

they are unable to wind themselves up to hurt their enemy: yet, notwithstanding this precaution, the viper-catchers are often bitten by them; but, by the application of olive-oil, the effect is safely obviated.

“ William Oliver, a viper-catcher, at Bath,
 “ was the first who discovered this admirable
 “ remedy. On the first of June, 1735, in the
 “ presence of a great number of persons, he
 “ suffered himself to be bit by an old black
 “ viper, brought by one of the company, upon
 “ the wrist, and joint of the thumb of the right
 “ hand, so that drops of blood came out of
 “ the wounds: he immediately felt a violent
 “ pain, both at the top of his thumb, and up
 “ his arm, even before the viper was loosened
 “ from his hand; soon after he felt a pain,
 “ resembling that of burning, trickle up his
 “ arm; in a few minutes his eyes began to
 “ look red and fiery, and to water much; in
 “ less than an hour he perceived the venom
 “ seize his heart, with a pricking pain, which
 “ was attended with faintness, shortness of
 “ breath, and cold sweats; in a few minutes
 “ after this, his belly began to swell, with
 “ great gripings, and pains in his back, which
 “ were attended with vomitings and purging;
 “ during