

A short review of the quicksilver controversy : in a letter to Dr. Dover occasioned by the publication of Dr. Turner's late book, intituled, The ancient physician's legacy impartially survey'd / By a Mercurialist.

Contributors

Mercurialist.

Publication/Creation

London : Printed for J. Brotherton; and A. Bettesworth, and C. Hitch, 1733.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/zsrgvtn7>

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>

A SHORT
REVIEW
OF THE
Quicksilver Controversy.

. In a LETTER to
Dr. DOVER.

Occasioned by the Publication of
Dr. TURNER's late Book, intituled,
*The Ancient Physician's Legacy impar-
tially survey'd.*

By a MERCURIALIST.

Quicquid erit, magno se jaectat nobilis usu.
ADDISON.

L O N D O N :
Printed for J. BROTHERTON, at the *Bible* in
Cornhill; and A. BETTESWORTH, and C.
HITCH, at the *Red-Lyon* in *Pater-noster-
Row*.
M.DCD.XXXIII. Price 6 d.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2019 with funding from
Wellcome Library

A S H O R T
R E V I E W
O F T H E
Q U I C K S I L V E R C O N T R O V E R S Y .

In a L E T T E R t o

Dr. D O V E R, &c.

S I R,

AS you at several Times conveyed to me the following Treatises for and against the Use of Crude Mercury, viz. Mr. *Belloste*, your own *Legacy*, first and last Edition, a *Treatise on Mercury*, the *Antidote*, the *Encomium Argenti vivi*, and Dr. *Turner's* late Book, intituled, *The Ancient Physician's Legacy impartially survey'd*;

B

vey'd; I will now shew you, that I have read them, with such an Attention, as is given by one who thinks himself, and all Mankind concerned in the Issue of the Debate, by sending you some Memorandums which I have collected from the Perusal of them.

I do not insert Mr. *Bradley's* with a pompous Title, because I think his is altogether personal, and may therefore be left to enjoy in quiet a Place in some Appothecary's Library.

If I plead Want of Knowledge in Physick, as an Excuse for the Insufficiency of my Remarks on a Physical Controversy, you may reply, Why do you then trouble me with such Trifles? I have no Apology to make for this, but what all Champions for Truth lay hold of, *a great Concern for the publick Good*; and am not I as well entitled to that as Dr. *Turner, Belloste, Treatise on Mercury, Antidote, Encomium, Bradley*, or
 even

even yourself? You must however accept of this, or stop here; for I have no other ready, and I am resolv'd not to study this hot Weather.

This being premis'd, it will not seem strange that I have little to offer from that so famous, ingenious, and well-meant Treatise of Mr. *Belloste*: It has been criticis'd by able Men on both Sides; therefore I will not be so vain as to say any Thing but of the Author. He was well known abroad a long Time since, and his Character, upon a very strict Inquisition, made by a Gentleman here of Figure and Rank, about two or three Years ago, comes confirm'd for a Man of undoubted Veracity and Candor; and that he was universally admir'd as an excellent Artist in his principal Practice, Surgery: From whence I observe, the Truth of his Facts quoted to be incontestable; and from them again, that the wonderful Virtues of Crude Mercury are not to be denied. No

Argument can long subsist against positive Facts: Art and hard Words may puzzle and cloud the Matter in dispute, and may possibly for some Time support Doubts, assisted by common Prejudices and natural Fears; But scurrilous Language is, with sensible Men, justly looked upon as the last convulsive Effort of Disappointment; to borrow some learned Terms, strong Symptoms of the Absence of Reason, Prognosticks, or rather *Diagnosticks* of a Raby. Thus then stands the Dispute between *Belloste* and *Dr. Turner*, (of whom I must occasionally take notice with others promiscuously,) in such Places where they are by him attack'd. The former gives us a plain historical Account of Facts arising from his own Practice, and some Reasonings thereon, which he modestly introduces as pure Amusement; and concludes with offering his Medicine to the Publick under a Veil, because his Circumstances, through Misfortunes, were such, as to leave his Family little else of Value. The latter,

Dr.

abies —

Dr. *Turner*, takes Occasion from hence, in his *Syphilis*, to treat him as a Quack and Secret-Monger, neglecting the Facts, and ridiculing his Philosophy; saying, That though at one Time he thought him honest, he now alters his Opinion of the Man, and of his Medicine,

The Author of the *Encomium* handsomely remarks this hasty Alteration. Whereupon Dr. *Turner*, in his late Book against you, Pag. 156, and 157. says, by way of Reply, He never found fault with his Medicine, (may it not be said, he eats his Words;) and in the same Page, and in Page 162. That he never once disputed his Facts; a Concession as great as we want. In Page 166. he is against granting Mr. *Belloste* any Preliminaries upon Trust, in attempting to account for the Operation of Crude Mercury in such a Manner, as to take away Fears of its being hurtful. If this be to be strictly observed, he ought himself to
 have

have forbore accounting for its Operation, in such a Manner, as to raise Fears of its being extremely hurtful, till he has, by Virtue of *Mr. Bradley's* Ordination, been inspired with those sure Rules that may direct him to lay down indisputable Preliminaries, in shewing the Progress of all Medicines in Practice.

Poor *Dr. Wadesworth* is gone; otherwise, he might have informed our very learned Doctor of the best and surest Method, (were it to be executed,) I ever yet heard of, whereby to attain the true Knowledge of a Patient's Disease, and the Progress of Medicines; which he had from no Fool; and therefore I will give it you as it happened.

The Doctor, and some Friend of his, walking once in *Bedlam*, was civilly accosted by one of the Inhabitants, who have the Liberty of walking the Gallery, and by him asked what Profession he was of in the
World.

World. The Doctor reply'd, a Physician. Whereupon the Man immediately desired to know, if he might have another Eye, in what Part of his Body he would chuse to place it: Which had the Appearance of being a sudden Start from the Point in hand, not unusual to such People. However, the Doctor, to humour him, said, The two on his Face served his Purpose well enough before; he would therefore have it placed behind him. The other, in great Contempt of his weak Choice, told him, it would answer his Purposes, as a Physician, much better to have it fixed at the extreme End of his middle longest Finger; by help whereof, when called to a Patient, he might, by putting that Finger into the *Anus*, discover the Situation of the Malady; concluding, that for want of such an Help, they were miserably in the Dark. Dear Doctor, you will, I dare say, pardon me for falling in with the Whim of this Man, and saying it is a very dark Trade. In return, you and all the rest have full Liberty

to

c

to liken me to him in all other Respects, except the Confinement, and the Discipline of Cure.

To conclude with Mr. *Belloste*; however blameable he may be thought for concealing the Composition of a good Medicine, purely with a lucrative View, 'tis to this Arcanum we are indebted for a Discovery of others of the like Efficacy. It has raised a Spirit of Emulation even in our deep learned Doctor; who, to lower its Value and Esteem, publishes a Pill of his own, as he says, far preferable; telling us, in Page 179, he will make no other Apology for his Alteration of Opinion, relating to Quicksilver Pills; and that he can have no better, than that Experience has since enlarged his Knowledge: Tho' he can give no better a Reason, he might have given another, which, in Pag. 176, and 178. seemed to be the most prevailing one, *viz.* That the Quacks may not drive him out of the Trade.

My

My Remark hereon is, That while these Noftrums were little known, Salivation was univerfally preferred by Practitioners, as bringing more Grist to the Mill; but fince others will under-work, the Price muft fink, and with it that fevere Treatment; which, when unneceffary, was inhumanly cruel; thus *humanis faucibus ludere*; fo that People in all Stages of Life are obliged to this good Man: The Young, who run themfelves into Miferies; and the old Chronicks, who owe their Complaints to younger Days, or to a bad Conftitution.

The next that offers in Point of Time, is your *Legacy*: Which, as it treats of the various Diftempers incident to human Bodies with their proper Remedies, is too large a Field for me to go through: I am no proper Judge of it; thofe who are, may give their Opinions. But as a Mercurialift, and one who has received great Benefit from your
C
Advice,

Advice, I cannot, without Ingratitude, refrain from joining with many others in thanking you for introducing, and, in a manner, forcing into Practice that great good Remedy, Quicksilver. That you have drawn upon yourself Enemies upon this Account, is manifest, by the Treatment of your Opponents: Your Friends, therefore, upon this Occasion, should give their Assistance, and exert themselves in your Defence, especially, as it is at the same Time doing Service to the Publick in a very sensible Point.

Though I cannot enter into the Merits of your Book, and what is said against it, I will here give you a Remark, or two, I have made on your Adversaries; such as may be made without Knowledge in Physick, or much Literature. The principal of them, I take to be *Dr. Turner*: He follows the Example of his Friend *Bradley*, who delighted himself in the witty Conceit of calling you Captain, and bantering your martial Exploits;

plots: But notwithstanding these Wags, it will not surely hurt your Character to be literally *tam Marte quam Mercurio*. The Surgeon only let go a Piece of Wit, which was like to have burst him: But the Doctor vents his Spleen, when he represents your Expedition into the *South-Seas*, in quest of your Country's Enemies, in the odious Light of a Pyrate; and when he takes Occasion, in Page 64. from your not expressing yourself in a Surgeon's proper Terms of Art, to compare you to an Executioner, it may, I believe, be made appear that he has, with more Justice, in Page 247. compared himself to the *Newgate* Confessor, leaving out the Exception he makes of turning the Penny, because both sell their Memoirs, and instead thereof place this Difference; The one gives to his Lambs Advice *gratis*; the other, I presume, is in a Rank to expect Gold.

He seems to want Subject, when he descends to low Criticism: He has found out, that in your Book there is the Letter *b* left out in *Phthisis*, which may have been an Omission of the Press; and finds fault, more than once, that in your Titles the *Bene Not*
recede *ta* do proceed the *Magis Ignota*; which, says he, is not common. Nor is it, I believe, common with the Physicians to write with your Intent, to be understood by common Capacities, which led you naturally to mention first the Terms known to the Readers you addressed yourself to; and then to pay your Compliments to your learned Brethren in *Latin* and *Greek* Terms.

However great his Want of Subject was, his Want of Temper is much more conspicuous, in Page 103. where he says, You had your Recipe from the Devil, or some Spirit as malevolent to the Good of Mankind, who put it into your Head. I think your Friend

at *York*, with a hard Name, comes out a Prophet.

As *Belloste* is a Secret-Monger, you are a Miracle-Monger; and when you want a Miracle, you are sent to one 'Squire *Balam* to give you a Letter in its Place. The Surgeon says, (roughly enough indeed,) that you have an incurable Itch in your Tongue. The Doctor says, Page 122. that you are a Gasconnade, a Mountebank, Sham-Doctor, a meer Forc'd Physician; alluding, I suppose, to *Moliere's Médecine Malgre lui*. Thus they play the Game into one another's Hands. Prithee, since he is so fond of *Moliere*, send him to the *Malade imaginaire*, where an arch Servant Wench, in the Presence of her Master, who fancied himself sick, and was violently prepossessed in favour of Physicians, laughs at all such who expect a Cure from their Advice, saying, That their Business is to receive Fees; and that the Patients must cure themselves. How
the

the Doctor verifies *Moliere's* Reflection, may be seen Page 237. where he does not agree to have Crude Mercury admitted into Medical Prescription, nor yet that People should take it without consulting the Physician, who, though he will not order it, may consent to the Patient's taking it? Pray what is the Meaning of this Advice, to consult the Physician more than to pay the Fees? and of his Consent to their taking crude Mercury, without ordering it, but that he will not, or cannot, hinder them from curing themselves?

Though he is so disturbed at you, for being a wonderful wonder-working Man, whenever it is to serve his partial Views, no Miracle is too hard for Belief; and he recites one, in my Opinion much greater than you ever pretended, from his Friend *Bradley*, of a Person taking an Ounce of Quicksilver daily for nine Months together, and saving the whole Quantity within an Ounce and half.

The

The Gentleman, I presume, that whole Time was kept in a Bladder. But this is not too hard, when it is to serve as an Instance, that Crude Mercury will do no Good.

The *Treatise on Mercury* comes next in order; which, it seems, with you in *London*, was some Time thought to be wrote by Dr. *Turner*. He, I find, disclaims it; but looking upon the Author as an Ally in the Combination against Crude Mercury, calls him a well-meaning Man, giving Cautions to the unwary Multitude.

The Gentleman, very possibly, might mean well; but his Cause was so weak, or else so slightly defended, that it encouraged one to enter the Lists against him, who, it plainly appears, knew as little as myself of Physick, but was well acquainted with the good Success of Crude Mercury in his own Malady, and some others, and was well disposed to spread

spread the Use of it. I found nothing in this Book to our Purpose, that had not been remarked by the *Antidote*.

To which I next proceed; and shall have as little to observe upon that. The Design appears to me very commendable: Some think he treats the Subject in too ludicrous a Manner; but no one, except Dr. *Turner*, I believe, thinks him angry. I have heard that the Author is generally known; and that he denies it not to any of his Acquaintance. If it be the Person named to me, I am sure he is generally disposed to be merry, rarely angry, especially where no Cause has been given. Dr. *Turner* calls upon him, I find, in several Places; says he is a rash Gentleman, who, flushed with the Success of his own Cure, and many others, would have the World take his bare Word, That Crude Mercury will do no Harm. Pray how could he say upon his bare Word, when many others are quoted? But the Of-
fence

fence this Gentleman gives to the Doctor, is his breaking Bounds, and going into the Physicians Pasture, endeavouring to rob them of such Patients who want Mercury, and are deny'd it : He should have confin'd himself to his own Acquaintance only, and not have even whisper'd it farther. He quotes the Title Page of the *Antidote*, wherein 'tis said, That the Danger of taking Crude Mercury, therein asserted, (that is, in the *Treatise on Mercury*,) was not supported by Facts, or by Reason, (that is, by Facts or by Reasons produced by that Author the *Antidote* was then answering.) What Facts therefore Dr. *Turner* may bring to shew the Falsity or Incongruity of that Title, unless he brings them from the *Treatise on Mercury*, are quite foreign to the Purpose ; and such a Method of arguing, if it be not prevaricating, is as trifling, as where he criticises upon the Stile, for want of knowing the full Meaning of the Expression,

D sion,

sion. I will say no more of this Author, but that I do not think, with Dr. *Turner*, that he was in a Dream all the Time he was writing; and if he is fond of any Thing, it is Mercury, and not the Generality of regular Doctors: For which he may have his Reasons.

The Encomium is an ingenious Treatise, and will, I dare say, give Pleasure to all its Readers, as it has to me: He indeed recommends the Use of Crude Mercury broken, and entertains no great Opinion of it swallow'd liquid; and in this he agrees with Dr. *Turner*. This Agreement is, however, no Security from his Resentment: He spoke too well of you, therefore it must be thought he is the Editor of a pyratrical Edition of your Book; and that it was by way of Atonement for that Injury, and not from any real good Opinion of you, he turns Panegyrist. What a far-fetch'd Thought is this,

in

in order to have a Fling at both? There is no keeping out of the Reach of such an Enemy; the Remarks upon the Doctor's Animadversions on *Belloste* being so close and pointed, as to drive him to deny in one Book, what he says in another, was another sufficient Cause with him for Anger. I have done with those whom the Doctor opposes, and will finish this Part with observing, That they are by him very civilly, and in great good Temper, all call'd either Bigots, Cavillers, or illiterate Contenders. Page 259.

In my Remarks on the several Treatises, I have shewn the Manner wherein the Doctor treats those of a different Opinion from himself; That he is very testy, and so very learned, that there is no reading him out of a Physician's Library; and so nice a Critick, as not to pass by an Error of the Press. I will proceed to give you a few Remarks up-

on his *Discourse and Historical Memoirs of Quicksilver*, separate from others of the contrary Side of the Question; wherein I shall confine myself to the Intention of his Work, without entering into Physical Arguings, to which I am a Stranger; or disputing the Solidity of his Judgment upon the several Cases quoted: His Drift then, I suspect, is to banish the Use of Crude Mercury, swallowed in Substance, and to introduce instead thereof the Crude Mercury minutely broken; which, was it to be as generally used as the former, would salivate so many People, as would set that out of Practice likewise: The Consequence of which would be a Return to the grievous Labour of many incurable Diseases, to cruel Salivations, and the nauseous Contents of Gallipots and Phials. In the Prosecution of this Design, this great Collector of Cases is evidently partial, and disingenuous, I believe, in a Case wherein he himself was concern'd.

Whoever

Whoever charges a Gentleman with Partiality, and Want of Sincerity, should support so heavy an Accusation by an easy, natural Construction of his own Words and Actions, or he will be guilty of gross Scandal. When therefore I say, that this great Indagator of Mercurial Phenomena was influenced by something else than a benevolent publick Spirit, I must make it appear sufficiently plain from his partial Conduct, taken from his own Recital thereof.

I will begin my Remarks with doing him Justice, and giving him all the Merit he can claim from the first and last Case inserted in his *Historical Memoirs*.

The first is an Asthmatick, cured in *Kent*; the last is Mr. *Small's* Relation of Mr. *Booth's* Dissection, which has clear'd away all the false Surmises of Quicksilver having
killed

killed him. And as these are fairly inserted, without any Observations of his own to byass his Readers, were they the only ones, or all the rest such, it would be very unpardonable in me to harbour and to propagate any Suspicions of his Unwillingness herein: But as I can justify my Doubts, even in these particular Instances, by others that are to follow, I will observe hereon, that the first comes to him from a Physician of Note in *Canterbury*, in Virtue of his publick Advertisements, and could not be omitted without too great a Hazard of being expos'd. The other Mr. *Small* gives in answer to the Doctor's Request; and we find by Mr. *Small's* Letter, that the Doctor expected a different Account; for he tells him, "The
 " Inside of the Intestines was not glaz'd
 " over with the Mercury, (as you had been
 " told,) for they were as black as your Hat,
 " and so rotten, that they would not endure
 " the least straining, without breaking in
 " Pieces."

When

When a Man enters voluntarily into publick Service, and invites all Assistance therein, it is but reasonable to suppose he will give close Attention to it, where nothing of greater Moment intervenes to draw him from it. Accordingly we shall see him very active and industrious himself, and employing other Agents in pursuing his Collection of such Cases, as have the Appearance of condemning the Use of Crude Mercury ; and shewing extravagant Resentment, when he finds his Aim disappointed by the Patient's applauding what he expected them to complain of : But, on the contrary, exceeding indolent, indifferent, and remiss, in admitting such Informations as by Success recommend the Use of it ; for Evidence hereof, in Page 206. we see a very civil courteous Letter from Mr. *Grosvenor* to the Doctor, telling him, he had something to acquaint him with of the good Effects of Quicksilver, desiring

firing a Meeting that Evening at the *Castle-Tavern, Fleet-Street*; that he was the next Day obliged to go out of Town in the Morning, otherwise he would have waited on him. The Doctor to this sent a verbal Answer, that how fond soever he might be thought of Quicksilver Intelligence, he did not think it worth his while to go so far from Home; but if the Case was communicated to him by Letter, or otherwise, he would take it kindly: A strong Indication of his not being very fond of Intelligence on this Side of the Question, when compared with his Behaviour on the other Side, by which we may explain likewise his taking it kindly, that if 'twas sent, he could not refuse admitting it. The Gentleman, who could have no private Interest to influence him, was so good-humour'd, and such a Friend to the publick Cause, that, notwithstanding that cold Answer, he put off his Journey, waited on the Doctor the next Day,

Day, and convinced him of having found a great Cure, as you may see related. The Doctor, who possibly might have particular Views of his own, behav'd, I think, a little pettishly to a Gentleman who was contributing to the Design he had published; and to take away, to the utmost of his Power, the Credit of this Cure, he immediately tacks thereto another nameless Patient of his own, to whom he administer'd the same Remedy without Success. Whereupon we have the Conversation of the Patient with the Doctor, and the Reasonings thereon, concluded with a Cure effected by his Pills; which teaches us no more than this, That Mercury minutely ground, is to be preferred in venereal Cases to that in Substance.

We now come to see a few Instances of his great Industry and Application on the other Side of the Question.

The very next Case, of a poor Woman from *Westminster*, shews us a little : She came to the Doctor, made known her Malady, and from whence she thought it to arise. He agrees in Opinion with this good Old Woman ; and imagining something offer'd to his Purpose, takes Care to cure her, and offer'd to attend her at Home upon Occasion, saying, Page 212. That as he had engaged in the Enquiry, in pursuit of the same he would not scruple making her a Visit, although two or three Miles from Home, for his own Satisfaction, as well as hers. He insisted upon her coming to him when well, which she comply'd with. At that Interview the Doctor

tor would have had her try Mercury again. She refus'd; saying, That as she wholly attributed her late Illness to Quicksilver, and her Cure next, under God, to the Doctor, it would be tempting Almighty God to take away her Life. Wherein the Doctor again agrees with the good Old Woman.

Does not this explain the Meaning of his great Outcry against People for not supplying him more largely? Which is seen in several Places; and his happy Ingenuity in finding out Reasons for this Backwardness; some from a fond weak Consideration of departed Friends, and others to hide their Folly for being Dabblers. And does it not shew what sort of Cases he sought after, and encouraged?

Mr. *Grosvenor* has something to communicate in Favour of Mercury: The Doctor is not fond of seeing him; he will not take a Journey from *Batson's* to *Fleet-Street* upon such an Errand: A Woman complains of Hurt from Mercury; he is willing to travel two or three Miles for an Insight. I should have thought this was owing purely to a charitable Disposition, the Woman being poor; but he himself says, it was in pursuit of his Enquiry, and for his own Satisfaction.

In farther Confirmation of an assiduous Application always on the same Side, we find him, as he expresses himself, gaining Knowledge by a kind of Stealth, and picking up publick random Conversations, and tracing them up to the Fountain-Head. In some Instances,

Page 245. he goes himself; and in another, Page 246. he sends an Apothecary to a Gentleman, who, he heard, had in Company complained of voiding Blood by Urine, upon taking Crude Mercury. The Issue of these Enquiries, and some others, not answering what he expected from his Intelligence, betrays him into some very passionate Expressions.

It is with great Regret, says he, I forbear mentioning the Name of one, and exposing him for a Knave or a Fool.

In Page 152. he concludes his Narrative of a Salivation raised by Crude Mercury, in these Words: "*How this may terminate, as it is, I cannot say, being still daily improving.*" He says he was called to this Patient at the Time ~~when~~ of penning his
 Sheets,

Sheets, which probably may have been in *April*; his Letter is dated the 24th of *June*; and this Account is in a Postscript, which must be understood to be after the Letter. Could he say at that Time it was not terminated, but daily improving? Or did he not then know the Success of an Affair under his own Cognizance, I believe, at least two Months previous to this Date? Dates to Writings are of no Use, if such References are not to be made to them.

When the Doctor's Sincerity and Impartiality is weigh'd by this Scale, my Accusation will, I believe, be thought to be made good; and when we recollect how he rebuked another Writer for expecting his bare Word to pass in an Opinion grounded upon his own Case, and many others, he cannot without great Presumption, ask for such a Condescension

Condescension in the Publick, as absolutely to rely upon those Cases being fairly stated, and justly concluded, where we have only his bare Word; nor that any Attention should be given to the many idle Stories of certain nameless Doctors, giving Opinions against Mercury in certain nameless Instances; nor yet of many nameless suffering Patients condemning themselves. Have we not from the whole Prospect, as good Reason and Authority to suppose himself to be the Author of the Letter without a Name, wherein the Writer calls himself Fool for dabbling, as he has to make the *Encomium* to be wrote by the pyritical Editor of your *Legacy*. Be the Letter-Writer whoever he will, he may assure himself that there are many others no wiser than he is, who rely as strongly on Physicians as he could on Mercury,

cury, and many of them as much disappointed in their Expectations, leaving behind them, after their Death, (occasioned by a *Quid pro Quo*, or what may be thought an unjustifiable Warrant,) a Subject for a jesting Conversation between their Physicians, as may be seen, Page 134.

It may not be improper to remark upon the two Cases of an Erysipelas, being occasioned by taking Crude Mercury; though what I advance comes without a Name: Yet as his are alike circumstanced, it will be entitled at least to equal Credit, and may serve to make him still more doubtful in ascribing that Malady to Mercury.

An intimate Acquaintance of mine, about four Years ago, was seized with a violent Erysipelas in the Face and Head. It is a
Distemper

Distemper that often returns after the common prescribed Remedies. He had such as he judged the best Advice in *London* for a Year and half, without clearing himself till he became a Mercurialist; and thereby found the desired Success.

I shall now only refer you to the Inferences he draws from his Work, which shew him greatly in Doubts about the Efficacy of Crude Mercury, and the Manner of its Operation. And without getting another Eye, I fear he will continue in the Dark.

It appears plain from most Parts of his Book, that he prefers, almost in all Cases the Mercury minutely broken to that in Substance, and has so much to say in favour of his Opinion, that I cannot contradict him; and I should not be sorry, but very glad to

see all the ingenious Professors of Physick freely come into that Practice, using the necessary Cautions to prevent its receiving Discouragement from the ill Consequences of frequent Salivations; and at the same Time desist from that very suspicious Proceeding, of endeavouring to deter all such from the Use of Crude Mercury in Substance, whose Circumstances, in respect either to Fortune, Business, or Distance from watchful Assistance, may make them prefer it to the other, as too hazardous.

Thus I have gone through in giving you my Remarks on the Doctor's Book; wherein I have limited myself to his Method of treating his Opponents, and to the explaining those Parts which made me think it a partial Enquiry.

His historical Facts and Reasonings may be a proper Subject for others to animadvert on; not for me, who have no Pretence to Knowledge in Physick, more than comes to my Share, from sometimes having been a Patient, and inquisitive after my own Complaints.

If you have any Thoughts of publishing this hasty Sketch, it will behove you to peruse it carefully, to compare it with the Doctor's Book, and to see that I have not misquoted or misunderstood him; for it is you who must answer for the Offence in sending it abroad, if it gives any.

I am sensible I have taken great Freedoms with the Author, whose Name even was a Stranger to me, till his publick Advertisements.

ments. These Liberties are owing to an Apprehension of his having partial Views which, if true, need no Apology.

I do really hope that I am mistaken; and in that Hope, if I did not conceive it to be Matter of high Importance to encourage the Use of Crude Mercury, I should absolutely enjoin you to burn this long Letter, after you had taken the Trouble of perusing it.

It is sufficient that you, and only you, judge from whom this comes.— It is assuredly from one of your Friends.—

To Dr. DOVER.

F I N I S.