

T H E N^o. 106.
M A R Y L A N D G A Z E T T E,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, April 5, 1749.

At the particular Desire of several Subscribers, and for the Benefit of the Public in general, the following is inserted.

EXTRACTS from Mr. Prior's Narrative of the Effects of TAR WATER.

THE happy Discovery of the Efficacy of Tar-Water, in curing most Kinds of *Fevers* and *Pleurisies*, is a Thing of singular and most extensive Benefit to Mankind, and confirmed by so many Trials, that they who are acquainted with this Practice, think themselves in little Danger from Fevers; and it is found by Experience, that the larger the Quantity of Tar-Water that is taken in Fevers by the Patient, the sooner he recovers. If he takes but two or three Quarts a Day, the Fever may last four or five Days; but if four, five, or six Quarts, or more, be drank warm in twenty-four Hours, they often find the Fever quite carried off in a Day or two. And what is very remarkable, there is no Instance of Danger or Harm done by any Quantity taken; on the contrary, Patients in Fevers are in higher animal Spirits the more they drink, the Water passing through their Bodies by Urine or Perspiration, as fast as it is taken in, and thereby carrying off the noxious Humours and Venom of the Distemper the sooner. The Patients at the same Time get found Sleep, and a better Appetite than is usual in Fevers. My Correspondents farther assure me, that they never knew an Instance where warm Tar-water was given beimes in a Fever, and in due Quantity, that it failed of Success. It is judged, that the greater Part of grown People, who die in their Beds, die of some Kind of Fever or other: Therefore, if Respect were only to be had to this one Article of Fevers, wherein Tar-Water is so successful, it would seem to follow, that nothing is more beneficial to the Life of Man, or that would save more Lives, than this Water duly prepared and taken.

The greatest and most useful Discovery of this, or perhaps any other Age, is that of Tar-Water's curing so suddenly and effectually all sorts of *Fevers*, *Pleurisies*, and *inflammatory Distempers*, whereby two Thirds of Mankind are carried off before their natural Time. These Maladies destroy more of the human Species, than all the Artillery great and small in the World can do; and yet are themselves easily subdued by Tar-Water.

This late Discovery of the Virtues of Tar-Water stand so confirmed, by the authentic Proofs mentioned in the Narrative, that Nobody can doubt the Truth thereof, who doth not at the same Time deny Facts, which are so many, and so well attested. But this may be put on a short Issue; it is in the Power of any one, and every one is concerned in the Event, to make a fair Trial of the Truth or Falshood of this Discovery, and see whether Tar-Water, taken in due Time and Quantity, before the Fever has utterly destroyed the Crasis and Constitution of the Blood, will not entirely subdue and carry off the Fever in a few Days, of any Kind whatever.

But then, to give Tar-Water fair Play, the following Caution should be observed, which has been found necessary in many Instances; viz. That the Water be good in it's Kind, that it be administered to the Patient lying in Bed, in the Beginning of the Fever, and that warm, in the Quantity of half a Pint, or more, every half Hour, according to the Age and Strength of the Person, 'til the Patient takes six or eight Quarts in the Space of 24 Hours; and that no other Medicine be taken with it; that Care be taken against catching Cold; that when the Fever abates, no Nourishment be given but what is light and cooling; and that when the Fever is gone, the Patient keep his Bed a Day or two.

Danger from Excess; the more they drink the sooner they are cured.

Pour a Gallon of cold Water on a Quart of liquid Tar, in a glazed earthen Vessel; stir, mix, and work them thoroughly together, with a wooden Ladle or flat Stick, for the Space of five or six Minutes. Then let the Vessel stand close cover'd three Days and Nights, that the Tar may have full Time to subside. After which, having first carefully skimmed it, without moving the Vessel, pour off the clear Water, and keep it in Bottles well corked for Use: This Method will produce a Liquor much stronger than that published in *Siris*, but not so offensive, if carefully skimmed. It is a good general Rule, but as Stomachs and Constitutions are various, it may admit of some Latitude. Less Water, or more Stirring, makes it stronger; a more Water, or less Stirring, makes it weaker. It is to be noted, that if several Gallons are made at once in the same Vessel, you must add five or six Minutes Stirring for every Gallon. Thus two Gallons of Water, and two Quarts of Tar, require ten or twelve Minutes stirring.

The only Tar that I have used is that from our Northern Colonies in *America*, and that from *Norway*; the latter being thinner, mixeth easier with Water, and seems to have more Spirit. If the former be made use of (as I have known it with good Success) the Tar-Water will require longer stirring to make it

Tar-Water, when right, is not paler than *French*, nor deeper colour'd than *Spanish* White wine, and full as clear; if there be not a Spirit very sensibly perceived in drinking, you may conclude the Tar-Water is not good; if you would have it good, see it made yourself.

Tar-Water, in the several Editions of *Siris*, hath been directed to be made by stirring three, four, five, or six Minutes, for a Gallon of Water and a Quart of Tar. But although it seems best made for general Use within those Limits; yet the Stomach of the Patient is the best Rule, whereby to direct the Strength of the Water; with a little more stirring, 6 Quarts of good Tar-Water may be made from one of Tar; and with eight Minutes stirring I have known a Gallon of Tar-Water made from second hand Tar, which proved a good Remedy in a very bad Fever, when better Tar could not be had. For the Use of Travellers, a Tar-Water may be made very strong, for Instance, with one Quart of Water and a Quart of Tar, stirred together for the space of twenty Minutes. A Bottle of this may serve long on a Road, a little being put to each Glass of common Water, more or less, as you would have it stronger or weaker.

Note, 'Tis to be observed, that the best Tar to make Tar-Water of, is that of the first Running of the *Kn*, if to be got.

From the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE for September.

We have received a Confirmation of the Accounts relating to the famous Cheshire Doctress, as follows:

S I R,
Sandbach, Cheshire, Sept. 16.

THE old doctress, Bridget Bostock, lives at Copperball, between this place and Nantwich being three miles from each. She is a very plain woman, about 64, and hath followed doctoring for some years to some few people in the neighbourhood. About a quarter of a year ago she came into great fame for curing of most diseases, by rubbing the place with the fasting spittle of her mouth, and praying for them; she hath had 6 or 700 of a day, and has been to throng'd, that a great many people have come, and have staid a day or two.