

SOME PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS ON
MAY DEW

From the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society .
(British Museum MSS. Slone 698.)

1. Dew newly gathered and filtered through a clean linen cloth, though it be not very clean is of a yellowish colour, somewhat approaching to that of Urine.
2. That having endeavoured to putrefy it by putting several proportions into glass bodies. I quite failed of my intentions, for Heat though never so gentle did rather clarify and preserve it sweet. Though continued for two months together, than cause any putrefaction or separation of parts.
3. That having several Tubs with good quantity of Dew in them set to putrefy in the manner aforesaid, and coming to pour out one of them to make use of it, I found in the water a great bunch bigger than my fist, of those insects commonly called Hog lice or millipedes tangled together by their long tails, one of which came of every one of them bodies about the bigness of a horse hair. The insects did all live and grow after they were taken out. Note-there are two notes numbered 3. Here is the second one.
That exposing of it to the Sun over a whole summer in glasses that held about 2 gallons with mouths that might be stopped with corks the only considerable alteration I observed to be produced in it was that a store of green stuff (such as you see in summer in ditches) and (standing waters) floated on the top, and in some places grew to the side of the glass.
4. Having put four or five gallons of it into a half tub, as they call it, of Wood, and straining a Canvas over it to keep out the Dust and Insects, and letting it stand in some shady room for three weeks or a month, it did of itself putrefy and stink exceedingly and let fall to the bottom, a black sediment like Mud.
5. That coming often to see what alteration appeared in the

Putrefaction, I observed that at the beginning within twenty-four hours, a slimy film floated on the Top of the water, which after a while, falling to the Bottom, there came another such film in its place.

6. That if the Dew were put into a long narrow Vessel of glass, such as formerly were used for Receivers in distilling of Aquafortis, the Slime would rise to that height, that I could take it off with a spoon; and when I had put a pretty quantity of it into a drinking glass, and that it had stood all night and the Water drained from it, if I had turned it out on my hand it would stand upright in figure of the glass; in substance much like boiled White Starch, though something more transparent, if my memory fails me not.

7. That having once gotten a pretty quantity of this Jelly, and put it into a glass Body and Blind Head, I set it into a gentle Bath with an intention to have putrefied it, but after a days I found the Head had not been well luted on, and that some moisture exhaling, the Jelly was grown almost dry, and a large Mushroom grown out of it within the glass. It was of a loose waterish con-texture, such a one I have seen growing out of rotten wood.

8. That having several Tubs with good quantity of Dew in them set to putrefy in the manner aforesaid, and coming to pour out one of them to make use of it, I found in the Water a great bunch bigger than my fist of those Insects commonly called Hog-lice or Millipedes tangled together by their long tails, one of which came of every one of their bodies about the bigness of a horse-hair. The Insects did all live and grow after they were taken out.

Note-No. 8. is a repetition of No. 3., apparently whoever copied these notes became confused and left out no. 8; So we will have to accept it as it stands.

9. That vapouring away great quantities of my putrified Dew in glass basins and Earthen glazed Vessels, I did at last obtain as I remember some 2 lbs. of a greyish EARTH, which whn I had washed

with more of the same Dew out of all my Basis's into one, and evaporated to siccity, lay in leaves one above another not unlike to some Kind of Brown paper but very friable.

10. After taking out this EARTH, and after I had well ground it on a marble, and given it a smart fire in a coated retort of glass, it soon melted and became a cake in the bottom when it was cold, and looked as if it had been SALT and SULPHUR in a certain proportion melted together, but as I remember was not at all inflammable. This ground again on a marble did take up in Spring Water, and turned it of a Reddish purple Colour.

11. That by often calcining and filtering this EARTH I did at last extract about two ounces of a fine small White SALT which looked at through a good microscope seemed to have sides and angles in the same manner and figure as Rock-petre.

A Diary and Practice given by Mr. Oughtred to Mr. Thomas Henshaw, from whose MSS. I copied it. June 6th. 1668.

Rx. 3 ounces of our Spirit washed as it should be, till it be clean and of a Celestial colour, then strain it, and take $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce of our pure Body unmixed with anything; amalgameatur laveatur usque dum ad purritatem permanent.

3 ounces of our Spirit washed and strained, and $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce of pure Soul, and wash them likewise till they can be no cleaner.

Then put them all together into our Oval artificially closed, whose neck shall be so long as will serve to open and nip three times more. Which Oval shall be so great that three parts remain empty. Put it into our Three-fold Furnace in a compassing heat primi gradus, being so easy that it may be equivalent to the natural heat of the body. Then let it stand 40 days or 6 weeks, in which time our Matter will have a Superficial Blackness, our Soul animating the Spirit, and the Spirit piercing the Body for Dissolution. This done, draw the Fountain, so do with the Bath and

that you leave but 1 ounce in your Oval, which proportion is One to One. Nip it artificially, and keep the Animated Spirit in calore Simplicis primi ignitu nutritius in another glass nipped. Then set the other Oval closed, in our Threefold furnace, for NOW DOTH OUR WORK BEGIN, and being so set continue it in the furnace keeping it always warm, cum igne primi gradus ad interparationem primoe formie.

The Tokens whereof is the growing and increasing of Blackness, which will be done in 90 days or near, and in 20 days after or thereabouts he will put off his mourning weeds, and as right is (exhaling moisture) challenge to himself the Second Colour of the World, the day appearing in the East all which must be done igne continuato.

Then increase thy heat usque ad secundum gradum usque ad congelationem and delbatianem, at which time take our Waters, which till this Time thou hast nourished igne primo and quas per artificum nostram haustist in terra, which will be in all $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces or $44\frac{1}{8}$ ounces and thereof take $7\frac{1}{8}$ ounces for thy seamen imbibitionis in the First Rotation, and there will be $1\frac{1}{8}$ ounce for every imbibition, keeping the rest. I mean $37\frac{1}{8}$ ounces of our Water in igne primo nutritiuo.

We diet the thirsty Body with this said proportion WARM, and then congeal him, and tune iterum bibat and congeletur and dealbitur septies solis calore vel igni secundi gradus, ades ut non comedat res ullus festinautur, and thus having imbibed and congealed 7 times, then is our Rotation ended, and the Matter is $15\frac{1}{8}$ ounces.

Then for the Second Rotation, to those $15\frac{1}{8}$ ounces of our Warm Water, and it maketh $30\frac{1}{8}$ ounces having now spent just half the water and left only $22\frac{1}{8}$ ounces for thy Imbibitions for this Second Rotation. Shut thy Oval philosophically and begin in the West; pass to the North, igne primo continuato; until the Eclipse be past and so dawning and growing White then mayst thou anon

increase the fire till it be as hot as in the bare hand thou mayst endure it; with which heat he will be white, then increase the heat ad tertium gradum, the better to whiten and congeal him. Then it being cold take our 8 1/8 ounces or 1 ounce for the making of new Sperm; and then thou leavest 22 1/8 ounces in thy Womb, which 8 1/8 ounces or 1 ounce thou shalt amalgamate with 24 1/8 ounces of our pure Spirit as at the first, strained and washed, and then as before nourish cum igne primo nutrituo that it may be fit Water to imbibe our Thirsty Body withall being in the meantime till you have made thy drink fit, thou mayst imbibe the thirsty Body being 22 1/8 ounces with your 22 1/8 ounces of Water remaining, having for every of the first 6 imbibitions 3 1/8 ounces, and for the 7th. 4 1/8 ounces; which thou mayst boldly, because through his manifold imbibitions and dessications he hath gotten a strong stomach, of better digestion.

In imbibing listen to Rasis, saying, "Qusties corpus imbibitur, to ties dissicatur", and thus having shewed thy charitable devotion in imbibing the hungry and thirsty Body until thou hast at 7 draughts given him all thy drink, increase thy heat at tertium gradum the better to congela and fix it up, and there is an end of the Second Rotation.

For the Third Rotation, add unto the 44 1/8 ounces or 5 1/2 ounces of our last made Waters, which was in quantity 25 1/8 ounces, and our matter is then 11 ounces just, then having first philosophically shut up thy Vessel nourish him as at the first cum igne nutritue primo, and so to the West again, and then to the North by obscure Eclepsation igne primo semper continuato, until the rivers be dried, at which time by little and little growing whitish he will by little and little strip himself to his shirt, then increase thy heat till his chamber so hot as in thy bare hand thou mayst suffer to hold it, and so forward ad ignem tertium gradum, which augmentation of heat will fix him well.

Then imbibe him with 11 ounces of our Water 7 times, and you

shall have for every of the imbibitions $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, and for the 7th., 2 ounces, which draught he will easily drink without glutting he is become so strong. IMBIBE ALWAYS WITH WARM WATER AS NORTON SAYETH, all liquors should be refused which frost infecteth and should not be used. The cause why, as telleth Authors old, is BECAUSE THEIR ACTIVITY IS DULLED WITH COLD, always congealing after every imbibition the better to provoke appetite, and at the last congealation augment the heat ad periodum ignis tertigradus, that thou mayest fix him perfectly. And then thou hast the white Elixir of the 3rd. Order, fluxible as Wax, exceeding snow in whiteness, in weight 22 ounces, frigescat ac dividutue.

And continue the other half, I mean 11 ounces in our Third fire in the Chamber philosophically shut, until he be Red, then augment the fire ad quartum gradum (if thou darest for fear of vitrification) the better to confirm colour and fixation, for the more he is in the fire the and perfecter will his Tincture be, therefore let him rest awhile, but vitrify not, et frigescat vas gradatim. Then take out our Red Elixir, Red as Blood, which thou mayst multiply thus.

Take from these 11 ounces, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, whereof keep 2 ounces for thy use in transmutation at thy pleasure, and with the half ounce make now milk to feed the Child. Amalgamate it with 24 ounces of our Spirit washed and strained as at the first, and now resting it 40 days or longer till having added $8\frac{1}{2}$ ounces which remained of the Water, part of the 25 ounces made at the Second Rotation, thou hast in a fit Womb philosophically shut, turned the Wheel from the West to the South, where he must rest till that he be at the period of Redness and fixation. Then retrograde by degrees thy heat ad tertium gradum, and feed our Child being in weight 17 ounces, seven times with your 24 ounces of our Milk, promoting appetite after every draught, and thou shalt have for every of the four first, 3 ounces, and for every of the 3 last draughts 4 ounces, and after thy last draught direct thy heat as before,

ad quartum gradum or as much as thou canst for Vitfrication, and let our Child rest the better to confirm Tincture and fixation.

There thou hast 41 ounces of our Red Elixir, which thou mayst multiply to thy lives end.

Thank God for it.

The Diary .

1. August 12th. SATURN. I put my Matter into my Oval being of a Celestial Blue colour, and so continuing him in his Chamber hermetically sealed, and warmed with our first degree of fire.

August 16th. MERCURY. It was swollen higher, about $1/3$ of an inch, having a pellicule like that which is about an Embryo, of a pale colour mixed a little with yellow and Red, like the Corone about the Moon against Wet.

Within that Membrane were 17 little Ampulles simmering like Butter on a small fire, and the Membranes head had bright Azure veins here and there like those of Bladder. This Membrane seemed to enclose the Matter round.

2. August 29th. The Ampulloe continued becoming of a Bright, shining, Saturnine colour, and so was the Membrane, and towards the circumference, quite round it was of a sub-Citrine colour, and the whole Matter seemed to swim in a little Black Water round about the Membrane, between it and the glass.

3. September 8th. VENUS. The Matter did magis in superficies nigrescered vel membrane circunte the Membrane on the one side did pucker like a purse mouth, but still with a shining Blackness, swelling, simmering, and bubbling more and more, the sub Citrine colour at the circumference growing now to Saturnine and seemed to make inwardly to his center or bottom of the Matter.

4. At 40 days and my matter swelling, bubbling and blistering, there appeared Veins of marvellous diaphanity that might easily be seen in the dark. At the making my separation, my Water was much thinner than MERCURY common, and as bright shining as the brightness of Fountain Water when the Sun gloriously shineth upon it. Notwithstanding the thickness of my water, it did stick to my glass Basin, and there came upon his face, here and there an unctuous Blackness, so that by his Unctuousness, his Quickness and his sticking to my glass. Thinner and brighter beyond measure than that which is on a Looking glass, I am right sure he is Animated, and hath subtilled the Body and hath gotten some part thereof. But before I separated my Matter it had an Unctuous Black Superficies in the middle, and towards the circumference it was a Brownish Black.

And the Water verily seemed to be of a pale Saturnine colour, but being separated it was most gloriously Bright and shining marvellously, and the Body and Soul both spiritualised, which were after Separation a GREASY EARTH, WITH MARVELLOUS DIAPHANITY, 1oz. which I put into the Chamber philosophically sealed up.

Sept. 21st.

5. October 5th. JUPITER. My White greasy Earth had bubbled and swelled, so that it was not terra cum superfice plana, but montibus ebulli usque plena, changing his white diaphanity colour into greyish. Nothing ascending but working marvellously in himself, at which time I made my heat to be of the middle of the first degree, and so continued, Saturn predominating in nostro coele.

6. October 20th.- Oct. 23rd. My Matter had more and more swollen being of a bright Saturnine colour, very spongeous, palish, sending a bright, Crystalline dew to the Top of the glass which did guttatine descendere like a bright, thin swelling Water.

7. December 3rd. I see two or three little round sparkling stars like the Eyes of Fishes, which sight I had seen many times 3 weeks before, but still they turned to a Blackish colour deeper than Saturn, and amongst the Stars was one exceeding bright like an Oriental Pearl. My Matter still bubbling and swelling like melted Pitch, and increasing his Blackness far deeper than Saturns coat.

Note. All the bubbling and swelling is imperceptible at the present, until it had stirred a good deal, so that though I could never perceive any motion in my Matter, yet I could easily perceive it had moved and altered.

8. Jan. 1 st. LUNA. My Matter seemed to dessicate and whiten, and from December 20th. being the 90th. day, it continued at its period like the Crows Bill, Blue as Lead, or as I may say, Black. Albedine quodam obfuseata, Till the said Jan. 1 st., so that it was apparent the Waters began to dry, and my Matter whitened by little and little.

9. Jan. 11 th. MERCURY. My Matter shewed more and more drying, plainly, and White, like a fair Winters night with Stars here and there whereof one was as big as a good seed Pearl shining as bright as the Sun beams or polished Silver, being whitish, yellowish, and Azure and twinckling with marvellous diaphanity no moisture ascending as before when it sent up the Crystalline Dew.

10. Jan. 29th. MERCURY. There appeared a flood of Water coming out of my Matter's side marvellously bright, with a shining White Yellowishness, bigger than a Bean, and dried the next day at night, so dried as if it never had been moist; and pale like all the other Earth. No Moisture at all ascending the like was on Jan. 27th. SATURN; which appeared in the morning and continued liquid all the day, but by little and little it dried and by LUNA morning it was a Solid Substance of a bright Citrine colour, but on

MERCURY it was dried as the other was and of a Grey Colour mixed with Azurine like the other, with many bright sparks here and there in it.

11. Feb. 7th. MERCURY. There came forth a flood of Water greater than the former one of my Matter, which was marvellous bright in colour like the other, but at the sides it was more Citrine or inclined towards reddish. Next day it was much dried being of a bright citrine colour. On VENUS next it was more and more dried. On LUNA it was quite dried.

Feb. 13th. MARS. There was another flood, bright and Citrine and Whiteish, and the next morning it was dried up.

Feb. 26th. SOL. There was another little flood but very thick, by reason of much dryness, for it would hardly shake. And in the Middle of my Matter was a Red Spark, like a drop of Red Blood. Next morning the flood was dry but the Red Spark continued with as deep a colour as before but more splendid.

Feb. 28th. MARS. There came out a flood thicker than before, it was of the like colour with the other, and at night it was dried; On MERCURY there came a thicker than than that, at which time I took up my glass and turned it aside a little so that the River run upon the Earth, and was presently drunk up. The Red Spark which was seen still remaining.

March 6th. There was a little coagulate as big as a good Pearl, in colour of SOL bright and shining.

March 22nd. JUPITER. I took up my glass and turned it, and my Matter appeared in a manner Metalline bright, shining betwixt grey and White, and the Clouds have left rising and the Rivers dried up.

April 21 st. VENUS. My Matter was turned into a Round Earth as big as a Nut and very White, which has so continued a fortnight, but now it begins to chink and gape by reason of his dryness.

May 2nd. It did more and more chink and grow ragged, like a great Stone, continuing his Whiteness still.

May 24th. I took out my inward pot for adding heat. I altered my heat 2 hours before, at which my Matter was still not without some clouds that were not dried up for lack of heat, because for 20 days together I used the 1 st. degree of heat.

May 25th. I increased my heat more to my proposed purposes.

May 30 th. I increased my heat to the period of tertium gradus and my Matter fused like Wax.

June 14th. It was again within the same degree coagulated very well. Note, that in fusion and his coagulation, he was fixed and White.

Aug. 10th. MARS. I ground my Matter and it fell to a Grey, Greasey Earth, Subtil and soft. This I did at this house and then put it into the 1 st. degree of heat.

Here ends the Diary.



Gathering May Dew

from: **L I B E R A L I T Y**