

Doses of *Pilule ex duobus* before they were Inoculated; which, being Purgatives of the hot *drafcic* Sort, were the very worst he could have hit on for his Purpose: But the Gentleman who was called to his Assistance, gave him some Directions about preparing his future Patients with Antimony and Mercury; and Purgatives of a more cooling Nature, agreeable to the Method proposed in my Discourse; the *Jerseyman* followed the Advice, and had such a surprizing Run of Success, that in a short Time he Inoculated above 1000, without losing any but two or three very young Children, who were said likewise to die of other Disorders. Yet let me take this Opportunity of observing, that there is not the same Dependence to be placed in the *Specific* Power of the Medicines on Children, under two Years of Age, as on grown People, because it would be unsafe to give a sufficient Quantity, in such tender Constitutions, to answer the Purpose with any Degree of Certainty.

When Mr. *Barnard* found he had gained a considerable Reputation from the Success of this Method of Preparation, he pretended to make a great Secret of the Medicines he used; nay, there were several weak enough to buy the Secret of him for a Piece of Money, and they sold it again to others; so that it became, for some Time, a Matter of Merchandize among the Ignorant; and I am told, this is still practised by some Empirical Itinerants in *Virginia* and *Maryland* to this Day.— But the *Jersey Secret-Monger* finding that the more he gave of the *Specific Medicines*, the more certainly the Power of the *variolous Infection* on the human Constitution was weakened and demolished, he at length gave Mercury in such Quantities as seldom failed to affect the Mouths of his Patients, nay, frequently to throw them into downright Salivations; by these Means the Secret discovered itself, and it was soon evident to every one who had read, and was capable of understanding my *Discourse*, that it was no other than an Injudicious Way of putting that *Specific Method* of Preparation in Practice, which I had in the warmest and most public Manner recommended several Years before; I call his Way *Injudicious*, because, though he never failed to produce a favourable Small-Pox, yet it is well known that he often ruined the Constitutions of his Patients; and this in the strongest Manner confirms, both what was said of the Medicine as a *Specific Corrector* of the variolous Poison, and of the Medical Knowledge required in those who Prescribe it; for here in the Case before us, the Medicine performed its *Specific Effects* successfully, even in the Hands of an Ignorant Man; but the Skill of the Judicious Physician was evidently wanting to direct it properly, and avoid hurtful Consequences. Here again I must beg Leave to observe, that there is in Reality no Necessity for giving Mercury at these Times, in such a Manner as to affect the Salivary Glands; for when it is properly prepared, and united with Antimony, as it ever ought to be on these Occasions, it never has that Effect: Nay, I have some Reasons to believe, that Mercury alone, without being mixed and united with some proper Sulphur or other, though it be an Antidote in this Case, is not quite a safe One. These Reasons, the Public perhaps in due Time, may see at full Length: In the mean Time, let this serve as a Hint for the Prudent Practitioner to be cautious. I do not know any Opinion which has produced more hurtful Consequences, than a prevailing Notion, that very little Skill is required to prescribe those Sorts of Medicines, with Safety and Success, whose *Specific Effects* are certainly known. Yet it might with great Justice, in my humble Opinion, be made a Question, whether the *Jesuit's Bark*, for Example, which is acknowledged to be one of the most certain Specifics, as well as one of the Noblest Medicines in Nature, does more Mischief in the Hands of the Rash and Ignorant, or real Service under the Direction and Management of the Skillful. Sure I am that I have seen and been consulted about many *Chronical Disorders* in *North-America*, which I was convinced were originally produced by the premature and injudicious Use of the Bark, though at the same Time it was little suspected by the Patients: Nay, I am well satisfied, Disorders from that Cause are much more frequent than is generally imagined, and I doubt not but every Judicious and Experienced Practitioner in *America* will agree with me in the Observation. Something to the same Purpose may likewise be justly asserted, with respect to Opium, another noble *Specific*; and upon the whole, the Poet's Remark, applied to Medicine, is universally true, where he says, **

Nil prodest, quod non ledere possit idem.

But all that was at first taken Notice of in the *Jerseyman's* Preparation, was the favourable Small-Pox it constantly produced; the ill Consequences which followed from his Want of Judgment, in not being able to adapt the Regimen and Medicines to the different Constitutions he had to deal with, could not be immediately perceived: All those therefore, who blindly followed his Example, committed the same Errors, and I am sorry to find some did, who ought to have known better. This, however, was not the Case with all who practised the Method at that Time; and in particular, it gives me Pleasure to do Justice to the Judgment and Candour of Dr. *M'Kane* of *New-Brunswick* in the *Jersey*, on this Occasion; for he Inoculated a very considerable Number, about the same Time with Mr. *Barnard*, but was so far from acting the Mean and Ungrateful Part complained of, that he honestly owned, all his Patients were Prepared in the Manner directed in my Discourse, and that he took his Method originally from thence: He told me further, that he never gave his preparatory Medicines in such a Manner as to affect the Salivary Glands, and his Success was very great, having never had a Patient, so prepared, in the smallest Danger, nor could I ever learn, and I made it my Business to inquire, that any of them suffered in their Health or Constitution afterwards.

But there was something curious enough in the Behaviour of some of those *Philadelphia* Practitioners formerly mention'd. From the great Success of the New Method of Preparation, as it was call'd, all around them, nay by *Barnard* himself in their very City, they were under a Necessity of practising it themselves, and here lay the Difficulty: They were conscious this *New Method* was no other than the fell fame which I had so warmly recommended, and they had so violently oppos'd a few Years before: But it wou'd have been a sad Mortification to Own this, neither did they care to allow the Ignorant *Jerseyman* the Honour of having introduced the Practice. What was to be done on this Occasion? A very modest Expedient was projected by one of them, and that was to make a bold Push towards securing the Credit of communicating the Method to the Public for himself; accordingly there was a Piece published in the *Pennsylvania News-Papers* sign'd *J. R.* evidently with that Intention, where neither the *Jerseyman* nor myself are taken the smallest Notice of. This Author professes to write out of pure Benevolence to his Fellow-Mortals, with a generous Intention to communicate to the Public what he had experienc'd to be a most successful Method of preparing the Body for the Small-Pox, and very candidly acknowledges the Obligations he lies under to Dr. *BOERHAAVE* for the Hints he had given concerning the Virtue of Antimony and Mercury, with Respect to that Disease.—But who will be able sufficiently to admire this Gentleman's Benevolence and Generosity, and above all Things his *Candour*, when it is known that this very identical Dr. *J. R.* was publicly charg'd by me in Print, with being one of the most violent and ungenerous Opposers of my Discourse when it first appear'd, where an Acknowledgment of the same Kind is made to Dr. *BOERHAAVE*, and the *self* same Sort of Mercurial and Antimonial Preparation recommended. I have not indeed, with Dr. *J. R.* recommended the *free Use* of Acids during the Antimonial Course, from an odd Notion which I and some others hold, concerning the strange Effects even a mild Acid might produce upon Antimony in the human Stomach. This, with some other Peculiarities equally judicious, I candidly acknowledge, to be Dr. *J. R.*'s own, nor do I believe any Body will endeavour to rob him of his Right: There has been many ungenerous Attempts to take mine from me, but Truth must appear at last. I never pretended to be the first that proposed this *Specific Method* of Preparation, but I do claim the Credit of having introduced it into Practice in *North-America*, at a Time when it was there and every where else in Disrepute, as I have clearly proved in the Beginning of this Paper; nor am I at all Doubtful of being able to make good this Claim against every invidious Pretender whatever. I very firmly believe the whole World will, before long, go universally into the Practice of this Method, as I am well satisfied, when it comes to be fairly tried, and thoroughly understood by the Learned and Skillful of the Profession, it will be found and acknowledg'd to be (what *BOERHAAVE* half predicted when he said *et ad indagandum impellit summa hinc futura humano generi utilitas*) one of the most useful Discoveries in Physic that ever was made for the Be-

nefit of the human Race. The Advantages of receiving the Infection by Inoculation, over that of taking it in the natural Way, are, beyond all Question, very considerable, as I have clearly shewn in the Discourse; so that in favourable Constitutions of the Air, Inoculation alone, independent of any Preparation will generally succeed very well; and this has induced many People to think that there is little Occasion for any Preparation at all: But when a Constitution of the Air unfavourable to that Distemper prevails, as often happens, and a mortal Small-Pox spreads far and wide, the Case is vastly different, and every Precaution that can be used is then found absolutely Necessary. At such Times our *Specific Method* of Preparation has shewn it's Pre-eminence over that of all others, by constantly producing a mild and gentle Small-Pox; whilst other Methods under the best Management, were extremely precarious. About three Years ago, at *Charles-Town* in *South-Carolina* there was a very remarkable Instance of this Sort: A very mortal Epidemical Small-Pox raged there, and Inoculation was practised very unsuccessfully under the common Preparation; but my very ingenious and worthy Friend, Dr. *Alexander Garden* of that Place, Inoculated a great Number with uncommon Success, and with his usual Candour publicly declared, that all his Patients were prepar'd by the Mercurial and Antimonial Method recommended in my Discourse. So very open and ingenious was He in making this known, that tho' I was an utter Stranger in *South-Carolina*, having never been in that Province, yet a Number of Gentlemen there actually subscrib'd the Sum of Five Hundred Guineas to bring me from *New-York* to stay at *Charles-Town* while the Season for Inoculation lasted: But the Disease spread so fast that they were under the Necessity of inoculating a great Number together, by which Means the Affair was too soon over to allow sufficient Time for executing the Design. Now Dr. *Garden's* generous Behaviour has been so different from that of many others under like Circumstances, that I could not help taking Notice of it to his Honour on this Occasion. I shall now proceed to offer what I have further to say on the Subject at this Time.

Tho' I am thoroughly convinc'd that Mercury and Antimony properly Prepar'd and United, actually contain (what *BOERHAAVE* originally supposed) a real *Specific Antidote* against the Effects of the *variolous Poison*, nevertheless I am far from contending that such Medicines are either proper or safe in all Constitutions and Circumstances: On the contrary, I am certain they are not. There is no Question for Instance, that *Mercurials* (as the judicious *Huxam* well observes) in a too loose covering dissolving State of the Blood, might produce very bad Effects: But ought not the attending Physician to judge of this Matter, and decline preparing such a Patient, until by a proper Regimen the Blood was brought into a fit State for it? This is frequently done for the *Great-Pox*, and why not for the *Small*? I am well satisfied, that Mercury under proper Management, is a more certain Specific against the Effects of the *variolous* than the *Veneral* Poison: The same Caution then will serve in the one Case as in the other, for such Medicines ought never to be in the Hands of any other than prudent and skilful Men, as I have frequently in the Discourse itself, as well as on other Occasions, in the strongest Manner inculcated.

It has been already hinted, and it is certain, from many Observations, that there are particular Constitutions of the Air, which favour the Propagation of the Small-Pox through a Country, more at one Time than another; accordingly we find it took a Tour, of late Years, through the Provinces of *New-York*, *New-Jersey*, *Pennsylvania* and *South-Carolina*, and at present, it seems to be on its Way through *Virginia* and *Maryland*. Its travelling Path is a very dark one, inasmuch that not even those who should confine themselves constantly to the House, during the Season, could be absolutely certain of avoiding it, far less those who go much abroad. Seeing, therefore, *America* grows every Day more and more populous, as its Trade increases, and the Intercourse between the distant Parts of this Continent, as well as with distant Nations, becomes more frequent, so it will be much more difficult for the future to avoid the Danger of catching this infectious Distemper, than it has been formerly: Nay, the very Dread many People are under about it, all their Lives, frequently renders them miserable, when every other Circumstance in their Situation, conspires to make them happy. Add to all this, that the Difference between the Danger of the Natural Infection

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