

sactions, No. LX. for the year 1770. p. 236, is a letter from Dominico Cirillo, M. D. professor of natural history in the University of Naples, wherein taking notice of Serao's book, he says that having had an opportunity of examining the effects of this animal in the province of Taranto, where it is found in great abundance, he finds that the surprising cure of the bite of the tarantula by music has not the least truth in it, and that it is only an invention of the people, who want to get a little money by dancing when they say the *tarantism* begins. He adds, "I make no doubt
" but sometimes the heat of the climate contri-
" butes very much to warm their imaginations,
" and throw them into a delirium, which may
" be in some measure cured by music; but se-
" veral experiments have been tried with the
" tarantulas, and neither man nor animals after
" the bite have had any other complaint than a
" very trifling inflammation upon the part, like
" that produced by the bite of the scorpion,
" which goes off by itself without any danger
" at all. In Sicily, where the summer is still
" warmer than in any part of the kingdom of
" Naples, the tarantula is never dangerous;
" and music is never employed for the cure of
" the pretended tarantism." Mr. Swinburn,
when