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M. Odhelius

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VII. *Singular Cure of a young Woman, effected by expelling from the Stomach, &c. the Larvæ of certain Insects.* By M. ODHELIUS *.

THE account of this singular case was transmitted to M. Odhelius, together with some of the larvæ, by M. Flank, surgeon of Carlstadt, who, during the course of forty years practice, never saw any of the like kind discharged from the human body. The patient, who was seventeen years of age, and who for three years had been quite regular, became indisposed in the year 1786, and complained of a violent pain and griping in her stomach, with a head-ache and confusion in the morning; a burning in the throat, and great lassitude. These symptoms were lessened after repeated eructation; but the disorder still increased. Mineral water with jalep powder was prescribed, and the larvæ began gradually to be discharged; but as the patient did not find much relief, and as she nauseated jalep powder, aloe pills, with jalep resin, and mercurius dulcis, were administered in its stead, and about a quart of mineral water each time; by which means these troublesome guests were gradually so completely expelled, that the patient, in the course of a few weeks, was perfectly cured. The larvæ were transmitted to the Cabinet of Curiosities belonging to the Academy of Sciences. Professor Wilke found, on examining them, that they were of the species described by Reaumur under the name of *Vers a queue de rat*, and which belong to a kind of two-winged fly, called the Pendulous Fly, *Musca pendula* L.; because the larvæ are suspended, as it were, by a long thread, which is their organ of respiration. These larvæ, which the Professor examined, were of a yellowish-brown colour, from four to six lines in length, with a tail of about the same extent; a cylindric body, from half a line to a line in thickness, cut

* From *New Transactions of the Academy of Sciences at Stockholm*, Vol. X.

† *Memoires pour l'Hist. des Insectes*, T. IV. Mem. 11. p. 443.

across somewhat obliquely before, and conical towards the tail. As the patient, before she fell ill, had used a great deal of milk and cheese, M. Wilke was of opinion, that some of the eggs of these flies had been conveyed into her stomach in the rind of the cheese.

VIII. *On the Signs exhibited by Animals which indicate Changes of the Weather, with Remarks on other Prognostications.* By M. TOALDO *.

THE fluids and solids of organised beings, and their animal machines, are constructed in such a manner that a certain degree of motion puts them in a good state, while an augmentation or diminution of it deranges and destroys that state. The fluids, which by their nature are easily moved, as well as the fibres, which are highly susceptible of irritation, are readily affected by changes of the surrounding atmosphere, and suffer from their impressions, whether the air varies in its weight or qualities, or is changed in regard to its elasticity. We find, among those who are found and in perfect health, vivacity, good spirits, and great agility, when the air is pure and elastic; on the other hand, when the air becomes light and damp, and is deprived of its elasticity, it throws the body into a state of languor and debility. Valetudinarians, whose constitutions are delicate, or who are advanced in life, are much sooner sensible of the impressions occasioned by changes of the weather than those who are strong and robust. In general the senses of men, who in their way of life deviate from the simplicity of nature, are coarse, dull, and void of energy. Those also who are distracted by a thousand other objects, scarcely feel the impressions of the air; and if they speak of them to fill up a vacuum in their miserable and frivolous conversation, they do it without thinking of their causes or effects, and without

* From his *Meteorological Essays*.