

A treatise upon the rheumatism, with observations upon some causes that may produce it / [John Cheshire].

Contributors

Cheshire, John, 1695-1762.

Publication/Creation

London : C. Rivington, 1723.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/r3huykzz>

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>

6

A

TREATISE

UPON THE

RHEUMATISM,

WITH

OBSERVATIONS

UPON SOME

CAUSES that may produce it.

By JOHN CHESHIRE, M. D.

*Corporis Medicina (si aliis rerum Origines repetas) non
invenitur unde ad homines manare potuerit, nisi a Deo,
S. Austin. de Civ. Dei.*

*Qui morborum scaturiginem investigat, summâ dignetur
laude.*

L O N D O N:

Printed for C. RIVINGTON at the Bible
and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard,
and W. CANTRELL, Bookseller in Derby.
M. DCC. XXIII. Price One Shilling.

THE ATLAS

OF

RHEUMATISM

WITH

OBSERVATIONS

ON SOME

Cases that may produce it

BY JOHN CHESTER, M.D.

OF THE PHYSICIAN TO THE
HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION,
AND OF THE PHYSICIAN TO THE
HOSPITAL FOR THE LUNATIC,
AND OF THE PHYSICIAN TO THE
HOSPITAL FOR THE SICK,
IN THE CITY OF LONDON.

LONDON

Printed by G. R. [illegible] at the [illegible]
and [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]





TO
FRANCIS LEWIS, Esq;
OF
STANFORD HALL
IN THE
COUNTY of *NOTTINGHAM.*

SIR,



am sensible of my
Happinefs in your
Excuse when I devi-
ate from the Road, in which

A 2

Dedi-

DEDICATION.

Dedicators too frequently tread, since I am assured that Flattery is as much your Aver-
sion, as it is inconsistent with my Inclination and the just Character of a sincere Friend. As true *English* Honour is the Basis of all your Actions, so they will more eminently proclaim your Merit to the present Age, and transmit your Memory dearer to Posterity, than the greatest Encomiums from my Pen, or the most sublime Panegyrick from a more refined Genius. If in your Hours of Retirement you find any satisfactory Amusement in the Perusal of this small Treatise, I
I shall

DEDICATION.

shall be extreamly pleased, and
beg your Acceptance of it, as
one Instance of my Gratitude,
amongst the many Obligations
I owe you. That you and yours
may enjoy a long Series of un-
interrupted Felicity is my
heartly Wish, and I hope that
you will not scruple to believe
that I am, with all imaginable
Sincerity,

S I R,

Your most obliged Friend,

and humble Servant,

Leicester,
Dec. 31, 1722.

John Cheshire.

DEDICATION

I shall be extremely pleased, and
beg your Acceptance of it, as
one Instance of my Gratitude,
amongst the many Obligations
I owe you. That you and yours
may enjoy a long Series of un-
interrupted Felicity is my
heartly Wish, and I hope that
you will not scruple to believe
that I am, with all imaginable
Sincerity, my Friend.
I am, Sir, your most obliged Friend.

and humble Servant,

John Gresham



THE
P R E F A C E.



S the following Treatise is the Result of my own Notions in regard to the Cause and Nature of the Rheumatism, so what I have mentioned in relation to the Cure, proceeds from my own Observations and Experience in Practice. I am persuaded I shall not stand condemned in the Judgment of an unprejudiced Reader, though I differ in Opinion from those, who are avowed Enemies to every physical System, which does not entirely concur with their own darling Hypothesis, especially since I have endeavoured to assign natural Reasons for the Production of this Distemper;

P R E F A C E.

per; how far I have been defective in that Point, I frankly submit to the World, who are ultimate Judges in Affairs of this kind. Nothing is perfect on this side Heaven, and Inadvertencies will as necessarily attend all human Performances, as Sin the Author. I have this Satisfaction, I am in this small Treatise guilty of no willful Mistake, and therefore may reasonably presume I shall evade the Censures of the candid and generous Part of Mankind; and as for others, I neither value their Frowns, nor court their Approbation, since the Justice of my Intention (viz. the Good of Mankind) will atone for the Frailties of my Pen, and screen me from the impotent Assaults of the snarling Critick.

If any of superior Capacities would be so good as to convince me of an Error, I shall think it my Duty to make a publick Recantation of it, being assured

P R E F A C E.

sured that it is more honourable to submit to Conviction upon just Motives, than to persist upon a plausible Foundation in Opposition to the received Notions of Mankind.

The Histories of Diseases written by the Antients, are not so compleat and correct as some of later Date, and yet (with all due Deference to the Character of a great Man, who has lately obliged the World with a Treatise upon the Small Pox, &c.) I think the reading of some of them very necessary, since I am certain some useful Discoveries are deducible from the serious Perusal of them.

In Hippocrates's Days, and some time afterwards, Physick was in its Infancy; and undoubtedly some Allowances may be indulged to such a State, which when in future Ages it arrived at Maturation it could not be supposed to want. No Science has attained to a

B

greater

P R E F A C E.

greater Degree of Perfection, I believe, than the Art of Healing; and yet there are many Things which lye dormant from the greatest Masters, and what none will be ashamed to confess. Hippocrates, that sublime Genius, generously declared, in an Epistle to Democritus, that though he was in a very advanced Age, got near the final Period of Life, he was not got to the End of Physick. I shall give the true Reasons that produced the Publication of this, and submit it to the Reader's impartial Judgment. During my Confinement under the last Fit of the Gout, in the Intervals from Pain, and at the Declension of the Fit, I applied my Thoughts upon the following Subject, which treats upon a Disease, that is in it self to be vanquished by proper Applications; but the Gout (in spite of the American and Anodyne) is incurable, as I could readily make apparent, had I Leisure or Inclination;

P R E F A C E.

clination; but as no Body attempts to cure it but Quacks, so none but Fools or Madmen will become the Objects of their Cure, and they probably will not long continue so; for if the Disease cannot kill, what they intend as an Antidote comes into its Assistance, and so concludes their Pains and Life together.

The Shortness of this Treatise may perhaps recommend it to the Perusal of some, who are not willing to be at the Trouble of reading a Book of a larger Bulk; I could have protracted it to a much greater Length, but I apprehend I have said all that was necessary, and any thing more is superfluous.



chination; but as no Body attempts to
 cure it but Quacks, so none but Fools or
 Madmen will become the Objects of their
 Cure, and they probably will not long
 continue so; for if the Disease cannot
 kill, what they intend as an Amulet
 comes into its Assistance, and so con-
 cludes their Pain and Life together.

The Shortness of this Treatise may
 perhaps recommend it to the Perusal of
 some, who are not willing to be at the
 Trouble of reading a Book of a larger
 Bulk; I could have extended it to a
 much greater Length, but I apprehend
 I have said all that was necessary, and
 any thing more is superfluous.



A
TREATISE
UPON THE
RHEUMATISM,
With OBSERVATIONS upon
some CAUSES that may
produce it.



THAT the *Origin* of a
Rheumatism is primari-
ly seated in the Blood
is sufficiently evident,
as well from the *Symp-*
toms, that attend this *Disease*, as
from

from the Method, which is necessary to effect the Cure: After what Manner the whole Mass of Blood becomes so far vitiated from its uniform State, as to occasion such rack-
ing and pungent Pains, as afflict those, who are tortured with this *Malady*, shall be the Subject of the following Treatise.

Whether this *Distemper* was known to the *Antients* has long been disputed, and even now the Controversy is not conclusively determined; in my Judgment, they were not Strangers to it, though they have not so accurately and intelligibly described it under all its various Circumstances, as some of the *Moderns* have: *Hippocrates* by πόνος ἄρθρων, πόνος σνδέων, could point at nothing but the *Rheumatism*, or its near Relation to the *Arthritis Vaga*; and what we
now

now call a *Pleurisy*, is by *Dioscorides* termed a *Rheumatism* of the Breast: Now if in his Days there had been no other Species of *Rheumatisms*, which seized other Parts of the Body, why should this great Man stile it a *Rheumatism* of that particular Part, since the Word it self (*viz.* a *Rheumatism*) would have been expressive enough of the Distemper: And *Galen de Sanitate tuendâ, Lib. Quart.* mentions a *Lassitude cum inflammatione*, for which he ordered repeated Phlebotomy *usque ad Lypothimiam vel saltèm bis in die*, an attenuating cooling Diet, Food of easy Digestion, *Ptysans*, that were moderately acid, to dilute the Cohesion of those Particles, which caused the Inflammation, and to carry it off; from this Description of an inflammatory Lassitude, and the Method, that was advised for the

the

the Relief of those, who were afflicted with it, we may reasonably conclude that it was a Species of what is now esteemed a *Rheumatism*.

There is in every Constitution a Propensity or natural Tendency to one Disease more than another, and this seems to proceed from the weak Structure of the Fabrick, not equally fortified in every Part from the Inconveniencies, which Man, from the Nature of his Existence, is continually exposed to ; the various Inclemencies of the Air, any Irregularity in eating or drinking, produces different Effects in different Persons : One from an *obstructed Perspiration* (or as we generally term it from taking Cold) is attacked with a *Pleurisy*, another is seized with an *Angina*, a third with a *Diarrhoea*, bili-

ous colick, &c. a fourth is arrested with the *Indisposition*, of which I here treat, and consigned Captive to its Cruelty. Thus when any Thing that is offensive to Nature is conveyed into the Blood, it takes Possession, like an artful Enemy, of the weakest Part; and when the Constitution by any Excesses is egregiously impaired, it reigns triumphant through the whole Machine, till by the Application of proper Remedies the Enemy is vanquished, and the Patient is restored to his former Health and pristine Vigour.

The Cause of a *Rheumatism* may be assign'd to a serous, saline, acid Humour, *superfluously* abounding in the Blood, which by reason of its Copiousness, and exorbitant Acrimony, vellicates, and corrodes the membranous Parts of the Body, and so excites sometimes fixed and sometimes erra-

tick Aches, in Proportion to the Largeness or Minuteness of the Vessels through which this *vitiating Fluid* circulates.

Another Cause, that may produce a *Rheumatism*, is an unusual Viscidity of the Blood, and Juices secreted from it, and this is the most permanent Basis of this *Distemper*; for by it the Motion of the Blood is impeded, the Velocity diminished, and a Stagnation arises, or else the Quantity of this fizy, glutinous Fluid is too great to pass without distending the tender Coats of the Vessels beyond the Capacity designed by the Law of Nature, and the Decree of our all-wise Creator.

It is, in my Opinion, no small Misfortune that we are so little acquainted with the Nature of those Particles, which constitute the Blood, and I am persuaded if the

I

Time,

Time, that has in vain been spent by those, who admire *Chymical Curiosity*, had been applied in a *mechanical Way*, we had e're this had some useful Discoveries, and clearer Ideas of the Diseases, which harraßs Mankind, than we now have, and consequently might have found out more expeditious Remedies for their Restoration to a healthful State.

If we consider after what Manner the Blood is recruited for the Sustainance of the *animal Oeconomy*, we shall find, that such as the Nutrient, which we daily receive, is, such is the Chyle, and such as the Chyle is, such is the Blood; and in Consequence every Liquor separated from it must partake of the same individual Qualities, unless there is a Defect in the digestive Faculty, and then the best Aliment may be so far perverted, as not to afford any

real Nourishment, but may be the Parent of many, and perchance insuperable Disorders; when the Organs of Digestion are naturally defective, or adventitiously impaired, great Inconveniences must ensue to the no small Detriment of the Patient's Ease, and perchance his Life too; and though in the first Case, properly speaking, an absolute Cure must not be expected, yet by an agreeable Regimen a Respite from Pain may be secured, and in the second, by early Application and convenient Medicines, the injured Parts may be invigorated, and brought to their natural Tone and primitive Office.

As soon as our Food is sufficiently comminuted in our *Stomachs*, and fit to be converted to *Chyle*, it is carried into the *Intestines*, at its Entrance into which, it is diluted
by

by the *Bile* and *Pancreatick Juice*; its finest and most subtile Parts are received by the most minute Orifices of the *Lacteal Veins*, and protruded to the *Receptaculum Chyli*; from thence it is conveyed to the *Ductus Thoracicus*, and discharges it self into the *Subclavian Vein*, and by the *Vena Porta* is transmitted to the right *Auricle* of the *Heart*, where circulating through both its *Auricles* and *Ventricles*, by the Interposition of the *Arteria Pulmonalis* with the *Vena Pulmonalis*, it is by the contractive Power of the musculous Fibres of the left *Ventricle* propelled into the *Aorta*, and so by the Arterial Tubes is transfused into those Parts of the Body, which are capable to receive it, for the Nourishment and Support of that glorious Machine. Hence it appears, that whenever we deviate from the Rules of Temperance, and
are

are guilty of an Excess either in Respect of the Quantity or Quality of what we eat or drink, we fix a Load more than tolerable upon Nature, and so of Necessity she must succumb. Thus the Blood and Nerves are struck into Confusion, become alienated from their regular *Crafsis*, and *Pandora's* Present to *Epimetheus* is frequently the Fate of the *Epicure*, who then finds the Poet's Observation experimentally verified, — *No-cet empty dolore voluptas*.

The *Stomach* from the Nature of its Situation and Office must abound with a peccant Acid, which from the Laws of Digestion and Sanguification, will contaminate the Mass of Blood; and when that is once saturated with heterogeneous Particles, they will, unless corrected by a proper and long continued Course of *Alteratives*, by their *attractive Power*, form themselves,

selves, in Proceſs of Time, into a *chronick* or *acute Indisposition*: When an Acid is once got into the Blood, none can tell of what pernicious Conſequence it may prove; but this we know from Experience, that if Oil of *Vitriol* is injected into the jugular Vein of a Dog, the whole Maſs immediately coagulates, and he expires in the higheſt convulſive Agonies: It may be objected, that an *Acid* ſo ſtrong and penetrating as that before mentioned, cannot by any natural Means be conveyed into our Blood: To which I anſwer, If it could, Death would as certainly be our Portion, as it was of the aforeſaid *Quadruped*.

Though ſuch an *Acid* as would inſtantly ſtop the Circulation, cannot by any natural Means be received in our Bodies, yet there may be ſufficient to compel the red Particles of the Blood into preternatural

ral Coagulums, and so destroy that *intimate Union*, which is betwixt its red and ferous Parts, as absolutely necessary to preserve the Blood in a balsamick and uniform State; hence the red Globles are forced to cohere in a more strict and intimate Combination with one another, from the predominant *Acid* that is in the Serum, which from its sluggish Motion has contracted an Acrimony, as Liquors especially of the *Elementary* Sort will, as is apparent from the Stagnation of Water, which turns viscidous and stenches, for want of a necessary Motion to clarify and keep it self pure; that such a *Dyscrasy* may occasion those Pains, which *Rheumatics* are sensible of, is plain, from this Reason, because the vitiated Texture of the Blood will not permit it to circulate with its usual Velocity thro' the minute Passages, and so from this Obstruction

struction those torturing Sensations are induced, which *Rheumaticks* generally complain of, and from which bleeding will frequently give them Ease.

When the Blood from the Nature of our Food or Liquor, or any external Injury, is stocked with saline Particles, (as certainly it may from the Manner aforesaid) what terrible Commotions, what acute Pains, may we not expect from the united Force of an *acid* and a saline *Corpuscle*? What Ravages, what Hostilities will they not commit in the fine and minute *Capillaries*, which are dispersed thro' the whole human Fabrick? If there is a stronger attractive Power betwixt the *saline Corpuscles*, than betwixt the *acid* and *saline Particles*, (for in a *Rheumatick* State, I suppose an *Acid* in the Blood) then the Salts will run into Clusters, and from such Nodes, or Chalk-stones, as are often the Effect

fect of the Gout, and sometimes happens from a severe and longcontinued *Rheumatism*, as I observed in a Gentlewoman, my Patient, who had a regular *Tophus* taken out of her Thumb, caused by a violent and long *Rheumatism*, that had afflicted her for some Years: I was importunate in examining, whether she or any of her Family had been subject to what is very justly called the *opprobrium Medicorum*, but could not learn that she, or any Branch of the Family, had ever suffered by the *uncontroulable* Tyranny of the Gout. On the other hand, when the Attraction is stronger betwixt the *Acid*, than betwixt the *saline* and *acid Particles*, the red Parts of the Blood will be condens'd, and the serous Parts more liquified, because as the Coagulum encreaseth, in the same Proportion will the Serum be more copious; and this seems
to

to be that *Rheumatick* State, in which our learned and honoured Countryman Dr. *Sydenham* used the Lancet with so much Freedom and Success; and to encourage his Followers not to forget or omit reiterated bleeding, he assures us, that his *Patients* were so far from being weakned by the large Quantities of Blood which he took from them, that the Disease grew weaker, and their Strength was augmented.

From the close Combination of these *saline Particles*, carried by the Laws of Circulation to any particular Part, seems to arise those pungent Pains, which *Rheumaticks* feel; the pointed Angles of the Salts lacerating the tender Coats of the Vessels, must, as the great and ingenious *Pitcairn* observes, induce a Solution of *Continuity*, and from their over Quantity the Circulation will be retarded

in that particular Part, and in Consequence very sharp and dolorous Sensations must be excited: And this is farther illustrated from the Method, which, under these troublesome Circumstances, will often afford Relief, and that is *Friction* either with the Hand or a warm Cloth; for by this *pressive Motion*, the Union of the Salts is destroyed, they are reduced to such a Smallness, as to be capable of being reassumed by the circulating Mass: Thus the Enemy is obliged to retreat for a Time, till, by its *attractive Power*, it gains new Recruits, and then exerts it self in another Paroxysm.

Heat conduces much to the Fluidity of Bodies by lessening the Tenacity of their component Parts; renders many Bodies fluid, which otherwise are not so, and augments the Fluidity of tenacious Liquors, as of Honey, Oil, Balsam, &c. By its Influence

fluence the Blood becomes of a more liquid Consistence, the *intestine Motion* of its various Particles will be increased, the *saline*, and *acid Corpuscles* will more frequently (from the accelerated Motion) collide against the inside of the Vessels, and by their sudden and violent Contact stimulate and excite Pain; this probably may be one Reason, why the *Rheumatism* rages more immoderately when the Patient begins to be warm in Bed, than when up, especially since if he walks about the Room, he finds some Respite from the Assault of his irksome Companion. It is observable that as the Urine of *Rheumaticks* in Distillation does not yield a due Quantity of Salt, proportionable to the Quantity of Urine; so it is evident that these Salts being retained in the Blood turn *acid*, and lay the Foundation for an *Iliad* of Miseries.

That

That the *Rheumatism* and *Scurvy* have many Symptoms in common with one another is obvious to all, who are but little conversant with the Practice of *Physick*; one of which I shall here particularly observe, *viz.* that pungent corrosive Pain which seizes the musculous Parts of the Legs, and which the Patient describes by a gnawing Pain; this is occasioned by a stronger Coalition of the *heterogeneous Particles*, because in those Parts the Circulation is slower, and so consequently the Attraction is greater: To distinguish betwixt these two (in some Cases) simular Distempers requires a very penetrating and sagacious Judgment, for an Error of this kind has sometimes entailed a numerous Retinue of Inconveniences upon the unhappy Patient, and thro' a tedious Series of Inquietudes brought his Hairs, without the Characteris-

tick

tick of old Age, with Sorrow to the Grave. I knew an Apothecary, who mistaking the *Rheumatism* for the *Scurvy*, (indeed there is a *scorbutick Rheumatism*) order'd the *antiscorbutick Juices*; after the third Dose he fell into an ardent Fever, and on the fifth Day died delirious; tho' I think this Misfortune is not peremptorily to be imputed to the Administration of this Medicine, but to some Inflammation that was insinuated into the Blood; for after proper Evacuation, tho' the Case was not rightly judged, the aforesaid *Juices* had been no despicable Remedy.

Innumerable and unforeseen Accidents attend poor Mortals, that very much imbitters the most exalted Pleasures of Life, and hurries on that fatal Hour, that puts a final Period to all our Anxieties; and tho' we cannot reverse the Decrees of Hea-

ven so far as entirely to prevent them, yet by a prudent and adequate Management of our selves, a strict Conformity to the Rules of Temperance, and proper Exercise, we may in a great Measure obviate the impending Blow, protract the Thread of Life to a considerable Length, and make our Exit in a good advanced Age. The *Air* in which we breath abounds at certain Seasons with *Particles* that are inimical to our well Being and Repose; we imbibe more or less of an *Acid* with every Inspiration, and *Lindanus* informs us, that one of the best Juices in our Bodies, the Spittle, is iniquated with an *Acid*, that floats in our Atmosphere; and, as he says, by Degrees becomes the Basis of malignant Diseases: That there is an *Acid* in the *Air*, is demonstrable from the *natural Niter*, frequently observed upon old Stone Walls, and

and also from the Experiment of *Vitriol*, which after Distillation, if it lies exposed to the Air, will afford a stronger Spirit from the second Preparation than it did the first. When the *Saliva* is once polluted with an *Acid*, it will convey that offensive Quality to every *Juice* in the Body, and when they are perverted from their natural Purity, Distempers of various kinds must necessarily be produced within the human Machine. Since we are thus environed with unavoidable Danger, it is the Interest of every prudent Man, upon the first Notice of an Indisposition, to consult those, whose Province it is to restore lost Health, so that by proper Application the Disease may be stifled in Embrio, and its Seed eradicated before it comes to deadly Maturation: And as Prevention of an approaching Illness is infinitely

E

finitely preferable to the Cure, so it is an Article of Prudence to attend to what the *Poet* says,

—*Venienti occurrere morbo.*

Disorders are distinguished by different Appellations in regard to the Part they are seated in, tho' many proceed from the same original Cause, *viz.* a *Cacochymy*; and this sometimes has its Rise from internal, and sometimes from external Injuries: I shall delineate some various Effects from the same primary Cause, and for the rest refer the Reader to *Etmuller* and *Riverius*; where I'm certain he'll be highly delighted in the just, accurate, and instructive Description of various Diseases, deducible from one and the same individual Foundation. When a *Cacochymy* is once got into the human Machine, some Disorder must necessarily appear, according
to

to the Nature and Tendency of the vitiated Fluid; when it displays it self in an Inflammation of the Jaws, Throat, and parts adjacent, it is call'd an *Angina*; when it seizes the *Pleura*, it is term'd a *Pleuritis*; when the Substance of the *Lungs* is inflam'd, it is term'd a *Peripneumonia*; when it rushes into the inner Coats of the Bowels, it excites a *Cholick*; when it fixes upon the *Venæ Hæmorrhoides* and extends to the *Intestinum Rectum*, it is call'd the *Piles*; when it takes its Seat in the musculous Parts of the Body, it is stil'd a *Rheumatism*; and when from its superabundant Acrimony it ravages farther into the Oeconomy, and fixes upon the *Joints* and *neighbouring Parts*, it is call'd the *Gout*: When any Part is tumify'd from the Severity of a *Rheumatism* it is not discoloured, but in the *Gout* the Part is very red, much inflam'd,

and at the Declension of the Fit swell'd; which argues the Cause of the latter to be more pungent, acute and penetrating than the former; and this, together with the different Places these two Enemies of human Repose occupy, may serve as a Distinction betwixt one and the other Disease as to the common Phænomena.

I shall now endeavour to illustrate, that an unusual Viscidity of the Blood and Juices secreted from it may be the Basis of a *Rheumatism*, (this was the Opinion of the late ingenious and learned Dr. *James Kiell*) and this preternatural Thickness may be transfused into the Mass from the Insinuation of *Frigorifick Particles* thro' the Pores of the Skin, that is, those nitrous Atoms, which fluctuate in the Air in cold Weather; hence the Blood is disposed to run into such
 Cohesions,

Cohesions, as are proper to form the
 Humours fecern'd in the Glands of
 the Lungs and Nose, and by their
 attractive Force will unite with the
 Particles, that swim in the Serum of
 the Blood; thus a *Lentor* will be pro-
 duced; and as in the Extremities the
 Attraction will be strongest, because
 in those Parts the Motion of all the
 Particles is near equal, so a Sense of
 Pain will be perceiv'd, when the
 Blood is in a *Rheumatick State*, in
 those Parts, that from the distant Si-
 tuation from the Fountain of Moti-
 on, the *Heart*, the Circulation is
 languid, and not able to prevent the
 Union of the *Heterogeneous Corpuscles*:
 And as it is obvious that if a known
 Quantity of Liquor must circulate
 thro' a *Tube* of a determinate *Diame-*
ter, and any Part of that Fluid is
 more condensed or viscid than the
 rest, that viscid or condensed Part
 will

will more forcibly press against the Sides of the *Tube*, and if it is capable of Extension, swell it beyond its usual and natural Capacity; so the Blood when in any Vessel it is more glutinous than it ought to be will extend it, and Pain will be the necessary Consequence of that violent Distention which the Vessel sustains, as well from the Viscidity, as from the retarded Motion of the Fluid.

As I'm treating of a *Distemper* that sometimes displays its Tyranny in fixed, and sometimes in vagrant Aches, it may not be improper to mention one *Medicine*, that under these Circumstances is second to none, as an *Alterative* after necessary Evacuation, in the whole System of physical Preparations; that is, *Cinnab. Antimon.* a *Medicine* of Sterling Worth, known Efficacy, and seldom fails of Success, if administred with
Judgment;

Judgment; but *verbum Sapienti sat est*:
 I write not for the Information of
 Quacks, and the Gentlemen of the
Faculty want none; only this I'll ob-
 serve, that there is no Intention to
 be answered in a *Rheumatick* Case,
 but what we may reasonably presume
Cinnab. Antimon. will effect. What
 Advantages may we not expect from
 the united Force of *Mercury, Sul-*
phur, and *Antimony*, the three Arti-
 cles that constitute this noble Medi-
 cine; which by its Subtilty and Soli-
 dity is enabled to pass thro' the mi-
 nutest Passages, and by its *Momentum*
 to break thro' the little Obstructions
 of the Vessels, the Fibres, and ner-
 vous Meanders, in which the Seat of
 a *Rheumatism* is frequently fix'd?
Mercury is to the Blood as one is to
 thirteen, so that the Velocity of the
 Blood must by such a Medicine be
 augmented, proportionably to the
 Particles

Particles of *Mercury* that is got into it, and becoming part of the circulating Fluid, must of Course, by the necessary Laws of Motion, from their superior Gravities, be of great Force to break their Way, where Particles of less Gravity cannot get thro'; for by how much the *Mercurial Globles* are heavier than the *Globles* of the Blood, or any Thing contain'd it, by so much will the Pressure of them be greater against every Thing that stands in their way; and therefore will any Obstructions in the Glands or Capillaries be sooner removed by such Particles, than by those which are lighter: Hence the Viscidity will be diluted, and a more vigorous Circulation encouraged; and as *Sublimate* is depriv'd of its corrosive Faculty by the Addition of more *Mercury*, which potently attracts its acid Salts; so *Mercury* mixt
with

with the Blood attracts its acid *Salts*, and cohering to them carries them off by those Passages, in which by virtue of its Nature its Operation consists.

Lewenhoeck pretends by the Assistance of the Glasses to have discovered the Texture of the *Cuticula* to be scaly, and that those Scales cover one another in several Lays more or less, according to the different Thickness of the Scarf-skin in the several Parts of the Body; in the Compass of one cuticular Scale he reckons there may be five hundred excretory Channels, and that a Grain of Sand will cover one hundred twenty five thousand *Orifices*, thro' which we daily perspire: Now if the *cutaneous Pores* are as numerous as this Author says they are, we may readily imagine, when, at particular Times, we are surrounded with, or rather breath in an acid Air, and the *Particles* of

this *Acid* are of a similar Form with the Capacities of these Pores, what a vast Quantity of these *acid Particles* must be received by the gaping Passages, and by this Means transfus'd into the Blood, must condense the liquid Part, and so induce a *Coagulum*, or at least a *Lentor*, and so the whole Mass becomes perverted from its natural and uniform Crasis: If thro' the whole Body such an infinite Number of secretory Outlets is diffus'd, there must be a very large Quantity of *perspirable Matter* discharg'd continually thro' them; *Sanc-torious* was of Opinion that fifty Ounces of perspirable Matter was evacuated in the Space of twelve Hours, but the learned Sir *John Floyer* found to the contrary in our Climate by Experiments made for that purpose; so that instead of fifty Ounces in twelve Hours, it is evident we only

ly perspire about seven or eight in that Time. If thro' an Obstruction of the cutaneous Pores from any external Cause, or too intimate a Cohesion of the Particles to be fecerned, the *Materia Perspirabilis* is retained in the Body, we may easily (for Reasons before assign'd) conceive how and after what Manner a *Rheumatism*, or some other Disorder not very unlike it, may ensue; for when the Blood is once overcharged with *heterogeneous Qualities*, they will shew themselves either by Stagnations, or Irritations, and so produce Diseases according to the Character of the predominant Humour.

The Severities of a *Rheumatism* delight to libertinise in various Parts of the human Fabrick, triumphs in different Shapes in different Persons, compels the most resolute Courage to submit to their Authority, and ac-

knowledge the irresistible Weight of their *Prerogative*: Sometimes an Impotence to Motion seizes the Patient, which results not so much from an Obstruction of the Nerves, as from the Violence of the Pain, by Reason of which the Muscles cannot contract themselves; sometimes it rages more universally, and sometimes it is confin'd to a particular Part, and another Time flies with surprizing Rapidity from one to the opposite Side of the Body, and will elude the Power of the most efficacious Remedies: *Etmuller de Febris*, pag. 217. tells us how Fevers are produced, his Words are these: *Causæ febrium in genere erunt omnia ea, quæ crasin massæ sanguineæ naturalem pervertere, & talem discrasiam, seu tale heterogenitatem, & non miscibilitatem ut ita dicam partium componentium inducere possunt, ut exinde salium conatu*
concussa

concussa fermentatio præternaturalis concitetur. Now a Fever always is concomitant with this *Distemper*, but 'tis sometimes purely *Symptomatical*, as in the Gout, and is occasioned merely by the Pain and Uneasiness, under which the Patient severely labours, and therefore in no wise shortens the Fit; but when the Fever is *coeval* and falls in *originally* with that *Dyscrasy* of the Blood and Juices, which is the Parent of this *Distemperature*, the Illness it self becomes acute, and either terminates in Death or a speedy *Crisis*; thus *Erysipelate*, *Pleurisy*, *Quinsy*, &c.

There is another Sort of a *Rheumatism*, that observes a certain and constant Period in its Attack and Duration, entirely different from that I here treat of, an Instance of which, I shall beg Leave to transcribe from our great and learned Countryman
Dr.

Dr. *Willis De Scorbuto*: He tells us of a Gentleman, who by sitting too long in his Study, when the Walls were newly plaistered, had so far vitiated his Blood, that he was seized with violent Pains all over his Body exactly at four a Clock every Morning, which held him till eight; they were so exquisitely severe, that had they been continual, an Alienation of Mind must have ensued; and this is that *convulsive Rheumatism* which Dr. *Pitts* makes mention of in the *Philosophical Transactions*, N^o. 200. p. 58. and which was cured by the same Means.

As this *Disease* is rarely found in the same Degree, and under the same Circumstances in different Persons, partly from the different Constitutions of the Patients, and partly from the various Causes, which occasion it; so it is impossible to prescribe an
universal

universal Method, that will infallibly succeed in all *Rheumatick Cases*; for it often happens, that what will entirely eradicate the Distemper in one, shall add new Force to, and confirm it in another: Tho' this I'll undertake to assert, that a *Rheumatism* is with as much Facility cur'd as any other chronick Indisposition, that afflicts Mankind, if the Oppress'd has the good Fortune to fall into the Hands of a prudent and distinguishing *Physician*, who scorns to trifle with his Patient to enhance his own Advantage, or magnify the Apothecary's Bill. But such is the preposterous Incogitancy of the present Age, that proper Advice is seldom call'd in, till the Patient by the unerring Direction of some all-wise *Medicaster* has swallow'd down every Article, both *Galenical* and *Chymical*, in the whole *Materia Medica*; then the ignorance

norance of the Man is undeniably
 demonftrated by the Obftinacy of the
Disease; at laft he condefcends that
 a *Physician* fhall be fent for, who
 without any prophetick Knowledge
 can foretel the poor Man's approach-
 ing *Cataftrophe*, and no Poffibility of
 Prevention; thus too great a Confi-
 dence in the Gentlemen of the Pef-
 tle, Quacks, Noftum-mongers, and
 good old Women (as they are gene-
 rally call'd) has fign'd many Paffports
 for innumerable deluded Wretches,
 to fet fail in the Ocean of Eternity,
 and happy very happy it is for thefe
 furviving *Pretenders to Phyfick*, that
 the State of Oblivion cannot be the
 Scene of Repentance, and the Grave
 can lodge no Appeal for Male-prac-
 tice; yet however thefe Homicides
 may efcape the Cognizance of tem-
 poral Laws, they ftand accountable
 at the Bar of Heaven; what will then
 be

be the Wages of these abominable and insufferable Sinners, is only known to Him, who at the grand Tribunal will reward all Men according to their Works.

Disorders are frequently by Mismanagement made incorrigible, malignant, and fatal, which the timely Inspection of a good *Physician* might have prevented; hence the Gentlemen of the *Profession* (whose Abilities and Merit are conspicuous to the learn'd Part of the World) are traduc'd, aspers'd, and calumniated by those who rashly judge of Things at first View, thro' the intolerable Ignorance of these *audacious Usurpers*. Was it possible to advance a Course of Physick, that would, if administer'd with Judgment, certainly relieve every Species of the *Rheumatism*, it would neither be convenient or safe so to do; for first it would divulge the Arcana of the *Faculty*, and secondly, every illiterate Coxcomb, if he could work himself into a Belief

G

that

that he was tortur'd with this *Disaster*, would indiscriminately conform to the Method propos'd, and probably mistaking his Case, might *perhaps* entail a numerous Retinue of corporal Misfortunes upon himself, that would not only render the Remainder of his Days very uncomfortable, but would accelerate the Discharge of that Debt, which all Mankind by the irreverfible Law of Nature is oblig'd to pay. As to the *Therapeutick Part* of this and all other *Distempers*, fo far as they are curable, it is familiar and obvious to thofe, who are Guardians of Health, when the Cause is found out, and the Cafe rightly judg'd; thofe are undoubtedly the moft likely under all Exigencies to form the beft Judgment, who from one of our illuftrious Fountains of *Literature* have imbib'd *Botanical, Anatomical, and Chymical* Notions, and are not unacquainted with the Mode of *Galenical Preparations*, and by an honeft and ftrenuous

ous

ous Application, and frequent Conversation with the Fathers of Medicine (if I may be allowed the Expression) back'd with the Observation of a successful Practice, have acquired Credit to themselves, and afforded Relief to those, who have desir'd their Assistance.

I've said before, how many Ways the Mass of human Blood may be vitiated, I shall now tell the Consequences of such a *Dyscrasy*, the worst of which is impeding the *Perspiration*; for this being in a Natural State proportionate to its *Velocity* in the Vessels, it must follow, that when from any preternatural Cause this *Velocity* is retarded, the Matter perspired must be less, therefore the Quantity retain'd more: Take and weigh a Coffee-dish full of *Rheumatick* Blood against the same Quantity of the same Person in a State of Health; (what the exact Difference is, I have not experienc'd, but all agree the *Rheumatick* is heavier) now the Weight

of the Blood being as its Quantity and Density conjointly, since the Quantity is the same, the Weight is as its Density, and therefore the Energy of the Heart or Impulse being suppos'd uniform, the *Velocity* of the Blood and Juices are in a reciprocal Proportion to this Weight; now *Perspiration* is as this *Velocity*, and therefore Circulation, Life, Health, and Perspiration seems to be only different Names for the same Thing.

I would not be understood as if Life may not be without Health, and Perspiration without Circulation, (for when a Body is once put into Motion, 'tis no Wonder it should continue to move some time after the *vis Motrix* has ceas'd to act) but I mean that these Operations of Nature are congenial, uniform, and proportionate; from whence it will follow that the Difference of Weight, which I mention'd in the last Paragraph, is the *Perspirabile Interclusum*.

Now we need not be concern'd that
in

in feverish and most inflammatory *Distempers*, the *Velocity* of the Blood is greater, and yet the *Perspiration* less, for this is accidental from the Obstruction of the cuticular Glands, which being at last by the encreasing *Velocity* overcome, the *Perspirable* flows out like the Burst of a Gun in Sweat and Dew.

Whatever therefore will dilute the Blood (that is lessen its Density) will certainly find out a ready and expeditious Cure for this Disease; now bleeding, purging gently with *Calomel*, (for of this the Effect is plain in Salivation) *Whey*, *Bath Waters*, &c. provided the Stomach will bear them, all answer this End, as also the whole Generation of *Diureticks*, the Effects of which last nam'd Medicines, if we could as certainly promise as *Catharticks*, we should be the most accomplish'd Fellows in the World, and the *Art* of *Physick* shine out in its most consummate *Zenith*; but because we cannot propose to our
selves

selves or Patients that Happiness, we must be content with that small part of the glutinous Serum, which may with Safety be evacuated by Blisters.

I shall offer a Word by way of Caution, and bid adieu at present to this Subject: He who wishes that Diseases may rage *Epidemically*, that he may have an Opportunity of enriching himself at the Expence of other Peoples *Fortunes*, and perhaps *Lives* too, ought not to be esteem'd a good Subject, a sincere Friend, or an honest Physician: A Man of Integrity can entertain no such despicable Expectations in his Breast, abhors such Thoughts, because they are pernicious, vain, and entirely contradictory to that glorious and Christian Doctrine of *doing as we would be done by*: When a Man can once so far cast off the Obligations of Religion, as to wish Ill or Misery to his Neighbour, nothing but the Fear of *penal Consequences*, or Inability to compleat what he hopes, can prevent the Execution
of

of his Intentions: Alas! Misfortunes and Diseases are too too common and incident to human Nature, are the chief Articles of our temporal Inheritance, and the necessary Ingredients of our Composition, and must one Day be our fatal Portion; therefore we ought to contend against them, that we may enjoy many Days to prepare us for the great Business of Eternity, and yet the great and eternal King of Men and Angels has, in infinite Wisdom, contrived an Antidote, or at least a *Solamen* against them all, *viz.* a Conformity to his divine Precepts, which will not only contribute to our unconceivable Advantage in a future State, but also to the Tranquillity and Long-continuance of our Bodies in this. *Temperance* never cast any one into a Fever, nor a moderate and innocent Use of the Creature into a Surfeit; Chastity never enervated the Body, nor terminated in Rottenness of the Bones; Luxury and
Excess

Excess are the fruitful Parents of Distempers, and the different Sorts of those long applauded Vices, have made Diseases vary from their own original Type, forc'd a Complication of Disorders upon many, which a more abstemious Course of Life might have prevented; the prevalent and peccant Humour might very probably have center'd in a simple, regular, and uniform Disorder, and consequently as the Danger would be less, so the Cure might more certainly and expeditiously be effected.

