

To confirm the Use of this Sea-Gage, shewn before to the Society, I made another Experiment in the following Manner. Having pour'd some Quick-silver into the Bottle of the Gage, I pour'd on upon it Treacle to the Depth of half an Inch, then screw'd on the Brass Cap of the Bottle to which the Glass Gage-Tube was cemented; by which Means the open End of the Tube was brought under the Surface of the Mercury, the sealed End being upwards. The Machine, thus fitted, was immers'd in a cylindrick Vessel of Water, which with a Plate at Top was press'd between two Pillars, in such Manner that Air might be condens'd over the Water without escaping. Then having forc'd in so much Air with a Syringe, as to lay on a Pressure equal to what would be in a Depth of 40 Foot of Water, I open'd the Cock of the upper Plate, let out the Air, and, upon taking out the Machine, it appear'd how high the Quick-silver had risen in the Gage-Tube, by the greasy Mark which the Treacle left within.

VII. *Extract of Two uncommon Cases of Tumours of the Abdomen, from a Latin Tract publish'd at Strasburgh, Anno 1728, and entituled, Joannis Boecleri, M. D. &c. ad Exteros Medicos Epistola; by W. Ruty, M. D. R. S. Secr.*

THE first is concerning a Woman, an Inhabitant of *Strasburgh*, of Thirty-two Years of Age, whose Belly, after an immature and hasty Labour, grew gradually for Ten Years together. During the whole

whole Time of Gestation, she complain'd of scarcely any other Symptom than the Weight and Heaviness of her Belly; only now and then of a tense Pain and a Difficulty in Respiration: She said nevertheless, that Flatuluses would sometimes be discharged from the *Pudenda*, and the more they were so, the less Uneasiness she perceived. The Menstrua were regular as to Time; but as to Quantity she did not explain her self: But in the latter Months, towards her Death, she grew plainly cachectick. Her Countenance was cadaverous; her Breast and upper Limbs perfectly emaciated; her Feet oedematous, and the Belly much more turgid and prominent than before; so that at length she breathed with the utmost Difficulty, and upon taking any Nourishment, complain'd of a great Straitness in her Chest. Upon opening the *Abdomen*, two Days after her Death, some Water flow'd out, of a wheyish Colour, tho' in what Quantity was not taken Notice of; but upon dividing the *Uterus*, a plentiful Quantity of a bloody Liquor issued from it, together with seventy-two Molæ of different Figures and Solidity, and chiefly of a black Colour. One only, the 76th, was fix'd to the lower Part of the right Side of the *Uterus*, contiguous to its internal Orifice. These solid Substances weigh'd 64 Ounces; as the Liquor also fill'd 15 antient *Alsace* Measures, so that taken together, the Whole weigh'd 80 Pounds Apothecaries Weight. The Skin of the *Abdomen* was very thin, and almost transparent; the Navel perfectly obliterated; the Fat almost entirely consumed; the Muscles pale, flaccid, and very thin also; and the *Peritonæum* in some Places so strongly attach'd to the *Uterus*, that it could not, without the utmost Difficulty, be torn from it. The Body of the

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*Uterus*,

*Uterus*, which is naturally thick, was extenuated to the same Degree of Rarity and Transparency with that of the Cutis of the *Abdomen*, and of a surprizing Capacity. The Liver appear'd pale, and so flaccid that it might be easily rubb'd to Pieces. The Height of the Belly from the Vertebrae of the Loins to the Navel measured  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Foot; its Length from the *Cartilago ensiformis* to the *Pudenda*,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Feet; and its Circumference at the Waist, 4 Feet  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Inches, tho' the Woman was naturally of a small Size and Stature.

The Second is of a Maid-servant in the same City, of twenty-three Years of Age, whose Belly, from a Suppression of the Menstrua, grew slowly for three Years, without any other notable Disorder; till upon an accidental Fall, it increased so much in six Days, as to obliterate the Navel; and not being capable of a farther Distension, Part of the Matter which caused the Tumefaction, flowed down to the Legs and swelled them likewise; which brought on a Difficulty of Breathing, a small, frequent, and uneasy Pulse, with a total Loss of Appetite. But what was more remarkable, the *Systole* and *Diastrale* of the Heart were plainly felt under the left Clavicle, the Heart being, upon Dissection, found thrust up to that Part of the *Thorax*. The 14th Day from the Fall, a *Diarrhoea* came on, which kill'd her in a few Days. Upon making a small Incision in the right *Hypochondrium*, there gushed out from the Cavity a Liquor, in Colour, Consistence, and Froth resembling well boiled Beer; which upon enlarging the Incision, was followed by a fetid purulent Matter, with entire Portions of the putrified Caul; which Matter filled 56 *Strasburgh* Pints. Upon this the Belly subsided; but a large solid Substance still remained

mained under the containing Parts of the *Abdomen*. Opening therefore the whole Cavity, there was found under the left Groin a considerable Tumour, nourished by its proper Vessels, and every where fixed to the circumjacent Membranes; which being freed from, it weighed 6 Pounds common Weight. This Tumour proved a Congeries of incystated Abscesses (wrapt up in one common Covering) of different Sizes; the largest as big as a Man's two Fists, the smallest the Size of an Egg; and each of a different Sort of Substance: Besides which was a great Number of *Hydatides*. The *Peritonæum* was as thick as the *Cutis*; the Caul almost entirely destroyed; the Stomach natural, but perfectly empty; the Guts livid, very much thickened and vastly inflated, and moreover connected preternaturally to each other by peculiar Membranes. The Liver strongly adhered to the right *Hypochondrium*, and its Coat parted from its *Parenchyma* almost spontaneously. The left Kidney very near equal'd the Spleen in Bulk, and the *Pancreas* was as hard as a Cartilage; but the *Uterus* and Bladder were found in *statu sano*. The Cavity of the *Thorax* was much smaller than usual, from the Contents of the *Abdomen* pressing up the *Diaphragm* into it; in which Cavity also was found the same Sort of bloody putrid Liquor, as likewise in the *Pericardium*. The right Ventricle of the Heart was preternaturally soft and flaccid, and being opened, was lined with *Hydatides*. The upper Parts of the Body were emaciated; the lower much tumefied by the Water contained within them.

The Author, after this, cites three other Cases of extraordinary preternatural Tumours of the *Abdomen*, communicated to him by Dr. *Valentine Scheide*, the present

present chief Physician of *Strasburgh*, all which occur'd in his own Practice; as the foregoing are recorded in the Register of that Univerfity. Thefe likewise are very remarkable: But as they are not altogether fo uncommon, a particular Account need not be given of them.

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VIII. *An Account of the Culture and Management of Saffron in England*, by James Douglass, M. D. Med. Regim. Extr. & S. R. S.

AS Saffron grows at present moft plentifully in *Cambridge-shire*, and has grown formerly in feveral other Counties of *England*, the Method of Culture does not, I believe, vary much in any of them, and therefore I have judg'd it fufficient to fet down here the Obfervations which I employ'd proper Perfons, in different Seasons, to make in the Years 1723, 24, 25, and 28, up and down all that large Tract of Ground that lies between *Saffron-Walden* and *Cambridge*, in a Circle of about ten Miles Diameter. In that Country Saffron has been longeft cultivated, and therefore it may reafonably be expected that the Inhabitants thereof are more thoroughly acquainted with it than they are any where elfe.

I fhall begin with the Choice and Preparation of the Ground. The greateft Part of the Tract already mention'd is an open level Country with few Inclofures; and the Cuftom there is, as in moft other Places, to crop two Years, and let the Land lie fallow the third. Saffron