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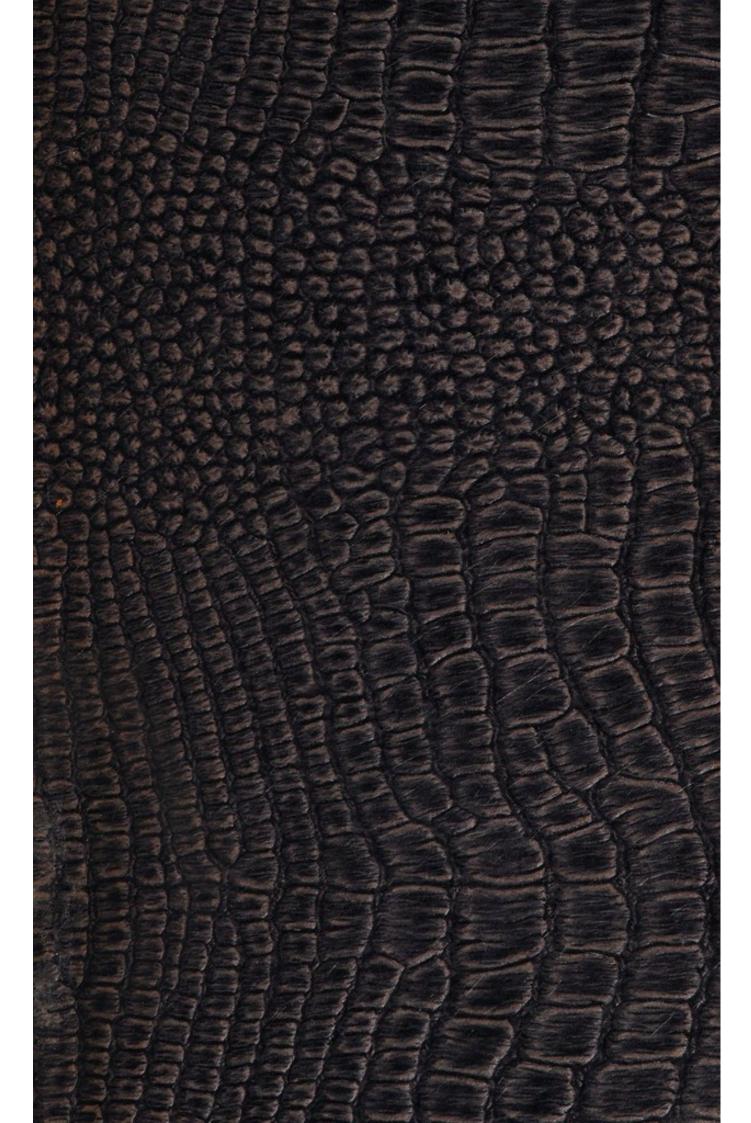
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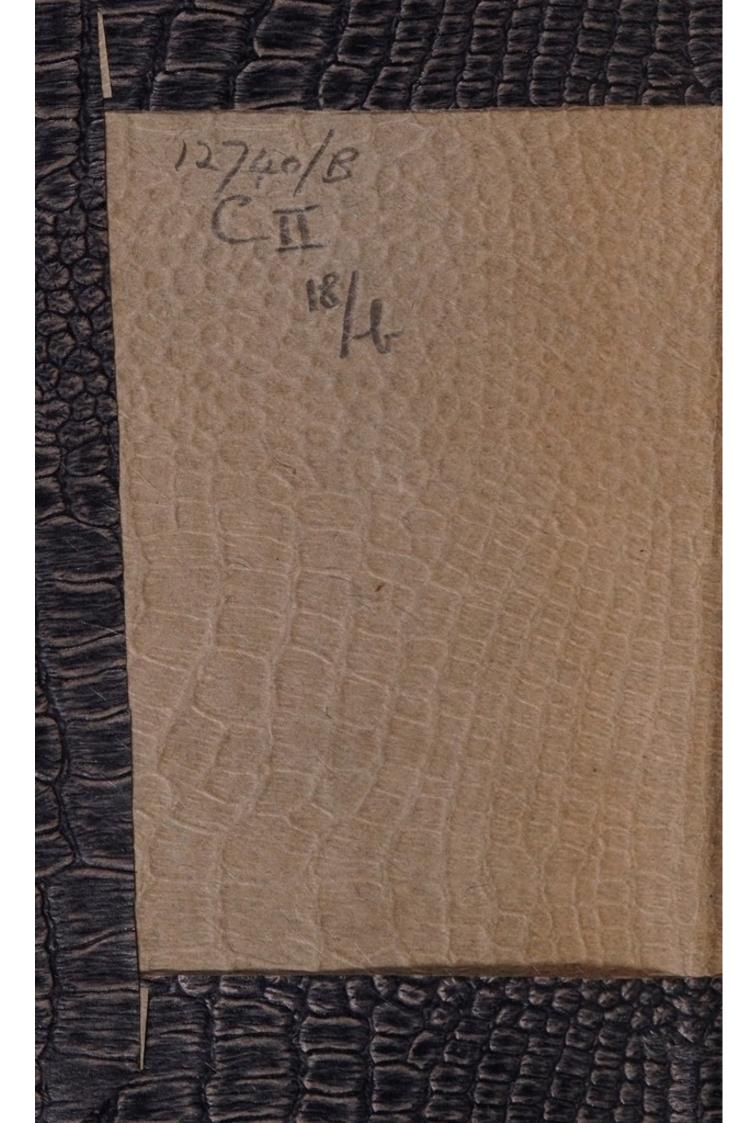
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# HEALTH,

A

P.OE M.

HEALTH,

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POEM.

# HEALTH,

A

POEM.

SHEWING

How to PROCURE, PRESERVE, and RESTORE it.

To which is annexed,

The Doctor's Decade.

By EDWARD BAYNARD, M.D.

The SIXTH EDITION.

## LONDON:

Printed and fold by J. ROBERTS, near the Oxford-arms in Warwick-lane. 1750.

[Price Sixpence.]

ITICS BIRTH EDITI ted and fold by J.Rossars, near the L. aford-arins in Was wick-land, 1750. [Price Sixpence.]

### THE

## PREFACE.

IT was an usual saying of the great Lord Verulam, That not one man of a thousand died a natural death; and that most diseases had their rise and origin from intemperance. Therefore,

Unerring Nature learn to follow close,
For quantum sufficit is her just dose.
Sufficient clogs no wheels, and tires no horse;
Yet briskly drives the blood around the course,
And hourly adds unto its wastes, supplies,
In due proportion to what's spent, and dies:
Whilst surfeiting corrupts the purple gore,
And bankrupts Nature of her long-liv'd store.
And thus the soul is from the body tore
Before its time:
Which, by a temperate life, in a clean cell,
Mightfulla hundredyears with comfort dwell,
And drop, when sipe, as nuts do slip the shell.

And twisted strength, its fibres wear away.

As close wove garments of a strong-spun thread,

The woof frets out, and tears away the web:

So soul and body, tho' ne'er so well conjoin'd,

The longer that they wear, the more they grind;

Then the crack'd organ must impair the mind.]

All finite things tend to their own undoing;

But man alone's industrious to his ruin;

For what with riot, delicates, and wine,

Turns pioneer, himself to undermine.

Besides the hidden snares laid in our way,

The sudden deaths we hear of every day,

The smoothest paths have unseen ambuscades,

And insecurity, security invades.

For no man knows what's the next hour's event:

Man lives as he does die, by accident.

How soft is flesh, how brittle is a bone!

Time eats up steel, and monuments of stone;

And from his teeth art thou exempt alone?

What warrant hast thou that thy body's proof

Against the anguish of an aching tooth?

How soon's a fever rous'd by acute pains?

The smallest ails have all their partizans;

And in intestine wars they may divide,

And life's deserters list on the wrong side.

Diseases, like true blood-hounds, seize their dam,

And prey upon the carcass whence they sprang.

Be always on thy guard, watchful and wise,

Lest death should take thee napping by surprise.

Drunkenness and gluttony steal men off silently and fingulatim; whereas fword and pessilence do it by the lump: but then death makes a halt, and comes to a cessation of arms; but the other knows no stop nor intermission, but perpetually jogs on, and depopulates insensibly, and by degrees. And though this is every day experienced, yet men are so inslaved by custom and a long habit, that no admonition will avail. So true is that saying, That he that goes to the tavern at first for the love of the company, will at last go thither for the love of liquor. And therefore 'twas excellent advice our ingenious author gave his godson.

Pass by a tavern-door, my son;
This sacred truth write on thy heart;
'Tis easier company to shun,
Than at a pint it is to part.

For one pint draws another in,

And that pint lights a pipe;

And thus in the morn they tap the day,

And drink it out ere night;

Not dreaming of a sudden bounce,

From vinous sulphurs stor'd within;

Which blows the drunkard up at once,

When the fire takes life's magazine.

An apoplexy kills as fure

As cannon-ball, and oft as foon;

And will no more yield to a cure,

Than murd'ring chain-shot from a gun.

Why should men dread a cannon-bore, Yet boldly 'proach a pottle-pot? That may fall short, shoot wide, or o'er; But drinking is the surer shot.

How many fools about this town

Do quaff and laugh away their time,

And nightly knock each other down,

With claret-clubs of no-grape wine;

Until a dart from Bacchus' quiver,

As Solomon describeth right,

Does shoot his tartar thro' the liver?

Then (bonus noscius) so t good night.

Good wine will kill as well as bad,

When drank beyond (our nature's) bounds.

Then wine gives life a mortal stab,

And leaves her welt'ring in her wounds:

Wounds! that no physic art can heal, And very rarely that they feel The stroke, the moment it does kill.

Many a foul with great difficulty lugs on a weak and worn out carcafs to its daily rendezvous, who perhaps for many years has been nothing else but the vintner's conveyancer, to carry his liquors between the hog shead and the piss-pot.

But when, alas! men come to die,

Of dropfy, jaundice, stone, and gout;

When the black reckoning draws nigh,

And life (before the bottle)'s out;

When (low drawn) time's upon the tilt,

Few fands and minutes left to run,

And all our (past gone) years are spilt,

And the great work is left undone;

When restless Conscience knocks within,
And in despair begins to bawl,
Death, like a drawer, then steps in,
And asketh, Gentlemen! d'ye call?

I wish that men would timely think
On this great truth in their full bowls,
Both I and Will of Ludgate-hill,
And all our friends round Paul's.

When a man's distempers stare him in the face, and he is summoned to lay down his dust; he, alas! then sees the folly of his ways, and what a miserable purchase he has made with his mis-spent time, health, and money; and, like a malesactor at the gallows, makes some short speech of warning to his companions; who give him the hearing, and perhaps are drunk with his own claret at his funeral.

But, alas! the destruction of himself is the least part of the tragedy. The mischief is struck deeper, and entails hereditary diseases on his innocent posterity, to the eternal infa-

my of his name and family; when the poor offspring of his wretched carcass inherits nothing but the schedule of his distempers, and dwindles away a miserable life, in pills, plaisters, and potions. I wish that men may think of this, and prize and preserve a good constitution and stock of health before it be too late.

I cannot better close this epistle, than as the same author observes the old Romans to have done to their friends.

Cura ut valeas: for health once gone,

All comforts perish with it, and are none:

Riches and honour, music, wine, and wit,

Wax stat and tasteless with the loss of it.

Could youth but see with gouty old mens eyes,

One stretch upon their back would make 'em

wise,

And drunkenness (the damn'd first cause) despise.

But such is giddy youth's unhappy fate, When crippl'd and nail'd down, are wise too late. Unhappy man! that drinks his own undoing.

As the his business were, to pledge his ruin.

And that brave texture his sound parents knit,

With pipe and pot he does unravel it;

As if the gods in anger gave him wealth,

To sacrifice to Bacchus youth and health.

Health of all earthly blessings 'tis the best,

Which most is valu'd when 'tis least possess.

# E S S A Y

TO

# A RULE of HEALTH.

# The DEFINITION.

Ealth is a free, easy, and perfect enjoyment of all the faculties of mind and body to due performance of the animal functions, without any impediment, pain, or molestation.

## Which is thus to be attained.

F twice man's age you would fulfil,

Let Reason guide you, not your Will;

Let all the passions of the soul

Be subject unto her controul.

She checks all rashness, and gives time

To think, and rethink each design.

A

Those that do thus before they act,
'Tis rarely seen, repent the fact.
This makes an easy, quiet mind,
(The greatest blessing of mankind);
And he that in this bliss does share,
Enjoys a ray of heaven here.

Fly all excess, and first take care
Of wine and women to beware.
Sport, dally and tattle with 'em rarely,
And marry not a wife too early.
Stay till you're grown, and joints are knit,
And you have money got and wit.
For he that weds before he's wise,
Is shackled by a fool's advice.
Alas! then he may see his fate,
And feel it too, when 'tis too late.

In fingle life, live pure and chaste,

Lest from your face your NOSE you cast.

And is it not a great disgrace,

To lose the boltsprit of your face?

Tho' tears and pray'rs may atone for th' sin,

Yet howlings bring no NOSE again.

So never touch forbidden fruit,

But think on NOSE when tempted to't.

Till hunger pinches, never eat; And then on plain, not spiced meat. Desist before you eat your fill,
Drink to dilute, but not to swill;
So no ructations you will feel.

Let *supper* little be, and light;
But none makes always the best night:
It gives sweet sleep without a dream;
Leaves morning's mouth sweet, moist, and clean.

A little breakfast you may eat,
But not so as to satiate.
But dinner then you must postpone
Till farther in the afternoon:
For never load fresh food upon
Your stomach, till the former's gone;
For whatsoe'er is swallow'd thus,
Turns putrid and cadaverous;
And taking more than Nature needs,
Of most distempers are the seeds.

Accustom early in your youth
To lay embargo on your mouth;
And let no rarities invite,
To pall and glut your appetite;
But check it always, and give o'er
With a desire of eating more.
For where one dies by inanition,
A thousand perish by repletion.

To miss a meal, sometimes, is good;
It ventilates and cools the blood;
Gives Nature time to clean her streets
From silth and crudities of meats:
For too much meat the bowels sur,
And sasting's Nature's scavenger.

When as your stomach nauseates,
And kecks at smell or sight of meats,
By vomit fetch away the load
Of phlegm and undigested food;
And do it soon, before it dwells
So as to tinge its tunicles,
And breed sour ferment, which begets
Unsavory belches, and sick sits,
And steams which taint the mouth and gums,
With setid smells, like ulcer'd lungs.
And, after vomits, always use
Emollients soft, to cool and smooth;
For retching makes the stomach fore,
Which lenitives will best restore.

Abound, or stagnate; then 'tis good: Which you may very eas'ly guess,
By heavy stiff unwieldiness,
Short breath, high pulse, & catera;
Then quickly take some blood away:

But more especially in stitches,

Pleuretic pains, and pungent twitches;

Then out of hand, without delay,

Take a good quantity away.

For purging I shall give no rule, But after glutt'ny and cramming full, 'Tis good to empty and to cool; Tho' forc'd evacuations are, Such as we ought to use with care, Since 'tis not known what we can spare: \* For physic drives off with the blood Some parts of the substantial good; And, if you'd keep the balance ev'n, Dame Nature must be led, not driv'n. By methods mild, and by degrees, We should relieve her grievances; As fasting, exercise, and time, And water heals the wounds of wine. But where the fever's peracute, It won't admit of long dispute. When Life's chief fortress is attack'd, Quickly confult, and quickly act;

<sup>\*</sup> Neque impune posse administrari, cum omnia præter naturam sint, ob idque naturales facultates insessent; nec possint adeo morbosas causas rescindere, quin una illis, aliquid etiam benignæ substantiæ rapiant. Galen lib. de sestis, prope sinem.

For many a life hath flipt away,

By careless trifling, and delay.

So when the case is very urging,

Spare neither vomiting nor purging,

Provided that your judgment's tight,

And take the indication right;

Ev'n then be not the only agent,

Lest a dead corpse should prove your patient;

But call in Doctors of more-skill,

Who may you cure, or help you kill:

Then let it happen as it will,

You can't be found felo de se,

If slain in learned company.

When struck in years, strong drink forbear; Especially of wine beware.

Old men of moissure want supplies,
And wine of all forts heats and dries,
Twitches and cramps their tartars give,
Hence they step short and straddle stiff;
For vinous spirits prey upon
Nutricious juice, and vital balm.

This makes them tabid, lean, and thin,
With loose, and slabby, wrinkled skin.
Water and whey, of drinks are first,
They cool, dilute, and quench the thirst;
And next to those is good small beer,
Not sour, but smart, and brisk, and clear.

A glass of gen'rous now and then.

When you are faint, your spirits low,
Your string relax'd, 'twill bend your bow,
Brace your drum-head, and make you tight,
Wind up your watch, and set you right.

But then again the too much use
Of all strong liquors, is th' abuse.
'Tis liquid makes the folids loose,
The texture and whole frame destroys;
But health lies in the equipoise.

The greatest part o'th' world's content
With Adam's ale, pure element.
And who so strong, and does more work,
Than doth the water-drinking Turk?
And when the stomach's out of order,
No cordial like a glass of water.
This, this has bassled all the slops
Of Ladies closets, and the shops.

As water's best, so 'twas the first Of liquors, made to quench the thirst Of men, of beasts, of plants, and trees; From whence they all have their increase. Its uses are too manifold, And mary'lous great, e'er to be told.

Its particles constituent Are too minute an element. Its make and texture, crasis, grain, Are too stupendiously fine For virtuoso's to descry, Tho' glasses come t'assist their eye. Cease, then, vain search! let that alone, Hid, with all effences unknown. But be content, that the Creator Has bless'd the world with so much water. It works itself (as being thin) Int' all the pores and parts within; Helps all fecretions in their uses, And fweetens sharp and sour juices; Tempers hot bile, thins viscid phlegm, And moderates in each extreme; Damps the fierce æstus of the blood, Abates the fever's boiling flood; Dilutes the falts, melts off their points, And acrid particles disjoints; And is the only liquor that Never grows eager, sharp, or flat. Give it but motion, room, and air, Its purity will ne'er impair. Experience daily shews it true, That water only this can do. All other liquors made by art, Grow rancid, vapid, four, and tart.

1

Chuse water that is cool, and thin,
Such as feels smooth, and soft to th' skin,
Looks clear, and bright, and crystalline.
The lightest water is the best,
That is without or smell or taste;
Which, standing long, yields few contents
Of scum, or clouds, or sediments;
Such as will lather cold with soap,
Tho' ne'er was sainted by the Pope,
(As Bridget, Anne, and Winifred);
For 'tis the water does the feat,
The saint's the varnish, and the cheat:
And he that has a spring like this,
Has, with good air, a double bliss.

Never give way to floth and ease,
For laz'ness is a great disease;
And when it has possession got,
It makes the man a stupid sot.
When sleep does first desert you, rise;
Next, wash the gum from off your eyes:
Cold water pure will clear the sight,
Comfort the eyes, and keep them bright.
Indulge not drowsiness, unless
It does proceed from weariness.
'Thout some satigue there's no sound sleep;
'Tis eating without appetite:

For those that start in sleep, or shake, Find small refreshment when they wake. And when you rise, approach not near A fire, except the cold's severe; And then, at distance, take the heat, Because it does inhebitate, And sloth and sluggishness induce, And spoil your natural rest by use. This custom students must avoid; For memory is by heat annoy'd, And by hard drinking, quite destroy'd. For reminiscence is strongest where The head's ferene, and cool and clear. This truth is feen in regions cold; There what they read they always hold. But 'tis the nature of a wit, Soon to invent, foon to forget; For from the brain that's hot and dry, The flight impressions quickly fly: Whereas in moist and phlegmy brains, The stamp's struck deep, and long remains. Tho', 'tis allow'd, there are some few That have good wits, and mem'ry too.

Rise early with the summer's sun, Especially when you are young: For he that early walks the sields, Takes all the sweets that Flora yields,

Just as the fun unlocks the blooms Of all their fragrant, rich perfumes. Besides, with morning air he's treated, Not by the fun-beams overheated; Which cools the lungs, and fans the blood, And makes the spirits brisk and good; After a bad good-fellow-hood Had left their springy parts uncurl'd, Like a loose fail that is unfurl'd, Those air and action buckle up, When ruffled by a midnight's cup. After an idle drunken bout, Walk, and take air; ne'er sleep it out; By which you will avoid the harms Of head-ach, and fick stomach qualms. For sleeping with a load of wine, Does all its fumes within confine; Which are of dang'rous confequence; For apoplexies spring from hence, \* Palsies, and tremors, and the rest, Which mostly drunkards do infest, From ferments in the body pent, Which early rouzing may prevent. For gouts, and stone, and such diseases, Dwell most where luxury and ease is. Such a tormentor never rages Mong whey-drinkers in poor cottages, Who live in health till mighty ages,

<sup>\*</sup> Dr. Lower de motu cordis.

And to the grave, at a hundred years,
Carry their mem'ry, eyes, and ears.
Who then in ale, or worse brew'd wine,
Wou'd drown his health, and so much time?
For whilst men tipple, prate, and lie,
Life on smooth skeets slides swiftly by.

In walking let your cloaths be thin,

But not too tight or strait to th' skin,

That cool fresh air may close the pores.

This oftentimes that health restores,

Which too much warmth turn'd out of doors:

For loss of strength declares what hurt

Those get that wear a flannel shirt;

For thro' a constant dilatation,

The spirits spend by perspiration.

In bed lie warm, but not too hot,

Nor yet too soft, for that's a fault.

Soft feathers have attraction such,

As draws the natural heat too much,

The slesh makes slabby, loose, and weak,

The count'nance dead, and pale, and bleak.

Of heats and colds take special care: Windows and doors, that let in air; A crack, or crevice, in the wall, Hurts more than doth an open hall:

And fafer 'tis to stand i' th' street,

Than where two doors or entries meet.

Walk to be warm, but not to fweat;
Or by degrees take down your heat.
Drink not until you're very cool;
And gently move to get a stool.
Yet sometimes let your feet be wet;
But in your wet shoes never sit;
For while you're running in the dirt,
The action keeps you from the hurt.
And often wash your skin all o'er;
It gives a spring to every pore,
Returns the heat upon the blood,
Which makes all bad digestions good.

Lodge not fine youth with aged bones,
Nor much converse with pains and groans.
For bodies that are old, and dry'd,
From juicy youth will be supply'd.
These suck their spirits, make 'em pale;
So vital vigour needs must fail:
For th' aged, thro' the young one's pores,
His own decrepit limbs restores;
For what by contact, what by sweats,
What the youth loses, t'other gets.
This makes them pallid, thin, and weak,
As if hag-ridden in their sleep.

And, on the other hand, 'tis naught'
To lie with one that's over fat.

Such sweat and overheat the child,

By which a good cool habit's spoil'd;

For in a mod'rate temperature

The welfare of the child's secure.

In short, observe, the tender young

Shou'd be well nurs'd, but laid alone.

But, above all, take special care How children you affright and scare, In telling stories of things feen, Sprite, dæmon, and hobgoblin. Hence they'll contract fuch cowardice, As ne'er will leave them all their lives: And then th' ideas of their fears Continued unto riper years, Can by no reason be suppress'd; But of it they'll be so posses'd, They'll fweat, and quake, and start, and stare, And meet the devil ev'ry where, Terrors have changed some men grey, Took limbs, and speech, and sense away; Have topfy-turvy'd brains in fculls, Turn'd some men mad, and some men fools; Have made a foul skip like a sprite, And leave the body bolt upright,

Stark staring, ghastly, dead, and stiff, Like Lot's sad monumental wife.

Anger avoid, and also grief;
They both are enemies to life,
And fatal often in extremes,
To which side e'er the passion leans.
In both let Reason mitigate;
She will the sury soon abate,
If she's consulted not too late.
For I have seen sierce anger check'd,
By seeming deasness, and neglect.
Take off the suel, th' sire will die;
Silence alone will put it by,
If not blown up by a reply.
Let it blow o'er, if you can bear,
In at one, out at t'other ear:
Storms hurt not in a thoroughsare.

Late watching does much injury
To Nature's whole economy;
Impedes, or wholly doth defeat
The making of her work compleat;
For all fecretions are made best
I' th' quiet state of sleep and rest.
When all the faculties of th' mind
Are to their (soporal) cells confin'd,

Then all the vital functions are

('Cause not disturb'd by mental care)

Each to his office to repair,

And mend the breaches, and decays,

Made by disorder any ways

In life's vast labyrinth and maze,

Which thro' unknown meanders run,

And circulates to where't begun,

And restless in its course, keeps on.

For th' heart clacks on, and is a mill That's independent of the will; And, like an engine, squirts the blood, Forcing up hill the purple flood; A constant fountain that displays Its rivulets ten thousand ways; Mov'd by a fecret power unknown, And yet that power is not its own; Restless from the first stroke it gives, To the last moment that it lives. Its office is to mesh and beat, And make the chyle confimulate With balmy blood and nitrous air, (All have i' th' work a proper share), Which inspiration does prepare. That air again the lungs explode, When robbed of its nitrous load.

This grinds life's grist; yet takes small toll
For carrying of it thro' the whole,
And lodging at each office door,
Sufficient for their daily store.
And here I'd ask, what human tongue
Can praise enough that wond'rous one,
That made this great automaton?
Here let the prostrate world adore
His infinite goodness, wisdom, power.

Of exercises, swimming's best,
Strengthens the muscles of the chest,
And all their sleshy parts consirms;
Extends and stretches legs and arms,
And, with a nimble retro-spring,
Contracts, and brings them back again.
As 'tis the best, so 'tis the sum
Of exercises all in one;
And of all motions most compleat,
Because 'tis vi'lent without heat.

And next to fwimming, riding's good;

It shakes the bowels, shirs the blood,

And gives a motion to a stool;

But bad to ride with belly full;

For shaking does precipitate,

E'er you've digested half your meat.

Besides, your guts, if fat, it squelches, And causes fumes, and sour belches. 'Tis also in hard livers naught; Or when oppress'd with wind and thought, It stirs up flatus hypochon. If so, defift from riding on; For't makes it fly into the head, Where dizziness and fumes are bred. Then life's in danger if you totter, Be your horse pacer, or a trotter. So let the rider take a care, Lest from a stumbling horse or mare, He don't take earth in taking air. But the true benefit in riding, Is much and long i' th' air abiding; Fasting, and always jogging on, And drinking nothing that is strong; But guzzling on a journey's wrong: And then, perhaps, you'll gain your point, If your horse keeps your neck in joint.

In dry consumptive coughs beware;
They always grow much worse in air;
For places high, and air serene,
Are for thin bodies found too keen.
For all the air, on heights, and hills,
'Cause robb'd of watry particles,

Holds nitre naked, and not sheath'd, And so are naught, for all short breath'd; As well as airs too thick with smoaks. One pricks and tickles, t'other chokes. But where 'tis clear, and not too high, With mixture due of moist and dry, 'Tis there the lungs have liberty To play their fan most pleasantly. The air is best on rising hills, Alfo near grav'ly running rills; For where the foil is hard and dry, The air is good, whether low or high. The watry steams will take off heats, And much abate nocturnal sweats. In Holland, where 'tis all low ground, Habitual coughs are rarely found. But when catarrhs and rheums infest, Warm and dry airs are furely best. \* For if consumptions cur'd can be, (Which is a mighty rarity),

\* Ulterius phthisis perfecta rarissimè potest curari: vita interim diutissimè potest conservari, per hæc tria:

1. Per legitimum usum lactis.
2. Per usum vulnerariorum, &c.

3. Per mutationem aëris.

Denique quoad legitimum usum lactis:

In omni atrophia, tabe, & phthisi, commodissime observatur, quod lactis usus, seu legitimus potus, in quibusdam casibus multum possit: sed parum proderit, quoties atrophia est à colluvie cujusdam visceris, aut ubi atrophia est ex vitio stomachi, nisi hic priùs sit correctus. Mich. Etmullerus de nutritione partium lasa, pag. 282.

Three things in chief you need prepare,

Milk, traucomatics, and change of air.

And if with these, cold baths you get,

To temper down the heetic heat,

He may go bare-soot as a goose,

Who lives in hope of dead mens shoes.

Tho' riding is extremely good,
Yet health lies more in choice of food.
A gen'ral rule we may go by,
Is eating such things 'specially,
As are least apt to putrefy.
New milk and rice, bread, corn, and roots,
Fresh fallets, and fresh gather'd fruits,
Sweet butter, oil, and well-made cheese;
For those who mostly feed on these,
Live long, and gently wear away,
Perceiving not their own decay,
To th' utmost point o' th' fatal day;
Then without pain, like lamps, expire,
With the last spark of vital fire.

For life's a lamp, its oil well spent, Leaves when't goes out a fragrant scent. Thrice happy he, whose virtuous name Is incense, and perfumed stame, On th' altar of immortal same. So, reader, if thou art so wise,
To put in practice this advice,
The world shall wonder to behold
Thou look'st so young, and art so old.

The

The DOCTOR's Decade;
Or the ten utenfils of his trade.

For in ten words the whole art is compris'd; For some of the ten are always advis'd,

### VIZ.

Piss, Spue, and Spit,
Perspiration and Sweat,
Purge, Bleed, and Blister,
Issues and Clyster.

These sew evacuations

Cure all the Doctor's patients,

If rightly apply'd

By a wise physic guide.

For an error in these,

Is worse than disease;

So can't be too wary,

Where cases do vary;

For a dose of 't too much,

Turns PUG o'er the perch.

What more they advance,

Is all done by chance.

Ev'n steel and the bark Do tilt in the dark. Tho' opium, alas! May put by a pass, And lull a difeafe By a feeming false peace; Yet these physic allies Use fuch fallacies, And fail us fo common, We can't depend on 'em; So as to a cure, There's none can be fure. Most other specifics Have no visible effects, But the getting of fees, For a promise of ease, (Much like the South /-); Tho' our glasses of late Have furnish'd the pate With philosophical prate, As to read learned lectures. On a t--- and its textures, And can fee in the fp---m Generations to come, Like tad-poles a fwimming To the land of the living. Yet for all this fine show, No more do we know, Than did old Quid pro quo,

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That famous compounder, And first physic founder. For then all their blunders Were esteem'd as wonders, And admired as much As some do H --- h C --- h. For physic then took Much more by the look Than by the fuccess, Which is the best test. To look big, grave, and dull, And talk half like a fool, Denotes a wife scull. To be deaf, and half blind, Were perfections of mind; For all fuch defects Were to Folly as checks: For few were thought wife, That faw with both eyes. Yet none of these blinkers Were accounted free-thinkers; As is feen by the treacle, Where health lay in pickle, That ancient farrago, Exploded long ago. Yet 'tis fuch a med'cine, Once had the Pope's bleffing, And so is catholic, Tho' not apostolic;

For't has not a mission From Luke the physician. But why do we them blame, When we play the same game; And make up strange mixtures, Of different textures, Which fret and ferment Till their fury is spent, And in our guts jar, And there raise a war? From a heterogen med'cine, The strife is intestine: But where the ingredients Are mix'd from experience, By their homogeniety, They'll never disquiet ye. For ill compounds are owing To our simples not knowing: For their virtues unless The plants will confess, We must all acquiesce, And practife by guess, Till the college reveals What their prudence conceals. For the arcanas of art, To none they'll impart. Those facred archives, Which inrol all our lives,

Are lodg'd on high shelves, Out o' th' reach of themselves. For when they fall sick, What they gave upon tick, The Doctors ne'er take, For fear of mistake; But always mistrust What they believed at first; Whilst the practising youth Swallows all for a truth. For whatever they read, They believe as their creed; But will find, when they try, That authors will lie; For in physic there's legend, As well as religion. But the older they grow The lefs they will know; For in being oft out, It creates in 'em doubt. So themselves they'll ne'er kill, By potion or pill, No powders nor bolus, Nor issues o' th' shoulders, Nor encer'd in blisters, Those shrouds of the \* sisters,

<sup>\*</sup> The three Ladies of Destiny, Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos.

By the devil contriv'd To flay men alive; As if the fick didn't feel When they're skinn'd like an eel; Then a plaister apply'd To th' remains of the hide; Which tears off the rest Next time it is dreft, By fome little hell-cub, Or spawn of old Belz'bub, Or Mellilot his master, With a whole sheet of plaister, To shrowd him compleat, From the head to the feet, Sent by his physician To manage th' inquisition; For one half that dies Are spur-gall'd by his flies, And flay'd out of their lives. But the devil a Doctor Will flay his own back fore. What his patients endure He'll avoid to be fure: Their groans and their aking, Does fright him from taking. Nor shall any flops, But wine, wet his chops.

So all med'cines defies,

As he does Spanish flies,

From experienc'd opinion,

There's little help in 'em.

But as death does draw near,

Their art is their fear;

Trusting more to small beer,

A horse and fresh air,

Than to physic and prayer.

From whence I suggest,

They're too wise for the rest.

FINIS.



