

Essays on fashionable diseases. The dangerous effects of hot and crouded rooms. The clothing of invalids. Lady and gentlemen doctors. And on quacks and quackery ... With a dedication to Philip Thicknesse ... To which is added a dramatic dialogue ... / By Benjamin Goosequill and Peter Paragraph [pseuds. of James Makittrick Adair].

Contributors

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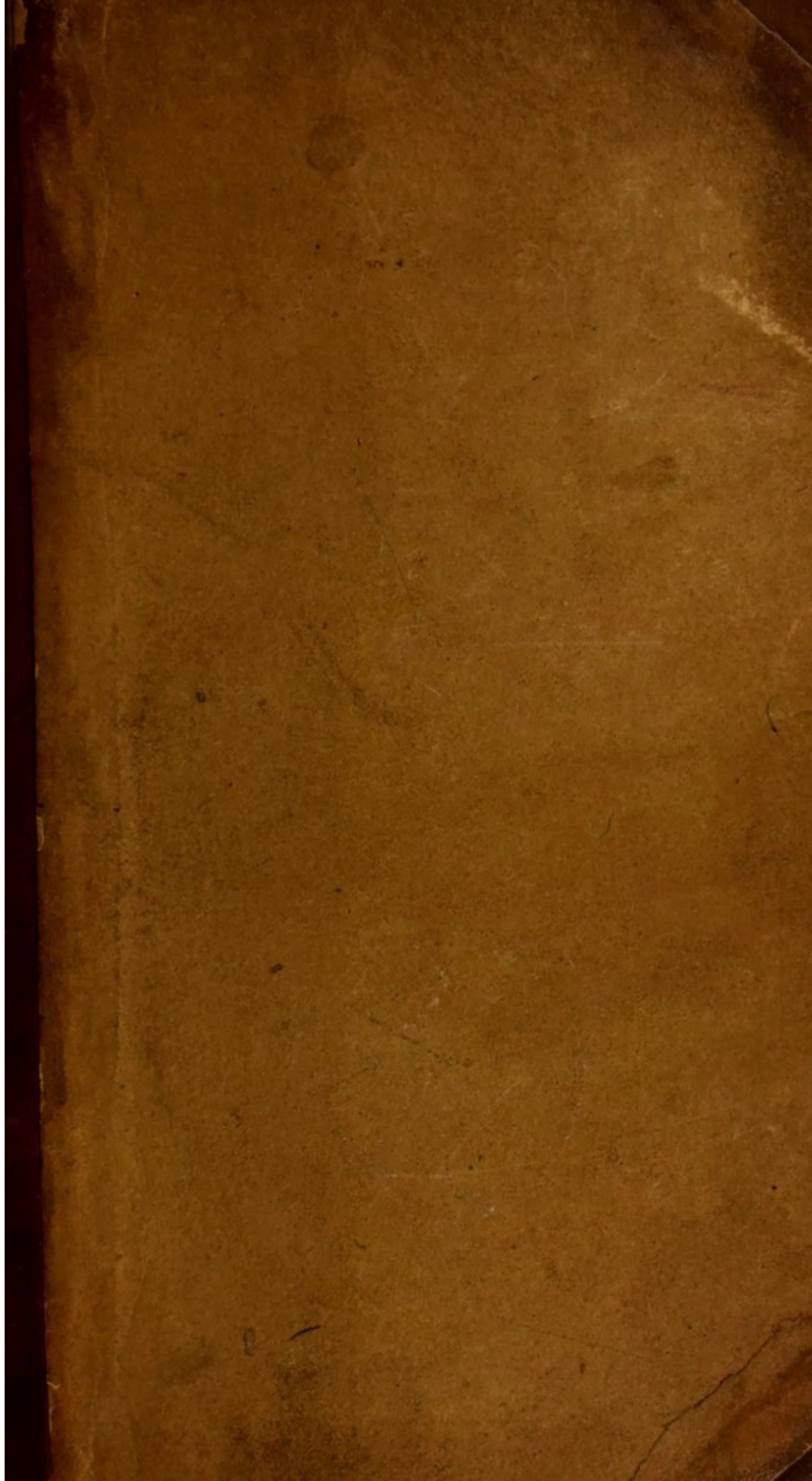
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On "Fashionable Diseases
and Lady Doctors"

1787

Erasmus I. Scarce

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Miss S. S. Smith
15/6/12



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ESSAYS

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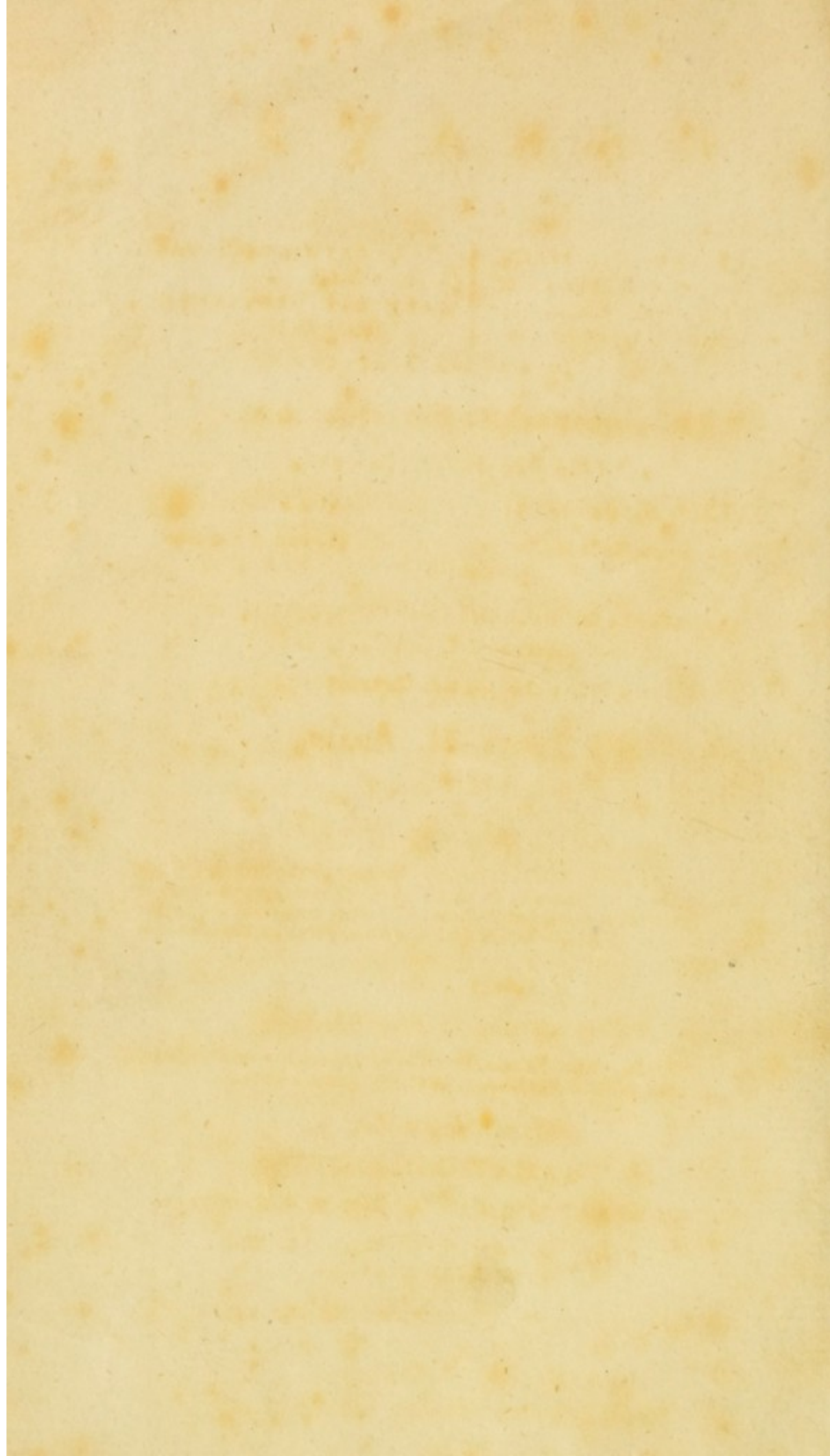
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ESSAYS

ON

FASHIONABLE DISEASES.
The dangerous EFFECTS of
HOT and CROUDED
ROOMS.

The CLOATHING of INVA-
LIDS.
LADY and GENTLEMEN
DOCTORS.

And on QUACKS and QUACKERY.

With the genuine PATENT PRESCRIPTIONS of

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Taken from the Rolls in Chancery, and under the Seal of the pro-
per Officers;

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As analized by several of the best CHEMISTS in Europe.

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FORMERLY
M. D.

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of Physicians of Edinburgh; Physician to the Commander in Chief of
the Leeward Islands, and to the Colonial Troops; and one of the Judges
of the Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas in the Island of
Antigua.

WITH

A DEDICATION to *Philip Thicknesse*,

Censor-General of Great-Britain, Professor of Empiricism, and Nostrum,
Rape, and Murder-Monger to the St. James's Chronicle.

To which is added,

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Published for the Benefit of the TIN-MINERS in CORNWALL.

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PETER PARAGRAPH.

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*Lately published, by the same Author, for the Benefit of the
Tin-Miners in Cornwall,*

UNANSWERABLE OBJECTIONS to the Abolition of
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dation of the Sick, and Cure of their Diseases; which may
be most conducive to render them faithful, obedient, and
happy.

E S S A Y
O N
FASHIONABLE DISEASES.

And here they are all Bile and Spleen,
The strangest Fish that e'er were seen.

Five times I've purg'd, but I'm sorry to tell y'
I find the same gnawing and wind in my belly.

NEW BATH GUIDE.

FASHION, like its companion *Luxury*, may be considered as one of those excrescences which are attached to national improvement; and which so far resemble the moss of fruit-trees, and the mistletoe of the oak, as not to be entirely useless; though they may be occasionally injurious.

Whilst one part of a polished nation is assiduously engaged in cultivating the arts and sciences, another part is not less busily employed in the invention and regulation of its fashions.

B

As

As societies advance in civilization, the active mind of man, not contented with the means of satisfying our natural wants, is anxiously employed in creating artificial wants, and inventing the means of their gratification.

When that scourge of mankind, *Louis* the XIVth, was induced by vanity and ambition to attempt universal empire, his subjects were, *pour l'honneur du grand Monarque*, not less solicitous to extend the language and fashions of that frivolous nation; and even sturdy *John Bull*, whilst his armies and navies triumphed over those of France, deigned to submit to the influence of her fashions.

By one of those revolutions, however, which are not unfrequent in the affairs of men; whilst France has of late presumed to dictate to our Ministers, she has condescended to adopt our fashions: manifest proofs of which frequently occurred to me in that country, and even in the apartments of the first lady of that kingdom: How have we benefited by the exchange?

The empire of fashion has now become universal: it is not confined to the decorations

tions of our persons, or the embellishment of our houses and equipages ; but extends to our politics, morals, religion, and even in some degree to our sciences. Men and women of fashion are supereminently distinguished from those of *no fashion*, or *whom no-body knows*.

I do not, however, *entirely* approve of those apparent discriminations of national character, merely because they do not seem to answer the purpose for which they were established ; for whilst people of no rank and slender means presume to intrude on the province of their superiors, by *fashionably* ruining themselves, their families, and connections ; the pale of distinction is likewise thrown down by toad-eaters, swindlers, and gamblers, who, by keeping *the best company*, necessarily exalt themselves to the high prerogative of being *people of fashion*.

Should any of my fashionable readers express their surprise at meeting with a dissertation on fashion in a medical essay, my reply is ready ; that as medicine, as well as some other arts, is become subject to the empire of fashion, there can be no impropriety

priety in considering by what means this has been effected.

Fashion has long influenced the great and opulent in the choice of their physicians, surgeons, apothecaries, and midwives; but it is not so obvious how it has influenced them also in the *choice* of their diseases. This I shall endeavour to explain.

Patients are generally prompted by curiosity to enquire of their medical guide, what is their disease? But an explicit answer to the question is not always either convenient or practicable; because the doctor is sometimes ignorant of it himself: instead therefore of entering on a learned disquisition on the subject, or candidly confessing his ignorance, which would not be always consistent with good policy; he gratifies his patient by a general term, which may, or may not, be expressive of the nature of the disease.

If both patient and doctor are people of fashion, this circumstance is *alone* sufficient to render the term fashionable; for as people of fashion claim an exclusive privilege of having always some thing to complain of, so the mutual communication of their ailments

ments is often the topic of conversation: the imagination frequently suggests a similarity of disease, though none such really exists; and thus the term becomes soon compleatly fashionable.

In the latter end of the last and beginning of this century, *spleen*, vapours, or hyp, was the fashionable disease.

The *Princess*, afterwards *Queen Anne*, often chagrined and insulted in her former station, and perplexed and harraffed in the latter, was frequently subject to depression of spirits; for which, after the courtly physicians had given it a name, they proceeded to prescribe Rawleigh's confection and pearl cordial. This circumstance was sufficient to transfer both the disease and the remedy to all who had the least pretensions to rank with persons of fashion. In process of time, however, these fashionable and palatable shop drams became by repetition too weak; and many of the patients, tired of the expence and inefficacy of the remedy, found a more ready and more powerful substitute in closet cordials and plain Nantz.

Upwards

Upwards of thirty years ago, a treatise on nervous diseases was published by my quondam learned and ingenious preceptor Dr. WHYTTE, professor of physic, at Edinburgh. Before the publication of this book, people of fashion had not the least idea that they had nerves ; but a fashionable apothecary of my acquaintance, having cast his eye over the book, and having been often puzzled by the enquiries of his patients concerning the nature and causes of their complaints, derived from thence a hint, by which he readily cut the gordian knot—" *Madam, you are nervous !*" The solution was quite satisfactory, the term became fashionable, and spleen, vapours, and hyp were forgotten.

Some years after this, Dr. COE wrote a treatise on biliary concretions, which turned the tide of fashion : nerves and nervous diseases were kicked out of doors, and *bilious* became the fashionable term. How long it will stand its ground cannot be determined.

Names or terms, when improperly employed in matters of science, necessarily create confusion and error ; but had this fashionable term been productive of no untoward

toward *practical* consequences, I should have considered any attempt to combat the idea, as unnecessary and absurd. But I have observed so many injurious effects from the adoption of this idea, that I think it my duty to be at some pains to point out the danger of it.

In my essay on the difficulties of studying medicine, I have hinted at the impropriety of attempting to regulate the evacuations, during health, by the use of remedies. I remarked that it will be more safe to leave the constitution to its own efforts. In no respect is health more abused than by the absurd practice of taking purgatives for the preservation of health, or to remove the occasional effects of accidental repletion, or slight constipation of the bowels.

The idea of bleeding and purging every spring and fall, to prevent fevers and other diseases, was formerly very general in this country; owing to the ignorance or knavery of barbers and medicasters, who derived no small benefit from thus disciplining whole parishes. Many of the lower ranks do still submit, with implicit faith, to this destructive

tive practice, but it is not so general as it was. Another custom now prevails, more injurious, because more universal and frequent, which is the repeated use of salts, magnesia, rhubarb, Anderson's and James's pills, especially by persons who either labour under some slight indisposition, or believe they do. Such practice tends to destroy the health they wish to preserve, and to exasperate the disease they are taken to remove.

Having made this general observation, I return to my subject.

From a well-grounded opinion that Bath waters are very beneficial in colics produced by gall-stones, and other cases of *defective* bile, a very considerable proportion of the patients who resort to that place, go with a strong prepossession that their complaints are *bilious*; inasmuch that instead of my patients giving me a detail of their symptoms, by which I might judge of the nature of the disease, the answer generally was, "*Doctor, I am bilious*;" and, on enquiry, I found that they had generally been in the habit of taking medicines to carry off the *supposed* offensive bile.

To

To point out the dangerous consequences of indulging, and acting under, this idea, I shall, as briefly as possible, relate two cases, out of many others which have occurred to me.

Some years ago a lady, daughter of an eminent physician, and wife to a gentleman more respectable from his personal character, than *even* by his near relation to a noble family, consulted me on her case.

A former *fashionable* physician,* who had declined practice, spent some time at this gentleman's country-seat. As he had been the family physician, the lady consulted him, as a friend, concerning a complaint of her stomach, and he prescribed her a course of purging salts, under the idea that the case was bilious.

Some weeks after, I was consulted, and found that she had almost daily used these salts; but instead of being relieved, was much reduced, with a total loss of appetite, and extreme oppression after meals; from which very distressful symptom she was in some measure relieved, either by discharging her stomach, or a repetition of her purge.

* Sir William Duncan.

I, in vain, attempted to dissuade my patient from this destructive practice, and therefore advised that some other physician might be consulted. Some difficulty having arisen concerning the choice, copies of her case were sent to three physicians in London. The physician who had been strongly recommended by the friend of the family as his successor,* desired the patient might go to town, and put herself under his care; but this being, on account of her weakness, deemed impracticable, he was prevailed on to visit her. As we did not agree in our opinion of the case, I resigned the patient totally to his direction: Purging medicines, and large quantities of the acid of lemons, were ordered; and her physician left her with a declaration that he expected to find her out of danger in the course of two days, when he should visit her again; but on the morning of that day she died, after having laboured for twenty-four hours under violent convulsions.

Here a trivial complaint, which might have been relieved by a few stomach medi-

* The late Sir John Elliot.

cines, and a course of Bath waters, became fatal from injudicious management in the beginning; for I was well assured that the disease was incurable before the lady was visited by the last physician; who erred only in his favourable prognostic respecting the issue of a case which was beyond the power of medicine, though it is probable the lady's death was precipitated by the adoption of his patron's plan.

A single lady had been for many months in the habit of taking purges, with an expectation of carrying off bile; insomuch that her stomach and bowels, having become, by repetition, insensible to the impression of weaker purges, was at length obliged to have recourse to gamboge pills, by the direction of a very eminent physician in London. Her health, considerably impaired by this practice, was farther injured by the death of an only sister, and she came to Bath near three years ago to consult me.

This lady had been so accustomed to frequent purging, that she experienced the most distressful oppression and sense of fullness at the pit of the stomach, when she

omitted the use of her pills for a day or two: But I having pointed out the danger of pursuing this plan, she desisted, and from the use of a few warm medicines, assisted by the Bath water, gradually increased to five of the largest glasses daily of the King's Bath pump, this lady left Bath much amended; and by a letter received from her some time after, I understand that she had not taken any purgative since, excepting a little tincture of rhubarb, once only, when indisposed by colic.

Had this lady continued the use of these violent purgatives, or indeed of any, she would probably have died under complaints similar to those mentioned in the preceding case; or have been destroyed by an inflammation of the bowels, in consequence of their insuperable insensibility to the impression of necessary means.

The Bath water and other remedies rendered the farther use of purges unnecessary, by strengthening the stomach and bowels, and enabling them to perform their offices regularly and steadily.

The

The cases now related afford an irrefragable proof of the dangerous consequences of indulging in the habitual use of drugs, especially those of the purgative kind; and this often on the most trivial occasions; and I am entirely convinced that Anderson's pills, and James's Analeptic pills, (now the fashionable remedy) have been more destructive to his Majesty's subjects than even the havock of war.

From what I have said, it is manifest that I cannot concur in opinion with Dr. CADOGAN, that the daily use of even gently opening medicines, or frequent purgatives, is at all adviseable in the intervals of gout; and I have had several occasions to remark very injurious consequences from the adoption of this habit by gouty patients.

Before I proceed to assign my reasons for believing that the idea of bilious diseases being frequent, is founded in error, it will be proper to consider the true meaning of the term *bilious*.

Bile is a fluid of a brownish yellow colour, of a pungent bitter taste, and of a soapy nature, separated by the liver, and discharged
into

into the bowels a few inches below the inferior orifice of the stomach ; partly from the liver, and partly from the gall-bladder, which is a kind of repository for the bile, where it undergoes some necessary changes.

The offices of bile are various :

1st. As it is highly alcalescent, it corrects any acid tendency the food may have acquired in the stomach, either from too great a proportion of vegetable aliment, which is more or less of an acid nature, or from some defect of the digestive powers of the stomach.

2^{dly}. As the humours of the body have an alcalescent tendency, the bile, by giving that quality to the vegetable food, confers on it so much of the animal nature, as to render it fit for performing the office of nutrition.

3^{dly}. As many of the articles of our food are of a tough, glutinous, viscid nature, and the digestive humours of the stomach cannot always compleatly assimilate them, the bile contributes by its soapy quality very much to compleat the necessary change.

4^{thly}. By its pungency and sharpness, it stimulates the secretory vessels of the bowels, to discharge a larger portion of the digestive

gestive humours for the purpose of diluting and assimilating the vegetable food: it also by the same power excites the absorbent vessels or lacteals to absorb the fluid nourishment or *chyle*, and carry it into the circulation.

5thly. It excites the bowels to that necessary degree of motion, by which its discharges are regularly performed.

Bile may be said to be either too abundant, too sharp and alcalescent, or the reverse; that is, too scanty, or not sufficiently pungent; and one or other of those conditions must take place in any disease, which is commonly called *bilious*; though I think very improperly, in every case where it is deficient. In hot climates, and even during the sultry weather of our summers, the bile may be too sharp and alcalescent, and therefore offensive to the stomach and bowels: But persons most subject to those complaints, are chiefly the strong, athletic, and laborious; who are much exposed to the heat of the sun, such as soldiers, seamen, and day-labourers, whose constitutions being firm and athletic, their vital and circulating powers strong and vigorous, their humours, especially the bile, have

have a strong alcalescent tendency : but even in those persons, I know from experience, that the bile discharged is more frequently an effect than a cause of disease ; for though the natural pungency of the bile may be exasperated by excess of heat in fevers, especially in persons of this habit of body ; yet as soon as the fever ceases, the bile, so far from being either too abundant or too acrid, is generally deficient in both respects, and continues to be so until the patient recovers his health and strength. That fallowness and duskiness of complexion, therefore, which we remark in the countenances of persons recovering from intermitting fevers and agues, and also in chronic diseases, and which is often termed *bilious*, is owing to a cause with which bile is very little, if at all, connected, any otherwise than in consequence of its deficiency, which, in the language of common sense, cannot be called *bilious*.

Persons of relaxed, delicate, and irritable habits (and such generally are the persons of rank and fortune who seem to have monopolised the term) are so far from being affected by excess of the bile, that the very
reverse

reverse is the case ; because from the weakness of their vital powers, the languor of their circulation, and consequently the poor and watery state of their blood, the secreted humours, the *bile* especially, are much less calefcent and pungent than they ought to be.

The bile is often more deficient in quantity and pungency than the reverse ; and this is frequently the result of that indolence of life and relaxation of habit most frequently to be met with in the wealthy ; and is often accompanied by a train of nervous symptoms ; though there is no doubt but persons in the inferior ranks of life, who are reduced by indigence, improper diet, or disease, may also labour under this defect of the bile. But without insisting on the impropriety of applying the term *bilious* under these circumstances, it will be sufficient to observe, that in such cases all the remedies directed, are such as are intended to increase the quantity and sharpness of this humour : Hence the celebrated Dr. BOERHAAVE prescribed ox's gall and other bitters in such cases, as substitutes to the bile ; when they produce a double effect, not only by neutralizing the

sharp acid generated in weak stomachs, which bitters always do; but also by rendering the digestive humours more alcalescent and pungent.

Jaundice, or a bilious tinge of the skin, is considered as a sufficient proof of an excess of bile; and many patients, especially the ladies, are very much in the habit of consulting their friends and their Doctors, concerning the colour of their eyes; and by the aid of a depraved imagination, often detect bile as a cause where it does not exist. Thus, when a lady, having spent many hours at a rout, almost suffocated by the hot and tainted air of a small crowded room, is thrown into a temporary fever, and awakes unrefreshed and distressed; perhaps not in a very good humour, from a bad run of cards the preceding night; upon consulting her glass, finds her complexion not so clear as the preceding day; but unwilling to attribute it to the real cause, finds in the bile a more convenient subject of blame.

Jaundice, however, is rarely the consequence of excess of bile, but of its deficiency, and only shews that it has, by a variety
of

of causes, been diverted from its natural course. But here the means of relief are such as may be beneficial in restoring it to its usual channel, and increasing its quantity and pungency; and not such as may discharge it as abundant or offensive: therefore, this does not deserve, strictly speaking, the name of a bilious disease.

A bilious tinge of the skin is not unfrequently the accidental effect of violent anger, the bite of the viper, poisons, agues, and of nervous or spasmodic colics, owing to the natural passages of the bile being so blocked up by a temporary constriction, that it is diffused over the surface. This I have more than once observed in patients exquisitely nervous, and in whom there was not the least reason to suspect either abundance of bile, or gall-stones. In these cases, the skin and whites of the eyes have lost the yellow tinge, when, the spasm being removed, the bile returned into its natural course. A dose of camphor or opium effected a cure; whilst a purge given in this state of the organs, would have increased the yellowness.

But there are many diseases accompanied with a fallowness of complexion, often mistaken for a jaundiced tinge; and this is sometimes the case in persons who labour under a complication of nervous and hypochondriacal symptoms, not unfrequently connected with ill-formed gout: such persons, under the idea of being bilious, are often too busy with purgatives, for the absurd purpose of carrying off a cause which does not exist; and thereby exasperate all their complaints.

Gall-stones, as they are commonly called, are formed by the bile contained in the gall-bladder becoming gradually so hardened as to acquire the consistence of yellow wax. This is not so frequent a disease as is generally imagined; but it is easily distinguished from what are commonly, but falsely, called *bilious* cases, from the exquisite and intolerable pains at the pit of the stomach; whilst the gall-stones block up the passage from the gall-bladder. But this terrible evil is not always accompanied with a bilious tinge of the skin, which is indeed often accidental, and unconnected with any fault of the bile.

Even

Even diseases of the liver itself, the organ which prepares this humour, do not, strictly speaking, deserve the name of *bilious*; for yellowness of the skin, or a discharge of bile, are only accidental circumstances; and some of the most inveterate diseases of this organ take place without either.

A bitter taste of the mouth, a brownish list on the tongue, a sickness and sense of oppression at the pit of the stomach, are supposed to be undoubted proofs of offensive bile in the stomach; especially if bile be discharged by vomiting: but if we consider the unnatural medley of foods which are swallowed by the rich and luxurious, we may readily account for these symptoms, without attributing them to the bile; which, had it really existed in the stomach, would rather have prevented, by its assimilating quality, those unnatural ferments, than have promoted them; and indeed this is supposed to be its peculiar office, after the food is discharged into the bowels.

With respect to the supposed *unequivocal* proof of an offensive state of the bile, from its being discharged by vomit, this circumstance

stance merits a distinct and more minute consideration.

Though some physicians have alledged that bile is always present in the stomach, and that it is indispensably necessary to the digestion of the food ; yet the majority have doubted, and even denied the fact ; and some experiments made on brutes, with an express intention to ascertain the nature of digestion, seem to contradict it. If bile ever arrives at the stomach, it must be by a perverted and retrograde motion of the bowels, and contrary to gravity ; which, in the simplicity of the operations of nature, cannot readily be admitted ; for if the wise Author of our being had intended that the bile should be deposited in the stomach, it might easily have been conveyed directly thither, as, it is said, was found to be the case on the dissection of a man who had been remarkable for a most voracious appetite, owing, as it was supposed, to the bile being conveyed thither directly by a duct.

Some of my patients have asked me how bile should be discharged from the stomach, if it were not deposited there. The answer is easy.

easy. The sensation of sickness, if it be severe and permanent, promotes a regurgitation of bile into the stomach, by inverting the peristaltic motion of that bowel or intestine which is connected with the stomach: and hence it sometimes happens, that when the stomach is empty, pure bile is discharged by the first effort; but this is no evidence of its being the offensive cause of the vomiting, but an accidental effect; neither is a copious discharge of bile any evidence of its being in a diseased state.

The most healthy person on going to sea, when he becomes sick, discharges, after various efforts, a great quantity of bile, and this for days successively: but shall we from thence infer that his bile is abundant or acrid? A man in high health receives a blow on his head, by which his brain is injured; he throws up green bile: are we to suppose that the bile therefore is in fault? Persons subject to nervous head-achs often discharge bile; but the effect is accidental, and is in no respect connected with a fault of this humour. Persons, the tone of whose stomachs is much impaired by intemperance,
and

and other causes, after a severe fit of heart-burn, discharge the contents of the stomach so extremely sour, as even to corrode the throat. After a few efforts, the matter thrown up is green: this also is attributed to bile; though in truth, if this bile had been constantly present in the stomach, it would have neutralized and corrected this sharp acid; as we know that ox gall mixed with acids has this effect.

That bile rarely, if ever, passes into the stomach, unless after several efforts of vomiting, is evident, because as soon as it is pumped up, the sickness becomes much more severe and distressing; owing to its unnatural stimulus on the nerves of the stomach; which had it been a natural and constant guest there, would not have been the case.

To conclude, The idea of bile being a predominant cause of disease is a gross and vulgar error; and in its consequences a very injurious one; and I can, from long and extensive experience, aver, that those evils, which have been attributed to its excess, have generally resulted from its deficiency; and that the idea of carrying off this most
useful

useful and salutary humour, when it is already too scanty, has been often productive of the most dangerous and fatal consequences.

N. B. In the Greek language, the same term is used to express bile and anger; hence the word *choleric* is applied to persons of a violent, irascible, and resentful disposition. Were the British Fair, especially the *Fashionable*, (whose polished education has a manifest tendency to regulate, if not almost totally annihilate, all the tumultuous passions) apprized of this circumstance, they could not possibly conceive that any of their bodily or mental evils originated from, or were connected with, an excess of *gall* or *bile*; and instead of continuing to adopt it as a *fashionable disease*, they would resign it to the *nymphs* of St. Giles's and Billingsgate.

E S S A Y II.

*The DANGEROUS EFFECTS of HOT and
CROUDED ROOMS.**

C H A P. I.

FIRE is an element, the nature of which, notwithstanding the numerous experiments and painful researches of philosophers and chymists, is but imperfectly understood. It is the most universal principle, and the most powerful agent, in nature; as it pervades all bodies, and resides in a certain degree even in the coldest: heat and flame being only effects of its activity, and cold of its quiescent state in those bodies.

When united with the principle of inflammability, which resides in many bodies, those bodies, when fire acts upon them, burst out into flame; and this flame is supported by the external air; which is also supposed to enter copiously into the substance of those bodies during their state of combustion.

* See the Author's Natural History of the Human Body, book iii. chap. 1. on *Respiration*, which will explain the subject of this chapter.

Though

Though all bodies in nature are not susceptible of flame, yet all are of heat, in various degrees, generally in proportion to their density.

The effects of heat on animal bodies are in proportion to its degree, and perhaps of some other circumstances not yet well ascertained. In a moderate degree it creates an agreeable sensation in the parts with which it comes in contact, quickens the circulation of the blood, and increases the sensibility of the body. In a degree equal to, or above the heat of the body, it first excites and increases the powers of the circulation; but ultimately weakens and depresses them: Hence it is that bakers, blacksmiths, manufacturers of glass, &c. are oppressed and eventually much weakened, by the heat of their furnaces, &c. and we know that excess of heat *alone* produces dangerous and often fatal fevers; and that, when the impressions of cold immediately succeed those of heat, a variety of diseases are produced, according to the degrees of each, and other circumstances.

This subject will be considered more fully in the next chapter.

CHAP. II.

EFFECTS of NOXIOUS AIR.

THIS term, when applied to air, implies, that it is injurious to animal life. The mass of air which surrounds this globe to a considerable height, and which is called the atmosphere, seems to be a compound of pure air blended with a very large proportion of exhalations from animals, vegetables, minerals, and metals, a considerable portion of which probably consists of fixible, inflammable, and other factitious airs, and electric fire; and therefore must be more or less impure in proportion to the nature and degree of these exhalations.

As we are constantly and necessarily receiving a column of this air into our lungs, for the support of life, it is of considerable importance that it should be as free from impurity as possible, (for impure it always is in some degree) because, when highly contaminated, it is fatal; as is evident from the effects of burning charcoal, experiments with the air-pump, &c.

The

The effects of impure air on the body are various, according to the degree of its impurity. The person who remains for some time in foul air becomes uneasy and languid, with head-ach, difficulty of breathing, sense of oppression about the heart, cold sweat, fainting, &c.

These effects shew that the lungs are unable to admit or discharge the air with their usual freedom; that the powers of the heart and circulation are weakened; the energy of the nervous system depressed and almost suspended; and that life will soon be totally extinguished.

It may now be proper to enquire what are the chief causes of these effects; that we may avoid or in some measure counteract them.

1st. *Heat* in excess is the cause of much inconvenience and danger, as has been remarked in the preceding chapter, even when it is not combined with any other noxious qualities. In no city or quarter of the kingdom are these evils so frequently or severely felt as at Bath; surrounded as it is by hills, the incumbent atmosphere is rendered more
warm

warm and moist by the steams from the hot baths, and the smoke from the numerous fires. This atmosphere is more stagnant, or less frequently changed there than in cities situated on plains or elevated places, and when changed, it is but partially so; the colder and heavier air rushing into and through the streets, in eddies, especially from the west and northern points: hence it is a general complaint that Bath is more windy than any other place.

That city being much resorted to, most of the houses are occupied by strangers; so that constant fires in almost every apartment, render the houses exceedingly hot; as is evident from the heat of the party walls, which is sometimes almost intolerable in bed-chambers, especially if the beds are placed near those walls.

The public rooms, though lofty and spacious, are nevertheless rendered very hot by the numerous fires, and the great number of candles; but especially by the croud of people who resort to them: but the evil is much increased by the frequency of private routs, where

where small rooms are filled by a croud of persons.*

* It has been to me matter of great surprize, that in that city, where the public rooms are so commodious, people of fashion should countenance private meetings or routs, not only to the injury of the public institutions, but manifestly of their own healths. Some wags have occasionally related such circumstances of the ludicrous and laughable distresses which have occurred at those meetings, as would have afforded our late *Aristophanes* ample materials for a farce: It is my duty to attend *solely* to the very *serious* consequences which result from such meetings.

In London, the practice of giving routs is more warrantable, not only because there are few, if any, public card-rooms; but the private apartments are much more *spacious* and airy than the dining-rooms and parlours at Bath; not to mention the bed-chambers, closets, and *cupboards*, into which the company are crammed.

Of late another absurd practice has taken place, the invitation of large parties to private balls and suppers; where though much expence is incurred by the entertainer, and great inconvenience sustained by the neighbourhood, such meetings are generally a continued scene of tumult and confusion, and such invalids as are so imprudent as to frequent them, suffer exceedingly.

As Bath is a place of resort for the relief of invalids, the hours of meeting at the public rooms are certainly improper for those whose accommodation ought chiefly to be consulted. On ball nights the dancing ought to commence at six, and end at ten, so that the invalid may retire to rest by eleven, and rise early to return to the use of the waters; by this means, without breaking into the fashionable hours of eating, much inconvenience might be avoided; provided the gentlemen and ladies would dress before dinner for the ball.

Hence

Hence it is that strangers almost generally complain of having caught cold on their going to Bath; and invalids are not only thereby interrupted in the use of the waters, but their healths are much impaired; and coughs, rheumatisms, and fevers are superadded to their other maladies.

These evils are not obviated by the use of chairs or other carriages. The common chairs, soaked by the rains and night-dews, to which they are perpetually exposed, instead of affording a proper defence against the outward air, contribute rather to increase the evil; nor are gentlemen's carriages much less inconvenient; for besides their being exposed in open sheds, where not only the leather but the lining must unavoidably attract and retain damps; persons who pass from a hot room, through cold and long passages, into the open air, and from thence to their carriages, are subject to be *instantaneously* chilled by the sudden transition from suffocating heat to piercing cold.*

* It will occur to the intelligent reader, that many of the preceding remarks are equally applicable to London and every other city in the kingdom.

2dly. *Tainted or impure Air.*

To the philosophical experiments and researches of the very ingenious Dr. PRIESTLEY, employed in discovering the nature and properties of factitious airs, we are much indebted for a more accurate knowledge of the qualities, and relative degrees of purity, of the atmospheric air.

This air, of which it is said not above one-third is really pure, is a very heterogeneous mass, the greatest proportion of which is really inimical to animal life.

Beside this general source of contamination, the breath and perspiration of the human body taint the air we breathe so much, that it is generally supposed that each person destroys the vivifying principle of a gallon of air in a minute; and hence the necessity of frequently ventilating and renewing the air of our apartments, especially if small and crowded.

Of the dangerous and even fatal effects of stagnant and tainted air, many instances are recorded. Not to mention the memorable instance of the *black hole* at Calcutta, others

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occurred

occurred some years ago at the assizes at Oxford; in the assembly-room at Edinburgh; and about four years ago in London; some circumstances of which merit the attention of the reader:

Eighteen charity children and a servant lay in an apartment of a house in King-street, Golden-square: to render the room warmer, they shut up the chimney, and used every other means to exclude the cold air. Ten of the children, and the servant, were seized with symptoms nearly similar, viz. excruciating pain in the pit of the stomach, and in the back, violent head-ach, light headedness, and convulsions.

In all these instances the air became so foul, as to threaten immediate destruction.

But foul air does not only weaken the springs of life, but generates the most malignant and contagious diseases.*

Hence it is, that in the close and damp cells of our county jails, the air is so noxi-

* A philosophical critic may alledge that I here confound the ordinary contamination of the air with specific contagion; but in a treatise of this kind, accurate discrimination is not necessary.

ous as to engender a malignant fever, to such a degree, that for one convict that is executed, three die of the jail distemper. It is for this reason also, that unless hospitals are very judiciously constructed, and constantly ventilated, a much smaller proportion of the patients recover, than of those who occupy separate apartments in private houses.

But independently of these and many other well-vouched facts, a simple experiment will afford a positive proof of what is now alleged.

The most neat and delicate person, after having passed the night in his bed-chamber, does not, when he awakes, discover any offensive smell in his room: but if he quits it for a few minutes, and returns to it, after having been in the open air, and before fresh air has been admitted, he will quickly discover an essential difference.

The same happens in public and crowded rooms ; but as the offensive impression may be partly attributed to the blended effluvia from the fires, lights, and perfumes, (the latter of which by the bye are not very salutary)

salutary) the experiment would not be so decisive.

If these evils arise from stagnant air in apartments frequented by the opulent, nice, and elegant, who have the means and disposition to promote neatness and cleanliness; how much more injurious must stagnant air be in the hovels of the indigent, who are destitute of all the conveniences, and many of the necessaries of life!

The effects of foul air are so much the more dangerous, as they do not always manifest themselves immediately in the form of disease; so that when they do, the disorder is rarely attributed to the right cause.

I shall endeavour to explain, as briefly and intelligibly as possible, the reason why the effluvia from human bodies are so injurious; as such explanation will point out the means of lessening, though perhaps not totally obviating the evil.

It has been already remarked in a former essay,* that many of the organs which compose our wonderfully complicated frame are

* *Natural History of the Human Body, &c.*

employed in discharging particles of our food, or the constituent parts of our bodies, which by the various exercises of its functions are become useless; and if retained, especially the inflammable air and alcalescent particles, would necessarily become very noxious, and the causes of many diseases. Many of those discharges, especially from the surface of the body, and from the lungs, are, even in the most healthy and delicate persons, in a state not very remote from putrefaction; but in persons labouring under disease, they are of a still more noxious nature; and hence two hints are suggested, viz. that persons in health are *not* benefited by sleeping in the same bed with invalids; and that it is peculiarly necessary to have the apartments of the sick well aired and ventilated; and their apparel, especially their linen, frequently changed.

It is supposed, and I believe justly, that more of the offensive particles of our bodies are swept off by the air received into the lungs, than from the whole surface of the body besides; and this is the reason why the air we breathe is so soon contaminated, and rendered

rendered unfit for the support of life; and this in proportion to the air being less pure previously to its being inspired; because, thus tainted, it is sooner saturated with the noxious matter it takes up in the air cells of the lungs, and therefore carries off a smaller proportion in a given time: whereas a purer air would unite with, suspend, and discharge a larger quantity, and thereby prevent the dangerous effects of their retention. Hence it is that a moderately cold and dry air is the most wholesome.

There is another source of tainted or impure air, (besides many others which I shall not enumerate) viz. burning fuel of every kind.

That charcoal taints the air, has long been known to medical men; but it has not been so generally suspected, that candles, lamps, wood, turf, and coal fires, foul the air of the apartments in which they are burned.

An eminent and very ingenious physician of Bath* has, by applying Dr. PRIESTLEY'S

* Dr. FALCONER.

test, found that the fumes of burning wood taint the air more than those of coal, and charcoal more than either; and that the smoke of tallow candles is more injurious than that of wax or spermaceti.

A single candle is supposed to consume a gallon of air in a minute; and therefore a great number of candles burning even in a spacious apartment, must destroy the vivifying principle of a very large column of air in a very short space of time, not only by consumption, but contamination.

That gentleman discovered also that the human breath tainted the air more considerably in the afternoon, than in the morning: but that the effects of different kinds of paint, and of flowers, on applying the test, were less apparent than might have been expected, considering how noxious both are to the human body..

Fire has, in general, been deemed a purifier of air, and under certain circumstances it may be so in a relative degree; as, by dissipating the moisture of cold and damp places, and by rarefying the column of air within

within its influence, it may favour the admission of colder and denser air.

When *Hippocrates* was consulted concerning the best means of preventing the propagation of a contagious disease (perhaps the plague) which infested a part of Greece, he advised, that large fires might be made in a narrow pass formed by adjoining mountains, for the purpose of purifying the air. But it is to be doubted how far the expedient would avail; as the rarefaction produced by the heat would as readily favour a torrent of infected air from one quarter, as of purer air from the other.

Burning bodies certainly absorb a large quantity of the surrounding atmosphere, and it is to be supposed the purest, as that is a more suitable pabulum; but it is equally certain, that they also throw off a very large portion of inflammable vapour, by which the atmospheric air is tainted: So that fires and all other burning bodies injure the air, not only by consuming the purer part, but by throwing off foul air.

From what has been said, it appears that a variety of circumstances conspire, even in
our

our habitations and apartments, to weaken, and almost insensibly undermine the springs of life ; but in public meetings and private routs, the evils arising from large fires, numerous lights, and crowded rooms, are proportionably increased.

A circumstance which occurred about three years ago, first induced me to offer my opinion on this subject.

A young lively woman, who came hither to put herself under my care, gave a rout, and insisted I should be of the party. The room was small, and the company very numerous. We had not been long seated at the card tables, before a young man, my partner, after having undergone various changes of countenance, fell into a swoon. The doors were thrown open to afford him fresh air, and my patient, who was a delicate invalid, was much injured by the sudden exposure to the current of cold air. How the rest of the company were affected, I had not an opportunity of knowing ; but my own feelings and sufferings for many hours after I retired, convinced me of the dangerous consequence of such meetings.

On declaring a few days after, to one of my brethren, a man of humour, my resolution of writing a bitter Philippic against routs, he archly replied, "Let them alone, " Doctor, how otherwise should *twenty-six* " physicians subsist in this place?"

From some experiments made, if I recollect aright, by Dr. LETTSOM, on the atmospheric vapour of London, collected and condensed, it was found to contain such a proportion of noxious impregnations, as might reasonably appear to be a great source of the putrid fevers which are prevalent in that great city; and as all cities and towns are, in proportion to their extent, productive of similar exhalations; this circumstance affords one reason why cities are more subject to epidemic diseases than the country; and it appears from the bills of mortality, that the proportion of deaths is generally one third greater in the former than the latter. But if to this general cause we add the effects of hot and crowded rooms, in which fashionable persons pass many hours almost every night, the injurious effects must be very great.

It may be alledged that what I have advanced on the effects of bad air, is not confirmed by general experience ; for that many persons have arrived at an healthy old age in air universally deemed bad. The same argument would be equally cogent in favour of habitual dram-drinking, or any other excess ; but it will not prove that any of them are inoffensive ; only that certain constitutions may, by their natural vigour, counteract the baneful impressions ; whilst the bulk of mankind must, necessarily, under similar circumstances, have health impaired, and life shortened, by their noxious influence.

In certain parts of Essex, for instance, agues are certainly the effects of bad air ; in many parts of the coast of Africa, violent and fatal remittent and malignant fevers and fluxes are endemic ; and there is scarcely a country or climate which has not its peculiar and prevalent diseases, which may be more justly attributed to a fault of the air, than to any other probable cause : Sound philosophy does not form an axiom from an exception.

A physician in Ireland, convinced of the bad effects of confined air, would not allow his windows to be glazed: his family was free from ailments of any kind; and he himself died at the age of 84. His son had the windows sashed and glazed, and from that period the family became unhealthy.

I proceed now to point out the means by which these evils are to be obviated.

It may be laid down as a self-evident proposition, that as the extremes of heat and cold are very injurious to the human frame, especially if they rapidly succeed each other; so it is incumbent on those who wish to preserve health, to endeavour to establish such an equality in the temperature of the air they breathe, as to avoid an excess of either.

The public rooms of Bath, though very spacious and lofty, are, however, so heated by fires, lights, and a croud of company, as to be very injurious to those who frequent them.

On the ball nights one door of the ball-room is generally left open, and the chimneys afford a vent, in some degree, to the
foul

foul and rarefied air. But this is not sufficient, as is manifest to the feelings of every person on passing into them from the outer rooms. Those who frequent the card rooms have not even the benefit of an open door, unless when persons pass and repass, when the cold air rushing in by starts and intervals, is more hurtful than beneficial.

I would therefore propose that the casements of all public rooms, and indeed of private houses, shall be so constructed, as that the upper division shall slide down, and that a certain portion of them, according as the room is more or less crowded, be always kept open. By thus promoting a free and constant circulation of air in every apartment, whether occupied or not, the internal and external air become nearly of an equal temperature; the foul air which is generated in close unoccupied chambers, and which adheres to the walls and furniture, will be carried off before it is accumulated, and the usual practice of airing rooms, by opening the windows, and warming them with fires, will be less, if at all, necessary.

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But without altering the construction of the fash, the heat of the sitting rooms may be safely moderated, and the air corrected, by raising a part of the fash most distant from the fire, and dropping the curtain before it. This expedient will be more necessary after dinner, when the air of the room has been tainted by the steams of the foods: or, as persons in this country sit some hours after dinner, it may be proper to retire into another apartment immediately after the dishes are removed.

The opening of the windows being, even in private houses, much above the level of our bodies, obviates the objection of its being injurious, by exposing us to a current of air.

But the truth is, that unless the wind sets strongly from the quarter opposite to the open windows, the rarefied and foul air, rushing through those apertures, counteracts and resists the column of cold air. This is evident from a simple experiment. Apply a burning candle to the upper crevice of the door of a heated room, the flame will tend outwards; if to the bottom crevice, inwards; a proof that whilst the heated and foul air
rushes

rushes out at the upper crevice, the colder and purer air enters below. Hence the impropriety of double doors, linings, listings, and sand-bags, all of which, by preventing some degree of ventilation, contribute to the evil which I wish to obviate.

A thermometer placed in public rooms, and the sitting rooms of private houses, would regulate the degree of heat, which in the winter ought rarely to exceed 58 or 60 degrees of *Fahrenheit's* thermometer; whereas when this test is applied in heated and crowded rooms, it is found to exceed it considerably.

To preserve the healths and amend or confirm the constitutions of the rising generation, is certainly an object of great importance: Therefore, school-rooms and bed-chambers, where a number of young persons are crowded together, ought not only to be spacious, but well ventilated.

I have been induced to make this remark, by a very recent instance in Bath, of the dangerous effects of neglecting this precaution; and do most earnestly recommend to the masters and mistresses of boarding-schools,

schools, a due attention to this circumstance; and to parents, that they enquire into the manner in which their children are accommodated in this respect. The same precaution is necessary with regard to nurseries; especially as servants are, in general, both from habit and prejudice, fond of hot and close apartments.

A lady of Bath, who consulted me, had the casements of her apartments altered in the manner I have suggested; and has been benefited by the experiment.

It is obvious, that by these expedients for regulating the heat of the rooms, we should not only breathe a purer air, but, in a great measure, avoid the dangerous consequences of rushing from heated rooms into cold air; the difference being, in frosty weather, often between 50 and 60 degrees.

All persons, but especially invalids, when they go into a close room from the open air, ought not to approach the fire immediately; but if cold, bring themselves gradually to the temperature of the air of the room, which ought rarely to exceed 60. If, from inspecting the thermometer, which ought to hang

hang at some distance from the fire, it is found to be considerably higher, the fire ought to be lessened, or more of the upper flues opened. By such precaution, they will not only avoid the debilitating effects of a sudden transition from extreme cold to great heat, but be less affected by the foul air thrown off by the burning fuel. For this reason I am, from what I remarked in traversing the continents of Europe and America, convinced, that stoves are preferable to open grates, not only because they diffuse the heat more equally; but carry off the inflammable air extricated by the fire: Those which are constructed by Mr. SHARP, an ingenious tradesman in London, are much preferable to those which I have met with abroad: The small expence of fuel is a consideration which merits attention.

I shall close this chapter with some remarks on our sleeping apartments.

If we allow only eight hours in the twenty-four to sleep; though many persons, especially invalids, spend many more hours in their bed-chambers, we shall find that during more than one-third of our time, we breathe

the same stagnant impure air, highly impregnated with noxious effluvia.

Those who have not experienced the benefits resulting from the expedients I shall propose, are not conscious of the evils which proceed from sleeping in confined and small bed-chambers. But from the instances of the fatal effects of air contaminated in a high degree, already mentioned, there is the strongest presumption that in a lower degree, the effects, though more insidious, must nevertheless be very injurious.

The great and good Dr. HALEs, whose studies and experiments were constantly directed to the benefit of mankind, recommended a trial of his ventilators in the Savoy and Newgate prisons, in both of which malignant fevers were frequent and fatal: The good effects exceeded the most sanguine expectations; for a very small proportion of the sick died after the use of the ventilators, and a constant circulation of air being thereby procured, the contagion seems to have been totally extinguished.

The ventilation of our ships of war and transports, on a similar principle, has contributed

tributed to render them more healthy, and to abate the violence, and lessen the frequency, of that destructive disease the scurvy.

The worthy and benevolent Mr. HOWARD found that the jails on the continent were entirely free from malignant fever, owing to the apartments in which the prisoners were confined being spacious, and consequently well ventilated.

These circumstances strongly confirm the benefit to be derived from the expedients I have proposed; which are only different modes of ventilation; and it may be farther remarked as a collateral proof, that we feel ourselves lively and alert in a pure air; and Dr. PRIESTLEY tells us, that his feelings and breathing were remarkably pleasant when he breathed that kind of factitious air which he calls dephlogisticated, and which is much purer than the common atmospheric air: The inference is obvious.

I would therefore, not only from long personal experience, but from the information of others to whom I have recommended it, advise, that not only invalids, but persons

in health, admit a free circulation of air in their bed-chambers, by various ways, and in different degrees, according to the season of the year and other circumstances.

During the warm close weather of the summer and autumnal months, the chamber door may be left open for a few nights ; afterwards a part of the sash may be left open ; but the current of air intercepted by the shutter ; and as the person becomes more habituated to free air, the shutter also may be left open, and the current prevented by dropping a window curtain before it.

In the colder months, a window in an adjoining apartment may be left open, as also the door of communication ; opening or closing the shutter, according as the wind does, or does not, blow directly from that quarter. Chimney boards, as very great impediments to a free circulation, ought never to be admitted in any apartment.

Thick curtains closely drawn round the bed are very injurious ; because they not only confine the effluvia thrown off from our bodies whilst in bed, but intercept the current of pure air.

It

It may be objected, that by the admission of cold air, persons, especially invalids, would be apt to *catch cold*, as it is commonly called: but so far from this being the case, I aver, that diseases from this cause generally proceed from persons being exposed to cold after being previously much heated: and so far is excessive warmth from being conducive to the cure of colds, and their many dangerous consequences, that they are always exasperated by hot close apartments, and hot regimen; and therefore the best means of preventing diseases from cold, is to avoid the contrary extreme.

Those persons who have a window open in the bed-chamber, or an adjoining apartment, need not be under any apprehension of suffering by a current of air being immediately directed upon them whilst in bed; because, if the upper sash be open, the current will be considerably above the level of the bed; but if the lower sash be open, it will be prudent to draw so much of the bed curtain as to prevent the wind from blowing upon the person in bed. But the danger of catching cold from such current is more apparent

parent than real; for if the head and body be properly covered, there is no hazard; and one advantage of thus admitting air is, that persons who are in the habit of lying very warm, will by this expedient find themselves much less oppressed and heated by a load of bed-clothes; as the lungs, like the funnel of a stove, discharge the heated and foul air by means of the cool air admitted by every inspiration.

It may also be alledged, that, from the experiments of Dr. INGENHOUSZ, night air is noxious; as vegetables in a growing state throw off, in the shade, a great quantity of noxious air. But allowing the result of these experiments to be such as the Doctor has related, it may indeed be an objection to keeping flowers in our apartments, but none to the night air in large cities, where no vegetation goes on.

It will be expected that, instead of arguing from general principles, I should adduce instances of the safety and utility of this innovation; and the expectation is reasonable: but it would swell this essay too much to enter into numerous and minute details; I shall

I shall however mention a few circumstances, in addition to my remarks on Dr. HALE'S ventilators, which will, I hope, carry conviction along with them.

It is an incontrovertible truth that, in general, such persons as are precluded, by necessity, from the indulgence of warm and close rooms; and are deprived even of the benefit of comfortable firing, are more hardy, and enjoy firmer health, than the opulent; though no habits of living can afford an entire exemption from disease. Hence it is, that though indigence, and pinching want, in many of the lower rank of every society, is a grievous relative evil; yet affluence and luxurious indulgence expose us to distresses of a different kind, and there is nearly a compensation throughout; the balance being rather in favour of the middle rank in every society.

Of the safety of the practice I recommend, my own family affords a manifest proof; nor have I ever heard that any of my friends or patients who have made the experiment, have had any reason to repent it, but the reverse.

About sixteen years ago I attended the late Sir JOHN ASTLEY, whilst he resided on his estate

estate at Everley, in Wiltshire. This old gentleman, then about 80, lay, during the severest part of the winter, in a room without fire, and a bed without curtains, and every morning plunged into the cold bath; and had he not, from a spirit of obstinacy, neglected and mismanaged himself when labouring under a complaint not dangerous in its nature, he might have survived several years longer.

That the admission of cold air into bed-chambers is of use in preserving health, cannot be doubted by any who have read the preceding part of this chapter; for if foul air weakens and destroys the springs of life, pure air must necessarily support and invigorate them.

If at any time I neglect to admit air into my bed-chamber before I go to bed, my night is spent uncomfortably, I am hot and feverish, and I wake distressed by head-ach, and other disagreeable feelings. This may be partly attributed to habit; but it affords an irrefragable proof, that cool and pure air is more friendly to the human system, than our being immersed for many hours in the
hot

hot and putrescent vapours exhaled from our own bodies.

Impure air is peculiarly inimical to the nervous system : it relaxes and enfeebles the general habit, and increases the irritability of the body.

On conversing with a sensible and ingenious *gentleman* * on this subject, he informed me that he had for many years laboured under a complication of nervous symptoms, for which he had obtained no relief from medicine. He at length determined to try the effects of ventilating his chamber in the manner I have mentioned ; and has been benefited thereby beyond expectation.

On my communicating these remarks to an eminent physician at Bath, he favoured me with the following letter :

“ I do not wish to have my name mentioned in the detail of my case ; it will be

* Mr. LUCAS, of the York Hotel, at Bath.—If an University education, very respectable family connections, urbanity of manners, and integrity of heart, constitute a *gentleman*, no man has a higher claim to that character than my old friend Mr. LUCAS—Many years ago I knew the brother of an English Peer in Ireland, in the same rank of life, and with similar qualifications.

“ sufficient to say, that having for many
“ years been occasionally subject to palpita-
“ tions of the heart, shortness of breathing,
“ great anxiety and depression of spirits, uni-
“ versal tremor, and other symptoms of the
“ kind, usually called nervous ; after trial of
“ many medicines of the antispasmodic kind,
“ I found nothing so effectual as a strict at-
“ tention to preserving a due temperature of
“ body during the night, at which time the
“ above symptoms were most apt to recur.
“ In order to preserve this temperature, I
“ found it necessary to use only a moderately
“ thin quilt in the summer, with an addition
“ of a moderately warm blanket in the win-
“ ter, and no fire in the room ; one window
“ of which was kept open all night in the
“ summer, and the whole of the day in cold
“ weather. This regimen produced sound
“ and refreshing sleep, and almost an entire
“ exemption from many troublesome symp-
“ toms of a similar kind that frequently came
“ on in the day time.”

Other instances have occurred to me of a similar kind ; but not so decisive of the efficacy of this practice : These cases, however, will,

I flatter myself, encourage invalids, those especially who labour under nervous complaints, to give a fair trial to means which are likely to contribute so much to their ease and comfort.

Many persons who labour under chronic diseases, are distressed by an irregular fever, which, from the impure air they breathe for many hours in bed, is most troublesome in the night. I know, from experience, that it is much abated, and sometimes entirely removed, by the admission of cool air; and the slumbers of the invalid become less interrupted, and much more refreshing. To such as labour under catarrhal coughs, which often terminate in consumption, to such also as labour under this disease in an advanced state, and to the asthmatic, this mode has been singularly beneficial.

Connected with this subject is the circumstance of adapting our cloathing to the seasons of the year, or rather the relative degrees of heat and cold in this variable unstable climate; I have therefore considered this subject in the next chapter,

C H A P. III.

IT is evident that cloathing ought to be accommodated to different ages, habits of life, climate, season, and state of health ; and it is proposed to consider this important subject in those different points of view.

As nature has provided all other animals with various defences of hair, wool, feathers, or scales, by which they may resist the noxious impressions of different elements ; so instinct has dictated to man, even in his savage state, the necessity of covering, in proportion to the inclemency of countries and seasons.

Particular kinds of cloathing are more or less warm according to their qualities, as being more or less conductors of the electric fluid ; or according to their colours ; as disposed to refract and absorb, or reflect and throw off, the rays of light.

In civilized societies, the improvement of arts, the facility with which men are supplied with the conveniences and luxuries of life, and the gratification which these afford, have disposed mankind to be perhaps too
solicitous

solicitous about guarding against the inclemency of seasons ; and hence it is that our bodies being rendered more tender and delicate, and our feelings more acute, we find, that in proportion to the increase of luxury, we become less hardy ; as being more obnoxious to the influence and impression of manifold causes of disease,

As a physician cannot, any more than a legislator, always effect a proper change in the national manners and morals ; so it is incumbent on both to establish such regulations as the habits of the people will admit of.

It is very much to be regretted, that luxury has in some degree extended its influence to all ranks of the community ; by which the bodies of the most useful members of it, the middling and lower ranks, are more enervated than those of their ancestors.

With respect to the *different Periods of Life*, children should, from their birth, be habituated to light cloathing, not only by day, but in bed ; for nothing contributes more to form the constitution : infants and children are less apt to have their perspiration checked, than persons who are more advanced

advanced in life; and therefore less apt to catch cold. From the stage of childhood to the 35th year, the strength of the vital powers, and a brisk circulation, tend very much to keep up an equal perspiration; but after that period, the force of the circulation being lessened, the cloathing by day, and the covering by night, should be gradually increased; for many of the diseases of advanced life are produced, or exasperated, by obstructed perspiration.

Climate, and Season of the Year, ought certainly to have cloathing suited to them; but in our unsteady climate it is very difficult to accommodate them to the sudden changes. Upon the whole, however, after the age of 35, it may be better to exceed, rather than be deficient, in cloathing.

Habit, or Custom, always merits great attention. If persons have been accustomed to warm clothing, there will always be hazard in sudden changes of any kind. Those who clothe, and sleep warmly, ought not to indulge in hot close rooms during the day, or have fires in their bed-chambers. Those who have resided long in hot climates, when they

they come into this country, should rather exceed in their cloathing.

With respect to *the State of Health*: To persons of hale constitutions, and in high health, very warm cloathing in the day, or covering at night, would be very improper; because their vital powers being strong, and the circulation vigorous, the warmth and steady perspiration on the surface and extremities resist the impressions of cold or moisture, unless they are very violent.

Such persons, however, relying too much on the strength of their constitutions, often expose themselves imprudently; and as the violence of their diseases is in general in proportion to the vigour of their vital powers; so they are frequently rapid in their progress and fatal in their termination.

The grand rule is, so to regulate our cloathing and covering, that, when we expose ourselves to the external air, the difference of the temperature of the air in both situations shall be such, that we shall not be susceptible of dangerous impressions under any inclemency of season when we go abroad.

Persons

Persons in firm health ought therefore so to regulate the temperature within doors, as that it shall not exceed fifty-six degrees of the thermometer in the winter, spring, and autumn; and in the summer, bring it as near to that as possible, by the admission of fresh air.

But the chief intention of this essay is, to offer hints to the *delicate* and *invalid* part of my readers.

Were it happily in our option to attain all the requisites for forming a firm constitution, no man of common sense would spare any pains to acquire them: but this is not always in our power. A weakness of constitution is often hereditary; or it may result from diseases, either unavoidably, or the effects of negligence or inattention.

Under such circumstances, we must be content to accommodate ourselves to our situation, and prudently avoid all such extremes as may impair health.

Persons of delicate and irritable constitutions, whose vital powers are weak, and circulation languid and unsteady, are very apt to have the perspiration checked by very
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slight causes : This also happens to invalids, whose complaints are thereby much exasperated. Until the constitution, therefore, has been strengthened, and as it were hardened, by being gradually habituated to air and exercise, they ought rather to exceed than be deficient in the quantity of cloathing.

With respect to cloathing, such addition ought to be made to it, in cold and damp weather, as to protect the body against the sudden and severe impressions of either.— That great philosopher, and good man, Mr. Boyle, had cloaks accommodated to different seasons and changes of weather; and invalids ought rather to exceed than be deficient in the warmth of their cloathing, those especially who are subject to catarrhal coughs, those whose nerves are weak and irritable, and those who are gouty and rheumatic.

Such persons ought in the beginning of September to wear a flannel waistcoat over the shirt or shift, and, towards the end of October, next the body; taking care to defend the lower limbs by flannel petticoats, or woollen drawers, and stockings.

Such persons as wear flannel next the body are apprehensive of changing this part of their cloathing, lest they catch cold, and therefore continue to wear the same garment through the winter ; and as the warm weather comes on, cut it away by degrees. But this precaution is not only unnecessary, but to persons of delicacy must be offensive, and indeed injurious ; as thereby a part of the perspirable matter, accumulated for months, is retained in constant contact with the surface of the body.

I can however aver, from long personal experience, that the under waistcoat may be safely changed once or twice a week ; and as the weather becomes more mild, it may be worn over the linen, and at length totally left off till the subsequent autumn.

A very ingenious philosopher, (Sir BENJAMIN THOMPSON) by a variety of experiments on the relative power of absorbing moisture from the atmosphere, in different substances ; as wool, fur, hair, silk, cotton wool, and linen ; has found, contrary to what was supposed would be the result, that woollen cloth absorbed most, of these substances,

stances, and linen the least; and hence this gentleman justly infers the vast advantage of a flannel waistcoat next the skin; and, from personal experience, and accurate analogy, he concludes that it would prevent a multitude of diseases; and as it promotes evaporation, instead of being too hot for summer, he found no inconvenience from it in the hottest weather, as it is well known that evaporation produces positive cold; hence probably it is that the East Indians find cotton shirts and shifts to be more comfortable than linen.

But as, in this unsteady climate, a sultry day in summer is often succeeded by one or more that are cold and raw, delicate persons, who labour under complaints of the breast or bowels, or are subject to gout or rheumatism, ought, as often as such changes take place, to make an addition to their cloathing, so long as is necessary.

I cannot quit this subject without observing, that the application of a double, treble, or even quadruple piece of flannel upon the breast in coughs, the belly in colics, diarrhœas, &c. and to any of the limbs affected

by rheumatism, affords a degree of relief beyond what might be expected; especially if it be sprinkled with a little lavender water or soap liniment, and a moderately hot smoothing iron be run over it repeatedly. The powerful determination made by this means from the affected organ is, perhaps, greater than that of a blister; and certainly more permanent, as the means may be applied very frequently. The idea of benefit from repeated dying of the flannel, is absurd.

I hope my fair readers, if any such there be, will pardon me for animadverting on an article of their cloathing, which I have long considered as extremely prejudicial, especially to the younger part of the sex: I mean the *stays*. For though the prevailing *fashion* has allowed them a little more latitude than formerly, this part of their dress is still too strait and tight, especially for invalids; many of whose complaints are probably produced, but all exasperated, by this coat (not of mail, but) of whalebone. However, as from custom they require some support to their chest, I would recommend stiffened jackets, or the old boddice, in lieu of stays; and

and, in cold weather, they may be lined with thick flannel.

I am, however, apprehensive, that this admonition, important as it is, will not make a proper impresson on the ladies. To a fine woman, as with an ambitious man, it is not living, but *reigning*, is the object.

It has, of late, been suspected that some young men, that they might become more compleatly effeminate, wear stays: It is to be hoped that the ladies will not deem them to be either males or females, but of the neuter gender.

The feet ought to be well defended with thick shoes.

As cleanliness contributes much to health, invalids ought to bathe their feet and legs once a week in warm water; and when it can be conveniently done, use a moderately warm bath once a month.

With respect to covering whilst in bed, much will depend on habit. The head ought to be peculiarly well covered whilst we are in bed, because colds and rheums are thereby prevented; and it is remarked, that as foreigners are more attentive to this circumstance

cumstance than we are, they are less subject to coughs, and their teeth are in general more sound.

People in health ought never to have their beds warmed; not only because the fumes of the coals are in some degree noxious, but because warmth thus applied enervates the body. To avoid the disagreeable impression of a cold bed, Dr. *Franklin* judiciously recommends a cold air bath, by standing naked in the cold for a minute or two before we go into bed, and rubbing the body during that time strongly with a flesh brush; and I will add, that a similar exposure in a morning, whilst the whole body is again well rubbed by the flesh brush, will be of great use.

But such expedients ought to be very cautiously adopted by invalids.

With respect to them, airing the sheets every night before the fire, so as to evaporate the perspiration they may have absorbed the preceding night, may be of use; and is a salutary substitute for bed warming.

If, however, invalids and sick persons cannot from custom dispense with bed warming, one or two quarts of sand, made red hot in
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an iron pot, and put into the warming pan, will be void of all offensive smell; a circumstance of great consequence to persons who have weak lungs, or very irritable nerves.

Though a very eminent physician seems to consider damp rooms and clothes as seldom or never productive of any bad effects; yet the many instances of dangerous and fatal consequences from damp linen and sheets, to the most healthy, ought to make invalids, especially, very careful in those points.

With respect to the quantity of bed-clothes, it ought to be such as may, in a reasonable time after we are in bed, promote an equal but insensible perspiration; and if on awaking, at any time in the night, we find ourselves so much heated as to be obliged to throw a part of them off, we may be assured that the quantity is too great: it will be right to cover the legs more warmly than the upper parts of the body, as the circulation in the extremities is more languid, and the warmth of those parts necessarily less: and as invalids rarely fall asleep until there is a gentle perspiration on the extremities, it will be right to procure that as soon as possible.

fible. Gouty and rheumatic patients sometimes find advantage from wearing worsted gauze stockings, or flannel socks, in bed, during cold weather.

I need not repeat what I have already said on the benefits which must accrue from sleeping in a large and well-aired chamber. When there is a constant circulation of fresh air, we are much less incommoded by heavy bed-cloaths.

And I cannot avoid expressing my surprise, that persons who enjoy good health, and all the advantages of rank, or of affluence (which levels all distinctions) tenacious, as they must be, of life, and of health, without which life must be a burthen; whilst trifling, fleeting pleasures engross their chief attention, they should not be a little more anxious about the preservation of this first of earthly blessings; and that the unhappy invalid should not be more solicitous to attain, by proper regimen, in this, and other respects, what, notwithstanding their wealth, medical skill alone cannot possibly afford them.

ESSAY III.

On the EMPERICISM *of* LADY and GENTLEMEN DOCTORS.

Mrs. HARDCASTLE.

Did I not prescribe for you every day, and weep while the receipt was operating?

TONY LUMPKIN.

Ecod; you had reason to weep, for you have been dosing me ever since I was born. I have gone through every receipt in the *Family Physician* ten times over; and you have thoughts of coursing me through *Quincy* next spring.

She Stoops to Conquer, Act 2d.

LADY and Gentlemen Doctors are exceedingly numerous in this age and kingdom. Though they read dispensatories and practical compilations with great avidity, they are so far from acquiring thereby any real knowledge, that the few ideas such reading affords them are destructive, because they are empirical; and should these eleemosynary doctors, fraught with this kind of knowledge,

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ledge, undertake the office of being medical prescribers, their best intentions must be productive of much evil. Of this serious truth there can be no doubt after a careful perusal of this essay.

I have allotted a separate essay to my very respectable sisters and brethren; as it would have been an unpardonable insult to have put them on a level with the fordid and selfish race of nostrum-mongers; to whom, I am persuaded, they are very much superior in every liberal, and even *medical*, accomplishment: though I am apprehensive, they may be *somewhat deficient* in those qualifications which would be necessary to their commencing physicians, if the branches of knowledge enumerated in the essay on the difficulties of studying medicine, are indispensable, as they undoubtedly are.

There seems to be a strong propensity in the human race to form pretensions to eminence, either with respect to knowledge or character; to which, were their claims strictly scrutinized, the imposture might easily be detected.

All

All pretenders to such distinction are, in the just sense of the term, QUACKS.

Hence it is that not only in every science and art; but even in every department of life, quackery prevails.

There are therefore philological, philosophical, political, theological, critical, juridical, and *medical quacks*; but the proportion of the latter much exceeds the sum total of all the others. There are also not a few instances of regal quacks, of which MASSONELLO, OLIVER CROMWELL, and the late PRETENDER to the British throne, may be adduced as examples. Thus also, in the walks of civil life; the flimsy macaroni affects the manner of the hardy buck; the naval and military fribble plays the martinet and disciplinarian; the purse-proud nabob, contractor, and tallow-chandler, ape the consequence and dignity of the peer; the low-born, half-bred female mimics the elegance and refinement of the woman of birth, education, and fashion; whilst the low-bred chamber-maid and footman burlesque the air, manner, and language of the master and mistress.

Ladies (or gentlemen) doctors may be defined *sage* personages, who not only physick themselves, but, *without fee or reward*, prescribe, and often administer their remedies to their friends, dependants, and poor neighbours.*

I proceed to enquire how it has happened that the fair sex has arrogated to itself the privilege of discharging the duties of the physician and surgeon.

As, by their domestic avocations, and the neatness, delicacy, and tenderness, peculiar to the sex, they have ever been deemed well qualified to discharge the duty of nurses; so, from the habit of administering remedies,

* I have however known several *doctors* of this description, who were much more alert in prescribing, than in taking, *even* their own prescriptions: and I have generally concluded, that their confidence in their own skill suffered *some* abatement when their personal safety was concerned. Human vanity is much gratified on every occasion wherein we can evince our superiority, with respect either to rank, opulence, or knowledge; and it must certainly be a very flattering circumstance for a *lady* or *gentleman doctor* to possess, or seem to possess, a degree of scientific knowledge by *six hours* hard medical study, the attainment of which costs a *medical dunce* the labour of as many years.

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they at length assumed a right of prescribing them: The transition was easy and natural.

This laudable ambition of filling the first department of the medical art is of considerable antiquity: for we know that though the Greeks enacted a law prohibiting women from undertaking the practice of physick; yet among our Gothick ancestors, women were the chief physicians; and as female emulation is unbounded, they also claimed a place at the national councils; and even discharged the duties of the *corps diplomatique* with singular address and success.*

* Besides the *queen of Sheba*, who was her own plenipotentiary to the *wisest* of kings; the result of whose royal *tête à tête* has been amply detailed; we have two other instances of female plenipo's; one to Charles the XIIth of Sweden, whose embassy failed, merely for want of gallantry and *politesse* in the iron-headed Monarch; but the lady, afterwards Duchess of Portsmouth, succeeded better with *our* Charles, and, by her *very honourable* connection with that prince, had the pleasure of contributing greatly to the glory of the *Grand Monarque*. Of the superiority of female talents in the arts of government, our *Elizabeth* and the *Thalestria* of the North, afford shining examples, and though it has been invidiously supposed that a late race of our kings chiefly derived their embarrassments and misfortunes from *petticoat* influence; I cannot, for the honour of the sex, assent to the allegation; as we know

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Though the female hereditary claim to the medical department has been disputed, and occasionally usurped, by their male rivals, they have never been able totally to supersede them; and it is certain that they have, to this day, retained a considerable share of their former medical consequence.*

In those halcyon days, when men of rank and fortune spent the greatest part of their

that female influence has long predominated in the councils of a neighbouring kingdom, remarkable for the subtilty, *rectitude*, and success of its political evolutions; as some late events abundantly testify.

The fair sex has been no less eminent in every other department of erudition and science; some have excelled in classical learning, criticism, history, and philosophy; others have evinced superior talents in the fine arts; a few have even entered deeply into the abstruse speculations of geometry and metaphysics; and it is evident that they have a prescriptive claim to the province of physic; The period therefore, is not, perhaps, very remote, when our academical chairs, *that of rhetoric especially*, may be very ably filled by female professors—when ladies shall become fellows and even *presidents* of our colleges of physicians—and lady doctors superintend the health of crowned heads. In the *Asiatic* and *African* courts, there would be *peculiar* propriety in such appointments, as they might minister in more than one capacity.

* In so much that few of our profession have attained any degree of *eminence* and *celebrity* without the aid of female patronage.

time

time at their country mansions, the mistress of the family necessarily commenced a *Lady Bountiful*; and, not contented with the exercise of the chemical art in preparing her preserves and pickles, had recourse to her family receipts, *all of them infallible*; and from this invaluable store of knowledge, acquired the art of preparing plaisters, salves, and surfeit waters. These she dispensed with a liberal hand; and, with much condescension and humanity, visited the sick and lame; and not only distributed her remedies, but most charitably supplied all their wants.

About the middle of the last century, indigent men of some learning published medical treatises for the use of the *Lady Bountifuls* of that day; who, from *Aristotle's Master-piece*, *Culpepper's Midwifery*, *Salmon's Practice of Physick*, and *Every Man his own Physician*, made a very respectable addition to their stock of medical knowledge; and it is from the same inexhaustible funds all our nostrum venders have borrowed their *infallible* remedies.

A revolution in the habits of life has now almost extinguished the race of the *Lady Bountifuls*;

Bountifuls; and the poor are now generally resigned to the care of those humane and *tender-hearted* gentlemen, the parish officers.

It would, however, be extremely unjust to insinuate that the present age is deficient in charity, for the very reverse is the case; as is evident from the liberal subscriptions to hospitals and pauper dispensaries, and the readiness with which distressed individuals are relieved. The ladies also still retain their natural disposition to do good; and, when they retire to their country seats, carry with them a medicine chest, generally the *refuse* of a druggist's shop; and from that magazine, not only physic the whole family, but dispense their remedies to all the indigent neighbourhood.

Without presuming to arraign the motives for this act of charity, I would only observe, that in the mode of dispensing it, they fall short of their predecessors: for, instead of following the example of the quondam *Lady Bountifuls*, they commonly take their report of the patient's case from an upper servant, to whom the administration of the remedy is intrusted; whilst the supply
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of nourishment ordered for the sick is generally intercepted by the postillion or stable-boy, who is employed to deliver it.

As the *lady* and *gentlemen doctors*, of this description, are ready to assign various reasons for the exercise of their art, I shall consider and reply to them separately.

1st. They alledge that, as they understand their own constitutions, they are best qualified to determine what is fit for them.

If, by a knowledge of constitution, they mean that they have learned, from experience, what foods and drinks, and what modes of living, are most agreeable to their constitutions, I concur with them in some measure; though, as our constitutions change at different periods of life, and often in consequence of disease, it may happen, that what is suitable at one time may be very improper at another; especially if the maxim be extended to the use of medicine.

2^{dly}. They assert that, whether they prescribe for themselves, or for others, they deal in nothing but *simple* things; which, if they do no good, cannot do any harm.

I answer, that if the diseases for which they prescribe have a dangerous tendency, and there are few diseases which have not in some degree, delay creates danger; and it often happens, that when means, equal to the urgency of the case, are omitted, the season for relief is irretrievably lost; and a slight disease frequently degenerates into a mortal malady.

In this way, I am convinced, thousands of most valuable subjects are annually lost to the community; of which a great proportion die of that fatal English malady *consumption*. Instances of this kind occur daily to physicians, who have reason to lament that their efforts are unavailing, and their art discredited, in consequence of neglect or mismanagement in the earlier stages of disease; when there was a moral certainty of danger being prevented by proper management.

There is a considerable degree of inconvenience, often of danger, in persons being in the habit of taking even trivial remedies, for the removal of supposed complaints; I say *supposed*, because they often are so; and the very operation of those drugs may create so
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much disturbance in the constitution, as really to produce disease, instead of preventing or removing it. This is peculiarly the case with rhubarb, magnesia, *Anderson's*, and *James's* analeptick pills, &c. the first dose creating a necessity for a second; and so on, until they become indispensably necessary: * Of the dangerous effects of this practice, I have given two instances in the *Essay on Fashionable Diseases*, to which I refer the reader; and two more have occurred to me since the publication of the second edition.

A celebrated ancient physician * has cautioned us against the destructive practice of using preventive remedies; and I believe that

* In this instance I must dissent from Dr. CADOGAN, who, in the few hints he gives concerning the medical management of gouty patients, (and he considers gout as a representative of all other chronic diseases) seems to approve of the daily use of laxatives: indeed the whole of what he says on that head (so far as it is intelligible) is, I am persuaded, in the opinion of most of his brethren, peculiarly objectionable. The Doctor ought either to have been more explicit, or totally silent; as the practice he hints at is novel and hazardous; and, in improper hands, must necessarily be very injurious.

* *Celsus*:—Cavendum ne præsidia adversæ valetudinis in secunda consumantur.

our failure in the cure of diseases often proceeds from this practice; the constitution being, by habitual use, rendered insensible to the impression of remedies, when they are really necessary.

In the second edition of my Essay on *Regimen*, I have made a remark, which for its importance ought to be taken notice of here. In establishing an essential distinction between diet and medicine, I observed, that the difference between them was, that wholesome diet was that which was easily changed by the constitution into its own nature, without producing any change by which the organs might be weakened or oppressed: on the other hand, there are very few medicines of any considerable power, those especially which promote the evacuations of vomiting, purging, or sweating, which do not change the body more than they are changed by it; and many of them are totally unconquerable by the powers of the constitution; and thereby correspond in their nature to one definition of poisons: and indeed as medicines and food may be converted into poisons, so poisons are, when skilfully administered,

administered, very safe remedies ; for mercury, antimony, and opium, are really poisons in their nature.

If we are slightly indisposed, which is often the effect of luxurious indulgence, irregular hours, or both ; the safest means of relief is quiet and abstinence, which enable the constitution, by its innate powers, to obviate or remove the seeds of disease.

But in no instance is this preventive plan so absurdly and injuriously employed as with respect to infants, children, and young people ; and by this means many a tolerable constitution has been physicked into a state of irremediable weakness, infinitely worse than premature death.

3dly. As an apology for the modern practice of keeping closet medicines, and amongst these an assortment of quack nostrums ; it is alledged, that, beside its being unsafe to trust to apothecaries' remedies, which are often bad in their kind, the apothecaries' bills are exorbitant, and much enhanced by their selfish procrastination.

To these complicated charges, I reply ; that the most creditable and conscientious
apothecaries

apothecaries generally supply themselves with compound chemical medicines from Apothecaries-hall, and that it is likely they would, for their own credit, procure better drugs than those usually sold as *closet* medicines; as they are certainly better judges of their qualities than any person not of the profession.

With respect to the exorbitance of charges; as an apothecary is obliged to have a large assortment of medicines, many of which may never be used before they spoil; I am persuaded that, though the charges are apparently high, their advantages are not, on the whole, greater than, or so great as, those of retailing tradesmen.* Respecting the last charge; I believe that, with regard to men of any credit or character, the insinuation is cruel, and without foundation.†

* Some apothecaries have lately adopted the practice of lumping their bills, instead of specifying, as formerly, the particular articles. This gross imposition is generally practiced where the patient has had but very few medicines: But it ought to be strenuously opposed as a base fraud.

† I have however had opportunities of being convinced that some apothecaries and druggists are either so unskilful or so selfish, as to purchase bad medicines, or continue to vend them after they become unsound.

4thly.

4^{thly}. A reason assigned for persons of slender means having recourse to the use of quack remedies, is the high fees of physicians, and the insufficiency of apothecaries.

It is a delicate task for a physician to discuss the point with regard to the qualification of apothecaries.* If their education be

To remedy this great evil, it is submitted to the wisdom of the legislature, whether some expedient may not be fallen upon to oblige all apothecaries in the British dominions to supply themselves solely from Apothecaries-hall with every species of medicine. That great and wise Princess, the *Empress of Russia*, has directed that no remedies shall be dispensed in her extensive dominions, except such as are vended under her authority.

* There is an old Latin proverb, which implies “that the cowl does not make the monk;” and I am sorry truth obliges me to declare, that it is so far applicable to our profession, that every man who assumes the title of M.D. has not, either by his education, skill, or conduct, any just claim to the distinction; whilst men under the denomination of surgeons and apothecaries may, by genius and education, be possessed of the abilities, without the credentials of a physician. Unhappily, however, for the community, the instances are rare, and it is still more unfortunate, that the public at large are not qualified to distinguish them from their ignorant and presuming brethren. I believe many of my brethren, as well as myself, are much gratified when

sufficient,

sufficient, physicians are *unnecessary*; but as the publick does not yet entertain that opinion, any more than the apothecaries themselves, *a few self-sufficient men excepted*; it is much to be regretted that the fees of physicians are so high, that few, excepting people of opulence, can conveniently have *early* recourse to their assistance. The only expedient by which this evil can be remedied, would be to adopt the regulations established in most other parts of Europe, viz. to permit none but physicians to prescribe in medical cases, and surgeons in their department; that apothecaries be confined to their original employment of making up prescriptions;* and druggists and chemists be, un-

they meet with men of this character; and are disposed to consider them rather as respectable coadjutors, than as holding an inferior rank in the profession.

* The term *apothecary* is derived from a compound Greek verb which signifies to deposite; and the substantive implies a repository of drugs; so that apothecaries evidently deviate from their original destination, when they become *prescribers* instead of *dispensers* of drugs: However, according to the present constitution of physick, which stands in need of much reform, it would be impossible to limit them to their proper occupation, unless the fees of physicians were reduced.

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der a severe penalty, prevented from vending drugs by retail; whilst the regulation of quackery on the plan to be laid down in the next essay, would tend very much to place the practice of physick on a respectable and beneficial footing.

There are several reasons to be assigned for the fees of physicians being so high. Excepting a few, who have really too much employment to do proper justice to their patients, the major part are rarely called in until it is too late; and this rather to *save* appearances, and exculpate the apothecary, than with any great hope of *saving* the patient. Thus many years elapse, before the emoluments of his profession are more than sufficient to support a physician in the rank of a gentleman. If, in process of time, his employment becomes extensive and profitable, he is willing to compensate for his former loss of time; and to endeavour to secure for himself a decent independency, and a provision for his family. But that the profession is *not* lucrative, is evident from the small number of physicians who acquire large fortunes.

A physician of London, now deservedly in great practice, assured me several years ago, that, with considerable business, many years had elapsed, before his annual income was equal to 800*l*.

This was, in some measure, to be attributed to a liberal plan he adopted of accommodating his fees to the abilities of his patients; insomuch that, on a fair calculation, partly from the smallness of the fee, never or rarely exceeding half-a-guinea, and his gratis visits, he did not receive more than half that sum on an average; and that, taking one patient with another, he did not receive more than one guinea for the whole of his attendance during a fit of illness. This gentleman has since been amply rewarded for his humanity; and indeed, if we consider the time and labour many physicians bestow in attending hospitals, dispensaries, and other charitable institutions, and the many visits they make gratis, the profession will be found not to merit the imputation of avarice and rapacity: though, as among all other orders of men, there may be, and are, exceptions.

Fees

Fees ought certainly to be adapted to the abilities of the patients, and other circumstances; and a man of honour and probity will distinguish those circumstances wherein he ought to relax in the article of fees.

Men of fortune, high spirit, and great generosity, are very much disposed to gratify the physician in a manner which, if his disposition be not sordid, he will not accept of; and yet it is a very delicate task to refuse on such an occasion without giving offence: on the other hand, as there are many whose circumstances, when compared with their station in life, enable them to do that justice to the physician, which their narrow spirits incline them to deny him; such ought not to be spared; nor do persons of this turn deserve to be treated with any degree of delicacy:—Many persons of a valetudinary habit have acquired such an unlucky bias of mind, as never to be satisfied without the attendance of the doctor, and a constant course of medicine; an honest man will discourage such a disposition, and avoid availing himself of this unhappy propensity.

Tender

Tender husbands, parents, or relations, to satisfy themselves that they have done their utmost, shall often solicit the attendance of the physician, though they know that all remedies must be ineffectual: here it would be as cruel to decline an attendance which might give satisfaction to the miserable patient, or consolation to the afflicted relations, as it would be fordid to insist rigidly on the article of fees.

Persons who, with very limited incomes, are obliged to support a genteel appearance, (among whom I heartily wish I were not obliged to rank a set of men truly respectable by their learning and function) may often want the assistance of a physician; though by no means able to gratify him in a manner corresponding to their inclination, or to established custom. Under such circumstances, a physician of a liberal turn of mind will fall upon such methods of accommodating his demands to the situation of his patients, as shall not hurt the delicacy of persons, whose feelings, and sense of propriety, are generally in proportion to their education.

I take this opportunity of introducing an observation not inapplicable to the present subject:—

As the powers of the mind are generally weakened by disease, persons naturally of firm and steady dispositions often become, under the influence of bad health, timid, irresolute, and peevish. Hence it is that, if not speedily relieved, they change their physicians, and, disgusted at length with the regulars, generally become a prey to ignorant and knavish quacks.

Thus it is that thousands, whose maladies would certainly have yielded to judicious and steady management, have fallen a sacrifice to caprice and credulity.

I think it my duty, therefore, most earnestly to recommend to my readers, never to employ a medical man in whose skill and integrity they have not entire confidence; and that having made their choice, they do adhere steadily and implicitly to the use of the means he prescribes; and though their too sanguine expectations of relief are not gratified, they ought not therefore to arraign
either

either the skill of the physician, or the power of medicine.

A change of physicians seldom answers any good purpose; and I may venture to aver, that even consultations rarely contribute to the benefit of the patient; with respect to the employment of quacks, or the use of quack medicines, I refer the reader to what will be said on this subject in the next essay.

As for those who labour under imaginary diseases, "*who are sick by way of amusement, and melancholy to keep up their spirits,*" I recommend to them the perusal of the very ingenious Mr. COLMAN's farce of the Spleen; and the no less ingenious Mr. FOOTE's comedy of Dr. LAST in his Chariot; where this dangerous propensity to quackery is ridiculed with infinite wit and humour.

It may and does happen, however, that diseases at first imaginary become at length real; the functions of the body being gradually depraved and impaired by anxiety and despondency.

This, among many other instances, seems to have been the case of the wife of a London tradesman,

tradesman, who, after having undergone a long course of regular and irregular practice, consulted me at Bath.

The only *benefits* this good woman seemed to have derived from her medical discipline, were a broken constitution, a ruinous expence, and a medical jargon, composed of the different opinions of her quondam doctors. I therefore found this poor woman more disposed to explain her symptoms, than to describe her feelings. Happily for her, the last nostrum-monger she employed attributed all her symptoms to *Bile*; and he having, during twelve months, exhausted all his skill in attempting to tame this monster, the patient being accidentally informed that Bath waters *were good for the bile*, went thither with the most sanguine expectation that the water would do for her in *three weeks* what her doctors had not been able to effect for her in three years.

Thus it is that wretched hypochondriacs ruin their constitutions and embitter their lives, by their perpetual solicitude about the preservation of both; and from their unhappy propensity to try every new remedy
that

that is recommended to them, have contributed exceedingly to extend and support the present destructive spirit of quackery.

5^{thly}. The Lady and Gentlemen Doctors, since the publication of some *popular* medical books, proceed with more confidence in their private practice than their predecessors; as deeming those books sufficient guides in every case that can occur; and when they deign to consult a physician or apothecary, it is rather with an expectation of having their medical sagacity applauded, than their errors corrected.*

* One principal cause of the prevalence of quackery, is the illiberal manner in which medical men often treat each other, for the base purpose of establishing a reputation on the ruin of that of a rival.

Thus, when a second physician is called in, he hints to the family his disapprobation of whatever has been done by his colleague or predecessor; and hereby a double purpose is answered; if the patient recovers, the praise is exclusively his own; if he dies, it is *justly* inferred, that his skill was rendered abortive by former mismanagement.

Such acts are often practised by a self-sufficient apothecary, if the doctor is not a creature of his own.

These damning insinuations fly from gossip to gossip with surprising rapidity. What is the consequence? The good ladies, finding that medical men entertain such difference of

When

When a physician hints his disapprobation of such publications, he is suspected of sinister motives ; and as medical men are supposed to be very averse from every attempt to remove the veil of mystery by which the art is supposed to be involved, I shall, to avoid the imputation, faithfully detail the substance of a conversation held some years ago, (the quotation excepted) and leave the reader to draw his own conclusions ; and for the sake of brevity, I will throw it into the form of dialogue.

About fifteen years ago I was desired to visit the wife of a gentleman of very respectable character, and profound erudition.

Having examined into the state of my patient's case, I was shewn into the library, and found on his table *Tissot's Avis au Peuple*, and *Buchan's Domestic Medicine*.

He joined me in a few minutes, and the following dialogue commenced :—

opinion concerning the treatment of the same disease, infer that the medical art is totally conjectural ; and therefore that it will be safer to rely on quack remedies, on the infallibility of which the venders never fail to bestow the most extravagant encomiums.

O

A. How

A. How is your patient, doctor, and what is her disease?

B. From the general symptoms, I am inclined to think there is some danger in the case; but the disease seems to be so complicated and obscure, that I have not *yet* been able to ascertain its causes, seat, or nature.

A. The confession is ingenuous: are you always so explicit?

B. Always, when I can rely on the good sense and candour of the persons concerned.

A. On perusing the introductory chapter of a book* published a few years ago, I was induced to study medicine as a branch of philosophy; and if you cast your eye over my books, you will find a tolerable collection, all of which I have read with care; but the knowledge they afford me has not inspired me with sufficient confidence to attempt the practice of the art, and therefore I requested your attendance.

B. It gives me much pleasure to attend the family of a gentleman who is a judge of

* Commentaries on the Principles and Practice of Medicine, by the Author.

medical practice. Physicians, as the Rosacrufians of old, and alchemists of latter days, have been accused of a wish to impress mankind with an opinion, that their art is mysterious and inscrutable to all but the initiated: but from this imputation I claim an exemption; and in that respect, I have the honour of concurring with one of the greatest and best men who ever adorned our profession;* and in the publication to which you allude, I have expressed my surprize and concern that, intimately connected as medicine is with natural and experimental philosophy, so few men of learning have enquired into its principles as a science, unless with a view to practice it as an art. Men of general learning might, without much study or labour, acquire the leading principles of an art, in the improvement and support of which they are, in every relation of life, so deeply interested.—“ A private
“ gentleman (says Dr. GREGORY) who has
“ a literary turn, and chuses to study medi-
“ cine as a curious and interesting branch of

* The late Dr. Gregory, Professor of Medicine at Edinburgh.

“ natural history, will find the history of his
“ own species a more interesting subject,
“ than the natural history of spiders and
“ cockle-shells. To him such a degree of
“ knowledge only is necessary, as may enable
“ him to understand medical books of merit,
“ and to judge of the comparative merit of
“ those men to whom he is to commit the
“ important charge of his own health, and
“ the health of those whom he is obliged
“ by the ties of nature and humanity to take
“ care of. If such men were to claim their
“ right of enquiry into a subject that so
“ nearly concerns them, the good effects of
“ medicine would soon appear. They would
“ have no separate interest from that of the
“ art: they would detect and expose assuming
“ ignorance, and be the judges and patrons
“ of modest merit.

“ Cases very often occur, where an inge-
“ nious physician sees his patient hastening
“ to certain death. He knows a remedy that
“ affords a probable prospect of saving his
“ life; but it is uncommon, not agreeable
“ to the established orthodox opinion, and
“ perhaps dangerous in its operation: Here
is

“ is a dreadful dilemma. If he gives the
 “ remedy, and the patient dies, he is utterly
 “ ruined. The *dunces*, who are the most
 “ numerous in every profession, are always
 “ at war with genius, and watch its miscar-
 “ riages with an anxious and malignant eye ;
 “ all his prescriptions must remain on the
 “ apothecaries file, and rise up in judgment
 “ against him, and upon any miscarriage,
 “ the outcry is raised and propagated with
 “ the utmost malignity.

“ The only tame and believing patients
 “ are *the men of sense*, who generally submit
 “ to their physician, whoever he is, with
 “ wonderful faith and patience ; while all
 “ the midwives, nurses, and old women, are
 “ physicians ; and the dignity of the most
 “ stately of the profession is often obliged to
 “ stoop to the folly and caprices of such
 “ people, who are sometimes of more conse-
 “ quence in making a physician’s fortune,
 “ than all the merit he can possess.”

A. I well recollect the substance of the
 quotation from Dr. GREGORY’S introductory
 lecture ; which I have read with much plea-
 sure,

sure, and a sincere respect for the candour and liberality of that ingenious professor.

I have often been astonished to find men of learning and science, from ignorance of the knowledge necessary to form a skilful physician, commend, as miracles of medical skill, persons who in their conversation and manners evinced the ignorance and vulgarity of a groom. How can this be accounted for but by supposing that *even* men of erudition deem learning and science to be totally detached from medical skill; and that bald experience is unconnected with medical principle? How therefore can we be surprised that empiricism is countenanced by all ranks, when the most discerning have formed so false an estimate of the healing art!*

B. I have had repeated opportunities of making the same observation.

A moderate knowledge of medical principles would be of great use to the *clergy*, especially those who reside in the country.

* This stricture is not only applicable to quacks, but to some blockheads in the several departments of the regulars.

The middle and lower ranks of people are in general very averſe to medical aſſiſtance; and very unſteady in the uſe of it: but a clergyman, when he knows that he is qualified to give his opinion, will make uſe of his influence to induce his pariſhioners to apply early for relief, and to perſiſt in the uſe of proper means; which medical men, from a ſuſpicion of their being intereſted, can rarely prevail on them to do. Some thouſands of moſt valuable ſubjects are loſt every year in this kingdom, by their avarice, their obſtinacy, or their indigence. A country clergyman, thus qualified, will alſo be able to render very eſſential ſervices to the parochial poor: he will, in ſome degree, be a judge of their diſeaſes, and be able to determine when they want aſſiſtance; and what kind of neceſſaries the pariſh officers ought to ſupply them with, not only to aſſiſt the efficacy of remedies, but to promote recovery, and prevent relapſe.*

* Many years ago the clergyman of a country pariſh in Hampſhire, made uſe of many arguments to perſuade a farmer who was very ill, to call in the Author; but in vain. His

A. I sincerely wish that my brethren of the clergy would employ part of their leisure in the enquiries you recommend.

Just before you arrived I had been turning over two books now on the table, that I might endeavour to form a tolerable judgment of the nature of your patient's case; but have been disappointed; nor am I surprised to find I have been so, after the frank declaration you have made. What is your opinion of compilations on this plan?

B. You have assigned me an invidious task, which I should rather have wished to decline. *Tissot's* work might be of some use in the mountains of Switzerland, where medical assistance of any kind is rarely to be met with; but I doubt whether the other was so necessary in a country where medical men abound.

A. As you decline being more explicit, I will venture to give you my opinion.

These compilations either *are* sufficient guides, with respect to the treatment of every

son effected at once, by a homely proverb, what the learned divine could not do by his eloquence—"P'shaw, fader, we munna lose the sheep for a haporth o' tar."

disease

disease which occurs, or they *are not*. If they are, the medical art is comprised within a much smaller compass than I conceived, or indeed have found it to be, on perusing some of the best books in every branch of the science: and, so far as respects the study of it as a science, I may, without presumption, hold myself to be a tolerable judge.

If Dr. BUCHAN's compilation is sufficient to enable an ordinary reader, male or female, to commence physician, the many years of study and application deemed hitherto to be indispensably necessary to the education of a physician, must have been totally misapplied; and Dr. BUCHAN, and the rest of his brethren who adopt his sentiments, *if any such there be*, ought, if they are honest men, to resign their claims to practice, in favour, *I will not say of apothecaries*, but of every old woman who has abilities and patience sufficient to *spell* the book. If these works *are not* sufficient guides, and I did not require the present case as an evidence that they are not, I will venture to pronounce such publications to be very injurious; because they have a manifest tendency to encourage a dan-

gerous species of empiricism, *now very prevalent*; by inspiring a confidence of skill and ability which they cannot impart; and the author is therefore responsible for all the consequences.*

* It is with reluctance I detail these *genuine* strictures on the publication of a brother fellow of the same college; who, I believe, is a very respectable physician—*Amicus Plato, sed magis Amica veritas*.—I am however persuaded that the *Domestic Medicine* is a good compilation of modern practice; but addressed to persons in whose hands it becomes a *dangerous edged-tool*. The only good purpose it is likely to answer, is its being a tolerable memorandum-book for apothecaries.

A very ingenious clergyman of my acquaintance tells me, that being an invalid, he sometime ago read a part of Dr. BUCHAN's book, and finding himself strongly impressed with an idea that he suffered under each successive disease, as he proceeded, he thrust the book into the fire, and with the *Domestic Medicine* dismissed his imaginary maladies.

The ingenious Mr. COLMAN has, with exquisite humour, exhibited the effects of medical reading on hypochondriacs, in the character of *Doily* in his farce of the *Spleen*; and I have no doubt but Dr. BUCHAN has contributed very much to increase the number of those wretched beings.

No circumstance has given me more pain from the anonymous epistolary scurrilities of the quacks, than their daring to insinuate that I place Dr. BUCHAN on a level with those wretches:—*nos poma natamus*; for no *candid* reader could draw any such inference. I have taken the liberty to dissent from respectable physicians in the course of these essays; but always, I hope, with candour and good manners.

B. Ig-

B. Ignorance and presumption are generally concomitant ; and I believe, that men of the first abilities in the profession, in proportion to the extension of their practice, their experimental conviction of the manifold difficulties which attend the investigation of diseases, and the mortifying disappointments they meet with in their attempts to remove them, become daily more cautious and diffident ; whilst those who have only *caught the eel of science by the tail* unhappily conceive they have no difficulties to encounter.

This self-sufficiency is often, and indeed generally, the result of a false and erroneous analogy. If a lady doctor hears of a case in which a particular remedy has been successful, she uses, and recommends it, on the faith of an ignorant relator, in every case which is supposed to be similar ; though it is more

The truth is, the nature of my plan required that I should be explicit in my opinion of the injurious effects of such publications as that of the *Domestic Medicine* ; and I have had the pleasure of convincing some gentlemen of learning of the impropriety of publishing such books.

than probable that there is really no similarity ; or she consults the *Domestic Medicine* ; and having compared the doctor's description of the disease with the patient's symptoms, prescribes with great confidence. It may however, *unhappily for the poor patient*, happen, that in consequence of some *small mistake* in analogy, the prescription fails, much time is lost, and the physician or apothecary is called in to rectify the consequences of delay or mismanagement, which is not always in his power.

Physicians know, and often from painful experience, that such is the diversity of aspect which diseases assume, not only from difference of constitution, but in the various stages of their progress, and even from the untoward operation of medicines ; that *no general description of diseases, or rules of practice*, which can be derived from books, will avail ; but that, with all the assistance which strict analogical reasoning, grounded on extensive experience, can afford them, they sometimes err in ascertaining the nature of the disease, and therefore necessarily in applying the means of relief.

In

In such a dilemma, however, it will not be denied that they are better qualified to discern and rectify the error, than any of the *élèves* of Dr. BUCHAN'S *school*.

A. I heartily accord with you.

I shall conclude this chapter, by expressing my wishes, that the arguments I have urged, from the most disinterested motives, may make a proper impression on my fair readers; and I do most heartily recommend to their consideration, whether, in those instances where they venture to perform the duties and offices of the physician, *they are not in danger of incurring a breach of the sixth commandment.*

When

D E D I C A T I O N.

To PHILIP THICKNESSE,

Formerly Gunner of Landguard Fort, now
Censor General of Great Britain,† Professor
of Empiricism,‡ and casual Compiler, Rape,
and Murder-Monger to the St. James's
Chronicle.*

Honoured and Honourable Sir.

THE great respectability of your character, and the high celebrity of your fame, in every corner of the world, entitle you to every mark of distinction, and the

* How he lost this safe and snug birth he best can explain. The court of enquiry treated him with great lenity, though he has always complained of it in the bitterest terms: Had he been brought to a court martial, even the old *serjeant* could not have saved his bacon.

† It is surprizing how much persons of all ranks at Bath were afraid of this man, though all hated or despised him. Hence the numerous subscriptions to his Memoirs. Two instances of this fellow's tyrannical insolence merit notice: Knowing a lady, who *unfortunately* had a slight acquaintance

public

public will do us the justice to acknowledge, that we could not have chosen a more suitable patron.

That there are often certain relations subsisting between the dedicator and dedicatee,

with him, was at Bath, and not seeing her subscription, sent her notice that he would make her repent it: She subscribed immediately.

As A.'s Reply to T. was not sold, a very respectable gentleman requested a copy, of which T. being informed, he struck him out of his list of subscribers. A day or two after the gentleman received an anonymous letter, accusing him of a propensity to a damnable vice.

† He had always been a dabbler in quackery. He wrote the Valetudinarian's Bath Guide, in which he recommended opium and rolling the patient upon a barrel, as infallible remedies in a bilious colic: The former had been used before T. was born: for the barrel, his former occupation as a *cooper* had given him a predilection. But he did not commence a practical quack till he met with Abbe MANN's gout remedies at Brussels. He then advertised them in a pamphlet, in which he asserted that the extract of wolf's-bane was not prepared here, (not true) and that he procured his remedies from the continent. It does not appear that he ever had more than one patient, and *he was not* cured. This gentleman took these poisons in immense doses; but the doctor knew so little of his own tools, that he was ignorant that cicuta and hemlock were the same medicine, and the latter and hellebore different plants; He might as well have called an *adze* a hand-saw.

(*sit venia phrasi*; you will be so good as translate this scrap for the benefit of the country gentlemen) which clearly point out a claim to preference is evident, and such is the relation which subsists between your honour and the humblest of your admirers.

In the first place, you will mark the relation between you as the subject, and us as the editors, of the following essay; and there cannot, we humbly conceive, be a greater affinity of interest and affection, unless where, *as sometimes has happened, an author dedicates his labours to himself*: The affinity between author and author is manifest, for though they often wrangle, like the gentlemen of the bar, their good humour and harmony are never interrupted, nor their tempers soured, by their mutual contentions for victory by reply, rejoinder, rebutter, and fur-rebutter.*

* It will soon appear how universal an author he has been; for some years he has been a collector of paragraphs for the St. James's Chronicle, for which he had sixpence a dozen, but double for a rape or murder; and, *as he said*, a guinea for each of his *Wanderers*: But if, as is most likely, he got not a twentieth part of the sum, it would have been sufficient to defray all his expences to the *Pays Bas*, as, like a former

As a compositor, excepting the printer's devil, is the lowest of all the humble retainers to literature; the relation to you as an author is self-evident, and not less so as a casual compiler and quack; for as you both feed and physick us occasionally, so we repay the obligation, by ushering your paragraphs to the publick, puffing your nostrums, and exhibiting to your suffering fellow creatures the most undoubted and indisputable proofs, in the form of affidavits, of the infallibility of your remedies. And here permit us, Worthy and Great Sir, to digress a little,

peripatetic, *Coriat*, he travelled on his ten toes. These *Wanderers* contained a series of trifling, absurd, or abusive anecdotes: In one of them he abused a very respectable order of the society of Jesuits, the only subsisting branch of the order now in the world.

A. having received much civility from those gentlemen, most of them Englishmen, undertook to answer THICKNESSE's calumnies in the Gazetteer. Hence his implacable malignity, which he stored up for a more fit occasion; whilst, with the artifice of a fiend, he took every opportunity of cultivating his acquaintance, that he might seize a more suitable opportunity of wreaking his vengeance: A never failing maxim with him; knowing that to betray with success, it was previously necessary to secure in some degree the confidence of the destined victim.

without losing sight of our subject, and with great deference offer you our sentiments on a subject we always contemplate *con amore*: we mean the immense utility of what the duncical regulars, envious of your superiority, fastidiously term QUACKERY.

It is manifestly attended with astonishing advantages.

1st. The simplicity of the empirical practice must recommend it. For, as we have heard a learned Doctor say, that a celebrated French professor had proved as clearly as that the sun shines at noon-day, that of the diseases to which human nature is subject, there are not much fewer than 2000: Now, if we suppose that, as your friend Mr. TICKELL has evidently shewn in his valuable treatise on the ætherial spirit, that this single remedy will infallibly cure, not only *all* * diseases of the stomach, but *almost* every disease of every other organ; or, to speak a little more modestly than your excellent friend,

* When the Doctor, in the second edition of his Medical Cautions, had exposed the ignorance and impudence of this assertion, T. left out *all* in advertisements.

(*par nobile fratrum*) in the ardour of his enthusiasm has done, let us only suppose, and the supposition will be highly reasonable, that each remedy will cure 100 diseases, the whole Materia Medica will be reduced to a score.

Who does not see the astonishing benefit the public will derive from this reduction: whereas, what with the diploma doctors, (many of whom never resided in any other university than that of Broughton's Amphitheatre, or St. George's Fields, the latter of which, perhaps the former also, had the high honour of forming your mind and manners, and compleating your education) the lady Bountifuls, midwives, and nurses, not to omit your respectable fraternity; the number of remedies is now become nearly as great as that of diseases.

2dly. The infallibility of all your nostrums; whereas when one of the regulars takes a poor patient in hand, it is more than an even chance, that the remedies kill instead of curing him; so that what with the various accidents to which we are daily liable, the numbers who expire before, during, and im-

mediately after birth; of those who die of broken hearts, broken skulls, hard drinking, and poison; and by wars undertaken by princes, potentates, and prime ministers, always on the most humane, disinterested, and equitable principles, were it not for your *invaluable* society, the breed of mankind would many ages ago have been extinct.

3dly. The generosity and disinterestedness of the gentlemen of your *college*. When a doctor or apothecary prescribes or dispenses physick, he is paid whether he lives or dies; whereas there is not one of you, whether your *Honour*, Drs. Freeman, Meyerback, or De Louthenburg, (the latter indeed has the advantage over all of you, as being possessed of miraculous powers) who will not, rather than lose a patient, practice on the liberal principle of no cure, no pay.

Your virtues and intellectual attainments, *Worthy Sir*, are so numerous and so brilliant, that we are really at a loss to know which of them merits the first rank, or how to invent *adequate* terms to convey to your admiring countrymen a just idea of so celebrated a character.

As

As a man of *genius*,* we shall not, by those who know you *intimately*, be suspected of flattery if we place you in the highest rank.

As a *scholar*,† you have long commanded the respect of the public, by your profound knowledge of the dead and living languages, especially the Latin, French, and your own language; in the latter, particularly, you stand unrivalled, with respect to the excellence of your orthography, the accuracy of your descriptions, the candour, precision, and *truth* of your characters, the strength of your arguments, and the purity and elegance of your style. Though your confidential friends confess, that in a critical

* If duncical ignorance constitutes *genius*, Master PHILL has a just claim to the epithet.

† In his pamphlet on the quack pills, he had made use of the term *navigat Anticyra* instead of *naviget Anticyram*, as HORACE has it. The Author of the Medical Cautions pointed out the blunder; but the blockhead had forgot it; and repeated it in his scurrilous attack upon him, in which, whilst he accused the Doctor of not understanding French, he gave him an opportunity of convincing him that he could, at least, correct his blunders in that language.

knowledge

knowledge of the Greek, you are not quite on a par with the celebrated *Bentley*; they allow you a marked superiority over that learned critic in the knowledge of the Hebrew, Gothic, and Wild Irish.

Of your universal and deep knowledge in the arts, sciences, and belles lettres, you have given the most irrefragable proofs in your numerous publications; of which to avoid offending your insuperable modesty, we shall only enumerate a few instances.

Thus your works have been Ethical,* Theological, † Hieroglyphical, ‡ Biographical, §

* If an utter perversion of the principles of morality entitle his works to this praise, they are strictly *moral*.

† The precepts of Christianity must ever be violated by an immoral writer: In this walk of science he has only published his Spiritual Songs, for the benefit of a Methodist Meeting in Georgia, to which he was clerk, and where he first acquired his *exquisite* taste for music.

‡ He offered himself as a candidate for the office of State Decypherer; and, as a proof of his qualifications, wrote a book which the Devil himself could not decypher.

§ The Author of the Medical Cautions, as he himself confesses, gave him the first hint of this undertaking; to whom, in gratitude, he dedicated it; but was deficient in that po-

Topographical,* Political,† Peripatetical,‡
Lexicographical,§ Analogical,|| Mechani-

liteneſs due from a dedicator to a dedicatee ; for he did not ſend him a copy. Of this excellent *morceau* too much cannot be ſaid, with reſpect either to the *fidelity* of the narrative, the *importance* of the materials, or the *elegance* of the language. It has, however, been ſuſpected that, as has happened to other celebrated *geniuſes*, his *memory* has ſometimes failed him ; as there are ſome well known anecdotes of himſelf, and which would have done him *infinite honour*, which he has omitted : His friends attribute the omiſſion to his *inſuperable modeſty*.

* Witneſs his deſcription of *Monte Serrata*, which he borrowed from a work of the laſt century.

† He has been a great political writer ; and when his pamphlets have been diſregarded, as often happened, he gave them conſequence, by answering them himſelf.

The principles of a political ſcribbler are always regulated by his intereſt ; and he adopts that party which is moſt likely to procure him a meal : Of late, however, he has generally been a flaming patriot ; not only becauſe it has always been more eaſy to detect errors, than to amend them ; but alſo on account of ſome mortifying diſappointments he has lately met with from ſome of his *quondam* friends now connected with adminiſtration : He will not readily forget the circumſtance of a miniature portrait. This was one of the moſt ſevere and heart-felt rebuffs he ever met with.

‡ Mr. T. who is from *neceſſity* and habit an œconomist, would have made a pedestrian expedition of his travels into Spain ;

cal,*

cal,* Anecdotal, ‡ Critical, § and Farci-
cal. †

but his friend *Jacko* having objected strongly to this ungentleman-like mode of travelling, he purchased a cart and a broken-winded horse, and converted Jacko into a postillion, to the infinite amusement of every village he passed through.

§ It is supposed he was the chief compiler of that useful and entertaining work the *Scoundrels Dictionary*; and no man certainly was ever better qualified to perform the task, from his long and intimate acquaintance with the language of St. Giles's, Hockley in the Hole, St. George's Fields, and Newgate: Those seminaries having been alternately honoured with his residence, first as a pupil, afterwards as a professor.

|| There is a *natural* logic, which the ploughman uses as adroitly as the philosopher, though he does not know, even the names of his tools: This natural logic may be termed *common sense*: But this man never possessed an atom of it, so that for the last 60 years, he has been "blundering round the meaning," without ever attaining it. Hence, as an author, he has ever been perplexed and confused; his premises have been erroneous, and his conclusions absurd.

He threatened to publish an analogy between the practice of the celebrated *Graham* and that of our author; but he was not equal to the task, so that education, of which he is totally destitute, and which must always improve a person of some natural capacity, would only have exposed his incorrigible duncicality; for he would even have been a blundering botching cooper.

But

But in enumerating your rare acquirements, it would be doing you the high-

* He was bred a cooper, and ran away from his master in Parsonage-lane. This circumstance was related by a very old gentleman, his cotemporary. Though the father had long been at variance with his children by *Lady Betty*, and he had libelled both the noble lord and his brother; the pride of the peer induced him (if some person had not the presumption to commit a forgery in his name) to write A. from Paris, an angry letter, in which he threatened him with the censure of the house of lords, for saying that his father had been a *cooper*; inferring, with all the acumen of a logician, that he must of course be the *son* of a cooper: But that august assembly, of which the noble lord is a member, has been so much engaged by more important concerns, that this breach of privilege, *consequential* as it is, has not yet been discussed.

Another instance of Mr. T's. mechanical genius was his constructing a speaking figure to rival a puppet-show man, and take the poor man's bread out of his mouth; but it did not bring so much grist to his mill as Struenzee's head. However he sold a few sixpenny pamphlets on the occasion; but his mechanical puppet was so inferior to that of his antagonist, that his pretensions only exposed him to ridicule.

† The anecdotes in his works are particularly well timed, lively, and humorous.

His rememorandum jurnal, as he terms it, having fallen into our hands, we have found it to be a register of the anecdotes of his life, adventures, opinions, various plans of harrassing and calumniating his opponents, malicious stories communicated concerning them, supplied by others,

est injustice to omit your profound knowledge in the Botanical, * Obstetrical, †

or fabricated by himself, in a mode of spelling, and of style, peculiarly his own; and he has enriched it with many stories which, it is supposed, he has picked up from his Hampshire friends near Gosport; which, *prima facie*, do not seem to be very favourable to the author of these essays; but upon analyzing them, we discover the charges to be so problematical in their nature, that, with a gentle twist either way, we may convert them into virtues or vices.

Thus, by these worthies, a laudable œconomy has been converted into parsimony; just resentment into violent passion; frankness and candour into rudeness; independence of spirit into pride; resistance of imposition into stinginess; generosity of spirit into ostentation; charity into vanity; firmness and perseverance into obstinacy and perverseness; singularity of opinion and *soliloquy* into madness; and gravity into melancholy. We are the more inclined to believe, that A. possesses the virtues rather than the vices, from M. S. S. now in my hands. and which shall soon be published, for the benefit of society; especially as the author is supposed not to be in a fit state to do himself justice.

§ Of his critical knowledge of languages some notice has already been taken.

† Some wags have alledged, that all his productions are farcical; but some of his strokes in the letter to the author of the Medical Cautions are truly sublime, though it must be confessed, that he rarely reaches the genuine pathetic, unless when he discants on a rape, a murder, or a starvation, (a feeling subject

Empirical, § Altercative and Vituperative Arts. ||

for an author) ; in general, however, his peculiar forte is the *Batbos*, for he has ever manifested a peculiar alacrity at *sink-ing*, whether in prosaic or poetical composition.

* Having been engaged by a noble lord, a botanical amateur, to bring him from Spain a collection of rare plants ; PHILL, conjecturing that his lordship knew as little of botany as himself, (in which, however, he was mistaken) thought he had a good opportunity of pocketing a few guineas without a farthing expence ; picked up a few weeds in the neighbourhood of Chatterton's Cave, and sent to his lordship, as Spanish *Indigenæ* ; but having reckoned without his host, he made up for his disappointment as well as he could, and wrote a pamphlet against the noble lord (C.) ; but having lampooned half the House of Peers, (in which he was sometimes assisted by his Patient Grizzle) the rage for novelty was exhausted, the pamphlet did not sell, and his friend Mrs. Davies must abide by the loss, well knowing that you can get no more of the cat than the skin.

† His obstetrical experience among his female patients in Wales, where the doctor was a little out of luck in his operations, convinced him at last, that nature was the best midwife ; and to compensate for his own blunders, he, in a methodistical fit of compunction, wrote a powerful dissuasive against the employment of men-midwives, (for which his friend Dr. Bolus, junior, of Titchfield, Hants, has been much offended with him) in so much, that the whole corps was in danger of utter starvation : A new edition of this *excellent* work is very much wanted.

As a man, whatever be his natural or acquired talents, should he be one of those

§ His celebrated and *infallible* cure for the gout, composed of hemlock and wolf's bane, may be had, *dog cheap*, as it is neither licenced nor stamped, at his lodgings, No. 1, Knightsbridge, he having become so noxious to the people at Bath, that his quondam habitation, the *Hermitage*, became at length too hot to hold him. He was beside in arrear for rent, which he will not soon be able to discharge.

The cases of cures performed by this celebrated remedy, as authenticated by *genuine* affidavits, may be seen at the aforesaid place of his abode; and where he will deliver (*gratis*) a lecture on the powers of this celebrated composition in diseases, curable and *incurable*.

|| The celebrated Dr. *Arbutnot* wrote a treatise on the altercation and scolding of the ancients; but those venerable sages, though they carried the art to a considerable degree of perfection, must now hide their diminished heads, when put into competition with our modern. His altercative and vituperative rhetoric, after having been exercised with uncommon success against individuals of every rank, from the crown to the cottage, centred at last in his own family.

With respect to the noble peer, his relation, *be*, with that candour, delicacy, and paternal tenderness, which constitute so essential a trait in his character, has commemorated a *trifling* faux pas in that ancient and *most respectable* family: And with regard to another scion of the same stock, there is an odd story of a bond and affidavit, which has not yet been satisfactorily explained to the public, but which he will certainly deem it his duty to do in the most clear, explicit, and decisive manner.

obscure beings whom *no body knows*, cannot be held in any degree of estimation by those whom *every body knows*; You, *Great Sir*, are exempted from this opprobrium; for your acquaintance is very general, not only in this kingdom, but even in many parts of the continent; (some persons have however invidiously alledged that you are more known than trusted); but it redounds also very much to your honour, that you are nearly related to a peer of the realm, with whom you have ever maintained the most affectionate and truly *paternal* intercourse.

In the humblest, but not the least useful walks of literature, you excel all your predecessors and contemporaries; and will, undoubtedly, all your successors.

For even here you manifest the versatility of your genius, by accommodating, with critical precision, your style to your subject.

In short to sum up the superlative accomplishments of this celebrated Gout Doctor, Rape and Murder-Monger, it may be sufficient to say, in the language of a celebrated critic, that, like *Virgil*, he scatters his *dung* with an air of majesty.

Thus

Thus you display the minute and circumstantial in your description of a *rape*; the *energetic* in your detail of a boxing or cudgeling match; the *frothy* and turgid in your account of a birth-day at court, a funeral procession at Billingsgate, a lord mayor's show, a royal promenade, or a sham fight by sea or land; the *pathetic*, when you describe the circumstance of a bloody murder; and the pretty and pithy, when you give an account of the price of butter and eggs—in the St. James's Chronicle.

Come we now to your public and private virtues :

Having succeeded the celebrated ISAAC BICKERSTAFF, you have, for more than half a century, filled the office of *censor general* with great eclat. This office, so necessary to the preservation of good order in society, ought certainly to have a salary annexed to it, equal at least to that of historiographer or poet laureat; and it is much to be lamented, that almost worn out as you are, in the service of your dear country, none of your numerous pupils, though daily benefiting by your lectures and example,

ple, will ever attain your excellence in the noble *arts* of *lying* and *defamation*.

Of your *loyalty* you have given many proofs, especially in a periodical paper published some years ago, but with that innate modesty peculiar to true greatness of soul, without the name either of author, printer or publisher; thereby patriotically evading that exaltation of character annexed to a niche in the *pillory*; a more rare instance of self-denial, as it has sometimes been followed by a *pension*.

A HOWARD and a NECKAR have shrunk from *monumental* distinction!!!

Of your patriotic spirit and *love of liberty* your vindications of *slavery* afford undeniable proof. *

Of your private virtues you derived many from nature, and will be faithfully represented in that *excellent* youth your youngest son.

He peculiarly inherits your meekness, modesty, candour, veracity, charity, and in-

* He has had an utter aversion to these poor people since they put him in bodily fear in Jamaica.

trepidity of spirit; and should he ever, happily for this country, exercise the duties of a parent, he will certainly imitate so *bright* an example, in the display of tenderness, indulgence, and affection towards his offspring.

With a profusion of universal knowledge, your character could not have been compleat, had you not super-added those accomplishments which, though vainly arrogated by the beau and macaroni, center in you; I mean those of *a fine gentleman*, so graphically described by a late celebrated *peer*, who was himself the great exemplar.

Your knowledge of life and manners is most extensive; for no man has studied them with more ardour and success.

You have resorted to the tables of the great, and the night-houses of St. Giles's, where by your WIT, your humour, and your convivial talents, you have ever been the fool or the fiddle of your company, whether *peers* or *porters*, and from a diversity of sources, have “ caught the living manners
as

as they rose," and acquired that fund of *wordly* wisdom, by which you have amazed, instructed, and astonished mankind.

How deficient soever we may have been in doing justice to so accomplished a character as *yours*, we must at least stand acquitted by the public of any suspicion of fulsome panegyric.

We have the honour to be,

Great, and (what is more) *Good*, Sir,

The most devoted of your slaves,

BENJAMIN GOOSEQUILL,
PETER PARAGRAPH.

*Shoulder of Mutton,
Pudding Lane.*

ADVERTISEMENT.

WHEREAS the Author of the Medical Cautions hath threatened us, the subscribers, with a prosecution for publishing the following essay; and for advertising the life and adventures of the said Author, as if he were actually deceased; whereas he hath taken his Bible Oath before a magistrate, at the expence of one shilling, that he is actually and bona fide in the land of the living, though, as he confesseth, a very useless member of society. And whereas Dr. PHILIP THICKNESSE, of Knightsbridge, and Dr. TICKELL, of Bath, have jointly, with the celebrated Dr. FREEMAN, of Hatton-Garden, entered into a co-partnership tripartite, for the purpose of preparing, prescribing, dispensing, and vending certain infallible nostrums, for one of which his Majesty's Royal Patent hath been obtained at a very great expence, and will be obtained for the others, (as soon as sufficient cash shall be raised for the purpose, from the sale of the

the

the said nostrums, all genuine unadulterated poisons) have joined in the said threat.

Now, WE, submitting the justice of our cause to the laws of our dear country, and to an impartial public, jointly reply, to the said cautioning doctor, and to this tripartite coalition of quacks, and humbly presume to inform the said public, that we have deposited security bonds to the amount of 20,000*l.* granted by a number of as *good* men as frequent the Royal Exchange; that being the sum we understand, which will be laid in damages by them, in his Majesty's Court of King's Bench; and therefore shall bear the printers, publishers, venders, and readers of the said works harmless, and exempted from all damages whatsoever, save only bloody noses, cracked skulls, bruises, fractures, *poisonings*, or mortal wounds inflicted on them by the said doctor, and the said bloody-minded quacks; for which, however, the said sufferers may have ample legal remedy.

But farther, *In Primis*, respecting the said cautioning doctor, we most humbly apprehend, that he can have no exclusive property

in the said M.S.S. he being, as we can prove, on the affidavits of six most learned physicians, actually non-compos, alias whimsy-headed, lunatic, crazy, or mad; and from the testimony of certain respectable persons who have known him these 40 years, that he never was otherwise, to the immense injury and loss of his Majesty's liege subjects, not only by his whimsical, dangerous, and deleterious medical practice, but of those whom he hath destroyed by cudgel, sword, pistol, or bodily-fear. From which considerations thereunto them moving, he hath been justly and wisely rejected by a certain very respectable maiden lady, and no less respectable trustees, and counsel learned in the law, who with a degree of *delicacy*, *honour*, and *probity*, rarely known in this selfish and venal age, did, after long and learned consultations, finally determine, that certain matrimonial propositions made by the said Author, were of such a nature, as could not be the act and deed of a man in his right mind; they, after *most earnestly* endeavouring to induce him to recede from certain of the said propositions, but in vain, did reject and dismiss him

him from all connubial pretensions to the said lady ; not only because they could not be deemed valid in law, but farther, on account of the extreme hazard and danger to the said lady from antenuptial or postnuptial assault and battery of what kind or denomination soever : But also from the farther consideration of irreparable injury to the progeny of the said marriage, in their intellectual faculties, to the 40th generation, more especially as the paternal madness would be combined with a very considerable portion of maternal poetical furor, which has ever been deemed an incurable species of lunacy.

But, farther, a lunatic not being amenable to the law, for any transgression whatsoever, even murder or treason, as we are instructed by our learned counsel, we conceive that the property of a whimsey-headed author cannot be secured to himself by any law now existing.

And, secondly, so far as regardeth the threats of said partners, for the publication of certain patent receipts, and the names, nature, and doses of the *poisons*, which

which will be added to the *materia virulenta* of the said partners, we are instructed that no action will lie.

And whereas Dr. THICKNESSE hath made oath that a certain REMEMORANDRUM JURNAL, so called, hath been surreptitiously and feloniously obtained and detained from him the said T. and hath asserted that the said *journal* is his sole prospect, being the labour of 60 years, and hath forbidden us from publishing the same, or any part thereof, at our peril; we answer, *nostro fiat periculo*. The indulgent public will assuredly favour the sale of these works, when they shall be informed that the present *moderate* impression, not consisting of more than 20,000 copies, and all future editions to the 20th, after defraying the expences of printing, reasonable emoluments to the editors, and certain douceurs to *critics*, who, to the great edification of the public, decide on the merit of literary productions, whether in reviews, magazines, coffee-houses, tea-tables, newspapers, or ale-houses, will be applied to public charity; and thereafter to the 500th edition toward paying the last national tontine; the
editors

editors being a little less sanguine than a certain cautioning doctor, who declared that the produce of his prolific brain would go near to pay off the whole national debt, a gasconade for which he was justly chastised by his empirical antagonists.

The editors beg leave to assure the public, that they are now employing gentlemen of the first abilities in translating the said work into every language of the world, known or *unknown*, and therefore it will be allowed that their expectations respecting emoluments arising from the sale of the said works, are founded on the most reasonable grounds; and trust they shall be encouraged and supported by all genuine *blue* and *buff* patriots, who, by their unremitting zeal and incessant efforts to sustain and support the heaven-born spark of liberty, have hitherto preserved their dear country from inevitable ruin.

BENJAMIN GOOSEQUILL,
PETER PARAGRAPH.

*Shoulder of Mutton,
Pudding-Lane.*

INTRO-

INTRODUCTION.

WHILST we were at our breakfast of bread, cheese, and porter, in our apartment, up three pair of stairs, in the parish of St. Giles's, we were successively visited by several claimants, for some strayed literary property ; and have thrown the conversation which passed on the occasion in the form of dialogue, which we have termed dramatic, not because it is fraught with wit or humour, for of those supposed requisites it is as destitute as any modern comedy whatsoever, and indeed the learned critics know well, that bright sallies of this kind can only be the fruits of ease and good humour ; neither of which could predominate in a conversation carried on with clamorous contention, tremendous threats, and dire defiance.

B. G.

P. P.

A DRA.

A

DRAMATIC DIALOGUE,

Between the following Personages :

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Dr. THICKNESSE,
Dr. FREEMAN, } *Quack Doctors.*
Dr. TICKELL,
Mr. BENJAMIN GOOSEQUILL, *an Author by*
Profession.
PETER PARAGRAPH, *a Journeyman Printer.*
F. G.

SCENE—a Garret, in St. Giles's.

S C E N E I.

B. G. **I**T'S confoundedly cold this morning,
Peter; can't you contrive to get another bushel upon tick?

P. P. No, an 'twere to save me from the gallows.

B. G. How shall we boil the tea-kettle?

P. P. What d'ye want wi' the kettle?

B. G. To make breakfast to be sure.

T

P. P.

P. P. Where are ye to find it?

B. G. Oh the old woman at the chandler's shop will trust us.

P. P. The devil a hap'orth; our credit is crack'd, unless you can gin a pawn: suppose you send your silver shoe buckles.

B. G. No, hang it, I can't do without *them*; I am to *call* on the Nabob, with a dedication of my vindication of Mr. —.

P. P. Don't ye know that strings are all the tong in *France*, and the bucks, beaus, and macaroons here wear nothing else: our neighbour the pawn-broker tells me as how he never had so many shoe and knee buckles since he has been in the trade; becaase a man can't pawn a coat, a waistcoat, a hat, or a shirt, without their being missed; but a buck can do as well without buckles, as a coach without a fifth wheel.

B. G. I am no buck.

P. P. Buck or no buck we must hae belly timber; and we may as well hae some bread and cheese and a pint of porter; hang your washy stuff, there's no substance in tea: Gie

me

me the buckles, and I'll go and see if I can raise the wind. [Exit.

G. B. (*solus*). How deplorable the condition of an author! Would I had been bred a cobbler or a scavenger: Educated in a style superior to my scanty fortune, my mental acquirements have been my bane; they have exasperated my constitutional sensibility; for, by associating with men of fortune, I not only acquired a relish for pleasures, to enjoy which I wasted my own little modicum; but have subjected myself, to secure a scanty and precarious subsistence, to all the caprice, whim, and insolence of others; and am, at this instant, on the point of sacrificing my integrity and peace of mind to my urgent necessities, by vindicating a cause my soul abhors, in direct violation of the dictates of my conscience—But it is not yet too late to recede, and—

P. P. (*opening the door*). Here I be, come let us fall to, I'm cursed hungry—Ecod, I had like to hae forgot, here's a letter for you.

B. G. (*after reading it*) What reason have I to be thankful that Providence hath snatched me from the precipice, and that I am still

an honest man! and (*throwing a M.S. into the fire*) such I am determined to continue to the end of life. Peter, this letter contains some good news; and I am determined that you, who have been the faithful sharer of my adversity, shall benefit by my prosperity. I am informed, that an old uncle, my mother's brother, who would not have given me sixpence to have saved me from starving, has, by his will, left me a competency; finish your meal, and go and get sixpence more on the buckles, and buy a stamp.

P. P. A stamp, for what, your honour?

B. G. Don't honour me: I am authorised by this letter to draw for a supply of cash, and you must go and receive it.

P. P. A good hearing, 'faith! [*Exit.*

SCENE II.

Dr. Thicknesse, (from without). Damm them there dark narrow stares, I have broke my shin, and ad like to have broke my neck; I can't find the latch of the door.

B. G.

B. G. (within). My old friend Phill, as I live ; as for your neck, had it been broken, any how, fifty years ago, the world would have been fairly rid of a rascal. (*Opens the door*) Ha ! Mr. Thicknesse, how do you do ? I did not expect this honour, considering the terms on which we last parted.

T. Doctor, if you please, Sir.

B. G. I ask your pardon ; which of the learned professions is it that has had the honour of enrolling you ? a doctor of laws you are not, unless a breach of them could be admitted as a just claim ; a doctor in divinity you can't well be, for it is so well known that you are an infidel, that even a Scotch university would not sell you a diploma in that faculty ; besides you never have been a member of any university, but Hockley in the Hole, or St. George's Fields.

T. Brother *Freeman* ga' me a testificate of my learning and knowledge, and I had my dipplomy by the *male* coach ; it cost a devilish deal of money though ; and a was obliged to pawn *Struensee's* head to *Freeman* before a would lend me the cash ; howsom-dever,

dever, he'll pay himself by showing it at six-pence a head.

B. G. But what will you do in the mean time for a morsel of bread? for I am told you have lost your other resource, the selling a description of the Hermitage to entitle the purchaser to see *Chatterton's* Cave, and the stone coffin, in which you have deposited your daughter to save the parson's fees. The people of Bath seem to be glad they have got you out of their neighbourhood; for the boys burnt you in effigy the last 5th of November, instead of the *Pope* and the *Pretender*. But where have you been since?

T. I hae been travelling about picking up anecdotes about that damned feller; I think I put a spoke in his wheel.

B. G. Whose wheel, Phill?

T. Not quite so familiar, brother Goose; I mean the Author of the Medical Cautions: I hae broke off his match wi a rich ould maid.

B. G. How did you do him that good office?

T. By writing a *nonymous* letter, telling them he was a rascal.

B. G.

B. G. *Anonymous* you mean; you have been a writer more than half a century, and yet can neither write nor pronounce your own language: You are a good hand at anonymous letters I know, but have you no compunction when you injure innocent and respectable characters?

T. I tould a relation of her'n that the feller was a begger; and wou'd impose himself for a man of fortune; and that he had been mad.

B. G. Enough to break off any match, had a single word of what you asserted been true.

T. What does it argify whether it was true or no? I do suppose a made the dog as made as the devil, for a wrot'n that young *Bolus* was courting his mistress, and that they chuckled and toyed an kissed over my dedication to him. I think a tickell'd the blockhed.

G. I suppose that was not true either; though I fancy he does not care who toys with the lady; provided *he* is not obliged to undertake the office himself.

T. A does though, for am tould it made
him

him mad as a March hare : A only said it to vex'n, an I knows my friend *Dicky* longs to be a'ter her, and fure as a gun it will be a match. I'm a good hand at match making.

B. G. So it seems by the match you made in your own family. Have you paid *Dick Sott* the 20l. you promised him? That was a horrid business, Phill.

T. All's one for that, its no concernment o'yours, Master Goosey.

B. G. But tell me honestly, Phill, had you the cruelty to write this man a lie about the toying business?

T. Yes fure a did ; what signifies a fibb now an tan.

B. G. In you opinion, I believe, falsehood is preferable to truth, because it gratifies your malignity ; but, now you are on the verge of the grave, and must soon account, not merely for a mis-spent, but an iniquitous life, in which your hand has been against every man and woman, from the crown to the cottage, and even your own children have not escaped your scurrilous pen ; the prospect must be dreadful ! Had you stuck

to

to your honest trade of a *cooper*, to which you was bred; or had you continued clerk to Whitfield's chapel, in Georgia, you would have sunk silently into the grave, without that opprobrium which must now pursue your memory; for, on the face of the globe, you will not leave behind you your fellow: It has pleased the Supreme, no doubt, for the wisest purposes, to permit the existence of such examples of extreme depravity, as a lesson of humility to frail man; but thanks be to his goodness, that such monsters as a *Cataline*, a *Nero*, a *Caligula*, a *Heliogabalus*, a *Pope*, *Alexander the VIth*, a *Cæsar Borgia*, a *Jonathan Wild*, or a —, occur but rarely, otherwise human society could not exist.

T. Ecod, I thinks ye would hae made a good methodist parson; and ye had better take it up when all other trades fail; But ye hae been a hireling scribbler for a good many years I know, have you never made free with any man's *carackter*?

B. G. I have sometimes chastised knaves great and little, but I thank my God I never traduced a *fair* character; though I own, with shame and confusion, that I was on

W

the

the point of doing something not much less iniquitous.

T. What was that?

B. G. Endeavouring to white-wash a *foul* one. But an over-ruling power interposed, and saved me from an act of which I should never have ceased to repent. But pray what great offence had the doctor committed against you, that you took so severe a vengeance on him?

T. He wrote a thing against us; and against my friends *Freeman* and *Tickell*.

B. G. Oh, I forgot; you mean your brethren the quacks: How goes on your hemlock and wolf's bane?

T. Not so well as a cou'd wish: My chief patient in the west is not cured, and I am out of fashion.

B. G. You gout doctors are rather unfortunate; *Le Fevre* and *Jay* have had their lay; and *your* fun seems to be set: But the doctor, as a regular physician, only did his duty. He spared you, however, in his first edition.

T. But I have not spared him.

B. G. Better you had; there is a rod in steep for you, and I am surprised you ventured

ventured to wage war on such unequal terms ; he is an over-match for all your fraternity ; and has given empiricism such a blow as it never met with before.

T. We don't valor him a pinch o' snuff ; *as long as there be fools*, we shall thrive in spite o' he and the College.

B. G. The world begins to be wiser : Nations are hurling *regal* quacks from their thrones ; and every other kind of quacks will soon follow : This is the age of reformation, and it is to be hoped, that all abuses will be done away.

T. A finds, by a thing of his just come out, that he'll give us another flap ; but I'll be even with him ; I'll print a new preface and dedication to my memoirs ; and pay him off.

B. G. That's one of your old tricks, Phill, but it won't do ; you had better print off a new title-page too, and make a tenth edition of the first : But why will you wage such unequal war ? Many of his friends were of opinion, when he deigned to take notice of you, he loaded a blunderbuss to kill a louse, contemptible as you are, not only

in ability as a writer, but in your character as a man: But his motive was nevertheless laudable. I have the M. S. in my possession, and intend to publish it; but as the Author forgot to write the dedication, my friend Peter and I intend to do it, and to add some tickling notes.

T. You have the M. S. How came you by it?

B. G. That is no concern of your's; but you know I owe you an old grudge for the trick you played me with the editor of the European Magazine.

T. If so be as how you be determined to publish it, let's go snacks.

B. G. When I knew not where to procure a morsel of bread, I was determined to fulfil the intention of the Author, and surely now I am an independent man, I will appropriate it to that charity he wished should have the benefit of it, and it won't sell the worse for having the patent prescriptions of some of the most celebrated quack medicines, and some extracts from your Rememorandum Jurnal, as you call it.

T.

T. I lost my Jurnal sure enough; but how the devil came you by it? I would not have lost it for a 1000l.

B. G. My friend Peter, who will be here presently, will restore it to you for as many pence; but here he comes, I believe, I know his step on the stairs.

T. Damm your stairs; gie me a piece of brown paper to clap to my shin.

B. G. You had better clap on a plaister of hemlock or wolf's bane.

B. P. (*opening the door*). Here I comes; did not you think I had run away wi' the money?

B. G. Not I, indeed, friend Peter.

P. P. Ecod, I never had so much money in my life; here's 20 new guineas; I held it close in my fist, for fear they should pick my pocket.

B. G. To be sure we are not in the most creditable neighbourhood; but I find an Englishman can make a bull upon occasion as well as an Irishman. Here, Peter, you know what we owe, take the money and pay off all our debts, and give our poor landlady a guinea besides.

T.

T. I must hae a little talk with Master Peter before he goes.

P. P. Well, Sir, what's your commands wi' me?

T. I am tould you have found my Rememorandrum Jurnal.

P. P. What then?

T. Why, as how you must give it me back again.

P. P. There must be two words to that bargain; I intend to print it, and Master Goosequill promised to correct the spelling, and make English of it.

B. G. That's a task I cannot now undertake. Mr. T. will give you 1000l. for it.

P. P. *He* 1000l. where the devil should he get it?

T. Mr. Goosequill will be my security.

B. G. Not I, on such an occasion, were it so many pence: It is such a farrago of scurrilous and malignant stuff, that it shall never see the light, until I commit it to the flames; however, Peter shall be no loser; he shall have more than it is worth, which is indeed not equal to the fraction of a farthing; but I see you have collected *anecdotes* as you call them

them against a man of whose memoirs, character and vindication I am, by chance, likely to be the editor, and am therefore so far interested for my hero, as to desire you will candidly tell me what circumstance could have provoked you to the malignant persecution of this man.

T. First and foremost he wrote a damned letter from Liege against something I had said about them there Jesuits.

B. G. There was a time when you dared as well to have hanged yourself, as have wagged your tongue, or your pen either, against that order in the *Pays Bas*, *sed tempora mutantur*.

T. Anan?

B. G. Oh! I did not recollect that you are one of those authors who undertake to instruct the public, without understanding any one language on the face of the earth. But I am told you was so detested there, that at Brussels they had public rejoicings when you left it; and that though you pretended to make the Prince de — a present of a pair of pistols, which *you said* had belonged to John, the great Duke of Marlborough, he could

could not persuade the British Minister to admit you within his doors ; for which you abused him in that vehicle of *your* scandal, the *St. James's Chronicle* ; and re-demanded the pistols, but that is an old trick of your's, to make presents and take them back again ; but that is not the worst of your tricks : Well ; what else ?

T. A said I could'nt write Latin, French, or English.

B. G. You told him so yourself.

T. Me ! It's a damn'd lie ; I ne'er said so in a my born days.

B. G. Pray did not you publish a letter addressed to him ?

T. A did, and a tickler it was.

B. G. It is evident from that precious piece of scurrility and dulness, that you are totally ignorant of all these languages : Who scours your filthy rags now, Phill, and translates your jargon into English, since you quarrelled with your old friend C——s ? I suppose the compositor corrects the spelling, as well as the language.

T. He would not lend me his name to puff off my infallable gout pills.

B. G. And

B. G. And had you the impudence to make so modest a request to a regular physician?

T. He a regular physician; why the feller has been a footman, and stole a silver spoon; has been a munkebank doctor, and a Scotch pedlar, and a rebel.

B. G. I would as soon believe *you* to be a Christian and an Archbishop: He writes like a scholar, and I am verily persuaded he has always acted like a gentleman. I wish I could say so much in your behalf. What is the next charge.

T. He woud'nt *perscribe* for my daughter.

B. G. Happily for him he did not, otherwise you would have laid her death to his charge. But if you had so bad an opinion of this man, as to believe he could merit the character you now give him, what infatuation could lead you to ask the advice of such a person for a favourite child? You must either acknowledge that you was deficient in your duty to her, or that you are a base calumniator of this man's character: But I am credibly informed, that you formerly not

only recommended him as a phyfician, but fpoke well of him as a man.

T. But that was before we quarrell'd.

B. G. Ingenuoufly confefled, Phill; fo that without regard to truth or juftice, *you*, as it may ferve your purpofe, or gratify your revenge, convert a man of character into a villain. Did not you endeavour to injure his fon in the opinion of the profeflors at Edinburgh? Had *he* ever offended you?

T. All's fair againft an enemy.

B. G. A diabolical maxim; your conduct to this innocent young man, whom you formerly profefled to efteem, richly deferved the difcipline of a horfe-pond, or a niche in the pillory.

T. He faid as how I run away from the wild *Negers* at Jamaica.

B. G. That ftory was told to fifty people at Bath, many years ago, by a very refpectable gentleman from that ifland, and you have lately confirmed the truth of the ftory by your own contradictory account of it.

T. He faid I extorted penfions by threatening

ening to publish confidential correspondence.*

B. G. That I know you have boasted of, though you have not of another business of the same sort, which did not end quite so much to the credit of your military spirit.†

T. He called me a nostram monger, and a rape and murder monger.

B. G. That you vend nostrums is well known: A murder monger you may be in more senses than one; he may have meant either your vocation as a collector of rapes and murders for the Chronicle, or the ho-

* This story is well-known, indeed he has often told it himself. He artfully insinuated himself into the good graces of a very respectable peer, and drew him into a correspondence. *T.* has said that he had promised to provide for him, should he ever again get into administration, and that when he did, he neglected him. The truth seems to be, that his lordship was ashamed of patronising such a man. *Phill*, enraged, threatened to publish their correspondence; and his lordship compromised the business by an annuity.

† The late *Col. Walsh* made no secret of this story. *T.* had, as his friend *Curl* had often done before him, procured some private correspondence, of which he intended to make a penny. The gentleman concerned had not spirit enough to call him out; but a friend did; and *Phill*, rather than fight, gave up the letters.

It was generally supposed the Colonel himself had called him out on the occasion, in behalf of his friend.

micide you commit by your pills ; for in any other sense he could not suspect you of murder ; unless it were of reputations, of which, indeed, you have been a merciless assassin.

T. He wou'd'nt let me publish his travels wi my account of the Pays Bas.

B. G. He could have gained no credit by adding his name to your's.

T. He said as how I writ hymns and spiritual songs.

B. G. I believe there he was mistaken ; you was never so well employed. In the poetical way I believe you never got beyond a St. Giles's ballad. Do you continue your old trade of writing dying speeches ?

T. No, I'm cut out there ; the Ordinary, dam'n, has ta'en that patch of work into his own hands ; manys the good time an often I hae made a comfitible meal out of a dying speech and confession.

P. P. Pray, Master T. did'nt you once send an old woman out of Monmouthshire on a fool's errand to Newcastle, a'ter a legacy ; and had a poor man put into the Bastile,

file, by telling lies of him, where a had like to ha been hanged for a traitor?

T. What's that to you, blockhead?

P. P. I am no blockhead, and I am an honest man; I never set people together by the ears. Do you remember the letter you sent to a gentleman and his wife with some excrement, making them believe Dr. A. sent it?

B. G. Surely, Phill, that can't be true?

P. P. True as gospel I say, and I can prove it.

B. G. Had you then held a commission in his Majesty's army, you would have been kicked out of the corps as a blackguard and a scoundrel, and ought to have been drummed out of the regiment, crowned with a close-stool pan, and foused in a bog-house.

P. P. A sends pieces of brown paper, put up like letters, to make people pay postage.

B. G. A mean rascally piece of vengeance, which I am told he has practiced even against persons who never offended him, otherwise than by treating his scurrilities with silent contempt: He might as well filch a shilling, a handkerchief, or a watch,
from

from them. I find among the papers now in my hands a copy of a letter, which is an answer to one of your's to this man, now in prison: What right had you to insult him? He is there, I am told, on an occasion which never could have happened to you; for tho' you have visited jails pretty frequently, you have always kept out of fighting scrapes.

T. I only offerd en bale.

B. G. So he told you had his equally *respectable* friend, Master *Ting*, the thief-taker, who is so much your superior, that he would have disdained the act with which my friend has charged you. I fancy his answer has cured you of writing any more impertinent letters. What did your meek and patient rib say to the affair of the Banbury *doxy*?

T. Damn'n, that was all spite.

P. P. I fancy your nose is kept pretty close to the *grind-stone* at home, Master T. you hae no occasion to go further a-field.

B. G. I am told you sent your young hopeful to insult the Doctor in the card-room at Bath.

T. A did, and I gaen a guinea for it.

B. G.

B. G. You ought rather to have well disciplined him with a horse-whip for his impudence: Pray have you paid your old friend C——s at Bruffels for this boy's education; it is most probable you have not, and that is the reason of your quarrel; at least you had the assurance to send your brat to a very respectable gentleman of the navy, so bare of every necessary, that he was obliged to expend many pounds in equipping him; and some months ago you had not repaid him a farthing: You had better have reserved the guinea to help pay your debts. But having heard all your allegations against the Author of the Medical Cautions, it is evident that he never gave you any cause of offence, till you gave him such provocation, *unmerited* provocation, as was intolerable to any man of spirit; and you are, I know, indebted for your personal safety merely to the consideration that you had forfeited all claim to the rank, or resentment, of a gentleman.

T. Wont ye gie me my Rememorandrum *Jurnal*?

B. G. I will not.

T. I'll

T. I'll sue you then, and so shall them there gemmen, if you publish their receipts by the King's patent.

B. G. Tell your friend TICKELL I have got his, and certainly shall publish it; and that I defy the whole host of Quacks; and despise you as their champion.

[*Exit Thicknesse.*]

P. P. A thinks ye sent'n away wi a flea in his ear.

B. G. Hang the fellow, he has often been well flea-bitten when he had not a second shirt to his back.

(*Knocking without.*) *B. G.* Peter, open the door.

Enter F. G. One would think, gentlemen, you were retainers to the muses, by the height of your habitation, and that you travelled thus far to shorten your journey to the top of Parnassus: But pray which of you, gentlemen, is Mr. Paragraph?

P. P. I be, at your service.

F. G. I am told you have got some property that is not entirely your right.

P. P. What, d'ye think as how I be a thief; take care what ye say; for if so be
ye

ye can't prove your words, I'll take the law o'ye.

F. G. I am come to demand property that does not, I believe, come under the cognizance of law; for if literary thefts were punishable, I know not what would become of us authors.

P. P. O yere an author be ye; I nere stole any thing in my born days.

F. G. Then, Mr. Paragraph, we'll put matters upon a more respectable footing: You have *found* something that does not belong to you, and will, I am fure, restore it to its right owner: You found, I am told, a large parcel of papers.

P. P. Are they your's?

F. G. They chiefly belong to another person, who has deputed me to lay in his claim.

P. P. Why does n't come himself?

F. G. Because he is in confinement.

B. G. That is the fate of many of us brethren of the quill.

F. G. The maxim "*ne futor ultra crepidam*," is salutary; but in the mixed character of this friend of mine, which is half civil,

Y

and

and half military, the latter has unfortunately predominated, and he found himself more disposed to fight with, than to write at, his antagonist; whilst the latter, more prudently, declining the sword, has thought proper to wield the *certiorari*.

B. G. I wonder government don't send these troublesome fellows to Botany Bay, where they may exercise their prowess in defence of the infant colony against the invasions of the Aborigines.

F. G. To say the truth, my friend has some expectations that this may be his fate, and has been providing for more than a possible contingency.

B. G. How pray?

F. G. By providing himself a female helpmate; which, *old* as he is, is become as necessary to him, from habit, as many other superfluities: Now there is a good tight wench, a fellow prisoner, who is to pay a visit to the said colony for fourteen years, *only for having received stolen goods*; he has made his proposals to the said lady, *who is undoubtedly a virgin*; and this match is the more agreeable to him, as it may be effected without

without the intervention of the gentlemen of the law, for many of whom, however, he has great respect, both as honest men and gentlemen: she, very generously, *relying on his bare promise*, there being no fortune, *principal or interest*, to settle on the lady, no dower to adjust, no bonds to be given, or *mortgages to be pledged*; and as for provision for the children of the marriage, he has found out a salvo for that *sore* also; for having, on incontrovertible philosophical, and medical principles, discovered that each female can dispense with the benevolence, whether nuptial or illicit, of seven males, and knowing well the dearth of females in the new colony, he has only contracted for a proportional share of the connubial property; so that the children will become the property of the public; though it might not be much less difficult to ascertain the individuality of the parent, than at present, even where there is by the laws of the land only one father allotted. It appears, however, that in this estimate of female susceptibility, or rather capability, he differs widely from his *good friend*, the author of

THELYPTHORA, who, conscious perhaps of *supernatural* powers, has reversed the calculation; for which the *ladies* are *not* much obliged to him.

B. G. You talk of your friend's expectation of going to Botany Bay; on what can this be founded; there is no law—

F. G. There is no law; but there may be.

B. G. But with respect to him it must be *ex post facto*; it must be contrary to *Magna Charta*.

F. G. What then? The *Hampshire* patriots, knowing what a pestilent fellow he is, and that if once let loose, he may crack the skulls of half the county, have instructed their representatives to propose such a law, the first day of the meeting of parliament: As for *Magna Charta*, they value it no more than they do *Magna F——a*; self interest is their only charter; hence it is that there it not a *staunch* patriot that has not changed his principles as often almost as his coat; his only maxim being steadily to oppose government, unless he is of sufficient consequence to be purchased; so that the
only

only criterion of political principles in this country is solely deducible from the circumstance of a man's being in or out of place: A lamentable consideration, which, at some future (I hope very distant) period, must terminate in the utter subversion of the liberties of this country; for historical experience evinces, that whensoever the governed become more corrupt than the governors, there must be an end of liberty; and that a nation may arrive at such a state of degeneracy, as to become incapable of enjoying it. But to return; I should be much obliged to your friend Mr. P. if he would restore those M. S. S.

B. G. That we are in possession of the M. S. S. you allude to, I confess; but I have several reasons why I should decline giving them up, which, I hope, will be satisfactory to you and your friend. 1st. My good friend *Peter*, as honest a man as ever breathed, is out of employment as a printer, and I have set my heart on giving him the printing of these works, which shall be executed faithfully, according to your and your friend's plan in every respect.

2dly.

2ly. Though I have not the pleasure of knowing your friend; yet from a careful perusal of the M.S.S. I am in love with the traits of his character therein exhibited. There appears to be something in them so romantic and eccentric, so wildly in the right, with so much liberality of principle, even when, according to the maxims of *sneaking wordly wisdom*, he is in the wrong; that he seems rather to be a *Spaniard* of the 8th century, than a *Briton* of the 18th; and as I have been an author for these 20 years, I wish to finish my literary career with some eclat, by giving these two works to the public; and then retire to an estate which has lately fallen to me, *kill my own mutton*, and enjoy "Otium cum dignitate."

F. G. I shall make a faithful report to my friend; but he is hot, irritable, and impatient; and peculiarly so at present, oppressed as he is by a load of unmeritedly accumulated woe, for which I know he would deem the *rack* a comfortable exchange.

B. G. I am heartily sorry—(*a loud noise on the stairs, and a voice without*) Damme, Phill,

I wonder you did not break your neck, instead of your shins.

Enter Drs. Thicknesse, Freeman, and Tickell.

T. Here they be ; I hae brought'n to speak for theirselves : This, gemmen, is my old friend Mr. *Goosequill* ; them there, friend *Goosey*, are my partners, Drs. *Freeman* and *Tickell*.

B. G. The gentlemen do me a great deal of honour in visiting my poor abode ; but as this will be the last hour of my stay here, I hope I may hereafter receive them in a habitation more suitable to their merit and importance as *your* friends : It will, however, be right to announce in my turn : Sir (*to F. G.*) by what name shall I have the honour of introducing you to Dr. Thicknesse's friends and himself ?

F. G. I beg leave to decline the introduction.

B. G. As you please, Sir. This gentleman is my friend Mr. *Peter Paragraph*.

T. Damme, *Goosey*, you won't hae the imprence

prence for to go to traduce your *vale de sham* to gemmen.

P. P. What do you mean by *vale de sham*; I knows nough of French lingo for to guess that you suppose as how I be Mr. Goosequill's lackey; I hae a great mind to gie ye a dowse in the chops; I ben't his servant, I be his friend.

B. G. That you are, and have been, indeed, my *faithful* friend, the companion of my distress, and often my best monitor and counsellor; would to God, princes and ministers were surrounded by such: you are an honest man, "the noblest work of God;" and whilst I have a shilling, you shall not want.

T. I haxes pardon, Master Paragraph.

P. P. Least said is soonest mended, Master Thicknesse; learn next time to keep your tongue within your teeth, till you knows who you talk to; ye sees as how I be somebody, as I be 'Squire Goosequill's friend.

Tick. But let us come to the point; I am told you have a M. S. copy of an Essay on Quackery, in which we are treated with great disrespect.

T. That

T. That a has, I'll be fwore.

Fr. What d'ye say to that, Master Goose-quill, as I thinks ye be called ; are gemmen of charakter to be treated in this here manner ; I defist that ye gie up that there thing.

B. G. This gentleman has been making a fimilar claim ; it cannot be the property of both ; pray settle the businefs between you.

F. G. But pray, doctör, what univerfity had the honour of your inauguration ?

Fr. Aberdeen.

B. G. Though some of the northern, and I fear the fouthern univerfities, often confer degrees too lightly ; I cannot conceive it poffible that any men of literature could confer a diploma on a man, who being ignorant of his own language, muft neceffarily be fo of every other : Was you not once a farrier in the ifland of Antigua ?

Fr. What does that argefey ; a *farrier* is a doctör ; an't he ?

B. G. In fome fort, I confefs ; and at leaft as much fo as a *cooper*. But what have you done with your family you left on the parifh in that ifland ? You now figure away,

as I am told, in your carriage ; I hope you have put them on a respectable footing.

P. P. But how did ye get out the smut and the whales o' the hot irons out o' yer paws, to feel the ladies pulses ?

Fr. A never feels pulses ; I be a water caster.

P. P. O ye be, be ye ?

Fr. Come, come, no more o'yer palaver ; gie us up the paper, a say, or we will sue ye.

B. G. I care not what you do, provided you don't phyfick me.

F. G. Pray, doctor, (*to Freeman*) by what right do you so peremptorily demand the M. S. ?

Fr. Because it's a libell against we.

F. G. That the law must determine, and there let it rest for the present.

Tick. I find there is a patent prescription of my *Æther* in that there book.

B. G. Most certainly.

Tick. Do you know the consequence ?

B. G. I do ; and I shall deem it the most meritorious act of my life to be instrumental in exposing the ignorance, the impudence,

dence, and the knavery of your whole fraternity ; and this is my definitive answer.

[*Exeunt Quacks.*

F. G. You are a noble fellow, Mr. Goose-quill ; and I should think myself infinitely more honoured in your acquaintance, than in that of the first dignified scoundrel in the kingdom.

[*Exeunt omnes.*

P R E F A C E.

THE second edition of the Medical Cautions being nearly sold off, it was deemed proper to republish, in this third edition, only those Essays which, being most popular, would consequently be most useful to the public.

Some additions have been made to the chapter on Fashionable Diseases; and the author has the pleasure of knowing that the justice of his strictures has not only been acknowledged by some of the profession, but has afforded full conviction to several invalids.

It is with much satisfaction he understands that his second Essay has induced several persons to obviate the bad effects of hot and foul air, by adopting the expedients he proposed; and he flatters himself, that the new facts and arguments which occur in this third edition, will contribute to extend the beneficial consequences which must result from such salutary regulations.

There

There was so intimate a connection between the subjects of the second and third chapters, that the latter is now republished.

The chapter addressed to Lady and Gentlemen Doctors having made an impression on several persons of understanding, it was thought, that another edition of it would have a beneficial tendency.

That the Essay on Empiricism has been of some use, appears from the alarm it has given to the Quacks, who, by anonymous* and avowed attacks, have manifested their apprehensions that the author's strictures might, eventually, make a due impression on the public; and expose the ignorance, fraud, and imposture of those pests of society.

* A friend of the author's having read the first edition of this work, told him he certainly would be *stung* by some of these empirical *wasps*; but the manifold attacks made upon him by the anonymous letters, newspaper squibs, pamphlets, and base but bungling incendiary artifices, of those *dull illiterate knaves*, have only evinced them to be mere *drones*.

The brutal and *fordid* artifice of one of those vermin, a *boary* assassin, to fix an indelible stigma on the character of the author of the Medical Cautions, by writing an incendiary letter, was happily detected; and though he escaped legal punishment, he richly merited the discipline of a horse-pond, or a niche in the pillory.

It

It is the duty of every physician to discountenance empirical practice; not from the sordid consideration of its interfering with his professional emolument; but from an entire conviction of the injury the public may sustain, by confiding in, and employing, men who are totally ignorant of medical knowledge.

The author thinks himself peculiarly qualified for the task; having, for many years, taken much pains in detecting the ignorance and knavery of some of the most celebrated quacks;* and having also bestowed consider-

* A friend of the author's proposes, that the bishops, who are, by an old law, authorised to *examine* and licence medical practitioners, should interpose, and extirpate these *medical heretics* the quacks; who, though they bid defiance to the statute law, would not be able to evade the all-powerful grasp of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction: but should their lordships decline a duty so worthy of them, he thinks the quacks might be transported to Botany Bay; as cheats and impostors would be very fit companions for rogues and felons; and to compensate for the loss of the medicine tax, he proposes that each Gentlemen and Lady Doctor, of which he computes there may be, at least, one million in the British dominions, shall take out licences annually at a guinea each; by which they will be qualified to prescribe *kitchen physic only*; under a penalty, if they attempt to prescribe medicine; and that by

able

able attention, and incured some expence, in analysing their nostrums.

The author has been led, by the nature of his plan, to make some farther animadversions on a quack medicine taken notice of in the second edition ; this has produced an attack from the proprietor of the patent, in which it is alledged, he has been assisted by some medical men, who have neither done any credit to themselves, nor their profession, by espousing such a cause.

He is exceedingly sorry he has been obliged to engage the reader's attention, even for a moment, to any circumstance which could be deemed personal : conscious that no credit can be acquired by such contests, it was with extreme reluctance he took any notice of the groveling, yet malignant, attacks of his antagonists ; but it was in some measure unavoidable. Persons of high rank, or exalted character, *may* decline the task ; but those who have no claim to distinction

such a regulation the revenue would not only be augmented, but the *consumption* of his Majesty's liege subjects would be diminished to the amount of many thousands annually.

must,

must, negatively or positively, defend themselves ; otherwise silence implies acquiescence under the imputation.

After the former edition of the Medical Cautions was printed off, the author had an opportunity of examining a copy of *Tickell's* patent, stamped, and authenticated by the proper officer, upon which a few remarks shall be made in its proper place, after giving an exact copy of the patent prescription from the proper office.

The author is informed, that his empirical opponents, and their abettors, have, as a *coup de grace*, industriously propagated a report, *that he is insane* ; and it is possible, that even his friends may suspect, that all is not right with the man who could attempt the Herculean labour of cleaning the Augean stable of empiricism, or undertake the no less arduous task of reforming many other medical abuses.

As he suspects that the *Vir sapiens, sibi que imperiosus*, is almost as rare a phœnomenon as a black swan, he will not attempt to vindicate himself from the allegation of the former, nor obviate the suspicion of the latter ;

latter ; for if propriety or consistency of conduct were to be admitted as the only criteria of sanity of intellects, almost every page of history and biography, ancient and modern, would evince how difficult it would be for nations or individuals, the governing or the governed, to establish an indisputable claim to *even* a very moderate portion of intellectual acumen or consistency : he may therefore say, with Horace,

Pudor te malus urget,
 Insanos qui inter vereare insanus haberi.

Should it be enquired by what motives I could be induced to undertake so invidious and unavailing a task, as the publication of the present Essay ; I reply, that I not only deemed it to be my duty as a physician ; but have been incited thereto by resentment : Some years ago a most valuable and respectable friend of mine put himself and his wife under the care of a German water-caster. Their complaints were trivial, or perhaps totally imaginary ; the lady died a victim to MEYERSBACK's ignorance ; and her husband, from a broken constitution, and a

A a

broken

broken heart, soon followed her. Beside these instances, many others have occurred to me of the injurious, and often fatal, consequences of empirical practice.

As few men have taken more pains in attempting to discover the origin, trace the progress, and detect the ignorance and knavery, of modern quacks, than myself; and as quackery has arrived to a truly alarming height, especially in the British dominions, I thought I should essentially serve my fellow subjects, by endeavouring to stem the torrent of this dangerous evil.

It may be alledged, that the following animadversions are dictated by envy and jealousy.

Independent in my circumstances, and approaching the verge of life, I do most solemnly aver, that I have not advanced anything concerning those men or their nostrums that does not admit of proof; and that my *sole* motives for this publication are, a regard for the interests and welfare of the community, and the credit of that profession of which I had *formerly* the honour of being a member:

When

When physicians, by laborious study, and at considerable expence, have qualified themselves for the exercise of their profession, it cannot be very agreeable to them to find their art so much degraded, as that the most illiterate of mankind (for such quacks generally are) could be supposed capable of discharging the duties of it: For so far as regards emolument, I verily believe that physicians suffer little by empirical practice.

E S S A Y IV.

On EMPIRICISM, or QUACKERY.

C H A P. I.

On the ORIGIN of QUACKERY.

Thus puffing Quacks some caitiff wretch procure
To swear the pill, or drop, has wrought a cure.

GOLDSMITH,

SI VULGUS DECIPI VULT DECIPIATUR.

THE term *Empiricism* is derived from a Greek word which signifies *experience*, the foundation of all science, especially of physick.

There was an ancient sect of physicians who were termed *Empirics*, in contradistinction to the *Dogmatists*; but there is a most essential difference between those *ancient sages* and our *modern quacks*; for the former availed themselves of accurate philosophical *analogy* founded on experience; whereas the latter are so little accustomed to any kind of reasoning, that they are generally destitute of common sense.

Ancient

Ancient mythology represents *Æsculapius*, the God of Physick, as having three daughters, *HYGEIA*, *JASO*, and *PANACEA*; that is, health, cure, and universal remedy. Ignorant of those philosophical principles by which the two first are regulated, the quacks of all ages, unqualified to loosen the gordion knot of science, were determined to cut it, and have therefore attached themselves solely to the youngest daughter of the God; and for this reason all their remedies are universal and *infallible*. This mode of catching the eel of medical science by the tail is exceedingly convenient; for it neither requires natural talents, nor acquired knowledge; gross ignorance, consummate impudence, and a total want of principle, being the only indispensable requisites for constituting a quack.

The origin of quackery is very ancient; for we find them ridiculed by an ancient Greek poet.*

* The celebrated dramatic poet, *Aristophanes*, terms these water-casters *σκατοφαγοί*, a term which implies something more indelicate than the English word. MEYERSBACK, having lately examined a patient of mine who is deeply consumptive, declared that the disease was in the kidneys and *sweet bread*!

It would be an unnecessary, and indeed a disgusting task, to trace empiricism from the earliest ages to the present time. I have already remarked, that though there was an ancient sect of physicians termed empirics, yet this term was understood in a very different sense from that of quack in our language; the former being only applied to distinguish one sect of regular physicians from another.

The earliest source of quackery seems to have been an opinion entertained by the vulgar, and perhaps not very strenuously discouraged by physicians, that there was something mysterious and supernatural in the medical art. Hence the idea that the cure of diseases was often effected by magical powers and astral influences; so that in the ages of barbarism, priests, soothsayers, astrologers, and fortune-tellers, laid their claims to medical knowledge and practice.

C H A P. II.

The former Occupation of QUACKS.

EX QUOVIS LIGNO NON FIAT MEDICUS!!!

I SHALL proceed to shew that, from the former occupations of many of those quacks, it was impossible they could have any medical knowledge, unless they acquired it by miraculous inspiration, to which indeed only one of the present tribe has set up any pretension.*

Whilst itinerant mountebanks were in fashion; though the breed is almost extinct in this country; the merry-andrew generally succeeded his master, and from tumbler and buffoon was exalted to the dignity of doctor; when in the velvet coat and tye-wig he drew teeth, cut hare-lips, and dispensed his infallible remedies, *solely* for the benefit of his fellow subjects.

Several of those *respectable* gentlemen became afterwards resident doctors, especially

* Dr. DE LOUTHERBURG: He was a celebrated scene painter,

in London; and to some of them, and their no less respectable successors, the public is at this time indebted for some of our most celebrated nostrums.

But many of those empirical gentlemen had not even the advantages of a mountebank education; for some of *them* were tolerable surgeons, especially the famous GREEN; whereas the greater part of the present race are totally destitute of any kind of education.

With respect to the employments of those people before they commenced nostrum-mongers:—The celebrated Dr. DEE, and his companion KELLY, pretended to frequent communication with demons, and the angels Michael, Raphael, Gabriel, and Uriel, the latter of whom not only communicated to them the philosopher's stone, but infallible remedies for the cure of diseases.

Notwithstanding the nostrum for making gold, DEE lived and died in great poverty. The angel's prescription for the cure of his wife was a very curious one: it consisted of a cock pheasant, pounded alive in a mortar, with amber, turpentine, and wine.

To

To the disgrace of literature and science, the works of this crazy enthusiast were published, with a long prefatory vindication, by MERIC CAUSABON, D. D.

The celebrated WARD, whose remedies are now neglected, because they are known, was a *footman*, and during his attendance on his master on the continent, obtained his nostrums from the monks, who are almost all quacks : He was however a man of some genius and education, and very much superior to the present race of quacks.

ROCK had been a porter ; as was WALKER, the vender of the famous Jesuits drops.

The celebrated electrico-magnetical GRAHAM, who lately made such a noise in this credulous nation, exhibited on a mountebank stage in *America* ; and, it is probable, served previously in the office of zany.

MEYERSBACH,* who, availing himself of the credulity and cullibility of the good people of this kingdom, has acquired a fortune equal to that of a *German* prince, offered himself as a *rough-rider* to a riding-

* The ignorance and effrontery of this fellow has been properly exposed by Dr. LETTSOM.

house in London, but being rejected, commenced doctor.

TURLINGTON was a broken master of a ship.

One FREEMAN, who annexes M. D. to his name, was a journeyman blacksmith, and is lately returned from one of our colonies, where, as an indented servant, he was employed to shoe and bleed horses.*

* This fellow, the counter part of his brother LAST, has assumed the title of M. D. and has published strictures on the first edition of this work. The author is very much disposed to pay such a degree of respect to every candid and liberal criticism, as either to adopt the correction, or assign his reasons for adhering to his own opinions; but his friends have insisted that his antagonist is totally unworthy of notice or reply; alledging, “that his criticism favours much more
“ of the *Blacksmith's shop* than of the *lamp*, that it is im-
“ possible any University could, *after due examinations*, as
“ this man asserts, have granted him a medical degree; and
“ that his attack upon the author, whether critical or per-
“ sonal, manifests so much gross ignorance and flagrant
“ falsehood, that in the opinion of every man of common
“ sense, he must be deemed to be absolutely *felo de se*.”

The present professors of medicine in the University of Aberdeen have declared, that no such person as *Stephen Freeman* has been graduated by them; and therefore there is just ground to believe that this illiterate quack has arrogated to himself a title to which he has no claim.

The authors of the Critical Review seem to give credit to this man's assertion, that his family was *not* subsisted by a pa-

And I remember two fellows in Hampshire, who gathered and dispensed their drugs under astral influences, one of them a *weaver*, the other a *cobler*, who being too idle to follow their employments, found their account in becoming doctors.

THICKNESSE was bred a cooper; but was successively a mock clerk to the celebrated WHITFIELD; an officer of marines; gunner of Landguard Fort; and for many years author of dying speeches and St. Giles's ballads, and rape and murder-monger to the St. James's Chronicle, and at last commenced gout doctor.

Some of these nostrum-mongers have been appendages to the profession; and broken apothecaries and chemists have quitted their proper callings for this idle trade.

Dr. JAMES, finding that book-making was a losing business, derived more advantage in

risk at Antigua: unimportant as the fact may be to the public, the author of the Medical Cautions, jealous of his reputation as a man of candour and truth, is permitted by a gentleman of rank of that country, now in England, to assert the fact; and he having been a member of the vestry of that parish by which these people were long supported, will, if it be necessary, personally authenticate the truth of the allegation.

vending his celebrated powder and analeptic pills.

Sir JOHN HILL, also a voluminous author, had been a woollen-draper, but afterwards commenced doctor, and dispensed his tinctures and essences : But HILL was a man of some learning and genius ; and indefatigable in his botanical pursuits ; and all his quack remedies were at least inoffensive, though he certainly possessed more medical knowledge than the whole race of quacks put together.

And NORTON acquired a considerable fortune by his Maredant's drops.*

The newspapers, two or three years ago, announced the death of one of these doctors, named SCOT, who had been much celebrated. This man, who could not procure bread as an apothecary, would soon have realized a large fortune as a quack. Availing himself, very artfully, of *fashionable* prejudices, and in order that his pills might be adapted to all the fashionable diseases, he wrote a pamphlet

* The active and enterprising spirit of the other sex has produced several female adventurers in this line, who are, *at least*, as great proficientes as their brethren, in the art of puffing off their nostrums.

to prove that nervous and bilious diseases were intimately connected with gout and with each other. As some sort of reasoning and argument is generally expected in medical dissertations, he pilfered, without acknowledgment, an idea started thirty years ago by Dr. SHEBBEARE, viz. that the primary cause of all diseases proceeds from excess or defect of the electric fire; the novelty and *verity* of which could not fail to recommend it to his fashionable readers. Successors, however, to this celebrated gout doctor, have started up like mushrooms; and, like them, will probably soon *rot* into oblivion.

CHAP.

C H A P. III.

Non tamen telis vulnerat ista argyrtarum colluvies, sed Theriaca quadam magis pernicioſa: Non pyrio, ſed pulvere neſcio quo exotico: Non globulis plumbeis, ſed pilulis æque lethalibus interfecit.

Dr. GARTH'S Orat. *Harveyana*.

*How QUACKS have obtained their Noſtrums,
and the Apologies uſed for employing them.*

IT comes next to be conſidered, from what ſources theſe very reſpectable doctors have derived their remedies; for of medical knowledge, WARD, JAMES, and HILL excepted, none of them poſſeſſed an atom; nor indeed had they capacity to attain it; being as ignorant of every kind of learning or ſcience as any old nurſe in the kingdom, as is evident from the nature and degree of their former employments.

When chemistry began to be cultivated in Germany, many chemical remedies were diſcovered and adopted in regular practice: The empirics however, having pilfered ſome of
the

the most powerful from the regulars, sold them as nostrums; and *Paracelsus*, *Van Helmont*, and other quacks, by their vain and insolent boastings, contributed very much to the extension of the evil.

Paracelsus boasted that his *Elixir Proprietatis* would prolong life to any period beyond the ordinary age of man; yet he died at the age of 34. Some alchemists pretended that certain remedies would even renovate the body, and restore old age to all the vigour of youth; a pretence not more ridiculous than that of modern quacks, who, by their infallible specifics, undertake to cure incurable diseases. Though these nostrum-mongers are not possessed of the *aurum potable* of the celebrated Dr. ANTHONY, a Cambridge doctor of the last century, they are sufficiently conversant in the art of transmuting national folly and credulity into *solid* gold.

For many ages all medical knowledge was conveyed in the dead languages only, a few books excepted, written by Arabian physicians in their native tongue; and I may venture to assert, that the translation of those works

works into modern languages, especially the dispensatories of the different colleges of physicians, has contributed exceedingly to the encouragement of quackery ; for from that source the most ignorant and worthless members of the community, having acquired a very superficial knowledge of the most powerful remedies, found a more ready resource for supplying their necessities, and even attaining affluence, by vending them as infallible nostrums, than by following their proper vocations, of astrologers, almanack-makers, taylors, coblers, weavers, *carpenters*, *coopers*, *farriers*, porters, and footmen.

As witches and conjurers were wont to rob the dead of their fat, marrow, &c. for the purpose of incantations, some of them who undertook the cure of diseases used the same extraordinary ingredients as charms and remedies ; and hence they obtained a place in the prescriptions of quacks ; and as superstition always bears a due proportion to ignorance, those who are so fond of swallowing quack nostrums, know not but they may be compounded of the same exquisite ingredients : From a patent prescription of Low-

THER'S

THEIR'S nervous powder, it appears that human bone is one of the ingredients.

That these men, at least most of them, have pilfered their nostrums from regular practice, admits of the clearest proof. The specifications of some of the most powerful of those nostrums, are to be found in the patent office ; to which any person may have recourse on paying the fees ; and most of the others have been analysed, and their composition discovered.

Another artifice employed by those pests of society, is to attribute their nostrums to some celebrated physician after his decease ; and the names of FOTHERGILL,* HUNTER, and SOLANDER, have been prostituted to those knavish purposes.

It is now well known, that WARD'S medicines, except his paste, which is a most absurd composition, had long been in regular practice before he adopted them ; that his white drop is a solution of sublimate ; his

* FREEMAN, fearing a detection of his impudent imposition of a remedy prescribed by this celebrated physician, has changed the name to FOTHERGELL ; whereas no such medical man ever existed.

red drop is a stronger antimonial wine than HUXHAM's, or that of the dispensatories; and his purging powder, jalap and cremor tartar.

TURLINGTON's *Balsam* is the Traumatic balsam of the shops. NORTON's *Drops* are a disguised solution of the sublimate mercury, which was recommended by Baron VAN SWIETEN, physician to the late *Empress* of *Germany*. DAFFY's *Elixir* is the tincture of fena of the shops. ANDERSON's *Pills* are aloes with oil of anniseed. SPEEDIMAN's *Pills*, extract of chamomile, aloes, and one or two other trifling ingredients. THICKNESSE's, and, it is supposed, BARRETT's *Pills* are extract of hemlock and wolf's bane; LOWTHER's *Nervous Powder* is a farrago of nine or ten insignificant ingredients, one of which is human skull; the most powerful of them is the black hellebore. STOUGH-TON's *Drops* are the stomachic tincture of the shops. GODFREY's *Cordial*, an infusion of saffras, syrup, and opium. *Beaume de Vie* consists of aloes, rhubarb, and salt of tartar, with a large proportion of liquorice juice to disguise the other ingredients. CHIT-TICK'S

TICK's nostrum is nothing more than soap lees. *Poudre Unique* is a combination of mercury and antimony : and NORRIS's and SPILSBURY's *Drops* are only the common antimonial wine disguised.

VELNO's *Vegetable Syrup* is not vended by patent, but is found on analysis to be a preparation of sublimated mercury combined with mucilage of gum arabic, honey, and common syrup. The title therefore is an imposition.

The celebrated *Ormskirk* medicine was formerly called *Palmarius's* powder, from the physician who first prescribed it ; but the prescription is not here inserted : because it has been found to be totally ineffectual for the cure of the bite of mad animals, and therefore the discovery of the Ormskirk composition might lead those persons who rely upon it into a fatal error.

In short, there are none of these nostrums that have not been analysed by skilful chemists ; and, independent of some trivial additions, all those of any power (a few trifling tinctures of vegetables, those of HILL

particularly, excepted) are compositions of mercury, antimony, or opium.

There is another species of empiricism which merits notice, as very bad consequences have arisen from it.

The celebrated Mr. BOYLE, who, though an eminent philosopher, had adopted an error prevalent even among the medical men of that day; viz. that remedies had a specific power, by which, independent of the general laws by which a cause produces a certain effect, a particular drug acted by a kind of elective attraction. Thus, *e.g.* one purge carried off bile or choler, another discharged phlegm, and so on, leaving every other humour undisturbed, but that, to which it was adapted.

From a vague, and totally unfounded analogy, the reasoning was extended to the power of particular remedies to cure certain diseases absolutely and infallibly. This great and good man, with the best intentions, contributed very much to encourage empirical practice, by publishing many prescriptions for infallible remedies, communicated to him by a variety of persons, who, either from
ignorance

ignorance or design, vouched for their efficacy.

A very respectable clergyman,* some years ago, published a pamphlet on the same plan, in which he has given many prescriptions which are dangerous, not only from their nature, but from the doses in which they are directed to be taken ; and it is very much to be doubted whether this truly good man may have saved more souls by his doctrine, or destroyed more lives by his remedies ; nor can any man who has a just pretension to medical knowledge look into those two publications, without being struck with horror at the injudicious use which must often be made of those edged tools : There is also a publication under the name of Dr. MARIOTTE, against which apothecaries ought to be particularly cautious, as a practical guide.

It would be a tedious and unprofitable task to enter into a more explicit detail of nostrum-mongers and their remedies ; I have however taken notice of some of the prin-

* Rev. JOHN WESTLEY,

cial; and would add moreover, that as these quack medicines are sold to retail dealers, some of them may remain on their hands for years, until they are totally spoiled, and yet they do not scruple to sell them, ignorant or regardless as they are, whether they are sound or not:—an instance of which occurred lately to a gentleman who purchased a quack remedy.

There was a time when physicians deemed it inconsistent with their dignity to consent to the administration of quack remedies; but if, from a knowledge of their composition, or experience of their effects, we are assured of their safety and power, it would be unpardonable in a physician to reject any means that may be beneficial to his patient; if he or his friends require it.

Nor is the art degraded by such condescension; for we only avail ourselves of those means which have been pilfered from regular practice, (as JAMES'S Powder, and almost all other nostrums of efficacy have been): but even were it otherwise, life and health ought not to be sacrificed to idle punctilio; but every means used, and every effort made,

made, that may conduce to the relief of the patient.*

With respect to testimonies in favour of nostrums, many are obtained by perjury, and others are exaggerated by ignorance; and whilst the supposed cures are published with much parade, the miscarriages are concealed with industrious care.† That they may have

* A quack apothecary (TICKELL) of Bath has quoted this sentence as an implied sanction of quack nostrums; but the implication is unjust. Physicians are often obliged to concede to the whims and prejudices of patients or their connections; and as the preparation of JAMES'S Powder is now well known, humanity, and a sense of duty, may induce them to *consent* to the use of JAMES'S Powder, if required; conscious that they are better qualified than ignorant attendants to superintend and regulate its operation; though there are certainly shop medicines equally safe and effectual.

† A notorious instance of this happened in the metropolis of a neighbouring county:—The vender of a celebrated quack remedy published in his paper the case of a person *supposed to be cured* by it, and annexed the name of a respectable clergyman as a witness and a voucher, without his privity or consent; and, notwithstanding the remonstrance of this gentleman, and the declaration of two medical men of character, that they could indubitably prove that the *identical person*, and several others, were absolutely *killed* by it, he not only refused to insert the cases and vouchers in his paper, but had the audacity to repeat the advertisement.

been

been sometimes beneficial, it would be uncandid to deny ; as a powerful remedy, producing, by the violence of its operation, a great and sudden change in the constitution, may either eradicate an inveterate disease, or subvert the powers of life : but I would submit to the serious consideration of my readers, whether, as regular practice is in possession of as powerful means as any nostrum whatever, it would not be more prudent to intrust the administration of them to those who, by a liberal and regular education, are *alone* qualified to render them equally safe and efficacious ; or if they must have quack remedies, let them be taken under the eye and regulation of a person of skill.

It has been alledged, that regular practitioners, by a timid routine, or selfish procrastination, deprive their patients of those most powerful aids of which quacks have availed themselves. If this charge be, in any respect, well grounded, it is more applicable to the past than present times ; as a more bold and decisive practice is now very generally adopted.

Some of the abettors of these quacks (for very few of them have been able to vindicate themselves) have insinuated, that though deficient in the general principles of physic, they have acquired, by experience, not only a sufficient knowledge of the operation of their nostrums, but of the nature of the diseases to which they are adapted.

I answer, that the medical art resembles a circle, each point of which is so connected with the other, that in order to obtain an accurate knowledge of a part, the whole must be understood: And to shew the nature and extent of medical knowledge, and those branches of learning and science with which it has an intimate affinity, in my treatise on the difficulties of studying medicine,* I have enumerated the qualifications necessary to form a skilful physician; and, upon a fair comparison, I may trust to the

* Natural History of the Human Body. A careful perusal of this work would not only amuse, but inform all persons who have any pretensions to a polished education. It has been translated, and very generally read on the Continent.

candour of my readers to determine, what portion of that knowledge can be justly claimed by the herd of nostrum-mongers.

There is so intimate a connection between all the branches of medicine, that none of them can be dispensed with in the education of a physician.

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

PATENT *and other* RECEIPTS *for* QUACK
DRUGS.

THE Crown has long assumed a right of granting patents for the benefit of such persons as shall make an useful discovery in any of the arts. As a reward for the inventor's ingenuity, he is entitled to the exclusive right of vending the fruits of his discovery, whether of a machine or a medicine, on condition that he shall depofite a faithful account of the manner of constructing the machine, or of preparing the medicine, in the patent-office, that, after the expiration of the term, which is generally for fourteen years, the public at large may benefit thereby.

That the public may receive such benefit, the discovery ought to be published in the Gazette, as being the only paper sanctioned by government; and the patentee's exclusive right ought to cease, the invention becom-

ing now the property of the public. This however, for evident reasons, is never done ; so that the inventor continues to enjoy the exclusive benefit.

Any person, however, may, on applying to the patent-office, have a copy of the inventor's specification, as it is called, though at a very considerable expence.

With respect to medicines, which are the objects of the present enquiry, medical men who have applied to the patent-office, have perpetually been disappointed ; for they have always found that, instead of a new, and heretofore unknown, remedy, the patentees have constantly imposed on the public, compositions of drugs which had long been in use in regular practice ; only altered either in the proportion of the ingredients, or by some trifling additions for the mere purpose of disguising it.

This gross imposition on the public is productive of a very essential evil ; because it throws into the hands of ignorant men a right to vend remedies of a very dangerous nature, of the powers of which they have no knowledge, and therefore cannot determine

mine in what diseases they may be beneficial or hurtful.

More than thirty years ago parliament, from misrepresentation, granted five thousand pounds for the discovery of a remedy which was supposed to dissolve the stone: But the physician who was the voucher of its efficacy was either deceived himself, or deceived the legislature; for after declaring himself to be cured, there was found a large stone in his bladder, when the body was opened; and that disgusting and trifling remedy is now fallen into total disuse.

But these men, to give an eclat to their nostrums, often advertise them under the pretence of having a patent, when none have been obtained.

The champions of quacks tell us, that admitting the truth of the allegation, viz. that they are the same remedies as the regulars; yet they aver that they are differently prepared, and therefore new medicines.

But this is not true. Their chief remedies, as has been observed, are *mercury*, *antimony*, and *opium*.

These

These remedies have been tortured by chemists in every possible way ; and have been prescribed by physicians in every form that could be suggested by whim or ingenuity ; but still they remain mercury, antimony, and opium ; and it is not so much the form which merits attention, as the adapting them to the disease, and giving them in safe, yet effectual doses.

It can scarcely therefore become a question with any thinking person (but the bulk of mankind do not think for themselves) whether, as there can be nothing new invented by this ignorant race of men, it is most probable that they, or men of professional knowledge, shall be best able to give remedies in the most advantageous forms ; especially as all the additions they make are mere trifles, solely for the purpose of disguise ; and, if they produce any change in them, it must always be for the worse.

When medical men offer arguments against the use of quack remedies, they are always supposed to do so from interested motives : But the author of these sheets, having retired from the practice of the profession,
most

most solemnly declares, as a responsible being, that in these remarks he is actuated solely by a sincere desire to serve his fellow creatures, and he can truly assert, that no man has taken more pains to inform himself concerning them; and should deem himself an execrable villain were he to be guilty of intentional misrepresentation, in any one instance, even with respect to quack medicines.

I. JAMES'S FEVER POWDER.

The following is the patent prescription, obtained from the office by a medical man* many years ago:—

“ Take antimony, calcine it with a continual protracted heat in a flat unglazed earthen vessel; adding to it from time to

* The late Dr. MAKITTRICK, of Winchester: The prescription is precisely the same with that given by Dr. MONRO in the second edition of the *Dissertation on Diseases of the Army*; with this difference only, that the former says, that it is impossible to determine the precise dose of the medicine, except the process is attended to, as it will be different according as the process is conducted.

“ time a sufficient quantity of any animal
“ oil and salt well dephlegmated, then boil
“ it in melted nitre for a considerable time,
“ and separate the powder from the nitre by
“ dissolving it in water.

“ Then take quicksilver, make an amal-
“ gama, with equal parts of martial regulus
“ of antimony and pure silver, adding a
“ proportionable quantity of sal ammoniac;
“ distil off the mercury by a retort into
“ a glass receiver; then with this quicksilver
“ make a fresh amalgama with the same in-
“ gredients; distil again, and repeat this
“ operation nine or ten times; then dissolve
“ this mercury in spirits of nitre, and put it
“ into a glass retort and distil to dryness;
“ calcine the caput mortuum, till it become
“ of a gold colour; burn spirits of wine upon
“ it, and keep it for use.

“ The dose of these medicines is uncer-
“ tain, but in general thirty grains of the
“ antimonial powder, and one grain of the
“ mercurial, is a moderate dose.”

Signed and sworn to by

ROB. JAMES, M. D.

A few

A few observations may be made on the above prescription :

1st. Every chemist will allow, that the antimonial preparation is very unjudicious, and must be uncertain in its strength, as all solid preparations of the reguline antimonials must be. If they meet with an acid in the stomach, they will often act violently even in small doses ; and this also must be the case, if the nerves of the stomach are very delicate.

On the other hand, when the stomach is loaded with tough phlegm, it will scarcely act even when given in enormous doses ; an instance of which the late DUKE of CHANDOS mentioned to the author, as having happened to a poor man near his seat at Avington, to whom his Grace, from his wonted attention to the wants of the poor, had ordered it to be given.

The danger in these cases is, lest when these immense doses, given repeatedly, begin to operate, they should destroy the patient, as it is to be feared has happened too frequently.

2^{dly}. This powder has not, for many years, been given according to the patent

E e prescription.

prescription. The specification contains a very injudicious preparation of mercury, a portion of which the above-mentioned patentee mixed, at first, with the antimonial powder; but as it sometimes brought on a salivation, when not given under his own direction, he totally omitted it for many years before he died, and thereby rendered the medicine less effectual in many cases, especially in inflammatory fevers.*

3dly. JAMES was so careless in dosing the medicine, which he left to the care of an old woman, that she made them up without

* Dr. MONRO alledges, though not on his personal knowledge, that the powder has salivated even after JAMES had said he omitted it: But A. doubts the truth of this, having prescribed this powder in a colonial hospital more frequently than any other person, the patentee himself excepted; and never remarked any such effect.

When JAMES was called in, and found the bowels had been emptied before, he gave what he called his *mild* powder, which was either calx of antimony or crabs eyes, or some other insignificant thing, merely to secure the credit of the cure to his supposed powder, of which however not a grain had been given. But if he found that the patient had neither been vomited or purged soon before, he gave his *strong* powder, as he called it; and if it did not operate as an emetic or a purge, he gave a dose of Glauber or Rochelle salts.

weighing

weighing the medicine ; hence it was that the difference was often some grains. This, as the medicine was directed to be given in the proportion of a quarter, half, or even a whole paper, might be of very serious consequence.

4thly. Notwithstanding JAMES boasted of the great efficacy of his powders, he depended very little upon them in fevers ; but being enthusiastically fond of the bark, he poured it in on the first remission in very large doses, and sometimes very injudiciously, so as to shorten in all probability thereby the life of the patient.

5thly. It certainly has been useful in the beginning of fevers of the inflammatory kind, especially when the stomach and bowels have not been previously emptied : But Dr. MONRO has remarked precisely similar effects from four grains of a powder composed of eleven grains of the calx of antimony, and one grain of emetic tartar.

6thly. In low and putrid fevers, and in the ulcerated fore throat, it has certainly hurried many patients to their graves, by bringing on a fatal purging ; and indeed the emetic

tartar, or any other active antimonial, would be equally injurious. Dr. GOLD-SMITH, though a medical man, certainly destroyed himself by the injudicious use of JAMES's powders. But should the relations or patients demand that a trial should be made of it, contrary to the opinion of the attending physician, as has sometimes happened to A. what is to be done in such a case? If the physician is an honest and humane man, he will, if possible, save his patient, and therefore not refuse to superintend the operation.

JAMES's powder, it is asserted, was known and administered in this country above one hundred and twenty years ago; but fell into disuse, and was again revived as CORNACHINE's powder. About the year 1746 Baron SCHWANBERG, a needy adventurer, communicated the prescription to Dr. JAMES, on certain conditions of co-partnership, which not being fulfilled on the part of JAMES, a law-suit was instituted against him in Westminster-hall; and JAMES attempted to evade the penalty, by alledging that he employed a different kind of antimony in the preparation :

ration : a plea which would not have been admitted by a jury of chemists.

It would however be illiberal and unjust to alledge, that, absurd and unchemical as the preparation certainly is, it is not a remedy of power and efficacy ; for from my own extensive experience I know it to be so ; but the same experience enables me to assert, that, from the nature of the composition, its operation is very uncertain, and that many of the other preparations of antimony are more safe and certain in their operation, and equally effectual.

The only circumstance which established the credit of this powder was the bold, yet judicious, practice of gradually increasing the dose according as the stomach became more habituated to its stimulus, or the urgency of the case required : and I cannot help expressing my surprise that this mode of administering active remedies has been so much neglected by regular practitioners ; and I am well convinced from long experience, that if antimonial wine, emetic tartar, or even ipecacuanha, (a more safe and perhaps equally effectual remedy) had been so administered)

we

we should not at this day have incurred the reproach of being obliged to resign our patients to the operation of a quack remedy. It is however to be observed, that though much benefit will certainly result from increasing the doses of active remedies, if they are given by persons of judgment; much mischief will also be done, if those who administer them are unskilful.

II. *Copy of TICKELL'S PATENT ÆTHER,*

Authenticated by Mr. BRIGSTOCK, Clerk of the Enrolments in Chancery.

“ Take of highly rectified spirit of wine
“ six quarts, concentrated oil of vitriol ten
“ pounds; pour the spirit of wine into a
“ receiver; add the oil of vitriol gradually,
“ and when cold the mixture is to be put
“ into a bottle with a glass stopple, there to
“ remain ten days or a fortnight.

“ Put three quarts of this mixture into a
“ large retort; lute on a capacious receiver;
“ distil with a degree of fire sufficient to
“ keep the mixture in a boiling state for
“ twelve

“ twelve hours. A pin should be passed
 “ through the luting occasionally to discharge
 “ over rarefied air.

“ Next morning add three quarts more
 “ of the mixture to what remains in the re-
 “ tort; distil as before for twelve hours;
 “ on the third morning add to the mixture
 “ in the retort twelve ounces of highly rec-
 “ tified spirit of wine, in which half an
 “ ounce of the genuine oil of juniper or of
 “ camphire have been dissolved; continue
 “ the distillation as before twelve hours, and
 “ again on the fourth day for the same space
 “ of time; but the fire is to be regulated
 “ with more caution, otherwise a bursting
 “ of the glass will frustrate the operation.

“ The produce of these several operations
 “ is to be poured into a separating funnel,
 “ and the crude phlegm separated from it,
 “ when it is to be repeatedlyedulcorated by
 “ the *effusion* (affusion) of cold spring water.

“ The receiver is now to be again luted
 “ on, and the distillation to be continued
 “ for the space of twenty-four hours; by
 “ which final operation the Oleum Polychres-
 “ tum verum will be obtained, which is to
 “ be

“ be separated from the acid. Half an ounce
“ of this pure oil is to be added to 31 ounces
“ and a half of the pure spirit. And thus
“ is prepared the genuine Anodine Æthe-
“ rial Spirit, which may either remain in its
“ limpid state, or be coloured by any of the
“ refinous woods.”

From this specification it should seem,
1st. that it undergoes four distillations, the
description of which favours more of empi-
rical trick than of chemical skill; for two
of them are, on every just chemical princi-
ple, unnecessary; and the ablution of the
acid by water, is less judicious and effectual
than the addition of alkali.

2^{dly}. Distillation is totally unnecessary, if
the æther is prepared in the most expeditious
and œconomical manner; for the oils are
soluble in æther, by simple mixture; and
there is no doubt but T. adds them in a
much larger proportion without distillation,
as in the specimen at the hospital.

3^{dly}. The reader must perceive, on peru-
sing the first Appendix, with what precision
the nature of this nostrum, and its disguising
ingredients

ingredients, had been previously ascertained ; infomuch that even an examination of the patent cannot throw any new light on the subject. The error taken notice of by the Critical Reviewers in the first volume, respecting the *oleum dulce*, was merely typographical.

4thly. If allowance be made for the waste of the oil of juniper, or of the camphor, which is added in the third distillation, its proportion to the æther will not really be more than 1 in 100 : though it apparently constitutes 1 in 64 ; and the same observation is applicable to what T. in the true empirical cant, terms *oleum polychrestum verum*, or the sweet oil ; and therefore neither of the additions can be of any importance in a medicine the dose of which is a few drops only.

5thly. This nostrum therefore is in no essential point different from that which Mr. T. communicated to Sir J. BANKS.

The respectable authorities of professors CULLEN and BLACK will induce every candid reader to believe that neither Mr. T.'s liquor mineralis Hoffmani, nor his quack

æther, can, in any respect, have superior powers to the æther of the shops ; but that in truth they are inferior to it.

When the author read TICKELL's Xth case, his own experience in similar cases convinced him that he had been guilty of gross misrepresentation. The boy has been examined by a very respectable and judicious medical man of Bath, who found him in a state nearly bordering on idiotism, and was informed by the mother that he had from six to twelve fits daily ; and could not be left a moment by himself : How different is this from TICKELL's report !

That gentleman also examined *Mary Moore*, the subject of case XI, and was informed that she had had but one fit in ten days ; and that the medicine had certainly been of use. Candour requires that justice should be done to Mr. T. in every instance. It may be observed, however, that this was a recent case, and seems to be of that species which is termed hysterico-epileptic, in which common æther is sometimes of use as a palliative, and T.'s æther has hitherto been no more ; but in genuine and inveterate epilepsy, such as the
boy's

boy's, Mr. T.'s nostrum certainly will not succeed; and he who can discover what will —*erit magnus Apollo.*

The man who he alledged was cured of a consumption by his æther, is cured effectually; for he died lately of that disease.

On a very careful and candid enquiry into the success of Mr. T.'s remedy, it is probable that the number of cases in which it has failed is nearly, if not fully, double of those he has given to the public; and several of these unsuccessful cases are similar to those in which he deems his nostrum to be *specific* and *infallible*.

Every person, even of a moderate share of chemical knowledge, must know that no art of TICKELL, or rather of Mr. WOLFE, can render his æther more pure or powerful than the common æther duly prepared, nor will any medical man of skill believe, that any other article of the materia medica is of such superior power, as that in so small a dose of the compound it can possibly increase the activity of the æther, but the reverse.

Admitting the accuracy of Mr. TICKELL's case, his celebrated brother, GRAHAM, has

given a much greater number of strong cases of the powers of common æther; and I do, from experience, firmly believe, that it is a more powerful medicine than TICKELL's nostrum.

If Mr. TICKELL had been candid, he would have given us the cases in which his specific failed; which probably are more numerous than those in which it has succeeded. This has been proven since the last edition: A noble Lord, and several others, whom he asserts he cured, are since dead of the disease for which his nostrum was administered.

With respect to its boasted diuretic powers: besides those patients who took it at the hospital, several others have used it long without any such effect. It is well known that cremor tartari, or a draught of cyder or water, have produced a most copious diuresis in dropfies, when the most powerful diuretics have failed; and yet in other cases none of these have had the least effect; and this, for reasons obvious to every physician, must ever happen.

Now let us see what the other preparations of æther are, and we shall find that all of them

them are at least equal to TICKELL's patent medicine, most of them superior.

Dr. LEWIS's æther is, pure æther thirty ounces, oleum dulce three drams.

Dr. MORRIS, who was the first English chemist who published the method of preparing æther, used the proportion of spirit of wine three pounds, ol. vitriol three pounds six ounces; he used none of the oleum dulce; and remarks, that the addition of oil of rosemary, though it increases the quantity of the æther, it may be attended with pernicious consequences.

The reader therefore should observe, that the Doctor's remark shews that TICKELL, like all quacks, having no regard to the health or safety of the poor patients, adds oil of juniper or camphor, which are equally pernicious as the oil of rosemary, by increasing the quantity of his æther; and hence probably the disagreeable effects of this preparation on some of his patients, as will be seen presently.

Dr. LEWIS's Hoffman's anodine mineral liquor is, rectified spirits half a pound, ol. vitriol half a pound.

New London Dispensatory directs, spirit of wine and ol. vitriol equal parts, and of the ætherial spirit thereby produced twenty-four ounces, and of oleum dulce three drams.

TICKELL's receipt in the *London Medical Journal* is, of pure æther twenty-nine ounces, ol. dulce one ounce.

But in the opinion of the most eminent chemists, the oils he adds in his patent receipt are either useless or pernicious.

The author has been favoured with the following account of the inefficacy or bad effects of T.'s æther from a medical gentleman at Bath :

“ The cases that have not succeeded, and
“ which have come within my immediate
“ knowledge, are the following :

“ The boy in Horse-street, mentioned in
“ his book as cured, whom I have not seen
“ for many months, very little better—epi-
“ leptic.

“ A woman at Walcot, epileptic, not bet-
“ ter after five weeks trial.

“ A lady between 50 and 60, an ascites,
“ with shortness of breath, not better.

“ A gentleman, swelled to a considerable
“ degree, and very hypochondriac ; lessened
“ at first, but no better after a considerable
“ trial ; cured by travelling on the continent
“ for a year.

“ An old gentleman with swelled legs, and
“ great shortness of breath, very little, if
“ any, better, after a long trial ; the æther
“ affected his head so much as to hurt his
“ senses, and make him lose himself for a
“ time, for which Mr. T. ordered issues, and
“ to persevere with the æther. I have not
“ heard from this gentleman for many
“ months.

“ Mrs. S. who took the æther seven weeks
“ for an ascites, and not better, was seized
“ with violent giddinesses, for which Mr.
“ T. ordered the acet. scill. to be mixed with
“ the æther.

“ A lady about 30, with an irregular in-
“ termittent, extremely nervous, and little
“ use of her limbs, took 15 drops in a cam-
“ phor julep twice a day for two days,
“ which increased her heat so much on the
“ well day, and affected her bowels both
“ day

“ day and night with so great pain, that she
“ could not be persuaded to take any more.

“ A young lady, epileptic, after a long
“ and fair trial, received no benefit.”

The author has also received a letter from a Mr. HUNT of Loughbro', Leicestershire, from which it will appear that TICKELL has practised all the knavish tricks of a quack.

“ TICKELL'S account of Dr. BICKHAM'S
“ cure (says Mr. H.) is a studied misrepresentation, and when I declined to pay him any
“ compliments on the effects of his æther in
“ that case, he wrote me an answer very expressive of his rage and disappointment;
“ and afterwards, to my astonishment, had
“ the impudence to make use of my name
“ as a sanction to his quackery.”

III. GODBOLD'S VEGETABLE BALSAM.

A genuine copy of the patent recipe, signed by NATHANIEL GODBOLD, and witnessed by HENRY HORTH and J. ROBERTS, extracted from the Rolls of Chancery.

After

After the usual preamble, “ I, the said
“ NATHANIEL GODBOLD, do hereby de-
“ scribe, ascertain, and declare, that my said
“ invention of making and preparing the
“ said medicine, by me called GODBOLD’S
“ Vegetable Balsam, for the cure of con-
“ sumptions and disease in the lungs, is made
“ and prepared by, with, and from the fol-
“ lowing herbs, drugs, and gums: The
“ names of the herbs (from which the es-
“ sence is extracted for compounding the
“ vegetable balsam) are the following, viz.
“ 1 Thistles, 2 Mallows, 3 Yarrow, 4 Plan-
“ ton, 5 Nettles, 6 Cowslips, 7 Buers Pas-
“ tory, 8 Aron Wake Robin, 9 Maidenhair,
“ 10 Egremoney, 11 Peony, 12 Linaria, 13 En-
“ due, 14 Clemont, 15 Mandinwort, 16 Rose-
“ mary, 17 Rue, 18 Gibrumbeth, 19 Ale-
“ cost, 20 Featherfew, 21 Alkekengy, 22 An-
“ gelica Ringea, 23 Wormwood, 24 Tor-
“ mentil, 25 Sena, 26 Strawberries, 27 Red
“ Currants, 28 Black Currants, 29 Rasber-
“ ries, 30 Damifons, 31 Capficum, 32 Cice-
“ roy, 33 Elderberries, 34 Banberries, 35
“ Garlick, 36 Mirabolans, 47 Elecampaigne,
“ 38 Betony, 39 Milfoil, 40 Anniseeds, 41
“ Tamarinds,

“ Tamarinds, and 42 Bays ; the essences of
“ all which said herbs are extracted by dis-
“ tillation, and are all preserved separately
“ and apart from each other in syrups, and
“ are mixed with the following gums and
“ drugs, viz. Gum Dragon, Gum Guaiacum,
“ Gum Arabic, and Gum Canada. These
“ being dissolved in double-distilled vinegar,
“ with a quantity of storax dissolved in
“ spirits of wine, and oil of cinnamon, it
“ is bottled off, and kept full three years be-
“ fore it is fit to be administered or proper
“ to be taken as a medicine for the cure of
“ consumptions and disease in the lungs, or
“ any asthmatic complaint.”

Remarks on the above Patent Prescription.

1st. A copy of this patent recipe has been obtained at a considerable expence, as every one of them is ; though, being the property of the public, every person has a right to inspect them gratis.

2^{dly}. As medical men, being botanists, may be suspected of partiality, were they referred to, and as many women of education in this kingdom

kingdom are now become botanists, it may be more just to refer to them, or even to a common herb woman in Covent-Garden whether they ever knew or saw such extreme ignorance respecting the names of plants, as this man has manifested. For, if a carpenter did not understand the names of his own tools, it could scarcely be expected that he should understand the use of them; and therefore this miscreant quack is perhaps, of all beings on the face of the earth, the most ignorant, even more so, if possible, than Master THICKNESSE himself, though he made a blunder of the same kind.

3^{dly}. Most of the plants in this prescription are well known to every apothecary's apprentice to be totally useless for any medical purpose whatever, and especially in the manner in which he prepares them, by distillation, in which it is totally impossible that the distilled liquor can be preferable to common pump water. But even if they had any virtue, the distilled vinegar must, in many instances, destroy it.

4^{thly}. The reader will be kind enough to cast his eye over the following numbers, which

refer to particular plants, by which it will appear, that he has mentioned plants which no person, who has any knowledge of botany, can do any more than guess at, their real names being totally disguised by his ignorance, viz. 7, 14, 15, 22, 32, 34.

5thly. Some of these plants are so contrary in their nature to others, that it is impossible they can be useful in the same disease.

6thly. In all patent recipes it is absolutely necessary that the quantity of each ingredient be specified, otherwise, after the expiration of the patent, the public would be as much in the dark respecting the nature of the composition, as if they had never known a single ingredient in it; more especially as several of these ingredients are rank poisons, such as the Alkekengi,* and the Bays, the latter of which is nearly allied to the Laurel-cherry,† lately used by a man to poison his brother-in-law, for which he was hanged; and by a medical man to destroy himself.

7thly. That it is totally impossible the same remedy should be useful in the various kinds of asthma, and in consumptions; and

* *Physalis Alkekengi*.—LINN.

† *Prunus Laurocerasus*.—LINN.

therefore,

therefore, what is beneficial in the one, must be injurious in the other.

And lastly, the author of the Medical Cautions, who publishes this treatise, is so well convinced, that the remedy, as it stands in the rolls of Chancery, never cured either a confirmed asthma, or a confirmed consumption, that if NATHANIEL GODBOLD will, upon oath, declare the quantities of the several ingredients he has given in, and swear also to the faithful administration of that and no other medicine, and allow two physicians of reputation, in the city of London, to attend the effects of his medicine from the beginning, he hereby binds and obliges himself to pay one thousand pounds to the said NATHANIEL GODBOLD, upon those gentlemen declaring upon oath that the said patient was cured of a confirmed asthma or consumption by his remedy; and finally, the public is warned against the use of this medicine, which must always be useless, and often destructive, in the cases in which he recommends it; notwithstanding some very respectable persons, totally ignorant of diseases or medicine, may, by a very culpable credulity,

credulity, have allowed their names to be prostituted in testimony of cures performed by a wretched composition, which could not possibly cure the diseases it is supposed to have removed.

It may be proper to make some remarks on some other quack nostrums now well known.

KEYSER'S PILL

Is nothing else but a mercurius precipitatus per se, dissolved in distilled vinegar, and made up into pills with manna; but it is not, in point of efficacy, equal to the grey mercurial powder now in use.

LISBON DIET DRINK.

“ R. rad. farsaparil. Santal. alb. et rub. singulorum unc. iij. Glyceriz & Mezerei singul. unc. dimid. Ligni Rhodii. guaiaci. et safras. singul. unc. i. antimon. crudi, unc. ij.
 “ Misce & infunde in aquæ puræ bullientis lib. x. per horas 24. & dein coque ad lib. v. colaturæ capiat æger a lib. i. ifs. ad lib. iv. quotidie.”

It

It may here be remarked, that of this farrago the Guajacum, Sarfa, and Mezereon are the only useful ingredients; the proportion of the two former ought therefore to be increased; the latter is extremely acrid, and should be used with caution. This celebrated drink ought always to be used either with, or after a full mercurial course. It may also, thus accompanied, be very effectual in most chronic diseases of the eruptive kind.

The MONTPELIER Secret for curing the
Lues Venerea.

Put the patient into a tepid bath for an hour twice a day, or if weak only once, or only every other day, for about 50 times before the use of mercury, the patient living on spare diet, and drinking little; then rub in a double quantity of well prepared mercurial ointment to that which is used to raise a salivation, and thus continue it daily for five or six weeks: It never salivates, but goes off by the skin and kidneys.

A strong decoction of the sumach root, and of the lobelia, described by MORISON to
be

be the *Rapunculus Virginianus galeatus flore violaceo majore*, have cured both the venereal disease and the yaws.

VELNO'S VEGETABLE SYRUP

Has been analyzed, and found to be a solution of sublimite, rubbed up with honey and mucilage of gum arabic.

When a physician hears of wonderful cures performed by a quack patent remedy, he is always disappointed when, on obtaining a copy, he finds it to be a thing known to every apothecary's apprentice; or such a collection of useless rubbish, as cannot avail more in the cure of a disease, than bread pills, sheep's dung, or powder of post.

In all departments of life, quackery prevails. Hence we have *Imperial* quacks, (as the present Emperor has experienced to his cost); *legislative* quacks, who tamper with political constitutions which they do not understand; philosophical, ethical, critical, and religious quacks.

Much

Much of the eclat TICKELL's æther acquired proceeded, it is said, from a juggling connivance between him and THICKNESSE, who having his rotten toothless gums scarified by TICKELL, the whole town was told he had been cured of a dangerous discharge of blood from the lungs, by the æther, which every physician knows must have been impossible.

Females are particularly cautioned against the use of THICKNESSE's hemlock pills; for we are told in the Philosophical Transactions, No. 231, "that a certain woman having
"eaten some roots of it among parsnips,
"was immediately seized with raving madness, *talked obscenely*, and could not forbear dancing, and offered to exchange her
"cow for a bag-pipe." She must therefore, from this predilection to the bag-pipe, have been either Irish or Scotch. What a terrible disaster would this be to a delicate lady, as it is probable her posture and gesticulation must have been equally obscene as her language!

It is very probable that the quacks stole many of their nostrums from SLOANE's His-

tory of Jamaica; for he tells us, page 91, that whilst he practised there he had many, which he afterwards divulged for the good of mankind: but what seemed to take most with the ladies was his *cinnamon water*. But, notwithstanding his nostrums, some of the Doctor's patients died; and he found it sometimes difficult, though the perfection of a physician, for him to prevent the relations "from judging harshly when the patient "died." None reconciled themselves so easily as young heirs, and the buxom widows of old men.

CHAP.

C H A P. V.

*The dangerous Consequences of using QUACK
REMEDIES.*

Turn Diseases to a Commodity.—FALSTAFF.

AS almost all the remedies made use of by quacks are so powerful that, if injudiciously taken, they must become rank poisons; the purpose of this chapter is to demonstrate the great danger of using them.

Science may be termed the knowledge of universals, or abstract wisdom; and *Art* is science reduced to practice. Few even of the lower mechanical arts are destitute of scientific principles; how much more necessary therefore must they be to the practice of physic, in which we cannot safely take a single step without a scientific reference to cause and effect, in an almost infinite number of circumstances; what havock therefore must the quack make who is totally ignorant of medical analogy!

1st. A disease cannot be cured unless its nature be known. The nature of some diseases is so obscure, that even the most skilful physician finds it difficult to discover it, notwithstanding the advantage he enjoys of a regular education, and an opportunity of visiting his patient as often as he thinks proper.

But the quack rarely ever sees his patient, or, if he did, he is as incapable of knowing what his ailment is, as a cobbler would be of knowing the cause of the irregularity, or stoppage, of the movements of a watch.

It is astonishing that medicine is the only art which is supposed to require no study or application ; and yet all who employ quacks must be of that opinion, or they would not hazard their healths and lives by trusting to the most ignorant of mankind : They might as well employ a shoe-maker to build a house, or a bricklayer to make a pair of shoes ; indeed the absurdity would not be so great, because infinitely less knowledge and skill is requisite in either of those cases, than in the cure of a disease.

2^{dly}. Phy-

2dly. Physicians are often obliged to administer powerful remedies, and would certainly poison their patients, instead of curing them, did they not watch over the operation of them. But the physician knowing that there are certain symptoms which will be produced by those remedies, they must be his only guide. He therefore visits his patient frequently, enquires into these effects or symptoms. If none such have appeared, he increases his dose with caution, until they do; if the effects are too powerful, he lessens the dose, or omits it for a time, until those effects cease.

It often happens that from some peculiarity of constitution, a very small dose of a powerful medicine shall operate so severely as to endanger the life of the patient. Many persons have thus been destroyed by quack drugs; but dead men tell no tales; and whilst the public is astonished by accounts of patients they never cured, it is ignorant of the number of persons they certainly killed.

Quacks have exultingly retorted upon physicians the charge of manslaughter. Admitting

mitting the charge to be well founded, a patient can only be said to have been killed who, under proper treatment, might have been cured; for it would be very unjust to charge either the physician or the quack with killing a patient who dies of an incurable disease. But the very supposition of patients being killed is a proof that there are degrees of skill in the medical art, and therefore it is so far from being conjectural, that the man who has the highest degree of skill must necessarily cure the greatest proportion of curable diseases.

But there is a circumstance which merits very serious consideration: There are some persons who, from some peculiarity of constitution, cannot bear opium; others who are very dangerously affected by even small doses of mercury. Now it is well known, that two-thirds of quack medicines consist of one or the other of these drugs, or rather poisons. Even since A. has been in jail, he has been consulted on several occasions. His opinion was asked concerning a lady of high rank. He recommended the use of opium; but was told it never agreed; and

and yet, if this lady were to take a quack nostrum, it is ten to one but opium will be an ingredient.

But mercury is still more an edged tool, and the quacks sheet anchor. A. has known a person thrown into a dangerous salivation by two grains of calomel. Were such a person to take a quack medicine, it is twenty to one that there is mercury in it. The patient is very ill in consequence of taking this (to the patient a) poison. Where is the wretched quack reptile to be found, to remove the danger he has brought on? The fellow is probably in another quarter of the kingdom, or if he were even next door, he knows no more how to remove the bad effects, than the cobbler who soles shoes at the next stall. Thus it is that thousands are annually sacrificed to the most absurd and ridiculous infatuation.

Allowing this argument to be just, it may be asked, who is most likely to cure the greatest proportion of patients, or kill the least, the physician who has been for years engaged in the study and practice of a very difficult art, or the quack, who is so far
from

from having studied it, that he does not even know the names of his tools,* and who may yesterday have been a cooper, and to-morrow a doctor?

It may be asked, if quacks are so totally ignorant, how happens it that they cure any patients? The answer is ready: If you put a sword into the hand of a madman, blind-fold him, and set him loose in a croud, it is more than an even chance that he kills or wounds some unfortunate persons within his reach. So the quack, possessed of one powerful drug, which he tells you will cure a hundred diseases, it would indeed be wonderful if it does not accidentally cure some of them, though it may either destroy, or be of no benefit, to the greater number of those who use it. If physicians could pursue the practice of physic with as much safety and success, without what is termed a medical education, they have employed their time

* That blundering blockhead THICKNESSE does not know that cicuta and hemlock are the same plant, though the hemlock is one of the drugs he uses; and he confounds the hemlock with the hellebore, with as much propriety as he might his quondam tool the *adze* with a hand-saw.

and money to very little purpose: But to prove that medical education is necessary, a familiar instance may be employed.

A watch-maker ought to know the mechanism of that curious instrument a watch, otherwise he cannot rectify its defects; so ought the physician the structure of the human body; therefore *anatomy* is indispensably necessary: Do quacks ever study anatomy? The watch-maker ought to know the size of every part of the machine: This is adequate to the *physiology*, or that branch of knowledge respecting the animal frame, by which the physician knows the functions or offices of the several organs, and the relation they bear to each other, and also all differences which arise from age, sex, constitution, and way of life, so that every person may be said to have a particular kind or degree of health. If the quack is not an anatomist, he cannot be a physiologist.—The watch-maker, on inspecting a watch which goes irregularly, or whose movements are stopped, ought to determine precisely what is the cause of its disease: So the physician studies the pathology and nosology of the human

I i

body,

body, or the general causes of disease, and the nature of particular diseases. Does the quack know any thing of these branches? He does not even know what they mean; they are Greek terms, and the quack knows not even his own language.

The watch-maker must know the means of curing the defects of the machine; this is analogous to the study of the materia medica, chemistry, and pharmacy, so essentially necessary to a physician. The quack has indeed a particular nostrum; but of the nature and operation of its ingredients he is totally ignorant. He has had it perhaps from his grandmother; or he has stolen it from a dispensatory. But were he even to know all its qualities, that would avail him little, because there is so intimate an affinity between all the branches of medicine, that an ignorance of any one branch must create a deficiency in all the others: What, then can be said of the quack who is ignorant of every branch? As it is of the utmost importance that this matter be well understood, because it may contribute to save the
lives

lives of thousands, a familiar example shall be laid before the intelligent reader.

A person is seized with a *cough*, and there are twenty quack nostrums, stolen from the regulars, which we are told will infallibly cure it; and were there only one kind of cough, it is possible that one or other of these might be of use; but as there is such a variety of this *symptom*, for it cannot be called a disease, depending on different, and even opposite causes, it is evident that what would be beneficial in one, would be injurious in another.*

If a skilful physician be employed, what are the steps he would take to relieve his patient? He must first know the cause of this symptom.

From *anatomy* he knows the structure of the lungs, which being, as he is taught by

* TICKELL, the Bath quack, in his first advertisements of his nostrum æther, declared that it cures all diseases of the stomach; but the author of the Medical Cautions having exposed the ignorance of this quack, and the absurdity of the assertion, the diseases of the stomach being as opposite in their nature as chalk and cheese, he changed his tone.—The patent receipt for this æther has been given in a former chapter.

physiology, one of the organs of breathing, they must, either directly or indirectly, be affected by cough, which always disturbs the breathing.

But as he proceeds in his enquiry, as there are many causes of cough, he may find much difficulty in fixing on the right cause; for it may be a fault of the lungs themselves, either from inflammation, consumption, asthma, or rheumatism, &c. it may be owing to gouty or other fluctuating matter falling on the lungs, or it may be what is commonly called nervous; but he knows that cough may also proceed from a fault of some other organs, whilst the lungs are free from any complaint: As from some disorder of the upper part of the wind-pipe, throat, stomach, bowels, &c. from dropsey of the breast, cutting of teeth, worms, &c.

If he is still uncertain, he considers the age, habit of body, and mode of life, together with the present state of the weather, and to what diseases the patient was formerly subject; as an enquiry into all these circumstances may assist him.

Having

Having determined the nature of the disease, he proceeds to form, from this circumstance, an accurate idea of what will be the issue; whether, for instance, the disease is curable or incurable; (quacks know nothing of incurable diseases); whether it will be rapid or slow in its progress; and whether it will end in perfect recovery, or in another disease.

This branch of medicine, termed *prognostic*, is a most essential requisite, and distinguishes the skilful physician from the ignorant quack, who never can form a proper judgment of the event, because he is destitute of the necessary principles of this art; and yet it is impossible he can cure the disease without it, unless by chance.

The physician, from the consideration of all the preceding circumstances, taken separately and together, forms his plan of cure; but what plan can the quack form? The physician runs over in his mind all the different classes of remedies, and chuses those that are fittest for his purpose; the quack has but one solitary remedy. The physician watches daily over the effects of his remedies,

dies, increascs or lessens their doses, or even changes them, as circumstances shall require. From their effects he may acquire a more correct knowledge of the disease; or if it should change its form, or new symptoms arise, he changes his plan accordingly.

Does not the discerning reader see the impossibility of the quack's ability to make any use of any of these indispensably necessary resources; ignorant, perplexed, and confounded, if any new change should arise, he neither knows the cause of it, or how to remedy it, especially if it should arise from the injudicious use of his only nostrum; for he knows nothing else that will remedy it.

In proof of what is here alledged, a few instances, out of many more, shall be mentioned.

A wealthy Wiltshire farmer, contrary to the author's desire, applied to CHITTICK. His soap lees threw him into a putrid fever, for which this wretched quack bled him, and he returned to his own house just time enough to breathe his last. It is evident that this fellow knew not the effects of his
own

own nostrum, otherwise he would not have continued it ; and the only means he used to remove its dangerous effects, was the most improper he could possibly think of, and therefore hastened his death.

MEYERSBACH undertook the cure of a celebrated city magistrate and his wife. He put them upon a profuse use of lemon juice, and spare diet, with the use of some of his dangerous nostrums. Though an apothecary's apprentice could have discerned that he was undermining the powers of life, he persevered : She was suddenly destroyed, and the husband died of the effects of a broken constitution.

GODBOLD'S *Balsam* has been trumpeted forth as an infallible cure of every kind or degree of consumption. In no one instance of real consumption hath this drug ever been of use, so far as the author has remarked ; in some it exasperated all the symptoms, and shortened the patient's life. Even in a common cough, which was ignorantly deemed a consumption, it brought on an alarming shortness of breath, which, together with the cough,

cough, were cured by vomits and a dose or two of mercury.

Were I to enumerate all the instances, within my own knowledge, of the dangerous and fatal effects of a misapplication of the most powerful of these nostrums, the detail would be almost incredible: a few instances may suffice.

JAMES'S *Powder*, though confessedly beneficial in certain stages of inflammatory diseases, has, not unfrequently, vomited, purged, or sweated to death, persons labouring under low, malignant, and putrid fevers, who might have been saved by a liberal use of bark, snake-root, and wine.

The celebrated Dr. GOLDSMITH was destroyed by an injudicious use of JAMES'S *Powder*; and notwithstanding JAMES'S assertion, that it had been found beneficial in the malignant yellow fever of hot climates, the reverse is undoubtedly true.

The habit of taking JAMES'S *Analeptic Pills*, since *bilious* diseases have become *fashionable*, has irreparably injured many constitutions, by creating a necessity for the frequent use of purges, which, in most of the cases in which
they

they are used, are not much less deleterious than the most virulent poisons.

TURLINGTON'S *Drops*, given imprudently in colics, have brought on fatal inflammation of the bowels and kidneys. How many unhappy infants have been lulled into fatal sleep by GODFREY'S *Cordial*! and how many persons have been thrown into dangerous salivations by MAREDANT'S *Drops*!

From what has been said, it is to be hoped that the intelligent reader will acknowledge the justice of the preceding and the following remarks; and pay some regard to the candid remonstrances of a person who has retired from the practice of his profession, and can have no other motive than the benefit of his fellow subjects; and who, during a course of more than forty years extensive practice, has had manifold occasions of deploring the fatal consequences of confiding in the most ignorant, and the most knavish of mankind.

The truth of the following inferences, therefore, must be admitted:

1st. That the practice of physic requires extensive knowledge, and much sagacity.

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2^{dly}.

2dly. That though the most skilful may err, *they only* can be qualified to correct their own errors, by attentive observation, and close reasoning, whilst the quack is neither capable of either discerning or rectifying his own blunders, totally deficient as he must be in respect to every principle, on which he can either reason or judge.

3dly. That as quacks are totally ignorant of every branch of medical education, the more powerful their remedies, the greater the mischief which may arise from them in unskilful hands.

4thly. That, as the patients who use quack medicines, are equally ignorant of their own diseases and constitutions, they cannot make use of them without extreme hazard; and therefore that thousands have paid the penalty of their credulity and rashness, by ruined health, or premature death.

C H A P. VI.

PUNISHMENT *of* QUACKS.

THE legislature of this kingdom, convinced of the destructive consequences of empirical practice, has enacted laws for the prevention of it ; and at certain periods, quacks have been punished with severity, and peculiar marks of ignominy ; but they have, of late years, become unusually bold and insolent, partly from the sordid and shameful practice of granting them patents ; and partly in consequence of the medicine act ; inasmuch, that one of them, in a pamphlet he lately published,† asserts, that he and his brethren

† *Strictures on Adair's Medical Cautions, by S. Freeman, M. D.*

practise under royal and parliamentary authority.*

But this cannot be the case, because prerogative in this country cannot supersede the laws of the land, and the old law is not repealed; therefore, by exempting medicines employed in regular practice from taxation, the legislature has manifestly marked the quacks as illegal intruders: and as Parliament might not chuse to interfere directly with that branch of prerogative, by which patents are granted, sometimes for very good

* It has been alledged, by quacks and their abettors, that they cure persons who have been given up by the regulars. The allegation is not totally destitute of truth; and indeed the success of empiricism may, in some degree, be attributed to the indolence, timidity, or injudicious despondency, of regular practitioners; who, being disappointed of their expectations from the common routine of practice, are either too indolent, or too timid, to avail themselves of such expedients as shall be adequate to the singularity or urgency of the case; and by precipitantly declaring patients to be incurable, before they have made every possible effort, force them to have recourse to empirics, whose temerity being equal to their ignorance of consequences, they *sometimes* succeed by a bold use of remedies, which, *being pilfered from regular practice*, might certainly be more safely and successfully employed by men of skill.

purposes;

purposes ; they deemed it more eligible to convert the *misapplication* of that power in favour of quacks, into a beneficial increase of the revenue. But “ none (as the late Lord “ *Chesterfield* observed on the gin act) ever “ heard of a tax on theft or burglary, because a tax implies a licence ;” for the same reason, quackery, being a dangerous evil, should not have been taxed, but absolutely prohibited under the most severe penalties ; for vice ought not to be tolerated in a good government, but rigorously suppressed.

But if the college of physicians had, in consequence of the authority vested in them, punished these interlopers, quack medicines could not now have been an object of taxation. The practice of medicine in this kingdom is on a most miserable footing ; and nothing but a thorough reformation of it can remedy the manifold evils which result from its present state ; nor can there be an object of greater political magnitude, or more worthy of the interposition of the legislature, than the establishment of such regulations as, by confining each department of medicine
to

to its proper province, may effectually eradicate empiricism.

That this is practicable is manifest from the effects of the wise regulations established by that great princess the *Empress of Russia*; by which quackery has been totally annihilated in that most extensive empire; and it may justly be affirmed, that there are more quacks in *England* than in all the rest of Europe.

Divinity, law, and physic, are justly deemed *learned* professions, and legislative authority has limited the *regular* exercise of those professions to such persons *only* as are qualified by a regular education. But though the benign spirit of toleration has *permitted* religious empiricism, and *jolly* has countenanced *medical quackery*, the courts of Westminster have wisely excluded *ignorance* from the bar.

But though no man of common sense would rely on an *enthusiastic cobbler* for instruction concerning his moral and religious duties; or employ a *taylor* to defend his property in Westminster-hall; yet, *strange infatuation!* many persons, not destitute of common

common sense in other respects, daily trust their lives and healths to *miscreant nostrum-mongers*, who are as little qualified to practise physic, as a cobbler is to preach, or a taylor to plead a cause.

But as it may be deemed an act of injustice to any man who claims the merit of an invention, to deprive him of the reward of his ingenuity, I would propose, that every person who has invented an useful remedy should, on oath, deliver the prescription to three members of the colleges of physicians of Britain or Ireland, appointed by their respective legislatures, and that, after a fair trial of its efficacy, a reward be voted by parliament.

There is nothing novel in the proposition; as something similar was done in the case of Mrs. STEVENS's medicines.

Or should it be alledged, that physicians may not report candidly on the result, some members of the Royal Society might be joined with the medical men, as has been very judiciously directed by the French king in the case of animal magnetism.

If such a regulation should be adopted, it would be necessary to suppress the *nostrum-mongers*,

mongers, by enforcing, with rigour, all the laws enacted for that purpose; and should the other regulations which I shall take notice of, be carried into execution, I am firmly persuaded, that many of the most valuable members of the community, now annually lost, would be saved to their families, and to the great emolument of the nation.

The legislators in almost every civilized society have considered quacks as pests; and have therefore enacted penal laws for the suppression of quackery.

The colleges of physicians were instituted in different kingdoms of Europe, to examine all persons who undertook the practice of the art, inspect all drugs in the apothecaries shops, and destroy such as were unfit; and there can be no doubt but their power extended to the examination of nostrums; and on their report, the venders were subject to severe penalties.

In the reign of James I. an order of council, grounded on a former law, was issued for the apprehension of all quacks, in order to their being examined by the censors of
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the college of physicians. On that occasion several mountebanks, water-casters, ague-charmers, and venders of nostrums, were fined, imprisoned, and banished.

Many of these wretches assumed the character of Conjurers; and in RYMER's *Fœdera*, vol. 16, p. 168, there is a pardon granted by James the First to one SIMON READ, Professor of Physic, who was indicted for practising the black art, by the invocation of evil spirits, for the purpose of discovering the person who stole a sum of money; and these fellows sometimes insinuated, that the excellence of their remedies depended much on their communication with evil spirits. This READ, and one JENKINS, had stood suit six years before with the College of Physicians, and were cast for practising without licence from the College.

Another of those fellows, named doctor LAMB, a Conjurer and a Bawd, was convicted of a rape committed on one of his patients: It is suspected, that some of the present race of quacks keep apartments for the purpose of assignation; and a fellow, a noted water-caster, who, though an alien, lately pur-

chased an estate here, is supposed to have acquired much of his wealth by this very respectable employment.

Having repeatedly smarted for a direct violation of the laws, they have endeavoured of late years to evade it, by availing themselves of a power vested in the crown of granting patents for useful inventions. This has, by the sordid avarice of the officers, been shamefully abused; for it may be clearly proved, that, with respect to nostrum venders, few, if any, of their medicines could be deemed inventions, though they were obliged to annex an oath to their specifications. Of those which have been sold without the sanction of a patent, (as well as those which have) it has been found, by chemical analysis, that the most powerful are dispensatory medicines, disguised by some trifling additions; whilst others have been found to consist of the most insignificant ingredients, as pith of bread, brick-dust, sheep's-dung, &c. or, the most disgusting, as the human skull, fat, placenta, &c. the venders depending for success

cess on the strength of the patient's imagination, and the liveliness of their faith.*

Though superstitious credulity is not so prevalent in this, as in former ages, it is however far from being extinguished, as is evident from a recent instance.

The impudent imposture of a *German* quack, who lately pretended to cure diseases by animal magnetism,† induced the French king to issue an arret, which, if duly obeyed, as it probably will be in a despotic govern-

* The various pretensions and impostures of quacks afford an irrefragable proof of the extreme credulity of the English nation. In the last century the famous Sir KENELM DIGBY pretended to have discovered a sympathetic remedy, which cured wounds *solely* by rubbing it on the instrument which inflicted it.—Another quack of that period invented pills to secure the chastity of wives; and a restorative broth for the benefit of aged husbands; and there is much reason to regret that the *invaluable* prescriptions have fallen into disuse in this age of *matrimonial* infidelity.

Whilst other great men depend on contemporaries or posterity for the celebration of their worth, the quack doctor is his own historian, and publishes in every pamphlet and newspaper, cases of cures *never* performed, and copies of affidavits never sworn to; whilst the great and small vulgar give them entire credit for their skill, their candour, and their veracity, all of which are equally respectable.

† This is only a revival of an imposition of one GREAT-RIX, the Irish stroaker, who imposed upon the credulity of the celebrated Mr. BOYLE.

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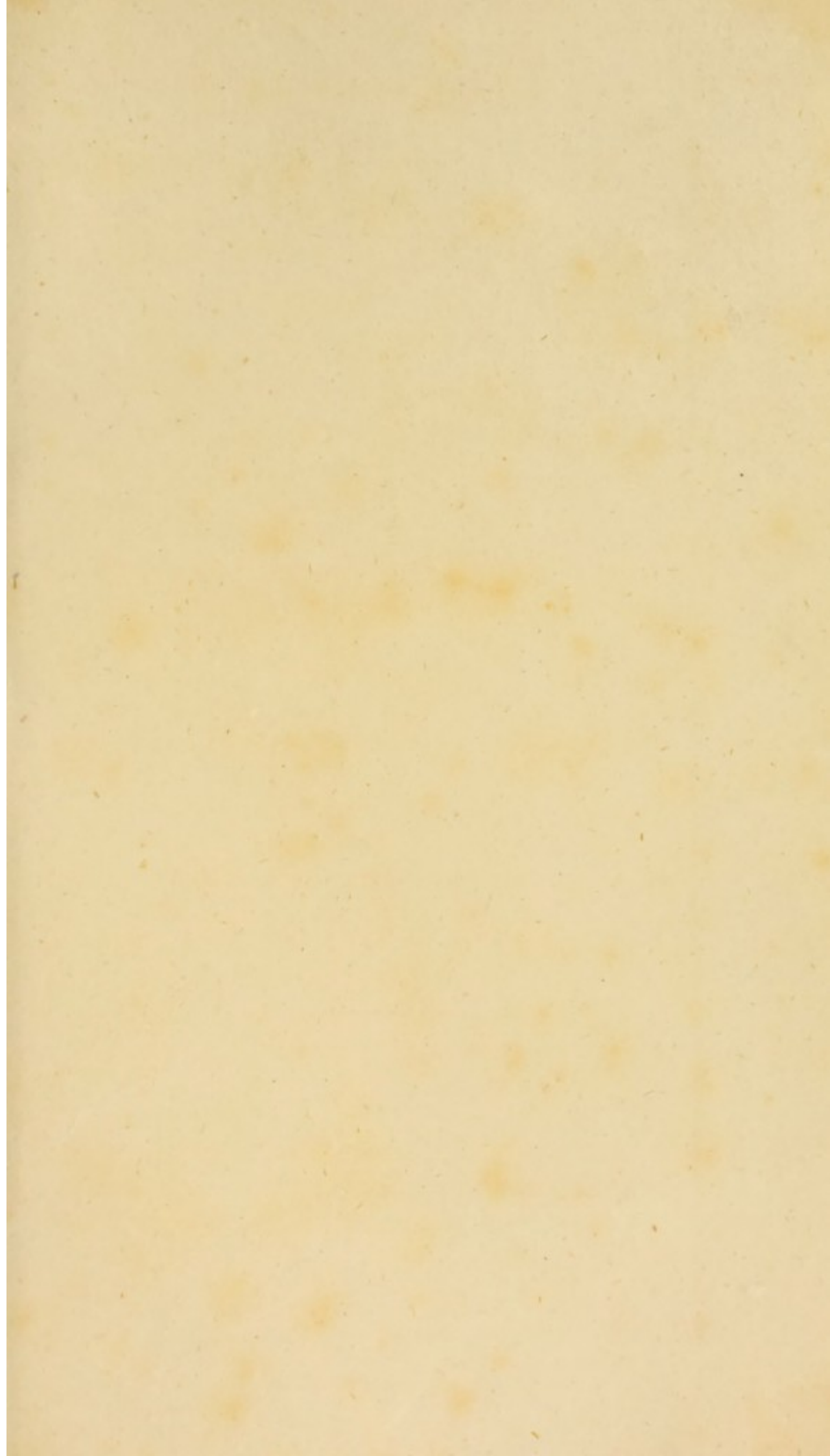
ment, must effectually suppress quackery in that kingdom.*

* Since the publication of the former edition, some of MESMER's magnetic disciples have appeared in this kingdom. A brazier, at Winchester, one MALKIN, determined to have several strings to his bow, made a journey to London to purchase the magnetic art. Having concerted measures with his wife, they contrived an expedient to evince the *miraculous* power of his art; and whilst he remained in London, she was, in the presence of several of her companions, affected, in a very extraordinary manner, by his sympathetic influence. This was sufficient to establish his credit; patients crowded to him from every quarter, and wonderful effects were attributed to his art, even by some persons whose education and rank in life ought to have rendered them less susceptible of imposition.

A learned and ingenious clergyman of that city, however, assured me that, upon a very minute enquiry, he could not discover that a single instance of relief or cure could be authenticated; and last summer I attended a patient who had been three weeks under this Brazier's care, and who returned so ill as to be now attended by two physicians.

The report of the Commissioners, of whom Dr. FRANKLIN is one, published by order of the *French* king, proves irrefragably that the whole is a gross imposition; and though a depraved imagination might sometimes be so worked upon by the *German* juggler and his pupils, as to produce *even* convulsions, yet such effects were not the result of any medical power, and might be dangerous and even fatal.

Nothing more will be necessary to destroy the credit of this new species of quackery with the learned and intelligent, than the perusal of the very candid report, which does great honour to the Commissioners; several of whom, not being medical men, could have no motive but the love of truth; and I am convinced that if other species of quackery were dispassionately examined by learned men, not of the faculty, the futility



cutting away dirty leaves

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