

*Some Observations on the Bath Water in
Somersetshire.*

THE smallness of the Quantity of the *Bath* Water, which I could procure at so great a distance, did not allow me Scope to try the earthy and Saline parts collectible by Evaporation. The Water was clear, and coldish to taste, not wide of the taste of common Water. It did not gild Silver, or make it yellow, as it doth at the Spring. I could discover little Alkalifate in it: It thickned and became milky with Oyl of Tartar and curdled: It did not precipitate Sublimate dissolved in common Water considerably, which upon standing some time became only a very little whitish. The Salt contained in this Water, appeared fully to be *Saltpetre*, in that it did not the least disturb a Solution of *Sal Saturni* in fair Water; but shewed a little of the Nature of common Salt more than *Saltpetre* hath, in giving a pale yellow with *Lignum Nephriticum* with a dark cloud which settled; and in taking a dull Ale colour, not fine with Tincture of Logwood, the red it took languish'd more and more: And in precipitating a Solution of fine Silver out of Spirit of Nitre in a hardish Curd, more than *Saltpetre* doth.

Those

Those that know the Nature of both Salt-petre and Sulphur, which are the Principles that impregnate this Water, must allow them to be produced by the heat of the Earth, and not to be the cause of it. If we enquire into the Cause and Original of this Heat, the Nature of the Salt evidenceth it not to be produced by any calcarious Quarry, nor the Effervescence of contrary Salts and Acids: Subterranean Fire is groundless, and hath invincible Absurdities; it may reasonably be supposed to be maintained by the Heat of the Earth; for as a considerable Heat is required to the Concoction and Preparation of Metals, and is sensibly proved in the Mine-chambers; so that Crust of dead loamy Earth that assists to maintain it, separates it from us; and though we find no such extraordinary Heat, yet the Heat of the Mines do not only prove a Heat, but imply a much greater to be where the Metal is prepared, than where it is separated. The Eruption of it at places, I pretend not to account for, but that it is different often in places not many Rods distant, is beyond doubt.

The Virtues of these Minerals well account for the Cures wrought by the *Bath*, the most which I have observed or known, having been in Tumours or Palsies from tough Phlegm; not to take notice of their exter-