

to insert several of them in fit places of that *History*, against the next *Edition*. Here is a certain Stone, that is thought to be petrefyed Bone, being shap'd like a Bone, with the Marrow taken out; but with a fit *Menstruum*, I found that I could easily dissolve it, like other soft Stones: and possibly it may prove as fit as *Osteocola*, for the same Medicinal Uses.

*Of the nature of a certain Stone, found in the Indies, in the head of a Serpent.*

There was, some while ago, sent by Sir *Phileberto Vernatti* from *Java major*, where he resides, to Sir *Robert Moray*, for the Repository of the *Royal Society*, a certain Stone, affirmed by the Presenter to be found in the Head of a *Snake*, which laid upon any Wound, made by any venomous Creature, is said to stick to it, and so draws away all Poyson: and then, being put in Milk, to void its Poyson therein, and to make the Milk turn blew; in which manner it must be used, till the Wound be cleansed.

The like Relations having been made, by several others, of such a Stone, and some also in this City affirming, to have made the Experiment with success, it was thought worth while, to inquire further into the truth of this Matter: since which time, nothing hath been met with but an Information, delivered by that Ingenious *Parisian*, Monsieur *Thevenot*, in his second Tome, of the *Relations of divers considerable Voyages*, whereof he lately presented some Exemplars to his Friends in *England*. The Book being in French, and not common, 'tis conceived it will not be amiss to insert here the said Information, which is to this effect:

In the *East Indies*, and in the Kingdom of *Quamsy* in *China*, there is found a Stone in the Head of certain Serpents (which they call by a name signifying *Hairy Serpents*) which heals the bitings of the same Serpent, that else would kill in 24 hours. This Stone is round, white in the middle, and about the edges



edges blew or greenish. Being applied to the Wound, it adheres to it of it self, and falls not off, but after it hath sucked the Poyson : Then they wash it in Milk, wherein 'tis left awhile, till it return to its natural condition. It is a rare Stone, for if it be put the second time upon the Wound, and stick to it, 'tis a sign it had not suck'd all the Venome during its first application ; but if it stick not, 'tis a mark that all the Poyson was drawn out at first. So far our *French* Author : wherein appears no considerable difference from the written Relation before mentioned.

*Of the way, used in the Mogol's Dominions, to make Saltpetre.*

This is delivered in the same Book of Monsieur *Thevenot*, and the manner of it having been inquired after, by several curious Persons, to compare it with that which is used in *Europe*, 'tis presum'd, they will not be displeased to finde it inserted here in *English*, which is as followeth :

*Saltpetre* is found in many places of the *East Indies*, but chiefly about *Agra*, and in the Villages, that heretofore have been numerously inhabited, but are now deserted. They draw it out of three sorts of Earth, black, yellow, and white : the best, is that which is drawn out of the black, for it is free from *common* Salt. They work it in this manner : They make two Pits, flat at the bottom, like those wherein *common* Salt is made ; one of them having much more compass then the other, they fill *that* with Earth, upon which they let run Water, and by the feet of People they tread it, and reduce it to the consistency of a Pap, and so they let it stand for two days, that the Water may extract all the Salt that is in the Earth : Then they pass this Water into another Pit, in which it cristallizes into *Saltpetre*. They let it boil once or twice in a Caldron, according as they will have it whiter and purer. Whilst it is over the Fire, they scum it continually, and fill it out into great Earthen Pots, which

P hold