since 'tis the Original Cause of all our Distempers, and of Death it self. We shall leave it to those who please,



please, to enquire into the first Elementary Principles of which all those Bodies are form'd, it will be sufficient for a Spargirick Physician to know that Salt and the Sulphur are certainly extracted from those Bodies, and that they are they which make such a sensible Impression upon our Humours and upon our Senses. The four Mineral Salts, *viz.* common Salt, Salt-peter, Vitriol, and Allum, will melt in common Water, all which four are but the same Acid Salt under different Forms, according to the Texture and the Variety of Matter, which is as their Matrix, to which they are united and corporify'd; thence proceeds the difference of their Tastes. The Spirit of Allum and that of the Vitriol are exactly alike, the others differ only in degrees. If those Spirits could be entirely divested from their Earth, they could not be known one from the other, and for this very Cause we think *Van Helmont* had reason to say, that the universal Principle of these Salts swims in the Water. It is an Acid Salt, the only Acid in Nature, which is diversify'd only by the Means of those Bodies which are united to it. And this is the Reason why different sorts of them are found in different and sometimes in the same Earth. The Chymical Fire doth so alter them, that they are no longer the Production of Nature, but of Art; because the volatile Sulphur doth so closely unite with any porose Earth, that it becomes a new Compound. Our common Cabbage yields exactly the same Salt by a Chymical Fire, as the *Solanum Furiosum*, which is a rank Poison. If productions of new unfermented Wine do greatly differ from those of that which has been fermented, their difference is still greater, according to the Degrees of Heat us'd in extracting them. Wood expos'd to the Air gives only some Smeak and some Ashes when set on Fire; but when it is distill'd in a Retort, it affords an Oyl, a Spirit, an Acid Liquor, an insipid Water, and some Cinders. All mixt Bodies are liable to infinite Alterations, according to an Infinity of accidental Circumstances concurring. No Salt can be drawn out of rotten Wood, because that which it had, is dissolv'd and dispers'd by the Moistness of [the Air. The most experienced Chymists agree that the Salts of all Plants are nothing  
else



else but Mineral Salts, and that there is little or no difference betwixt them; the Sulphur and Salt of mixt Bodies only are active; their Earth is altogether passive. Fossile Salts are full of an Acid Salt, mixt with a quantity of Sulphur, Earth, and fixed Salt. Nature produces no Alcalious Salt, it is the Effect of Fire alone, which by its violent Motion breaks off the Corners of Bodies, and sifts them by the Insinuation of the Points, which like a Torrent, flow from it, till such Time as they can pass and repass without Resistance, by those passages they have open'd to themselves. 'Tis then that they bear all the Force and Impetuosity of Fire, without any new Alteration, unless it be rais'd to its utmost degree of Violence; for then those Alcalious Salts being entirely shatter'd, are at length vitrified, which is the utmost bound of the Power of Fire. Fossile Salts are always mixt with some Earth, of which it is impossible totally to divest them; their Acids are sharp Points laden with Sulphur. Salt of Urine is like a Sponge, which retains some Portion of the Acid Salt mixt with a foetid Oyl. Lixivial Salts contain only as much Acid as the Fire could not destroy. Saline Salt is a compound of the Acid and Volatile Salt, and a fix'd Acid. The Way to make Artificial Salt-Peter, Salt, or Vitriol, is only to mix with Salt of Tartar, some Spirits of Salt-Peter, Salt, or Vitriol, which are Mixts compos'd of Salts partly fixt, and partly volatile. When these Spirits are mixt with Salt of Tartar, there follows such a violent Ebullition, that it shatters the Particles of the Mettal that happens to be in it. The coarser the Sulphur is, with which the Salts are fenced, the more vehemently they strive against the Bodies they meet with, as may be plainly seen in the Spirit of Salt-Peter; but on the contrary, if the Sulphur be more subtle, it enters into the minutest pores of Gold, for instance, as may be observ'd in the Spirit of Salt. These fixed Salts, by the repeated labour of the Chymists, either become volatile, or else by the Addition of some Salt of Urine, which absorbs those Acid Salts, they force the Earth that enclos'd them to præcipitate. And from this mixture is made that which we call compound Salt, which by means of Fire  
D becomes



becomes a volatile concrete Salt. Minerals have in them an Urinous Salt, which sometimes resembles the Salt which is extracted from Plants, sometimes that which is drawn from Animals. The Spirit of Salt, for Instance, being mixt with the Salt of some Plant, makes a Sal Armoniack: the Salts of Allum and Borax smell of Urine: Salts of Allum mixt with the fixed Salts of Plants, and Salt of Borax mixed with lixivial Salts of Minerals, become volatile concrete Salts, just after the same manner as Salt of Urine turns all Acid Salts into sal Armoniack.

Some Salt there is in the very inmost Center of all Bodies, which they will yield if they be rightly manag'd. The clearest Water will afford, by distillation, a cubical Salt, whose Taste is like that of Sea Sulphur, and an inflammable Sulphur. *Berrichius* hath extracted from Gold beaten in a glass Mortar, during a whole Month without Intermission, with a simple distill'd Water, and without the help of Fire, or any other corrosive dissolvent, a Black Powder, which could not be reduc'd into Gold again, which yielded a small quantity of sharp tartish and Christalline Salt. Lead, Copper, Silver, and Tin us'd in the same manner, but in a shorter space of Time, have afforded the like Powders. That of Lead was white like Chalk, and its Salt of a yellow Colour, of a sharp Taste, and of various shapes. That of Tin was very like that of Gold. That of Silver was of an ash Colour, and that of Copper of a yellowish Colour: None of which Powders excepting, that of Copper and Lead, could ever be reduced to their primitive metallick Form, by Labour, Industry, or any degree of Heat that could be used. From whence it follows that there must be a real Salt in those Mettals, which cannot be come at but with a great deal of Labour; because it is concentred, and closely united to the other Metallick Principles. Mercury handled the same Way, by a long Trituration, hath not show'd the least Token of its containing any Salt; but it has given some by sinking a thin Blade of Iron into it, in a Vessel closely stop't and expos'd to the Heat of the Summer's Sun the Space of three Months, the Iron hath turn'd to Rust, which could not have been, if there



there had not been such a volatile Salt in Mercury to corrode the Iron.

Salts borrow their Activity and Strength from those Sulphurs which diversify the Salts, and determine them. Sulphurs are compos'd of crooked, ramosè, flexible and elastick Particles, which makes their separation one from another, and their mixing themselves with Liquids of different Natures, so difficult; they preserving the Motion that has been communicated to them, for some considerable Time. Nevertheless these Sulphurs seem to have their origine from Acids, according as they are variously combined. Common Sulphur affords a great Quantity of Acids, the Saline particles of some Mettals and Minerals, such as Iron, &c. are easily turn'd into Sulphur; which last is easily mixt with any Saline Dissolvents, being of the same Nature with them. The Sulphureous Smell and Flame, which comes from Mettals heated in the Fire, doth sufficiently demonstrate their abounding with it. Copper, *v. g.* heated red hot an hundred Times, casts the last as well as the first Time a very Sulphureous Smell. Tin mixt with Salt-Peter and cast into the Fire, causes a great Fulmination, and casts a great Flame of a blewish Colour. The Filings of Iron thrown upon the Flame of a Candle, will sparkle very much; and being mixt with common Brimstone, buried a Foot or two deep under Ground, and sprinkled with Water, will be set on Fire to that degree, that they will cast forth Flames like a Volcano, and with the same Noise. The like Phenomenon will happen, when one sprinkles some Charcoal dust upon the same Filings melted with a Burning-Glass. There is an Artificial Vitriol made by mixing some Filedust with Spirit of Vitriol; which mixture being distill'd will yield a Liquor, which retains a very Sulphureous Smell for several Months. Iron in dissolving doth cast up such Sulphureous Vapours, as are easily set on Fire, and the Flame will continue some considerable Time. This Mettal being mix'd, and melted with Copper, by a Burning-glass, sparkles very much; but if mixt with Silver, it doth not sparkle at all, because this last is the least Sulphureous of any Mettal:



When melted with Gold it sparkles no more than if it was melted by it self, And this makes us conjecture that the Sulphur of Tinn is of the same Nature with that of Gold, and no Ways combustible. *Borrichius* assures us that he has reduced Gold by a fourteenth Nights Trituration, into a Greyish Powder, which was no more reducible into Gold. He adds likewise, that he has drawn from that Powder by Distillation with an extraordinary Heat, a Liquor, though in a small Quantity, a of most lively Red, which might be more justly call'd the true *Aurum Potabile*, than the many gross Tinctures which are called by that Name, and smell strong of Imposture. The Colour of these Drops and their Sulphureous Odor, do sufficiently demonstrate, that Gold abounds with Sulphur, but a Sulphur which is more concocted and more digested than that of any other Mettals, whose Texture being looser, and less compact, makes them so much lighter than Gold. Their fixed Sulphur likewise is impure, being mixt with several Mettallick Bituminous Sulphurs, with several Earthy and Saline Particles, which cannot so closely unite together, as to be able to bear any Time the Force and Impetuosity of Fire. Nevertheless the Sulphur of Copper doth not greatly differ from that of Gold and Silver, for it easily unites with either of them.

The Sulphurs of Minerals are not exactly like those of Mettals; these last being both more fixt, and more tenacious: The Sulphur of Salt-Peter comes very near that of Vegetables. Vitriol contains a common, and Allum a Bituminous Sulphur; and Bay-Salt, and Salt-gemma, a Mineral Sulphur; the Tastes and Effects which those Salts produce, are so many Proofs of it: Sal gem. dissolv'd by those Waters, which are found within the Bowels of the Earth, and mixt with any Mettallick Sulphur, doth so strongly unite and adhere to it, that no Artifice can ever divide them. The Salt which Rivers carry into the Sea, is call'd Sea-Salt: Bituminous Sulphur, being mixt with a considerable quantity of Earth, which hinders it from closely uniting to any Salt, is not so susceptible of Motion, as other Sulphurs are: This likewise makes it unfit of it self to dissolve any Mettalline Body, unless



it be mixt with, and helped by some Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral Sulphur; for then it can insinuate it self into any Mettal. Spirit of Vitriol could not of it self penetrate into Silver, if Spirit of Salt-Peter did not give it its Motion. Mettallick Sulphur, whose Texture is closer and more solid than that of any other Sulphur, will, without yielding to it, sustain all the Force of Fire, much longer than any other Sulphur, which exposing a wider Surface to the Flames, are more quickly penetrated and evaporated by them. Sulphur takes Fire, because it is compos'd of Oyl, mixt with an Acid. The Rosin which is the Result of a Mixture of Spirit of Salt-Peter with Oyl of Cinamon, is much more Inflamable, than either the Spirit, or the Oyl by themselves. Separate the Acid Particles of common Sulphur from the Oily, and expose the Oily part to the Flame of a Candle, it will only crackle, without catching Fire, neither can it be set a burning, unless you throw it upon burning Charcoals; and then the Acidity of the Wood supplies the Room of the Sulphureous Acid, which had been separated from it. The Sulphur of Mettals and Minerals, together with their Salts, are exceeding powerful to dissolve any kind of Bodies, whether those Salts and Sulphurs be united or separated. As those Dissolvents, which are extracted from Vegetables, are much Weaker, so we may venture to affirm, that they receive all their Strength from the Mineral Salts which pass into their Substance along with their Nourishment, whilst the Vegetable is fasten'd to the Earth by its Roots. Acid Sulphureous Dissolvents are *Aqua fortis*, *Aqua Regis*, Spirit of Vitriol, of Salt-Peter, Allom, Copperas, and the like. The Chymick Art teaches us how to sweeten their violent Acrimony, whether it be by divesting them of their Caustick particles, by breaking their Texture by main Strength, or by tempering it by the Mixture of some Foreign matter. They who are Masters of this Art, know how to separate whatever is hurtful, in the Sulphur of Copper, Oyl of Vitriol, Spirit of Salt, of Salt-Peter, Allom, Antimony, Sulphur of Arsenick, and corrosive Sublimate, which is the strongest of all Poisons made of Mercury. When they



they come out of the Hands of an able Chymist, they can no longer hurt the nice and tender contexture of human Bodies; they have only so much Strength left in them, as is necessary to excite a vigorous Motion in the solid and the liquid parts, which were benum'd; and by that Means, to recover them from their languid Functions, into a perfect State of Activity and Health.

And now we hope that what has been said concerning the Virtues of Mettals and Minerals, will be sufficient to give the Reader an Idea of our Designs, and to convince him how unreasonable it is to seek or expect elsewhere any efficacious Remedies against such a Multitude of dreadful Diseases, which threaten us, and sometimes throw the Patient into Despair, as well as his Physician, who satisfy'd with that stock of knowledge he has received from his Predecessors, thinks he has done his Part, if his Patients don't dye contrary to those Rules which have been blindly transmitted to him. It is enough for him to say, that it was a Distemper above the Power of any Remedy, that nothing has been neglected that could save the sick Person, and that the Power of Art could go no further, than he has done. Is it possible that in so Learned, and so Industrious an Age as this, wherein all other Arts and Sciences have receiv'd such considerable Improvements, this which is the most necessary and beneficial to Mankind, should be the only one that is liable to so shameful a Reproach, as that it could not receive the least degree of Improvement? If I have vainly flatter'd my self, or am under a Mistake, I have been led into it, against my will, by several successful Cures. And Indeed, who can resist the Testimony of Experience, when it is upheld by Reason, and follow'd with Success? But in order to display still more the excellent Virtues of Minerals and Mettals, let us endeavour to apply them to the most grievous and stubborn Diseases; for the Reader will thus far at least be made sensible by it, that if I have sometimes offer'd my self to cure those desperate Distempers, which had been given over by other Physicians as incurable, I did not do it altogether rashly and through Ignorance.

There



There is but one Law in Nature, those infinite variations it receives even being the Cause of its apparent Differences. The Digestions, Dissolutions, Coagulations, Precipitations, &c. which are caus'd in the Body, very nearly follow those Operations, which are perform'd by Chymistry; those Coagulations which produce Chronical Diseases, are too hard and tenacious to yield to the Dissolvents of the Stomach, which are only strong enough to digest our Nourishment, but too weak to dissolve any Liquids, that are become over viscous: The very Dissolvents themselves are often infected with this fault, the solid Parts become relax'd, the Elastick Power lessening proportionably, as it ceases to be upheld, and quickned by Spirituous Liquids. The Food by a necessary consequence, turns only into a kind of glewish Pap, instead of a liquid, subtil and spirituous Chyle; and the Strength of the Body which diminishes every day gives us still less Reason to hope for a Cure. 'Tis however true, that some Persons have recovered their Health, by a prudent choice of Food, change of Air, and by a moderate Dyet; but we must likewise ingenuously confess, that all these Helps do very often prove too weak, and that it is not very prudent to trust too much to them; seeing they have not a constant and infallible Efficacy of themselves, but only as far as they are upheld by other more efficacious means. Can we expect, that Food alone should be able to correct the defects of the Chyle, which communicates its own defects to every thing it touches? Can we, for instance, imagine that Milk shall have greater power to sweeten Vinegar, than Vinegar to turn and sower the Milk? The same thing happens in the Stomach, and in all the Liquids of the Body, which become so sharp and vitiated, that we must not wonder at the fierceness of those Symptoms, which attend it. *Impura corpora quo plus nutrieris, eo magis lades*, says *Hypocrates*; and daily Experience shows it: For the Jellies of those Animals and Vegetables we feed upon, are in their nature a little viscous; and in order to extract from them a quickning lively Spirit, they ought to be penetrated, and destroy'd, dissolv'd, so as to form a new being, viz. a spirituous Chyle; but in sickness, the

Liquid



Liquids of the Body are too tenacious to produce such an effect.

'Tis much more likely, that those Jellies should become of the same Nature and Character with those viciated Liquids. *Galenical* Medicines gives us little reason to hope for a more effectual help from them: Letting of Blood compleats the ruin of that natural Strength which was left, and exhausts the elastick Virtue of the Fibers of the solid parts. This elastick Force, sinking under the weight of the viscous and clammy Liquids, that over-power it, can make but a very faint resistance: neither doth bleeding destroy or correct the principles of Coagulation; in acute Diseases indeed, it is an excellent Remedy, where this elastick power is entire; not exhausted, but oppressed; not destroy'd, but over-burthened. It suffices to remove that clogging Weight, whose Gravity exceeds the resistance which that elastick Power can oppose to it; and then that power displays it self wholly and returns to its primitive State. The Liquids, in acute Distempers, are full of Spirituous and artificial Salts and Sulphurs, which are only intangled in those very thick Liquids. Bleeding takes away part of that Weight, which did suppress those Powers, after which they recover themselves in a little while, and vigorously shake off, and expel the remaining part of the weight, which Bleeding could not remove: But it is far otherwise in chronical Diseases; the Elasticity of the solid parts is near entirely ruin'd, by the too long abode of the stagnated Humours, the Fibers are overpower'd by unwholsome viscous juices, from which all their striving can not extricate them; whether it be because their texture is relax'd by the abode of those Humours, or because those very Fibers, having been swell'd up for some time by a fermenting Liquor, (and, which is worse, by a Fermentation which tends to the destruction of the character it ought to have in order to be useful) lose their Force by having been too long and to such a degree extended, as to have been driven out of those Limits which Nature had given them: which is the reason why their Endeavours to recover themselves, are so faint and weak; to which you may add that the continual Convulsions and Contractions which the Fibers have



have labour'd under, have entirely wasted their Vigour and Strength. A Fiddle-string must infallibly break, if screw'd up too high and beyond the Bounds of its Elasticity, which diminishes according to the degree of Violence it receives. In Chronical distempers, the Liquids are entirely destitute of any Spirits able to dissolve their viscosity; Bleeding therefore can be but of little Use, since it takes away that remaining Strength of the Patient which was his only hope; neither are *Galenical* purgatives more successful, they do but, as it were, slide over the coagulated Humours, without being able to dissolve or reach to the Bottom of them. They bring away indeed some crude matter, and sometimes they purge that Serum away, which would have been useful in unglewing the viscous Humours. I own indeed that some Purges such as Coloquintida, Senna, Gum Ammoniacum, Gum Guutta, Scamony, Jalap, and the like do dissolve those viscosities; but when the Rosin of those purging vegetables comes to stick to the Bowels, what Pains, what excruciating Gripings do they not cause? Such as throw the Patient into violent Convulsions, or cause some mortal Inflammation in the Bowels. These dangerous inconveniences have forced the *Galenists* to invent an hundred ways and mixtures to soften those turbulent and dangerous Medicines. But a poor Patient is greatly to be pity'd, who is forc'd to use such precarious Remedies, which have need of other Remedies to correct and allay their Malignity, which sets the viscous Liquids into a ferment, and disorder; the sharp Particles both of the Humours, and Purgatives, diffuse themselves throughout the habit of the Body, and set it on Fire; this may be easily known by the dulness of the Pulse, the redness of the Urines the dryness of the Bowels, an excessive drought, which always follows such kinds of Purges. But what benefit doth the Patient receive by thus mortifying himself? The most grievous Symptoms are suspended for some few Days, and then the Patient finds his hopes of a quick Recovery entirely frustrated: The Symptoms return again with greater fierceness, because the acrimonious Salts of the Purgative have infus'd themselves into the whole



Mass of Blood, whose too tenacious Substance they are not able to dissolve, though they are powerful enough to throw the nervous kind into Convulsions, and to cause dreadful Inflammations in the Membranes. Those Salts are, if I may be allow'd the Expression, too soft, to break the Texture of a Vitrioline fixt Salt, very near resembling a Mineral Salt, which keeps the Humours in a kind of fixedness and Coagulation. The very Liquids cannot associate themselves with those Salts, whose Figure is too irregular for their Nature; which in Time of Health is of a sweetness very much like that of Milk.

Here then lies the great, the chief Difficulty, in such Cases, *viz.* in finding out proper Remedies to correct those viciated Ferments, which are the Principle of those grievous Diseases, in restoring those Savours which had been spoil'd, and that fatal Texture which had corrupted the Nature of the Humours; in causing these to become more subtil, liquid and spirituous, by such Salts and Sulphurs, which, without being alter'd by, or receiving any change in their Nature, from the viciated Ferment, may be able, by little and little to destroy that Coagulation, to loosen the too strong Texture of the Blood, and gently to stimulate the Solids, for fear of causing an Inflammation in them; and lastly to blunt and absorb the too fixed Points of the Vitrioline Salts. The Remedies therefore in this Case must be such as have neither too manifest a Savour, nor too much Activity, which being infus'd into the Blood, and mixing themselves with the Particles of it, do by little and little, separate and break its too gross Sulphur, by their Weight and Motion. Such is, for instance, the Operation of Mercury, which is indeed an excellent Remedy against several grievous Diseases, but as, we shall show by and by, is attended with so many Inconveniences in Venereal Cases, and so often fails of Success, that I thought it well deserved all my Study and Application, to find out a greater and safer Specifick, such as might be free from the Inconveniences of the other. And the Success I have been blest'd with doth sufficiently assure me of my good Fortune, in the  
discovery



discovery of this Specifick; and if Physicians, especially those of the Faculty of *Paris*, (which abounds with Men of such admirable genius, and consummate knowledge) had not too negligently rely'd upon those Remedies which had been found out before them, as if the Witt of Man could go no further, I doubt not but as great Improvements would have been made in Physick, as in other Arts and Sciences.

But let us return to the Point in hand: The Agents which destroy the Coagulation of the Humours perform that Operation several Ways; either in breaking the too fixt Particles of the Liquid; as Mercury doth; or by absorbing the Vitrioline Salts which cause these Coagulations, as Iron doth in the yellow Jaundice, Hypochondriack and Histerick Passion, in the Scurvy and Dropsy. Those Physicians who, instead of paying a blind Deference to the Opinion of others, chuse to make Use of their Reason, should apply their whole Study, to find out proper Remedies to break, or sheath the sharp Points of those Saline or Acrimonious Salts, which cause those vicious Fermentations, which we find towards the End of Chronick Distempers. These Salts dissolve (but in such a manner as proves fatal to the Patient,) the Liquids which had been a long while coagulated; not only by breaking their Texture, but likewise by falling upon the solid parts, and by swimming in the Serum of the Blood, whose Principle is already destroy'd, they are hurried against the solid nervous, and membranous Parts, and there excite burning Heats, and mortal Inflammations, attended either with a Gangrene, or some incurable Ulcer at least. All urinous Mineral Salts, Armoniac, Volatile, Concrete and Mineral Salts, are most proper to destroy the Contexture of those Saline Salts, which are caus'd by viciated Ferments. In a Word, the Remedy which we have been in search of, and are perswaded we have found, ought to renew the elastick power of the Fibers, both of the Stomach, and Bowels. Such is the insipid Flegm of Vitriol, the dulcify'd Spirit of Salt, Sulphur, and Salt-peter. The Alterant and Purgative Medicines which are drawn from Animals, and Vegetables, are incapable of producing such Effects;



the first loosing their Vertue before they reach the Blood, being stript of it in the Stomach or Bowels; the others indeed, pass into, and mix themselves with the Humours, but their Nature and Contexture being too weak and soft, they contract the very defects of the Liquids which they were design'd to correct; but if their Contexture be not susceptible of them, then they excite some strange Fermentation, and instead of correcting the vitiated Ferment, they set the whole Body on Fire. All alterant Remedies are either extracted from Herbs, or from bitter, acid and acrimonious Roots: But what good can we hope for from those Juices which are very near of the same kind with ours, and of the same Nature with the Humours of our Bodies, seeing these are produced by the Juices of Vegetables, and that in reality they are one and the same, disguis'd under different Forms? or how shall they be able to correct the viciated Savours, when themselves are so apt to corrupt? what disorders would they not cause in the Blood, if they could bring their whole Force along with them, without receiving any alteration in the Stomach and Bowels? A Medicine drawn from Vegetables convey'd into the Blood, crude, and undigested by the Stomach, is capable of causing very great disorders in it: Thence come those terrible over-purgings, and that fatal Dissolution of the Humours, which is often attended with such Leanness, as soon reduces a Man from a vigorous and flourishing State of Health, to a mere walking Skeleton; and this fatal Change sometimes happens in a few Days; not to take notice of those Inflammations, which turn to a general Mortification always attended with Death. 'Tis no easy Matter to stop the impetuous Force of Medicines drawn from Vegetables, when it once displays it self, by an unseasonable Fermentation. Chronick Diseases can be cur'd no other way but that, by which Nature has produced them, that is, leisurely and slowly. A Physician ought not to expect that a Disease, which has been a long while breeding by a disorder'd Constitution, can be eradicated in few Days; neither will it be effected by great and violent, but by gentle and moderate Evacuations: not by too vigorous an  
Expulsion



Expulsion by Urine or Sweat, but by a gentle and insensible Perspiration; not in exhausting, but correcting the Blood, and destroying the vicious Principle with which it was infected.

Now it is certain that Chymistry alone can prepare such Mettalline and Mineral Sulphurs and Salts, and so ripen and sweeten them by Fire, as that they may produce such happy Effects. It furnishes us with Emeticks, Purgatives, Diaphoreticks, Diureticks, and Alterants, all which have more or less Force, according to the Pleasure of the Artist. Mettallick or Mineral Purgatives, being well prepared, do evacuate the peccant Humours, without leaving any Dryness or Swellings in the Bowels, so frequent after Vegetable Purgatives: Neither do we ever see them attended with those Redundances, and dangerous Dissolutions of the Humours, or any of those Super-purgations and Inflammations, which the Rosin of Vegetables causes in the Bowels. Diureticks and Diaphoreticks drawn from Vegetables, are too apt to cause violent Burnings and a dangerous Ferment, which jumbling the useful and hurtful Particles of the Liquids together, cause a confuse mixture of them. The nice Contexture of the Solid Parts, doth insensibly lose its Tonick Motion, by reason of the Impression which the Acrimonious Salts make upon it. And thus it happens that Juices administered to a Patient, to correct the vicious Humours, degenerate into Acrimonious and Saline Salts, by taking the Character of the vitiated Salts they should have corrected, or at least were given to that End: whence it often happens that the Symptoms become fiercer than they were before the taking of those Sudorificks or Dureticks of Vegetables; because the Serosity of the Humours being lessen'd, the acrimonious Salts draw nearer to one another, and become more violent: for whilst they were dissolved and separated by a greater quantity of Serum, their Force was much less; but now the Liquids being depriv'd of a great Part of their Serosity, become sharper and more saline. Those Diaphoreticks and Alterants, which are drawn from Mettals and Minerals, are so entirely free from such Inconveniences, that they are even



even impenetrable by Fire it self: such are Gold, Silver, Iron, Tin, Mercury, Antimony, and Mineral Salts. However Fire may disguise them, they never lose their Nature, and are still reducible to their natural Form; so that we need not fear lest the viciated Ferment of the Body should change their Nature, or be increased by them. To this you may add, that Vegetables are by Nature determined to certain fixt Degrees of Virtue, which admit of no Augmentation or Diminution, according to the Variety of Symptoms; and if any attempt is made to alter them, either it destroys their Virtue, or changes it into a quite different one. Chymists have given hundreds of different Forms to their vegetable Purgatives, in order to increase, lessen or correct their Force, without any other Success than that of changing them either into Poisons, or indifferent Remedies. What is the Rosin of Scamony, Senna, Coloquintida, &c, extracted with Spirit of Wine, but a most powerful Caustick, which causes very terrible Convulsions and ineffectual Gripings in the Bowels, attended sometimes with dangerous Inflammations? what are their Saline Particles, when separated from the Rosin, but a simple Diuretick, of less Value than Salt of Tartar? so that if we must needs use Vegetables, we ought to leave them just as Nature presents them to us, and content our selves with only cleansing them. Their Earthy Particles, of which Chymistry divests them, serve for a Curb to their Salts and Sulphurs, and qualifie their Activity. The Virtues of Vegetable consists neither in their Salts, nor their Sulphurs separately; but in the Union of both together, with a certain Portion of Flegm and of Earth. The supreme Author of Nature has dos'd all their Principles in so exact a Manner, that hitherto the Witt of Man has not been able to fathom it, and when they have gone about to disturb, or alter their Order and Proportion, they have destroy'd, or quite alter'd the Virtue of the whole. It is not so with Mettals and Minerals: Their Virtue may be increas'd, or lessen'd, or quite taken away according to the Purposes they are design'd for. Antimony differently prepar'd, becomes a stron-



ger or weaker Emetick, or ceasing to be an Emetick, becomes Diaphoretick. Mercury may be chang'd into the most violent of all Poisons, viz. *Corrosive Sublimate*, and from that terrible Poison, one may make it the gentlest Remedy, viz. *Mercurius dulcis*, or *Aquila alba*; and thus it is that those Mettals and Minerals which are of so hard and strong a Nature, as not to be alter'd by any Force of Fire, do nevertheless, as it were obey, with a surprizing Docility, the Will of the Artist in every thing.

It is impossible to account rationally for the Modus of these Mineral and Mettallick dissolvents operating upon a coagulated Liquid, unless from the Mechanism or Configuration of the Parts which compose both the one and the other. Water will afford us an Instance of it, four Ounces of which dissolves two Ounces of common Salt, and then one Ounce of Allom, after that an Ounce of Salt-peter, and lastly one Ounce of Sal Armoniack: Notwithstanding the whole Mass doth not seem to the Eye to be swell'd, or so much as thickned, from whence we must infer that the Particles of those Salts are very different both in Figure and Bigness, and that there are great interstices between the Particles of the Water, to contain so many Matters, without showing any visible increase of its Bulk or Height, or discovering any of those Salts, unless the Water be evaporated. This Instance will afford us great Light and Facility, in explaining the Action of Mineral and Mettallick Dissolvents upon the viscous, thick, or coagulated Humours of our Bodies. These dissolvents are Sulphureous and Saline; and the freer they are from Foreign Matters, the more easily they penetrate those Bodies they are to dissolve. If our Liquors are become thick with coarse Sulphurs, their Dissolvent ought to be Sulphureous, but of a more firm Contexture; Antimony furnishes us with it, being altogether Sulphureous, and one Sulphur being the Dissolvent of another. If the coagulated Liquid is of a Rosinous Nature, some Aqueous Mineral must be added to the Sulphureous Dissolvent; for Rosinous Bodies are of Nature partly Aqueous, and partly Sulphureous. If the Liquid is altogether oily or sulphureous,

the



the Dissolvents that must be used, ought to be Oyls and Sulphurs drawn from Mettals and Minerals. Sulphurs are the most powerful of all Dissolvers of Rosinous, Bituminous, Fat, and other like matters; Spirits not being strong enough for them. The great Chymists of former Ages, who wrought such surprizing Cures, understood how to divest Mettals of their Sulphur; such is the *Hydropick Sulphur*, or *Diaphoretick Gold* of Potier, the *Ens Veneris* of Van Helmont and the *Stone* of Butler. I hope the World being, in Time, convinc'd by many successful Experiments, of which I am already able to produce a considerable Number, will do me that Justice, as to place some of my Tinctures and Salts in the Class of those noble Medicines,

Saline Dissolvents are very powerful. They are either Acid or Lixivial: The Acid ones are *Aqua fortis* and *Aqua Regalis*: The Lixivial are either fixed or volatil; the fixed are all Alcalious Salts extracted by Fire, the volatil ones will be rais'd even by a gentle Fire, such is the Spirit of Sal Armoniack. The Lixivial ones receive all their Force from the Acids, and these do not act so powerfully upon the fixed, as the volatil Salts; because the Pores of these are more open: And that is the Reason why they are not proper in Hypochondriack Cases, or the Yellow-Jaundice where the Salts are fixed and vitrioline. When therefore a Metallick or Mineral Dissolvent mixes it self with the Liquids of human Bodies, it receives into its own Pores as much of those Liquids as they can contain; but as those very Dissolvents have likewise Pores of divers Figures, every one of them imbibes such Particles as agree with their own Figure and Diameter, as we said just now of common-Water, four Ounces of which dissolves five Ounces of different Salts.

It is therefore the Duty of a Physician to make choice of a proper Dissolvent, and of an exact proportion to the Body it is intended to dissolve; a Dissolvent, whose Virtue may be open'd by the Heat or Motion of the Parts, which compose the Liquors of our Bodies. If the Dissolvent is too volatil, its Virtue will spread it self without any effect, by too quick a Motion, or too great a Heat: If it is too fixed,



fixed, it will not sufficiently display it self. This last manner of operating is that of absorbents or alterants, such as insipid Earths, either Mettallick or Mineral, as of Iron, Antimony, Vitriol and Allom. Others operate another Way, some by breaking, rearing and gnawing those Sulphurs which are of too hard a Contexture, and too strongly united and knit together, as the dulcify'd Spirit of Salt, Saltpeter, Vitriol, Allom, Sulphur and Copperas. Others lastly dissolve only by their Weight, Motion and Figure, as Mercury. As I only undertook this small Essay, to explain more perfectly the Operation of Mercury in the Pox, and have rummaged the whole *Materia Chymica* with this only View, of finding out a more gentle, and safer Remedy, than Mercury; the Reader will permit me to explain more fully, both the Nature of this cruel Disease, so fatal and yet so just an Effect and Punishment of Debauchery, and the manner of Mercury operating in the Cure of it.

A small attention on the Effects of the Pox, will be sufficient to make us sensible, that the Blood and Humours do thicken by little and little, and to a certain Degree, and that they dissolve themselves afterwards into an Acrimonious Serum, of so caustick a Nature, that it gnaws the very Flesh and Bones. Our Notions concerning this matter could not have been sufficiently understood, without a previous and exact knowledge of those Principles we have been laying down, both with respect to the Nature of acute, or chronick Distempers, and the manner of operating of Mettallick and Mineral Remedies. It is not necessary to observe to the Reader, that the Pox is of the Chronick kind. Its beginnings seem very unlike the cruel and fatal Effects which display themselves afterwards. The Virus communicated by the Union of both Sexes, doth not amount perhaps to the hundredth part of a Grain: It is like the Poison of a Viper; one can hardly conceive how the fine small Tooth of that Creature, can communicate it thro' the little Orifice it makes. What can the Glove of a Person that has the Itch, communicate to one that is sound? Nevertheless, these seemingly weak Principles, will in time cause very dreadful



Diseases, and sometimes Death; howbeit I don't pretend to write a compleat Treatise of the Pox, nor copy the Authors who have writ on the Subject: My Notions are entirely different from theirs, they do but copy one another, and lay down the same erroneous Principle, viz. that Mercury is the only Remedy against that Disease. The whole World has entirely rely'd on the Integrity of *John Carpi*, a Physician of *Bologna* in *Italy*, who having found in the writings of some *Arabian*, that Mercury was very good to cure old Ulcers, he kill'd some of it in Hogs-Grease, as is practised at this Day, and apply'd it to an old Ulcer, which had resisted all other Remedies, because the Patient had the Pox, a Disease pretty well known at that Time, as we may see in one of *Erasmus's* Colloquies, but judg'd then incurable. This Mercurial application was follow'd with a Salivation which did very much surprize the Physician, who expected nothing less than such an Effect. Had he known that Purgatives could cure it, we had perhaps never been acquainted with this Medicine: However he took fresh courage, when he found that as he went on with the Salivation, the Ulcer heal'd. Being therefore by this lucky Chance, become Master of such a Secret, he got immense riches, and as every honest Man ought to do, he did at his Death discover this Remedy to the World; which has entirely rely'd upon it, without ever so much as endeavouring, either to prevent those great Inconveniences which attend and follow it, or to find out elsewhere more efficacious, and safer, or to say all in one Word, less cruel Remedies than that.

The first Effects of this Disease are an unwillingness to stir, a heaviness all over the Body, a lazy reluctancy to all manner of exercise, an invincible desire of Sleep, a deep Melancholy, and a continual heaviness of Heart: these are the first tokens of the Liquids being thicken'd, by the Venereal Ferment, which we have Reason to judge to be Acid; neither do we know of any other Principle of Coagulation. These first progresses are followed by flying Pains in all the Limbs, which sometimes settle in the Head, where they cause violent  
shootings,



shootings: sometimes in the Stomach, where they cause continual Vomitings: sometimes they lodge in the Breast, which makes the Patient think himself in a Consumption, because he coughs much, and spits little or nothing; he feels a violent Pain in his Back when he fetches Breath, and something that lies cross his Stomach, and almost stops his Breath. Sometimes these Pains are felt only in the Flesh, and the Patient thinks them only Rheumatick; but this pretended Rheumatism, though it disperses or asswages it self very much by perspiration, whilst the hot Weather lasts, will return again in cold Weather, at the fall of the Leaf, and in Winter. In a Word, this dreadful Disease, *Protheus* like, assumes the shapes of all Distempers, and unless a Physician be a Man of great Experience in this kind, and a discreet judicious Man, he will be easily mistaken, and the Variety of the Symptoms will so confound him, that if he doth not take a great deal of Care he will (as hath been often done) condemn the Innocent to the Pox, and absolve the Guilty.

The third degree of the Pox shows it self by sharp, painful, and itching Tetters or Morpew; Pustules and Scabs on the Face, Head, and most Times all over the Body; Ulcers in the Throat, a hard Callosity on the inside of the Mouth; and by many other terrible Symptoms. Those Shankers which seem'd at first to give birth to this monstrous Disease, and soon after disappear'd, through the Impatience of the sick Person, and often by the unskilfulness of the Surgeon, do show themselves a-fresh, and cannot be removed but by an active Remedy of a very dissolving and penetrating nature. Condiloms appear in the Fundament; 'tis then that the Patient begins to be persuaded that his Distemper is Venereal; in a word, the last degree of this Disease is an exquisite Pain in the very Bones and Marrow: Such an invincible Infomny, that Opium it self cannot overcome it: A rottenness in the Bones, Exostoses, Callous Ulcers in the Arms, Legs and Thighs, which no Remedy, inward or outward, can remove: An extreme leanness and lankness, attended with an extraordinary weakness, which puts the



Physician out of all hopes of his Patient's being able to go through a Salivation: you may likewise observe that sometimes it turns to a Venereal Consumption; many Instances of which we have seen, which we shall mention in their proper place, and it must be owned ingenuously that this last degree is scarce curable.

Reason and Experience confirm this: in the first Stage, the Blood was actually coagulated and condensed by the Vitrioline Leaven, it afterwards becomes more liquid, by the Action of the Mercury, and may disentangle it self from the Venereal Poison by Salivation: And as in this Case the Principles of the Blood are not destroy'd, the Patient may be thoroughly recover'd; but if the same Venom has but time enough, by its Acrimonious Salts, to corrode the Sulphur, or Filaments of the Blood, the whole Mass, which in the first Stage was altogether viscous, and too thick, begins to dissolve, because the Sulphur, which is the bond that fastens and unites all other Principles, is here broken and destroy'd; and this Mass thus dissolv'd, becomes a Serum full of corrosive and caustick Salts, which gnaw the very Flesh and Bones: Coagulations are caus'd sometimes in one Part, and sometimes in another, by reason of the reunion of the shatter'd Sulphurs, which now compose a new kind of Mass, which causes Knots, and Exostoses in the Bones; whenever these Masses do centre in their Substance, 'tis then they tumify and cause the Bone to swell every way very much beyond its natural Diameter. The Flethy Fibers undergo the same fate, being soak'd with a corrosive Serum, full of such Salts, as turn it into a kind of *Aqua fortis*, which gnaws and totally destroys their Texture, and produces such terrible Ulcers, as often cause those Parts where they are seated, to rott and drop off. These are the fatal fruits of a Disease which Men too often willfully and rashly expose themselves to.

But in order to give an exact Idea of the Operation of Mercury, let us fairly and Impartially examine what this Mineral is, and we shall soon find that it has no specifick Virtue to cure the Venereal Disease, exclusive of any other.

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Its Operation is altogether mechanical; and in order to understand it rightly, we must not consider it as having any Affinity in its Principles with any other Mettal or Mineral: it is of a Species entirely peculiar, and we may justly wonder that the Partisans of Acid and Alkali should rank him amongst the latter, because Acids alone can fix it. The Wheels of a Watch may as well be call'd Alkalies, and the Grains of Dust which stop their Motion Acids. Mercury is a real, liquid, and unalterable Mettal, it may indeed receive some disguise from Fire, or some of the most active Salts, but neither the Fire, nor Salts, can alter its Substance, or destroy its Texture, its Principles eluding all their activity. How many crazy Heads have vainly spent their whole Lives and Estates to fix this *Protheus*?

We conceive Mercury as a heap of Globules, perfectly round, without being by any thing fasten'd or united to each other, and excessively small, insomuch that every one of them by it self has so little gravity, that the Air or Water can bear them up; Experience shows it to be so, since that Water, wherein Mercury has been boil'd, acquires its Virtue to 'such a Degree, as to cause a Salivation, if we wash our Heads with it; this is a fact that admits of ocular demonstration. Sense and Reason as well a Physick must convince one, that, although the boil'd Mercury seems not to have decreas'd in its Weight, yet some of its Globules must necessarily swim in the Water. *Tangere enim & tangi nisi Corpus res nulla potest.* To all these qualities of the Globules of Mercury, we may add that their Surface is round, extremely flexible, smooth and sleek; which being granted, it is very easy to explain all the various *Phanomena* which this Mineral produces. The exact Roundness and Smoothness of its Particles is manifestly the Cause of its excessive Mobility. There is no Plain of so exact and smooth a Surface, as to be free from little unevennesses and Eminences, such as will destroy the Equilibrium of these small and perfectly round Bodies; and this is the Reason of their being in a perpetual Motion among themselves. They unite and dis-unite with the greatest Facility, because they are not tyed one to another by any Bond: The Water which bears them up, as we said just now, their  
being



being driven up by a small Heat, and disappearing, their Facility to insinuate themselves into the hardest Bodies, all these sufficiently prove their extreme Smallness. But how shall we reconcile this Volatility with their Ponderousness, equal at least to that of Lead? We need but follow our Ideas, and we shall account for it. Natural Philosophers agree that the more compact and close the Parts of a Body are, the heavier that Body is with respect to other Bodies, whose constituent Parts are at greater distance one from another, and whose Interstices are only fill'd with Air. A Pound of Cotton would take no more room than one of Lead, if its Particles were as closely compacted as those of Lead. The Globules of Mercury, being round, small, smooth, and of a mettalline Nature, do unite one with another as closely as may be, and leave no Spaces betwixt them but what are extremely small; and this is the Reason of their Heaviness, when they are re-united together.

But again, how shall we comprehend how such small Bodies, of the Shape and Nature we have been describing these to be, can notwithstanding be so congeal'd and hardned, as to appear fix'd, and to have received the Hardness of Metal, such as the Alchymist gives them; insomuch that they themselves have been deceiv'd, and have made no doubt, but they could render that Hardness permanent and durable? Let the Reader but consider that it is impossible to divest those small Bodies of a foreign Sulphur, which they contract when they are under the form of the Cinabar, which is nothing else but common Sulphur, amalgamis'd with Mercury. Let him consider that Salt-peter, Salt of Tartar, &c. are all more or less loaded with Sulphureous Particles, as we have heretofore observ'd, and the Difficulty will soon disappear. These Sulphurs so easily mix on every side, being all of the same Nature, that they entangle the Globules of Mercury, and keep them asunder, and, as it were, inclos'd in the Spaces which happen betwixt the Particles of irregular Figures of which those Sulphurs consist: and as that Bond is only Superficial, without any ways adhering to the inward Substance of those Globules, it is easily broken by a slight



a slight Motion or Moderate Heat, and then the Mercury appears in its native Shape without the least Alteration.

All these Notions being suppos'd, let us seriously examine what Humane Blood is, upon which Mercury operates. It is a new being, a new Liquor extracted from our food. This new Compound therefore is nothing else but a Collection of the Salts of the Aliments, of the Salt with which they are season'd, (which is easily distinguish'd in the Analysis of the Blood, from the alimential Salts) of Sulphur, Water and Earth. It has been found that out of 12 Ounces of Blood, there are 11 of meer Water, in which are the Salts and Sulphurs that swim under the form of Filaments, the Globules which cause the Sensation of their red Colour, which is more or less lively, according as they are further from or nearer to one another; and lastly the Earth which serves, with the other Principles, to maintain an exact Harmony among them, and to keep within a just Temperature, and agreeable to the animal Oeconomy, those Savours of which *Hypocrates* speaks. I believe this simple Idea of the Blood is sufficient to explain the Mechanism, which is observ'd in the Operation of Mercury. It raises a Salivation, whether it be us'd by Uñction or taken inwardly; by both which ways, it infuses it self into the Mass of Blood; its Activity is encreased by the Circulation of the Blood, or by the internal or Fermentative Motion of the Parts of which it consists. It is a Maxim in Mechanicks, that heavy Bodies act not only in Proportion to their Bulk, but likewise of their Velocity. A Cannon-ball of 24 Pounds, shot with all the Impetuosity that Powder can give it, is equivalent to a Weight of several hundred Tuns, as its Effects sufficiently prove. The Globules of Mercury do roll in the Blood, and strive against it both by their Gravity, and by the Motion they receive from the Particles of the Blood it self, and by their vehemently shocking against them, they are incapable of assimilating themselves to them; so that at length they break and tear their Filaments, and reduce them into coarse Pieces, which swim in the Serum as well as the Salts; and these being, in part, disentangled from those

Filaments



Filaments, are dissolved in the Serum. It is a known Maxim, that they cannot act unless they are dissolved; wherefore they act with such Force, that they tear the Mouth, and ulcerate the Throat, and sometimes suffocate the Patient to Death; for 'tis not the *Venereal* Venom, as many affirm without believing it, and many really believe without endeavouring to persuade others of it; 'tis not I say the *Venereal* Poison, as such, that causes such Effects, since they would as well happen to Persons in Health, and free from any *Venereal* Disease: but why doth *Mercury* more precisely salivate, than cause any other Evacuation? The Question is easily resolv'd: For the Filaments of the Blood being but coarsely broken by the Mercury, do indeed indifferently offer to get out at any of the excretory Vessels of the Body; but the Diameters of the Vessels, such as those of Urine, Sweat, and Perspiration, are either too streight to receive such coarse Matter, or are not of a fit Configuration for the Particles of that Matter. The Salival Vessels alone have Diameters wide enough, and fit to receive it; seeing they are actually the largest of all the excretory Vessels in the whole Body: And that is the Reason why in the Small-Pox, in Malignant Fevers, in the Scurvy, &c. they often afford a Passage to a very thick Saliva, which comes forth naturally and without the help of Mercury. Thus then it is that Mercury dissolves the Blood, and thus it cures the *Venereal* Disease, viz. by exhausting the Mass of the *Venereal* Blood, according to the Observations of several eminent Moderns: This Mass in a middle-sized Man amounts to about 25 Pounds, and in a Salivation a Man spits for some Days, seven, eight, or nine pounds of Saliva, which is the very Substance of the Blood; sometimes a new Mass doth form it self by little and little, which makes an End of throwing out the *Venereal* Poison; but this happens but seldom. The Pustules begin to appear afresh some Months after, with all the other attendants, which nevertheless are easily cur'd by frequent Purges and sudorifick Dyet-drinks; which in my opinion are only fit for Persons in this Condition: sometimes after having disappear'd, they return again with evident



dent Tokens that the *Venereal* Principle is yet undestroy'd. This is the first Inconvenience that attends Mercury, *viz.* that it is not an absolute and infallible Remedy. The second Inconvenience is, the Difficulty of measuring out a just and proper Dose for every Patient in Unction; for a Mistake in this is often attended with very fatal Consequences. The third Inconvenience is, that the gentlest Salivation ought always to be look'd upon as a very cruel Remedy, especially because it wants actually the three chief Characters which a good Medicine ought to have; which, according to *Hippocrates*, ought to cure quickly, surely, and pleasantly. The fourth Inconvenience that attends Mercury, is the sad Impression it sometimes leaves on the Members after its Operation. Having consider'd the Misery of those Patients, who, to get cur'd of a Disease, grievous enough it must be own'd, expose themselves to so many grievous Sufferings, liable to such fatal Consequences, without any sure, undoubted Grounds to hope for a perfect Cure without Relapse, or that they shall suffer but a moderate Punishment, nay even without any probable Hope that they shall escape Death, under the Operation of this Remedy; I have apply'd my self to the Search of a Medicine which might not be liable to so many Accidents. I conceiv'd, that the Way of Salivating, which is so violent, was not the Way which Nature had appointed to discharge those Impurities with which it is overwhelm'd; it has appear'd to me more reasonable to destroy that unnatural Leaven, by driving it out by the natural Ways of Evacuation, which alone suffice to precipitate the vitiated Leaven of other Diseases, tho' as dangerous, and attended with as dreadful Symptoms as those of the Pox. Prepossess'd with this Notion, which follows the Order of Nature, I thought, that a Medicine that was very dissolving, very active and penetrating, which gently works by Stool, Sweat and Urine, might justly supply the Place of Mercury; and I hope I have at length attain'd it. A Man cannot, without shutting his Eyes to the Light, and giving the Lie to the first Physicians in the Kingdom, who have been ocular Witnesses of it, deny but that this Medicine carries off, in a few Days, the



most dreadful Symptoms of the Pox. The most intelligent Masters of the Faculty, who tho' incredulous at first, and full of their ancient Prejudice, oppos'd with Might and Main, both my Remedy, which they were ignorant of, and my Method of Curing, have at length been forced to yield to ocular Demonstration, and have since honour'd me with their Friendship and Esteem, and retracted the rash Judgment they had pass'd against me; neither have they granted me those Favours, which they before deny'd me, till they have had a full Conviction and Satisfaction in the matter; but have waited a long while to see whether the so quick Effects of this new Remedy would prove lasting, or whether they were not rather palliative Cures, which would only deceive the Patient with a short-liv'd Joy: But after Months and Years were elaps'd, they have seen the Patients entirely recover'd, and not only continue in good Plight, but in a better State of Health than ever they enjoy'd. And thus much I dare affirm, that those who have trusted themselves into my Hands, have reason to be satisfy'd with me. This I can answer for, that my Remedy is in all Respects preferable to Salivation, and that it takes away the most dreadful Symptoms in a much shorter time; and this it does by carrying off the Distemper by the most natural Ways, *i. e.* Stools, Sweat and Urine, as we said before; and consequently never causes any racking Pain, seeing it works insensibly, and without so much as disordering the Patient, or taking him off from his usual Business: It neither tears the Mouth, nor ulcerates the Throat, and salival Vessels, even to the spitting of Blood, and voiding it by Stool, as we have seen it happen by Salivations; it doth not loosen the Teeth, nor break the Bridge of the Nose; it doth not lame the Patient; it doth not oblige a Man to make his Will; in a word, it kills no body. If all these Advantages don't give the Preference to my Medicine, I shall think those Physicians very unhappy, who spend their Lives and Health in Search of Means to restore that of Mankind, if they for whom they take such Pains must reject whatsoever is found useful for the Preservation of their Lives, to the very last Moments of it. I am naturally sincere and ingenuous;  
I don't



I don't pretend that my Remedy is either the *Eis Veneris* of *Paracelsus*, the *Stone* of *Butler*, or the *Alcaest* of *Van Helmont*; I only say, that it is very active, dissolving, and one of the most penetrating, and consequently the properest to break the Texture of the Blood, to take away the Obstructions of the *Viscera*, and to carry off all heterogeneous Matters, and consequently to purify the whole Mass of Blood. Could I, without being confirm'd by infallible Experience, advance here, that my Remedy will cure some Degrees of the Pox which Mercury cannot? *John Curpi*, Inventor of the Use of Mercury, did at his Death communicate his Discovery to the World; I hope in a short time, and without staying till that last Moment, to communicate mine likewise. I have as yet discover'd it to no one, except to the famous *M. de Chirac*, who has been an Eye-witness of several Cures I have perform'd with it, as we shall more fully shew by and by.

The Importance of the Subject has oblig'd me to dwell the longer upon Mercury, it being alone sufficient to shew the vast Difference there is between the Vertues of Metals and Minerals, and that of Vegetables in chronical Distemper; the former are still preferable on two Accounts: They dissolve the too thick Liquids, and carry off the Principle of the Disease either by precipitating it by Stool or Urine, or by driving it out by Sweat and insensible Perspiration. The Dissolvents which are drawn from Vegetables, such as *Gum-Ammoniacum*, commonly never purge. The purgative and sudorifick ones, &c. receive some Alteration in the Stomach by the digestive Ferment, which divests them of their purgative Quality. And, lastly, those that dissolve and purge at once, such as *Colocynth*, *Scammony*, *Gum-Gutta*, *Euphorbium*, *Elaterium*, &c. greatly torment and gripe the Patient in their Operation; but the Manner in which the Mineral ones, Antimony, for instance, do operate, is vastly different; its *Stimuli* being entangled in the sulphureous Salts of Tartar or Salt-petre, which quickly dissolve in the Stomach, do irritate the Membranes of it, or to speak more justly, cause Convulsions in the Muscles of the Ventricle; for, according to the Discovery of the illustrious *M. de Chirac*, in Vomiting,



the Stomach is entirely quiet and passive: The Muscles alone act, and with great Violence press the Stomach and Bowels. This great Physician made the Experiment of it upon a Dog, that had swallow'd some corrosive Sublimate. He ript his Belly open, and with his Hand grip'd the Dog's Stomach, which had no Action at all whilst the Dog did strain to vomit; but he found it extraordinarily press'd, as well as his Hand that held it, by the Muscles of the Ventricle. The great Anatomist, *M. du Verney*, having try'd the same Experiment, did own the Truth of this Discovery. When the *Stimuli* of the Antimony cannot disentangle themselves from the Tartar or Salt-petre in the Stomach, whether by reason of some particular Disposition of that Part, or because they are too fix'd by the Salts, they pass into the Bowels, where they are loosen'd by the Choler, the pancreatick Juices, or by the Chyle, which is here become more subtle and penetrating, by the Precipitation of the grosser Matter: They begin then to stimulate the inward Membrane of the Bowels, their vermicular Motion increases, and throws off those coarser Matters that were in them. When those *Stimuli* are very well fix'd, by a great Quantity of Tartar or Salt-petre, as in the *Antimonium Diaphoreticum*, they slide along with the Chyle into the Blood, and mix themselves with all manner of Humours, by which they are dissolv'd, and let loose, and thrown upon all the Membranes of the Vessels, where they excite some gentle Irritations, whether because the Salts, which curb their Activity, are not yet entirely separated from them, nor totally melted, or because those sharp Points were but few in Quantity, or very much blunted by the violent Action of the chymical Fire: As it happens in the *Lilium Paracelsi*. The Tonick Motion of the Membranes being thus increas'd, they, by their elastick Power, drive the Blood with greater Force, the Pulse becomes more vigorous, and all the animal Functions are reviv'd. The Nerves which are in or about the Glands being more strongly contracted, press them the more in Proportion to the Liquor which they send into the secretory and excretory Vessels, after they have filtrated it, and with the same Swiftneſs as the Arteries which join



to those Glands, bring the Blood into them. The Secretion by Urine, Sweat, and insensible Perspiration, is considerably increas'd, and the Blood thereby purg'd from its Foulness. On the other hand, the Sulphurs of the Antimony dissolve the Liquids, blunt their Acidity, or sheath it in such manner, that they can no longer hurt in their Passage by Perspiration or Urine. Experience confirms our Reason in this Matter. *Horstius* has observ'd, *Lib. 7. Obs. 27.* that those Diseases which are caus'd by Exhalations from Metals and Minerals, cannot be cur'd but by metalline and mineral Remedies. The Asthma, which is caus'd by the Fumes of Metals, but especially those of Mercury, will not be overcome by any ordinary Medicines, but requires mineral or metalline ones, such as *Mercurius Dulcis*, *Turbith Mineral*, *Cinabar Antimonii*, *Bezoarticum Solare*, join'd to some Purgatives. Lastly, Mineral Waters, which sometimes are the only and the last Resort in chronical Diseases, are here likewise our last but decisive Refuge, and prove that Metals and Minerals afford the greatest Remedies in the most desperate Diseases. Some of them are Ferruginous and Vitriolick, their volatile Sulphur insinuates it self with great Rapidity into the Liquors, dissolves them, and removes all the Obstructions and Obstacles which are occasion'd by their Viscosity: Their harsh Taste fortifies the solid Parts by contracting their Fibres, and exciting their elastick Force, which was languishing and obstructed by a too inspissated Liquid. It likewise contracts the Fibres of the Blood, and precipitates whatsoever might alter its Texture. Others have a lixivious Salt, mix'd with a certain Quantity of Sulphur: Others have a nitrous Salt, join'd likewise with a Sulphur, from which an Urinous Spirit, or a volatile Alkali, is form'd: Some are meerly vitrioline, with a small Quantity of Earth: Others are alluminous, and this Salt may be form'd into a Chrystal, like that of Allom: Others are very hot, and full of a very subtil Sulphur, because they cool very quickly; and this Sulphur is full of one of the most volatile Salts: Now the Experience of all Ages shews that all mineral and metalline Waters are generally the last Refuge in all grievous Distempers. 'Tis now high time  
to



to conclude this Disfertation, by anticipating some Objections which might be rais'd against me.

And, First, It may be objected here, that Remedies extracted from Metals and Minerals are sharp, caustick, and real Poisons; but have not some Vegetables the like Defect? Are Tin, Iron, Lead, &c. hurtful? As for the Notion of Antimony and Mercury being Poisons, it has lasted till the Middle of the last Century; *Van Helmont* himself was not exempt from this Prejudice: *Antimonium*, says he, *quamdiu vomitum aut sedes movet, & Mercurius revivificari potest, Venena sunt, nec viri boni Remedia*. The Parliament of *Paris* condemn'd Antimony as a Poison. The Experiment which *Lewis XIV.* made of it upon himself began to undeceive the World; it cur'd him contrary to all Appearance: And the emetick Sort began to be publickly used. It did not indeed succeed upon Cardinal *Mazarine*, and so fell into Contempt for a while; but the dreadful Notion People had conceiv'd of it, lessen'd by little and little, and it has gain'd the Character of the best of Medicines, especially against acute Diseases, when order'd by an able Physician who knows the Nature of it. Let but the Chymist be expert and well skill'd in the Preparation of this and all others, and let the Physician be discreet, and wait for the seasonable Opportunity of applying them, and these pretended Poisons will turn into the best and most excellent Remedies; than which the Wit and Industry of Man has never hitherto been able to find better: For the Truth of this I appeal to the practical Physicians. If Mercury is of it self a Poison, why doth it, when crude and without any Preparation, destroy the Venereal Venom so much more efficaciously than when it is prepar'd, *i. e.* mix'd with Salts? How comes it, that we may put half a Pound of crude Antimony into a Diet-Drink without the least Danger? Is there a more terrible Poison than *Corrosive Sublimate*? And yet the Chymists have so far sweeten'd it, that it becomes one of the gentlest, and most useful, of all Medicines. Are not the Spirits of Vitriol and Salt-petre divested of all their corrosive and caustick Acrimony by *Rectification*? The natural Cinabar looses its Arsenick by *Sublimations*, *Cottions*, and *Lotions*. How many grievous  
and



and desperate Diseases have been cur'd by these corrected Remedies? The Vertigo, Epilepsy, Pleurisy, hyfterick and hypocondriack Suffocations, Cholick, the Flying Gout, Rheumatism, the Great-Pox, the most obstinate Itch, Tetters, Small-Pox, and the like. Those Physicians who dread the Use of these Medicines, are either very ignorant, or very careless; for it requires Labour and Study to be well acquainted with them. If they do not always succeed, (as there is no Remedy infallible) let it but be narrowly look'd into, and it will be found, either that they were not well prepar'd, or that they were unseasonably apply'd and ill tim'd; and then 'tis the Fault either of the Artist or the Physician, and not of the Medicines. If a due Regard was had in the Administration of them, to all the Circumstances of Age, Sex, Strength, Climate, Food, Habit of Body, the Character and various Degrees of a Disease, the Remedy would succeed better, and not be made a Cloak to cover the want of Judgment and Ability either in the Physician or the Artist.

The *Germans*, *Hollanders*, and all the Northern Inhabitants, esteem some metalline Tinctures as precious Remedies, such as the *Lilium Paracelsi*, and even Lime-Water, which is given inwardly with Milk in *Holland* against the Phtyick, and with good Success; but in *France*, where the Air is sharper, and the Bodies more tender, such Remedies are not so successful, by reason of their too great Acrimony. Those of both Sexes which could find no Relief from the Waters of *Bourbon* and *Vichy*, have been cur'd by the Water out out of the *Smith's* Forge: Metals and Minerals afford us all sorts of Remedies, and it is the Physicians Business to apply them at Need. But it may be farther objected, that a Dissolvent ought to be homogeneous, or of the same Nature with what we design to dissolve. Water is the Dissolvent of Salts, Vegetables are more aqueous than Metals and Minerals, they will consequently be more proper to dissolve Coagulations than these two last, because those Coagulations are caus'd by too fixed Salts; but it doth not always hold true, that they are produc'd by Salts. The Gelly of Broth, which continues  
liquid



liquid as long as it is warm, grows thick as it grows cold, and its Particles cease to be agitated by the swelling Heat.

The Particles of sulphureous, resinous, gummy, oily, and fat Liquids, extracted from the Animals and Vegetables we feed upon, do congeal when the Heat or Motion which did cause their Agitation is ceas'd. Now it would be very ridiculous to pretend to dissolve such sulphureous, resinous Substances by an aqueous Dissolvent. Among all the Salts, there is but one which is an acid fixed vitrioline Salt, that can cause any Coagulation. This Salt is the Principle of the *Hypocondria*, *Yellow-Jaundice*, and the like. Now we must take great Care not to dissolve this Salt, for it would cause very great Disorders whenever it came to infuse it self into the Liquids: It must be sweeten'd, and absorb'd in some Metallick, such as Iron, and then carry'd off by Purgatives. I own, that our chymical Medicines often require an aqueous Vehicle, which may facilitate their Access into the coagulated Liquids: The rapid Motion of the Particles of these Remedies being mix'd with the Liquids, separates and disperses their tenacious and viscous Particles, and gives them some Share of their Activity. However, we don't pretend to strike out of the *Materia Medica* all the Remedies that are not either metallick or mineral, there are some Cases in which Vegetables are to be preferr'd; we only affirm, that Metals and Minerals are the only Remedies capable to carry off long, obstinate, and desperate Distempers.

It will perhaps be farther objected, that some Cases require refreshing and moistning Remedies. I grant it; but I would likewise observe, that an expert Chymist knows how to extract some acid Liquors from Minerals and Metals calcin'd, and expos'd for some time to the Air, and afterwards distill'd by a gentle Heat: Which Liquors are very moistning and refreshing. By this means some are extracted from Iron, some from Copper, Tin, Antimony, Vitriol, &c. That which is drawn from Vitriol has scarce any Taste, and is of great Efficacy in Vomitings, and Inflammations of the Reins, Bladder, and other Parts; and in Apostumations of the Womb, Liver and Spleen.

But,



But, after all, what Diseases may not be cur'd without the Help of Humectants, and what Drought will not be allay'd by moistning Aliments, Water, Barley, Sweet Almonds, Lettice, Purslane, Prunes, Currants, &c? And if these fail, those which are from any other kind of Vegetables will prove ineffectual. Neither are moistning Remedies alone sufficient to recover the too dry'd Entrails, but the dry'd Membranes will acquire new Vigour by proper metalline Medicines, which increase their Motion, and gently contract their Fibres, which will therefore more closely embrace the Aliments, which insensibly moisten and refresh them.

If it be farther urg'd, that the Substance of the Body is soft and moist, and the Liquids of a Sweetness like that of Milk, and that Metals and Minerals, on the contrary, are corrosive, and capable of causing great Disorders in the Body; we answer, that our Design is not here to cry down, or to forbid absolutely the Use of Vegetables; we pretend only to affirm, that the use of Metals and Minerals is more efficacious, because they more powerfully excite the too relax'd Fibres of the Membranes, and restore them to their Tonick Motion, which we can hardly expect from the other sort of Medicines. *Paracelsus* has taught us, that old malignant Ulcers, which no vegetable Remedy could cure, have easily yielded to Minerals. What surer Remedy can be apply'd in the *Hypocondria*, inveterate Melancholy, the Spleen, Old Jaundice, and the like, than Iron? Vertigoes tho' never so obstinate, Epilepsy, and continual Head-Achs, against which all Medicines drawn from Vegetables prove ineffectual, are nevertheless remov'd by those which are drawn from Cinabar. The Use of well prepar'd antimonial Medicines cures the most inward and deepest Abscesses, and hidden Fistulas; where Vegetables are ineffectual. If we seriously consider all these things, we may justly expect very great Helps from well prepar'd mineral and metalline Remedies, without any manner of Danger: An expert Artift knows how to divest them of their Corrosiveness, and make them safe and harmless.

Another Difficulty may be rais'd, viz. that since the greatest Fire can scarce melt some Metals and Minerals, much



less will the moderate Heat of the Stomach and Bowels be able to do it. Let us but consider, that there are several Matters, which will contract themselves, and grow harder with a strong Fire, which will dissolve with a moderate Heat. Salts of different Kinds, expos'd to a great Fire, will hook one in another, and strongly reunite and sustain the most impetuous Force of Fire; whereas, if you but mix with them the Quadruple of Ashes, or any other Body that is somewhat hard, they will dissolve with a slow and gentle Fire. The same thing happens to Metals. Salts, Iron, Copper, Mercury, Antimony, &c. will by a gentle Decoction quickly yield their Tinctures in common Water; and why may not the same thing happen in human Bodies, and even much quicker, seeing they are not taken till they have been very much open'd by the Chymist's Labour? We easily grant, that Metals have a Virtue altogether fixed; and that's the Reason why they are so fit to become excellent Dissolvents: Their Nature can't receive any Alteration in our Bodies, and it is a great Misfortune when it doth, for such a Change ought only to happen to our Food. From thence arises another Objection, *viz.* that it is not therefore safe to use such powerful Dissolvents, when we are apprehensive of a too great Colliquation, whether from the Dissolvent, or from the Nature of the Disease. Without amusing our selves any longer with such Subtilties; we own it true, that such kind of Colliquations happen in Sciatick, Phtysick, and other consumptive Cases. We may likewise affirm from Experience, that such Kinds of Distempers are sometimes cur'd by the Phlegm of Vitriol, and by a long Use of well prepar'd Antimonials, which will likewise cure the Ulcers of a Fistula. Every body knows the *Antihusticum* of Potier, which is of so singular Use in the *Hectisis* and *Phtisis*, and is only a Compound of Tin and Antimony. There is nothing more powerful than the *Terra dulcis Vitrioli*, after its Salt is taken away, to cure Ulcers, Wounds, and Hemorrhoids; and if given inwardly, it will cure Feavers, and assuage the Pain of the Gout, cure the Dropsy, Phtysick, Ulcers in the Bowels, and the unnatural Running of any kind of Humour. The *Ros Vitrioli* assuages the most violent

Pains



Pains in the Head, if taken for some Days; it likewise alluages the burning Heat of the Blood, and fortifies the Brain and Entrails. Has any thing hitherto been found out more efficacious than Allom for Wounds, and Hæmorrhages inward or outward? Can any Remedy more quickly, more safely and pleasantly, quench the burning Heat of a Feaver, dissolve a troublesome Phlegm, and stop the Violence of inflam'd Choler, than acid Spirits, otherwise call'd metallick Vinegars? In a word, the Head-Ach will be cur'd by the Tincture of Silver, Obstructions are remov'd by Iron and Mercury, hysterick Passions by Salt of Tin, Inflammations by Salt of Lead, all unnatural Heats by the Spirits of Vitriol, of Salt and Sulphur: In short, if we consider things thoroughly, we shall find as many Remedies against chronick Distempers, as there are Metals and Minerals, and with this difference, that Vegetables may indeed be of Service in the first, but that there is hardly any other Help against the last.

Never did *Hippocrates* contribute more to the Advancement of Physick, and the Instruction of Physicians, than when he gave us a History of the Diseases he had under his Care, and has inform'd us of the good or bad Success of his Prescriptions. He writes those Histories with such Plainness and honest Simplicity, as, in the Opinion of the wisest Men, turns as much to his Honour, as his great Knowledge and bright Parts have commanded their Esteem. This, indeed, is sacrificing one's Vanity to the publick Good, a Deed which Men of a lower Genius are incapable of; none but those whom Nature has design'd to become really great, can attain to that Heighth of Generosity. What Man can pretend to so vast and extensive Knowledge as this Father of Physick? No Man's Arrogance as yet has gone so far. Above two thousand Years are elaps'd, during which this Prince of Physicians has enjoy'd this Glory without a Rival; the brightest Men of all the succeeding Ages having only aspir'd to the Honour of being his Disciples, without any Hope of ever coming up to him. This so universal Esteem is a convincing Proof that it is founded upon such an Ability as no Man has, since him, been able to acquire. But why should



such a Man as I pretend to speak of such deep Knowledge, to which the whole World has submitted? I should think my self very happy if I could but be Master of the smallest Portion of it. When, therefore, I imitate *Hippocrates* in writing, as he did, the History of my Patients, I set aside his Knowledge, and only pretend to his Sincerity and Honesty; 'tis this alone I value my self upon. I quote so many ocular Witnesses of what I affirm, who could so easily contradict me, that I flatter my self, my very Enemies will hardly think that I would deceive the World, and gain their Esteem and Confidence, by a pack of Forgeries, and romantick Accounts of Diseases and Cures that were never perform'd. But let my Enemies say and think what they please; the Testimony which my Conscience, and so many Persons of Honour, some of them the most dignify'd of the Faculty, bear me, will make me rest satisfy'd both as to the Truth of the Facts, and the Faithfulness with which I relate them. The greatest Truths, and such as are now acknowledg'd by all the learned World, have suffer'd very much in the Authors of their Discovery; some have been dragg'd into the Inquisition; others have rotted in stinking Prisons; others have hardly escap'd being torn in pieces by the Populace; who do not care to be undeceiv'd, or to be told that there are Ways and Methods which they knew not; they think it impossible they should have been in an Error for some Thousands of Years, or that any Man should at last have thought better in Physick than *Aristotle* did. This is what happen'd to the great *Des Cartes*, whose Philosophy, as we observ'd before, met with great Opposition; till at length, the World was forc'd to relent, and their Pride being fallen down at the Feet of this great Man, they have own'd that they had been in an Error till he undeceiv'd them. I am very far from thinking that I have done in Physick what that great Person has done in Natural Philosophy. My whole Merit, if I may so call it, is, that I have taken Pity of Mankind, expos'd to the Fury of Mercury, and have try'd all Means to find out a Way of curing the most grievous of all Diseases, without running the Patient into Dangers, or exposing him



to the Terror of a Remedy which is more cruel than the very Disease. I have been very cautious and fearful during the first Years, whilst under the Uncertainty of the Event, but it has continued for five or six Years so successful, that I may, without Temerity, flatter my self that my Endeavours have been crown'd with Success; in which my Conscience bears me witness that I have always aim'd at the publick Good more than my own Profit; and this the World will one Day be convinc'd of, when I shall make it a Present both of my Remedy and Method. How great will be my Happiness, to leave behind me a safe Way to deliver Mankind from an Evil which assaults him in the very Womb, and to do it without Danger? Let us now begin the Thread of our History, and describe the Disease, without discovering the Patients, or even mentioning any Circumstances which might render them suspected.

In the Month of *April*, 1716. *M. de Chirac* was consulted by a Lord who had undergone two Salivations, and for forty Days had taken a prodigious Quantity of Diet-Drinks, so much cry'd up by several Persons; which did not hinder his Throat being eaten up with dreadful Ulcers, nor the *Condilomes* in the *Anus*, nor the *Pustules* in his Arms, Legs, and Thighs, which join'd to a cruel *Insomny*, had almost thrown the Patient into Despair. *M. de Chirac* advis'd him to undergo a third Salivation, but what Likelihood was there he should consent to it? Being desir'd by him to tell what he thought of my Remedy, his Answer was, that he thought it a good Palliative, but incapable of eradicating the Disease. The next Day I had a Conference with *M. de Chirac*: I made no Difficulty of acquainting him with the Composition, upon which he alter'd his Mind, and agreed with me that it might cure, but that Experience would soon decide it. I undertook the Gentleman, whose Physician was *M. Fournelle*, Doctor Regent to the Faculty of *Paris*, and my Patient was so thoroughly cur'd in Five and twenty Days, in the Sight of those two Gentlemen, that he continues still in perfect Health.

The Mistress of this Lord, who was become blind, and cover'd with a kind of Leprosy from Head to Foot, was  
cur'd



cur'd in less than a Month, and the most terrible Symptoms disappear'd in eight Days.

The same Year another Lord, who had run from Faculty to Faculty, being tormented with a Venereal Hypochondria, which had joined it self to the other Venereal Symptoms, came out of my hands perfectly cur'd in a Month's time.

The same Year 1716, a very considerable Person apply'd himself to me, he told me he had been Salivated twice under the Conduct of the greatest Surgeon in the Kingdom, that since then he had lost his Sight. A Tetter spread it self from his upper Lip to the *Sutura Coronalis*. I must own ingenuously, that I had but small Hopes of curing him, but I was surpriz'd to find that my Remedy in eight Days time, quite took away his Blindness and Tetter. He has continued very well ever since. *M. Bassat*, first Physician to his Highness the late Duke of Berry, was Witness to this Cure.

In the Year 1717, a Musketeer own'd to me, that he had had two Bubo's above eight Years, which being ill cur'd had caus'd several Shankers, and a *Phimosis*, which I was oblig'd to cut. At his desire I lay'd him down in a Salivation, which did not appear till he had been anointed seven Times, proceeded by all necessary Preparations. His Case became so terrible that the Physicians I call'd to him, which were *Messieurs Chirac, Fourneau*, and *Bassat*, were amaz'd at it: He continued seventeen Days in this dreadful Condition, which can hardly be imagin'd so bad as it really was. At last I resolv'd to make him take, though with great Difficulty, some Grains of my Salt dissolv'd in a proper Vehicle, and in half an Hour after, he fell into a violent Sweat, and Looseness, but all these frightful Symptoms disappear'd, as if it had been by Enchantment, and only a gentle Salivation remain'd. The Cure was happily perfected, and some Officers whom I dare not name, were Witnesses of this, as well as of the ingratitude of the Patient's Relations.

This Year Dr. *Fourneau* saw a Child not above 9 Years of age, *Malitia praevenit aetatem*, that had a Clap, Shankers, Gleet, and a Chrystaline, whom I throughly cur'd in a Months time, of which Cure the said Doctor was an Eye witness.

The



The same Year a Woman, who was troubl'd with Shankers, Pustules, Exostoses, &c. Consulted *Messieurs Fournéan* and *Bassat* before quoted: They judg'd her incurable; and yet in 50 days time I so thoroughly cur'd her, that she owns to this day she never was better in her Life; and this without any Avocation from her usual Business.

In 1718, a Soldier, the Bridge of whose Nose was rotted, full of Ulcers, &c. was cur'd in two Months, without being hindred from performing his Duty as usual. Several Lords who knew him had the Curiosity to see him.

The same Year a charitable Curate of a very large Parish in *Paris*, recommended to the Officers of Health belonging to the Alms-Houses, a poor young Woman, whom they judg'd incurable, and so sent her back again. This good Pastor sent for me, and in ten Days time, I put her in a Condition to go about her usual Business, and afterwards she was perfectly cur'd.

In 1719, a poor Coachman was come out of the Hands of some of the Hospital Surgeons, where he had undergone a Salivation, lost an Eye, had several Holes in the Urethra, so that his water run from him insensibly; he had Shankers, and a very stubborn Infomny, and was grown so lean, that he was really frightful; this was all he got by Salivation. Him I restor'd to such a perfect Health, that he now serves the Count *De Brancas* as Coachman.

In 1720, a Woman of about forty Years of Age came to me, whom I judg'd to be in a Consumption, and incurable. The next Day I saw her with *M. De Chirac* and *Fournéan*, who pronounced her Case to be Venereal; but though I could not presently give into their Opinion, I was nevertheless soon convinced both of my Errour, and of the great Penetration of that great Physician. The Woman, ashamed to be so discovered, own'd that about Twenty one or Twenty two Years ago, she had a Clap, and a Shanker, which however she pretended to have been cur'd of. She had not us'd my Remedy above one Month, before she was cur'd of her pretended Phtisick, and convinced of her mistake; This made me to  
look



look upon *M. De Chirac* to be one of the greatest Physicians of this Age. She had gone three Years with her Back bent, and her Legs could hardly bear her weight: I gave her my Remedy, twelve Hours after which she brought up above three-score Worms, and some time after she began to walk upright and freely. *M. De Chirac* would be an Eye witness of so singular an effect. I sent the Woman afterwards into the Country to drink new Milk.

In 1721, In the Month of *April*, there was an Officer of the King's Household, of above fifty Years of Age, who had been troubled with the Pox above twenty Years, and had contented himself with assuaging his Pain with Palliatives, which had made the Disease more inveterate and stubborn; He was become a mere Skeleton, and sometimes would fall backward through Excess of Pain, when he only set his Foot on the Ground: *M. Bassat* was his Physician: I refus'd a great while to undertake him, but was at last overcome by his Persuasions, I gave him my Remedy, and twelve Hours after, he was taken with such a Deafness, as extremely surpriz'd us. I sought for help from the very Remedy, which had caus'd such an unexpected Symptom: I gave him a treble doze, and twelve Hours after his taking it, such corrosive suppurated Matter came out of both his Ears, and in such a plentiful manner, that it gnawed the very Skin. He recovered his hearing instantly; eight Days after, all the Symtoms vanish'd, and the Cure was soon after perfected. The famous *M. Dodard*, whose very name sounds his Praise, first Physician to the King, saw the Gentleman, questioned him, and at length agreed that he was cur'd.

A Lady that had been ill above twenty Years, was directed to me by *M. Boudin*, Counsellor of State, and Physician in ordinary to the King, and first Physician to the Queen, in the Month of *August* the last Year. She complained of violent Pains in her Knees, Legs, and Feet, her Legs were excessively lean; in Winter she could not sleep unless she had them wrapt in Cloaths, that had been dipt in the coldest Water; and in Summer the warmest Furs could not keep them  
warm



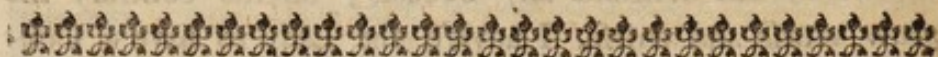
warm. I own that I attributed all these whimsical Symptoms to an hysterick Passion. I made use of several Medicines recommended in such Cases by the most famous Practitioners, but without any Success; on the contrary she grew worse and worse, I advis'd the Lady to have a Consultation and to my great Satisfaction she nam'd *M. De Chirac*, whom she said she was acquainted with. This great Man, having had an account of every thing, told me that I had been grossly mistaken, as many other Physicians had been through whose Hands the Lady had pass'd, and that her distemper was the Pox. I was struck with Amazement at such a Judgment, not knowing his Reasons for passing it. But he made me sensible of it, and I no longer doubted either of the Nature of the Disease, or the superior knowledge of that great Physician, I had already too many Proofs of it. The Lady no less surpriz'd than I, own'd she had had a Clap about twenty Years ago, and a Shanker, both which, she said, had been cur'd. This Confession silenc'd me from opposing any longer *M. De Chirac's* Opinion, and I was fully convinc'd of it by the speedy Cure of the Lady; for she us'd my Remedy but one Month, and she is entirely free from even the least degree of Pain.

About the same Time *M. Boudin*, Physician in Ordinary to the King, was consulted about a Girl of seven Years of Age, who had a virulent Running, almost as violent as any Woman could have at Twenty; she had likewise Shankers. *M. Boudin* was pleas'd to call me; upon Examination we found that her Father had the Pox when she was begotten. I judg'd her incurable; *M. Boudin* was not of my Mind; I gave her my Remedy, and she is to all appearance perfectly Cur'd: Time will show it.

These Instances shall suffice; not but I could produce many more, but if this Number doth not convince the Publick of the Usefulness and Efficacy of my Remedy and Method, a much greater would not do it; they will be satisfactory to those who are capable of judging without Prejudice or Passion; as for those who suffer themselves to be



carry'd away by Envy, Partiality, and Animosity, they would resist even the Evidence of Miracles\*



## Q U E S T I O N.

*Whether there be safer Ways of curing the Venereal Disease than that of Salivation?*

**T**HIS dreadful Disease, which is at once the Fruit and Punishment of rash and promiscuous Lewdness, seems to consist essentially in a fix'd vitrioline Acid; which displays it self sooner or later, according to the Age, Sex, Seasons, and the Diversity of Diet observ'd by the Patients. This vitiated Ferment, which infects the Humours, corrupts them very quickly in some, and in others very slowly. This Leaven corrupts both the Liquids and Solids, and *Protheus* like, deceives the most Clear-sighted and Cautious. Sometimes it appears like a Leprosy, sometimes like a Scurvy, and the Physician can hardly help being mistaken, without the Confession of the Patient; for this kind of Disease receives its Origine only from the Commerce of both Sexes together, whereas the Leprosy and Scurvy are sometimes caus'd only by an irregular Diet, which vitiates the Humours in the first Digestion. Let a discreet Physician spare as much as possible the Modesty of the Patient, let him diligently compare the Pathognomonicks together, and how every one of them began to be felt by the Patient; for he must be well acquainted

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\* *Possem & innumeratas alias referre Historias: Sed iis qui Oculis rectis res intuentur, quas in medio adduximus satis esse poterunt: Ii vero qui Oculis pradii sunt perversissimis, non modo his contenti non erunt, sed neque eas videre aut audire apertis atque integris & Oculis & Auribus poterunt.* Marc. Cornacchin, Met. in Pulv. Aegrot. 24.



with the Difference of those Symptoms. Authors differ about the Original of this Disease. Some, as *Fracastorius* and *Leoniceus*, will have it to have been epidemical from its first Beginning, and that it had one common Cause, and that tho' many were indeed infected with it by Contact, yet many more were so without it; because all Parts of *Europe* were infected with it almost at the same time. Others believe it to be a contagious Distemper, which has lasted above one hundred and fifty Years, without being therefore epidemick, but sporadick. Many will have it to have been brought from *America*, where it is epidemick, whether from the Badness of their Waters, of their Air, or of their Food; and that the *Spaniards* did give it to the *French* at the Siege of *Naples* in the Year 1493 or 1494. Dr *Sydenham* affirms, that it came into *Europe* from the burning Climates of *Africa*. Some, lastly, and these perhaps think most justly, affirm, that this Scourge was produc'd from the Commerce of several Men with the same Woman; that several illustrious Persons, Kings, and Emperors, &c. have heretofore been afflicted with it. That the spirituous Spermas of different Men, being display'd by the Heat of both Sexes, fall into such violent Ferment, that they loose their Texture; and being thus mix'd together, turn into a kind of Poison of a particular Nature: So that if several young Men in perfect Health should have to do with the same young Woman, tho' as sound and healthy as they, yet they would after a while find themselves infected with this Disease. This Conjecture seems more plausible than any thing that has hitherto been advanc'd concerning the Original of this Disease. A violent cholerick Passion so alters the Texture of the Blood, that it becomes one of the most incurable Poisons; and History tells us of Men who having been bitten by a Man in the Transport of Anger, have become furious, and died raving mad; and why may not the Sperm contract, by a vitiated Ferment, the Character of a Poison of a peculiar Species? The Effects it causes do sufficiently shew that it consists of a fixed Acid, nearly resembling that of Vitriol.



II. All the Liquors which are carried through the Body by Circulation, are more or less infected with this vitriolick Venom, according to the Strength or Weakness of the Persons Temper; It destroys the natural Texture, and introduces into it a Thickness, and corrosive Acrimony, which communicates it self insensibly into the solid, the glandulous, carnosè and nervous Parts; nay the very Bones are at length corroded by it: In a word, it shews it self by so many different Symptoms, and such cruel ones, that the very Soul partakes of it, and feels Variety of Pains. The only Principle of so many Evils is a small Quantity of Poison, which infects only as a poison'd Breath; for what Quantity of Poison can a Viper communicate by biting? What doth a scabby Person communicate, or one that has the Small-Pox? Nevertheless that little Leaven doth so swell the whole Mass of Blood, that it would be sufficient to infect all Mankind; just as Light, which communicates it self without any Diminution. The Character of this Poison is such, that it turns into its own Nature all the Humours of the Body, insomuch that both the Blood and Humours become, in their turn, a Poison equal to the first. If we seriously attend to the Symptoms of this cruel Disease, they will answer the Idea of a fix'd corrosive and predominant Acid. This Venom doth immediately insinuate it self into the Genitals, which are swell'd by the Heat of the Passion excited by an impetuous Orgasms of the Humours; which being once ceas'd, the Vessels which were swell'd during the Time of Action, fall and contract themselves again, by which they stop and retain the venomous Particles; these in their Abode attack the carnosè Parts, where they cause Swellings and Inflammations; the Lympha which issues out of the Glands becomes inspissated, and from thence virulent Gonorrhœas and Shankers are produc'd.

The Great-Pox shews it self sooner or later, according to the different Degrees of Acrimony in the *Venereal Virus*, and the stronger or looser Texture of the Genitals: Pustules begin to appear: A Liquor sometimes of a greenish, sometimes of a yellowish Colour, issues out: The Pustules turn into Ulcers, which



which daily become deeper, and more callous about the Borders: And the Excoriation of the Ulcers cause the Scalding of the Urine, and very often a Stoppage of it. All this while Nature still endeavours to restore the corroded Parts, but nothing but a spongy Flesh is form'd thereby, which soon stops the Passages of Urine. At length the Patient suffers intolerable Pains in the Genitals, and the Poison infuses it self into all the Humours, and begins to produce new Symptoms, such as Weariness, Numbness, flying Pains in the Head, sometimes in one Part, sometimes in another, the Face becomes of a livid, and sometimes a greenish Paleness, with a Blueness under the Eyes, like that of a young Woman at certain Periods; the Face Swells, the Hands and Feet are extremely hot in Winter, an obstinate Insomny, and Restlessness all the Night, an extraordinary Laziness, and melancholy Sadness, do torment by turns those miserable Victims. The whole lymphatick Mass insensibly thickens, the Groins are tormented with Tumours, and all the Glands are choak'd up with the inspissated *Serum*; Scabs and Warts with a yellow Circle, not unlike that of the Pieces of a Honey-Comb, appear very plentifully, and this Yellowness is the chief and only Symptom by which we can discern the Pox from a Leprosy or Scurvy; for in every thing else they are alike. At length the Violence of the Pain increases to such a Degree, that the Patient can no longer keep his Bed: The Bones are gnaw'd by the Acrimony of the coagulating Acid: They swell, and in time entirely rot, the other Parts of the Body are gnaw'd by phagedenick Ulcers, especially the Glands of the Palate, and the Cartilage of the Nose, which sometimes is quite broken by them. When the Oesophagus is ruin'd by those Ulcers, it leaves a strange and very disagreeable Hoarseness, no sooner are the Glands and the Pores perish'd, but the Hair begins to fall off, and the miserable Patient goes stooping and staggering, and groaning with Anguish, and is reduc'd to a meer Skeleton. Who can deny but all these Symptoms are convincing Proofs that the Disease is caus'd by a powerful fix'd Acid, nearly resembling that of Vitriol?



III. Now this pernicious Salt, the fatal Cause of so many dreadful Symptoms, may be expell'd by safer and more agreeable Means than that of Salivation, which can't deliver the Patient but by the Help of two others, *viz.* Bathing, and light Broths, or a moist Diet, by which the Coagulation of the Blood and Humours, caus'd by that Salt, must be broken and dissolv'd; and unless the Patient be thus dispos'd, all the Force of the Mercury will be hinder'd and broke, by the too strong Coagulation of the Humours; and the Physician will find it very difficult to overcome the Stubbornness of the Distemper, and be forc'd to use several Ounces of Mercury; whereas if the Patient has been prepar'd by such refreshing Broths, &c. some Drachms of it will be sufficient to raise a Salivation, when several Ounces will hardly effect it without such a Preparation. This is the physical *Modus* by which this stubborn Coagulation is form'd: The Blood is essentially of the same Nature with Milk: The more powerful the Salt is, which turns the Milk, the stronger Coagulation it causeth: But the Venereal Acid is very like that which turns Milk; it thickens the Blood by little and little, and by degrees imprints its Nature and Character into it; hence it happens that the Blood, which before was very pure, doth in time become a Poison capable of infecting, as well as that was, by which it self was infected. The thing happens mechanically thus; the Venereal Poison being infus'd into the Blood, doth cause there by degrees a vitiated Ferment, which terminates, like all other Fermentations, in a strong Coagulation. The volatile Salts of the Blood at first resist for a while, and keep the Sulphurs of it in a kind of Fusion, by the Rapidity of their Motion; and as long as this Motion lasts, so long will the Person continue in Health, and is not as yet sensible of any Alteration within him, neither doth he in the least suspect his having such a cruel Enemy lodg'd in his Bosom. In the mean while the Sulphurs of the Blood do by little and little, and by degrees, lose their Motion, and coagulate; and the volatile Salts move more slowly; 'tis then that the first Assaults of the Disease begin to spoil the natural Functions, and to cause a great Heaviness, a continual Drowziness and Sleepiness, an

invin.



invincible Laziness and Weariness, which are as the Fore-runners of this terrible Distemper: The Blood being grown very thick, circulates with Difficulty, and the Ferment, it labours under, entirely breaks its Texture, as well as that of all other Humours; or to express it better, their Texture is, as it were, torn into Pieces or Clods, and dissolv'd into a sharp burning *Serum*. Immediately the sharp Edges of the fixed Salts, which are predominant in the Blood, do gnaw its Principles by their great Acrimony, and soon after fall foul upon the Flesh and Bones. The Clods which were caus'd by the Coagulation of the Blood, settle themselves in the Pores of the Skin, and there cause unsightly Scabs; after which those fixed Acids gnaw the Fibres of the Skin: Then follow very dreadful callous Ulcers, the Bones are likewise gnaw'd with a kind of *Aqua Fortis*, their Fibres, tho' never so firm and hard before, yield at last to the Activity of the Poison, and are destroy'd; and, in a word, the whole Body falls into Rotteness.

IV. Nature has contriv'd several Ways to purge the Blood of its Impurities, *viz.* the Reins and the intestinal Glands.

It will not be improper here to explain more fully this last Way of Evacuation, in order to undeceive those which think any other more useful and beneficial than this, and prefer that which is made by the Reins, by Sweat, and by the salivary Vessels, to that which is made by the Bowels. *Peyerius* was the first that discover'd the intestinal Glands, and their Offices, which he says, is to furnish the *Chyle* with a *Lympha* to dilute it. He farther affirms, that it is from this Spring that the great Quantity of Matter which is voided by Purgatives comes. Others deny it, on account of the Unlikelihood there is that a Spring which appears so small should afford such Quantity of Humours; but they are certainly mistaken, as we shall soon make it appear. *Sanctorius* has demonstrated, that the Evacuation which is made through the Skin, and call'd insensible Perspiration, compar'd to that which is made by the Bowels, is as one to ten; *i. e.* if in twenty four Hours this last amounts to four Ounces, six Drachms, and twenty four Grains; the other, *viz.* by Perspiration, will amount



amount to forty eight Ounces. And here 'tis to be observ'd; that the Evacuation which is made by the Bowels is vastly different from that which is made by their Glands. The Fa-brick of the Skin is very like that of the Entrails, for in both the Microscope discovers an innumerable Quantity of Glands; but in order to a more plentiful Excretion by the Bowels, Nature has thrown a vast Quantity of sanguinary Vessels upon their Tunick. The Surface of the Bowels, compar'd to that of the Skin, doth above doubly exceed it; but because there are fewer Glands in the Entrails than in the Skin, we may suppose the Evacuation which is made through the Bowels, compar'd to that which is made through the Skin, to be as four to one. If, for instance, Perspiration doth in one Hour evacuate forty eight Ounces, the Bowels will evacuate but twelve. Their Glands are much larger than those of the Skin, which clearly shews that those Glands are more than sufficient for all natural and ordinary Evacuations: But the Lympha which is filtrated through those Glands, is very far from being wholly precipitated and cast out with the Excrements; it re-enters into the Mass of the Chyle through the lacteal Vessels, and from thence into the whole Mass of Blood. Experience shews us, that when there is no Chyle to fill the lacteal Veins, they are found full of this Lympha; but when the Bowels are stimulated by any Purgative, they not only throw out the grosser Excrements, but likewise all the Liquor that is filtrated by the Glands of the Bowels; and this Evacuation, thus procur'd by a Cathartick, is four times greater than the natural one. Purgatives have two Ways of operating, *viz.* by stimulating the Bowels, and giving the Blood a quicker Circulation; this is the Way that the more violent Sorts of Purgatives do operate. When they stimulate the inward Tunick of the Bowels, they not only force out of the Glands the Lympha that resides in them, but likewise all other Humours; for as there is no Obstacle in the Orifice of those Glands, but they afford a freer and easier Passage than any other Way, the Blood runs thither with some Rapidity, and pretty much after the same manner as the *Serum* comes plentifully to the Place of the Skin, where a Blister has been apply'd.



apply'd. The more subtle Parts of a Cathartick hasten the Circulation of the Blood, by stimulating the inward Tunicks of the Veins and Arteries; and by dissolving the Blood if it happens to be viscous. The Heat which attends a strong Purgative, the Vigorousness, Fullness, and Rapidity of the Pulse, are convincing Proofs that it operates in the manner we have been describing. But in order to understand more fully what Quantity of Matter the Blood doth furnish in Purges, when it is become more rapid by a Cathartick, it will be sufficient to know, that according to the Calculation of some Moderns, the Mesenterick Arteries carry into the Bowels every Hour four hundred Ounces of Blood, besides that which some Branches of the Cœliac Artery bring thither. The natural and usual Excretion which is made of it doth not amount to above twelve Scruples; but if the Purgative doth doubly increase the Rapidity of the Circulation of the Blood, this Excretion will amount to twenty four Scruples an Hour, and to thirty six Scruples if the Rapidity be trebly increas'd; for we then suppose, not without reason, that the Diameter of the Orifices of the Glands of the Bowels is double what it was, especially if the Purge be strong, for then the Excretion of those Glands will amount to one hundred forty four Scruples every Hour; *i. e.* be twelve times greater than the natural ordinary one. To this you may add, that the Blood being dissolv'd by the Purgative, doth furnish still more, by reason of the Facility which its Thinness gives it to part with its serous Parts. According to this Computation, in eight Hours, which is the Time of the Operation, about forty eight Ounces of Matter may come out of the intestinal Glands. The Evacuation of the Choler is likewise worth our Consideration here. Some learned Anatomists affirm, that about two Drachms of it come from the Liver every Hour; which Quantity will be increas'd to six Drachms, if the Blood's Rapidity be trebled by the Purgative; thence comes that great Quantity of Choler which is brought away by Purges. Observe here, that the quicker and more abundantly the Choler flows, the more liquid it becomes. Not to reckon the pancreatick Juice, nor the grosser Excrements,



we may, with reason, affirm, the Matter that is voided during the Operation of a Purge, to amount to four Pounds and half. But because all the Vessels contribute something, and their Diameters are double their common Wideness, we may still reckon this Quantity to be greater than we have calculated it. But if the Purge be strong, and the Blood circulates with greater Rapidity than usual, if the Vessels are considerably dilated, this Excretion, which is made through the Glands, will be much greater than we have reckon'd it. The *Cholera Morbus*, caus'd by eating of early ripe Fruits, or by any other Crudity, is a pregnant Instance of it; the Quantity of Humours voided in this Sickness, being almost incredible, and the Quantity of Matter which is discharg'd, whether by a symptomatick or critical Evacuation, sufficiently shews how much the Orifices of the Glands are capable of being dilated. What is voided by insensible Perspiration, discharges it self often by those intestinal Glands, and then that Evacuation will be ten times greater than the usual one which is made through those very Glands: So necessary it is that those Glands should be always kept open'd, that whenever there happens any Obstructions in them, there follows a mortal Constipation, or that which is call'd the *Cœliack Disease*, and the Bodies of those who die of it sufficiently demonstrate such Obstructions. From all that has been said, we may plainly see how useful the Operation of Purgatives is, to open the Orifices of the lacteal Veins, the intestinal Glands, those of the Liver, Pancreas, and of the very Reins; and what Quantity of Matter may be discharg'd from them in the Space of about eight Hours, which is near the Time of the Purges operating; especially when it attenuates the Blood by its most subtle Salts and Sulphurs.

Let us now examine the Ways of insensible Perspiration, and those of Salivation, and by such an Examen we hope we shall be able to shew that there are other Ways to cure the Venereal Disease besides that of Salivation, and that they are less dangerous and painful; and then to prove that they are at least as safe and sure, when the necessary Precautions have been taken.



The whole Skin is nothing but a tendinous Net, consisting of three Kinds of Vessels, *viz.* Arteries, Veins, and Nerves: It abounds with numberless Glands call'd *Miliares*, interspers'd amongst those Vessels which are design'd for the Secretion and Discharge of the Matter of Sweat and Perspiration.

I cannot forbear adding some new Observations, to those I have already made, on the manner by which the Bowels free the Blood from any Impurities that might corrupt it. The Bowels (as we observ'd a little before) are cover'd with Veins and Arteries, which spread themselves over their inward Tunick, whence they extend themselves over the Tunick which is next under it, which is call'd *Carnose*. By means of so many Vessels, a greater Quantity of Blood is carried into the Bowels than is necessary for their Nourishment; 'tis this Blood that supplies the intestinal Glands with a peculiar Lympha, which serves to perfect the Chyle. This intestinal Juice, which is somewhat viscous, besides several other Uses we have already mention'd, serves to cover the inward Partitions of the Bowels, and to defend them from the Acrimony of the alimantal Salts. When that Lympha has been filtrated by the glandulous Tunick of the Bowels, it falls into little Concavities, and thence into the great Channel of the Bowels, being assisted by the Motion of the nervous Fibres, which form the versicular and vascular Web of the glandulous Tunick, which covers the inward Part of the Bowels; by this Motion of the nervous Fibres of the intestinal Glands, Purgatives are considerably increas'd, by the Irritation which they cause in them, the Glands strain and separate the Quantity of *Lympha* and *Serum* which are voided by Purgatives.

The third great Way of Evacuation is by Urine: When a Sweat ceases, or Perspiration abates, it is supply'd by the Reins; their Glands having Diameters large enough to receive the grossest Excrements of the Blood, which cannot get out through the Skin when its Pores are too strait.

As long as these general Ways of Excretion freely perform their Function, so long a Man continues in good Health, and



all manner of Diseases, whether acute or chronick, may be cur'd, and the Leprosy, Hypochondria, Scurvy or any other obstinate Disease, will be master'd at last. Why then should the Pox alone be able to resist all those means which Nature has appointed for our Relief? This cruel Disease as stubborn as it is would at length yield to an obstinate and well followed Method. Let but a Physician follow exactly the same Laws as Nature doth, and he'll soon be convinc'd. When one undertakes to cure a Patient of the Pox by Salivation, it takes up thirty, forty, fifty days, and sometimes more, to perfect the Cure by this Way: Let us spend that Time in destroying his Matter by Perspiration, by Sweat or Stool, according as the Physician finds it necessary to use one or more of these Ways. The good Success which has attended my Remedy, will I hope encourage the improving and perfecting of this new Method, which is free from the terrible Danger of Salivation. Let the Humours be made fluid by bathing, and by a cooling and moistening Dyet, and they'll be soon divested of their Poison. A well contriv'd and well prepar'd Remedy will by degrees loosen the too strong Contexture of the Blood, and restore it to its natural Fluidity. Fit and proper Diaphoretics, Diuretics and Cathartics, well and prudently manag'd, will at length undeceive the World that Salivation is not the only Remedy for that Disease; and that neither Mercury of it self, nor Salivation, have any specifick Virtue to cure it, its wonderful Effects being entirely mechanical. The whole Mass of infected Blood, as great as it is, will be exhausted in Twenty-five or Thirty Days by Salivation. The Quantity of *Saliva*, at least for the first five or six Days, amounts to eight Pounds *per Diem*, so that the whole Mass of Blood, which is pretended to be about Twenty-five Pounds, is entirely renew'd, and the new that succeeds it is much purer. It happens often however, that if any of the old Leaven, tho' in never so small a Quantity, is left behind, the Scabs and other Symptoms, which by means of the Salivation had disappear'd, *v. g.* in the Month of *May*, and will come again in the Month of *October*, which throws the Patients into a great Consternation, but will fright none but an unskillful Physician



fician; for these venereal Relicks may be easily carry'd off by proper Purges.

From those Principles we have been laying down, we may draw the following Consequences: The Operation of a purging Salt, which lasts about eight Hours, will draw, in that Time from the intestinal Glands, three Pounds or Forty-eight Ounces of Lympha, which comes pretty near the proportion of eight Pounds of *Saliva*, voided by Salivation in Twenty-four Hours, during the first five or six Days. Let an able Physician excite and keep up likewise for five or six Days, the Excretion of the intestinal Glands, and he will carry off the Venereal Poison as surely, and with less Cruelty and Danger of the Patient's Life: This I am convinc'd of by the experience of several Years. Let but *Hypocrates* great Rules concerning Purgations be exactly follow'd, which is that in Order to purge well, you must make the Humour very Fluid, let this Fluidity be kept up, as long as there is a necessity for purging, and you will soon see, with admiration, how exactly the Success answers to my reasoning. Can we imagine that all these great Ways, which Nature has appointed to discharge the Blood both of its Superfluities, and of every thing else that may hurt it; shall be proper to carry off all sorts of Diseases incident to humane Nature, and that the Pox shall be the only one that must be excepted? There is something so whimsical and shocking in such a thought, that one can't forbear being surpriz'd at it, that during so many Ages, there should not be one (as we know of, unless some wretched Mountebanks, whose Promises being always greater than their Knowledge, never fail to deceive those who trust themselves in their Hands) that there should be none (I say) who, having studied the Motions and Operations of Nature, should have applied himself to the Discovery of a new Method, and a Remedy that might free Mankind from so cruel a Disease, and such as I flatter my self after so many Tryals and Experiments of it, I have found, and which will be of greater Benefit to Mankind than the Discovery of the *Peruvian* Treasures. But to return to the Consequences we design'd to draw from our Principles. Who doth not know  
that



that Mercury doth not always answer the Intention of the Surgeon? that it sometimes works by Vomit, Stool, and Urine? we have seen Instances where the Patient has been appointed eight or nine Times without any Evacuation, and has nevertheless found himself cur'd, though he was not so much as perceiv'd to sweat. Who can doubt but that the Mercury had drove the Venereal Poison out by Perspiration, one of the greatest and most important Evacuations, and of all others the most powerful. Let the Physician study to what side his Patient's Temper inclines most, and follow the Motions of Nature, and he'll never fail of Success, unless some other Inconvenience should hinder it. If *v. g.* after he has tho'ro'ly studied his Patient, he supposes the Disease to proceed from too thick and gross a Lympha what should hinder him, from trying to carry it off by Urine, which is the Way through which the grosser Impurities of the Blood are commonly discharg'd. If he finds that the venereal Poison is subtle enough to penetrate into the Pores of the Skin, let him follow that Way, and, if it fails, that of Stools. I can testify with great Truth that the Remedy I have happily found out, doth so exactly answer the different Tempers of the Patients, *i. e.* their different Dispositions, that it will work one Way rather than another, insomuch that the greatest Doctors have been amaz'd at it, and would not believe it till they had seen it with their Eyes, and administer'd it with their Hands.

V. The common Method of Salivating exposes the poor Patients to such cruel Sufferings, that if they knew the Severity of it, many of them would rather chuse to die of the Disease, than undergo such an excruciating Medecine, and no doubt but the Discovery of another is of great service to the Publick. Though if all those who undergo this terrible torment were cur'd by it, there would be some Cause of Comfort. But this is buying Health at a dear rate; what will not some People undergo, to put off the last Hour?

But how many perish under the Operation of Mercury? and among those who escape, how many remain Lame or Maim'd and sickly? is it possible that amongst so many great  
Genius's



Genius's who study Physick, there should not be one that dares shake off the Yoke of Custom? but being as scrupulous in Physick, as they are in Matters of Religion, they make it a peice of Conscience to innovate or alter any thing, which their Predecessors have left them. The *Americans* are ignorant of the Use of Mercury, they only use the Barks of their Trees and yet they are not one whit the worse cur'd by them. Mercury neither is nor can be us'd in hot Climes; their Perspiration is so plentiful that it carries off both the Humours, and the Particles of the Mercury, which are extremely small, round, and consequently very light and volatile; though they are very heavy when reunited: thence it happens they cannot, either by their natural weight, nor the Rapidity with which they are carried, break the parts of the viscous coagulated Blood, because they going too soon out of the Body, have not Time to circulate within the Substance of the Humours, in order to break their Viscosity, by often rubbing against them. But some will say, why should we depart from a Method which has been confirm'd by the Experience of some hundreds of Years? Salivation by Mercury, though painful and hazardous, is nevertheless the only sure and efficacious Remedy that has been known hitherto. I grant it: but are not the Torments it causes, the Inconveniences it is lyable to, the Danger to which it exposes Man, sufficient Motives to induce those who study the publick good, to seek for more sure and safe Means, and such as may not be subject to any such Inconveniences, but to remove all doubt in this Matter, let us examine the Mechanical Operation of Salivation.

It must be observed, as we hinted before, that one must use several Drachms, nay some Ounces in the Ointment, with which the Patient is rubb'd, unless the texture of the Blood has been loosen'd, &c. whereas two, or at most three, Drachms will suffice after such bathings. The Coagulations being thus to a certain degree dissolv'd, offer themselves at all the Emctunories of the Body; but none being capable of receiving them, by reason of the smallness of their Diameters, the Salivary Vessels alone, whose Orifices are near as big as that of a Goose's Quill, can admit them, neither can  
even



even they afford them a Passage, after ten or twelve Days Salivation, because the Serum of the Blood is all gone by that Time, and what remains is so thick, that it choaks up the Passages, insomuch that the Patient is in danger of his Life, that is of being strangled, if he is not presently help'd by Bleeding or Vomiting. We have likewise observ'd that Mercury doth not always work by Salivation, but that it sometimes works by some other Way, though it equally cures the Patient. But what may be the reason of this diversity, why should not Mercury have still the same Effects constantly? 'tis this very diversity which induc'd me to believe, that the Venereal Poison could be driven out by other Ways, than that of Salivation. The Mechanical Reason of this Variety of Operations seems precisely to consist in the Constitution of the Liquors; for when they have not been dissolv'd by Baths and humectants, they can find no Passage but through the Salivary Vessels; whose Diameters are the largest of all excretory Vessels; but when those Liquors are more fluid, whether because the Venereal Poison is not very powerful, (for some is very strong and some is very weak,) or because they have been well prepar'd and dissolv'd; they may then force their Way out by sweat, perspiration or the Intestinal Glands; and (if they should be still too thick) by the Glands of the Reins, which, next to the Salival Vessels, admit the grossest matters. The main Business therefore is to know the Nature of the Venereal Poison, and to take up some Time in preparing the Humours, and in finding out which Way will be the easiest open'd to the Disease, and in finding out proper Means to maintain the Evacuation we have procur'd, and to keep it near as long as the Experience we have acquir'd from Salivations, tells us Nature requires to free it self from this Poison; now this space is that very one which is necessary to make the whole or very near the whole Mass of Blood pass through the salival Vessels. Let the same thing be done through other Passages, more directly and universally ordain'd by Nature for the purification of the Blood, and Men will succeed better; provided the Remedy which is us'd. be gentle, active, and penetrating enough, so that we  
need



need not fear the dreadful Inconveniences of Mercury; for after all it was mere chance that brought Salivation into Use. *Carpi* a Physician of *Bolonia* in *Italy* had a Patient who had a terrible Ulcer in his Leg, which he could not be cur'd by any means, because the Pox had caus'd it; at length the Doctor call'd to Mind that some *Arabian* Author had recommended Mercury as proper to cure those Ulcers which had resisted all other Remedies; and having try'd it, he rais'd a Salivation in his Patient, which cur'd him both of his Ulcer and Disease. Is it possible that a Discovery which was owing to mere hazard should be so universally receiv'd, and that Physicians should have no more Compassion on their Patients, than to expose them to such Tortures? but we are by long Experiences assur'd, that the Remedy we have discover'd, far from torturing them in that terrible manner that Mercury doth, cures both Safely and agreeably.

The most intelligent Chymists agree that God has endow'd great and singular Vertues in Minerals and Mettals, and has granted the knowledge of them to the curious, but will not suffer the discovery of them to be made, without great Labour and Industry. 'Tis at that Price, the Shell that contains such Treasures must be broken, and 'tis at that Price that so many precious Remedies have been drawn from those prolifick, but hidden Springs. Nothing but indefatigable Labour, and profound Meditation can discover these great truths, so useful and beneficial to Mankind. And I do protest with all imaginable Sincerity, that it has cost me infinite Labours, and very considerable Expences, and I should think my self happy to sacrifice both to the Publick, if they could reap from it all the Benefit which I am confident they might. But my design here is only to give them an account of what I have done for several Years for their good. Having apply'd my self chiefly to Venereal Diseases, I aim'd at two principal things, *viz.* to examine, with all the attention I was capable of, the Nature of that Disease; and then to find out some Remedy less cruel than that which has been so long in Vogue. And after I had had a vast Number of Patients under my Care, and read the best Authors on the Subject, I was perswaded



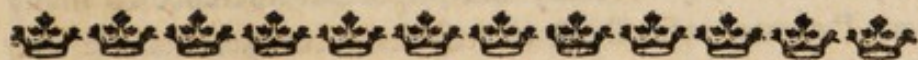
that the Nature of the Distemper did essentially consist in a too fix'd Vitrioline, and corrosive Acid, (for Time alone makes it become caustic) that this Acid thickens all the Liquors, and is the Cause of most deadly Obstructions, which, by little and little, do terribly alter, and at length totally destroy the animal functions. These were my first Steps, and the Fruits of my Studies and Observations; and I do frankly own that I continued a good while at this pass; neither Books nor common Practice offering any other Remedy but Salivation rais'd by Mercury. But the horrid Consequences, which do but too often attend this Remedy, made me look upon it as worse than the very Disease. I then fell to reading of several Chymical Treatises, but without Success, my desire was to find out a very active and penetrating Remedy, a great dissolvent, such as might be able to unglew the Blood and Humours, and to restore it to its natural Liquidity, to clear the Glands of the Flegm that choaks them up, and gently irritate the Membranes of the Nerves, the Tunick of the Bowels, the tendinous net of the *Cutis*, the Glands of the Reins, in a Word to restore the Blood into its due Circulation in Order to promote a right Secretion and Excretion, and by that Means restore the Patient. I had the good Fortune to find it at last. It operates variously, according to the different dispositions of the Patients; it sometimes works every Way at once, and sometimes but one, generally speaking it purges with all the Gentleness imaginable, it works likewise very plentifully by Perspiration, and sometimes by Urine. It has quite and clean taken away old *Nodes* and *Exostoses*, which had either eluded the common Method of Salivation or having disappear'd for a while, had return'd again with greater Fierceness. I could produce Crouds of Witnesses to the Truth of these Facts, if the Nature of the Disease did not lay an indispensable Obligation on the Physician to be secret and silent; but as I never did any thing which could make me unworthy of Belief, I hope I shall be credited when I protest I have affirm'd nothing but what is true; and whoever shall think fit to try me, I shall gladly accept any opportunity that shall be offer'd. This is the only Way I have of gaining Belief;

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I am oblig'd to preserve the Reputation as well as spare the Modesty of those Persons, who have honour'd me with their Confidence. Those that have a Mind to be ocular Witnesses of such a Tryal, will be satisfy'd, that never Remedy had a gentler Operation, nor freer from the excruciating Pains, and fatal Consequences, which attend the Use of Mercury. But as it is not an easy Thing presently to overcome the Jealousy and Mistrust of a People which is more knowing here, than they are in all the rest of the Kingdom, I am willing they should take up as much Time as they please, in tracing the Patients I have cur'd: and if they find the Remedy was only palliative, as my Enemies have sometimes, tho' without Reason, given out, I shall patiently bear the punishment of my Rashness, and be content to pass for a Cheat. If it was proper, I could produce numberless Patients, who have been cur'd by my Remedy above five Years ago, and still continue in good Health. Therefore there are more safe, sure, and at the same Time, more gentle and less dangerous Ways of curing the Venereal Disease, than Salivation.

I forgot, in speaking of Mineral Waters, to acquaint the Reader that the new discover'd Waters of *Passy* are very beneficial in Chronick Diseases having seen many instances of their excellent Vertue. Those of *Abbecourt* are likewise very good.



*A Relation of some extraordinary Cures, not Venereal.*

THE good or ill State of Health of the fair Sex depends chiefly on their regular or irregular evacuation, which ought to happen every Month; such an extraordinary Instance of this fell in my Way, that I hope the Publick will be pleas'd with an Account of it: I confess I should never have thought of publishing it, if some Persons of Consideration and Merit had not required it of me. I receiv'd a secret Joy from the Cure I perform'd, but such as could not alone have determin'd me to make it known to the World, if my Reluctancy had



not been overcome by the Authority of those to whom I can refuse nothing. I shall let my Enemies alone to make what Construction they please upon it, but I solemnly protest that nothing but the publick good did move me thereto; neither can I believe they will doubt of the Truth of the Fact, which has had such a considerable Number of ocular Witnesses, whom I shall name by and by, and who are very great Masters of their Profession, and too penetrating and experienc'd to be deceiv'd in a Matter of this Nature, though none of these Qualifications are here requir'd, their Eyes being sufficient Judges. In the greatest Part of inward Diseases, whose Effects are indeed evident, but whose Causes are hidden and perceivable only by the most consummate Physicians, both in Theory and Practice, the World seldom attributes the Honour of the Cure to the Physician; but 'tis the Patient's Constitution, the Strength of his Nature, his Youth, and the like, that have wrought the Miracle; but no such Thing can be pretended here, Nature having been left seven Years to it self, to recover, if it could, the Patient. Nothing seem'd wanting in her: she was young and pretty strong, her Passions very moderate, and her Constitution excellent, since it held out seven long Years. No doubt but there was some secret Impediments, which eluded all the Effects of Nature, and requir'd the help of Art; from this Instance the World may draw a very necessary and important inference to many poor Patients, who think themselves incurable, because they have been pronounc'd such, by some ignorant but impudent peremptory Blockheads, whose Confidence often costs very dear to poor credulous Patients, who give themselves up to be cruelly cut and mangled by these rash Pretenders, who either send them out of the World, or leave them to groan out the rest of their Lives in Misery and Torment; whereas had they but been wise enough to have rejected their blind pernicious Councils, and to have sought for advice from the Fountain Head *i. e.* Physick, and consequently from the most experienc'd Physicians; they might have preserv'd their Lives and Limbs, or at least would not have been expos'd to see themselves cut and torn and murder'd by a lingering Death,

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(if I may so call it) How many Instances of this might I produce in this populous City? His Highness the Regent had lost an Arm, and perhaps his Life, if there had not been a *Chirac* to have sav'd him. How many poor private Persons have been lam'd or butcher'd by the Fire and Steel of too Confident Operators? After they have once given their Judgment, there is no more to be said or done, they have spoken, the Thing is decided, and the most knowing and experienc'd Physicians must yield to them in this kind. There is no other Hopes, they ingross all the Knowledge, Counsel, Method, and the dreadful Operation to themselves, a degree of Pride which has cost so many Peoples Lives, and ought to be severely punish'd in a well govern'd City. The Examples I am going to produce sufficiently prove that what I have said is but too true; and the Obstinacy of the Patient we are speaking of, who would never consent that her Leg should be cut off, was the thing that sav'd both it and perhaps her Life to boot. Let not therefore the World be alarm'd at the severe Decisions of these Minos's and Radamanthus's; for very often these evils prove incurable through the ill management of those who are employ'd about them, but often likewise they are only such in the Judgment of ignorant Pretenders, with which this great City of *Paris* doth swarm. In order therefore to put it into the Power of those, who may doubt of the truth of this Relation, to satisfy themselves about it, I shall put them in a Way of doing it.

The sixth Day of *May* 1722, I was call'd upon to see Mrs. *Briarly* living in *Mazarine-street*, a Gentlewoman of about twenty Years and six Months of Age, whose Father was an *English* Gentleman of the Bed-chamber to the Pretender. She complain'd of a violent Pain in her Side, attended with great difficulty of Breathing, an Inclination to Vomit, and an excessive Pain in her Head; I found her lying upon her right Side, her Body bent double; I begg'd of her to turn to me, but she told me she could not alter her Situation, and that she had been forc'd to lye on that Side above seven Years; I was mov'd at her miserable condition, and ask'd her all the proper questions: In answer to which she gave me the following



following Account, which she will be ready to attest to all who shall be desirous to be satisfy'd of the Fact. She told me that when she was fourteen Years of Age her Months were stopt by Reason of some Grief, that the first Day of *January 1715*, she was taken with a violent Fever attended with violent Pains in her Head; Dr. *Gavern* and Dr. *Gautier*, the former of whom was first Physician to Queen *Mary*, and the latter Physician, to the Hospital of *St. Germain en Laye*, came to visit her; they both agreed that she should be blooded in the Foot, which was perform'd by Mr. *Richards*, Surgeon, living at *St. Germain*. Cupping, Scarifying, Fumigations, Vomits, Glysters, Hysterick Potions, &c. were all prescribed, and administred without any Success; all her Nerves fell into Convulsions, which caus'd a general Disorder in all the animal Functions, and oblig'd the two Physicians to order that she should be bled at the Foot once a Month; her Head-ach continued as violent as ever, in spite of all the above mention'd Remedies, which seem'd rather to increase her Pain: Her Convulsions continued, and her Arms and Legs contracted, and fell into a perfect Atrophy. The two Doctors left her in this miserable Condition, in which she continued full eight Months; Dr. *Goutard* the King's Physician saw her in that Case, which made him pronounce her a dead Woman, without hesitation. He would not so much as prescribe her the least thing; I was told it by the Patient and her Relations. After eight Months were elaps'd, Mr. *Richards* saw her again, and by a regular Course of living, she by degrees free'd herself from her Misery; both her Arms came to themselves again, and her right Leg stretch'd it self out insensibly to its natural Length, but the left never could be restor'd, it remained bent close to the Thigh, the Heel, as it were fix'd to the Buttock, and grew so lean, that it seem'd perfectly wither'd, and did not seem to be the one fourth part of the Diameter of the other. And such a terrible Anchylosis fell into her Thigh, but more specially in her Knee, that the Leg was not able to move in the least. Dr. *Gautier* and Mr. *Richards* try'd all the proper Remedies to recover it, but all in vain, at last they resolv'd upon a Consultation,



sultation, in which it was concluded that the Leg must be cut off; the whole Apparatus was got ready the next Day in order to perform the Operation, but the Patient alone was against it, and rather chose to lead thenceforth a Life which is easier to be imagin'd, than describ'd, every Minute of it being attended with continue Pains and Torments which kept her in that Condition, and forc'd her to lie continually on the same Side, the Space of seven Years, without being able to strive or try, unless it were with the greatest Pain, to shift her Posture but for one Moment, when she was oblig'd to keep her Bed. This is what I learn'd from her the sixth of May 1722.

Having given the Reader this plain and true Account of the matter, I can't believe that any Body can doubt of the Fact, I had all the Circumstances of it from the Patient's own Mouth, and I have too many Witnesses of the Fact, to dare impose upon the World; but the most unexceptionable Witness, was the Condition of the Patients Leg, the Situation of which has been seen and examin'd by several Doctors of the Faculty of *Paris*, by some at one Time, by others at other Times; some have seen it when it was still, as it were glued on to the Buttock, others when it begun to be loosen'd, others have seen it level with the other, and others have seen the Patient upon her Legs and stand upon the one or the other indifferently, and make a Curtesy; others lastly have seen the Play and Motion of the Knee, and the Patient walk some Steps: the first that saw the Leg saw it wither'd, the Bones only cover'd with Skin, and the last have seen it fleshy and of the same Bigness, and in as good Case as the other. These are Facts which cannot be meerly pretended, but I shall name all the Witnesses of them at the End of this Relation.

This Fact is so extraordinary, that it well deserves to be narrowly examin'd. I may affirm that I have read a great many of the best Practical Books of Physick, but that I never met with any Case like it, much less did I ever meet with any such Facts in all my Practice, or ever heard the most experienc'd Physicians mention any like it.



In order to form a just Idea of this terrible Disease, we must examine several Matters; the first is, what caus'd the suppression of her Months, *viz.* Grief; the second is the Nature of the Disease and in what it consists. Thirdly, The Nature of the Effects it produced, *viz.* First, an irritation of the Nerves, and the Musculous Parts of the Sinews themselves of the Thigh. And Lastly, as a Consequence of the others, it caus'd an Atrophy in the whole Leg.

As to the first nothing is so sure as the Impression, good or bad, which our Passions make in our Bodies, and at the same Time nothing more difficult then the Physical Explication of it: it would be too abstruse a question here how a spiritual Substance can by its different sensations, cause such various Motions in the Solid or Liquid Parts of our Bodies. This is a truth of Sense and Experience, for which we can give no other Reason, then the will of the great Creator, and in the supposition of this Fact, which is actually true, we can Account for it no other Way but that it is the Order of the supreme Author. How do some Passions such as Anger, Joy, Love, &c. accelerate the Motions of the Humours, and facilitate their Secretions? on the contrary, Terrour, Fear, Dread, Grief, and the like; how do they abate the Motion of those very Humours, and suppress their Secretions and Excretions? to decide one of these two contrary Propositions, is to decide both; and the Effects of the Passions are so well known that we are seldom surpris'd at a Womans falling in Labour or miscarrying by Reason of some violent Passion, or that that the Child should have some mark of that Passion; nurses subject to Fright or Anger, do give their nurse Children the Epitēpsy.

Some reputable Writers \* are of Opinion that the bite of a Man in Anger, is venomous and even Mortal; on the contrary Joy or moderate Anger will cure a Cachexy, provoke the Terms in Women that had it before with Difficulty; a violent passion has sometimes cur'd the Palsy, † a sudden fright has stopt dangerous Hemorages, and cur'd quartan and other

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\* Zacutus, Luzit, Penerol, Cels.    † Valeriolg Horstius.

obstinate



obstinate Agues, and even Madneſs. Let us ſuppoſe a very true Principle, that every thing in our Bodies keeps a Mathematical Regularity, that the Quantity of the Liquid is exactly anſwerable to the Diameter of the Veſſels that contain them, that the Reciprocal elaſtick Force and Exploſion of the Fibres is the Mathematical Ratio of their circular Motion, with that of the intefline Liquors; that thoſe Liquors have an elaſtic Motion and Exploſion, as well as the Fibres of which the Veſſels conſiſt; that this elaſtic Motion of the Veſſels is of an exact Proportion, not only with the Weight of the Liquors, but likewiſe with rheir Velocity: the whole being thus diſpos'd with the greateſt and moſt perfect Exactneſs, the Functions of the Body are perform'd with a certain Harmony, which if nothing obſtructed, Man would be immortal, or at leaſt would live vaſtly longer than he doth. But how many things do obſtruct this perfect Connexion of the Liquids with the Solids? ſome of which are foreign, and ſome moſt intimate, I mean the Paſſion of the Soul, over which Man of himſelf has but little Command; and we may reaſonably ſuppoſe, that it was the Loſs of this Empire over our ſelves and our Paſſions, which made him of immortal to become mortal, ſeeing nothing diſturbs more the Harmony of the Parts of our Bodies than the Violence of our Paſſions: Some have died ſuddenly thro' Exceſs of Joy, others thro' Exceſs of Anger. If we make a little Attention on the various Characters of the Paſſions, we ſhall, I believe, eaſily perceive that chearful Paſſions, ſuch as Love, do in a ſingular manner influence the Liquids, the Blood, Choler, &c. and cauſe them to become more brisk, active, and impetuous; and the Effects which follow them are of the ſame Nature; and that the Paſſions of Sorrow, Fear, Grief, &c. do particularly influence the ſolid Parts, *i. e.* the Veſſels that contain thoſe Liquors. Every one of them works more or leſs to the Deſtruction of the whole Fabrick, but more eſpecially when they are moved to the laſt Degree. It would be impoſſible for humane Bodies to hold out long againſt ſuch powerful Enemies, if the divine Wiſdom had not remedy'd it by placing all over the Body, with an admirable Providence and Sagacity, proper Means of defending his Handy-work againſt thoſe Enemies which ſo powerfully



strive to destroy it. The Effects of a violent Passion demonstrate the Truth of this; a Man mov'd to excessive Anger becomes pale, no doubt, because the Course of the Blood towards the Head is slackened; which is done by the Help of the little Nerves which are twin'd about the Blood-vessels, which fall into Convulsions, and press and squeeze them so, as to lessen considerably their Diameter; so that there is but a small Quantity of Blood that can pass into the Head to refresh it; and this throws the angry Person into an Apoplexy. This however doth sometimes happen, but we will not insist upon such instances as these which are exceptions to the Rule, but speak of those which commonly happen. In the following of this Idea let us examine the Effect of that Passion which we call Sorrow; in a grievous, melancholy, and lasting Sadness, not only the Face, but the whole Body becomes Pale, the functions become languishing, their Strength and Motion abate, the Body sinks under its own Weight, looses its Plumpness, and becomes a living Skeleton; and why all this, but because Melancholy Passions have their chief Empire over the solid parts, the Nerves, and nervous Parts which form the Vessels? and as these Nerves which wind about them suffer a perpetual contraction, so likewise the nervous Parts of which they consist, are always contracted. The Diameter of the Vessels being thus squeez'd, hinder the necessary quantity of Blood from passing, and the whole Body not being sufficiently supply'd with Moisture and Nourishment, the Functions cease by Degrees, and from this Disorder an infinite Multitude of Diseases are produc'd. The Tyrannical Effects of Sorrow are immediately felt in the Stomach, which is one of the most nervous Parts of the Body, out of which comes an imperfect Chyle incapable of producing good Blood, because there can be no assimilation. The Matrix in Women, as nervous at least as the Stomach, suffers the same, and its functions are equally obstructed with those of the Stomach. The Arteries which should be always full, as it is necessary they should in such overflowings, do scarce supply it with such a Quantity of Blood as is sufficient for its Nourishment. It is therefore no Wonder if that Part doth



no longer pay the Monthly Tribute, which Nature requires; and in this manner we conceive Grief to cause a Cessation of it; and thus it was suppress'd in the Patient we are speaking of. Let us now trace the Circumstances, and see by what Mechanism the Monthly Evacuations being stopt, do cause such grievous Disorders; or, which is the same thing, let us examine the Nature of the Disease it self, which is the second thing I have made the following reflection upon: but in order to argue with some certainty, let us lay down some certain Principles as a Foundation of our reasoning.

'Tis certain the Passions, but specially Grief, do immediately affect the Stomach, because it seems more immediately to seize upon the Nerves, than the gayer Passions, and that there is in the Stomach a parcel of the most considerable Nerves call'd the *Plexus Nervosus*. The Patient looses his Appetite, because presently after he is seiz'd with Grief, he feels a Bitterness, Dryness, and Thirst in the Mouth, and soon after is tormented with Acid and Squamish Crudities and Flatulencies, Tensions in the Hypochondria, and all other Symptoms which prove a vitiated Chyle; and if any Disease follows it will not be cur'd till the Cause be taken away, or if it seems to be cur'd, it will appear soon after in another Shape. The Chyle being thus become Acid, Viscous, and Glutinous, is apt to cause any kind of Disease insensibly: The Blood and Liquors it affords become of the same Nature with it, and the Secretions and Excretions as well as Perspiration, are every where obstructed. For whilst these are duly perform'd, it proves the Spring and Fountain of Health; and of all Diseases, when they are obstructed or totally suppress'd; which seldom happens, and perhaps never but in an incurable Dropsie.

From this Principle we may easily understand how the Thickness of the Blood hinders it, on the one hand, from flowing freely in the Capillary Vessels of the Matrix which are subservient to those periodical Excretions; and how on the other Hand, the Nerves being continually contracted by the irritation which is caused by the Acidity of the Juices they contain, close up the Diameter of the Blood Vessels



which they surround, and thereby hinder the Circulation of the Liquids. The Harmony which ought to be between the liquid and the solid Parts being thus disorder'd and broken, we need not wonder at the numberless Diseases, which the suppression of the Courses is capable of causing, such as Tumours, Abscesses, Ulcers, and Inflammations in the Matrix, and Gangreens which are always attended with Death, or else they disperse themselves all over the Body, and produce different kinds of Feavers, the green Sickness, Jaundice, *Leucophlegmatia*, a general Loathing of all kind of Meats, Vomiting of Blood, an *Ascite Dropsy*, Faintings, an obstinate Cough, difficulty of breathing, Palpitations of the Heart, a deep Melancholy which is sometimes attended with Despair, the Head-ach, Madness, Gout, and sometimes a fatal Complication of Diseases, as it happen'd to our Patient here. She had likewise a violent Fever, and such an obstinate Delirium, that though she was bled in the Foot seventeen Times within the space of a Month, it could not abate the Fierceness of it. The terrible Convulsions that follow'd did, no doubt, give some Intermision to her Fever, but it was curing a great Evil by a greater. We have endeavour'd to give a Mechanical Account of the Origine of those Convulsions which had contracted the Arms and Legs of our Patient.

There remains, that we should offer some plausible Reasons for her Fever and Delirium, which lasted eight Months.

The Delirium seems the most difficult to account for; 'tis the third thing I propose to explain. We have already said enough to give the Reader an Idea of the Irritation of the Nerves by the Sourness of the stimulating Juices, and believe he doth by this time sufficiently understand how the Liquors being overcharg'd with a too fix'd, coagulated, or at least inspissated acid, have choak'd up the Nerves, Muscles, and muscular Parts, and all those Parts which serve to the Secretions and Excretions. Our next Business seems to be, to explain the Fever and Delirium of the Patient, and the Atrophy of the Leg.



In order to make our Notion understood as much as possible, we reasonably suppose, that all the Parts of the Body have an exact Consonance among themselves, like that of the Strings of a Violin. Every body knows, that when the Strings of two Violins are screw'd up to a perfect Unison, you cannot strike the one, but the other will vibrate and resound, tho' it be not touch'd. I am much inclin'd to believe that it is the same with our Bodies, where all the nervous Parts being stretch'd to an Unison, do answer to one another with a mathematical Exactness, and the shaking of one of them doth move all the rest, whether it has been caus'd by some outward Object, or by the express Will of the Soul. There is perhaps no better way to explain this Phænomenon, which, tho' very common, yet is a kind of Miracle, especially to those who know how to admire it. We have known a *Bernardine* Monk, (*Dom. Turquois*) an eminent Preacher, and learned Divine, to rehearse, without knowing what he did, during a Delirium which lasted several Weeks, all the Sermons he had preach'd, tho' the Delirium was too violent to suffer the Soul to make the least Attention to it. A greater Philosopher than I am might perhaps find it an easy matter to frame a very compact and learned System from this Idea of the Consonancy of the Parts, to account for all our Sensations, as well outward as inward. A Lawyer, who compos'd a small Treatise about the Memory, has come very near to this Notion, he only wanted a little more Insight into the Anatomy of human Bodies.

And if it be true, that the whole Mechanism, both of the Memory, and all other Sensations, is founded upon the Play of the nervous Fibres, and that the Order of our Ideas (I mean those only which are rais'd in the Soul, by reason of some Motion of the Body) depends upon the Disposition, which the Stops, *v. g.* of a Harpsicord keep among themselves, *i. e.* upon the Order and Connection which the nervous Fibres keep with respect to one another; it will be likewise true, that whilst this Order subsists in its Perfection, so long will the Motions of the Fibres be regular, and the Soul will receive the most perfect Intelligence from them, and form  
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her Ideas without any Confusion. And in this consists the Difference between a Man of Sense, and a Fool or Madman. If this Order is disturb'd, and the Fibres be stop't, the Man will become a Fool or a Dunce; if they be wither'd, and don't answer the Irritations which the nervous Juice doth cause in them, the Man looses his Memory, which is the Case of old People: If they are too much and too violently irritated, they over-power the Soul with so many Ideas and Images, that she is not able to put them in Order, by reason of their Multitude, the Quickness in which they present themselves, and the Vehemency with which they strike her; all these things cause such a Confusion in her, that she loses her discerning Faculty, and the Command she had over the Tongue, so that it now expresses, without Order or Connection, those Ideas which the Disorder and Extravagance of the Senses had form'd: This is what I conceive to be the Cause of the Delirium of Persons in a high Fever.

The nervous Fibres being disorder'd by acrimonious Liquids, the Soul is infected with the Disorder; so that it is no longer difficult to account for the Fever, which seiz'd our Patient so violently, that no Remedy could remove it; after what we have said concerning the Thickness of the Liquids, and the Suppression of the Courses occasion'd by it; the Difficulty of Breathing and Stirring, and the Interruption of almost all the Functions at the coming of an Ague Fit, do sufficiently demonstrate that the Disease consists in the Thickness of the Liquors, which disturb their Motion. We need except none but pestilential Fevers, where the Liquors are dissolv'd and too rarify'd, their Texture totally destroy'd by the Acrimony of the subtle Poison infus'd into the Blood, and this Fever is only a Symptom of the Plague, which ought not to come into the Definition of a Fever, seeing it doth not belong to its Essence: The Functions do perish, as well as in those Fevers which proceed from the Thickness of the Liquids, but after another manner; the sharp Particles of the Poison having corroded the Texture of the Liquors, it spreads it self over all the Membranes and Nerves, which suffer a continual Contraction, by too closely squeezing all the Parts to the Compo-

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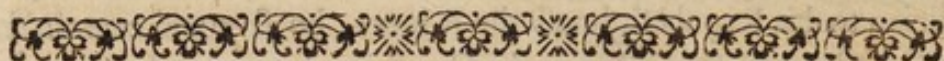


sition of which they belong, and about which they twine. The Action of each Part is disturb'd, and the Juices they produce are no longer fit to answer the Ends which Nature had ordain'd them for. This Matter would require a fuller Dissertation, but what I have said will be sufficient for the Matter in hand. I come now to explain the Atrophy of the Leg, which will not be difficult to account for from the Principles I have advanc'd. I am perswaded that the Nerves are ordain'd by Nature to convey their nutritious Juices into every Part; if you cut a Nerve any where, that Part falls into an Atrophy; and if you cut an Artery where the Muscle joins to it, it loses its Motion. Such a prodigious Stoppage as was in our Patient's Leg and Thigh was more than sufficient to choak up the Passage of the nutritious Juice of the Leg, and to wither it to the degree I found it, when I saw her first. The Day after my first Visit I call'd M. *de Chirac*, first Physician to his Royal Highness the Regent, he saw and examin'd the Lady, and found her in the Condition here mention'd, and look'd upon her Case as incurable, and told me he much doubted the Success of my Undertaking. The same Day I desir'd Dr. *Boudin*, Chancellor of State, and first Physician to the *Infanta Queen*, to come and see my Patient, her Case being so extraordinary, who promis'd me to come the next Day, but was prevented by other Business. Dr. *Maloy*, Physician of the Faculty of *Paris*, and of the Royal Hospital of the Invalids, came out of Curiosity to see her. Dr. *André*, Professor of Physick at the Royal College, saw her several times, as did likewise Dr. *Couttier*, Regent Doctor, and Dr. *Bassat*, Physician to the late Duke of *Berry*. Also, Dr. *Fourneau*, another Regent Doctor, and *Monsieur Guerin*, an eminent Surgeon, saw her above a Year before I did. I could likewise name Mess. *Charras*, Father and Son, Apothecaries; but I fancy I have nam'd Witnesses more than enough to put the Fact beyond all Doubt. But after Dr. *de Chirac* had visited her, I resolv'd to administer my Specific to her. Before she had took it many Days, I was agreeably surpriz'd to find the Heel loosen it self insensibly from the Buttock and Thigh, my Remedy working gently with her by Stool, by Sweat,

and



and Urine; and was so far from weakening the Patient, that her Strength increas'd daily. At the end of fifteen Days the Leg was entirely loosen'd from the Thigh, but it was not above half the Length of the other. I acquainted Dr. *de Chirac* with it, who resolv'd to see it with his own Eyes. We went both to the Patient, and he believ'd because he saw. He advis'd her to put a flat piece of Lead to that Shoe, adding still to the Weight of it, by degrees, till it came to a Pound and half, which succeeded very well. She began to lie on her left Side, which was more than she had done for seven Years before; and at the end of two Months the Leg came to its full Length, and she can now stand, and begins to take some Steps upon it. It would be impossible to impose upon so many learned Witnesses, but in this Case they need only to have their Eye-sight, and to be Men of Integrity.



*A Relation of an extraordinary Disease, cur'd by the  
same SPECIFIC, and attested by the Patient*

**H**AVING been troubled with a strange and extraordinary Disease which lasted above three Years, and having had the most experienc'd Physicians, and most approv'd Remedies, without Success, I was at length, as the last Refuge, advis'd to try Doctor *Sigogne*, Physician to the *Switz* Company of Guards to the King, by whom I was perfectly cur'd, contrary to the Expectation of those Physicians I had before consulted. And I believe my self oblig'd to give a true Account of it, for the publick Good, and to subscribe to it.

In 1718, I fell sick of a continued Feaver, attended with violent Pains in the lower Belly, which did shoot quite to the Penis and Testicles, and a perpetual Bubbling and Grumbling Noise in my Bowels, which sometimes came up to my Throat, like Water boiling apace. My Water was very crude and cover'd with little Bladders that would continue on the top above Twenty-four Hours. I lodg'd then at my Brother's



ther's an Apothecary in *Butcher's-street* in the Suburb of *St. Germain*, who was then gone into *England*. In the mean Time I was visited by several eminent Physicians, who did all that could possibly be done to save my Life, which seem'd to be in great Danger by Reason of several Relapses I had within the Space of two Months. I went out at length about my Business, but did not find my self thoroughly cured, for my Pains and Gripings came again from Time to Time; I voided Gleans of a yellowish Colour, and was forc'd to keep my Chamber several Days together.

My Brother returning from *England*, I took again all the Medicines that could be thought proper for my Case; but they only assuag'd my Pains, without removing the Cause. I found an Opportunity of passing over into *England* with an *English* Lord, whom I had the Honour to teach *French*. My Brother advis'd me to it, hoping that the Change of Air, and crossing the Sea, would do me good. I took his advice and found my self somewhat better. I came back to *Paris* full of Hope, but it prov'd short-liv'd: My Gripings, &c. return'd, and in 1720, towards the end of *October*, I was again seiz'd with a Feaver, attended with violent Pains in my Bowels, Testicles, and at the extremity of the Penis, which was stiff and swell'd, and grown hard. Physicians were again call'd, and they order'd I should be let Blood, a thing very much practis'd at *Paris*. They assuaged my Pain by the Quantity of Medicines I took; and at last recover'd me. At the end of two Months I was able to go abroad, but pass'd the Winter most miserably, being oblig'd to make use of a Hackney-coach, or Chair, not having Strength enough to go on Foot, and my Pains often returning, and I having no other Way to mitigate them but by taking some gentle Medicines to keep me loose, having been very costive ever since the beginning of my Sickness. One would have thought that Purges would have been very proper to carry off those Gleans which gave me such excessive Pains; I us'd them accordingly, but they rather increas'd the Pains, and flung me into a Feaver, my Bowels being become so tender, that the least thing did exasperate them, and, as the Physicians said, would cause some

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Inflammation



Inflammation in them. Glysters were likewise thought very proper, but they dar'd not order any purgative ones; for both in the taking and voiding of them, they caus'd the most violent Pains, and if they were simple ones they did not operate at all. At last, the Physicians were at their Wits end, not knowing what the Nature of my Disease was. I was order'd to make use of hot Baths, which I did for nine Days; I likewise us'd cooling Broaths, *Smith's* Forge-water, the Waters of *Passy*, Chicken-broath, refreshing Diet-drinks, and a Course of Diet, which I observ'd for several Years, but without Success. They did not omit bleeding me at the Arms and Feet, and with Leeches in the Hemorrhoidal Veins, because I had been formerly troubled with the Piles. They operated extremely well, and the Quantity of blackish Blood I voided gave me some Relief for a Time, but I fell ill again.

I had a Consultation of Physicians and Surgeons to examine whether there was not some Venereal Taint in my Distemper; but they all told me, to my Sorrow, that there was none at all; for, in the dismal Condition I was in, I could have wish'd my Disease had proceeded from thence, for then I could have hop'd for a Cure. However, I try'd fudorifick Ptisans, with the *Essentia Mercurialis* at the Spring and Fall, but I was forc'd to leave them off after some Days, for they threw me into a violent Fever, and I was in Danger of an Inflammation in my Bowels. I was forc'd to be blooded again, and to try to get off this Accident; in a Word I spent above three Years without finding any Remedy for my Disease, which had weaken'd me to such a Degree, that the *signum virile* had quite forsook me; but this was not what grieved me, for Health being in my opinion, the greatest Pleasure of Life, one may easily enjoy it without the other, which is so often attended with such fatal Consequences, but specially to a Man of my (fifty) Years. I found my self therefore reduced to such a pass, that I knew not which Way to turn my self; the Art of the Physicians was exhausted, and the only Remedy they left me which was patience, which I was forced to use whether I would or not, and wait patiently for  
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some fit of the Cholick, which would in all appearance send me to my long Home, a Journey which all Men are naturally willing to put off as long as they can. At length, do what I could, I was brought to the very Gates of Death, but as it pleased God, they were shut for me; to him be all the Praise.

In the Year 1722, in Lent, I found my self something worse than Ordinary, I was nevertheless willing to go abroad: I took a Chair, because a Coach shook me too much, and increas'd my Pain: after I had done some Business in the City, I went to my Brothers towards Noon having been took with a violent fit of the Cholick about ten of the Clock: I had a great reaching to Vomit, but nothing came up, though I strain'd hard, and put my Finger in my Throat as far as I could; I resolv'd to go home, to have my Bed warm'd, and to lie me down. About three of the Clock I was taken with a violent Shivering, and my Pains became so violent that I could no longer bear them, without crying out so loud, that the Neighbours heard me, five or six came to my help, my Brother was sent for, a Physician is call'd, and I took several Potions, but still my Pains encreas'd. I had several earthen pot-lids heated and clapt to my Belly, I laid upon them, till they burnt the Skin, but my Pains were so violent that I could not feel the Burning: I was swell'd and ready to be choak'd, and could void nothing either upwards or downwards; my Brother and some others stay'd all Night with me, and towards three of the Clock in the Morning they found me very cold towards the extreme Parts, and that the violence of the Pain had weaken'd me excessively. My Brother seeing the Danger I was in, gave me two Ounces of Syrup of *Diacodium* which did operate a little while after, assuag'd my Pains, and threw me into a Slumber; he did not leave me till ten of the Clock, to see whether my Pains would return when I came out of Sleep; and as good Luck would have it, they were very much assuag'd, I could speak a little better, I took Care to order my Affairs both Spiritual and Temporal, I began to make Water more freely, but it was very red and oily, the Feaver continued very violent, my Pulse beat high and quick, and my Brains were in great



Confusion. At five of the Clock at Night my Physician order'd me to be let Blood in the Foot, which was done plentifully, and weaken'd me very much, and about eight at Night I grew light-headed; they order'd me some Emulfions and an Opiate, which a little calm'd me: they order'd me likewise some Glysters, but I could neither take nor void them, without suffering very acute Pains; they dar'd not purge me for fear of exasperating the Pains and encreasing the Feaver, they apply'd Topicks to my Navel, and during the Space of Twenty-two Days, they dar'd not give me any thing but Apozems three or four Times a Day, with half an Ounce of Manna which loosen'd the Glears by little and little, which being grown hard did come out no bigger then lentils, and not without excessive Pains, and I was not in a Condition to go abroad till the Day before *Palm-Sunday*, though I was still very weak, and far from being cur'd, for I relaps'd in less than twelve Days, on a *Wednesday* at two in the Morning. I bore my Pains as well as I could, at seven I was willing to try to overcome it, being tir'd with staying so long at home, I got into a Chair, and made a shift, notwithstanding the great Pains I suffer'd, to give a Lesson to some of my Scholars, about Noon I went to my Brother, to get some Relief from him, and be put in a Condition to seek for a Cure in *England*, since I could not find it at *Paris*. I was feverish, lookt yellow, and my Pains oblig'd me to hold my Hands upon my Belly, this gave some Uneasiness to some of my Friends which were then in my Brother's Shop; *M. De Sigogne* was one of them, who seeing me in that deplorable Condition, took me by the Hand, and told me he had a Mind to cure me, and that he knew my Disease, having seen me often, though I would not make Use of his Specific, the Operation of it appearing to me fabulous, and indeed one can scarce believe it, unless one has try'd it. My Brother who lov'd me entirely, and did earnestly desire my recovery, bid me in *English* to accept of his offer, and to strike the Iron whilst it was hot: that very Minute I went along with *M. de Sigogne* to his House, he made me take his specific Remedy, and order'd me to take some more at going to Bed, and promis'd



promis'd me that my Pains would disappear in few Days, which they did almost totally that very Night, for I slept better then I had done for several Years, when I awak'd I had no Feaver but was well enough to go about my Business. He told me his specific would make me sweat four Hours a Day, and that I might chuse the most convenient time, I chose two of the Clock in the Morning, because of my Business: I had a Nurse that watch'd me, and I was order'd when I had a Mind to sweat, to add a Blanket or a Night-gown to the Bed-cloaths, and to lie very quiet; the fifth Day after I had began to take his Specific, I began to sweat, at two in the Morning, at first gently, but afterwards more abundantly, in so much that it went quite through my Feather-bed: but at the same Time the Sweats were so pleasant that I fancied my self in a Bath, the Sweat ran down my Head and Body, but without the least heat either inward or outward, or any Thirst or Unquietness; and I could sometimes lie four Hours without stirring; I drank an Hour after I had began to sweat a pint Bottle of his Water luke-warm'd at four draughts, one every quarter of an Hour, I got up at six in the Morning, and after having been well rubb'd, and shifted my self, I found my self refreshed and hungry, I eat a bit of Bread, and drank two Glasses of good Burgundy, and went abroad on Foot, finding my Legs stronger than ordinary, and what surpriz'd me most as well as my Nurse was, that when she rubb'd me with warm Cloaths, I found my self as cool as if I had just come out from bathing in some River. But the Reader will be still more surpriz'd when he shall understand how agreeably this specific operated, for contrary to all those kinds of Remedies, which never fail to weaken the Patient, this gave me two gentle stools without any Griping, it made me piss plentifully during the Sweat, or soon after, and much more than I had drank, and when I came out of the Sweat I found my self more and more vigorous, and in a Condition to walk or leap as well as I could have done at the Age of Thirty. I who for several Years was quite out of Breath in getting up one pair of Stairs, and was so weak that I could not do even that without resting and taking Breath three or four Times, in  
less



less than a Fourt'night after my beginning to sweate, I found my self stronger and brisker than I was ten Years before. I continued sweating Fifty-two Days, having always a good Stomach, and during the whole Time of the Cure having had but some slight griping Pains here and there, which gave me little or no trouble.

I must not omit acquainting the Reader, that during three Years I have now and then voided some Glears like little Oysters, which the Physicians with all their Skill could not disperse whatever they did, whatever Remedies they prescrib'd, what Dyet soever I us'd could never remove the Cause. None but Dr. *de Sigogne* could ever effect it, I can safely and honestly affirm, that since I have began to use his Remedy, I have voided no Glear, he has dissolv'd them, and they have been carried off imperceptibly, without the help of any other Remedy but his Specific; being now no longer costive, but going as regularly to Stool as a Man in perfect good Health. Thanks be to God I am now very well, I eat and drink with as good an Appetite, as I did when I was young, and without any disturbance; in a word, I should think my self very ungrateful and unthankful, if I did not do him Justice by making this publick Acknowledgment of the Truth of the Fact before-related.

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**F I N I S.**