

A Relation of a petrified Glandula Pinealis, lately found in the Dissection of a Brain: Communicated by Sr. Edmond King Knt. M. D. and Reg. Soc. S.

Mr. **R**OBERT BACON, Master of Arts, of *Corpus Christi* Colledge in *Oxford*, a Pious Learned Man, above 75 Years of age, was formerly employed in Transcribing and Publishing the posthumous Works of Dr. *Robert Gell*; he had been before a Preacher at *Busleton*, near *Bristol*, and afterwards in the Town of *Windjor*; he was Sanguine, and chearful in his natural Temper.

About 12 Years since, his Friends observed that at his return home from walking, he would bend double to his right Side, infomuch that he would be ready to fall, and has been brought home in Coaches and Sedans, yet was always temperate, and never observed to be disordered with Drink in his Life.

He would often say, that he feared Fatuity, or Distraction, and would pray that God would keep him in his right Mind.

His Appetite to all forts of Food in his latter Years inclined to Canine, and his Thirst very great.

He often complained of pain in his Bowels.

He was always desirous to have his Head rubb'd many times in the day, and this too was of late Years.

His Urine of late Years, and Excrement came away always involuntary at Bed, Beard, &c. of which he did not seem at all to be sensible.

Of late he would always hang down his Head in a prone sleeping Posture; and his Head was very hot: he did sweat very much every night, and wet his Linnen extraordinarily.

And in the whole his rational Faculties seemed to be quite lost, for a great while before he dyed; for he would usually
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take up Tongs, Fire-shovel, Brooms (many times altogether) to walk by, though he had a Staff of his own; he would also hale the Chairs about the House and up the Stairs, and grasp at any thing with his hands; he would often tumble on the ground, and seldome rise without help; he did rather creep along by Walls and Chairs than go, though formerly he went very upright; of late it was 2 or 3 Folks Work to support him to his Bed; he would put 2 or 3 Hatts at a time upon his Head like an Antick, he would many times strike those that attended him, yet at Intervals would say to his Daughter, *Pray thee be reconciled to me*, or words to that Effect.

I hearing of these things before this Gentleman dyed, desired that I might open his Head, and examine the Brain to see what I could find or observe therein extraordinary, that might occasion so great a Change as was in him some Years before his Death.

He dyed of a *Feaver*, *November the 4th*. 1686, about 6 in the Evening.

Nov. 6th. 1686.

Upon Dissecting the Body of Mr. *Robert Bacon* aforesaid; We found in the lowest *Venter* as followeth.

The Liver indifferently well coloured and firm.

The Spleen firm and good, but shrivill'd.

The Stomack firm, large, and strong.

The Intestines all well coloured.

The *Omentum* whole but ill coloured.

The *Pancreas* very firm and good.

The Mesenterie well enough.

The right Kidney found, with a few small stones.

The left Kidney two parts of three wasted, and some

course Gravel, but both Kidneys very fatt.

The Bladder of Gall filled with one Stone only, and that no bigger than a long Nutmeg.

The Bladder of Urine found, but some little course Gravel and small Stones in it.

The middle *Venter* being opened; the Lungs were well enough, only by the stagnation of Blood discolour'd, and fill'd in several places with Icorous Spumy Matter.

The Heart strong and Vigorous as I have seen.

The Pericardium very thin, and too tender, and too little Water in it; very little Blood in the Ventricles: No adhesion of his Lungs to his Ribbs.

The Auricles of his Heart perfectly found and strong, as of any found Man of 20 Years old; those and the strength of the Muscles of the Heart I admir'd.

The Head being opened.

The *Dura Mater* extremely hard, thin and white, a slender Imboydery of Vessels.

The *Pia Mater* all full of seeming turgid Glands, and a great distention of Lymphæducts full of coagulated *Lympha*.

The substance of the Brain loose and shrunk, very white, very little of the cineritious Colour to be seen.

The *Corpus Callosum* very flaccid more than ordinary.

The whole Body of the Brain was shrunk about a third part.

Between the two *Meninges* of the Brain, was near a pint of extravasated *Serum*, that must needs oppress the Brain very much.

The Ventricles of the Brain full of *Serum*.

The *Plexus Choroides* extremely large, in length as well as breadth and thickness.

The *Nates* and *Testes* very small, and shrunk.

The *Thalami Nervorum Opticorum* plump and fair.

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The *Corpora Striata* large and fair, full of large *Striæ* as I have seen.

The *Glandula Pinealis* firm and fair, well colour'd to look on, of the exact Figure, and ordinary size: Feeling of it, and finding it harder than ordinary (and talking to a Gentleman then present of *Des Cartes* his Opinion, that it was the Seat of the Soul) I prest it, and found in it a Stone in a film, or rather a petrified Gland in a film; I took out the Stone, and kept it as a great Raritie; I do not remember I ever heard of such a thing before, I am sure of all the Brains I have dissected (and I may say I have dissected more than an hundred) I never saw such a one.

The *Glandula Pituitaria* was half wasted, that part that was left was very hard and brittle, had not the Tone of a true Gland, nor substance, according to my Observations, unless of a vitiated Gland.

The *Cerebellum* seem'd well enough, and all down the *Cauda Medullæ oblongatæ*.

The other parts of the Brain unmentioned had nothing remarkable, nor have I time now to Philosophise upon the Remarques to be made upon the above-named Observations.

Before he became so mopish, he would say he felt a certain kind of fierceness within him, which (it is probable) made him to utter some kind of Vociferation when he was displeas'd at any thing.

Remedies were apply'd to all these Distempers for several Years, both inward and outward; outward as in Plaisters, Cerates, opening the Jugular, &c. inward as Cardiacks, Cephalics, and Febrifuges, &c.

Thus having told you Matter of Fact, attested by his own Relations, (who were Eye Witness'es of it) I leave these my Observations upon the Dissection of his Body to the Consideration of the more Curious and Inquisitive.

Edm. King.

November the 6th. 1686.

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