

An EASIE and SAFE
METHOD

FOR CURING the
King's Evil.

With several Observations of Diet, Air,
&c. which may be of Use and Service to
People afflicted with that Distemper.

To which is added, a *Specimen of Success*,
in a faithful Relation of many extraordinary
Cures, (*Viz.* Strumous Ulcers, Sore Eyes,
and Scrophulous Consumptions) on Men,
Women, and Children.

In a Letter to a Friend.

The Tenth Edition.

By *WILLIAM VICKERS*, M. A.

*The Lord hath created Medicines out of the Earth,
and he that is wise will not abhor them, and
hath given Men Power and Skill, that he might
be honour'd in his marvellous Works, Eccius.
xxxviii. 4, 6.*

*Exillimo Deum perfecte & sufficienter in Sim-
plicibus composuisse completa morborum
quorumcunque remedia. — Felix ille qui
Simplicibus tuto atque prompte novit tolle-
re & conculcare morbos. Hermont.*

L O N D O N :

Printed, and Sold by *A. Collins*, at the *Black
Boy*, against *St. Dunstan's Church*, in *Fleet-
street*, and at the Author's House in *Sher-
bourn-lane*, near *Lombard-street*. 1716.

An EASIE and SAFE

METHOD

For Curing the

King's Evil.

With several Observations of Diseases
and what may be of Use and Service to
People afflicted with that Disorder.
To which is added, a Specimen of the
Author's Rational Relation of many extraordinary
Cases, viz. Stomach Ulcers, Sore Eyes,
and Scrophulous Consumption, on the
Lungs, and the like.

By a FELLOW of the Royal Society.

And of the Royal Academy.

BY WILLIAM NICKERS, M. D.

The Author of the Method of curing the
King's Evil, and other Diseases, and
of the Nature and Cure of the
same, as published in the Philosophical
Transactions.

Examined from perusal & testimony in
public company, complete, and
found to be true and correct. — To be
sold by the Author, or by any of the
Booksellers in London.

L O N D O N :

Printed, and sold by S. Collins, at the Black
Boy, opposite St. Dunstons Church, in Fleet
Street, and at the Authors House in
St. Dunstons Church Lane, 1715.

An EASIE and SAFE
METHOD
 FOR
CURING
 THE
King's Evil, &c.

S I R,

IN Compliance with your late Request, I have sent you a short Account of my Method for curing the *King's Evil*: A Distemper, you know, I was from my Infancy extremely afflicted withal; which continued many Years on me, with that Violence, that all Hopes of Cure were given over by my Friends and Self. The Distemper had seiz'd upon both my Arms, upon my Right Hand, the Fore-Finger of my Left, and also upon both my Feet, to such a Degree,

*The Author's
 Condition.*

gree, that several Surgeons were of Opinion, that both Hands and Feet must be cut off. The Humour likewise fell with that Severity on both Eyes, that the Sight of each was judged irrecoverably lost. In fine, my whole Body became so extremely Weak and Feeble, with continual Runnings in so many Places, that for many Years I could neither go nor stand without Crutches. In this miserable Condition, (without any Hopes or Prospect of Relief) I lived many Years, until it pleased God to direct me to the Knowledge of those Means, the extraordinary Effects whereof as much exceeded mine and all other Peoples Expectations, as the Benefit reaped did my Merits; by the Use whereof, God be praised, in a very few Months, I became perfectly Sound and Well. It's now more than twenty Years since I was healed, enjoying as good Health and Sight as most People do, without any Fear or Apprehensions of a Relapse, being able to endure the coldest Weather, to read until Midnight, and to walk as much Ground, every Day, as the Generality of People do, without suffering any Prejudice thereby. I once thought (as most People do) that the *King's Evil*, especially in such a high Degree as I had it, was incurable; and I had Reason to believe it, after many Years Endeavours had been spent for a Cure to so little Purpose,

pose, concluding, that when the Endeavours of many able and skilful Physicians had all along proved ineffectual, there remain'd nothing more to be done. As my sad Condition made me a diligent Enquirer after all Sorts of Remedies; so I never declined the Use of any Means, which might give me the least Hopes of Success. I was stroked twice by King *Charles II.* and thrice by King *James II.* It's incredible, to tell the great Quantities of *Purges, Vomits, Diet-drinks, Alkalious Medicines, Lime-waters, Millipedes, Rue-Whitlow-grass,* and many other things, not excepting *Mercurial* and *Antimonial* Remedies, which I have taken in my Time; but nothing avail'd, until it pleas'd God, by a wonderful Providence, to direct me to the Knowledge of this *Specifick*, which in its Effects exceeded all my Hopes and Expectations.

And because some have very high Thoughts of the two last named Medicines, (*viz. Mercurial* and *Antimonial*;) it may not be improper to acquaint you that I made several Trials thereof, but never reaped the least Benefit or Advantage from the Use of either. And I believe the *King's Evil* is of that peculiar Nature, so directly opposite to that Disease wherein *Mercurials* and *Antimonials* are so much used, that it's no wonder they are so unsuccessfully given, nay, sometimes are so very dangerous in these *Scrophulous Tumours*. In one

Particular I was always very happy, viz. to reject a *Salivation*, a Remedy certainly worse than the Disease. For where it does not destroy Life, it entails so dismal a Train of Miseries, as a Man had better be buried alive than suffer. For my part, I should ever esteem that Man the best Physician, who attends to all future Consequences; who, (as a certain Author saith) does not heal one Disease by procuring a worse, but restores such a Life as a Man can afterwards enjoy with Ease and Safety.

Perhaps Craftsmen may not like these Reflections; but herein I act the Part of a Friend, which a wise Man accounts a very great Blessing; *A faithful Friend is the Medicine of Life, and he that fears the Lord shall find him.*

Now in order to give you some Account of this Cure on my self; It providentially came into my Mind, to make Experiment of one single Remedy, believing, that Simplicity of *Medicines* would be as effectual, as that of *Diet*. The Use whereof, first of all, I begun internally, with five or six Grains, Morning and Evening, in a Glass of Spring Water; and for external Application, I us'd an Ointment and Cerecloth, made with the same Remedy. This Method I continued.

ed some time; but afterwards with much greater Advantage, I infus'd a certain Quantity of this *Specifick Remedy* in a Gallon of Spring-Water, which, when it was fine and clear, became my constant Drink, absolutely abstaining from all other Liquors, except a Glass of Wine now and then, at Meals. By that time I had drunk of this *Specifick Water* 18.

Its Effects.

or 20 Days, I perceiv'd my Sores to run with a much greater Flux of Matter than ever I knew them do before. Also several foul and rotten Bones, in several Joints, came forth, without any Pain or Trouble. And likewise some hard and un-
ulcerated Swellings asswaged, and went away with the like Ease. My Strength also increased considerably, and my usual Pains (upon any sudden Change of Weather) ceased, with such a visible Alteration throughout my whole Constitution, that if I may so express it, I thought my self, in a Manner, new created. Two Things I

observed very strange and un-
accountable: The First was,

Two remarkable Symptoms.

That whereas my Sores, for the first Month or six Weeks, ran so excessively, that one would have thought it impossible to subsist under so great a Consumption; yet my Strength increased the more; and by how much the more plentifully the Humour spent

it

it self this Way, by so much the more hearty and strong I perceiv'd my self to grow. The other Thing I observed, was, That my *Urine*, after some time taking of this *Specifick Remedy*, did become as thick and ropy, as if it had been blended with Whites of Eggs, or some such like viscous Matter, which continu'd until all my Sores healed, as they did perfectly in about eight Months, or something less. During this Course, I never found the least Tendency or Disposition unto Sickness, or any other Inconveniency whatsoever, attend the Use of these Means, but such a Difference for Ease, that there was no Comparison between this Method of Cure, and those wherewith I had been formerly treated; so easie and pleasant was the Operation, and withal so efficacious.

To give you a rational Account, how this *Specifick Remedy* should effect my Cure after such an easie and uncommon Evacuation; is, I confess, beyond my *Philosophy*. The Learned Dr. *Willis* hath, in his Way, accounted for the secret and hidden Operations of Medicines upon Human Bodies, but I find no Intimation in his Writings, nor in any other Author, of any such Operation as this produced; how Nature disposeth Remedies to effect particular Cures, must be no easie Matter to determine, until we are able to penetrate more nicely into Things.

Things so remote from our Senses: And therefore till such time as I am able to talk otherwise than in the vulgar Cant of *Thinning, Rarifying, and Attenuating* those *Stagnating, coagulated Juices*, I will be silent of those Matters; and shall only observe, that in the general I think it may be concluded, that this Disease may be led, but not driven; and that the gentlest Methods in any Man's Hands, will be always likely to prove the most successful. Men may salivate and purge their Guts out, and not move it; and yet there may be some Simples and Methods of *Diet*, which will effectually remove it, with infinite less Trouble and Vexation, than what People commonly undergo in these Cases. I can truly affirm, from my own Experience, the greater Violence I was treated withal by others, by so much the worse it fared with me. The same, I very well remember, was the usual Complaint of all my Fellow-Sufferers, whereof I had a great Acquaintance, who are long since expired, much the sooner, I fear, for that very Reason.

The usual Practice in curing the *King's Evil*, I have observ'd to run (in a Manner) chiefly upon Evacuation, with the Use of the Decoction of the Woods, and some other *Simples*; which Methods are so generally known and fix'd, that if Five Hundred People were afflicted with this Distemper,

stemper, and as many Physicians consulted, a Man might not only pretty nearly guess, what each of them would prescribe; but also, what Effects each Person might expect from their Prescriptions. But now, as this my *Specifick* Remedy is new and uncommon, so likewise are its Operations different from any Medicines I ever yet knew or heard of. For, no sooner is this Remedy incorporated with the whole Mass of Blood, but the scrophulous Ulcers open like so many Flood-Gates, pouring out the Humour with a mighty Current, which to every Bodies thinking, should rather waste and consume the Body, than encrease its Strength and Vigour. But it proves quite otherwise, for by how much the more plentifully the Humour spends it self this way, by so much the more hearty and strong do People grow: And this one thing I look upon as a very reasonable indication of a succeeding Cure; because this viscous and stubborn Humour, which will not yield to other Evacuations, tho' never so strong, is hereby thrown out, the Way which Nature indicates to disburden her self. This pass'd for a Maxim with *Hippocrates*; *Those things* (saith he) *which are to be carried off, are to be drawn whither they most incline, through such Ways and Places, as are fittest for Conveyance and Expulsion.* Herein con-

Aphor. 21.

be carried off, are to be drawn whither they most incline, through such Ways and Places, as are fittest for Conveyance and Expulsion. Herein con-

consists one great Secret of Physick, *Inrightly* judging when it's necessary and safe to evacuate, and in distinguishing by what Ways and Methods it ought to be done; if we mistake in either, instead of preserving the Sick, we may destroy him, saith the late Dr. Paxton. And methinks, it should easily be allow'd, that to promote a regular *Secretion* of the Morbifick Matter in those Places where Nature hath determin'd to empty her self, is the most rational and safest Method for eradicating this Disease. Sometimes this *Specifick* Remedy will precipitate this Humour, and bring it away by *Urine* also. Which, as the Divine *Hippocrates* hath elsewhere observ'd, is a good Sign of a succeeding Cure.

After a few Days takings of this *Specifick* Remedy, either in Specie, or dissolved in any proper *Vehicle*, I have therewith brought several of these knotty and hard Swellings to speedy Suppuration, which before would not yield to the strongest Cataplasms, Poultices, and the other tribe of greasie Emollients. And moreover, where the foulness of the Bones have not been suspected, by taking of this Remedy they have perforated the Skin, and scaled without Pain and Trouble. The Glands, they say, are the Seats of the *King's Evil*, swelled and enflamed with a viscous and ropy Matter. If so, it must in all Reason be allowed that a Medicine whose immediate

mediate Operations are upon these *secretory Vessels*, must needs be of prime Use and Advantage in this Case, since it affects no others Places but the distemperate Parts.

Nat. Hist.
p. 168. *Exper.*
692.

Wise Physicians (saith the Lord Bacon) should with all Diligence enquire what Remedies Nature yieldeth; having extreme subtle Parts, without any *Mordication* or *Acrimony*; for they (saith he) undermine that which is *hard*, they open that which is *stopp'd* and *shut*, and they expel that which is offensive gently without too much

Phar. Extemp.
p. 88.

Perturbation. And the ingenious Dr. Tho. Fuller saith, that *Specificks* are found, by Experience, to have Respect to one Part more than another; that a Medicine may strike a particular Impression on one Humour, and not touch another: Whereof the Dr. gives us many Instances.

P. 336.

And therefore (saith the Doctor in another Place) *tho' the fashionable Opinion of late Years runs, that there is no such things as Electives, respecting one Humour more than another, yet irrefragable Experience proves otherwise to the very Senses.*

*Course of Chir-
mistry*, p. 639.

Some People have denied the Efficacy of *Specificks* operating on particular Humours, (saith Monsieur Lemery) but by

by small Observation in the Practice of Physick, one may soon perceive their different Effects. And tho' the Practice of Physick did not prove it, yet the Rules of Chymistry are a demonstration of it. For seeing the different Nature of Substances upon which we make Experiments, require different Dissolvents, we have good reason to conclude the same of those Humours of the Body, which are of a different Nature. And indeed the Suffrages of all our eminent Physicians and Naturalists do agree, that Remedies might be found to act more directly upon some particular Parts and Humours, than upon others;

Which, as the Lord Bacon truly observes, is the Cause why *Empericks and old Women are more happy many times, in their Cures, than Learned Physicians; because they are faithful and steady to those approv'd Medicines, which they have found out for particular Diseases; and therefore, saith he, it would be Matter of good Consequence, if some Physicians of Note for Learning and Practice, would compile a Work of Probations and experimental Medicines for the Cure of particular Diseases. No doubt, saith the same Author, if Physicians, letting Generalities go for a while, and suspending their Assent thereto, would make their Approaches to Nature, they might be-*

Advancement of Learning, p. 196.

come Masters of that Art whereof the Poet speaks.

Et quoniam variant morbi variabimus artes,
Mille mali Species mille salutis erunt. *Ovid.*

But at present so far otherwise is the State of Physick, that in the common Practice, those Remedies, which by a *Specific* Propriety respect the Cures of particular Diseases, are very few; nay, in a Manner, quite lost. Some Men of late Years deducing the Causes of all Distempers from those Two giddy Notions of *Alkaly* and *Acid*, have put their indications of curing all Distempers upon that Foot, tho' at the same Time, they are wholly ignorant what *Acid* produceth any Disease, or what *Alkaly* removes it. *Pliny* says, we are ignorant of what we live upon; but in my Opinion, we are less acquainted with that which makes us sick. Daily Experience convinceth us, that our Constitutions are injur'd by a thousand Things which are neither *Acid* nor *Alkaly*, nor any thing like them: And, on the contrary, that many Distempers are cur'd by those very Things, which according to our Reason and Way of Thinking, are directly opposite to the very Nature of the Disease: *We see Contraries often prove Remedies to one another in the Juices, and Poisons become beneficial, when oppos'd to certain Humours; the World has lately*

Dr. Fuller,
Med. Gym-
naslica.

lately had full Evidence of the good Effects of an intense Cold, equally apply'd to all the Parts of the Body at once; which Method of Curing, some Years ago, was thought very extravagant, and certainly destructive.

From the extraordinary Effects of this Specifick Remedy, one might easily raise a new Hypothesis for this Distemper, but after all the Pains one should lay out upon it, it might perhaps be as untrue and as unserviceable as any already given. Our Knowledge being founded on our Senses, and our Senses unable to discover the minute Instruments that Nature employs in her ordinary Operations: It's impossible for us to trace the immediate Causes of those Things of whose reality we cannot form any true *Idea*; and therefore those Fictions of curing *Acid* Humours, by effectual * *Alkalious* Medicines, may serve

* This alone (speaking of Acids and Alkalies) will make us sufficiently sensible how true an Explication of Nature we are to expect from those Men, who upon the Doctrine of Acids and Alkalies form Theories, not only in Chymistry, but also in Physick, when they don't so much as understand the Terms they make use of — Dr. Friend's Chymical Lectures, p. 15. The Champions for Alkalious Medicines ignominiously reproach Acids as the Cause of all the Miseries that disquiet the Healths of Men, whilst the Defenders of Acids load Alkalies with the same Ignominy. But the Jest is, neither of these Combitants have as yet proved the real Existency of either of these Principles in the Blood. Dr. Paxton, Specimen Physico, Medicum, p. 171.

well enough for a Time to amuse and deceive the Vulgar, but Men of Learning and Enquiry know very well, that there are no such Principles to be found in the Parts and Humours of *Animals*, until they have passed the Fire: And what strange Alterations and Impressions are made by that Element, is obvious to all People experienced in *Chymistry*. It's an easie Matter to imagine this or that Humour to be the Cause of any particular Distemper, and to form Methods of Cure upon such Conjectures, but Nature, who best knoweth her own Wants and Grievances, is not easily managed by such Devices. She will be served in her own Way, and needeth no other Assistance for her Preservation against all Assaults, but a prudent Application of those Remedies she hath every where provided, suitable to each Complaint. If Providence had not thus order'd Things, what must become of the first Inhabitants of the World, and of those People now living in many Places, who have no Physicians, *Philosophy* nor *Medicines to heal their Sickneses*, but such as are vulgarly known among themselves, and approved by their own Experience and Observation? In antient *Babylon*, great and Populous as it was, no Physicians were known, nor other Methods for curing Distempers, than those gain'd by every Man's own Experience and

Enquiry, *Artem experientia fecit, exemplo monstrante viam.* Manilius.

For my Part, I shall never trouble my self much about the Cause, what it is, or from whence it comes, so long as God hath enabled me to remove it; and I very well remember, that when I applied my self to others for Cure, they of all Men had the worst Success in their Practice upon me, who professed to have a clear and perfect Knowledge of the Origin; their fine Reasonings, and nice Speculations, after a long Course of painful Experiments, ended only in grievous Disappointments. If the most learned Men have not explained several Phænomena in Nature, why should I reason about a Thing as difficult to the full, and perhaps wholly inexplicable. Many Diseases are of that hidden and abstruse Nature, working out their Effects by secret Ways, and so remote from human View, that oftentimes the most learned Physicians have not been able to determine the immediate Cause with that Certainty, but that others have as strenuously opposed it: In this Disease, particularly, I believe I could cite twenty different Opinions, out of Authors, each of them peremptorily asserting the Cause and the Cure from their own Hypotheses. And I once knew a young Gentleman with a Swelling under his right Jaw, who

* ended his Life before his Physicians could end the Dispute among themselves, whether the Tumor was Scrophulous or not.

It's somewhat strange, a Disease every where so common, should admit of any Doubt or Dispute, when the very Complexion (without any other Sign) is a clear Indication, but sometimes so it is. I knew a young Lady much afflicted with Pains in her Head, attended with great dimness of Sight, which I suspected to be the *King's Evil*, but her Relations slighted my Judgment: When she was dead, her Head being open'd, it appear'd that her Brain was in a manner consumed, and the inward Table of her Scull *carious*. I saw likewise a Child open'd about 12 or 13 Years of Age, whose Liver and Lights were highly Scrophulous, and yet when living she had no outward Signs of any such Distemper. A Gentleman sent two of his Sons out of *Ireland* to *Westminster* School, they seem'd both healthful Youths; but soon after the Elder of them grew indispos'd with a Cough, and died *tuberculous*; his Body being open'd, his Lungs were

* *Neque enim si veritas esset inventu facilis tot ac-
toni viri in ea quarenda occupati, in tam contrarias
sectas fuissent unquam dispersi.* Paracelsus.

discover'd full of *Struma*. Dr. *Walter Needham*, in one of his Lectures at *Surgeon's-Hall*, declares, " He had seen a strumous Swelling hanging at the Cone of the Heart, the Weight of two Ounces.

The Beginnings of these Scrophulous Tumours, I have observ'd, are so very small, that their first Appearances are scarcely discernable, but by Degrees (some sooner, others later) they will encrease to a very large Size, and become as hard as Flints, whereof I have seen several Instances: And what is more strange, these Glandulous Swellings are nourished and supplied with *Juices* distinct from the Blood, fixed in determinate Seats, defended and wrapped up in their proper Coats and Vessels. A Process of Nature widely different from those Notions and Accounts hitherto given us of this Distemper. And whereas it's generally thought that Children have this Distemper only by Inheritance; I have known many afflicted therewith, where no *Hereditary Contagion* could reasonably be suppos'd. And many grown Persons do acquire the *King's Evil* by external Accidents, viz. *Blows, Bruises, Compressions, Wrenches of the Hip, Knee, Ankle*, and many other Joints, in whom there was never any such Thing as a *Corrosive Acidity*, in the first *Digestion*, nor any Thing like it elsewhere. I have seen a Woman with two
of

of these sturmous Swellings, the Bigness of a Turkey's Egg, as hard as Flints, under her Jaws, who solemnly protested to me, that both those Swellings came in a Night's Time, and that when she went to Bed, she was as free of them as any Woman living. In my Observations I have seen more People subject to this Distemper after the Small-Pox, than before; and generally speaking, by how much the more healthful and active Children are, the more are they liable to the *King's Evil*. And yet their Blood (which to the World may be a Paradox) shall sometimes have treble the Quantity of *Volatile Salt* in Comparison of others, which probably may be the cause of its Corruption. Whatever therefore some Men may boast of their extraordinary Skill in occult Causes, or as one of them saith, that, "*The first Step towards the Removal of a Disease, is to know its Origin.*" Their Imaginations hitherto are wild Visions, like the Philosopher's Stone, or the universal Medicine. "*Parent Nature, saith Dr. Sydenham, accomplishes the Generation of all things, which at any time she brings to light from the Bosom of Causes, by most certain Rules, only known to her self, and hides their Essence, Quiddities, and constitutive Differences, in the greatest Obscurity.*" And therefore, saith he, "*The Cure*"

" of

“ of most Diseases are not performed by the
 “ Knowledge of their occult Causes, but by a
 “ proper Method approved by Experience.”

What repeated Experience recommends to us for a Truth, on that we may always safely depend. Men hatch a great many *Speculations* in their *Baglivi, M.D.* Closets, which when they come to practice, they find them no better than Dreams of a deluded Imagination. *Sola Remedia sanant*, said good old *Celsus*: One good Remedy is preferable to all the Hypotheses and plausible Conjectures in the World. And therefore, what *Sir Robert Tabor* said to the *French King's Physicians*, when, in a scoffing manner, they demanded of him what was the Cause of a Fever, I think was very ingenious, and more to the Purpose than any other Answer whatsoever: *A Fever* (quoth he) *is a Disease you do not know how to cure, but I do.* Provided we know Peoples Tempers and Constitutions, and those good and bad Symptoms peculiarly incident to each Distemper, as also which of the *Non-Naturals* do us good, and which of them do injury, and have but proper Remedies to apply, we need not, I think, busie our selves much about *secret Causes*. However, thus much is certain, that this Distemper is not curable in a natural way, by any other Means but by inward Applications,

cations, whether *Specificks* or otherwise; there is no Possibility of destroying its Effects, but by removing the Cause; neither *Topical Medicines* nor *Manual Operations* will avail to any lasting Purpose, if the Humour be not thoroughly eradicated. Whoever knoweth any thing of the ancient Practice of *Physick* and *Surgery*, cannot but be sensible, that in all such Cases their first and chiefest Applications were *Vulnerary Potions*; the ingenious *Paul Barbette* declares this Distemper only curable by Internals; and the Learned *Bartholine* (tho' a Surgeon) is of the same Mind. ' *Strumæ* (saith *Cornelius Celsus*) have
 ' always given much Trouble and Vexation
 ' to Surgeons, because, saith he, after the
 ' best Care and Methods have been apply'd
 ' for their Extirpation, they are found to
 ' gain a new Birth.' In my self, and likewise in divers other Persons, I have known these Tumours laid open by Incision, and the Glands quite consumed with *Escharoticks*. And yet afterwards the same Humour hath broken out a fresh with greater Violence; which plainly sheweth, there is no conquering this Adversary without the inward Applications of some special Medicine, able to extinguish the Cause (whatever it be) throughout the whole Body. I have known some People afflicted with this Distemper, whose Plaisters would not stick, but drop off
 after

after their taking this *Specifick* Liquor and Powder for some time; and others, where the Disease hath violently seized their Eyes, their Inflammations and Soreness to decrease by its inward Application only, which is a plain Confirmation of the Truth of this Maxim, common among Physicians, *Sublata causa tollitur effectus.*

After I had fully experienced the Excellency and Usefulness of this Medicine in my own Case, I thought my self obliged, in Point of Charity, to make it publick; that others, if they pleas'd, might reap the same Benefit by it, as, blessed be God, I had done. And tho' I do not pretend to make any new Discoveries concerning the Cause or Production of this Disease; yet, I conceive, I have some Reason to esteem my self capable of helping those who at any time shall desire my Assistance. For, besides the Knowledge (which God hath blessed me with) of this *Specifick Remedy*, I have likewise gain'd some other Skill from my past Sufferings, which I reckon may be very conducive to the Cure of this Distemper. I hope, for Instance, I am able to give a satisfactory Account, what Tumours are scrophulous, and what are not. I know as well the Temper and Constitution of People afflicted with the *Evil*, as I did my own, and can easily tell when they will suffer Pain, and when not; when their Sores
will

will run little or much; at what Seasons their Swellings will rise or fall; and when they will break; and the like. Of these Things I have given a satisfactory Account, as divers People will bear

*Montagne's
Essays.*

me Witness. Physick (as a certain Author hath long since observed) doth always profess to have Experience for the Proof of its Operations. And it was *Plato's* Opinion, that in order to be a true Physician, a Man should first suffer all those Diseases he pretended to cure, and pass thro' all those Accidents and Circumstances he was to judge of in others. This, I must confess, is a severe Position; and if no Man were to practise but upon these Conditions, I fancy, Physick would have but few Professors; tho' doubtless, the best Knowledge is ever gain'd by a Man's own Experience and Observation, which, as *Celsus* observes, *Is the principal Thing to inform Men in a right Method of Cure.*

Aphr. 10.
Sect. 9.

Of all Sorts of Instructions, (saith *Sir William Temple*) the best are gain'd from our own Thoughts and Experiences; for tho' a Man may grow learned by other Men's Thoughts, yet he will become wise or happy only by his own. Those Remarks and Observations which I made of Things hurtful

hurtful or beneficial to me in the Way of Living, afforded me much better Light toward my Cure, than all the Instructions I had seen in Physical Authors.

Diet, for Instance, was a Thing from whence I received a considerable Benefit; a Part of Physick of that Importance, that *Hippocrates*, and all other Physicians, do testifie a very great Regard unto it, as a Thing principally conducive to the Cure of most Diseases. *It is impossible, saith Galen, that the Humours should not partake of the Substance and Qualities which the Food had before it was eaten; the Truth whereof we learn by every Day's Experience, from those ill Effects of an improper Diet: In some measure among the Healthy, but more especially among the Diseas'd, it often produceth those Mischiefs in a few Hours, which several Months shan't be able to retrieve; and therefore it's a Matter of great Importance, that diseas'd Persons be well advis'd in their Diet; which some of the ancient Physicians reputed the Origin of good or bad Temperaments. And herein I think my self not unqualified, to give those necessary Directions, which, if observ'd, would prove of very great Use and Service to Persons afflicted with this Evil Humour: Good Management, in this Respect, I find, (tho'*

The Usefulness of Diet.

Hipp. de Diæta.

it will not absolutely cure this Disease) is highly useful, and very efficacious, to aid and assist, and to give an Energy to the Operation of proper Medicines.

Another Thing, which, by my own Experience, I found to have a commanding Power in this Distemper, in giving Pain or Ease, was the Quality or Disposition of the *Air* *: Wherein I was so critical in my Observations, that upon the least Turn or Change of the Weather, I knew as well what I was to expect, as if a Messenger before-hand had given me Warning. And whosoever undertakes the curing of this Disease, will find such natural Observations of great Use, not only to direct him in the Cure, but also to prevent Perturbations of Mind, in those who labour under this Distemper, arising from its Ebbings and Flowings, which, indeed, are very sudden and surprizing. If any one thinks these and such like Observations are Trifles, let him enjoy his Opinion: In the mean time it's

* Most People are of the Opinion the Moon hath a very great Influence upon this Distemper, but according to my Experience and Observation on my self, and likewise upon other People, I find the Sun hath the much greater Power; the Truth whereof I could manifest from divers Examples, if brevity did not oblige me to omit them.

my Judgment, whoever carelessly neglects these Things, will have no great Success with this Distemper. The Divine *Hippocrates* hath in several of his Aphorisms, fully shewed the Usefulness of such Observations, to direct Men in their Methods of curing Diseases. *Change of Seasons are the most effectual Causes of Diseases, and so are the Alterations of Cold and Heat in those Seasons, and other Things proportionable.* If distemper'd People observed these Things, they would not blame their Physicians in many things, when the Cause is purely owing to the Weather. Neither would others upon every little Indisposition, subject themselves to Physick and Phlebotomy, when a contrary Position of the *Air* would set them right. The Ingenious Dr. *Wainwright*, in his Book of *Non-Naturals*, hath clearly demonstrated what great Alterations are made in our Bodies, according to the various Changes of the *Air*; and affirms that from such Notice, better Indications may be taken both for the Prevention and Cure of most Diseases, than from any other Source whatsoever. *The Animal Oeconomy* (saith a late ingenious Author, with great Truth) is *it self a considerable Part of Natural Philosophy, and our Bodies*

Hip. Aphor.
Sect. 3. P. 44.

Page 65.

Dr. Keil of
Animal Secretion.

are so strongly influenced by Variety of Diets, and so many other Things without, that, indeed, the whole Study of Nature seems to be useful to him that would understand it. Herodotus, an ancient Author, tells us, that in Egypt Physicians were obliged to apply themselves to the Study and Improvement of but some one Disease. Every Physician, saith

Lib. 2. Sect. 82. he, hath one Disease for his Province, and no more, &c. The

Design whereof, doubtless, was very good, and of great Use to the Republick of Physick: Because hereby Physicians acquir'd a more certain and perfect Knowledge of the Nature and Disposition of particular Diseases, and of things hurtful and beneficial in each Distemper; and consequently, were better able to fence against all ill Accidents and Revolutions arising from the various Changes of the Weather, or improper Diets, and many evil Habits, whereunto each Disease hath a direct Tendency. The Works of those very great Men, Dr. Sydenham, and Dr. R. Morton, are undeniable Instances of the Advantages the World might enjoy from the Physician's more especial Application of his Thoughts and Studies to the Nature and Cure of some particular Disease. The noble Improvements they arrived at in this way, the one with Respect to Fevers, and the other to Consumptions, make

make one justly wonder, that among so many Ingenious and Learned Men of that Profession, there have been so few who have attempted to follow their Steps in other Cases:

“ If one Physician (saith Dr. Sydenham) had
 “ treated but of one Disease, the *Art* of
 “ Healing had by this Time come to as great
 “ Perfection as our mortal Conditions would
 “ allow of.

The Divine *Hippocrates* formed his Practice from Experience and Observation on particular Diseases. *To understand the Art of Physick, is to know thoroughly the peculiar Constitution of every Season, what there is generally good and bad in each Man's Distemper, the State and Crisis of every Disease, to whom, when and how, Victuals must be given. He that knows and makes a right Use of these things, cannot be mistaken in the Art of Healing.* To the same Purpose speaketh *Cornelius Celsus*; Neither ought the Physician to be ignorant of the Nature and Constitution of the Patient, whether his Body be moist or dry, whether strong or infirm, whether seldom or often sick, &c. Of these Particulars, I take all possible Care to inform my self, from every Person with whom I am concern'd, and should be glad, if Persons labouring under this Distemper, living in remote Parts, when they write to

3 Epid. 3.
p. 156.

Aphor. 13.
p. 236.

me, would send an exact Account of their peculiar Habits of Body, in what Parts they are afflicted, and how long.

As I judged these no improper Qualifications for one who undertook to help others, so, Blessed be God, I have met with an answerable Success. As I treat others, as I did

my self, so I find the very same common Effects. Their Sores run with the same Flux of Matter upon taking this *Specifick Remedy* as mine did.

The same Effects generally common to all other People.

Those painful Operations of *Cutting, Caute-rizing*, and the like, (which one of the greatest Surgeons, we have had, long since declar'd, were more fatal and dangerous than the Disease it self) are by the inward Application of this *Specifick Remedy* rendred uselefs and unnecessary. And I reckon it a great Happiness, that in this Case I can exfoliate foul and carious Bones, without inflicting those Torments attending *manual Operations*. I have a Box of Scales and foul Bones, the largest that ever was seen, driven out by this *Anti-Strumatick Liquor*. Their *Urine* likewise I have frequently observed as thick and ropy as my own used to be; and tho' they are never so Weak and Lame, yet I always find their Strength daily increasing, as mine did. It's a common Complaint among those who have taken *Diet-Drinks*,
made

made of *Guaiacum*, *Sarsaphras*, *Mizerion*, and the like, for any Time; that these Remedies spoil their Stomachs, and burn them up with Feverish Heats: But this *Specifick* hath quite contrary Effects, wonderfully invigorating the *Spirits*, preserving the Appetite, and restoring it when lost; and is of that *mundifying*, *healing*, *drying Quality*, that some inveterate Ulcers have been cured therewith by an outward Application only. For sore, weak, and enflamed Eyes, or where the Sight is obstructed with *Mists*, *Clouds*, *Films*, and *Pearls*, there is no better Ophthalmick in the World. Neither did I ever know this Humour break out afresh upon any Person cur'd by this Method, no more than it hath done with me above these Twenty Years past; the Truth whereof I can make appear by a Cloud of Witnesses, from their own Experience. Neither do I encourage People to enter upon this Method of Cure, if I have not some Hopes and Prospect of Success.

It's hard to say positively, who are curable, and who are not; this last Year I cured a Man, and Six of his Children, before I was able to effect any good on a young Woman, (in appearance not near so bad) in the same Neighbourhood. Perfect and absolute Cures in all Cases cannot be expected, because, as *Celsus* observes, *Causes and Constitutions are so various, that we loose our selves sometimes in those*
 very

very Accidents whereof we seem to have the greatest Certainty and Experience. And therefore, saith he, ' Confidence and Presumption in the Art of Physick, are the true Characteristics of Quacks and Medical Impostors.

So far as I am able to judge from the large Experience I have had, first on my self, and now upon others, one of the greatest Difficulties in making a compleat Cure of this Distemper in most People, with this Method, is Length of Time, which many have not Patience to submit unto, not considering the Stubbornness of this Disease, above all others; that Nature being brought very low, and worn out, in a manner, with a long Duration of the Illness, together with the emaciating Methods in common Use, cannot so soon accomplish the Concoction and Despumation of the Morbifick Matter, as they could wish: It is in this Disease, as in all other Chronical Distempers, the Cause is passed into a Habit, and is become, as it were, a second Nature. And therefore it cannot be expected, that some small and short Alteration super-induced upon the Blood and Humours by any sort of Remedy or Diet can perfect a Cure: Since the whole Habit of Body must be changed, and the whole Man (if I may so express it) must be as it were new created. For want of considering these things, People are easily seduced to try
other

other Medicines, but with so little Advantage, that they oftentimes run themselves into greater Evils; according to that Observation, long since deliver'd by the Lord Bacon, *That as Variety of Medicines is the Off-spring of Ignorance, so many Medicines have caused few Cures.*

*Natural Hist.
of Life and
Death.*

When Men talk of variety of Medicines and Methods of Cure; 'As necessary to answer all those several Symptoms and Indications, which this or any other Distemper may require, tho' their Arguments be plausible, and perhaps sometimes true,' viz. When there is a different Cause for those various Symptoms: Yet, as it often cometh to pass, that different Symptoms proceed from one and the same Cause, so whatever single Remedy will effectually remove that Cause, will as certainly remove the several Symptoms or Effects thereof. Few Diseases for Instance shew themselves in a greater variety of Forms, or are attended with more various Symptoms than *Fevers* and *Agues*; and yet the *Cortex* prudently exhibited, will take off all those different Symptoms without the Assistance of any other Applications. So also in Venereal Cases, Patients have many different Complaints, which seem to indicate different Applications; but yet it's evident in Fact, that upon the sole use of *Mercurials*

als skilfully administred, all those numerous Grievances come to an end. By Parity of Reason therefore, altho' nothing more common than *Fevers, Consumptions, violent Pains, &c.* among Persons afflicted with the *King's Evil*; yet as these are not Distempers arising from different Causes, but the real Effects of one and the same, what need is there of multiplying Remedies for the removal thereof? I have seen Multitudes of People (young and old) afflicted with this Distemper, but could never observe any remarkable difference of Temper or Constitution, or any considerable Variation of Symptoms among them, otherwise than what the Disease naturally produceth in common. True it is, when the Course of these Humours are controuled otherwise than Nature designed; when that peccant Matter is recalled back into the Blood which Nature had thrown off to the Extremities of the Body, no wonder if such poor Wretches are almost destroyed with *Stomach Sickneses, Gripes, Faintings,* and a large Troop of other irregular *Symptoms*, more grievous than the Evils intended to be removed: In such Cases (which are but too common) the Life of the Patient may be in hazard, which before was in no danger, since that *Art which should follow the Directions of Nature, is otherwise employed to thwart her Endeavours, by a rash Application of Me-*

Me-

Medicines. To these Observations I may add another of equal Truth, that the most authentick Evidences of a Man's curing this or any other Disease, are not sufficient to satisfy some People prepossess'd with Prejudices; so that if a Man were morally certain of curing any one Distemper, yet he would find it a difficult Point to convince some, tho' he produc'd an hundred Instances of his Success. And the Reason may be this, because Physicians, and those depending on them, have in all Places so bitterly run down all Persons and Things, exclusive of their own Knowledge and Practice, that People think there's no *Balm in Gilead* but what's in their Hands. And yet Physicians have acknowledg'd that the Art of Healing was originally derived from such Experiments as were not all made by Physicians *. Nay sometimes

Hist. of Phys.
pag. 4.

* If any Credit may be given to Pliny, we shall have no reason to boast of the Invention of Physick, two great Operations in that Art having been owing to two considerable Creatures, viz. Bleeding and Purging; the first to Hippopotamus, a River-Horse; the latter to Ibis, a small Bird in Egypt.

The Natives (saith Monsieur Pomet) found out the Virtue of the Balsam Capivi, by means of certain Hogs in those Parts, who presently when they were wounded) would strike their Teeth against the Trunks of these Trees, from whence the Balsam would flow out into their Wounds; and this they would continue till they were perfectly well. History of Drugs, p. 208.

(say

(say they) the Fowls of the *Air*, and the Beasts of the Field, have by the Exercise of their natural Instincts directed considering Men to such Medicines, as without such Indications perhaps their Reason and Skill would never have brought to light.

Dictamnium genitrix cretæa carpit ab Ida

Puberibus caulem foliis & flore comantem

Purpureo, non illa feris incognita capris

Gramina cum tergo volucres hæserè sagittæ.

Virg. *Æn.* 12.

As for my Pretensions, they are only thus, that whereas I had this Distemper in a very high Degree, and have, with God's Blessing, been my self cured by this Remedy, and many others have received undeniable Benefit thereby; I shall honestly apply the same Means to any Person that desires it, leaving the Success to Almighty God. With this farther Declaration, for all Peoples Satisfaction, that if this *Specifick Remedy* should not cure them, it will certainly do them no Hurt. Not one of those many Hundreds that have taken of it, having ever complain'd of the least Injury attending its Use.

What ever Exceptions may be made against this Undertaking, for my own Part I take all possible Care to make no Man angry or uneasy at that the Good God has enabled me

to do; refusing all Patients so long as they are under the Care of others, whether Physicians or Surgeons, and should be glad to hear they meet with good Success elsewhere.

Mr. Serjeant *Wiseman* declares, That *the Contumaciousness of this Disease had not only eluded his best Care and Industry, but also some of the ablest Physicians and Surgeons in his Time.* L. 2. p. 239.
 To the same purpose speaketh that excellent Physician, Dr. *Sprengell*, in the whole *Art of Chirurgery*, There *is nothing more troublesome and vexatious to the Operator, insomuch that after all the Care and Pains that can possibly be employed, and the Application of the most approved Medicines, yet it is a very great Rarity if he procures any Benefit to his Patient.* *Chirurgia Curiosa*, p. 87.

Mr. Serjeant *Wiseman* is of Opinion, That most of those Diseases mentioned in his *Chirurgical Treatise*, do participate of the *Evil*.

I know not whether one might entirely subscribe to that great Man's Judgment in the Matter; but this, I believe, must be allowed, that, with us, very few Families are wholly clear of it; so that it's to be fear'd, there will be Work enough for all. And I have heard several old, able, and experienc'd Practitioners declare, that they never got any Credit by meddling with this Distemper; and therefore accounted it no real

Injury to their Practice, for any Person to free them from that Trouble.

I know not what Reason some Authors have to alledge, that aged People are rarely troubled with this Distemper. I have known several upwards of *Fifty*, *Sixty*, and *Seventy* Years of Age break out in several Places, particularly a Woman whom I cured upwards of *Sixty*, who declared to me, that she had been always free from any such Complaint till she was *Fifty Five*, or thereabout. It is a Disease which spareth neither Peer nor Peasant of any Age or Sex whatsoever. "*This Distemper, through Length of Time, as the Learned Barbette, M. D. and Mr. Serjeant Brown have observed, becometh Cancerous.*" And I have known several of these Tumours in Womens Breasts, tho' small at first, degenerate into cancerous Ulcers. Some Authors affirm, the same Remedies which heal the one, will also cure the other.

But however, the Distemper is of that malignant and mischievous Nature, to our Bodies, that whoever can propose a safe and easie Method of curing or preventing it, one might expect should be look'd upon as an especial Benefactor to Mankind; for where it doth not destroy Life, it often disableth People (the whole Course of their Lives) from enjoying themselves or others, with any Comfort or Satisfaction, as may be seen
by

by many deplorable Instances, among both Sexes, groaning under the Torments of this cruciating Tyrant. So that where a Man's Services are manifest and indisputable, either in giving Freedom or Relief from so great an *Evil*, he might reasonably hope to merit the Good-Will and Encouragement of all Mankind. For my Part, if it were in my Power which to choose, I would much rather beg my Bread all the Days of my Life, with that Portion of Health I now enjoy, than endure my former Afflictions with the Wealth of the *Indies*. Health is so great a Blessing, that all other Pleasures of Honour and Fortune are mere Vanities, and the most exquisite Pleasures tasteless, and even dead without it: If therefore by any Means, we can attain this necessary Comfort of Life, it's no great Matter (I think) who the Persons are (next under God) that convey this Blessing to us. Where the Means are safe, and warranted with unquestionable Proofs of Success, all other Exceptions are frivolous and trifling: And yet there are Thousands of *Namaman's* Opinion, who will choose to suffer any Evil, rather than be convinced that there can be so much Healing in the Waters of *Jordan*.

Sherbourn-Lane, near the
General Post-Office, in
Lombard-street.

I am, Sir,
Yours,

A Short
Specimen of my Success :

I N A

Faithful Relation

Of many Extraordinary

C U R E S,

O N

Men, Women, and Children,

Afflicted with the

King's Evil.

The C A S E of Charles Welsh.

IT pleased God in the Island of *Fersey*, after the *Small-Pox* there, to afflict me in a grievous Manner with the *King's Evil*; first, with a deep and large Ulcer in my Breast, then

then with two others on my right Arm; after these followed five more on my left Shoulder; and lastly, five others on my left Arm; whereby I was depriv'd of the Use of both Arms, being also so extream weak and lame, that I could neither go nor help myself. I had all the Advice and Medicines that was there possible, particularly was under a Course of Salivation seven Weeks; but these things having no Effect upon me, I was remov'd thence into *St. Thomas's Hospital*, where I continu'd several Months; but not meeting with that Success in this Place neither, which many others have reaped; and being discharged, I was by my Friends then brought to *Mr. Vickers*, a Clergyman, in *Sherbourn-lane*, *November 26, 1706.* who, beyond his own, and all other People's Expectations, hath (God be praised) wrought a perfect and complete Cure on me, being now as sound and healthy as any other Person whatsoever. I lodge at a *Shoe-maker's*, next Door to the *Cross-keys Inn*, *Grace-Church-street*, where may be seen much more of this Cure than is here related, by

Charles Welsh.

S I R,

I Send this to acquaint you, that my Child, which was blind with the *King's Evil* of both Eyes 3 or 4 Months, is now, by

D. 3

God's

God's Blessing, and those Medicines which you sent me, perfectly recover'd. I pray God to bless your Endeavours for the Benefit of others, as he hath done for mine, who am your most obliged Friend and Servant,

John Traybearne.

Wanstead, Febr.

21. 17 $\frac{2}{3}$.

A Young Lad, Apprentice to Mr. Colston, at a Toy-shop against the Royal Exchange, had the Evil under one of his Jaws, whom I cured in less than six Weeks. As also Mrs. J——'s Daughter, not far from the Swan and Hoop Tavern, of many ulcerated Tumours in her Arm; but her Cure was not so speedily accomplished as the former.

A Practitioner in Physick, of good Business and Repute, about 30 Miles distant from London, afflicted with this Distemper about 20 Years in several Parts, took of my Medicines. What Success they had upon him, his own Words in the following Letter will testify,

Rev. SIR,

I Have deferr'd Writing to you, to see if the Happiness which I now enjoy by your Medicines, was like to last. I thank God I have
been

been well and free from any Symptom of the Evil, above these four Months, and therefore will not trouble you for a Supply of your Specifick Remedy until the Spring, when I intend to renew its Application for a Month. The next Month I shall be in London, to pay you my Respects and hearty Acknowledgments for those great Services you have done for me.

I rest you most obliged
humble Servant.

Nov. 3. 1707.

Reverend SIR,

I Hope you and your good Lady are well. I should be glad to see you both at Halstead. My Son, (thro' God's Blessing) upon taking your Specifick, seems to be very well; he has no Kernels left in his Neck, his Eyes have not been sore, nor run, nor been gummy for a long time; but his Sight is as good as ever. He has lately taken another Dose of your purging Steel Liquor: His usual Drink is now common Table Drink, and his Issue runs very well. My Wife would know if she may dry that up. There is wonderful Notice taken in these Parts far and near of what you have done for my Child. A Gentleman, on Friday last, that lives some Miles from me, was asking me about my Child, where you liv'd, how he might speak with you, and what were your Demands. I told him you was a reasonable Man, and did consider Peoples

Cir.

Circumstances. Who it is that wants your Help, I know not, but as for this Gentleman, who enquired of me about you, he is very well acquainted with most Persons of Quality in our Country, so that if you can accord, it may be much for your Advantage. I lent him your Book to read, which did mightily please him. Mr. Morley of our Town gives you a good Word, and you may assure your self I shall not be wanting to manifest your just Praises and Commendations to all People. My Wife and Son give their Services to you. So praying God to bless your generous Designs for all Mankind, I rest your most humble Servant,

W. H.

July, 1710.

MRS. Lambert's Child of Islington, had very fore Eyes, and breakings out in her Arms, I cured her in about six Months.

STEPHEN Dupont, August 2, 1709. a Youth living in Greenwich, was very much afflicted with running Sores under each Jaw. I happily cured him in a very short Time, with the inward and outward Application of my *Specifick Remedy*.

THOMAS Quessingborough, next Door to the Three Kings in Lenden-hall-street, a Youth about 12 Years of Age, had a large glandu-
lous

ious Tumour in his Neck, which by the inward Application of my *Specifick Remedy*, speedily broke, and discharged much filthy Matter, and in a few Month's time healed up with little or no *Scar*.

MY only Child, aged 9 Years, being extremely afflicted with the *Evil* in her Eyes, the Sight of both cover'd with thick Films, both Eye-lids swelled that she could not move them upwards, and thought by many to be past Recovery: I apply'd myself, Sept. 16, 1710. to Mr. *Vickers* in *Sherbourn-lane*, and only by the internal Application of his *Specifick Remedy*, her Eyes in eight Days time were perfectly recovered; and, in all Appearance, she is entirely freed from that grievous Distemper. The Truth whereof may be known at the *Pewterer's Shop*, next Door to *Feathers Court*, near *Great Turn-Stile, Holbourn*.

Tho. Locket.

March 29, 1711.

MAY, 1709. A Gentleman, who (like many others) was very unwilling it should be known that he had the *Evil*, came to me as from another Person. By his Complection, I judg'd he was not himself free from the Distemper, which upon telling him my Thoughts he did not deny. He had several

veral running Sores on his Breast and Shoulders; and so bad, that it was seven Months before they were cured by my Medicine. I am engag'd to Secrecy as to his Name, &c. but I must do him the Justice, to own he was very generous in his Acknowledgments for the Service I had done him.

SIR,

NO longer ago than Wednesday Night last, I saw your Patient, Mrs. Elizabeth Gillson, who not only looks well, but her Eyes [to all Appearance] are as well now as mine; can see to work with her Needle, without any Offence or Trouble to her. She continues the taking of your Medicine with great Pleasure and Satisfaction. We have a poor Woman in this Town about forty Years of Age, miserably afflicted with the same Distemper from her Cradle; if you can do her any Good, let me know by the next Post; which will oblige your most assured Friend and Servant,

Rector of West-

Wickham, Cam-

bridgeshire, De-

cember 2, 1710.

Allington Harrison.

☛ This Mrs. Elizabeth Gillson had been Blind several Years, with the Evil in her Eyes, whose Cure I begun, Sept. 8. 1710.

THE

THE following Account of my Success was sent me by a Divine out of the Country, *May 4, 1711*. Concerning a young Lady, who was my Patient but a few Weeks.

Rev. SIR,

I Receiv'd yours, which I sent to the young Lady, your Patient, who now, praised be God, is very well recover'd of her Distemper, and hopes she may continue so; but if otherwise, you shall hear the first Post. The Lady gives her Thanks and humble Service to you, and so doth your most obliged humble Servant,

Rector of *Hickling*,
Nottinghamshire.

George Fisher.

Elizabeth Jackson, in *Haddenham Bucks*, aged about 32 Years, having several glandulous Swellings about her Neck, was in a little time cured by me.

A Young Woman of *St. Edmund's Bury*, afflicted with the Evil in both Eyes many Years, without any Relief, was by the Application of this *Specifick Remedy* cur'd.

A Young Woman, of *Great Harlow* in *Essex*, came to my House, *May 23, 1709*. She had several Ulcers in one of her Arms,

Arms, and also a consumptive Habit of Body: Her Cure was tedious, but in Twelve Months time it pleas'd God, I did effect it, which is very well known to Mr. *Signal*, at the *White Lion*, *Leaden-hall-street*.

Mary Davage of *Greenwich*, afflicted with the *Evil* in both her Eyes, many Years, whose Sight was in a Manner quite dark with Specks upon each Eye, was cured in three Weeks time, by taking of this *Specifick Powder* in small Beer. The Truth whereof is very well known to most People in that Place.

Mrs. *Thomas's* Child, in *Northumberland-Alley*, *Fanchurch-street*, whom I cured in three Weeks, was blind with the *King's Evil*.

Long-Melford, *May* 13, 1712.

Rev. SIR,

I Receiv'd yours, and should have been very glad to have seen you at Melford; as the Length of the Journey prevents your visiting me, so it does my waiting upon you at present: I have found every thing you sent me succeed according to your Predictions, and exceed, tho' not my Hopes, yet my Expectations; for I could not have thought I should have receiv'd; so much Benefit in so short a time. I am now (Blessed
be

be God) wholly at Ease, my Sore is healed up, and the Swelling abates: I hope, by continuing your Drink it will quite wear away; and as before I could not set my Foot upon the Ground, I can now walk pretty well without either Crutch or Staff, but find the Humours attend my Leg still, for it is always more Swell'd at Night than in the Morning. I hope in a Fortnights time to be at College again. I would have made London my Way thither, and have waited upon you, but that I think 'tis a little too far for me at present; but if I continue in Health, I purpose in my next Return to Melford, to come round by London, and pay my thankful Acknowledgments to so good a Benefactor. I had wrote to you sooner, but the continual Pain I was in made Writing, and almost every thing else, irksome to me. I pray God to prolong your Days, and make you the happy Instrument of prolonging the Days of others, who labour under the same Affliction.

Your humble Servant, F. B.

N. B. When I received this Letter, the Author had taken the *Specifick Remedy* but one Month. He is long since perfectly well.

THE honourable Lady Pyne, recommended a Child to me, about 4 Years old, severely afflicted with the Evil in her Eyes, whom I cured in two Months;

E

the

the Truth whereof is also known at the *Black Lyon* against *Ironmonger-lane*, where the Child lodged while under my Care.

AL SO a Gentleman's Daughter about 6 Years old, living in the Broad Place, *Westminster*, much afflicted with the Evil in her *Eyes, Nose, and Lips*, cur'd in a short time.

A Youth at the *Black Boy and Still*, near *Shoreditch Church*, I cured of very weak and sore *Eyes*. The Truth whereof is very well known to the Reverend Mr. *Price*, Schoolmaster of *Stoke-Newington*.

HENRY Sprately, a Corporal in Major-General *Holmes's* Regiment of Foot-Guards, afflicted with many deep and foul *Ulcers* on each side of his *Throat*, extending from *Ear* to *Ear*; accidentally meeting with my Book at the Surgeon's House belonging to his Regiment, in *Charles-street, Westminster*, desired leave to read it over; after which, the Man comes directly to my House, telling me he was perswaded, if I would take him in Hand, that with God's Blessing I could cure him. I bid him first to ask leave of his Surgeon Mr. *Wilson*, and then he should be welcome to my Assistance, which he soon obtain'd. Accordingly I gave him the *Specifick Liquor* for his constant Drink, and

and Dressings for his Sores, with Instructions how to apply them ; the Medicines he fetch'd from my House as often as his Necessities requir'd. Not hearing of him in 6 Months, I concluded he was dead, (cured beyond Relapse) and therefore the 2d of Feb. 1713. I called at his Lodgings, the *Cock and Hoop* in *Chancery-lane*, to enquire after him, where I found the Man in very good Health ; his Throat as dry and free from Sores as the back of my Hand ; for my part I had never seen a poor Fellow in a worse Condition than this Man was. He now liveth at the *Queen's Head Ale-house, Bell-Alley*, near the *Temple*.

A Young Man, who had been subject to the Evil in his Childhood, was seiz'd with a violent Heat and Humour in his Face, Neck and Breast, which by repelling Medicines was driven into his *Eyes*, attended with a great Inflammation and Fluxion. Finding the Cause of his complaint, I immediately order'd two Issues to be made between his Shoulders for a present Revulsion ; and obliged him to drink plentifully of the *Specifick Liquor*, and to wash his *Eyes* therewith several times in the Day, by which Method I preserved his Sight, which probably might have been lost in a few Days. *People should be very cautious how they use repelling or dissolving Medicines.* I knew a Woman directly

killed, by turning this Humour out of her *Eyes* into her *Stomach*, as if she had been stabb'd. I had nearly lost the Sight of mine by the Use of an *Eye-water*. And I have always found it true by my own Experience, and likewise by the Testimony of others, that those *Eyes* have always far'd the worst, which have been most tamper'd withal by outward *Remedies*.

Most Diseases in the *Eyes* are the *King's Evil*, which a great many People not suspecting, or rather not willing to believe, are frequently imposed upon by ignorant and designing Persons, to the loss of their Sight. So when this Humour fixeth in any other Parts, such Persons taking Advantage of People's Ignorance, or Aversions to this Distemper, delude them with contrary Perswasions and Practices oftentimes till it's too late to help them by any proper Methods whatsoever. I know it hath been suggested to my Prejudice, that I call all Tumours, and Breakings out, the *King's Evil*; This is utterly false; and I challenge any to give an Instance, where-ever I said it was the *King's Evil*, and it proved otherwise.

A Young Woman had many hard *Kernels* in one of her *Breasts*, who by drinking of this *Specifick Liquor* Seven Months, became clear of all her Swellings, and

and hath continued so above this Three Years.

MR. *Steel's* Son, a Watch-Maker, living against *Grange Court*, little *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, had a large Tumour adhering to one of his Eye-lids, which I feared might endanger the loss of his Eye, together with a dry Scurf all over his Head; his Parents reposing a Confidence in me, committed their Son to my Care, *April 9, 1714.* and with God's Blessing, and those Endeavours I used, his Cure was effected in a short time, the Child ever since continuing free from that Humour.

A Gentleman's Daughter in *Princes-street*, near *Bedford-Row*, was very much troubled with this Humour in her Eyes, upon whom all the common Methods applicable in such Cases had been tryed without any Success. When her Father consulted me, I made him no Promise of a Cure, but to use my best Care to help her, which had that speedy Effect, that in 14 Days she found Benefit, could bear the Light of the Fire and Sun; and in less than Two Months, she had not the least Sign or Symptom of the Humour about her. I do not mention the Gentleman's Name, but divers People whom I have sent to enquire of him, have received full Satisfaction.

A Young Gentlewoman formerly lodg-
 ing at Mr. *Skinner's*, a Linnen-Draper,
 at the Sign of the Three *Wheat-sheaves*, a-
 gainst *Bow Church*, had one of these Stru-
 mous Swellings upon her right Hand; her
 Surgeons were for discharging the Humour
 by *Cauticks*, but her Parents fearing the ill
 Consequences of those Expedients, sent for
 me, *March 4, 1714*. Upon taking the *Spe-*
cifick Liguor a little time, the Tumour was
 brought to a natural Suppuration: upon which
 the Matter discharg'd, and then healed up
 without any other trouble or inconveniency.
Mr. Skinner will satisfie any Person of the
 Truth of this Cure.

Colonel *Savery*, of *Greenwich*, *May 29,*
1711. did seek my Advice and Assi-
 stance for the Cure of a young Gentleman
 afflicted with the *King's Evil* in one of his
 Knees, and elsewhere; the Joint was ex-
 tremely swelled, which I feared might de-
 prive him of the use of his Leg; but it plea-
 sed God to favour my Endeavours with that
 Success, that he neither lost the use of that
 Joint, nor sustained any other Injury from
 his Distemper, being now as sound and health-
 ful as any other Person whatsoever.

A Gentlewoman living near St. Peter's Church, in Cornhill, was sorely afflicted with this Humour in one of her Hands and Arms, whose Cure was somewhat tedious, but at length it was accomplish'd, since when I have heard no Complaints of a Relapse.

A Gentleman in my Neighbourhood, December 8, 1708. sent for me to see his Child, then about 4 Years of Age, one of her Knees was much tumified, also the fore Finger of her left Hand, and a hard Swelling in the Cheek. By good Fortune no Means had been applied. I order'd the Child the *Specifick Liquor and Powder*, which she took with great Pleasure; in a few Weeks her Swellings came to Maturity, broke, and discharged much Matter. I had a great Concern upon me to preserve the Use of her Limbs, and to prevent any disfiguring in her Face (the Child being very beautiful.) In 12 Months time, with God's Blessing, I cleared her of the Distemper, and my self from fears of her downright Lameness for ever.

MR. Ackworth, of Wandsworth, Merchant, recommended such an other Child for Age as the former, tho' much worse.

worse in every Respect, as having a great many Swellings and Ulcers in divers parts. What my Success was in this difficult Case, I refer People to enquire of him.

Elizabeth Sparvin, at the Three Crowns on London Bridge, had one of these Swellings in her Neck; she advis'd with me for her Cure, Sept. 10, 1713. which I effected with great Facility. Not long after she married, and hath a fine Child, without the least sign of any Hereditary Contagion.

MR. John Aires, of Pudding-lane, Merchant, June 28, 1709, recommended a Female Child to me; she had many Swellings and running Sores in divers parts, otherwise of a good Habit of Body: It was 8 or 9 Months before her Cure was compleated.

A Merchant's Lady, living in Putney, brought a young Man to me, Feb. 18, 1713. about 16 Years of Age, the Youth then Apprentice to an Eminent Linnen-Dra- per in Grace-Church-street, had some hard Swellings in his Neck, with a scurvy Tumour above the right Eye. Undertaking his Cure, I ordered him the *Specifick* Liquor for his constant Drink, and likewise the Powder to take Morning and Night; by the use where-
of

of his Swellings abated gradually, and so went away without any farther trouble. This Cure is well known in those Parts.

MRs. *Chandler*, a Taylor's Wife in *Rigate, Surrey*, came to my House, *May* the 7th, 1711. with a foul Ulcer in her great Toe, for the Cure whereof I gave her Dressings for outward Application, and the *Specifick* Drink and Powder to be taken as above, and supplied her with Medicines and Directions when ever she required: The Woman was not long under my Care, her Cure succeeding sooner then I expected.

Sarah *King*, then a Blew-coat Girl in *Christ-Church* Hospital, was by her Relations brought to me, *June* 1, 1711. she was swelled about the Neck, besides several running Sores, whom I cured during her stay in the Hospital; afterwards she was put Apprentice to a Miliner, but where I know not.

DR. *Brailsford*, present Dean of *Wells*, recommended a young Gentleman to me from *St. John's* College in *Cambridge*, whose Distemper was in one of his Elbows, and the Humour [or rather the Application of two Causticks] had deprived him of the use of that Joint, that he could not stretch out that Arm strait. His Ulcers were soon
healed.

healed, and afterwards by the Application of some other Means I helped him to the full use of his Arm; a Benefit I never expected. It's hardly credible those Difficulties I have surmounted among some People, reposing a Trust or Confidence in my Endeavours; and contrariwise, how little Service I have done where they have betrayed a Mistrust or Timorousness.

THE Parish Clerk's Son of *Keltson*, near the *Bath*, was a down-right Cripple with this Distemper, whom I cured by sending him Medicines with Directions.

MR. *Fathers*, School-master of the Free-School in *Thistleworth*, sought my Assistance for the Cure of his Child, *Sept. 13, 1714.* the Boys Lips were very much swelled, his Eyes extreme sore, and his Head broken out in several Places, who was cured in less than two Months; the Child having been free from any sign of the Humour about him ever since.

A Gentleman living at the *King's Head*, a Linnen-draper's, the Corner of *Milk-street, Cheapside*, brought a young Man to me, *Sept. 1, 1713.* with a swelled upper Lip, and with several other Symptoms of this Disease elsewhere, whom I cured in less than 4 Months. A

A Lady in Great *Marlborough-street*, sent her Footman to my House, *April 9, 1714.* to wait on her about a Child subject to this Humour in her *Eyes* and *Lips*; for the Cure whereof, one of our absolute, perfect, and never failing Doctors, had given her a Drink not fit for a Horse. The Child being entrusted to my Care, I ordered her to take 15 Drops of the *Specifick* Liquor in common Water every time she drank; and a Paper of the *Specifick* Powder in the Morning, and another at Night; and with this Method the Humour presently abated of its Virulency in her *Eyes* and *Lips*, the Disease every Day more or less discharging by *Urine*, and in a few Months she became well.

THE Reverend Mr. *Stanhope* desired my charitable Assistance for the Cure of a poor Woman in the Country, which I cheerfully consented to, and gave him Medicines with Directions to send to her. Not long after this, Mr. *Stanhope* sent me this Letter.

SIR,

THE Imposthume in the Head of your poor Patient, Sarah Green, did break last Week, she now finds her self much better, and can move both her Arms. Her Sores likewise are healed, and her Swellings also are asswaged. She desires
to

to know if she must continue the use of the Specifick Powder steeped in Water, as you advised, or whether she may forbear. Your speedy Answer will oblige your humble Servant,

M. Stanhope.

April 9, 1708.

A Gentleman's Daughter at *Rixmonds-worth*, afflicted with the *Evil* in her Eyes from her Infancy was cured by me.

Isaac Dead's Daughter, in *Red-Lion-street, Spittle-fields*, had a large foul Ulcer on the back of her Right Hand, after she had taken the *Specifick* Liquor and Powder a few Days, the Bones begun to scale and exfoliate, every dressing producing some black splinters, with so little trouble to the Child, that she never complained of the least Pain or Anguish during her Cure, which was effected in Three Months time. If I was not obliged to Secrecy, I could relate the like Cure on a considerable Merchant in this City.

Whereas I *Matthew Winter*, living at *Mrs. Vaughan's*, next Door to the *Feathers* in *Biliter-lane*, being much afflicted with the *King's Evil* in my Face, wherein I had many Sores, and likewise several hard Swel-

Swellings in my Neck, for which I could not obtain any Cure, until I applied myself to the Reverend Mr. *Vickers*, living in *Sherbourn-lane*, near the General Post Office, *Lombard-street*, who by God's Blessing in a short time did effect my Cure. In Testimony hereof I have hereunto set my Hand,

Matthew Winter.

Octob. 25. 1707.

Note, Since this Man was cured, he hath made several Voyages to the *East-Indies*; of whose Success, Mrs. *Vaughan*, and most of the Neighbours thereabouts, will witness the Truth.

MR. *Barnard*, late of *Milk-street*, *Cheapside*, sent for me to see a Child troubled with the Evil in her *Eyes*, and with some Swellings about her Neck; for the Cure whereof she only drank the *Specifick* Liquor about two Months, which did remove the Humour out of her *Eyes*, and likewise the Swellings out of her Neck, without the least return ever since.

MR. *Timothy Styles*, living in *Lewis*, *Sussex*, afflicted with the Evil in his Face; and likewise *Philip Adams*, living near *St. Albans*, having a Leprous Humour

in his Face and Breast, were both cured by the use of this *Specifick* Liquor. Also Mrs. *Mitchel*, of *Haddenham* in *Bucks*; and likewise a young Woman in the next Parish, *viz.* *Kingsly*, were both cured by the same Means.

MR. *Sheilds*, at the *King of Clubs*, near *Bunhill fields*, brought her Son to me *October*, 23, 1711. having the *King's Evil* in a very high degree in one of his Hands; the Boy otherwise of a very healthful Disposition. I ordered him the *Specifick* Liquor and Powder, with Directions; and likewise Dressings for his Sores. After a few Days taking the Medicines, some Bones appear'd bare and foul, and in a Weeks time they came out, and then his Ulcers healed faster than I expected. This Boy is now put Apprentice to a Glover.

MR. *Samuel Cook*, a Jeweller by Trade, living in *Gutter-lane*, near *Cheapside*, applied himself to me *Sept.* 31, 1712. for the Cure of his Left Elbow, and the fore Finger of the same Hand; the Elbow Joint was extremely swelled, and likewise contracted, that he could not extend it, if it had been to save his Life: The Circumstances of his Illness in many other Respects were so bad, that I had seldom seen the like. I begun his Cure with

with the Use of the *Specifick Liguor* and Powder, which caused the Humour to break out in several Holes in the Elbow, and likewise in the Finger, discharging in both Places a plentiful deal of Corruption, with such Malignancy and Violence, when his Dressings were shifted, that the Matter would gush out like a Spout, attended with such a rapid Heat as if an actual Fire had been in the part. It was full 18 Months before his Cure was perfected, who from a mere Skeleton is now become a plump, healthy, and strong Man.

The Acrimony of these Cancerous and Scrophulous Ulcers is very surprizing. I have seen a Piece of Lead of a considerable thickness applied to both, and consumed after the same manner as Soap-boilers Lees, *Aqua Fortis*, and the like, preyeth upon Metals.

THE Lady *Ruffel*, living in *Barwick-street*, near *Golden Square*, will, I believe, be so just to acknowledge my Success in a remarkable Cure on a Person whom her Ladyship recommended to me, *Sept. 13. 1707.*

October the 10th, 1710. A Gentlewoman in *Duke-street, Westminster*, sent her Footman to me, to wait on her the next Morning at Nine; when I came, she shewed me a Boy about 8 Years of Age, with a large, deep, and foul Ulcer in his Elbow Joint. The Lady making no Enquiries after my Success elsewhere, desired me to use my Endeavours to cure the Child, and to save his Arm from being cut off, which was threaten'd by some. I took the Child in hand, who in 7 Months time was perfectly cured, with the free Use of his Arm like the other. He is now a Scholar in *Westminster School*. And likewise another of my *quondam* Patients, Master *Guy Floyd*, whose Case was not much unlike the former.

SIR *John M.* Baronet, brought one of his Daughters to me, *February* the 3d, 1712. she had many large Tumours on both sides of her Neck, otherwise of a good Habit of Body. The inward Application of my Medicines caused all her Swellings to break, which continued running for about three Months; then they ceased to discharge any Matter, and healed without the least Scar, or sign of any such Humour to be seen in those Parts. The young Lady, whilst she was under my Cure, boarded at
Mrs.

sign, it would be convenient for him to take first two or three Doses of my *Chalybeate* purging Portion, and after that to make my *Specifick* Liquor his constant Drink. The Gentleman followed my Advice, and in a Months time, as he was sitting with some Company over a Glass of Wine, finding some Provocation to blow his Nose, out comes a rotten Bone into his Handkerchief, somewhat bigger than a Rounsival Pea: What Bone it was, or unto what part it belonged I could not discover, but the Gentleman never suffered the least hurt thereby, nor was he from that time ever troubled with his nauseous Smell. Here was no *Manual* Operation, but the pure Effects of the Medicine.

The following Letter was sent me from a young Lady, who was my Patient in *Katharine-street*, near *Covent Garden*, out of the Country, after she left *London*.

Rev. SIR,

THIS comes to acquaint you, that my Eyes continue very well ever since I left *London*, so I hope there is no Occasion for a fresh supply of Medicines. I have some Thoughts of going to the Bath with a Relation; I desire your Opinion, if I may Bathe, or only drink the Waters; what you advise I shall strictly observe. I have
also

also another Favour to ask of you ; A Friend of mine seeing your Companion to the Altar, &c. would have you to send down a Dozen and half by the first Return of our Carrier, who lies at the Rose Inn, Holborn-bridge. So with mine and Sister's Service, I am yours,

May 18,

M. M.

1709.

A Gentlewoman brought a Female Child to me, August 8, 1714, afflicted all over the Body with mattery Scabs, rather the Leprosie than a scrophulous Humour, contracted, as she told me, by an ill cur'd Itch. This Child I dieted with a peculiar Herb Diet, and gave her the Specifick Liquor for her constant Drink ; and likewise ordered a Bath with some Herbs, and with some of the Specifick Liquor to Bath her in once or twice a Week. By the use of this Method the Child was in a few Weeks perfectly cured.

I have tryed this Bath in divers other Cafes with admirable Success ; particularly on a young Lady in Red Lion-square, vexed with a fiery, leprous Humour in her Neck, wherein she bathed but 9 Times and was freed from that troublesome Guest.

SIR,

Buntingford, Feb. 26, 1744.

SIR,

I AM a poor Woman of this Place, and have a Daughter which has been under several Surgeons Hands concerning one of her Arms, and they really do believe it is the Evil: It has been a coming five or six Years: She has no Sore, but is in continual Pain; and when the Pain is very sharp, then her Arm is in a great heat: But when it is a little abated, then her Arm is very cold: The Sinews are very much shrunk, and she has little or no Use of her Arm. So that if you think you can any ways help her, she shall come up, and I will requite you for all your Care and Trouble to the utmost of my Power.

Your humble Servant,

Ann Hall.

The whole Town of Buntingford, besides the Mother of this poor Woman, and her self, have witnessed my Success in curing her, in such a manner as is not fitting for me to express.

Captain Watkins, of Deptford, I believe will be so just to acknowledge my Success upon a Person of his Acquaintance.

A

A Young Gentleman after the Small-pox, had such a violent Humour attending his Eyes, that his Relations feared the loss of the sight of both, whom I cured in six Weeks.

‘ THE *Tonsils*, or Almonds of the Ears
 ‘ (as Mr. Serjeant *Wiseman* hath long
 ‘ since observed) are frequently swelled in
 ‘ the *King's Evil*, which Tumour, saith he,
 ‘ may be very well reckoned a Species of it.

Such was the Condition of a young Gentleman, who came out of the Country with both *Tonsils* very much swelled, attended with great difficulty of Swallowing. Various Methods of Cure had been tryed, but all proving ineffectual, I was advised with, upon the Recommendation of one who had been my Patient. I began his Cure with a purging *Chalybeate* of my own contrivance, which operated 4 or 5 Times every day he took it. A Man would hardly believe the Benefit which this Gentleman received in a short time by this Medicine, inso-much that he thought himself perfectly cured; but as I knew it was not so, I pressed the internal use of my *Specifick* Liquor for 6 or 8 Weeks, unto which he consented, and thereby became well.

The

☞ The *Chalybeate* purging Portion, I know by great Experience to be as valuable a Remedy in some particular Cases as a Man can wish or desire.

A Gentlewoman living in the Burrough, brought a Female Child to me, *May 1, 1713.* afflicted with this Humour in both her Eyes, and likewise within both Nostrils, and in her upper Lip; for the Cure whereof I ordered the Child to take 15 Drops of the *Specifick* Liquor in small Beer every time she called for drink, and one Paper of the *Specifick* Powder at 9 in the Morning, and another Paper at 5 in the Evening. By the continuance of this Method the Child was perfectly cleared of the Humour, and hath continued free ever since.

Mrs. *Flatman*, living in *Canterbury*, brought a Child to me, *Nov. 30, 1711.* with grievous sore *Eyes*, and some Swellings in her Neck, to whom I gave Directions for the Child's Diet, and also how to use the *Specifick* Liquor for her constant Drink. In a little time the Child found the Benefit thereof in her *Eyes*; the Swellings in her Neck did not break, but by degrees lessened, and in 4 Months time quite disappeared. I could never hear of any returns of the Humour since she was cured. Cap-

Captain *H.* formerly a Commissioner of the Victualling-Office, *Tower-hill*, sent a Child to me, *April 28*, 1709. with a great defluction of Humours in both her Eyes, and with a swelled upper Lip; seldom the one without the other in Children. For the Cure of this Child I ordered so many Drops of the Specifick Liquor to be taken in her constant drink, and to wash her Eyes with an Eye-water made with the Specifick Powder. By the use of these Things the Child mended apace, but after some time relapsed worse than ever. I who knew the Reason, was not discouraged, nor in Truth were her Parents much concerned when I shewed them the Cause. So I persued the Method with a little Variation, and thereby effectually conquered the Humour to their Satisfaction as well as to my own.

A Gentleman unknown to me, came to my House in his Chariot, to carry me to a Friend of his troubled with a large Swelling in his *Groin*. Divers Applications I perceived had been used to dissolve it; and also various Opinions had passed among the Learned; some said one Thing, and some another; I declared, that in my Opinion, it was a *scrophulous Tumour*, and the only way to get rid of it, was to bring it to a natural

Sup-

Suppuration. The Gentleman disputed my Skill, because it was not my Profession. *Why*, saith his Friend, standing by, *if the Parson acquits himself with Sincerity and Success, do not trouble your self about his Profession.* Sir, said I, turning my self to the Patient, allowing your Exception to be true, if you can be contented without doing any thing, this Swelling will break in 10 or 12 Days (for Nature, if you do not obstruct her by unnecessary Applications) is doing her own Work. My Predictions proving true, the Gentleman sent me a Penny Post Letter, desiring me to come once more to his Chambers. I went the next Morning, and found a plentiful discharge of Matter; and to convince him I had no design on his Purse, I desired him to send to any Apothecary for a certain *Salve*, and to dress the *Ulcer* therewith Morning and Night, and if in six Weeks or two Months he was not therewith cured, I would be his Slave for ever; and so it came to pass according to my Prediction, that when the *Salve* had drawn out the Core, the *Ulcer* immediately healed sound and firm, so much to his Satisfaction, that ever since he is become my Advocate in this Business.

A Gentleman of *Castle Heningham, Essex*, brought his Son to me, *Sept. 6, 1711.* who it seems had been much troubled with
several

several running Sores, which by some Means or other were all dried up, and as his Parents thought, quite cured ; but the young Man after this perfect and absolute Cure had a continual Cough, loss of Appetite, with a continual *Atrophy*. Upon the first View of his Case, I told his Father the young Man must have the *Evil* again, otherwise he would die. His Father then left him to my Care, who after he had taken the *Specifick* Liquor and Powder a few Days, his old healed Sores broke out afresh, and vented much filthy Matter, then the Cough ceased, his Stomach came to him, and the young Man began to look about him with tolerable Ease and Comfort, and by the constant taking of my Medicine, and with some Directions for his *Diet*, in a Twelve Months time he is become as sound and healthful a Person as any other in those Parts.

MRS. *Easter Smith*, a young Woman, Chamber-Maid to a Physician's Lady in this City, had a Cluster of these Scrophulous Tumours on both sides of her Neck not ulcerated. Her Master, she said, had given her abundance of *Calomel*, *Mercurius dulcis*, and Diet Drinks made of the Woods. But finding no Advantage, she desired my Assistance, provided I would not let it be known to the Family where she

G

lived,

lived. I told her I should not speak of it, and would always convey the Remedies with Directions to her by a second Hand, which was done accordingly for the space of four Months, in which time she obtained her Cure: The Tumours wasted away insensibly.

A Young Woman came to me, *April 7,* 1715. diseased with a white dry Scab from Head to Foot, supposed to be the *Le-prosie*. I gave her first the *Chalybeate* Potion for 9 Mornings, a Pint each Morning fasting, which gave her sometimes 4, sometimes 6 Motions in a Day with very good Success. After her Purging was over, I ordered the *Specifick* Liquor for her constant Drink; and likewise a Bathing Tub filled with lukewarm Water, wherein I put a good quantity of Herbs, and some of the *Specifick* Liquor to Bath her self in twice a Week for the space of an Hour each time. This Method of drinking and washing she continued 5 Weeks, whereby she became clear of that filthy and troublesome Humour which had vexed her many Years.

MR. *James Martin*, a Physician's Son, of *Galloway* in *Ireland*, (as he told me) came to me, *March 23,* 1713. with the *King's Evil* in several Places in his Face, and likewise with a *Consumptive Habit* of Body. His

His stay being very short in *England*, he only desired Medicines with Directions to take with him into his own Country, which I granted. A Year afterwards another young Gentleman of the same Country came over upon the same Occasion, recommended to me from Mr. *Martin*, whom he assured me was made whole by those very Remedies he had from me.

T *Thomas Mackearnock*, a Scotch Man by Nation, then living at the *Turks-Head Coffee-house*, *St. James's-street*, came to me with another of his Country-men, *June 25, 1712.* the former's Face and Jaws were almost eaten away with this *evil Humour*. Both of them made great Promises of Reward if I would undertake the Cure, which I did effect with great facility: But they served me a Scurvy trick, from that time to this I could never set Eyes of either. Such generous Spirits I meet with frequently.

That those Things which are accounted vile, and of no worth, may serve to free Men from Death when managed by a proper Hand, will appear by this following Case.

ONE *Timothy Wright*, a poor fellow, came to me, *Feb. 12, 1713.* with a large Tumour in his left Knee, which some call a white Swelling; but a worse Grievance attending him, was a continual Purg- ing, which had reduced him to a Skeleton. To remedy this Evil, I gave him the *Pow- der* of Tobacco-pipes, which in a few Days stayed his Flux (a rare effectual Alkalious Medicine) and then the poor Fellow got some Stomach and Strength. After this, the Swelling in the Knee Joint, by taking of the *Specifick* Medicine, broke, and dischar- ged much Matter, with some splinters of the Bone: The *Ulcer* in a few Months healed, but the use of the Joint could not be preser- ved, he going Lame ever since.

MRS. *Edgar*, in *Crown Court, Broad- street*, recommended a Child to me in *September 1710.* she had a dangerous Swel- ling on the right Collar-bone, with some o- ther Tumours elsewhere: I had much Diffi- culty in her Cure, but at length it was ef- fected.

A Young Man in *Fore-street, near Moor- gate*, came to my House *April 26, 1710.* with several running Sores in his right El- bow. He wanted me to promise him a per- fect

fect Cure. I told him he mistook the Man. Why, Sir, quoth he, you have done many great Cures, and why may you not cure me also? But without Promises, Bonds, or Contracts, said I; and if you are willing to try the Means as others have done, leaving the Success to the Almighty, you are welcome to my Assistance; which he agreed to. Accordingly I gave him some Vials of my *Specifick Drops*, to take 15 at a Time, in his common Table-drink thrice a day, with Dressings for his Sores, and Rules for his *Diet*. I had no other Trouble with him, but to give him what Medicines he wanted, and before *August* he had not one Sore or Swelling about him. If his Sores do not break out again, as I hope (by all Circumstances) they will not, it may pass for a *perfect Cure beyond Relapse*.

William Thompson, a poor young Fellow about 16 Years of Age, came to my House, *August*, 1709. afflicted with a hard Crusty Scab all over his Body, which he said when hot in Bed did *itch* so excessively that he seldom got any rest. I did not look upon this to be the *Evil*, but an inveterate Leprosie. But because of his Poverty, I was willing to endeavour his Cure. Accordingly I first purged him Seven or Eight Times, and then gave him the *Specifick Liquor* for his

constant Drink. I directed him also to procure a large Tub deep enough to plunge himself over the Head, which being filled with Water, I mixed therewith some *Specifick-Liquor*, ordering him to Bathe himself therein every Morning the first Thing he did, and to do the same at Night going to Bed. This Method he continued Three Weeks, and then his Scabs dropped off almost like Hail, and his whole Body became clear from that filthy Infection. To prevent any future Relapse, or any other Indisposition, I caused him to make two Issues, one in each Arm, and repeated the former Purgation Four or Five Times. The following Spring, fearing the return of the Humour, I made some Enquiries after him, and found the young Man in a very good State of Health, and without the least Sign or Symptom of his former Illness about him. This *Thompson* did live in *Tongue-yard* by *Whitechappel Church*.

A Poor Woman living in *Grays-Inn-lane*, brought her Child, a Girl about 11 Years of Age, to my House, *Sept. 14, 1708*. The Fingers of one of her Hands were almost eaten away with Ulcers, and the Bones of the Right Heel and Foot were all bare, fetid and black. I gave the Woman Dressings for her Child's Sores, and the *Specifick* to

to take inwardly, ordering her to come constantly for a fresh supply of both whenever she wanted; and she did so for some Months with great Satisfaction and Expectation of a Cure. But about the latter end of *February* following, the Child relapsed and grew worse, and then her Mother's Good-will was turned into Hatred, and foul Language, and nothing would serve, but she would get her Child into the *Hospital*; which was endeavoured, but because it was the *Evil* the Child was rejected. The Father then came with many Intreaties, begging me to renew my former Applications. I did so, and in a few Months afterwards the Child became well. The Man's Name to the best of my Remembrance was *Skirrow*.

Where these Humours are of any long Continuance, *Relapses* will sometimes happen, before they can be totally eradicated. Chronical Diseases, like accustomed Habits, do acquire great Strength, and become as it were natural, and consequently will not quit their Hold without several Efforts. In all such Cases a wise Physician will not Gallop nor Spur Nature on too fast, lest by exasperating the Humours, he raise a *Devil* he's not able to lay. And this a small matter will do in some People, especially those of a heftick and consumptive Habit, the general Companions of this Disease.

A Young Man about nineteen Years of Age, Apprentice to a Linnen Draper, came to my House, *April* the 10th, 1709. He had several running Sores in one of his Legs of about 3 or 4 Years standing. After I had given him some Account of my Method, and my Opinion withal, that it would require some considerable Time to accomplish his Cure, he told me an eminent Practitioner in the City propos'd to do it in 6 Weeks, by sweetning his Blood with *Mercurial Purgatives* and *Sudorifick Decoctions*. With all my Heart, said I, but before you engage, pray breathe a Vein, and let me see the Blood. He did so, and I do not know that I have seen better Blood than his then was. After he had been under this eminent Practitioner's Directions about ten Weeks, he came to me again with many grievous Complaints, begging my Assistance for his Cure, if it were possible, or at least to help him to some tolerable Ease. I required him once more to open a Vein, that I might see his Blood after this Purification; and it then appear'd in the Porringer like the corrupted Matter in his sore Leg. Moreover his Body was so extremely emaciated with those strong Evacuations, that I greatly feared a *Consumption*. But considering, the more difficult the Cure, so much the more Honour if I succeeded, I wrote him

in the first Place a Bill of *Fare* for his constant *Diet*, and then gave him Dressings for his Sores, with Directions how to apply them, and my *Specifick Liquor*, to take three half Pints at three Times every Day. In Two Months Time, he gained considerable Strength; then I advised him to double the Quantity of Liquor every Day, and not to fail washing his sore Leg Morning and Night with the same Drink. In the Month of *August*, he fell ill of the *Small Pox*, for which Distemper, I would have left him to the Care of some Physician; but he absolutely refusing, I was under a Necessity of assisting him in that Case also. It pleased God, that he recovered of that; and tho' the *Small Pox* had rather increased than diminished his other Distemper, his Leg being more swelled than before, yet with much Difficulty I did bring him quite to rights by the following *February*; and this, all Things considered, I think may be reckon'd no very tedious Cure.

THUS, *Sir*, I have given you some Account of what I have done for my self with this *Specifick* Remedy; and likewise how successful others have found it. For the Publication whereof I will not trouble you with any Apology or Excuse; divers great and learned Men have done the like before me. *Whosoever had gained any Experience on*
him-

himself or others, saith Hero-
 Lib. 2. p. 6. dotus, made it publick. And
 again, it was the Custom, saith
 the same Historian, To carry their Sick and
 Diseased into the Markets, that all People pas-
 sing by might give their Advice, and encourage
 others to try what themselves and others had in
 the like Cases used with Success. To attempt a-
 ny thing for the Improvement of useful Arts, e-
 specially that of Medicine (which is of the grea-
 test Benefit to Mankind) saith the ingenious
 Dr. Wainewright, in his Treatise of Non-Na-
 turals, Is a Debt which every capable Person
 owes to the publick. The Honourable Esquire
 Boyle, the Reverend Mr. John Ray, and some
 others, tho' no professed Physicians or Sur-
 geons, have by their Writings done consider-
 able Service to both. Also Dr. Wagstaffe,
 a late Divine in this City; and the Reverend
 Mr. Mansel in Northamptonshire; the one for
 Physick, and the other for Surgery, have gi-
 ven full Proof of their great Abilities and Suc-
 cess in each. The Reverend Mr. Robert Sher-
 rock, Prebend of Winchester, and Minister of
 Bishops Waltham, Hampshire, was as Eminent
 for his Knowledge in Physick as in Divinity,
 who with a Vulnerary Decoction did effect
 many great Cures on inveterate Ulcers; one
 whereof my self was an Eye Witness to. Not
 to mention several other Clergymen in the
 Country, who to the great Comfort and Sa-
 tisfaction

tisfaction of their poor indigent Neighbours practice both. Hereby it appears (if any think themselves so wise as to question it) that the Knowledge of either of these Sciences is not above the *Sphere* of Clergymens Capacities as to Internals, nor beyond their reach as to *manual* Operations. I am not therefore singular in this Undertaking, Multitudes of my own Profession having done the same, therein following the Example of their Blessed Master, who, tho' he made the Soul the peculiar Object of his heavenly Doctrine, yet did not neglect the Diseases and Infirmities of Men's Bodies: He in a miraculous Manner, and we according to the Measure of that Capacity that God has been pleased to give unto us. To him be all Praise and Glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Sherbourn-Lane, near the
General Post-Office, in
Lombard-street.

F I N I S.

BOOKS Written by the Reverend Mr. Vickers.

A Companion to the Altar: Shewing the Nature and Necessity of a Sacramental Preparation, in order to our worthy Receiving the Holy Communion; wherein those Fears and Scruples about Eating and Drinking unworthily, and of incurring our own Damnation thereby, are proved groundless and unwarrantable: Unto which are added, Prayers and Meditations preparative to a Sacramental Preparation, according to what the Church of England requires from her Communicants. The 7th Edition.

The present and future Advantages of a peaceable and quiet Temper. Recommended in a Sermon.

Christian Supports under the Troubles of this World; to comfort and succour all those, who in this transitory Life are in Trouble, Sorrow, Need, Sicknes, or any other Adversity: Unto which are added Prayers and Meditations suitable for all Persons afflicted in Mind, Body, or Estate. The 2d Edition.

These Sold by Edmund Parker, at the Bible and Crown in Lombard-street, near Stocks-market.





NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE



NLM 01001179 4

ARMY