

gout Dr. Mayenne prescribed a powder made "of the raspings of a human skull unburied."

A certain cure for headache was to tie a halter, with which a man had been hanged, about the head; moss growing on a human skull dried and powdered and taken as snuff would also cure headache. To cure toothache a nail was driven into an oak-tree, extracted, and then placed against the aching molar. People who suffer from poor memories are recommended to try one of the following remedies. Bacon says that "brains of hares and fowls in wine" form a good memory strengthener. Another physician recommended a hazel-nutful of mole's fat mixed with calcined human hair; bear's grease well rubbed into the head "will also be found greatly comforting to the memory." A piece of beef stolen from a butcher's shop and rubbed upon warts would remove them; the beef had to be buried, and as it decayed so would the warts disappear. To rub warts upon a corpse was a certain means to drive them away. Towards the end of the seventeenth century charms were very popular in England. The Fourth Book of Homer placed under the patient's head would cure quartan ague. Ashmole, in his diary writes:—"I took early in the morning a good dose of elixir, and hung three spiders about my neck, and they drove ague away. Thanks be to God." It may be noted that he ascribes the cure to the spiders, not to the dose of medicine. The custom of giving babies when teething a coral necklace is the survival of an old superstition that coral warded off the Evil Eye. Paracelsus recommended it to be kept around the necks of children as a remedy against fits, sorcery, charms and poisons. Another ancient doctor wrote:—"Corall bound round the neck takes away turbulent dreams, and allays the nightly fears of children. It preserveth such as bear it from fascination or bewitching, and in this respect is hanged about children's necks."

Tobacco, when first introduced into Europe, was esteemed on account of its medicinal properties only. It was said to cure "any griefs, dolor, imposture, or obstruction in the head or breast, rumes, catarrhs, hoarseness, aches in the head, stomach, lungs, breast." "A sirup made of the decoction of this herb with sufficient sugar and so taken in a very small quantity dischargeth the breast from phlegmatic matter." Many wild assertions were made about "the herbs," one doctor going so far as to say that tobacco would cure every disease. The reader will doubtless remember how Robinson Crusoe cured himself of the ague with rum steeped with tobacco. The following extract from a matron's letter