

**Remarks on the impositions of quacks : so much practiced in this Kingdom. Wherein is exposed to the public the means of distinguishing them from able physicians and surgeons. And how much it is to be wished that the laws would appoint some effectual means to suppress these vile ways of practicing, so prejudicial to his Majesty's subjects / By Vint. B-t.**

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By Vint. B——t Sworn Surgeon.

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REMARKS

ON THE

IMPOSITIONS

OF

QUACKS

IN THE

ART OF

HEALING

BY

JOHN

W. B. L.

ESQ.

AND

HOW IT IS TO BE WITHSTOOD

THE

MEANS

OF

PREVENTING

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OF



REMARKS  
ON THE  
IMPOSITIONS  
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AS the Truth needs no Apology, and that what is here inserted will prove sufficiently for itself, therefore I shall not trouble the reader with either Apology or Preface.

THERE is nothing represents more the character of a Quack, than in publishing the News, and printed Bills, the several Cures that he pretends to have done, and wherein he boasts of the Infallibility of Specificks, with which he picks Pock, sooner than he can cure any Disease.

This Truth is so well known among Persons of good Sense, that if a Physician or Surgeon should by his continual application and study arrive to the perfect knowledge of some Discoveries, useful for the common Good, and afterwards publish them in the News, he would be look'd upon, without any distinction, to be no better than them.

It is by this slight way of not profoundly or examining deeply the difference between a true Advertisement to that of a Quack, that the Publick is deprived of these Advantages they might receive from those who really make Discoveries, for the following Reasons.

ALL the World acknowledges that the best Thing that ever *Lewis*, XIV. did during his Reign, was the encouraging Arts and Sciences, by rewarding of the Ingenuity of those who made any Discoveries to the publick Good: Thus we remark that *France* was never so fertiliz'd with Improvements as it was in his Time; but having not the like Encouragements in this Kingdom, the laborious Artist has no other recompence but that of making himself known. There is two Means by which one may arrive to it; the one is to publish by Writing those Discoveries made, together to gain the Recommendation of a Person of Distinction. Thus it follows, that

he that has had the Ingenuity of inventing, but has not wherewithal to pursue it, nor the Gift of Writing, often looses his Labour and he is no better rewarded, who has not the good Luck to meet with good Protectors.

So it happens that the Expences and Labour of arriving to a high Degree of perfection in Art must be buried; and if he publishes himself in the News, he must be reputed as a Quack. It is this unjust reflection which is the Cause that the Publick is deprived of the Advantages of daily Discoveries, which Evil could easily be prevented, if they would give themselves the Trouble to distinguish the one from the other by this strict Enquiry.

It must be affirm'd as a Truth, that all Persons who publish themselves in the News, without being qualified before, with the Title of Physician by the Universities or College of Physicians, or the Title of Surgeon by the whole Body of Surgeons, such a Man ought to be look'd upon as a Quack, for the following Reasons.

1st. A Physician who is a Member of the College of Physicians, is obliged to give an Account of his Conduct whenever the Assembly requires it of him.

2d. A Surgeon who is a Member of the Surgeon's Hall, is subject to the same obedience, at the Penalty of 200 l.

3d.

3d. THESE Bodies of Physicians and Surgeons have not a Right to oblige any Person who takes upon himself the Title of a Physician or Surgeon to appear before them, nor cannot oblige them to pay any pecuniary Penalty; for if they had that Power, I am persuaded they would suppress the daily Impositions of those Impostors so destructive to Mankind.

SOME will say that if every one was to take directly the Idea I give of them we call Quacks, that it would undoubtedly cause their Ruin, and that those People having no other support for the Maintenance of their Families, necessity obliges them to put in Practice that way of Industry. There is means enough to get an honest Livelihood when People are willing to take Pains, tho' not so profitable.

BUT Idleness taking Place with this sort of People, they could not well fit themselves upon any thing better, by which they get, with little Pains, Sums of Money extorted from People, which afterwards cause them to be burthensome to Work Houses and Hospitals, and dreadful Objects about the Streets, so offensive to every Body, and in particular to Women with Children by which the *Embryo* is too often prejudiced.

THUS it is, without any regard to the  
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Consciences, that those Fellows prefer this abominable Practice to that of getting their Livings honestly; and with a wilful blindness they destroy the Health of some, cripple and murder others for the Lucre of Money, at whose Expence 'tis at is no matter. They know the Law has appointed no punishment for them, they live in a free Nation, where they are not tax'd Criminals or Murderers; but if it was Street-Robbers, Housebreakers, or Highwaymen they would be transported or hanged; but slaying People alive, murdering them in their Beds, are Things tolerated and overlook'd, because the *Grand* and *Mysterious Name* they make use of being Travellers, by Sea and Land being Doctors of *Germany*, *Switzerland* and the *Antipodes*, puts 'em above the just Prosecution of the Law.

I don't pretend; by what is here advanced, to prescribe Rules to the Nation, I leave that intirely to the great Wisdom of the Legislative Power, only it were to be wish'd, for the publick Good, that such vile Practices were suppress'd and abolish'd.

AFTER these general Remaks it will not be amiss to take Notice of some particular Ones.

1<sup>st</sup>. The Art or Science of Physick is so extensive, that it has been divided in three Parts, which is Physick, Surgery and Pharmacy.

2d. THAT Surgery being the most delicate Part, is divided in several Branches, some practising only that Part which belongs to the Operation of the *Stone*, others for the Diseases of the *Eyes*, others in *Midwifry*, and others, whose particular Care is in Curing *Venereal Diseases*, and performing all other Operations required in that Art. From whence one may easily judge, that a Surgeon who has apply'd himself only in any one of these Branches, must certainly become more experienced in that Part he has apply'd himself most to, whether it be in the Nicety of an Operation, or in the Cure of Diseases.

THESE Circumstances appearing so plain, that the Publick can hardly let themselves be imposed on, and by that just distinction those who are afflicted with the most dangerous Distempers, will have the Satisfaction to know where to have recourse to.

AFTER all the aforesaid Reasons that have been given, I shall not trouble myself much at the Criticism or Chimerical Names that may be advanced against me, in offering publickly the Cure of the Venereal Disease without Salivation, which I here propose to demonstrate; but to remove the confuted Opinions of the most Part of my Profession, which I guess, will, at the first Appearance, exclaim against this Innovation, it will not  
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be amiss to observe some Rules already received in Physick.

IN the first Place, it is known that Physicians and Surgeons acknowledge, that the Mercury taken inwardly or applied outwardly, is the best Specifick Remedy that has been hitherto found for the Cure of the most inveterate Pox, whether it acts by its penetration in the whole Mass of Blood, by the imperceptible division of its Globulous Particles, which precipitates by its own Weight, all the Heterogeneous Bodies that it meets with, or else that these little Spherical Bodies of the Mercury loading itself with the acids of the Venom, carries it off by Secretions and Evacuations. This is what I leave to the Determination of the Physicians, altho' it is sufficient for me to know that it does actually Cure that Distemper.

SECONDLY, the Question is to know, if giving the same Quantity of this Mineral, apply'd outwardly or taken inwardly, will as safely cure the Pox, as if it was by the Means of Salivation; it is what I can easily prove by Practice and Experience, grounded upon as solid Reasons as they, who are for the System of Salivation; but as those Particulars would lead me too far, and insensibly engage me to specify all the Circumstances, which would not fail to give an

an Insight to those of my Profession to practise after the said Method, I shall content myself to expose Facts of Practice, following in that, the Example of that Great Man, Mr. *Chieanneaud*, Professor in Physick at the University of *Monpellier*, with this singular Advantage, that I can produce to any Gentleman, before the most able Physicians and Surgeons, that I have cured Persons of the most inveterate Pox without Salivation; but the great Distance from this Country not permitting Mr. *Chieanneaud* to produce personal Experiments, has given occasion to a Criticism published here in *English* against him, which I could very easily confute, without the help of Rhetorick or Philosophy; but as I seek not to disoblige any Person I shall keep silent upon this Point.

IF any one objects, that some Years ago, I was engaged in a Decision of this kind, it was because I was obliged to answer them in my own Defence; as it was required of me by some Physicians and Surgeons to examine a Patient, and give my Opinion of his Case, which I did accordingly; but the Surgeon Mr. *De---*, under whose Care the Patient was, not being satisfied with my Report, put himself in such a furious heat that within a Fortnight's time, he had got the Opinions of above Thirty *English* and  
*French*

*French* Surgeons against my Opinion, altho' grounded upon internal Symptoms of the Pox, thinking by the Violence of his Proceedings to make me pass for an ignorant Fellow and Calumniator; but what is more particular, some of the aforesaid Gentlemen, after they had approved of the Relation that I was obliged to draw up in my own Defence, and which was signed by their Hands, when the Time came for the final Decision at *Surgeon's-Hall*, they had the Baseness to retract, for what Reasons I cannot yet comprehend, for several disown'd their Opinions, by Declarations in Writing, and by word of Mouth, contrary to their Signature, and injurious to Truth. ‡ Others appear'd in Person at the Hall to maintain their bad Cause; † but what surpriz'd me the most, was to hear the Name of a Surgeon, who keeps his Chariot, and who passes to be one of the most Skilful Surgeons in that Distemper,\* who after he had received his Fees retracted himself in Writing, in that Manner that little tends to his Honour.

It was in consideration of these multitudes of Opinions against mine, that the Masters of *Surgeon's-Hall* did not do me the same Justice, as would have been done by the Master Surgeons of *Paris*, or *Monpellier*.

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‡ Dioré. † Mr. F——. Mr. P——.

*pellier*. Mr. *Fern* excepted, who strictly insisted on the Truth of my Opinion, which soon after appeared by outward Symptoms, which being hidden before, prov'd to be the grand Mistake of those Gentlemen; for in fifteen Days after their imperfect Decision the outward Symptoms appearing, the Patient was treated by two different Doctors, by the Means of the Salivation, without success; then a Third, (who had gained great Fame in a certain Tavern, by a learned Conference he had with the pretended Dr. *Petit*) put to proof his famous Pills, the Infalibility of which he so much boasts of, could not Cure this Patient, who soon after died, being over-power'd by the said Illness. I could add to this Relation other just Reflections, which I reserve for a better Opportunity; but having sufficiently troubled the Reader with a Relation which concerns only those in this Case, I shall conclude in giving an Explanation of this New Method.

It is to cure, in a most easy Manner, all the Degrees of the Venereal Disease, without Salivation, that I have erected a Bagnio for that Use, and for Bathing, Sweating, and for the Preparation of my Remedies. I have also furnish'd my Rooms for the Conveniency of such Gentlemen who will be pleased to rely themselves to my Care,  
or

or follow the Prescription of their Physician. The Rule and Course of Diet is much the same of the Salivation; the Patient keeps the Room for three Weeks or a Month, but without any Danger or Constraint: They may converse freely with their Friends, and pass the time much more agreeably than their Condition will allow of in the Salivation. The Prices of Cure is proportionable to the Degree of the Malady, and according to the Attendance required; and to the Capacity of some, and the Generosity of others.

As I was not willing to expose this Method by any publick Advertisement, I have kept my Bagnio open for the Space of two Years, in hopes to have found an Opportunity of making myself known to some Person of Distinction; being persuaded that the Recommendation of one Nobleman would be sufficient to put me in Reputation without making use of these Means; And what confirms this Truth is, during all that time I never would accept of Women in Men's Company; and if any Person can prove the contrary, I'll forfeit to them an hundred Pounds.

The second Reason was, Although I was very well assured that I could perform the Cures by the aforesaid Method, yet I could not expose it to the Publick without run-  
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ning the Hazard of being censur'd by our Hall, for the want of producing a complete Cure, with all the Circumstances required.

1<sup>st</sup>, Circumstance to prove that a Patient had the Pox, by the Testimony of the Physician; which was very easy to prove.

2<sup>d</sup>, Circumstance to give authentick Proofs that I had cured a Patient without Salivation; which I could prove as well as the first.

3<sup>d</sup>, Circumstance that there should be a considerable Length of Time to be assured of the Cure, without fear of any Relapse.


THIS I make the chief circumstantial Proof by the narrow Relation of the Fact. The 9<sup>th</sup> of *December* 1723, I was called to her Grace the late Duchess of ——— to visit a Gentleman. After I had examin'd him, and consider'd his Condition, I gave an Account of it to her Grace, who by her extraordinary Goodness, order'd me to employ the best of my Endeavours to ease him for the Time he had to live. I had so good Success in following my Method, that in the Space of two Months I perfectly cured him without Salivation. It is what I can justify whenever required, by sufficient Testimonies of the Family. The said Patient had been cured of the Pox by Salivation three Years before. Eighteen Months

Months after he catch'd a Gonorrhæa and Shanker, but endeavouring to cure himself, it happen'd about a Year after he was seized with violent Pains in his Head and Legs, and upon the Shin of the Os Tibia, which increased more and more during the Night. Some little time after a Deafness seized him, and he became restless, with nocturnal Pains in all his Joints, a slow Fever, Vomiting, spitting of Mattery Blood, Exostose upon the Os Tibia, and Rottenness in the Bones of the Nose. All these Symptoms were attended with a fallen away or Leanness, and a universal Weakness all over his Body, that it was with much ado he could stir from his Bed. All the Diligence of her Grace's Surgeon was employed to no Purpose, the Physician assuring her Grace that his Illness was incurable, and that supposing it was curable, the Patient was not in a Condition to support the proper Remedies for the Cure. The two first Circumstances are probable, by what is above advanced; but as I wanted a more favourable Opportunity to prove the Third, so the most incontestible that can be given, is, that there is very nigh five Years the Patient has been very well in Health, whereof he has been married three Years, his Wife and two Children that he has alive enjoys perfect Health.

I can justify this Fact before any discreet and honourable Person, and in particular to those who labour under such Misfortunes.

I could shew several of the like Examples; but as it is an Accident that requires privacy, I hope that all reasonable Persons will be satisfied of this, as being one of the most Extraordinary that can be produced, as to the Cure of a Gonorrhæa, Shanker, Bubo, Phimosis and Pharasimosis, I do perform in an easy Manner and without Confinement.

N. B. As there are many Gentlemen that go from *England* to *Monpellier* to be cured by Mr. *Chieanneau's* Method, and others by the Salivation, those that are desirous to be cured by either of those Methods, or this above inserted, may be attended at their own Houses, or at mine, with all the Privacy and Care that the Treatment of this Malady requires.

 *If any one objects against what is here inserted, unless they set their Names at length, I shall not think it worth my while to answer them.*

VINCENT BREST.

From my House in *Panton-street, Leicester-Square.*

F I N I S.