

them. The Hon. Mr. Robert Boyle, in his treatise of *Languid and Unheeded Motions*, speaking of the bite of the tarantula, and the cure of the disease which follows it, by means of music, says, that having himself had some doubts about the matter, he was, after strict enquiry, convinced that the relations were in the main true. Lastly, Dr. Mead, in his *Mechanical account of Poisons*, has given an essay on the tarantula, containing the substance of the above relations, and which he endeavours to confirm by his own reasoning upon the subject.

Notwithstanding the number and weight of these authorities, and the general acquiescence of learned and ingenious men in the opinion that the bite of the tarantula is poisonous, and that the cure of the disorder occasioned by it is effected by music, we have reason to apprehend that the whole is a mistake. In the *Philosophical Transactions* for the year 1672, p. 406, is an extract of a letter from Dr. Thomas Cornelia, a Neapolitan Physician, to John Doddington, Esq; his Majesty's Resident at Venice, communicated by the latter, in which, speaking of his intention to send to Mr. Doddington some tarantulas, he says, meanwhile I shall not omit to impart to you what was related to me a few days