

**The history of medicine, so far as it relates to the profession of the apothecary, from the earliest accounts to the present period : the origin of druggists, their gradual encroachments on compound pharmacy, and the evils to which the public are from thence exposed; as also from the unskilful practice of ignorant medicasters, and the means which have lately been devised to remedy these growing abuses / published at the request of the Committee of the General Pharmaceutic Association of Great Britain by John Mason Good, fellow of the Medical Society of London, member of the Corporation of Surgeons, and author of the "Dissertation on the diseases of prisons and poor-houses".**

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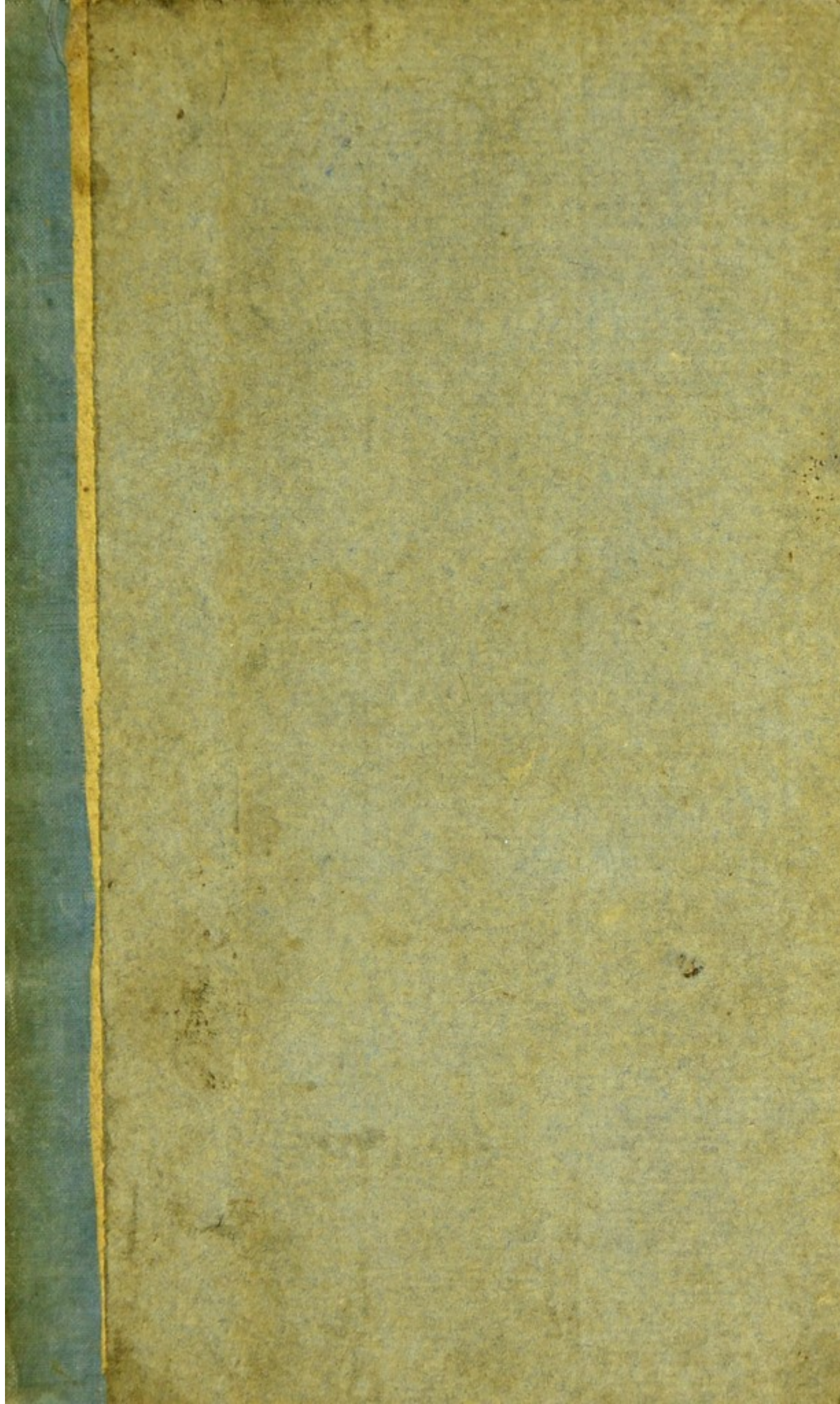
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THE  
HISTORY of MEDICINE,

SO FAR AS IT RELATES TO THE

*Profession of the Apothecary,*

From the earliest Accounts to the present Period:

THE

ORIGIN of DRUGGISTS,

Their gradual Encroachments on

COMPOUND PHARMACY,

And the Evils to which the Public are from thence exposed;  
As also from the unskilful Practice of

*IGNORANT MEDICASTERS,*

And the Means which have lately been devised to remedy these growing abuses. Published at the Request of the Committee

OF THE

*General Pharmaceutic Association of Great Britain.*

---

By JOHN MASON GOOD,

Fellow of the Medical Society of London, Member of the Corporation of Surgeons, and Author of the

“Dissertation on the Diseases of Prisons and Poor-houses.”

---

*Unum debet esse omnibus propositum, ut eadem sit utilitas uniuscujusque et universorum; quam si ad se quisque rapiat, dissolvetur omnis humana consortio.*

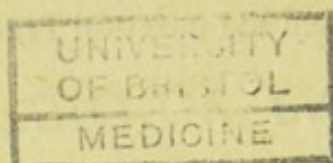
CICERO.

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L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR C. DILLY, IN THE POULTRY; AND  
T. EVATT AND CO. SNOW-HILL. 1795.





42633

TO

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Esq; M. P. &c.

SIR,

**I** DEDICATE the following compilation to you; and feel a peculiar pleasure and propriety in so doing: persuaded, as I am, that the reformation it endeavours to promote, would be highly advantageous both to the civil and political interests of this kingdom; and that it is as much needed, and as loudly demanded by the ARMY, the NAVY, and the NATION at large, as it is by the PHARMACEUTIC PROFESSION itself:—and equally persuaded that if, amongst the patriots of the present age, there be some few who are universally contemplated,



plated, more than all others, as possess  
of a real love for their country, and of  
keen penetration to develope its best in-  
terests—in the list of that select, that  
venerated few, your name will ever ap-  
pear inscribed in deep and distinguished  
characters.

I have the honour to be, with sincere  
regard, and real gratitude for every past  
favour,

SIR,

Your much obliged

And very obedient

Humble Servant,

JOHN MASON GOOD.

Guildford Street, London,

October 12, 1795.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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THIS publication is divided into four Chapters or Sections; and it is the aim of the AUTHOR, in each of them, to avoid as much as possible, the two extremes of tedious prolixity, and dry, uninteresting brevity; to be explicit without becoming diffuse, and concise without offering a mere table of chronological events; to state his facts and arguments fairly; and to engage the reader's attention by rendering the subject, at once, both interesting and pleasant.

That many errors are to be detected in it, though the pages be but few, he has no kind of doubt. It should be remembered, however, as some apology, that it is written upon a subject which, he does not recollect, has ever been expressly attempted before.



before. Several histories of medicine, and of physicians, have been published in most EUROPEAN countries, but none that has any particular reference to the PHARMACEUTIC branch of medicine, or that which regards the APOTHECARY. It has moreover, been composed, either, amidst the perpetual avocations of business, or in hours purposely stolen from recreation and sleep. And the only motive which induced him to engage in it, was the request of some of his colleagues of the Committee of the GENERAL PHARMACEUTIC ASSOCIATION; and their not having engaged in it themselves. Many of them, however, he is persuaded, had they chosen to have encountered the task, would have rendered the cause, in which this volume is written, much more justice and benefit than it can possibly receive from his own feeble efforts.

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I

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THE  
HISTORY OF MEDICINE.

S E C T. I.

*Of the State of Medicine, so far as it relates to the Apothecary, among the Greeks, Romans, Arabians, the earlier Ages of France, Italy, and Germany. The immediate Occupation of the Apothecary, during these different Eras, and the Rank he obtained among the different Branches of the Medical Profession. The Existence of any such Occupation as that of the modern Druggist investigated and denied, and the Quarter pointed out from whence the Apothecary was supplied with the Drugs he stood in need of.*

THERE is no small difficulty in determining by what means mankind first obtained an idea of the medical virtues of herbs and plants, and

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be-



became anxious, when in a state of sickness, for substances which they abhorred and rejected when in a state of health. And we cannot be much surprised, therefore, at the fancies of those philosophers who have imagined that the first knowledge of medicine was obtained either by a divine revelation communicated by the Almighty to some of the earlier sages, as ADAM\*, MOSES†, HERMES‡, OSIRIS§, and ESCULAPIUS||, or acquired by minute attention to the instinctive actions of particular animals. Thus the Ibis, who is reported to have a habit of introducing its bill into its anus, and injecting hereby a quantity of water into the intestines, is supposed to

\* Le Clerc. Hist. Med.—De Santeul Propriétés de la Med. par rap. à la vie civile.

† Euseb. Præp. Evang. lib. 9. ‡ Diod. Sic. lib. 1.

§ Plutarc. de Isid. et Osyrid.

|| Mat. Fermic. lib. 3. cap. 1.



have taught mankind the use of enemas\*. Thus HERODOTUS attributes the discovery of MELAMPUS, that the melampodium or black hellebore was possessed of a purgative property, to his having noticed that property exerted on goats who had broufed in pastures where this herb was indigenous and frequent. And thus again PLINY attributes the introduction of venæsection or phlebotomy, to a custom which he informs us the Hippopotamus possesses, whenever

\* It is in allusion to this report, that Dr. HOWE in the humorous and meritorious poem of Sir S. GARTH, is represented as having his crest surmounted with the figure of an ibis.

Beneath his blazing orb bright Querpo shone  
Himself an Atlas, and his shield a Moon.  
A pestle for his truncheon, led the van,  
And his high helmet was a close-stool pan.  
His crest an IBIS, brandishing her beak,  
And winding in loose folds her spiral neck.

DISPENSARY.



it becomes plethoric and unwieldy, of opening a vein in its leg with a sharp pointed reed found on the banks of the NILE. But as it is probable that all the instinctive knowledge the different classes and families of animals possess, is entirely traditional, and copied from the first inventors of particular actions by contemporary animals, and afterwards imitated by their offspring through all succeeding generations\*, so it is probable that the science of medicine was, in some measure, cultivated before such instinctive knowledge had been acquired, and such actions invented. And yet to suppose that the supreme being should immediately interfere and instruct mankind in the science of medicine, is to suppose that he would act with respect

\* Vide Darwin's Zoonomia, vol. I.



to this science, as he has never done with respect to any other.

It is much more probable therefore, that this science, like all others, derived its origin from accident, and that necessity, which is always productive of invention. And it is equally probable, I think, that that branch of the medical profession which is now termed surgery, and consists in an attention to the external phenomena of the body, was first introduced and cultivated before the more occult causes of internal diseases were studied and attempted to be investigated\*.

In the first and simpler ages of mankind, before the introduction of luxury and artificial wants, when the wishes were few, the diet slender, and the con-

\* Vide Cels.—de Medicina, lib. 1, præf.



stitution unexposed to hereditary, or infectious complaints, but seldom indeed could mankind have been the subjects of internal diseases of any class: while warfare and hunting, the exercises to which they were principally addicted, must have exposed them to a vast variety of external evils, which would call forth all their ingenuity to palliate or remove: an ingenuity which must certainly have been assisted by the public dissection of consecrated victims, and the embalming the bodies of the more opulent. Hence the GREEK word *iatros*\*, and the LATIN synonym *medicus*, though at a very early period of time, and for many centuries afterwards, made use of to express all the different branches of the medical profession, in their original and primitive sense refer rather to the external operation of the surgeon, than

\* *ιατρος*.



the more latent intentions of the physician and apothecary. Iatrion\* is therefore used with the same reference by PLATO, and medicina long afterwards by PLAUTUS to express the surgery or office where the surgeon attended his patients: while the shop or office where medicines were sold or compounded, was occasionally denominated apotheca† or repositorium; a general expression, and which might have been applied with as much propriety, and at times was so applied‡, to any other business or profession

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as

\* Ιατρειον

† Αποθηκη.

‡ Quid ego quod perii petam?

Nisi etiam laborem ad damnum apponem ΑΡΟΤΗΕΑΜ  
 insuper. Plaut. Trinum. vers. fin.

The French term boutique therefore which is obviously derived from the Greek αποθηκη, still retains this general meaning. Though the French language has likewise the term apothicaire (apothecary) from whence were probably deduced the German and Dutch synonyms apotheker, apotheker. The Italian language however has no such term of Greek etymology, but employs instead thereof



as to that of medicine. It is however the term from whence the greater part of modern languages have derived a name for those who still engage in the two-fold occupation of medical study and pharmaceutic composition\*.

In these ruder ages of the world, and before medicine became a distinct profession, every one was occasionally a physician, and contributed by his own little share of individual experience to the general stock of public information. At EGYPT, and BABYLON, this seems

thereof SPECIALE, a term borrowed from the Latin word specialis, which was sometimes used, instead of pharmaceuta or pharmacopola, to express the profession of the apothecary.

\* The term Surgery or Chirurgery (χειρουργική) is either derived from CHIRON the centaur, of whose medical skill HOMER makes early mention; or from two Greek words signifying manual operation; or, according to EUSTATHIUS, from both; Χείρωνα γάρ φασσι πρῶθεντα ποτε τὴν χεῖρα, τὴν διὰ βότανων ἐπινοήσαντας ἰατρικὴν. Eust ad Il.

to



to have been particularly the case, where the diseased were exposed, in the most public streets, to the notice of every passenger; that those who had formerly labored under similar complaints might enumerate the means they had made use of to recover the enjoyment of health\*. And, according to STRABO, no one was suffered to pass by without offering his opinion and advice†.

But it was soon acknowledged that the public health was a concern of too much consequence to be entrusted to such precarious, and, oftentimes, opposite decisions; and the art of healing became, from this time, more immediately the province of the studious and the learned, of the legislator, the philosopher, and the priest. ATHOTIS,

\* Herod, lib 6.

† Lib. 16.



king of EGYPT, is reported by EUSEBIUS to have written some treatises on anatomy\*; and SOLOMAN appears, in some degree, to have been acquainted with the same subject†, and to have had a very general knowledge of the botany of his time‡. The EGYPTIAN priests were all of them obliged to engage in the practice of physic, and each was prohibited from attending to the study of more than one single disease. Their persons were deemed sacred, and a third part of the revenues of the country were allotted to them for their support, and the prosecution of their two-fold profession§. The Bramins of HINDOOSTAN appear to have been regarded with an equal degree of

\* Præp. Evang. lib. 9.

† Eccles. cap. 12.

‡ Lib. Reg. 1. cap. 4. 33.

§ Diod. Sicul. lib. 1.

veneration;



veneration; and like the priests of  
 EGYPT, to have allotted a very few  
 diseases only to the notice of each in-  
 dividual among themselves\*. Among  
 the ancient GAULS the druids were  
 both legislators and physicians; and  
 PLINY has enumerated the misseltoe  
 and several other herbs, which were  
 frequently resorted to, in the course of  
 their practice.

It is much to be regretted on the  
 account of medicine, as well as from  
 political views, that the late embassy  
 to CHINA, was under the necessity of  
 making so untimely a return to  
 EUROPE. In the vast tract of country,  
 and the varieties of climate which that  
 populous kingdom includes, it can  
 scarcely be imagined but a multitude of

\* Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses.



useful, and, perhaps, specific drugs might have been discovered; and that much information might have been collected in the application of them from the knowledge and experience of that ingenious people.

According to the accounts of the Jesuits, their kings were, many ages ago, accustomed to pay much attention to the concerns of medicine. And EUROPEANS were more disposed to entrust themselves, in a state of sickness, to the care of the physicians of the country, than to those of any foreign nation. Their knowledge of anatomy, however, appears to have been but small and inaccurate; and father PARENNI, therefore, at the desire of the emperor CAM-HI, translated into the TARTAR language, towards the close of the last century, the Treatise of  
DIONIS,



DIONIS, formerly demonstrator of Anatomy at the Royal Garden at PARIS\*.

It is, after all, among the GREEKS alone we must look for any minute attention to medicine at a very early period of time, as a separate science and profession.

I have already observed that the term *iatros*†, now generally translated physician, was the common term for every one who pretended to any branch of medical or pharmaceutic knowledge; and the substance or drug he employed for the cure of those who were sick, was denominated *pharmacon*‡, a word originally applied to every thing that could operate upon the body, whether

\* Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses. Tom. IV.

† *ιατρος*

‡ *φαρμακον.*



to injure or assist it, whether it were a poison, a remedy or an incantation, and which, in this sense, exactly corresponds with the ENGLISH term charm or spell. In process of time, however, it became confined to the drugs made use of by the medical practitioner in the prosecution of his profession.

The first physicians among the GREEKS, and even among the ROMANS, were obliged to act as surgeons, and to compound and administer their own medicines. The former had, undoubtedly, occasionally their demi-ourgoi\*, or students, and the latter their ministri, servitores, or assistants†;

\* *δημιουργοί.*

† Isti vero sunt herbarii, unguentarii, coqui, cataplasmata adhibentes, humore conspergentes, clysteria immittentes, scarificantes, venam scindentes, cucurbitulas affigentes. Galen. Tom. III. p. 687.

but



but they were, at least, expected to superintend themselves, and made it a part of their profession so to do, in all that related to the offices of study, composition, or manual operation. It is in consequence hereof that HOMER has represented PLUTO, when wounded by the arrow of HERCULES, as applying to PÆON, the physician among the gods, for surgical assistance, and this physician as affording him relief.

It has been imagined by EUSTATHIUS, CASTELLANUS\*, and some other

\* Haftenus quidem medendi scientia simplex, nec in ullas distraeta partes unius operâ tractabatur. Secuere fratres, et portionibus eam exercere cœperunt, quasi charitas studiorum æmulatione dirimi potuisset. Et quidem MACHAON partem eam excoluit, quæ manu medetur et, bello TROJANO non mediocrem opem commilitionibus suis attulit. Nec alius in eo prædicat Homerus quàm quod aptè posset.

ΙΟΥΣ Τ' ΕΒΑΜΕΙΝ, ΕΠΙ Τ' ΗΠΙΛΑ ΦΑΡΜΑΚΑ ΠΑΣΣΕΙΝ

Verum



other writers, that so early as the days of HOMER the art of healing was divided into the two distinct classes of physic and surgery; and MACHAON and PODALIRIUS, the sons of ESCULAPIUS, both personally engaged in the attack upon TROY, have been represented as laying the first foundation for this classification, by their dividing the profession of their father, and each of them prohibiting to himself the occupation of the other, the former

Verum PODALIRIUS abditarum, et morbos continentium causarum notitiam professus, ejus medicinæ principia condidit, quam deinde sequens ætas rationalem appellavit. Argumento sunt versus apud EUSTATHIUM in locum HOMERI modo laudatum

ἕτερον δ' ἑτέρου κυδίον ἔθηκεν.

Τῷ μὲν κουφοτέρας κείρας πορεύε' ἔκτε βελεμνα

Σαρκοῦ ἐλεῖν, τμηξάι τε καὶ, ἔλκεα πανί' ἀκέσασθαι.

Τῷ δ' ἄρ' ἀκρίβεια πάντα ἐνὶ στήθεσσι ἔθηκεν,

Ἀσκοπάτε γυνῶναι, καὶ ἐπαλθε' οἰσασθαι.

Petr. Castell. Vit Illustr. Med. p. 16.

confining



confining himself solely to the practice of surgery, and the latter to that of physic. But PODALIRIUS is represented by CALABER as declaring that from his brother, who had educated him as a son, after the death of his father, he had himself learnt the knowledge and cure of diseases. An obvious proof that MACHAON must, at that time, have been engaged in the practice of physic himself. And that PODALYRIUS was accustomed to the practice of surgery, as well as MACHAON, must be acknowledged from his having attended, on his return home, the royal daughter of DAMATHÆUS, who had lamed herself by a fall from the top of a house, and his having married her on her recovery.

HIPPOCRATES, who was a descendent from PODALIRIUS, not only wrote  
more



more fully than any of his predecessors on surgery and anatomy, but was a bold and skilful operator himself; and the medicines he prescribed there is every reason to believe, he compounded with his own hands, or at least superintended the preparation of, in his own house. This, indeed, was the opinion of GALEN, and he has well supported it in his book on Theriaca†.

The practice of HIPPOCRATES was, for the most part, the practise of his contemporaries and immediate successors. It is certain, says CONRINGIUS, “ that the antient physicians prepared all their medicines with their own hands; that they attended to surgery, healed wounds, and performed every operation the medical art requires\*”. And this

† Lib. de Theriac. ad Pison.

\* Introduct. in Art. Med. Cap. 1. Sect. 22.

combination



combination of practice is even now to be traced, and that very generally in most countries of EUROPE; not, indeed, amongst physicians, but amongst those who unite in one person the offices of the surgeon and apothecary.

Amidst the armies of all nations this has particularly held true. HOMER, as before observed, has, in general, made those heroes who were acquainted with surgery, acquainted with pharmacy at the same time. VIRGIL has not deviated from his great prototype in this respect. And therefore, IAPIS, who is renowned for his skill in the knowledge of medicine, is represented as being of equal merit as a surgeon and a pharmaceutist. The sublimer warriors of MILTON had no occasion for surgery. They were capable of being wounded, but were  
not



not exposed to any fatal consequences from their wounds.

—————th' ethereal substance closed,  
 Not long divisible:—for spirits that live  
 Vital in every part, not as frail man  
 In entrails, heart, or head, liver or reins,  
 Cannot but by annihilating die\*.

Nor do they appear to have been subject to other diseases of any kind. But Tasso, whose chirurgical knowledge certainly was not equal to that of HOMER, has represented EROTIMUS, the surgeon of GEOFFREDO, as a practitioner deeply versed in the knowledge of all plants and their juices, as well as a poet, whose numbers were worthy of immortality. But with all his knowledge and accomplishments, he was not able to extract

\* Par. Lost. B. 6.

the barb of a broken arrow from the leg of the commander of the crusade, without the assistance of an angel sent on purpose from heaven; who, by the aid of a fomentation of dittany, accomplished at length the wished for cure.

L'arte sue\* non secanda, ed al disegno  
 Par che per nulla via fortuna arrida:  
 E nel piagato eroe giunge a tal segno  
 L'aspro martir che n'è quasi omicida.  
 Or qui l'Angel custode, al duol indegno  
 Mosso di lui, colse *dittamo* in IDA:  
 Erba crinita di purpureo fiore,  
 Ch'have in giovani foglie alto valore †.

I shall

\* D'Erotimo.

† Gerus. Liberat. This Dittany is a medicine of old repute; and the cure it is represented as performing, like the whole of the rest of the story, is an entire imitation of the cure performed by the same herb on *ÆNEAS* when wounded by *TURNUS*, and when nothing else was capable of affording him relief.

Hic



I shall not here enter into any controversy whether all the advantages of the art of healing are best obtained by such a unity of practice, or whether the public may be chiefly benefited by a disjunction into distinct branches. Much solid argument might be adduced on either side. But I cannot avoid observing that within a few centuries of the era of HIPPOCRATES, the division of the medical science into the three grand branches of physician, apo-

Hic Venus indigno nati concussa dolore,  
 Dictamnium genetrix Cretæâ carpit ab Idâ  
 Puberibus caulem foliis, et flore comantem  
 Purpureo, &c. Eneid lib. 12.

The poets are indebted to PLUTARCH for a knowledge of this wonderful medicine, who tells us that the wild goats in the island of Crete have recourse to it when wounded, and find the arrows, which have pierced their sides, and still cleave to them, spontaneously drop off.

De Solert. Anim.

thecary,



thecary, and surgeon, very generally, though by no means universally, took place.

Several circumstances contributed to produce such a division. The increase of luxury, which was every where prevailing throughout all GREECE, and especially at ATHENS, introduced a much greater frequency and recurrence of every disease; and the habitude which mankind had now generally acquired of consulting physicians on almost every occasion, instead of having recourse to their own family receipts and personal experience, produced such an influx of engagements as to require more than the time a physician of high reputation had it in his power to bestow. I have already mentioned that such had students or pupils under their patronage to assist them in their various occupa-



occupations. As the occupation of visiting encreased and engrossed nearly the whole of their time, it was commodious to them to entrust the preparation and personal application of their prescriptions, as well as the performance of all manual operations to those who were thus in the habit of being intimately acquainted with their intentions and mode of practice. By these means, some became intimately conversant with surgical, and others with pharmaceutic concerns; and adhering, after their initiation and probation, to the respective branches of the profession to which they had more immediately been trained, they grew gradually less attentive to every other concomitant branch, and in their own private and future practice, learnt to consult the physician who was their tutor in cases only of extreme emergency,



gency, or where his united and more extensive skill and experience were deemed necessary. The physician, on the other hand, having thus obtained a proportional increase of leisure, was the more enabled to bend his mind to theoretic reasonings and inductions; and from thence to erect, what is at all times most devoutly to be wished for, an effectual and successful practice on solid and rational principles. The presents and fees which he received were very large and liberal, so much so, at times, as to excite our astonishment at their value; and, in every instance, so considerable as to render even a circumscribed practice the source of an affluent livelihood. It was impossible, however, that the poorer classes of citizens could contribute so largely for medical advice as the physician, from his practice, among the higher orders,

B

might



might, in some measure, have expected; and a source of medical assistance was thus opened for every rank and classification of citizenship. For the surgeon and apothecary, both retaining an open shop, at which they vended, and disposed, without trouble, of the different drugs and materials they employed; and making, at the same time, an individual charge for the medicaments they had occasion to use in their private practice, maintained an easy, and respectable station in life, without expecting the fees and gratuities which were lavished on the physician\*.

\* GALEN expressly declares, that no physician of high reputation would attend to diseases of small importance in his era. Tom. VII. p. 38. though it appears that those of an inferior station made use of every possible art of flattery and extreme complaisance, of public jesting and associating with the rich, of superb dress, and deeply studied address to introduce themselves into practice.

Ad Posthum. de Præcogn. Tom. IV.

It



It was about the time of ERASISTRATUS, as CELSUS conjectures, that this division of medical science first became general; though many, for ages afterwards, continued in the practice of every branch of the profession, whether among the GREEKS, the ROMANS, or the ARABIANS. ERASISTRATUS himself was not free from this combination of practice; for, among other medical patients, he attended, in his extreme illness, and first discovered the love of ANTIOCHUS for STRATONICE, whom SELEUCUS, his father, had then lately married. Though his attention appears principally to have been directed to surgical improvements and anatomical investigations. He received his medical education first under CHRYSIPPUS, a physician whose name is mentioned by GALEN, and who was contemporary with PHILIP, king of MACEDONIA, and



completed it at the ALEXANDRIAN school; where, even at this early period, it appears, there were human skeletons for the advantage of the students in medicine\*. It was not, however, with the contemplation of such dry and imperfect subjects alone that ERASISTRATUS was capable of satisfying his thirst after anatomical pursuits. With a curiosity that has been condemned as barbarous and inhuman, by many physicians, from his own era to the days of HOFFMAN†, he dissected the living bodies of a variety of malefactors who were presented to him for this purpose by SELEUCUS; imagining that the changes introduced by the very act of dying were so numerous and considerable as to render it im-

\* Administ. Anat. lib. I. cap. 2.

† Med. Rat. Syst. Vol. VI.



possible to obtain, in any degree, a complete knowledge of the human structure by the most accurate dissections after death\*. In this opinion and practice he was strenuously supported by HEROPHILUS, his contemporary; whom TERTULLIAN denominates a butcher, and represents as having dissected six hundred living subjects†. Without investigating the validity of those arguments which have been adduced in support of, or in opposition to, a practice so daring, and apparently repugnant to the finer feelings of the bosom; it cannot but be noticed by all who are acquainted with the state of anatomy at this early period, that the result of such a practice was highly advantageous to medical science; and

\* Cels de Medicin. præfat.

† De An. cap. 10.



that if ERASISTRATUS and HEROPHILUS were not the first anatomists who dissected the human structure, they were, at least, the first anatomists who carried their art to any degree of perfection, and founded an epoch of great moment and importance to the literary world, as well as to the health of mankind at large\*.

The occupation of the different branches of the medical profession, as at this time practised, does not appear to be altogether similar to the occupation of the present day. To the phy-

\* LeClerc. Hist. Med. CASTELLANUS gives us the following concise account of the death of this celebrated physician and anatomist. *Ætate grandævus, et immedicabili pedis ulcere tabescens; bene habet, inquit, quod patriæ memoria refriceretur; hausta que cicutâ diem obiit. Sepultus est juxta Mycalem montem ex adverso Sami. Vit. Illustr. Med.*

fician



fician was rather allotted, according to the distribution of CELSUS, the enquiry into the secret cause of the disease, its various symptoms, its prognosis, together with what species of diet, and other domestic arrangement, might best contribute to bring it to a happy issue, than the direct prescription and introduction of medicines\*. This last was more immediately the office of the apothecary, who was hereby supposed to investigate deeply the nature of the drugs he employed, to be scrupulous as to their quality, and sedulously attentive as to their combination. To him likewise almost exclusively belonged the care of tumours, wounds, ulcers, and other external or topical affections†. While the office of the surgeon was confined to cases of mere manual ope-

\* Lib. 1. præfat.

† Lib. 5 et 6.



ration, together with a minute attention to the study of anatomy. Though even the surgeon did not occasionally omit the use of regimen and medicines, while he thus exhibited himself principally to notice by the dexterity of his hand, and those external effects which, amongst all the different branches of medicine, are by far the most obvious\*.

So closely, indeed, are these different branches united, that it was even then found, as it is now, impossible to separate them, by any limit the most accurate imagination could draw, so completely and entirely, as that the one branch or division should, in no in-

\* Ea (chirurgia scilicet) non quidem medicamenta atque victus rationem omittit; sed manu tamen plurimum præstat; estque ejus effectus inter omnes medicinæ partes evidentissimus. Cels. lib. 7. præfat.

stance,



stance, interfere with the other. Id, therefore, says CELSUS, ante omnia scire convenit, quod omnes medicinæ partes ita connexæ sunt ut ex toto separari non possint: sed ab eo nomen trahant, à quo plurimum petunt. Ergo ut illa, quæ victu curat, aliquando medicamentum adhibet; sic illa quæ præcipue medicamentis pugnat, adhibere etiam rationem victus debet\*.

The division of the medical science into the three branches to which CELSUS refers, we find still existing, as a general partition, in the time of GALEN, about a century and a half afterwards. “That mode and manner of cure, says he, which is effected by the use of accustomed aliments, is called diet, or the regulation of the food; as that which is produced by common incisions, caus-

\* Lib 5. præfat.



tics, or whatever else, is performed by the hand, is denominated surgery. There is a third part of medicine, however, distinct from either of these, which is termed PHARMACY, and which comprises the use of medicines\*.

I have already observed that the term apothecary, though of GREEK derivation, was not in use among the GREEKS to express either of these three offices or divisions: though the word apotheca was sometimes the appellation of the shop or repository where the pharmaceutical practitioner kept his drugs, or exposed them to sale. The apothecary,

\* Is curationis ductus contextusque qui, per consuetam materiam efficitur, diæta, id est victus ratio nuncupatur; ut qui, per consuetas tum sectiones, tum adustiones, et quæcunque alia manu fiant, chirurgia. Tertiam ab his medicinæ partem PHARMACEUTICEN dicunt quæ scilicet per medicamenta absolvitur, perficiturque.

De Vict. Rat. Comment. lib. 1.

OR



or practitioner in pharmacy, was, at this time, and nearly indiscriminately, denominated pharmaceuta, pharmacopola, pharmacopæus, pharmacotriba\*; expressions which, with nearly a similarity of meaning and derivation, describe him under the several characters of a dealer, a vender, a compounder, and a dispenser of medicines. It is probable, however, as it occurs at the present day, that all who practised pharmacy, did not keep open any public shop; but that some of them compounded their preparations in a private dispensary; and hence the necessity, or at least the reason, for some of the above distinctions.

\* Of these denominations the College of Physicians of London have generally employed the second and third only in their different edicts; and these are employed indiscriminately. The German physicians have indiscriminately employed the three first. Goelicke. Hist. Med.



Besides the apothecary, or practitioner in pharmacy, Dr. JAMES seems rather inclined to believe that there were, among both the GREEKS and ROMANS, persons who engaged in the modern occupation of the druggist, and whom he therefore distinguishes by this appellation. Persons who supplied the apothecaries and surgeons with the ingredients for which they had occasion, and who likewise compounded, though they never ventured to prescribe medicines for the diseased. And he supposes that such persons are to be traced among the GREEKS, under the denomination of ropopolai\*, migmatopolai†, pantopolai‡, and catholicoi§, and amongst the ROMANS, seplasiarii and pigmentarii.

\* ρωποπωλης.

† μιγματωπωλης.

‡ παντοπωλης.

§ καθολικος.



As the doctor has asserted this merely as his own conjecture, and not founded on any express authority to which he has alluded; and as I am confident, from a variety of circumstances, that in this conjecture he is altogether mistaken, I shall take the liberty of investigating it at some length, and of advancing some positions which oblige me to dissent altogether from the opinion of this learned author.

And, first, the terms he has introduced, from the GREEK and LATIN writers to substantiate the existence of the druggist, are the most general that can possibly be employed, and refer no more to the occupation of a druggist than to that of a confectioner or perfumer: excepting, indeed, the term *migmatopoles* which, if I rightly recollect, is once or twice made use of by

GALEN



GALEN by signifying a vender of compound medicines; though, even in those instances, it will apply to the apothecary as well as to the druggist, and, from its derivation, to the venders of all other mixtures or compounds whatever. The term ropopoles I do not recollect having ever met with in any author as having the remotest reference to pharmacy: it is a general term applicable to every one who deals in articles, of any kind, of small value, or who vends them in small quantities. Pantopoles and catholicos are terms applicable only to general merchants or brokers, and pantopoleion is therefore used by GREEK writers to express a forum or place of general sale and resort.

As to the LATIN terms *seplafius* and *pigmentarius* they were only in general use to denote the occupation of perfumers:



mers: to whom the ROMAN ladies, and the coxcombs of their time resorted for pomatums, paints, and sweet-scented oils\*. It is probable, however, that many of the articles the apothecary had occasion to employ, he purchased both of these dealers, as well as of the pantopolai and catholicoi, or general merchants and importers: as it is certain that he did, in succeeding times, of grocers and importers of foreign spices; and from hence, perhaps, these expressions may have been understood to imply dealers in medicaments, as well as the other articles, which were vended at the same shops.

In the next place it must be observed that there could not possibly have been a

\* Pigmentum is likewise used for the colours employed by painters in general: thus Plautus

Quem appelles atque zeufis duo pingent pigmentis  
ulmeis. Epidic. vers. fin.

suffi-



sufficient supply of business, in these earlier ages of medicine, to have supported the trade of a mere druggist.

Medicine being, at this time, divided into the three classes of diet, pharmacy, and surgery, it was doubted by a variety of the practitioners of the former class whether the introduction of drugs of any kind into the system, when affected by diseases, could be productive of any advantage. Many of the physicians of this branch, therefore, as *ARETÆUS*, and *CÆLIUS AURELIANUS*, both of whom lived at no great distance from the era of *GALEN*, discarded the use of medicaments altogether. And though, as *CELSUS* informs us, that branch of medical practitioners who cured by diet, sometimes introduced preparations of drugs, he intimates that this was a practice not generally adopted, nor often made



made use of by those of this class who who did adopt it\*. Internal medicines, as we likewise learn from him, were in the same manner occasionally employed by the surgeon, but his principal attention, he adds, was directed to manual operations. So that of the three branches of medicine at this time in existence, the pharmaceutic only, or that practised by the apothecary, could be depended upon by the druggist, if indeed such an occupation then existed, for his livelihood and support.

And yet even here his expectations must have been perpetually disappointed: for it is well known that all the principal practitioners in pharmacy, from the earliest ages to the time we are now speaking of, prepared their own pre-

\* Vide *supr.* in *Præfat.* lib. 1.

scriptions.



scriptions. GALEN endeavours to prove this with respect to HIPPOCRATES\*; and whoever attentively peruses the works of GALEN himself, will find such minute directions for many of the compositions he introduces, as to prevent all hesitation on this subject with respect to this latter physician. CELSUS has confessedly written on all the three branches of medicine: but his treatise on pharmacy is so much more voluminous and minute than his two others, that it cannot be doubted but his knowledge on this subject was derived from practice†; and CORNARIUS has therefore ranked

\* De Theriac. Le Clerc. Hist. Med.

† Many of the treatises published by practitioners in GREECE and ROME, were on account thereof, entitled the Shop of the Physician, that is of the practitioner of pharmacy, for every one who was engaged in any branch of medicine was termed physician. HIPPOCRATES and DIOCLEES both wrote a book with this title.



him amongst the apothecaries of his age\*.

But there is a third reason against the probability of the existence of the occupation of the modern druggist among the GREEKS and ROMANS, which is, I think, as cogent as any of the others; I mean that the medicines employed, and the diseases that demanded their use, were both much fewer in number among these nations than at present. No GREEK writer has enumerated so long a catalogue of medicines as HIPPOCRATES, who had travelled through EGYPT, BABYLON, and the INDIES, for the express purpose of collecting medical

\* Quin ipsum pharmaca præbuisse, non mediocra gloria, ex ipsius ad Iul. Calistum Epistola satis liquet. Quorum artificiosam missionem se accuratè intellexisse prodit ipse. lib. 7. cap. 26. Unde Cornarius fortassis inter PHARMACEUTICOS reposuit. A. C. Cels. Vit.

know-



knowledge. But the medicines HIPPOCRATES has enumerated do not amount to much more than half the number contained in the present edition of the LONDON Pharmacopœia. The expedition of ALEXANDER to EGYPT introduced, indeed, some short time after, some small accession to the number, as Aloes and a few others. But it was not till medicine had been cultivated as a science in ARABIA, that the preparations of spices and musk, those of syrups, conserves, and all the complicated list in which sugar is used as a basis, together with the milder cathartics of manna, fenna, cassia, tamarinds, and rhubarb, were employed in the Pharmaceutical Dispensary. Even at this time chemistry, which now produces so long, and effective a catalogue of our materials, can scarcely be said to have been resorted to from medical motives.

RHAZES



RHAZES and MESUE are, indeed, reported to have made use of distilled waters in their practice; but it was not till two or three centuries afterwards; it was not till the age of ALBERTUS MAGNUS, ROGER BACON, and LULLY, that medicine began to derive much benefit from the science of chemistry. Since this period it is not to be wondered at that our resources should have become infinitely more numerous: chemistry has been reduced to true principles, and applied to definite intentions; and the daring sail of commerce, that has left scarcely any region unexplored, has returned with the productions of Peruvian bark, ginseng, sarsaparilla, guaiacum, and an almost innumerable variety of other materials from AFRICA, CHINA, and AMERICA.

I have



I have said that not only the medicines employed, but also the diseases for which they were employed, were much fewer in number among the GREEKS and ROMANS than at the present day.

OVID, however, complains of the multitudes of diseases that existed in his time, and pays a handsome compliment to the profession that opposed them,

*Et quoniam variant morbi, variabimus artes,  
Mille mali species, mille salutis erunt.*

But had he lived at the present period he would have found an infinitely greater scope for complaint, whatever he might have found for compliment.

Whoever investigates modern practice will find that at least half of it is bestowed in opposing the ravages and  
baneful



baneful effects of the small-pox, the measles, the syphilis, the scurvy, and the rachitis. Yet these are diseases not one of which can, with certainty, be traced in any of the writings of the GREEK or ROMAN physicians: whilst, at the same time we are not confident that there is any one complaint HIPPOCRATES has enumerated which has absolutely disappeared from the world since his time. The practice, therefore, of antient physicians and pharmaceutists must have been but small, indeed, when compared with the greater number, and perpetual repetition of diseases that are continually imploring the assistance of the moderns. And had druggists existed in such earlier times, and even obtruded, as they now do, on the proper offices of pharmacy, they could not have been able to have supported themselves and their families.

from



From such observations, therefore, I think the conclusion is obvious, that no such occupation as that of the druggist of modern times, existed in any period of the history of antient GREECE or ROME. There is no term, in either of these languages, by which he can be discriminated; the use and propriety of medicines were far from being universally sanctioned and employed by all the branches of medical practitioners; the practitioners who did sanction them prepared them, for the most part, in their own shops, and dispensaries; the medicines which were known were comparatively but very few; and the diseases in which they could possibly be introduced did not comprise, as to frequency of recurrence, more than half the number of the diseases of the present day.

Much



Much more might be said on this subject if it were necessary; but I will only take the liberty of observing, that had druggists existed in the time of GALEN, they, like all others who had any possible connection with medical science, would have likewise acquired, amongst the vulgar, the appellation of medici, or medical men. For this term was become of such common and indiscriminate use at this period, as to irritate the ROMAN physician in no small degree. “ Every one, he exclaims, who pretends to any surgical operation, whether for the rupture, the dropsy, or the stone, is invested with the common name of medicus; as are those likewise, whose attention is directed to the study of any particular member: thus aurists, oculists, and even dentists, as I apprehend, are each denominated by the general title of medicus: it is the same appella-

C

tion



tion which is given to those who are distinguished by the materials they employ, whether the dietetic, or the pharmaceutical practitioner, or even he who only employs simple herbs in his attempts to cure. There is not indeed a giver of wine or of purges, or any materials of a similar kind, but has this name applied to him in consequence thereof\*.” But we meet here with no such term as druggist, or any thing that will correspond thereto: neither *seplafius* nor *migmatopoles*, nor any of the various words Dr. JAMES has selected and applied to any one branch of this occupation.

Themidwives of GREECE and ROME, who did not in general practise with

\* *Et si enim quam maxime hunc herniæ dissectorem, illum perforatorem, alium calculi detractorem nuncupent, omnes tamen istos communi nomine medicos appellant, &c.*  
Ad Thrasyb.

much



much respectability, and were sometimes forbidden to practise at all, were denominated *iatriæ*\*, and *medicæ* as well as obstetrices; and PLINY has made use of the term *vulnerum medicus* in speaking of a surgeon or apothecary; though, indeed, long before his time PLAUTUS has introduced EPIDICUS as using the expression *medicina* for the shop of this last practitioner,

utinam conveniam domi

Periphanem, per omnem urbem, quem sum defessus quærere,  
Per MEDICINAS, per tonstrinas, in gymnasio atque in  
foro†, &c.

I know not, however, either in common use, or in any of the writings of these authors, any application of the term *medicus* to any occupation that can possibly be interpreted by the word druggist, at least as it is used in modern times, nor any other expression under which he could be represented.

\* *iatriæ*.

† *Epidic*.



Ambubaiarum collegia, pharmacopolæ,  
 Mendici, mimæ, balatrones; hoc genus omne  
 Mœstum ac sollicitum est cantoris morte Tigelli  
 Quippe benignus erat\*.

HAD the ROMANS possessed any such occupation as the druggist's, or any term by which to have expressed such an occupation, we might reasonably have expected to have found it introduced amidst this family of mourners: and its not being introduced is a strong proof against the existence of any such term or occupation at the death of TIGELLIUS.

It may perhaps be contended that the branch of professors who practised the pharmaceutic, or second division of medicine according to the classification of CELSUS, is not properly translated by the word apothecary. I know, how-

\* Hor. Lib. 1. Sat. 2.

ever,



ever, of no other word by which it can be translated: and I have not the least doubt that the antient pharmaceutic profession was precisely similar to the profession of the apothecary at the present hour\*. The variety of GREEK terms made use of to express this profession, may be applied with equal propriety now as in those earlier ages of medicine. It is probable that all, in those times, did not retain open shops, and it is certain all, at this time, do not. The ancient pharmaceutists prepared their own medicines, and the modern pharmaceutists derive their entire livelihood from this occupation. And if

\*. " The division of medicine given by CELSUS lays a kind of foundation for our believing that he intended the three professions to which medicine is at present confined, those of physicians, apothecaries, and surgeons; though matters did not then stand precisely on the footing they now do." James's Medicinal Dictionary, Preface, p. 39.



many of them were objectionable on account of their ignorance, or their impositions, as PLINY has positively asserted they were, we are very ready to admit this objection as largely in the present day as it could possibly have been pleaded and enforced in the age of PLINY, or any other historian among the GREEKS and ROMANS, and to lament, at the same time, that we are under the necessity of making such an admission.

Of all the terms employed among the GREEKS and ROMANS to express the retail occupation of the apothecary, the term *pharmacopola* is the most strong, and appropriate. Yet CICERO has employed this very expression to denote the profession of a man, who, he expressly tells us, gave advice as well as medicines, and who happening accidentally to pass through LARINUM, at the time  
the



the grandmother of OPPIANICUS was ill, was employed by her son to attend her. The name of this man he informs us was LUCIUS CLODIUS; he was born at ANCONA: and was a travelling apothecary, a sort of mountebank, who was accustomed to give his advice and dispose of his medicines in the public forums of the towns through which he passed. The father of OPPIANICUS, who had engaged him to attend this lady, was a man of infamous conduct. He appears to have kept in constant pay a physician who was villain enough to destroy, by his prescriptions, every one who was a supposed impediment to the fortune or inclinations of his patron. DINEA the mother of OPPIANICUS, apprised of this circumstance, strenuously refused, during her illness, both his attendance and his medicines. It was in consequence hereof that this travelling



pharmacopola was introduced to the lady; and that she consented to consult him instead. But she gained no advantage by the exchange. The apothecary was not more honest nor more virtuous than the physician. He took the accustomed bribe and the lady fell a sacrifice to the temptation of her abandoned son, and died by the very first dose which was exhibited\*.

\* Quid? aviam tuam *OPPIANICE*, *DINEAM*, cui tu es heres, pater tuus non manifestò necavit? ad quam cum adduxisset medicum illum suum, jam cognitum, et sæpe victorem (per quem interfecerat plurimos) mulier exclamat, se ab eo nullo modo velle curari, quo curante suos omnes perdidisset. Tum repentè *ACONITANUM* quendum *L. CLODIUM*, *PHARMACOPOLAM* circumforaneum, qui casu tum *LARINUM* venisset, aggreditur, et cum eo *H. S. quadringentis*, id quod ipsius tabulis tum est demonstrandum, transigit. *L. CLODIUS*, qui properaret, cui fora multa restarent, simul atque introductus est, rem confecit: prima potione mulierem sustulit: neque postea *LARINI* punctum est temporis commoratus. Pro. A. Cluent. Orat.

In



In the earlier ages of medicine there were but few public schools for initiation into this science, and the private pupils of the most able and celebrated physicians could be, at the most, but few in number, and by no means adequate to the general demand. Four were, however, soon created, and all of rival reputation and abilities. At Cos, at CNIDOS, at RHODES, and AGRIGENTUM. It was at the first HIPPOCRATES received his education; while PYTHAGORAS and EMPEDOCLES were indebted to the latter for their medical knowledge.

HERODOTUS, indeed, has made mention of two other medical seminaries, one at CYRENE, and the other at CROTONA; but all we know of these is, that, in the island where the first was established, there was a temple erected



to ESCULAPIUS; and that the second was the alma mater of DEMOCEDUS, who is, perhaps better recognized under the character of a spy in PERSIA, than a physician in GREECE. The university at ALEXANDRIA however soon eclipsed the whole: but even when, at length, this useful and magnificent institution was first founded, and provided with the proper means of medical improvement, it is not to be imagined that more than a few of the great mass of practitioners could boast of having received an education in so celebrated a seminary of learning. Many, as at the present day, had not the means of putting themselves to the necessary expence, and more, from mere indolence, forbore to give themselves the trouble. Where no test of ability is demanded, the idle will ever be sure to rank with the industrious; and, in matters of abstruse science,

in



in which the public can never be duly competent to decide, the plausibility of ignorance, like the affected solemnity of the owl, will often pass current for the possession of real knowledge and abilities. Artifice will, at all times, have an advantage over sense and solidity; and the man of address will triumph over the unhackneyed philosopher who despises it. The abuses of medicine, and the general ignorance of medical practitioners of which GALEN and PLINY complained in their era, may, therefore, with propriety be complained of at all times. With real regret we confess the existence of these evils at the present moment, and we take a pride in pursuing the only means which can lead to a prevention in future, by establishing the necessity of public examination, and the test of comparative, and individual ability.



But it was not at all times necessary for the possession of due medical acquisitions, to have recourse to the expences of a distant and university education. Nor, though much ignorance might, with justice, have been attributed to many pharmaceutists, were all equally worthy of public contempt. ASCLEPIADES, according to PLINY, gave public lectures at ROME, about a century before the birth of Christ, on diseases, pharmacy, and midwifery, at which every class of students attended\*. EUDEMUS, who is expressly denominated pharmaco-

\* He was a native of PRUSA in BITHYNIA, and first established his reputation at ROME by lecturing on Rhetoric. But surveying, at length, a fairer field in the confines of medicine, he deserted oratory for physic. Plin. lib. 26, cap. 3. GALEN accuses him of humoring too much the caprices of his patients, and courting popular applause at the expence of his better reason and judgment. Adv. Asclep.



pola by THEOPHRASTUS, is celebrated for his investigation of the properties of drugs: frequently he tried them on his own person, and he is reported to have swallowed hellebore in large quantities without producing any purgative effect\*.

ASCLEPIADES PHARMACION, the third practitioner of this name enumerated by GALEN, and whose surname points out the immediate branch of the profession in which he engaged, wrote a treatise in ten books upon both external and internal medicines. He is particularly distinguished, by this last writer, for his personal dexterity at pharmaceutic composition; and on account of a formula for an emplaster which GALEN had often found advantageous in the cure of fungous ulcers. To which observations

\* Castell. in Vit. Theophrast.

I may



I may subjoin, that, though it be still doubted by some critics whether CELSUS were ever personally engaged in the practise of medicine, yet others, and from authority sufficiently obvious, have not only believed him to have been actually a practitioner, but, likewise, have assigned him, as I have already noticed, the pharmaceutic branch as the particular object of his attention.

The division of medicine into three classes, as it has already been represented, continued, for the most part, till the decline and fall of the ROMAN empire. ORIBASIUS appears generally to rank in the pharmaceutic division; though he, by no means, avoided the practise of surgery on particular occasions; as is obvious from his having, in this capacity, attended the emperor JULIAN when he had received his mortal wound, by an  
arrow,



arrow, in his attack upon the PERSIANS near CORDUENE. The practice of ALEXANDER was almost entirely confined to dietetic medicine; and that of ÆTIUS and PAULUS to manual operations. The writings of ÆTIUS complain largely of the general use of quack medicines and nostrums; and the immense price demanded for those which were fortunate enough to rise into general repute. DANAUS, he tells us, sold his collyrium at CONSTANTINOPLE at the astonishing price of a hundred and twenty numismata to each patient, and sometimes could scarcely be prevailed upon to sell it on any terms; and NICROSTATUS demanded no less than two talents for his celebrated isotheos, or antidote against the cholic.\* But it is probable that the charges of medical

\* Friend Hist. Med.



practitioners in general were at this time very exorbitant, or the emperor VALENTINIAN would not have interfered on this subject, as he thought proper to do, and have established a law by which one physician, at least, was destined to each of the fourteen sections into which the city of ROME was divided, who was to be allowed a regular salary, and to attend the poor without any expence to them. Every physician was obliged, likewise, by the same law, to accept the voluntary donation of every other patient, when recovered from his disease, without being allowed to make any express charge, or to take advantage of any promises the patient might have rashly entered into in the midst of his indisposition\*.

As

\* Cod. Theodos. lib. 13. tit. 3. leg. 8. This mode of aftercharge and payment continued in the empire for many



As the ROMANS derived their knowledge of medicine from the writings of the GREEK physicians, so likewise did the ARABIANS, who adhered, in general, with more pertinacity to the triple division of this science than the former. Medicine was, indeed, almost the only literary pursuit allowed and cultivated among the SARACENS and ARABIANS. GAGNIER has undertaken to prove that MAHOMET himself was tolerably versed in medical knowledge; and the doctrine of predestination not being, at this time, a tenet of such general belief as it was afterwards, the inherent love of life incited these people, in common with all others, to many centuries. So late as the fifteenth, ERICUS COR-  
 VUS, a physician of GERMANY of much celebrity in his own age, complained of the reluctance with which the greater part of his patients were accustomed to pay on their recovery. Vit. Med. Germ. à Melch. Adam.

enquire



enquire after the best means of preserving it when in danger. Many medical volumes, therefore, and those of the best repute, were spared in the midst of the general ravage that destroyed the ALEXANDRIAN library, and ruined the university of that celebrated city. And the medical schools which were afterwards successively established, in the eighth century, at ANTIOCH, HARRAN, but more especially at BAGDAT, provided a competent number of medical professors and practitioners throughout the whole of the SARACEN dominions. It was at this last seminary that MESUE, HONANI, and RHAZES, studied physic; the second of whom was excommunicated, by the patriarch of ALEXANDRIA, for irreverence to some tutelary image; and the third whipped, and expelled from CORDUBA, where he afterwards attained



ained considerable reputation, for not being able to reduce his theories of Alchemy to actual practice\*.

But it was not to these public schools alone the young student was under the necessity of applying for medical instruction. PAULUS of ÆGINA, had, long before, read lectures on the different branches of the healing art in the city wherein he resided; and was so celebrated for his instructions in the article of midwifery, as to obtain the title of Al-ka-vebeli, or obstetricius†: and public hospitals for initiation were by no means uncommon, even at this time, throughout the whole of the SARACEN empire. RASHID erected a

\* Vide Appendix B.

† Herbelot in loc.

magnifi-



magnificent one at BAGDAT in the eighth century. There were two of considerable extent elevated soon afterwards in SPAIN, one at GRENADA, and one at CORDUBA; MESUE was preferred to the inspection of a third at NISABUR, according to the account of HALY ABBAS; and AVENZOAR expressly mentions his having had the care of a fourth himself at SEVILLE, in the tenth century\*.

This I more particularly take notice of as a proof that the ARABIAN apothecaries, as well as physicians and surgeons, had nearly similar opportunities for improvement, in these earlier periods, to what they enjoy at present.

\* Lib. Theissar Dahalmod.



It is certain, however, that both pharmacy and surgery, about the eighth and ninth centuries, began to decline in reputation, and to rank considerably beneath the profession of the physician; who appears, at this time, to have taken the supreme command of every branch of medicine upon himself; to have prescribed to patients, of most denominations, the mode of treatment to be adopted, and to have expected from the surgeon and apothecary entire acquiescence in his plan. To them, observes Dr. FRIEND, as the *fervatores et ministri* of the physician, the *medicus honoratus et nobilis*, were only entrusted all manual operations as venæsection, couching of cataracts, the application of caustics, and the preparation of medicines\*. And a short time afterwards,

\* Hist. Med. Tom. II.



or at farthest towards the middle of the eleventh century, ALBUCASIS declares that the art of surgery was become nearly extinct, and scarcely a vestige of it to be traced in any place†.

TASSO was fully convinced of the truth of this observation; and, in his JERUSALEM DELIVERED, an event which took place about the present time, he represents the princess ERMINIA as being better acquainted than any one else, among either the Pagan or Christian warriors, with surgery and the healing virtues of plants. Among these, crocus and dittany bore the highest reputation. And it was by a due mixture and application of these two herbs, she recovered TANCRED

† Vide sup.

when



when dangerously wounded by ARGAN-  
RES. This knowledge, he tells us in  
a former part of the poem, she had  
acquired, not from chirurgical profes-  
sors, but from her mother, who had,  
moreover, instructed her, where medi-  
cines should fail in their wonted opera-  
tions, to add, thereto, the collateral  
power of incantations and charms.

ella dalla madre apprese  
Qual più secreta sia virtù dell 'erbe :  
E con quai carmi nelle membra offese  
Sani ogni piaga, e'l duol si disacerbe\*.

But we still meet with no passages  
in any of the writings of TASSO or of  
any of the ARABIAN physicians that  
can possibly lead us to suppose the  
existence of any such occupation as

\* Canto Sesto,

that



that of the modern druggist, and this notwithstanding the materia medica was now considerably enlarged by the introduction of a variety of drugs unknown to the GREEKS, and by the first preparations of alchemy. It is probable that the offices of the surgeon and apothecary were, at this time, united in one person, and it is certain that he was not only a vender and dispenser of medicines, but a medical practitioner, though regarded in an inferior point of view, as well as the physician. ALBUCASIS, therefore, whose writings are principally addressed to this class of the profession, and who appears to have been of this class himself, inveighs against the practice and attempts of those who had not duly studied anatomy, and the virtues of medicines, and most strenuously recommends



commends a minute attention to both these pursuits\*.

But whatever disparity of rank might, in general, have attended the two branches of physic and pharmaceutic surgery, it was not sufficient to prevent some practitioners from engaging in every branch at the same time, or of exchanging one branch for another. HALY-ABBAS informs us, in his *ALMA-LECI*, that MESUE, of NISABUR, was the son of an apothecary, and was at first initiated into his father's occupation, though he afterwards obtained such universal celebrity as a physician. And AVENZOAR, who resided at SEVILLE, practised, at the same time, as his writings testify, the three medical rami-

\* Wolf. in loc.



fications of physic, pharmacy, and surgery; and declares that, “ he derived much pleasure from studying how to mix syrups and electuaries; and that he had a strong inclination to be acquainted with the operation of medicines by experience, the manner of extracting their virtues, and of compounding one with another\*.” He thinks it necessary, however, to make some apology, for having thus deviated from the general custom of the country, and the example set before him by his father and his grandfather.

But the practice of medicine as a science was not at this time confined to the SARACENS. The extensive settlements they had acquired in SPAIN, the

\* Theissar. Dahalm.



communications which were, of necessity, entered into with other EUROPEAN powers in PALESTINE, as well as the literary pursuits yet cultivated at CONSTANTINOPLE, were the means of establishing some medical schools of no small merit and reputation in FRANCE, and the adjoining provinces. Of these the institutions at MONTPELIER, NAPLES, and SALERNUM were the principal, especially the latter, which was founded about the end of the eleventh century, by ROBERT of NORMANDY; and is, perhaps, the first that established the form of public examination and admission, and possessed the power of conferring medical licences and degrees. It recognises most obviously the existence of apothecaries, and enforces the propriety of discriminating the three branches of the medical profession from

D 2

each



each other. The physician is under the necessity of producing testimonials that he has been a medical student for seven full years; the surgeon that he has attended to anatomy for at least one; and the apothecary is prohibited from charging more than an established ratio for the medicaments he compounds and employs.

Besides this celebrated seminary for medical knowledge, I do not find there was any other where this classification of medicine was regularly adhered to, or even required. The branch of surgery was sometimes practised by itself, I acknowledge, but the instances are by no means frequent; and when it was conjoined to either of the others, instead of being united to that of pharmacy, as it appears to have been among the ARABIANS, about the ninth and  
tenth



tenth centuries, it was rather connected with the practice of the physician. The professors of physic at PADUA and BOLOGNA were, therefore, generally professors of surgery at the same time, and read lectures on both subjects to their students. Such was ADRIANUS SPIGELIUS, the first medical lecturer in the former university; and such was VOLCHERUS COITER in the latter. CONSTANTIUS VAROLIUS, of BOLOGNA, who flourished about 1570, and AMBROSE PARE, of PARIS, his contemporary, appear to have practised surgery alone; while at the same time MICHAEL SERVETUS, of GENEVA, who is supposed to have been, in some measure, acquainted with the circulation of the blood, engaged with equal avidity in every branch. Unluckily, however, both for himself and the world at large, the age of SERVETUS



was rather an age of theological than of medical polemics; and writing with spirit against the doctrine of the Trinity, he drew down upon his head the implacable vengeance of CALVIN, and was publickly burnt for his infidelity.

The medical fashion and practice of ITALY was propagated throughout all FRANCE. LARENTIUS, who was physician to HENRY IV. does not appear, however, to have practised surgery, or to have been his own compounder of medicines. But so late as the beginning of the present century, the two former divisions of the medical sciences were lectured upon by the same professor in the PARIS university; and WINSLOW, who was at this time seated in the chair, shone with rival abilities as a physician, an anatomist, and a practical surgeon. But his anatomical pursuits  
are







mandaient une dexterité non commune. Non seulement il n'y avait gueres d'excellens chirurgiens qu'en FRANCE; mais c'etoit dans ce seul pais qu'on fabriquoit parfaitement les instrumens necessaires\*. It is somewhat singular, however, that amidst all this boasted possession of surgical knowledge, the fistula in ano should be a disease in which the FRENCH surgeons were fearful of operating, and which had often proved fatal beneath their attempts. The cardinal RICHELIEU fell a sacrifice to the unskilfulness with which the operation was performed. And when Louis XIV. entrusted himself to the care of M. FELIX, his chief surgeon, so hazardous was this operation deemed, that the hospitals were all previously ransacked for those

\* Siècle de Louis XIV.

who



who had laboured under the same disease, and innumerable consultations were held with other surgeons of known reputation, to determine on the mode of operating that should appear least excruciating and dangerous. The churches also were perpetually crowded, and prayers perpetually offered up throughout the whole kingdom, to avert the fatal termination which was so generally apprehended.

This ignorance is the more surprising, because the mode of operating, both by the ligature and the cautery, had been long before, and repeatedly described by both GREEK and ARABIAN writers, especially PAULUS and ALBU-CASIS. GULIELMUS DE SALICETO had treated professedly on this disease in the middle of the thirteenth century; and, what is more extraordinary, our



own countryman, JOHN ARDERN, towards the close of the fourteenth.

As to the practice of medicine, during the age of this celebrated prince, the FRENCH writers themselves do not contend that it possessed any merit beyond what was to be traced in the other nations of EUROPE. And when this monarch was attacked by the disease to which he fell a victim, he became dissatisfied with his own physicians, and employed an empyric, who boasted of being able to cure him speedily, but under whose care he expired in a few days.

It was with various success that medicine appears to have been cultivated in GERMANY. P. RAICHSPALT, who was physician at TREVES, towards the end of the twelfth century, was supposed



posed to possess very considerable merit, and was sent for expressly, from this city, to attend Pope CLEMENT V. whom he was fortunate enough to restore to health, after the skill of many other physicians had been exerted in vain.

Not long afterwards medicine was established as a science in the university of BASIL. The first medical professor was WERNER WOLFLINUS, to whom the university was indebted for its system of laws and ordinances. It does not, however, appear to have produced many practitioners of much celebrity. The university at WITTEMBURG was established not many years after\*; which appears to have possessed more scientific fame than that of BASIL.

\* A. D. 1495.



Its first superior or rector was MARTIN POLYCHIUS. As a physician he distinguished himself, and first attracted notice in the memorable controversy on the subject of the venereal disease, which was now beginning to claim the attention of EUROPEAN physicians and surgeons; but by being appointed professor of the three faculties of philosophy, medicine, and theology, he appears to have monopolized too many literary situations for the benefit either of the world at large, or of his own credit. He obtained, however, the appellation of Lux Mundi, an honour frequently conferred on men of conspicuous abilities, and which was, if I be not mistaken, bestowed on our own countryman, JOHN OF GADDESDEN.

Pharmacy



Pharmacy and surgery were neither of them, at first, much cultivated in GERMANY. In general, therefore, the GERMAN apothecaries and surgeons were barbers and ignorant impostors; though THEODORUS, who was celebrated in the sixteenth century as a physician of distinguished abilities, practised first of all as an apothecary, at DEUX-PONTS on the RHINE.

The age of PARACELSUS was of some advantage as to chemical science, but of little or none to the empire at large. For those who were in any degree acquainted with chemistry, sedulously retained their knowledge to themselves; and gave an opportunity hereby to many pretenders and impostors, altogether unacquainted with every chemical rudiment, to practise as men of extensive science, upon the simplicity of the people. Hence the continual exclama-



exclamations of all the GERMAN writers of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, against the ignorant apothecaries, mountebanks, surgeons, chemists, and paracelsists, who were continually deluding the unwary multitude by their ridiculous pretentions. CAMERARIUS, of NORIMBERG, declared that more were destroyed by them than by the sword\*; and THEODORUS, whom I have before made mention of, as an apothecary at DEUX-PONTS, endeavoured to clear the city, in which he lived, of all those different pests of society; and in the language of a most pleasant GERMAN writer, devoted both these, and all the old witches, and all the enchanters of whatever kind and pretension they might be, to the devil†.

\* Vit. Germ. Med. à Melch. Adam. in voc. Camer.

† Id. in Vit. Theod.



It is singular, however, that even the best informed physicians themselves of this era were addicted to the belief in the pretended powers of witchcraft and incantation, and more especially of astrology; however impious they thought the practice of these arts might be. Medicus, therefore, observed THEODORUS, non confulet ea, quæ in perniciem vergant animarum. Melius est, enim nos semper ægrotare, quàm cum Dei contumeliis sanos esse\*.

But it is not the GERMANS alone who have been injured by these pests

\* Vide supr.

It was to the same effect ERICUS CORDUS wrote an epigram to his son VALERIUS, when engaged in the study of medicine, in which the following lines occur:

Sed fuge dementum mendax genus astrologorum,  
 Quæque docent vanis frivola scripta libris:  
 Malo quòd indoctus, quàm quod sis, impius: ergo  
 Disce ut doctorem confiteare deum,

Lib. 2.

of



of society. There is scarcely a nation in EUROPE, or even in the world, to which, under some character or another, they have not transmigrated; and happy, indeed, would it have been for this country, and advantageous to the lives of many thousands, if they had never found a residence among ourselves. Our travelling quacks and mountebanks have almost all of them been of GERMAN origin, and independent of the spirit of gambling they have excited among the vulgar from their stages, the mischiefs they have occasioned by their extreme ignorance and impudence, are altogether incalculable.



## S E C T. II.

*The Origin of Medicine, and more especially of the Profession of the Apothecary in Great Britain. The different Charters and Acts of Parliament which have successively been obtained relative to Medicine; the Knavery and Ignorance of Multitudes of Medical Practitioners, from the universal Incompetency of those public Edicts to prevent Abuses. The Origin of the Occupation of the Druggist; and the Source from whence the Apothecary derived his Stock of Drugs anterior to this Period.*

**H**ITHERTO I have endeavoured to give a short, and consequently, imperfect sketch of the history of medicine, its first origin, its subdivisions, and  
its



its changes, in all the principal parts of the world where it was chiefly cultivated, excepting in this kingdom. I now proceed, therefore, from the casual documents and anecdotes that are to be collected, to trace its rise and progress among ourselves; still chiefly adhering to the purpose I at first proposed, of pointing out the early existence of the profession of the apothecary, and the line of practice which was generally allotted him.

IN GREAT BRITAIN, as in all other countries, the first physicians were pharmaceutists, and compounded their own medicines; and those who were supposed to be possessed of the largest share of general science, were supposed to be the best physicians, and were chiefly resorted to for advice. Hence the study and practice of medicine,



cine, in the earliest ages of this kingdom, were confined to the druids; and afterwards, on the establishment of the christian religion, to the monks and clergy at large. This, indeed, was the common custom throughout EUROPE in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries; till, at length, the duties of the two professions being discovered to interfere most injuriously with each other, every person in holy orders was forbidden, by an edict from the papal chair, to pursue the science of medicine any longer.

On the destruction of CONSTANTINOPLE, by the irruption of the northern nations, EUROPE, therefore, at large, and this country in particular, were supplied with medical assistants from the ITALIAN and the earlier FRENCH schools; which, as I have  
before



before observed, derived their maxims and customs almost entirely from the ARABIAN writers and the SARACEN seminaries of medicine\*.

With the ITALIAN and FRENCH physician were introduced, therefore, into this country, the ITALIAN and FRENCH apothecary and surgeon. But, in cases of extreme importance or danger, and where expence was a matter of no moment, the most celebrated professors were personally applied to abroad, or induced personally to attend in GREAT BRITAIN. ROBERT of NORMANDY, son of WILLIAM the Conqueror, applied to the professors at SALERNUM for advice, and resided

\* This study and initiation at foreign schools was enforced by a petition of the parliament to Henry V. in the beginning of the fifteenth century.

Brown's Vindication, &c.

amongst



amongst them, in consequence of a fistulous wound he had received in PALESTINE, from a poisoned arrow. The poison, he was told, could only be extracted by some person's sucking the wound with frequency and resolution. The danger such a person would risk, was, in the opinion of the duke, too great and hazardous, and, with much generosity of mind, he forbade the attempt to be made. But the princess of CONSERVANA, whom he had married, and who was alike renowned for her beauty and accomplishments, disregarded the restriction whenever she had an opportunity in the night, and, by the heroic sacrifice of her own life, restored complete health to her wounded husband.

The first apothecaries we meet with in this country as regularly discriminated,



nated, and consistent with the above observation, are J. FALCAND DE LUCA, who, according to REGNER\*, publicly vended medicines in 1357; and PIERRE DE MONTPELLIER, who enjoyed the appointment of apothecary to EDWARD III. in 1360†. The appointment of foreigners did not, however, continue long after this period. JOHN DE GADDESSEN had, even before this, been appointed physician to the court, and about three score years afterwards, in the reign of HENRY VI. the council, during his illness, assigned him, out of the many pretenders to physic with which the country abounded, three physicians and two surgeons, whose names are obviously ENGLISH, to administer medicines and advice. These

\* Antiq. Bened. in Angl. 167.

† Freind's Hist. Med. Tom. II.

physicians



physicians and surgeons, or at least some of them, were supposed to be pharmacutists themselves, and to superintend the composition of what medicines were necessary for the king, as well as to be present at the application of them\*.

These, as no apothecaries are expressly enumerated, notwithstanding their general existence throughout the nation, and the household establishment

\* Rex adversa valetudine laborans de assensu Consilii sui assignavit Johannem Arundel, Johannem Saceby et W. Hatchiffe, medicos; Robertum Warren, et Johannem Marshall, chirurgos, ad libere *ministrandum* et *exequendum in et circa personam suam*. Imprimis, viz. quod licite valeant moderare sibi diætam suam, et quod possint *ministrare* potiones, syrupos, confectiões, laxativas medicinas, clysteria, suppositoria, caput purgea, gargarismata, lealnen, epithemata, fomentationes, embrocationes, capitis rasuram, unctiões, emplastra, &c. dantes singulis in mandatis quod in *executione præmissorum, sint intendentes*.

they



they had possessed in the reign of EDWARD III. these pharmaceutists were probably the surgeons; who, in that case, combined the same branches of the profession, and engaged in the same two-fold occupation which is, at this moment, common in every city and town in the country, and not uncommon in LONDON itself. I know that the practice of surgery was, at this time, frequently distinct from that of medicine; and, in conformity to the GERMAN custom, often united to the occupation of the barber; but it was, likewise, often connected with the former; and, as at the present day, especially amongst practitioners in the army and navy, lent its name to both branches of the profession; till, at length, in the reign of HENRY VIII. it was expressly declared by the legislature, that “surgery was an especial part of physic, and  
any



any of the company or fellowship of physicians were allowed to engage in it\*." In the fifteenth century, the ENGLISH surgeons, however, must have been regarded in a very respectable point of view; for PETER LOWE, who flourished about the middle of this century, and wrote a volume on this subject†, was appointed Surgeon to the King of FRANCE and NAVARRE.

## E

## The

\* Stat. 32. Hen. VIII. cap. 40.

† A copy of this volume is now to be seen in the Library of the Medical Society of LONDON; it is entitled, "A Discourse of the whole Art of Chyrurgerie; which is not only profitable for Chyrurgions, but also for all Sorts of People, both for *preventing* of *Sickness*, and *Recovery of Health*." Accordingly Peter has added, in an Appendix, "The Prefages of DIVINE HIPPOCRATES," more especially those which relate to fevers. It is obvious, therefore, from the title of this book, and more especially from the book itself, that the term "Chyrurgion,"



The first public act for the regulation of the medical profession was some few years anterior to this decision\*. This act, is entitled “For the appointing of physicians and surgeons.” It complains of both branches of the profession being daily attempted and exercised by great multitudes of persons devoid of all capacity and learning; of men who could not even read, and were, at the same time, engaged in the most menial occupations; and of women who ventured to introduce sorcery and witchcraft along with their pretended nostrums, to the high displeasure of God, the great disgrace of the faculty, and the grievous

rurgion,” was often used for *pharmaceutist* or *apothecary*; or, at least, that the two branches of the profession were frequently united. It is the second edition of this work which is to be found in the library of the Medical Society, and the date of this edition is 1612.

\* Ann. 3. Henry VIII. cap. 11.



damage and destruction of the king's liege subjects; who, in too many instances, could not distinguish the skilful from the unskilful. It enacts that no person within the city of LONDON, or within the circuit of seven miles thereof, shall take upon himself to practise either as physician or surgeon, till he have been examined and approved of by the bishop of LONDON, or dean of ST. PAUL's, assisted by four physicians or surgeons of established reputation, according to the branch of practice designed to be engaged in, under the penalty of £.5 per month for non compliance. And that no person beyond these precincts of the city should engage in either of the above occupations, under the same forfeiture, till he have been examined and approved of by the bishop of his respective diocese, or his vicar general, assisted by such persons of the faculty as



they should think most competent for this purpose. The fellows of the universities of OXFORD and CAMBRIDGE being, in all cases, excepted and provided against.

It was about seven years after the enacting this statute, in the beginning of the sixteenth century\*, the present college of physicians was established by a charter expressly granted to them by Henry VIII. Which charter, it is declared, was consented to, partly in imitation of the ITALIAN and other states, where medical establishments had been introduced, and partly at the pressing solicitations of the celebrated LINACRE, and five other physicians whose names are associated with his. It likewise complains of the ill effects resulting

\* About the year 1518.

from



from the practice of ignorant and unqualified pretenders to medicine. So that it is probable the former statute had not been complied with so generally as it ought to have been: and it enumerates the privileges vested in the college in consequence of its incorporation.

This charter was confirmed four or five years afterwards by a specific act entitled “ The Privileges and Authority of Physicians in London.” It was obtained in the fourteenth year of the reign of Henry VIII. \*, and retracts the power of examination and admission to the profession from the hands of the clergy and vests it in that of the college. The term *medicus* appears to be employed, in this charter, in its original and extensive signification, as embracing every branch of the profession, both surgery and phar-

\* A. D. 1522-3.



macy, as well as phyfic. Surgery was indeed, a few years afterwards, as I have already observed, declared officially to be “an especial part and member of the science of physick\*.” And if apothecaries be not included in this common term they are not included at all, which is scarcely to be credited; because they were, at this time, very general throughout the kingdom, and because physicians must otherwise have been the preparers and compounders of their own medicines, and regarded as such by the privy council. Præterea, says the charter, volumus et concedimus pro nobis et successoribus nostris, quantum in nobis est, quod per præfidentem, et collegium prædictæ communitatis pro tempore existenti et eorum successores, in perpetuum, quatuor, singulis annis, per ipsos

\* Act 32. Hen. VIII. Sect. 3.

eligantur,



eligantur, qui habeant supervisum et  
scrutinium, correctionem et gubernati-  
onem omnium et singulorum dictæ civi-  
tatis medicorum utentium facultate me-  
dicinæ, in eadem civitate, ac aliorum  
medicorum forinsecorum quorumcunque  
facultatem illam medicinæ, ALIQUO  
MODO, frequentantium et utentium, in-  
fra eandem civitatem et suburbia ejus-  
dem, sive intra septem milliaria in cir-  
cuitu ejusdem civitatis: ac punitionem  
eorum pro delictis suis in non bene *exe-  
quenda, facienda, et utenda* illa; necnon  
SUPERVISUM ET SCRUTINIUM OMNI-  
MODARUM MEDICINARUM\*.

The act of the thirty-second of the  
same reign entitled “ For Physicians and  
their Privilege†, and that of the first of  
Queen MARY touching the Corpora-

\* Chart. of Incorp.

† Appendix D.



tion of the Physicians in LONDON\*,” in the year 1553, were both however more explicit and appropriate in the language made use of to discriminate the different branches of the profession. For in these the term apothecary expressly occurs; and it is declared to be a duty incumbent on the college to visit their shops and to scrutinize their drugs and medicines, as also to destroy those which were found “defective and corrupt.” For the more full completion of this valuable end, it is declared lawful and expedient for the wardens of the company of grocers, or one of them, to attend the physicians, who might be delegated, in these general examinations†.

It

\* Appendix E.

† In the former statute the censors of the college are prohibited from destroying defective drugs, except when  
some



It must be obvious, that at this time, there were no such persons as druggists; otherwise the appointment would have been vested in these instead of being vested in the grocers. The term druggist does not, indeed, occur till nearly a century afterwards, as I shall presently take notice of; at least in any public act: and is then only introduced to complain of the frauds and deceits which were notorious amongst them, as also amongst “divers apothecaries inhabiting in the same cittie (of LONDON):” altogether in consequence, as is afterwards expressed, of a want of necessary regulations on this subject, and because no test of medical skill and capacity had been hitherto devised, and applied.

some such warden was present. But in the latter they are allowed the liberty of destroying such defective materials, though no warden from the grocer's company attended.  
Appendix F.



And here the question naturally arises, in what manner could apothecaries, at this time, be supplied with their drugs if there were no such persons as druggists in existence?

It must in answer be remarked that, at this time, the foreign articles of medicine were but few in number in comparison with those of the present day. China root, sarsaparilla, and guaiacum, with a variety of other simples of the same class, were but just introduced into general practice abroad, and had scarcely found their way into this country: camphor, though known to the ARABIANS, was but seldom employed, and peruvian bark was not even discovered to possess medical properties till nearly a century afterwards. Chemistry was scarcely imagined to have any connection with physic. PARACELSUS, who first introduced



duced the preparations of this art, in any general degree, to the notice of physicians, was but just born, and VAN HELMONT who, as a chemical practitioner, became in future time, the admiration of the world, did not exist till ninety years after the birth of PARACELSUS. And however operose some of the preparations of the dispensary may have been, they were comparatively but few in number, and generally compounded of indigenous plants, or other articles easily to be procured. For the foreign drugs that were in use the apothecary had recourse to the wholesale grocer, who imported for him, therefore, all the roots, gums, balsams, and opium, with every other exotic material he had occasion for: and he himself was the compounder of these ingredients into particular forms; or, at least, superintended the composition



thereof in his own laboratory. The propriety, therefore, of appointing the wardens of the grocers' company to attend the physicians in their public examination of drugs is obvious, and the fact readily accounted for. The importation of foreign drugs was through their medium, and they were supposed to be conversant in their comparative purity and genuineness.

As a further proof that, at this time, and even long after, the apothecary made use of the wholesale grocer as his agent and factotum, it is universally known that, originally, he not only vended medicines in his shop, but a variety of other articles, in some measure indeed connected with medicines, but avowedly purchased at the grocer's warehouse, such as spices and snuff, tobacco, sugar,



sugar, and plums\*. This habit of intercourse and connection induced JAMES I. to regard the two occupations either as but one, or as capable of an advantageous and ready union. In consequence of which, in the fourth year of this reign, he incorporated them under one charter, and allowed them equal privileges. A union which was soon afterwards found to be incongruous: and on the expiration of nine years he consented to disunite them, and granted the charter under which the company of apothecaries now claim†. By this charter the

\* So late as 1704, the act which was then passed for regulating the duties on coffee, tea, chocolate, spices, and drugs, enumerates the greater part of these as articles of the same trade. Vide Appendix G.

† The reasons for this disjunction are expressly declared to be, in order that medicines might be better prepared, and in opposition to divers persons who imposed unwholesome medicaments on the people. Observ. on the Case of M. Rose, Sect. 2.

war-



wardens of the company of grocers, or at least some one of them, is still required to attend the delegation of physicians in their examination of the shops of apothecaries, though the master and wardens of this last society are obliged to attend likewise. In consequence of the present division of trade the attendance of the grocers' company is not, certainly, of any great consequence, and it has therefore, for many years, been altogether dispensed with.

It is after this period, by nearly half a century, that the word druggist occurs in any public act. It is to be met with in the new charter intended for the college of physicians in the reign of CHARLES II. And, as I have before observed, the term is only introduced, along with that of some apothecaries, who were the disgrace of their profession,



feſſion, and who will at all times be too numerous amongſt us whilſt no reſtrictive laws exiſt to prevent their intrusion, to complain of the frauds, deceits, and abuſes which, like thoſe of the preſent day, were ſo flagrant and notorious as to become objects of public reſprehenſion, as well as the ſource of much public miſchief. This charter met with very conſiderable oppoſition, and was never confirmed by parliament.

The date of the charter granted to the ſociety of Apothecaries is 1617. I have before remarked, that in this charter, the maſter and wardens of the company of grocers are ſtill required to attend the public inſpection of drugs: which, I think, is a proof that, even at this time, it was the common cuſtom, amongſt apothecaries, to purchaſe their foreign drugs of wholeſale grocers; and,  
of



of course, that no such persons as druggists were then in existence. Otherwise druggists of reputation would have been associated, in the inspection, with physicians and apothecaries, instead of grocers; and the latter would have been purposely omitted as having relinquished the purchase and agency of drugs. But it is easy to demonstrate that much later than either of these periods the occupation of the druggist, either was not engaged in by persons of any great respectability, or was not regarded in any mercantile, or even respectable view.

During the reigns of the STUARTS, persons in every public employment, which was capable of being chartered, and which was not previously chartered, applied for incorporation: and the sums of money, which were offered for such a privilege, generally obtained it. JAMES I. there-



therefore, instituted no less than fifteen new companies: CHARLES I. about the same number: OLIVER CROMWELL, during the protectorship, one: CHARLES II. on his re-establishment, nine or ten more. The farriers, the porters, the carmen, and the woodmongers, had successively obtained charters of incorporation, at some of these periods: and surely had there been any druggists, or at least of any respectability, they would, in some of these periods, have been incorporated likewise. Even so late as the reign of Queen ANNE two companies were admitted to a charter, the Fan-makers in 1709, the Loriners in 1712: but there were no druggists to make any application for such a privilege, even at this time, or it would surely have been granted them.

Che-



Chemistry however, which had for many years been cultivated with success by BOYLE, LEMERY, and some few other men of abilities in this kingdom, began now to form a close and general connection with the pharmaceutic art; and the daring spirit of commerce had explored many new regions, and had imported many new materials for medicine. The occupation of the grocer was, in some degree, rendered too complex hereby; and a separation of that part which refers to foreign drugs gradually took place, and united itself, perhaps with considerable propriety, to the rising art and science of chemistry. The persons thus separating themselves from the grocery line, were discriminated by the appellation of drug-men and druggsters; and, in time, by the present name of druggists: and they united to themselves the title of chemists, in proportion



tion as they interfered with the pursuits of this last art \*.

In many parts of EUROPE, even at the present hour, however, the occupation of a druggist is scarcely known; and, if I be rightly informed, the apothecary of those kingdoms and districts, still receives his drugs from the wholesale grocer of the neighbouring metropolis. LIEGE, which supplies with medical materials the whole bishoprick of that

\* The Royal Edict prefixed to the LONDON Pharmacopæias of the present century, as well as the commentaries of DR. PEMBERTON and DR. HEALDE, on the different editions of them, are all addressed to *apothecaries*; and the word *druggist* does not once occur. In the edict, however, “apothecaries and others undertaking to compound medicines,” is certainly to be met with. But as the name of druggist does not appear, the word “others,” in all probability, refers to those persons who, “being no common surgeons,” were nevertheless allowed to prescribe and compound medicines for charity, by the statute passed in the year 1542. Vide Appendix H.

name,



name, and a considerable part of the circle of WESTPHALIA, has but four druggists at present: GHENT, one of the most commercial cities in AUSTRIAN FLANDERS, but six; and BRUSSELS, the capital of BRABANT, but five: and about twenty years since, this last city contained three druggists only.

Hence the origin of this new and two-fold occupation: an occupation certainly of modern date, in comparison of almost every occupation at present pursued: and which, in its first origin, was designed to be a warehouse of supply to the apothecary, and, most assuredly, not of encroachment upon his profession: which depended altogether upon him for countenance and support: and which might be even advantageous to him, and respectable to itself, while restrained within its own definite and proper



per bounds: but which cannot, in any way, overstep those bounds without being, for the most obvious reasons, exposed to the strongest temptations of using the same frauds and deceits, which were attributed to it in a public act, on its very first attempts at pharmacy; and which has been, with too much justice, subject to the same imputation ever since.

It may, perhaps, be enquired whether there be any precedent of remote date, in the history of the apothecaries of this kingdom, for medical practice as well as pharmaceutic composition? To which I can have no hesitation to answer in the affirmative.

I have asserted that, so early as the middle of the fourteenth century, apothecaries were not uncommon in this  
king-



kingdom, and I have produced an instance, in proof hereof at this very time, of the appointment of PIERRE DE MONTPELLIER to the office of apothecary to EDWARD III. In what the duties of this office consisted at this period, I am not very sure: most probably in the giving medical advice as well as the vending medical materials; for in the reign of HENRY V. not more than half a century afterwards, we find the parliament complaining to the king that there was no restrictive law of any kind on this subject; and that men of every denomination pretended at times to the knowledge and practice of medicine; the most menial mechanics as well as the most ignorant old women. Amidst this general licence it is not, therefore, to be supposed that the apothecary alone, the man whose employment must have rendered him in some measure acquainted



quainted with the virtues of drugs, and who was accustomed to vend them to others, should abstain from the general practise himself. And though the word apothecary do not occur, in the order of council, for the appointment of medical attendants during the illness of HENRY VI. the successor to HENRY V. I have endeavoured to account for this taciturnity, by supposing them included in the term medicus or chirurgus; more especially as, although the order is silent as to the name, it is diffuse as to the occupation of the apothecary.

It is from the same reasoning I have endeavoured to show that, in the charter granted to the college of physicians, in the reign of HENRY VIII. the surgeon and apothecary are both included in the common term medicus. Otherwise the occupation is described without the  
name



name of the occupier. And as the same complaints, that the practise of medicine had been often usurped and attempted by the most ignorant handicrafts, occur in this charter, which are to be traced in the petition of parliament, in the reign of HENRY V. we cannot imagine that the apothecary would desert a practice which was attempted by the multitude at large, but which, from his occupation alone, he ought to be better qualified to understand than any of his neighbours, even if he had not attended the medical lectures at this time publicly read at the universities of OXFORD and CAMBRIDGE, which however were frequently attended.

These celebrated universities indeed formed the common schools, previous to the establishment of lectures on physic at GRESHAM COLLEGE, and other public  
in-



institutions in LONDON, at which the apothecary, as well as the physician, finished, after his apprenticeship, his medical education. And so general was the custom of attending them, that “ DR. WINTERTON, professor of physic in the university of CAMBRIDGE, in a letter to DR. FOX, president of the college of physicians in 1665, complained of the facility with which incorporation was to be obtained in these seminaries, by persons totally unqualified. “ I have observed, says he, and grieved to see, sometimes a minister, sometimes a serving man, sometimes an apothecary, admitted to a licence to practise in physic, or to be incorporated to a degree, without giving any publique testimony of their learning and skill in the profession;” and in another part of the same letter he says, “ incorporation was in

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an instant obtained by a little summe of money \*."

It is probable, in the reign of HENRY VIII. that the two occupations of the surgeon and apothecary were united: and that, as at present, he was sometimes distinguished by the one appellation, and sometimes by the other: for about fifteen years after the confirmation of the charter granted to the college of physicians, a bill was introduced and received the royal assent, which declares "that persons, being no common surgeons, may administer medicines notwithstanding the statute," passed a few years before. It complains of the enormous charges of surgeons in general, in their cure of diseases, and is intended to licence "good old women, and such

\* Ferris's General View, &c. p. 91.



other honest people as would give neighbourly advice for charity and piety, and who did not look for gain thereby." And it limits the diseases in which such persons, who were no common surgeons, were allowed to interfere; which were principally external, except in cases of stone, strangury, and ague\*.

In this statute, therefore, the word surgeon appears obviously to be understood as synonymous with apothecary; and was thus interpreted by judge RICHARDSON, in his decision on this statute, so late as 1631, in the case of the college of physicians against JOHN BUTLER. And this being allowed, it follows, that, at the time of the introduction of this bill, the practice of medicine was not only officially permitted

\* A. D. 1542-3.



to the apothecary, but supposed to constitute a prime part of his occupation.

In effect, from what occurs at the present day, it is obvious that the two departments of surgery and pharmacy must have been very generally united at this time, in order to obtain any decent support for the practitioner and his family. The apothecary, in his department, was not encroached upon by the druggist, as at present, it is true; and, in this respect, might have been more comfortably situated; but as to the surgeon, and especially the surgeon of a small town, he must have found it as impossible then, as it is impossible now, to have supported himself by his own limited occupation alone; and, of course, must have engaged in the practice of pharmacy at the same time: In every country, therefore, where these  
branches



branches of medical science are regularly divided, the government has ever been under the necessity of furnishing salaries to the practitioners. Thus, in RUSSIA, both surgeons and apothecaries, after having submitted to a severe examination by the Chancery of Medicine, are allowed a regular stipend from the same court; from whence, likewise, the apothecary receives gratuitously whatever drugs he has occasion for. And thus again in ITALY, the surgeon, who is not allowed to practise pharmacy, is supported, as is also the physician in this country, by condottas or rates levied for this purpose on the inhabitants of the different towns and villages, and enforced by the magistrates of those places.

But to pursue the history of pharmaceutical practice in this kingdom:



from the reign of HENRY VIII. in which the college first obtained their charter, till the reign of JAMES I. in which the society of apothecaries was likewise incorporated\*, there appears to have been frequent disputes between the former and all other medical practitioners of every denomination. Prosecutions for ignorant and pernicious practice were perpetual, and, perhaps, founded on just grounds; for then, as at present, there were no restrictive or discriminating regulations of any kind; there was no test to determine who were really possessed of ability; and no adequate law to preclude those from the profession who were not. The college, however, on the contrary, were accused of much illiberality, and of extending its power

\* A. D. 1615.



beyond the bounds which were legally allowed it\*.

In the third year of PHILIP and MARY, “ the surgeons and apothecaries were prohibited the practising of physick” under either appellation. And, in the fourteenth of ELIZABETH, it was determined, “ that the surgeons should not give inward medicines in the sciatica, the French pox, or any kind of ulcer or wound†.” From whence it

\* With just contempt HYGEIA didst thou see,  
These mean dissensions of the faculty;  
See sick’ning physic hang her pensive head,  
And what was science once, become a trade:  
Behold her sons desert her mystic lore,  
And study nature less, and lucre more.

DISPENSARY. Cant. 6.

† I have searched for these acts among the statutes at large, printed in 1786, but I cannot find them. I have inserted them, however, on the authority of Dr. GOODALL, who has mentioned them in his “ Royal College of Physicians.”



seems conclusive that apothecaries had again ventured to practice under the title of surgeons, notwithstanding the restriction imposed upon both parties a few years before; and, it is probable, the necessity there was for such a practice, in situations where no physicians could obtain a livelihood, because few persons could afford to pay them their accustomed fees, induced them to return to this practice, in spite of the penalties denounced against them.

But these prohibitions were not rigorously, and, at all times, enforced against every one. The College of Physicians having a power to admit any person, of whom they approved, into their community, occasionally extended this power, soon after their first establishment, to both surgeons and apothecaries; and admitted many, of  
either



either class, who were capable of passing a due examination, into the department of permissi or licentiates.

LORD MANSFIELD observed in the case, *REX v. Dr. ASKEW*, the eighth of GEORGE III. that a partial licence was granted to an oculist in 1651. “A person, said he, may be fit to practise in one branch who is not fit to practise in another. Licences have also been granted to women, and that may not be unreasonable in particular cases, as for instance, such as Mrs. Stephen’s medicine for the stone. Partial licences, he continued, have been given for above two hundred years\*.”

But it was not only into the class of licentiates that apothecaries and sur-

\* In 1768. Bur. Rep. Vol. IV. p. 2197. Ferris’s General View, &c.



geons were, at times, capable of being admitted, but also into that of candidates, and, consequently, into the fellowship of the college. In this case they were expected, however, to withdraw themselves from every other community in which they might have been previously engaged, as it was deemed improper to admit any person into that society who had pledged his faith to any other\*.

The statute of the college which gives this liberal admission, and advances

\* *Si quis forte chirurgus, aut pharmacopola, se præfide et censoribus examinandum obtulerit, quo in CANDIDATORUM aut permissorum numerum reciperetur, cum ante examinationem, aut saltem ante admissionem, omni jure et obligatione exui volumus, quibus suæ communitati prius obstringebatur. Neque enim æquum aut commodum censemus quemquam in societatem nostram admittere, qui fidem alteri addictam habet.*

Stat. Nov. 8. Coll. Reg. Med.

this



this honourable testimony of the medical qualifications of, at least, many of the surgeons and apothecaries of this kingdom, bears the date of 1647; and it was confirmed a few years afterwards, being periods of about thirty and three score years from the date of the apothecaries' charter. And it discovers the existence of a manly and generous union between all the branches of the medical profession. But, unhappily, this union did not last long. For on application to CHARLES II. in 1662, on the part of the college, for the allowance of a new charter, with the permission of some few official privileges in addition to those already possessed, and which actually received a promise of the royal assent, the incorporated society of apothecaries opposed it, with so much dexterity and violence, that it altogether miscarried,



and was incapable of obtaining the consent of the other two branches of the legislature\*.

I confess I cannot see what just grounds there could exist for an opposition so warm and strenuous. The preamble to the charter had undoubtedly expressed the necessity of its renewal from a want of sufficient power in the old charter to restrain “ the number of unskillful, illiterate, and unlicenced practizers of physicke that, in and about the cittie of LONDON, hath of later yeares much increased, and att present doe daylie multiplie, *together with the renewed frauds, abuses, and deceits of divers apothecaries, druggists†, and others*

\* It is to this cause, at least, that Sir W. BROWNE attributes the failure of this last charter.

Vindication of the Roy. Col. &c. p. 10.

† This, as I have before observed, is the first time that the word druggist occurs in any public act.



inhabiting in the same citty, frequently exercised and practised in the making, preparing, ordering, and venting of drugs, and other things relating to the said facultie of physicke, to the greate dishonour of this nation, and of the sage and learned professors of that facultie soe noble and necessary, and to the detriment of us and our good subjects." But it does not declare, nor even intimate, that *all apothecaries* were guilty of frauds, abuses, and deceits; to the contrary, by introducing the word "divers" a term of much limitation, it allows the greater number of apothecaries to be both capable and honest. And far more honourable, indeed, must the profession of the apothecary have been then than it is at present, if "divers" among them were not of mean and illiterate origin, and too much addicted, together with "divers" drug-

gifts



gifts of the present day, to the "frauds, abuses, and deceits" of which the charter complains.

Be the cause of irritation, however, what it might, the incorporated society of apothecaries was much enraged at this attempt of the College of Physicians, and, as before observed, their opposition proved successful\*.

But the College was not to be treated thus severely without revenge; and, having before asserted in their charter that there were *some* apothecaries who were a disgrace to the medical profession, they now enacted a statute to preclude *all* apothecaries whatever, as well as all surgeons, under which appellation they might, perhaps, other-

\* Appendix I.



wife have eluded the force of the decree, from being admitted to the honour they had hitherto enjoyed, of becoming candidates for fellowship. The precise year in which this statute passed I know not, but as it was, to a certainty, about this time, there can be little doubt of the cause of its forthcoming; and, in fact, the language in which it is conveyed, breathes, in some measure, a spirit of revenge and of wounded pride. “ We enact and decree, that no surgeon nor apothecary, *nor any other such artificer*, who has ever exercised any less liberal art, or bound to servitude, has served his apprenticeship in a shop, be admitted into the class of candidates or of fellows, lest, haply, if such be elected into the College, we shall not sufficiently appear to have consulted either our own dignity, or the honour of the universities of this kingdom,



dom, which, nevertheless, we ought to regard and ever wish to regard with the highest veneration\*.

This statute has never been repealed. On the contrary, some of a still more rigid tendency have since been enacted; apothecaries and surgeons are now, not only debarred from all hope of becoming candidates or fellows, an honor even refused to the licentiate physicians at present, but are seldom able to obtain interest enough to be admitted into this latter class of the community.

[ \* Statuimus et ordinamus, ut in candidatorum vel sociorum ordinem, nullus admittatur chirurgus, pharmacopæus *aliusve aliquis ejusmodi artifex*, qui aut artem quamcunque minus liberalem unquam exercuerit, aut ad servitutem, adstrictus in officina tyrocinium posuit, ne forte, si tales in collegium ita cooptentur, non satis consuluisse videamur, aut dignitati nostræ, aut honori Academiæ nostratium, quas tamen summa veneratione prosequi debemus et semper volumus. Stat. Nov. 16. Coll. Reg. Med.

But



But to pursue this subject is foreign from my purpose. I have endeavoured to prove, and I hope I have demonstrated, not only that there were no such persons as druggists till within the present century, or a short time anterior to it; but that, previous thereto, the concerns of pharmacy were universally entrusted to apothecaries; who existed in this kingdom as early as the science of medicine existed, and were, themselves, practitioners in common with physicians. And that so necessary was this practice of the apothecary, to the nation at large, more especially in the country, that the interdictions of the legislature, in one or two instances, obtained either by misrepresentation, or the abuses actually existing, were incapable of suppressing it. The health of the people demanded such a practice,



tice, and the apothecary was obliged to comply.

During the present century, and towards the latter end of the last, several additional statutes have likewise passed, empowering the apothecary to practise, reciting his ability as a practitioner, and allowing him some exclusive privileges; particularly in the 6th and 7th years of WILLIAM III. the 10th of QUEEN ANN, and the 9th of GEORGE I. in which he is exempted from serving the offices of constable, and scavenger, as well as all other parish and ward offices; as also of serving upon juries. The last of these statutes renders these exemptions perpetual\*.

I cannot, however, close this section without observing that this dispute be-

\* Appendix K.



tween the physicians and the apothecaries in this kingdom, was not dissimilar to that conducted with much asperity between the physicians and surgeons of FRANCE, on the first establishment of the academy of the latter, in the beginning of the present century. Its origin is related with so much spirit and pleasantry, by a FRENCH critic of that period, that I cannot avoid inserting it in this place.

Il y a quelques années, says he, que les chirurgiens proposèrent d'établir une Academie de Chirurgie; cet établissement causa de l'ombrage à la Faculté de Medicine. Elle craignoit que les ouvrages, qui emaneroient de cette Academie, n'efacassent, par leur clarté, et par leur précision, ceux des medecins, dont l'obscurité et l'incertitude rebutoient, depuis long tems, des lectures, qui,



qui, en matiere de science, rejettent tout ce qui n'est point evident. Ils s'oposerent de toute leur force, mais en vain; les chirurgiens obtinrent ce qu'ils vouloient.

Ce fut là le signal d'une guerre qui dure encore. On s'imagine, peut-etre, qu'entre gens accoutomés au sang, il y en eu beaucoup de repandu: non, on ne s'est jusqu'ici escrimé que de la plume. Mais quelles plumes? Entr'autres ecrits les medecins firent imprimer, il y a dix huit mois, une question de medecine, ou l'on agitoit, si la cure des maladies veneriennes pouvoient etre confiée aux chirurgiens? Je n'ose pas dire que la politesse y etoit entierement violée. Le lecteur ne voudroit pas m'en croire. Quelle apparence, en effet, que l'auteur, qui reprochoit à ses adversaires leur grossiereté et leur peu d'education, eut voulu



voulu donner lieu au public de croire qu'il étoit dans le même cas\*. Par zele feulement pour les interets de la focieté il s'adreffoit aux magiftrats, et les prioit d'interpofer leur autorité pour interdire, dans la fuite, aux chirurgiens, la cure de ces maladies. Quelle attention dans un medecin! il eft facheux que l'ufage des bains foit echapé à fon zele dans les catalogues des remedes qu'il indiquoit au public pour la guerifon des maladies veneriennes. Cette omiffion a donné occafion aux reflexions critiques des quelques genies malins, qui fe font imaginés que l'auteur les avoit paffés fous filence, parce que nous en étions redevables aux chirurgiens.

*Tantæ ne animis medicalibus iræ†?"*

\* The writer here referred to, is M. le Docteur Santeul, who had juft published a thefis on this fubject, *Utrum chirurgia fit medicinâ certior?* and which, of courfe, he replied to in the negative.

† Reflexions fur les Ouvrage de Literature. Tom. I.



## S E C T. III.

*The Necessity of the Profession of the Apothecary to the Nation at large, and the Evils to which both are, at present, equally exposed. The Origin of the General Pharmaceutic Association to investigate these Evils; its extensive Correspondence with Practitioners in all Parts of the Kingdom; and a brief Account of its ultimate Design, and of what it has already atchieved.*

**H**EALTH is, perhaps, the greatest blessing human nature can enjoy; and life is only valuable in proportion to the degree, in which that health is possessed. Of what infinite consequence is it, then, to the nation at large, that the profession to whom its  
general



general health is entrusted, should, in all its branches, be composed of men of education, ability, and integrity; secured from error, as far as the human mind is capable of being secured, by previous and proper course of medical initiation and study; and raised above all temptation to fraud and chicanery, by respectability of personal character, and a situation of decent and easy support.

With respect to physicians of reputation, this, in most instances, holds true. They cannot, in general, enter upon any *regular* and respectable line of medical practice, without submitting to some kind of examination, and exhibiting some proof of capacity and liberal education\*. But such a preparation

\* It is possible to obtain diplomas from *several* colleges in SCOTLAND, as well as on the continent, by certificates alone,



paration for practice cannot be obtained without considerable expence; nor can such expence be afforded, excepting by families of affluence, or, at least, of reputable mediocrity. In general, therefore, the families of all respectable physicians of this country are possessed of some property, their own characters honourable, and, if their incomes be not large, on first engaging in practice, they draw from their friends, or their own patrimony, an additional support, till that practice becomes sufficient.

alone, without personal attendance and examination; but the small degree of general estimation in which such diplomas are held, prevents their forming any competition with the numbers that are obtained from the ENGLISH Universities and from EDINBURGH; at which three cities about twice the number of students graduate for practice in this kingdom, to those that graduate in every other part of the world besides. Though at many of the foreign universities the examination is sufficiently strict and severe, particularly at LOUVAIN, UTRECHT, and LEYDEN.

This



This is far from being universally, or even equally, true with respect to apothecaries; among whom there are no restrictive regulations to keep at a due distance the ignorant and the unskilful, no form of public examination, or test of medical ability. That among these there are many practitioners possess of extensive general information, sound scientific knowledge, and unimpeached respectability of character, must be admitted; and I triumph, at this moment, in the recollection of many such, who have extended to me their confidence and friendship. But many are there to be met with who have no such pretensions to merit; who are equally a disgrace to the profession, and the bane of society at large. And what is still worse, and most of all to be lamented by the community, the number of these last is daily increasing,

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while



while the more worthy and the intelligent are, in the same proportion, withdrawing themselves from the profession.

This, I have said, is to be lamented by the community; and little need be added to prove it a national detriment.

Of all the branches of the medical profession, that of the apothecary, without doubt, is of most consequence to the health of the nation at large. In this city, where a physician attends one patient, an apothecary attends twenty; and, in the country, this proportion is more than doubled. "He is," says a celebrated writer, "the physician to the poor at all times, and to the rich whenever the disease is without danger\*." In the line of mediocrity, physicians are seldom consulted, on account of the attendant expence. And huts, hovels,

\* Smith's Health of Nations.

and



and cottages, which, throughout the whole country, but more especially in large manufacturing towns, inclose such infinite numbers of human beings, and feed, with perpetual pabulum, diseases of the most infectious and fatal tendency, compose almost exclusively the walk of the apothecary. To him is likewise allotted the care of nearly all prisons and poor-houses; he only has the opportunity of stifling contagion in its birth, and of preserving the nation from its deleterious effects.

Whenever, therefore, the profession of the apothecary becomes so deficient in respectability, and lucrative advantage as to render it an ineligible occupation for men of character and property, the health of the nation must inevitably suffer, and the science of medicine be perverted.



That this is too much the case at the present moment, and that it is daily becoming more so, no man, who is, in the least, acquainted with the profession, can entertain the least doubt. And there are two grand causes to which it may be attributed.

First, The encroachment which chemists and druggists have, of late years, made on the profession of the apothecary, by vending pharmaceutic preparations, and compounding the prescriptions of physicians. And

Secondly, The want of a competent jurisdiction in the profession itself, to regulate its practice, and to restrain ignorant and unqualified persons from practising at all.

It



It was to obtain redress against these evils, and to restore to the profession a dignity and a purity which it ought ever to possess, that early in the spring of last year, several respectable apothecaries formed themselves into a society. They investigated these evils minutely, entered into an extensive correspondence with respectable members of their own profession, in almost every part of ENGLAND and WALES, and endeavoured, in every way, to excite a spirit of universal enquiry and reformation. And having collected a volume of facts, demonstrative of the infinite injury resulting to society at large, as well as to the profession in particular, from the toleration of these abuses, on the 17th of June, 1794, a general meeting of the apothecaries of this kingdom was held at the Crown and Anchor, in the



STRAND, at which about two hundred practitioners attended.

The purport of this meeting was judiciously opened by Mr. CHAMBERLAINE, of AYLESBURY-STREET; the minutes and transactions of the society were then read; and it was next stated, in support of the observations already made, “ that this unjust, and innovating usurpation of druggists, together with the intrusion of uneducated and unskilful persons into professional practice, called loudly for some speedy and effective act on our own part; an act that should at once destroy the obtrusions complained of, and restore credit and respectability to the profession. And this, indeed, whether we suffered ourselves to be influenced by narrower and personal, or by broader and patriotic considerations: For the evils we were  
called



called upon to oppose affected the nation at large, as much, and as deeply, as any individual practitioner.

“ If we regard personal views, it was stated to be a fact, the proof of which was in the tables of calculation then present, that were the aggregate sums obtained by this infringement of the druggists, and divided amongst the druggists of this metropolis, a body of men unknown to the world till about the end of the last century, unauthorised by any public charter, and almost undescribed by any public act; were these sums to be equally divided, as they ought to be divided, amongst the apothecaries of this metropolis, every one would have an addition of nearly £. 200 a year to his present income. But this evil, it appeared, was not confined to the capital, though the apothecaries of



LONDON suffer more largely from its effects, than their brethren in other situations. It was declared to be a morbid infection; that it began at the capital, as at a central point, but diffused its deadly breath from thence to all the larger cities and towns throughout the kingdom. Nor stopped the contagion here. From the larger cities and towns, it was beheld propagating itself to the smaller cities and towns, till, at length, so general was the prevalence of the disease, there was scarcely to be found a village or a hamlet, without a village or a hamlet druggist. If the sale of medicines and the giving of advice was not here sufficient to support the vender, he added to his own occupation, the sale of mops, brooms, bacon, and butter, and a thousand such articles besides. The unanimity of country practitioners could not, therefore,



therefore, be doubted of, in the adoption of any measures that might be devised to destroy this ruinous and ungenerous traffic of the druggist.

“ There might be, perhaps, some practitioners so happily situated, at present, as to be out of the reach of the druggist's influence, and unmolested by his ungenerous monopoly. But even such practitioners ought not to think themselves uninterested in the common cause. Such practitioners might have children; they might have sons; sons that *must* be educated, for, in general, there was such a necessity, into the profession of their forefathers. And when they had, at length, completed their medical education, who could determine that they would not fix themselves in the very center of some large druggist's vortex? and be subject to all the evils,



in a ten-fold degree, that we were then called upon to contemplate, to deprecate, and to oppose?

“ It was from this usurpation of drug-gifts, added to the second evil we were convened to encounter, the obtrusion of unskilful and illiterate men into the profession, that the profession lost, and was daily losing, its credit and respectability; and that an ungenerous and ungentleman-like competition was continually occurring between man and man. Where, it was demanded, is the article employed in common life, but has had a high advance upon its sale within the last twenty years? Taxes have been doubled, house-rent has been doubled, the price of almost every material has been doubled, but the price of medicines has not only not been doubled, but,



but, from the operation of the causes before adverted to, has had scarcely any advance in any place; and, in many country situations, the charge for medicines, and more especially the charge for surgical operations, has had a most shameful and a most fatal reduction indeed.

“ Hence comes it to pass, that but few respectable families will consent, at the present day, to educate their sons under our care into our profession. They foresee the difficulties they will have to encounter, and they wisely keep aloof from those difficulties. And that while an attorney can easily procure a premium of three, four, or five hundred pounds with every clerk he admits into his office, an apothecary, whose profession is of infinitely more consequence, is, in general, obliged to accept a much

G 6

smaller



smaller sum---a sum, said the speaker, which shall not injure by its statement the feelings of any one present, but which every one knows will, in almost every instance, bear no comparison whatever. Hence is it, that the poverty of the profession is become so conspicuous; and that we are continually hearing of bankruptcies among our brethren: and hence, too, proceeds it that a practitioner, instead of being able, as he ought to be able, and as gentlemen in other occupations less hazardous, and less laborious, are able, to amass a fund against future exigencies, against the advance of age, and against those accidents to which all are liable, but to which the profession of the apothecary is particularly exposing him every hour of his life, and which may prelude him for ever from rendering any farther assistance to his wife and family; instead  
of



of being able to do this, he is necessitated, in too many instances, to entrust himself, his concerns, his widow, and his family, to charitable and benevolent institutions: institutions never thought of twenty years ago; and which, while they do credit to the soundness of the judgment, and the goodness of the heart of the different members of those institutions, demonstrate, at the same time, in the most feeling, and the most forcible language, the poverty of the members themselves\*.

“ But it is not by *personal* views in a concern of such magnitude, we ought alone to be actuated. It has already been asserted it is a *national* as well as a *professional* abuse we are contending against: an assertion well worthy of elu-

\* Appendix L.



cidation; because, on such elucidation, much of our future operations, and, most assuredly, much of the success of those operations must ultimately depend. And, first, as to druggists:

“ These, as well as all other warehousemen, engaged in the purchase of articles by the gross, must find those articles, when purchased, possess of different qualities. With respect to druggists it is so, in the purchase of rhubarb, Peruvian bark, gum Arabic, and, in effect, every foreign article besides. Hence an assortment becomes necessary. From this assortment the prime drugs only can be vended to the apothecary; for the apothecary is, at all times, or at all times ought to be, a judge of their comparative quality. But what is to be done with the inferior assortments? To throw them away would be to destroy all profit accruing



cruing from the traffic with the apothecary; and to retain them, and not use them, would be precisely the same thing. And here the public, who can be no judge of the quality of his materials, offers to the hesitating druggist a most ready, a most convenient, and a most welcome market indeed: and it is the only market that is offered to the druggist at all. But if, in the use of simple articles, he be exposed to such temptations, how may he hope to escape from the power of those stronger temptations which result from the preparation of compound medicaments, and the extemporaneous prescriptions of physicians; in which succedaneums of inferior value are constantly soliciting his attention, and adulteration is never to be detected without severe labour and analysis. A druggist may, therefore, be a very honest man in the main, but he may have  
a large



a large stock of indifferent materials on his hands; and, in spite of his honesty, the temptation to dispose of these materials to the public, will often be too strong to be resisted.

“ A druggist, therefore, reasoning à priori, must be under the necessity of vending indifferent drugs to the public, and of employing them in the composition of medical prescriptions. CICERO, indeed, informs us it was a maxim of ROMAN morality, that “ in vendendis vitia discerentur, quæ nota essent venditori\*.” But if this maxim were to be enforced among modern druggists, few, indeed, would be the prescriptions they would be able to compound at all.

“ Yet allowing the necessity of employing indifferent drugs in the composition of

\* De Offic. lib. 3.



medical prescriptions, there is no necessity for compounding those prescriptions, in a careless and unscientific manner, and with wrong materials; or for sending wrong directions, or no directions at all with the prescriptions when compounded. But even these are facts which occur every day, and the papers at this time on the table, are sufficient, it was asserted, to substantiate the charge. They complain of some druggists who have made fatal mistakes in their compositions; of others who, from want of a classical education, and an incapacity of translating the directions appended to their prescriptions, have been under the necessity of disturbing apothecaries in the middle of the night to translate for them; and, lastly, of others who, from boldly adventuring to interpret, have given wrong directions; or who not daring to interpret, have  
dis-



dispensed their medicines without any directions at all: leaving the bewildered patient to chance, or the surmise of his own imagination; whilst, not knowing the omission to be the druggist's, he is condemning, at the same time, the physician for performing his duty but by halves.

“ The composition of prescriptions, and the vending of pharmaceutic preparations by druggists, comprize, then, a national evil, and of no small magnitude. The materials they make use of must, in general, be mere offals and the refuse of better drugs; and, from want of classical knowledge, perpetual errors, and negligencies, are discovered in their combination. The credit of the physician is endangered; and the patient, perhaps, is destroyed.

But



But if this be a source of national abuse and deceit, what infinite injury must result from the still bolder practice such men often allow themselves, of adding pretended medical advice to erroneous medical compositions? Men who have never enjoyed any other medical education than what their own counters have afforded: and who can know nothing of the powers of diseases, or of the powers of medicines to remove those diseases when present? To attempt to demonstrate this to be a public evil, and one that calls loudly for public redress, is altogether to lose time: it is to light up the sun at noon day with a candle. And the second abuse which results to the people at large, from the present state of pharmacy, was, therefore, adverted to; and which consists in the obtrusion into the profession of ignorant and unskilful pretenders; men whose origin,  
per-



perhaps, were that origin to be traced, would discover them to have been the porters of hospitals, or the counterboys of quondam masters\*.

“It is not altogether sufficient to complete the medical character to know that jalap will purge, that ipecacuanha will vomit, that antimonials will sweat, or that cantharides will excite a blister; and yet, were the qualifications to be minutely scrutinized of many who pretend to practise, they would not, perhaps, amount to much more than these. When men of this description, with unparalleled audacity, presume to invade the literary profession of physic---

\* Qui enim olim vix famulitio digni a nobis habebantur, nunc non modo præcipua nobis commoda medicamentorum præparatione, ac distributione præripere, sed et ipsi praxi clinicæ audacter sese immiscere moliuntur. Goelicke Reg. Prof. Hist. Med. Sect. 158.



medicines in the hands of such must become poisons; and the lancet a more dangerous weapon than the unsheathed sword. Can we wonder at the discredit into which the pharmaceutic profession is daily falling, not having, as it certainly has not, any court of competent jurisdiction to restrain such public nuisances? Can we be surprised at the complaints, which are daily echoed, and re-echoed from his majesty's army and navy, of the general unskilfulness of those appointed to superintend in medical concerns?

“These, then, are the two grand evils, which, as professional men, and men who have the good of their country at heart, we are now called upon, by this public meeting, to obviate.

But



“ But what plan is to be proposed as the means of obviating them? This is an important question, and it deserves much consideration. There are two, however, that have been suggested. The first is a general association of all the apothecaries of GREAT BRITAIN engaging themselves, by articles to each other, to deal with such druggists only who shall immediately consent to relinquish the composition of all medical prescriptions, and to retain to themselves their wholesale occupation alone: and to receive no apprentice, and employ no assistant, but who has had a classical education. And the second, the formation of a general committee to act in the name of the whole, and to endeavour to obtain the necessary reformation by an application to parliament.

As



“ As to the first, it was observed, that associations, excepting for temporary purposes alone, seldom answer the end for which they are designed; and most probably, in the present instance, would be altogether incompetent. There are two difficulties more especially such an association would have to encounter---want of universality, and want of coercion. Can we imagine that all the apothecaries of this kingdom would cordially unite into one bond as would be indispensably necessary? And that they would pledge themselves to withdraw all connection, and that for ever, from all druggists who would not consent to resign their unjust pretensions to compound pharmacy? Can we imagine they would thus universally pledge themselves not to admit into their shops, or dispensaries, any apprentice, or any assistant who had not received a preparatory educa-



education? This is scarcely to be supposed. Let it however be conceived that an association thus extraordinary and universal is completed. That association can only be supported by laws; those laws must be guarded by penalties; those penalties, when the law is infringed upon, must be enforced, and the forfeited sums collected. For many obvious reasons however, it would often be difficult, if not impossible to collect the amount of the penalties incurred. In this case the only remaining punishment is expulsion: a punishment, perhaps, the delinquent would often pay but little regard to: but which, whenever enforced, must diminish the strength, and, in some degree, by lessening its number, sap the foundation of the society itself. For these reasons, therefore, want of universality, and want of coercion, such an association must



must be incompetent to the purposes it aims at.

“ The difficulties likely to be met with in attempting to obtain an act of parliament, were next examined. They were stated to be two—expence and opposition. But it was said that the first, if duly considered, was an idle objection. For were all apothecaries to engage zealously in the common cause, it could not put them to the expence of half a crown each. But, even, without a complete unanimity, it would not, in all probability, cost those who were anxious to unite, more than a guinea each. And as to opposition we had no reason to expect it, in any violent degree, but from the druggists themselves. Nor were all druggists inimical to the meditated reform: many had already expressed their good wishes towards it;

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and



and some had even contributed pecuniary assistance to carry it into execution. But if druggists are to oppose us, who are to oppose druggists? Druggists, like all others engaged in commercial transactions, are dependent men. On whom are druggists dependent? On apothecaries—on ourselves. Let us, then, make that use of this dependance which it behoves us to make. Let us universally, and individually write to every druggist with whom we traffic, and inform him, that if he value the connection between us, we insist upon it, on the continuance of that connection, that he withhold from us all personal opposition whatsoever. Let us publish to all druggists that if, deaf to their own interests as well as ours, they should nevertheless persist in opposing us—should they frustrate our intentions, and wrench, if it were possible, the very statute from our hands



hands after we had obtained it, and tear it into a thousand tatters; we have still left the former resource of associating ourselves against such opponents; we have still left the power of creating one common fund; of establishing one general magazine; of supplying ourselves from such magazine, and thus, by a single act, of ruining their whole trade, and destroying their existence as a commercial community.

“ Opposition, then, we may meet with, but let us not be afraid of opposition. Actuated, as we are, by personal justice, and the good of our country, let such opposition be rather a stimulus to additional exertions. Let it not be said of us that, after having entered the field of contest, with weak and timid pusillanimity, we withdrew therefrom without atchieving the objects we had in view: let it rather be declared that we



fought every inch of ground; that we opposed host to host, and perseverance to perseverance; and that, as our difficulties encreased around us, our spirit likewise encreased in proportion to those difficulties. Contest must precede victory: but unanimity and resolution will ensure it to us; and that must be a prize of but little value indeed, which is to be obtained by small pains and exertions\*.”

It was then proposed “that the persons present should form themselves into a society, under the title of THE GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN; and that all other regularly educated practitioners, throughout

\* It may be remembered by many, that the substance of a speech is here related, which was delivered by the author at the *Crown and Anchor*, at the above meeting; and which he is enabled to give the more fully, from the short hand notes of a friend who did him the honour to write after him.

the



the kingdom, be invited to associate in the common cause.

“ That all the respective members of the ASSOCIATION pledge themselves to each other, not to forsake the purpose they hereby endeavour to attain, if at all attainable, till they have carried such purpose into execution: and that each enter his name, as he becomes a member, into a book allotted for this express intention.

“ That a committee be selected from the whole body of members present, for the purpose of minutely examining the difficulties which may occasionally arise; and to urge by letters, containing a candid statement of the grievances endured, every regularly educated practitioner in pharmacy throughout the kingdom.



“That this committee do not consist of a smaller number than twenty: that it be chosen by nomination and majority of votes; that it have regular meetings once a month, or as much oftener as may be deemed convenient, at the BUFFALO TAVERN, BLOOMSBURY-SQUARE, (the first meeting to be held on the twenty-eighth day of this present month, July;) that it be open to the admission of every member of the ASSOCIATION; and be at liberty to summons general meetings, and to report progress whenever it may seem expedient so to do.

“That it be recommended to the committee to take into their immediate consideration, and to adopt such means as may appear best calculated to obtain the intention of this institution, and to inform the ASSOCIATION thereof from time to time.

That



“ That as expences must necessarily, hereby, be incurred, every one who enters his name, or gives leave to have his name entered, as a member, at the time of such entrance, or as soon after as may be, do deposit into the hands of the treasurer, or the collector appointed by the ASSOCIATION, the sum of one guinea; and be, hereby, supposed to consent to advance his proportional quota of future expence, as long as he may continue a member; should it ever become necessary to make any farther application to him: but that no subscription be attempted in future, otherwise than by the express resolution of a general meeting of the ASSOCIATION.”

These resolutions proposed at this first General Meeting, were fully perfected and confirmed at a second General Meeting, held at the same place, on July 31,



following. In consequence of which, the committee then appointed have been sedulouſly engaged, and ſtill continue to be engaged, by ſpecial meetings of ſelect committees, and by public meetings of the whole body of the committee, holden, as reſolved upon, twice every month, at the BUFFALO TAVERN, BLOOMSBURY-SQUARE, to carry the important work thus devolved upon them into execution\*.

The extent of their correſpondence is only bounded by the extent of the kingdom; and the materials collected moſt voluminous and immenſe. The ardor evinced by practitioners, in every part of the country, to forward the common

\* It does not appear neceſſary to mention the names of the committee in this publication, as they have been already enumerated in a circular letter from the committee itſelf, and are in the hands of almoſt every practitioner.

cauſe,



cause, is uniform and universal; and scarcely a post arrived in LONDON for the first two months, after the establishment of the ASSOCIATION, without new statements, from personal knowledge, of increasing evils accruing either to the public or to the profession, from the toleration of the abuses complained of.

There is not, perhaps, a single druggist in the whole kingdom who compounds his different preparations, in all respects consistently with the college dispensatory, but the druggists at MANCHESTER appear to excel all others in such nefarious ingenuity, and to extend their endeavours to save trouble and expence, to articles in which it could be scarcely imagined such endeavours were necessary. An ingenious correspondent, who dates from this town, has obliged the committee with a copy of some few of these elegant succedanea, and they will



be found in the appendix as below\*. From a letter addressed by another correspondent, it appears that about ten or twelve years since, there were but two druggists in this town, though, at present, there are no less than eight; of whom three have commenced business within the course of the last twelve months†. But pharmacy alone comprises

\* Appendix M.

† A letter from CHESTER informs us there are no less than seven in that city; and at CHICHESTER we are informed, by another correspondent, there are no less than five.

Foreigners may well be surprised, therefore, as many with whom I have conversed are, at the number of druggists to be found in GREAT BRITAIN, and their comparative proportion with medical practitioners.

I have before observed, that at LIEGE there are four druggists only; at GHENT six, and at BRUSSELS five. The proportion with medical practitioners is as follows:

Drug-



prizes too small a field for these men of letters and ambition: “they prescribe, says the writer, whenever applied to, though totally ignorant of medical science, and even pretend to reduce fractures\*.”

But

	Druggists.	Surgeons.	Apothecaries.
Liege	4	30	28
Ghent	6	35	22
Brussels	5	74	40

How strangely reversed in this proportion, in the three cities of this kingdom, to which I have just adverted.

	Druggists.	Surgeons.	Surgeon-apothecaries.
Chester	7	4	7
Manchester	8	9	12
Chichester	5	3	6

This comparison between medical practice abroad, and in GREAT BRITAIN, might be conducted with ease, on a much larger scale; but I forbear augmenting it, because the proportion would be nearly the same throughout.

\* Extract of a Letter to the Committee of the General Pharmaceutic Association, and marked No. 2. in the Collection.



But druggists are not the only persons who are thus adventurous. In many places the grocers of the town take upon themselves this very benevolent office, or at least a part of it. In the small town of UCHFIELD there are not less than three of this description, who prescribe as well as vend medicines: and that these prescriptions, and this advice, may be free from every possible error, and sure of becoming advantageous, “ they apply, says a letter from this place, not to any physician, or even any apothecary, in town or in country for information, but—to the druggists with whom they deal: who, in consequence hereof, send them down advice just equal

lection C. There is a manifest impropriety in mentioning the name of any confidential correspondent. But I have put references to the different letters that are quoted, that each may the more readily be resorted to.

in



in value to their medicines, and present them with tables of different doses\*.”

At HOLBEACH†, WAKEFIELD‡, and many other places, are persons who, in the latter town, call themselves bone-setters; and, endeavour to atone for the want of all surgical knowledge, by informing the multitude, that they are in possession of specifics in almost every case that can occur, and, of which, professional gentlemen are entirely ignorant. The result of such kind of practice can easily be conceived. “I have *seen*,” says the writer of a letter from HOLBEACH, “the most dreadful consequences ensue from hence; and,

\* Extract of Letter, &c. marked No. 3, in the collection C. This gentleman particularly states the articles of ipecacuanha, tartar emetic, antimonial powder, jalap, neutral draughts.

† Letter, No. 4. C.

‡ Id. No. 5. C.



if it be necessary, I will give you many instances in a future account, having had many poor wretches apply to me in a most desperate state, in consequence of such injudicious treatment\*.”

Similar to such practitioners the committee have received an account of a man who has undertaken to practise both surgery and pharmacy at the village of BECKINGHAM, because he happened to be a short time before, stable-boy for two years to a surgeon in that neighbourhood†, and whose whole medical education was derived from hence. And from COLCHESTER, a letter has informed the Committee, of a poor wretch whose shoulder was dislocated, and who was ordered, by a man of this description, who had clearly mistaken the case, to anoint the part

\* Letter, No. 5, C.

† No. 6. C.



affected with green elder ointment, which, he might depend upon, would speedily produce a cure. This letter, likewise, complains of a female practitioner, who, after having been employed in a respectable family, in a case of fever and ulcerated throat, and sending in ten draughts and three gargles composed of "the Lord best knows what," was, at length, discharged for injudicious conduct, when the writer himself was immediately applied to\*. There is rather a ludicrous mistake mentioned as having occurred in a druggist's house, in a letter from CROYDON. The writer mentions his having been applied to by the foreman of this druggist, "for an explanation of the words "cucurbita cruenta," which he had sought for in vain amongst

\* No. 7. C.



the different preparations in his dispensatory; and, at last, had been happy enough to translate them by “an electrical shock\*.” A druggist of similar penetration is reported, in a letter from WORCESTER, to exist in that city: this man is represented as taking infinite pains to obtain, through almost every druggist’s shop, a tincture of the name of “*ejusdem*,” which, unluckily for the poor man, had been prescribed in a formula sent to his shop for preparation.

It is not, however, at all times, that such mistakes have been either pleasant or innocent: there is one related, in this last letter, of much more serious consequence, in which laudanum was used for paragoric elixir, and the quantity proved sufficient to destroy the unfortunate patient. From this sensible

\* No. 8. C.



letter I will extract the account of both these cases more fully, and enter them in the appendix\*. The ignorance of the druggists, and drug-dealing grocers at MARLOW, has been productive of effects not less lamentable and deleterious. Arsenic, says a letter dated from this town, has been mistaken for cream of tartar†; the tinctures of opium and jalap, for those of fenna and rhubarb; and nitre for Glauber's salts. From the effects of this last error, a lady who, a few weeks since, had nearly fallen a sacrifice to it, is now just recovering‡.

But it would be swelling this pamphlet to a folio volume, to extract an account of all the ignorance, and all the

\* Appendix N.

† Appendix O.

‡ No. 9. C.



dreadful mistakes, evinced by the different druggists and pretenders to medicine in the country, which have been narrated to the Committee by letters, and from personal knowledge. The secretary\* will, I doubt not, have the goodness to satisfy the curiosity of any person who wishes for farther specimens of the same destructive conduct, at any time, when properly applied to, and from proper motives.

The Committee did not, however, confine their attention to such individual statements alone. With respect to druggists, they knew it to be an incontrovertible fact that, independent of the varieties of the same materials, varieties of different value, which they keep continually in their warehouses,

\* JOHN LEWIS, Esq; Half-Moon-street, Piccadilly.

and



and to which they have recourse, and vend according as circumstances require, they knew it to be a fact, that few or no druggists compound the preparations of the pharmacopæia of the College of Physicians, in all instances consistently with the express injunctions of the Pharmacopæia. On the contrary, that they have nearly all of them nostrums and receipts of their own, from which those preparations are compounded; preparations, indeed, which may pass under the respective titles given in the pharmacopæia, and which, in general, may elude the eye by a similarity of colour, and, sometimes, even the tongue by a similarity of taste; but which are, in all instances, infinitely less efficacious, and are only compounded in a different and clandestine manner, because they can thus be compounded much cheaper, or with more ease.

To



To ascertain, more publickly, however, the truth of this fact, they sent to more than a dozen of the most respectable druggists this metropolis will afford, for specimens of a variety of drugs and preparations of the present LONDON Pharmacopæia, most material in the practice of medicine; as also for the composition of a variety of extemporaneous prescriptions, selected for this purpose. In my account of which, I shall borrow the words of the Secretary, as I cannot do better, and as he has allowed me so to do, in his report on this subject, as entered in the minute book.

“ The result of all these investigations, observes he, confirmed, beyond a doubt, every assertion that has hitherto been advanced, respecting the necessity of a reform in the profession of pharmacy,



macy, in consequence of the errors and adulterations to which the public are constantly exposed, and which they can seldom detect or avoid.

“ The general remarks of the Special Committee appointed to scrutinize the different specimens produced, were as follows :

“ That, in the far greater number of instances, there were most evidently spurious or defective drugs, and erroneous composition.

“ That the different compositions of the same prescription were, in almost every instance, dissimilar from each other.

“ That the most expensive medicines were all of them, without any exception,



tion, adulterated, as oil of cloves, oil of cinnamon, ladanum emplaster, cantharides emplaster, aromatic confection, fena-electuary, tinctures of guaiacum, cardamoms, rhubarb, &c. &c. &c.

“ That there scarcely appeared to be one instance of a medicine being faithfully prepared from the formula of the LONDON Pharmacopœia; nor of a simple, but expensive drug, to be procured genuine. Such was the case, particularly with ALEPPO scammony, with saffron, and RUSSIAN castor. Scammony could not be obtained pure even in its concrete state. The specimens of saffron were procured in the hay, as it is vulgarly called; and this form was determined upon, because least likely to be adulterated. But even of this there was no one specimen genuine; those which were sold having  
all



all of them an acrid taste, very foreign to what saffron ought to possess, and imparting little or no colour to spring water when infused in it. The Russian castor was supplied by that from NEW ENGLAND.

“ Myrrh and ammoniacum were, in a few instances, in the line of mediocrity, and, in others, intolerable. Powder of gum arabic was generally very indifferent; and, in one instance, when formed, as it ought to have been, into a mucilage, contained no gluten whatever, was extremely dirty, and extremely opake.

“ The stronger quicksilver ointment was of very different specific gravities; and, of two specimens, one weighed, bulk for bulk, a third part heavier than the other.

“ The



“ The preparations from extemporaneous prescriptions scarcely bore any resemblance to what was expected, had they been compounded aright; and no two, from the same prescription, were similar. Vitriolic ether and camphor, mixture, which comprized a part of one formula agreed upon, were neither of them employed in two instances. And decoctions of Peruvian bark were, of all degrees of weakness, and of all colours.”

“ The directions were, in many cases, misconceived, and improperly translated; in others, not more than half translated; and, in one instance particularly, the very reverse of what was written\*.”

It

\* This above is merely a short and general sketch of what appeared to the notice of the Special Committee. It is,



It may appear singular that, in the midst of such innumerable errors and abuses, detection should not be more frequent by the censors of the College of Physicians, and the wardens of the Company of Apothecaries, in their annual examination of medicinal shops and warehouses. But it is no difficult task, against the anniversary of this public inspection, to be supplied with a small assortment of genuine articles of every kind; and still less difficult, when the supply is thus procured, to produce it as a specimen of the whole quantity the druggist has in his possession. In what quarter of the warehouse the larger and remaining quantities of spurious materials are secreted, the pharmaceutic

is, however, sufficient for many purposes, and especially for the present: and, for a more complete statement, the entire minutes, which are preserved, may be referred to.



critic knows not, nor does he think it worth while to make so fruitless an enquiry. He determines from what is presented to him, the druggist acquires an undeserved credit, and the imposition on the public continues.

So numerous, indeed, and so important are these deceptions and abuses of the druggist, that it is but a short time since a respectable apothecary of this city, who is not a member of the PHARMACEUTIC ASSOCIATION, was under the necessity of returning to his druggist, forty articles out of seventy-two that were sent him, in consequence of their having been either not genuine, or improperly prepared. And it is not more than a fortnight, from the time I am now writing, that a druggist, of much respectability, told me of his having received a complete order to furnish



furnish another apothecary's shop at some little distance from him; but added that, as the gentleman who had sent the order, had desired him to be very particular in the selection of his articles, he had, himself, purchased more than half of them at Apothecaries' Hall.

Here, therefore, is a druggist who has the ingenuoufness to acknowledge, that not half the medicines in his warehouse are genuine; and that, when he is obliged to send out medicines which are genuine, he is under the necessity of applying to some other quarter for a supply. And yet this druggist has a large wholesale consumption for the articles he keeps by him, and is considerably engaged in vending those articles by retail; as well as in compounding the prescriptions of physicians, and surgeons.



But to return to the operations of the Committee. They not only investigated more deeply the frauds and abuses of druggists, together with the mal-practices of many ignorant and illiterate pretenders to the pharmaceutic profession: but in order to attach the whole community of the healing art to the object of their pursuit, and to leave no assistance unsolicited, they presented addresses on the subject, to the College of PHYSICIANS, the Corporation of SURGEONS, and the Company of APOTHECARIES: from the former of which they have already been honoured with a polite, and encouraging reply. The parliament was next adverted to; several of the members were waited upon, that their sentiments might be collected; and, at length, the minister himself. All were very ready to admit the extreme necessity there is for a redress of  
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the grievances enumerated; all, but more especially the minister, advised the Committee to persevere, and pointed out the best mode of application: which was, by a petition to parliament for leave to introduce a bill on this subject. In consequence of which, a petition was immediately drawn up, and presented by Sir WILLIAM DOLBEN, on the the 6th of February last, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Committee had strong hopes, at the time of the presentation of this petition, notwithstanding the session was so rapidly advancing towards its close, that, before that event happened, they should be enabled to digest the meditated bill, and get it introduced into the house. But the importance of the matter it was to contain, and of the regulations it might be proper to adopt,

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required



required so much cautious enquiry, and mature deliberation, as to render this impossible, without precipitating it in a crude, and indigested form. And, by the advice, therefore, of a most respectable member of the Lower House, the Committee resolved unanimously to postpone it till the ensuing sessions: and, in the mean time, to solicit in a more full and explanatory manner, the opinion and assistance of the College of Physicians, as to what farther remains to be accomplished.

But it was necessary to inform the ASSOCIATION at large, and especially those members resident at great distances in the country, what had been already achieved; and a paper was, to this purpose, therefore, drawn up in the month of March last, and circulated, with the signature of the secretary, through every  
part



part of GREAT BRITAIN. It stated the unwearied labours of the Committee in investigating the frauds, and impositions already complained of, and the necessity there was for perseverance: it gave an account of the addressees, applications, and petition already enumerated, and concluded with deeming it necessary, that, in order to obtain fundamental redress, the following principles ought to be continually adverted to.

*First,* That the liberty to vend pharmaceutical preparations, compound physicians' prescriptions, &c. &c. should appertain to the apothecary alone. For as the apothecary necessarily attends patients without any emolument but what arises from the profits of the medicines he may vend, it will be folly to imagine that any person will subject himself to an expensive education, and a waste of

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time



time in apprenticeship, if men egregiously ignorant, can obtain, under any other appellation, the same advantages, and without the same labour, or that hazard unavoidably, and often fatally, accompanying an attendance upon the infected sick.

*Secondly,* That no young men be taken as apprentices who have not had an approved education.

*Thirdly,* That none be assistants without having been examined as to their competency for pharmaceutical compositions, &c. &c. &c.

*Fourthly,* That none be at liberty to settle until examined; nor any person entitled to an examination until he shall have faithfully served an apprenticeship of five years at the least.

*Fifthly,*



*Fifthly*, That, to promote these purposes, a competent court be established, to consist of *a certain number of members*, who shall have full power to make such bye laws and regulations as may be thought most conducive to the welfare both of the public and the profession.



## S E C T. IV.

*Observations on the Principles of Action laid down by the Pharmaceutic Association; and a Vindication of them, as consistent with general Justice and Policy; as equally and indivisibly connected with the Advantage of the Nation at large, and the very Existence of the Profession itself, as a Profession of any possible Utility.*

AS the principles contained in the circulatory address of the Pharmaceutic Committee, with which the last section closes, appear to be of material consequence towards the prosecution of a pharmaceutic reform, though they may probably be resisted by interested persons, and some shadow of argument



argument employed to support such resistance, the present section shall be dedicated to their defence.

Is it just, it may be enquired, is it consistent with the broad interests of commerce, to deprive a respectable body of men of a large part of that business which constitutes their livelihood, and which they have now, for nearly a century, enjoyed without molestation? and would not the public be exposed to as many impositions, and to much heavier expences, from this monopolizing spirit of the apothecaries, provided they obtain the object of their pursuit, than it is exposed to at present, while all are competitors for public favor?

And is it, in the second place, consistent with the laws of policy, or of common justice, to exclude a man from



an occupation of any kind, merely because, from humility of birth, and the want of more opulent friends, he has not been able to enjoy the advantages of a classical education? Do we not frequently meet with men, of no education, who are possessors of an uncommon genius, while, on the contrary, we often meet with men of expensive educations, who are possessors of no genius at all; and is not a good genius, at all times, capable of surmounting the difficulties by which it is surrounded?

To both these enquiries, in general, the old adage may pertinently be applied, *Salus populi suprema lex*, the health or well-being of the nation must ever constitute the supreme law.

But with respect to the first more particularly, it has already been stated, that



that the profession of the apothecary, when properly cultivated and respectable, is of infinite advantage to the kingdom. That he has an almost infinite majority of patients to attend, in comparison with any other practitioner; and those in situations of extreme hazard, and fatality. His life is a series of unceasing harassment and anxiety. He is perpetually exposed to the evils of midnight disturbance, at all hours, and in all atmospheres, and the still greater dangers of morbid contagion. Not an infectious complaint can arise, but he is liable to its deleterious effects, and, compared with himself, every other man holds his existence in a state of assurance and security. I have twice myself been in the utmost danger, in consequence of contagion from typhoid patients. In the first instance, I was deprived of all recollection for more than

than



than three weeks, and was, at length, abandoned by my medical friends, as on the very point of death. Contrary, however, to all expectation, I recovered; but scarcely were my debilitated limbs capable of sustaining the slender weight of my body, when this friend, whose kindness had induced him to officiate for me, during my severe illness, was himself attacked with the same disease, communicated from a patient he likewise had attended; and, less fortunate than myself, he expired under its pressure, before I had recovered strength enough to return him the kind offices I had received. Such instances are common: and, surely, the profession that encounters them deserves exclusive reward.

“ Every person, if possible, observes  
 “ Mr. HUME, ought to enjoy the fruits  
 “ of his labour, in a full possession of all  
 “ the



“ the necessaries, and many of the con-  
 “ veniences of life. And their profits  
 “ should be proportionable to their ex-  
 “ pence and hazard \*.”

But this is not all. It is from the shop of the apothecary the ARMY, and NAVY, with the COLONIES dependent on this kingdom, derive nearly the whole of their medical assistants. And upon the initiation into practice which such assistants receive, must depend the greater part of their future character and capacity.

If the practitioners, under whom they are placed, be themselves men of no education or ability, what reasonable expectation can be entertained that the pupil will be more wise than his master? On the contrary, if such superiors be men of upright character, and sound medical skill, the apprenticeship of

\* Essay on Commerce, p. 281.



every young man intrusted to their care, will form a school of continual improvement; his studies will be duly directed; progressive knowledge will be acquired; and, what is of no small consequence to himself, or to the world at large, morality will triumph over debauchery and vice.

Nor, even, is the profession of the physician uninterested in that of the apothecary. "There certainly is not a school, observes Dr. FERRIS, more excellently calculated for the attainment of much of the most useful knowledge the physician should possess, than the shop of an intelligent apothecary. Besides a thorough proficiency in the peculiar business of investigating and judging of the comparative goodness of medicines, and of their various preparations and compositions, if a young man, in such situations, be permitted  
to



to accompany his principal in his visits to patients, which, in most instances, is the case in the latter years of his apprenticeship, perhaps to visit for him; he commands the very best source of medical observation, information, and experience. He sees diseases at their commencement; he has it in his power to mark the progress of their symptoms, and, with examples before him, can more readily be taught to discriminate those symptoms which characterize the nature of the disease, and which indicate the remedies appropriate to its cure. He anticipates the advantages of attending the practice of hospitals. He is early trained to habits of thinking and conversing upon medical subjects, and is, as it were, grammatically instructed in pharmacy, and its application. He is, therefore, initiated, by the best of all possible means, in a most essential branch of medical science; and is well prepared



pared to continue his studies with advantage, “Cognitis enim principiis multo facilius extrema intelliguntur\*.”

But if the pharmaceutic profession be of so much consequence to the nation at large, from whatever point it is viewed, it ought, surely, to receive a due encouragement from the nation in return. It ought to be assisted by the nation; it ought to be assisted by the legislature, in throwing off from itself those grievances by which it is oppressed; and, in re-acquiring the possession of those emoluments, which are so justly its own, and, without which, I do not hesitate to predict, it cannot long survive†. The profits arising from compound

\* General View of the Establishment of Physic, &c.

† The last edition of “the Medical Register,” a book that gives the number and names of all the medical practitioners in this kingdom, was published in 1783, by JOHNSON. It did not answer, in its sale, so well as it ought



compound pharmacy, constitute the whole of its support; and it is a source of support which it has enjoyed, and, till of late, enjoyed without molestation, from the earliest periods of time. The two former sections of this dissertation are dedicated to the proof of this. In them it appears that no such occupation as that of the modern druggist existed, or was capable of existing, amongst the GREEKS, the ROMANS, or the SARACENS. That it is not to be

ought to have done, and it has since been discontinued. The Committee have taken some pains to discover the number of apothecaries existing, at this time, in the kingdom, and they are still persevering in the attempt, though the accounts are, at present, far from being completed. On a comparison, however, of the returns already communicated to them, with JOHNSON'S Medical Register, they find, that notwithstanding the increase of population in this country, during the above period of twelve years, which should naturally have produced a proportionate increase of medical practitioners, there is not only no increase, but, on the contrary, a diminution of one-tenth part of the number that then existed.



traced, in any early period, in the history of FRANCE, ITALY, or of GREAT BRITAIN. That the pharmacist was the general compounder of all medicines required, whether for his own practice, or the practice of physicians; and that it was from hence alone he drew his livelihood and subsistence.

It is idle, therefore, to contend that the composition of medicines, and medical prescriptions, is an inherent branch of the business of a druggist, and, of which, he ought not to be deprived. The entire business of a druggist is but of modern date; and this pretended branch of his occupation was not, in any degree, attempted to be connected with the original business, till half a century after its first origin. The druggist is not, moreover, as is the apothecary, dependant upon this branch of business for his entire support. It is  
to



to the wholesale part of his occupation; it is to the supply of apothecaries themselves, with the materials they have occasion for, that he directs his principal attention, and, from whence he draws his chief subsistence. And this retail appendage is a kind of perquisite, or sinecure, which he ought not to possess, and which he might be deprived of without much personal detriment. It is a complete innovation and infringement on the province of the apothecary; whom, while with one hand, he supplies with the means of subsistence, with the other he prevents from putting those means into execution. It ought not to have been tolerated at any time; and the time it has been tolerated, far from forming a reason why it should be tolerated any longer, is a most forcible reason for its being instantly suppressed. The well-being



being of the nation, and the very existence of an important profession, alike unite in demanding its suppression.

Si unus quisque nostrum, observes CICEERO, and no one will dispute the morality or the propriety of the observation, rapiat ad se commoda aliorum, detrahatque quod cuique possit, emolumenti sui gratia: societas hominum, et communitas evertatur necesse est. Nam sibi ut quisque malit, quod ad usum vitæ pertineat, quam alteri, acquirere, concessum est, non repugnante natura. Illud natura non patitur, ut aliorum spoliis, nostras facultates, copias, opes augeamus\*.

So inconsistent, indeed, with propriety, with commerce, and with general justice, is this encroachment of

\* De Offic. lib. 3.



the drug-merchant on the profession of pharmacy, that I am persuaded it never could have been permitted, even in the most barbarous times, had it made a discovery of its full aim and extent at once. But this it dared not attempt; it was by degrees the monster displayed itself, and, by degrees, completed its enormous grasp. But it has surely lived long enough already; and the increasing knowledge of the present age, that enables us to estimate things according to their real value, should instantly destroy it for ever. “Industry and refinements in the mechanical arts,” observes Mr. HUME, “commonly produce some refinement in the liberal; nor can one be carried to perfection without being accompanied, in some degree, with the other. The same age which produces great philosophers and politicians, renowned generals and poets, usually



usually abounds with skilful weavers and ship-carpenters. We cannot reasonably expect that a piece of woollen cloth will be wrought to perfection in a nation which is ignorant of astronomy, or where ethics are neglected. The spirit of the age affects all the arts, and the minds of men, being once roused from their lethargy, and put into a fermentation, turn themselves on all sides, and carry improvements into every art and science\*." This observation is true with regard to every thing but medicine: but, perhaps, this philosopher was unacquainted with its evils when he dictated such a sentiment, or, perhaps, he wrote prophetically, and the period of its full accomplishment approaches.

\* Essay on Refinements in the Arts.

But



But would not an undue monopoly from hence originate? Would not the price of medicines be advanced most unreasonably, and impositions be, at least, as numerous as at present? Would not the poor be deprived of the benefit of medical advice? And, is it not owing to the competition between druggists and apothecaries, at this moment, that the price of medicines is yet within their reach?

Most assuredly not, nor could any of these evils be hereby introduced. In every occupation that is open to the public at large, there can be no danger of any undue monopoly: and no occupation can be more open than that of pharmacy would still be. Moderate wealth would suffice, moderate connexions, and even moderate ability; but some degree of education must be

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insisted



insisted upon; an education not beyond the reach of the multitude, but consistent with the lowest degree of mediocrity. If, therefore, the profession of pharmacy be once erected on a basis of respectability and moderate profit, so many would immediately flock into it, that monopoly would be rendered altogether impossible. Trades and professions of every kind, will, at all times, find their level, and he who disposes of his time, and his materials, at the cheapest ratio, will, with few exceptions, be certain of the largest employment\*. The price of medicines and advice would never, therefore, in this case, rise above their real value.

\* " If there were any employment more or less advantageous than the rest, so many people would flock into it, in the one case, and so many would desert it in the other, that its advantages would soon return to the level of other employments." *Smith's Wealth of Nations.*

It



It might be lower than it is at present, from the general division of the pharmaceutical part of every druggist's profit, amongst apothecaries at large; but there is no reason to suppose the nation would pay more for its annual average of medicines than it does at present. The profession would become more respectable; and it is not from the respectable part of it that impositions are to be apprehended; it is from the disreputable and the ignorant, the man who is large in promise, but little in capacity. It is not the physician, nor the lawyer of character, but the unqualified empiric, the petty-fogging attorney, who is guilty of knavery and deceit. The poor would, therefore, become doubly benefited hereby; they would be almost certain of applying to a man of real ability, who, by being at once apprized of the nature of the disease complained



of, would be more likely to apply a speedy and an effectual remedy; and that sympathy and humanity, which are almost inseparable from respectability of character, would induce the practitioner to be frequently charitable and gratuitous.

It is not to be expected, however, that the price at any time charged by a druggist for compound medicines, would be altogether satisfactory to an apothecary for preparing the very same. Few medicines, in a druggist's warehouse, are compounded from genuine materials; and it has frequently occurred, that a prescription containing three or four articles of nearly equal value, has been pretended to be compounded at such places, and the price charged to the person who has thus casually applied, been less than that charged for one of the  
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the articles only to apothecaries who have stately dealt with such druggists. The price charged to the pharmaceutic committee, for the medicines they sent for and scrutinized, far from being exorbitant, was scarcely sufficient to admit of any profit upon the different preparations, had they been composed of genuine materials; but it has already been observed, that the same prescriptions were not only compounded from materials different from each other, but that scarcely one of them was compounded from materials which were genuine; and the temptations which druggists are continually exposed to, when engaged in a retail business, temptations which it is almost impossible to overcome, have already been pointed out. But these are temptations the apothecary can never be subject to, at least in an equal degree: for it is impossible he should



ever have in his possession so large a stock of indifferent articles, of the refuse and offals of those which are genuine, as the druggist must have at all times. Added to which, his interest and reputation are more at stake than those of the druggist. Of the former, medical composition constitutes the sole employment, so far at least as regards profit; but it does not constitute the sole, nor even the chief employment of the latter. The druggist compounds by his servants, for a patient whom perhaps, neither himself nor his servants are in the least acquainted with; at whose decease they cannot weep, at whose recovery they cannot rejoice. The apothecary compounds at all times for an acquaintance, and most frequently for a friend: he can never become active without becoming concerned; and his interest is connected with the event.

Should,



Should, therefore, a druggist employ genuine articles in the preparation of a prescription such as an honest apothecary could approve, and should he demand such a price as might be sufficient to satisfy himself, it might not, nevertheless, be sufficient to indemnify the apothecary who had prepared the same prescription; and that in consequence of the infinite disparity of situations. “The profit of apothecaries, observes DR. ADAM SMITH, is become a bye word denoting something uncommonly extravagant. This great apparent profit, however, is frequently no more than the reasonable wages of labour. The skill of an apothecary is a much nicer and more delicate matter than that of any artificer whatever; and the trust which is reposed in him, is of much greater importance. His reward, therefore, ought to be suitable to his skill and his



trust; and it arises generally from the price at which he sells his drugs. Though he should sell them, therefore, at three or four hundred, or even a thousand per cent. profit, this may be no more than the reasonable wages of his labour charged, in the only way in which he can charge them, upon the price of his drugs. The greater part of the apparent profit is real wages disguised in the garb of profit\*.”

Perhaps this celebrated author is right in observing that “this is the *only* way in which an apothecary *can* charge for his skill and labour.” But if so it is a way that ought not to be interfered with, or infringed upon by a class of people who have it not in their power to evince such skill and labour: it ought

\* Wealth of Nations.



not to be interfered with or infringed upon by those who supply him with the very materials he employs; who have an ample profit upon those materials in the first instance, and who are dependent upon him for that profit. This, most assuredly, is neither just, nor generous, nor consistent with any true policy or commerce whatever. If, in effect, this were *not* the only way in which the apothecary could make his charge, if he had any other resource for indemnification in his power, the case would in some measure be varied. But how desirable soever such a different mode of payment might be—and on many accounts it certainly is desirable—it does not, according to the present division of the medical profession, appear attainable by any means.

But there is another reason why an apothecary may not probably be satis-



fied with the price which might probably satisfy a druggist, and on which account he is entitled to a larger profit: I mean that the druggist is almost universally paid in ready money, while the apothecary is under the necessity of giving credit for a twelvemonth at the least. The druggist, therefore, is in no hazard of contracting uncertain and indifferent debts: while the apothecary, like every other man engaged in trade upon credit, must be uncommonly fortunate indeed, if he do not contract many, and some on which he had placed no small reliance. Deaths and bankruptcies may injure him in a variety of forms. And when, at length, he obtains permission to introduce the account of the past year, he will too often discover there are persons in GREAT BRITAIN, as well as there were formerly in GERMANY, whom ERICUS CORDUS,



CORDUS, a physician of the sixteenth century, who was accustomed to receive his fees only at the termination of his patients disease, describes in a facetious epigram, as regarding the practitioner at three different times, in three different characters,

Tres medicus facies habet ; unam, quando rogatur,  
 Angelicam : mox est, cum juvat, ipse Deus.  
 Post ubi curato, poscit sua premia, morbo,  
 Horridus apparet, terribilisque Sathan\*..

The entire restoration then, of retail pharmacy to the apothecary is, in every respect, laudable and just. It is consistent with the requisitions both of commerce and of the community. It could not, in any instance, be productive of

\* Epigr. lib. 7.

Three faces wears the doctor: when first sought:  
 An angel's—and a god's the cure half wrought:  
 But, when, that cure complete, he seeks his fee,  
 The devil looks then less terrible than he.



monopoly, but it would effectually prevent imposition and abuse.

With respect to the second objection I have stated, arising from the exclusion of any person from any occupation, merely from the humility of his birth; and because, in consequence, hereof, he has not been able to enjoy the advantages of a classical education, much that might be necessary to notice on this subject, by way of reply, has already been introduced in the foregoing pages. And as for the rest, precedents for such restrictive regulations are to be found in a thousand instances, in almost every country in EUROPE. In RUSSIA no apothecary can practise till he have been examined by the chancery of medicine: and in DENMARK and HOLSTEIN, till he have obtained a licence from the colleges of COPENHAGEN, and LEIGE, and



and have submitted to an apprenticeship of at least five years. But to confine ourselves to GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND. Medicine, in the former, is the only profession in which such regulations do not exist; no man can be either a lawyer or a clergyman, without some public test of ability and qualification. And, in the latter, an act of parliament has for some years been passed expressly on the subject of pharmaceutic reform; and similar, indeed, in this respect, to the act we are endeavouring to obtain in this kingdom. And happy am I to add, that this act of the IRISH parliament has been attended with the greatest benefit and satisfaction, both to the profession, and the nation at large.

It is impossible that an ignorant man can be qualified for any profession in any kingdom; and before he becomes  
qua-



qualified, therefore, it is necessary he should become instructed. We war not with poverty more than with riches—for a rich man may be ignorant as well as a poor man. It is against ignorance alone we contend; against a power of doing mischief, without a capacity of doing good. If, at any age, a man wish to engage in the practice of medicine as an apothecary: at any age he may still do it: but he must submit to the necessary requisitions: he must become acquainted with the rudiments of the profession---and he must, in consequence, put himself under the tuition of those who, having been themselves properly taught, are properly qualified to instruct.

Ignorance must, of necessity, be a source of evil in every profession: but of all professions it is most to be dreaded in  
that



that of medicine. A single error may here produce death; and the same material become an antidote or a poison, according to the degree of judgment with which it is employed.

It is for want of some such restrictions, as are here contended for, that the practise of medicine has, in all ages, been deemed an uncertain practise, and the practitioner himself exposed to much derision and contempt. Uncertain it must ever be, in many instances, when conducted by the most skilful: but the degree of uncertainty of a medicine in the hands of a scientific and an ignorant practitioner, will bear no comparison whatsoever. The one is the ornament and benefactor of human nature, distributing, like the Almighty himself, continual streams of life, of health, and of happiness around him: the other is  
its



its worst foe, and its curse; that, like the serpent in the garden of EDEN, may indeed assume a most plausible appearance, but is pregnant with mischief and death\*.

But education is not only a source of knowledge, but of morals: and whilst the science of medicine has its mysteries, and is locked up from the eye of the multitude, this is of more consequence than may at first sight, perhaps, be apprehended. “ It is not of small importance, observes an antient and intelligent philosopher, whether a

\* Almost all writers have contended for the propriety of such restrictions in every branch of the medical profession. And DR. KIRKLAND, therefore, till such restrictions are introduced, advises, with respect to surgery, the only branch to which he adverts, that there should be supervisors or directors appointed, duly qualified for the performance of their duty. Inquiry. &c. Introd.

youth



youth be educated in this way or the other, it is, on the contrary, of the utmost moment: for on this alone depends the whole of his future conduct\*.”

The man of education and morality, will avoid imposition even more than error, and will recommend himself to public favor, not by the unblushing boasts of an empire, but by the honest, and conscientious discharge of a duty he is qualified to perform. It is not from such a man that abuse and the tricks of trade are to be apprehended; but it is from the pretender to knowledge, the man whose youth has never been subjected to the rules of science, or restrained by the laws of morality: and

\* Ου μικρον διαφέρει τό ουτως ἢ ουτως ευδυς ἐκ νέων ἐθιζεσθαι ἀλλὰ ἴσαμ πολυ μαλλον δὲ τό παν. Nicom. lib. 2. cap. 1.

who,



who, from poverty alone, independent of the want of virtuous principle, might be tempted, in no small degree, to deceive and impose upon.

I know not whether SHAKSPERE'S description of an apothecary in ROMEO and JULIET, were consistent with the profession, as at that time practised in ITALY. But it is, I am afraid, by far too consistent with the costume of the present time, in GREAT BRITAIN. Poverty is too often its sad and only inheritance: and where extreme poverty exists, the consequence is often to be trembled for. And I much fear, from the unbounded liberty which is at present allowed to the practice of pharmacy, that the MANTUAN apothecary, though too successfully assaulted in one instance, would be comparatively a most valuable member of modern society. I  
very



very much fear there are numbers  
amongst us, not only of whom it might  
be said, on the offer of a far less bribe  
than forty ducats \*,

His poverty but not his will consents,  
but that in too many instances it might  
be observed,

His poverty and will consent alike.

To put then a restraint upon these  
evils, to rescue the profession from all  
temptation to commit them, and the  
public from suffering beneath their ex-  
istence, is not, surely, an unworthy or  
an ungenerous attempt. Such an at-  
tempt by the public itself must be un-

\* Come hither man :—I see that thou art poor :  
Hold, here is forty ducats ; let me have  
A dram of poison.

ROMEO and JULIET, ACT V.

dertaken



dertaken eventually, if not complied with now; for the increase of abuses would enforce it. But how much more creditable is it in the profession itself, to be first in the field of action, to challenge its own community, and to wipe away all those blots and disgraces, which have so long defaced and tarnished it.

Such abuses have surely existed long enough already, and it is full time they should be destroyed for ever. They form the perpetual complaint of HIPPOCRATES, of PLINY, and more especially of GALEN\*. The ARABIAN

\* His epistles to THRASYBULUS and POSTHUMUS, are loaded with such histories. In that to the latter he compares the practitioners at ROME, to robbers and assassins. *Ut apud nos sibi latrones parcunt, et, in facienda injuria, mutuo conveniunt; ita medici ROMÆ nunc habitantes faciunt; hocque solo a latronibus differunt, quod in urbibus non in montibus insidiantur, &c.*

and



and the GERMAN physicians are full of such complaints. And, in DENMARK and FRANCE, the profession has more than once been in danger hereby of being entirely suppressed. The inhabitants chusing rather to trust to the medical powers of nature alone, than to submit to the fraudulencies of dishonest pharmacutists. Every public act, in this kingdom, that is by any means referable to medicine, from the time of HENRY V. to the present reign, breathes the same language of complaint and indignation. Hence was incorporated the College of Physicians, hence apothecaries were all prohibited practise, except those who had been admitted as licentiates of the college; and hence, at times, they were all prohibited without any exception whatever. Hence the incorporation of Apothecaries company: and hence the duty incumbent on both the censors of  
the



the college, and the wardens of the company, to examine, at stated times, the medical materials of all practitioners whatever, to approve of those which are genuine, and to destroy the base and adulterate.

But nothing that has been attempted has been hitherto sufficient. The nation and the profession have still submitted to the same evils: and what is yet more to be lamented, those evils have been perpetually increasing. Ignorant and dishonest practitioners have still imposed on the public, and disgraced their own community; and an act has still been wanting to restrain such persons from practising at all. Till this act be obtained, these evils will continue to increase: and, unless it be obtained soon, every respectable man will be withdrawing himself from the profession, and aban-



abandoning it for something more lucrative and more honourable. The name of an apothecary may, indeed, still be found, but it will be a name without a meaning, a *vox et præterea nihil*.

FINIS.



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## A P P E N D I X.

A.—Page 53.

PROFESSOR GOELICHE, who was no friend to either surgeons or apothecaries, and who laments, throughout the whole of his writings, that the physician should not now, as formerly, possess every branch of the medical practice, and enjoy the *felicitas pristinorum temporum*, cannot avoid translating the pharmaceutice of CELSUS, by professio pharmacopolarum. He pleases himself, however, with the belief that after this division, this *fatalis partium medicinæ divulsio*, the apothecaries and surgeons were, nevertheless, always regarded in a light inferior to that of physicians, and never acted but by their directions, and as their assistants; a belief which, however just it might have been with the practice of his own era, was certainly founded on fancy alone with respect to the periods alluded to by CELSUS, and the different branches of dietetic, pharmaceutic, and surgical practice into which he has represented the art of medicine as formerly divided.

Hist. Med. Univers. par. 2 sect. 155, 157, 160.



## B.—Page 67.

The authors of *Les Reflexions sur les Ouvrages de Literature*, are certainly in an error in supposing medicine one of the last sciences to which the ARABIANS addicted themselves. On the contrary, from the above observations, as well as a number of others that might be advanced, it was the study of medicine that first induced them to pay a regard to every other study.

Vide Tom. V. p. 92.

## C.—Page 118.

*Ex bundello petitionum de anno nono Hen. V. in parlamento.*

“ But worthie foveraines hit is known to your hey discretion, many uncunnyng, and unaproved in the aforefaide science practiseth and specially in fyfky; so that in this realme is every man, be he never so lewed, takeing upon him practyse, y suffered to use it to grete harme, and slaughtre of many men, where if no man practised therein, but all only connyng men, and approved sufficiently, the learned in arts filosofye and fyfky, as it is kept in other londes and roialmes, then should many man, that dyeth for defaute of helpe, lyve, and no man perish by uncunnyng.

“ Wherefore



“Whereforeplefeth to your excellents wyfdome, that no man of no manner eftate, degre, or condition, practife in fyfkyk fro this time forward, bot he have long time y used the fcoles of fyfkyk, within fome univerfitic; and be graduated in the fame,” &c.

D.—Page 103.

A. D. 1540. *For Phyficians and their Privilege,*  
32 Hen. VIII. cap. 40. § 2.

“And that it may please your moft Royal Ma-  
jefty, by the authority aforefaid, That from  
henceforth the faid prefident, for the time being,  
commons and fellows and their fucceffors, may  
yearly, at fuch times as they fhall think moft meet  
and convenient for the fame, elect and choofe four  
perfon of the faid commons and fellows, of the  
beft learned, wifeft, and moft difcreet, fuch as  
they fhall think convenient, and have experience  
in the faid faculty of phyfick; and that the faid  
four perfon fo elected and chofen, after a corpo-  
ral oath to them miniftered by the faid prefident  
or his deputy, fhall and may, by virtue of this  
prefent act, have full authority and power, as  
often as they fhall think meet and convenient, to  
enter into the houfe or houfes of all and every  
apothecary, now or at any time hereafter, using  
the myftery or craft of apothecary within the faid  
city,



city, only to search, view, and see such apothecary wares, drugs, and stuffs, as the said apothecaries, or any of them have, or at any time hereafter shall have, in their house or houses; and all such wares, drugs, and stuffs, as the aforesaid four persons shall then find defective, corrupted, and not meet nor convenient to be ministred in any medicines for the health of man's body, the same four persons calling to them the wardens of the said mystery of apothecaries within the said city for that time being, or one of them, shall cause to be brent, or otherwise destroy the same, as they shall think meet by their discretion," &c.

E.—Page 104.

*An Act touching the Corporation of the Physicians in London. A. D. 1553. Mar. 1. c. 9. § 5.*

“ And further be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, for the better execution of the search and view of poticary wares, drugs, and compositions, according to the tenor of a statute made in the 32d year of the reign of the said late King HENRY VIII. That it shall be lawful for the wardens of the grocers, or one of them, to go with the said physicians in their view and search; that if the said warden or wardens do refuse or delay his or their coming thereunto forthwith and immediately when the said president, or four of  
his



his college elect as aforesaid, do call upon him or them, that then the said physicians may and shall execute that search and view, and the due punishment of the poticaries for any their evil and faulty stuff, without the assistance of any of the said wardens," &c.

F.—Page 105.

There is some kind of inconsistency in the language of these two statutes when compared together; unless we suppose that the apothecaries and grocers were incorporated into one company before the thirty-second year of HENRY VIII. contrary, I believe, to the common opinion, which does not allow of this conjunct incorporation till the fourth of JAMES I. The statute of 32d HENRY VIII. makes express mention of "the wardens of the *mystery* of *Apothecaries* within the said city of LONDON." Whereas in this very part which is copied and recited in the first of PHILIP and MARY, they are stiled "wardens of the company of *Grocers*."

G.—Page 109.

*An Act for continuing the Duty on Low Wines, Coffee, Tea, Chocolate Spices, &c. Ann. 3. cap. 4. § 1.*

"Be it enacted, &c. That there shall be answered and paid, for and upon all drugs (dying drugs ex-



cepted) which are rated in the book of rates, and are or shall be imported as aforesaid, a duty after the rate of ten pounds of like money, for every hundred pounds worth thereof, according to the several values charged on them respectively in the said book of rates; and it is hereby declared, that by unrated drugs, chargeable by this act, are meant, all bark called clove bark, all bark called Jesuit's bark, callabasha, &c. all chymical preparations, physical oils, and medicinal drugs, excepting drugs used for dying, and except *coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa paste, and cocoa nuts,*" &c.

To these were added some few other drugs five years afterwards, as objects of similar taxation, as sarsaparilla, balsam of Peru and Tolu, and whatever else of the like kind was "the growth and product of her majesty's plantations in AMERICA." ANN. an. 7. cap. 8. § 12. By some unaccountable mistake, fenna was placed in the former act, in the list of drugs for dying; and an additional act was therefore passed on this subject eleven years afterwards, complaining of the error, and subjecting it to an equal tax with other foreign drugs. GEO. I. an. 1. cap. 43. § 3. Vide also GEO. I. an. 8. cap. 15, § 10.

A Bill



H.—Page 115.

*A Bill that Persons, being no common Surgeons, may minister Medicines notwithstanding the Statute. Hen. VIII. 34-35.*

“Whereas the company and fellowship of surgeons of LONDON, minding only their own lucre, and nothing the profit or ease of the diseased or patient, have sued, troubled, and vexed divers honest persons, as well men as women, whom God hath endued with the knowledge of the nature, kind, and operation of certain herbs, roots, and waters, and the using and ministering of them to such as been pained with customable diseases, as women’s breasts being sore, a pin and the web in the eye, uncomes of hands, burnings, scaldings, fore mouths, the stone, strangury, faucelim, and morpew, and such other like diseases; and yet the same persons have not taken any thing for their pains or cunning, but have ministered the same to poor people only for neighbourhood and God’s sake, and of pity and charity. And it is now well known, that the surgeons admitted will do no cure to any person, but where they shall know to be rewarded with a greater sum or reward than the cure extendeth unto, &c.

L. 4.

“Be



“ Be it ordained, established, and enacted, by the authority of this present parliament, that at all time from henceforth, it shall be lawful to every person, being the king's subject, having knowledge and experience of the nature of herbs, roots, and waters, or of the operation of the same, by speculation or practice, within any part of the realm of ENGLAND, or within any other the king's dominions, to practise, use, and minister in and to any outward fore uncome, wound, apostemations, outward swelling or disease, any herb or herbs, ointments, baths, pultefs, and emplasters, according to their cunning, experience, and knowledge in any of the diseases, fores and maladies afore-said, and all other like to the same, or drinks for the stone, strangury, or agues, without suit, vexation, trouble, penalty, or loss of their goods,” &c.

I.—Page 134.

This, indeed, is not the only instance amidst these feuds of the two communities, in which *the lower house* proved triumphant. It was in the beginning of the present century, when a part of the College in Warwick-lane was planned out for a Dispensary, Dr. GARTH, in his facetious and unrivalled poem, introduces the company of apothecaries as tauntingly exclaiming,

And



And dare the college of physicians aim  
 To equal our fraternity in fame?  
*Crabs eyes* as well with PEARL for use may try,  
 Or HIGHGATE hill with lofty PINDUS vie.  
 Soglow-worms may compare with TITAN's beams,  
 Or HARE-COURT pump with AGANIPPE's streams.

DISPENSARY, Canto 2.

K.—Page 138.

*An Act for exempting Apothecaries from certain Offices, &c. Ann. 6-7. Will. III.*

“Whereas the act of the apothecary is of great and general use and benefit, by reason of their constant and necessary assistance to his Majesty's subjects, which should oblige them solely to attend the duties of their profession, yet by reason that they are compelled to serve several Parish, Ward, and Leet Offices, in the places where they live, and are frequently summoned to serve in Juries and Inquests, which take up great part of their time, they cannot perform the trusts reposed in them as they ought, nor *attend* the sick with such diligence as is required, Be it enacted,” &c.

This act was to continue in force for seven years. In the first of Anne it was therefore renewed, and that for eleven years. In the tenth of the same reign it was again renewed for the same time; and made perpetual in the 9 Geo. I.

K.—Page



L.—Page 157.

There are few apothecaries in the country who do not engage in the practise of surgery: and by far the greater number in LONDON do the same: yet the united profit of both branches of the profession forms, in too many instances, but a very scanty subsistence for the practitioner and his family. It was the opinion of the late Mr. JOHN HUNTER, in a conversation I had with him a short time before his death, that surgery ought ever to be practised by itself; as it appears to have been formerly among the GREEKS and ROMANS, unconnected with any other branch of the medical profession. And Dr. KIRKLAND has professedly written on the advantages which would necessarily result from such a division\*: a division, however, which a celebrated GERMAN Professor, of the present century, lamented through the whole of his life, and ever regarded as an “*infelix atque fatalis divortio*†.”

But without controverting at large the opinion of these gentlemen, and others who have imbibed the same sentiments, I will only observe that, although the division here contended for did frequently exist, with much accurate discrimination, among the GREEKS, the ROMANS, and the SA-

\* Inquiry into the present state of Medical Surgery. Introd.

† Andr. Goellicke Hist. Med. Univers. part 2. sect. 157.



RACENS, yet the History of Medicine given in the first section of this publication, will prove that it was a division that admitted of many and continual exceptions alternately in every nation. That the physician very generally engaged in the practice of surgery, and often in that of pharmacy:—that the surgeon frequently exhibited internal medicines in diseases which could not rank under his own classification: and that both the pharmaceutist and the surgeon occasionally practised dietetic medicine. “For all the parts of medicine, observes CELSUS, are so interwoven with each other, that they cannot be easily separated.” “Le chirurgien et le medicin, says a FRENCH writer who justly acquired some celebrity for his observations about fifty years since, sont à l’égard l’un de l’autre, comme l’architecte et le sculpteur. L’architecte conduit un bâtiment, et prepare des niches pour des statues. Le propriétaire appelle le sculpteur, qui sans contrainte et sans direction, prete son industrie aux vûes de l’architecte, donne meme des conseils sur les places destinées aux figures. Les deux arts concourent au meme dessein\*.”

But there is another and a more forcible reason, which must for ever prevent any general separation

\* Memoire où l’on fait voir en quoi peut consister la preeminence de la Medicine, &c.



in this country: and that is, that the practitioner who unites both surgery and pharmacy is, as before observed, seldom capable of obtaining more than a decent competency for himself and his family; and, at times, scarcely capable of effecting this. Either therefore these two branches must continue to be united throughout the whole country, as they have ever been in the army and navy, or the pecuniary profit allowed each of them must be nearly doubled. A fact there is but little probability of accomplishing at any time.

M.—Page 178.

*Extract of a Letter, dated from Manchester, to the Committee of the General Pharmaceutic Association of Great Britain, marked No. 1, C.*

“ I have a copy by me of the different forms for the officinal preparations of a druggist of this town, whose shop is much frequented for the composition of prescribed medicines: and a comparison will easily determine, whether an honest apothecary could afford his at an equal price, even if he were immediately paid for them. The following are a few out of many of the like class; and the words of the recipes are here copied.

Unguentum Lapide Caliminari  
Lap. Calaminaris lbvij Axung Porcin lbxiv  
Empl. Diachylon lbs.

Spir.



Spir. Lavendulæ comp.

Flor Lavend ʒvj Nue Mosch ʒfs Cam Wood ʒiij

Sp. Vini ten. lbvj

Spir. Vini Camph

Sp. Vin Rect lbij Camph ʒj

Vin. Ipecac.

Rad. Ipecac. ʒiv Cort Aurant ʒfs Raisin Wine lbij

Syr. Papav. All.

Opium ʒifs Aq. font. cong. ifs boil down to lbvij  
add Sacch. com. lbxij boil for half an hour

Liniment. Sapon.

R Sapon. Hispanic. ʒvj Sp. Vin. ten. cong j boil  
for an hour and a half, then add Camph. ʒj Ol  
Rorifman ʒfs." Manchester, July 31, 1794.

N.—Page 185.

*Extract of a Letter, &c. No. 9, C.*

“ If you think any farther facts necessary to be  
added to the many you have doubtless received,  
you may make use of the following recent ones,  
for the authenticity of which we will stand  
pledged.

“ A gentleman of this city who does not prac-  
tise pharmacy, prescribed for his patient as follows,  
Decoct. Cascarillæ ʒvij. Tinct. ejusdem ʒj.  
This prescription was sent to a druggist's in this  
city to be made up. The shopman, who has the  
principal care of the business, having sought for  
a bottle labelled Tinct. ejusdem in vain—sent to  
some



some neighbouring shops to enquire for it. And not succeeding, he, at last, took back the prescription to know what he should substitute in its stead, as he could not procure any Tinct. ejusdem in the city. The next was, unfortunately of more serious consequence. A physician being requested to prescribe for the son of a poor woman, about ten years old, labouring under a dyspnœa, directed the following draught to be given him at bed time:

R. Syr. Papav. Alb. ʒj. Tinct. Opii Camph. ʒij.  
Aq. Distill. ʒviii.

this the poor woman, expecting to get somewhat cheaper, took to a druggist's. Unfortunately the shopman not being acquainted with the new name for Paragoric Elixir, made it with ʒij of Tinct. opii—and, though he advised the woman to give the child only half the draught, it proved sufficiently strong to deprive him of life before the evening of the following day."

*Worcester, March 18, 1795.*

O.—Page 185.

It would be too voluminous by far to give even a compendium of the innumerable instances of errors and malpractice which, from a want of due regulations, have occurred to the notice of the committee within the city and suburbs of LONDON:—but having mentioned one mistake of

ARSENIC



ARSENIC for another drug in the country, I cannot avoid producing a second instance of a similar mistake in this city;—because an error of this magnitude, must be of the utmost consequence at all times, and because it may, perhaps, put some persons more on their guard, who are often liable to such errors, if this account should ever fall into their hands.

Mr. W——, member of the Committee, and a very respectable practitioner, produced before his colleagues, in the month of May last, a powder which a patient of his had purchased, a few days before, at a druggist's, as *cerusse*, to rub on the groins of her child, an infant only a few months old. On the first application of this powder, the groins, already excoriated in a small degree, became instantaneously most violently inflamed; and, ignorant of the cause of so unexpected an alteration, she sent the same evening to Mr. W—— for his advice. The inflammation had by this time extended over so large a portion of the abdomen, and the inguina had so sphacelated an appearance, that the greatest danger was justly apprehended. By a judicious treatment, however, this inflammation in a few days gradually diminished, and large sloughs being thrown off from the wound in each inguen, the child's life was happily preserved.

On



On examination, this powder, which was sold for *cerusse*, proved incontestibly to be ARSENIC. And having myself attended some short time after, at the request of Mr. W. to inspect the child, we were informed that the druggist, at whose shop this arsenic was purchased, had promised to defray every expence of the cure. It appeared from the report of his shopman, that this man had taken the shop about two years since, of another person, with the whole stock of fixtures and materials; and that this powder being then found in the drawer marked for *cerusse*, it had been sold to the present time for this last article. The whole of the dreadful evils which must have arisen from this very lamentable mistake *for two years*, we could not discover: but it was an undoubted fact that, about the time I am now speaking of, a gentleman in the neighbourhood had very nearly lost a valuable horse from the erroneous application of this powder, again purchased for *cerusse*, to a crack in one of its heels. And a friend of the lady who had nearly lost her child in the manner above described, sent unluckily about the same time, for some of the same powder, and for the same purpose; but less fortunate than herself she was under the necessity of witnessing the death of her child, in a short time after, in consequence hereof, and that in the extremest agonies.

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