from heated smoke or water in the intestines and colorectum was probably minimal and additive to other resuscitative efforts such as wrapping in a blanket and blowing into the mouth. Such therapies could have been effective in mild to moderate hypothermia. In contrast, the values of venesection, warm cordials, and live-body juxtaposition were more ritual than remedial. It is a credit to the ingenuity of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century physicians that they devised this technique for rewarming. While most medicinal substances of that period carried little therapeutic merit, some practices such as rectal fumigation may have provided valuable benefits. We are unsure if rectal fumigation had a broader benefit spectrum outside of the setting of hypothermia.

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References


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The Gift

I saw her furtive gift
By chance, a glance
Not for me
Or others to see.
In that soul-filled glance
Her tenderness
For him.

Moved, I whispered to him aside
“I envy you the way she looks at you.”
He blushed with pleasure,
Embarrassment and pride
And whispered back
His love and admiration for her.

Stirred, I
Touched her shoulder
Softly told her,
“I said, I envy how you look at him”
Then retreated,
Pleased I’d repeated
Her loving gift to him.

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