

The First Work upon the Quality

of water printed in America treats of it from a therapeutical standpoint. It is entitled "The Curiosities of Common Water, of the Advantages thereof in Curing Cho'lera, Intemperance and other Maladies," by John Smith, C.M. It was printed in Boston, Massachusetts, from the London edition of 1712, for Joseph Edwards, at the corner shop on the north side of Town House, in 1725. It calls special attention to the excellency of water as a drink, and enumerates its therapeutical attributes as follows ; " It cures gout and hypochondriacal melancholy ; it benefits gravel and stone in the bladder ; it makes the child grow strong in the womb, and increases the mother's milk ; it stays hunger, for there was a certain crank-brained man, who, at Leyden, when Dr. Carr was there at the University, pretended that he could fast as long as Christ, and it was found that he held out the term of forty days without eating any food, only he drank water and smoked tobacco. Water is also of great use to strengthen weak children ; it prevents swelling from bruises, sickness of the stomach, shortness of breath and vomiting ; it cures fluxes, constipation, colic, small-pox, etc."