

ready described, of which several have died. An *Apople*, which (according to the present Acceptation of the Word) does not cause immediate Death, and seems to be a *Palsy* of all the *Nerves*, excepting some of those which are subservient to the Heart and Lungs; hence it is that the *Intellect*, all *Sensation* and *Motion* are lost, nothing remaining but a high labouring Pulse and Respiration, which frequently continue for many Hours. A *Species of Suffocation*; as the Inspiration of Elastic Air is a *Sine qua non*, in continuing the Circulation of the Blood, sudden Death happens if the ambient Air is deprived of this Elasticity, by sulphureous acid Fumes, by putrid Damps of stagnating Air contain'd in Wells shut up for a long Time, we may remember several Men who have died suddenly, by being let down to cleanse such Wells. *Excessive Hemorrhages* from a Rupture of large Blood Vessels, particularly in Vomica of the Lungs. *Pulsus in the Heart and its great Vessels* suddenly damping up the Circulation of the Blood.

As *Nervous Disorders* (the most frequent Cause of sudden Deaths) and their consequential Ail's, seem, of late Years, to be more attended to here as *Essential* than formerly, it may be satisfactory to the Curious, to give some short History of them as they relate to this Climate.

New England lies in a most promising Latitude for temperate Weather; the Western Countries of Europe which lie in the same Latitude are most agreeable, their Winters being moderate as to Cold, and their Summers as to Heat, having the soft Waters or Ocean to Windward of them. The Westerly Winds in these Latitudes prevail almost three Quarters of the Year, and we having a vast Continent of Land (which because of its great Density receives and imparts a more intense Degree of Cold and Heat, than Water is capable of) West, that is to Windward of us, the Westerly Winds in their long Course do continually acquire a greater Degree of Cold or Heat, and therefore by the Time of their Arrival to us, are extremely Cold in Winter and excessively Hot in Summer, so as sometimes to exceed the Cold in high European Latitudes, and the Heat of our Island Colonies between the Tropicks. The Rigour of our Winters is from the beginning of January to the middle of February, the Torridness of our Summers is from the beginning of July to the middle of August. And these are, generally speaking, the Seasons of our Winter and Summer Palsies. Some of our Winters and Summers are temperate.

That extreme hot or cold Weather are generally the occasions of our Nervous Disorders, we shall illustrate by Instances of some few Years still recent in our Memories.

Anno 1727, the last Week of July and first Week of August extreme hot Weather; several of Mankind and of Cattle died suddenly, some old People with an unusual Faintness narrowly escaped; perhaps as a consequence of this, a Nervous and admitting Autumnal slow Fever, (called here a *burning Ague*) did prevail more than usual, and several died of it.

Last Tuesday was decently interr'd the Body of George Bethune, Esq;

After a Southerly warm Rain, the 14th Instant in the Morning came suddenly a chilly Flight of dry icy Snow, Wind at W. Northerly, freezing. This Gentleman got up in his usual apparently good State of Health; but before he went from Home, had two short fits of a Disposition to a *Syncope*, with a Complaint of Oppression *e regione Cordis*, a remora in the Circulation, and a Numbness of one Arm. He went abroad and continued some time upon the Wharff directing Affairs relating to one of his Ships, and from thence to his Warehouse, where he had another small Turn of Faintness as before; he went upon the Wharff a second Time, and upon his return to the Warehouse, said, *I am so Faint, that with Difficulty I got along*, he sat down and after some involuntary Sighings fainted away, and died as it were instantaneously about Noon. It the Evening, the *Viscera* being inspected, were all in a sound State, only the Lungs (which has no Relation to the immediate Cause of his Death) from an habitual but gentle Catarrh were somewhat *fuscid* and *intervenit*, no *Pulpy's* or other Excrecences in the *Ventricles Auricles* & great Trunks belonging to the Heart, no grumous and coagulated Blood in the great Vessels, no rupture of large Vessels with Effusion of Blood; therefore we judge that he died of a *Paralysis Cordis* the *primum Mobile* of the Machine.

*Syncope* is defined by a late practical Writer *Paralysis Cordis*. The Heart being Muscular, must be subject to the same Affections with the other Muscles, that is to *Spasms* and *Relaxations*. Thus we observe that in great Loss of Blood by V. S. or other Wounds, or in any excessive Evacuation, the Patient is *Spasmod* and falls into a temporary *Syncope*: excessive Shakes of Laughter has sometimes occasioned *Spasms* and sudden Death: immoderate Grief or Joy occasion a *flutter* in the Heart and from thence sometimes sudden Death: F. F. Esq; formerly for many Months had an *intermitting Pulse*, he was sensible of each Intermission, by a certain Oppression and *fluttering* at his Heart with involuntary Sighs, as much as any By-stander by feeling of his Pulse.

The various kinds of sudden Deaths which we have observed here lately, may be reduced to these. A *Syncope* as al-