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TREATISE  
OF THE  
DISEASES

Librum hunc cui Titulus, A Treatise of  
the Diseases most frequent in the West-  
Indies, and herein more particularly of  
those which occur in Barbadoes, dig-  
nissimum, qui Typis mandatum

Hans Sloane, Praefatus  
Joan. Hayes  
Tho. Wolfe  
W. Stuker  
Geo. Whiston }  
Gentes

Commissis Ordinibus, Editioni Collegii  
Novi Die, Januarii 1727.

Librum hunc, cui Titulus, *A Treatise of the Diseases most frequent in the West-Indies, and herein more particularly of those which occur in Barbadoes*, dignum censemus, qui Typis mandetur.

Hans Sloane, Præses.

Joan. Hawys,

Tho. West,

W<sup>s</sup>. Stukeley,

Geo. Wharton,

} Censores.

Comitiis Censoriis ex Ædibus Collegii  
nostri Dat. 6<sup>o</sup>. Januarij, 1725.



A  
TREATISE  
OF THE  
DISEASES

Most frequent in the

WEST-INDIES,

And herein more particularly of those which occur in

BARBADOES.

*By Richard Towne.*

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*Scribant alij, quibus ista mens est, miracula ex auditu: Ego, quod hisce oculis, & qualicumque meo judicio percepi, vobis spectandum propono. Jacobus Bontius.*

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LONDON,

Printed for JOHN CLARKE at the *Bible* under  
the *Royal Exchange*, Cornhil. M,DCC,XXVI.

A  
TREATISE  
OF THE  
DISEASES

Most frequent in the

WEST-INDIES

And their several Remedies of those which occur in

BARBADOS.

By J. CLARKE, M.D.

Barbados ubi quibuslibet moris est, miracula ex  
omni: Ergo, et sic oculis, & quibuslibet  
non indiget, sedis, quibuslibet, quibuslibet.  
Robus Bonis.



LONDON,  
Printed for JOHN CLARKE at the Globe under  
the Royal Exchange, Yearly, MDCCLXXV.

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TO THE

Honourable and Learned

*Sir Hans Sloane, Bart.*

PRESIDENT of the Col-  
lege of Physicians, &c,

SIR,

**T**HE Honour you were  
pleased to do me in  
approving and encou-  
raging my Design of writing  
this *Treatise* when I mention-  
ed it to you, was of too great  
Weight to suffer me to desist

A 3

from

## DEDICATION.

from an Undertaking, which you had the Goodness to think might prove of Service to our Colonies in the *West-Indies*.

Had I wanted that Motive to give you the Trouble of this Address, the very *Subject* of the following Sheets is such as must naturally prompt me to request your Protection of them. The great Reputation you acquired in those *Islands*, when you resided there, remains warm upon their Minds to this Time, which makes me highly ambitious to usher in these *Observations*

## D E D I C A T I O N.

*servations* upon the *Diseases* there, under Your Patronage.

You have, Sir, with indefatigable Industry and as great Accuracy brought to Light an immense Number of *Plants* growing in the *West-Indies*, which might otherwise have lain concealed in their native Gullies, and slept for Ages to come in Obscurity. From those *Parts* of the *World* you have collected Materials, with which you have enriched *Natural History* with one of the most curious and most magnificent Performances which

## D E D I C A T I O N.

has appeared in the whole Province of Literature.

All that I aim at, is to endeavour to conduct *Those*; who are intrusted with the Care of Life and Health, into a more safe and direct *Path* than some of Them have hitherto pursued. You are sensible, Sir, how much an Undertaking of this *Kind* is wanted in our *Plantations*; and I should have been very glad to have found my self prevented in it by a more able Hand.

How

## DEDICATION.

How far I may prove unequal to this Attempt, I most freely leave others to determine, but I flatter my self that the *Humanity* of the Design, and the *Integrity* with which it is executed, may prove a Means to soften the Censures which its Defects might otherwise draw upon it.

If this small *Treatise* may be thought worthy a Place in your *Library* (which is unquestionably the best *Physical Library* in the World) I shall think it no Dishonour to be of a lower Class in such good Company.

That

## DEDICATION.

That you may long live  
the Ornament of the high  
Station you so worthily pos-  
sefs is the sincere Wish and  
Desire of,

S I R,

*Your most Obedient*

*and most Humble Servant,*

**Richard Towne.**



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THE

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T H E

# INTRODUCTION.

**T**HAT human Bodies are greatly influenced by the *Climate, Air, Soil, Diet, &c.* of the Places we inhabit, has been long ago judiciously and fully proved by the divine *Hippocrates* in his Book *de Aere, Aquâ & Locis*; and the means by which these Changes are brought about have lately been ingeniously accounted for by Authors who have treated this Subject in a Manner more suitable to the *Laws of Mechanics.*

It is no wonder then that the *Alterations* made in our *Constitutions* should be conformable to the Causes from whence they arise, and consequently that *Diseases*

B should

should be in some Places more or less frequent than they are in others, and attended with Symptoms as different as the *Qualities* of the *Countries* where they are produced. This Variety in the Degrees of *Violence*, and Diversity of *Types*, by which Distempers are distinguished from each other, must necessarily require the peculiar Attention of the Physician in his Management of them\*, and therefore no one *Methodus Medendi* can be framed so general and absolute as to tally with every *Climate*.

These Considerations have prevailed upon several learned Physicians to employ their Pens upon such Diseases, as are *endemic* or *popular*, in those Places

\* Hæc enim præcipuè quidem omnia, aut certè plurima probè qui agnoverit, cum ad urbem sibi ignotam pervenerit, eum neque morbi regioni familiares, neque communium quæ sit natura latere poterit, ut neque in eorum curatione hæsitare aut aberrare poterit. Quæ certè contingere solent, si quis istorum cognitionem non ante animo perceptam habuerit. *Hippoc. de Aere, Aq. &c.*

where their Practice afforded them the greatest Opportunity for *Observation*. Thus *Prosper Alpinus* has wrote *de Medicinâ Egyptiorum*, *Gulielmus Piso de Medicina Indiæ Occidentalis*, *Jacobus Bontius Historia Med. Indiæ Orientalis*, and *Sir Hans Sloan* has favoured us with the History of some Cases which occurred to him in *Jamaica*.

The Intent of the following Sheets is to lay down in a plain and intelligible manner the genuine and distinguishing Types of such Distempers as are most frequent and remarkable in the Island of *Barbadoes*, annexing a Method of Cure which I have experienced to be most effectual through a Course of seven Years Practice. I have introduced no more Philosophy into this Treatise than what was necessary to explain the Reasonableness of the Practice, and to guide those into a right Application of it, for whose Use it was principally calculated.

I have known some ingenious Practitioners, upon their first coming, strangely surpris'd at the Novelty of the *Appearances* they have met with, in this *Island*, even to so great a degree, that they have mistaken the *Yellowness* of the Skin in a Fever of no more than twenty four Hours standing, for a confirmed and inveterate *Jaundice*. Several other Errors are very difficult to be avoided by those who are unacquainted with the *Phænomena of Diseases* in the *West Indies*, which any one may readily apprehend from the ensuing Discourse, when we come to treat of the *Diseases* in particular.

Surely none will be offended to see the specifick Marks and Characteristics of these *Distempers* familiarly and faithfully described; for if our Curiosity receives so great a Gratification in contemplating the immense Variety Nature has display'd in her inferior Producti-  
ons,

ons, why should we not in like manner take Pleasure in pursuing her through that *Rectitude*, or those *Deviations* from it, by which our own Frame is either preserved or destroyed?

There is one Motive of great Weight with me in this present Undertaking, I mean the Assistance of such *Practitioners* as have been bred up in the *Island*, and have never had the Advantage of passing thro' a regular Course of Studies, or enjoying an Academical Education. It is well known that all other Sciences have their *Prærequisita*, nor can any one arrive at a Perfection in them, without ascending to it by such Steps and Degrees as are necessary to conduct him thither. Are then the Art of *Healing* and the Knowledge of human Nature such obvious and palpable Acquisitions, that they are to be exposed to the Insults of every Invader? Or are a Release from the Im-

6      *The* INTRODUCTION.

portunities of Pain, a Restitution to the Blessings of Health, and a Reprieve from the Horrors of the Grave so contemptible Undertakings, that they are to be undertaken at all Hazards? A Proposition of this Kind would be too absurd to require a serious Confutation. If therefore this Treatise shall prove of any considerable *Use* and *Instruction* to these *Gentlemen*, (many of whom have personally obliged me) I shall feel a Satisfaction much superior to the popular Applause which might have been acquired by a more pompous Performance.

It may justly be expected that I should say something in relation to the Diseases in general, as they are influenced by the *Climate* of *Barbadoes*, before I conclude this *Introduction*.

This *Island*, being situated in the Latitude of thirteen Degrees and ten Minutes, it cannot fail of being expos-  
ed



ed to the Warmth of the Sun, in an eminent Manner, which, being pretty near equal and uniform throughout the whole Year, renders it little liable to Variations of Seasons, in Respect of *Heat* and *Cold*. The only Distinction then we can make between the *Seasons* of the Year, is to consider them as they are either *Hot* and *Dry*, *Hot* and *Moist*, *Fair* or *Rainy*. If the *Rains* happen to fall moderately, and at the usual Time, we may expect that the following dry Months will prove *salubrious* and *healthy*. But when they succeed a long and intense *Drought*, and pour down in an impetuous excessive Degree, we are then to apprehend a terrible Invasion from the whole Tribe of *acute* and *inflammatory Diseases*. It is at this Time they exert their *Tyranny*, and spread their *dire Dominion* without Remorse. Hence proceed *Pleurisies*, *Peripneumonies*, the *Angina*, and *Erysi-*

*pelas* : hence *putrid, burning, malignant Fevers*: hence *Diarrhoeas, Dysenteries, &c.* \*

If the Weather continue *hot* and *droughty* for a considerable space of Time, without the Benefit of refreshing Showers, this State of the *Air* will also produce those *Diseases* which are consequent upon such a Constitution. The principal of these are *acute Fevers*, but they generally prove of a Kind less *malignant* and *destructive* than the former, as *Hippocrates* has justly observed †.

What has been said is constantly true in regard to the Distempers which most *epidemically* reign in those *Seasons*; but it is to be observed, that with respect to particular Persons these

\* Per assiduos imbres morbi magnâ ex parte oriuntur, cum febres, tum alvi fluxiones, putredines, angina, &c. *Hippoc. Aph. xvi. Lib. iii.*

† Τῶν δὲ καταστασιῶν τῆ ἐνιαυτοῦ, τὸ μὲν ἔλον οἱ ἀρχμοὶ τῶν ἐπομβριῶν εἰσὶν ὑγιεινέτεροι, καὶ ἥσσον θανατώδεις. *Hippoc. Aph. xv. Lib. iii.*

Vicissitudes have a different Effect; for the *wet Weather* agrees best with People of a lean bileous Temperament, and the dry *warm Weather* is most beneficial to such as are of a *phlegmatic, pituitous* and *moist* Habit of Body. Thus, as *Piso* remarks, *Intemperaments* are mended by a moderate Use of their Contraries, but it is not so with Bodies which are of a due *Temperament* \*.

Having said thus much relating to the Division of the *Seasons*, it will not be improper in the next Place to consider the general state of the *Air* of *Barbadoes*, on account of its being an *Island*. The *Heat* of the *Sun*, acting all the Day long with great Force and Vigour upon the *circumambient Water*, must necessarily draw up from the Sea great Quantities of *Vapours*; which, when

\* Et hæc quidem de intemperamentis quæ moderato contrariorum usu conservantur, corrumpuntur a similibus: contrarium verò in temperatis fieri consuevit. *Gul. Piso* Pag. xx.

floating and mixt with the *Air*, will unavoidably occasion a *hot* and *moist Atmosphere*. This is evident from the great Difficulty there is in all the *Caribbee Islands* to preserve their Iron and Steel from Rust, their Brass and Copper from turning green, and their Silver from tarnishing; all which Mutations are seen upon the respective Metals, in a Proportion not much short of that which they would have suffered by being expos'd to *Bulge-Water*, as the Sailors term it. I shall not in this place enter into a Disquisition of those occult Mixtures in the *Atmosphere*, from which Chymists and some sorts of Philosophers deduce a great many amusing Consequences, and upon which the Foundation of several Conjectures about natural Appearances have been built. It is enough to my present Purpose, to take Notice that this additional *Moisture*, in Concurrence with the  
extra-

extraordinary *Heat* of the *Climate*, must render the *Fibres* of the *Body* more lax, abate the *Vigour* of the *Circulation*, encrease the *Viscidities* of the *Blood*, promote *sensible*, and diminish *insensible Perspiration*.

Hence we may account for the Frequency of *Dropsies*, which before the *Island* was rendered less moist, by clearing it of the too great Quantity of *Wood*, were so endemic, as to be distinguished by the Title of the *Country-Distemper*. And here I cannot forbear taking Notice how necessary it is to avoid the immoderate Use of strong spirituous *Liquors*, which too often (especially among the lower Sort of *People*) paves the Way to this *Disease*. For how shall it otherwise happen, than that *dropfical Disorders* must ensue, when the *Body* is predisposed for their Production by the natural Constitution of the *Air*, and at the same time the

Quantity of the Blood is increased, and the Solids enervated by *Intemperance* and *Debauchery*.

To this humid State of the *Air* we may likewise impute the *Inactivity*, *Paleness* of Complexion, and *œdematous Swellings*, which are so frequently to be met with here.

There remains yet another Effect to be considered from this vast Quantity of *Exhalations* out of the Sea, and that is the great Number of *saline Particles*, which probably may be drawn up and incorporated with them. At every Inspiration, some of these *salt* Corpuscles will be conveyed into the Lungs, and from thence insinuate themselves into the Mass of Blood, where they are at Liberty to exert their stimulating Faculty, almost in its original Energy. For the *Air* being greatly deprived of its elastic Force, by the predominant *Moi-  
sture*, it will be less able to expand the pul-  

I

monary

monary Vesicles, and break the Cohæ-  
sions of the circulating Fluids, small  
enough to qualifie them for a Passage  
through the secretory Glands of the  
Body. On this Account the *Blood*  
will become *viscid, pungent and corro-*  
*sive*, it will stagnate in the capillary  
*Vessels*, the *Mouths* of those Vessels will  
be eroded, their *Contents* suffered to  
ouise out into the adjoining *Cavities*,  
and innumerable *Maladies* will be form-  
ed, tho' vastly different in their *Appear-*  
*ances*. Hence proceed *Itchings* all over  
the Body, *cutaneous Eruptions*, *Scurvy*,  
*Faundice*, *Obstructions* in the *Liver*,  
*Spleen*, *Pancreas*, *Cachexy*, and several  
other Complaints, according to the Si-  
tuation or Function of the *Part* which  
happens to be aggrieved.

The great Quantity of *salt Provisions*  
used in this *Island* will likewise very  
much assist in producing the foremen-  
tioned Disorders, *Vid. D<sup>r</sup>. Cockbourn's*  
*Treatise of Sea-Diseases.* There

There is a Caution I would earnestly recommend to the Gentlemen of *Barbadoes*, I mean, to avoid as much as possible exposing themselves to the *Damps* of the Evening; for it is evident that when the Heat has exhaled the Moisture so plentifully from Animals, Vegetables, and the Sea, those Steams and Vapours must be condensed upon the Retreat of the Sun, and consequently fall down again in *Dew*; which cannot fail of proving highly injurious to those who neglect so necessary a Care in their *Conduct*. The right Ascent and Descent of the Sun makes the *Crepusculum* so short, that there is a much more immediate Transition from the *Heat* of the Day to the *Damp* of the Evening in this *Island*, than in *Europe*. The Obviousness of this Remark may perhaps make it appear impertinent, but I am led into it by the many fatal Instances I have



have observed from the Disregard of it, especially among *New-Comers*.

Notwithstanding what has been said in general of the *Diseases* to which this *Island* is more immediately exposed by reason of its *Situation*, yet they may in a great measure be evaded by a regular Use of the *Non-Naturals*. I would not therefore be thought to insinuate, that these *Disorders* are necessary Consequences, upon a Removal from *Europe* to *Barbadoes*, which would be doing an unpardonable Act of Injustice to one of the most delightful *Countries* in the Creation. I am thoroughly satisfied that if the *Prophylactick* and *Dietetic* Parts of *Physick* were better considered and observed, we should have less Occasion for the *Therapeutick*. The generous and open Hospitality of the *Inhabitants* frequently meets with as free a Compliance from *Strangers*, and the too liberal Reception often de-

blow  
generates

generates into Intemperance and Excess. Hence proceed *Repletions, Surfeits, Inflammations, Dysenteries, Fevers, &c.* which are commonly but unjustly ascribed to Causes innocent of their Production.

In my Account of the *Fevers* most usually met with in *Barbadoes*, I have made it my principal Care to investigate their Progress in a manner the most simple and natural the *Difficulty* of the Subject would admit of, exclusive of any Prepossession in Favour of this or that *Theory*, or Attachment to particular *Forms* and *Medicines* \*. There seems to me to be nothing so much to be wished for in *Physick* as a true and certain *Criterion*, by which we might be fully assured what *Symptoms*

\* In morbis acutis & inflammatoriis paucis opus estremediis, satis enim fuerit vias observare diligenter quà natura exitum tentat curamque eò perducere, naturæ obsecundando, alioqui ægrotus pessumdabitur, *Sydenham*.

Would constantly follow from such or such *Circumstances* if Nature was left to her self in *acute Diseases*. Every one who is conversant in *Practice*, and acquainted with Writers on that Subject, knows very well how frequently the *Success* is imputed to the *Medicine* only, from a Defect of judging what the *Event* would have proved, if no *Medicine* had been administred.

No *Practitioner* more sacredly observed this Precaution, than the sincere Doctor *Sydenham*, and his great Predecessor *Hippocrates*. If these two eminent Observers had penetrated as deep into the true Reasons of things, and understood the Dependences and Connexion there is between *Natural Causes* and their *Effects*, in the same demonstrative Manner as Doctor *Mead*, Doctor *Freind*, &c. what might we not have expected from their Performances? And what Deficiency is there in

the former, which we may not hope to see fully supply'd by these learned Gentlemen ?

It has generally fallen out so, that those who have been most popular in *Practice*, were advanced to that Height by Faction, Interest, or Artifice; and hence it came to pass, that they, who had the greatest Opportunities of *Observing*, were not the best qualified for *judging* of the hidden Nature and obscure Sources of Distempers. How happy then must that *Æra* of *Physick* be in which the *Knowledge* of its chief Professors is as extensive as their *Practice* is diffusive ?

they may be in their Conduct, are ob-  
~~liged to undergo what the Labours~~  
call a Scurvy. The Frequency there-  
of is well as the Nature of this Dis-  
ease differently place it in the Front of  
Diseases. *Of Fevers.*  
give it the Preeminence in our Con-

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O ( 191 ) R. S.

*Of Fevers.*

**T**HE judicious Doctor *Sydenham* has remarked that *Fevers* may be accounted equal to two thirds of the chronical Diseases with which Mankind are afflicted, but in the *West-Indies*, (especially with regard to *Strangers*) the Proportion runs much higher. there are very few upon their first Arrival who escape the Attacks of this furious Invader, for although *Temperance* and *Moderation* together with a prudent Use of the Non-Naturals may in a great measure alleviate the Symptoms and obviate the ill Consequences, yet most People, how wary soever

they may be in their Conduct, are obliged to undergo what the Inhabitants call a *Seasoning*. The Frequency therefore as well as the Fatality of this *Disease* deservedly place it in the Front of Destroyers, for which Reason we shall give it the Preeminence in our Consideration.

Among the numerous Variety of Distempers which pass under the general Denomination of *Fevers*, there is no Species of Them which so endemically rages in these *Parts*, as the *Febris Ardens*, which for Reasons hereafter assigned, I shall take the Liberty to call the *Febris Ardens Biliosa*.

This Fever invades the Patient in a most precipitate Manner. The only Notice it gives of its Assaults is a momentary Chillness and Shivering, which is soon succeeded by a burning Heat, which disperses it self universally over  
the

the Body, but is felt more intensely about the Præcordia. This Heat is attended with a high, strong and rapid Pulse, Heaviness in the Eyes, a throbbing Pain in the Head, and violent Beating of the temperal Arteries, a thick and laborious Respiration, Nauseousness and Reaching to vomit, and when any thing is thrown up, it is of the *bilious* Kind ; to these we may add great Anxiety, pain in the Back and Loins, and an uneasy Lassitude in all the Limbs.

The *Symptoms* subsequent to these ( which often discover themselves in the Space of twelve Hours from the Invasion ) are a dry, harsh, rough, and discoloured Tongue, insatiable Thirst, Soreness all over the Body, great Restlessness and Deliria.

In the last *Stage* the Patient labours under a deep Coma ; Oppression of the Præcordia ; heaving of the Lungs ; an

interrupted Respiration; Tremblings of the Tendons; Convulsions, and cold clammy Sweats.

These are the three Advances to be taken Notice of in this *Fever*, which usually terminates in a favourable *Crisis*, or the *Death* of the Patient, about the fourth Day after the Attack.

It has been observed by Physicians that Fevers are carried off by promoting the Secretion through the cuticular Glands, or through the urinary Passages, by a natural or artificial *Diarrhœa* through the Liver, Pancreas, Intestines, &c. and we may likewise add the *Faundice*, which sometimes appears upon the Patient when the *Fever* \* is at the Decline.

What seems peculiarly remarkable in the *Fever* of which I am treating is the constant Tendency Nature shews

\* *Vid.* Pitcairn of the Cure of Fevers by Evac.



to discharge her self of the Burthen she labours under, by dispersing and throwing out of the Mass of Blood\*, that load of Bile, which is the principal Agent in this important Mischief. And I have very rarely known a happy *Crisis* obtained, where it has not plainly appeared to be the Consequence of Nature's having succeeded in this Attempt.

The regular *Crisis* therefore of this Fever generally discovers it self by a Suffusion of the *Bile* all over the Surface of the Body about the third Day. The Saffron Tincture is frequently observed in the Space of twelve Hours after the Attack, if you carefully inspect the Coats of the eyes, and the sooner it appears, the more encouraging is the *Prognostick*, if the Intention of Nature be not perverted by the prepos-

\* Febris est motus naturæ, seu quædam lucta, quæ spirituum plus minus alteratorum ope, id, quod est hostile œconomix animali, eliminare satagit. *Ettmuller*.

rous Use of *Cordials* and *Alexipharmicks*.

If Blisters are applied even in this early Stage of the Distemper (which the Vehemence of the Case often requires) they will make a plentiful Discharge of a *Bilious* Serum, the Urine will likewise be of the same Colour, as well as the intestinal Evacuations (which if necessary) may easily be procured by Manna, Cream of Tartar, and such like lenitive Medicines.

The excessive Heat which accompanies this *Fever* during its whole Progress, if not abated in Time will be attended with many dangerous Consequences, the fine Parts of the Blood will be dissipated, the Spirits wasted, the Solids parched and dried up, and the animal Fluids rendered incapable of continuing their Circulation \*. *Bonetus*  
from

\* Calor auctus liquidissima dissipat ex nostro cruore, id est aquam, spiritus, sales, olea subtilissima; reliquam massam siccatur, densatur, concrefcere cogit, in immeabilem irresolubilem materiam; sales, oleaq; expedit, attenuat,

from ocular Testimony affords us Instances of the Dryness of the Parts, and the Emptiness of the Blood-Vessels in such as have dyed of *Fevers*, and Experiments teach us that the Serum of the Blood may be turned into a Jelly by a moderate Heat.

The first thing incumbent upon the *Physician* in these *Fevers*, is to order the Patient to be blooded as soon as he is called to his Assistance, and the Quantity is to be determined by the Force of the Distemper and the Strength of the Person †, though it will rarely be found that any ill Event is to be charged upon performing this Duty with too liberal a hand. I am sure an ill timed Tenderneſs on this Occasion has often paved the Way to insuperable Difficul-

tenuat, aciora reddit, exhalat, movet; hinc minima vasa atterit, rumpit, fibras siccat, rigidas, contractasque reddit. Hinc subito multos, celeres, periculosos, lethales morbos producit; qui a priori facile deduci possunt. *Boerhaave Aph. 689.*

† Respicendum non quæ ætas sit, nec quid in corpore intus geratur, sed quæ vires sint, *Celsus Lib. ii. Cap. x.*

ties,

ties, and rendered all future Endeavours ineffectual.

Many Advantages are gained by this Operation. In the *First* Place it procures an Abatement of the *Heat*, and the Symptoms dependent thereon, by diminishing the Quantity of the Blood, and retarding the Impetuosity of its progressive Motion, as well as putting a Check upon the violent Agitation it is in from the too great Division of its constituent Parts. *Secondly*, by this Means the Secretions are more readily performed, and a juster Equilibrium obtained between the Fluids and the Solids. *Thirdly*, the Head is relieved by freeing its Membranes and Vessels from the too great Tension they are under by reason of the Torrent of Blood which incessantly rushes in upon them. *Fourthly*, the Heart is the better enabled to perform its Function, the Resistance it is to overcome being lessened by Bleeding. In the  
last

last Place, the Blood will be permitted to pass with greater Freedom through the fine Vessels of the Lungs, which will very much conduce towards relieving the Patient from the laborious manner of Breathing, which is a constant Concomitant of this *Disease*.

These are some of the immediate good Effects which result from *Vena-section*, not to mention the many dangerous Symptoms might ensue upon the Omission of it. This I can affirm, that I have never seen a true *bilious Crisis* (which is the Pathognomonick of this *Fever*) where the Lancet has not early been applied, and if the Use of it be omitted in the first Stage, I am afraid but little Assistance is to be expected from it afterwards. What I have said in relation to the *Quantity* of Blood to be taken away at one Time, is also applicable to the *number* of times this Operation ought to be performed, and the

I

the Spaces to be observed between each Operation. For as this is a matter altogether depending upon a Variety of Circumstances, and their different Degrees of Violence, which can never be reduced to one regular *Standard*, it must always remain at the Discretion of the *Physician* present to apply the *Rule* as the Heat of the Patient, and the Velocity of his Pulse shall direct. However I dare venture to say thus much in general, that as long as the *Symptoms* continue in their full Vigour, or seem to gain ground upon the *Sick*, so long should *Blood-letting* be repeated, once in six or eight Hours, observing that the Quantity be lessened proportionably each time after the first *Phlebotomy*.

This being done the next thing of Moment is to make as plentiful a Discharge of the *Bile* as we possibly can, to prevent the Blood from being overcharged and too much inflamed with that  
turbu-

turbulent Fluid. Nor is there any Danger that by this Means we shall obstruct or retard Nature in her Endeavours to promote a *Crisis*, which (as has been said) is always dependent upon the *Bile*, for it is a great Assistance to *Nature* to relieve her in this Point, and (as it were) take Part of her Work off her Hands; and let us do all we can, there will still remain a sufficient Quantity for her to combat with. The Nauseousness and Propensity to vomit in the Beginning of this *Distemper* is an Indication strong enough to authorize this Practice, were it not strengthened by many other cogent Reasons\*. Repeated Experiments have convinced me thorowly of the Truth and Justness of Doctor *Sydenham's* Observation, when he says, '*Vomitu per-*

\* Sane vomitorium propinare ubi prægressa est vomendi proclivitas adedè est necessarium, ut nisi humor ille expellatur, in sentinam complurium malorum difficilium sit abiturus, quæ crucem figent medico toto durante medicationis tempore, ægrumque in haud leve periculum conjicient. *Sydenham.*

' aëto, sæva illa symptomata (nausea  
 ' v. g. & anxietas, jactationes, suspi-  
 ' ria luctuosa, lingue nigredo, &c.) quæ  
 ' & ipsos ægros excruciant, & ad-  
 ' stantes perterrificerant, mitigari solent  
 ' ac solvi, quòdque morbi reliquum est  
 ' tolerari.

An Emetick therefore ought to be ad-  
 ministrated in the beginning \* of the  
 Disease, as soon as it can conveniently  
 be done after the first Bleeding. Oxy-  
 mel Scilliticum, Vinum Emeticum, or  
 Radix Ipecacuanha will very well an-  
 swer this Intention, but I prefer the  
 last †, especially if acuated with three  
 or four Grains of emetick Tartar. This  
 never fails to throw up, and very often

\* Incipientibus morbis, si quid movendum sit, move.  
*Hippoc. Aph. xxix. Lib. ii.*

Nullum remedium sub *initii* febrium, est æquè salutare  
 ac vomitorium, sæpenumero & necessarium est, si  
 quando, quod plerumque fit, nausea, vel ventriculi gra-  
 vitas, vel etiam capitis dolor invaserit. *Freind.*

† Medicamenti, quo vomitus cietur, interior est quæ-  
 dam actio; quæ nusquam aliàs se manifestius prodit,  
 quam in celebri illâ radice ipecacuanhâ. *Freind.*



to discharge by Sieges, a great Quantity of yellow, porraceous and sometimes blackish *Bile*, which if suffered to enter into the Mass of Blood, it is not difficult to conjecture what Havock would be made in the circulating Fluids. But farther, as the Action of *Vomiting* is perhaps one of the most universal Exercises the Human Frame is capable of being put into, every Limb, every Muscle, and even every Vessel and Gland of the Body will in some measure be influenced by the Agitations it produces, which must greatly assist in attenuating and dislodging their respective Contents. It has already been observed that the *Bile* in these *Fevers* has a particular Tendency to the Surface, and *Emeticks* very much forward and promote this Effort, by breaking and dividing the Particles of that Liquid small enough to pass through the Emunctories of the Skin, which otherwise would probably run in-

to Molecularæ too large to be transmitted thro' the other Strainers, and therefore might be arrested in their Progress. This Observation seems to be confirmed by the *yellow* Tincture impressed upon the Linen of the Patient after having taken a Vomit, especially if the Disease has been somewhat advanced before it was exhibited.

But this *Evacuation* alone will not be sufficient to overcome this formidable Enemy. All our Engines must be at Work to stop its Career and check its Fury. *Hanc frenis, hanc tu compesce Catenis.* In this Case we must have Recourse to diluting, refrigerating and subacid Liquors, made with Oranges, Lemmons, Tamarins, Spirit of Sulphur, Spirit of Vitriol, and such like, in Barley-water, Spring-Water or other thin and cooling Vehicles. By this means we obtund the Acrimony of the *Bile*, relieve the hectick Dryness, obtain

tain plentiful Sweats, bridle and appease the turgid hot Humours, and procure a more copious Succession to the fainting Spirits. Nor is the Sick to be put under exact Restrictions in the Use of these several Sorts of *Beveridge*, but they are to be liberally allowed, according to the Demands and Appetite of the *Patient*.

And here I cannot forbear taking Notice how indulgent *Nature* is in pointing out to the *Physician*, even by the Cravings of the *Patient*, the Path he ought to pursue in relieving her from the Insults of a *Distemper*. For what can be more grateful to a parched, burning Palate, than a Draught of refreshing subacid Liquor? What more advantageous to a *bilious*, adust, over-fermented *Blood*, than a cooling, diluting and attenuating Liquid properly conveyed into it? Every one knows what Prognosticks are to be formed from a dry, burning Skin, and an interrupted

Secretion of Urine; and does not Nature here dictate a Method, which by diluting proves at once diuretick and promotes Perspiration? I believe there are at this time few *Physicians* who do not acknowledge the Service which has been done to Mankind by introducing the cool Regimen in *Fevers*, (I mean under proper Restrictions) and I am sure in these *West-India Fevers* of which I am treating, a *Physician*, who insists upon a contrary Method, signs the *Dead Warrant* when he writes the Prescription.

*Gulielmus Piso* in his natural and medicinal History of the *West-Indies* has been very profuse in his Encomiums upon the great Virtues of *Lemmons* and *Oranges* in putrid \* and malignant Fevers,

\* Peritissimi nonnulli Indiarum orientalium & occidentalium medicastri, præter vulgares illas toto orbi celebratissimas limonum & citreorum vires quas quoque perpetuò commendabiles habent, plus præsidii in duabus  
his

Fevers, in † Intermittents, and he relates a very memorable Story from *Athenæus* of their sovereign *Energy* in resisting Poisons ‡, insomuch that he does not scruple with several other Authors to give them the general Name of *Mala Medica*. This is an uncontested Truth, that the use of Lemmon or Lime-juice diluted with a proper Vehicle will occasion a *Diaphoresis*, when all the unnatural attempts by *Alexipharmicks* serve only to aggravate the Heat, inflame the Blood, and hasten on the fatal Period. I shall mention only one

his limonum partibus (femine scilicet & medullâ) ponunt contra malignos morbos & pestilentes febres, atque ipsa denique venena, quam in lapide bezoardico & fastidiosâ theriacæ compositione. *Piso*, pag. 314.

† Ansam mihi suppeditari autumabam aliquid ad artis nostræ incrementum ediscendi, idque aliquoties tentans, non infeliciter processit, in febribus scilicet intermittens, circa initium paroxysmi, haustu calido succi limonum cum sacchari & aquæ fontanæ tantillo, semel atque iterum exhibito, exacerbationes vel in totum cessasse, vel saltem indies præter expectationem simul cum siti deseruisse, & intra paucos dies plane siluisse, deprehendi, subsequente utique manifesto affectu, urinæ scilicet, & imprimis sudorum largâ promotione, *Piso* 315.

‡ Vid. *Pisonem*, pag. 313.

Instance of this Kind, out of a multitude which have come under my *Observation*.

Being called to a Gentleman about thirty Years of Age, of a vigorous, muscular, sanguine *Constitution*, I found his Pulse strong, full and riotous, his Eyes fierce and inflamed, his Breast and Præcordia burning and dry, he complained of violent Pain in his Head and Back with an Inclination to vomit. This was about six or seven Hours after the first Approach of the *Fever*. I instantly ordered eighteen Ounces of Blood to be taken from him, and soon after directed a vomit of Ipecacuanha with gr. iv. of Tartar. Emetic. and a small pearl Julep upon going to bed, with orders to allow him plentifully a *Beveridge* made with Tamarinds if he should require any Drink in the Night. He rested pretty well that Night, and took three Draughts of his *Beveridge*. When

I visited him the next Morning I found him more composed and chearful, the Symptoms were abated, and the ruddy Inflammation in his Eyes disappearing afforded manifest Tokens of a successful *Crisis* by the gentle *Yellowness* which was visible in them. I then prescribed some Papers of cooling Powders, and left Instructions for him to continue in the free Use of subacid diluting Liquors. But being called into the Country, the Apothecary in my Absence ( thinking I suppose *No Cordial No Cure* ) presumed to give him a Bolus made with *Croc. Rad. Serpent.* and *Confect. Alkerm.* with some comfortable Draught, as they call it, to be taken afterwards. Upon my return to Town that Evening I found my *Patient* in a Flame, his Tongue was dry, fordid, and discoloured, his Skin parched with Heat, his Breathing laborious, with a *Subsultus Tendinum*. His Pulse was full and throbbing,

ing, but subject to great and frequent Intermiffions. I ordered eighteen Ounces of Blood more to be taken immediately, and by renewing the former Course of cooling Powders, and allowing him the Tamarind Drink, thin refreshing Emulfions, and Barley Water acidulated with Juice of Lemmons ad Libitum, I foon obtained a plentiful *Diaphoresis*. By this eafy and natural Method, with the Affiftance of an emollient, cooling Clyfter repeated every eight Hours, he was perfectly recovered from a Condition feemingly fo deplorable. I do not fet this down as a fingular and remarkable *Case*, but rather to give the Reader a general Idea what Succes is to be expected from the two different *Regimens*.

Nor is the Patient to be denied the Gratification of the tartifh juicy Fruits, if they do not participate of the aulfere and aftringent Qualities, and are allowed him with Moderation. Of this Kind



are the *Ananas*, *Granadillo*, *Barbadoes Cherry*, *Water Melon* and such like. The ripe *Plantane* and *Banana* roasted will afford a Nourishment of light Digestion, as likewise the Jelly of *Guavas*, red and white *Sorrel*, *Plums*, &c. when dissolved in some convenient Vehicle.

I shall here subjoin a few of such *Formulæ* as are readily procured, and which I frequently made use of in these cooling Intentions.

℞. *Decoct. Hord.* ℥ij. *Aq. Lact. Alexiter.* ℥j. *Syrup. Limon.* ℥viii. *M. bibat ad libitum.*

℞. *Conserv. Tamarind.* ℥vj. *Coq. in Aq. fontan.* ℥iv. *Colatur. bibat frequenter.*

℞. *Succ. Express. Melon. aquatic. dict.* ℥ij. *Decoct. Hord.* ℥j. *Vin. Rhenan.* ℥ss. *Sacch. alb. q. s. ad gratam dulcedinem. Capiat ut prius.*

℞. *Decoct. Hord.* ℥iiij. *instillentur Sp. Nitr. gut. q. s. in eisdem Usus.*

℞. *Lact. Nucis Cocos* ℥ij. *Sp. Nitr. cum Ol. Vitriol. q. s. ad gratam aciditatem, & Sacch. alb. parum edulcoretur.*

℞. *Ptisan. Vulg.* ℥ij. *Sp. Vitriol.* q. s.  
*ad grat. acid.* CC. *calcin. ad Albed.* ℥j.  
*utatur pro potu ordinario vase usis tempore*  
*agitato.*

Some Authors say that Spirit of *Vitriol* is greatly opening and cooling, that it withstands *Putrefaction*, abates *Inflammation* and allays Thirst. For my own Part I have often observed good Effects from it, and no Mischief tho' given in the larger *Doses*.

We have another powerful *Auxiliary* against this formidable Invader, and that is the Tribe of cooling testaceous Powders which are to be called to our Assistance every four Hours. The following Forms are sufficient to shew in what Manner and Dose this Class of *Medicines* is to be exhibited.

℞. *Ocul. Cancr.* ℥ss. *Sal. Prunel.* ℥ij.  
*divid. in Dos. viij. capiat j. quartâ quaq;*  
*horâ. Or,*

℞. *Pulv. è Chel. simpl.* ℥ss. *Crem. Tart.*  
 ℥ij. *capiat ut prius.*

℞. *Pulv.*

℞. Pulv. Test. Ovor. calcinat. Corall.  
 preparat. ana ℥iij. Nitr. pur. ℥ij. in eof-  
 dem usus.

These not only help to refrigerate the boiling *Blood*, whose Compages is in a fair way to become too viscid and compact, but also acting as *Diureticks* they prove attenuating and make a Discharge of the Humours by *Urine*.

Towards Evening it will be necessary to inject a *Clyster*, which may be composed after the usual Form, only adding half an Ounce of Crem. Tart. one Ounce of Manna or one Ounce of Pulp. of Cassia to it. This seldom fails to carry off a Quantity of *bilious* Matter, and very much cools and refreshes the Bowels.

After the Operation of the *Clyster* is over it will be convenient to compose the *Patient* with any of the following *Draughts*; for in these *Fevers* the Spirits are very prone to run into Orgasms and Disorders,

Disorders, which occasion great Restlessness and frequently bring on a *Delirium*.

℞. *Aq. Lactis Alex.* ℥iij. *Syrup. de Mecon.* ℥j. *M. Or,*

℞. *Aq. Mentb. Simpl.* ℥ij. *Cinnam. Hord.* ℥j. *Laudan. liq. Syd. Gutt.* xxv. *Sacch. alb. q. s. M.*

℞. *Aq. Cinnam. Hord.* ℥ij. *Aq. Epidem. Syr. de Mecon. ana* ℥ij. *Laud. liq. gutt.* xx. *M.*

At this time every thing is to be shunned which may have the least Tendency to promote *Inflammation*. The *Diet* should be cooling and moistening, the *Air* temperate, the *Sun-Beams* excluded, and a *Hammock* is a much more proper *Dormitory* than a *Bed*. The *Room* should be sprinkled with *Vinegar*, *Rose-water* and cooling *Herbs*, of which Kind the *Island* produces Plenty and Variety. The fresh *Air* is to be admitted into the *Patient's Chamber* in such a manner that it does not blow in a direct *Stream* upon his *Body*, but rather

cir-

circulates through an adjoining Apartment\*.

Every one who is not an utter Stranger to the *Practice* of the *Ancients* must know how diligently they insisted upon the Regulation of *Diet* in *Fevers*, and that they expected the greatest part of the Cure from a strict Observance in this Point. The thinnest Aliment, such as *Ptisan* made with Barley, Hydromel, &c. was what they chiefly ordered; and I am confident was *Hippocrates* to see some of the modish Mixtures and Cordials which are prescribed by some in *Fevers*, in Defiance of all his Skill he would be at a Loss to guess at the *Distemper*.

By this familiar and plain *Method* of Treatment I have successfully relieved a great Number of afflicted *People* in the

\* Prima methodicorum cura erat cubiculum ejusque aërem & modum cubandi cuius morbo convenientem eligere, tum cibum potumque nisi iis plane abstinendum censerent, præscribebant, seduloque, quo morbus vergeret, observabant. Conrad. Amman. præfat. ad. Cæl. Aurel.

first Stage of the *Disease*, which in all Probability would have been protracted to a more unconquerable Period by a more pompous *Procedure*. The Truth of this Observation has been too often made evident to me by the many fatal *Instances* I have had the Misfortune to be an Eye Witness to.

But since it often happens that the *Physician* is not sent for 'till the *Disease* be somewhat advanced, and the *Symptoms* run so high as to demand a more rigorous Curb, I shall proceed to the second *Stadium* of this *Distemper*. Here we meet with the Circumstances much aggravated, the *Tongue* becomes furred, and the *Mouth* incrustated with a blackish Scurf, the *Thirst* encreases to an intolerable Degree and the Sick labours under a perpetual *Restlessness* accompanied with *Delirium*.

Here again the *Lancet* is indicated in the strongest manner, however free-

ly it may have been made use of before. These Disorders are such palpable Marks of an headstrong *Inflammation*, that there is no Relief to be expected before that is subdued. In this *State* the Blood is rarified to an exceeding Degree, and you meet with the manifest Tokens of a *Plethora*; for the Vessels of the *Eyes* appear turgid and red as in an *Ophthalmia*, and the *Spirits* are agitated with the utmost Rapidity and Confusion. In order to free the *Head* from this dangerous Condition we may expect good Assistance from *Cupping*, with deep Scarifications in the Shoulders, which often procures so sensible and speedy a *Revulsion*, that I have known *Physicians* themselves astonished at their own Success upon the Application of them.

*Blisters* \* are also of great Moment and Efficacy at this Juncture, and are therefore not to be forborn any longer. The *Bile* being now afloat is to be discharged by every Outlet, *Qua data porta ruit*. It is almost incredible what large Quantities of this *Juice* may be evacuated by the external Use of *Cantharides*; for their *Salts*, entring into and mixing with the Mass of Blood, dissolve and attenuate the viscid Particles, prevent the growing *Lentor*, and by their caustick Quality open the Mouths of the Vessels for their Expulsion. Another great Benefit we gain from *Blisters*, is the Tendency they have to the Bladder, by which means another plentiful Discharge of the redundant *Bile* is obtained; for by precipitating (if I may use the Expression) those Particles to

\* Hæc quippe uti valentissima sunt, maximèque efficacia, ita morbi vim allevant modo quodam expeditiore magisque inopinato, quam cætera quæcunque evacuantiæ, venæsectionem si exceperis, solent. *Freind*.



the urinary *Organs*, they throw off a-  
bundance of them by that *Secretion*. I  
shall not enter into a Detail of the Ar-  
guments for and against *Vesicatories*,  
which may be seen at large in *Baglivi*,  
Doctor *Freind*, and Doctor *Cockbourn* \*;  
but I can affirm from *Experience* that  
when they have been applied before it  
was too late, a *Coma* (the deadly Symp-  
tom of this *Distemper*) has very rarely  
ensued.

The *Patient* is now to be treated with  
the strictest Care in regard to his *Regi-  
men*; his Coverings must be light, easy  
and uniform, his Apartment clean, cool,  
and quiet; his Posture reclining and  
natural; all Company excluded, and in  
short every Artifice must be employed  
which may solicit him to *Repose*. Soft  
cooling, anodyne *Emulsions* are fre-  
quently to be administered in the fol-

\* Comment. ix. de vesicantibus quæ cantharidas reci-  
piunt.

lowing or some other proper and palatable Forms.

℞. *Amygd. dulc. excorticat. Sem. Melon. Papav. alb. ana* ℥ss. *in Mortario marm. cum Decoct. Hord. ℥ij. F. S. A. Emulſio ſapius ſumend. Or,*

℞. *Amygd. dulc. Sem. 4. Frig. Maj. ana* ℥j. *Lact. Nucis Cocof. ℥ij. F. S. A. Emulſio, cui adde Syrup. è Mecon. ℥ij. Uſus ut prius.*

It is to be obſerved that the Almonds before they arrive at *Barbadoes* generally contract to diſagreeable Harſhneſs and Rancidity, which I have ſometimes diſcovered to prove highly offensive and injurious to the Stomach of the *Patient*. *Nature* has therefore been very indulgent in ſupplying us ſo plentifully with a *Succedaneum* which to all Purpoſes fully recompenseth the Defect of the former: I mean the Kernel of the *Coco-nut* which affords an *Emulſion* in all Reſpects equal if not ſuperior to the beſt *Almonds*,

*monds*, which for the reason above I would always direct in their Place.

All Sorts of *Meats*, even *Veal* and *Chicken-Broths*, are religiously to be avoided\*, and the highest *Diet* the *Sick* ought to be indulged in is thin *Panado* or *Water-Gruel* gratefully sweetned and acidulated. Cordial *Draughts* and *Fuleps* are likewise to be cashiered unless they are of the most temperate Composition, and I believe *Barley-Water* or *Aq. Lactis* may answer all the Intentions of a Vehicle for the cooling *Powders*, which in the present Case should consist of a Quantity of *Sal. Prunel.* or *Chrystal. Tart.* equal to the other half of the *Dose*.

The extreme *Thirst* being a very uneasy and grievous *Symptom*, it is necessary to have a special Regard to the

\* Cum ergo morbus est peracutus extremos protinus obtinet labores, & extremi tenuissimâ victus ratione necessario utendum. *Hippoc. Aph. 7. l. 1.*

Cum morbi summa est vehementia, tum vel tenuissimo victu utendum est. *Aph. 8.*

Relief of the *Patient* in this Point ; for which reason, besides plentiful and frequent *Draughts* of cooling Liquor, we must have recourse to such Substances as refresh the Palate and promote Spittle. Of this Kind are preserved *Tamarinds*, Slices of *Lemmon* with a little Sugar, but above all, the Fruit called *Pinguins*, which being held in the Mouth, by their grateful and active Sharpness are capable of penetrating thro' the most tough and tenacious Scurf, and by that means uncover the Orifices of the Salival Ducts, and enable the Glands of the Mouth and Throat to discharge their Contents, which could not be done before the Impediment was removed. Thus we do not only mitigate the uneasy Sensation, which is no inconsiderable Matter when *Rest* is to be procured, but we also free the Glands themselves from the Superfluity with which they are loaded. The terrible Effects of

*Juices*

*Juices* stagnating and fermenting in their respective Glands is at this time no Secret, and perhaps there is not a more fermentative *Liquor* in the human Body than the *Saliva*. I have often observed in the Decline of these *Fevers* very painful Pustules and Aphthæ in the Mouth, and dangerous Impostumations in the Throat, which probably might have been prevented if the Orifices of those Glands had been kept clean and open.

Tho' I have insisted so much upon a strict Adherence to *cooling* and *anodyne* Emulsions; yet I would not have them thought sufficient without the Aid of more powerful *Opiates*, among which I know none of easier Conveyance or more efficacious Properties than Dr. *Sydenham's Liquid Laudanum*. It is not possible for me in this Place to adjust the *Doses* of this Medicine to all Exigences, but I am satis-

fied that this Remedy ought to be given *here* in a more free Manner than is usual in *Europe*. I would therefore advise a sufficient Number of these *Drops* to be administred every Night in a small Draught of Barley-Water, or one of the above-mentioned Juleps.

It is to be remembred that during these Administrations the *Bowels* are to be kept easy and open, and the *Patient* must be solicted to a Discharge by cooling and lenitive *Clysters*, repeated once in eight Hours, which may be composed in the following Manner.

℞. *Aq. Decoēt. Hord.* ℥ix. *Nitri pur.* ℥ss. *Syr. Rosar. solut. cum. sen* ℥ii. *F. Enema.* Or,

℞. *Decoēt. commun. pro Clyst.* ℥x. *Sal. Tart.* ℥ss. *Mell. Rosar.* ℥j. *M.*

After what has been already said it may seem needless to exclude from *Practice*, in the two first Stages of this *Disease*, all kind of Bolusses made with

*Alexi-*

*Alexipharmick* Electuaries, as *Mithridate*, *Philonium Persicum*, *Philonium Romanum*, *Theriaca Andromachi*, *Diascordium Sylvii*, &c. or with the warm *diaphoretick* Plants, as *Saffron*, *Radix Serpentaria* and such like; but this has been so favourite a *Method*, and so destructive in its Consequences, that the Danger of continuing it cannot be too frequently and too warmly inculcated to the *Practitioners* in *Barbadoes*.

Having gone through the general Treatment of the two first Stages of these *Fevers*, I shall now proceed to the third and last period of them. As soon as we discover any Tendency in the *Patient* to become *comatose* we are then to apprehend that the third Degree of the *Distemper* is advancing. In this *Stage* we meet with all the rueful Concomitants upon an interrupted *Circulation*: The *Blood* is become viscid

and glewy : It is impeded in its Progress through the *Capillaries* : The Vessels of the *Brain* are blockaded, the Secretion of the *Spirits* obstructed : The Passage through the *Lungs* retarded : The Functions of the whole animal *economy* are perverted ; and in a Word, the sprightly vivifying *Fluid* becomes a lazy, stagnating, unactive, Puddle. Hence we may easily apprehend the Reasons of the Difficulty of *Breathing*, Oppression of the *Præcordia*, the *comatous* Insensibility, the *Tremors* of the Nerves, the *Subsultus Tendinum*, the Interruption of the *Pulse*, and at length its total Cessation, which is *Death*.

The *Physician* at this time has a very uncomfortable Province, in being obliged to give his Attendance to a *Patient* under these Circumstances ; for as he has then little Expectation from the Rules of his *Art*, or the Efficacy of his *Medicines*, the most prudent Way will be,



be, to apprise those who are about the *Sick* of the impending Danger, and by the Sincerity of his *Prognostick* compensate in some Measure for the Deficiency of his *Assistance*. But however deplorable this *Case* may be, yet it is not absolutely desperate. I could produce an Instance of a very valuable young Lady in *Barbadoes*, who was preserved after having laboured under the extremest *Degree* of the forementioned Circumstances. But as singular *Cases* are generally represented rather out of private and personal Ostentation than for any real Service to *Mankind*, I shall proceed to those few Attempts which may afford us any Hopes of proving beneficial to the *Patient*.

There is no Time to be lost at this Instant; a compleat Set of *Blisters* must immediately be applied if there had been none before, and if there were, even those must receive a fresh Charge

of *Cantharides*. These *Applications* are to be made to the Nape of the Neck, to the Wrists, Thighs and Legs; but more especially a large one to the *Crown* of the Head, which will (if any thing can) invigorate the Circulation and give the Spirits Liberty to expand themselves. Perhaps this may seem a very rigorous and cruel way of Proceeding, but we ought not to suffer an imaginary *Humanity* to prevail so far with us to lead us into an Omission of the only Means which is left for the sick Person's *Preservation*\*. This seeming Severity will be so far from putting the *Patient* upon the Rack, that it will be well if all our Endeavours can rouse him from his Stupidity and recall him back to *Life* and *Sensation*.

\* Eadem in medente mollities adeo non ferenda, ut maxime in vicio sit: quem sane, humanissimum licet, uoi vitæ periculum imminet, potius tortoris vicem præbere decet, quam huic cubantium timiditati subscribere.  
*Freind.*

There are other external *Applications* made use of, which may possibly contribute something in this Affair; such as *Pedilotions*, *Cataplasma de Ha'ecibus*, *Emplastrum Cephalicum cum Euphorbio* applied to the Soles of the Feet, *Pigeons* just killed and slit open, the warm *Lungs* of Sheep, Calves, Goats, &c.

At this Time we are to expect no very great Feats from our *internal Auxiliaries*; however, it will not be amiss to comfort and refresh the languishing *Patient* at proper Intervals, with Doses of *cephalick* and *cordial* Medicines, volatile *Salts* and such like, which may help to give *Nature* a short Breathing-Time to exert her self, tho' nothing permanent is to be depended upon from them. If any Member of the *Materia medica* has a Pretension to be of real Service, it is undoubtedly *Campfire*, which if not underdosed will display its Efficacy in a surprising manner.

I have

I have sometimes had Success from the following Forms of prescribing it.

℞. *Camph.* gr. vj. *Castor.* gr. v. *Confect.*  
*Alkerm.* ℥ss. *F. Bolus.*

℞. *Camph.* gr. vj. *Sal. Succini* gr. viij.  
*Lap. Contrayerv.* gr. x. *Syrup. e Cort. Ci-*  
*tri* q. s. ut *F. Bolus.*

℞. *Camph.* gr. viij. *Rad. Contrayerv.*  
ʒj. *Sal. volat. CC.* gr. viij. *Confect. Al-*  
*kerm.* q. s.

℞. *Camph.* *Croc. Anglican. ana* gr. vj.  
*Lap. Contrayerv.* gr. xv. *Electuar. de Ovo*  
q. s. *M.*

There is one *Administration* more which must by no means be omitted, and that is *Clysters*, which upon this Occasion must be made much more stimulating and forcible than those already directed. The ensuing *Formule* may serve as *Specimens* of those I have found to be the most advantagi-  
ous.

℞. *Decoct.*

℞. *Decoct. Commun. pro Clyst.* ℥i. *Fol. Senn.* ℥ss. *coq. ad ℥ss.* *Colatur. adde Tinct. Hier. picr.* ℥iij. *Ol. Junip. Chym. gut.* x. *M. F. Enema. Vel,*

℞. *Decoct. Commun.* ℥viii. *Syrup. de Rhamn. cathart.* ℥ij. *Ol. Chamæmel.* ℥j. *M. Vel.*

℞. *Decoct. Commun.* ℥viii. *Vin. Benedict.* ℥j. *Sal. Gem.* ℥ss. *Ol. Succini.* ℥ij. *M.*

Having laid down the general *Intentions* of Cure in the three *Stages* of this *Fever*, I shall in the next Place proceed to give a brief Account of what is to be done in some of the most material *Symptoms* as they may occasionally call for the more immediate *Regard* of a *Physician*.

*Pain* of the *Head*, *Watchfulness* and *Deliria* are to be relieved by emollient and laxative *Clysters*, gentle *Purgatives*, *Cupping* with *Scarification*, *Breathing* the frontal *Vein*, *Lotions* of the *Feet*,  
and

and *Narcoticks*. *Anodyne Applications* to the Head and Temples are of Service; such as *Rose-leaves* infused in *Vinegar*, *Rose-Cake* dipped in Spirit of Wine, with *Camphire* and *Vinegar*, *Liquid Laudanum* in *Rose-Water*, Or,

℞. *Acet. Rosat.* ℥ij. *Opii, Camph. ana* ℥ij. in *Sp. Lavendul. comp.* ℥j. *Solut. M.*  
& applicetur *Temporibus cum pannis lin-*  
*teis.*

Blisters also very much assist in making a Derivation of the offending Humours from the Head, and freeing its Vessels from the acrid Serum which perpetually twitches and irritates them into spasmodical *Contractions*.

*Convulsions* require much the same Treatment externally, and at the same time internal, nervous and *cephalick* Medicines, such as *Aurum Mosaicum*, compound Spirit of *Lavender*, and chiefly *Pulv. de Gutteta Mayern.* in appropriate *Juleps*.

The *Coma*, as it is one of the most frequent and dangerous Symptoms, has been fully considered in the general *Cure*.

I have endeavoured to follow *Nature* as near as I am able through the intricate Mazes of this *Distemper*, in which the preceding *Symptoms* tread so close upon the Heels of the succeeding, that it is very difficult to determine the real Intervals between the several Gradations. We are not here to expect and wait for the *judicatory* and *critical* Days, but rather to watch and attend to each important Minute. This Velocity, with which *Nature* arrives at the happy or fatal Period, renders the *Predictions* extremely dubious; for which Reason it behoves the *Physician* not to be too sanguine in the Assurances he gives his *Patients*.

*Prognosticks* taken from an Inspection of the *Urine* are much more precarious

rious here than in *Europe*. Whether we consider the *Suspensions*, *Clouds* or *Sediment*, the Heat of the Climate acting so forcibly upon that *Fluid*, that the Cohesions of its Contents are soon altered, and its Salts so differently affected by the Agitations and Fermentations it undergoes on that Account, that little is to be depended upon from its Appearances. This is evident from the *putrid* Scent it emits a few Hours after it is discharged. There is only one Alteration in the *Urine* which can safely direct us in our Judgments relating to Concoction, and that is the Quantity of *Bilious* Salts contained in it, which are easily discoverable by the deep yellow *Tincture* it impresses upon Linen dipped into it. In Proportion to the Strength of this Colour, the *Crisis* (if regular) advanceth; whoever therefore judges of the State of *Putrefaction* the Humours are under, by Informations gathered



thered from the *Urine* (except when newly discharged, which is not a time for Inspection) will find himself led into dangerous Errors, for the Reasons just now assigned. But the principal Intent of *Nature* being to bring about a Depuration of the Blood by dispersing the *Bile* upon the Surface of the Body, and throwing it out by the several *Secretions*, a sound and rational Expectation may be built upon her Procedure therein.

There is another Circumstance which renders the *Prognosticks* very uncertain, which is the unequal Progress *Nature* makes in this kind of *Fevers*; for she does not always proceed in an uniform Tenour through the several Degrees of the *Disease*, but often forms fallacious and flattering Appearances; insomuch that a little before Death the *Patient* shall seem manifestly better in every  
Respect,

Respect, and this does not only happen towards the Conclusion, but indifferently at all times of the *Distemper*. These short-lived Remissions require great Judgment and Circumspection in the *Physician* to determine rightly the Event.

It is now time for me to hasten to such Inconveniencies as are consequent upon these *Fevers*, when the original *Disease* has been already vanquished. The most frequent or rather inseparable Effect is the great *Debility* and Weakness of the *Patient*; for it is no unusual thing to see Men of an athletic Constitution, and full Habit of Body reduced to a weak, low, and wasted Condition in a few Days by this *Fever*; the *Skin* continuing all the time dry, no sensible *Sweat*, no *Evacuation* by Stool, very little *Urine*, and all the Secretions at a stand except insensible

sensible *Perspiration* \*. This Weakness, though so speedily brought about, often requires a considerable Time after the Expiration of the *Fever* to be retrieved. When this *Debility* is alone and unaccompanied with other ill Symptoms, there is little more required to restore the Strength of the *Patient*, than a *Stomach Purge* or two, mild agreeable *Bitters* to promote the Appetite and invigorate the Blood, with a proper *Regimen*, and Food suitable to repair the emaciated Habit. But if the recovery of Strength should proceed too slowly under these Administrations, we may call into our Assistance *restorative Electuaries*, made up with preserved Citron, *Confect. Alkerm. de Hyacinth. Corall. præparat. &c.* in any of the following Forms.

\* Quis non experitur a quavis lævissimâ febre attenuari homines, quod per habitum digerantur succi in vasis febrientis contenti, & etiam nonnullæ ejusdem corporis partes. *Pitcairn.*

℞. Conserv. Citri ℥ij. Zinzib. cond. ℥j.  
 Corn. Cervi calcinat. ℥ss. Ol. Cinnam.  
 Gut. vj. Syr. è Cort. Citri q. s. ut fiat  
*Electuar. capiat Quantitatem Nuc. Mosc.*  
*ter in Die. Vel,*

℞. Conserv. Ros. rubr. Absynth. Roman.  
 ana ℥j. Citri Zinzib. cond. ana ℥ss. Spec.  
 Confect. de Hyacint. ℥ij. Syrup. è Cort.  
 Citri q. s. Vel,

℞. Conserv. Cynosbat. ℥ij. Zinzib. cond.  
 ℥ij. Croci ℥j. Sp. Sulph. per Campan. Gut.  
 xv. Syrup. Limon. q. s. in eisdem Usus.

Great Care is to be taken by People in this Condition, that they avoid all Injuries of the Weather, lest they fall into *dropical Disorders*, which are readily brought on, but with great Difficulty recovered under such an impoverished Stock of *Fluids*, and so enervated a State of *Solids*. All Diet of difficult Digestion is absolutely to be denied, and the white Meats, as *Chicken, Turkey, Rabbit, Broths* made of Veal  
 and

and Fowls, Sago, *Jellies* and such like are to be persisted in till such time as the concoctive Faculties are enabled to perform their Functions with their original Force and Vigour.

The *yellow Tincture* upon the Skin is another subsequent upon this Distemper, and here again the Patient is under a Necessity to adhere to a strict *Regimen*, lest the *Bile* should repullulate upon the languid Viscera, and give Rise either to a fresh *Fever* or a confirmed *Jaundice*. In this Case after a Vomit of Rad. Ipecac. and a Purge or two with Decoct. of Sena, Tamarinds, &c. the Use of Lemmons, Oranges, and other acid Fruits may be allowed, for they refrigerate the hot Juices and resist the redundance of the *Bile*. If this Disorder should continue so long, and in such a Degree as to alarm the *Physician* and terrifie the *Patient*, then such Remedies are to be

F 2

used,

used, as are recommended in the Chapter of the *Jaundice*.

Sometimes the *Bile* takes such a Turn as to be thrown in great Abundance upon the Intestines, and occasion a *Diarrhœa*. This Evacuation being critical must by no means be suddenly checked, unless the feeble Condition of the Patient renders him incapable of sustaining the *Discharge*; and then it is necessary to have recourse to soft, mucilaginous, nutritive and antibileous Substances, such as *Jellies* with Lemon-Juice, Broths acidulated and the *Decoctum Album* for common Drink. But when the Matter evacuated by the Intestines ceases to be charged with *Bile*, and becomes thin, pituitous and whitish, then it is needful to apply to such Remedies as are proper for that *Disease* in particular, which see in the Chapter of a *Diarrhœa*.

Some-

Sometimes a *Dropsy* or a *Cachexy* succeeds this *Fever*, when the Cure has been injudiciously managed, or the *Patient* has been negligent in his Conduct upon Recovery: but as these do not so commonly occur, and as they depend upon a particular State of the Blood and Solids, without much Regard to the preceding *Fever*, the manner of their Cure shall be referred to their respective *Chapters*.

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## C H A P. II.

*Of the Colick.*

**T**HIS is a Distemper which very frequently occurs in *Barbadoes*; and as it is attended with the most aggravating *Torture*, and the Consequences of it are of the highest Importance, it very justly demands the serious Consideration of a *Physician*.

This *Disease* originally obtained the Appellation of *Colica* or *Dolor colicus*, from that part of the Bowels called *Colon*, supposed to be the Seat of it; but as this is a Distinction of no great Moment, and seeing that the whole Length of the intestinal Tube may be afflicted



afflicted with grievous *Sensations*, it will be more to the Purpose to consider it under such Divisions as bear a specifick Difference from each other, and are to be treated very oppositely in point of *Cure*.

The *Colick* then may properly be distinguished into the four following Kinds, *viz.* the *bilious*, the *flatulent*, the *hysterical*, and the *nervous*; or more generally into the *flatulent* and *humoral*. I shall treat of each of these distinctly.

### S E C T. I.

#### *Of the bilious Colick.*

**T**HIS Disease is observed to afflict People more particularly in the sultry Seasons, especially such as are of a hot *bilious* Temperament, in the Vigour of their Age, and accustomed

to indulge in the Use of strong spirituous *Liquors*.

It seizes upon the *Bowels* in an unmerciful manner, a burning, acute, continued Pain is felt about the Region of the Navel, the Patient has a strong, high and full Pulse, is very feverish, labours under extream Thirst, and the Body is very costive. These *Symptoms* are succeeded by a vomiting of hot, bitter, yellow *Bile*, which being discharged seems to afford some small Interval of Ease, but is quickly followed by the same intolerable Pain as before. This Propension to vomit grows upon the Patient as the Distemper advanceth; insomuch that sometimes it becomes continual, and the peristaltick Motion of the Bowels is so far perverted that you meet with all the Symptoms of an impending *Iliack* Passion. At this time the Pain is so intense as to occasion a *Singultus*, *Delirium*,  
Coldness

Coldness in the Extremities, and chilling clammy Sweats, which are always of dangerous Omen in this *Disease*.

In the Beginning of this *Colick* Blood-letting is not to be omitted, upon Account of the Inflammation, and feverish Circumstances the Patient is under; which having been performed, we must endeavour by all means to alleviate the Pain, and unburthen the Bowels of the *bilious* Humours which give Rise to this Disorder. Both these Intentions may be answered by mingling *Opiates* with the Purges, which will prove so far from retarding the Operation of *Catharticks*, that they are found very rarely to succeed without such Assistance. The most convenient Form for exhibiting these *Medicines* is in Pills, which may be made after the following manner.

℞. *Extract.*

℞. *Extract. Ruidii* ʒʒ. *Laudan. Lond.*  
gr. jʒ. *Ol. Caryoph. Gut.* ij. *F. Pil.* v.  
*Vel*

℞. *Pil. ex Duobus* ʒʒ. *Calomel.* ʒj.  
*Laudan. Lond.* gr. ij. *F. Pil.*

During the Operation of these Pills the Patient must drink *Water-Gruel* sweetned with *Manna*, which if the Inclination to vomit will permit him to do in any considerable Quantity, it will greatly assist in opening a Passage through the Guts, and washing away the offending Humours.

After the Operation of the Purge the Patient is to be composd with an *Opiate*, which in this Case is much more effectual when given in Substance than in any of the liquid Preparations; and I have often known the *London Laudanum* take Place, when no *narcotick* Draught, how ever contrived, could be retained upon the Stomach.

It will be necessary to repeat the Pills every other Day till there is good Reason to believe that the acrimonious Matter is thorowly evacuated, for as long as there is any remains of it in the Bowels, a fresh *Paroxysm* is to be expected; and even after the Recovery it may be convenient to give three or four Spoonfuls of the *Tincture* of *Rhubarb* made in *Madera-Wine*, at least twice a Week for a Month following.

On those Days in which the Patient is not purged a *cathartick Clyster* may be injected.

℞. *Decoct. com. pro Clyst.* ℥viiij. *Syrup. de Spin. Cerv.* ℥ij. *Ol. Chamæm.* ℥j. *M. F. Enema.*

Whether *Clysters* actually penetrate farther than the Valve of the *Colon* ( which they seem not capable to do ) is not much to the present Purpose, since it is evident from the Quantity of  
*bilious*

*bilious* Matter they bring away, and the Ease they procure even when the Pain is felt superior to the Valve, that they must influence the Intestines to a Discharge through the whole Length of their *Canal*.

Upon the Abatement of the Symptoms and the Recovery of the Patient, Doctor *Sydenham* very justly recommends riding as a prevailing Means to prevent the Return of the *Fit*, invigorate the Bowels, and strengthen the concoctive Powers. I have frequently experienced the good Effects of this Advice, but there is still another Exercise which I have observed to be of more speedy, more effectual, and more lasting Advantage, and that is being carried round the Island in a Ship or Sloop, which is a Conveniency few People need want in *Barbadoes*. I have seen those who were reduced to the most calamitous Appearance, and even

upon the Verge of the Grave by a long continued *Colick*, in a Week's Time recruited to a Degree beyond Expression only by this Method of sailing, when they were incapable of undergoing any other Sort of Carriage.

As this *Colick* bears a very near Resemblance to that which accompanies *nephritick* Disorders, I shall conclude this Section with those Marks of Distinction which *Riverius*, and after him *D<sup>r</sup>. Sydenham* has pointed out to us. *First*, the *nephritick* Pain is fixed in the Kidney, and propagated from thence thro' the whole length of the *Ureter*. The *colick* Pain is more vagrant, and affects the Middle of the *Belly* like the forcible Constriction of a Girdle. *Secondly*, the *colick* Pain is worse after eating, but the *nephritick* is not so. *Thirdly*, in *nephritick* Pains the Urine is at first clear, and afterwards it has a *Sediment* and *Gravel* mixed with it; but

in the *Colick* the Urine is thick from the beginning.

## S E C T. II.

Of the *hysterick Colick*.

**T**HE *Colick* is so frequently annexed to *hysterical* Disorders, that this Species of it may rather be esteemed a Branch of that Disease than a real and distinct Distemper. Any one who knows what Tumults and Agitations the Spirits are thrown into, and how eminently the whole System of the Nerves is affected in these *uterine* Passions, will not be at a loss to apprehend how the Bowels are disposed to bear their Share in the Misfortune. The *muscular* and *nervous Coats* of the Intestines cannot fail of being put into great Disorders by the universal Irritations the *Spirits* are under in these Cases,

and



and by Consent the other *Viscera*, as the Liver, Spleen and Pancreas, will be solicited to throw out their Contents too plentifully, on which account the Bowels will be overloaded with *bilious*, *pituitous* and other fermentative Juices. Besides, it being highly probable that the Chyle in these Affections is not sufficiently comminuted and digested to undergo with Ease the several *Secretions*, the Bowels will likewise for this reason be charged with crude and flatulent Humours, and thereby subject to *Colical* Invasions.

The *Symptoms* here are in all respects so conformable to those of the *bilious Colick*, that they cannot without great Difficulty be distinguished from them. We must therefore seriously attend to the original Disorder, which will direct the *Physician* to the only true and genuine Indications of Cure.

The

The Complaints of the *Patients* are extremely urgent, she feels an exquisite convulsive kind of Torment about the Region of the *Belly*, she throws up great Quantities of yellow and sometimes porraceous *Bile*, her Skin is tinctured as in a real *Faundice*, her Respiration is performed with Difficulty, and she labours under an extraordinary Dejection of Mind and Lowness of Spirits, and frequently sinks into *Deliquia* and Swoonings. After a few Days the Symptoms remit considerably, but this Truce does not last long, for the Paroxysm returns again in a little time with its former Severity, till at length it becomes almost habitual to the afflicted *Patient*.

The appeasing the inordinate Tumult the Spirits are in, is the first thing indicated in this Distemper. The *bilious* Discharges made from the *Stomach* have unwarily betrayed *Physicians* into the

the

the Use of *Catharticks*, which are ever prejudicial in *Hysterical Colicks*, for instead of evacuating the Humours, they rather by reason of their Stimulus put the Bowels into Spasms and Convulsions, to which these kind of Patients are extremely liable. Besides, the Sinking of the Spirits, which generally is consequent upon Purging, should be cautiously avoided in *Hysterical Constitutions*.

However it may not be improper to administer an emollient softning *Clyster*, which may help to relax the *Fibres* of the Intestines which at this Time are too tense and contracted.

℞. *Lactis* ℥x. *Ol. Chamæm.* ℥iij. *Pulp. Cassia* ℥j. *Sacch. Cochl.* j. *M. Vel,*

℞. *Fuscul. Vitulin.* ℥viiij. *Ol. Amygd. d.* ℥iv. *Sacch. q. s. F. Enema.*

After the Operation of the *Clyster* the Patient is to be compos'd with

G

Opiates

Opiates given in *Antihysterick* Juleps in the following manner.

℞. *Aq. Lact. Alex.* ℥vj. *Aq. Bryon. comp.* ℥iij. *Tinct. Castor.* ℥j. *Syrup. Antihyst.* ℥ij. *M. F. Julap. capiat* ℥ij. *quartâ quaq; horâ, instillando singulis Dosisibus Laud. liq. Syd. gut.* xvj.

Anodyne Fomentations assist very much in procuring Ease when the Importunities of Pain are exquisite.

℞. *Flor. Chamæm.* ℥iij. *Capit. Papav. alb.* ℥ij. *Coq. in Aq. & Vin. Maderens. ana.* lbij. *Colat. dissolv. Opij.* ℥j.

The Julep above directed, or some other of the like Intention, must be continued till the Pain abate; and the Clyster is to be repeated every Day if the Patient remain costive, which she usually does in this Condition.

In order to fortifie the Bowels and appease the Orgasm of the Spirits, the

*Empl. Stomach. cum Galban.* applied to the Navel may be of Service.

This is the Method I have experienced to be of the greatest Advantage in alleviating the *colical Paroxysm*, but as that has so immediate a Dependence upon the Original Distemper, the Means to be used in Relation to it are referred to the Chapter of *Hysterick* and *Hypochondriacal* Disorders.

## S E C T. III.

*Of the flatulent Colick.*

**T**HIS Species of the Disease is felt indifferently either in the Stomack or Intestines. It is attended with an uneasy and painful Tension of the Stomach or that Part of the Bowels where it is lodged. The Patient feels a sort of rumbling in his Guts, and is

much relieved by an Exclusion of the *Flatus* either *sursum* or *deorsum*. The Pain is not confined to any particular Place, but wanders from one Division of the Bowels to another, till such Time as the Vapour which is contained in them can obtain a Discharge.

These *Vapours* generally speaking owe their Origin to the too indiscreet use of crude, stiptick, unripe Fruits, Meats of hard Digestion, *flatulent farinaceous Vegetables*, and windy, fermenting Liquors, especially when the Stomach is weak and the concoctive Faculties debilitated.

There is another Kind of *flatulent Colick* occasioned by the perspirable Matter being detained between the Coats of the Bowels and other Integuments belonging to the *Abdomen*, which when rarified by the Heat of the Body and exerting its elastick Spring stretches and distends

distends the containing Membranes, and thereby causeth violent, fixt, and continued Pains in those Parts.

This frequently happens upon catching Cold, and is the manifest Consequence of an interrupted Perspiration.

In this Case all those Medicines are of Force which by their active Warmth and the Subtilty of their Particles are capable to attenuate the pent up Vapours to such a degree as to render them perspirable, and at the same time assist the *Fibres* in their tonick Action as to dislodge them when thus attenuated.

And here the Division of Medicines called Carminatives or Expellers of Wind have the greatest Influence. The following Forms will be found efficacious.

℞. *Elect. Rorismarin. Zinzib. condit. ana ℥j. Ol. Junip. gut. xij. Ol. Bacc. Lauri Gut. x. Syrup. è Cort. Citri q. s. ut F. Electuar. cujus capiat Quantitatem Nuc. Mosch. ter in Die.*

℞. Rad. Angelic. pulv. ℥j. Ol. Cinnam.  
Nuc. Mosch. Garyoph. ana Gutt. ij. Ol.  
Menth. Absynth. ana Gut. j. Sacch. alb.  
℥iv. Mucilag. Gum. Tragacanth. q. s. ut  
F. Trochisci sæpius in Die devorand.

After a Dose or two of the Electuary,  
or some of the Troches have been taken,  
a Clyster of the carminative Kind may  
be injected with good Success.

℞. Fol. Chamemel. Mj. Bacc. Lauri.  
Junip. ana ℥j. Sem. Carui Anisi ana ℥ss.  
Sach. culinar. q. s. In Aq. Font. coq. &  
Colatur. ℥x. adde Ol. Anisi ℥j.

When the Pain is so acute as to over-  
come the Patience of the Person afflicted,  
some Relief may be expected from the  
following Fomentation.

℞. Fol. Chamem. ℥ij. Bacc. Junip.  
Lauri ana ℥j. Coq. in Aq. & Vin. Ma-  
derens. ana ℥ij. addend. sub Finem Cocti-  
onis Sem. Fœnic. Carui Anisi Cumini ana  
℥ss. Colat. adde Sp. Vin. ℥j.

After



After each Dose of the *Electuary* or the *Troches* it will be proper for the Patient to drink a Draught of warm Juniper Tea, and to prevent a Return of the Disorders, he may take every other Morning three or four Spoonfulls of *Elixir Salutis* for ten Days or a Fortnight following.

## S E C T. IV.

*Of the nervous or convulsive Colick.*

I AM now come to the last, most frequent and most fatal Species of this Distemper, and that is the nervous *Colick*, generally called by Physicians the *Colica Pictonum*, and by the People of *Barbadoes* the *dry Belly-Ach*. This is so popular a Disease in the *Leeward Islands* that it may very justly be reckoned as endemic in them, most People there at one time or other having felt its Cruelty.

There is not in the whole Compass of Infirmities which Flesh is Heir to, any one that afflicts human Nature in a more exquisite Degree than this unmerciful Torture. The Belly is seized with an intolerable piercing Pain, sometimes in one Point only, and sometimes in several Parts of the Intestines. In a short time the Affliction becomes more diffusive, and stretches it self from the Point where it was first felt to a greater Distance, which is done in such a manner that the *Fibres* of the Bowels seem to be contracted and drawn up from the *Anus* and the *Pilorus* towards the part primarily affected, as into the Center of Misery: During this scene of the Distemper, which sometimes continues eight ten, or fourteen Days, the Patient is upon a perpetual Rack, with scarce any Remission or Pause from Pain. He undergoes all the various Modifications of Torment, and the *Dolor urens, lancinans,*

*laucinans, mordens, pungens, &c.* by turns afflict him with a Diversity of grievous *Sensations*. The Belly continues all this time obstinately costive, very little Urine is made, the Strength is greatly impaired, the Habit exceedingly wasted, the extreme Parts are cold, and the Patient frequently falls into clammy Sweats and *Deliquia*. The *Pathemata* of the Mind are much disordered, Grief, Anger, Rage and Despair usurp the Place of Reason, the vital, natural and animal Functions are perverted, and the miserable *Patient* at length sinks under the Agony of his Affliction.

The chief Causes concurring to the Production of this *Colick* are immature, austere and astringent Fruits, eaten in too great Quantities, debauching in strong Punch highly acidulated with the Juice of Lime, and travelling in the  
Night

Night after too free Ingurgitation of spirituous Liquors:

When the Extremity of the Pain begins to abate, the sick Person often observes a sort of tingling Uneasiness thro' the spinal Marrow which propagates it self from thence to the Nerves of the Arms and Legs, which at this time are very weak and debilitated. This Weakness and Inability encreases daily, till in a short Time it terminates in a confirmed *Paralysis* of the Extremities. The sudden Transition from the *Colick* to a *Paralysis* made Doctor *Willis* conjecture that the Nerves of the *Mesentery* were principally affected in this Disease, *Transitus a Colicâ ad Paralysem indicio est Materiam morbificam non per Arterias sed Nervos deferri, ejusq; Sedem non esse Intestinorum Tunicas, sed Mesenterii Plexus nerveos.*

In order to subdue this dire Distemper, and prevent the *Paralytick* Consequences of it, we must employ our utmost Endeavours to remove the Constipation of the Bowels and solicit them to a Discharge. But this is not upon any Account to be attempted by strong stimulating *Catharticks*, which by their forcible and repeated Irritations would vellicate and contract the Fibres of the Guts, increase the Pain, create convulsive Motions of the Bowels, hasten on the *Paralysis*, or change the Disease into a *Miserere Mei*. The mild lenitive detergent Purges are therefore to be relied on in this Exigency, and they ought to be given in liquid Forms, small Quantities, moderately warm and frequently repeated till they slide thro' the Intestines and procure a Stool.

But it is almost impossible that this should be effected so long as the Bowels continue under such spasmodical Disorders

orders as they are now in, we must therefore have a due regard to the mitigating this Inconveniency. There is not any Preparation of *Opium* so effectual in this Case as the *Pil. Matthæi*, which receive a prodigious Advantage from the aperient Quality of the *Sapo Tartareus*.

It has been a received Opinion that Opiates in this Distemper have often proved the Occasion of the *paralytick* Consequences which have ensued\*; but I am fully convinced from undoubted Experience that this Observation is erroneous, having always found the desired Success from the Administration of them though given with a liberal Hand. However it may not be improper in these Cases to add three or

\* In colicâ pertinaci si sudor copiosus & universalis superveniat, labefactis & resolutis viribus, brevi paralyfin expectato; cave igitur ne opiata copiosius in eâ exhibeas. *Baglivius*.

four Grains of *Castor* to each Dose of the Pil. *Matthæi*.

The Method by which I have relieved many in this dreadful Distemper is as follows. As soon as I came to the Patient I ordered eight or ten Grains of the Pil. *Matthæi* to be given him, and about half an Hour after half an Ounce of *Manna*, two Drams of *Crem. Tart.* and one Ounce of solutive Syrup of *Roses* in warm *Water-Gruel*; and this is to be repeated every three Hours, allowing four Grains of Pil. *Matthæi* to be administered in the Intervals. But if the great Propension to vomit should render the Stomach incapable of retaining the laxative Draught so that no Operation is to be expected from it, then it will be necessary to appease that Symptoms with the following or some other Mixture of the like Kind before we proceed any farther.

℞. *Sal. Absynth.* ℥j. *Opij pur.* gr. j. *vel*  
 j℥. *Aq. Menth. fort.* ℥j. *Syr. Limon.*  
*Cochl.* j. *M.*

A *Clyster* is likewise to be injected once in four Hours: 'till the Body begins to be soluble. These *Clysters* should always admit of *Balsamicks* in their Composition, and may be made in the following manner.

℞. *Decoct. commun.* ℥viii. *Balsam. Capiv.*  
*in. Vitel. Ov. solut.* zij. *Sapon. Tartar.* ℥j.  
*Ol. Anisi.* ℥ij. *M.*

In the mean time warm *Fomentations* are to be applied all over the Region of the *Abdomen* with *Flannel Cloaths*.

℞. *Flor. Chamæm.* ℥iiij. *Bacc. Junip.*  
*Lauri ana* ℥j. *Coq. in Aq. Font.* ℔v. *ad*  
 iij. *sub finem addend.* *Sem. Carui Fœnic.*  
*Anisi ana* ℥℥. *Colat. dissolv.* *Opij* ℥j. *Sp.*  
*Sacchari* ℔j.



A *Semicupium* or Bath made with the Leaves of Wild-Sage, Lavender, Rosemary, Chamomile, and other warm nervous *Plants* often help to alleviate the Pain and afford considerable Relief to the distressed Patient.

When the Pains begin to be mitigated and the Body is somewhat open, it will be time to proceed to Purges of greater Efficacy, and chiefly such as are composed with a Mixture of *Mercurial* Preparations,

℞. *Calomel.* ℥j. *Pil. Coch. min.* ℥j.  
*Opobals.* q. s. ut. F. *Pil.* iv. mane sumend.  
 & quotidie repetend. donec Dolor admodum  
 remiserit & *Alvus solubilis evadat.*

Opiates may now be laid aside, unless the Urgency of the Symptoms still require the Continuance of them; or at least their Quantity may be lessened and in their stead the Patient is to take two Scruples of Balsam of *Peru* with Loaf Sugar, or in any other convenient  
 Form,

Form, every six Hours. This Medicine will rarely be found to fail when given at a proper time of the Disease and in a sufficient Dose, which has been too long neglected in Practice.

There is another Production of Nature which Providence has plentifully provided in this Island, I mean the *Pisselæum Indicum* or the *Barbadoes Tar*, as it is commonly called. This indeed is not so elegant to the Taste and Smell as the forementioned Balsam, but where the Stomach can comply with it, I am sure it is of much greater Efficacy in this Distemper. I need not surely use many Arguments to prevail with any Person under these Circumstances to divest himself of Prejudices to a Remedy which will so powerfully conduce to his Ease and Safety; for a Man must be strangely Palate-ridden who will endure the highest Aggravations of Torture and run the Risque of disabled; usueless  
Limbs

Limbs for the Gratification of Taste. I would therefore advise that two Drachms of this *Pisselæum* be given three times a day, and continued till the Disease be totally vanquished.

Upon the first Apprehension of the tingling Uneasiness along the spinal Marrow or the Numbness and Inability of the Limbs, the whole length of the *Vertebræ* as well as the Limbs ought to be well chafed with a Mixture of this Tar in double distilled Rum, which will (if any thing in Nature can) avert the impending *Paralysis*.

This is the Method which I have successfully used in a Malady which was generally attended with such fatal Consequences under a different Management, and I could not forbear making it publick for the Benefit of an Island which has lain me under the strongest Obligations of Gratitude.

When the *Paralysis* has been actually formed either from injudicious Treatment or the Violence of the Distemper, I have not been able to discover any Means effectual enough to remove it, unless the Patient would be prevailed upon to leave the Island and remove to *England*, where Bath-Waters taken inwardly, and applied to the affected Parts by Pumping, with other proper Remedies, have often perfected the *Cure*.

## C H A P. III.

Of a *Diarrhœa*.

**T**HIS *Disease* is in some Measure the Reverse of that last treated of, for as in the *nervous Colick* the Physician ought to imploy his utmost Endeavours to lubricate and open the Bowels, so in this he is to strengthen and render them less slippery.

A *Diarrhœa* is a frequent and plentiful Discharge of thin, watery, mucous, slimy, frothy, greasy, bilious or blackish Matter from the Intestines, sometimes with and sometimes without a Mixture of *Excrements*. It is frequently attended with *Gripings*, but they

are not essential to it. The Patient is weak, makes little Urine, has a depressed Pulse, impaired Appetite, and is sometimes feverish. All these Sorts of *Fluxes* are very endemic in the *West-Indies*, but more especially in the rainy Seasons, and may be imputed chiefly to the Negligence of those who too unwarily expose themselves to the Injuries of the wet Weather, by which Means Perspiration being interrupted, the thin Part of the Blood, which should have been exhaled through the Pores of the Skin, is thrown upon the *Bowels*, and thence discharged in loose Stools. This appears plainly from the great number of Negroes, and the poorer Sort of white People who in these *Seasons* are much more afflicted with this *Distemper* than such whose Condition of Life does not subject them to the like Inconveniences. Besides catching *Cold*, there are other antecedent

Causes

Causes of a *Diarrhoea*, the principal of which are an immoderate Use of crude, fugacious Fruits, unwholesom Food, and Meats of difficult Digestion; all which by stimulating the *Guts* will likewise occasion a *Diarrhoea*.

When these last mentioned *Causes* concur with a damp, rainy Season, the *Bowels* will not only be loaded with the thin Juices which ought to pass off by Perspiration, but they will also, by reason of the *Stimulus* lodged in them, be continually solicted to expel their Contents more frequently and of a thinner Consistence than usual. A diminished *Perspiration* will likewise contribute towards enlarging the Orifices of the Hepatic and Pancreatic Ducts, and on this Account the Secretions of their respective Juices will be more plentifully made into the Intestines; and hence we have an additional Cause of a *Loosness*. These Circumstances I

think are sufficient to account for every Species of a *Diarrhœa*, and when we are once fully ascertained of the *Cause*, we need not be much at a loss what Method of *Cure* ought to be pursued in each Species.

*Fluxes* have very often been neglected in the beginning, from an Opinion that they are salubrious and of service to the *Constitution* by affording an Outlet to some offending Matter, which if retained would have proved prejudicial\*. This Remark of *Celsus* may in some Cases be very true, but it is not to be confided in without great Caution in the *West-Indies*, where a simple *Flux* frequently rises up into an obstinate *Dysentery* in three or four Days, and when the *Diarrhœa* is suffered to continue any time, it too com-

\* Sed uno die fluere alvum sæpe pro valetudine est, atq; etiam pluribus, dum febris absit, & intra septimum diem id conquiescat. Purgatur enim corpus, & quod intus læsurum erat utiliter effunditur, verum speciem periculosum est. *Cels. Lib. iv. cap. 19.*



monly terminates in a *Leucophlegmatia* or *Dropsy*, to which Diseases People in these Parts of the World are exceedingly disposed, as has already been observed in the *Introduction*.

But as a *Diarrhœa* is sometimes truly *critical* and contributes a great deal towards the Cure of other Distempers, such a *Diarrhœa* ought by no means to be stopped, so long as the Strength of the Patient can support him under it. The most general Rule I know in this *Case* (and the Design of this Treatise will not allow me Room to be particular) is to observe diligently whether the original *Disease* receives any considerable Abatement from the supervening *Loosness*, which if it does, we have then Reason to believe that the original *Disease* was occasioned by the Retention of the Matter which is evacuated by the *Diarrhœa*, and therefore the *Diarrhœa* ought not to be checked.

It would lead me too far to consider all the Circumstances of a *Diarrhœa* in *Fevers*, as they are symptomatical or critical, having already hinted something useful on that Occasion in the Chapter upon *Fevers*. However it may not be amiss to take notice that Doctor *Cockbourn* has justly observed that a *Fever* may be a Symptom of a *Diarrhœa*, as well as a *Diarrhœa* may be a Symptom of a *Fever*. It is now Time to proceed to the Cure.

In a *Diarrhœa* arising from sharp fermenting Juices in *primis Viis*, which accelerate the peristaltick Motion of the Bowels, the first Indication is to make a Discharge of the *stimulating Matter*, which may be effected by a Dose or two of Rhubarb if timely administered in the following manner.

℞. *Rhei elect.* ʒʒ. *Cinnam. pulv.* gr. xij.  
*M. Cap. Mane cum Regimine. Vel,*

℞. *Tinct.*

℞. Tinct. Rhei in Vin. Maderens. fact.  
Cochl. iv. Syrup. Rosar. solut. ℥j. M.

Upon going to bed the Patient may take fifteen Drops of *Liquid Laudanum* in two or three Spoonfuls of Barley-Cinnamon Water, and the Rhubarb is to be repeated till the *Loosness* abate, which frequently happens after the second Dose.

But as the *Stomach* it self is often in Fault by transmitting an ill-concocted *Saburra* to the Intestines, the Defects of this Organ are to be considered and amended. For this Purpose a Dose of the Salt of Vitriol, or of Rad. Ipecac. may be administred, and when the Stomach has been cleansed by this Operation, its Tone may be strengthened and its Fibres fortified by some of the following Remedies.

R. Rad. Serpent. Virgin. ʒij. Gentian.  
 ʒʒ. Cortic. Aurant. ʒj. Cort. Winteran.  
 Galang. ana ʒj. F. Decoēt. in Vin. Ma-  
 derenf. ℥iij. Cap. Cochl. v. vel vj. bis aut  
 ter in die. Vel,

R. Rad. Gentian. Calam. Aromat. ana  
 ʒij. Summit. Centaur. Min. P. ij. Flor.  
 Chamæm. P. j. Infund. calidè in Aq. Font.  
 ℥ij. Colaturæ admisce Aq. Gentian. comp.  
 ʒiv. Vin. Chalyb. ʒij. bibat Cochl. iv. ter in Die.

If the *Diarrhœa* continues to be violent, it will be proper to mix Astringents with the Rhubarb in a Bolus.

R. Rhei pulv. ʒʒ. cum s. q. Diascord.  
 F. Bolus addend. Ol. Cinnam. Chym. gut. ij.

When *Cold* is the productive Cause of a *Diarrhœa*, the Seat of this Disease is more remote than in the former Case, and the *Stools* are generally very thin, serous and watry. This Matter is conveyed into the Bowels by reason of the *insensible Perspiration* being sup-  
 pressed,

pressed, some other of the *Secretions* interrupted, or the Blood having contracted an undue *Crisis*. If this be the Circumstance of the Patient, we must endeavour in the first place to unload the *Stomach* and *Bowels* by evacuating the Glut of Humours forced upon them, which is to be performed by a Vomit with *Ipecacuanha*, and afterwards a *Rhubarb Purge*. But as this sort of *Diarrhœa* is not uncommonly attended with a *Fever*, or at least with feverish Symptoms, it is often found necessary to let Bleeding in the Arm precede the other two Operations, especially if the Person be sanguine and plethorick.

This being premised, we must have recourse to *Diaphoreticks*, *Astringents*, *Agglutinants* and *Opiates*.

R. *Decoct. Catechu. comp.* ℥j. *Spec. Confect. de Hyacint.* ʒss. *M. Capiat Cochl.* iij. *post singulas Sedes. Vel,*

R. *Decoct.*

R. *Decoct. Fracast.* ℥j. *Sang. Dracon.*  
 ℥ss. *Gum. Arab.* ℥ij. *M. bibat Cochl.* iij.  
*vel. iv. pro re nata. Vel,*

R. *Diascord. Fracast.* ℥i℥. *Syr. Restrिंग.*  
*(Vid Quincey)* ℥j. *Aq. Cinnam. hord.* ℥iij.  
*M. pro Haustu. Vel,*

R. *Confect. Fracast.* ℥ij. *Gum. Arab.*  
*pulv.* ℥j. *Syr. e Cort. Citri q. s. ut F.*  
*Bolus, quartâ quaq; horâ sumend. superbi-*  
*bend. Cochl. aliquot Julap. seq.*

R. *Aq. Cinnam. Hord.* ℥vj. *Menth.* ℥ij.  
*Syr. e Cort. Citri* ℥ij.

The Patient may use for his com-  
 mon Drink the *Decoct. alb.* with a Dis-  
 solution of Gum Arabick, Rice boiled  
 in Water with a little Cinnamon, or a  
 Decoction of the *Cort. Granat.* and any  
 of these may be made palatable with  
 the Syrup *e Cort. Citri.* Hartshorn and  
 Calve's Foot Jelley are of Service.

At bed-time one of the following  
 Bolusses may be administred.

R. *Theriac.*

℞. *Theriac. Ven.* ʒʒ. *Catechu.* ʒj. *Laudan. Lond.* gr. j. *vel* jʒ. *Diacod.* q. s. *ut*  
*F. Bolus. Vel,*

℞. *Diascord. sine Melle* ʒj. *Rad. Serpent. Croci ana* gr. vj. *Laudan. Lond.* gr. j. *Syn- de Mecon.* q. s.

These Medicines are given in order to promote the *Perspiration*, that the detained *Matter* may gain a Vent thro' the proper *Emunctories*, and not be forced inwards upon the *Bowels* for want of a natural and appropriated *Evacuation*. For this Reason a Decoc- tion of *Sassafras*, *Guaiacum*, *Juniper Berries*, *Chamomile Flowers* and such like, gratefully contrived, may contri- bute more towards the Cure of this *Diarrhoea*, if taken as common Drink, than any of the Preparations before mentioned for that Purpose.

Sometimes the *Loosness* is so obsti- nate and untractable as not to yield to  
 these

these Endeavours, and the Patient after some Continuance in this Course begins to loath and absolutely renounce his Medicines. We must then apply to *Clysters* as our Sheet Anchor. The following Forms may serve as Specimens of their Composition.

℞. *Decoct. commun. pro Clyst.* ℥viii. *Bacc. Junip.* ℥ij. *Terebint. in Vitel. Ov. solut.* ℥ß. *F. Enema. Vel,*

℞. *Diascord.* ℥ß. *Theriac. Androm.* ℥ij. *Coq. in Lact. Vaccin. q. s. Colat.* ℥viii. *injiciantur & repet. quoties res urgeat.*

It is to be observed that these *Clysters* must be injected in small Quantities, and are to be retained as long as possible by the Patient. I would not be understood to mean that *Clysters* are only to be used when the Sick rejects other Remedies, for they are of Service in every Stage of this *Disease*, but more immediately necessary in this.

There



There are several external Applications to the Region of the Belly which are greatly applauded by Authors of good Credit, and as I my self have found considerable Assistance from them I shall subjoin three different Forms.

℞. *Sp. Vin. Camphorat.* ℥iv. *Theriac. Androm.* ℥ij. *Ol. Garyoph. gut.* xx. *Ol. Anis. Absynth. ana gut.* vj. *M. F. Epithema.*

℞. *Theriac. Ven.* ℥℞. *Cinnam. Garyoph. pulv. ana* ℥j. *Ol. Cinnam. Menth. ana gut.* viij. *Acet. Rosat. q. s. ut F. Cataplasm.*

℞. *Mithrid. vet.* ℥j. *Nuc. Moschat. Cinnam. ana* ℥j. *Pulv. Mastich. q. s. ut F. Emplast. extend. super alutam, cujus Margini illinatur paucillum Emplast. adhesivi.*

Those who are subject to an habitual Loosness may receive great Benefit by wearing Flannel, and by keeping their Bodies warm\*.

\* Vid. *Wainwright's Non-nat. pag.* 144.

( 1121 )

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## CHAP. IV.

### *Of a Dysentery.*

I HAVE been so particular in the last Chapter relating to a *Diarrhoea* that I shall be less prolix in this of the *Dysentery*, there being several Circumstances as to the Causes, Symptoms, and Method of Cure, which are applicable to both, and on this Account we find not a little Confusion among the *Ancients* as well as the *Moderns* in fixing the Boundaries and adjusting the essential Symptoms of these two *Diseases*.

The most simple and the fullest Definition I can give of a *Dysentery* is what follows. A *Dysentery* is a frequent Dif-

Discharge from the Bowels of Blood mixed with Slime, ichorous Matter, liquid Excrements, skinny Slough, and sometimes a fleshy Substance resembling the inner Coat of the Intestines. This *Bloody Flux* is constantly accompanied with a severe griping Pain in the Guts, which Symptom was so considerable with *Celsus*, that from thence he did not scruple to translate the Word *δυσεντερία tormina*.

The *Causes* of a *Dysentery* mentioned by *Hippocrates* are chiefly these. *First*, A *Diarrhœa* \*. This Cause has come under every one's Notice who has been conversant with this Distemper in the *West-Indies*, for the Matter of a *Diarrhœa* in those Parts is frequently so sharp and corrosive as not only to carry off the mucous of the Intestines, but also in a few Days to abrade and tear away their villous Coat, and ex-

\* Ex alvi profluvio intestinorum difficultas *δυσεντερία*,  
*Aph. Lib. vii. cap. 77.*

coriate the Mouths of the Blood-Vessels. The *stimulating Matter* still remaining, the *Flux* is continued, and the Orifices of the Blood-Vessels being opened at the same time, the *Flux* must unavoidably become a Bloody-Flux. *Secondly, Sultry Weather.* In what manner the Air of the *West-Indies* promotes this Distemper has been explained in the Introduction, as far as the Brevity of this Treatise will admit of. *Thirdly, Hot Spirituous Liquors.* These as well as acrid pungent Food are capable of producing a *Diarrhœa*, and as they greatly rarify the Blood, this Rarification superadded to the *Looseness*, gives us a satisfactory Idea of their being the Cause of a *Dysentery*. This is confirmed by observing how much this Disease rages among the White Servants as well as the Negroes in our Plantations, which sort of People are much addicted to debauch in Spirits,  
and

and Punch made exceeding strong with new Rum, very acid with *Juice of Limes*, and very fermentative with coarse *Sugar*. *Fourthly*, A stoppage of the *Monthly Courses* in Women. When the Menstrual Flux is by any Accident obstructed before the natural Time the Body must become plethorick, and the Blood will be sent out by some other Outlet, but why this should occasion a *Dysentery* (which always includes liquid Stools mixed with the Blood) rather than a *Hæmorrhage* of pure Blood, either from the Nose, Hæmorrhoidal, or some other Vessels, I confess I do not clearly apprehend, unless a *Diarrhœa* has preceded it. The ceasing of the *bloody Piles*, and the loss of a *Limb*, which are assigned as Causes of a *Dysentery*, seem to me to labour under the same Difficulty of Explanation. But to come to the Cure.

The almost unanimous Consent of *Physicians*, as well as Proofs drawn from Practice, have so fully demonstrated the Benefit received from *Blood-letting*, that I need only mention it to remind *Practitioners* of the Necessity there is not to omit it in the Beginning of a *Dysentery*.

The *Indian Root*, or *Ipecacuanha* \* has justly established its Reputation in the Cure of this Distemper, both in those Parts of the World from whence it was originally brought, where *Fluxes* are endemic †, and in all other Places where it has been used on those Occasions. But perhaps the Reason why it is found to be superior to the rest of the emetic Tribe, was not at all considered before the learned and judicious D<sup>r</sup>.

\* Si quando evacuationibus locus, radicem vomitivam Ipecacuanha, exquisitissimum naturæ munus, cæteris remediis præferre conducit. *Piso* pag. 39.

† Affectus dysentericus nimirum his terris est familiaris, ita ut perpetuò nobis sporadica & popularis. *ibid.*

*Friend* gave us an Insight into that Matter\*, unless we except one Passage in *Piso*†. If the *Ipecacuanha* does not only exert its emetick Faculty, but likewise passeth through the Bowels in such manner as to promote a Stool or two, which often happens, it will be sufficient that Night to give the Patient a Bolus made with Rhubarb and Diascordium; but if we observe no such Effect from the *Vomit*, then let him take half a Drachm of Rhubarb in any convenient Vehicle in order to carry off any Remains of the stimulating Matter which

\* Radix Ipecacuanha, præter vim vomitoriam, quam obtinet uberrimum sudorem excitare solet. Atq; in hoc, quantum ego conjecturâ assequi possum præcipuè consistit ægregia illa in Dysentericis affectibus virtus, quam sibi præ aliis vomendi instrumentis vendicat. *Freind Comment. de Feb. Pag. 40.*

† Ad radicem Ipecacuanha confugiendum, tanquam ad sacram anchoram, qua nullum præstantius aut tutius, tum in hoc, tum in plerisq; aliis, cum vel sine sanguine, fluxibus compefcendis, natura excogitavit remedium. Quippe præterquam quod tuto & efficaciter tenacissimos quosque humores per ipsam alyum, sæpissime autem per vomitum ejiciat, & a parte affectâ derivet, vim quoque astrictivam post se relinquit. *Piso.*

may adhere to the Guts, for I have had too many Occasions to remark the ill Consequences of giving *astringent Medicines* in the Infancy of this Disease, when the *Flux of Blood* has not been immoderate; and it ought to be remembered that a *Dysentery* is sometimes critical as well as a *Diarrhœa*.

After the *Bowels* have been prepared in this manner we may safely have recourse to *Balsamicks, Agglutinants, Astringents* and *Opiates*, which must be contrived in Proportion to the Necessity of the Patient, the Violence of the Flux, and the length of its Duration. I shall now subjoin some of the most efficacious Prescriptions for this Purpose.

℞. *Conserv. Rosar. rub. ʒj. Sem. Plantag. tost. ʒss. Corn. Cerv. ust. Croc. Mart. astring. Catechu. ana ʒj. Syr. Citri q. s. ut fiat Electuar. capiat quant. Nuc. Mosch. tertiâ quaq; horâ superbibend. Cochl. iv. Fulap. seq.*

℞. *Aq.*



℞. *Aq. Cinnam. hord.* ℥vj. *Aq. Ros. rub.*  
 ℥iv. *Aq. Cinnam. fort.* ℥ij. *Syr. è Cort. Citri*  
 ℥ij. *M. Vel,*

℞. *Corn. Cerv. ust. Rad. Tormentil. ana*  
 ℥℞. *Ter. Sigill. Bol. Armen. Lap. Hæmat.*  
*ana* ʒj. *Mastich. Gum. Tragac. ana* ʒij. *M.*  
*F. Pulv. dos. ʒ℞. ter vel quater in Die.*

The following Electuary in my Opinion (and it is founded upon repeated Trials I have made) deserves as great Encomiums as any can be contrived in this Case.

℞. *Conserv. Ros. rub.* ℥i℞. *Sperm. Ceti*  
 ʒj. *Ceri flav.* ʒiij. *Ol. Amygd. dulc.* ℥℞. *Syr.*  
*e Cort. Citri q. s. ut F. Electuar. pro re*  
*natâ usurpand.*

Other Forms set down in the foregoing Chapter may be of Service as Occasion requires. The same may be said of Clysters, for which reason I shall only add one more, which may be used when the *Bowels* seem to be much excoriated.

℞. *Juscul. ex Capit. Ov.* ℥x. *Vitel. Ov.*  
 N<sup>o</sup>. ij. *Balsam. Lucatell.* ℥j. *Diascord.* ℥ss.

This will prove very *balsamick* and useful to the Guts which are wounded and tore with the Distemper; but if you would make it more astringent you may add to it *Sang. Dracon. Terr. Japan.* or *Cort. Granat.*

To prevent the *Dysentery* from proving troublesome in the Night, an *Opiate* must be given when the Patient goes to bed, and this is best done in a solid Form.

If the Sick be much debilitated by the Continuance of the Distemper and the great Effusion of Blood, a *Cordial Draught* may be allowed him to support and invigorate the languid Spirits, such as *Claret* or *Madera Wine* burnt with Spices, or strong *Cinnamon Water* diluted with the white Decoction.

The *Food* should be cooling, mucilaginous and astringent, as in a *Diarrhœa*. Panado made with *Casada Bread* is with very good reason commended by *Piso*, who adviseth it not only as a cooling healing Diet, but as a useful Ingredient in the Composition of *Clysters*. The same Author recommends the Jelly of white and red *Guavas*, *Granadillo*, *Hog Plum*, &c. as proper Nourishment. I mention these because they are always at Hand in *Barbadoes*. Unripe *Plantains* and *Bananoes* roasted are also proper for these Patients, but above all a Milk Diet.

I cannot conclude this Chapter more usefully than by given the essential Differences by which a *Dysentery* may be distinguished from two other Diseases of the Guts, in which Blood is voided, and with which it is frequently confounded. These I shall beg leave to  
bor-

borrow from Doctor *Cockbourn's* book of *Fluxes*, wherein these Symptoms (which are of no small Consequence in directing us to a right Method of Cure) are accurately delineated. *First*, We may know a Dysentery from a Tenesmus by the following Marks. ‘*The Blood in a Tenesmus is in a very inconsiderable Quantity, and the Stools are never liquid in that Disease.* Pag. 251. But they are always liquid in the former Case, a Dysentery being really a bloody Diarrhoea, or a Flux with Blood. *Secondly*, We may distinguish a Dysentery from the Piles or Hæmorrhoides, ‘*Because the Blood in a Dysentery is mixed with liquid Excrements; so Blood coming from a Person at Stool, which is not mixed with the Excrements, is not a Dysentery, but flows lower than the peristaltick Motion of the Guts has any Power; and Blood thus voided is*  
‘ *from*

‘ from the Hemorrhoidal Vessels, and is  
‘ the Hemorrhoides or Piles. This Blood  
‘ is always to be seen, sometimes under  
‘ the Excrements, and then the Blood  
‘ precedes them ; but most commonly the  
‘ Blood falls of one side, or lies a top  
‘ of the Excrements, in this Case the  
‘ Blood flows along with the Excrements,  
‘ or flows longer than we go to Stool.  
‘ Pag. 256.

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## C H A P. V.

*Of a Dropsy.*

**T**HE *Dropsy* is so frequent to be met with in the *West-Indies* that it justly demands a Place in this Treatise. It is divided into three Species, *viz.* the *Anasarca*, *Ascites*, and *Tympanites*.

In the *Anasarca* not only the Belly but every part of the Body is swelled, and when pressed with the Finger the Mark or Impression will remain for some Time, especially toward Night, but not so long as in a *Leucophlegmatia*. The Colour of the Skin is pale and cadaverous, the Flesh is soft and flabby, the Urine is at first high coloured, but  
after-

afterwards becomes thin and white, the Breathing difficult, the Appetite diminished, no great Thirst in the Beginning, tho' sometimes a slow Fever accompanies it when the Distemper is advanced.

In an *Ascites* the watry Humour is either in the Cavity of the Abdomen, the Duplicature of the Peritonæum, or in the dilated and obstructed Lympheducts. When it is in the Cavity of the *Abdomen*, it is known by the Bulk of the Belly, which being pressed with your Hand you may observe the Noise of fluctuating Water, and when the Patient turns himself, he perceives the Weight of the Water fall to that side on which he lies. The *Thighs* and *Scrotum* swell, the upper Parts become lean and emaciated in Proportion as the swelling of the Belly, &c. encreases. The *Urine* is made in small Quantity, thick and red. In the Progress there is a Difficulty

faculty of Breathing, Loss of Appetite, excessive Thirst, Costiveness, little Sweat, and a slow continual *Fever*.

Authors tell us that a *Tympanites* is a flatulent Distention of the Belly which when struck will sound like a Drum. They likewise say that it is preceded by Griping Pains about the Belly and Loins, and that the Swelling does not fall to one Side when the Person turns himself. They call it *Hydrops sicca*, and pretend that it very often terminates in an *Ascites*. But this I believe is merely imaginary, for although large Quantities of Vapours may be collected in the Cavity of the Intestines in such a manner as to distend them to a great Degree and by that means occasion a windy or flatulent Colick, yet it is very difficult to conceive how such Vapours should be lodged between the Duplicature of the Peritonæum, the Interstices of the Muscles, or the Cavity  
of



of the Abdomen in a sufficient Quantity to create this *Drumlike Sound* and Distention.

The *antecedent* Causes of a *Dropsy* are cold, moist, acrid, fermenting, tenacious and indigestible *Food*; an immoderate use of spirituous *Liquors*; a moist damp *Air*; Suppression of the *Menses*, *Hæmorrhoides*, *Urine* and *Perpiration*; Obstructions and cold or schirrhous Tumors of the *Viscera*; copious *Hæmorrhages*; long and great Evacuations of other *Humours*; acute burning *Fevers*; long and severe *Quartans*; *Faundice*, *Diarrhœa*, *Dysenteries*, &c. all which occasion the Blood to become viscid and the Fibres lax.

As this Distemper is more frequent in the *West-Indies* than in *Europe*, so likewise generally speaking it more easily admits of a Cure, though there is not any Disease more subject to return, if

the Patient be not very cautious in his way of living, after Recovery.

The curative Indications in an *Anasarca*, as well as in an *Ascites*, are to restore the Humours to their natural Fluidity, to invigorate the languid Circulation, to brace up and strengthen the relaxed Solids, to promote the Secretions, and carry off the redundant stagnating Juices. Strong drastring Purges, Steel Medicines, Absorbents, Detergents, and Stomachicks are best suited to answer these Intentions, and they may be given in the following Order. The first thing to be done is to evacuate the ferous Humors by any of these Catharticks.

℞. Crem. Tart. ʒss. Mechoacan. Jalap. ana ʒiij. Sem. Ebuli. ʒss. Gut. Gamb. ℥iv. Nuc. Mosc. ʒj. M. F. Pulv. dos. ℥ij. vel ʒj. ex Vin. alb. hauriend. Vel,

℞. Syr. Rhamn. Cathart. ʒj. Rhei opt. ʒss. Aq. Raphani ʒj. M. F. Haust. Vel,

℞. Aloes

*R. Aloes opt. ʒij. Gum. Ammon. in Acet. solut. Myrrha elect. & Croc. Mart. cum Sulph. parat. ana ʒiʒ. Diagryd. & Troch. Alhand. ana gr. xl. cum Oxymel. scillit. q. s. F. Mas. Pil. de qua capiat ʒʒ. bis vel ter in septimana si vires sufficiant.*

In weak Constitutions the stronger Purges may not be safe, in such Cases therefore we must be content with giving *Rhubarb* in Powder. *Elaterium* is an excellent Purge in this Distemper, when the Patient is strong enough to bear a sufficient Dose of it. This Course is to be continued till such Time as the Water is discharged and the Swellings subside, and then it will be proper to enter upon the alterative and strenghtning Method. It is Doctor *Sydenham's* Advice, (and it ought constantly to be observed) that when we are once engaged in the Use of corroborating Medicines, all Purgatives must be totally

laid aside\*, for it is impossible to satisfie both these *Intentions* at the same Time.

Let us now proceed to such Forms as may be proper on this Occasion. *Sudorificks* are good in all *Dropsies*, but more especially in the *Anasarca*. Such are the Lign. Guaiac. Juniper Berries, Sassafras, &c. which may prove more effectual if a Decoction of them be made in Lime-Water. *Lixivial Salts* are of great Service, as they prove *diuretick*, which they rarely fail to do unless there be Obstructions in *primis Viis*.

℞. Ciner. Genist. ad Albed. calcinat. ℥iv. ponantur in Lagenâ vitreâ, digerantur calide & clause per hor. tres vel quatuor, dein coletur Vinum Dos. Cochl. vj. vel viij. bis in die. Vel,

\* At vero præ cæteris seriò animadvertendum est, quod quoties hunc morbum solis corroborantibus vel etiam lixivialibus aggredimur, æger nullo modo expurgandus est. Sydenham.

℞. Ciner.

℞. Ciner. Genist. ℥j. Fol. Absynth. Mi.  
 Vin. Rhenan. ℥iv. infund. frigide. Dos.  
 ℥iv. Mane, hora quarta Pomerid. & sero. Vel,

℞. Ciner. Genistæ ℥ss. Antihect. Poterii  
 ℥ij. M. F. Pulv. cap. ℥ij. ter in die ex  
 Haust. Theæ.

Preparations of Steel are very effica-  
 cious on account of their accelerating  
 the Motion of the Blood, and as they  
 give an Elasticity to the Fibres.

℞. Limatur. Ferri ℥ij. Cortic. Peruv. ℥iv.  
 Rad. Rhei exsicc. ℥ss. Vini Rhenan. ℥ij.

The following Prescriptions may like-  
 wise be of Use in these Cases.

℞. Milleped. Viv. Tinct. Sal. Tart. ana  
 ℥ij. contund. & fortiter exprime Dos. gutt.  
 xl. vel l. ex Aq. Raphani comp.

℞. Conserv. Flor. Rorismarin. ℥j. Ab-  
 synth. Rom. ℥ss. Elect. è Bacc. Lauri ℥ij.  
 K 2 Helleb.

*Elleb. nigr. pulv. Pyrethri ana ʒij. Sal. Succin. ʒj. Croci ʒij. Gum. Ammon. in Tinct. Cast. solut. ʒj. Syr. è v. Rad. aper. q. s. ut F. Electuar. capiat Quant. Nuc. Mosch. ter in Die.*

This Method will seldom fail in a recent Dropsy, and when the Viscera are unsound, lacerated or sphacelated no Method whatever will take Place. *Gul. Pifo* cautioneth us against giving Purges in the *West-Indies* for a Dropsy\*, but I declare that I have never met with any such ill Effects from them. There is another Observation of the same Author, which as it is curious I shall insert it. *In Cadaverum dissectione, eorum imprimis qui ex Anasarca aut Ascite interierant, quandoq; Hepar colore albicante, Rimisq; fatiscens reperi, ne vestigio quidem Sanguinis apparente. Pifo pag. 33.* No one I be-

\* *Alyus arte liberaliter mota, merito in Indiis suspicionis plena habetur, quod in diuturnum imo lethiterum profluvium non raro degeneret. Pifo. Pag. 33.*

lieve will dispute whether a Dropsy under these Circumstances is curable.

As to the *Regimen* of the Patient, he ought to be very temperate, his *Food* must be of the drying kind, *Casada Bread*, unripe *Plantains* roasted, *Yams*, *Eddies*, and *Barbadoes Potatoes* are proper. He is to abstain as much as possible from all Liquids, his *Drink* must be old *Madera Wine* and other warm Stomach Wines. There are Instances of some People who have perfectly recovered themselves from a deplorable *Dropsy* by an obstinate and resolute Forbearance of all *Liquors* whatsoever, without any other Assistance.

Sometimes external Applications are made use of with Advantage.

℞. *Sapon. Venet.* ℥iv. *Sp. Vin. theriacal.* ℥xij. *M. accurate pro Fomento, regioni Abdominis cum laneis pannis applicand.*

The Empl. Diasapon may be applied to the Legs and Thighs in an *Anasarca*, as likewise the following Cataplasm.

R. *Sterc. Vaccin. recent.* ℥j. *Rad. Bryon. alb.* ℥ss. *Bacc. Lauri Pul.* ℥iv. *Sem. Cucumini, Flor. Sulph. ana* ℥ij. *Sevi Porcin.* ℥iij. *cum Fac. Vin. F. S. A. Cataplasm. applicetur Femoribus & Cruribus affectis.*

*Bandages, Laced Stockings,* and such like, may help to fortifie the Parts, and prevent the Flux of Humours from lodging upon them, but this is never to be attempted before a thorow Evacuation of the Humours has been made, and then these Applications may deservedly be allowed a Place among the other *Corroboratives*. If we begin with them sooner, we run a great Risque of repelling the *Juices* upon some of the nobler Viscera, by which means the Life of the Patient will be very much endangered.



*Vesicatories, Scarifications and Cauteries* require great Care and Circumspection; for although they may prove of good Service when judiciously used, yet they have been known to induce a Mortification and Gangreen upon the Part, when the Blood is in this impoverished Condition, the Circulation very languid, and the Fibres so much debilitated. They ought not therefore to be trusted in all Hands.

The *Paracenthesis* or Operation of Tapping now remains to be considered. How frightful soever this Undertaking may appear in *Europe*, yet it is practis'd almost every Day in *Barbadoes* with good Success, of which I could produce innumerable Examples. I shall only advise the *Surgeons*, when they perform this *Operation*, to take away a less *Quantity* of Water each Time, and persist longer in the Use of *corroborating* Remedies than they usually do.

It is certain that in a beginning *Dropsy* nothing conduceth more towards a Recovery than *Exercise* and Change of *Air*, no kind of Exercise more than *Sailing*, and no *Air* more than the *Sea Air*. Let me therefore exhort all such whose Circumstances will admit of it, to leave the *Island* upon the first Approach of this *Distemper*, and remove, for some Time, to *England*.

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## C H A P. VI.

*Of the Jaundice.*

**T**HE *Jaundice* is a Disease which manifestly discovers it self by the *Yellow Tincture* of the Skin, but most distinctly in the Coats of the Eyes, where it gives the first Notice of its Invasion. The *Symptoms* with which it is attended, are a Heaviness, Inactivity, Lassitude of the whole Body, Anxiety, Uneasiness about the Hypochondria, Sickness at the Stomach, Oppression in the Breast, difficult Respiration, a dry and harsh Skin, Costiveness, hard and white Excrements, yellow high coloured Urine, which will tincture Linen or Paper with a Saffron Hew, a bitter Taste

Taste in the Mouth, and a Discolouration of Objects before the Eyes.

The immediate *Cause* of a *Jaundice* is an obstructed Excretion of the *Bile* from the *Vesica Fellis* and *Liver*, into the *Duodenum*, on which account, when collected in its Passage thither to a sufficient Quantity it must be forced back upon the *Liver*, where mixing with the *Blood*, it will unavoidably be carried along with that Fluid by means of the Circulation through the whole *Body*, and consequently the *Skin* and *Urine* will be infected with the native *Tincture* of the *Bile*.

This Obstruction may be occasioned by any Thing either lodged in the Ducts which should convey the *Bile* to the fore-mentioned Intestine, so as to clog up the Passages; by any external Pressure which is able to close the Mouths of those Ducts, or lastly by any spasmodical Contraction of the Fibres of the Ducts themselves.

selves. And hence we may conceive why the *Jaundice* so often succeeds the *Colick*, by reason of the flatulent Distention of the *Duodenum*, which compresseth the *Ductus communis*, why Women very big with Child are liable to this Distemper, as well as in what manner Spasms in the *Hysteric Colick* produce the same *Icteric* Effects.

To the better understanding the Nature of this *Distemper*, and that I may give a more clear Idea how its *Symptoms* are produced, it will be necessary to premise something in relation to the Qualities of the *Bile*, and to observe wherein it contributes to the Uses of the Animal Oeconomy.

The *Bile* is a yellow, thickish, bitter Juice separated from the Blood in the *Liver*, and from thence conveyed by the *common Duct* into the *Duodenum*, where it is generally found, as also in the *Stomach* of such as are *fasting*.  
There

There are two Sorts of it, one which is discharged from the Glands of the *Liver* into the *Porus Bilarius*; this is thinner, less stimulating and of a more greenish Cast than the other, which is separated from the *Liver* into the *Gall Bladder* by its own proper *Ducts*: This is more bitter, more acrimonious, more thick, and of a deeper brighter yellow than the former.

The great Uses of the *Bile* are chiefly these. *First*, by stimulating the nervous and villous Coats of the *Stomach* when empty, it will excite a Sense of *Hunger*, as we find those Animals most voracious, which abound most with *Bile*; for which reason a want of Appetite, Nauseousness, Sickness at the *Stomach*, &c. will ensue upon a Deficiency of it in that Organ.

*Secondly*, to divide and attenuate the *Chyle* together with which it is propelled into the *Duodenum*, and with which it

is intimately mixed by the contractile Motion of the Intestines, and the reciprocal Action of the Abdominal Muscles and Diaphragm. Thus we find the *Milk*, in the three first *Stomachs* of young Calves, hard and curdled, but in the fourth *Ventricle*, where it is mixed with the *Bile*, it becomes thin and fluid. Hence a Defect of the *Bile* in the *Intestines* will occasion all the ill Consequences of a vitiated Digestion and a thick uncomminuted *Chyle*, such as Heaviness, Inactivity, Lassitude, Anxiety, &c.

*Thirdly*, By its *saponacious* Quality it proves the grand Agent in mixing and uniting the heterogeneous parts of our *Aliment* into an uniform mass, by which means the *aqueous* Particles are brought into Union with the *oily*, which would otherwise separate from them, and either become rancid if detained in the *Stomach*, or else upon account of their Grossness would be denied a Passage  
into

into the *Lacteals* when transmitted down to the Intestines. Hence likewise it appears that great Inconveniencies must follow from a Defect of the *Bile*.

*Fourthly*, As the *Bile* is of a very absterfive Nature, it greatly assists in removing any slimy or glutinous Matter which might adhere to and choak up the Mouths of the *Lacteal Vessels*, and deprive the Body of its necessary Supply from Nutrition.

*Lastly*, By its *stimulating* Faculty it conduceth very much in promoting the peristaltick Motion of the *Bowels*, and excluding the *Fæces*, so that it is obvious why the *Stools* should become hard and white when the *Bile* is denied an Entrance into the Intestines.

This short Account of the Nature and Use of the *Bile* may afford us a competent Rationale of the *Jaundice*, and all its concomitant *Symptoms*, and suggest to us pertinent Hints in order to the  
Cure,



*Cure*, which is to be effected by such Means as are capable to remove the Obstacle which prevents the *Bile* from flowing through its proper Canals into the *Duodenum*.

We are therefore to begin with *Emetics*, which by the Agitations and Concussions they produce in the Muscles of the Abdomen, Diaphragm and the whole Region of the Belly, must greatly affect the *Viscera* contained therein, and will very eminently contribute to shake off and dislodge any Impediment in the *Bilious Passages*, as is evident from the Quantity of *Bile* which is generally pumped up in the Operation of a *Vomit*, especially towards the latter end of its Working.

℞. *Infus. Croc. Metal* ℥ss. *Vm. Scill.* ℥j.  
*Oxymell. Simpl.* ℥ss. *M. F. Haust. Vel,*

℞. *Rad. Ipecacuan. pulv.* ℥ss. *Syrup. Violar.* ℥j. *Aq. Lact. Alex.* ℥ij. *M. Vel,*

℞. *Tart.*

℞. *Tart. Emet.* gr. vj. *Oxymel. Scill.*  
 ℥ss. *Aq. Lact. Alex.* ℥ij. *M.*

After the *Vomit* has been exhibited, and (if the *Occasion* requires it) once or twice repeated, *Purgatives* may take Place, for it is not to be doubted that they frequently encrease the *Secretions* of the *Liver*, and procure plentiful *Discharges* from that *Viscus* by *Mediation* of the *Ductus Choledochus*.

℞. *Rhei opt. pulv.* ℥ss. *Chrystall. Tart.*  
 ℥j. *Aq. Cinnam. Hord.* ℥ij. *Syrup. Chicor.*  
*cum Rheo* ℥ij. *M. Vel,*

℞. *Sen.* ℥ij. *Rhei* ℥j. *Sal. Tart.* gr. xij.  
*infund. in Aq. Bullient. q. s. Colat.* ℥ij.  
*admisce Syr. Rosar. solut.* ℥j. *Aq. è Cort.*  
*Citri* ℥ij. *F. Haust. Vel,*

℞. *Fol. Sen.* ℥ij. *Rad. Jalap.* ℥j. *Sem.*  
*Coriand.* ℥ss. *Sal. Tart.* gr. x. *infund. in*  
*Aq. bullient. ut prius, & Colat.* ℥ij. *ad-*  
*miscce Syr. Rosar. solut.* ℥ss. *Aq. Mirab-*  
*℥ij. F. Haustus.*

After

After these general *Evacuations* have been made, a *Course* is to be entered upon more particularly appropriated to this *Disease*. This must consist of such *Medicines* as are *Stomachick*, *Detergent* and *Deobstruent*. Of this Kind are *Chalybeates*, Preparations of *Tartar*, *Viperine*, *Saponacious* and *Bitter Aromatick* Medicines. I shall set down such Compositions in their various Forms as have been experienced to prove most effectual in this Case.

℞. *Conserv. Flor. Rorismarin.* ℥j. *Absynth. Roman.* ℥ss. *Elect. è Bacc. Lauri* ℥ij. *Pulv. Elleb. nigr. Pyrethri ana* ℥ij. *Sal. Succin. Croc. ana* ℥j. *Gum. Ammon. in q. s. Tinct. Castor. Solut.* ℥ij. *Syrup. Chalyb. q. s. ut F. Elect. Capiat quantitatem Nuc. Mosch. bis vel ter in die. Vel,*

℞. *Zinzib. cond.* ℥j. *Theriac. Venet.* ℥ij. *Curcumæ pulv. Croc. pulv. ana* ℥j. *Ol. Junip. gutt. xij. F. Elect. cum q. s. Syrup. è v. Rad. aper. Vel,*

L

℞. *Conserv.*

℞. *Conserv. Cochl.* ℥ij. *Enul. Campan.*  
*condit.* ℥℞. *Pulv. Ari* ℥ij. *Sal. Absynth.*  
*Antikect.* *Poterii ana* ℥℞. *cum Syrup. è*  
*Cort. Citri q. s. F. Elect.*

If the Patient be averse to taking an  
 Electuary, the following Pills may be  
 given in its stead.

℞. *Pil. Stom. cum Gum. Pil. Aleophang.*  
*Gum. Guaiac. Sal. Mart. ana* ℥j. *Sal. Ab-*  
*synth. Extrat. Gentian. ana* ℥ij. *Cum*  
*Gum. Ammon. in acet. scil. F. Pil. N<sup>o</sup>. xxx.*  
*Sumat v. Singulis noctibus.*

℞. *Crem. Tart. Coccinel. ana* ℥j. *Sapon.*  
*Venet. ℥ij. F. Pil. pro vi. Dos. capiat j.*  
*bis vel ter in Die. Vel,*

℞. *Sapon. Ven. ℥ij. Croc. Sal. Martis,*  
*Sal. Succini ana* ℥j. *Ol. Junip. Gutt. xij.*  
*F. Pil. pro viij. Dos. Vel,*

℞. *Tart. Vitriolat. Croc. ana* ℥ij. *Sal.*  
*Succini. ℥j. Sapon. Castil. ℥ij. Ol. Junip.*  
*Gutt. x. F. Pil. Mediocres. Dosis sit v. bis*  
*vel ter in Die.*

That

That the Practitioner may not be at a loss to comply with the Palate of every Patient, I shall now subjoin a few of the liquid Formulæ.

℞. *Milleped.* ℥ss. *infund. in Vin. alb. per dies iv. vel v. dein exprime fortiter & adde* *Croc.* ʒij. *Sal. Mart.* ʒj. *Sal. Succini* ʒss. *post Dies iv. col. pro usu. Dos.* ʒij. *ter in die. Vel,*

℞. *Rad. Curcumæ Rub. Tinct. ana* ʒj. *Rad. & Fol. Chelidon. maj. ana* M. ij. *Lumbric. Terrest. pp. N<sup>o</sup>. xxx. Coq. in Aq. Font. & Vin. alb. ana* ℥iij. *ad* ℥ij. *Colat. adde* *Tinct. Croci* ʒij. *Syrup. è v. Rad. Aper.* ʒiv. *Capiat* ʒiv. *quater in die. Vel,*

℞. *Sem. Sinapios* ʒij. *Croc.* ʒj. *Coccinel.* ʒiij. *Milleped.* ʒiv. *Infund in Vin. alb. ℥ij. Colat. sumat* ʒiij. *ter in die.*

These Medicines may be varied at Discretion, and interchanged in such a manner as to give the Patient the least Fatigue we can in the taking of them, for they are to be persisted in

'till such time as the Symptoms entirely disappear.

Both the *Venice* and the *Castle Soap* are admirable Remedies in this Disorder, for by reason of their deterfive penetrating Quality, they fully answer all the Intentions of a *deobstruent* Medicine, and by their aptness to mix and unite with the different Fluids of a human Body, they in a great Measure supply the Place of the deficient *Bile* which is not improperly called the *Sapo Animalis*.

It is adviseable, during the Use of these Remedies that the Patient abstain from all kinds of *Viscous*, *Glutinous*, *Farinacious* and *heavy Food*; such as *Maiz* and *Pulse* of all Sorts, unless they be thoroughly fermented, his *Diet* should be *penetrating*, *attenuating*, and *inciding*, thin *Broths* made with *Veal*, *Mutton*, or *Beef*, with an addition of *Onions*, *Cellary*, *Endive*, *Chicory*, *Horse-Raddish*,  
Pepper,

*Pepper*, and such like, which by their active and deterfive Properties, will much assist, both in cleansing the first Passages, and removing any Obstructions in the Vessels of the *Liver*. Wild-fowl and such Animals as abound with a strong *Alkali* may contribute to the same End ; his Drink should be generous Wines, such as *Sherry*, *Mountain* or *Madera*. And if *Aromaticks*, as *Worm-Wood*, *Camomile-Flowers*, *Centaury the less*, *Gentian-root*, *Zedory*, and such like are steep'd in them, they will prove the more efficacious. A Diet of this kind cannot fail of penetrating into the *Lacteal Vessels*, and will be conveyed into the Blood, along with which it will pass into the *Meseraick Veins*, and from thence into the *Liver*, where its Energy will be exerted, in scouring the *Hepatick Vessels*, and dissolving the Viscosities with which they are clog'd.

*Exercises* of the Body, and cheerful *Amusements* of the Mind are highly necessary in this *Disorder*; for as a sedentary Course of Life and a melancholy Disposition are frequently the Forerunners of it, so an accelerated Motion of the Muscles and agreeable Entertainments of the Faculties are as frequently effectual to remove it.

Having dismissed this Species of a *Jaundice* arising from an Obstruction in the *biliary Canals*, it is necessary to take Notice that a real and genuine *Icterus* may be formed from other Causes independent on a foregoing *Obstruction*. These are chiefly three. *First*, any thing which is able to destroy the Salts of the *Bile*, by Mediation of which the *oily* and *watry* parts are kept in Union. Or *secondly*, such Things as increase the *Oily* and *sulphurous* Parts of that *Juice* in a proportion much superior to the *Aqueous*. Or *Lastly*, whatever is powerful

ful



ful enough to break the Texture of the *Blood* in such a manner, as to disengage the *Bilious* Particles from the other component Parts of that Fluid, will effectually produce the *yellow* Tincture upon the Skin, which is a constant Concomitant upon this *Disease*\*. The principal of these Causes are an unactive *sedentary* way of Living, too plentiful a Use of strong *spirituous* Liquors, Substances of a *deleterious* Nature, and the *Bite* of *venomous* Animals. In the first Case *Stomachicks*, *bitter Wines*, *Aromatics*, *Steel* and *Exercise* are necessary. In the second, temperative *Oleaginous* Medicines in Emulsions, Decoctions, &c. are of Service, and in the third Kind, such *Antidotes* as resist and destroy the peculiar Properties and Effects of the *Poison* by which the *Crafsis* of the Blood is broken and disordered.

\* See the learned Doctor *Mead* upon Poisons.

These Hints may be of Service in the Management of the different *Species* of this *Distemper*, and the Limits to which I have confined my self, will not allow me to enlarge so far as the Dignity of the Subject might otherwise deserve, I shall therefore proceed to the next Chapter.

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## C H A P. VII.

*Of Hypochondriack and Hysterick Disorders, or Vapours.*

**T**HERE are more various and surprising *Phænomena* included under the general Title of Vapours than any other Denomination in Physick, for we can hardly meet with a Distemper incident to any particular part of the Body which the *Hypochondriack* Disorder does not at one time or other imitate and represent. I shall select out of this immense variety of Symptoms such as are of greatest Consequence, and which most usually occur  
in

in this Disease. Whoever is desirous to be more intimately acquainted with the minute Circumstances with which it is complicated, may gratifie his Curiosity by having recourse to those Authors who have wrote expressly upon this Subject.

Upon the Approach of a *Fit* the Patients feel an Oppression in the Breast, and a difficult Respiration, their Eyes grow dim, their Heads seem to turn round as in a *Vertigo*, then they close their Eyes and for some time remain senseless. After this they begin by degrees to recover and come to themselves, but not without great Sighing and Anxiety. Sometimes the Convulsion is so strong during the *Fit*, that they will foam at the Mouth, and if not prevented by those who are present, beat their Breaths with the utmost Rage and Violence. The extream Parts are very cold and chilly, an intolerable

lerable Pain is felt in some part of the Head, which is generally confined to one Point, as if a Nail was forcibly drove into it, from whence D<sup>r</sup>. *Sydenham* calls it the *Clavus Hystericus*. This is frequently accompanied with reaching and vomiting. There is very often a Sense of something like a Ball ascending from the Bottom of the Belly into the Throat, which puts the Patient under great Apprehension of being suffocated, and has long been mistaken by the Women for a rising of the *Womb*. The Sick in this Condition are affected with the utmost Disturbance and Dejection of Mind; sometimes violent *Laughter* and profuse *Weeping* succeed each other by turns, without any apparent Provocation to either. Great Pain in the Back, a Sensation of Cold along the *Vertebrae*, strong Palpitations of the Heart, Spasms, *Epileptick Convulsions*, and *Swoonings*, are frequent Concomitants

156      *Of Hypochondriack and*  
tants of the *Hysterick Paroxysm*.      Dis-  
tentions of the Hypochondria, Grum-  
blings in the Guts, acid or putrid Eruc-  
rations, Vomitings, nephritick Pains,  
and sometimes a Diarrhoea are added  
to the Train of this *manifold Distemper*.  
The Urine is always clear and limpid  
during the Fit, and discharged in great  
Quantity.      Sometimes the Patient falls  
into an extravagant Spitting or noctur-  
nal Sweats.

Many of these Accidents are observ-  
ed indifferently in either *Sex*, but some  
of them are only compatible with the  
Nature and Structure of the *Female*  
Frame, and from these ariseth the only  
true Distinction we can make between  
*Hysterick* and *Hypochondriack* Affecti-  
ons.

Few People, either Men or Women,  
who lead a sedentary, retired and con-  
templative Course of Life, are perfectly  
and at all Times free from some Degree  
of

of the Vapours, but are at some Periods disturbed and oppressed with melancholy *Reveries* and wayward Apprehensions, or as it is commonly expressed, they are Low-spirited.

The *antecedent* Causes, which dispose for *Hypochondriack* Invasions, are too immoderate *Exercises* of the Body, and too ungovernable *Passions* of the Mind, which dissipate, exhaust, and greatly affect the Spirits and Nervous System; large and long continued Evacuations either by Vomit, Stool, or Blood; too great Abstinence from Victuals; the Burden of being with Child; Menstrual Obstructions, &c. All these are known to be productive of Crudities in the Stomach, a vicious Digestion, and a glutinous unconcocted *Chyle*.

It will carry me much beyond my Compass should I explain in what manner all the *Symptoms* of this Distemper  
are

are to be deduced from a Defect in the Organs of Digestion and Chylification; but any one who will be at the Pains to consider attentively what the learned D<sup>r</sup>. *Boerhaave* hath said upon the Diseases arising spontaneously from the Changes in our Fluids, will not be at a Loss to apprehend how these surprising *Alterations* are brought about.

The Method of *Cure* is to be proposed either as it regardeth the present *Paroxysm*, or relates to the original *Hypochondriack Disposition*. When the Physician is called to the Assistance of a Person actually labouring under a *Fit* (especially if it be a *Woman* who wanteth his Aid) the most immediate means are to be used which may relieve and quiet the Orgasm of the Spirits, and compose the inordinate Tumult they are at this time hurried into. To the obtaining this End all those Substances conduce which are endowed



with a strong, fætid, disagreeable and offensive Scent, such as *Assa fætida*, *Galbanum*, *Spirits of Hartshorn*, *Spirit of Sal Armoniack*, *Feathers*, *Leather*, and such like burnt and held to the Nose. Cold Water sprinkled upon the Face, Snuff, *Euphorbium*, white *Helebore*, and other sternutatory Powders sometimes recall the Sick from a Deliquium. Juleps and liquid Mixtures made with distilled *Hysterick Waters* are to be given inwardly, for the Suffocation in the Throat will hardly admit of any other Form of Medicine, during the Continuance of the *Fit*.

℞. *Aq. Cerasor. nigr. Rutæ & Brion. comp. ana* ℥iij. *Syrup. Atrip. olidæ* ℥j. *Tinctur. Castor. Tinct. Assæ fætid. ana* ℥j. *M. F. Julap. Vel,*

℞. *Aq. Chamæm. Rutæ, Puleg. ana* ℥iij. *Sp. Sal. Armon. ℥j. Sacch. alb. q. s. M. Vel,*

℞. *Aq. Cerasor. nigr. ℥iv. Aq. Puleg. & Brion. comp. ana* ℥iij. *Castor. in Nodul. ligat. ʒ℞. Sacch. alb. q. s. M. Three*

Three or four Spoonfuls of any of these *Juleps* may be given as often as the Faintings require, and if *Camphire* be set on fire and suffered to consume it self in any of the forementioned simple Waters, it will prove of sovereign Advantage in this Case. If the *Swooning* continue notwithstanding the Administration of these Remedies, then it will be expedient to make use of forcible Ligatures upon the Limbs, Contortions of the Fingers, and *Cupping-Glasses*. But it sometimes happens that the *Hysterical* Fit is so considerable that in all respects it resembles a real and legitimate Fit of an *Apoplexy*. In this Circumstance, Recourse is to be had to *Cupping* with Scarification, *Blisters*, and *Emetick Clysters*. When the *Epileptick* Spasms and Convulsions are very strong and exorbitant, the tumultuous Spirits are to be appeased by adding a sufficient Quantity of *Liquid Laudanum*

to

to each Dose of the abovementioned Juleps at convenient Intervals.

If the Patient be of a Sanguine Temperament and an athletick Habit of Body, the Lancet will be of Service in the Fit, but it ought to be used with great Circumspection when we have to do with Persons of a weakly debilitated Constitution, and who have been long fatigued and oppressed with this Distemper.

These are the principal Methods which Experience has taught us prove most beneficial in removing the Paroxysms, I shall therefore proceed to such Treatment as is most likely to prevent their Return, and eradicate the Seeds of these Disorders.

The most rational Means to effect this, seem to be by ordering such *Medicines* as cleanse the first *Passages*, assist *Digestion*, invigorate the *Circulation*, strengthen the Texture of the *Blood*,

M

and

and contribute towards the Separation, Distribution and Regulation of the *Nervous Fluid*.

The first Intention, which is the cleansing the first Passages, will best be answered by administering an *Emetick*, and repeating it as often as Occasion requires; for as long as the *Fomes* of the *Disease* is suffered to remain in the *Stomach*, no considerable Advantage can be gained from other Medicines. *Vomits* likewise help to attenuate the thick unactive *Juices*, and by the frequent Vibrations, and reiterated Contractions which they occasion in the Muscles of the *Abdomen*, they render the stagnating Humours contained in the *Viscera* more moveable and apt for Circulation.

℞. Rad. Ipecacuan. pulv. gr. xx. vel xxx.  
Vel,

℞. Rad. Ipecac. pulv. ʒʒ. Syr. Violar.  
ʒj. Aq. Lact. ʒij. F. Haust. Vel,

℞. Oxymel.

℞. Oxymel. Scill. ℥ij. Ol. Amygd. ℥ss.  
Aq. Lact. ℥j. M.

But seeing that some People, especially those of the *Female Sex*, in these Disorders are so unhappy, either from their natural Constitutions, or have been so much weakned by the Continuance of the Distemper, that they are unable to undergo the severe Shocks of a formal *Vomit*, without great Inconveniency or even imminent Hazard, in this Case we must be content with emptying the Stomach by giving Draughts of *Carduus Whey*, or a strong Decoction of *Green Tea*.

If the Patient be vigorous, strong and plethorick, or if the *Vapours* take their rise from an Interruption of any natural and usual Secretion of *Blood*, as in a Stoppage of the *Menses*, *Lochia*, &c. then it will be very expedient to take away eight, ten, or twelve

Ounces of Blood, antecedent to the Administration of an *Emetick*, lest some of the fine tender Vessels should happen to burst in the Operation, as well as to give Relief to some of the *Symptoms*, which in these *Disorders* plainly indicate it.

The Day after an *Emetick* hath been given, we may safely venture upon *Catharticks*, in order to disburden the *Bowels* of the *Slime* and tough *Mucus* which the indigested *Chyle* had deposited upon them. But since very few *Hypochondriack* Persons can bear the Severity of the rougher *Purgatives* without some Inconveniencies which are apt to alarm them with terrible Apprehensions, to which this sort of People are most of all other subject, it will be proper to make trial of such as are more mild in their Operation..

℞. *Syrup. Rhei* ℥ij. *Syr. Rosar. solut.* ℥ss.  
*Aq. Lact.* ℥iiij. *M. F. Haust. Vel,*

℞. *Syr.*

℞. Syr. Rosar. solut. Elix. Salutis ana  
 ℥j. Aq. Cinnam. Hord. ℥iij. M.

If the Patient rather approves of  
 Pills, then

℞. Pil. Coch. maj. gr. xv. Castor. g. ij.  
 cum s. q. Elix. prop. F. Pil. N<sup>o</sup>. v.

Rhubarb in Powder, or *Pulv. Cornachin.* are convenient Purgatives in this Case, but nothing is more efficacious than the *Pil. Cochæ cum Elleb.* when the Constitution can easily dispense with them.

The *Stomach* and *Bowels* being sufficiently cleansed by these Evacuations, are now disposed to receive and transmit into the Mass of Blood the good Effects which may result from such Remedies as may answer the chief Demands of this *Disease*. These are such as destroy the *Lentor* in the Juices, invigorate the *Blood* by encreasing the Intestine and progressive Motion of its Particles,

ticles, force their way thro' and scour the obstructed *Glands*, render the *Secretions* free and natural, and lastly bridle and restrain the inordinate Sallies of the *Animal Spirits*. Of this kind are *Stomachick*, *Chalybeate*, *Antimonial*, *Volatile*, and those which are more peculiarly termed *Anti-Hysterick* Medicines. When this alterative Course is once entered upon, it ought to be persisted in till such time as the *Complaints* of the Patient cease, and we have good reason to believe that the ill State of the *Fluids* is thorowly changed and amended.

That the Practitioners in the *West-Indies* may not be at a loss for Instruments in these *Intentions*, I shall subjoin the most effectual and approved Forms of *Prescription*, which I have either met with from others, or experienced in my own *Practice*.



℞. *Limatur. Chalyb. Extract. Absynth. ana* ʒʒ. *Castor. ʒj. Balsam. Peruv. q. s. ut F. Mass. Pil. Capiat* ʒj. *bis in die. Vel,*

℞. *Sal. Mart. ʒij. Croc. ʒij. Galban. colat. q. s. ut F. Mass. Pil. Sumat ut prius. Vel,*

℞. *Castor. Gum. Ammon. ana* ʒʒ. *Sal. Tart. ʒj. Chalyb. ʒj. Sal. Vol. Succini gr. x. Tinct. Castor. q. s. ut F. Pil. in eisdem Usus.*

℞. *Conserv. Absynth. Roman. ʒiij. Sal. Chalyb. ʒij. Croc. ʒʒ. Syr. Chalyb. q. s. ut F. Electuar. Vel,*

℞. *Conserv. Cachlear. Absinth. Rom. ana ʒj. Spec. Diambrae Cort. Winteran. pulv. ana ʒj. Salis Succini ʒʒ. Chalyb. cum Sulph, preparat. ʒiij. Syrup. è Cort. Citri q. s. ut F. Electuar.*

The Patient is to take the Quantity of a Nutmeg twice a Day, and drink after each Dose a few Spoonfuls of Wormwood Wine, or of the following Infusion.

℞. Rad. Serpent. Virgin. ʒj. Cort. Peruv. ʒj. Tart. alb. ʒij. Infund. in Vin. Maderens. ℥ij. coletur usūs tempore.

Moderate Exercise during the Course of Chalybeate Medicines is of singular Benefit, and very much promotes the good Consequentes we expect from them. But if the Sick be obstinately resolved against all Forms except those which are liquid and given in Draughts, this which follows will in a great measure perform all that is to be hoped for from the Use of Steel.

℞. Aq. Lact. Alex. ℥ij. Absynth. comp. Gentian. comp. ana ʒvj. Limatur. Mart. ʒiij. infund. frigide per dies vj. dein adde summit. Centaur. min. Flor. Chamæm. ana p. j. Cort. Aurant. ʒj. Rad. Gent. Sem. Card. ben. ana ʒij. Stent simul per quatuor dies, & postea decantetur Liquor.

In the Administration of Chalybeate Medicines, great regard must be had to  
the

the Constitution and Circumstances of the *Patient*, for they are by no means to be allowed to Women after *Conception*, to such who are subject to have their *Menses* flow too liberally, or to those who have a *thin, hot and rarified* State of Blood. Under these Conditions we must forbear *Steel* and its *Preparations*, and repose our Confidence in those Medicaments which are appropriated to the Amendment of these *Disorders*, without putting the Blood into too violent Agitations; in this Case the following deserve our Notice.

℞. Galban. Myrrh. Assæ fætid. ana ʒj.  
Castor. Camph. Sal. Succin. ana ʒss. Ol. Succini gutt. vj. Tinct. Castor. q. s. ut F. Mass.  
Pil. Dos. ʒj. bis in die. Vel,

℞. Castor. ʒj. Sal. Succin. vol. ʒss. cum  
s. q. Extract. Rutæ. F. Pil. Vel,

℞. Cort. Peruv. pulv. ʒss. Corall. rub.  
Ocul. Cancr. pp. ana ʒiij. Sal. Absynth. ʒij.  
cum q. s. Syr. Absynth. F. Electuar. Vel,

℞. Conserv.

℞. *Conserv. Rutæ, Absynth. Roman. ana ʒj. Gum. Ammon. in q. s. Tinct. Cast. solut. ʒj. Troch. Myrrh. pulv. ʒij. Croci ʒʒ. cum s. q. Syr. è Cortic. Citri F. Electuar. Vel,*

℞. *Conserv. Absynth. Roman. ʒj. Elect. è Bacc. Lauri ʒʒ. Helleb. nigr. pulv. ʒj. Sal. Tart. ʒiʒ. Assæ Fætid. in Tinct. Castor. solut. ʒj. cum Syr. è Cort. Citri q. s. F. Elect. Dosis sit Quant. Nuc. Mosch. bis in Die.*

While the Patient continueth in the Use of these *Medicines*, walking in open *Air*, riding in a *Coach*, or rather on *Horseback* if the Strength will allow of it, chearful *Company* and *Diversions* suited to the Taste and Genius of the Sick, are freely to be indulged and encouraged. To these we may add *Bathing* in cold *Water* as a powerful Assistant, when no other *Indisposition* forbids the Practice of it.

All deep *Contemplations*, anxious *Thoughts* and inordinate *Passions* are absolutely to be avoided. The

The *Diet* should be nourishing and of easy Digestion, plain and simple, not salted, spiced or pickled. The *Drink* should be *Madera Wine*, sometimes diluted with Water, and sometimes pure and unmixed.

To prevent a return of the *Vapours* it will be convenient to give one Scruple of the *Peruvian Bark* in Powder, or a Bolus Morning and Evening for some time after the Disuse of other Remedies, in order to establish the *Crasis* of the Blood.

*Galbanum* or other *Hysterick Emplasters*, *Nodules* with *Assa Foetida*, *Castor*, and such like, may not only assist in amusing *Hypochondriack* People, (who of all People stand most in Need of Amusements,) but also in some *Cases* they may have a good effect upon the *Spirits* themselves by abating the Tumult and Disorder they are in, and removing the Accidents consequent thereon; for

which

which reason I think the Use of them ought not to be discarded from Practice.

It may perhaps be thought by some, that I have not sufficiently recommended the giving of *Opiates* in these *Hypochondriack* and *Hysterick* Affections. I am so far from disproving of the Use of them in several Circumstances of the *Paroxysm*, or when the Patient labours under violent *Vomitings*, or continues to be exceeding *restless* and uneasy in the Night, that I esteem them of the highest Importance on these Occasions, as they procure Intervals of *Ease*, and solicit the unruly Spirits to a State of Composure; but on the other hand I do not comprehend how they can much assist towards the grand Intention of *Cure*, otherwise than accidentally, when the *Method* assigned for it has been entered upon.

## C H A P. VIII.

*Of the Sudamina and Ring-  
Worms.*

**H**A V I N G in the foregoing Chapters described the Symptoms and proposed the Management of such internal Diseases as are most frequently met with in the *West-Indies*, I shall employ the remaining Part of this Book upon some *Cutaneous*, or at least *External* Maladies, which are very often observed in these *Climates*.

It is very usual for People upon their first Arrival to be molested with a troublesome uneasy *Itching* all over the Surface of the Body, which breaks out in little, reddish, bladdery *Pustules*, principally upon the Breast, resembling those Eruptions which we find in Authors under

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der the Title of *Papulae* and *Sudamina*.  
This *Pruritus* exasperates the Patient to so  
great a Degree, that human Resoluti-  
on is not able to restrain him from  
Scratching, upon which a sharp, bilious,  
salt *Humour* ouzes out of so corrosive  
a Nature that it often frets and exul-  
cerates the outward Skin, leaving the  
Breast exceeding sore and raw.

Altho' this *Disease* be greatly vexati-  
ous, yet the *Cure* of it is not to be rash-  
ly attempted by astringent or repelling  
*Applications*, for upon the drying up of  
this *Humour*, several Persons have been  
seized with a *Fever*, *Dropsy*, or a dan-  
gerous *Dysentery*, who otherwise en-  
joyed a perfect State of Health (exclu-  
sive of this Disorder) for a long time be-  
fore.

When these *Papulae* become too infur-  
ferable to be supported, the safest Me-  
thod of Relief to be entered upon is  
by giving temperate, cooling *Purges*  
with



with *Manna*, *Crem. Tart.* and such like; but if they happen in a hot *Bilious* Constitution, *Blood-letting* ought to be the first thing attempted.

After *Evacuations* have been sufficiently made it may be safe to use *Fomentations* with Water, Sulphur, Nitre and the larger *Cold-Seeds*; and the Patient must all this while be confined to a temperate way of Living and a strict *Regimen*.

When the *Bilious* Matter which ought to be discharged by these *Eruptions* is detained in the sudoriferous Glands by means of *Cold*, the thinner and more subtile part of the Cutaneous Secretion passes off by insensible *Perspiration*, and the *Salts* being deprived of their Vehicle become too gross to escape thro' the Pores of the Skin, and are therefore lodged in the Glands, where they acquire a corrosive Pungency. For this reason the *Disease* is improved into one

more obstinately cutaneous, which puts on the Appearance of an *Impetigo*, commonly called in these Parts *Ring-Worms*, and often persists a long time with the Violence of a *Herpes exedens*.

These *Ring-Worms* appear in diverse Parts of the Body in small, dark, brown *Clusters of Pustules* about the Circumference of a Sixpence, which frequently spread themselves to a much larger Dimension afterwards. These *Serpiginous Eruptions* are attended with a most intolerable *Itching*, mixed with great Heat and Smart, and when rubbed they send out a small quantity of *Ichorous Exudation*, but never come to any *Digestion*. Sometimes they forsake the Places where they first discovered themselves, and disappearing there, become manifest in other parts of the Body, and these Transitions are observed to correspond with certain *Aspects* of the *Moon*. They sometimes proceed to so great

great a degree of Inveteracy, that they will be able to keep their ground for many Years, in Opposition to the most powerful Remedies.

In *Bilious* and inflamed Constitutions *Blood-letting* is absolutely necessary, after which such Purges as are usually called *Cholagogues* ( which see in the Chapter upon the *Faundice*) are to be repeated two or three times, and if they prove ineffectual, it will be expedient to join *Mercurius dulcis* or *Calomel* to their Assistance. When the general Evacuations have been sufficiently made, *Æthiops mineral* continued for some time will be found of great Benefit, especially if a *Decoction* of the *Woods* in an equal part of Common Water and *Aq. Calcis* be taken during the Use of it.

The most efficacious *Topicks*, which ( as has been already remarked ) should always be applied with Caution, are these which follow.

℞. *Ol. Tart.* ℥j. *Sapon. com.* ℥ij. *Ol. Lign. Rhod. gut.* viij. *M. F. Linamentum. Vel,*

℞. *Aq. Ros.* ℥iij. *Calcis* ℥ij. *Alumin.* ℥j. *Succ. recent. Nicotian.* ℥j. *M. pro Lotione. Vel,*

℞. *Ung. Oxylap.* ℥ss. *Camph.* ℥j. *Sulph. Litharg. ana* ℥ss. *Merc. dulc.* ℞. *Ærug. Æris ana* ℞j. *Ol. Myrtil.* q. s. *M.*

The Root of *Cassada* pounded and made into a *Cataplasm* is esteemed as a *Specifick* among the *Topicks* in these Cases, and it is, without doubt, a very powerful Application when used with *Judgment*.

I forbear to allow a place here to the more violent *Mercurial Preparations*, because a *Mistake* in the Circumstances of the Disease, or an injudicious Boldness in this Kind of *Practice* may prove of dangerous, not to say *fatal Consequence*.

## C H A P. IX.

*Of the Guinea Worm.*

**T**HIS *Distemper* takes its Name from that Division of *Africa* which is called *Guinea*, because the *Natives* of that Country are very much subject to be infested with this Sort of *Worm*, tho' it is not so frequent any where as on the *Gold-Coast* about *Anamboe* and *Cormantyn*.

There are many other Parts of the World where the same Kind of *Worm* is to be met with. *Engelbertus Kempfer* found them about *Gomron* in *Persia*, whence he calls this *Worm* *Dracunculus Persarum*, and for the same reason *A-*

*vicenna* calls it *Nervous Medinensis, vel Vena Medeni*, because it is found near *Medina*. For farther Information the Curious may consult the learned Sir *Hans Sloan's Natural History of Jamaica* Vol. I. Pag. 126. and Vol. II. Pag. 190. 352. where they may be satisfied in every thing which has been said on this Subject.

This *Worm* is white, round, long, and uniform, very much resembling white round Tape or Bobbin; nor have I ever seen any of them broad and flat as they are described by some Authors. It is lodged between the Interstices and Membranes of the *Muscles*, where it insinuates it self to a prodigious length, sometimes exceeding five Ells. It occasions no great Pain in the beginning, but at such time as it is ready to make its Exit, the Part adjoyning to the Extremity of the *Worm*, where it attempts its Exclusion, begins to swell, throb, and be inflamed.

This

This generally happens about the *Ankle*, *Leg*, or *Thigh*, and rarely higher.

The *Countries* where this *Distemper* is observed, are very hot and sultry, liable to great Droughts; and the Inhabitants make use of stagnating corrupted Water, in which it is very probable that the *Ova* of these *Animalculæ* may be contained; for the white People who drink this *Water* are obnoxious to the *Disease* as well as the *Negroes*.

The Surgeons seldom attempt to extract this *Worm* by making an Incision, but as soon as they perceive the *Tumour* rise to a competent bulk, they endeavour to bring it to *Suppuration* with all convenient Expedition, and then the Head of the *Worm* discovers itself, which they secure by tying it to a bit of Stick or Cotton that it may not contract and draw itself up again. Thus they continue to roll it round the Stick daily, sometimes one Inch, sometimes

two or more each Day, taking great Care not to break the *Worm*, which if they chance to do it will be very difficult to recover the End of it again, and an *Abscess* will be formed not only at the suppurated Part, but also through the whole winding of the *Muscles* where the dead putrifying *Worm* remains : So that from an Accident of this kind you shall have *Apostumations* produced in several Places in the Limbs, which generally occasion very obstinate *Ulcers*, and give the Surgeon great Perplexity in the Cure of them.

I must likewise take Notice that during the Extraction of the *Worm*, the Patient should be plyed with bitter *Aloetic* and other *Anthelmintick* Medicines, in order to dislodge the *Worm* the sooner from his Tenement; and it is observed that these *Vermin* protrude themselves much faster when these Remedies are given.

When



When the *Worm* is totally extracted the remaining *Ulcer* through which it passed, may be treated in the same manner as other common *Ulcers*, nor does any farther Inconveniency remain in the Parts of which it had Possession.

This *Disease*, simply considered, very rarely, if ever, proves mortal. I have my self a young, and otherwise hale *Negroe Wench* who had nine of these *Guinea Worms* extracted from her, without any bad Consequence ensuing.

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## CHAP. X.

### *Of the Elephantiasis.*

**I** SHALL put an End to this *Treatise* by giving the Description of two *Diseases* to which the *Blacks* are no Strangers, but as far as I can be informed they are utterly unknown in *Europe* : I mean the *Elephantiasis* under the Circumstances it occurs in the *West-Indies*, and a Distemper called there, the *Joint-Evil*. And first of the *Elephantiasis*.

This *Disease*, which is no rare thing to be met with among the *Negroes*, bears a great Affinity to the best Accounts we have of the *Lepra* of the *Arabians*.  
 Those

Those *Blacks* are the more subject to it who after severe acute *Fevers*, long continued *Intermittents*, or other tedious *Illnesses*, are either much exposed to the Inclemency of Rainy Seasons, and the cold penetrating Dew of the Evenings, or are constrained to subsist upon bad Diet and undigestible unwholesome Food.

In the beginning the Person is weak, cachectical and emaciated 'till the Glut of viciated *Humours* subside into the *Legs* and *Feet*, which are the *Seat* of this Distemper, and at this time begin to appear *Oedematous*, and puffed up with watry Tumours as in an *Anasarca*, but the Swelling does not retain the Mark of any Pressure in the same degree, or so long, as in that Distemper.

By Degrees the *Leg* becomes more and more tumefied, and the Veins are much distended with *Varicose* Swellings, which are very apparent from the Knee  
down

down to the Extremities of the Toes. Then the Skin begins to grow rugged and unequal, its vascular and glandulous *Compages* is enlarged, and a *scaly* Substance, with a Sort of Chops and Fissures in the Interstices, appear upon its Surface. These seeming *Scales* do not dry up and fall off, but are daily protruded forward, and stretched in their Dimensions till the Leg is enlarged to an enormous Bulk, so that in Size, Shape, and all other external Appearance it minutely represents the *Leg* of an *Elephant*, from whence the Disease receives its Denomination.

But notwithstanding that this scaly Coat appears to be harsh, callous and insensible, yet if it be touched ever so superficially with a Lancet the *Blood* will freely ouze out, and if the *Epi-dermis* which affords this monstrous Appearance be pared off to the thickness of the Scarf-skin in those Parts, an Infinity  
of

of Orifices of the Blood-Vessels will present themselves to the Eye, when assisted with a Microscope.

Tho' the *Limb* continues to proceed to this inordinate Magnitude, yet the Appetite of the *Negroe* remains good, his Digestion strong, and his Secretions regular, nor is he sensible of any other Inconveniency than the Burthen of carrying such a *Load* of *Leg* along with him.

In this Condition several have been known to live twenty Years, and even to a longer Period, and have performed chearfully all the Duties of their Servitude, which were consistent with such disproportionate *Limbs*.

This Addition of Bulk is generally confined to one *Leg* at a time, but there have been several Instances where it has invaded both together.

*Amputation* of the Diseased *Leg* has been performed many times, but has  
always

always failed of a Cure, for the Disorder constantly takes Possession of the remaining *Leg.*

Sometimes *white People*, whose unhappy Circumstances have reduced them to Hardships but little inferior to what the *Blacks* are obliged to undergo, have given us Proof that this *Disease* is not limited to one Colour, any more than to the Bounds in which *Lucretius* has confined it.

*Est Elephas Morbus, qui propter Flumina Nili  
Gignitur Ægypto, in Media, neq; præterea usquam.*

## C H A P. XI.

*Of the Joint-Evil.*

**M**ANY of the *Negroes* in the *Leeward Islands*, as well *Natives* as those imported from *Guinea*, are subject to a *Cutaneous Distemper*, which in those *Parts* is known by the Name of the *Joint-Evil*. This *Malady* is equally remarkable in its *Appearances* as it is fatal in its *Consequences*, being of so virulent a *Nature* that it eludes the force of the most powerful *Remedies* hitherto discovered.

The *Description* of it is as follows. It first appears in superficial *Spots* of a brown copper *Colour* dispersed over several parts of the *Face*, but especially  
on

on the *Nose*, without any Unevenness, or sense of Pain in the beginning. These *Spots* spread by slow degrees 'till a great part of the Body is covered with them. Then the Nails curl inwards, and the Extremities of the Fingers and Toes begin to ulcerate. These *Ulcers*, which never digest, but generally look dry without much Foulness or Fætor, gradually creep from Joint to Joint, till they have eroded all the *Fingers* and *Toes*. The next Attack this unconquerable Enemy makes, is upon the *Trunk* of the Body where it spreads in *Patches*, and at this time the Distemper becomes *infectious*. These Defecations of the Skin never penetrate very deep into the Muscular Flesh, but extend themselves in Circumference, and discharge a thin *Ichor* which insensibly dries up and emaciates the Patient, sometimes in a few Years, tho' there have been some *Negroes* under these Circumstances, who  
have



have protracted a miserable loathsome Life for the space of ten, twelve Years, or longer.

Among the numerous Attempts which I have known made to resist this stubborn *Disease*, *Antimonial Preparations* afford the greatest Relief, but I have never heard that they perfected a Cure; on the other Hand, all Preparations of *Mercury* aggravate the *Distemper*, exasperate the *Ulcers*, and make them spread the faster. This is constantly true in whatever Form, or with whatever Intention *Mercury* be given, whether as alterative, purgative, or to raise a Salivation, either internally exhibited, or externally applied.

The *Negroes* who are great Pretenders to the Knowledge of *Specifick* Virtues in Simples, apply several Kinds of *Plants* on these Occasions, but I could never observe the least beneficial Effect produced by them.

This being a *Disease* not taken Notice of (as far as I know by any *Author*) I hope I shall be excused for giving the *Description* of it, though I am forced to leave it to future Industry and greater Sagacity than my own, to investigate the *Cure*.

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F I N I S.

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