

which harpers, pipers, and other musicians, were sent for, who by various kinds of music endeavoured to rouse him from that stupor into which he had fallen; but here it was observed that the bites of the two insects had produced contrary effects; for by one he was incited to dance, and by the other restrained from it: and in this conflict of nature the patient died.

In his *Musurgia*, this author, attempting to account mechanically for the cure of the bite of the tarantula, by music, says of the poison, that it is sharp, gnawing and bilious, and that it is received and incorporated into the medullary substance of the fibres. With respect to the music, he says, that the sound of the chords have a power to rarify the air to a certain harmonical pitch; and that the air thus rarified, penetrating the pores of the patient's body, affects the muscles, arteries, and minute fibres, and incites him to dance; which exercise begets a perspiration in which the poison evaporates.

Unsatisfactory as this theory may appear, the belief of this strange phenomena has prevailed among the ablest of modern naturalists. Sir Thomas Brown, so far from disputing it, says, that since many attest the fact from experience, and that the learned Kircherus hath positively, averred