A treatise of incurable diseases: containing, I. An essay on the proper means to reduce the number of incurables. II. An attempt to settle a just notion of incurable in physick. III. A specimen of a rational method to discover the cures of reputed incurable diseases / [Peter Shaw].

Contributors

Shaw, Peter, 1694-1763.

Publication/Creation

London : For J. Roberts, 1723.

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/wc4mk5s2

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

T R E A T I S E • F Incurable Difeafes:

A

10

1F

CONTAINING

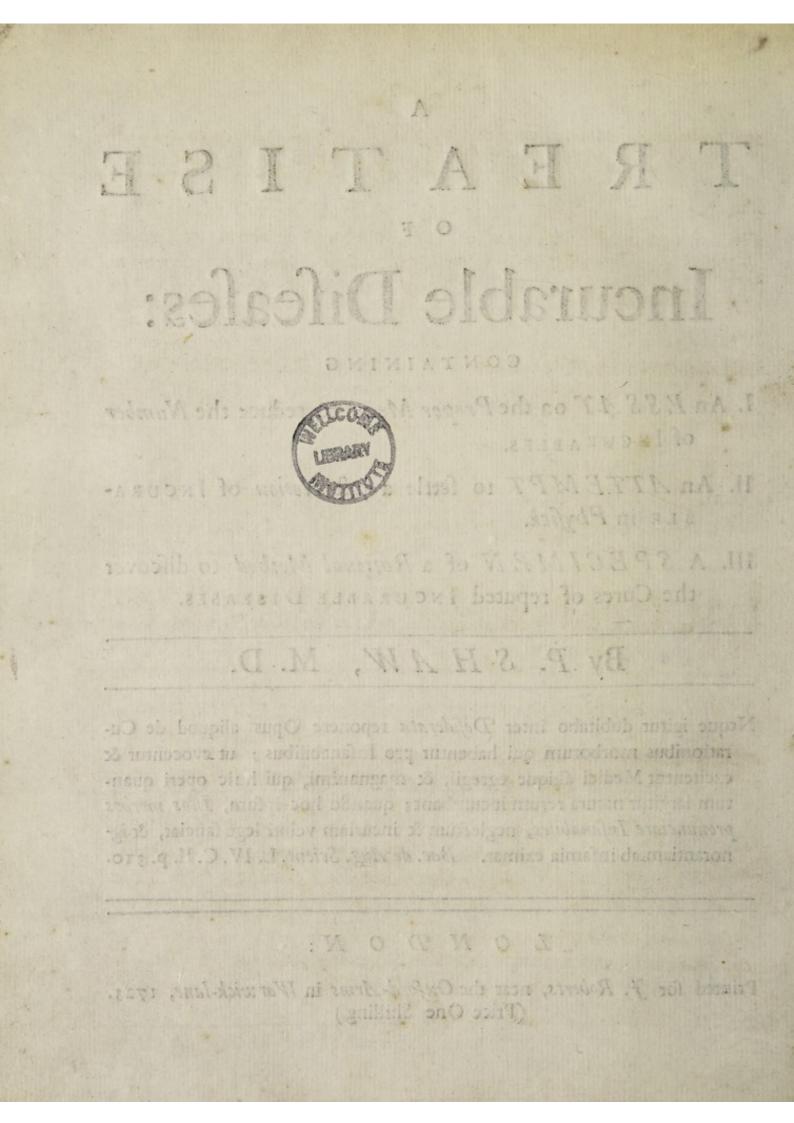
- I. An ESSAY on the Proper Means to reduce the Number of INCURABLES.
- II. An ATTEMPT to settle a just Notion of INCURA-BLE in Physick.
- III. A SPECIMEN of a Rational Method to discover the Cures of reputed INCURABLE DISEASES.

By P. SHAW, M. D.

Neque igitur dubitabo inter *Desiderata* reponere Opus aliquod de Curationibus morborum qui habentur pro Insanabilibus; ut evocentur & excitentur Medici aliique egregii, & magnanimi, qui huic operi quantum largitur natura rerum incumbant; quando hoc ipsum, *Istos morbos pronunciare Insanabiles*, neglectum & incuriam veluti lege fanciat, & ignorantiam ab infamia eximat. *Bac. de Aug. Scient*, L. IV. C. II. p. 310.

LONDON:

Printed for J. Roberts, near the Oxford-Arms in Warwick-lane, 1723. (Price One Shilling.)





T R E A T I S E o F Incurable Difeafes,&c.

olures anos hafaA wher decemants alion jam inde

I. Of the proper Means to reduce the Number of Incurables.



LTHO' feveral cogent Reafons, to demonstrate the Feasibility of the prefent Design, may be drawn from the Nature of Distempers, and the known Effects of Medicines; the common Occurrences of daily Practice, and the great Probability there is of bringing many unknown Remedies to Light; yet were it not for what so grave and approv'd an Author, as the great

Lord-Chancellor Bacon, has recorded about incurable Difeafes, it would perhaps feem daring and prefumptuous to maintain the Poflibility of leffening their their Number, after fo many Ages appear to have been unfuccefsfully fpent in attempting it.

2

FOR, the Cure of Incurables does not only involve a Paradox in the Expression, but in an Age fo productive of new Discoveries, and so fertile in Improvements as the present, it generally passes for a desperate Problem; and is apt to be rank'd in the same Class with the Quadrature of the Circle, the Perpetual Motion, and the Philosopher's Stone.

BUT the moft celebrated and judicious Author abovementioned, is clear and exprefs, that Phyficians ^a " In inquifitione illorum de Morbis, inve-" niunt Morbos complures quos *Infanabiles* decernunt, alios jam inde à " principio Morborum, alios poft talem quampiam periodum. Ita ut L. " Scyllæ & Trium-virorum Proferiptiones, res nihili fuerint præ Medico-" rum Proferiptionibus, per quas tot homines iniquiffimis edictis morti " dedunt; quorum tamen plurimi minore cum difficultate evadunt, quam " illi olim inter Proferiptiones Romanas. Neque igitur dubitabo (*continues* " *this great Author*) inter Defiderata reponere Opus aliquod de Curati-" onibus Morborum, qui *habentur* pro *Infanabilibus*; ut evocentur & exciten-" tur Medici aliique egregii & magnanimi ; qui huic operi, quantum largitur " Natura rerum, incumbant; quando hoc ipfum, iftos Morbos pronunci-" are *Infanabiles*, neglectum & incuriam veluti lege fanciat, & ignoran-" tiam ab infamiâ eximat. *de Aug. Scient*, L. IV. Cap. II. p. 310.

AFTER fuch a Declaration from fo great a Man, it will not, I hope, appear either assuming or ridiculous to attempt a Discovery of the Cures

* When they enquire into Difeafes, find fo many which they affert to be Incurable, either from their first Appearance, or after they have continu'd fome Time, that the Proferiptions of L. Scylla, and the Triumvarate were triffing in Comparison of the Proferiptions of Phyficians, by which, with the most unjust Sentence imaginable, they deliver Men over to Death; many of whom, notwithstanding, escape with less Difficulty than did those formerly under the Roman Proferiptions. A Treatife therefore is wanting upon the Cures of reputed incurable Diffeafes, to the End that both Phyficians and others of Eminence and Resolution may be encouraged and excited to pursue this Matter as far as the Nature of it will permit; fince to denounce Difeafes Incurable, is to establish Negligence and Carelesines, as it were by a Law, at the fame time that it skreens Ignorance from Reproach.

of

of fuch defperate or inveterate Difeafes as may chance unjuftly to pafs for Incurable. Such a Defign, at leaft, ought not to be thought affuming, if it be enter'd upon according to his Lordship's Direction, " To the end . « that the more able Phyficians, and Perfons of Eminence and Refolution, " may be encouraged and excited to a thorough purfuit of this Matter; " which is the main View in publishing this Treatife.

And if an Indulgence be granted to any thing that may feem to carry an Air of Prefumption or Affurance in fuch an Undertaking, I am perfuaded there are few will think an attempt of this Nature, Ridiculous or Impracticable, after fo very grave and difcerning an Author has laid it down for just and reasonable.

Some there are, however, who will be apt to fay, granting many Difcafes were an hundred Years agoe, unwarrantably call'd Incurable; and allowing the Phyficians of that time to have, in this Refpect, been no lefs unjust than rigid and fevere ; yet after fo many great Improvements, and ufeful Difcoveries made in Medicine of late, 'tis impoffible the Cenfures of the prefent Phyficians should be equally unjust, or equally severe with those at the time when this great Author wrote. Others will go still farther and cry, can it be imagin'd, when by a grand Increase of Learning, a through Reformation in Philosophy, a prodigious Number of useful Experiments, and happy Discoveries in Mechanicks, Anatomy, Chysurgery, Chymistry, Pharmacy, and Botany, a noble Addition to the Materia Medica, and the Introduction of a Mechanical System of Physic; can it be imagined will fome fay, when by thefe large Acquifitions the Art of Healing feems rais'd to its Achme, its Pinnacle of Perfection, that the Cenfures of Phyficians are not extreamly just and utterly Irreversible ; and the Number of Incurables already fhrunk and contracted within the narroweft Bounds human Means can reduce them ?

Indeed, it may very well appear Surprizing, if with these accumulated Advantages the Art of Healing be not vaftly improv'd, and the Number of reputed incurable Difeafes leffen'd; and yet alas! the thing it felf will fpeak and tell us, that Incurables were never more common, and that they are fo far from diminishing, that they rather feem to grow upon us daily, B info-

[4]

infomuch, that 'tis become neceffary to provide for the meaner Sort of them by a new and an extraordinary Kind of Bounty.

Befides, as 'twere folly to endeavour to palliate the Matter, the common Practice of every Place will, at this Day, afford a fufficient Proof both of the great Number of Incurables, and the rafh Centures of Phyficians. For not to mention that we daily fee Perfons who were given over by fome Phyficians, recover'd by others, what Numbers after having been declared Incurable by very eminent Men, and fuch as were well verfed in physical Practice, have not found a Cure by Accident, the Kindness of Nature, the Observation of a Regimen, the Use of flight Medicines, a Course of Physic, or by venturing upon some desperate Means? Instances of all these are every where so Numerous, that 'tis in vain to go about to conceal the Thing, or its pernicious Confequences : Moft Perfons are now appriz'd, that Incurable in Physic has had a like Effect with Occult Quality in Philosophy, a Term which manag'd with Address, amusd the Multitude, and kept up a Veneration for an Appearance of Learning, but at the fame time prov'd a very great Obstacle to farther improvement in ufeful Knowledge.

Tis well known alfo, that every Age has had its particular Kind of Practice, which was always adequate to the Difcoveries of the Time, and regulated by the prevailing Philofophy of the Place; fo that this Practice in the Infancy of the Art, muft neceffarily have been proportion'd to an infant Knowledge of Difeafes and Remedies. 'Tis lefs to be wonder'd at therefore if the puny Phyficians of the earlieft Ages fhifted the obftinate Cafes from one to another, and were pleas'd to denounce all the Difeafes incurable which baffled their flender Skill. This Procedure, however we laugh at in them, but are our felves perhaps no lefs Ridiculous; for we alfo turn off our defperate Patients, when our Remedics fail us, and term that an incurable Difeafe which obftinately refifts the fashionable Practice of our Age and Country.

But is a Diftemper therefore really Incurable, because I, a second, or a third Person cannot cure it? Or can this Term with any Propriety, be applied plied to a Cafe which has only eluded the prevailing or current Practice of our Time, without giving any evident Tokens, that 'tis abfolutely, and in every refpect Incurable ? If this be fufficient to denominate a Difeafe incurable, then numberless Difeafes, which have been cured, were incurable.

Doubtless this Term ought to be used with great caution, because when misapplied, it not only abuses the Patient, but difgraces the Profession, and brings a Scandal on its Professors, at the same time that it prevents an Improvement of the Art of Healing. But we of this Age ought more than those of any precedent one, to demur in the Use of the Word, when the Cafe is not very plain and evident; we who are well acquainted with the Structure of the human Body, and feveral grand Remedies which were unknown to former Ages; we who are Mafters of all the Experience of the Ancients, and have feen their Weaknefs and Errors, as well as our own, in calling some Difeases incurable; we who cannot but own Posterity may improve in their Knowledge of thefe Things, and be able to cure Difeafes reputed by us Incurable, as we have happily cured fome that were fo reputed by Antiquity. Are not we also fensible that Physicians generally go in the fame beaten Track, and that tho' they differ in Forms, yet ufually agree to exhibit the fame Medicines in like Cafes ? Thus all now preferibe Mercury in the Venereal Lues, and Cortex in Intermittents ; and if these happen to fail, the modish Practice of our days is suppos'd to be exhausted, and without farther trouble, the Cafe is adjudg'd Incurable. But as this Sentence is frequently revers'd either by Nature, Accident, or Art, it is, by no means, of it felf sufficient to denominate a Person properly Incurable, that his Cafe has been unfuccefsfully prefcrib'd to by a few Phyficians.

How it comes to pass that Incurables are so numerous at this time, and that whilst other Arts and Sciences appear in a flourishing Condition, and even Medicine it felf is greatly improved in its Theory, yet the Art of Healing, the practical Part, the most valuable Branch of Physic, and ultimate End which all the other Branches are defined to promote and centre in, shou'd not be equally advanced, is a Speculation that wou'd carry us beyond the Bounds of the prefent Defign. And as it is of far greater Confequence fequence to know how to remedy this Defect in the Art of Healing, and thereby diminifh, if poffible, the Number of Incurables, than to account for the flow Progress of the physical Practice; I shall here confine my felf to the former Confideration, and endeavour to shew what is the most proper Method of proceeding in order to discover the Cures of such Distempers as obstinately result the present Form of Practice, at the same Time that they give no other Signs of their being absolutely and properly Incurable.

The Method that I wou'd offer at in this cafe, is founded on a proper Ufe of our natural Faculties. If we will but open our Eyes, allow a freedom of Reafoning, and not be flow in reducing its Dictates to Action, there are good grounds to hope that the Number of reputed Incurables will foon be leffen'd, or at leaft their increase be prevented; and a more accurate diffinction of Discases for the future be introduced.

As by a reputed incurable Difeafe, I always mean fuch an one as proves too firong for ordinary Treatment, without affording any farther reafon to perfuade us, that the Cure of the fame Cafe is utterly impoffible to be effected hereafter, to attempt the Cure of a reputed incurable Difcafe, is in no wife Wild or Romantick. But the Way to difcover fuch a Cure, is not to ftop fhort where the common Medicines fail, lazily term the Cafe Incurable, and then fit down contented, and applaud our felves for having got to the extent of our Tether : On the contrary, if we wou'd in earneft endeavour to benefit Mankind, by improving the Art of Healing, from an accurate Obfervation of the Phænomena of Difeafes, we fhould proceed to deduce their immediate Caufes, and find out what kind of Remedies'are wanting to remove them; and then by the proper Experiments obtain thefe *Defiderata*, or at leaft in defect of them, contrive to raife the known Remedies to their utmoft Power, in order to fee whether they will not then reach the more flubborn Cafes.

It is fuch a Kind of Geometrical Method, which appears to me the moft proper to be observed in this Pursuit; that way of Reasoning from Data to Quessita, which has done Wonders in Philosophy, Astronomy, and Mechanicks. But it happens most unfortunately, that instead of encouraging and pursuing this noble Method in Physic, we seem almost entirely to discoundiscountenance and contemn it; instead of endeavouring by this means to cultivate the most momentous Art on Earth, we are too often amufing our felves with what is Trifling, when fet in Competition with it; and inftead of endeavouring to leffen the Number of Incurables, or eafe their Tortures, we are either wrapt up in the Clouds, and contemplating the Stars, or groveling on the Ground in queft of Pebbles. Not that I would Reflect on any part of Knowledge, though ever fo little ufeful; but furely those who have attach'd themfelves to Phyfick, and make Profession of its Practice, are inexcufable, if this has no fhare in their Studies. Some excursions out of this Province are perhaps allowable, but we should not methinks always content ourfelves with fearching after Things which are utterly foreign to Phyfic. The Theory of Phyfic, indeed, no one can deny to be useful, so far as it brings Advantage to the Practice ; but who does not see that 'tis Preposterous to spend Time in computing the absolute force of the Muscles, the weight of the Air upon the Lungs, the just Momentum of the Fluids, and a thousand other Things; whilft there remain fo many inquiries of infinitely greater Importance to be made, and which might even discover the cure of such Diseases as we now miscall Incurable ? Is it not flocking to fee what Pains and Application are beftow'd in promoting other Arts and Sciences, whilft Phyfick alone is abandon'd, and feems to be almost the only Art that is not cultivated among us? Thus in Aftronomy, a glorious Science indeed, and tho' not unworthy of the Efteem it meets with, is yet infinitely lefs conducive to the Well-being of Mankind than the Practice of Phyfick ; what immense Labour and Assiduity are employ'd? With what diligent attendance and watching is a new Star added to the Catalogue, or another Satellite to the train of a Planet? What Drudgery is not gladly undergone, to determine the Magnitudes, Diftances,

[7]

Periods of Revolution, Gravities and Denfities of the remote planetary and cometary World? But if any profess'd Phyficians, leaving their own Art to the improvement of others, fhall give themfelves up to the cultivation of *this*, they may pleafe to confider that fuch procedure will afford little Confolation to a Man under the raging torture of the Gout or Stone, or to those doom'd to languish under the hard Sentence of Incurable. C What will it avail fuch as thefe, to be told the exact Minute of an Eclipfe, or other Refults of numerous Obfervations, and laborious Calculations? And yet thefe Things which concern us fo little are highly priz'd, at the Expence of Medicine; and the Knowledge of them obtain'd with the most vigorous Resolution and affiduous Application. How we can answer the not taking equal Pains to discover new Remedies, improve the old ones, and advance the Art of Healing, when the Lives of Mankind are immediately concern'd in it, I am at a loss to know. But to return.

The Method I would recommend to find the Cures of reputed incurable Difeafes, will be best understood by the Specimen annext; where I aim to proceed intirely upon rational Grounds. I must therefore take leave to observe, that the free use of our Reason is the best Guide we can make choice of to lead us to this Difcovery. By the ufe of Reafon I wou'd be underftood to mean the exercise of that Faculty upon Subjects relating to Difeases, in order to find a defirable and promifing Method of Cure for an inveterate Cafe, when the current Practice has proved unfuccefsful; that is, fuch a Method as fhall, before it be try'd, appear likely to fucceed, when confider'd by a rational Phylician, and is more eligible to the Patient, than the Diftemper 'tis intended to rid him of, or at least to palliate. Such a Method of Cure as this, is, in my Opinion, unexceptionable, in reputed incurable Cafes; and ought without fcruple to be put in Practice by a reputed incurable Patient; because fuch a Patient can have no hopes of a Recovery, but either from meer Chance or Empiricifm, or elfe from the tryal of fuch a rational Means as is here propos'd : But any rational Perfon will furely rather rely on Reafon, than Chance for a Cure. Moreover, true reafoning from the requisite Data, brings us to absolute certainty; and is always preferable to Belief, Tradition, cafual Experience, or any other Affiftance rely'd on in physical Practice : a general and rational Physician therefore, who ist never unprovided of Data to Reafon from, cannot do better than thus to apply this Faculty. And if the refult of this Application be the difcovery of a defirable and promifing Method of Cure, he cannot do bet. ter, in the way of his Profession, than to recommend it.

This.

[9]

This method of Procedure will be readily acquicfe'd in by those who are unacquainted with the general fate of Phylick. Such Perfons are apt to imagine, that this is the common foot upon which all rational Phyficians proceed in their daily Practice, and that no other tolerable Method can be eftablish'd. But these Perfons are not aware how extreamly cautious and fparing Phyficians have formerly been in the ufe of their Reafon. That Body of Men have all along had fo tender a Regard to their fellow-Creatures, that they thought their utmoft care was necessary in the Application of Remedies; and therefore rarely ventured to truft fo dangerous a Thing as Reafon in the use of 'em. And so Experience, safe Experience, came to be wifely substituted in its stead : this was the Oracle, this alone was extoll'd, and Reafon, fallacious Reafon was decry'd and contemn'd, as having little to do in the Practice of Phylick. Hence they proceeded to lettle Rules, and eftablishForms from Experience, chusing always to use the Remedies which had been used before, and to preferibe over again what they had already experienc'd. To fwerve from the eftablish'd Method, or prevailing Practice of the Age, was commonly thought bold and dangerous; and to try a new Remedy, tho' it might promife ever fo fair, was look'd upon as hazardous and prefumptuous. The practice of Phyfick being thus curbid in, and refrain'd, has advanced by very flow Paces ; and all this for want of a found Philosophy, and a larger flock of Data. For certainly there can be no other Pretence, why this beft of Faculties should be thrown afide as uselefs, or difadvantagious in Phyfick, rather than in Philosophy, or any of the Arts and Sciences. But now as the cafe is otherwife, as our Data are more numerous, and the way of reafoning from them is improv'd; as our prefent Syftem of Philosophy is folid and extensive, and the Subject of Phyfick, the animal Structure, is vafily better defin'd and underflood ; 'twould be highly abfurd to pretend, that this grand Talent ought not to be applied to difcover the cures of, at leaft, the reputed incurable Difeafes among us. For in these Cases, our present stock of Experience is confesfedly of no Service, and new random Trials might be juftly deem'd rafh and Prefumptuous : An attempt therefore to form a method of Cure, by arguing from the nature of the Difeafe, to the difcovery of more powerful Reme-

[10]

Remedies, is here the only rational and promifing means we have left.

It will furely be granted, that the prefent practice of Phyfick is improveable, if it be confider'd, that the feveral Branches of which this Art is compos'd, are daily improving; whilft new discoveries are made in Anatomy, and Chirurgery grows more compleat ; whilft Chymiftry and Pharmacy furnish us with new Preparations, and Mechanicks is more fuccefffully applied to the animal Structure ; it cannot be doubted but fome ufe may be made of these Things to the advantage of Physick, and the cure of reputed incurable Difeafes. There is no room to question, that many powerful Remedies lye now absconded, or enveloped in their first Principles, if it be confider'd, that the whole Set we are at this time acquainted with, were once in the fame flate of Darkness and Confusion. Let us but reflect, that Agues were reputed incurable till the Cortex was found, and its Ules known, as well as the Lues Venerea till Mercury, and the Woods were applied; and confider by what means not only thefe, but numberless other useful Medicines were obtain'd ; and then there will be very great Encouragement to expect, that if diligent fearch were made, and the proper Experiments inftituted, many grand Remedies might be disclosed, and such as wou'd be of force sufficient to cure fome Difeafes which now lye under the unjust Sentence of Incurable.

Nor is this the only reafon we have to hope for fuch a Redrefs in the Art of Healing, and a confiderable Reduction of the prefent Incurables : great Affiftance may in this cafe be likewife obtain'd from a due management of the Remedies we are already poffefs'd of. For there are fo many Requifites neceffary to advance thefe to their higheft Power, that it may very well be queftioned, if the utmost force they are capable of affording, was ever exerted on the caufe of any Difeafe.

Chymiftry has improv'd the Efficacy of many Medicaments, and fhewn them to have fuch Virtues, as were utterly unknown before that Art became general : And Fire is an Element from which other as great Matters may be juftly expected. Befides this, an inverted Order, a well proportion'd Dofe, a proper preparation of the Body and Medicine, a right Choice,

-SINGA

a felect Combination, with many other Things of the like kind, have an immense Power to increase the Virtues of Remedies. Here then is an almost inexhaustible fountain of useful Varieties put into our Hands, which we can manage as we pleafe ; and if they were properly employ'd, 'tis not to be faid what Effects they might produce in obftinate or reputed incurable Cafes. That this may the better be apprehended, let it be confider'd by way of Hluftration, that when the Cortex has prov'd ineffectual for the cure of an Ague, being given before the Body was rightly difpos'd, it will fucceed when exhibited after due Preparation ; that Opiates mixed with Purgatives will take effect, which administred fingle might fail; that Solids will purge when Fluids will not; that lenient Purgatives will open the Body where ftrong Catharticks wou'd loofe their force; that fome Medicines fucceed when given in fmall quantities, at long Intervals, which administred otherwife would have a contrary effect; and in short, that all possible Combinations, Dofes, Preparations, &c. have never yet been try'd, nor perhaps ever can be exhaufted.

From all which it appears, that the cures of fome reputed incurable Difeafes may be juftly expected, either from a difcovery of new powerful Remedies, or a more apposite use of the old ones. Our Method therefore ought to have regard to both these Defiderata.

In order to acquire new Remedies, let us fuppole the true and immediate Caule of a flubborn diforder to be found, which in all bodily Difeafes, is commonly material; our Method of proceeding directs us to obtain this material Caule, where-ever it can be come at, and to make the proper Experiments upon that very Matter out of the Body, which being included in it was the Parent of the Diforder. An Example or two will make all plain. The *cretaceous Matter*, or *chalky Stones*, which are often thrown out in a Fit of the Gout, appear to have been the immediate caule of that Fit. A proper quantity of these therefore being obtain'd, and the Nature of them difcover'd from the Symptoms of the Diftemper, *&c*. we are hence directed to try any Preparation that we know has a power to act upon, and diffolve Matter of the like kind. But in cafe fuch a Diffolvent be unknown to us, then are we to contrive fome Compositions, after the fame manner as if we were pre-D fcribing to an inveterate cafe of a Patient afflicted with the Diftemper, and try their Virtues upon these Stones, till at length we arrive at a Preparation that proves a real Diffolvent, at the fame time that it may be fafely administred, fome convenient way, in fuch a quantity as to be able to effect the like diffolution of that cretaceous Matter, whilft it is circulating in the Fluids of the Body. Such a Composition, 'tis reasonable to expect, wou'd prove a grand Remedy, and perhaps a Specifick, that is, fuch a Medicine as will effect a Cure without caufing any fenfible Evacuation. Understand the like Experiments to be made upon the Stones, which are apt to lodge in the Bladder or Kidneys, till a proper Diffolvent be found, which, if it cannot fafely effect the defired diffolution in the Body, may at leaft be fo managed, as to prevent the future Generation of a Stone. Again, fuppofing the cafe of an Hydrophobia occafion'd by the Bite of a mad Dog, where we know the Fluids are contaminated by an actual Poyfon, which being contagious by a Communication of any of those Fluids, a way may very cafily be contriv'd to obtain a quantity of the infected Saliva, or any other of the animal Juices, in order to make the proper Experiments upon it, till an Antidote for the Venom were by that means difcover'd. This Antidote might thus be known to be found. Supposing two equal Portions of the contaminated Fluid to be procured, and the prefumed Antidote to be mix'd in one of them, let both be communicated by Injection, or otherwife to two found Dogs; and if that wherein the prefum'd Antidote was contain'd, proves harmlefs, and the other noxious, and the fame Confequence attends the fame Experiment in two or three Repetitions ; it would be reafonable to expect that the Cure of this cruel Difease was discover'd, and the Medicine might therefore be try'd occasionally upon Hydrophobous Patients, or rather administred foon after the Bite was receiv'd.

How far this Method of proceeding may be put in Practice, I will not prefume to determine; but 'tis very probable that it may be advantageoufly purfu'd at leaft in all those Distempers which yield a grosser kind of Matter for their Cause, or else depend upon, a visible alteration in the Consistence, Texture, &c. of the Fluids. This is certainly a most defirable and rational way of procuring Specificks or grand Remedies, fince the Lives Lives of Mankind are not hereby in the leaft endanger'd; and it otherwife remains, that we wait for their Difcovery till mere chance fhall place them before us, open our Eyes, and force us by repeated Importunities and Sollicitations, at once to acknowledge their Virtues, and our own Indolence. If the whole tribe of reputed incurable Difeafes, gave fuch fair Opportunities as thefe for the difcovery of their refpective Specificks (and that moft of them do not, I would have no one be too pofitive) we might foon fee their number fhrink, upon allowing a proper Patronage and Encouragement to this kind of Experiments.

And here I cannot but take notice, how apt we are to plume our felves upon living in an Age when experimental Philosophy flourishes. Experiments, its true, are daily made, but I wou'd fain know to what grand Purpofes they ferve ? Several indeed there are, whofe defign is highly Commendable; but are there any now on foot, or that can poffibly be contriv'd, of greater Moment, than the fort above mentioned ; any more Beneficial to Mankind, or Ornamental to a Nation; any fo well deferving the Encouragement of the Wealthy, and the Countenance of the Learned ? But inftead of fuch ufeful Effays as thefe, we generally meet with Attempts fo mean and low, fo trivial and contemptible, in comparison of them, that one wou'd be tempted to think they came from the ignorant Vulgar, and the Herd of Mankind, rather than from the polite and philosophical Part of the Species. 'Tis a melancholy Reflection, that those Perfons from whole open Profession, furprizing Discoveries might be justly expected, should generally amufe us with the Minutia of Things, put us off with the Tith of Mint and Cummin, and leave us to feek the weightier Matters, the advancement of Phyfic, and the Reduction of Incurables. from another Quarter.

But what an Improvement of the Art of Healing may we not expect, what Alleviation of the Miferies of the Incurable may we not hope for, when a fpacious Building is now purpofely crecting for their Reception and Ufe? This feems notonly a particular Inftance of compaffionate Bounty, but a Defire exprefs'd for the improvement of Phyfic, and the univerfal Benefit of Mankind in an illuftrious Prefident of a folid and diffusive Good. Phyficians then, we may

[14]

may reafonably prefume, will not now be to far wanting to themfelves, to their Art, and to human Nature, as to neglect this or the like favourable Opportunities, of raifing the Reputation of their Profession, by difcovering the Cures for the unjustly suppos'd Incurable, and lessening the Torments of the miserable Objects, to whom such Goodness is shewn.

No longer let us, through Eafe and Indolence, give occasion to Empiricks to triumph over us, and boaft themselves Masters of Specificks for the Difeafes which we inconfiderately pronounce Incurable : No. longer let us fuffer the Pcople to be deluded with the specious Arcana of ignorant Men ; Arcana the dear and desperate purchase of hazardous Experiments, and random trials on the human Kind : No longer let us leave to Chance, and the flow workings of Nature, the Difcovery and Production of those uleful Remedies which we are furnish'd with Faculties to fearch for and obtain. Who does not rather repose his Confidence in Reason, and the due exercise of his own Abilities, than trust to Accident the management of any Affair ? And shall we in the Art of Healing alone, put off our inquiries till Chance shall deign to prefent us with the means of Recovery, when Health is within our own reach ? We feem to want no Preparative in this cafe, but a Refolution to ftep beyond the flow-paced Practice. in vogue, and to be guided by our Reafon in the choice of Experiments. We are every way fitted to go immediately upon fo uleful an Undertaking : We have feen the Effects of a tolerable number of Trials made upon human Blood, and other animal Fluids; which when improv'd and enlarged, may ferve to very usef ul Purposes : We are furnish'd with a large flock of Data, and know how to increase it at Discretion : The Causes of Difeafes are generally known, and Materials for Experiments are every where at hand; fo that if the Work were heartily fet about, there is no fear of Success. A Set of Axioms also might be laid down to encourage and direct the Undertaking, and ferve as Rules in the Profecution of it. Such as the following for Example.

1. Mathematical Certainty ought not to be expected in Physic.

2. A Chronic Difease allows many Opportunities for the Discovery and Use of Remedies.

3. The

3. The fuccefs or failure of a fingle Experiment, is not fufficient to effablish or abolish the use of a Remedy.

[15]

4. If any undefirable Method of Cure shall, upon repeated trials, cither prove intirely unfuccessful, or suffer more to die than recover, it ought not to be acquiesc'd in, before, at least, other more defirable and promissing Methods shall have been tried.

5. 'Tis better to try any defirable and promifing Method of Cure, than run the hazard of languishing out a Life in Pain and Misery.

6. If any Difease can be transmuted into another, attended with less Danger, and less Pain, every such Transmutation is a Degree of Cure.

7. A Remedy that acts immediately upon the Seat of a Difeafe, is more likely to effect a Cure, than one that acts only Confequentially upon it.

8. No more causes of a Difease need be inquired after, than will fairly and naturally account for its *Phænomena*.

9. In every inveterate and dangerous Difease, the most powerful Remedies ought to be immediately applied.

10. No Remedy can rationally be directed before it be known what Life is, together with its Caufe, State and Effects; and what a Difeafe is, together with its Caufe, State and Effects.

These may suffice for a Specimen of what Rules might be given to forward the discovery of the Cures of reputed incurable Diseases.

But let this bufine's proceed as it may, and that the Succe's will be proportionable to the Application, cannot be denied; we certainly have it already in our Power, by the Ufe of known Remedies to make feveral, whether real or reputed Incurables, pais their Lives with more eafe and fatisfaction than they would enjoy without, them: Nay, by well adapted Regimen and Remedies, 'tis poffible not only to palliate, but to change a flubborn Diftemper, fo that it may juftly pais for a degree of Cure, or really become a partial one. But when a Cafe is peremptorily adjudg'd abfolutely Incurable, the Patient is ufually difpirited, and with difficulty brought to follow those Rules which wou'd produce this Effect. For which reason the Sentence of Incurable, be the Cafe what it will, shou'd never be pass'd with Rigour.

There

E

[16]

There is another thing still behind, and I am glad to find it infisted upon by, no lefs a Perfon than that Ornament to our Nation, the great Lord Bacon, whom I have already had occasion to mention ; not only because I know it is neceffary for the Author of any Doctrine which carries the Air of Novelty, to produce his Voucher ; but because the Thing it felf feems fomewhat contrary to the general Practice of Phyficians, and the Senfe of some People. 'Tis concerning the proper Means to render Death eafy, or lefs irkfom, when its approach can no longer be put off or delay'd by the Use of Remedies : Concerning which, our great Author expresses himself in this manner. 2 " Etiam plane censeo ad officium " Medici pertinere, non tantum ut fanitatem reftituat, verum etiam ut " dolores & cruciatus Morborum mitiget : Neque id ipfum folummodo, " cum illa mitigatio Doloris, veluti Symptomatis periculofi, ad convale-" scentiam faciat & conducat, imo vero cum abjecta prorsus omni sanita-" tis spe, Excession tantum præbeat è vita magis lenem & placidum. Si-" quidem non parva est felicitatis pars, (quam sibi tantopere precari sole-" bat Augustus Cæsar) illa Euthanasia. ---- At nostris temporibus Medicis " quasi Religio est, ægrotis postquam deplorati sint assidere, ubi si officio " fuo, atque adeo humanitati ipfi deeffe nolint, & artem edifcere, & diligen-" tiam præftare deberent, quâ animam agentes, facilius & mitius è vita de-" migrent. Hanc autem partem, inquisitionem de Euthanasia exteriori " -----inter Desiderata reponimus." de Aug. Scient. L. IV. C. 2. p. 311. And accordingly his Lordship fets down as a Desideratum, A Method to caufe a Compositive in dying, and does not appear to disapprove even of that course which Epicurus took to obtain this end, which was by intoxicating himfelf.

---- Hinc Stygias ebrius haufit Aquas.

• " I am clearly of Cpinion, That 'tis the Duty of a Phyfician to mitigate the Pain and Torture of a "Difeafe, as well as to reftore Health; and this not only when fuch a Mitigation tends to a Recovery, as " it is the removal of a dangerous Symptom, but alfo when there being no farther Hopes of a Recovery, " it can only ferve to make the Paffage out of Life more calm and easy. For that Complacency in Death, " which *Augufuss* fo much defired, is no fmall Happinefs.----But 'tis a point of Confcience with the " Phyficians of our Days, to fit by the Sick after they have given them over; when in my Opinion, if " they wou'd do an Office of Humanity in their own Profession, they ought to be gaining Skill in their " Art, whilf they endeavoured to make the dying Perfon depart with more Ease and Tranquillity".

LINCEC

Bur

[17]

But tho' the Phyficians of our Time are acquainted with better ways than this, to caufe fuch a Composure, yet I don't know how it happens that few are careful to put them in Practice; unless it be for fear of bringing Death the fooner upon the Patient, inftead of rendring the paffage out of Life more easy. For I believe there are not many who apprehend fuch a Procedure to be unnatural, and who would chufe to feel that Pain and Torture which fome weak Minds may fancy Nature intended they shou'd; and so be willing to dye by the regular workings of Providence, rather than be thrown out of the ordinary way by human Art. 'Tis therefore methinks a proper enquiry, by what means this composure in Death may be obtain'd, and whether it cou'd not be effected by a Remedy which should rather promote than prevent a Recovery. And fince there may be frequent occasions for such an Affistant; fince it would be inhuman to deny it, when requested; and fince the Art in it felf is doubtles very defirable, and highly beneficial, 'tis pity that any opportunity of improving it should be neglected.



An

[18]

KANKANKANKANKANKANKA

An Attempt to settle a just Notion of Incurable in Physic.

N 201 201 201 201 201 201 20

怨 於 怨 於 怨 於

NO proper meaning being generally convey'd by the word Incurable, 'tis neceffary to appropriate one to fo important a Term.

That the bad tendency of a Diftemper, from its first Existence to its latest continuance in the Body, cannot in the least be prevented; or that, after a stated Period, the cure of a case can by human Means, be advanced no farther, is what this Term in propriety of Speech shou'd constantly signify.

But, a loofe and abufive Senfe of the Word has fo univerfally obtain'd, and is fo apt on feveral occasions to be run into, that 'twill be difficult to make it always carry this more reftrain'd and correct Signification. Nor is it an eafy matter in some Cases, to obtain such a diffinct and positive Idea as ought to be rais'd by this Sound, when we talk of Difeafes in a Philofophical manner; which perhaps is one reafon why fo many Diftempers commonly pais under this Denomination; and that when a certain form of Remedies has for a determin'd space of Time, been used without the defired Effect, the cafe is merely upon this account pronounc'd Incurable. But 'tis apparent that there may happen a wide difference between a real and fuch a reputed incurable Diftemper; fince to conflitute the former, tis neceffary that it will utterly elude the force of what the most perfect Physicians can rationally prefcribe for its Cure; when to make the latter, 'tis enough that it has eluded the Prescriptions of one or two Practitioners. To con. firm a Difease really Incurable, the utmost powers of Remedies must prove R inef-

[19]

ineffectual: To caufe it to pass for Incurable, that it has baffled the fashionable Practice will suffice. Some Reason drawn from the Nature of the Thing, is requisite to shew a Case to be absolutely Incurable; to denominate a Patient so, a groundless Conjecture will ferve.

'Tis likewife evident, that reputed Incurable may chance, at the fame time, to prove real incurable Difeafes; fo that to introduce a more accurate Diffinction, and to fhew the true difference betwixt them, is of great Importance.

'Tis not neceffary however, in an Effay which rather propofes what ought to be done, before we make fo free with a Term, upon whofe ufe the Lives and Health of Mankind depend, than undertakes to do it; 'tis not neceffary, I fay, in fuch an Effay as this, to defcend fo far as to inquire what Life and Health are, what their Caufes and Effects, wherein they confift, by what various Means, and how far they may be impair'd or diminifh'd before Death neceffarily enfues; all which it wou'd be abfolutely requifite to know in the refpective Diftempers, if we were willing to fee whether any, and which of the Catalogue of Difcafes are in their own Nature abfolutely, and in every Stage properly Incurable; or if we would fix the Point in other Cafes, to which when Difeafes arrive, they will never admit of farther Alleviation. Thefe Things are here fuppos'd to be in great measure known already, altho' they highly deferve the moft exact and careful Inquiry.

But not to let this weighty Matter pafs intircly unregarded, it flou'd be obferved, that if a Diffemper be abfolutely Incurable, the reafon why it is fo, muft arife either from the Nature of the Diforder, or the natural Imperfection of Medicine; and confequently where the Properties and immediate Caufe of a Difeafe are well known, and yet from them no Reafon can be deduced to manifeft the cafe Incurable; that it paffes for fuch, ought to be attributed to the natural Imperfection of the Art of Healing. But the Art of Healing cannot be faid to be naturally Imperfect, till its utmoft extent be known, that is, till the animal OE conomy, and the immediate Caufes of its Diforders are throughly underftood, and the utmoft Powers of the known Remedies have been fully obtain'd; if not alfo, till all the dif-F

interty.

17 4

[20]

coverable ones have after the beft Manner been experienc'd. Now if all these Advantages have not been acquir'd in our Days, as no confiderate Person will fay they have, it follows, that no Distemper can properly by us be called Incurable, but where some evident Cause of its being so, appears from the Nature of the Thing it felf. For unless this Cause be manifest, to pretend a Disease is not to be alleviated in any of its Stages, or that a Cure can be carry'd no farther, when we don't know why, is a bold Guess; and to pronounce the Case Incurable, even after we have done our utmost, will mean no more than that the Remedies hitherto used in it, have fail'd of the desir'd Effect. But wou'd not such a Censure be equally Ridiculous, as to fay, ten or an hundred unsuccessful Experiments have been made to transmute Metals, and therefore their Transmutation is undiscoverable? Here then is a Foundation for a just Distinction between real and reputed incurable Discases.

Thus we see in Chirurgery, those Wounds are properly adjudg'd Mortal. or Incurable, which happen in fuch Parts of the Body whofe Union was of absolute necessity to the continuance of Life; as for Example, a transverse Section of the Larynx, which intirely stops Respiration; a difunion of the Cerebellum, which prevents the Influx of the Fluid there fecreted into the Heart ; Or. These and the like Cases are justly deem'd Incurable, from the very Instant when the Wounds were first inflicted ; because here the vital Functions are evidently destroyed, without any opportunity being allow'd for the Use of Remedies. This is the most determin'd and genuine Sense of the Word, and therefore the Use of it in other Cases ought to be judg'd of, by its Approach to, or Receis from this original Meaning. And accordingly where the Fatality of Wounds is lefs fudden, and lefs certain, as in Obstructions of the animal Faculties, suppose by a transverse Section of the OE sophagus, the Term Incurable cannot with equal Certainty be apply'd at the Inftant the Wound was receiv'd, because there may be other Ways contriv'd of conveying Nutriment to the Body, befides by the Mouth ; and in the mean Time, Opportunities may be afforded, of applying the proper Remedies. But if the Body could be supply'd with Nutriment only by the Mouth, and there

there were no Opportunities allow'd for the Use of Means for Recovery, then fuch a Cafe might, with equal Certainty, be pronounc'd Incurable, or mortal, as one of the former Kind; though the Prediction would not be fo foon fulfilled. In all fuch Cafes as thefe, 'tis evident when and why the Term incurable is applicable, which is always governed by the Nature of the Thing, and the Opportunities there are for the Use of Remedies, or else by the natural Imperfection of the Art of Chirurgery : Whereas on the contrary, in feveral Difeafes, both Acute and Chronic, this Term is apply'd, where no fuch Reafons appear. Thus when certain equivocal Symptoms come on in acute Diftempers, without having any Regard to the immediate or material Caufé of the Diforders of the animal OEconomy; they confift in without fo much as any politive Idea in our Minds, obtain'd from reflecting on the Nature of the Diftemper ; and without confidering the State of the Art of Healing, we at prefent make no Scruple to adjudge them mortal, or Incurable, though neither the vital, natural, or animal Faculties are wanting. Thus for Inftance, we proceed in the Plague, malignant Fever, Goal-Diftemper, and the confluent Species of the Small-Pox, &c. when perhaps if the Matter were carefully examin'd into, fuch Difeafes ought never to be call'd Incurable, till they arrive at the very Point of Death. But if there be any Reason to suspend this final Judgment in acute Cafes, is there not vaftly more to be cautious, how we pass fuch a Censure in chronic Diseases, where no Opportunities are wanting to make the neceffary Inquiries to find out the Caufe, and to apply the proper Remedies? And what reason can possibly be affigned, that the refpective Specificks for the Gout and Stone, shall never be difcover'd; or that no means can be contriv'd to alleviate the Pain of those Diseases, farther than is effected by the present Practice? Who can pretend, that an Antidote for the Bite of a mad Dog is undifcoverable, when he confiders we are Mafters of the Specifick for that of the Viper? But to call thefe, and feveral other Difeafes Incurable, is the Way to make them fo, as being apt to put a Stop to farther Inquiries into the Nature of them, and retard the Difcovery of any Thing that has

has a Relation to their Cure. At leaft then, let no one pretend to call any Cafe Incurable, till he is well acquainted with the Subject of Difeafes; till he knows their true and immediate Caufe, and the utmost Virtues of the feveral Remedies we are at prefent posses'd of.

An animated human Body, we are certain, is a pure mechanical Structure, wholly compos'd of Solids and Fluids; and confequently the immediate Caufe of every bodily Difeafe, can be only Matter and Motion.

The utmost Virtues of Remedies cannot be known, till the Remedies have been most artificially prepar'd and combin'd, most feafonably and properly apply'd, exhibited in the most just Quantity, at the most proper Intervals, and laftly, continu'd in exact Proportion to the Demand of the Diftemper. All which Requifites, there is little Reafon to believe, have been hitherto firicily observ'd in their Exhibition. And befides the Improvement which may be made in the prefent Set of Remedies, 'tis not to be doubted, as was before obferv'd, that many others, of equal Virtue, may be discover'd by proper Application; upon all which Accounts, it were greatly to be with'd, that Phyficians would never apply the Term Incurable to any Cafes, but fuch alone where that Matter and Motion are wanting, which Life, even in its loweft and weakeft State requires, or when all means, by which they used to be fupply'd, are intirely cut off. For if a Diftemper be curable only in Part, 'tis improperly call'd incurable, till that partial Cure, can by human Means, be carry'd no farther.

We daily obferve fo many unexpected and furprizing Turns in the Diforders of a human Body; Nature here acts by fo many fecret Springs, and makes fo many unforefeen Sallies and Excurfions, as if the took Delight to mock our Toil, baffle our beft concerted Meafures, and reverfe our beft form'd Judgments, that it is prefumptuous, where the Cafe is not manifeft, to pretend to fix and determine the Point fhe fhall juft come up to, and not exceed; to fay, hitherto fhalt thou come, and no farther; here the Difeafe is Incurable, and here the Art of Healing fails. No one lefs than an abfolute Mafter of this Art, will will furely ever go fo far. If indeed we could always obtain from an exact obfervation of the Properties of Difeafes, their true and immediate Caufes, and had a previous Knowledge of the utmost Effects, the best adapted Regimen and Remedies would have upon them, then we might prefume to determine what Cafes either were, or were not incurable, by the prefent known Remedies; and no one, without this Qualification, can pass a valid Judgment. Let us then endeavour to increase our Knowledge of Distempers and Remedies, by all possible Means, and not venture to pronounce the Sentence of incurable upon Difeafes, at least till we have acquir'd fuch a Definition of them, as will bring us acquainted with their real Caufes; and till we are Mafters of the best Way of managing and improving the Remedies we enjoy.

To difcover whether a reputed incurable be alfo a real incurable Diftemper, I apprehend the best Course to be taken, is first to set down the feveral Properties of every Cafe diffinctly; next, to draw as many Confequences from these Properties, as may give Light into the Nature of the Cafe, and affift in difcovering its immediate Caufe : And when this is obtain'd, we are naturally directed to fearch for the Remedy; fo that at length, by this Method of Proceeding, we shall fee how far our present Stock of Remedies will reach, after they have been duly improv'd; and what we are farther directed to feek for, to advance the Art of Healing to a greater Perfection. To ufher in this Method, I will here fet down a few fhort Examples, by way of Specimen, of what may be expected from it, upon a proper application. The Cafes I shall chuse to instance in, are reputed Incurable, either from their first appearance, to their ultimate Stage, or after a fet Time ; the Sequel will fhew whether they really deferve the Appellation of incurable, or ought to be refcu'd, and fet free from the tyrannical Imposition of a misemploy'd Term.

Ģ

A

[24]

A Specimen of a rational Method, to difcover the Cures of reputed Incurable Difeafes.

Of MADNESS.

1. THERE are two Species of this Diftemper, viz. Melancholia and Mania.

2. The Properties of the Melancholia are; to proceed from fome Diforder in the Mind.

3. To be preceded by Anxiety, Want of Sleep, intense Thought, frequent Anger, or any violent Passion; profuse Venery, Pain in the Head, Suppression of the natural Evacuations, burning and lasting Fevers, violent Exercise long continu'd, hot and dry Weather.

4. To manifeft it felf by Fear and Sadnefs, and the Colour of the Skin, which grows pale, yellow, brown, livid; by Spots of the fame Colour, a flow Pulfe, hard Refpiration, Secretion and Excretion leffen'd, Lofs of Appetite, Lofs of Flefh, Love of Solitude, lafting Paffions, Fixednefs on fome Thought, a Preflure, Coarctation or Repletion about the Vifcera or Hypochondria.

5. When 'tis of long continuance, it causes the Apoplexy, Epilepsy, Mania, Convulsions, &c.

6. The

6. 'Tis fometimes naturally cured by a cuticular Eruption, large Varices, great Swelling and confequent Flux of the Hæmorrhoids, and an Excretion black Bile by the Mouth or Anus.

[25]

7. The Properties of the Mania are generally the same, but differ in a few Particulars; for Instance,

8. Boldness and Anger here attend instead of Fear and Sadness in the former.

9. Immenfe mufcular Strength.

10. Very great Watchfulnefs.

11.A furprizing Endurance of Cold and Hunger.

12. Most dreadful and outragious Ideas.

13. All Secretions in a manner ftopt.

14. Anatomy fhews in both Species, that the Brain and its Meninges are dry, hard and crifp; its Cortex yellow, and that its Veffels abound in Varices, and are diffended with a black viscid Gore.

15. The Mania, after an obstinate refistance of the common Practice, has been cured by spontaneous Varices or Hæmorrhoids, by a Dropsy, Dysentery, a tertian or quartan Ague, and large Hæmorrhages.

16. Does it not follow, that the immediate Caufe of both Species is an Evaporation of the more fubtile Parts of the Fluids? 1. 2. 3. 7. 10. 13. 14.

17. That the Mania differs from the Hypochondria only in degree, 4. 5.6.14.15. Since they both have the fame Caufes, and exhibit the fame Appearance upon Diffection ?

18. That this Difeafe unjuftly passes for incurable 6. 15. even altho' a Year or two may have been unfuccessfully spent in attempting its Cure?

19. And laftly, that the Specific wanting in both Species, is fuch a Remedy, as will prevent this Evaporation 16. which remains to be difcover'd by proper Experiments.

20. In the mean time, perhaps no known Remedy will more forcibly contract the Pores, and prevent this Evaporation, than the Cold Bath, when used fo as to exert its proper force,

21. Now

21. Now the Cold Bath can only act upon the Body by its Gravity or Preflure, the Infinuation of the Parts whereof it is compos'd, and its Coldnefs; but its Gravity or Preflure will be proportionably increased by a deepcr Immersion, and this will confequently render the Infinuation of the Water proportionably greater. Its Coldness also may be immensely increas'd by the addition of Sal Armoniac, &c. Here therefore is a Remedy of an unlimited Force, which seems to be exceedingly well adapted to the Cure of this Difease: And accordingly, 'tis found in Fact to answer, the best of any known Remedy in this Distemper, tho' made use of under very great Disadvantages.

14. Anatomy frews in both Species, that the Bain and its Meninges

rs. The Mania, after an obfligate refifiquee of the costurion Pradice, has

zo. In themican finness peakaps no known Remedy will more forcibly

contract the Pores, and prevent this Evaporation, than the Cold Bath, when

bie 6, 1 5, even altho a

WON .12 Country

are dry, hard and, crifp; its Cortex yellow, and that its Veffels abound

in series avert in night total.

nfed fo as to exert its proper force,

12. Moß dreadful and ourragious Ideas.

in Varices and the diffended with a black vited Core.

13. All Scoreftons in a manner flopt.

[27]

Of the Rabies Canina, or Hydrophobia, confequent upon the Bite of a mad-Dog.

HE Properties of this Difease are as follow.

I. 'Tis fpontaneous in many Animals, especially in Dogs, Foxes, and Wolves, which communicate it not only to one another, but to Men, by Contagion.

2. The flightest Bite of an Animal thus infected is often fatal, as it is also to touch their Saliva with the Tongue, or to handle such Instruments much, as have been used about them.

3. The Contagion in a human Body, manifests itself at various Intervals in various Subjects; in some it will lurk for several Years.

4. The Place where the Bite happen'd first becomes painful, the Pain fpreads to the adjacent Parts, a Weariness and Heaviness is selt in the Flesh, the Sleep is broken, discompos'd, frightful, and attended with Convulsions. The Patient is uneasy when awake, he fighs, is fad, and feeks Solitude. These Symptoms gradually increase, and a Difficulty of Respiration comes on, which is now frequently interrupted with Sighs; an unufual Dread and Terror upon beholding any Liquid, loss of Appetite; to taste any Liquor causes very great Anxiety, Tremors and Convulsions; vomiting of a viscid bilious or green Matter, Heat, Fever, Watching, Priapismus, strange disorderly Ideas. The Tongue is dry, and extended out of the Mouth, there is a Hoarfeness and very great Drought; the Patient at length now becomes outragious upon attemp-

ting

ting to drink; he endeavours to bite whoever he meets with; he foams at the Mouth, and gnafhes with his Teeth; a cold Sweat comes on; he grows most outragiously mad, and, with the utmost Difficulty of Respiration, dies convulsive.

5. From Diffection it appears, That the Organs of Deglutition are inflam'd, that a vifcid bilious matter is lodg'd in the Stomach, that the Gall-Bladder is full of black Bile, that the Pericardium is dry, that the Lungs are greatly overcharg'd with Blood, that the Arteries are full of a very liquid Blood, but the Veins empty. 'Tis remarkable, that this Blood will fcarce coagulate, when extravafated and expofed to the Air. All the Mufcles, Vifcera, Brain, and Spinal Marrow appear too dry.

6. Is not therefore the immediate Caufe of this Difeafe a fubtile
Poifon in the Fluids, whofe Specific Antidote is unknown to us?
7. And till this Antidote can be found, is it not clear, that all manner of Evacuations, effectially Phlebotomy or rather Arteriotomy, are to be u-

fed in every Stage of the Difeafe ; and all other Measures to be pursu'd, which tend to introduce new Fluids, in the Room of the contaminated Set ; or at least to discharge so much of the Virus, as to lessen its pernicious Consequences?

8. The Effects of this Virus in the Body, being fo very dreadful and fatal, may juftify the Ufe even of fevere and hazardous Means to prevent 'em, fo that at leaft Phlebotomy *ad Animi Deliquium ufq*; may be occafionally repeated; not only upon that Account, but alto by reafon of the very great Inflammation that attends it. And becaufe Fear is known to have been ferviceable in this Cafe; may it not be very proper to contrive fome extraordinary Ways to raife this Paffion to a very great Degree, if not before Immerfion in the cold Bath, at leaft by means thereof, being us'd in almost its utmost force?

more and Convulsions; vomiting of a viscid bilious or green Matter, Hent, Fever, Warching; Priapitinus, firange diforderly ideas. The Tongue is dry, and extended out of the Mouth, there is a Hoarfenck and very queat Drought; the Patient at length now becomes outragious upon attemp-1

[29]

Of the Palfy.

HERE are three Species of this Difeafe. I. Where Motion alone is wanting. 2. Where Senfation alone is wanting. 3. Where both Motion and Senfation are wanting.

2. 'Tis often preceded by the Apoplexy, Epilepfy, or Convulsions, a Retention of the natural Evacuations, a Translation of the Matter of an acute or chronic Disease; Wounds, Contusions, Luxations, Comprefsions, Erosions, &c. intense Cold or Heat, too free an Use of hot Water, Exhalations of poisonous Minerals admitted into the Body.

 The paralytic Parts grow cold, foft, flaccid and wafte gradually.
 'Tis often critically cur'd, or by the Force of Nature, either by a fpontaneous and lafting Diarrhæa, a Fever, an infenfible Diffipation of the morbific Caufe, or laftly, by a convulsive Motion of the Part.

5. From hence it follows, that the immediate Caufe of the Palfy is a Want of the Influx of the Blood, or nervous Fluid, or both, into the Part, 1, 2, 3.

6. That the Parts lofe their natural Elafticity. 2, 3.

7. That when both the nervous and arterial Fluid is wanting to the Part, and the Canals are deprived of their natural Elasticity, the Cafe is most inveterate.

8. That its Caufe may be either external or internal. 2.

9. That the Want of the nervous and arterial Fluid, is either owing to a Fault in their respective Canals, or to the Fluids themselves. 2.

10. That

[30]

10. That it may be cured either by a Specific or an Evacuant, 4. and confequently is not juftly reputed incurable.

11. That the Cure depends upon removing the Obstruction to the Influx of the Fluids, and deriving them in their natural State, into their respective Canals.

12. That the Cure must be adapted to the Cause.

13. Supposing then, both Canals and Fluids to be affected; the Canals to have become cold and flaccid, and the Fluids groß and tenacious; 'tis plain, that a powerful Diffolvent, which at the fame time that it liquifies and purifies the Blood, promotes a free Circulation in the diforder'd Parts, and reftores the Elasticity to the Canals, will prove a Specific in this Cafe: And why the Cortex Peruvianus, when rais'd to its utmost or proportionable Power, may not prove this Specific, perhaps nothing but the proper Experiments will shew.

14. The very great Effects of a due Use of the Cortex, not only in intermitting Fevers, but in many other Diforders, both of the Solids and Fluids, are too well known to stand in need of a particular Enumeration; and this Medicament is now so universally allow'd to be fase as well as efficacious, when properly apply'd, that I know of no Objection that can lie against the Use of it in the Palfy. Those who think it not of Force sufficient in such an obstinate Diffemper as this, when, after some Months have to no Purpose been spent upon it, 'tis reputed Incurable, will please to confider its surprizing Effects on the Solids and Fluids in a rebellious Quartan Ague, in what very large Doses 'tis capable of being exhibited, and how much a prudent Mixture of Sal Abstinth: $\dot{Crc.}$ will add to its Virtue; especially if so grand a Remedy as the cold Bath, when duly improv'd, may be call'd in to its Afflistance, as in the Diffemper we are speaking of, it frequently may.

10 ⁸. That its Caule may be either external or internal. ². **10** . That the Want of the nervous and arterial Eluid, is either owing to a Fault in their respective Canals, or to the Fluids fitems lives. ².

Part, and the Canals are depriv'd of their natural Elafficity, the Cafe

is molt inverente.

[31]

ine Victue from any known

e necellary attendants

CHADION

moment, and scitainly deferves to be well

DATA TA TA TA SAL SAL TA TA TA TA KENKENKENKENKENKENKEN

Of the Lues Venerea.

I. THEN this Disease is hereditary, or become universal, it ap-V pears under various Forms, but may be diftinguish'd by these Properties.

It generally begins with an Itching, Heat, and Inflammation in fome Part of the Body. Whitish Pustules appear, which drying, scale off, and leave a Cavity; or elfe break, grow deep, afford a yellow Mucus, or corrofive Sanies, and form Ulcers incurable by common Medicines. These afterwards increase in Number both externally and internally, The inguinal Glands fwell, collect Matter, break of themfelves, and discharge. Shankers, Verrucæ, Porri, Mariscæ, Condylomata, Caruncles, Strangury, Erofion of the Urethra, and Parts adjacent. Stiffnefs in the Joints, and Pain of the Limbs. Erofion of the Cartilages. The Bones grow carious, and rife in flubborn Apoftems, corrupting the adjacent Parts. The Vifcera mortify, and the Flesh corrupts.

2. This Diftemper is found to be communicated by Lactation, Sweat, Saliva, and Exhalation.

3. From hence, it's Caufe is a corrofive Taint admitted into the Body, which gradually affimilates the Fluids to it felf, corrupts the Solids, and becomes contagious by a Communication of the Fluids.

4. The Specific wanting here is therefore fuch an one as will deftroy the force of this Corrolive, or put a ftop to the Contagion in the animal Fluids; which there is an opportunity of difcovering by the proper Experiments. buagab ten toob true and halt stagge booth i son s. In

5. In the mean time, if we expect this fpecific Virtue from any known Medicament, 'tis neceffary it flou'd be ufed as a Specific, that is, by fuffering it to be detain'd in the Body as long as poffible, to let it have it's utmost Effects upon the Solids and Fluids: And who can fay that Mercury, thus properly manag'd, will not have fuch a specific Virtue?

[32]

This is a matter of no fmall moment, and certainly deferves to be well examin'd; for if this reafoning will hold good, it follows, that much Pain and Fatigue, very great Danger and Loathfomnefs, the neceffary attendants of a Salivation, are often undergone to no purpofe, or elfe to a bad one; whilft fuch a hazardous Method frequently failing to Cure the Difeafe, occasions it afterwards to pass for Incurable. In which Cafe, this specific Use of Mercury, may bid very fair for a Cure.

There is but one Objection, that I know of, can be made against this way of turning Mercury into a Specific, for the Cure of the Lues Venerea, viz. That the Venereal Taint or Virus, being plentifully evacuated by Salivation, as appears from the quantity and stench of the Saliva, a contrary way of proceeding will have a contrary Effect, and confequently detain and lock up the Virus in the Body.

That fome Portion of the Venereal Taint is evacuated with the Saliva in a Salivation, cannot be deny'd, any more than that fome is likewife evacuated with the Urine, and other Excretions, fince in both Cafes the Virus will evidently manifest it felf by propagating the Contagion. 2. But that it is more plentifully evacuated by the Salivary Glands in the former Cafe, than it wou'd be by the Renal in the latter, were proper Diurcticks exhibited, may be justly question'd, if the saliva evacuated in the Salivation of a Person who is entirely free from any Venereal Taint, is equally fetid with that of a Venereal Patient.

Again, fucceffive Salivations have been oftentimes regularly rais'd, and prudently carried on, fo as to caule a very plentiful Excretion of fetid Saliva; but notwithftanding this, the Lues has been left uncured: from whence it shou'd appear that the Cure does not depend upon an evacuation cuation of fetid Saliva. Nor will this perhaps admit of a doubt, if it be remember'd that many, on the contrary, have been cured of the Lues, by Mercury, who cou'd never be brought to Salivate at all; and that others, whom upon account of fome Difeafe of the Breaft, or the like, it has not been thought prudent to venture under fo dangerous a Flux by the Mouth, have happily recover'd by this specific Use of the fame.

And agreeable to this Doctrine is that Practice of the best Physicians, who even after the most profuse Flux by the Mouth, either exhibit proper Doses of Mercury, during the space of several weeks after the Salivation is drop'd, without any Design to bring it on again; or else put the Patient into a Course of specific Diet-Drink; as well knowing that unless somewhat of this kind be done, the Patient is not secure, but runs the hazard of a relapse.

'Tis evident that Mercury exhibited fo as to Purge or Salivate, cannot exert its full Force upon the Body; becaufe by those very Excretions it is soon thrown out, as appears, in that it may be reviv'd from the Excrements and reinstated in Possessien of its former Properties: If therefore we wou'd obtain the utmost Effects of this grand Medicament, ought it not by a prudent management to be detain'd, in a large quantity, as long as possible in the Body? This Method alone, methinks, can determine whether Mercury will prove a true Specific for the Lues Venerea.

Moreover, fuch an Ufe of Mercury is not only directed by the nature of the Difeafe, but by the fimilar Effects of other Remedies. The Lues Venerea is a very flubborn and obftinate Diftemper, and where it once feifes, is with great difficulty removed; it feems ftrongly to adhere to the body, or rather it entangles it felf fo as to become one with it, as appears particularly by its lafting Effects after a partial Cure; (for Mercury as 'tis generally exhibited, only palliates, but feldom eradicates this Difeafe, as is well known to the more curious obfervers:) ought not then the Remedy alfo to be entangled and united with the Body, in order to exert its full Force, and be upon equal Terms with its Adverfary? Thus we fee every Day when the Cortex Cortex, exhibited in an Intermittent, is evacuated by Stool, 'tis of no Effect towards curing the Difeafe, tho' administred in a very large Quantity ; but stop this Evacuation, let the Medicine remain in the Body, circulate with the Fluids, and exert it's full Force, it becomes a very different and vastly more powerful Remedy than before, and justly deferves to be call'd a Specific.

who even after the moth-profule Elux by the Mouth, either exhibit proper Dofes of Mercury, during the space of several weeks after the Slivation is drop'd, without any Delign to bring it on again; or elle put the Patient into a Courfe of specific Diet-Drink; as well knowing that unless somewhat of this kind be done, the Patient is not fecure, but runs the hazard of a rejapte.

Q as to Purge or Salivate, cannot ex-T is svident that Mercury exh ert its full Force upon the by those very Excretions it is foot Wi'd from the Excrements and thrown out, as app If therefore we would ought it not by a obtain the utra Den whether Metprudens mana in the Body F cocrea. I any think bas curry will prove a dr Moreover, fuch an s not only directed by the na-

ture of the Dileate, but b with the head of other Remedies. The Lues Veneral is a very fubborn and officate Diffemper, and where it once feifest is with great difficulty removed ; it feams frongly to adhere to the body, or rather it catangles it felf fo as to become one with it, as appears particularly by its lafting Effects after a partial Care; (for Mercury as its generally erhibited, only palliates, but feldom cradicates this Difeafe, as is well known to the more emious observers:) ought 'not then the Remedy alfo to be entangled and united with the Body, in order to exert its full Force, and be upon court of the body, in order to exert its full Force, and be upon [35]

of the Gout.

and confequently the

1. THE chief Properties of the Gout are, to return generally in the Spring and Autumn. 2. Seldom to affect any but Men of a grofs and corpulent Habit. 3. To fucceed high Living, hard Study, violent Exercife, the free Use of Acids, and taking Cold on the Feet.

2. A Fit is usually preceeded by Crudity, or rawness felt in the Stomach, heaviness, Costiveness, a stoppage of Sweat in the Feet, and by Varices.

3. When regular, it feizes the internal Parts of the Foot, its Periofteum, Nerves, Membranes, Ligaments, and Tendons about the Joynts: And when irregular, that is, when it moves about or difperfes it felf, it always falls on the like membranous and nervous Parts.

4. A Fit comes on with a tenfive, burning, gnawing Pain, which in creafes gradually to it's height, then decreafes, as the Part grows moift, red, and tumid.

5. The Pain goes off in a Diaphorefis, leaving an Itching behind it.

6. It scales the Part, or burfting the Vessels, throws off a solid cretaceous Matter.

7. 'Tis more violent, as the Swelling is lefs, and vice verfa.

8. The more severe the Fit, the greater the Interval of its return, and vice versa.

9. Does it not follow that the immediate Caufe of the Gout, both in its knotty and fmooth Species, is a cretaceous Matter lodg'd in fome nervous and membranous Part? For a Fit never ceafes 'till this Matter is thrown off in the former Species, and to suppose a like Expulsion in the latter, tho' made in a less sensible manner, fairly and naturally accounts for the other

[36]

Phænomena, which are the fame in both. It fhould follow therefore; that these two Cases differ only as the Cause happens to be more or less perspirable, 3. 4. 5.6.

10. Does not the Caufe of this Difeafe lurk in the Body in the Abfence of a Fit? 1. 7. 8. If the Gout be ever properly hereditary, this is ftill more evident.

11. It appears that this Caufe is deposited upon various Parts by the Fluids; 2. For the Solids never exchange Places; and confequently the Fluids alone, in the Absence of a Fit, are the Seat or Vehicle of this Caufe.

12. This Caufe upon many Occasions 1. is apt to stagnate, or be depofited in the smallest Canals, and such as are most remote from the Brain and Heart, where the Circulation is languid, and the Parts are naturally prefied, contracted and less yielding, 3.

13. This Matter is corrofive 4. 6.

Phase

14. As the Vessels are more stiff and rigid, 12. and the Matter more corrosive and tenacious, 11. 13. the Discase will be more severe.

15. Both the Solids and Fluids being concerned in the Fit, the Cure ought at that Time to regard them both: But in the Absence of a Fit, the Cure need only regard the Alteration of the Fluids 11.

16. The Cure then in the Absence of a Fit, is to be effected, either by a proper Dissolvent of a cretaceous Matter in the Fluids, or by proper Evacuation.

17. Till the Specific can be found for this Cafe, perhaps Evacuations might be contriv'd, to carry off the Semina of the Difeafe, during that large Interval (1.) which is ufually interpos'd between two Fits; and by that Means a new Set of Fluids be procur'd, and a proper Regimen and Remedies ufed to prevent the future Generation of this Caufe. For if the Caufe of the Difeafe, in the Abfence of the Fit, exits in the Fluids, 11. and be equally difperfed in them, as there appears Reafon, from the fuppos'd, prefent State of Health, to believe; 'tis certain, that an Evacuation of Blood, at a large Orifice, would leffen the Quantity of

sidt' made in a lefs fensible manner,fairly and naturally accounts for the other

this Caufe in the Body : and could not Phlebotomy be fo manag'd, as to detract as much of it as would otherwife be thrown out by the enfuing Fit; and if fo, would not this prevent a Fit as effectually as the having undergone one? In the absence of the Fit, the Body is sound, and the Effects of moderate Phlebotomy on a found Body, we know are to leffen the Quantity of the Blood, and rarify the remaining Part; to take off from the Refiftance of the Fluids, allow a more free Contraction of the Canals, and a Recovery of their Elasticity; to diffolve Coagulations, to open Obstructions, and promote a free Circulation; and laftly, to forward both Secretions and Excretions, and to allow of a Renovation of the Fluids or Mafs of Blood. Now there are none of thefe Effects, taken separately or conjointly, but seem of themselves to have a direct Tendency to forward the Cure, provided the first Digestion can be well fecur'd, and Crudities in the others prevented; which greatly depending upon a prudent Choice of the Subject, and a proper Management during the Use of the Remedy, no greater Objections will perhaps lie against this Method, where a Perfon is willing to purfue it, than are to be produc'd against other approv'd and establish'd Forms of Procedure in other Difeafes.

Phlebotomy, after the manner propos'd, has never that I know of, been try'd by Way of Prevention or Cure of the Gout, though in the Rheumatifm, an acknowledg'd fimilar Cafe, it frequently has with very good Succeis; and is one of the beft known Methods of Cure, for that Diftemper. And the fame Operation, when perform'd in the common Manner, or ufed as an Affiftant in the Cure of the Gout, has fometimes been found of Service. But as this Cafe has feldom been preferib'd to by Phyficians of Judgment, it being always look'd upon as Incurable, or fuch a Difcafe as was render'd worfe by the Ufe of Phyfic, it has fallen almoft entirely to the Management of Empiricks, from whofe Practice I will not, in a Cafe of fo great Nicety, venture to draw a Conclufion.

As these few Examples are proposed by Way of Specimen, it must be observed, that it did not suit with the Nature of the Design, to enumerate

[38]

merate all the Properties and Phonomena of every Difeafe, under its respective Title, tho' there may perhaps be commonly enow from whence to deduce their immediate Caufe, and a fuitable Method of Cure. Nor are all the possible Advantages taken of what Properties are fet down, upon account of the defign'd Brevity of this Difcourfe. It ought not therefore to be attributed to neglect, that under Madnefs, no Notice was taken, of what Service a prudent Exhibition of the Cortex, Sal, Abfinth. &c. might be, during the Use of the particular Remedy, there recommended; nor any Mention made of the proper Ways of endeavouring to reduce the Mind to its natural State : Nor again how advantagious, deep Incifions, frequent Scarifications, ftrong Attractives, actual Cauteries, powerful Digeftives, sharp Corrosives, proper Lotions, &c. in the Bite of a mad-Dog : How useful strong stimulating Remedies in the Pally; or what better Methods than the common, there are of treating the inveterate or confirm'd Lues Venerea : Nor laftly, of what Service a Courfe of Relaxatives, Perspiratives, Sudorificks, Corroboratives, Stomachicks, or a Salivation in the Gout; or the most proper Method of treating that Difcafe during the Fit, though the Properties mention'd will lead to it.

Much less could it be expected, that the Diet, Regimen, and Medicines requisite, or useful in each Process, should be there insisted on, which would be to have swell'd a Volume upon each Distemper.

Thus then have I done what I at first props'd; which was only to offer at some probable Means to improve the Physical Practice with Regard to inveterate Cases, or such as are undefervedly stilled Incurable; in hopes, at the same Time, to wipe off some Part of that Reproach, which has fallen on the Art of Healing, through a Remissings to cultivate so necessary and beneficial a Part of it. I am sensible how little I have contributed to so great a Work, yet if this imperfect Sketch may happen to give Occasion to a due Prosecution of the Design, I shall not repent that I ventured to communicate so flender a Performance to the Public.

- nas of anyloc out to out F I N I S. a bib it that birthig od