

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.—The Instructions in this Piece, are founded on the Author's Experience, for above Thirty Years.

After having discussed the Theory of the GOUT, the Author proceeds to 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 Opium 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, 'till 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, at 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 digested the peccant Matter, the Perspiration which had been hindered by so much watching. In a short Time after, I very luckily met with "The Mysteries 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 Whimsies, 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 resinous 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 Opium."

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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

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

¶ Tandem illa caligo tenuata quasi in sumum, nebulamve decessit: mox dies verus, sol etiam effulsit, luridus tamen, qualis esset, cum decessit, solet. Occurabant trepidantibus adhuc oculis mutata omnia, altoque cinere, tanquam vivo obdusa. PLINII EPIST. xx. lib. 6.

¶ Paullum relaxit, quod non dies nobis, sed adventantis ignis indicium videbatur, et ignis quidem longius subsistit: tenebre rursus, cinis rursus multus et gravis: huic identidem assurgentes excutiebamus, aperti aliqui, atque etiam obliquis pondere effrenis. 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 473, 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. Berkley, 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,

¶ In commune consultant, intra tellure subsistant, an in aperto vagentur; nam crebris vastisque tremoribus tella nutabat, et quasi mota sedibus suis, nunc buc, nunc illuc abire aut exferri videbantur." 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.