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978-1-108-07453-7 - An Historiall Expostulation: Against the Beastlye Abusers, Both of Chyrurgerie and Physyke, in Oure Tyme: With a Goodlye Doctrine and Instruction, Necessarye to be Marked and Followed, of all True Chirurgiens

John Hall Edited by T. J. Pettigrew

Excerpt

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AN

## HISTORIALL EXPOSTULATION :

Against the beastlye Abusers, bothe of Chyrurgerie,  
and Physyke, in oure tyme : with a goodlye  
Doctrine and Instruction, necessarye to  
be marked and folowed, of all true  
Chirurgiens :

Gathered and diligently set forth

by

JOHN HALLE, CHYRURGYEN.

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AN  
HYSTORIALL EXPOSTULATION,  
ETC.

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FOR as muche as in the epistle and prefaces, I have declared the dishonor that the noble arte of medicynne susteyneth by deceavyng fugitives, and other false abusers; I thinke it good here to blasen the dedes of some in this our tyme, that it maye apere that not withoute a sufficiente cause, I have so there of them complayned.

Fyrst, there came into the towne of Maydstone, in the yere of our Lorde, 1555, a woman whiche named hir selfe Jone, havynge with hir a walkyng mate whome she called her husbnde. This wicked beast toke hir inne at the sygne of the Bell, in the towne aforesayde, where she caused within short space to be published that she could heale all maner, bothe inward and outward diseases. One powder she caried in a blader, made of the herbe daphnoydes, and anise sede together, whiche shee (as an onelye sufficient remedie for all grefes), administred unto all hir folishe patientes, in lyke quantite to all people, neyther regardyng tyme,

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strengthe, nor age. All the tyme of her being there, (whiche was about iii wekes), there resorted to her company, divers ruffians, and vacaboundes, under pretence of being diseased, and sekyng to her for remedye, so that hir false profession, was unto their wicked behavioure, for the tyme in that towne a safe suppartation.

This beastlie deceaver, amonge manie others, tooke in hand an honest mans child, who had a suppurat tumor in his navell, pereyng dangerouslye the panicles of the belye, to whome she administered the sayde powder in great quantitye, in so muche, that the childe dyd vomyte continuallye for the space of halfe a daye and more, withoute ceassyng, whereby the sayde aposteme brake.

The parentes of the chylde then feared much, by the grevousnesse of the syghte, that his stomache woulde breake, whiche may be thought that in very dede it so dyd. For in processe of tyme ther issued out by the orifice of the same vii. wormes, at vii. severall tymes (such as children are wont to avoyde eyther upwarde or downward, from the stomache and guttes, called *teretes i. rotundi*), with also a certayne yelow substance, not stinkyng, suche as we sometymes fynde in the stomaches of dead men when we open them.

This fearfull syght, I saye, caused the childes parentes to sende for me, to knowe therein myne opinion and counsell; unto whome I prognosticated (as I sawe good cause), that the mater was very dangerous, and not lyke to be cured. But this beastly forme of a

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woman, hearyng me so saye, answered that she doutted therein no daunger, and farthermore offered hirselfe to be locked up in a chamber with the chylde, and that yf she healed him not, shee myghte be punished; with a great deale more circumstance of prating and deceytfull braggyng werdes. Unto whose moste wicked and divlishe boldnes I thus answered. Wher as you saye that ye doubtte not any daunger in this childe, I verry well beleue you, for ignorante fooles can doubtte no perils, and who is bolder then blynde bayerd? howe shoulde they doubtte that knowe not what a doubt meaneth? Notwithstanding this prehemynence you deceavyng rennegates have, ye maye bragge, lye, and face, tyll ye have murdered, or destroyed suche as credyte you, and then are ye gone, ye shewe your heles, and that is onelye your defence. But honest menne of arte muste have truthe for theyr defence, and experience of their true worke, and maye promyse no more then they may performe.

What should I make manye wordes, the parentes of the childe all to late discharged this deceaver, and the child, notwithstanding the counsell had of dyvers learned men, dyed afterwarde of the sayde grefe. But the sayde deceaver, accordyng to my prophesie, after iii. dayes, ran away, she and her walkyng mate, robyng their hoste where they lay, of the shetes, pillowberes, and blankets that they laye in; and by their entysement of one of the mayde servauntes of their sayd hoste, they hadde muscadell served them insteade of bere, whyle they laye there for the moste parte;

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which entycead servant ranne awaye also with them, and coulede not synce be herde of.

Secondly, in the yere of our Lord 1556, there resorted unto Maydstone, one Robert Haris, professyng and pretending an hyghe knowlege in physike; under cloke wherof he deceaved mervaylouslie with vyle sorcerie. This deceaver could tel (as the folish people reported of hym), by only lokyng in ones face, all secrete markes and scarres of the bodie, and what they had done, and what hadde chaunced unto them all theyr lyfe tyme before. Wherwith he had so incensed the fonde and waveryng myndes of some, that pitie was to here. Amonge whome one woman (whoe for hir yeares and profession, ought to have bene more discrete). When I reasoned with hir agaynste his doynge, she earnestlie affirmed that she knewe well that he was then dystant from hir, at the leaste vii. myles, and yet she verelye beleved that he knewe what she then sayde. Oh greate beastlynes and infydelitie, specially in suche as have borne a face to favour the worde of God.

Well, for jestyng a lyttell agaynste the madnes of thys deceaver, I hadde a dagger drawne at me not longe after. The wordes that I spake were to his hostes, when I sawe him goe by, in this wyse. Is this (quod I), the cunnyng sothsayer, that is sayde to lye at your house? Sothesayer, quod shee; I knowe no suche thyng by him, therefore ye are to blame so to name him. Why, quod I, suche men and suche enformed me that he can tell of thynges loste, and helpe children and cattell bewitched and forspoken, and can

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tell by loking in ones face, what markes he hathe on his bodie, and where, and tell them what they have done, and their fortune to come. Yea, and all this in dede he can doe, quod she. Why, then, he is a sothesayer and a sorcerer, quod I. Well, quod she, yf he have so muche cunningge in his bellye, he is the happyer, and it is the more joye of him. Nay, quod I, it were mere folyshnes for hym to carye his cunningge in his bellye. And why? quod she. Why, quod I, thinke you that men of lerning and knowledge cary their cunningge in their bellies? Wher else, quod she, and why not? Mary, quod I, yf he should beare his cunningge there, he should alwayes waste it when he wente to the privye, and so in time he should lose all his cunningge. This beyng merylye spoken, turned me afterwards not to a little displeasure, even at their handes, where I had deserved and loked for frendship as of dutie; but I must cease to marveyle any longer at this, when almoste everie suche abhominable vylaine is defended, upholden, and mayntayned, by suche as of righte, and according to the holesome lawes of this realme, shoulde punish them for these their abusions. Yet surelie the grieffe were the lesse, yf onely the blynde, and superstitious antiquitie had a regarde and love to suche deceavers. But nowe a great number that have borne an outwarde shewe of great holynes, and love to Gods holie worde; we see them seke daylie to suche divelische wyches and sorcerers, if their fynger doe but ake, as though they were Goddes, and coulde presentlie helpe them with wordes, although

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they knowe that God in his Israell, hath called them an abhominacion, and hath farther commaunded that none suche should be suffred among them to lyve.

Thyrdlie, in the year of our Lord a thousand fyve hundred fyftie and eyght, there came to Maydstone one Thomas Lufkyn, by occupacion a fuller, and burler of clothe, and had bene brought up (by reporte of divers honest men), at the fullyng mylles there besyde the towne, nevertheles he had ben longe absent from that contrie, in whiche tyme he had by roving abroad, become a phisician, a chirurgien, an astronomier, a palmister, a phisiognomier, a sothsayer, a fortune devyner, and I can not tell what. This deceaver was the beastliest beguiler by his sorcerys that euer I herd of, making physike the onely colour to cover all his crafty thefte and mischieves, for he set uppe a byll at hys fyrste commynge, to publishe his beyng there, the tenour wherof was in effect as followeth:—

If anye manne, womanne, or childe bee sicke, or would be let bloud, or bee diseased with anye maner of inward or outwarde grefes, as al maner of agues, or fevers, plurises, cholyke, stone, strangulion, impostumes, fistulas, kanker, goutes, pocks, bone ache, and payne of the joynts, which commeth for lacke of bloudlettyng, let them resorte to the sygne of the Sarazens Hedde, in the easte lane, and brynge their waters with them to be sene, and they shall have remedie.

By me, THOMAS LUFFKIN.

Unto this divell incarnate, resorted all sortes of



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vayne and undiscrete persons, as it were to a God, to knowe all secretes, paste and to come, specially women, to know how manie husbandes and children they shoulde have, and whether they shoulde burie their husbandes then lyving. And to be brefe, there was not so great a secrete, that he would not take upon him to declare, unto some he prophecied death within a moneth, who thankes be to God are yet lyving, and in healtie. All this he boasted that he could do by astronomie; but when he was talked with of one that had but a yonge and smalle skylle in that arte, he could make no directe answer no more then puppe my dogge.

This vilayne could wyth a wodden face, bragge, face, and set oute his maters wyth bouldes talke, that the symple people was by him mervelously seduced to beleve his lies, and boasting tales.

Amonge manye that talked with him, one of mine acquaintance asked him this question: Sir, quod he, if you be so cunnyng as ye are named, or as you woulde fayne be esteemed to be, wherefore goe ye, and travaile ye from place to place? for beinge so cunning, ye can not lacke wheresoever ye dwell, for people will resorte unto you farre and nere, sekyng upon you, so that you shoulde not neede thus to travaile for your livyng. Unto whom he made thys beastlye answer; I knowe, quod he, by astronomye the influence of the starres, and therby perceave when, and howe long any place shall be unto me fortunate, and when I perceave by the starres that any evell fortune is like to chauce to me

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in that place, I streighte waye wiselye avoid the daunger, and goe to an other place, wheras I knowe it wil be fortunate and luckye. For what use they to cloke theyr vilanies wyth but astronomye, phisicke, and chirurgery, as I shewed you before.

But thys false knave had answered more truelye if he had sayd thus: though for a tyme as all newe fangels are highlye sette by and mervailed at amonge the folishe and rude people, so naughtye false merchantes, wyth their craftye, and vilainous deseightes, maye for a time have credite and successe according to theyr wicked expectations; yet in a whyle wyth use, the people will begin to smell oute, and be werye of theyr doynge, whiche they at the fyrste so gredelye did seeke, for the strange newes. For suche false deceavers perceave and knowe that the fonde myndes of the common rude multytude of people, at the fyrste, in seekynge to see straunge thynges, are madde of desire, and as they are unreasonable in seekynge the newes, so are they sone werye of the use therof; for muche familiarity engendereth contempte, even in good things; therefore when men begin to perceave and to espye the craft and subtilty of suche deceavers, it is time for them to change their place, that they maye the easilyer deceave agayne, where theyr falshode is strange and newe, and all together unknowne. If I saye he hadde thus answered, he hadde sayde the verye truthe. Thys deceaver hadde sufficiente audacitye, wyth talke to sette oute hys falshode, and to beare downe all that be ignorante, so longe as his knaverye knackes were