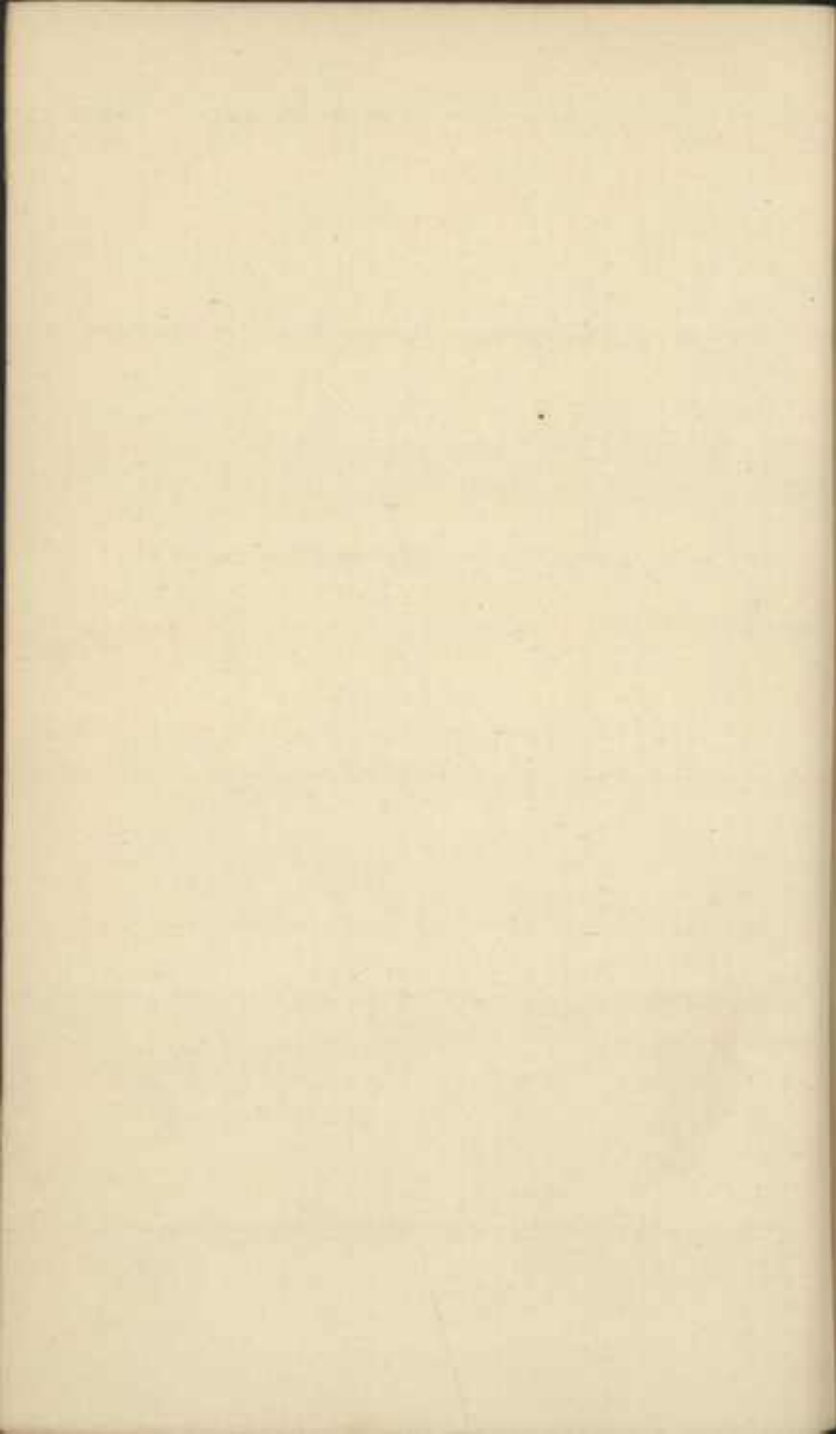


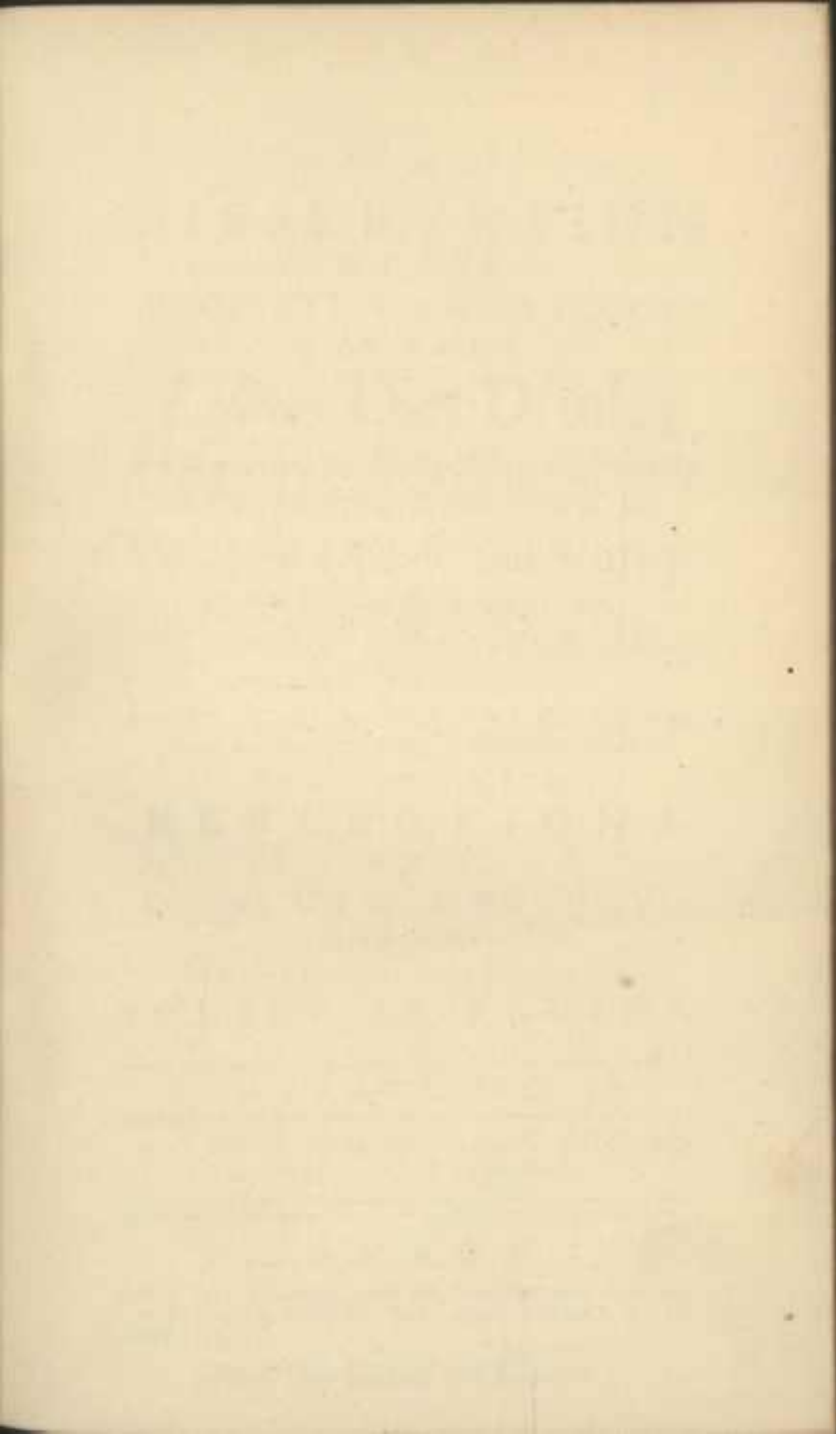
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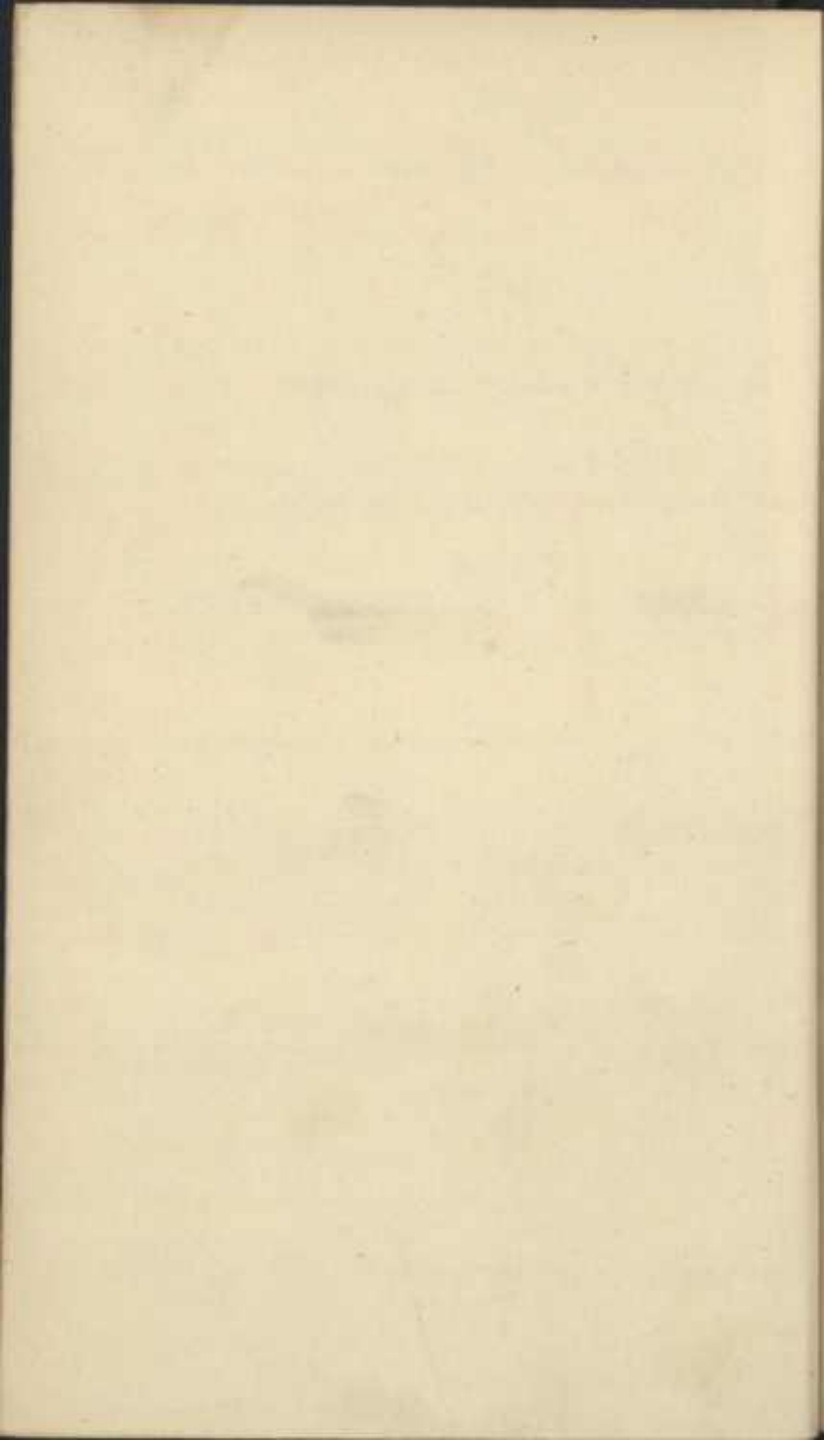
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519. XVII -









A  
DISSERTATION  
ON THE  
PROPERTIES and EFFICACY  
OF THE

*Lisbon* Diet-Drink ;

A MEDICINE, for many Years, successfully  
used in *Portugal*, in the Cure of the  
Venereal Disease and Scurvy.

In which, Its Comparative EXCELLENCE with  
MERCURY and GUAIACUM  
IS CONSIDERED,  
And the Particular CASES are pointed out,  
where it justly claims the Preference to BOTH.

TOGETHER WITH  
REFLECTIONS  
ON THE  
Improper USE of MERCURY ;  
AND THE  
MANNER of Its ACTION on the  
SOLIDS and FLUIDS.

---

By J. LEAKE, SURGEON.

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----- *Morbis autem, non Eloquentiâ, sed Remedijs*  
*curari.* CELSUS.

---

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. CLARKE, under the Royal-Exchange, Cornhill ;  
H. S. COX, in Paternoster-Row ; and R. DOBSLEY, in Pall-  
mall. 1757.

[ Price One Shilling and Sixpence. ]

DISSERTATION

ON THE PROPERTIES AND EFFICACY

OF THE Effion Diet-Drink;

A Medicine for many Years successfully used in Fevers, in the Cure of the

Veneral Disease and Scoury.

By JOHN HARRISON, M.D. &c.

MERCURY and GUAJACUM

AS REMEDIES

IN THE Treatment of the Venereal Disease, and in the Cure of the Scoury.

AND THE MANNER OF THEIR ACTION ON THE SOLIDS and FLUIDS.

By JOHN HARRISON, M.D. &c.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

LONDON: Printed and Sold by J. HARRISON, at the Sign of the Sun in Pall-mall; and by J. BARNES, at the Sign of the Anchor in Strand; and by J. BARNES, at the Sign of the Anchor in Strand; and by J. BARNES, at the Sign of the Anchor in Strand.

[Price One Shilling and Sixpence.]

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# P R E F A C E.

*AS the late Calamity at Lisbon, may deprive several of a Medicine, which, for many Years, had there been deemed inestimable, for its constant Success, in curing two Diseases of the most formidable Kind; 'tis presumed the following short Account of it may not be unacceptable; and as it is my Aim, throughout the Whole, to avoid every Thing that may stand in need of an Apology, I have nothing to offer by way of Excuse.*

*There are many Gentlemen, at this Time in London, who have themselves not only experienced its happy Effects Abroad, but have also remark'd its Excellence in the Cases of others; and to These, this Treatise is particularly address'd, as most likely to subscribe to the Merit of the Medicine, with-*

out any Mixture of Partiality or Prejudice.

*What I shall set down concerning it, is not taken from the Authority or Credit of another; but is the immediate Result of my own Observation and Knowledge of its Efficacy, in the perfect Cure of the confirm'd Lues Venerea and Scurvy; having seen, when at Lisbon, repeated Instances of its surprizing Success in these Diseases, even when Salivation, and all other Methods, had been submitted to in vain, and the despairing Patient was left to himself as incurable.*

*This Medicine, at Lisbon, was universally known by the Name of the German Diet-Drink, from its being given there, for many Years, by a German, who, as I was inform'd, had been Physician to the Queen Dowager of Portugal: Its Success was so amazing in many Cases that were thought to be incurable, that several Gentlemen resorted thither from England, Italy,*

Italy, Holland, and other Parts of Europe, in hopes of Relief; so that, of late Years, Montpelier has not been more famous than Lisbon, for the Means of repairing those Constitutions which had suffered from Venereal Complaints.

I have, for a considerable Time, given the same Medicine, and hitherto with good Success; but decline producing particular Cases from my own Practice, as that might admit of Exception, and probably be look'd upon, by some, as an artful Insinuation to recommend it: Being therefore perfectly aware of the Difficulty which may oppose the favourable Mention of particular Remedies, the Reader is desired to remark, that I do not stand indebted to the following Sheets for a Proof of its Efficacy, but shall have Recourse to Matters of Faët, to convince those who may be doubtful, by referring such to those very Persons who have been cured by it after the most powerful Remedies had failed.

The

*The well-known Case of a Nobleman of the first Distinction, about eleven Years ago, is one of the many Instances which shews the remarkable Certainty of this Remedy; for, by its sole Use he was restored to Health, after the Advice of the most eminent Physicians had been followed no Purpose.*

Half-moon-Street, Piccadilly,

March the 5th, 1757.

O F






S E C T. I.

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OF THE  
E F F I C A C Y  
OF THE  
*Lisbon* DIET-DRINK.

AND THE  
PROPERTIES by which it expels  
VENEREAL POISON.

 OBSERVATIONS founded  
upon *Experience* are the surest  
Guides to Truth in every Sci-  
ence, and when apply'd to the  
Cure of Diseases, are alone, much more  
likely

likely to succeed, than the most refin'd and plausible Theories, where these are disregarded and laid aside; by the first, we have a true Copy of a Disease, where all its Symptoms, like the Features of a well-drawn Picture, are faithfully delineated from the Life; but where erring Hypothesis guides the Pencil, the Strokes, tho' ever so delicate, widely differ from Nature, and exhibit not only a faint, but false Resemblance of the Original.

AND as Physick at first began without Theory, so it might in a great Measure subsist without it: That had no Share in furnishing Hints, or guiding the wild *American* to a Remedy for his Disease; for without enquiring into its Cause, he would often cure, Relief being the only thing he sought or car'd for. Thus pure Experience, built upon the most simple Knowledge, supply'd the Place of deep Speculation, and taught him to rate the  
Value

Value of his Medicine by the Ease it procur'd him.

UPON this Account, I shall confine myself entirely to the sensible Effects of the Medicine under Consideration, without confounding or obscuring plain Facts with Matter of idle Surmise ; its constant Success being a much stronger and more incontestable Proof of its Efficacy, than any Conclusion that can be drawn from the most elaborate Description of its Excellence.

BUT tho' I shall only mention the most evident Properties by which it expels the Venereal Poison, or Scorbutic Acrimony, yet I am far from limiting its Power of Action, solely to those Secretions which it principally tends to promote ; since Medicines often operate by Qualities too abstruse to be discover'd by the Senses.

IT may not here be improper to observe, that the noblest and most celebrated Specificks are not alike successful in all Cases; the divine Powers of *Opium* do not always solace the Patient with Intervals of Ease, nor does the most prudent Use of the *Bark* invariably put a Stop to the Progress of an *Intermittent*; a convincing Proof, that the most powerful Medicine cannot justly be warranted infallible, and a Reason too prevailing, to allow me the Mention of so pompous an Epithet, upon this, or any other Occasion.

FORMERLY, the *Lisbon Diet-Drink* was chiefly confined to the Cure of the *Pox* and *Scurvy*, and generally, I believe, it may be the most prevalent in these Diseases; but it may also be given with admirable Success in most Disorders that arise from Acrimony, or a viscid State of the Blood.

IN the *Rheumatism*, and irregular *Gout*, it is of vast Service; in which Cases, I have known it afford the most sensible Relief; for it not only dissolves the obstructing Matter, but blunts the Acrimony of the sharp Juices, and by conveying them gradually out of the Body, by the several Secretions, it mitigates the most severe wandering Pains.

IT produces its Effects in the most salutary, gentle Manner, acting principally by *Perspiration*, *Urine*, and moderate *Stools*; infomuch, that wherever there is Suspicion of a venereal Taint, it may be given with the utmost Safety and Success to *Children*, and *Women with Child*; and as Infants are often infected by distemper'd Nurses, or sometimes born Heirs to this cruel Disease, this Medicine, by its Mildness, becomes peculiarly adapted to the Cure; being proper in the most ten-

der Constitutions, and even in *hectic Complaints*, where the Use of Mercury would be highly prejudicial.

IN the Cure of Diseases, we are often directed to watch the Course of Nature, and to observe with Diligence the Steps she takes to free herself of every Incumbrance; now in the Venereal Disease and Scurvy, the Patient is oftentimes seiz'd with a Flux of the Belly, which being an Effort of Nature, to throw off the morbid Matter by the intestinal Glands, ought, by all Means, to be encouraged; agreeable to this, 'tis evident that a Medicine which is gently laxative, and constantly keeps the Bowels open, must greatly contribute to the Cure, by affording the Venereal Poison a free Passage out of the Body by the Intestines, whenever Nature determines it that way: Again, when the tainted Juices are thrown outwards, and deform the Skin with Eruptions,

tions, this Medicine, by promoting a free Perspiration, will assist in forwarding their Discharge. In this Case, Dr. *Robinson*, in his excellent Treatise on the Venereal Disease, absolutely condemns a Salivation, as attended with very pernicious Consequences; for, according to his Opinion, it may resolve the Matter of the Pocky Scabs, Blotches, and Ulcers, and oblige the tainted Juices, that Nature for her Security had flung upon the Skin, to melt down, and retreat into the Blood again; which is acting both against the Laws of Nature, and the evident Maxims of the Animal OEconomy.

THE better to account for the Effects of the *Diet-Drink*, I shall beg leave to consider, in the shortest Manner, the Nature of the Venereal Poison, and the horrid Consequences arising from it, when intimately mixed with the several Juices; for if the Virus, which, at first, was only  
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in Possession of some particular Part, is not speedily disengaged from the Place of its Residence, and carried out of the Body by the Power of Medicines, or the Efforts of Nature, its Strength will be multiplied in Proportion to the Time of its Stay, and by Degrees it will insinuate itself into the Blood, 'till the whole Mass is contaminated : And as the Fluids separated from it, either in a sound or diseas'd State, are constantly converted into Solids, in order to supply and repair the Loss of what is wore away by the Actions of the Body ; that Poison which, at first, was local, will now be universally diffus'd throughout the Body, and the very Principles of its Existence will become infected.

The Venereal Poison is generally suppos'd to be of an acid, corrosive and fix'd Nature ; from one or all of which Properties, 'tis suppos'd, almost every Symptom



tom of the Disease may be accounted for : however, it is hard to affirm, with any great Certainty, that either the one or the other of these Qualities actually reside in it ; because, we can only judge of the Nature of the Poison by the Effects it produces.

FIRST, I imagine it is thought to partake of Acidity, from its coagulating the Lymph, and bringing on Obstructions and Tumors in the several lymphatic Glands.

SECONDLY, 'tis deem'd corrosive, from the strong Tendency that is observ'd in Venereal Ulcers to spread and eat deeper. And lastly, it is with great Reason suppos'd of a fix'd Nature, because, the Infection is seldom or never communicated by Effluvia, as in the Small-Pox, and other contagious Diseases.

THE Blood, therefore, being alter'd from its sound State, by the Acrimony of the Venereal Poison; all the Fluids separated from it become vitiated, and unfit for the Purposes of Life; the Solids are not only robbed of their due Supply of Nourishment, but also suffer greatly from the Sharpness of the Juices, irritating, and at last eroding the Vessels in which they circulate; and from this Cause arise Pain and Inflammations, which often ulcerate without a previous Suppuration of the Part.

BESIDES, the Stimulus occasioned by the acrid Fluids, will solicit the minute Vessels which are most sensible, to contract and force back their Contents into the larger Branches, and this, by lessening the Diameters of the several Vessels, and preventing a due Circulation, will become the immediate Cause of Obstructi-

on, Tumors, and Caries of the Bones : This contractile Disposition of the Solids is not at all Conjecture, but prov'd, from Experience, to be Matter of Fact : for by examining, with a Microscope, the Parts of an Animal in Pain, that is found sufficient to alter the Course of the Blood, and by the Spasms it occasions, will drive back the Fluids in their Vessels, 'till the Stimulus is remov'd ; so that from this Obstruction to the Progress of the Circulation, Tumors may probably happen, without any preternatural Thickness or Coagulation of the Blood.

INDEED, it is generally thought, that at first, the infectious Matter acts chiefly by coagulating the Juices, which stagnating, acquire a Degree of Acrimony sufficient to erode the Solid Parts, but whether the one of these Qualities precedes the other, or whether they do not exist together, from the Time of In-

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fection,

fection, is a Circumstance which, I think, has never yet been sufficiently clear'd up.

THE Viscidity of the Blood is also the Consequence of the Venereal Poison, which, concurring with its Acrimony, may produce Symptoms almost innumerable, and tho' variously complicated, yet all of them depending upon the two preceding simple Causes.

THE Globules of Blood have mutual Attractions, which increase in Proportion to their Surface of Contact, and there are several Properties residing in Matter, which are found to augment or diminish this attractive Power; Vegetable Acids dissolve it, whilst mineral acid Spirits infallibly coagulate and dispose it to run into preternatural Cohesions; and as the Venereal Poison is suppos'd to be of an acid, or falso-acid Nature, 'tis no wonder that  
it

it should thicken the Lymph, and bring on all the Symptoms consequent of that Quality, *viz.* Buboes in the Groin, Inflammations and Enlargement of the Testes, with Tumors and Obstruction of the Glands in several Parts of the Body.

A VISCID State of the Blood may likewise happen from a defect of its Motion from any Cause; for as the constituent Parts of all the animal Fluids are globular in their natural State, so do they preserve that Figure by the constant Revolution of their Parts; by which, every separate Particle may be consider'd as a Ball, or small Sphere, continually turning round its own Axis, in various Directions; therefore, as their Motions languish, or wholly cease, these Particles must recede from their original globular Figure, and assume others, more or less approaching thereunto: But since spherical Particles do, of all others, contain

the greatest Quantity of Matter under the least Surface, their Points of Contact, *inter se*, must be the smallest, and consequently the best adapted to compose a fluid Body; so that whenever the Juices change this Figure for any other that is pointed or angular, they are said to be in a diseas'd or acrimonious State; and not only so, but they must likewise become more glutinous and roapy, for the Cohesion of their Parts will be in Proportion to their Surface of Contact, and as the Quantity of their Surface is increas'd by their new-acquir'd Figure, they must, of necessity, constitute a Fluid more viscid and tenacious than what it was before.

THIS Indisposition of the Juices will prove the greatest Obstacle to a free glandular Secretion, and the venal Blood being, by this Means, depriv'd of that due Supply of Lymph, which, in a natural State, dilutes and keeps it fluid, will  
grow

grow thick and unfit for Circulation; its Motion will become languid, and its Return to the Heart, thro' the small Vessels, more difficult; and as this Loss of Motion will still become greater and greater, as the several Glands increase in their Obstruction, so will the Blood's Viscidity be augmented more and more.

THE Nature of the venereal Poison being such as to communicate Acrimony, and dispose the Blood to a viscid State, the Cure will be soonest brought about by such Things as blunt the Acrimony, thin the Blood, and evacuate the offending Matter which occasioned these Depravities.

The *Lisbon Diet-Drink*, already mention'd, is eminently possess'd of all the above Properties, and by these it is directly suited to answer all the Intentions of Cure.

'Tis

'Tis a nice Point to commend with Judgment, and still more difficult, to avoid the Imputation of Partiality, in a Subject of this Kind ; I therefore beg Leave to acquaint the Reader, that I only look upon this Medicine as a valuable Acquisition, which in the Hands of another might be alike successful : and that the Merit of the Cures perform'd by it, are, by no Means, due to me, but properly belong to that Gentleman who first introduc'd and apply'd it to Practice.

It is compos'd of saline, penetrating, subtile Parts, join'd with a soft resinous Balsam, which together make a kind of natural Soap, readily mixing with the animal Fluids, and with them easily convey'd to every part of the Body : It occasions no Tumult in the Blood, nor hastily sollicit its own Expulsion, but goes the whole Length of the Circulation, and searches to the Extremities of the finest Strainers.

By



By its saline, deterging Quality, it dissolves the coagulated Lymph; and powerfully scours the obstructed Glands; whilst, by its soft balsamic Parts, it becomes friendly to Nature, defending the Solids, and sheathing the Acrimony of the sharp Juices, which before were constantly eroding and preying upon their tender Fibres.

ITS Effects in the Blood-Vessels seems somewhat anagolous to those of Oils in the Stomach, when taken upon Poisons, or Emulsions drank plentifully to remove the Stranguary from blistering with *Spanish Flies*; for as the Design of administering these, is to blunt the caustic Salts, and convey 'em out of the Body without wounding the Solids, so is this Medicine intended to answer the like Purposes, by breaking and inveloping the Asperity of the Venereal Poison, and by inlarging the Secretions for its quicker Discharge.

THIS

THIS Medicine, therefore, being constantly, and for a considerable Time, largely admitted into the Mass of Blood, by its active penetrating Salt, suspended in a medicated Liquor, dilutes and lessens the Cohesion of its constituent Parts, by Means of which the *Venereal Poison*, or *Scorbutic Acrimony*, are the more easily separated from the sound Juices, and wash'd out of the Body by the several Secretions of *Perspiration*, *Urine*, and *Stool*.

IN this Manner it thoroughly changes the whole Mass of Blood from a dis-temper'd to a sound State, and manifestly works a radical Cure, without disordering the Patient, or leaving him in that languid, death-like Condition, which unavoidably follows a plentiful Salivation: On the contrary, it rather becomes a *Restorative*, by imparting a balsamic Disposition

fition to the Blood, and supplying the Solids with such Matter as was abraded and wore away by the Sharpness of the Juices; for the same Reason, it will also, in a great Measure, repair the Injuries done to the Constitution, by the *imprudent Use of Mercury*; and upon this Account, I have known two or three who grew fat during its Use, who before were extremely thin and emaciated by a preceding Salivation.

HENCE also, the almost certain Success of this Medicine in *foul Venereal, or Scorbatic Ulcers*, which are not restrain'd by Mercury, but continue spreading in Spight of its liberal Use; for in such Cases, the Blood being depriv'd of its richest and most balsamic Parts, the very Stamina of the Solids give way, and tend to a State of Diffolution.

BUT, be a Medicine ever so good and powerful, it still remains as a Thing of

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the last Importance, to distinguish and particularize the several Cases where it is found, from Practice, to be the most remarkably advantageous.

I WOULD therefore, from Experience, in a very particular Manner, recommend the Use of the *Lisbon Diet-Drink*, in worn-out, feeble Constitutions, after a Salivation has fail'd, and left the Patient hectic or consumptive, with spreading Ulcers, Eruptions on the Skin, an inveterate Head-ach, acute wandering Pains, or any other Symptoms that may be deem'd truly Venereal or Scorbutic: In these Cases it will sweeten and restore the sharp thin Blood to its former balsamic State; and from hence a more free and equal Circulation will again take Place: It is likewise given with the most certain Success to *infected Children*, and *Women with Child*, and seems incomparably well suited to such delicate Constitutions, since

I believe, there is no Remedy yet known so safe and gentle in its Operation, where the Event is alike successful.

WHOEVER doubts the Efficacy of this Remedy, from its want of that Gravity with which Mercury and other Minerals are endued, need only attend to a common Experiment, which will entirely overthrow that Objection, *viz.* The Bones of Animals, which have for some Time eaten their Food with a Mixture of Madder-Root, do by this Means acquire a florid red Colour, even in their most solid and compact Parts: This Circumstance is mention'd by Mr. *Monro*, speaking of the Vessels of the Bones.

“ THE clearest Demonstration of the  
 “ intimate Distribution of these small Ar-  
 “ teries, is, to observe the Effects of such  
 “ a tinging Substance, as can retain its  
 “ Colour when swallow'd, digested, and

“ mix'd with the Blood of any living  
 “ Animal, and at the same Time has Par-  
 “ ticles small enough to be convey'd into  
 “ the Vessels of the Bones ; such is RUBIA  
 “ TINCTORUM, Madder-Root\* ; for we see  
 “ the gradual Advances which this Tinc-  
 “ ture makes from the Periosteum into the  
 “ more internal Parts of the Bones, and  
 “ how universally the Distribution of Li-  
 “ quors is made, the whole bony Sub-  
 “ stance being tinged.”

FROM hence, it is evident that all the  
 Parts of the Body, even the very Bones, a-  
 bound with Vessels infinitely small, which  
 admit of Circulation, and are previous to the  
 subtile Particles of Medicines, which act not  
 at all by their Gravity, but rather by a  
 Specific Quality, which, with the animal  
 Fluids, is constantly propell'd by the Force  
 of

\* *Philos. Transact.* Numb. 442, Art. 8. Numb.  
 443, Art. 2. Numb. 457, Art. 4. *Mem. de l'  
 Acad. des Sciences* 1739, 1743.

of the Heart, and by Degrees transmitted to the affected Part ; so that tho' the Disease is ever so inveterate, and the Patient infected, *even to the Bones*, provided he will conform to a proper Regimen, and duly continue this Diet-Drink, for a considerable Time, he may in the End, with the greatest Probability, rely upon an absolute Cure.

BUT, seeing the Circulation in the smallest Order of Vessels appears too remote from the Heart, to be mov'd by its Impulse, perhaps, a medicinal Effect on such Parts may be better accounted for, by ascribing the Motion of the Fluids to Attraction, simular to that in capillary Glass Tubes, or to what we see in the vegetable Syphon, at one End imbibing \* the Fluid, which rises against its own Gravity, and is discharged at the other.

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\* *Vide* Kinneir's Essay on the Nerves.

THE *Scurvy*, according to the best Writers, cannot properly be defin'd a simple Affection depending upon any one single proximate Cause; but is rather a Complication of Disorders, attacking the Patient with various Symptoms, most of which may be trac'd to the Fountain from which they spring, *viz.* a bad Constitution of the Blood: This Discracy of the Blood, may be occasion'd by tedious and long-continu'd Illness, by unwholesome Diet, such as that of Flesh-Meats, which are rendered indigestible, from the vast Quantity of Salt used in preserving them, by drinking of corrupted stagnating Water, or by breathing a confin'd, moist, inelastic, or putrid Air; but, according to *Lind*, those who have undergone a *Salivation* are, of all others, the most subject to this Disease.

IT may be observ'd of Sea-Salt, that the Force of the digestive Faculties only  
serve



serve to subtilize its Parts, but is insufficient to change its Nature, which, after repeated Circulations, still remains invincibly the same; so that, without these Salts, with which the Blood is overstock'd, are plentifully carried out of the Body by the Urinary Passages, they will fall upon the Glands of the Skin, in form of yellow scurfy Eruptions; or else by vellicating and eroding the muscular Fibres, the Blood will extravasate, and occasion black petechial Spots, especially on the Legs; and as all animal and vegetable Substances become putrid, as soon as the progressive Motion of their Fluids ceases, these Discolourations will often afterward break, and become troublesome spreading Sores: The Gums also grow spongy, bleed upon the slightest Touch, and at last will ulcerate, from the Acrimony of the putrid Saliva.

THAT the Kidnies are the proper excretory Organs, by which this muriatic

tic Acrimony is naturally discharg'd, is evident from the Saltness of the Urine ; and therefore, a Disease brought on by this Quality can never be more effectually cured, than by giving a diuretic Medicine, which also resists Putrefaction, and which, by diluting the Blood, will likewise dissolve the sharp Salts, and carry them off, by an increas'd *Urinary Discharge*.

NOTHING, as Dr. *Pringle* observes, could be more unexpected than to find Sea-Salt a Haftner of Putrefaction ; yet his twenty-fifth Experiment demonstrably proves it to be such ; for tho' one Dram of Salt, in two Ounces of Water, preserved Flesh sweet twenty Hours longer than pure Water, yet he found, from repeated Experiments, that Flesh, with from five to twenty Grains of Sea-Salt, putrified sooner than the same Quantity of Flesh infus'd in Water only ; and further observes, since Salt is never taken in Aliment,

ment, beyond the Proportion of the corrupting Quantities in the Experiment, it appears subservient to Digestion, chiefly by a septic Virtue; and consequently, I think, may be justly deem'd a principal Cause of the Scurvy, contrary to the Opinion of a modern Writer on that Disease.

It is the Nature of all animal Oils, when exalted by extraordinary Heat, or long Rest, to acquire a Degree of Rancidity, sufficient to bring on a total Corruption of the Humours with which they are mix'd, and also to erode the Solids, where they chance to stagnate: This seems, in a great Measure to be the Case, not only in the Scurvy, where the most evident Marks of Putrefaction appear, but also in the Bilious and Petechial Fever, where the Blood drawn from the Veins, particularly in the Scurvy, sends up a putrid stinking Smell, and appears of a dark,

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greenish

greenish, muddy Hue, without any regular Separation of its Parts, after standing to cool.

'Tis found, from Experience, that nothing will sooner correct the Acrimony of rancid Oils; than vegetable Salts; for by mixing rancid Train Oil with Pot-ashes, it loses its Sharpness, and is immediately chang'd into a Soap, which is a mild, innocent Substance, widely differing from the two Bodies which produce it.

In such a putrid State of the Humours as has been already hinted at, watery *Dilutents*, tho' impregnated with the most proper medicinal Virtues, can be of no Service, except endued with such a *Saponeaceous Quality*, as will become a Medium to incorporate and combine the watery with the rancid oily Parts: The *Lisbon Diet-Drink* gives the most plain and visible Proofs of such a Quality, by the frothy  
 Bubbles

Bubbles which remain on the Surface, for several Hours, after shaking; and from this Property to divide, and mix with the Juices, and its Power to evacuate the morbid Humours by Perspiration, Urine, and Stool, it tends to the Cure of the most confirm'd Scurvy.

WHATEVER impairs the Solids, and diminishes their Force upon the Fluids, as long protracted Chronical Diseases, a profuse Mercurial Salivation, &c. may likewise be principally concern'd in the Production of this Disease.

EVERY Degree of Putrifaction is follow'd with a proportional Degree of Resolution in the Fluids, and a suitable Relaxation and Decay of the Solids, tho' ever so insensible; and since the Blood is thoroughly melted down, and the Solid Fibres over-strain'd, wasted, and render'd effete by a *Salivation*, it may, without

Doubt, be look'd upon as a Cause powerfully disposing the Patient to the *Scurvy*; for it evidently tends to promote the same Process as that of Putrifaction itself: This may probably be deem'd a substantial Reason, not only why the *Scurvy* so often recurs after a Salivation, but also why the smallest Portions of Mercury are so extremely pernicious in that Disease, having often been found to excite the most profuse salivary Discharge, with the Loss of the Gums and Teeth, and likewise, for the most Part, to be attended with a dangerous *Bloody Flux*.

IN such Cases, the Mercury will not only farther break down the Texture of the Blood, already too much destroy'd, but will also exalt that Degree of Putrifaction which before existed in it from the scorbutic Cause: Besides, as *Lind* justly observes, the want of a due Perspiration may likewise account for the Reason why Mercury  
in

in Scorbutics, so powerfully falls upon the salival Glands.

THE Spring and Summer are the proper Seasons for taking this Medicine to the greatest Advantage, the usual Quantity being a Pint Night and Morning, for three Weeks, a Month, or longer, in Proportion to the long or short Duration of the Disease, and the Violence of the Symptoms; but should the Largeness of the Draught chance to be an Objection, instead of a Pint, half that Quantity may be taken, four Times a Day, with equal Success.

IT agrees with almost every Stomach, and requires no Confinement; the Patient may use moderate Exercise, and go Abroad in his usual Manner, but ought strictly to conform to the following Regimen: He must avoid all Acids, and every Thing salt or high-season'd: Fat Meats,  
Hog's

Hog's Flesh, Fish and Vegetables are, at this Time, prejudicial; let him live chiefly upon dry Food, and white Meats roasted, such as Veal, Rabbit, Fowls, &c. He must likewise abstain from the immoderate Use of Liquids, especially those of the spirituous Kind, and, at Meals, drink moderately of Lisbon, or any of the light white Wines, diluted with Water.

THIS was the Method observ'd in administering the Diet - Drink at *Lisbon*; where this Medicine has succeeded in the most deplorable Cases of the *Veneréal Disease* and *Scurvy*, even when *Salivation*, and all other Means, prov'd ineffectual, and, for that Reason, was constantly recommended by the most eminent Physicians and Surgeons there.





## S E C T. II.

## R E F L E C T I O N S

O N T H E

I m p r o p e r U s e o f M E R C U R Y ;

A N D T H E

M A N N E R o f I t s A C T I O N o n t h e

S O L I D S a n d F L U I D S .

**M**ERCURY, or Quick-Silver, is a ponderous mineral Fluid, consisting of very minute globular Parts, easily divisible, and the heaviest of all Bodies, excepting Gold: Its Affections on the Parts of the human Body are various and surprising, but, in general, may be accounted for, from its Gravity, Divisibility, and Figure: By the first Property, it may  
be

be consider'd to act with a mechanical Power, like that of the Wedge, &c. By the second, it becomes capable of insinuating itself into and pervading the most minute capillary Vessels; and by the Third, 'tis exquisitely fitted for Motion and Circulation, when mix'd with the animal Fluids.

THE Preparations of this Mineral, as apply'd to the Practice of Medicine, have afforded Subject for various Opinions, being, by Some, deem'd highly pernicious, and suspected of arsenical Qualities, consequently a dangerous Poison, and absolutely unfit for medicinal Purposes: Others again, have applauded their Excellence, and zealously insisted on their Safety and Efficacy in many Diseases, particularly that of the *Lues Venerea*: But both Parties have certainly err'd in the Extreme; for the first rashly condemn'd this valuable Medicine, from the terrible Sym-

toms

toms that follow'd its improper Use, without ever considering, that the horrid Devastation it made, was more owing to the immoderate Quantity, than to any deleterious Quality residing in it: On the other Hand, the Advocates for it, too lavishly commended it, without sufficiently attending to those particular Cases, in which later Experience proves it to be extremely pernicious: And yet this Opposition of Opinions seems not at all unaccountable, for in the early Stages of the Venereal Disease, a Medicine, thus uncertain in its Qualities, was chiefly administer'd by Empericks, and unskilful Men, who boldly gave to one, that which had cur'd another of the like Disease, without any Regard to proper Dose, or the Difference of Constitution. Such inconsiderate Practice produc'd the most dreadful Effects, and Death itself was oftentimes the Consequence; for, by overloading the Blood with Mercury, the Patient was quickly destroy'd by a Hæmorrhage, Suffocation, or such like alarming Symptoms; so that 'tis no wonder it

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should

should fall into Discredit and Neglect: However, there were not wanting some, who, by more cautious and rational Methods, became able, to ascertain its Dose; with more Exactness, and from the better Success of those, it was again reviv'd in Practice, and brought into Esteem. Medicines, therefore, like most other Things, derive their Value from their proper Use, since we find the same medicinal Substances good or bad, according to the Manner of their Application.

AN Attempt to raise the Esteem of one Medicine by degrading another, might justly admit of the most severe Censure; and therefore, before I go further, shall beg leave to obviate every Objection of this Kind, by assuring the Reader, that this is so foreign and repugnant to my Design, that 'tis the only Thing which I would industriously seek to avoid; for throughout the whole, I would only be understood to doubt the Safety or Success of a Salvation in particular Cases, where a gentler Remedy would not only more  
cer-

certainly effect a Cure, but what is of the greatest Consequence, without subjecting the feeble Patient to those Injuries which his Constitution must undavoidably sustain by a Treatment so tedious and severe.

MERCURY, in its purest State, seems void of all Acrimony, except divested of its natural Form by a Chymical Process; and such is the peculiar Property of this Fluid, that its ultimate Particles will still retain their spherical Figure, tho' divided and resolv'd into the most subtile Vapour; and since it is suppos'd to act upon the human Body by its Gravity, Divisibility, and Figure; 'tis highly probable that most of the elaborate chymical Processes, by changing its Figure, lessening its Gravity, and fixing its Motion, rather tend to destroy than to exalt its medicinal Virtues.

MERCURIALS, when judiciously given, may, without Doubt, generally prove the absolute Cure of the Pox in robust Habits; yet there are many Constitutions which have suffer'd so much from the long

Continuance of the Disease, and the improper Application of Mercury, that they are unable, any longer, to withstand the Force of severe Remedies, and most likely would sink under a Salivation; which, with a long Course of Abstinence, during the Progress of it, is sufficient to induce such a Waste of the Body, as oftentimes, is never to be repair'd: So that the unhappy Patient, tho' perhaps cur'd of the Pox, languishes out his Days, and at last dies of a Consumption.

WITH a View therefore to caution against the indiscriminate Use of Mercury in all Cases that are suppos'd Venereal; I shall venture an Attempt to shew how it may be hurtful to a weakly Constitution, either when receiv'd into the Blood in a Salivation, or where the Venereal Disease is complicated with others, which may be exasperated and render'd worse by its Application.

MERCURY is a Fluid, whose specific Gravity is fourteen Times greater than  
that

that of the Blood; and tho' the Quantity of Motion in the mercurial Globules, when mix'd with the Blood in the largest Vessels, is, at first but fourteen Times greater than the Globules of Blood; yet, in the smallest Branches of the Capillary Arteries, it will be above a hundred Times greater; according to the Calculation of the learned *Astruc*.

Now it is evident what will be the Consequence of the great Disproportion between the increas'd Motion of the Blood, and the Resistance of the Fibres which compose its Vessels; for as they are acted upon by a Force, one hundred Times greater than what they sustain'd in a natural State, it is requisite that their Power of Resistance should be nearly a hundred Times greater than before, to counteract the Velocity of the Blood's Motion: But this is so far from being the Case in a Salivation, that the Solids, instead of being strengthened, are daily weaken'd and relax'd more and more;  
first,

first, from the slender Diet enjoin'd in the Salivation; secondly, from the Addition of Mercury entering the Blood at each Friction; and lastly, from the profuse and immoderate Discharge of Saliva.

THE great Dissolution which the Mass of Blood suffers from the Action of Mercury, may also become an additional Cause in overcoming the Tone of the Vessels, and help to destroy that mutual Action and Re-action which ought to subsist between the Solids and Fluids; for supposing the Blood to consist of different Orders of Globules, which is the received Opinion; as its constituent Parts become comminuted and melted down by the Gravity of Mercury; the excessive Heat, at this Time produced by its quick Motion and Attrition against the Sides of the Vessels, will rarify the Air shut up in each Globule, so as to make it possess a larger Space and distend the Vessels, especially those of the weaker Viscera, even to the Danger of bursting.

THAT



THAT Air really exists in the Globules of Blood seems plain from their Spherical Figure, but Observations with the Microscope have now so far confirmed that Supposition, as to leave no Room for Dispute ; for by examining the Circulation, *Leeuwenhoeck* Asserts, that in their Passage through the capillary Vessels they change into an oval Figure, reasuming their Roundness as soon as they come into a larger Space: This change of Figure in the sanguineous Globules denotes the Elasticity of the Air they contain, since nothing is Elastic but what has Air in its Composition.

NOR will the vast Force of the Airs Expansion when rarified by Heat, seem at all strange to those who consider it as the principal Agent employed in digesting our Food in the Stomach.

To the foregoing Supposition, may be objected the Experiment of tying a Portion  
of

of an Artery with its circulating Blood included, for since no sensible Swelling was perceived in it, after placing it in the exhausted Receiver of the Air Pump, it was from thence inferred that the Air contained in the Blood remained inelastic in its natural State : But this Experiment seems fallacious and not sufficiently conclusive, for if the Resistance of the strong Arterial Coats ~~were~~<sup>were</sup> more than equal to the Force of the Airs Expansion, no sensible Enlargement could possibly happen.

FROM hence it plainly appears, that in a Salivation, the Blood acts with the greatest Violence at a Time when the Solids are the least able to resist it, and consequently by its Rapidity may burst its containing Vessels, as appears evident from the Patients bloody Stools, Hæmorrhage from the Nose, Mouth, &c.

WITHOUT disregarding the Testimony of Truth, it cannot be denied but that this Remedy is sometimes attended with Consequences not only dangerous but often fatal, particularly where a hectic Fever prevails or where the Lungs or any of the softer Viscera are in a decay'd State, for to give Mercurials with Freedom in such Cases would be giving certain Death to the Patient; so that Salivation is so far from being always proper, in every Circumstance of the Venereal Disease, that it often manifestly endangers the Patient, and lays a Foundation for future Diseases.

FOR the Reasons already given, it will dispose the Body to a State of universal Relaxation, which will become the Parent of Stubborn and sometimes incurable chronical Complaints, such as excessive Weakness, Consumption, Dropsy and

H                      hectic

hectic Fever: For as the Strength of Animals is supposed to be in a triplicate Proportion to their Quantity of Blood, how great must be the Weakness of the Body after a Salivation? Where the Vessels which were before distended, enlarged and overstrained beyond Measure, are now drained of their nutritious Juices, and of a sudden, left almost empty, from the profuse Discharge of Saliva and Sweat.

ALMOST every one, from his own Experience, can tell the Inconvenience that attends a simple Sprain in any Part of the Body, and how long it is before the affected Part regains its former Strength: The same Cause, tho' in a less Degree, will also account for the excessive Weakness that so often follows a high-raised Salivation; for in both Cases the Nature of the Injury is the same, *viz.* the Application of a greater Force to the Solids than their natural Structure can bear; only in the  
First,

First, the Effect is instantaneously produced in a particular Part, with the Sense of Pain, and in the Last, the Complaint is universal and brought about by Degrees so slow and insensible, as not to give such manifest Marks of approaching Danger.

INDIGESTION is likewise a Disorder more immediately arising from Relaxation than from any other Cause, as is evident by the Means which relieve it, for whatever braces the Fibres and increases muscular Motion, seldom fails of restoring the Stomach.

THE Contraction of the Heart is also, at this Time, extremely Weak, and that Power which the Solids ought to exert upon the Fluids being wanting, the Circulation becomes languid, the Motion of the Blood at its last Ebb, and Perspiration is almost totally obstructed: Thus then

that Vapour which ought constantly to exhale from the Pores of the Skin, being retained, the Vessels will be overloaded with Serum and a bloated anasarcaous Habit generally ensues ; and since there is a Tendency in the Blood to resolve into its constituent Parts, when free'd from the Compression of the Solids, as long as the Fibres remain lax and inactive, so long will the Blood unavoidably continue in a watery State.

THIS Tendency of the Patients Constitution to a Dropsy, cannot be wonder'd at, since that Disease is often found to supervene a profuse Hemorrhage from the Nose, Uterus, &c. And as the Discharge in a Salivation is not only supplied from the Blood \* but is also derived from the very Stamina of the Solids themselves dissolv'd and melted down, may not this vast Expence of these Solids and Fluids be much more likely to produce a Dropsy than

*Vide* Robinson on Consump. Chap. III. p. 48.

than a simple Flux of Blood, or a preternatural increase of any of the other Evacuations?

EXCESSIVE Weakness and a defect of Perspiration may also arise from a bad Digestion, for in such Cases, the Nourishment derived from the Food in the Stomach is not sufficiently Elaborated, and enters the Blood in a crude unconcocted State, without ever being so subdued and subtilized by the circulating Powers as duly to nourish the Body, or render it fine enough to pass off by the cutaneous Pores.

WITH the utmost Respect and Deference to the Opinion and Practice of others, I should therefore, think it advisable whenever Salvation is required, to raise it by slow Degrees, and instead of the usual Quantities of three Drachms or half an Ounce of the Mercurial Uction rubbed in at one Time, to apply only a  
 Drachm

Drachm or a Drachm and a Half by proper Intervals ; for by this Means, the Mercury will lie longer in the Body and have more Time to act, without solliciting its Expulsion at the Mouth ; the Secretions in general will also be more moderately and equally affected, and the Patient both more safe and certain of a Cure, provided this Method is continued its due Time : For when a large Quantity of the Unction is applyed at once, or too hastily repeated, the salivary Glands become dilated of a sudden, and their Resistance to the Discharge of Saliva so small, that the Mercury no sooner enters the Blood than it rushes off by the Mouth ; yet this gross Mistake of rating the Patients Safety by the Quantity he spits, is so prevailing, that it deserves to be remarked.

THIS Circumstance seems one probable Cause, why so many are disappointed of a Cure after a plentiful Salivation ; for the



the Mercury, when too liberally applyed, instead of undergoing several Circulations and affecting the Habit in general, hurries off by the Glands of the Mouth, and leaves the venereal Poison untouched in those Parts which lie most remote from the Circulation.

IT seems also necessary here to take Notice, that Mercury does not always carry off the Infection by raising a Spitting; for there have been many Instances, where that could not possibly be procured, notwithstanding its plentiful Use, and yet the Patient was perfectly freed from all his venereal Symptoms; which Circumstance evidently shews, that Salivation, though principally depended upon, is not a thing essentially necessary to the Cure.

THIS I imagine might be the principal Reason which first gave rise to the Practice of curing the Pox by Mercury without a

Saliv-

Salivation; for when it appeared from Experience, that the Cure was brought about by an Enlargement of the Secretions, without the least salivary Discharge, 'twas highly rational to conclude that the Disease might be removed by promoting these Secretions without subjecting the Patient to the Severity of a Salivation: To this End, by giving such Things as determine the Mercury to the Pores of the Skin, or favour its Exit by Urine or Stool, and at the same Time ordering Astringent Gargles, the Flux of Saliva to the Glands of the Mouth has been entirely prevented.

THIS Method is particularly recommended by *Desault*, was also approved of and followed by *Dr. Douglass* and others, and with a little Variation, in particular Cases, has since been practised with Success at one of the principal *Locks* in Town, under the Direction of a very eminent and ingenious *Surgeon*, no less remarkable

able for his great affability and a communicative Disposition for the Instruction of his Pupils, than for the many useful Improvements he has added to the Science of Surgery.

BESIDES, the Success attending a Salivation ought not to be ascribed to any peculiar specifick Property inherent in Mercury, but merely to the discharged Quantity of Saliva; for 'tis generally believed, that if any other Body could be found, which would fuse the Blood and occasion the like Discharge of Saliva; that would in all Respects, as effectually Cure the Venereal Disease as a Salivation raised by Mercury.

THE Mineral, so often mentioned, has been charged by the Antients with many pernicious Qualities, and some \* Observations of very modern Date seem to second  
I their

\* *Vide* Gent. Mag. June 1755.

their Opinion, suggesting that it raises a Salivation only by Virtue of some Artificial Particles with which it is intimately mixed, and which alone produce all the ill Effects arising from its Use.

NOTWITHSTANDING this Assertion, I can hardly believe that it affects a Salivation by a Property so pernicious as that of which it is suspected; for setting that aside, all its bad Consequences may be deduced from its Gravity, by which, according to *Astruc*, it may overload the softer Viscera, and tear asunder the distended Coats of the Vessels.

THIS Opinion is confirmed and proved even to a Demonstration, from an Experiment by Dr. Moulin in the *Philos. Transact.* No. 192, p. 486. Where, by injecting crude Mercury into the jugular Vein of a Dog, the mercurial Globules had burst through the small Vessels in the Lungs,

Lungs, and forced their Way to the Surface, separating their external Covering in Form of small Blisters, and where the Globules lay conspicuous to the naked Eye ; as this seems pertinent to the present Subject, I shall take the Liberty of transcribing a few Lines at the Conclusion, as the Result of the Experiment.

“ From hence may appear the Danger  
 “ of using Mercury in human Bodies, so  
 “ as to get into the Mass of Blood, especially in the Lungs, because they are of  
 “ a lax, spungy Texture, and want that  
 “ brisk strong Motion, which the Muscles  
 “ have in other Parts, whereby they are  
 “ enabled to force it along with the Blood  
 “ in order to the raising a Salivation. That  
 “ Mercury has this Effect on the human  
 “ Lungs, is plain from what we daily  
 “ see in Persons that have been salivated,  
 “ who are afterwards observed to die of  
 I 2 “ Con-

“ Consumptions, that will yield to no  
 “ Medicine.”

ought we not therefore to be extremely cautious in proposing a Salivation to such as are of a lax Habit, and much wasted, whose Solids cannot but with great Injury sustain the vast Strefs laid upon them by such a Remedy? A Consequence still more dangerous must attend those who labour under an inward *Decay*, and yet unwarily submit to a mercurial Course; for here the rarified Blood will rush upon the diseased Viscera with a Force superior to the Resistance of their Fibres, and by the Violence of its Motion will break down and destroy their tender Texture; or what is equally probable, will inflame and bring a Collection of Matter on the affected Part, which bursting inwardly, may quickly destroy the Patient.

ALL the Arteries before they enter the Viscera are divested of their external Coat;

Coat; which is a Circumstance worth attending to, for, by this Means being rendered much thinner, they become more yielding to the Impulse of the Blood, than those in any other Part of the Body.

THE Mercury-miners are always short-lived \*, for in a few Months they begin to tremble and scarcely any of them live to the third Year: Also according to † *Ramazini*, from the Authority of several Writers they die miserably, being affected with Palsies, Vertigo's and a hectic Fever. This, however, seems to prove but little against the Safety of Mercurials, for these are Symptoms which seem not to arise from the noxious Quality, but rather from the immense Quantity of this Mineral.

GUAIA-

\* Fallop. Tract. de Metall. & Fossilibus.

† De Morb. Art.

GUAIACUM, a Medicine formerly, not less famous than Mercury for the Cure of the Venereal Disease, has its Advantages in particular Cases, but in general seems to fall short of the Character which at first attended its Use: It is frequently beneficial in a cold phlegmatick Disposition of the Body, but is always found to be hurtful in bilious dry Constitutions, or in a sharp, thin State of the Blood, where the Patient is hectic; for as it consists of warm, acrimonious Parts, which stimulate the Solids and increase their Action upon the Fluids, the Blood will still be farther broken into smaller Particles, and rendered more quick in its Motion, by which its most fluid Parts will pass out of the Body in profuse Sweats, to the great Detriment of the Patients Recovery; whose Strength must daily decline from the Aggravation of all his feverish Symptoms.

\* FROM



\* FROM those of its Qualities which are sensible to the Taste and Smell, one would be inclined to think it a valuable Medicine, and such it certainly would often be found, if given in strong Decoctions with proper Regimen; ordering the Patient to Sweat by Intervals as his Strength will bear, according to the Practice of the Antients.

THERE are two fixed Points, beyond which the Vessels of the Body can neither be filled nor emptied without a *Plethora* happening in the one Case, and *Inanition* in the Other; and as the ill Symptoms during a Salivation, are occasioned by too great a Plenitude of the Vessels, and the violent Distension of their Coats; so do the Complaints consequently of a Salivation arise from Inanition, and a general

\* *Vide* Prof. Boerhaav. add Morb. Gall. Authores.

neral Weakness of the Habit ; and therefore, the Remedies most likely to succeed are nourishing Diet with moderate Exercise, Chalybeates with the Bark, Aromatic Bitters and the Use of the Cold Bath : But this last is never to be advised where the Patient is extremely Weak or where there is a Suspicion of unsound Viscera ; in the last Case it might prove fatal, by forcing the Blood with Violence to the affected Part ; and in the First, it would most certainly increase his Complaints ; for if the first Shock given to the whole vascular System by the intense Cold, should fail to restore the Elasticity of the Fibres, every future Effort would weaken their Spring and become ineffectual.

MERCURY therefore, though a powerful and most excellent Medicine in many Cases, when used with Caution, may, when misapplied, be productive of many terrible Consequences, and like a Sword  
in

in the Hands of a Mad-man, become the Instrument of irreparable Ills. \* It acts as it is acted upon by the vital Impulse, and whenever that is wanting to transmit it to the diseased Part, it fails of Success and becomes of no Effect.

FROM this we plainly see that it has no specific Property in subduing the Venereal Poison, that it works a Cure by its Gravity and mechanical Pressure, and that it drives out the Disease, but with it, the nutritious Juices which are the very Principles of Life.

† “ Tanta verò est in hoc Salvationis  
 “ genere Humorum Fusio, tanta Succo-  
 “ rum omnium Corporis sæpe exantlatio,  
 K “ ut

\* Argentum vivum, solâ vi vitæ actum hoc Malum sanat, motu expellit. Ideo & ejus medicata potestas haud valet corrigere venereum tabum, quando illud figitur in locis, ad quæ actio Cordis & Arteriarum vix pertingit.

BOERHAAVE.

† Harris, de Lue Venereâ.

“ ut nil Mirum sit, si Spiritus vitales unâ  
“ dissipentur, & maxime si in hâc Terrâ,  
“ aliter fœlicissimâ, ubi Melancholia tan-  
“ tum obtinet Imperium, complures ex  
“ tàm rapida Fluidorum profusione suc-  
“ cumbant ac periant.”

SECT.



S E C T. III.

OF THE

PARTICULAR CASES

WHERE

SALIVATION is allowed to be dangerous  
or ineffectual,

AND WHERE THE

*Lisbon* DIET-DRINK.

Justly claims the PREFERENCE.

**T**HOUGH this Section should have gone before the last according to the Title, yet, in Order that the Reader might have a more exact comparative View of the Remedies already considered, *viz.*

Salivation and the *Diet-Drink*; the particular Cases, where the one seems evidently preferable to the other, have been referred to the last.

FIRST then, Salivation is by all allowed to be dangerous in a universal Weakness and Relaxation of the Solids, where it is feared the consumptive Patient might sink under the Loss of a profuse salivary Discharge, or where the Vessels from their decay, have lost their vibrating Power and cannot sufficiently re-act upon the circulating Fluids \*; for in this Case, the mercurial Atoms diffused throughout the Blood will not only prove ineffectual, but will further inflame, break down and destroy the diseased Parts, till at length, extravasating with the Juices, they will subside by their own Gravity, unite with each other, and form Globules, such as  
 are

\* Pref. Boerhaav. ad Morb. Gall. Authores Var.

are observed in the carious Bones or im-  
posthumated Parts of dead Bodies, after  
a Salivation.

SECONDLY, where the Venereal Dis-  
ease is complicated with the Scurvy; for  
scorbutic Ulcers of the Mouth, &c. are  
by this Means greatly irritated and often  
become gangrenous from the Use of  
Mercury.

*Bachstrom*, a Dutch Physician, together  
with *Hoffman*, here both condemn the  
Use of Mercury, and *Etmuller* observes  
that it is so pernicious in the Scurvy, that  
the Dutch abstain from it even in vene-  
real Cases, for fear they should be com-  
plicated with that Disease.

\* *Kramer* also informs us, that, four  
Hundred of the Imperial Troops in *Hun-  
gary* near *Belgrade*, who took Mercury,  
with-

\* *Krameri* Differt. Epistol. de Scorbuto.

without his Advice, all died by the dreadful Consequences of a Salivation.

THIRDLY, where the Pox is complicated with scrophulous Tumors of the Neck, which may be so enlarged by Mercury as to compress the contiguous Veins, and cause a Fit of the Apoplexy by putting a stop to the Return of the Blood: And even in those Cases of the Evil or Leprosy where Mercury may be given with Safety\*, it seldom ever effects a thorough Cure, for though the Symptoms are alleviated for a Time, they at length return with their wonted Severity. This, in some Measure may serve as a Proof that the Leprosy, Scrophula and Pox are three distinct Diseases; for if these were only different Species of the same Disease, produced by the venereal Poison, Mercury would be the most likely

to

\* Willis de Lep. Grecor.



to subdue them all, however diversified by Climates or Constitutions.

FOURTHLY, in a habitual Diarrhæa, where the Mercury by its superior Weight, would Force open the Vessels of the Bowels and bring on a Bloody Flux.

FIFTHLY, in a spitting of Blood from decayed Lungs, or where the Liver has been schirrous for a long Time; for if the Obstruction does not readily give Way, the Force of the circulating Blood, assisted by the Gravity of Mercury, may burst the Vessels, or bring the affected Part to Suppuration and destroy the tender Texture of that Bowel.

SIXTHLY, in pregnant Women, where Mercury, by increasing the Circulation, would Force the tender Embryo from its Connection with the Uterus, and occasion Abortion.

SEVEN-

SEVENTHLY, in the infant State, where the Rapidity of the Blood's Motion would act with greater Force upon the Solids than their tender Fibres could bear, and consequently bring on bloody Stools, Convulsions and other dangerous Symptoms, which might end in Death.

THESE are some of the particular Cases, in which *Salivation*, is either dangerous or ineffectual, as those, who happen to submit to it, will be convinced by dear bought Experience; for if the Patient is extremely weak and languid, this Method will only serve still farther to exhaust and infeeble him; and instead of affording him the Relief he sought for, he will find his sanguine Expectations ending in Disappointment: On the Contrary, in these and all other Cases where the Patient is an improper Subject for *Mercury*, and his Complaints are assuredly Scorbutic or Venereal, a regular Course of the *Lisbon-Diet-*

*Diet-Drink*, will seldom ever fail of removing the Disease, if not advanced to a State absolutely incurable.

WHOEVER desires to be more fully acquainted with the dangerous Effects of a Salivation, may consult Dr. *Robinson's* excellent *Treatise on the Venereal Disease*; where, besides the Cases already mentioned, may be found many more in which it is highly prejudicial, and where, I believe, all candid Judges must give the Preference to a Medicine gentle and mild in its Effects, which, by a regular and long continued Use, is not only much more safe, but also more certain in exterminating the *Venereal Disease*.

F I N I S.

ERRATA

- Page 28. line 13. for Dilutents, read Diluents.
- 52. line 7. for affects, read effects.
- 57. line 18. for consequently, read consequent

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