An Account of two Books:

1. A Discourse of the State of Health in the Island of Jamaica, with a Provision calculated for the same, from the Air, the Place, and the Water; the Customs and manner of Living, &c. By Thomas Trapham M. D. Coll. Med. Lond. Soc. Hon.

This Book is divided by the Ingenious Author into ten Chapters, with a Conclusion.

Chap. 1. Treateth of the Air of Jamaica. As, amongst other particulars, of the Winds there, and several kinds of Breezes; with the Diftempers they introduce. Shewing also, that 'tis thick and moist, though very hot. That it aboundeth with a Volatile Nitrous Salt; from the speedy rusting of Iron, and the great fructifying quality of the Rains and Dews there. With a Digression of the Nature or Production of Nitre, &c.

Chap. 2. Of the Place. As, with other matters of note, Whence not subject to Hurricanes. Description of Port Royal: with the advantages and inconveniences therein with respect to health. Account of the Sugar-works: and of the Diftempers which proceed from much drinking of Rum, and other hot Liquors. Two great Rarities: the one a sort of Trees, not rotten, but living and growing, the Bark of which shines in the dark most vividly, especially in rainy weather. The other a sort of Seeds, endued with an inward throbbing Puls or Spring of Motion: by means whereof they will also leap sometimes above a span high upon a Table; and being placed at a distance, continue that leaping motion one towards another: which power of self-motion they also retain, in some degree, for many days. Descriptions of several Parts of the Island. Of the Cacao, and other Plants here produced. A Natural History of the Country promised.

Chap. 3. Of the Water. As of the River de Coure. How cured by the Spaniards, &c. A better water near the Porr. Danger of Well-water, especially at Ligany. Rivers and Springs abound. A Vegetable which being cut, affords a conspicuous

Chap. 4. Of the Customs and Manners of Living. Where a suitable and regular Diet is recommended. Best Wine for the Jamaicans brought from Madera. How the Jamaican to order himself in the night. Whence it is, that in Jamaica four Males dye for one Female. Of Chocolate (the Manna of the West-Indies) its preparation and use. Of Fruits, Flesh, and Fish, which the best. Particularly, the Sea-Tortoise excellent food. With several observations of this Animal. Of the Manatay or Sea-Cow. The Jew-fish, &c. Here no venomous Creatures, &c.

Chap. 5. Of the Intemperatures and Diseases of the Place in general, and Fluxes in particular. The Diseases here, few, and simple. Small Pox, Plague, Consumptions, Stone, but rare. As also the Diseases incident to Women in Northern Countries: Childbirth easy to admiration. Symptoms and cure of the Simple Flux, Bloody Flux, and White Flux.


Chap. 7. Of the Dropsy, called the Countrey Disease. A specific Remedy hereof growing in Jamaica, called the Dumb Cane, because, whatsoever toucheth it with his Tongue, becometh dumb for some hours. Applied by the Author only outwardly. How to be prepared and used: and its odd effects. Occasionally of the Herb Verbene very successfully applied in the Pleurisy. The use of a Decoction of Savannah Weed, a sort of Spikenard.

Chap. 8. Of Worms. Whence so frequent in Jamaica; especially in Children, Women, and Infirm. Amongst others, Jamaica Aloes one specific for them, &c.

Chap. 9. Of the Lues Venerea. Some conjectures of its Original. Description of the Yaws, cured in Jamaica with ease and certainty by a methodical use of Vomits, Purging, and Bleeding: together with a Remedy for external sores, of ease preparation; which is also described. A Conjecture, That many of the Symptoms in the Yaws and Pox, may proceed from little Animals, bred in and about the Spermatick Parts. The use of a Balsamick Juyce in the Pox, discovered by wild Boars.

The Conclusion. Wherein Baths are recommended for preventing most of the forementioned Diseases. The Author's Opinion of the Production of Ambergrise.


The diligent and most accurate Author introduceth these his Observations with a Preface; therein noting, That from his said Observations it is most clear, that all the Astronomical Tables hitherto extant, are defective in Calculating the Motions of Celestial Bodies: that Saturn moveth much more slowly, and Jupiter more swiftly, than by those Tables is reckoned upon. That hereupon, he began to go about to correct them; but presently foresaw, that could never be well done, without a more correct Catalogue of the fixed Stars: the performance whereof, is already undertaken by other excellent hands. That he therefore chose rather to take upon himself the stateing of the places of the fixed Stars near the Southern Pole, and out of our Horizon: which no one, that he knoweth, hath, with proper Instruments, before undertaken. What Frederick Houtman's Instruments were, by whose Observations in Sumatra, Blaeu pretended to correct his Celestial Globe, our Author knows not; but faith, That by comparing that Globe with this his present Catalogue,
It appeareth he understood little of Astronomy. Which considering, and being also approved and encouraged by divers persons of much Worth and Honour, as my Lord Brouncker, Sir Joseph Williamson, Sir Jonas Moore, and others, & even by the King also, he thereupon furnished himself with such Instruments as were necessary for his purpose: which he particularly mentions and describes. Of these, he faith, he made the utmost and most assiduous use that could be; in a place of so thick and cloudy a Sky, as that of St. Helena, contrary to common report, prov’d to be; having restored about 350 fixed Stars, which were omitted in Catalogo Tychonico. The places whereof he presumeth he hath truly assigned, taking in, or not without respect to, the places of some of the Stars in the aforementioned Catalogue; in which the Obliquity of the Ecliptick is supposed to be 23 gr. 31 m. 30 s. which (faith our Author) is most certainly too much. Yet because he designed not a correction of the whole Sphere; and because it appears not, as yet, within half a minute, how great that Obliquity is; and that this his own Catalogue may be easily reduced to any Obliquity, he thought not fit to meddle with that.

After the Preface, follow the Observations themselves: wherein to his own, the Author hath added an ancient Catalogue out of Clavius’s Commentaries in Spharam Jo. de Sacrobosco; and that of Barussius à Tabulis Rudolphinis. Kepleri; that being compared with these his Observations, it might evidently appear how very much the Ancient Globes do almost everywhere differ from the Heavens. From these Observations, as he proceeds, he also proposteth some conjectures of the corruptibility, or at least the mutability of the fixed Stars.

Next there is a Table of the Right Ascents of the Southern fixed Stars, and their Distances from the Pole: For the use of Navigators.

Hereto is subjoined an Observation of Mercury by our Author, sic.


Of his conjectures here made about the Sun’s Parallaxis, in
his aforesaid Preface, he saith, That were the place of Mercury's Node once found, from this his Observation of Mercury, the Suns Parallaxis might be deduced.

Hereunto are added, by our Author, Modi quidam penè Geometrici pro Parallaxi Luna investiganda.

Of which, there are three proposed, Yet the best way of finding the same (as the Author noteth in his Preface) would be, by comparing the Meridian Altitudes of the Moon, observed both in St. Helena and in Europe at the same time.

The concluding Chapter is entitled, Quaestiones Lunaris Theoria Emendationem Spectantia.

Wherein it is (as is noted in the said Preface) that Astronomy is at present most of all defective. And that the discovery hereof would lead us to the most exact way of finding out the Longitude of places.

L O N D O N,
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