

An enquiry into the designs of the late petition presented to Parliament by the Company of Apothecaries. With remarks, how far it deserved attention. Whereby the apothecary's present monstrous profits are exposed, how far it deserved attention ... to which is annexed a scheme, tending to prevent the empirical apothecary from practising; and the chemist from preparing and vending sophisticated medicines, and compared with those of the chemist. In a letter to the Company of Apothecaries ... occasioned by a late pamphlet, called Frauds detected in drugs [by J. Chandler].

Contributors

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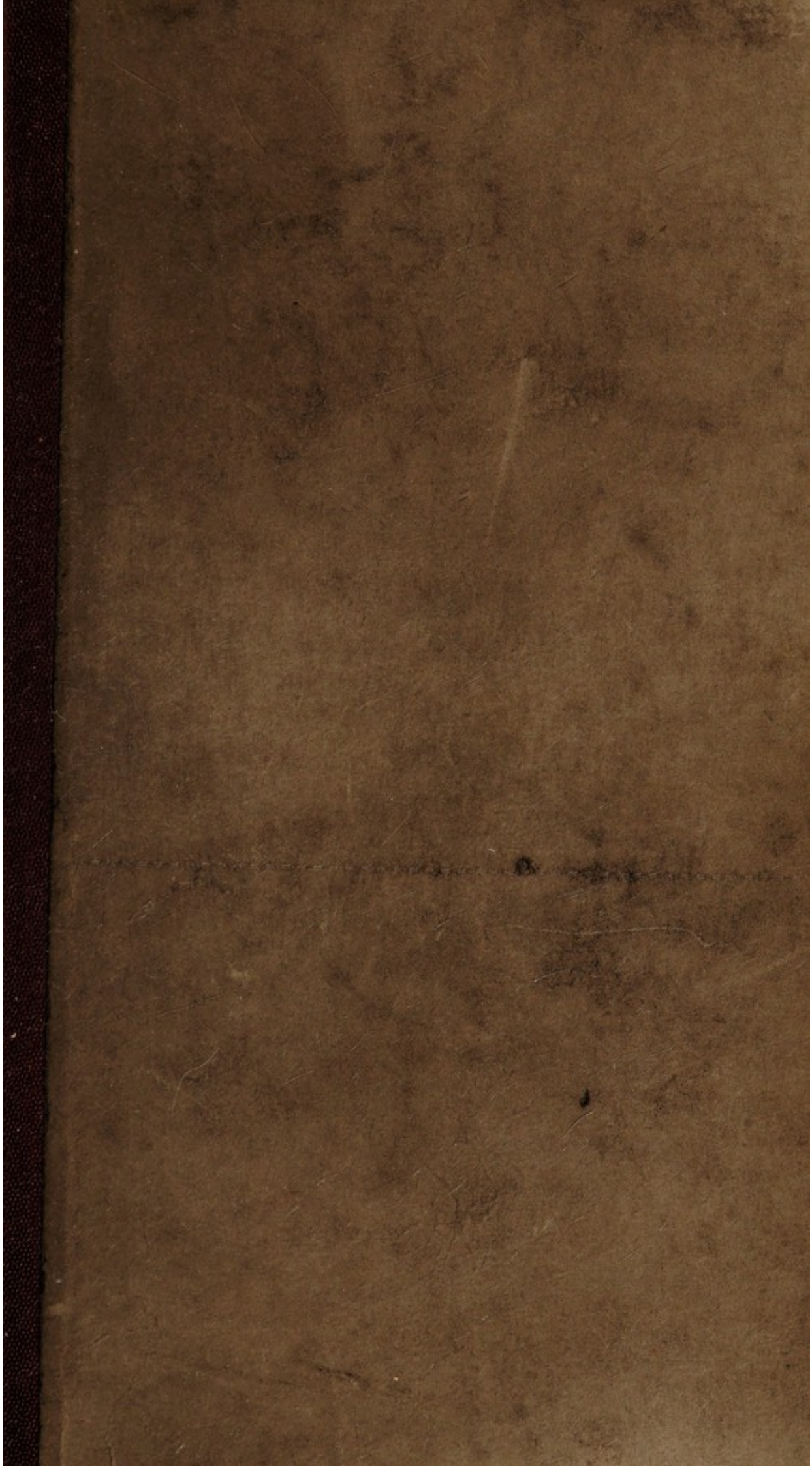
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A N
E N Q U I R Y

Into the Designs of the late

P E T I T I O N

Presented to Parliament

B Y T H E

Company of Apothecaries.

With Remarks, how far it deserved Attention.

W H E R E B Y

The *Apothecary's* present monstrous Profits are exposed, and compared with those of the *Chemist*, with respect to Practice and Retail.

To which is annexed

A S C H E M E, tending to prevent the Empirical Apothecary from Practising; and the Chemist from preparing and vending sophisticated Medicines.

I N

A L E T T E R to the Company of A P O T H E C A R I E S, occasioned by a late Pamphlet, called *Frauds detected in Drugs, &c.*

L O N D O N,

Printed for M. COOPER in Pater-noster Row.

M D C C X L V I I I.

[Price One Shilling.]

AN
ENQUIRY
Into the Designs of the late
PETITION
Presented to Parliament
BY THE

Omnia patefacienda, ut ne quid omnino quod Ven-
ditor norit, Emptor ignoret. TULL.

"Till now you have gone on, and fill'd the Time
With all licentious Measure, making your Wills
The Scope of Justice.

Thou wast told thus;
Thou gav'st thine Ears, like Tapsters, that bid Welcome
To Knaves and all Approachers: 'Tis most just
That Thou turn Rascal. SHAKESP.

A Scheme, tending to prevent the Empirical
Apothecary from Practising; and the
Chemist from preparing and vending
Sophisticated Medicines.

IN
A LETTER from the Company of Apothecaries
Proposed by the Parliament, called
to the attention of the House of Commons
the chief of the same, viz. that
the Company of Apothecaries, now
conduct of a
MDCCLXXV
[Price One Shilling]



To the COMPANY of
APOTHECARIES.

GENTLEMEN,

THE late Pamphlet, which you are supposed to have wrote, called *Frauds detected in Drugs*, being exhibited with the most seeming Simplicity, and principally levelled against the Chemists and Druggists, has occasioned several public and private Disputes amongst indifferent Persons, as well as those concerned in Trade. And as the Public remain still ignorant, which Party is the Aggressor, and whose Cause ought chiefly to be considered; I shall endeavour in the following Sheets, the Product of a few Leisure Hours, to clear

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up

up this important Affair, by demonstrating how far your late Petition to Parliament deserved Attention; and then conclude with a Scheme, which, if properly put in Force by the Legislature, would effectually re-establish that former Harmony subsisting between you and the Chemists, &c.

IN the Introduction to your late Pamphlet, you say, *It is the Duty of every HONEST APOTHECARY, &c.* concerned in the Compounding of Medicines, strictly to conform himself to the Directions of the *Dispensatory*; which I grant you; but why don't they do it? They are prevented by two very obvious Reasons, the first is, There are Hundreds who don't believe the Company does it, and with very good Reason; for, to argue in the Style of your Pamphlet, (*viz. I have Reason to believe, or, I have been told*) there is a certain Surgeon and Apothecary now living, who formerly dealt at your Hall for all his compound Medicines; on which Account he imagined himself happy in his Practice, and secure against the Villainy of the Inspectors, who annually used to extort from him Six Shillings, as a Perquisite for the Trouble of their

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Visitation, being ignorant how little Authority they had for such a Proceeding. It happened that one Time, in their Rounds, they called at his Shop, and found the Journeyman alone at home; and with their usual Front, desired to look at several Medicines, amongst which was Mithridate. One tasted, and his Opinion was, that it had not the Quantity of Gums; another, that it wanted Consistence; and in general, they all condemned it as a Medicine not fit to be used. During this Interval, in comes the Master, who desiring their Business, Why, Sir, replied one, we belong to the Hall, and called, as usual, to inspect a few of your Medicines: you know what is common on these Occasions. To which replies the Master, I shall not give you a Farthing. No, says one! why look ye, Sir, your Mithridate is very bad, and not fit to be used, and we shall be obliged to make Report of it accordingly? Nay, says the Master, now I am convinced what a Nest of Villains I have to deal with, who being nettled at my refusing their usual Imposition, begin to shew their knavish Principles, by condemning Medicines of their own Compounding: so taking down his File, Look ye, says he, here is the Bill of Parcels

of the Mithridate, and a Receipt for the Money paid at your Hall, three or four Days ago; and here is my Man, who bought it and paid the Money; for I have dealt for it no where else, for many Years, and always pay ready Money for it, and other Goods. And his Man declared, the Person was then present, who gave him the Receipt. This Misfortune occasioned such a general Confusion amongst them, that they were glad to beg Pardon, and make up the Matter in Terms which they little suspected. The Apothecary, it is believed, at this Time would make Oath to the above Purport, if required.

Now, are these Persons to be acknowledged * competent Judges of Medicines, when they cannot discern their own from others, which they declare and condemn as unfit for Use? And if this be true, how can you expect Apothecaries in general, to compound Medicines justly, when they have so bad an Example?

* The Apothecaries, in their late Petition to Parliament, insisted on their being considered as competent Judges; but the Parliament would not listen to it, as appears by their Bill being rejected.

This

This is not the only Instance of this Kind; the *Apothecary display'd* has mentioned more, which see.

AGAIN, on the other Hand, if we consider the Apothecary as having Honesty enough to compound Medicines after the *Dispensatory*, whether has he a Capacity or not, for that Purpose? I may almost totally answer in the Negative; for it is generally allowed, that one half, if not three Parts out of four, of those who style themselves Apothecaries, in and about *London*, some too in very reputable Practice, are so very illiterate, that they understand no more of Compounding and Preparing capital Medicines, than they do of the *Philosopher's Stone*; or they may be more properly compared to a Jack-maker, who, you would imagine, could construct and organize a Watch, because he understands Wheels. Nay, there is not one in ten, who perfectly understands the Derivation or Meaning of his Technical Terms, or can read the Physician's Bill, truly, in proper *Latin*, nor perhaps understands it any better, abbreviated; so that these Persons are under the greatest Obligation to Dr. *Pemberton*, for translating the late *Dispensatory*

tory into *English*; for by a previous Examination it might be easily proved, they neither could understand it, nor even read it with its proper Accent.

THE DOCTOR requires no less the Thanks of the Public on the same Account, for he may be supposed to have preserved the Lives of a thousand innocent Persons, who might have fallen a Victim through the Ignorance of Compounders, who not understanding the *Latin*, though wrote in the plainest Style, might have committed many fatal Blunders. These are not Hearsays, but will be found real Facts, if the College of Physicians should form a Committee, purposely for their Examination. And are these, think you, proper Persons to compound Medicines? They never were taught to do it, and are too conceited, or else have not a Capacity, to learn.

THE *Lives and Healths of his Majesty's Subjects*, which you mention, depend much more on the Unskilfulness of the illiterate blundering Apothecary, in preparing the Medicines, and giving the necessary Directions for taking them, prescribed in *Latin* by the Physician,

than

than in any Fault in the Medicines purchased from the Chemist or Druggist. The Public may easily be informed of these Facts; for there is not a Parish in or about *London*, but you'll meet with numbers of these ignorant Fellows, in tolerable Practice, strutting in their Tye-Wigs, and visiting their Patients with the same Front as if they had been educated and had served seven Years to a complete Master; though perhaps their Practice was derived from the Observations, either as Labourers or Errand-Boys in a Shop, or else from being a Lobloliboy a few Years on board a War Ship, employed to scour the Mortar and Bolus Stone. Numbers who have had no other Education, are to be found within the Bills of Mortality; some of which have not escaped your Censure, and who neither understand what you mean by your VERUM or NON * VERUM; but having had Oeconomy enough to lay by twenty or thirty Pounds in their Servitude, together with a little Credit from the Druggist or Chemist, immediately commence Apothecaries, and take care to open their Shops in such Places where the Inhabitants are not able to

* A strange Term instanced in the late Petition.

suspect their Capacity and original Education; and if they appear personable and happily supplied with a most delicate, pure, and effeminate Tongue, they seldom fail of insinuating themselves into the Women's Favour, who, by the Way, require a great Complaisance from their *Hats*. If this Gift fails, then Recourse is had amongst those who love the Bottle and Song, which seldom fails of procuring Business, on account of being esteemed a merry Fellow and good Company.

T H U S do the unthinking Part of Mankind impose upon themselves, by preferring these empirical, ignorant Pretenders in Physic, to Men of Letters and real Merit; and employing them in the same Character as they would the most learned Apothecaries at St. *James's*, whose Characters and Educations, it seems, cannot be suspected, on account of their serving the Army with GOOD MEDICINES.

Y O U see, Gentlemen, I am far from aspersing those Apothecaries who are remarkable for good Learning and known Genius; my Design being to remark Those, who, pretending to these Qualifications,

fications, have acquired sufficient Fortunes to maintain their Chariots, and who, that they may be more plausibly esteemed as learned Men by the Public, as they roll along the Streets, are poring over *Quincy's Dispensatory*, or such like Author, to which they seem as attentive, as if they were puzzled with the *Aphorisms of Hippocrates*; or those, whose Education in the Practice of Pharmacy, was originally derived as above described; who consequently, as they have no Reputation to stake, have none to lose; but notwithstanding, by the most scandalous enthusiastical Proceedings, are daily raising themselves to the very Summit of Grandeur, merely by picking the Pockets of those who innocently employ them.

THESE are the Persons whom you ought to have particularized in your Petition, if you really were concerned for the Welfare of his Majesty's Subjects; for it would have been judged honourable and equitable in you, to expose that Man, who pretends publickly to profess that Art of which he is ignorant, more especially, that important Practice where Life is entrusted to his

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Care:

Care: For it may be easily conceived, that such unconscionable Impostors pick a thousand times more Pockets and destroy Lives, than they cure Distempers.

IT is really no Wonder, when these pure Ignoramus's are suffered to practise unmolested, that the City of *London* should be pestered with such Swarms of foreign and domestick advertizing venereal Quacks; since all, whose Petty Knowledge would not maintain them abroad, are sure to find a Shelter for their Ignorance in *London*, especially when encouraged with the unlimited Price of their poisoning.

IT is through the Inactivity of the College of Physicians, that these *Chemical Pinkanello's* and *Physical Jack-Puddings* have made such a Progress. This strange Liberty and Indulgence, if not timely suppressed, will prove very fatal to their Honour, and Dignity, who, hitherto, have justly been acknowledged the most learned Body in *Europe*.

AND do not these public Bites and busy Mendicants enforce your Notice, much more than the bare Suspicions of the
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the Chemists sophisticating their Medicines: certainly they deserve a Regulation, or rather a total Extirpation; for they are a real Nufance to the regular learned Practitioners, not only for publicly thieving away their Property, but for betraying and revealing their enormous Profits.

IT is manifest from these Considerations, that you really did not consult effectually how to preserve *the Lives of his Majesty's Subjects*: no, that Expression was but a Feint, the better to conceal your ambitious Views, as appears by your Pamphlet, which has turned out a *Felo de se*, a Consequence you little dreamt of. You have convinced the World, by aspersing the Trade in general, that your Designs were Self-interesting and monopolizing; your Scheme was to establish a *Physical Inquisition*, to enrich your Company at the industrious Chemist and Druggist's Expence; or else your Gall would have reached these Enthusiasts, these Swarms of ignorant Cheats, which the inimitable *Shakespear* describes, on another Occasion, in the following Lines:

— *A Knot of Mouth Friends,
Most smiling, smooth, detested Parasites,
Courteous Destroyers, affable Wolves, meek
Bears,
Who stick and spangle all with Flatteries.*

But now, since the Plan of your four Years Counsel is rejected, unless the honest Chemist and Druggist petition for a Renewal and Amendment of the late Act, it is to be feared you will be disappointed in your annual *Tooth-sucking Perquisites*; for if you attempt to demand your usual Imposition from these compounding Chemists and Druggists (as you call them) for the future, they will certainly stamp you with the Chemical Mark of Impostor, and throw the very Dust in your Eyes with which you would induce the World to believe they compounded their Medicines: And why should they not? For when you sh—t a T——d at their Door, they certainly have an equal Right to rub your Nose in it.

THERE are other Circumstances to be described, which equally merit the Attention of the Legislature. For in
Justice

Justice to the Public, I cannot avoid linking some Druggists and Chemists to the former Chain of Empirical Apothecaries, who, I am sensible, are equally illiterate and ignorant: There are Numbers who never had an Opportunity of a better Education than the abovementioned, and yet with Faces of the most impenetrable Brass (having raised themselves from the most abject miserable State of a Shoe-Black, or a Plough-Driver, to that of a Labourer in the Laboratory) have at length commenced Masters of Shops, and audaciously written themselves CHEMISTS on their Signs with Letters, although they are so ignorant both of the Qualities of Drugs and Chemical Medicines, that, if you should ask them to explain the Virtues of a Chemical Medicine in Technical Terms, or the Names of their Druggs in proper *Latin*, they would prove as unintelligible to them, as the Rabbinnical Commentaries of *Aben Ezra* or *Solomon Jarchi*.

Nunc paulò majora canamus.

A LEARNED Author has given us the following lugubrious Tale, concerning one of these Chemical Druggists: A Gentleman wanting a little Oak Bark,
applied

applied to one of these Idiots, and desired a Pound of *Cortex Querci*. *Cortex per Se!* Replies the Master, you mean *Cornu Cervi per Se*. No, says the Gentleman, I mean *Cortex Querci*. It's *French*, replies the Master; I do not understand it; cannot you tell it in *English*? Why, replies the Gentleman, It is the Bark of the Oak Tree. Ay, replies the Dunce, do you know no better what is *Latin* for an Oak? I suppose, you know no better what its Virtues are. Why, says the Gentleman, it is a *Styptic* and *Restrington*. *Stiff-Stick and Resting-Joint*, replies the Chemist laughing, what the Devil's that? I know from the *Accidence*, which I have just been reading, that *Robur* is *Latin* for an Oak; for here you see, shewing the Line, *Pectora percussit, Pectora quoque Robora fiunt*. At which the Gentleman breaking out with a loud *Ha! ha! ha!* replied I could not have thought it was in an *Accidence*, but I have found it in an *Ecce Dunce*: And thus took his Leave.

HENCE you see how impartial I am, and how ready I am to justify real Merit in the different Professions; and that you may not in the least suspect me guilty of the same partial radicated Malevolence

volence, with which the late Pamphlet is so contemptibly crouded against the Trade in general; I shall now proceed to analyze some of these Chemical Fire-sons; and you may convince yourselves by a proper Examination in this Affair, that Truth only is my Basis. But you must pardon me, if I am unable to embellish my Sentiments with such sublime stigmatizing Instances; as *I have Reason to believe, have been thus told*, with a Train of Prolegomena and Notæ Variorum, and such like insolent Expressions interspersed in *Frauds detected*, for, according to *Esdras, Magna est veritas, & prævalabit*. It has been often remarked that there are not upwards of twenty regular Chemists in *London*, and yet there are Hundreds who style themselves so: But it must not be supposed, but amongst the latter, there are Men of the best Letters and penetrating Genius, of which we have daily Instances; for a Man with these Advantages, though he never served as an Apprentice to the Art, can read, study, and practise, and by a diligent Application, may instruct himself sufficiently to prepare the Chemical Medicines used in Pharmacy, and with the same Advantage as others; and when he

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is so far completed, he may venture safely upon the most abstruse Preparations, and at last be acknowledged a Proficient in that noble Science. To a Man thus qualified, the Method of compounding *Galenical* Medicines will very naturally occur, though in this, there is more Honesty than Knowledge required; but it must be allowed, that no Man knows how to mix and proportion Ingredients of various Qualities, so well as he who is acquainted with Chemical Principles; and yet, what Scores can we produce pretending to this Science, who cannot even define nor describe the Difference between Acid and Alkali?

How is it to be expected that these Pretenders to this Art, should compound and prepare Medicines, when they are not capable of instructing themselves by the perusal of Authors, since several of them can scarce read or write, nor understand what they do read in a Chemical Author wrote in the plainest *English*? What must they do then with *Latin* Authors, by which they may reap such considerable Advantages? or what could they do, even with the *Pharmacopæia* untranslated? *Res ipsa loquitur*. But this is not all,

all, there are other worse Circumstances to be dreaded; these Chemical Lucifers are not content with retailing their sophisticated Compounds, but pretend to cure this or that Disease incident to the Poor, by their infallible Nostrums, to the Scandal, not only of the learned Practitioner, but of Dr. *Rock* himself; for let the Complaint be what it will, there is a *Panacea* ready, according to your Price; others who trample upon that Dignity and contemn it as common, will venture to visit those who are weak enough to employ them as Apothecaries, and administer Medicines, right or wrong, when the Nature of the Disease is as mysterious to them, as *Van Helmont's Alkabeft*.

I COULD describe the Names and Places of Residence of these audacious *Cheats*; but to trace their Origin and Education, would swell this Pamphlet to a Volume. Mr. *L—w—s* has greatly surprized the Town, by honouring a certain idle Experimenter, lately, with the Title of *Chemist* in the public Papers; that very unguarded Expression has not a little eclipsed the Lustre of his Lectures in the Opinion of the Public, notwithstanding his Abilities; for it is well known this

sophisticating *Enthusiast* never saw the Inside of a Laboratory, and never had an Opportunity to cultivate the least Idea in Chemistry, unless, before his late Arrival in Town, he acquired his Art in the *Devil's Arse o' Peak*, near which it is supposed he had his Origin. His Progress and Advancement through some strange Vicissitudes of Fortune to commence Master of a Shop, makes no amends for Ignorance, nor ought to plead for Capacity; for if Mr. *L—w—s* should read him a Lecture *durante Vitâ*, he would find him at last as imperfect and ignorant in the Theory of Chemistry, as he now is in the Practice. How can it be supposed that any Person, who never had better Education than a *Plough Boy*, should understand the Method of compounding and administering Medicines? The least *Recipe* in the *Latin Pharmacopœia* must prove as unintelligible to such a Person, as the technical Documents of *Paracelsus*. And does such a Person merit the distinguishing Title of Chemist? No, there are Numbers who, for certain undeniable Reasons, acknowledge the Title of *Tr-ckst-r* comes nearer the Original.

THESE Innovators, who so audaciously scandalize your Profession, and depreciate the most noble Science of Chemistry; who compound and prescribe with the same * *Diabolical Front*, as if they had studied at the University; certainly merit the Contempt of all Men of Letters; nay even of such COMPETENT JUDGES as the Company of Apothecaries, who certainly would have acquired a general Applause, had these Empirics been the Subject of their Complaint, instead of the Traders in general.

THE entire Extirpation of these pernicious Encroachers, could not fail of producing the most happy Consequences. In the first Place, it would have caused a prodigious Increase of your Trade and Profits, and consequently would have silenced your Acclamations, and re-established your Harmony with the Chemists, &c. whose Number would be so far diminished thereby, that you would have no longer Reason to complain of their serving you with sophisticated Medicines, as it would not be worth while. Secondly, it would have secured the Practice

* This is not to be understood in any other Sense further than alluding to the *Devil's Arse o'Peak*.

and Reputation of the Physician; consequently the *Welfare of his Majesty's Subjects* would be, really, considered; and lastly, it would have maintained the Rights and Privileges of the regular Apprentice; for when you seriously consider the encroaching Liberties assumed by these Empirics, your entire Aversion to them must naturally occur. The Parent, who educates his Son in a View to advance him to the Dignity of a regular Apothecary, has great Reason to suspect his Care, and 70 *l.* given as a Fee, as so much lost, when at the same Time an ignorant *Porter*, or *Labourer*, taken from the *Plough*, can settle in Business with the same Advantages; for the unthinking Part of Mankind as readily employ these Novices as the regular Apothecary, and never reflect how they impose on themselves, and endanger their Lives by such Means.

THESE Bands of illiterate *Sophists* are like so many Knots of Quick Grass, and lethiferous Plants in a Physic Garden, which ought to be carefully distinguished and weeded out, because they imbibe and steal those Juices, which ought to nourish the more valuable salutiferous Plants.

IT is impossible that any ill Consequences should attend the Extirpation of these public Deceivers; the Liberty of the Subject could not be infringed by it, for it differs widely from those whose Business is to buy and sell only, as the Grocers, &c. The one gives Advice and prescribes Remedies for the Sick, whereby Life is entrusted in his Hands; the other never pretends to what is beyond his Capacity, and contents himself with the bare Profits of selling those Articles which are essentially necessary to the Oeconomy of domestic Affairs, &c. But the first has the Opportunity of concealing his larger Profits from the deluded Patient; and as the greater the Gain the better the Business, so this is the real lucrative Motive that induces these Cheats to impose on the credulous Customer.

AGAIN, these Empirics enjoy another Advantage; for the small Sum of 20 *l.* properly disbursed in moveable Medicines, will fit out a small Shop; and if the Owner is happily accomplished with a delicate soothing Tongue, he can palm off his Impositions to such Advantage, as to acquire greater Gains with this trifling Stock, than the fair Buyer and

and Seller with 200 *l.* in Trade. The Reason is plain, the Buyer knows the common Price of the one, but is ignorant of the Value of the latter: Hence it is plain, that a Regulation or Elimination of these Usurpers, would rather restore the Liberty of the Subject, than infringe it. A Man may buy and sell any Thing for a Livelihood, but ought not to sport with other Men's Lives.

— *Pudet hæc opprobria vobis. Ov.*

THIS Practice is more fatal than a Madman's Sword: Men, who compound, retail Medicines, and prescribe them to poor People, ought to be Men of good Learning and Judgment, because the important Value of Life is entrusted in their Hands; and as these Men prepare the Medicines prescribed in the Physician's Bill, the Patient's Life depends far more upon their Medicines and Managment, than the Physician's Judgement; and as these Men are proved to be illiterate, enthusiastical *Innovators* and *Empirics*, who, for want of Education, can scarce read or write *English*, and were never taught the Mystery of the excellent Professions of *Chemistry* and *Physic*; how cautious should the Public be, in entrusting them? But

as the Public cannot distinguish the Learned from the Ignorant, it becomes highly necessary to describe these Professors of Ignorance in their true Characters; that from such Circumstances the renown'd College of Physicians, with the Chemists and other learned Practitioners, may petition the Parliament to establish a Law, whereby this spreading Evil may be effectually remedied, since it highly concerns the Good and Safety of the Public.

IF you ever were concerned for the Lives of his Majesty's Subjects, these ignorant Ruffians ought to have been principally considered by you in your Petition, and not the Trade in general: These Dunces could never withstand the general Discharge of your Ivory Pop-Guns, but fall within Point Blank of your Level. These Tribes of Experimenting Chemists and Apothecaries are certainly the Persons whom *Milton* has admirably described in the following Soliloquy:

*O! what are these?
Death's Ministers, not Men, who thus
deal Death
Inhumanly to Men, and multiply
Ten thousandfold the Sin of him who slew
His*

*His Brother; for of whom such Massacre
Make they, but of their Brethren, Men of
Men?*

IN your Pamphlet, called *Frauds detected*, you seem to lament, and mention it as great Pity, that a Chemist should be suffered to practise as an Apothecary; which must be allowed a just Observation so far as we have considered the illiterate Pretenders; but your Remorse extends itself to those of the greatest Abilities; on which Account the World, instead of acknowledging the Equity of such Reasoning, eclipsed by that false Assertion, are now convinced of your ambitious Designs, manifested by the more powerful and irresistible Beams of culminating Truth.

A CHEMIST, who visits the Sick in the Capacity of an Apothecary, ought to be preferred in his Practice for undeniable Reasons, especially if he be acknowledged as a Man of Genius and Learning; for by this Means a Patient has Advantages equal to the Chemist. In the first Place the Chemist compounds all his Medicines, consequently he knows how far to depend on them; the Apothecary buys his, consequently, knows
not

not how far to trust them: In the next Place, the Chemist, who practises as an Apothecary, gives the same Attendance, as the other Apothecaries, to his Patients, and, by the Advantage of preparing his own Medicines faithfully, can afford them at one *hundred and fifty per Cent.* cheaper than the Apothecary, who buys them, as appears by the two different Bills; the Chemist generally charging One Shilling per Bolus, and the Apothecary Two Shilling and six Pence, and other Medicines accordingly. It cannot be supposed, but the Apothecary can charge his Medicines a little cheaper, but it is well known he seldom has the Conscience to do it, where he attends a good Patient.

By the same Means the Poor and Needy are benefited by the Chemist, who can afford to retail his Medicines at easy Rates. These are the plain and real Reasons why Chemists, who have been regularly educated in the practical Way, meet with such Success in Business; and this needs not gall the Apothecary, for he may, or might have had the same Advantages; and this Method deserves to be pursued by all Practitioners on many Accounts.

It appears very strange, that the Apothecary should despise and defame the Chemist, who is equally qualified to practise, because he contents himself with a reasonable Profit; for if they are equally capable of Business, it is impossible they should assign any other Reasons for their Malice.

In your Pamphlet you have accused the Trade in general, for miscompounding Medicines, &c. and have excepted none but two or three Apothecaries, and those are your Bosom Friends, who serve the Navy; but it certainly must be allowed a Vanity in your Company, to imagine themselves the only *Æsculapians*, *Galenists*, and *Boerhavians*; or that the equal Knowledge of these Proficients, like the Royal Touch, is vested in you only; for it is well known, that there are Chemists and Druggists in *London*, whose Knowledge is not to be placed in Competition with you, either with regard to their Skill in Drugs and Medicines, or in the Theory and Practice of the noble Art of Chemistry. I don't, like you, assert this Truth with *I have been told thus*, *Have heard say*, but if you will consult their Writings on these Subjects, you will find

find it so; these are Men, who have ever maintained an unspotted Credit and Reputation; and can these Men be supposed to deceive Mankind by sophisticating their Medicines? No, though their Profits are smaller than yours, yet it is well known, by their superior Skill in Chemistry, nay even by a single Article, they can force their Bread, and snap their Fingers at all the ignorant *Train'd Band of Experimenters*.

AND yet the *Apothecaries Company* would be thought *Competent Judges*, and superior in Knowledge to these Men, who by their Art, have made such Improvements in natural Knowledge; for it is certain, that Chemistry cannot be pursued without Natural Philosophy, nor *vice versa*. Chemistry is the best adapted Science to discover the latent peculiar Power of Bodies; a wise Chemist can resolve a Compound into its Simples, and by a careful Examination of such Simples separately, can unite them again in a certain Manner, and by that means discover new and useful Appearances and Properties. A Chemist, endowed with this Knowledge, is able to produce real Physical Effects, without idle Speculations, it

being the Character of a Chemist, says the learned *Boerhaave*, that his Speculations pass on to Effects.

THE just Compiling of *Dispensatories*, and the Art of Extemporaneous Prescriptions, depend upon a thorough Knowledge in Chemistry; and to the Want of this are owing those *Errors and Blunders* so frequently committed by *Dispensatory* Writers, in ordering the standing Medicines of the Shops.

BUT if we consider Chemistry in its full Extent, we shall find it scarce less than the whole of Natural Philosophy. Had it not been for Chemistry, Sir *Isaac Newton* could not have made such surprising Discoveries in Natural Philosophy: That curious Sett of *Queries* at the End of his *Optics*, are almost wholly Chemical.

HENCE it is evident, that the learned Chemist merits the Preference as a COMPETENT JUDGE to discover *Frauds in Medicines*, &c. consequently more fit to be invested with a Power of inspecting and detecting the notorious Frauds of the ignorant Apothecary, than the Apothe-

cary of the Chemist. The Parliament certainly understood as much *a priori*, or they would have heard your Petition; but it was evident, that your Designs were founded on self-interesting Principles, consequently, that you were not a proper Body to be entrusted with Authority, on Account of your Integrity, as well as Judgment.

By this iniquitous Scheme you have disclosed the Eyes of the Public, and henceforth your *Fame* will fly like a yelping Cur, with a Bladder at his Tail, the Jest and Sport of every Chemist's Apprentice between *Wapping* and *Westminster*.

BUT now let us seriously suppose, what would have proved the Consequence, had you succeeded in your Intentions; how far it would affect Trade in general. It is plain that if your Company had obtained an Authority to regulate Druggists, Chemists, and Apothecaries, within, and seven Miles round, the City of *London*; that you would first contrive Means to satisfy yourselves for the Trouble, as in your last Grant, whereby every Shop became obliged annually to
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present you with Six Shillings, rather than dispute with you; for if you found Fault where there was none, as you formerly have done, you would be satisfied, or else the Trader's Credit be exposed, &c. If this be allowed it cannot be supposed, but you would rather accept a Guinea once a Year from every Shop, as a Perquisite, than molest the Trader either in compounding or vending the vilest Medicines. There are Scores who believe it, because you have practised such Things before, and would these *Practices* regard the *Lives and Healths of his Majesty's Subjects?*

Now, *è contra*, suppose, by this Power you should force the greatest Part of the Trade to deal at your Hall for their Medicines, the better to avoid any ill Consequence; why, such is your grand *Desideratum*, this would be charging home with your *Coup d'Eclat*; in this Case, you could easily charge Six Shillings for a Pound of *Venice Treacle*, which the honest Druggist and Chemist could afford for three Shillings and six Pence, with reasonable Profit; and your Excuse for such high Price would be fixed for your great Trouble in picking out ALL THE SAND, STRAWS, AND OTHER HETEROGENEOUS

GENEOUS FILTH, as if no Trader had Honesty enough to do the same, but yourselves.

IT is evident hence, that this is the Method by which you intended to beggar the fair Trader to enrich yourselves; and if we consider what Sums of Money you would have collected, and engrossed by this Scheme, we should be no longer in Suspence, how your whole Company jumped into Chariots, purchase Country Seats, or have such large Sums at Interest. Your honourable Proceedings by such a Scheme would have bore so great an Affinity to some excellent Lines in *Hudibras*, that I cannot forbear transcribing them :

What makes all Doctrines plain and clear?

About two hundred Pounds a Year.

What makes that true, which just before Had been proved false? Two hundred more.

IF I may prognosticate, this would be the very Practice in your *Visitations*; for wherever you met with a Shop of the vilest Medicines, they would turn out the
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very best, if your Hands were properly tickled.

BUT here follows what ought to be principally considered; if you had established this Inquisition, your Power was designed to extend no farther than seven Miles round; the Reason of that Limitation is plain, for had it been general, it would have commenced a general Physical Excise, and according to your Design would prove highly pernicious to the City Druggists and Chemists; for if we suppose that the Chemist and Druggist in the Compounding of Medicines, should not entirely powder his very finest larger Ingredients, yet it is certain, the Medicine would turn out never a whit the worse for using the small, after the Dust and damaged Part were separated; for amongst some Drugs the small breaking from the large in Carriage, &c. contains more Virtue than the large itself, and always equals the large in Virtue when found. All the World believes, you know this by Experience, as well as the Chemists, &c. though it must be allowed, the larger will fetch a higher Price. It is under this Shelter of Knavery that you charge Six Shillings, for what the Chemist can afford

ford for three, when at any Time it is found by Trial, that theirs are equal to yours, and often exceed in their proper Virtue. Now as this is really the Case, if the Chemist and Druggist be obliged under the same Sanction to use the very best picked Ingredients in his Compositions, then it follows, they must charge the same Price; and as the Country Traders would be exempt from this Obligation, they would engross the whole Trade to themselves, and instead, of the City supplying them with Medicines, as usual, they could afford to supply the City at *Forty per Cent.* cheaper, as being free and exempt from the *Tytbes* of your *Inquisition*: On which Account, the Consumers would naturally deal with the Country Traders, and the City Druggists and Chemists would find themselves under a Necessity of retiring into the Country, to the general Detriment of this populous City. I have instanced this plain Fact, that the Publick may judge on the pernicious Consequences, which would infallibly attend your iniquitous Scheme; than which nothing could have been better contrived to enrich the Apothecaries Company, at the Ruin of the Trade in general. For if those, who, conscious

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of their Inability to compound good Medicines, or were not honest enough to do it, out of a selfish Principle, were obliged to buy their Medicines from your *Hall* (the better to avoid the Penalty of Inspection) it may be easily comprehended, what large Sums you must annually amass, when they became obliged to pay you *Forty per Cent.* more than to an honest fair Trader. Your annual Imposition extorted from every Shop in *London*, at Six Shillings each, has been acknowledged to amount to Fifty Pounds; and it has been computed, if your Bill had passed, that the Increase of your Profits, arising from new Customers within seven Miles round, added to the Perquisites, which you would have annually collected from those who dealt elsewhere, would amount to the Sum of Six thousand Pounds and upwards, yearly.

YOUR Observations on the Deceits and Uncertainties of Druggs and Medicines, are as new, as they are surprizing; and it is supposed that these *miraculous Sophistications*, so absurd and scandalous, are the real Product of your late Midnight Machinations, contrived to unhinge the public Esteem of all the Trade, but yourselves; for since your
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Remarks were printed, after a most strict Enquiry, I could never hear of any Person, nor even the vilest Adulterator, that ever imagined the Possibility of making *Lenitive Electuary with Damsons*, or *Salt of Amber with Sal Armoniac*; but the Truth of this Artifice appears too plain by your late Pamphlet, which is wrote in such a most delicate *Tooth-sucking, Coaks-him-Pugg* Style, that no Simile in the World can equal it, unless it be compared to your old *Grandfire Nick*, acting in the Capacity of an *Apothecary*, by administering the Apple to our Parent *Eve*, as a *Bolus*: It met with a kind Reception, till it was analysed by the Chemist, and no sooner was its innate Principles exposed, than it became damned for a *Felo de Se*.

It is greatly to be feared, your admirable History of Adulterations will be attended with fatal Consequences; for since you have laid down such plain Rules to those unskilled in sophisticating Medicines, whereby to perform that Business to Advantage, it is not to be doubted but those ignorant Pretenders to Chemistry and Physic before mentioned, will seize the Opportunity, and, at a pro-

per Season compound such Quantities of the *Damson Lenitive*, as to afford it for One Shilling *per* Pound, rather than turn away a Customer; a Practice so frequent with a certain notorious Impostor, lately stamped with the unmerited Appellation of *Chemist*, that he never asks more than One Shilling and four Pence *per* Pound for *London Treacle*, and other Medicines proportionably; when every one is sensible it cannot be dispensed at less than twenty Pence prime Cost, at the cheapest Times.

HENCE by your new Improvements in sophisticating, it is to be expected that new Swarms of Empirical Chemists, &c. will daily appear, to the great Detriment of the Physician and the honest Trader, but most fatal to the Public in general; and which Evil, unless it be speedily checked by Legislative Power, will establish a perpetual Monument of Scandal to your Company.

THERE still remains to be revealed a Crime of the most heinous and contemptible Nature, frequently practised by the above described Empirics; that is, their unparalleled Method of prescribing Medicines to prolong Diseases, with a View
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of swelling their Bills to a round Sum; but it is to be hoped, that few are guilty of this Vice, who, out of a Principle of Avarice, by this Means endanger the Patient's Life too frequently; those who are most noted for Illiterature and Sophistications, are mostly to be suspected guilty of this infernal Practice; those who retail bad Medicines to the Poor, when knowing them such, will not scruple, if Opportunity serves, to deliver Medicines and prolong the Diseases of those who are better able to pay. The Case of an Intermittent Fever, favours the Apothecary greatly for this Purpose, who, after he has prepared the Body for the Bark, begins the Cure with Draughts of the same, to be repeated every four Hours during the Absence of the febrile Paroxysm; this Method is continued for three or four Days, or longer, according to their Method of managing and dosing the Bark; and when the Cure only wants compleating with some Aromatic Restringtons and Stomachics, a Medicine of a purgative Quality is administered; which infallibly renews the periodical Fits, and there never is wanting a plausible Excuse for this Relapse; as, perhaps, the drinking Malt Liquor, catching Cold, &c. And
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now Recourse must be had again to the Bark Draughts, and thus is the Patient most miserably tormented, and his Life so far endangered, that perhaps it is out of the Power of a Physician to save it, when called; but be that as it will, the Apothecary makes out his Bill for the Patient of as many Pounds, as perhaps would not have cost him Shillings from an ingenious Chemist. To make this appear plainer, suppose the Bark Draughts consist of about a Drachm or more of fine powder'd Bark, as much Syrup of any Sort, and of simple and compound Waters each one Ounce, with a few Drops of *Elixir Vitriol*: The Value of this Draught does not exceed Six Pence to the Apothecary, and he never fails to charge one Shilling and Six Pence, but oftner two Shillings each. Now if four of these Draughts be consumed every Twenty four Hours during the Cure, which suppose moderately ten Days, then the prime Cost of all the Draughts amount to Twenty Shillings; and if he charges them moderately at One Shilling and Six Pence each, his Bill amounts to Three Pounds; out of which he has Forty Shillings for his attending ten Days; which must be allowed a most reasonable Profit, even to all unreasonable

reasonable Men. But as this is practised by a few reasonable Apothecaries only ; let us further calculate, as it is most common: If he sends in four gilded Bolus's compounded of Bark, or its Preparations, every Day, with four Stomach Draughts, compounded of very simple Ingredients, or a half Pint Cordial Julep, to wash them down with; the Charge of every Bolus and Julep generally runs at Two Shillings and Six Pence each, though neither of them, singly, costs him Eight Pence: Now if four Bolus's and four Draughts, or one Julep, be consumed every Day for ten Days, and the Sum computed, a Profit for Attendance will be easily discovered, which would make every honest Man blush; and yet some of these Scoundrels, not content with Four hundred *per Cent.* Profit, have the flagrant Wickedness to prolong Distempers, the better to complete a handsome Bill; and instead of performing a Cure in ten Days, or less, will torment the Patient oftentimes as many Weeks, in a View to pick their Pockets. Every Person can discern how far this Practice differs from a Chemist, qualified duly to practise as an Apothecary, who, conscious of the Goodness and Cost of his Medicines, delivers a Bill of
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Twenty Shillings, which the common Apothecary would charge at Five Pounds; for it must be observed, that a Chemist who practises as an Apothecary, never charges above one Shilling for the dearest Bolus prescribed by the Physician, the same for a Draught, and one Shilling and Six-pence for the Juleps; although he gives the same Attendance as the Apothecary; and if the Medicines are retailed, he generally contents himself with Two-pence in a Shilling Profit. These are downright honest Reasons, why an ingenious Chemist and Apothecary, after he becomes a little noted, tumbles into good Business; and these are the Proceedings, that mortify the common Apothecaries, and induce them to despise and sneer at the practical Chemist, because he contents himself with a third Part of the Apothecaries Gains, although the Chemist acknowledges his Profits in the practical Way, to be nearly half.

I HAVE just instanced this Example, *viz.* of the Bark, wherein the clandestine Profits of the common Apothecary are truly stated, as well as the Method, by which several of them continue and prolong the Diseases of those who are so inconsiderate

as to employ them. There are other Instances of Diseases, whereby the Apothecary, who is guilty of these Mal-Practices, can enforce prodigious Advantages. The Truth of which may be collected from the above Example; it shall suffice at present, to remark a little more of their Profit, *viz.* Any Apothecary can purchase a Pound of *Sperma Ceti* from any Chemist, of the finest Sort, at two Shillings *per* Pound; now as it is common to compound their Bolus's and Draughts, by means of a little Yelk of Egg, wherein this is the only Article to depend on, as in Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness, or where there is an inward Complaint, occasioned by a Fall, Blow, or the like; then perhaps four of these Bolus's or Draughts are ordered every Day, till the Disorder is removed. These Bolus's and Draughts are by the most reasonable Apothecary, charged at One Shilling and Six-pence each, when it is well known, that the practical Chemist would be glad to put them off at Six-pence a piece: but this is not all; for some of the above Disorders, it is well known, can be removed in half the Time with more effectual Medicines, and with ten times less Expence; therefore whoever considers this, let him remember the

old Motto, *Qui vult decipi, decipiatur*. I could enumerate hundreds of these Examples, but let the following Observations be remarked as a general *Scholium*. No Bolus, of what kind soever, ever exceeds Eight-pence Cost to the Apothecary; the richest half Pint Julep one Shilling; the Draught, of what kind soever, Nine-pence. The Quart Emulsion used in Stranguries, occasioned by Blisters, one Shilling; and other Medicines accordingly; the Company of the Apothecaries dare not assert the above Rates to be false, and hence every Person may form a tolerable Judgment, whether they be imposed on in their Bills; and if the Excuse of the Price be fixed on Account of the *Bezoar* being compounded in the Medicines, the Patient may safely, on all Occasions, desire it to be omitted; for, whatever some People may fancy, it has been found to act in the human Body, with no other Efficacy, than as a sluggish inert Calx, as Calx of Antimony, &c. which has been known to obstruct the Lacteals, when given in large Quantities, and by that means occasion a universal *Atrophy*.

WHAT is most to be lamented in the above Examples, is the Patient, who seldom
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dom considers the Ingenuity and Honesty of his Apothecary, if he be recommended as a Person, who has been in Trade some Years, consequently a Man of Credit, and has acquired the Esteem of those, to whom he has paid a polite Complaisance, and with the additional Circumstances of a *Tye-Wig and Rocquelo* has enforced his Credentials.

THE old Women and Midwives are remarkable for these Recommendations, who ever insist on being thought Judges, because their Apothecaries (by attacking them on the *blind Side*) approve of every thing they say and do; nay, such is the Effeminacy of the present Practice, that the Fair Sex are generally so opinionated, that rather than listen to the real Merit of an ingenious Stranger to them, they will not scruple to place their *dear genteel Apothecary* in competition with *Æsculapius* himself; though perhaps he knows no more of the Practice of Physick, than what he acquired from common Observations, as a Labourer to some Quack, together with the Perusal of *Quincy's Dispensatory*, which, by the way, has furnished the Town with such Swarms of Empirics, that, perhaps, it has occasioned

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the Death of as many People, as ever it returned Shillings.

THE trading Chemical Cheats are not to be exempted from some of the above pernicious Practices. They frequently amuse the poor Venereal Patient by repeated Doses of Physic, while he pays ready Money, until a large Sum is extorted, and at last discharges him uncured; or, what is worse, instead of curing him, converts his Clap into an inveterate Pox; a Practice so frequent with the advertising Quacks, that was it not for such Treatment, the regular Surgeon would want Business.

FROM hence it may be easily inferred, how careful and circumspect a Patient ought to be in the Choice of his Apothecary and Chemist; and that the bare Hearsay, and Recommendation of an indifferent Person is not to be trusted, and that for divers important Reasons. A Patient should never be bigotted to any Apothecary, but ought at all times carefully to endeavour to distinguish the Man of Learning from the Empiric. The old Practitioner is not to be regarded more than a young one, if the young one has been regularly

gularly educated, and is known to be a Man of Learning and Genius. The Art of Physic is not to be acquired, nor pursued by any old Method or common Track; but Medicines are to be varied as Circumstances require, and none but an ingenious Man can investigate these Circumstances. That common ignorant Notion so prevailing, *viz. My Apothecary knows my Constitution, — has been us'd to me for Years, &c.* is not to be countenanced too far, as if no Man could compound a Dose of purging Physic, &c. agreeably to the Constitution of the Patient so well as he, who has been employed by him for Years. This is the most prevailing Fancy attending those Patients, who through their peculiar Bigotism will more readily employ an Empiric than a regular learned Apothecary; though they can assign no other Reason for such Preference, than that *He knows my Constitution best, &c.* But the Absurdity and Fallaciousness of such Reasoning, is easily discerned by the Man of Sense. Indeed it must be acknowledged, that through the peculiar Idiosyncrasy of the Patient, the Apothecary is obliged sometimes to alter his Medicines accordingly. As for Instance, some Constitutions are more readily and safely fa-
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livated with a Mercurial Unguent, outwardly applied; others cannot be salivated by this Means, but the Business is well performed with Mercurials inwardly : the Bark will purge some Constitutions violently, and prove highly Restraining to others; and these Things happen quite the Reverse to the same People at different Times, according to the Alteration of the different Fluids, &c. in the Body: but as the Body and Constitution of Man is so very unstable, and subject to such a perpetual Round of Changes, occasioned by the Air, Diet, &c. that it may be truly said never to continue in the same State for two Hours; and as Medicines are known to affect the same Body differently at different Times; how can it be made appear, that one Apothecary should know the Constitution by being used to the Patient, any better than he, who is an entire Stranger, and forms his Judgment according to the Symptoms of the Pulse, by proper Questions and external Diagnostics? It is certainly a Task too hard for the most able Physician. All these Facts evince the Necessity of employing that Person as an Apothecary, who by his peculiar Genius and Learning, can best investigate the primary Cause and Nature

the Disease, and then the judicious Application of proper Medicines becomes easy: but how can this be effected by an Empiric, who is employed through a Fancy of the Patient, and whose Practice is but meer Guess-Work, (Hit or miss, Luck is all.) It may be truly inferred from hence, that some thousands endanger, and perhaps lose their Lives, by their particular Whimsies; for it has been demonstrated before, that in any Part of *London*, where there is One deserving Chemist or Apothecary of Genius or Letters, there are Five who would be found by proper Examination, to be meer Emperics, and yet in good Practice, occasioned by the silly Fancy of the inconsiderate Patient. More Instances of this Nature might be easily deduced; but as this was intended as a Pamphlet, this Subject shall be deferred to another Opportunity.

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CONCLUSION.

BY the preceding Discourse the principal Views of the ignorant and illiterate Practitioners in Chemistry and Physic are sufficiently delineated; and as it has been demonstrated, that this Band of Enthusiasts do actually compound, retail, and practise with sophisticated Medicines; it now becomes a necessary and incumbent Duty, to propose a Method, whereby this spreading Calamity may be redressed. It has been considered, that the Petition to Parliament, by the Company of Apothecaries, was founded on sinister, ambitious Views, and that the WELFARE OF HIS MAJESTY'S SUBJECTS was not so much regarded, as an additional Increase of their present monstrous Profits: And that this was a second Reason why the Legislature refused to acknowledge them as COMPETENT JUDGES, and hence, are no longer to be considered as such by the Public, nor a proper Body to inspect the Shops of their Superiors. The Apothecary cannot be thought a Judge of the essential Qualities of Compounds, because he does
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not understand Chemistry; if he did, he would not be obliged to buy his Chemicals, consequently could find no Fault with his Medicines. The Druggist is liable to the same Objections, for he would have no Occasion for his Chemicals from their Laboratory, if he could prepare them himself; the Physician may know how to prescribe Medicines, and by their Effects may pronounce their Goodness; but he cannot be supposed to be the best Judge, because most Physicians seldom or never do compound *Galenical* Medicines, much less the Chemicals, to the Preparation of which they must be entire Strangers: Hence it follows, that the Chemist must be the proper Arbitrator in this important Affair. The Chemist, by various Experiments and Arts, unknown to any but himself, can analyse the most elaborate Preparations, described in the *Dispensatory*, and by Means of Fire and proper Menstruums can discover the latent *Frauds* and *Substitutes*, as has been before observed; but lest the Chemist should be suspected of passing Sentence too partially, it is necessary to join him with the Physician and Druggist, that those, whom they inspect, may have the utmost satisfactory Justice done them; therefore it

becomes expedient to form a Committee, consisting of an equal Number of Physicians, Chemists, and Druggists, to be annually chose by the College of Physicians, and sworn into their Office by a proper Oath. This Committee, by an Act for that Purpose, shall be vested with a Power of inspecting the Shops, as oft as they think proper, of all those who prepare and retail Medicines, as well as those who practise as Apothecaries, in the same Manner as in former Grants for that Purpose; and where they shall find any bad Medicines, shall cause the same to be destroyed, and levy a Fine of Twenty Shillings, to be paid every Time, by the Offender; and this Power shall extend no further than Miles in and round the City of *London*; they shall be further empowered, to summon all those Chemists, Druggists, and Apothecaries, who keep open Shops, compound, and retail Medicines, as well as those that practise as Apothecaries, and that on producing Certificates of their Apprenticeships, they be regularly examined, whether they are qualified and capable to follow the above mentioned Professions and Trades; and if adjudged uncapable, that they be dismissed, and a proper Fine to be levied, if

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at any Time they be found disobeying such Orders as are necessary for that Purpose, &c.

SUCH a salutary Power as this, properly applied, could not fail of producing the most happy Effect. It would certainly purge the Town of those Swarms of Physical and Chemical Impostors, would manifestly preserve the *Lives and Healths* of Thousands of his *Majesty's Subjects*, infallibly promote the Learning of the Physician, Chemist, and Druggist, and quiet the uneasy *Apothecary*; who, as a certain Gentleman remarked (when told the Design of their Petition) were grown so jealous of the Chemists Profits in poisoning, that they had petitioned for an Act, to engross the whole Art to THEMSELVES.

POSTSCRIPT.

SINCE the Writing of the preceding Discourse, I have had a small Time, to peruse a printed Paper, privately handed about, called the APOTHECARIES CASE, which they have presented to Parliament, the better to justify their late Proceedings.

THIS Piece contains a Number of Articles relative to their primary Intentions, as they would induce the World to credit; but although several of those Articles coincide with the Conditions of *this Pamphlet*, yet some of them manifestly betray the same lucrative Principles, as are already instanced; they still insist on their stale Title of *Competent Judges*, and refuse to acknowledge the Chemists to be their Competitors or Superiors in this Point; but if the Arguments in this Pamphlet prove insufficient, I am able to demonstrate from their own Words, that the Chemists merit the Preference, in the Opinion of all judicious Men: For if the Chemists are the most artful Sophisticians of Medicines, and can adulterate them

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so dexterously, as to elude the Judgment, and perplex the most * *accurate Examiner*, [viz. the Apothecary] and which none can reveal but those who have wrapped them up together; it is evident, the Chemist can best determine the Frauds of those, whose Practices little differ from his own: For to set a Thief to catch a Thief is an old Maxim. Hence, would it not be absurd to appoint an *innocent honest Apothecary*, to detect the Frauds of an imposing, roguish Chemist? The Attempt would prove equally as ridiculous as the training up a *Jack-daw* to catch a *Hawk*.

THE real lucrative Designs of the Apothecaries are very perspicuous; for if their Intentions were primarily founded upon honourable and equitable Principles, why did they not consult the Chemists and Druggists during this four Years Plot (since they allow there are some honest Men amongst them) or why did they depreciate and slight the Counsel and Assistance of the learned College? These could not be suspected, as *void of Integrity, or guilty of Miscompounding Medicines*. But, in short, why have they been so clandestine in all their Proceedings? The Reason is plain, they de-

* Vide *Frauds detected in Drugs, &c.*

signed to establish an arbitrary Power, to enrich themselves by destroying the Liberty of the fair Trader; and this seems to be confirmed by some Articles in their present *printed Case* *.

— *Quantum mutatus ab* —

How artfully, and with what *Fribbling* Complaisance do they now address the learned College, whose Assistance, two Months ago, they so contemptibly rejected. But as the Physicians are now petitioning the Parliament, for an Amendment of the late Act: It is to be hoped, they will unveil their iniquitous Scheme; by which means the Honourable House of Commons may be better enabled to vest those Persons only with proper Authority, who appear most able to execute the same impartially. Such a necessary Power cannot fail of producing the most salutary Purposes, as it would greatly preserve the Lives of his Majesty's Subjects, infallibly restore the Reputation of Pharmacy, and daily improve and confirm the Excellency of the noble Science of CHEMISTRY.

* *Vid.* the Article wherein they humbly propose the Sum of Six Shillings, to be annually contributed by every Shop, within seven Miles round the City, to be disbursed in repairing their Garden at *Chelsea*, which, at a moderate Computation, would amount to the Sum of 1200 *l.* Yearly.

