

**Aesculapius: a poem. Humbly inscribed to the Hon. Sir Hans Sloane, Bar't, President, the fellows and the rest of the members of the Royal College of Physicians.**

**Contributors**

Sloane, Hans, Sir, 1660-1753.  
Royal College of Physicians of London.

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HUMBLY INSCRIBED

TO THE

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir *Hans Sloane*, Bar't *President* :

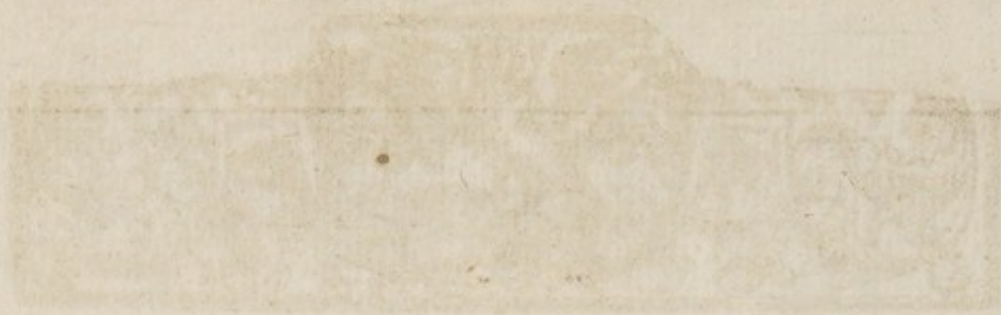
THE

*FELLOWS* and the *REST* of the *MEM-*  
*BERS* of the Royal College of  
PHYSICIANS.

L O N D O N :

Printed by *Allan Clark*, in *Blew-Anchor-yard*,  
*Rosemary-Lane*, 1721.









# *Æsculapius*, a POE.<sup>m</sup>

**T**HE *Chaos* lay in wild Confusion hurl'd,  
 Before th' *Almighty* form'd this beautiful *World*,  
 Contending *Matter* then Usurp'd its sway,  
 The lesser Force the greater Pow'r Obey :  
 Til' the Great *Architect* Himself display'd,  
 Then jarring *Elements* at Peace were laid.  
 No longer *Chaos* did it's Force maintain,  
 But o'er the whole delightful *Peace* did Reign.

From



From hence you<sup>d</sup> *azure Sky* deriv'd its Height,  
 Where *Myriads* of refulgent *Orbs* of Light,  
 Display their Beauties in the silent Night.  
 Whilst others Circling round the distant *Pole*,  
 In their transparent *Paths* of *Æther* roul,  
 Where undisturb'd their constant Course they run,  
 And there as in a *Center* fix'd the *Sun* ;  
 Transmits it's splendor to the pale fac'd *Moon*.  
 Which o'er the rowling *Billows* doth preside,  
 And by her pow'r gives Motion to the *Tide* ;  
 Whose constant Course it's perfect *Order* knows,  
 The certain Periods of its *Ebbs* and *Flows* :  
 Hence the refulgent *Sun* deriv'd it's Birth,  
 Hence sprang the early Motion of the *Earth* :  
 All these subservient to their *MAKER*'s Will,  
 Their constant Course they readily Fulfill.



In brightest Glory then th' *Almighty* stood,  
 Survey'd his *Works* and saw they all were good ;  
 Each the Result of his peculiar Care,  
 In lasting Characters themselves Declare :  
 None but a *GOD Omnipotent* could Frame  
 Creation's wond'rous *Works* which all Proclaim,  
 Th' *Eternal* sapience of his Sacred *Name*.

But when the *Trinity* at first began,  
 To Form an *Image* like it's self call'd *Man*,  
 A Pow'r *Omnipotent* was then reveal'd  
 Which from *Eternity* had lain conceal'd :  
 His wond'rous Pow'r was then conspicuous shown,  
 More then in all the *Works* before he'd done.



Man was with *Reason* clad, a living *Soul*,  
 Th' *Almighty* gave his *Passions* to controul.  
 All o're surprize, we then this *Form* behold,  
 In which Ten Thousand Wonders do themselves unfold,  
 His Nervous *Limbs* Consummate *Art* exprefs,  
 And every Motion does the fame Confess :  
 The lovely *Form* attracts the *Soul* to Gaze,  
 Such Excellence does Admiration raife ;  
 How in the curious Texture of the *Brain* ;  
 Those subtil *Spirits* do themselves Contain,  
 How the fame *Spirits* readily Convey,  
 Their quickning Aid, when they the Will Obey.  
 How various *Fluids* thro' their *Filters* move,  
 By *Perspiration* how we lighter prove,

And



And how the purple *Mass* in *Fevers* burns,  
 Why *Intermissions* have their *Fixt* returns,  
 How the great spring of *Life* it's motion shows,  
 And how the *Blood* in *Circulation* Flows,  
 How different *Ferments* their effects produce,  
 Where the secretion of the *Bilous* juice.

Why busy *Nature* forms the *Silver* *Chile*,  
 How in meander'd *Tracts* it moves a while ;  
 'Till by *Progressive* motion gently prefs'd,  
 It's kindly by the *Crimson* *Flood* embrac'd.  
 How the peculiar *Structure* of the *Glands*,  
 With wondrous *Texture* form'd by *Natures* Hands,  
 Have each their different *Use* and *Pow'r* assign'd,  
 How *Fluids* flow from thence of different kind,  
 Themselves divide and are again conjoyn'd.

With



With transport next *we* view the beautiful Eye,

That radiant *Orb* form'd by the *Diety*.

See its *Spheroidal* Shape, its lucid *Coat*,

Contain'd in which, the visive Humours Float :

How by united *Rays* of purest *Light*,

Objects transmitted there compose the *Sight*.

*Britain* with distant *Nations* may contend,

Superior *Art* and *Skill* her *Sons* attend,

In every *Science* they have brightly Shin'd,

Some to Affairs of *State* their thoughts contin'd :

Like faithful *Patriots* of their *Countries* good,

When threatening Dangers prest have firmly stood.

Whilst



Whilst others have pursu'd the awful *Bar*,  
 And there alone have center'd all their Care.  
 Others in Speculations soar on High,  
 And view Creation's *Glory* in the ample *Sky* ;  
 Some have describ'd the distance of the *Stars*,  
 Fixt and Revolving round the *Heav'nly Spheres*,  
 From thence foretell when Devastation's near,  
 When fatal *Comets* will again appear.  
 Others in too Mysterious paths have trod,  
 To comprehend the *Essence* of a *GOD* ;  
 Vain wicked *Man* who thus attempts to pry,  
 Into th' Mistic *Union* of the *Trinity*.

Some with assiduous Care themselves apply,  
 To study *Nature* in her purity.



*Others* the surface of the verdant *Fields*  
 Ranfack, to fearch what *Treasures Nature* yields.  
 The rest from fragrant *Shrubs* their *Gumms* collect,  
 And fecret qualities of *Plants* inspect.  
 Whilst others *Nature's* fertil *Womb* explore,  
 And glittering *Beds* unveil of fhining *Ore*.  
 There *Metals* undifturb'd fe curely reft,  
 Til' *Man* by avaritious *Temper* prefs'd,  
 Tears up the *Bowels* of the horrid *Gloom*  
 From whence Rich *Gemms*, and tempting *Gold* do's come.  
 Thus Worldly *Men* by their repeated *Toils*,  
 Plunder the Teeming *Earth* of richeft *Spoils*.  
 Man's reftlefs *Soul* to diftant views doth tend,  
*Projects* on *Projects* forms to gain his *End* ;

O're



O're raging *Seas* to visit *Climes* unknown,  
 Some have on fruitless Expeditions gone,  
 Others from thence convinc'd have ceas'd to Roam,  
 And by prudential Caution stay'd at Home.

Thus *Men* by different Inclinations led,  
 By *Reason* govern'd, or by *Passion* sway'd,  
 Form to themselves Designs of different views,  
 Which they thro' all their various Ways pursue.  
 To trace the *Heav'nly* Bodies some aspire,  
 And their bright *Souls* with Emulation Fire ;  
 Hence they recount the Causes, how they move,  
 Why some are *Fixt* and why the rest do *Roze*.

Why



Why some at certain Seasons of the Year ?  
 Display themselves so soon to Disappear :  
 How thole *Celestial Orbs of Light* dispence ?  
 Their secret *Pow'r* and doubtful *Influence* ?  
 How they unite their *Force* when they're combin'd ?  
 To dart their fatal *Rays* on human kind.  
 By learned Arguments the Wonders clear'd,  
 Consummate *Judgment* has the *Cause* declar'd.  
 Others from *Particles* of *Matter* joyn'd,  
 From *nitrous Bodies* in the *Air* contin'd ;  
 Have told how purest *Snow* and Storms of *Hail*,  
 By their alternate Changes do prevail.  
 How from the *Sun's* attractive *Pow'r* the *Main* ?  
 A Part resigns to make the fruitful Rain,

How



How the same *Rain* from burthen'd *Clouds* descends?  
 And to the thirsty *Earth* refreshments lends.  
 How lowly *Shrubs* and lofty *Cedars* stand?  
 Secure from Storms by *Nature's* strengthening Hand;  
 How the nutritious Juice to them's convey'd?  
 Why these for *Sight* and those for *Use* were made?  
 The Yearly Tribute of the grateful *Spring*,  
 From *Nature's* Lap does fragrant *Odours* bring:  
 Which thro' the Breezes of refreshing *Air*,  
 To languid *Spirits* gives a Quick repair.  
 Others the Healing pow'r of *Plants* do try,  
 And by Experience taught, the same Apply  
 To *Human Nature*, when o'er power'd with *Ills*,  
 Or when oppressive Weight her *Fabrick* Feels.



When latent *Causes* touch the curious *Spring*,  
 Of *Nature's Frame*, and do disorders bring :  
 Or when the *Sinewy Limbs* their force unbend,  
 Or to irregular contractions tend,  
*Convulsions* make her noble *Fabrick* quake,  
 And *Nature* thus oppress'd her *Pillars* shake,  
*Volumes* on *Volumes* are with *Skill* Compos'd,  
 The which the Healing pow'r of beautiful *Plants* disclose.

Thus *Man* to serve his Fellow-Creature strove,  
 And in expressive Terms declar'd his Love ;  
 He to the wond'ring *World* aloud doth tell,  
 Where the Infirmities of *Nature* Dwell.

On



On what the brittle Thread of *Life* depends,  
 And how Ten Thousand Accidents attend  
*Nature's Oeconomy*, how latent *Fires*,  
 Exert their raging *Force*, til' *Nature's* self expires.  
 And why the *Sulphur* of the *Blood* deprest,  
 The moving *Fluids* do the same infest.  
 How constant *Floods* of *serous Humours* Glide?  
 Thro' all the *Channels* of the *Purple Tide*?  
 And how its wat'ry *Mass* the *Form* distends?  
 And the soft *Texture* of the *vessels* rends.  
 Others from *Practical Experience* tell,  
 When too much *Sulphur* in the *Mass* does dwell:  
 How by progressive *Fermentations* there?  
 Tho' slow it moves, yet doth the *Man* impair.



*Others* the secret paths of *Nature* trace,  
 Unveil the darkned *Womb* of *Human Race* :  
 Where *Matter* in minuteſt *Forms* they view,  
 Where fruitful *Nature* does her Work purſue.  
 Thus each Excelling in a different *Art*,  
 Treasures of *Learning* to the *World* impart.  
 From us their *Labours* claim a due Reward,  
 And to their *WORKS* we owe a juſt Regard.

*PHYSICK* when Firſt it's *Infant Face* was ſeen,  
 With *Innocence* aray'd it's humble *Mein* ;  
 Declar'd the Beauty of it's *Native Drefs*,  
 Then *Simples* chiefly did the *Art* Exprefs ;  
 Succeed-



Succeeding *Ages* that Defect repair'd,  
 And by revolving *Time* Experience clear'd  
 A brighter Path, in which th' aspiring *Mind*,  
 Not to the *Herbage* of the *Field* confin'd ;  
 Might Form exalted *Schemes* deriv'd from thence,  
 More healing Compounds to the *World* dispence.

So curious *Artists* when they Form a *Plan*,  
 In due Proportion every *Line* they Scan,  
 Each *Artful* stroke a different Way they try,  
 To Form from thence a perfect *Symetry*.  
 But as the *Building* rears it's awful Head,  
 The Learned *Artist* by Experience lead ,  
 Plots and Contrives some Alteration there,  
 By which the *PILE* more sumptuous may appear.



*Britainia's* Happy *SON's* her Blessing<sup>s</sup> Share,  
 And the *Learn'd Faculty* their *SKILL* declare,  
 Assisted by a *Providential* Care.

But *YOU* Great *SIRS*, on whom indulgent *Heav'n*  
 With bounteous Hand so large a Share hath giv'n ;  
 Of healing *Skill* to which is join'd Success,  
 In the Mysterious *Art You-All* Profess :  
 Each *Day* auspicious to Your *Practice* proves,  
 Such shining *Merit* greatest *Honour* gives.  
 The Poor *afflicted* with impatience Mourn,  
 Til' *Health* by Your *Prescriptions* doth return.  
 Crown'd with success they each the Blessing feel,  
 As *Heav'n* propitious doth to *You* Reveal,  
 How by Your *Art* You may their suff'rings Heal,  
 Man-



*Mankind* for this their humble *Tribute* Pay,  
 To Your Great *Names* when they Your *Works* survey.  
 Tho' You in *Grandeurs Orb* sublimely shine,  
 Yet Labour for the Good of all *Mankind*.  
 So doth the *Sun* from lofty *Clouds* dispence,  
 On all it's *Rays* and quickning *Influence*.  
 May *Others* from Your bright *Examples* learn,  
 Each in the different *Sphere* of *Life* discern :  
 That *Worldly Grandeur* doth the *Virtues* try,  
 But to be *Great* and *Good* is true *Humility*.

# F I N I S.

The Author not having an opportunity of attending the  
 relies upon the friendship of the kind Reader to correct  
 with his Pen the many Erratas and false pointing, and  
 the Printer hath been guilty of.



Yours truly, J. W. L.

To the Great Powers, when they shall be ready

to see You in the midst of the world

for the sake of the world

to do the work of the world

On all the world and the world

May God be with You, your bright

face in the midst of the world

That world, God and the world

But to be God and God is the world

F I N I S