

I. *Part of a Letter to the Publisher from Dr Davies concerning an unusual Colic.*

Birmingham, Oct. 3d. 1701.

S I R,

I Aft *May*, my Ingenious Friend Dr *Shaw* of *Tamworth*, was pleas'd to desire my assistance in the following case. A person, aged between 50 and 60, had been for 3 or 4 years last past troubled with Gripes, which generally return'd once a month, or thereabouts; his Body for the most part costive, and therefore was forced to spur Nature with *Daffy's Elixir* or *Aloës*; sometimes the smoaking a Pipe of Tobacco, supply'd the use of these Medicines. Last *April* coming from *London* heated himself very much with his Journey, having walked a good part of the way, and as soon as he came home, had a return of his Colic pains, which continued upon him for 18 days, notwithstanding the methods commonly used in that case, during which time he had no Stool, besides what the first and second Clysters brought away; his complaint upon his seizure was of a pain in his right side in the *Regio Iliaca*. Some time before he dyed his Belly swelled much, and was as tense as any Drum, he vomited for 2 or 3 days at the beginning, which left him, and returned not till just before he dyed, which was at the expiration of the 18th day, at which time he brought up 2 or 3 mouthfuls of black Cholera; but never during his whole illness vomited any excrement. Dr *Shaw* who lived upon the spot, prevail'd to have an hasty Inspection of his Abdomen, the Relations (it being a thing *Male fame* in that Neighbourhood) desired it might be done with all secrecy and expedition,

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which prevented the Doctors taking so nice a view of all the parts within the Abdomen as he would otherwise have done. He found some black Cholera in the Stomach, the *Duodenum* and the rest of the *Intestina tenuia* void of excrement, but incredibly distemper'd with Wind, and tracing the Canalis of the Guts as far as the *Cæcum*, found that of a blackish colour; and from thence for about a yard in length, the Colon mortified and so rotten, that the Excrements had made their way thro it at several places into the Cavity of the Abdomen; about 2 inches of the mortified Gut was fastened to the *Peritoneum* on the right side. This part of the Colon was so extended with excrements of a soft consistence, that they when taken out filled two Chamber-pots; at the extremity of the mortification, towards the *Rectum* the obstruction which occasioned all these misfortunes offered it self to view very plainly; for about ten inches of the Colon was doubled, as if you had taken a piece of Tape, and folded it the two contiguous surfaces of the duplicature adhered so firmly together, that you could not separate them without tearing the exterior coat of the Intestine. Upon separating this coalescence, there fell from that part a whitish Mucus, the adhesion was about 3 inches broad; the middle of the Duplicature which made the acute angle, and where the excrements stopped, was smaller, and the Membranes thinner than in any other part of the Gut; from thence towards the *Rectum* the Colon was found, and void of excrements, occasioned by the frequent use of Clysters.