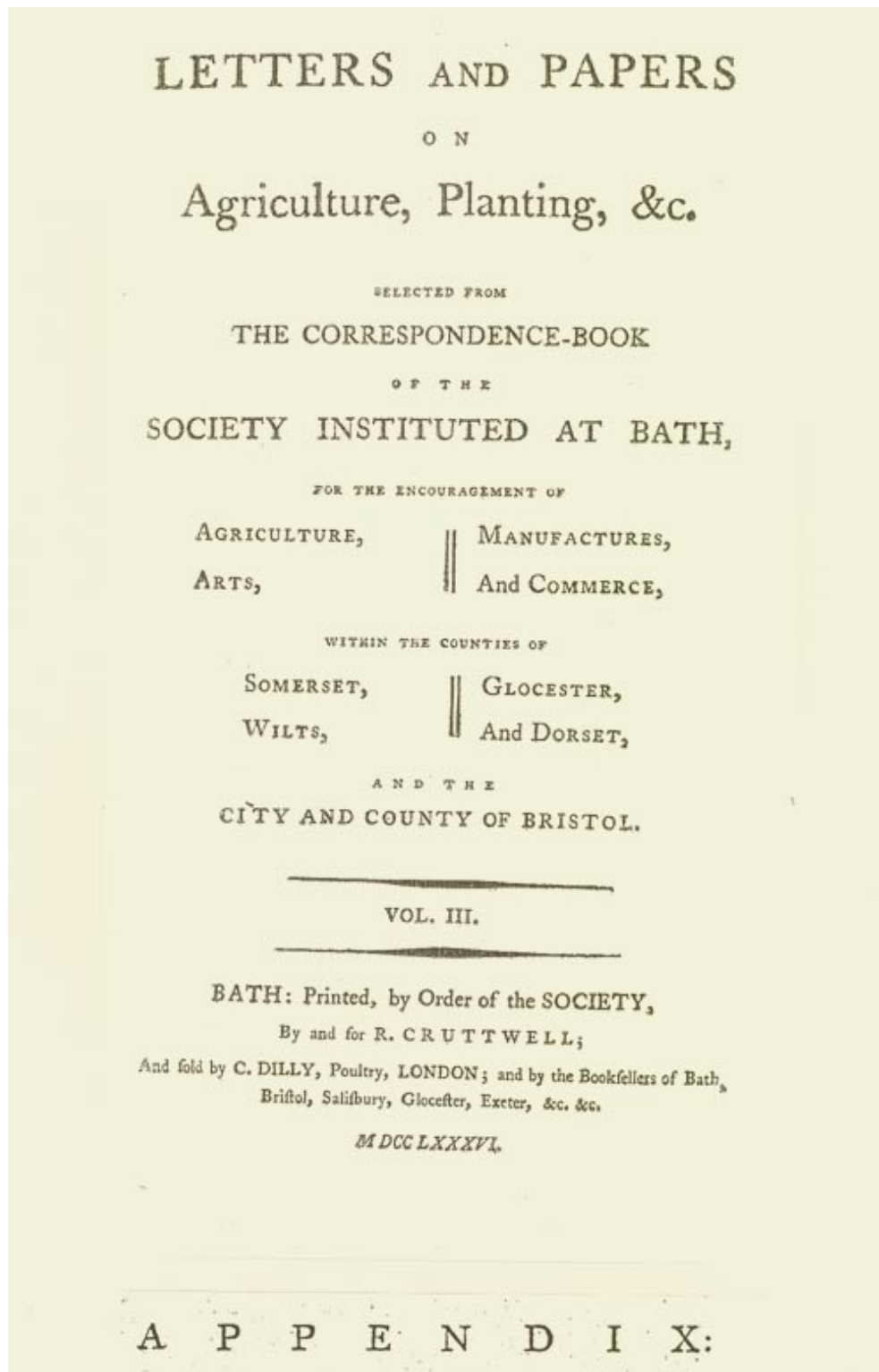


Sims RC (1791). Letter VI. Letters and Papers of the Bath Society III: 486-487.

Title pages

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF
EXPERIMENTS
ON
ENGLISH RHUBARB,
BY
DRS. FALCONER, PARRY, AND FOTHERGILL.
WITH
THE OPINIONS OF SEVERAL OTHER MEDICAL GENTLEMEN
ON ITS QUALITY AND VIRTUES.

Key passages

LETTER VI.

[From Mr. R. C. Sims, Dunmow, Essex.]

TO investigate the medical properties and powers of rhubarb of English growth, and to determine the proportion of its strength to that of the Turkey and East-Indian sort, with any degree of accuracy, is a nice and difficult point. It requires the consideration of the differences which may occur in the specimens themselves, in the constitution and present state of the stomach and bowels of the persons taking it, and in the season and other incidental causes of difference. Many of these circumstances are obscure enough to escape or baffle the observation of a diligent enquirer; and yet so efficacious in changing and determining the medical powers of a medicine, as to cause the same drug to produce very different effects in different persons, or even in the same person on different trials; and at another time to cause two drugs, of different medical powers, to produce effects nearly similar: therefore nothing less than a variety of different trials, repeated by different persons for a length of time, can establish certainty in this case. It would be wrong to amuse with crude experiments.

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