

M0005145: Richard Lower's blood transfusion experiment, page from an account of 1666

Publication/Creation

14 April 1937

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/s8jymhxp>

License and attribution

Wellcome Library; GB.

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>

But because there are many circumstances necessary to be observed in performing this Expt., & if you may better direct any one to doe, w^out any danger of killing y^e Dog, it is to receive y^e others blood, I will mention two or three. First if you fasten y^e Dogs at such a convenient distance, that y^e veines, nor Artery be not stretched, for when being contracted, they will not admit, or convey soe much blood. 2^d That you constantly observe y^e pulse beyond y^e Quill in y^e Dogs ingular veine (w^h it requires from y^e impulse of y^e Arterious blood) for if it faile then tis a signe y^e quill is stopd by some congeald blood, soe if you must draw out y^e arterial quill from y^e other, & w^h a Probe open y^e passage againe in both of them soe y^e blood may have its free course againe. For this must be expected when y^e Dog y^e bleeds into y^e other hath lost much blood his heart will beat very faintly, & then y^e impulse of blood being weaker it will be apt to congeal y^e sooner, soe if at y^e better end of y^e worke, you must draw out y^e quill quill often & clear y^e passage. If y^e Dog be faint hearted as many are, though some stout fierce Dogs will bleed freely & uninterrupted till they are convulsd & dye. But to prevent this trouble I made y^e Expt. certaine you must bleed a great Dog into a little one, or a Mastive into a Curre, as I once tryd y^e little Dog bled out at least double y^e quantity of his owne blood, & left y^e mastive dead upon y^e table, w^h after he was untied he ran away & shakd himselfe, as if he had been only throwne into water. Or else you may get 3 or 4 severall Dogs prepared in y^e same manner, w^h when one begins to faile & leave off bleeding, administer another, & I am confident one Dog will receive all their blood (or perhaps more) as long as it runs freely, till they are left almost dead by turnes, provided if you let out y^e blood proportionably as you let it goe into y^e Dog y^e is to live. 3^d I suppose y^e Dog y^e is to bleed out into Dish will endure it y^e better, if y^e Dogs y^e are to be administrd to supply his blood be of near an equall Age & feed alike y^e day before, & both their bloods may be of a near strength & temper. There are many things wh^{ch} I have observd upon bleeding Dogs to death, w^h I have seene since your departure fro Oxford, of w^h I shall give you a relation in my next. In y^e meane time since you were pleasd to mention it to the Honorable Society, w^h a promise to give them an Act of this Expt. I could not but take y^e first opportunity to clear you from y^e obligation, & y^e more willingly I might expresse myselfe &c.