

M0005944: Medicina Curiosa (June 1684): treatment of the ear

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we content our selves to distill some drops on hot Bread which is held to the Ear ; it is even good to hold of these Liquors in the Mouth, because their spirituous Parts raise themselves, and ascend by the Aqueduct into the Ear, and it's for the same reason that we successfully use *Masticatories*.

It is easie enough to explain the action of these Remedies, since being all subtle and penetrating, they open the Ductus's of the Glands, and make way for the evacuation of the superfluous Serosity. I shall add to all this an observation which was communicated to me by *Monsieur Passerat*, very famous in Physick and Chyrurgery, concerning a young Lord betwixt eleven and twelve years of Age, to whom it often happen'd in the beginning of the Spring and Fall, that the Glands of the Passage swell'd so much that the Parts touch'd, and that it was impossible to get any thing in : at the beginning there was put into the Ear Oyl of *sweet Almonds* to appease the Pain, afterward Use was made of a Decoction of *Barley* and of *Agrimony*, which is detesive and desiccative, and by this means the Ear, after having cast forth, during three or four Months, a sort of purulent moisture, return'd to its natural state.

I come now to the Diseases of the film of the Drum, which are the Relaxation, the too great Tension, the Hardness, and the Rupture. The Relaxation comes from a superfluous moisture which imbues this Membrane, this Symptom usually accompanies that Obstruction of the Passage which is produc'd by the swelling of the Glands, whereof it has been spoken before ; and it contributes much to the hardness of the Hearing of Persons subject to catarrhus Fluxions ; it's for the same reason that South Winds, Mists, and rainy Seasons diminish the Hearing, as we find by daily Experience.