

V. *Part of a Letter from Mr. Macky, Professor of History, to Mr. Mac Laurin, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, and by him communicated to the President of the ROYAL SOCIETY; being an Extract from the Books of the Town-Council of Edinburgh, relating to a Disease there, supposed to be Venereal, in the Year 1497.*

Read March  
17. 1742-3.

**I**F the Venereal Disease was never known in *Europe* till the Siege of *Naples* 1495, it must have made a very quick Progress through *Europe* in a short time; for in 1497, I find it raging in *Edinburgh*, and our King and his Council terribly alarmed at this contagious Distemper, as appears from a Proclamation of King *James* the IVth, in the Records of the Town-Council of *Edinburgh*. The Minute of Council is dated the 22d of *September*. I have taken a Copy of it for your Amusement, and, if you please, you may communicate it to the SOCIETY. I have pretty nearly observed the old Spelling, except in Numbers.

“ 22. *Sept.* 1497.

“ **I**T is our Soverane Lords Will and the Command  
“ of the Lordis of his Counsaile send to the Provcst  
“ and Baillies within this bur<sup>t</sup> that this Proclamation  
“ followand be put till execution for the eschewing  
“ of the greit appearand danger of the Infection of  
“ his Leiges fra this contagious sickness callit the  
“ *Grandgor*

“ *Grandgor* and the greit uther Skyayth that may  
 “ occur to his Leiges and Inhabitans within this bur̄t;  
 “ that is to say, we charge straitly and commands  
 “ be the Auhority above writtin, that all manner of  
 “ personis being within the freedom of this bur̄t  
 “ quilks are infectit or hes been infectit uncurit with  
 “ this said contagious plage callit the *Grandgor*, de-  
 “ voyd, red and pafs furt of this Town and compeir  
 “ apou the sandis of *Leith* at ten hours before none  
 “ and thair sall thai have and fynd Botis reddie in the  
 “ havin ordanit to them be the Officeris of this bur̄t  
 “ reddely furneist with victuals to have thame to the  
 “ *Inche* \*, and thair to remane quhill God proviyd for  
 “ thair Health: And that all uther personis the quilks  
 “ taks upon thame to hale the said contagious infir-  
 “ mitie and taks the cure thairof that they devoyd  
 “ and pafs with thame sua that nane of thair personis  
 “ quhilks taks sic cure upon thame use the samyn  
 “ cure within this bur̄t in pns nor peirt any manner  
 “ of way. And wha sa beis foundin infectit and not  
 “ passand to the *Inche* as said is be *Monunday* at the  
 “ Sone ganging to, and in lykways the said personis  
 “ that takis the sd Cure of sanitie upon thame gif  
 “ they will use the samyn thai and ilk ane of thame  
 “ falle be brynt on the cheik with the marking Irne  
 “ that thai may be kennit in tym to cum and thair-  
 “ after gif any of tham remanis that thai sall be  
 “ banist but favors.”

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\* An Island in the *Firth* of *Edinburgh* over-against *Leith*.