An Account of a Book, Entitled
X. Samuelis Dale Pharmacologia seu Manuductionis

IN the year 1692, our Author published his Pharmacologia seu Manuductionio ad Materiam Medicam, of which an Account was given in these Transactions, (viz.) N. 204: pag. 929. After the publishing of which, he observed an Increase of the Materia Medica, many Medicinal Simples being used in the Shops, and likewise he met with several Books relating thereto, which either were not then published, or had not come to his knowledge before. And our Author having also received advice from divers Ingenious persons, who had travelled into Foreign Countries, that his aforesaid Book was well received, not only in France and Holland, but likewise in Italy and the remotest parts of Germany, made him think a Supplement necessary to render it more useful to other Countries: And because it has extended its progress to the Neighbourhood of Greece, that ancient Fountain of Learning, he concluded, that it would not be improper to add out of Dioscorides and the Foreign Dispensatories, all those things which he had omitted publishing: And that in a Book
Book by themselves, without staying for the reprinting of the former Book.

Our Author had made a considerable Progress in his design, when he received advice that Monsieur Tournefort was, by the French Kings Order, gone into Greece and the adjacent Islands, in search of Plants, especially those of Dioscorides; this occasioned him to stop the prosecution of his Work for some years, in hopes that great and accurate Botanist would upon his return gratify the Curious with his Discoveries of the true and genuine Plants of the Ancient Grecians, which had perplexed the Herbarists of our late Ages.

In this Supplement our Author took care to set the Materia Medica of Dioscorides in a clear light; and for that end consulted all the Authors that he could meet with upon that subject, keeping as close as he could to his Text, in which he chiefly adhered to the Translation and Commentary of Matthiolus. And because in this performance he travelled in an untrodden path, knowing of no precedent in any Language, he therefore consulted both the Dead and Living, (i.e.) not only Books, but many Persons of Ingenuity and Learning. The nature of the Work requiring the Virtues of each Simple to be annexed, and the design of the Book requiring Brevity, he chose to transcribe them from Authors, which had already contracted to his hand; but at the same time, to avoid the Imputation of Plagiarism, he at the end of every Transcription inferred the Name of the respective Author: Nor did he think it any discredit to him, that he had the assistance of others, but rather a Glory, and therefore doth throughout the Work acknowledge the Persons he had advice from.

This Book being only a Supplement to a former Work, as I said before, is divided according to the work and therefore need not here to repeat it, but only proceed to give
give a short account of some things in the Work itself. In the first Book of which, our Author in the Chapter of Waters takes notice, that Cold Baths were in use among the Ancients in the Cure of many Diseases; and that they are commended by divers Learned Physicians, especially by Sir John Floyer, Kt., and Dr. Baynard, the first of which, in his Excellent Ἐνεργονία, hath enumerated the severall sorts of Cold-Baths, and the many Cures performed by them. He likewise takes notice of the divers ways of making Salt from Sea-Water; first by infusion, only, as Bay Salt, the Sea-Water being in hot Countries grained in Pans called Salt-Marshes; 2dly, partly by the Sun, and partly by Fire, as Port-Sea-Salt at Lymington in Hampshire; 3dly, by Boyling only, as Newcastle, and Scotch Salt. To these he adds the manner of making Salt from Sea-Sand in Lancashire and other places, and likewise observes, that both Speed and Camden did take notice of the Evaporation of Sea Water into Salt, by the Sun, in the hollows of certain Stones in the Bishoprick of Durham.

In the Chapter of Mineral Waters, he takes notice of their several divisions and sorts made by his Neighbour Mr. Allen, in his Book of the Chalybeat and Purging Waters in England. And in the Chapter of Salts, besides many Curious Notes concerning the Crystals of Salt, Sal-Gem, Nitre, Allum; and Vitriol excerpted from the Excercitationes de Fontibus Medicatis Angliae, of his Learned Friend Dr. Martin Lister, he takes notice of a sort of Salt made at Maldon in Essex, called Salt upon Salt, by the dissolving Rock Salt found in Cheshire, in Sea-Water.

In the Chapter of Stones, our Author observes, that the Adarce of Dr. Plot is nothing but an Incurstation, occasioned upon the mixing a Chalybeat Water near its source with another from a gravelly ford, which by diluting the first, causes the precipitation.
In the 2d Book our Author shews that the Puce Semper, or Golden Moss, of Dr Grew, so celebrated in an Hæmoptysis, is only the Down of the Root of a sort of Fern, growing in Tartary or China; which Root he conjectures to be the Agnus Scythicus, of which Authors write so many Fabulous Stories. He enumerates the many Controversies among Botanick Authors about Wormseed, concluding it to be the Seed of a sort of Wormwood. The famous Cythonian Plant against Deafness, of Mr Marlow, he affirms to be a sort of Mint; Ipocacanha to be the Root of an American Herb, near a kind to the Herba Paris: Anisum Judicum to be the Seed-Vessel of a sort of Fraxinella. The Star of the Earth, (so call’d;) in a famous Receipt against the biting of Mad-Dogs, he proves to be the Corosopus, and not the Sesamoides Salamanticum Magnum, which some mistake it for. Soia, of which Ketchup is made, is the Seed of an Indian Phaseolus; as Angola Seeds are those of an Abrus, and Russia Seed of the Gramen Mannae. Salep, Cassumuniar and Darwort, are 3 Roots; the first of a sort of Orbis, the second of a Species of Galanga, and the last of an Indian Reed.

In the Dendrology our Author demonstrates Palm-Oyl to be made of the Fruit of an African Palm-tree; Maldiva, and Malabar-Nuts to be likewise the Fruits of two Indian Palms, as Sage is the feces of the Pitch of another Palm granulated. He observes the various sorts of Dragons Blood now to be found in the Shops; and gives a further account of the Tree which yields the famous Peruvian Bark. He acquaints us what Trees or Shrubs they are which do produce the Simples published by the late Mr Marlow, under the feign’d titles of Virginia and Molucca Nuts, Bengal Beans and Bermudas Berries, Cassina, and Persigna. The Faba Santii Iwonij he proves to be a sort of Nux Vomica.
In the third and last Book, our Author gives some farther account of the Cochinchina, proving it to be of animal production, and that it is not any of English Lady-cow, as some have affirmed: The Glossopetra he believes to be the petrified Teeth of Sharks. Concerning the Serpentine stone, he takes notice of the difference in Authors about it, viz. whether it is a Natural or Artificial production, and whether it hath the Virtue to expel Poison in Venemous bites or not? He enumerates the several assertions of the Learned pro & con, quoting divers of their Experiments, and at last concludes, that both Natural and Artificial are to be met with, and that the different operations must arise from thence. Pedro del porco our Author affirms to be only an Hegagropila found in the Stomach of a Porcupine. To these he adds some Observations taken from F. Camilli his Papers, not only concerning this Stone, but likewise Bezoars. The whole Book abounds with many Curious Observations, for the farther dilucidation of the Materia Medica, which we recommend to the perusal of the Curious:

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ERRATA.

B. B. In Philos. Transact. N. 305, Page 135, Line 31. read VIII as well as IX.