

An Account of a Book, Entitled

X. Samuelis Dale *Pharmacologia seu Manuductionis ad Materiam Medicam Supplementum : Medicamenta Officinalia simplicia, priore Libro omissa, complectens : Ut & Notas Generum Characteristicas, Specierum Synonyma, Differentias, & Vires. Cum duplici Indice, generali altero Nominum & Synonymorum precipuorum, altero Anglico-Latino, in gratiam Tyronum.*

IN the year 1693 our Author published his *Pharmacologia seu Manuductio 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 remoter 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 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 gratifie the Curious with his Discoveries of the true and genuine Plants of the Ancient *Greeians*, 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, (*v. 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 inserted 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 same method, and therefore need not here to repeat the method proposed to give

give a short account of some things in the Work it self. 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, and especially by Sir *John Floyer*, Kt, and *Dr Baynard*; the first of which, in his Excellent *Πυχελοισία*, hath enumerated the several sorts of Cold-Baths, and the many Cures perform'd by them. He likewise takes notice of the divers ways of making *Salt* from *Sea-Water*; first by insolation only, as *Bay Salt*, the Sea-Water being in hot Countries grain'd in Pans called *Salt-Marshes*; 2dly, partly by the Sun, and partly by Fire, as *Port-Sea-Salt* at *Limmington* in *Hampshire*; 3dly, by Boiling 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*, *Salt-Gem*, *Niter*, *Allum*, and *Vitriol* excerpted from the *Exercitationes de Fontibus Medicatis Angliæ*, 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 Incrustation, occasioned upon the mixing a *Chalybeat* Water near its source with another from a gravelly soil, which by diluting the first, causes the precipitation.

In the 2d Book our Author shews that the *Poco Sen-
pie*, 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 con-
jectures 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 *Cylonian Plant* against Deafness,
of *Mr Marlow*, he affirms to be a sort of Mint; *Ippoca-
naha* 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 *Coronopus*, 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 Mannæ*. *Salep*, *Cassum-
muniar* and *Dart-wort*, are 3 Roots; the first of a sort of
Orchis, 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*: *Mal-
diva*, and *Malabar-Nuts* to be likewise the Fruits of two
Indian Palms, as *Sagoe* is the feces of the Pitch of ano-
ther *Palm* granulated. He observes the various sorts of
Dragons Blood now to be found in the Shops; and gives
a farther 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 feigned titles of *Virginia* and
Molucca Nuts, *Bengala Beans* and *Bermudos Berries*, *Cas-
sina*, and *Perygna*. The *Faba Sancti Ignatij* he proves to
be a sort of *Nux Vomica*.

In the third and last Book, our Author gives some farther account of the *Cochinale*, proving it to be of animal production, and that it is not any of *Englisk Lady-cow*, as some have affirm'd : 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 *Aegagropila* 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:

London, Printed for Sam. Smith and Benj. Walford, Printers to the Royal Society, at the *Prince's Arms* in *St Paul's Church-yard*, 1706.

E R R A T A.

N. B. In *Philos. Transact.* N. 305. Page 2195. Line 31. read *vix* VIII as well as IX.