

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1768.

FROM AN ENGLISH PAPER.

Extract from a Treatise on the GOUT, by FERD. WARNER, L. L. D. Chaplain to Lord Chancellor, published January 1768.

After having discussed the Theory of the GOUT, the Author proceeds in the practical Method of Treatment, during the Fit, in the following Manner, viz.

Account of Dr. WARNER, Chaplain to Lord Chancellor, and Author of Ecclesiastical History's Treatise on the GOUT.

WHEN the Fit is arrived at its Height, if the Pain should be greater than the Patient can bear commodiously, and his Nights sleepless, then, notwithstanding the Prejudices of most Physicians against Opiates in the Gout, he may relieve himself by the following Preparation. Take of Opium Six Drams, Soap of Tartar and Castile Soap, of each Half an Ounce; Nutmeg, powdered, One Dram; Camphire, Three Drams; Saffron, Two Scruples; Sweet Spirit of Sal Armoniac, Nine Ounces: Digest all these Ingredients in a Florence Flask, in a Sand Heat, for Ten Days, shaking it now and then till the last Day or Two, and then pour it off clear, and stop it up for Use. Of this noble Medicine, which no gouty Man ought to be without, take Thirty or Forty Drops, an Hour before it is wanted to operate, in a Glass of strong Mint or Plague-Water, after nothing hath been received into the Stomach for an Hour and a Half: And, if in an Hour or Two after taking it, the Pain is not greatly abated; take Twenty more, and drink, some Time after, of warm Sage-Tea, at Pleasure. The Number of Drops must be proportioned to the Violence of the Pain, and repeated every Night, that the Pain requires it, abating Two or Three Drops at a Time, as the Pain abates, 'til the Dose is reduced to Ten or a Dozen, when the Patient may desist at once from any more; and thus the Matter, that occasioned the Fit, which might otherwise last a Month or Two, or Three, will be digested in a Fortnight; and the Patient enjoy Ease and Sleep.

This Medicine in the Gout, when the Fit is fully formed, if the whole College of Physicians were to exclaim against it, I will maintain, at the Peril of my Life, if it were required, is as safe as Bread and Butter; and, indeed, according to them, as the Peril of my Life, it hath been, that I have so often taken it. Had no others written upon it but those who were skilful in this Disorder, and in the Nature of Opium; or had I not been weak enough to acquiesce under their general Condemnation of it, I might, no Doubt, have had the Use of my Limbs at this Day, as well as I had some Years ago. But, being deterred by the great Outcry they raised against it, I have undergone such severe and frequent Fits in my Knees and Feet, of Two or Three Months Duration, that I am thereby become, I fear, incurably lame for ever. At length, however, in a most excruciating Fit, when Nature was well nigh overpowered, and I had only Thirteen Hours Sleep in Nine Days and Nights, I was driven to try an Opiate; when, to my inexpressible Surprise, as well as Joy, I found it as safe as it was successful, even before I had improved it in the Manner above directed. I not only enjoyed Sleep and Freedom from Pain, but I found that the Opiate dissolved the peccant Matter, the Perspiration which had been hindered by so much watching. In a short Time after, I very luckily met with "The Mystery of Opium revealed," by our Countryman Dr. Jones, who hath so ably investigated all its Qualities, and distinguished its different Effects, that it is a Wonder to meet with any irrational Opinion of it in this Country. From that Time I have constantly made use of it with amazing Benefit; not only reducing the Pain to what Degree I please, but shortening the Fits to about a Fortnight's Length.

The Benefit of Perspiration in this Distemper, and the Necessity of Sleep to promote this Perspiration, being so certain, if it can be shewn, as it certainly may, that Two of the constant Effects of Opium (thus prepared and dosed, as is above directed) are its promoting insensible Perspiration and Sleep, then I flatter myself, that there can be no rational Objection made to the Use of it in this Distemper. As I look upon my hitting upon this Remedy to be the greatest Blessing of my Life, so it was the principal Motive that prevailed on me to publish this Account. For the last Three Years, by adhering to a proper Regimen, I have brought the Gout to be so moderate, to confine me seldom more than a Fortnight at a Time, or to make the taking Opiate necessary above One or Two Nights in a Fit. I hope, therefore, that gouty Patients will be no longer terrified with Prejudices and Whimfies, that have been entertained about an Opiate, nor any more deterred from easing their Pain and shortening its Duration, by this most excellent Medicine, which Providence hath, in Mercy, furnished us with, as an Antidote against Pain. The Reader, however, must remember, that I protest against any other Way of using it, than such as is above prescribed. Crude Opium alone, hath all its venous Particles sticking about it, and the Laudanum of the Shops being an Extract from it, with Spirit of Wine, hath retained and aggravated all the Mischief of the Root.

An Account of the Eruption of Mount VESUVIUS, in 1767, communicated in a Letter from an English Gentleman, residing at Naples, to a Member of the AMERICAN SOCIETY, at Philadelphia, for promoting useful Knowledge.

NAPLES, November 3, 1767.

S I R,

WE have had a most extraordinary Eruption of Vesuvius lately. As I imagine an Account of the Disturbance it has given us will not be disagreeable to you, I shall therefore do myself the Pleasure of communicating to you what I know, and have seen myself, of this surprising Phenomenon.

The Beginning of it is exactly described by Pliny the Younger's Letter to Tacitus. The first Alarm was taken from a Column of black Smoke, thrown out with such Violence, as to appear like an immense Pine, branching out on all Sides after a great Height of Trunk, when the Diminution of the Force, that threw it out, allowed the Air to operate, by spreading it. The whole Mountain was soon wrapped round with utter Darkness, and its Place was only to be distinguished by the many Streams of Fire that were darted in different Directions, and made this Darkness visible.

It appeared to me very unaccountable at first, but I afterwards found, by the Assistance of my Glasses, that these different Directions were produced by the particular Motion impressed upon the Fire, as it issued from the several Mouths, which gave Vent to Vesuvius. It was very extraordinary to observe some of these Streams descending perpendicularly, whilst others mounted upwards in a straight Line. The former Appearance was owing to innumerable ignited Stones in their Fall, after having been thrown from some superior Aperture, that acquired such Velocity from their Weight, and such a blending of Light from their Proximity, as to seem one impetuous Torrent of Fire; though, on the usual Appearance of these falling Stones, they are scattered, and are plainly to be distinguished as separate Bodies.

All this, as a mere Object of Sight, would rather have been amusing; but a Frequency of the most terrible Explosions, made it very alarming, especially to me, in a House that shakes with the least Motion. The Noise of the largest Cannon fired from the Castle, not Three Hundred Yards from me, is a mere Whimper to these Explosions. My little Household had retreated to the Rooms backward, built against the Hill; and I made most of my Observations in the Door-way of my newest and thickest Wall. One or Two, however, the most severe of these Shocks, that raised my faithful Dog, who 'til then had kept by me, from the Ground, caused me to hesitate, and think of making a prudent Retreat; but it occurred to me, on a little Reflection, that the Streets might have been equally dangerous, from mixing with a tumultuous Concourse of People, thronging after the Pictures of Madona, and of the Saints, carried in Procession, with which the whole City was crowded all Night, I thought it most prudent, therefore, to keep out of their Way. The Shocks afterwards abated, or I was more used to them, and a most comfortable Lava made its Sally from a seeming Opening of the whole Side of the Mountain at once, and rushed forward with an Impetuosity that, in Two Hours, brought it within Two Miles of Portici, which quieted me for that Night. The King was then

at his Palace there, which Vesuvius seemed to be reclaiming from his Majesty's Encroachments. The Place was by no Means held tenable against him; and the King, the Courtiers, and Numbers of Families, then in these Environs, at their Villégiatura, were put to the Rout at Midnight. Some of the Court thought themselves not secure even when they reached Naples, and I am told continued their Flight to Caserta.

The next Day all was quieted by a profuse Lava, that has filled up the hallow Way between the Hermit's, and Vesuvius, of at least an Hundred Feet in Depth. The Second Night, however, was as turbulent as the Mountain, but not so alarming at Naples; as the First, because the Mountain burst sooner, and on the other Side of it, from whence a Lava, equally copious, was delivered, and after fewer Throws.

The Third Day the Agitation of the Earth and Air was very inconsiderable, but an immense Quantity of Cinders and Ashes filled the whole Atmosphere, so as to take our bright Sun from us, and to leave us no more of him than we have in London, when Thousands of less alarming Vulcanoes, from good Kitchens, render the Air, in Winter, often impervious to any but his strongest Rays; and he appeared all Day of the sanguineous Colour in which Pliny describes him.

The Fourth Day, we had for Three Hours, or more, one continual Thunder, without the terrible Explosions, however, of the First and Second Nights; and I took great Comfort to myself, on seeing the constant Course of Cinders and Ashes thrown up. For I looked upon it as the Effect, if I may use the Figure, of a Belows blown by all the Winds, that would soon destroy or separate the combustible Enemy, accordingly these Ashes were the only Inconvenience that remained.

But, on Sunday, the Seventh Day, the Quantity of Ashes that filled the Air was so great, that having rode out to take a nearer View of the Volcano, I was obliged to gallop home, with my Eyes shut, as I could no longer open them, from the Pain these Ashes put me to.

All is now quiet, and the Lava, on this Side, is stopped, after laying waste the largest Tract of cultivated Ground that it has destroyed at once in this Century. The great Eruptions of it have been in the Year 1707, in the Year 1737, and this of 1767. I leave your deep Naturalists to account for this periodical Crisis; and it may not be the first mere accidental Observation that has given birth to a profound System.

* This is an Italian word, which signifies the being in the country, or the time of being in the country to take one's pleasure.

† A town twelve miles from Naples, on the contrary side from Vesuvius, where the king sometimes holds his court.

‡ In the solitary place, about half way up the mount Vesuvius, is an hermitage, where those whose curiosity leads them to examine this wonderful phenomenon generally call, and are provided with refreshments by the hermit.

§ Jam navibus cinis incidat: quo propriis accedens calidior est densior: jam pumices etiam, nigricque ambusti & fracti igne lapides: jam vadum subitum, vanaque montis littora obstantia. PLINII EPIST. xvi. lib. 6.

¶ Tandem illa caligo tenuata quasi in fumum, nebulaeque decessit: mox dies verus, sol etiam effulsi, lucidus tamen, qualis est, cum desinit, solet. Occursabant trepidantibus adhuc oculis mutata omnia, altoque cinere, tanquam vivo obdusa. PLINII EPIST. xx. lib. 6.

¶ Paullum relaxit, quod non dies vobis, sed adventantis ignis indicium videbatur. et ignis quidem longius subsistit: tenebrae rursus, cinis rursus multus et gravis: hunc identidem assurgentes excutiebamus, aperti alioqui, atque etiam obliquis ponderis effusum. IBIDEM.

** Some of the most remarkable eruptions of Vesuvius have happened as follows.

Anno Dom. 79. Mount Vesuvius cast forth such quantities of smoke and flame, as to obscure the Day, and destroyed the cities of Pompeium and Herculaneum.

In the year 80, on the 23d day of August, the Elder Pliny, in order to be better acquainted with the cause of the extraordinary eruption of Vesuvius, ventured so near, that this great Naturalist perished in his enquiry.

Anno 472, Vesuvius ejected flames, in such abundance, that they were seen even at Constantinople; they obscured the sun at noon-day, and the fire ravaged and burnt all Campania.

Anno 1007, Vesuvius vomited out so great a quantity of flames, that all the neighbouring country suffered greatly by them.

In the Year 1631, Vesuvius threw out flames in such abundance, that upwards of 4000 persons lost their lives, and a large tract of land was destroyed.

In the year 1717, Dr. Berkeley, afterwards Bishop of Cloyne, in Ireland, visited Vesuvius, at least with as much boldness and curiosity as Pliny the Elder. The account given, by the Bishop, of that mountain, was communicated to the Royal Society by Dr. Arbuthnot, and is published in the Philosophical Transactions. It is thus described by the Bishop: "The other mouth was lower in the side of the same new formed hill. I could discover it to be filled with red hot liquid matter, like that in the furnace of a glass-house,

It may give the curious reader pleasure to compare the above description with the more striking passages of Pliny the Younger's letters, on the same subject, we have here subjoined them.

* Nubes, incertum procul intentibus ex quo monte, Vesuvium fuisse postea cognitum est, erigebatur: cuius similitudinem et formam non alia magis arbor, quam pinus expresserit. Nam longissimo velut truncus efflata in altum, quibusdam ramis diffundebatur. Credo quia recenti spiritus evecta, dein sensiente eo destituta, aut etiam pondere suo victa, in latitudinem vastesceret: candida interdum, interdum sordida et maculosa, prout terram cineremve sustulerat. PLINII EPIST. xvi. lib. vi.

† Interim in Vesuvio monte pluribus locis latissima flamma atque incendia relucebant, quorum fulgor et claritas tenebras noctis excipiebat.

** Jam dies alibi, illic non annibus vestibus aurum densior, quam tamen facies nulla variaeque lumina solvebant. IBIDEM.

¶ Ab altero latere nubes atra et horrenda quae spiritus fortis vibratque discursibus raptis, in longas flammarum figuras delibebat, fulgoribus illa et fulas, et majores erant. PLINII EPIST. xx. lib. vi.

‡ In commune consultant, intra tellure subsistans, an in aperto vagetur: nam crebris vestisque tremoribus tella instabat, et quasi emota sedibus suis, nunc huc, nunc illic abire aut referri videbatur. PLINII EPIST. xvi. lib. vi.

§ The melted fiery matter thrown out by Vesuvius, which grows hard as it cools, and appears to be a semi-vitrified substance. It is here called comfortable, because the mountain generally becomes more quiet upon its being cast out.

¶ Portici, a small town on the bay of Naples, at about six miles distance from that city, built on the ruins of, or rather directly over, the ancient Herculaneum. His Sicilian majesty has a palace here, furnished with many curiosities found in Herculaneum, and frequently keeps his court at Portici.

LOTTERY. Assembly of MARYLAND, Resolved, that the People of the Lower House, be authorized to attempt, and to contend, that the Reward, as well as the Attendance, ought to be Forfeitures, Amitties, received by the thereof; and, that opposite to the Opium mature Consideration, the Clerk of the Commissioned the Non-payment of a Circulating Majority of Public Creditors, agree to an Agreement Subject Matter of Debt of any Public Money means to settle the same a sure Foundation for the Province. by RESOLVE of the said, and Subscribers, for maintaining an appeal on the Part of the Address of their own, and also of the Lower House of raising Money for the said SCHEME of a grant ONE THOUSAND submitted to the Public.