

A letter from an apothecary in London, to his friend in the country, concerning the present practice of physick : in regard to empiricks, empirical methods of cure, and nostrums. With remarks on Dr. Mead's, Mr. Freke's, and Mr. Cheselden's method of cure for the itch, by externals only ... Also some observations upon manna ... with remarks on Dr. Mead's certain cure for the bite of a mad dog.

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A
L E T T E R

F R O M A N

Apothecary in L O N D O N,

T O H I S

Friend in the C O U N T R Y;

Concerning the Present

Practice of Physick,

in Regard to

EMPIRICKS, EMPIRICAL METHODS of
CURE, and NOSTRUMS.

With REMARKS on Dr. MEAD's, Mr. FREKE's,
and Mr. CHESELDEN's Method of Cure for the
I T C H, by *Externals only*; setting forth the Dan-
gerous Consequences of such a Method, if ad-
hered to indiscriminately.

A L S O

Some Observations upon MANNA, shewing it to be a *Com-
position*, though commonly supposed a *Natural Production*;
with Remarks on Dr. MEAD's certain Cure for the Bite
of a MAD DOG.

*The Question among Men of Understanding ought not to be, Who
is the Writer, but Whether what is advanced is founded
upon good or bad Principles; or whether the End proposed is
salutary or hurtful.*

L O N D O N :

Printed for M. COOPER, at the *Globe* in
Pater-Noster-Row. 1752.

(Price One Shilling.)

THE ARTS

AND MANUFACTURES

OF THE CITY OF LONDON

IN THE YEAR 1790

BY JAMES SMITH

OF THE CITY OF LONDON

PRINTED BY J. SMITH

IN THE CITY OF LONDON

BY J. SMITH

IN THE CITY OF LONDON



A
L E T T E R
 FROM AN
 Apothecary in L O N D O N,
 TO HIS
 Friend in the C O U N T R Y.

Dear S I R,

WHEN last in Town, you was pleased to ask some Questions about the present Practice of Physick in *London*; and remarked, that whatever notable Medicine, or new Method of Practice, became as it were a Fashion in *London*, it soon took Place in the Country, and was in Vogue, 'till something new offered; among the Former, Mention was made of *Oleum*

A 2 *Animale,*

Animale, Oleum Anodynum, Tinctura Styptica, or Eaton's Styptick, Lixivium Lithontripticum, Aqua Marina, Magnesia Alba, Tar-Water, and Dr. James's Powder for Fevers, and other Inflammatory Distempers, cum multis aliis : And of the Latter, Notice was taken of the certain Cure for the Bite of a Mad Dog by Dr. Mead, and the present Cure of the Itch chiefly with Sulphur, or with external Medicines only, without any Regard had to the Use of Internals, whether by way of Preparation or Finishing the Cure ; in short, Specifick Medicines and infallible Cures, are the Boast, not only of Quacks and Mountebanks, but are too much recommended and insisted upon by the most knowing and learned Practitioners in Physick ; so that, though Hippocrates, and his Followers amongst the Ancients, and Sydenham and his Admirers among the Moderns, are much recommended by the Orators of these Times, in their Harangues to the Publick, as the Fathers of Physick, and from whom all that is useful and necessary is to be learnt ; yet, contrary to the known Practice of the Ancients, and the Plain-dealing and regular Practice of the great Dr. Sydenham, who was so far from having any Faith in *Specificks*, or *Specifick Methods of Cure*, that he honestly confessed he knew of none, and he feared those that promis'd so much, were as ignorant as himself ;

self; the very Reverse in the present Practice is to be observed; and it is to be lamented, that the noble Art of Physick should be so crouded with such Trifles, as are imposed upon the Credulous, by Empiricks of all Kinds; for in almost all Diseases these Things are cried up as if they were divine, by such as have made a Trade of these Trifles, to the great Dishonour of the Profession of Physick; and here it may not be amiss to recite a Case to the present Purpose, that, is to shew that no one Medicine or Method of Cure can answer all Purposes.

Dr. Sydenham owns he was sent for to one Mrs. *Saltmarsh*, whose Belly was incredibly big, and he gave her an Ounce of *Syrup of Buck-thorn* before Dinner, as the Custom was then; it could scarce be imagined, how much Water she evacuated by Stool, and that without any Tumult or Faintness, which so encouraged him, that he gave it daily; only, when at any Time she was weak, he omitted it for a Day or two; and so, the Water being gradually drained, the Belly daily assuaged, and she perfectly recovered. He, with the juvenile Confidence of an unexperienced Man, verily believed he had got a Specifick Medicine that would cure any Manner of *Dropsy*; but he found his Mistake within a few Weeks; for soon after, he was called to another
Woman

Woman that had had the same Disease, that came upon a long Quartan Ague ; He gave the same Syrup, and followed the Disease by the frequent Repetition of it, and by increasing gradually the Dose ; but having endeavoured in vain to evacuate the Waters, the Purge not working, the Tumor of the Belly increased, and the Sick dismissed him, and recovered by the Assistance of another Physician who prescribed more effectual Remedies : And may that be the Case of self-confident Practitioners, who put their whole Trust in Specifick Medicines ! And I don't question but this Disappointment might be a Means of setting to rights that great and good Man in his future Practice.

A great Stir has been made *de Simplicibus Medicina*, and Fault found with those inartificial and irregular Compositions, *Theriaca Andromachi*, *Mithridatium*, *Philonium Romanum*, &c. which, we are told, the Ignorance of former Times had introduced, and thereby the Simplicity of Physick was lost, and a Wantonness in mixing, inlarging, and accumulating took Place, which has continued even to our Times. To which I shall subjoin the following Remark, with some other Particulars. It were to be wished the *Chemic* and *Galenick* Pharmacy could be reduced to one Art ; this might be attained, by throwing out of each of them the more elaborate

elaborate and perplexed Preparations; in-
 much that the one would seem to be almost
 lost in the other, from whence would arise
 a single Profession practicable to every Apo-
 thecary. By these Means the Physician
 would be much surer of the Virtues of his
 Drugs, as they would be less liable to suffer
 from the Inexpertness of the Operator;
 which Evil Pharmacy will never be thorough-
 ly free from, 'till it gets rid of those more
 elaborate Preparations. I do not mean by
 this to vote extensive Chemistry out of Doors;
 for whilst such Uses can be made of this
 Art, as may be found in some Philosophical
 Writings, as in Sir *Isaac Newton's* 31 *Quer.*
 and elsewhere, Chemistry will never die:
 But in Pharmacy an Abridgement seems to
 be wanting, and many Instances might be
 brought to this Purpose. By the simplest
 Means only, the Manufacture of Drugs
 can be best improved for the Use of the Sick,
 and thereby we may find the Principles of
 each Drug in the Condition Nature intend-
 ed them; for the severe and torturing Method
 of handling *Simple Medicines*, so much prevail-
 ing among the modern Chemists and others,
 alters them so greatly, from what they were,
 that it is not possible to come at such a
 Knowledge of them (by such Means) as
 would enable us to make the necessary and
 most useful Inductions. Perhaps several
 Medicines handed down to us strongly re-
 commended,

commended, too frequently disappoint the Prescriber, namely because they are prepared with too much Art; which was not the Manner of the Ancients. The Fraud of the Chemists is found always to be in Proportion to his Ingenuity, which consists in adapting all his Preparations to the Buyer's Purse; who, if he cannot purchase the Genuine, may be supplied with one like it; that the *Roman Ancilia* could not resemble each other so well as these do, and yet none but an ingenious Chemist can discover these Frauds, or he to whom he pleases to reveal this Art. These false Preparations are sometimes made to appear more agreeable to the Eye than the true; by which Artifice the false is too often prefer'd by the unskilful Buyer. Many instances might be brought to this Purpose. Thus far the Remark: To which I shall add, that to me it appears that the Ancients, as Compounders of Medicines, had this chiefly in View in their Compositions, to observe the most simple Method of preparing the particular Drugs, whether of Vegetables, Minerals, or Metals, to be used in Physick; and though their Compositions were unmeasurable by the Number and Variety of their ingredients, yet, says Dr. *Huxham*, they have stood the Test of Ages, and are unquestionably excellent Medicines (when well used) though there may be several Things in them trifling

Ring, both as to Quantity and Quality ; and
 from very good Authority we have this
 farther Remark, that the *Tberiaca Andro-*
machi is a most elaborate and celebrated
 Composition, and the Capital Alexiphar-
 mick, not only of our Shops, but those of
 all *Europe* ; it had for its Author the Person
 whose Name it bears eminent in his Pro-
 fession, and Physician to *Nero the Emperor*.
 From the great Quantities made in that City,
 it has long obtained the Appellation of *Venice*
Treacle, from whence it has been trans-
 ported to most Parts of the Globe ; it is an
 excellent Cordial and Cephalick Medicine,
 being impregnated and enriched with many
 Ingredients for answering all Purposes of that
 Nature ; nor does it merit less Encomium in
 regard to its *Opiate* Powers, as nothing of
 this Class of Medicine can be given, either
 with greater Safety, or Efficacy, the dan-
 gerous Effects of the narcotick Juices being
 admirably well guarded against, by the stimu-
 lating Qualities of some particular Drugs
 that enter into this Composition, in all *Fevers*
 of the low depressed Kind ; it does Won-
 ders, especially where Sleep is wanting : One
 Scruple, or half a Dram, of it on those Occasions
 given successively every six or eight Hours,
 (more or less, according to Circumstances,
 Strength and Constitution of the Patient,)
 with a small Draught of a Cordial Julep
 suitable to the Occasion, oft procures and
 B keeps

keeps up a most desirable *Diaphoresis*, the Forerunner generally of a fortunate *Crisis*.

Blistering pretty smartly at the same Time, in this Sort of Fevers, will no ways retard the Cure; on the contrary, the stimulating Faculty of those Flies will help to enable to carry on the Circulation, 'till the morbidick Matter chance to be thrown off by regular Secretions. *

Dr. *Freind* remarks, though we cannot exactly calculate the Virtues of a *Compound* from the proportional Qualities of the *Simples*, as *Alkindus* pretended to do, yet still there may something result from a *Mixture*, which cannot be found in any *one* of the *Ingredients*; *Mithridate* and the *Treacle* of *Andromachus* have been in Use for near two thousand Years; and still allowed to be good Medicines, by the ablest Judges: And yet, were we to examine every Particular, we should probably be at a Loss, by any Force of Reasoning, to comprehend why this or that Drug should have been made choice of, or how it could add to the Efficacy of the Medicine. I shall here give the Remarks of a Foreigner upon *Venice Treacle*.

“ Longum

* See *Medulla Medicinæ Universæ*, or a New Compendious *Dispensary*, compiled at the Command of his Royal Highness the Duke. By the King's Physicians and Surgeons, the Surgeon-General, and Apothecary-General of the Army.

“ Longum foret de utilitatibus hujus per
 “ tot sæcula probatissimæ medicinæ scribere
 “ variosque modos internè, externève adhi-
 “ bendi ediffere, dijudicanda hæc res est ex
 “ communibus Medicinæ rationalis doctrinis,
 “ de usu anodynorum tempestivo. Certe
 “ quum vehemens Fibrarum Solidarum
 “ stricture spasmodica liberum & æquabilem
 “ humorum circulum præcipue turbet, jus-
 “ tumque excretionum salubrium sufflami-
 “ net, aut vario modo corrumpat, pervertat-
 “ que successum, consentaneum utique est
 “ eam medicinam quæ Spasmos demulcet, &
 “ æquabilitatem motus sic restituit, ad Sa-
 “ lutem plurimum conferre & excretiones
 “ salutares restituere. Quumque *Theriaca* id
 “ omnium securissimè & certissimè efficiat,
 “ permittendum est, ut laudibus bene par-
 “ tis, porro efflorescat quas tuebitur in eorum
 “ manibus, qui justo tempore nec *temerè* nec
 “ *timidè*, adhibebunt, nec omittendum vide-
 “ tur, quod vix usibus apta sit recens parata,
 “ & mininum sex menses jam adeptam ad-
 “ hiberi oporteat, quo vetustior eo mitior,
 “ deprehenditur.” *

To conclude, *Venice Treacle* was of univer-
 sal Use and Benefit in the Epidemick Fever
 (in the Year 1713) called the *Dunkirk*
 B 2 *Fever* ;

* Vide Joannis Henrici Schulzii prælectiones de viribus
 & usu Medicamentorum, &c. Pag. 374. & 5. Norimbergæ,
 1736.

Fever; infomuch that, though it was given to People of all Ages, and in very large Doses, yet nobody was hurt upon that Account; but it was observed to be peculiarly *specifick* in that particular Disorder, as was set forth in a small Pamphlet published upon that Account, intitled, *De Febre Britannica*, and since, in many Epidemick Disorders, it has done great Service, even in the Hands of the common People, but much more so when given with Judgment and Discretion.

Mithridate is a noble Medicine, and may be given in most kind of Fevers, and is more efficacious than the *Compound Powder of Contrayerva*, the *Bezoardick Powder*, and the *Cordial Confection* in present Vogue and ordinarily prescribed in common Practice: It's Dose is from one Scruple to one Dram, to be repeated as there shall be Occasion, 'till some Crisis appears, and the Distemper abates.

Philonium Romanum is a warm Opiate, calculated for the Relief of those who labour under any intestinal Discharges of Blood, &c. by qualifying the slimy Humours whose acrimonious Corroding Particles are preying upon the Vessels, and opening their inflamed Orifices. It is to be given when Bleeding, Vomiting and *Rhubarb* fails; and is to be repeated at proper Distances, in Proportion to the Obstinacy and Duration of the

the Disorder. “ In colicis affectibus præcipuam habet dignitatem, doloris enim magnitudo sæpe totam in se curationem intendit; & in miseram *vitæ* desperationem plerosque injicit.” This Medicine is now laid aside; but I am persuaded it will in most Cases answer much better than the *Philonium Londinense* in the New Dispensatory. *Expertus loquor.* Much more might here be urged in Defence of many old Compositions laid aside to give way to Medicines formed on a new Plan, according to the present Mode of *Criticism only*, without the Experience and Time required for the Establishment of new Compositions; but many of these are already upon their Decline, and new Medicines taking Place, or the old ones coming into Use again, particularly *Mithridate*.

Thus unsettled must even the Regular Practice of Physick be, ’till *Physicians, Apothecaries* and *Surgeons* keep to their proper Stations in the Management of Patients, and not break in one upon another by *Nostrums* and Empirical Methods of Cure, whereby the Art of Physick is exposed to Quackery and Empiricism; for, let him be a Physician, Apothecary or Surgeon, that pretends to impose upon the Publick any *Nostrum* of his own, or infallible Cure, in any Distemper, that Man is, *ipso facto*, as arrant a Quack

Quack as even Dr. R——ck, or any other Empirick.

—— *Mutato nomine, de te
Fabula narratur.*—

By Experience we find how little there is in *Nostrums*, when they are once made publick, whatever pompous Titles they might bear, or how much soever they might be in Vogue; and are Instances of the Knavery in those who sold them, and of the foolish Credulity in those who bought them.—A Man, says Dr. *Freind*, who has the least Acquaintance with Physick, must be sensible, that any *universal* Remedy must be a Cheat; and though it be ever so good and valuable a Medicine it self, yet it is utterly impossible it can be equally applicable to all Persons, in all Cases, and at all Junctures; and therefore it must be determined by the Skill of some discerning Physician, who is well apprised of the Nature and Symptoms of the Disease, where to give it, and where to forbear. We need not go far for a Proof of this, we have a convincing one, in that great, and perhaps *only Specifick*, the *Bark*, which, if used indifferently and without Judgment, even in *intermitting* Cases, has a Chance to do as much Hurt as Good.

Botany is at a very low Ebb with us: Dr. *Sydenham* remarked, That it was to be lamented that the Nature of *Plants* was no better known to us, which seemed to him the chiefest of the *Materia Medica*, and to be likeliest to afford such Remedies as are called *Specificks*; for Parts of Animals may seem to agree too much with the human Body, and Minerals differ too much; upon which Account, he confesses; the Minerals answer Indications more powerfully, than either Things taken from Plants and Animals, but not *Specifically*, in the Sense commonly understood. But, alas! now it is rare to meet with a Practitioner in Physick, that knows the first Principles of *Botany*, or concerns himself about the Knowledge and true Nature of Plants; but leaves all to the Apothecary, or (which is worse) to the fraudulent Herb-Folks that notoriously impose upon all that trust wholly to them. The Study and Knowledge of the *Materia Medica* is greatly neglected, and *Pharmacy* is very little understood; in the room of which, Chemical Preparations and *Nostrums* are our chief Study; and though we despise the Capitals in Pharmacy, which have stood the Test of Ages, yet we are credulous to the last Degree, and put the Whole of our Confidence in some new-fangled Chemical Preparation,

Preparation, which, like a *Charm*, is to work a marvellous Cure, we know not how, and of whose Operation and Effect we are intirely ignorant: And therefore, if improper (as it is to be feared is often the Case) What must be the fate of the Patient exposed to such Chance and Hazard? But we ought to bear in Mind, that the Practice of Physick chiefly consists in this, *viz.* in being able to find the genuine Indications, and not Remedies to answer them; and they that have not observed this, have instructed Empiricks to imitate Physicians. *

Having done with my Remarks for the present, on some particular notable Medicines, that have had their Run, and now are upon their Decline, or most of them quite out of Doors, I shall now confine myself chiefly to the present Method of Cure for the *Itch*, which has been recommended as infallible by three great Men in their Profession (and deservedly so) by *Externals only*, without the Use of any Internals whatever, as being contrary to all former Methods of Cure, and the Judgment of the most experienced Practitioners in Physick; and as I take this to be an Affair of Consequence, I shall set forth both Sides of the Question, with some Remarks.

I

* In eo præcipuè spectatur medici Sagacitas, ut de morbi ingenio acute judicet; *Curationis* formulas describere, cuiusvis fere est in Medicina Operarii. *Freind.*

I shall begin with Dr. *Mead*, who says the *Itch* appears in a reddish Roughness of the Skin; which is succeeded by Pimples that let out *Matter* or a *sharp Ichor*; and the Exulceration is attended with Itching, and spreads by Contagion: It may justly be called an *Animated Disease*, as owing its Original to small Animals; for there are certain Insects, so very small as hardly to be seen without the Assistance of a Microscope, which deposite their Eggs in the Furrows of the Cuticle, as in proper Nests, where, by the Warmth of the Place, they are hatched in a short Time, and the young ones coming to full Growth, penetrate into the very *Cutis* with their sharp Heads, and gnaw and tear the Fibres; their Bitings cause an intolerable Itching, which brings on a Necessity of Scratching, whereby the Patient is torn and emits a thin Humour, which concretes into hard Scabs, while the little *Worms* constantly burrowing under the Cuticle, and laying their Eggs in different Places, spread the Disease. Hence the Reason manifestly appears, why the Disease is communicated by the Linnen, Wearing-Apparel, Gloves, &c. which were used by infected Persons. For the Eggs, which had stuck to soft Substances of this Kind, are rubbed into the Furrows of the Cuticle, and are there hatched and nourished. Now, what

is of greatest Moment in this *Theory* is, that the Knowledge of the true Cause of the Disease naturally points out the Cure; for neither *Catharticks*, nor *Sweeteners of the Blood* are of any Service here; the whole Management consists in *external Applications*, in order to destroy these corroding *Worms*, and this is easily effected. Wherefore, first, let the Patient go into a warm Bath, and then let the Parts affected be anointed every Day, either with the *Ointment of Sulphur*, or the *Ointment with Precipitate of Mercury*, which is less offensive to the Olfactory Organs, instead of which a Liniment made of *Orange-flowers* or red *Roses*, the *Mercurial Red Corrosive*, and *Hogs-lard* pounded together, which is of a very pleasant Smell and of Equal Efficacy. Thus far Dr. Mead. *

Now I shall proceed to Mr. Freke upon the *Pruritus*, or *Itch*, which (he says) is a watry Pustule occasioned by an *Insect* nestling under the *Cuticula*. Those who pretend to have seen it by a Microscope, resemble it to a Weavel bred in stale Oat-meal, and from thence attribute the Frequency of the Distemper to a certain People, on Account of their living more on Oat-meal than others

* See Dr. Mead's *Medical Precepts and Cautions*, page, 239. 240 and 241.

Blood, which it *purges* in the same Manner as Mercurial Ointments do ; this Medicine is not unknown, but I publish it for the sake of the Poor amongst whom this Distemper mostly prevails, and often *spoils their Constitutions*. Thus far Mr. Cheselden. *

Now it appears by the foregoing Account of the Cure of the *Itch*, as set forth by Dr. Mead and the two Surgeons, that they would be understood to signify, that *Internals* have nothing at all to do in the Cure, but as the *Itch* is *Local*, the Medicines beforementioned constantly applied will perform the Cure without any Reserve or Caution whatsoever ; which I take to be a dangerous Doctrine, and if adhered to in all Cases, must cause an irreparable Damage to many Constitutions : To support which, out of many Cases that have come to my Knowledge, I shall here relate two, with some Remarks of some eminent Practitioners to the same Purpose,

I knew a young Gentleman (then lately come out of the Country) who had been infected with the *Itch* ; he was of a gross Habit of Body, full of Humours, and affected all over his Body with ulcerous Excoriations, occasioned by Scratchings ; and the

* See The Translation of Mr. Le Dran's *Operations of Surgery*.

the Sores discharged much. He was told it was the *Itch*, and advised to cure himself with Brimstone and Fresh-butter, which was accordingly done; the Sores healed very soon, the *Itch* disappeared, and he was cured without *Internals*, or any *Evacuations whatsoever*: But in a little Time after, he was seized with *Epileptick Fits*, which became so obstinate that they could not be removed by the Care and Prescriptions of two of the most eminent Physicians of *London* now living; but they told him he must leave off his Business and retire into the Country, and pronounced him incurable. I believe the Physicians were not apprized of his having had the *Itch* lately, and the Nature of his Cure, but applied themselves to the Cure of the *Epileptick Fits* by the most approved Medicines, such as *Evacuations* with *Blisters*, *Valerian Root* in large Quantities, *Castor*, *Volatile Salts*, &c. but to no good Purpose. Finding this to be the whole State of the Case, I told him, that notwithstanding the Disappointment he had met with, I thought he might be cured of his *Epileptick Fits* by an *Issue* in his Arm: The Method taken was as follows; First, he was blooded, took three common Purges with the *Infusion* of *Sena* and *Syrup* of *Buck-thorn*, and then had an *Issue* made in his Arm, which run very well, and he had but one *Epileptick Fit* more in a Year after,
and

and that a very slight one ; and he bleed occasionally, Spring and Fall ; and took now and then a Dose of the same Purging Physick, by which Means he was perfectly cured. It appeared to me, that the sudden and hasty Drying up those ulcerous Excoriations in most Parts of the Body, with a very considerable Discharge from a gross Habit, was the Occasion of his *Epileptick Fits*. *Sulphur* is a very great Drier, and used externally will dry up any Ulcer soon ; and when properly applied, is very good for that Purpose, and the Cure of the *Itch*, but not to be used indifferently and in all Cases.

A young Girl, about thirteen Years of Age, was infected with an inveterate *Itch*, which had been neglected : She was directed to make use of a *mercurial Ointment* as infallible in the Cure of the *Itch* ; it was used accordingly, and she was cured without a Salivation ; but a Lameness ensued from the Hips downwards. She was bed-ridden several Years, and could get no Relief ; in the mean Time several Parts mortified, and afterwards discharged much from the Sores ; she became crooked, and a miserable Object, but at Length, by the Benefit of Nature, and the Menfes coming on, she recovered her Limbs and was able to do Business. The Mischiefs arising from *Quick-silver*.

silver Girdles, Mercurial Lotions, and Ointments, are very notorious; the terrible Consequences of all which have been too often experienced, when applied empirically, without due Regard had to Circumstances, and Time of Application; and I don't question but many bad Effects have been overlooked and forgot.

It is a common Observation of the lower Sort of People, that the *Itch* often *poisons* their *Blood* (as they call it) and that they never have been so well, as before the Infection; and why? because this Distemper is generally cured Empirically, without due Consideration had of a proper Method of Cure, not by *Externals only*, but by due Evacuations and Preparatives mostly necessary in this Disorder. I will readily allow, where the Infection is recent, and slight, and the Constitution good, *Externals only* may, and often have a good Effect, so as the Consequence may not be remarkably bad, or be observed: But what is this to the general Doctrine of the Cure (in Question) of all and of the worse kind of *Itches* of long Standing, in which there is very often a very great Discharge of purulent Matter, as appears by the Linnen they wear; and the whole Mass of Blood may be supposed in some respect to be infected? Surely some Regard is to be had to the State of the Blood,
and

and not all at once to put a Stop to the Discharge, and bring on a speedy Cure, without any Concern for the bad Consequences which too often attend such a Cure; of which, unquestionable Matters of Fact, as well as the Declarations of the most experienced Practitioners ancient and modern do set forth upon this Occasion.

And what has been here said upon Account of the *Itch*, may be applied to the Cure of a *scald Head* (especially in Children and tender Constitutions) and other Eruptions upon the Face, &c. too often treated in the aforesaid Manner.

I come now to give some Remarks of the most experienced Practitioners in the present Case, and here is Subject-matter to be met with, that would fill a Pamphlet, or no small Book it self; for almost all Authors of Note, that have occasionally touched upon this Disease, the *Itch*, do absolutely require *Internals* as well as *Externals*; and nothing more common, than to meet with Observations, setting forth the great Danger of Curing some kinds of *Itch*, at least, with *Sulphureous*, *Mercurial*, or *Repellent* Applications; whereby the Humour is too suddenly checked and thrown back into the Blood. And Dr. *Heister* notes, “ Ut à
 “ *Scabie* intempestivè propulsâ varia sym-
 “ ptomata oriuntur, ut *Capitis dolores*, diffi-
 “ *cilis*

“ *cilis respiratio, angustiae præcordiorum,*
 “ *febres, Epilepsia, Asthma,*” &c.

To begin: The *Itch* is a Pustulous Exulceration of the Skin, more or less moist, which is generally thought incurable without the Use of *Topicks*. Hence, neglecting all internal Remedies, they forthwith have Recourse to various *Sulphureous* and *Mercurial* Liniments, which they apply either to the whole Surface of the Body, or only to the Joints, though frequently with very considerable Danger both to Life and Health; for it is *never safe by Topicks* to cure external Disorders proceeding from an Internal cause; but as Nature expels the Heterogeneous and morbid Matter, the Physician ought to do the same, and never counteract the Intentions of Nature, which is generally done by External Repellents applied. The Cure of these Disorders ought not only to be begun, but also finished by such Internal Medicines, as correct and dispose the peccant Matter to Excretion, and at the same Time eliminate it; to this Class of Medicines, not only *Diaphoreticks*, Emollient and Laxative Infusions, but also, if the *Itch* is inveterate and malignant, Preparations of Mercury and Antimony. Then for the better Consolidation of the Skin, and the Restitution of its Beauty, we may use Baths, drying sulphureous and Saturnine Ointments, which can

never be used without Danger, as is obvious from numberless practical Observations from *Hoffman, Heister, &c.* Dr. JAMES.

I shall now present the Reader with a short Account of the *Itch* from that great Philosopher and Physician Dr. *Willis*, viz. “ As
 “ to what concerns the Pustulous Eruptions,
 “ as the Glandulous Humour may be depraved several Ways, so especially these
 “ three ; and therefore usually falls under a
 “ Coagulative Disposition, with the Serum
 “ that is newly poured out of the Blood.
 “ First of all, the Blood itself being very
 “ impure, and also dissolved, leaves its Corruption and Recrements plentifully in the
 “ Cutaneous Glands, which there assuming
 “ the Nature of a more corruptive Ferment, do variously work up and coagulate with other Juices, coming thither,
 “ or passing that Way, and so produce not
 “ only *Itches*, but several Sorts of Leprosies.
 “ Therefore often and constant Eating of
 “ Salt Fish, or Flesh dried in the Smoak or
 “ Sun, also incongruous Drinks and Poisons,
 “ do commonly cause Cutaneous Eruptions,
 “ and those oftentimes very horrid ones.
 “ Secondly, The Humour gathered in these
 “ Cutaneous Glands, sometimes, by meer
 “ Stagnation, become not only *Itchy*, but
 “ oftentimes corruptive; wherefore not only
 “ they that have been kept long in Prisons,
 but

“ but also they that have lived a sedentary
 “ Life, and are used to Filth, Stench, Slut-
 “ tishness, or Nastiness, are obnoxious to
 “ these Diseases; inasmuch as the Cutaneous
 “ Liquor being not at all eventilated, is cor-
 “ rupted by mere Stagnation, and so ob-
 “ tains the Nature of a putrefying Fer-
 “ ment; to which moreover an Addition is
 “ made by the Blood, in like manner de-
 “ praved and polluted.

“ Thirdly, If perhaps these Causes be
 “ wanting, so as the Glandulous Hu-
 “ mour of the Skin has contracted no
 “ Fault, either from the Blood or from its
 “ own Stagnation, yet it is certain, that the
 “ virulent Infection communicated from
 “ without, does nevertheless render it pro-
 “ lifick as to these Diseases. This is
 “ exceeding manifest from vulgar Observa-
 “ tion, in as much as they that are best in
 “ Health, and have as good a Constitution
 “ as can be, scarce ever sleep without
 “ Harm in the same Bed with an *Itchy*
 “ Person, or where such Person has lain;
 “ not only so, but the *Itchy* Person's Linnen
 “ washed with other Men's often imparts
 “ the Infection; and certainly the Morbid
 “ Taint of no one Disease is more easily
 “ and certainly propogated (the Plague on-
 “ ly excepted) than this of the *Itch*.”

Thus far this Philosopher and Physician. But now I come to his Cure of the *Itch*, which is most to my Purpose.

“ Ad *Curam* quod spectat omnes medendi
 “ intentiones per remedia tum *interna*, tum
 “ *externa*, simul usurpata, complicari, aut
 “ saltem intercalari debent, nempe ut ma-
 “ teries morbifica oculis suis excussa, in
 “ nullas usquam latebras secedere & delite-
 “ scere queat, quin ex omni parte intus &
 “ foras per Medicamenta impetita in totum
 “ amoveatur ; itaq; *Purgantia* hanc meden-
 “ di methodum inchoare semper & finire
 “ debent, quanquam *Helmontius* Pharmaciam
 “ Catharticam cum magna pompa exagitat,
 “ & quasi triumphatam ducit, quia per se
 “ *Scabiem* non curat, affirmare tamen licet,
 “ morbum hunc sine Medicina ista vix un-
 “ quam *facile*, nunquam veró *tuto* sana-
 “ ri.”

Dr. *Turner* says, the chief Curatory Indications of the *Itch* consist in amending the Glandulous Humour vitiated, and reducing the Skin to its right Temper; which is often effected by local Application, or applying Medicines immediately to the Parts. But before these take Place, the Blood itself, especially its depraved serous *Lutex*, if got thereinto, is to be freed from its Pollution, by Bleeding, Purging and proper Alteratives; being always mindful to secure the Nervous Liquor from

from participating of the Taint, by which many desperate and deadly Diseases of the *Brain* and *Noble Parts* may be, and often are occasioned.

It will, he says, be needless to give Specimens of the Cure in Histories of particular Cases, every where and all times offering, of this Nature; insomuch that there is scarce an old Woman to be found without some Secret for the *Itch*, although what Sort of Cures, might be instanced in Many that have been killed by curing their Distemper in the Skin, without Heed to the Purg- ing off the malign Humours or Rectifying the *Dyscrasy* of the Blood; as also the Fluxes oftentimes arising from their *Quick- silver Girdles and Ointments*, to the great Detriment of the suffering Patient, and no small Hazard of Life itself; Examples of which are to be met with in several Writers upon this subject.

Dr. *Floyer* observes, That the *Itch* repell- ed, or Ulcers stopped up, may occasion an *Asthma*, by filling the Blood with too much malignant Serosity, and that either flows through the Glandules of the *Lungs* or *Brain*, excites an Effervescence in the Hu- mours.

Of the *Scald Head*, which is by some deemed merely Local, and cured Empiri- cally by outward Applications, I shall only
remark

remark from Dr. *Turner*, in his Prognostick on this Disease, that it is to be taken from the Virulency of the Humour, its Duration or Continuance ; the Strength of Constitution, if fit to encounter with Remedies able to subdue it; and the Hazard to the Brain or other noble Parts, by giving a Check to the said Humour, and drying up the Ulcers. At best it is difficult to eradicate securely ; at the worst, dangerous to attempt the Cure, unless great Care be taken in the mean While to rectify the corrupt Juices, and secure the nervous Fluid from any Taint that may happen by Suppression of the Humour aforesaid, by which many Infants, and Children grown up, have, with their Cures, received soon after certain Death ; as might be evidenced by Multitudes of Examples taken notice of, among others, by *Forestus*, *Hercul. Saxon*, &c. and upon which Account, together with the great Trouble of managing, the Disease, Physicians and Surgeons regarding their Reputation are often shy of engaging in these Undertakings, and the Diseased have commonly Recourse now-a-day, to Empiricks and old Women.

In the Cure, however, of this Distemper, Bleeding and repeated Purgation are very necessary, to make a general Evacuation ; also Blisters and Issues, for a particular

lar and constant Derivation of the same from the Head, and for Security of the Brain and nervous System. The Physical Prescription may be the same with that mentioned in the *Itch* and Childrens Scabs.

Having gone thus far in producing proper Authorities in behalf of a regular and methodical Cure of the *Itch*, *scald Head*, &c. as the general Opinion of former Practitioners both Ancient and Modern, I shall make further Remarks of my own, and so conclude.

It must be allowed, that there has been great Difference, in respect to the particular Treatment of the Disease, as circumstances, have varied : but the Doctrine of curing all sorts of *Itches* by *Externals only*, never was established, 'till very lately, by the regular Practitioners of Physick ; and I can only account for this, by supposing these Great Men have had but little Experience of their own in this particular; *Authorum vel maximè celebrium decreta Medica haud ita facile recipienda sunt, quæ non multiplex usus firaverit.* FREIND. For Persons affected with the *Itch*, are generally either very poor Objects, and can't afford to have the best Advice, or if they do apply for Advice, are directed to *Externals only*, and very likely, by that Means, the *Itch* may be cured ; but if any bad Consequences follow, they are overlook'd or forgot ;
or

or otherwise, if People that can pay for good Advice catch the *Itch*, they endeavour to conceal it, make use of any Quack Medicine, or empirical Cure; that are advertised as infallible, and the whole Affair is kept to themselves; and if an Accident happens afterwards, a Physician will be sent for, but the Nature and Cure of the *Itch*, which is the chief Cause of the Malady, is kept from the Knowledge of that Physician, and he applies to the Cure of a particular Disease without knowing any thing of the original Cause.

The best Practitioner in this Case must be the Man that has been conversant in the Cure of diseased subjects in Prisons, Parish Work-Houses, and among the Poor that are accustomed to Sluttishness and Nastiness, who are generally affected with the most malignant and infectious *Itches*, which require a judicious Treatment, according to different Circumstances and Constitutions; and no one Medicine, whether External or Internal, or Method of Cure, can suit all Cases; which holds good, in my Opinion, in the Cure of all Diseases whatever.

I can't but observe, that Dr. *Mead* and Mr. *Freke* assert, that Animals, or Insects, are certainly the Occasion of the *Itch*, and that they have been observed by Microscopes, so as to be particularly described; and this is, to shew that the *Itch* is only a local Disorder;

der; destroy the Insects, say they, and the Work is done; and what so proper as External Applications that will destroy Vermin? and upon that Account, Internal Medicines must be wholly needless.

This is a meer *Hypothesis*, and no new one; for the same Animals or Insects have been supposed to be the Cause of the *Plague*, *Pox*, the *ill Effects of the Bite of a Mad Dog*, and the *Itch*, &c. and have had for their Authors *Kircher*, *Abercromby*, *Bononius*, *De Sault*, *Douglass*, *Dr. Mead*, and *Mr. Freke*, &c.

—— *Sed credat Judæus Apella,*
Non ego ——

“ Et si pro vero semel admitteretur
“ *luem Veneream* ab animalculis Sanguini
“ innatantibus produci, idem quoque pari
“ jure sentiendum esset, non modo de
“ Peste, ut olim Athanasio Kirchero e socie-
“ tate Jesu, ac nuperrime Joanni Saguens ex
“ ordine Minimorum visum est, sed etiam
“ de Variolis, Hydrophobia, *Scabie*, licheni-
“ bus, cæterisque affectibus contagiosis, *imo*
“ *vero de omnibus Morbis*, atque adeo uni-
“ versa medicinæ theoria pessum itura foret,
“ cum nihil quidquam dici possit, ut pro-
“ bent *Luem Veneream* ab animalculis de-
“ pendere, quod perinde non pugnet, valeat-
“ que ad probandum ab animalculis simili-
E “ bus,

“ bus, sed diverſi generis, cæteros quoque
 “ morbos deducendos eſſe, quo tamen nihil
 “ abſurdius affirmari poſſe, crediderim.”—

ASTRUC.

But ſuppoſing, or allowing, little Animals to be found (for as to the main Queſtion, it mattereth not) in the *Itch*; a Doubt may ariſe, Whether, in the worſt Caſes the Blood be not affected, and ſome Evacuations and Preparatives become neceſſary? Which is all I argue for. As to my general Method of Cure in the *Itch*, it is moſtly by Bleeding, always by Purging, more or leſs, as the Caſe may require; and then, if at a proper Season, I direct the Patient to bathe in the Sea, or River *Thames*; but in the colder Seasons, *Bathing* in warm Water is effectual, the Patient uſing a Waſh-ball made of Almond Powder, Liquid Soap, &c. with which he may rub his Body. (For it is to be obſerved, that as *Naſtineſs* is a great Source of Infection, ſo *Cleanlineſs* is the greateſt Preſervative; which is the true Reaſon, why the Poor are moſt obnoxious to Diſaſters of this Kind.) In the mean time directing the Uſe of *Flower* of *Brimſtone* in ſmall Quantities by mixing with it either *Jalap*, *Rhubarb*, or *Lenitive Electuary* ſo as to keep the Body open,

R *Elect.*

℞ *Elect. Lenit.* ʒjss. *Fl. Sulphur.* ʒiij. *Syr. Rosar. solut.* q. s. *f. Elect.*—*Capiat quant. nuc. Mosch. bis in die.*

If this does not answer to keep the Body open, add to each Dose a few Grains of Powder of *Jalap* for that Purpose.

This Method seldom fails; but if so, *Brimstone* and *fresh Butter*, or *Hogslard* (as directed by *Mr. Cheselden*) may be applied to the Parts affected with the *Itch*, for about a Fortnight: Or a Liniment made with *Pomatum*, (or *Hogslard*) two Ounces; *white Precipitate* of *Mercury*, two Drams; mix for a Liniment to be used as follows. [But I always make use of *White Precipitate* made according to the late Dispensatory, and not according to the last new One, which directs the *White Corrosive Sublimate* in the making, that may happen to be adulterated with *Arsenick*, as 'tis no uncommon Practice.] I shall here give Directions, for the Use of the above Liniment with some Particulars, as set forth lately in the *Norimberg Transactions*, or *Commercium Literar.*

“ Quavis vespera singulis articulis cubi-
torum, carporum, & ubi opus est, popli-
tum, tarforumque affricatur quantitas cir-
citer *Avellanæ* tepide, vel ad ignem, teg-
mina & opificia lanea vitanda sunt; mu-
tandi sunt post sanationem Vestitus du-
rante morbo gestati.—Damus simul, præci-

‘ pue mane & vesperi Dosis *Sulphuris*, aut
 ‘ maxime ejus *Lactis*, quo curatio egregie
 ‘ juvatur, primæ viæ plerumque expurgan-
 ‘ tur, leniter roborantur glandulæ & vasa
 ‘ Lymphatica, corriguntur intus latentia
 ‘ mala contagia, & eorum motus ad partes
 ‘ externas determinatur ; subjungimus, sanata
 ‘ cute aptam *laxationem κατὰ Ἐπικρασιν* ;
 ‘ corrigatur mali fomes remediis specificis,
 ‘ & tunc coctus non crudus feliciter expur-
 ‘ gabitur, vel sponte secedit.’

This may suffice as to the Method of
Cure of the *Itch* in general, and to shew
 that it is necessary in this, as well as in all
 other Diseases, for the Physician to act with
 great Prudence and Circumspection. It
 may be said this Distemper mostly happens
 to the Poor and Needy, therefore the less
 Physick the better. Very right : The Me-
 thod of Cure should be suited to the Cir-
 cumstances of the Patient, and whatever is
 done should be absolutely necessary ; but,
 on the other hand, if they are cured Em-
 pirically, and by Externals only, and there
 be great Danger of bad Consequences (as
 before set forth by unquestionable Autho-
 rities) who, in common Prudence, would
 run the Hazard of the one, when the other
 may be obtained at so easy a Rate ? This
 may seem trifling to some that don't give
 them-

themselves Time to reflect, but like Quacks and Mountebanks, who, if they amuse the common People with present *miraculous* Cures, as they are called, give themselves no Concern about future Consequences, which too often end fatally. The common Purges I make use of have been an Infusion of *Sena* with *Syrup* of *Roses* or *Buckthorn*, *Jalap* or *Rhubarb* with *Calomel*, according to Age and Strength.

I know the fashionable Purge is *Manna*, with or without *Glauber's Salt*, which have had a mighty Run among all sort of Practitioners; but I think them both trifling Medicines, no better than *Lenitive Electuary*, *Cassia*, or *Sena* and *Prunes*, and such like. *Manna* is (I know not what) a meer *Manufacture*, made different according to the several Parts it comes from, of which *Magenus* says, 'Plures fingendi *Mannæ* rationes exponere animi esset omnis nequitia intelligentis;' and I shall here insert a Letter upon *Manna*, published some Years ago, which is out of Print, and not to be met with.



A
L E T T E R
 FROM AN
 Apothecary in L O N D O N,
 TO HIS
 Friend in the C O U N T R Y,
 CONCERNING
M A N N A.

Dear S I R,

‘ **W** H E N last in Town, we were
 ‘ with our Friend Mr. J. M. who
 ‘ shewed us his fine Collection of Drugs,
 ‘ which was the best I ever saw. We then
 ‘ had

' had some Discourse about *Manna* in par-
 ' ticular, and I gave my Opinion upon
 ' the same, which you seemed to approve
 ' of; but desired at my Leisure I would
 ' write some farther Particulars upon that
 ' Drug, which you thought might be of
 ' use to the Publick. And as you promised
 ' that I should be nameless, I the more rea-
 ' dily complied with your Request; assure-
 ' ing you, that I have no other View in
 ' this, than coming at the Truth, and en-
 ' deavouring to shew how very necessary it
 ' is, we should be cautious in the Use of
 ' any Drug or Medicine, of which we are
 ' ignorant what it may be, otherwise we
 ' are liable to be accounted no better than
 ' Quacks. — I have great Reason to think
 ' *Manna* to be a meer factitious Composi-
 ' tion, only to be guessed at; though, if we
 ' may believe Authors of good Credit, we
 ' can't much miss of the Mark, but may be
 ' surer what its Composition is, than those
 ' can, that maintain it to be a natural Pro-
 ' duction. The most prevailing Opinion
 ' now is, and what I find has chiefly gained
 ' Belief ever since that Treatise upon *Man-*
 ' *na*, published by *Donatus Antonius Ab*
 ' *Altomari*, about the Year 1565, that it is
 ' the concreted Saccharine Exudation of a
 ' Species of the Ash in *Calabria*, a Province
 ' of the Kingdom of *Naples*, (it being to be
 ' proved,

' proved, beyond Contradiction, that it is
 ' not a Honey Dew) hardened by the Heat
 ' of the Sun. I won't take upon me to say,
 ' there is no such thing now to be had A-
 ' broad; but what I insist upon is, that we
 ' have none of that Kind brought over to
 ' us amongst the many different sorts to be
 ' bought here. The *Manna* we have in
 ' *England* is either imported from *Leghorn*,
 ' or some *Italian* Port, and is esteemed the
 ' best and finest, commonly called Flaky, or
 ' *Calabrian Manna*; or another sort which
 ' is coarser, and is commonly called the *se-*
 ' *cond Manna*, that is imported from *Mar-*
 ' *seilles*, and has been known to be made at
 ' *Briançon*, a Town in the *Upper Dauphiny*
 ' in *France*, and therefore called by Authors
 ' *Manna Brigantina*. As to the *Italian*
 ' *Manna*, Authors of good Credit have
 ' assured us, that it is nothing else but Su-
 ' gar and Honey, mixed together with
 ' Scammony *f. a.* and made into the same
 ' Shape we have it from thence. The *Man-*
 ' *na* imported from *Marseilles*, and made
 ' at *Briançon* in *Dauphiny*, a *French* Phy-
 ' sician of great Note has long ago averred
 ' to be adulterated with Honey, Sugar, and
 ' the Juice of Tithymals, or Spurge. There-
 ' fore an Enquiry into this Affair is of great
 ' Consequence, it being so generally used
 ' in all dangerous Diseases, as Fevers of all
 ' Kinds,

' Kinds, Measles, Small Pox, and Womens
 ' Disorders, we should be well satisfied a-
 ' bout a purging Medicine given in Cases of
 ' the greatest Consequence, and at the most
 ' critical Times; for if *Manna* be unknown
 ' to us, or compounded in the Manner
 ' above related, upon either of those Ac-
 ' counts, it ought not to be used so indifferent-
 ' ly in all the Cases before recited. Perhaps
 ' the *Vulgus Medicorum* will here object,
 ' that Manna is known to be a harmless
 ' Medicine, and that they have never ob-
 ' served any bad Effects from it; and there-
 ' fore, as it is safe and sure, and Experience
 ' makes for them, they don't concern them-
 ' selves whether it be natural or factitious;
 ' to which I have this to answer, that Man-
 ' na is mostly given in an Infusion of Sena,
 ' purging Waters, or some other compound
 ' Medicine, and then we can't be very par-
 ' ticular as to its Virtues, but when given
 ' only dissolved in Gruel, Barley-water, or
 ' some simple Decoction, I have often
 ' observed it to be very uncertain in its
 ' Operation, either not working at all, and
 ' then causing Sickneſs at the Stomach, and
 ' Gripes, or with some People it shall work
 ' both upwards and downwards with no
 ' small Violence; but in weakly People,
 ' and particular Habits of Body, it general-
 ' ly causes great Disorders. Besides, if Ex-
 ' perience

' perience and Authority are to be appealed
 ' to, I could produce Authors of great
 ' Weight that have had their Suspicions of
 ' it, and would not use it in any of the dan-
 ' gerous Cases before mentioned, nay, have
 ' urged that it should not be used at all. I
 ' shall here give the Words of a very con-
 ' siderable Writer to my Purpose. " Pour
 ' la Manne elle m'est fort suspecte en cette
 ' rencountre (indolore capiti fatroci) & pre-
 ' sque toujours: car nous n'en avons point
 ' de veritable, & celle que nous avons,
 ' qu'on nous apporte d'Italie, n'est autre
 ' chose que du Sucre, & du miel mêlés en
 ' semble avec un peu de Scammonee. Dans
 ' la Manne de Briançon il y a du Suc de
 ' tithymale & d' espurge. Hic & alibi
 ' venditur piper,' Tom. I. Lettre cxii. de
 ' Monf. Guy Patin. *Cologne* 1691.

' I shall now insert the Account that
 ' *Christopher A Costa* gives of the Compo-
 ' sition of a Sort of *Manna* used in the *East*
 ' *Indies*, and how he found it out.—' Man-
 ' nâ utebatur medicus quidam Brachmanes,
 ' meus familiaris, degens in civitate Cochîn,
 ' atque summe a bonitate commendabat
 ' negans pretii vilitatem imminuere ejus
 ' præstantiam, vilioris ideo pretii æstimari,
 ' quoniam major quam reliquorum generum
 ' illius inveniretur quantitas. Cum vero

‘ *compositum* aliquid mihi videretur, suspi-
 ‘ cari cœpi illum id in suis ædibus conficere :
 ‘ Semel enim resciveram omnino Mannâ
 ‘ eum carere, paulo vero ante mihi dixerat
 ‘ ex Ormuz ad ipsum advehi, paucis tamen
 ‘ interjectis diebus maximam illius recentis
 ‘ mihi ostenderat quantitatem, cùm & hiems
 ‘ esset, nullæque naves ultro citroque navi-
 ‘ garent. Tandem bonus Brachmanes (ac-
 ‘ cepta a me silentii fide, quod in illis saltem
 ‘ provinciis eum minime proditurus essem)
 ‘ fassus est à se componi, eâ quam in Persia
 ‘ observarat, ratione, videlicet, amyllum
 ‘ candidum & purissimum, mannâ cujus-
 ‘ cunque generis, sed præsertim quæ Cala-
 ‘ brinam æmulatur. Scammoneam, & fe-
 ‘ minis genus visa dictum, quod ex Ben-
 ‘ gala advehitur, quodque Lathyridis grano
 ‘ simile est (injecto interdum polline radicis
 ‘ cujusdam candidæ lacticiniae cui nomen
 ‘ dante) cum Saccharo, pauxillaque aliqua
 ‘ odorata aqua permiscebat, solique expo-
 ‘ nebat. Hæc retulit de Manna in Libr.
 ‘ Aromaticum, & medicamentorum in Ori-
 ‘ entali India nascentium, *Antwerp. 1593.*

‘ I think we can't be at a Loss how to
 ‘ account for so great an Imposition upon
 ‘ Mankind, having had so great a Cheat as
 ‘ *Epsom* Salt generally prevailing, not only
 ‘ amongst our selves, but Foreigners, info-
 ‘ much,

' much, that we have sent more of it abroad
 ' in one Year, than ever was made of the
 ' true genuine Salt in *England*. This Cheat
 ' was kept a Secret a great while, but now
 ' it is generally known, and what its Com-
 ' position is, which can't be so certainly said
 ' of *Manna*. Besides, if we do but con-
 ' sider the vast Quantities of *Manna* yearly
 ' imported from *Leghorn* and *Marseilles*,
 ' we can't doubt, but that it is a gainful
 ' Trade carried on Abroad with great Se-
 ' crecy. The more unknown a Medicine
 ' is, generally speaking, the greater Value
 ' we set upon it; but surely it would be
 ' better all unknown factitious Drugs were
 ' banished out of our Shops, or however
 ' discountenanced by the true Professors of
 ' Physick. These are my Thoughts upon
 ' *Manna*, and its Use in Physick; which,
 ' I question not, will be deemed odd and
 ' particular, being very different from the
 ' common Opinion had of this Drug: But
 ' I am ready to produce good Authorities
 ' for what I advance, and that this is a
 ' Matter of Concern to the Publick.

I am, Dear S I R,

London, June 2, *With Respect, yours &c.*
 1737.

P. L.

AS to *Glauber's Salt*, it is to be remarked, that ever since that notorious Cheat of *Epsom Salt* (supposed then to be made only from the *Epsom Waters*) took place here, and was sent abroad to most Places in *Europe* and *America*, the Use of Purging Salts of all Kinds have been much in Vogue, and has in a great measure put by the Use of much more effectual and safer Purgatives, such as *Sena*, *Rhubarb*, *Jalap*, *Aloes* and *Scammony*, &c. the Salts are said to be cooling, and a gentle easy purgative, and therefore to be given almost daily to the very great Prejudice of many Patients who have upon that Account brought upon themselves *Fevers* of several Kinds, and very great Disorders of the *Stomach* and *Bowels*, as has been observed by very able and experienced Practitioners.—*Monfieur Deidier*, speaking of the Virtues of the *Purgative Salts* in general remarks, ‘ Je ne conseillerois jamais de trop insister a ces fortes de *Sels Purgatifs*, parce qu’ils donnent toujours trop de mouvement au sang, & qu’ils produisent souvent chaleurs d’entrailles brulantes.’ — But to the Matter in hand: Here it may be proper to expose a Male-Practice too well known to those who sell Medicines, and very little to those

those that prescribe them, of substituting in the Place, and under the Name of *Glauber's Salt*, the *Sal Catharticus Amarus*, by a fraudulent Preparation made to resemble the other.—This Salt was first prepared at *Lymington*, where the great Quantity of *Bittern*, or Solution of the *Sal Catharticus*, which remained after the Recovery of Sea Salt from the Sea Water, enabled them to sell it, converted into Crytals like *Glauber's Salt*, at a very low Price. This Salt was at first amongst the Dealers modestly called by the Name of the Place where it was made, but it has since been so universally sold for *Glauber's Salt*, that it has intirely robbed the true one, invented by him, of his Name, which is, in Contradistinction to it, called now *Sal Mirabilis*. As this counterfeit Kind is much more nauseous and disagreeable to the Stomach, apt to produce violent Sicknes and Gripes, and on many Accounts inferior to the true Kind, it is extremely fit that all Physicians and others who are apprized of these Facts, should as much as possible discourage the Use of it. In order to discover the Cheat, we are told the following Method is infallible, *viz.* let the Salt suspected be dissolved, and when the Solution is become clear and limpid, add to it a small Quantity of a Solution of *Salt of Tartar*, or any other *Alcaline Salt* made

made clear likewise, if no Change happens on the Commixture, but the mixt Solution continue to be as transparent and limpid as when separate, it may with Certainty be concluded to be the true *Glaubers Salt*, but if a milky Turbidity succeeds, which will afterwards subside in the Form of a Powder, it may then be known to be the *Lymington Counterfeit*.

I have, Dear Sir, trespassed upon your Patience a great while, but shall conclude with an Apology for what has been here set forth.—I have with great Concern observed in common Practice the very bad Effects of an Empirical Cure, and the indiscriminate Use of *Mercurial*, *Sulphureous*, and other *Applications* in the Cure of the *Itch*, *Scald Head*, *Cutaneous Eruptions* of all Kind, *Sweaty Hands and Feet*, and many Disorders that have been of long standing, which do require a particular Consideration, and the best Advice, but mostly fall to the Management of the most Ignorant, who have no Knowledge of the Distemper, but immediately apply *Externals only*, and rely upon them indifferently in all Cases; which I aver to be a dangerous Practice. — If in this Letter I have wrote any thing that may in any respect give Offence to any Particulars, I solemnly declare I had no
bad

bad Intention, and shall be very willing to retract any thing I have here advanced, if it can be made appear, I have been mistaken in the Matter in hand, or what is here delivered is not the General Doctrine of former Practitioners at least. I wish this may be a Means of bringing on a further Enquiry into this Affair, and that abler Hands may be set to work to clear up a Matter of so much Consequence to the publick Welfare.

—————*Fungar vice cotis,* —————
 —————*Exors ipsa secandi.*

I am, Dear S I R,

March 1,
 1752.

Your's, &c.

P. S. I here send you Dr. Mead's Certain Cure for the Bite of a Mad Dog, with Remarks.

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 Hands may be set to work to clear up a
 Matter of so much Consequence to the
 publick Welfare.

—Tungate vice cellis—
 —Rector ipsa Jovendi.

I am, Dear Sir,

March 17
 1755.

Yours, &c.

P. S. I have send you Dr. Mead's Cer-
 tain Cure for the Bite of a Mad Dog, with
 Remarks.

G. A. C. R.



A CERTAIN
CURE
FOR THE
BITE of a MAD DOG.

LET the Patient be blooded at the Arm nine or ten Ounces.

Take of the Herb call'd in Latin *Lichen cinereus terrestris*, in English *Ash-colour'd Ground Liverwort*, clean'd, dry'd, and powder'd, half an Ounce.

Of black Pepper powder'd, two Drachms.

Mix these well together, and divide the Powder into four Doses, one of which must be taken every Morning, fasting, for four Mornings successively, in half a Pint of Cow's Milk warm. After these four Doses

are taken, the Patient must go into the Cold Bath, or a cold Spring or River, every Morning fasting, for a Month: He must be dipt all over, but not stay in (with his Head above Water) longer than half a Minute, if the Water be very cold. After this he must go in three Times a Week, for a Fortnight longer.

The *Lichen* is a very common Herb, and grows generally in sandy and barren Soils all over *England*. The right Time to gather it is in the Months of *October*, or *November*.

N. B. Dipping in the Sea, after the Manner as it is usually practised, is of no Service at all.

R. Mead.

REMARKS

REMARKS

ON

Dr. *MEAD*'s

CERTAIN CURE

FOR THE

Bite of a Mad Dog.

THE Hydrophoby is a Disease most surprising and terrible in its Symptoms, most difficult to comprehend, and the most dangerous in its Consequences; in short, to use *Celsus*'s Words, *Miserrimum est genus morbi*. A certain Method to prevent so great an Evil, (for its Cure, when the Hydrophoby comes on, we may despair ever to see) and such as we may assuredly rely upon, is certainly what every one

one would be glad to know ; for we are all liable to an Accident of this Kind. We have had, not long since, published a certain *Cure for the Bite of a Mad Dog*, by a Gentleman deservedly at the Head of *Physick* : But as it is proposed to the common People in such a Manner, as that every Person may be his own Doctor, and therefore nothing more may be thought requisite to be done, I have only this to ask in the Name of the Publick, Whether that be not deficient, upon account of no Notice being taken of what is to be done to the Part wounded, or affected with the *Bite* or *Slaver*. For as I apprehend, without special Regard being had to the Management of the Wound, all other Methods will be very uncertain, if at all to be depended upon ; but if proper Care be taken of the Wound, the Method proposed by the great Dr. *Mead* seems unexceptionable. My Reasons for this Doubt occurred to me upon perusing and examining the most considerable Authors both Ancient and Modern, which have taken any Notice of the *Bite of a Mad Dog* ; and all, or the most experienced, do particularly advise to draw out the Poison by Cupping, Suction, or Attractive Medicines, &c. Or if the Place be neither *Nervous* nor *Tendinous*, to cauterise the Wound with a hot Iron, and to apply Digestives.

Digestives.—I shall add, that it seems necessary to make *Issues* or running *Sores*, upon, or very near the same Part, and to continue them for a Year, or some Months at least. If the Wound be at the first well managed, there needs nothing to be feared; for this seems to be the principal Part necessary to the Cure, and I never heard of this Method proving ineffectual; but it is generally neglected, and too much Confidence placed in *Specificks*, which is the great Reason we hear of so many deplorable Instances of its Fatality. As to internal *Specificks*, hitherto asserted to be infallible, I shall only observe, they have had the common Fate of being supported by great Authorities for a Time, and afterwards fallen into Disuse and Oblivion.—As Anonymous, I could better deliver my Thoughts with a strict Regard to Truth, but I hope have carefully avoided any thing that can give Offence to any Person whatever: For I abhor the common Practice of those that defame and write against Particulars, (no matter in how gross a Manner, so that they can be unknown) which is what ought to be carefully avoided by a Christian; nay, a good Heathen would be ashamed of it. I shall conclude with what I have somewhere met with concerning *Galen*, worthy our Imitation: ‘ Qui nunquam

‘ quam ad odium, neque ad gratiam alicujus
 ‘ loquutus est, præterea, qui nulli hæresi,
 ‘ aut sectæ, vel parti addictus, & consecra-
 ‘ tus fuit; sed verax, veritatisque amator
 ‘ semper extitit.’

P. L.

N. B. Qui plura velit de morfu Canis rabidi, adeat inter Antiquos, Dioscoridem Cels. Galen. Æginet; & inter recentiores, Fernelium, Salium, Paræum, & denique Fabricium Hildanum; qui instar omnium inserviet.

*Multa renascentur, quæ jam cecidere: ca-
 dentque*

Quæ nunc sunt in honore ——— HOR.

F I N I S.