

X. *An Account of what was observ'd upon opening the Corpse of a Person who had taken several Ounces of crude Mercury internally; and of a Plumb-Stone lodg'd in the Coats of the Rectum. Communicated in a Letter from the late Dr. Madden, Physician at Dublin, to Sir Hans Sloane, Bar. Pres. R. S.*

S I R,

THE Internal Use of *crude Mercury* is become so frequent of late, that I believe it may produce some great Benefit to Mankind hereafter, if a careful Collection was made of all the extraordinary Cases relating to the good or bad Effects of this Practice.

There are some Circumstances in the following Case, which were not owing to the internal Use of *Mercury*; yet there are many others which were undoubtedly occasioned by it.

Some time ago I was present, with Dr. *Robinson*, and Mr. *Nichols*, our Surgeon-General, at the opening the Body of a Gentleman of Note in this Town, who, for several Years, had found great Difficulty in going to Stool. This Disorder increased upon him towards the latter End of his Life, and he was seized with a violent Distemper, of which

P p

I

I can give you no Description, having never attended him.

In order to procure a Passage downward (which I suppose was a principal Complaint) he took, by the Advice of a Physician, since dead, several Ounces of *crude Mercury*, at different times, without any Relief, and at length died.

Upon opening the *Abdomen*, which was very much distended, there burst forth a great Quantity of Wind, though the Guts and Stomach were not wounded.

The Stomach was empty; and upon opening it we found the inner Coat very much inflamed from one End to the other. We observed in several Places of the small Guts, some scatter'd Grains of *crude Mercury*, and along with them we generally found a black gritty Powder, very like *Æthiops Mineral*, which was, without doubt, the *Mercury* changed into that Consistence.

The *Colon* was distended, at its Origin, to twice the Thickness that an ordinary Man's Arm has about the Shoulder. This extraordinary Thickness extended itself about the Length of ten or twelve Inches; from hence it gradually decreased, and where it was attached to the Stomach, it had not above a third Part of that Size.

It was much inflamed at its Origin, and contained at least six Quarts of liquid Excrement, in which we observed *crude Mercury*, and also some of the black Powder mentioned above.

The *Colon*, where it parted from the Stomach, and diverged toward the left Kidney, adhered
about

about the Space of three Inches to the *Omentum*; and upon separating the Adhesion, we found an Abscess and Inflammation, which had communicated itself to those Parts of the *Ileon*, which were contiguous to the *Colon*.

The *Colon* had in this Place a Perforation about three Quarters of an Inch in Diameter, and four smaller Perforations, about the Size of a Goose's Quill, through which some Excrement had passed into the *Abdomen*.

The Coats of the *Colon*, as it approached the *Intestinum rectum*, began to grow scirrhus, about the Space of six Inches, and the Capacity became gradually smaller.

The Valves of the *Colon*, about this Place, were of a reddish Colour, and were more scirrhus than the other Parts of the *Intestine*. The Coats of the *Colon*, where it was continued to the *Rectum*, were at least half an Inch thick, and its Capacity was not above the fourth Part of the natural Size

Upon cutting the Gut horizontally hereabout, we perceived a Body which stopped the Passage, and seemed to the Touch almost of a cartilaginous Consistence. Having opened the Gut Lengthways, we found it was no more than two of the *Valvulae Conniventes Coli*, which were grown scirrhus, and were protruded downward into the *Rectum*.

We also found a small *Plumb-Stone* in this Place, which was quite buried in the *Tunica Villosa*, and had made itself a Bed between the Coats

of the *Rectum*. It had likewise formed a small Abscess, which discharged itself into the Cavity of the *Pelvis*, but had not any Communication with the Cavity of the *Rectum*.

XI. *Observatio Eclipsæ Telluris Romæ habita in Aedibus Eminentissimi Cardinalis DE-VIA V. Non. i. e. d. 3 Maij, N. S. Apr. 22. V. S. MDCCXXXIV. per Didacum de Revillas, Abbat. Hieronym. R. S. S. & Andream Celsium, R. S. S. Astron Profess. Upsal. R. S. Suec. Secr.*

Clarissimo Præstantissimoque Viro
EUSTACHIO MANFREDIO,
 Didacus de Revillas, *Abbas Hieronym.*
S. P. D.

TU Æ erga me humanitatis, amorisque erga Te mei recordationem in animo tuo excitandi, Ornatissime Manfredi, per opportunam suppeditat occasionem Solaris Deliquii Observatio, quam in jucunda, tibi que jam dudum familiari severiorum Musarum Diatriba, Aedibus nimirum Eminentissimi literatorum hominum Mæcenatis Cardinalis DE-VIA, divisis officiis una cum Doctissimo, tuique amantissimo Andrea Celsio, Astron. Prof. Upsal. habuimus. Hanc ad Te mittendam communi consilio