

was composed of no less than sixty-six ingredients, with the properties of which the doctors were absolutely ignorant. The uses of this remedy were almost as numerous as its ingredients. It was to be taken twice a day for three years by persons who had been bitten by venomous animals or who had taken poison; for coughs, colds, flatulence, cold rigors, loss of voice, diseases of the stomach and liver, dysentery, dimness of vision, it was a sovereign remedy, while it was also matchless as a dentifrice. A medicine for dysentery was made of four parts of powdered snails and two parts of ashes of galls, mixed with one of pepper. This was to be sprinkled on the food as a condiment or taken mixed with water or wine.

Dr. Bulleyn, the court physician of Henry VIII., had several curious remedies. "Snayles," he wrote, "broken from the shells and sodden in whyte wine with oyle and sugar, are very wholesome, because they be hoat and moist, for straightness of the lungs and cold cough." Edward VI. suffered greatly from nervousness in his youth, and to cure this Bulleyn prescribed "a small young mouse roasted whole." Another of this doctor's celebrated remedies was his *Electuarium de Gemmis*, a compound of precious stones. Pearls, sapphires, jacinth, emeralds, coral, amber, ivory, "thin pieces of gold and silver, of each half a scruple"; these, together with various herbs, were mixed with honey, and the whole formed a medicine against "tumblynge of the harte, faynting and weakness of the stomach, pensiveness, solitariness. Kings and nobles have used this for their comfort. It causeth them to be bold spirited, the body to smell well, and ingendereth the face a good colure." A somewhat similar medicine was a "precious water." It was composed of thirty ingredients, including "the bone of a harte's heart grated, cut, and stamped." These were to be distilled "in simple aque vitæ, made with strong ale or sackleyes, and aniseedes, not in a common still, but in a serpentine; to tell the vertues of this water against cold, phlegme, dropsy, heaviness of minde, comming of melancholy I cannot well at this present, the excellent vertues thereof are sutch and also the tyme were too long." Dr. Mayenne, the chief doctor of his day and physician to the Courts of both France and England during the seventeenth century, had a special remedy of his own compounding. It was a "Balsum of Bats"—the name alone would frighten a patient nowadays, while the knowledge that it was composed of "adders, bats, sucking-whelps, earthworms, hog's grease, marrow of stag, and thigh bone of an ox," would certainly prevent anyone from being dosed with it. For