

---

## Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page vi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	viii
Introduction “ <i>The Dearness of things</i> ”: the body as matter for text	1
1 Dull organs: the matter of the body in the plague year	8
2 The burthen in the belly	37
3 Consuming desires: Defoe’s sexual systems	61
4 Flesh and blood: Swift’s sexual strategies	88
5 The ladies: d—ned, insolent, proud, unmannerly sluts	110
6 Chains of consumption: the bodies of the poor	132
7 Consumptive fictions: cannibalism in Defoe and Swift	149
8 Vital parts: Swift’s necessary metaphors	177
Afterword Suppose me dead; and then suppose	212
<i>Index</i>	225