

# The MARYLAND GAZETTE.

155

[XXth Year.]

THURSDAY, July 12, 1764.

[No. 1001.]

TALBOT County, July 1st, 1764.

Mr. GREEN,

**A**S you were pleased, in your Paper of the 28th of June, to take some Notice of a malignant Fever, that had carried off a great many Negroes in Talbot County, and as that Disorder, tho' now subsided here, is frequently incident to all these Colonies, by Means of Servants or Slaves brought from on board of crowded Ships, perhaps the following Dissertation, on that dangerous and often fatal Malady, may not be unacceptable to many of your Readers.

It's Symptoms are generally, a Chilliness at first, which in some, attended with a Sense of Heat and Cold by Turns, continues for Ten or Twelve Hours; a Sense of Tightness round, rather than acute Pain in, the Head; Sickness at Stomach, and Nausea; a Pain in the Back and Loins, and sometimes wandering Pains all over the muscular Flesh. The Pulse in this Period (which continues generally the first 24 Hours) I cannot precisely describe, having never seen any of them so early in the Distemper, but am told, that it is very irregular, sometimes slow and full, at other Times quick and low. During the whole Course of the Disorder, the Drought is seldom considerable. The second and following Days the Strength and Spirits sink, even when no Evacuation has been used; the Pulse becomes quick, small and thready, the Skin feels rather cooler than in Health, but the Patient complains of vast internal Heat, Langour, Weight and Oppression, upon the Præcordia; the Countenance appears stupid and dejected, the Eyes heavy and languid, and they complain of a Kind of Confusion in the Head (as they express it) which, tho' it deprives them of Rest and Sleep, yet seldom rises to a Delirium.

Sometimes for an Hour or Two, they seem perfectly easy, their Pulse, Respiration and Heat, regular and moderate, and if ask'd, they will tell you they are much better; but in a little Time, the Scene is altered without any manifest Cause, all the Symptoms recurring with double Violence, such as vast Anxiety and Oppression about the Præcordia, intense Heat in the Bowels, a deep and labouring Respiration, interrupted with frequent Sighs; but these Exacerbations are most common towards Night, tho' not so regularly and constantly so, as to constitute the Fever a regular Remittent. A Yellowness of the Eyes and Tongue coming on about the Fifth or Sixth Day, has always been a fatal Symptom in those I have seen, and they seldom reach the Ninth Day alive: In general, these that outlive the Ninth Day, get over it; tho' I have heard of some who have lingered a Fortnight or more, and died at last, but that was where no Assistance from Medicine was used. The Body is generally costive for the first Five or Six Days, unless any opening Medicine has been given, on the Use of which, or a loose Stool from a Clyster, the Patient generally finds great Relief. I have not seen any who have had a *Subsultus Tendonum*, or much Tremor in the Hands, but several, whose Tongues have trembled much upon being put out to look at; nor have I observed any petechial Spots, but these are hardly visible on Negroes, and I have never seen any white Person, who had the Disorder in so violent Degree as it is common among the Negroes, nor have I attended any white Person that died of it, except one Woman, whose Condition (being then in Childbed) might prevent the Eruption of these Spots, and her I did not see the Three last Days of her Illness.

This is a pretty exact Description of the Disease, taken from too many who have fallen Sacrifices to it's Malignity; and if compared with Dr. Pringle's Account of the Hospital Fever, or all Disease, or with *Huxham's*, of the malignant putrid Fever, it will be apparent, that they are nearly related, if not the same Disease, allowing for the quicker Progress of the Distemper here, from the Heat of the Climate.

It is certainly more infectious, and more fatal among Negroes, than among white People, for which several Reasons may be assigned; as first,

the nasty, close, crowded Places they generally lie in; next, their natural Temperament, and Habit of Body, more subject to putrid Diseases than the Whites, which is obvious from the very rank noisome Smell of their Bodies, shewing their Humours to be nearer a State of Putrefaction, than those of the white People; and lastly, their gross putrescent Diet of Pork and Hog's Fat, uncorrected with Vinegar or spirituous Liquors. This Disorder (as I have been told) has several Times appeared in this Province, and at it's first breaking out, made terrible Havock among the Negroes, sometimes passing under the Name of the Yellow Fever, and at other Times, under the more general Denomination of a malignant One. Medical Writers do not seem to be agreed on their Notions of Malignity; some of them, particularly Dr. Sydenham, ascribe it to hot and spirituous Particles in the Blood and Humours; others (especially among the Ancients) to something inexplicable, *et quasi TO THEION*; but the Moderns, especially Pringle, seem to think it nothing else than an incipient Putrefaction in the Humours of the Body: And when we reflect that malignant Fevers, such as the Jail Disease, or Hospital Fever, and even the Plague itself, not only may, but often do in Fact, arise from the putrid Effluvia of Filth and Nastiness in Jails, or crowded Ships, of Sores, Mortifications, and other noisome Distempers in Hospitals, or the Corruption of dead Bodies in hot Climates, we cannot help concluding, that most (if not all) Kinds of Malignity, are owing to putrid Particles entering our Bodies, either with the Breath, or even thro' the Pores of the Skin, and mixing with our Blood and Humours, which they endeavour to assimilate to their own Nature, by tainting them with a putrescent Quality. And this Conjecture seems to be confirmed, from the most approved and successful Methods of Cure used in malignant Fevers, and the various Symptoms attending them, which are all easily and naturally deducible from Putrefaction. But as a Disquisition into the Nature of malignant Symptoms, and their Connection with the general Cause here assign'd, would lengthen out this Essay, perhaps already too tedious for a Publication in a News-Paper, I shall confine myself now to the Method of Treatment, most agreeable to Reason, and the most salutary from Experience: And this consists of Two Parts, the *Propylactick* and *Therapeutick*, or Preservative and Curative.

For the first, when any Slave is taken with the Symptoms of this Fever, let all the rest be kept as much as possible from him; let them be removed to some other House; if in the Summer, a Barn will do; the more airy and cool the better; let them have plenty of rough hard Cyder to drink at their Meals, and every Morning give each of them a Glass of Spirits well impregnated with Bitters, such as the Black Snake Root, Camomile Flowers, Gentian, Wormwood; and Rue, but above all the Peruvian Bark, universally allowed to be the strongest Antiseptick in all the Materia Medica. Let the Patient's Room be kept clean and well aired, and frequently frowed with fresh gathered Aromatick Herbs, and let Tar be kept smoaking at the Door, and where Cyder is not to be had, let the Negroes drink tart Water for their common Drink. By this Method the Progress of the Disorder was stop't in some Families where it had made it's Appearance, and even the Attendants on the Sick were preserved from Infection.

In the Cure of the Sick, begin with a gentle Vomit, administered as soon as the Person complains, and if that does not work downwards as well as upwards, let the Bowels be emptied, and kept open, either with repeated emollient Clysters, or gentle Catharticks, such as the Cream of Tartar and Manna, Glauber Salts, or Senna and Rhubarb, to be repeated occasionally thro' the whole Course of the Disorder; for a regular Crisis is not to be expected, and if any such does supervene it is generally by Stool. Let the Patient drink plenty of Sage or Balm Tea, with the *Spiritus Nitri dulcis*, or Tamarind Water. A diaphoretick Mixture, made with a Drachm of the *pulvis Contrarius*: Comp. and an Ounce of the *Spiritus Mindereri*, to

Five Ounces of Sage Tea, to be taken by Two Spoonfuls at a Dose, during the Exacerbations of the Fever, and indeed every Two Hours throughout the Night, and some Preparation of the Bark in the Forenoons. I at first tried the *Decoctum Peruvianum* of Dr. Pringle, but thought it less effectual, and therefore changed it for the Powder of Bark alone, of which I have ordered Half a Drachm Three or Four Times in the Forenoon. And in this Fever, where there is a quick low Pulse, no Symptom of Inflammation, and little Drought or external Heat, I have neither seen, nor can apprehend, any Danger from the free Use of that noble Specifick; but am well convinced, from repeated Experience of it's strong antiseptick Qualities, that it is both the best Preservative, and the most certain Cure, in all putrid Diseases whatever, and therefore should not hesitate a Moment to give it the Preference to all other Medicines, for both Intentions, even in the Plague itself.

The Evacuant that I have most commonly used in the Beginning of these Fevers, has been the *Jameti's Powders*, which I think preferable to any other that I know, because it operates mildly the first Dose or Two both upwards and downwards, and with the Assistance of the above disphoretick Mixture, given in about Three Hours after the Powder, generally disposes the Patient to a moderate Sweat, which, if equal, universal, and attended with a moist Tongue, is always serviceable; but after the second Dose, it seldom purges, except the Dose be much increased, which I have never ventured to do, to above Two Thirds of a Paper, but have, after the second, or at most the Third Dose of the Powder, kept the Body open with Clysters, or the milder Catharticks as above. The *Jameti's Powders*, and other Evacuants, I have generally given in the Evening, and the Bark in the Forenoons. As the Patient's Strength and Spirits are generally much sunk, I have allowed them a little Wine in their Gruel, and Wine Whey, when I wanted to promote a Sweat. Bleeding I have never used, nor think it needful, unless with a strong full Pulse, the Symptoms run very high at first, which is seldom the Case even in robust Habits. Blisters in the Beginning are pernicious, and in the State useless; but towards the Decline, when the Solids grow torpid, the Circulation languid, and the Spirits effete, they may be used with Advantage.

This is what has occurred to me in the Treatment of this Disorder, and that this Publication may be of some Service to those People, who are so unhappy as to be seized with the malignant Fever at Places distant from any Physician, is the sole Aim, and Wish of

Your humble Servant,

BENEVOLUS.

Grad. But we have no GREEK Types.

L O N D O N, April 20.

THE Number of Bills which received the Royal Assent Yesterday, was Sixty-nine. Both Houses were prorogued to the 21st of June, after a Speech from his Majesty, conceived in these most gracious Terms:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I CANNOT put an End to this Session of Parliament, without returning you my Thanks for the prudent and salutary Measures which you have taken to extend the Commerce, and to secure the Happiness, of my Kingdoms.

The Assurances which I have received of the pacific Disposition of the several Powers with whom we were lately at War, and of their Resolution to adhere inviolably to the Terms of the late Treaty, promise the Continuance of Peace abroad; and the firm and temperate Exertion of your Authority, joined to the constitutional and public spirited Conduct which you have manifested on every Occasion during the present Session, will, I trust, establish at Home due Obedience to the Laws, Reverence to the Legislature, and Domestic Union.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the Supplies which you have so cheerfully and unanimously granted. The ample

... to the Last Will and Testament of JAMIN FENDALL, Esq; PUBLIC VENDUE, on the Premises, for good Bills of Exchange, AND whereon the Deceased and another Tract adjoining (ing about 300 Acres) lying Patowmack River, near the is a large and commodious e, with Four Rooms, a large a Floor; the Chambers areanner above Stairs, and unthe Bigness of the Housetions as above, all completKitchen, a Brick Dairy, StaTobacco and Cow Houses, other convenient Houses; Yard paved in. The Soil is t thereof a fine firm Marsh, d already cleared, and much a very pleasant and valuable antages attending it: One is eeping a Ferry to He's, &c. d well known to Traveller house built at the Landing for gether with the Ferry, &c. Currency per Annum. Alon Allen's Fresh in the said Acres of Land condemned to build them on; there are of the best Colons Grit, two hich was repaired about six ngle Mill is newly built, and all on the same Dam, and a Brick Bake House 30 by Oven, large enough to bake ad at once, a Store House, ing Houses, for Millers, &c. of Land about two Miles from ining by Patent 47 Acres; it full of good Timber. Any ble to purchase, may, at any d, Houses, &c. by applying; or the Mills, &c. by ap; who have Orders to view nt to the Premises. Also, at Place, A Parcel of SLAVES, own and Young, one of them is a Carpenter, Cooper, iner; a likely young Fellow, iting Man, and can serve well od Cook Wench, and several Assortment of Household and such as very good Feather s, Mahogany, Walnut, and Couch, Mahogany, Walnut, Mahogany Desk, one Ditto h a Looking Glass Front, a Mahogany Corner Cap-Front, a painted Ditto, two Mahogany Chests of Drawers, various Sorts and Sizes, a Sil-Pot, Tea Spoons, &c. Table d Hafted Knives and Forks, id Stone Ware, of different ment of good Pewter, Copper, and many other necessary and in a well furnish'd House and stock of Cattle, Sheep, Hog, aw Hides; a Riding Chair, o Horses. A Quantity of leat at the aforesaid Mills, that Time when applied for. A Books, too tedious to particbegin at Twelve o'Clock on and will continue at the same e is disposed of.

HOMAS CONTEE, Executor. HENRY FENDALL, Esq; Deceased, are em in, legally proved, and ed to the said Estate, are de- cutors without further Notice.

... the SUBSCRIBER, of LAND, or thereabouts, of Bab's River, in Baltimore Tuesday in August next, at Jett situated for a Warehouse. RICHARD RICHARDSON.

Street. All Persons ENTS of a moderate Ones in Proportion.