Appendix 2

Of the Hemicrania, or Megrim.

The Megrim is properly a disease affecting the one side of the head, right, or left. It sometimes passeth no higher than the temporal muscels, otherwhiles it reacheth to the top of the crown. The caus of such pain proceedeth eithee from the veins and external arteries, or from the meninges, or from the verie substance of the brain or from the pericranium, or the hairie scalp covering the pericranium, or lastly, from putrid vapors arising to the head from the ventricle, womb, or other inferior member. Is the caus of pain proceed from hot, thin and vaporous blood, which will yield to no medicines, a verie necessarie, profitable and speedie remedie may bee had by opening an arterie in the temples, whether the diseas proceed from internal or external vessels. [...] I have experimented this in manie, but especially in the Prince de la Roche-sur-you. His Physicians, when hee was troubled with this grievous Megrim, were Chaplain, The King’s, and Caftellane, the Queen’s chief Physicians, and Lewes Duret, wh notwithstanding could help him nothing by blood-letting, cupping, bathes, frictions, diet or anie other kind of remedie either taken inwardly or applied outwardly. I being called, said, that was was onely hope one way to recover his health, which was to open the arterie of the temple in the same side that the pain was; for I thought it probable that the caus of his pain was not contained in the veins, but in the arteries in which case by the testimonie of the antients, there was nothing better then the bleeding of an arterie, whereof I have made trial upon my felt to my great good. When as the Physicians had approoved of this my advice, I presently betake my self to the work, and choo out the
arterie in the pained temple, which was both the more swoln and beat more vehemently than the rest. I open this, as wee use to do in the bleeding of a vein, with one incision, and take more then two sawcers of blood flying out with great violence, and leaping; the pain presently ceased, neither did it ever molest him again. Yet this opening of an arterie is suspected by manie, for that it is troublesome stay the gushing forth blood, and citratrize the place, by reason of the densitie, hardness and continual pulsation of the arterie; and lastly, for that when it is cicatrizes there may bee danger of an Aneuisma. Wherefore they think it better first to divide the skin, then to separate the arterie from all the adjacent particles, and then to binde in to places ; and lastly divide it [...]” [sic]