

Medicina vindicata, or, Reflections on bleeding, vomiting, and purging : in the beginning of fevers, small-pox, pleurisies, and other acute diseases / By a Fellow of the College of Physicians in Dublin.

Contributors

Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin.
Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Publication/Creation

London : Printed for James and John Knapton, 1728.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/d7dpfme5>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

4

Medicina Vindicata :
O R,
REFLECTIONS
O N
Bleeding, Vomiting, and Purging,
In the BEGINNING of
Fevers, Small-Pox, Pleurifies,
AND OTHER
ACUTE DISEASES.

By a Fellow of the College of Physicians in
D U B L I N.

Οἱ δὲ νῦν διόρθοι δεῖν πᾶσαν ἀρχὴν πυρετῆ φλεβοτομίας, ἔ σμικροῦ
λυμᾶνεται τοῖς νεφῶσιν.

Sed qui nunc omne febris initium venæ sectione indigere putant, ægrotos non parum Lædunt. *Galen.*

Οὐ μὲν οὐδὲ ῥᾶσιν εἶναι πάντας τὰς χρήζοντας τῇ βοηθήματι διαγνώσκειν, καθάπερ ἔδδὲ τὸ μέτρον εὑρεῖν, ἢ τὴν τμηθησομένην φλέβα, καὶ τὸν καιρὸν.

Non tamen facile est omnes qui hoc egeant auxilio (i.e. Venæ sectione) dignoscere; quemadmodum neque sanguinis mensuram aut venam incidendam, opportunumque tempus invenire. *Galen.*

L O N D O N :

Printed for JAMES and JOHN KNAPTON, at the
Grown in St. Paul's Church-Yard. MDCCXXVIII.
(Price One Shilling.)



To the Learned

THE

PRESIDENT

CHASSORS and FELLOWS

OF THE

King and Queen's COLLEGE

OF

PHYSICIANS

IN

DUBLIN

The following PAPERS

Are most humbly Inscribed



To the LEARNED
THE
PRESIDENT,
CENSORS *and* FELLOWS
OF THE
King and Queen's COLLEGE
OF
PHYSICIANS
IN
DUBLIN,

The following PAPERS

Are most humbly INSCRIB'D.



Medicinae Indicatae :

Reflections on Bleeding, Vomiting
and Purging, and the Beginning of
Fever, &c.

Of acute Diseases

LEEDING, Vomiting, and
Purging, are the chief
operations in Phylack, by which
Diseases are cured, and Health
preserved; the Necessity of
these Discharges hath been so
universally confessed, that they were never
solutely rejected by any Sect of Physicians,
except a few Enthusiastic Physicians, who
they boasted that all Males might be cured
by the most powerful Laxatives.



Medicina Vindicata :

O R,

Reflections on Bleeding, Vomiting
and Purging, in the Beginning of
Fevers, &c.

Of acute Diseases.



BLEEDING, Vomiting, and
Purging, are the chief Ope-
rations in Physick, by which
Diseases are cured, and Health
preserved; the Necessity of
these Discharges hath been so
universally confessed, that they were never ab-
solutely rejected by any Sect of Physicians,
except a few Enthusiastick Chymists, who as
they boasted that all Metals might be turned
into

into Gold by one Menstruum, so likewise that all Diseases might be eradicated by one Medicine; but these wild Opinions need no Refutation; since neither the Broachers of them, nor even the Possessors of these pretended Secrets, lived so long, nor acquired so much Wealth as those who pursued the same Views in a rational Way.

There have been almost numberless Volumes written by the Founders and Improvers of Physick, to instruct us how we may direct these great Instruments to the salutary Ends for which they were designed by Nature; nor have they been less careful in cautioning us against the Mischiefs which may follow from an injudicious Use of them: And yet notwithstanding all this, Men are of late become so familiar with these dangerous Operations, that a Physician is seldom sent for, 'till one or more of them have been perhaps once or twice repeated; as if they were necessary Preparations for the easier Cure of all Diseases, not imagining, that they frequently increase the Distemper instead of abating it, and make a Cure which was at first easy, impracticable to the ablest Physician. And it is very observable, that the more ignorant every Man is in the Profession he was bred to, or the Station of Life he is placed in, the more he is inclined to dabble in
Matters

Matters of Physick; and I might likewise add, the more likely he is to meet with Encouragement from almost all Sorts of People.

There is no doubt but that the Growth of this pernicious Practice is in a great measure owing to the Calumnies raised against the Profession by designing Persons, who are altogether ignorant of it; but being taught to bleed, and having learned to write a few Forms of Vomiting, and purging Medicines, have endeavoured to perswade the inconsiderate Part of Mankind, that there is little more requisite in the Cure of Fevers, and other acute Diseases, than the Performance of one or more of these Operations in the Beginning. And it is evident from the Proceedings before the late Honourable House of Commons against the Physicians Bill for regulating the Practice of Physick, who they are that have been at the Head of all those Pretenders, and have propagated, and do still maintain this unwarrantable and destructive Method in the Cure of Diseases, having there confidently asserted that some one of these Evacuations, but especially Bleeding, was necessary, and directed by Physicians themselves in the Beginning of Fevers, Small-Pox, Pleurifies, Apoplexies, &c. and that therefore it would be a great Prejudice to the Publick as well as
to

to themselves, if they were debarred the Privilege of breathing a Vein or giving a Vomit, especially since they pretended to go no farther, should these general Evacuations prove ineffectual.

This bold Assertion which shows them to be ignorant of all regular modern Practice, put me upon enquiring narrowly into the Writings of our Predecessors, to find which of them patronized this popular and prevailing Error, not doubting but that some Authors of Reputation (at least for Learning) might have declared in Favour of this sanguinary Doctrine; for I could not persuade myself that any Set of Men regularly educated to honest and laudable Callings (to which if they applied themselves with Diligence, they would find but little Leisure for other Business) could either tax us with, or presume of themselves to maintain, so false and dangerous a Practice; but after a strict Search among the most celebrated both ancient and modern Physicians, it appears they are so far from countenancing this extravagant Position, that on the contrary they all agree, that these Evacuations, but especially Bleeding, may often prove of the most dangerous Consequence as well in the Beginning, as at any other time of an acute Disease.

It must be confessed that Dr. *Sydenham's* Works, by being translated into *English*, have in a great measure contributed to this Errour; for by this Means he is become the common Refuge of *Valetudinarians*, as well as of those who quack with others. And there finding that he begins the Cure of most Diseases, which he treats of, by bleeding, vomiting or purging, think they cannot err in pursuing the same Method in the like Distempers; whereas if they would carefully read his Works, and make themselves Masters of his, and all true Practice in Physick, they would find that whenever he prescribes Bleeding, he doth it with this Caution, that it is not contrary to any general Maxim; for in all Fevers he abstains (1) from Bleeding where the Blood is weak; or destitute of a sufficient Quantity of Spirits. And then as to the Quantity to be taken away, he reserves (2) that intirely

(1) Quoties mihi cum ægris res est, quorum sanguis vel per se imbecillior existit, (uti ferè in pueris) vel justâ spirituum copiâ destituitur, (ut in decliviori ætate, atq; etiam in juvenibus diuturno aliquo morbo confectis) à venæ sectione manum tempero. *Sydenham*, p. 18.

(2) Mensuram quod attinet, mihi solenne est eam duntaxat sanguinis quantitatem detrahere, quantum conjicere liceat, quæ ægrum ab incommodis, quibus immodicam ejusdem commotionem obnoxiam esse diximus, incolumem præstat. *Sydenham*, p. 19.

intirely to his own Judgement; for neither he, nor any other Physician was, or ever will be able to fix upon a general Measure; the Violence of the Disease, and the Strength of the Patient, being the only Lights we have to direct us in this Point: And as a competent Knowledge of these two Powers is of the greatest moment in the Cure of acute Diseases, so doth it require the greatest Labour to attain it, as well as the greatest Sagacity in applying it, as will be more fully shewn hereafter. It is not only in taking away too much Blood that we may do Mischief, but also in too (3) little, the Fever being by that Means oftentimes more exasperated, than if we had not taken any: It is a false Way of reasoning to say that Bleeding a second time will make Amends for the Deficiency of the first; be-

ὥστε ἐκ μὲν τῆ νοσήματι, καὶ τῆς ἡλικίας καὶ τῆς δυνάμεως, ὅτι φλεβοτομητέον γινώσκονται, τὸ ποσὸν δὲ τῆς κενώσεως, οὐκ ἐκ τῶν μέ-
 ρων, ἀλλὰ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων λαμβάνεσθαι. ταῦτα δὲ ἔστιν ἢ τε πληθωρική κα-
 λιμνὴ συνδρομή, καὶ ἢ ὅ περιέχοντι ἡμᾶς αἶμα κρᾶσις, εἰς ὥραν καὶ
 χρόνον τεμνομένη, καὶ τὰ κατὰ τὴν προηγούμενον βίον γεγονότα αἰετὰ τε
 ποσότητα, καὶ ποσότητα, τῶν ἐδιδεσμένων, ἐκκρίσεις τε καὶ κινήσεις
 ἡτοίχων γεγονότας ἢ μὴ. Galen, Tom. 10. p. 439. A.

Itaque ut accurate et ad unguem præscribatur in quibus morbis, et quantum demendum sit sanguinis, prorsus æsti-
 mandum quam magnus morbus sit, quamque validæ sint vi-
 res. *Fernelius Meth. Med.* p. 27.

(3) In febre ardente, pleuritide, peripneumoniâ, anginâ, phrenitide, apoplexiâ, aliisque magnis morbis, à sanguinis tur-
 gescentiâ aut incurfu φλεγμονώδεις oriundis, phlebotomia dimi-
 nuta semper plus officit quàm prodest. *Willis Pharmac. Rat.*
 p. 262.

cause

cause the Opportunity of relieving may be lost, before it is safe to bleed a second time: For Instance, Suppose a Person attacked by a Fever is too sparingly blooded, this may not be certainly discovered, 'till the next Return of the Paroxysm or Fever-Fit. During this Fit, which may last 12, 16, or 24 Hours, no prudent Physician (4) will venture to bleed without the most pressing Necessity, in which time some irreparable Mischief may be done by the Fury of the Distemper: On the other hand, if too much Blood be taken away, the Patient through Weakness is unable to struggle through half the usual Period of the Disease, but dies oppressed by the Load or Malignity of the morbid Humour.

But this is not all, there is yet a further Misfortune attending this unlimited Practice

(4) Quòd si vehemens febris urget, in ipso impetu ejus sanguinem mittere hominem jugulare est, expectanda igitur intermissio est; si non decedit, cum crescere desinit. *Cels.* p. 80.

Τὴς μὲν ἐν Διὰ νόσον πᾶρυσαν χρήζοντας τῆς ὁ αἵματι ἀφαιρέσεως, ἐν ᾧ παντὶ καιρῷ φλεβοτομέσμεν τὴν ἀκμὴν μόνον ἐν πυρετοῖς τῶν μερικῶν φυλαττόμενοι παροξυσμῶν. *Paul. Aegin.* p. 189.

In quacunque diei vel noctis horâ, postulante necessitate, venam incidis, attendens semper in febrientibus quidem exacerbationis declinationem. *Ætj Tom.* 1. p. 114.

Unum est ut nunquam in accessione sanguinem mittatis, nisi sit periculum suffocationis. *Mercurial. Pral. Patav.* 553.

of Bleeding in Fevers, in as much as some Sorts of them will in no wise bear the Loss of Blood, but must be managed in a very different manner. And indeed a Fever is so far from being in its own Nature a Reason for Bleeding, that in many Disorders which require letting Blood, we are directed (5) however not to bleed, when they are attended with a Fever. And *Prosper Martianus*, that most judicious Commentator on *Hippocrates*, observes that this great Man was more timorous of Bleeding in (6) Fevers than in any other Distemper, and that he never admitted of it in (7) putrid Fevers.

Avicenna a celebrated *Arabian* informs us, that some Fevers are accompanied with Con-

(5) Σπασμὸς χειρὸς δακτύλων ἄνευ πυρετοῦ, χάσαι.

ἢ ὁ ἔλκος ἢ, φλεβοτομέειν τὰς εἰσώ, ἢ μὴ πυρεταίνῃ.

Ὅσοι ἐξαπίνης ἄφανοι, ἀπύρετοι εἰσιν φλεβοτομέειν. *Hippocrat. Morb. Pop. l. 2. sect. 5.*

(6) Et hæc adnotare vellem recentiores medicos, ad secandam venam adeò audaces, considerareque quoties contra præsentem coacam in ægrotantium perniciem eos errare contingat, dum non in hoc morbo tantum, sed in quolibet alio dummodò febris adsit, statim ad venæ sectionem deveniunt, quod non solum *Hippocratis* doctrinæ non convenit, sed ei omninò adversatur, qui venæ sectionem propter febrem adeò timuit, ut sæpe ejus gratiâ à venæ sectione abstinere existimavit. *Prosper Mart. in Hippoc. p. 591.*

(7) Prudens senex venæ sectionem in febribus putridis — adeo suspectam habuit, ut pro earum curatione nullibi eam admiserit. *Prosper Mart. p. 592.*

vulsions

vulsions, (8) Watchings, and profuse Sweats, in which we are to bleed sparingly; and that it is the peculiar Nature of other Sorts to be carried off by a (9) Looseness, in which Bleeding is altogether superfluous. Hence we may learn that a Physician, before he ventures to bleed in Fevers, ought to be perfectly acquainted with their Natures and Differences, and able to determine what Sort (10) of Crisis each particular Fever is likeliest to end in, and how long it will continue: by this Fore-knowledge he is qualified to judge whether Bleeding is necessary or not; and if necessary, whether in the Beginning, or what other Time of the Disease. To this Sagacity of *Hippocrates* it was owing, (11) says *Mercurialis*, that he did not bleed *Anaxion* in a Pleurisy 'till the 8th Day, though

(8) In febribus prætereà cum quibus advenit spasmus minoretur phlebotomia, licet fuerit necessaria; quoniam cum spasmus accidit, vigilare facit, et sudare multum, et dejicit virtutem. *Avicen.* p. 78.

(9) Et multoties etiam habenti febrem, et habenti capitis dolorem, qui ex consilio phlebotomiâ esset medicandus, supervenit fluxus ventris naturaliter qui phlebotomiam excusat. *Avicen.* p. 80.

(10) Τὴν ὃν θεραπείαν ἀρίστα ἀν ποιεῖσθαι, προσιδῶς τὰ ἐσόμενα ἐκ τῶν παρόντων. *Hip. Prænot.* p. 477. vid. *Fernel. Meth. Med.* p. 34.

(11) Ego autem dico, *Hippocrates*, forsan, etiam si initio vocatus fuisset, (ad *Anaxionem* scil.) non antè misisse sanguinem: siquidem divinissimus senex, inter alia præclarissima ingenij dona illud habuit, ut mirifice præcognosceret morbos futuros, morborum naturas et eventus, ut ostendunt divina ipsius hac de re monumenta. *Mercurial. Prel. Patav.* 237.

the

the Fever and Symptoms were very high, and we have a very signal Instance of the like Penetration (12) in *Galen*. He was called into a Consultation upon a young Gentleman in *Rome*, who had been five Days ill of a Fever; he found the other Physicians come to a Resolution to bleed him, and agreed with them that Bleeding was absolutely necessary, but at the same time said, if they would have a little Patience, Nature would do that Business her self much better: Accordingly, in a very little time and before he left the Room, the Youth was seized with a large Effusion of Blood at the Nose, which perfectly carried off the Fever. Every Physician without doubt will allow, that nothing could have happened more fortunately for this young Man, than the Fore-knowledge of this Crisis, and that if he had been blooded, the Fever in all Appearance would have been prolonged, supposing no worse Consequence! Of so great moment is it to be well skilled in the Movements of the diseased Humours before we pretend to regulate or direct them.

(13) *Ramazzini* tells us, that an eminent Physician who attended Armies in the Field,

(12) Vid. *Galen. de Prenot.*

(13) Quoad febrium harum curationem, funestam admodum venæ sectionem sibi observatam testatur, et ab illâ religiose abstinuisse. *Ramaz. de Morb. Artific.* p. 299.

constantly

constantly observed that Bleeding was very pernicious in Camp-Fevers: And when (14) Dr. *Friend* takes notice of *Alexander Trallianus* his Practice in Bilious Fevers, viz. "That he used Purging and not Bleeding; he adds, this Method when pursued judiciously is attended with surprizing Success; for this may often be the most proper way of following or assisting Nature: And *Galien* well observes, that one Method of bringing this Distemper to a Crisis is by a Looleness." It is of these Sorts of Fevers *Fernelius* (15) speaks, when he says, if they arise from Humours collected and stagnating in the Stomach, or concave part of the Liver, they cannot be cured by Bleeding.

Many more Instances might be given of Fevers and other acute Diseases, in which wise Physicians have been cautious of Bleeding, or have wholly abstained from it; but these already mentioned may serve to let every one see how incumbent it is on all those who practise Physick to be conversant in the Histories of Diseases. The many Volumes

(14) Vide *Friend's History of Physick*. Vol. 1. p. 90.

(15) Nam et interdum circa ventriculum, maximè que os ipsius, et jecinoris partes simas, coacervatus humor exardescens febrem parit continuam, quam ut et ejus causam non possit phlebotomia tollere. *Fernel. Meth. Med.* p. 23.

that have been written on this Branch of Physick alone, clearly demonstrate how laborious a Task it is to become thoroughly acquainted with them: And if *Hippocrates*, who knew more of this Science than any Man then, or perhaps since, living, complains (16) that Life is too short to admit of Perfection in it, what notable Genius's must they be who, without proper Education, Instruction, or even Reading in the Profession, take upon them so weighty a Charge?

We are now to consider those Fevers in which Bleeding is useful or dangerous, according as the Disease stands circumstantiated: Such are all continued Fevers not putrid, Small-Pox, Measles, Pleurisies, &c. In these Bleeding is often necessary, and without it the Patient may run manifest Hazard of his Life: And yet in the very same Distempers, the Circumstances either of the Disease, the sick Person, the Season of the Year, &c. may make Bleeding not only dangerous, but even pernicious in its Consequences; and this I shall endeavour to prove from the concurring Testimonies of the most eminent Physicians, not

(16) Ὁ Βίος βραχύς, ἢ ἡ τέχνη μακρὴ. ὃς καὶ καὶ οὐκ ἔστι, ἢ ἡ πᾶσα σφαλερὴ, ἢ δὲ κρίσις χαλεπὴ, οἷον οὐ μόνον ἐαυτὸν παρέχειν τὰ δεόντα ποιεῖν, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸν νοσούντα, καὶ τοὺς παρόντας, καὶ τὰ ἐξωθεν, Hip. Aphor. sect. 1. 2. 1.

doubting but that their united Opinions will in this Case carry stronger Evidence, and be more persuasive than any other Kind of Arguments whatever: For what they have laid down, is intirely founded on most regular and accurate Observations of the Nature, Progress, and Cure, of Diseases; on Observations, which not only their own, but all succeeding Experience, hath confirmed the Truth of; and therefore it is that the Maxims and Rules which they have thence formed, appear with that Clearness, as fully to convince all Men who carefully consider them, and seem probable even to those who are not qualified to judge accurately of them. For Instance,

If a (17) a Disease arises, and continues from too great a Fulness, it is to be cured by Emptying: Doth not this command our Assent as soon as proposed? Again,

If it be (18) proper to purge the Body of a diseased Humour, we are to follow the Bent of that Humour, unless it takes an improper Course; that is, if Nature expels a diseased

(17) Ἀπὸ πλησμονῆς ὁρῶσα ἂν ἰσχύματα γίνηται, κενώσεις ἵηται· καὶ ὁρῶσα ἀπὸ κενώσεως πλησμονή, καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἢ ὑπεραντισίσεως.
Hip. Aph. sect. 2. a. 21.

(18) Ἄ δεῖ ἄγειν, ὅκως ἂν μάλιστα ῥέπῃ, ταύτην ἄγειν ἀλλὰ τῶν συμφορῶν τῇ χαρίαν. Hip. Aph. sect. 1. a. 21.

Humour by Vomiting, we are to help Nature by promoting that Discharge; provided we apprehend no Inconveniency from it: If that Humour falls upon the lower Bowels, &c. we are to use Purgatives; if the Humour attempts to make its Passage by the Skin, we are to assist it by Sweats, Perspiration, &c. But if the Humour issues at an improper Vent, we are to turn the Current, and carry it off at one more convenient, &c. If a Vein bursts in the Lungs, we must not encourage that Discharge, but open a Vein in some other Part of the Body, or alter, or stop its Course by some other Means, by reason that the Lungs are a very improper and dangerous Part for such a Vent.

But before we proceed to the main Design, it must be here observed; that the Clearness of these Maxims, and others of the same Nature, make unthinking People imagine themselves sufficiently qualified to put them in Practice; whereas, if they considered them justly, they would be convinced of their own Weakness, as well as of the Difficulty of the Attempt. To instance in the Maxim last mentioned, it supposes that there may be noxious Humours making their Way out of the Body, which however (19) ought not to

(19) ^a A δεινόν, &c.

be immediately purged off; so that the Knowledge of this Rule doth not make them in the least the wiser, unless they have Judgment to discern, whether the offending Humour ought to be carryed off or not; and if it ought, at what Time, by what Means, and through what Channels it must be conveyed, &c. But to get at this Knowledge, they must take such Roads as they never yet have travelled, and consequently be in great Danger of losing both themselves and their Patients. I remember three fatal Instances, occasioned by the Ignorance of some of these Kinds of Practitioners in pursuing the Maxim now in question; two of them were of Persons, who having weak or obstructed Livers were also affected with Eructations, Nauseatings, Retchings, and Loss of Appetite, Symptoms very common in this Disorder; who being vomited by some of these *Æsculapius's*, without any Preparation, one fell into an Hepatitis or Inflammation of the Liver, of which he died soon after; the other into a Schirrus which ended in an incurable Dropsy: For they not suspecting any latent Cause of these Complaints, had Regard only to the Symptoms of Sickness at Stomach, Retchings, &c. and concluded they ought to help Nature by Vomits. Whereas if a prudent Physician had been consulted, he must probably have discovered that the Cause did not lie in

the Stomach, and would have endeavoured to remove the Obstructions by a futable Method. The other Case was of a Child about four Years old, apparently in a perfect State of Health, whose Mother, under concern that the Boy did not eat his Breakfast as heartily as he used to do, sent for an Operator, allowed by the good Women to be very skilful in Childrens Disorders, (and indeed the weaker and more ignorant the Quack or Physician is, he is generally supposed the better to understand the Diseases of Children) who without further Enquiries gave the Child a Vomit, of which he died under the Operation. Upon opening the Head, it was found a Vein had burst, in the Retching and Straining to Vomit. These are sad Instances of Ignorance and Presumption, for which the poor deluded People pay dearly here ; but surely the Authors of their Misfortunes will be called to a severe Account in another Place. There seems to be a near Resemblance between them and those barbarous Inhabitants of Sea Coasts, who, when there is a Storm, light up Fires in the Night, to entice distressed Ships to a destructive Shore : The Difference indeed is, that those Barbarians have nothing else in View but to destroy and plunder ; whereas unqualified Practitioners may design well, though it is certain they light up their Fires (and that for the Sake of Profit

Profit too) without examining whether the Coasts are safe enough, or not: And as every prudent Mariner would rather chuse to stand out the most dreadful Tempest, than venture to put in on such suspected Places; so every wise Man will sooner rely on the Strength of his Constitution, and the Interposition of Providence in the most dangerous Disease; than trust his Life to the Conduct of Persons, whose Abilities there is such Reason to suspect.

Though the Practice of these Men is in it self as wicked as it is fatal, I am fully persuaded that many of them are honest Men, and have fallen into this Errour from a Belief, that there is not so much Study or Judgment necessary to qualify Persons for the Curing of Diseases, as we pretend. And I will not say but that the Folly and Ignorance of some Physicians, may have contributed very much to vilify the Profession, and encourage the Invasions that are made upon it; though I think there are few or none of that Class now among us, and dare affirm, that this City was never at any time supplied with so many Physicians of Probity, Industry, Learning and Abilities, as at present; which must be attributed to the Agreement between the University of *Dublin*, and the College of Physicians, in Pursuance of which young Gentlemen are obliged to undergo an Examination

mination by the College, before they are admitted to take a Degree in Physick.

There is another Rule of Practice included in the foregoing general Maxim, which would be well worth these Gentlemen's Consideration, who so rashly undertake the Cure of Diseases ; and then let them say, whether they think themselves capable of executing it, without applying themselves to the Study of the Nature and Cure of Distempers; *viz.* If Sweating relieves in a Fever, it is to be encouraged, but if it aggravates the Disease it must be stopped, and the Humour carried off another way, if necessary : In this Case, none but a skilful Physician can tell whether Sweating relieves or not ; for he must not judge alone from the Remission of Pain, or Heat, the Quietness of the Pulse, or the Mildness of other Symptoms, that the Disease is abated ; many Fevers whether attended with Sweats or not, having at certain Periods a Remission of all these, though the Danger continues as great as ever : And if in such a State, Nature is untimely provoked to a new Sweat in Hopes of further Relief, the Blood will be anew enraged, and the Patient deprived of that Rest which would have enabled him to struggle with the next Return of the Fever Fit. Again, if Sweats be attended with Ravings, Convulsions, Restlessness, &c. we must not
from

from hence judge that Sweating aggravates the Disease, and that it therefore ought to be stopped ; for these turbulent Symptoms are frequently the Sign of an approaching Crisis, and if in such a Case we should stop the Sweats, in all Likelihood we kill the Patient : So that beside the Abatement or Increase of outrageous Symptoms, there must be many more Signs to satisfy an observing Physician that the Patient is relieved or grows worse ; the Chief of which are the Signs of Concoction or Crudity, and these are more especially discovered by the Stools and Urine, upon which Head alone many able Physicians have bestowed a great deal of well employed Labour ; for every Sediment or Breaking of the Urine doth not denote (20) Concoction ; on the contrary some of them denote great Crudity. But to conclude this Point, If we do not discern the Cause of the Remission, or apparent Abatement in the Disease, we cannot say whether it may be depended on or not ; for we daily see what *Hippocrates* long since observed, that in the most malignant and mortal Diseases we have sometimes (21) surprising Appearances of Amendment,

(20) Κριμνώδεις δὲν τοῖσιν ὑποστασίαις, πονηραί, τετέων δ' εἴτε κακίαις αἱ πεταλώδεις—τετέων δ' εἴτε κακίαις εἰσὶν αἱ πιτυρώδεις. Hip. Prænot. f. 11.

(21) Τὰ ἀλλόθρια ἀσθενίας φανερὰντα θάνατον σημαίνει. Hip. Prædict. l. 1, sect. 6. Τὸ

mendment, which soon manifest themselves to be but the Fore-runners of Death.

It would be easy to show the like Difficulty in every Rule of Practice ; but, having strayed too long from the main Subject, I shall only observe ; that whoever is able to determine justly on these Things, let his Education or Profession be never so low, he deserves the Title of a wise and able Physician : And if any unlicensed Practitioners can make it appear that they are thus qualified, the College of Physicians declare themselves ready to admit them to share in their Practice, and give them ample Testimonies of their Sufficiency. But I know of no humane Means of attaining this Knowledge beside long Experience joined to a quick discerning Genius, or a laborious Search into the Nature and Cure of Distempers, in the Writings of Physicians ; and few have arrived at any Perfection in this Art without a good Share of both.

Τὰ ἐν πονηροῖσι σημείοισιν κεφίζοντα, καὶ τὰ ἐν χρηστοῖσι μὴ ἐνδίδοντα δύσκολα, Hip. Coac. sect. 1. p. 73.

Τοῖσι μὴ κατὰ λόγον κεφίζουσιν ὁ δεῖ πιστεῦειν. Hip. Aph. sect. 2. 2. 27.

Of continued Feavers.

ALL the great Men in Practice, from *Hippocrates* to this present time, have allowed Bleeding to be necessary in a (22) Feaver, when it is very violent, and the Patient of a robust Constitution, and in the Flower of his Age: But they did not so strictly confine themselves to these Limitations, as not to allow it sometimes also in other (23) Circumstances: For if the Violence of the Distemper was greater than the Strength of the Patient could bear, then they directed Bleeding, although the Person was weak; provided the Physician had Reason to think it would lessen the Distemper, more than the Patient's

(22) Τὰ ὀξέα πάθει φλεβοτομήσεις, ἢ ἰσχυρὸν φαίνεται τὸ νόσημα, καὶ οἱ ἔχοντες ἀκμᾶζωσι τῇ ἡλικίᾳ, καὶ ῥώμῃ παρῇ αὐτέοισιν. *Hippoc. Vict. acut. sect. 23.*

Καλῶς ἐν ἐν τοῖς προκειμένοις τῶν πρὸ διαίτης ὀξέων παρήνεται φλεβοτομεῖν ἡμᾶς, ὅταν ἡ μέγα τὸ νόσημα, καὶ ἀκμᾶζῃ ἡ νόσος, ἢ ὁ νοσῶν, καὶ ῥώμῃ παρῇ. *Galen, Tom. 10. p. 437. f.*

*Ægritudinis magnitudo et virtutis robur potissimæ sunt intentiones venæ incidendæ. *Ætij de re Med. lib. 3. p. 113.**

(23) Fieri tamen potest, ut morbus quidem id desideret, corpus autem vix pati posse videatur sed si nullum tamen appareat aliud auxilium, periturusque fit qui laborat, nisi temerariâ quoque viâ fuerit adjutus; in hoc statu boni medici est ostendere, quàm nulla spes sine sanguinis detractiōe sit, faterique quantus in hac ipsâ re metus sit, et tum demum si exigatur sanguinem mittere. *Cels. p. 79. vid. Galen. de Arte Curat. ad Glauco.*

Strength; that is, they were authoriz'd to bleed, if there appeared the least Possibility of doing Good, and that all other Means were desperate. But because we must often meet with great Difficulties in forming a Judgment on so critical a Point, we are commanded not only to (24) weigh well the several Powers of the Disease, and the Patient; but beside these, all such Circumstances, wherein Bleeding hath been observed to be successful or mischievous in the like Cases: Such are the Country and Climate we live in, the Seasons of the Year, the Nature of the Weather in each Season, the Temperament or Habit of the Body, the Manner of Living, the Custom or Disuse of Bleeding; these, and others of the same Nature, together with the Incidents or Symptoms of the Disease, such as Watchings, Sweats, Loosenesses, &c. and their several Combinations, were to direct the Physician in his Practice, when the Strength of the Patient, in respect of the Disease, could not otherwise be discovered.

(24) Præterea et habitus totius corporis naturalis, tum anni tempus, regio, præsens æris constitutio, vita præcedens, victus ratio, an scilicet cibi potusque multitudinem, eorûm præsertim quæ plurimum nutriunt, homo congefferit; et an consueta exercitia reliquerit, an solitiæ quæpiam evacuationes detentæ fuerint. *Ætiol. Tom. 1. p. 112.*

An acute Disease is said to be great or vehement, either from its own Nature, its Cause, or some terrible Symptom. It is in its own Nature great, as it stands compared to another Distemper of the same Kind, *viz.* a Feaver rising from an Inflammation of any Part, is greater than one from a bare Obstruction of the same Part ; a Feaver from an Obstruction or Inflammation of any of the more noble or sensible Parts, such as the Brain, the Heart, the Lungs, &c. is greater than one produced by an Obstruction or Inflammation of the less useful or sensible Parts. Next we must know the Nature of the Humour which feeds the Disease, how much it is degenerated, and what Degrees of Sharpness, or Crudity, or Malignity, it has acquired : And when these, and many more Things, have had their just Weight in the Mind of the Physician, he hath still much Work behind, he is to investigate and find out the Strength of his Patient.

What the first Principles of Strength are in an animal Body, is not easily determined ; but Physicians have by long Experience observed, that certain Signs have ever preceeded, or accompanied the Decay or Want of

28 *Reflections on Bleeding, &c. in the*
 Strength in the Body, as well as the Ap-
 proach of Distempers.

And these Signs, being manifested by the irregular Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Body, must be as various and numerous as these Functions are, and their several Degrees of Energy and Vigour; so that there is scarce any Part or Action in the whole Body, but gives the Physician some Light into the Strength of his Patient: And thus he is enabled to judge of Diseases, whether they will prove long or short, mild or dangerous; and by this Knowledge to proportion his Remedies to the Urgency of the Evil. So true is it, what *Diocles* observes in his Letter to King *Antigonus*, (25) That as Storms never rise in the Heavens without giving some Notices before, by which skilful Mariners are instructed to prepare against them; so Diseases never attack us, without discovering some Signs of their Approach: And it is the Excellence of a Physician to be able, by these Signs, to foretel the Nature and Danger of a Disease: For by this Means he

(25) Ούτε γὰρ χειμῶν ἐν τῷ ἔρανος συλαίη ποτὲ, μὴ ἔχῃ σημείων
 τινῶν προγιγνομένων, οἷσπερ παρακολοῦσιν οἱ ναυτικοὶ καὶ οἱ πολύ-
 τειροι τῶ ἀνθρώπων; οὔτε πάθος ἐν ἀνθρώπῳ φύσει συλαίη ποτὲ μὴ ἔχῃ
 σημεία τινὸς προγιγνομένου, Dioclis Epist. ad Antigonom Regem,
 apud Paul. Aeginet. p. 28.

will always be prepared, so as to lose no Time in imminent Dangers, nor hurt or weaken the Constitution by violent Methods, when he knows the Disorder will be slight; whereas they who are ignorant of the Doctrine of Prognosticks, will always make the same Preparation against a mild as a violent Feaver; because, not knowing which of the two will happen, they conclude it safest to prepare against the worst, without ever reflecting how much they weaken the Constitution, and thereby render it more liable to Diseases for the future.

As the Doctrine of Signs is of the greatest Moment in the Practice of acute Diseases; so is it the most difficult Part of the Physician's Study; he can never be too cautious in distinguishing them exactly before he bleeds, or makes any other Evacuation: For the Signs which denote a great Oppression from a Fulness or Load of Humours, have oftentimes so near a Resemblance to those which denote Weakness, that they are not easily distinguished; and a Mistake under this Circumstance must be of the most dangerous Consequence; for Weakness forbids all (26) Evacuations, and an Oppression requires very large ones.

That

(26) In omni porro evacuatione maximè refert languidas (vires scil.) ab oppressis internoscere; hæc siquidem largam, illæ

That the external Temperament or Habit is to be considered in Bleeding, appears, in that it has been constantly observed, that they who are (27) of a pale or very fair Complexion do not bear Bleeding well; as also they whose Muscles are of a flabby loose Texture, or when the Veins are very small: Therefore in such Temperaments where Bleeding has been found necessary, many Physicians have chosen to bleed by (28) Cupping and Scarifying, or by making Incisions in some of the extream Parts; for as *Celsus* (29) observes, this manner of Bleeding never produces any ill Effect, though it should be used in the very Height of the Feaver, or when the Humours are in the greatest Crudity; that is, when they are most stubborn, or least prepared to be driven out of the Body by any

illæ nullam evacuationem ferunt. *Fernel. Meth. Med. p. 38.*

(27) Συνεπισκέπτεται δ' ἐφεξῆς ὁποῖα ἡ φυσικὴ κρασίς ἐστὶ τανθρώπων, τῆς μὲν γὰρ μεγάλας ἔχοντας τὰς φλέδας, ἱχνὺς τε μετρίως, καὶ μὴ λευκὰς, μηδ' ἀπαλοσάρκεις, ἀφειδέστερον κενώσεις, τῆς δ' ἐναντίας φειδομένως. αἷμα τε γὰρ ὀλίγον ἔχουσιν, εὐδιαφόρητόν τε τὴν σαρκά. *Galen. Tom. 10. p. 442.*

(28) Opus esse cucurbitulâ potest in morbis longis—in acutis quoque quibusdam, si et levare corpus debet, et ex venâ sanguinem mitti vires non patiuntur. *Celsi, p. 83.*

(29) Idque auxilium ut minus vehemens, ita magis tutum; neque unquam periculosum est, etiamsi in medio febris impetu, etiamsi in cruditate adhibeatur. *Celsi, p. 83, 84.*

critical

critical Discharge. By this Observation we see, that the Crudity of Humours is a strong Reason against Bleeding; and that it is the same as to Purging too, we learn from *Hippocrates*, who directs us not to purge in (30) that State, or in the Beginning of Feavers, unless the Humours are very turbulent and on float, which, he says, rarely happens; and his Reason is, that such Humours (31) will not yield, or be carried off by Purgatives; but instead of them, the sound and uncorrupted Part of our Juices, which support our Strength will be spent, without lessening the Disease. The same Reason will hold good as to Bleeding, in a crude State of the Fluids; as we see when Children, or others of a weak Complexion, are injudiciously blooded in the Beginning of the Small-Pox: Sometimes the Pustules are not able to break through the Skin, through the Patient's Weakness; in others they rush forth in prodigious Multitudes, (nothing of the crude morbid Matter being

(30) Πέποντα φαρμακεύειν, καὶ κινεῖν, μὴ ὥμαί μὴδὲ ἐν δόχῃσιν, ἢ μὴ ὄργᾳ, τὰ δὲ πλεῖστα ὄντ' ὄργᾳ. Hippoc. Aph. sect. 1. a. 22.

(31) Ὅσοι δὲ τὰ φλεγμᾶνοντα ἐν δόχῃ τῆς νόσου, ὡς ἔφην ἐν τῷ πρὶν πρὶς αὐτῆς, εὐθὺς ἐπιχειρῶσι λυεῖν φαρμακείῃ, τὸ μὲν συντεταγμένου καὶ φλεγμᾶνοντος ἔδεν ἀφαιρέουσι, ἔδ' ἂν διαδίδωσιν ὥμων ἔον τὸ πάθος, τὰ δὲ ἀντέχοντα τῷ νοσήματι, καὶ ὑγίεινα συντήχουσι, ἀδενέει δὲ τὸ σώματι γινόμενου, τὸ νοσήμα ἐπικρατεῖ καὶ ἀνιήτως ἔχουσι. Hipp. de veratri usu.

carried

carried off by Bleeding;) but Nature being weakened, is not able to keep them out, so that they fall back, and the Patient dies in the first Stage of the Distemper, oppressed by the Quantity of the crude Matter returning into the Veins. And though in Feavers the diseased Humour is not so visible, yet we are sure that there are vitiated Juices in one as well as the other, from the large fetid Sweats, Vomitings, or Stools, which most People have before they recover from a Feaver. There are many other (32) Temperaments which disagree with Bleeding, and must be maturely considered in dubious Cases; which can be of Use to those only who are conversant with the Writings of Physicians, and capable of comparing the Descriptions given in Books, with the Appearances to be met withal in the sick Person.

As the Custom or Use of frequent Bleeding may sometimes (33) be of great Weight
in

(32) Vide Galen et Ballon de sanguinis, missione, p. 134, 135.

(33) Καὶ μὲν δὴ καὶ τὸ ἔθῳ ἡ μικρὰ μοῖρα αἵματος τε τὰλλα σύμ-
παντα, καὶ ἔχῃσι αἵματος τὴν τῆς κινάσεως ἰνδείξιν. Galen. Meth.
Med. ad Glau. cap. xv.

Sunt qui obijciunt consuetudinem, ut medicos adducant ad præscribendam sæpe sibi phlebotomiam, sed valde notanda sunt quæ à Galeno scribuntur, ut aliam vacuationis rationem pro venæ sectione substituamus. Ballon. p. 138.

in determining the Judgement for it in an acute Disease, so at other times it may be a strong Argument against it, inasmuch as frequent Losses of Blood, are very likely to enervate and weaken the Constitution; and beside, as Dr. *Willis* (34) observes, Bleeding is less efficacious as it becomes habitual.

We are also in dubious Cases to enquire what Light we may receive from the Nature of the Climate, Country, and Seasons of the Year: For if we look into the earliest Records of Physick, we shall find, that it was thought necessary, (35) for all Persons who practised Physick, to know the Situation of the City or Country, where they lived, and what Effects it had on the Body in Health and in Sicknes; they were to be acquainted with the Nature and Properties of the Waters they drank, and of the Soil which afforded Nou-

Τὸ μὲν ἤ φλέβα διελεῖν πολλάκις ἔτυχεν, ὅσην ἐπιτήδειον ἐνόμισα. αἷμα γὰρ αἵματι πολλῶ συνεκκρίνεται τὸ ζωτικὸν πνεῦμα, τούτου ἡ ἀναλισκομένου πυκνότερον, ὅτε ὅλῃ ὀγκῶ καταψύχεται, καὶ πάντα τὰ ψυχικὰ ἔργα χεῖρον γίνεται. Galen. de scarificatione p. 455. Tom. 10. vid. Ballon. p. 138.

(34) Porro venæ sectio magnum remedium, si ad parvas quasque causas prostituatur, quando opus erit ad grandes affectus, minus efficax evadet. *Willis Pharm. Rat.* p. 258.

Cavendum nè in secundâ valetudine adversæ præsidia consumantur. *Cels.* p. 21.

(35) Vid. *Hippocr. de Aeribus, Aquis, et Locis. sect. 1.*

E

rishment;

rishment; they were to observe the Influences of the different Seasons of the Year, and the Changes of Weather in each Season; the Powers of Winds in general, and of those which blew most frequently among them, &c. Whoever, says *Hippocrates*, knows all these Things perfectly, will never be at a Loss, or commit any Mistake in the Management of the Sick: Both *Asclepiades* and *Galen* observed, that the People of *Rome* and *Athens* did not bear Bleeding (36) well in Pleurifies, because these Cities lay mostly exposed to the South Winds; but that the Inhabitants of *Paros*, and other Islands in the *Hellespont*, bore Bleeding better, by reason of their different Situation. (37) The Physicians of *Paris* and *Lyons* maintained a long Controversy against each other, about bleeding in Pleurifies; the Physicians of *Lyons* condemning those of *Paris* for bleeding too profusely, the *Parisians* on the other hand derided the others, as timorous, and too sparing of Blood in the same Distemper: This War continued 'till the Revi-

(36) *Asclepiades* et *Galenus* observarunt pleuriticis quibus fecabatur vena *Roma* et *Athenis* malè habere, quod utraque civitas magnà ex parte esset obversa austris; contra in *Paro* et *Hellesponto* benè habebant, quia hi objecti sunt ventis septentrionalibus. *Holler. in Aphor. sect. 1. a. 2.*

(37) Vid. *Holler. in prædict. Aphor.*

val of the Doctrine of *Hippocrates* and *Galen* in *France*, (which had lain some hundreds of Years in Oblivion, the only Physick-Books then read in the Schools being *Avicenna* and the other *Arabians*;) both Parties then discovered that they had unjustly accused each other, and that their different Situations justified their different Practice: *Paris* lying to the North, and *Lyons* to the South. I wish this Observation was regarded as much as it deserves in this Kingdom, and City; which have so much of the same Situation with *Rome*, *Athens*, and *Lyons*, where they were so cautious of Bleeding in Pleurifies.

Beside these Considerations, we are required to look into the Patient's (38) Manner of Life before Sicknes: Whether given to Excess in Eating or Drinking, to Slothfulness, to violent Exercise or Labour; for from hence also we may learn something of his Strength. We know that such as labour hard, and feed (39) poorly, can spare but little

(38) 'Ουδὲ γὰρ ὁπότε πλῆθος ἀμῶν χυμῶν ἡθροῖσαι τοιοῦτων, ὡς κελεύει φλεβοτομεῖν ὁ λόγος ἐλέγχεται. ῥῶμῃ γὰρ τούτοις δυνάμειος ἐπάρεσαι. Galen. de Meth. cur. per Ven. sect. Tom. 10. 438. f.

(39) In vitæ instituto video multos medicos errare, plus sanguinis in iis detrahentes, qui laboriosas artes exercent, ut in febribus et similibus, quam in iis qui in artibus sedentariis to-

little Blood; which we find verified by the great Havock, made almost every Spring, among the poor Country Labourers in Pleurifies, which they call Stitches: Their only Remedy being repeated Bleeding, 'till Life or the Distemper ceases: And several observing Gentlemen have assured me, that in Seasons when Pleurifies have been rife, few or none of those Sort of People escaped, if largely bled: This is not the Case in Pleurifies alone, but in Feavers also, as was before observed from (40) *Ramazzini*. But we are not to imagine, that the poor laborious Life is the only Sort in which we are to be cautious in Bleeding: For we shall often meet with Difficulties in the other Extream. *Galen* says, that an (41) Abundance of gross or crude

ti sunt; quasi in illis plus insit sanguinis, viribusque maximè valeant, non animadvertentes etiam in illis sanguinem et spiritus exhausti, robur vero potius in solidiori substantiâ repositum esse, et ex quotidiano alimento suppeditari, cum alioqui venæ non multo sanguine refertæ sint. *Ballon. p. 151.*

Ego certè nec sine commiseratione video passim miseros agricolas ad publica nosocomia delatos, et medicis junioribus è scholâ nuper egressis commissos, validis catharticis et repetitis phlebotomiis penitus exhausti, nec quicquam attendi inassuetudinem quam habent ad magna remedia, neque virium imbecillitatem ob exantlatos labores. *Ramazzin. de Morb. Artific. p. 289.*

(40) Quoad febrium horum curationem, funestam ut plurimum venæ sectionem sibi observatam testatur. *Ramaz. de Morb. Art.*

(41) Vid. n. 30.

Humours

Humours is no bad Argument against Bleeding: For that Persons who are full of these, want Strength; and that such Humours are quickly collected in those, who give themselves (42) up to an intemperate Life.

These few Observations may be sufficient, to give an Idea of the Difficulty of attaining such a Knowledge in Physick, as is necessary to qualify us to prescribe Remedies, even in the Beginning of acute Diseases: And if the honest and conscientious Part of irregular Practitioners, will seriously consider these Points, I am confident they will at length be convinced of their Incapacity: And then there can be no doubt, but they will abstain from such Practices for the future.

(42) Ἀθροίζουσι γὰρ ἐν τάχει, πολλὰ ὁμῶν χυμῶν, ἀκολάστως
δαιτάρμενοι. Gal. de Curand. Rat. perven. sect. tom. 10. p. 436.

Of the Small-Pox.

THE Small-Pox, being a Disease intirely unknown to the *Greek* and *Latin* Physicians, and first taken notice of by the *Arabs*, we are to enquire, whether they thought Bleeding always necessary in the Beginning of this Distemper. But to save needless Trouble, I will confine my self wholly to *Avicenna*; having neither Time nor Opportunity of examining each particular Writer: And though I had both, it would be a Work altogether unnecessary, if (as Dr. *Friend* observes) he was little more than a Copier of *Rhazes* and *Haly Abbas*, two of the most eminent of that Nation. We find then that *Avicenna* was as cautious of Bleeding in this Distemper, as the *Greeks* and *Romans* were in other Feavers and acute Diseases; and perhaps there cannot be drawn a stronger Argument of the Wisdom and Penetration of those ancient Founders of our Art, than that their Method, of curing acute Diseases, should obtain and be found rational in the Small-Pox and Measles, Distempers not known in their times. Agreeable to this Method, *Avicenna* declares, that Bleeding is only allowable

in

in this Disease, (1) when it is very violent, the Patient strong, and of a sanguin Constitution; and that this must be done with great Prudence: Otherwise, it may be of very ill Consequence, by (2) retarding or driving back the Pustules. And this Apprehension struck such Terrour into the succeeding Physicians, especially in the northern Parts of the World, that Dr. *Willis* says, The (3) *English*, before his Time, thought it unlawful upon any Pretext of Necessity whatever, to bleed in the Beginning of the Small Pox; but it has been found lately by Experience, says he, that, in some Circumstances, it is not only useful, but necessary, to let Blood: But if it be used in every Kind of the Small-Pox, or if a greater Quantity be taken away, than the Nature of the Disease, or Strength of the

(1) Oportet in variolis ut incipiatur et extrahatur sanguis sufficienter, cum conditiones fuerint. *Avicen. p. 435. n. 2. f.*

(2) Et fortasse phlebotomia est mala, propterea quod repellit et convertit id quod egreditur. *Avicen. p. 435. n. 2. h.*

(3) Circa missionem sanguinis, instante variolarum eruptione, valde ambigitur; inter nostrates olim hæc res sacra audiebat; neque sub ullo necessitatis prætextu phlebotomia admitti solebat; nuper autem experientiâ duce, in quibusdam casibus, sanguinem mitti omninò utile et necessarium esse comprobatur; quæ tamen evacuatio, si in quavis constitutione indiscriminatim adhibeatur, aut quando istac opus fuerit, in quantitate nimis largâ peragatur, magna sæpe incommoda exinde sequuntur. *Willis de Febr. 123.*

Patient will bear, it must be very pernicious; and this is no easy Matter to determine, if we believe *Baglivy*, (4) who says, that no Distemper requires more Learning, Prudence, or deeper Penetration into the Laws and Movements of Nature. And if it were of any moment, it might be demonstrated, that all the eminent Physicians, from the *Arabians* down to this present Time, were of the same Opinion with them, in regard of Bleeding in this Distemper. But Dr. *Sydenham* having deservedly obtained the Character of the most judicious Writer, on this Subject, and under whose Authority, all Pretenders to Physick seem to skreen their Practice; we will confine our selves to him alone, and make it appear, that he is as far from countenancing their Pretensions, as any of his Predecessors were: For, if we read him with Judgement, we shall find, that in Fact, there is no inflammatory Distemper in which he is less fond of Bleeding, or more dubious of its good Success: He doth not seem to think,

(4) Inter acutos morbos non infimum obtinent locum variolæ, five ut alij vocant echymata; et quoniam in illis sanguinea massa quasi inflammata et accensa est, et interdum aurâ veluti malignâ afflata, magnâ opus est medico doctrinâ, prudentiâ, et segaci cunctatione in illarum curatione; imò religiosâ naturæ motuum observatione, aliter perniciosi nascentur errores. *Bagliv. p. 60.*

that even (5) a robust Constitution, in the Prime of Youth, is a sufficient Reason for Bleeding; unless, also, an Excess of Wine, or spirituous Liquors, contributed to raise the Feaver: For, he says, there is as much Danger in (6) impoverishing the Blood, by Bleeding, Vomits, Glysters, and Purges, as in raising it too high by Cordials, and a hot Regimen: For by that Means, we may weaken the Blood so far, as to render it incapable to push out the diseased Humour, or to prevent its falling back again. And however easy unskilful Persons may think it, to judge of the Strength of Blood, necessary for the carrying on this great Work; yet that great Man tells them, (7) it is a thing beyond their Reach, especially,

(5) Animadvertendum verò est, quòd si ad adolescentem vegetiorem accersor, et qui insuper liberaliore sive vini sive liquoris cujuscunque spirituosi computatione, morbo ansam dedit, non satis habeo ad frænandam sanguinis ebullitionem, ut tam lectulo quam cardiacis abstineat, nisi adhæc sanguis è brachio mittatur. *Sydenh. p. 113.*

(6) Quemadmodum autem inconsultum est, atque periculosum, calidioris regiminis, vel cardiacorum ope, cœptam ebullitionem nimis evehere; ita è contrario non minùs vacat periculo, mediantibus venæ sectione, clysteribus, emeticis, catharticis, aut id genus aliis, eandem minuere, cùm hoc pacto partium separabilium commoda secretio plurimùm impediatur. *Sydenh. p. 108.*

(7) Nempe res ardua est, et quæ muliercularum ingenium atque judicium superat, gradum caloris hîc requisiti definire, præsertim cum anni tempestas, ægrorum ætas, et vitæ ratio, aliaque huc spectantia simul pensanda veniant; id quod prudentem

pecially, says, he, when the Season of the Year, the Age of the Patient, his Manner of Life, and many other Circumstances, must be maturely considered: This, says he, doth not only require the Judgement of a Physician, but he must also be of a wise discerning Genius.

It may be objected, that in some Cases the Violence of the Distemper is so apparent, that every one must see the Necessity of immediate Bleeding; as when the Patient is suddenly seized with acute Pains in Head and Back, with raving or convulsive Fits: Surely, in such a Condition, any Person may bleed without the Advice of a Physician. I answer, No; and so doth Dr. *Sydenham*: (8) Because very often these turbulent and outrageous Symptoms, do not denote any Malignity in the Distemper; but only shew us, that Nature is then Struggling with the morbid Humour, in order to drive it out of the Blood: And when that Business is done the Storm ceases, and the Symptoms grow mild without the Help of Art; and it is a common Observation, that

dentem profectò atque sagacem medicum omninò postulat.
Sydenh. p. 110.

(8) Non hæc ita velim intelligi, ac si in qualibet phrenitide variolis superveniente (cum nullum hîc symptoma frequentius occurrat) venæ sectionem statim suaderem, *Sydenh. p. 120.*

the

the Small-Pox proves generally favourable, when preceeded by (9) Convulsions.

If it be urged, that *Sydenham* says, when the Pustules fall back by Bleeding improperly, or by any other cooling Method, (10) the Damage may be repaired by Cordials, &c. It is allowed, that he recommends the Use of them to retrieve those Miscarriages: But he is so far from trusting these Gentlemen with the Administration of Cordials, that he thinks they may do as much, or more Hurt, than Bleeding did before; unless directed by a judicious Hand.

But allowing we should always be so fortunate, as to raise the sinking Pustules by Cordials, we have a second Battle to fight in the last Stage of this Distemper, when the Face and Hands ought to swell: For he expressly tells us,

(9) Quæ variolæ infantes statim ab hujusmodi paroxysmis (*viz.* epilepticis) aggrediuntur, postulas emittunt magnitudinis conspicuæ, mites etiam sunt atque boni moris, et rarissimè confluunt. *Sydenh. p. 96.*

(10) Si contigerit ut vel phlebotomiâ minùs opportunè celebratâ, vel admissio frigore pustulæ reciderint, vel facies ac manus detumuerint, cardiacis utendum est sed cavendum tamen nè in his exhibendis nimij simus: quamvis enim sanguinem ademeris, fieri tamen potest, ut virium inde jacturam metuens, adeoque cardiacis aut fortioribus aut sæpe repetitis utens, novam ebullitionem ex improvise suscite. *Sydenh. p. 110.*

that (11) cooling the Blood too much, hinders both from swelling ; which is the most dangerous State of the whole Disease. An eminent Physician in this Town, very candidly owned to me, that, upon directing a moderate Quantity of Blood to be taken from a young Person, in the Beginning of this Distemper, he manifestly perceived his Strength begin to fail, the Pox made their Way through the Skin and were kept up, with the greatest Difficulty ; and that through the whole Course of the Distemper, the Patient's Life was every Day in Danger from some irregular Symptom ; which he attributed intirely to the Loss of Blood in the Beginning.

But after all that hath been said, it must be confessed, that Dr. *Sydenham* in his first Essays on this Subject, recommends Bleeding so frequently, and so loosely, in many Places, that an unwary Reader might be easily led into an Opinion, that one could scarce err in Bleeding at all Adventures ; but yet it is very plain, that, as he advanced more in Years and Experience, he grew more suspicious of this Remedy : For in the anomalous and malignant Kind,

(11) Indè verò regimen justo frigidius, faciei manuumque intumescentiæ, quæ hîc apprimè necessaria est, officere, et pustulas flaccidiores reddere. *Sydenh. p. 200.*

in the Years 1674, 1675, he makes no Mention at all of Bleeding ; but puts all his Confidence in the Use (12) of Spirit of Vitriol, to bring the Blood to a due Temperament : And therefore, he did not bleed the Gentleman's Servant (13) he was called to, though there were all the Indications imaginable for Bleeding ; and though, some Days after, upon a large Effusion of Blood from the Nose, he condemns himself for not bleeding him ; it may be fairly presumed, that he did not find that Method generally successful, when he omitted it in so youthful and robust a Constitution. But not to lay too great a Stress upon a Conjecture, it is very remarkable in this celebrated Practitioner, that in his Fulness of Experience, he grew still less fond of this his once beloved Remedy : For in his Letter to *Dr. Cole*, which was 13 or 34 Years after his first Essay, he ingenuously confesseth, that he did not think Bleeding, though ever so early performed, contributed so much to the lessening of the Fury of the morbid Matter, as other Methods there mentioned : I religiously affirm, says he, that the worst Small-Pox I ever saw, and which killed on the 11th Day, hap-

(12) Vid. *Sydenh.* p. 201.

(13) Vid. *Sydenh.* p. 203.

pened to a young Woman just cured of a Rheumatism, by that vulgar Method of large and reiterated Bleedings; and this gave me the first Hint (continues he) that Bleeding was not so powerful, as I first imagined, in curbing the Violence of this Disease.

It appears most evidently from these Passages, that, though Dr. *Sydenham* might have used Bleeding in the Small Pox, more than any of his Predecessors; yet at the Time he was fondest of it, he never laid it down as a general unlimited Rule of Practice: But, on the contrary, thought it might be often injudiciously directed, to the great Prejudice and Danger of the Patient; and that none but a skilful Physician could judge of the Good or Evil that might accrew from it. And, therefore, it will be no strained Inference, that the Publick would have been great Gainers, if a Law had passed to make it penal to let Blood in this Distemper, without the Advice of a Physician. I will go still further and presume to affirm, that it would be more for the Publick Good, to forbid Bleeding absolutely, in this and all acute Diseases whatever, than to leave the
People's

(14) Neque sanguinis missio, quantum mihi videtur, licet mature celebrata, ita efficaciter præproperam materiæ variolosæ

People's Blood to the Mercy and Discretion
of every Person who thinks he hath a Right
to take it.

losæ assimilationem cohibere valet, ac sanguinis contemperatio
ab aere intromisso, &c. *Sydenh. p. 327.*



Of a Pleurisy.

A Pleurisy is a Distemper of a very acute Nature, which generally in a few Days terminates in Death or Recovery. The vulgar and trite Method, of managing or curing it, hath of late Years almost intirely turned upon Bleeding, which Practice hath undoubtedly been much encouraged by two eminent *English* Physicians, Drs ; *Willis* and *Sydenham*, especially the latter, who in this Case seems to have given himself up to a Kind of an *Hypothesis* ; though no one inveighed more bitterly than he, against Practice founded upon such Principles. But to speak the Truth, he is not often guilty of this Errour ; nor did his Talent lye in framing plausible Suppositions ; as will easily appear by that which he chose for this Disease, which is no more than this, that a Pleurisy is owing to a peculiar Kind of Inflammation in the Blood, which requires reiterated Bleedings to cure it. I need use no other Argument to overthrow both, his *Hypothesis*, and Method of Cure, than this one incontestd Observation before mentioned, that no Persons are more subject to Pleurifies, than poor Country Labourers ; and that they are not able to bear much Bleeding in
this

this or any other acute Disease. If this be true, it is plain, that a Pleurisy is not always attended with such a peculiar Kind of Inflammation, as requires Bleeding; and therefore we must go somewhere else to get a proper Notion of this Disease, from which we may rationally deduce its Cure.

We find then by the Description which (1) *Hippocrates* gives of the Spittle in this Distemper, that he thought a Pleurisy, like other Fevers, was sometimes owing to the Excess, or Corruption, or Inflammation of other Humours in the Body, as well as of the Blood it self; and this Idea of the Disease was allowed by *Galen*, and the most eminent Physicians after him, who direct us, (2) not to bleed

(1) Πλευρίτις ὅταν λάβῃ, πυρετός κὲ ρίγη ἔχει, κὲ ὀδύνη ἀπὸ τῆς ράχεις εἰς τὸ στήθος, ἔ ὀρθοποίη, κὲ βῆξ, κὲ τὸ σίαλον λευκὸν κὲ ὑπόχολον.

Ἐπὲρ ηὖ πλευρίτις—κὲ τὸ σίαλον πίει ὑπόχολον καὶ ὑφαίμον.

Ἐπὲρ ηὖ πλευρίτις—καὶ ἐκβήσεται χλωρά. Hippocr. Vol. 2. p. 66. sect. 40, 41, 42.

Ἰσχυρὸν δὲ προσίενται ὅτι χρόνιον πάντα ἀναπίπτει κεχρωσμένα. ὅπερ ἔ σημαίνει τὸν ἐργασάμενον τὴν φλεγμονὴν χυμὸν, ἔ ἐρυθρὸν μὲ γὰρ ὃν αἱματικὸν σημαίνει χυμὸν, ὡς κὲ πᾶν τὸ ὑπόξανθον, χολώδη; καὶ τὸ λευκὸν καὶ γλίσχρον, φλεγματικὸν; τὸ δὲ μέλαν, μελαγχρόλικον. Alexand. Trallian. de Pleurit. p. 276. vid. Galen. de Locis Affect.

(2) Μῆτε ἐν φλεβοτομῇ μῆτε καθάρσιν προπετῶς ὡς οἱ πολλοὶ ποιεῖσιν, ἐὰν μὴ μάθῃς ἀκριβῶς ὅτι ὁ τὴν φλεγμονὴν ἐργασάμενος χυμὸς

bleed or purge 'till we have fully discovered what Humour gave Rise to the Distemper; and in what Quantity it abounds in the Body. But the Knowledge of these Things, like that of the Violence of the Disease, and the Strength of the Patient, is only to be obtained by such as are well acquainted with the Observations of Physicians on Diseases; and he that is the most conversant with them, will sometimes meet with such Difficulties, as will oblige him to call in all Nature, as it were, to his Assistance, before he can honestly discharge his Duty to those who intrust him with their Lives.

This is no particular Affectation of Nicety in me, nor Desire of Magnifying the Abilities which are required in a Physician: I am but the Eccho of the successful and celebrated Masters in the Profession: Most of whom have been remarkable for their Humility, Disinterestedness, Charity, and Love of their Country; and who would have scorned to raise either their Fortunes or Reputations at

πολύς ἔστι, καὶ ἐν ὅλῳ τῷ σώματι σπλενόζει. Alexand. Trallian. de Pleurit. p. 268.

His omnibus peractis, in finiendâ pleuritide, superest ut industria medici in eo potissimum versetur, ut materia quæ facit inflammationem evacuetur, non modo internis verum etiam externis. *Mercurial. Præf. Patav.* 239.

the

the Expence of their Honesty, by pretending Difficulties in an obvious or easy Knowledge. But to go on,

Hippocrates, and his illustrious Successors, tell us, there is one Sort of Pleurisy (3) which Bleeding will not cure; in which it ought never to be attempted, let the Patient be never so strong, or the Pain never so exquisite; because you can gain nothing on the Distemper, but run a Risque of throwing the Patient into an (4) Inflammation of the Lungs,

(3) Τομή μὲν τοῖ γε, ὅτε ὁμοίως λύει τὴν ὀδύνην, ἢ μὴ ὡς τὴν κληΐδα περαινῇ ἡ ὀδύνη. Hippoc. v. 2. p. 277.

Ἦν ὃ ὑπὸ Φρένας ἢ τὸ ἄλγος, ἐς ὃ τὴν κληΐδα μὴ σκμήνη, μαλιστασεν χρὴ τὴν κοιλίην ἢ μέλανι ἐλλεβορῶ ἢ πεπλίῳ. Galen. Advers. Erasistrat. Tom. 10. p. 397.

Εἰ μὲν ἐν ἄχρῃ κληΐδῃ ἡ ὀδύνη διατείνῃ, φλεβοτομήσειν αὐτὴς, εἰ ὃ εἰς ὑποχόνδριον κάτω καθάρσει. Paul. Ægin. p. 50.

Si itaque dolor circa mammæ innititur, ac usque ad claviculam extendat, citra dilationem c. nfidenter vena secanda est; si vero deorsum ad præcordia vergat, corpus purgandum. *Ætj*, Tom. 2. p. 91.

Si dolor fuerit vel in dorso vel circa pectus, et sit circa jugulum, ac partes supernas versus collum, signum est indigere phlebotomiâ; si vero sit circa costas mendas, ac præcordia, purgationem indicat. *Bagliv*. p. 40.

At non novit imprudens mulier, impudens barbitonsor, nugigerulaque mediastina mulier, multis ex causis dolores laterum oriri; in quibus ut aliquando venam non secare nefastum est, ita eandem aperire, crudele, impium, ac ignorantie plenum. *Ballon*. p. 297.

(4) Sanguinis autem multitudo extrahatur non usque ad animi diliquium, periculum enim nè in peripneumoniam morbus mutetur. *Ætj*, Tom. 2. p. 92,

Lungs, a much (5) worse Disease. There are other Sorts of Pleurifies, in which though Bleeding is necessary, yet in order to render this Operation safe and efficacious, the Body must be (6) properly prepared for it. There are other Pleurifies, which are not easily distinguished from some Diseases which have a near Resemblance to them, and yet require a different manner of Cure; inasmuch as Physicians by (7) mistaking another Distemper for this, have sometimes lost their Patients. This makes it incumbent on us, diligently to examine the (8) Circumstances of the Pain it

Cuidam pleuritico sectâ venâ dolor disparuit, an ideò securos de morbo esse oportet? minimè, nam multos statim peripneumonicos evasisse vidimus. *Baglivij ex Ballon. p. 43.*

Μη μέχρι λειποδυμίας, Περιπνευμονίην γάρ ἐπιφοιτῆσαι κίνδυνον. *Aretæi p. 169.*

(5) Ἐπὶ πλευριτιδί, ὡς πνευμονίῃ, κακόν. *Hip. Aph. sect. 7. a. 11.*

(6) Ἡ δὲ ἀπὸ πλῆσι σιτῶν καὶ ποτῶν ἐν, ἐπ' αἰσιπῆς μίην ἡμέρην φυλάξαντα, ἀφαιρέσειν ἔω' ἀγκῶν τῆς ἐν τῷ κοίλῳ φλεβός. *Aretæi. p. 169.*

Propterea vos quoque debetis statim clystere, si opus sit, alvum paulisper citare, dein statim sanguinem mittere. *Mercur. Præf. Patav. p. 237.*

(7) Unde quidam medici errore seducti, venâ cubiti incisâ, et multo sanguine evacuato, mortis causam ægris præbuerunt. *Ætîj, Tom. 2 p. 95.*

(8) *Rhazes* (quarto continent.) dixit sanguinem mittendum esse habitâ ratione febris, difficultatis anhelitûs, magnitudinis, et vehementiæ doloris, tussis, &c. *Mercurial. Præf. Patav. p. 238.*

Sanguinis

it self, the Habit, Temperament, and Strength of the Body; the Situation of the Country; the Seasons of the Year; the Nature of Epidemick Diseases then reigning, &c. for these Differences will make Bleeding useful or dangerous. If a Pleurisy proceeds from a serous Humour, separated from the Blood; Bleeding must be prejudicial in that Case, because it (9) relaxes the Body, and by that Means increases the Separation of that Humour; and therefore the wisest Physicians cannot be too cautious either in Bleeding or Purging, because immediate Death hath often followed from both, when injudiciously (10) directed.

Sanguinis detrahendi modum, doloris conditio, corporis habitus et anni tempus indicabunt. *Holler. de Morb. Inter. p. 114. vid. p. 108.*

Imò verò dicit *Galenus*, unicam spem salutis in pleuritide collocatam esse in virium robore. *Mercurial. Præl. Patav. p. 238.*

(9) Sanguinis enim compagem nihil citius certiùsque laxat quam phlebotomia. *Bagliv. p. 93*

Sanguinis evacuationem, quocunque modo fiat aut ex naturâ aut ex arte, corpus laxare, neminem medicorum (uno excepto Erasistrato atque ipsius sectatoribus missionem sanguinis damnantibus) latere deprehendimus. *Prosp. Alpin. Med. Method. p. 154.*

(10) Ex his quæ hætenus dicta sunt, magnorum virorum experimentis confirmata, satis constat, quantum cautus et prudens esse debeat medicus in præscribendâ catharsi vel phlebotomiâ in pleuritide, et quantum exactè memoriâ tenenda sunt illi præcepta supra recensita, quarum ignorance rerum, vel indebitâ ad praxin accommodatione, nihil mirum si frequenter

directed. Again, if we bleed in a Pleurisy, or supposed one, which requires Purging for its Cure, (11) we shall certainly increase the Distemper; or perhaps cause one which would not otherwise have happened.

I shall only instance one Case more of a Pleurisy, in which, as (12) *Le Clerc* observes, *Hippocrates* never used Bleeding; and this is a Bilious Pleurisy, attended with a Spitting of Blood: And this Case is the more remarkable, as it is of all others perhaps that Sort of Pleurisy in which irregular Practitioners would be apt to think themselves most justifiable in the Use of their Lancets: But *Hippocrates* tells us (and it will always be found true, when we have Patience to wait the Event) that this Kind is of a mild Nature; and doth for the most part (13) terminate of it self in

quenter observamus ægros post ordinatam phlebotomiam interire statim, et in pejus ruere, idemque succedere post imprudenter præscriptum catharticum. *Baglivij* p. 46.

(11) Vulgò enim secatur vena, undelibet dolor sit, atque id quidem malè; quis enim nescit, si dolor iste agnoscat causam in ventre inferiore, non modò non prodesse, sed nocere sæpe, quod attractio fiat à partibus inferis, et si nondum adsit pleuritis, ea acceleretur. *Ballon.* p. 298.

(12) Vid. *Le Clerc Histoire de la Medecine*, p. 204.

(13) Αἱ δὲ χολώδεις ἅμα καὶ αἱματώδεις πλευρίτιδες, ὡς ἐπὶ τὸ πλεονέκρυνονται ἐννατῶναι, καὶ ἐνδεκατῶναι, καὶ μάλιστα ὑγιάζονται. *Hippocr. Coac. sect. 3.* n. 137.

a few

a few Days, if not disturbed by the Officiousness of unskilful Persons, who by Bleeding prevent the Discharge of the diseased Matter, which would have been thrown off by Spitting; that this is frequently the Effect of such Rashness, is attested by the learned *Duretus*, who thus addresses himself to these Gentlemen.

O homines Reipublicæ calamitosos atque funestos ! ipsam Pleuritidem, quæ suâ sponte, nullius operis indigens, in tali sputo quiesceret, ex Eventu reddunt mortiferam.

This hath been the Doctrine of *Hippocrates*, *Galen*, and their Followers; that is, of the most eminent Physicians in all Ages, concerning Bleeding in the Beginning of a Pleurisy; and therefore if Dr. *Sydenham* had declared against the Maxims which directed them in their Practice, and had established a contrary Method of his own, against Reason and Experience, all unprejudiced Physicians must have rejected him: And all wise Men would chuse in Sickness to be treated after that Method which had obtained for so many Ages. But however carelessly and loosely this Treatise of his seems to be written, and from which it may be fairly enough concluded, that *Sydenham* did always bleed in the beginning of this Distemper:

Distemper : yet it will make nothing for our occasional Practitioners, because It is impossible for them to judge what Quantity of Blood ought to be taken away, (14) without duly considering the Conditions and Circumstances before-mentioned ; that is, without being Physicians. But that which puts this Question out of all Dispute, and must for ever cut them off from all Pretensions to Practice, is an Observation to be found in our common Friend *Sydenham*, who in his Treatise on the *Epidemic Coughs* 1675, takes notice of an Objection then made to his general Practice of Bleeding in Pleurifies, *viz.* That this Distemper (15) was sometimes of so malignant a Nature, that Bleeding proved very detrimental in it, and this he allows to be true; but, says he, Bleeding is not prejudicial to Pleurifies from their own Nature, but because they often partake of the Nature of some (16) Epidemick Fever, which

(14) Quâ quidem in re normam mihi statuo contra-indicantia, hinc nempe morbi violentiam, indè verò imminutas fractasque ægri vires ad invicem trutinatas. *Sydenh. p. 230.*

(15) Hanc jam nactus ansam, paucula de eo dicam quod omnium ore tritissimum est, pleuritim scilicet quandoque ita malignam reperiri, ut per eos annos phlebotomiam ferre nesciat. *Sydenh. p. 210.*

(16) At verò si febris repetitam venæ sectionem respuat neque juvabit ista, imò nocebit in pleuritide quæ cum febre stabit cadetve. *Sydenh. p. 210.*

doth not agree with Bleeding. How far this may be a satisfactory Answer to the Objection, is another Question: But we may fairly conclude from hence, that Bleeding may be often pernicious in Pleurisies, unless the Person, who directs it, be well (17) acquainted with the Epidemick Distempers then reigning, and able to discern how far such Pleurisies partake of the Nature of those Diseases, and what the Method of Cure is that best agrees with them: But this Knowledge cannot be pretended to by these Kind of Practitioners, having openly declared, that they do not take upon them to attend a Patient through the Course of a Fever, or other acute Diseases; but that all they contend for, is to bleed, give a Vomit, or a Purge, when they are applied to in the Beginning of one: From which it must follow, that they can have no Knowledge, either of a Fever, or any other epidemick acute Disease; and I think it may be asserted, without any Reflection on their Understanding, that if they

(17) *Atque hoc quidem mihi ideò reticendum non erat, quòd existimem dubio illum tramite errare, atque incerto duci filo, qui in febrium curatione non continenter ob oculos habeat anni constitutionem quatenus huic aut alteri morbo epidemice producendo faveat, Sydenh. p. 210.*

attended a Thousand Patients under these Sort of Disorders, they would be little the wiser, unless they set out on a proper Foundation.



Of an Apoplexy.

AN Apoplexy is too well known to need any Definition : And Men seem to be so strongly prepossessed in Favour of Bleeding in this Disease, that probably it will be to little Purpose to endeavour to remove their Prejudices ; though it may be justly questionable, whether bleeding all Apoplectick Persons in the Beginning may not prove often fatal, and whether it is not in some measure owing to this irrational Practice, that so few recover : But whatever the Success may be, we shall follow the same Method in this as in the former Enquiry, and show what was the Opinion and Practice of those eminent Persons, who have so justly, and some of them, for so many Ages, been admired for their Learning and Felicity in curing Diseases.

A Jove principium. Hippocrates tells us, we are to govern ourselves by the same Rules in this, as in the Cure of all other acute Diseases ; that is, by comparing the Violence of the Disease with the Strength of the Patient, and proportioning the Loss of Blood

to his Age and (1) Temperament : The irretrievable (2) Mischief which may be occasioned, by the least Mistake in this Proportion, makes it of the utmost Consequence to judge accurately before we prescribe ; *Celsus* being of Opinion (3) that Bleeding either certainly kills or cures : And the Reason is, that as an (4) Apoplexy may proceed from very different Humours, if we diminish the Quantity of Blood when the Cause of the Disease is a cold or heavy phlegmatick Humour, we lessen the Patient's Strength, and of Consequence add Force to the Disease ; that is, Bleeding kills : (5) And therefore, the Methods of Cure must be always squared to the Nature of the Causes which produce

(1) Φλεβοτομέειν ἐν κρή τὸν βραχιόννα τὸν δεξιὸν τὴν εἰσω φλέβα, καὶ ἀφαιρεῖν τὸ αἷμα κατὰ τὴν ἑξιν, καὶ τὴν ἡλικίην, ἀλογιζόμενον τὸ πλεῖον καὶ τὸ ἔλασσον. Hippocr. Vict. Acut. sect. 27.

(2) Δυστέκμαρτον δὲ τὸ μέτρον, ἦν τε γὰρ σμικρῷ πλεον ἀφέλης, προσάπεινύσας τὸν ἄνθρωπον, ἐς γὰρ τὸ ζῆν τέτοισι καὶ τὸ σμικρὸν αἷμα δυνάτωτον. Aretæi, p. 152.

(3) Si omnia membra resoluta sunt vehementer, sanguinis detractio vel liberat, vel occidit. *Cels.* p. 178.

(4) Sciendum est apoplexiam multas habere causas, nam aliquando excitatur à solis flatibus——fit præterea venis interceptis copia vel crassitie sanguinis——tertia causa est cum ventres cerebri præsertim anteriores opplentur et interceptiuntur crasso quodam, et frigido humore, qualis est pituita——et atra bilis. *Holler. in Aphor.* p. 101.

(5) Itaque ut non est eadem idea morborum qui τῇ ἀφονίας nomine continentur, ita non nisdem idem remedium, et præsertim venæ sectio convenit. *Ballon.* p. 251.

the

the Disease: If the Blood be in Fault, it is to be corrected by Bleeding; if a phlegmatick Humour, by (6) Vomits, Purges, &c. And when we consider, that this Distemper most commonly happens (7) in old Age or the Decline of Life, and that we are most liable to it in (8) Winter or moist heavy Weather; we have great Reason to believe that it is frequently owing to a phlegmatick Humour, and therefore that Bleeding is not generally the properest or safest Method of Cure. But the whole Difficulty doth not lie in judging when Bleeding is necessary, and when not; for even in some Cases which require Bleeding, the Body (9) ought first to be prepared, in order to make that Evacuation successful. From hence it is manifest, that there is at least as much Judgement required in the

(6) Arcanum in sanguineis est phlebotomia, in pituitosis contra emeticum aut purgans vehemens statum præscriptum, utramque paginam adimplent. *Bagliv. p. 111.*

Pituitosa si sit apoplexia merito phlebotomia suspecta est. *Valetij apud Holler. de Morb. Inter. p. 29. vid. p. 25.*

(7) Τοῖσι δὲ πρεσβύτησι — Ἀποπληξία. *Hip. Aph. sect. 3. a. 31.*

Ἀποπληκτοὶ δὲ μέγιστα γίνονται, ἡλικίῃ τῇ ἀπὸ τεσσαράκοντα ἐτέων ἄχρις ἐξήκοντα. *Aph. sect. 6. a. 57.*

(8) Νεσθήματα δὲ ἐν τῇσιν ἐπομβρίῃσιν ὡς τὰ πολλὰ γίνονται — καὶ ἀποπληκτικοί. *Aph. sect. 3. a. 16.*

Τῷ δὲ χειμῶνι — ἀποπληξία. *Aph. sect. 3. a. 23.*

(9) *Vid. Ætij, Tom. 1. p. 254. Prosp. Alp. Medicin. Method. p. 576. Holler. de Morb. Inter. p. 25, 28.*

Cure

Cure of this Distemper as of any other, especially if we believe *Hippocrates*, to whom scarce any Thing was difficult; who says, It is (10) impossible to cure a strong Apoplexy, and no easy Matter to cure a slight one. It is not to be presumed, he could think there was any Difficulty in Bleeding first, and then giving a Vomit, if this Method was always most likely to succeed; but in truth the Difficulty lies, in distinguishing the real Cause from the many others which might have occasioned the Disease; and when discovered, to apply Remedies proportioned to the Cause, the Violence of the Distemper, and Strength of the Patient. These are the Maxims, which the Wise and Judicious have ever governed themselves by, and which none else are capable of following.

Now if it appears that unskilful Persons must be frequently guilty of great and dangerous Mismanagements in the Beginning of any acute Disease, how many fatal Mistakes must they fall into, when they attempt to conduct one of any Difficulty through the se-

(10) Λύειν ἀποπληξίν ιχυρὴν μὴ ἀδύνατον, ἀσθενέας δὲ ἔρηίδιον.
Aph. sect. 2. a. 42.

veral Stages of its Course? One blind Man may as well pretend to guide another through the several Turnings and Alleys of a large City, as one of these Directors take upon him to lead a Patient through the Labyrinths of a dangerous Disease, unless he hath Strength enough to bear many Knocks on the Pate before he comes to the End of his Journey. It will not be improper, perhaps, to take notice of a notable Objection which may be advanced in favour of Bleeding; *viz.* That many People now living have found present Relief from Bleeding, Vomiting, or Purging, though directed without the Advice of a Physician, in Disorders which might otherwise have turned to Feavers, Pleurifies, &c. The direct Answer to this Objection is, that there are ten times as many who have got over the like Disorders without any ill Consequence, though they were neither bled, vomited, nor purged; at least, it is capable of Demonstration, that they must have a much better Chance for their Lives, than those who undergo those Operations by the Advice of injudicious Persons: Beside, though their Argument may be wisely enough calculated for common Understandings, and such as are fearful of Diseases from slight Occasions; yet is it too weak to pass on Men of Reason and Composedness of Temper; for
when

when they consider, that these Kind of Practitioners are incapable of foreseeing the Approach of a Distemper, they can never be influenced by their Apprehensions; especially when they recollect how often they or their Friends have been importuned by these Guardians of Health to bleed, vomit, or purge, in order to prevent some terrible impending Distemper which never happened, though they were so fool-hardy as not to be advised; and I dare say, there is scarcely a Physician in Town, but can give many Instances of his having prevented timorous People from trifling away their Blood and Spirits, in Cases where these penetrating and judicious Artists have strenuously recommended Bleeding, and other plentiful Evacuations. It is an Accurateness in the Fore-knowledge of the Approach and Danger of a Distemper, that chiefly gives a Physician both Reputation and Success. For as, on one side, he will be always on his Guard against Danger; so on the other, as he is not to be frightened by false Appearances, he will never be burthensome by prescribing Medicines to prevent an imaginary Disease, or prodigal of his Patient's Blood, which all wise Men have ever esteem'd to be the Source of Health and long Life: It being an allowed
Observa-

Observation, that (11) frequent, Bleeding makes us more liable to Feavers; which if we escape in the first Stages of Life, towards the Decline we fall early into Dropsies, and other Distempers that proceed from an impoverished Blood. But so little are these things understood by these Pretenders to Physick, that the Weakness of the Patient is the main Argument they use for Bleeding on all Occasions; for, they say, if such a Disorder should turn to a Fever or Plurisy, it may be of dangerous Consequence to so weak a Constitution; not considering that the Loss of Blood will certainly weaken the Patient, and that none but a Physician can, with any Certainty, determine whether it will prevent the Disease or abate its Violence, if it should happen: On the contrary, we are told that Bleeding may (12) often

(11) Præ cæteris verò observatione constat, quòd crebra sanguinis missio homines feбри aptiores reddat. *Willis. de Feb. p. 77.*

(12) Hæc autem ante oculos sibi ipsis præponere vellem medicos in sanguine mittendo adeò faciles, (quod alibi etiam adnotatum est;) quia si sanguine immodicè undequaque excreto (unde corpus omninò refrigerandum fore videretur,) febres nihilominus excitantur, et plerumque urentes propter bilem quæ commovetur, incalescitque vehementius; quanto magis ex missione sanguinis timenda est caloris augmentatio, in febribus in quibus bilis cæteris humoribus prævalet, et jam actualiter incensa, totum corpus calefacit. *Prosp. Mart. p. 277.*

cause a Fever, which might have been otherwise avoided; or make one outrageous, which before was of a mild Nature. The Books of Physicians are full of unfortunate Accidents, which have happened (and the like happen still daily) from bleeding injudiciously. But having carried these Reflections to a greater Length than was at first designed, or is proper perhaps on the Occasion, we shall wait the Success of the Cautions already given, before we proceed to consider more directly the Effects of Vomiting or Purging rashly, in the Beginning of acute Diseases.

F I N I S.





THE
BOOKS

Referred to in the foregoing Sheets.



- Ippocrates, Græcè & Latinè, per
Vander Linden, 2 Vol. 8vo.
Lugd. Batavorum, 1665.
Galenus, Græcè & Latinè, per
Renatum Charterium, Fol.
Lutetiæ Parisiorum 1679.
Aræteus, Græcè & Latinè, Fol. Augustæ Vin-
delicorum 1603.
Paulus Ægineta, Græcè, Fol. Basil. 1538.
Alexander Trallianus, Græcè & Latinè, 8vo.
Basil. per Henricum Petrum 1556.
Ætius Amidenus Latinè Fol. Basil. 1535.
Cornelius Celsus, 8vo. Amstelodami 1713.
Jacobus Hollerius de Morbis Internis, 8vo. Pa-
risiis 1577.

Books referred to in, &c.

—————In Aphorismos Hippocratis, 8vo.
Prosperus Alpinus de Medicina Ægyptiorum,
4to. Venetiis 1591.

—————Medicina Methodica, 4to. Lug-
duni Batav. 1719.

Joannis Fernelij Amb. Univerſa Medicina,
Fol. Hanoviæ 1610.

Prosperus Martianus in Hippocratem, Fol.
Romæ 1626.

Hieronimi Mercurialis Prælectiones Patavinæ,
Fol. Venetiis apud Juntas 1603.

Avicenna, Fol. Venetiis apud Juntas 1555.

Ballonij Labyrinthus Medicus extricatus, 4to.
Genevæ 1687.

Georgius Baglivius, 4to. Lugduni 1704.

Ramazzini de Morbis Artificum, 8vo. Ultra-
jecti 1703.

Thomæ Willis Opera omnia, 4to. Amstelo-
dami 1682.

Georgij Schenckij Observationes, Fol. Franco-
furti 1609.

Le Clerc Histoire de la Medicine, 4to. Am-
sterdam 1723.

Thomæ Sydenham Opera Univerſa, 8vo. Lon-
dini 1705.

Friend's History of Physick, 2 Vol. 8vo.