

An Account of some Books.

1. *PLANTARUM UMBELLIFERARUM Distributio nova per Tabulas COGNATIONIS & AFFINITATIS ex Libro Natura observata & detecta*; A. Rob. Morison Med. & Prof. Botan. Regio, &c. Oxonii à Theatro Sheldoniano, 1672. To be sold by John Martyn at the Bell in St. Pauls Church-yard.

His Excellent Botanist, having with indefatigable industry and uncommon sagacity observed and discovered out of the Book of Nature a general and genuine Method, reducing all Vegetables to certain infallible *Classes* or Heads, by Tables of Affinity or Cognation; hath in this Book given an *Essay* of the same, by reducing that Family of Plants, commonly called *Umbells*, to their subaltern kinds, from the different Shape and Form of their *Seeds*: Intending, if he do further meet with suitable encouragement and assistance, to publish the whole Method and Work, in a manner lying ready by him, and tending so much to the advancement of a vast part of Natural History.

This *Specimen*, being but the *thirtieth* part of the whole, first assigneth very succinctly to the *Umbelliferous* Plants that common Character, wherein they all agree amongst themselves, and are differenced from all other families; and then reckons up their several, both intermediat and ultimat, *species's*, together with their respective subordinate and characterical discriminations. By which way the Students of Botanicks will henceforth be able to learn from Nature it self, with much order, clearness, and ease of memory, all sorts of Plants by their supreme *genus's*, intermediat kinds, and lowest *species's*, and their particular varieties; without a tedious perusal of voluminous Books, and an irksome expence of Time.

And as this Experienced Author taketh the *Generical* and Essential marks of Plants from their *Seeds*; so he taketh the *Specificical* differences of their several particular families under one common Head from their less noble parts, as the Root, Leaf, Flower, Stem, Scent, Taste, and Colour.

The Reader then will in this *Essay* find performed these five things: First, a *Generick* Note both of the highest and subaltern *genus's* of the *Umbells*. Secondly, a *specificical* mark proper for each *species*. Thirdly, the duration of every *species*, whether annual or perennial. Fourthly, the Place of their growth, together with their peculiar temperament, vertues, and names. Fifthly, the Authors animadversions on the errors and mistakes of *C. Bauhinus*, and other Authors, that have written on this argument.

The whole adorned and illustrated with very curious and exceedingly accurat *Cuts*, furnish't at the charge of several of the Generous and Learned members of the Famous University of *Oxford*, and engraven by that rare Artist Mr. *Loggan*.

N. B. Since the writing of this Account concerning this usefull work, we are informed by the Author thereof, that he already findeth

eth so much encouragement for the prosecution thereof, that he little doubts, but that about the end of this present Year he shall have finish'd in the same Press, where this beginning was made, at least five or six *Sections* more, which shall be,

1. *Legumina & Trifolia.*
2. *Frumenta & Gramina.*
3. *Planta Stellata, lactescentes & papposa; lactescentes & non papposa; papposa & non lactescentes.*
4. *Triquetra, bicapsulares, & mollientes.*
5. *Corymbifera.*
6. *Galeata & Verticillata.*

II. ΛΟΙΜΟΛΟΓΙΑ, sive PESTIS nupera Londini grassantis Narratio Historica. Auth. Nathan. Hodges M. D. &c.

THE Author of this Book, having kept his station as Physician in the City of *London* during the last Plague, maketh it his business to give us here an Historical Account of what he then observed and practis'd in this fatal Distemper; which he doth in 8 Sections.

In the *First* he declareth the Original and Progress of this *London-Plague*.

In the *Second* he delivers his Opinion about the principal Cause of the Pestilence in general; which he conceiveth to be a very subtle Nitrous Spirit, breathed out of the Earth into the Air, and by the Air conveyed into our Bodies, and thence by contagious steams diffused and communicated to others. Where he also discourses of the noxiousness of eating the flesh of Cattle that dyed of themselves, as causing a great Cachexy in the body of man, and exceedingly disposing it to take the Plague: adding withall the difference, there is between the Contagion in Cattle from that in Men; which he maketh to be not in kind, but in degree only.

In the *third* he examines the primary Seat of the Plague, and esteems that to be the *Spirits*, whence 'tis transmitted into the Body and *Viscera*, infected by their influx.

In the *fourth* he considers the Affinity between the *Plague* and *Scorbute*, and saith, that these two do frequently coalesce into one, because of their agreement in a Salin principle. Where he also takes notice of divers odd instances of diseases, as the *Consumption* and the *Kings Evil*, which upon the Plague supervening were cured, the persons surviving; As also of some *Podagrical* people, that happening to be seized by the Plague, lost the Gout, and recover'd of the Plague too.

In the *fifth*, he discourses of the manifest signs of the Plague, as well of those of its first Invasion, as those that immediately ensue upon the same; among which he reckons a Fever as a common, yet not inseparable sign; a palpitation of the Heart; (which he hath observed to be sometimes so strong and loud, that it may be heard at a considerable distance :) item Blains, Bubo's, Carbuncles, Tokens, &c. Where he animadverteth upon the opinion of Doctor *Diemerbrook*, importing, that *Bubo's* are produced by an occursion of a salin
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and acid humor, making an ebullition, as when Spirit of vitriol is poured on Salt of Tartar. In the examination of *Carbuncles* he inquires, How in the human Body can be generated so sharp and caustick an humor, as is that in *Carbuncles*; and also, how Nature comes to separate it from other liquors. Where he reflects again upon the assertion of the lately mentioned *Diemerbrook*, who makes a pestilential *Carbuncle* nothing but a *Gangrene in feri*; and observeth withall, that those *Carbuncles* will appear in every part of the Body, he having seen one upon a Womans breast presently after she had been delivered of a Child; which sucked her during her distemper without any inconvenience; the Mother her self recovering also soon after. Further, he takes notice of the pestilential *Tokens* as certain messengers of Death: where he relates some Examples of persons, in whom they came out without any trouble to the Body, but yet killed them afterwards. Here he gives notice, that some wicked and crafty Nurses, to hide the *Tokens* in dead Bodies, do cover them presently after death with moist linnen sheets; whereby the fermentation of the venemat humors being quelled, and the pores closed, the Searchers may be deceived, and so not cause the House to be shut up.

In the *sixth* he treats of the *Prognosticks* of an Imminent Plague; among which he reckons chiefly the change of Chronical diseases into Acute ones with violent Symptoms; and a great Murrain among Cattle. Here he noteth, that a Plague very cruel at first, is of short duration; as also, that what time it taketh from its Beginning to its Hight, the same it taketh from its hight to its Period. Besides, he observes the Presages of Death to be, an Hemorrhagy, *Fluxus menstrue*, a Loosness, a Dyentery, green or black Excrements. He also taketh notice, that weak Lungs do not escape; that the first Sweats coming without ease to the Patiens; a long nauseousness, and the subsiding of *Bubo's* without sweat; ill-coloured and blackish swelling, &c are fatal; and that *Carbuncles* are worse than *Bubo's*. From the *Urine* he esteems no certain prognosticks can be made, since commonly it appears as good in the Plague, as that of healthy persons. And the *Pulse* he counts in this distemper a very uncertain and fallacious sign.

The *seventh* delivers his Method of Curing, which he placeth both in the Encouragement of the Patient, and in the Use of Generous medicins; without venæ-lection, and (unless in the case of a surfer and a foul stomach,) without vomiting and purging, here being requisite a Separation rather than an Evacuation, and the Seat of this Disease being not in the Juices of the Body, but in the Spirits.

Of *Antidotes*, the principal means of Cure, he specifies those which he considers as some of the choicest, taken from Vegetables as well, as Animals and Minerals. And here he expresth a particular value for Ginger, both in powder for sweating, and in Confit for preventing; as also for the *Bezoardicum Minerale*: But *Bezoar* and *Unicorns Horn* he esteems of greater price than vertue. He commendeth *Spirit of Harts-horn*, as an excellent Diaphoretick. He particularly describeth those, which he chiefly made use of with good success, from the prescripti-
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ons of the *Colledge*, and of *Sr. Theod. Mayern*. This part he concludeth with his method as to the regiment of Life, and his way of treating all sorts of pestilential Tumors.

In the *Eighth* and last he discourseth of the means preventing the Plague; of which he considers *some* to be *General*, and those *both* of *Nature*, as strong Northerly winds; and of *Art*, as great Guns discharged morning and evening, as also appropriat perfumes, by burning resinous, but not sweet-scented, wood. Other means are, *particular* Amulets; concerning which the Reader may consult the Author himself.

To the whole is annexed an Account of the regiment of life, which the Author himself used; as also a *List* of those that dyed of the Plague this year, which amounted to 68596. besides 29000. that died of other diseases during that time.

III. *A Philosophical Essay, declaring the probable CAUSES of STONES in the Greater World, in order to find out the Causes and Cure of the Stone in the Kidneys and Bladder of Men: by D. Thomas Sherley, Physician in Ordinary to his Majesty, Londini in 80.*

THE Ingenious Author of this Essay having proposed to himself to publish a Medicinal Tract concerning the most probable Cause of the Stone in the Bodies of Animals, found it necessary to premise this Inquiry into the Causes and Nature of Petrefaction in the greater World in general; to see, whether the Causes be not the same in both, or at least bear not some analogy or resemblance to one another.

In the doing of which, he thought good to relate a number of select Histories of Petrifications, and then to examine the causes by which they were performed. In which latter part, having waved the *Aristotelian* doctrine of this point, nor found a full satisfaction in that of the vulgar *Chymists*, he doth with that ancient *Hypothesis*, which imports, that Stones and all other Sublunary Bodies are made of *Water* condensed by the power of *Seeds*, which by the vertue of their fermentive Oudours perform these transmutations upon Matter. For the better understanding of which, he premises some Generals, and then descends to particular proofs of what he asserts: concerning which we can do no better than to remit the Reader to the Author himself.

IV. *Caroli Claromontii M.D. &c. de AERE, SOLO, & AQUIS Angliae; deque MORBIS Anglorum vernaculis Dissertatio: Nec non Observationes Medicae CAMBRO-BRITANNICAE. Londini Impensis Joh. Martyn, sub signo Campana in Coemeterio D. Pauli, 1672. in 120.*

THE Author of these two Tracts, endeavours in the *one*, to give an account of the Scituation, Air, Soyl, and Waters of *England*; as also of the Temper, Dyet, Exercises, and chief Sickneses of the Inhabitants thereof: In the *other*, he maketh it his business to deliver several Histories of Diseases, to the number of 26, managed by himself in *Wales*; which he doth, by describing the nature of each of those Maladies, by adding his ratiocinations thereon, by giving their Indications, and shewing his Method of Cures, together with the Events of them.

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