

effects as those by the tooth of the animal itself. But what caused the greatest surprize in the court was the seeming rashness of one *Tozzi*, a viper-catcher; who, while the philosophers were giving elaborate lectures on the danger of the poison when taken internally, boldly desired that a large quantity of it might be put together, and then with the utmost confidence drank it of before them all. The court was struck with astonishment, and expected that the man would instantly fall dead; but they soon perceived their mistake, and found that taken in this manner the poison was as harmless as water. In support of this seeming contradiction that the venom of serpents should be perfectly harmless if taken inwardly, and yet so fatal if ejected into the circulation, we need only observe that milk, though one of the most mild and nourishing of all fluids, and seemingly the most friendly to the human constitution, yet if milk be injected into a vein, it will quickly become fatal, and kill with as much certainty as the venom of a viper. Hence then we may infer, that the introduction of a quantity of any mixture into the circulation would be fatal; and that consequently, serpents kill as well by their power of injecting their poison into the wound

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