

III. *Remarks, taken upon Dissecting the Body of A. M. a Maid of about Thirty Years of Age, who dyed of an Ascites, the First of August, 1689.*

TO prevent the too impetuous Eruption of the contained Liqueur (in casè Incision had been presently made) we made a Perforation of the *Abdomen*, in the most prominent part, as the Body lay along, by a *Paracentesis*, extracting through a small *Canula*, to the quantity of three Gallons : Afterwards we laid the Corps upon a Table, in the same posture, where we made Incision, beginning between the *Umbilicus* and the *Cartilago-Ensisformis*, dilating still as we emptied, till we had made room for a Quart-pot, with which we drew out, to the Number of Seventy Six good measured Quarts (accounting the three Gallons which were extracted before) of a subsaline and somewhat austere *Serum*, which amounts to the quantity of Nineteen Gallons, besides what was imbibed with our Sponges, not improbably two Quarts more.

I did admire, whilst we were emptying this Liqueur, that I could perceive none of the *Viscera* fluctuating in the same, which I have known customary, and I believe is common with most *Hydropick Bodies*; I remember 'twas the fear of this did once retard an Eminent Physician, from a *Paracentesis* upon his Patient, lest the Surgeon in making Perforation should Puncture the Intestines. In this Body there was no interposing Body, *Parenchymatous* or Glandulous, to augment the Circumference of this Prodigious Inundation. For after the drying up the residue of this Humour (which in colour and consistence did somewhat resemble Water, wherein

upon a strict impress I could have buried three or four Fingers: And yet her upper Parts, as the Neck, Face, Arms, and Hands were so wonderfully emaciated, that she seemed much more like a Skeleton than a carnosus Substance.

To recite the *Viscera* in order as they appeared, after dividing of the *Peritonæum*, the first thing that should have occur'd, is the *Omentum* or Kell; yet in this Body it was really and absolutely wasted away, and had not left the least apparent sign, that there had ever been such a thing.

The Intestines I could not perceive vitiated any other ways than in their colour, which was somewhat pallid, as if they had been seethed; and indeed the Internals for the most part, as the Ventricle, Pancreas, Liver, Spleen, Kidneys, &c. looked all of them like Flesh half boyled, and the Blood absorbed. For although, as I said before, neither of these Bowels did swim in, or communicate with the *Serum*, being separated by the aforesaid Membrane; yet the great nearness of the superincumbent Liquids had polluted and tinged the external Coats of the *Viscera*, with their preternatural as well as putrefactive heat.

The Intestines were all of them distended with *flatus's*, particularly the *Cæcum* was blown up to a very considerable bigness; I observed in the two lowermost of the great ones, (*viz.*) the *Colon* and *Rectum*, some of the Excrements contracted like little Balls, and as hard to bear any impress through the Coats of the Gut, as a Stone: From whence I do conjecture that she had laboured under a considerable constipation of the Belly, and that for some time past.

The Liver (the Ancient's great Organ of Sanguification) which by some is adjudged to be particularly and principally misaffected in this Distemper, we found no more faulty than the rest of the Bowels.

There

Flesh newly killed, had been washed, saving that it was of a somewhat deeper red, and had a more *Crafs Hypostasis*) we plainly perceived (which was very wonderful) that the whole Bulk of this so ponderous a Deluge, was bore up and sustained between the *Cutis* and *Peritonæum*; whereby there was made so great a Compression of the Intestines, and other *Viscera*, to the *Vertebræ Lumborum* and *Ofs Sacrum*, that 'tis very strange to think how there could be any protrusion of Excrement, *per podicem*; since of necessity (by the aforesaid Compression) the *Motus Peristalticus* must be very slow, if any at all, and secondly, the *Musculi Recti* of the *Abdomen*, which are said to be subservient to that so necessary an Excretion, were not only at a very considerable distance, but even to my apprehension quite obliterated, or at best if there were any Rudiment of them left, it could not be distinguished from the carnous *Pannicle*, or common *Tegument* of the Body; when at the same time the outward covering or *Cutis* it self (notwithstanding so vast and powerful a dilation) was full as thick (in some places much thicker) as in a sound Body; particularly in the *Hypogastrick* Region, where the *Membrana adiposa*, was observed to be above two Inches thick, and seemed to be no other than a *Congeries* of little Bladders, each of them contain'd in its proper *Capsula*, and impleet with a coagulated Lymphatic Juice.

One would reasonably have conjectured, that the Blood in the *Abdominal* Vessels, had been stagniz'd for some time past, or at least had undergone a very depraved Circulation: For one might observe in many places, the grumous part had been thrown forth of its Vessels, and adher'd in great clots to the Membranes.

Before I give you a more particular Description of the contained Parts, I shall Remark what is no more than usual; that her Thighs, Leggs, and Feet were *Anasarcous*, and so extreemly elevated with a watry Humour, that
upon

There was a perfect adhesion of the whole Body of the Spleen to the *Peritonæum*, though with no great difficulty to be separated from the same; for its colour and complexion it was suitable to the other Bowels, unless somewhat more livid, as it Naturally should be.

Upon dissecting the Kidneys, with a diligent inquiry and inspection of its parts, we discovered nothing (though before-hand Jealous) either in the *Carunculæ Papillares*, or in the *Infundibulum*, that could be any ways an impediment or let to the Secretion of the *Serum Sanguinis*, in case an Attempt had been made upon those Parts by a *Crisis*.

The *Vesica Urinaria* was empty, and to my apprehension (by reason of its more than ordinary smallness) did not seem capable of any great distention. At the upper end or bottom of the *Vesica*, a little inclining to the left side of the *Rectum*, I perceived the *Uterus*, almost three Inches in length, and about two in breadth, it seemed to be nothing else but a little carnosus Substance: its Body was deprest, its Superficies smooth and glib, its internal part was somewhat rugous, although its Cavity when opened, would scarcely, I believe, have contained ones little Finger. It is really admirable that so small a part as this, should so wonderfully dilate and expand its Tunicles, as to afford Reception for a Human *Fœtus*; after whose Expulsion, it doth as it were by a certain innate propensity, contract it self to its Pristine Magnitude; I cannot more fitly compare it (as I perceived it in this Body) to any thing, than the figure of a Pear somewhat deprest.

The Ventricle had nothing contained in it but Wind, with which, like unto a blown Bladder, it would return after the least impression.

We come now unto the Parts contain'd within the *Thorax*, but before we speak of them, I must tell you that I took notice of something, I account admirable,
and

and that was the unusual situation of the Diaphragm, which we found so forcibly impell'd upwards into the Chest, that its *Diastole* must needs be very obscurely assistant to Respiration : It was indeed so far contracted, that its Convex part bore hard against the Lobes of the Lungs, whose Substance, as I have seen in some that had dyed tabid, was very much decay'd and perisht, and looked just like par-boyl'd Flesh.

The next and last Part which we viewed, was the Heart, and in this Noble *Viscus* I discovered something memorable, for upon cutting of it open, I did not perceive the least drop of Water to fall from it : By which it may be justly thought that the *Pericardium* or *Capsule* of the Heart, being altogether destitute of its retriggering Liquor, clung immediately to the proper Tunic of the Heart it self ; upon cutting through whose Ventricle, we could not perceive one drop of Blood, no more than in the rest of the Bowels ; nay, the Liver, which has been by some accounted the Store-house of the Bloody Mass, was destitute of so much as might be thought necessary for its own proper Nourishment, and yet its *Salino-Sulphureous* Particles, which constitute the Gall, were deposited into the *Vesica Biliaria*, to the quantity of about a Spoonful.

We took no other Survey of the Parts within the *Thorax*, than by opening of the Diaphragm, and looking up into the same : For since we had seen sufficient Reason for the extinction of the Vital Flame, and by consequence the Dissolution of this Miserable Creature, we contented our selves with what we had discovered in the *Abdomen* or lower Belly ; and yet if we had been minded more narrowly to have viewed the Parts within the Chest, we might easily have come at them, without throwing up the *Sternum*, which is absolutely necessary, and no more than customary upon a Survey of those Parts : But in this Body I observed so large a protuberance

rance of the *Costæ* and *Sternon*, that one might very easily have taken out either Heart or Lungs, without so much as touching their Enclosure. Whether this might not be occasion'd from the rarify'd *Effluvia* of the Waters, pent up within the Breast, or rather a necessary Consequence of the Diaphragm's being so excessively pressed upwards, I leave to a more Critical Censure; neither shall I take upon me to determine whether the contained Liquor happened from any Rupture in the Lacteal or Lymphatick Vessels, according to Dr. *Willis*, or (as more probable to me) if it were not pure *Serum* (the Blood being dissolved in its constituent parts) breaking forth of the little mouths of the *Cæliac* and other Arteries.

There were present at } Mr. *James Wasse*,
 this Dissection, } Sen. & Jun. } Chyrurgeons.
 } *Daniel Turner*, }

IV. *Observatio Casus non vulgaris De Hydrope intra Uteri Tunicas contento.*

E. R. a Person Aged 44, and upwards; sometime after she was married, had conceived (as she thought) by some supposed Symptoms of Pregnancy, and in order to her Delivery, at the expiration of the time of her Account, her Midwife was consulted. (Her fancy'd) Pains came on, and she thought her self very near her Labour. Her Belly was grown very big, and had gradually increased from the time of her (imagined) Conception; but alas, she found her self deceived in her Expectation, and her Preparations for this time all in vain. Her illness shortly after wore off, without leaving any Prognostick of an approaching Birth.

Thus