

M0010120: Final page of a letter from Richard Brocklesby to Martin Folkes, 1747

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

But as some Authors have said that Birds in particular are instantly deprived of life if the least particle of certain poisons are infused into the blood, I had a mind to try one experiment ^{with this only} & infused a few drops of our solution, into a cuticular wound of a small bird, this occasioned hanging of the feathers & a stupor in less than ten minutes & killed him in somewhat more than fifteen. I gave about two drams of Sugar to another bird of the same kind & ~~then~~ shortly afterwards pour'd a little of the solution into its mouth, but two drops had scarce touch'd his tongue before the creature was convuls'd & I could with difficulty lay him down before all motion was taken away.

I gave these two birds to two cats & whether from eating them or not I don't pretend to say, the cats made so uncommon a noise the whole night, that disturb'd the family's rest.

From these experiments we find that the supposed specifick is of no manner of use even when the poison is only taken at the mouth; & from them it may appear probable that our poison is nearly upon the same footing with white Arsenick in the cure of the tooth Ach.

Thus I^r having satisfied myself, I thought I could do no less ^{than} give you an account of the result of my trials, if they contain any thing that could afford you any pleasure, ten times the trouble I have taken would be amply repaid, but as the subject itself is far from the most entertaining & I'm conscious that others may have carry'd it on to much better purpose, so I have nothing to plead in excuse of this trouble farther than that I have the honor to be ⁱⁿ great respect
S^r

London Jan^{ry} 14th 1746/7

Your most Oblig'd & Humble Serv^t
Richard Brocklesby