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**The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.**

In Four Volumes

**Addison, Joseph**

**London, 1721**

No 226. Tuesday, September 19. 1710.

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N<sup>o</sup> 226. Tuesday, September 19. 1710.

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---- *Juvenis quondam, nunc Femina Caneus,  
Et fato in veterem rursus revoluta figuram.* Virg.

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*From my own Apartment, September 18.*

**I**T is one of the designs of this paper to transmit to Posterity an account of every thing that is monstrous in my own times. For this reason I shall here publish to the world the Life of a person who was neither man nor woman, as written by one of my ingenious Correspondents, who seems to have imitated *Plutarch* in that multifarious Erudition, and those occasional dissertations, which he has wrought into the body of his history. The Life I am putting out, is that of *Margery, alias John Young*, commonly known by the name of *Dr. Young*, who (as the town very well knows) was a woman that practised Physick in man's clothes, and after having had two wives and several children, died about a month since.

S I R,

“ **I** Here make bold to trouble you with a short account of the famous  
 “ *Doctor Young's* life, which you may call (if you please) a second  
 “ part of the Farce of the *Sham Doctor*. This perhaps will not seem so  
 “ strange to you, who (if I am not mistaken) have somewhere mentio-  
 “ ned with Honour your Sister *Kirleus* as a Practitioner both in Phy-  
 “ sick and Astrology: But in the common opinion of mankind, a She-  
 “ quack is altogether as strange and astonishing a creature as a Centaur  
 “ that practised Physick in the days of *Achilles*, or as King *Phys* in the  
 “ *Rehearsal*. *Æsculapius*, the great Founder of your Art, was particu-  
 “ larly famous for his Beard, as we may conclude from the behaviour of  
 “ a Tyrant, who is branded by Heathen historians as guilty both of Sa-  
 “ crilege and Blasphemy, having robbed the Statue of *Æsculapius* of a

“ thick

“ thick bushy golden beard, and then alledged for his excuse, *That it*  
 “ *was a shame the Son should have a Beard when his Father Apollo had*  
 “ *none.* This latter instance indeed seems something to favour a Female  
 “ Professor, since (as I have been told) the antient statues of *Apollo* are  
 “ generally made with the head and face of a Woman: Nay, I have  
 “ been credibly informed by those who have seen them both, that the  
 “ famous *Apollo* in the *Belvidera* did very much resemble *Dr. Young*.  
 “ Let that be as it will, the Doctor was a kind of *Amazon* in Physick,  
 “ that made as great devastations and slaughters as any of our chief He-  
 “ roes in the art, and was as fatal to the *English* in these our days, as the  
 “ famous *Joan d' Arc* was in those of our Forefathers.

“ I do not find any thing remarkable in the life I am about to write till  
 “ the year 1695, at which time the Doctor, being about twenty three  
 “ years old, was brought to bed of a Bastard Child. The scandal of such  
 “ a Misfortune gave so great uneasiness to pretty Mrs. *Peggy*, (for that  
 “ was the name by which the Doctor was then called) that she left her  
 “ Family, and followed her Lover to *London*, with a fixed resolution  
 “ some way or other to recover her lost reputation: But instead of chang-  
 “ ing her Life, which one would have expected from so good a disposition  
 “ of mind, she took it in her head to change her Sex. This was soon  
 “ done by the help of a Sword, and a pair of Breeches. I have reason  
 “ to believe, that her first design was to turn Man-midwife, having her  
 “ self had some experience in those affairs: But thinking this too nar-  
 “ row a foundation for her future fortune, she at length bought her a  
 “ Gold Button Coat, and set up for a Physician. Thus we see the same  
 “ fatal miscarriage in her youth made Mrs. *Young* a Doctor, that for-  
 “ merly made one of the same Sex a Pope.

“ The Doctor succeeded very well in his business at first, but very  
 “ often met with accidents that disquieted him. As he wanted that deep  
 “ magisterial Voice which gives authority to a prescription, and is abso-  
 “ lutely necessary for the right pronouncing of those words, *Take these*  
 “ *Pills*, he unfortunately got the nickname of the *Squeaking Doctor*.  
 “ If this circumstance alarmed the Doctor, there was another that gave  
 “ him no small disquiet, and very much diminished his gains. In short,  
 “ he found himself run down as a superficial prating Quack, in all families  
 “ that had at the head of them a cautious Father, or a jealous Husband.  
 “ These would often complain among one another, that they did not  
 “ like such a smock-faced Physician; though in truth had they known  
 “ how justly he deserved that name, they would rather have favoured  
 “ his practice, than have apprehended any thing from it.

“ Such were the motives that determind Mrs. *Young* to change her  
 “ condition, and take in marriage a virtuous young woman, who lived  
 “ with her in good reputation, and made her the Father of a very pret-  
 “ ty Girl. But this part of her happiness was soon after destroyed by a  
 “ distemper which was too hard for our Physician, and carried off his  
 “ Wife. The Doctor had not been a Widow long, before he married  
 “ his second Lady, with whom also he lived in very good understand-  
 “ ing. It so happened, that the Doctor was with Child at the same  
 “ time that his Lady was; but the little ones coming both together, they  
 “ passd for Twins. The Doctor having entirely established the reputa-  
 “ tion of his manhood, especially by the birth of the Boy of whom he  
 “ had been lately delivered, and who very much resembles him, grew in-  
 “ to good business, and was particularly famous for the cure of Venereal  
 “ Distempers; but would have had much more practice among his own  
 “ Sex, had not some of them been so unreasonable as to demand certain  
 “ proofs of their cure, which the Doctor was not able to give them,  
 “ The florid blooming look, which gave the Doctor some uneasiness at  
 “ first, instead of betraying his Person, only recommended his Physick.  
 “ Upon this occasion I cannot forbear mentioning what I thought a very  
 “ agreeable surprize in one of *Molieres* Plays, where a young woman  
 “ applies her self to a sick Person in the habit of a Quack, and speaks to  
 “ her Patient, who was something scandalized at the youth of his Phy-  
 “ sician, to the following purpose—*I begun to practise in the Reign*  
 “ *of Francis I. and am now in the hundred and fiftieth year of my age;*  
 “ *but, by the virtue of my Medicaments, have maintained my self in the*  
 “ *same beauty and freshnes I had at fifteen.* For this reason *Hippo-*  
 “ *crates* lays it down as a rule, that a Student in Physick should have a  
 “ found Constitution, and a healthy Look; which indeed seem as ne-  
 “ cessary Qualifications for a Physician, as a good Life, and virtuous Be-  
 “ haviour, for a Divine. But to return to our subject. About two  
 “ years ago the Doctor was very much afflicted with the Vapours, which  
 “ grew upon him to such a degree, that about six weeks since they made  
 “ an end of him. His death discovered the disguise he had acted un-  
 “ der, and brought him back again to his former Sex. 'Tis said, that  
 “ at his burial the Pall was held up by six Women of some fashion. The  
 “ Doctor left behind him a Widow, and two Fatherless Children, if they  
 “ may be called so, besides the little Boy before-mentioned. In relation  
 “ to whom we may say of the Doctor, as the good old Ballad about *The*  
 “ *Children in the Wood* says of the unnatural Uncle, that he was Father  
 “ and

“ and Mother both in one. These are all the circumstances that I could  
 “ learn of Doctor *Young's* Life, which might have given occasion to ma-  
 “ ny obscene fictions: But as I know those would never have gained a  
 “ place in your paper, I have not troubled you with any impertinence of  
 “ that nature; having stuck to the truth very scrupulously, as I always do  
 “ when I subscribe my self,

S I R, Your, &c.

I shall add, as a Postscript to this Letter, that I am informed, the fa-  
 mous *Saltero*, who sells Coffee in his Musæum at *Chelsea*, has by him a  
 curiosity which helped the Doctor to carry on his Imposture, and will  
 give great satisfaction to the curious Inquirer.

N<sup>o</sup> 229. Tuesday, September 26. 1710.

*Questam meritis sume superbiam.*

Hor.

*From my own Apartment, September 25.*

**T**HE whole Creation preys upon it self: Every living Creature is  
 inhabited. A Flea has a thousand invisible Insects that tease him  
 as he jumps from place to place, and revenge our quarrels upon  
 him. A very ordinary Microscope shows us, that a Louse is it self a  
 very lousie creature. A Whale, besides those Seas and Oceans in the  
 several vessels of his body, which are filled with innumerable shoals of  
 little Animals, carries about it a whole world of inhabitants; insomuch  
 that, if we believe the calculations some have made, there are more living  
 Creatures which are too small for the naked eye to behold about the Le-  
 viathan, than there are of visible Creatures upon the face of the whole  
 Earth. Thus every nobler Creature is at it were the basis and support  
 of multitudes that are his inferiors.

This consideration very much comforts me, when I think on those  
 numberless Vermin that feed upon this paper, and find their sustenance  
 out of it; I mean, the small Wits and Scribblers that every day turn a  
 Penny