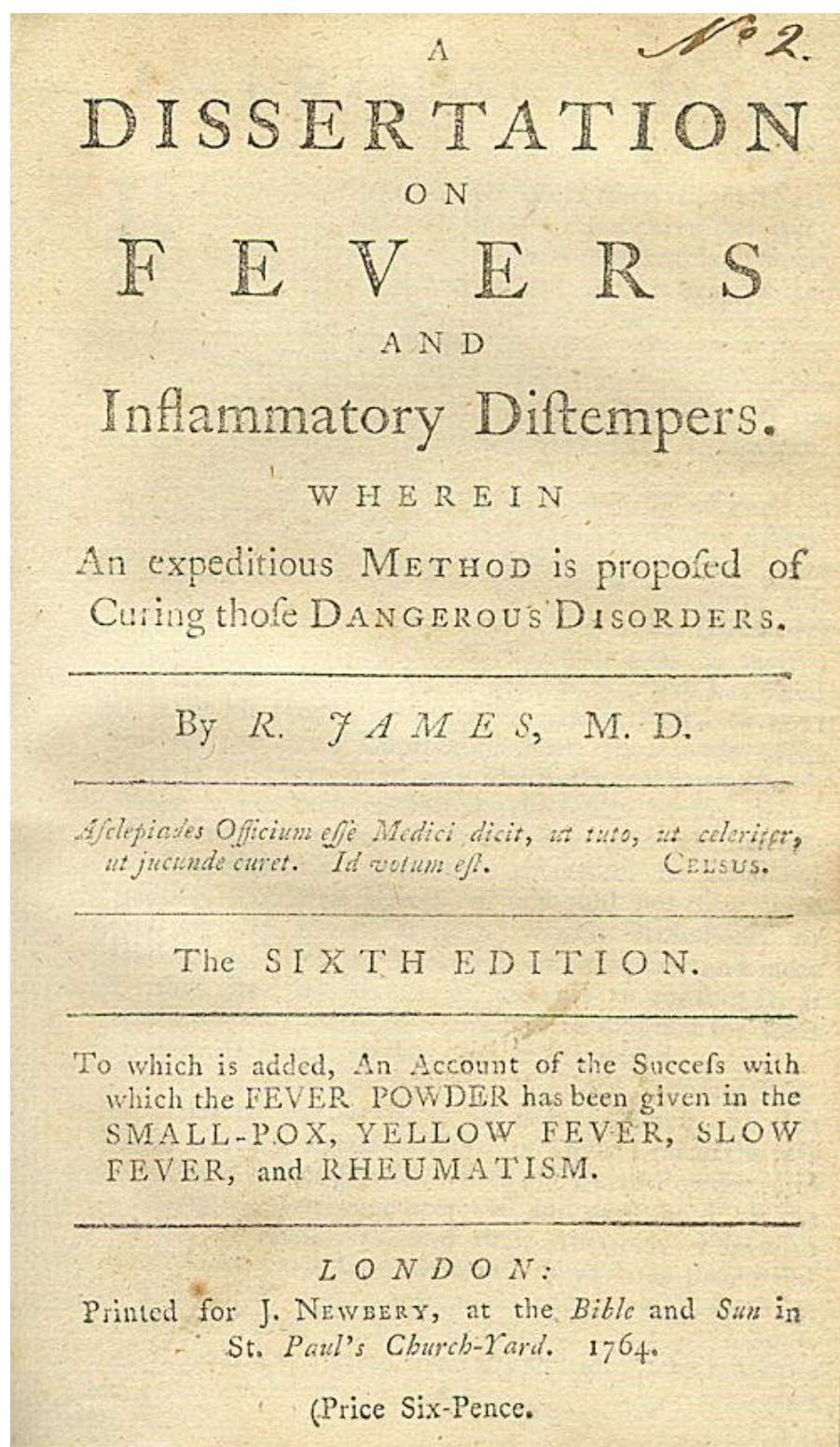


James R (1764). A dissertation on fevers and inflammatory distempers.
6th edn. London: Newbery.



INTRODUCTION.

IT is now more than twelve Years since the first Edition of this Book was published, and there are many Reasons to presume it has had considerable Efficacy for the Advantage and Benefit of the human Species, and contributed to the saving of a great many Lives, by promoting the Use of a Medicine, whose salutary Effects there are very few unacquainted with throughout the whole *British* Dominions, or in any other Part of the World, where our Commerce has conveyed it, and propagated its Use.

Among the many Reasons that may be assigned in Favour of this Medicine, it is proper to mention a Few.

One is, that Mr. *Newbery*, besides what he has given to Objects of Charity, has, since its Publication, disposed of 1612800 Doses, and, perhaps, the Discoverer of it has given away to the Indigent near as many; for it has been refused to no poor Person who has asked for it at his House, whether he was at home or not: And yet few or no Complaints have been made of its Want of Efficacy, or of any ill Effects it has produced, though it has been exhibited principally by People utterly void of all medicinal Knowledge, and without the least Pretence to it. It would, therefore, be somewhat amazing, that the Success of it should not have been equal in the Hands of those, whose Professions, or Trades, consist in the Treatment of Diseases; and more so, that they should not be ashamed to confess it, if certain obvious Reasons could not be assigned for their Disappointments, whether real or pretended.

Another Argument in Favour of this Medicine may be deduced from the Bills of Mortality, which are published every Year at, or about Christmas, in most of the News-Papers. That the Public may see, and judge of the Weight of this Argument, I have subjoined an Account of the respective Numbers of Persons who have died within the Bills of Mortality for the last forty-five Years.

1718	————	26,523	1741	————	32,169
1719	————	28,347	1742	————	27,483
1720	————	25,454	1743	————	25,200
1721	————	26,142	1744	————	20,606
1722	————	25,750	1745	————	21,296
1723	————	29,197	1746	————	28,157
1724	————	25,952	1747	————	25,494
1725	————	25,523	1748	————	23,869
1726	————	29,647	1749	————	25,516
1727	————	28,418	1750	————	23,727
1728	————	27,810	1751	————	21,028
1729	————	29,722	1752	————	20,485
1730	————	26,761	1753	————	19,276
1731	————	25,262	1754	————	22,696
1732	————	23,358	1755	————	21,917
1733	————	29,233	1756	————	20,872
1734	————	26,062	1757	————	21,313
1735	————	23,538	1758	————	17,576
1736	————	27,581	1759	————	19,273
1737	————	27,823	1760	————	20,381
1738	————	25,825	1761	————	16,725
1739	————	25,432	1762	————	26,326
1740	————	30,811	1763	————	26,143

The impartial Reader will undoubtedly have some Satisfaction in observing, that since the Year 1750, about which Time the Powder began to be in Reputation, till the End of the Year 1763, fewer have died, upon an Average, than in any preceding thirteen Years, during the last forty-five Years; though the Increase of Inhabitants has, in that Time, been very considerable, and though the Seasons have not been remarkably healthy. I am sensible that one or more political Arithmeticians have, from the Decrease of Burials, concluded, that the Number of Inhabitants were dimi-

nished. But I believe the Books of the Surveyors of Windows will readily demonstrate the contrary: For the Number of Inhabitants in a great and populous City, will always bear some Proportion to that of the Windows. In the Years 1762 and 1763 the Numbers of Burials rose very high; but not to so many by Thousands as they had done several Years since 1738. In the Year 1762, the epidemical Distemper commonly known by the Name of the *Influenza*, which began early in the Spring, carried off more People than any popular Disease which has been known for many Years past. And the subsequent hard Winter destroyed Multitudes of aged and weak People, Children, and those whom the preceding epidemical Distemper had wounded, and left unable to struggle with the Season. The Frost set in on *Christmas-Eve*, and, consequently, the Burials it added to the Bills of Mortality happened principally in 1763. It is scarcely necessary to mention, that, during the last Year, great Numbers arrived in *London*, from the Army and Navy, in no likely Condition to survive the Year.

But some other Circumstances, not to be passed over in Silence, have happened, which readily account for the Mortality of the two preceding Years. For, about the latter End of 1761, many Chymists in *London* began to counterfeit the Fever Powder, and recommend their Adulterations as equally effectual, with all the Confidence that might be expected from Avarice and Knavery. And, no doubt, many have perished by this infamous Delusion.