The smallness of the Quantity of the Bath Water, which I could procure at so great a distance, did not allow me Scope to try the earthy and Saline parts collectible by Evaporation. The Water was clear, and coldish to taste, not wide of the taste of common Water. It did not gild Silver, or make it yellow, as it doth at the Spring. I could discover little Alkalifate in it: It thickened and became milky with Oyl of Tartar and curdled: It did not precipitate Sublimate dissolved in common Water considerably, which upon standing some time became only a very little whitish. The Salt contained in this Water, appeared fully to be Saltpetre, in that it did not the least disturb a Solution of Sal Saturni in fair Water; but shewed a little of the Nature of common Salt more than Saltpetre hath, in giving a pale yellow with Lignum Nephriticum with a dark cloud which settled; and in taking a dull Ale colour, not fine with Tincture of Logwood, the red it took languished more and more. And in precipitating a Solution of fine Silver out of Spirit of Nitre in a hardish Curd, more than Saltpetre doth.
Purging Waters of England. 179

Those that know the Nature of both Saltpetre and Sulphur, which are the Principles that impregnate this Water, must allow them to be produced by the heat of the Earth, and not to be the cause of it. If we enquire into the Cause and Original of this Heat, the Nature of the Salt evidenceth it not to be produced by any calcareous Quarry, nor the Efferveescence of contrary Salts and Acids: Subterranean Fire is groundless, and hath invincible Absurdities; it may reasonably be supposed to be maintained by the Heat of the Earth; for as a considerable Heat is required to the Concoction and Preparation of Metals, and is sensibly proved in the Mine-chambers; so that Crust of dead loamy Earth that assists to maintain it, separates it from us; and though we find no such extraordinary Heat, yet the Heat of the Mines do not only prove a Heat, but imply a much greater to be where the Metal is prepared, than where it is separated. The Eruption of it at places, I pretend not to account for, but that it is different often in places not many Rods distant, is beyond doubt.

The Virtues of these Minerals well account for the Cures wrought by the Bath, the most which I have observed or known, having been in Tumours or Palsies from tough Phlegm; not to take notice of their external