

**The present state of physick and surgery in London. With an estimate of the prizes [sic] of all the medicines now in use / In a letter from a merchant in London, to a dispensary physician, with the physician's answer.**

### **Contributors**

Merchant in London.  
Dispensary physician.

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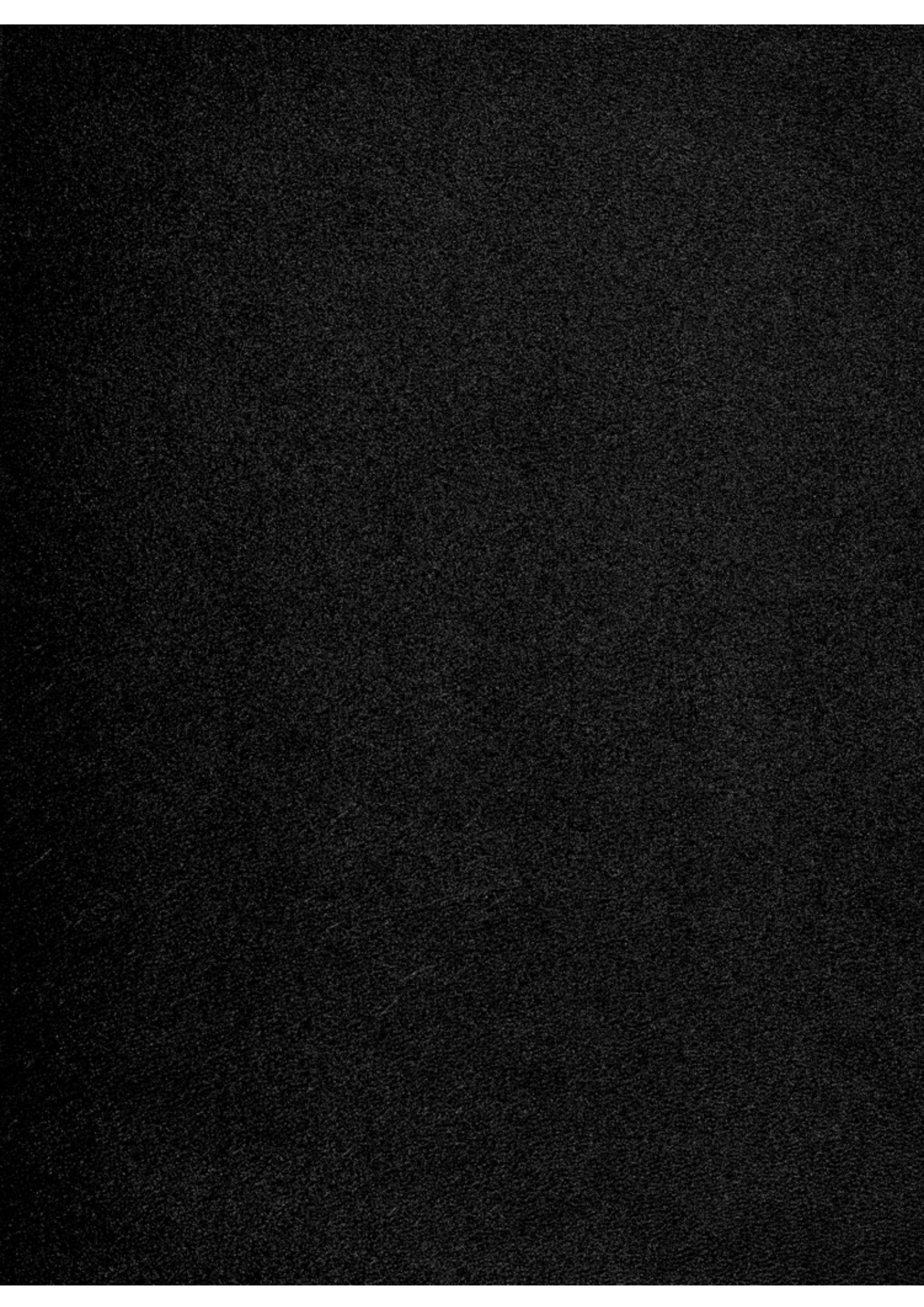
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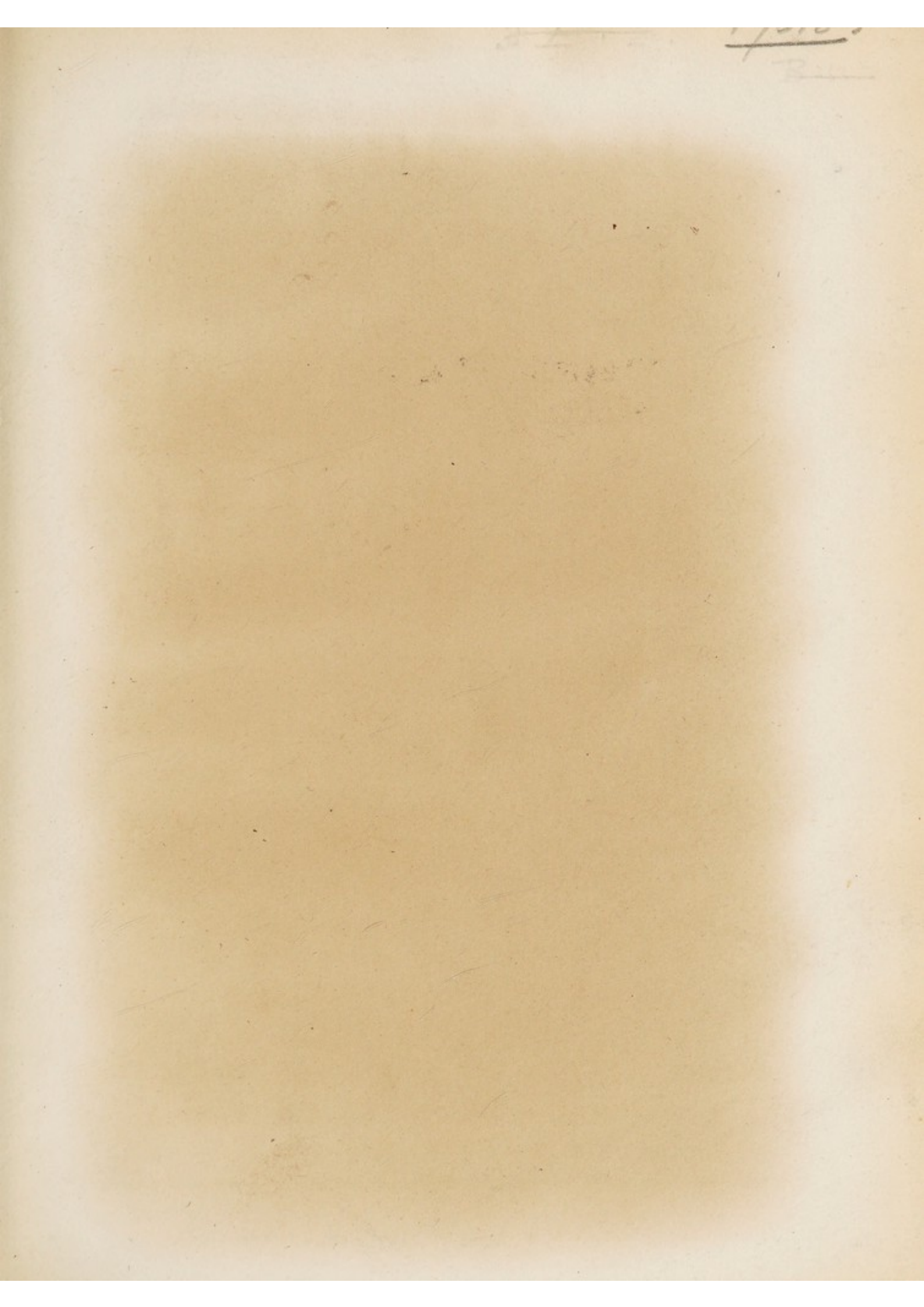
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PRESENT (The)





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THE  
**Present State**  
OF  
*PHYSICK & SURGERY*  
LONDON.

With an *Estimate* of the *Prizes* of all the  
**MEDICINES**

Now in Use.

IN A LETTER

From a Merchant in *London*, to a Dispensary  
Physician, with the Physicians Answer.

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*Siste gradum, & specta: Non hinc Ludicra petuntur  
Præmia, sed vestra de Vitâ & Sanguine certant.*

*Cos acuens ferrum, quando Ægro Vena secanda,  
Sic ait: ut prosum, quàm mihi dulce teri?*

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LONDON,  
Printed for Thomas Speed, over against Jonathan's  
Coffe-House in Exchange-Ally in Cornhill, 1701.

T H E

# The Subscribers to the Dispensary.

<b>S</b> IR Tho. Millington President.	Dr. Le Fevre.
Dr. Collins.	Dr. Hutton.
Dr. Charleton.	Dr. Sloan.
Dr. Brown.	Dr. Hawys
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## The PREFACE to the Reader.

**D**esigning to Publish these Papers, on a Subject in which every one is now, or will hereafter be Concern'd, I address to the Evening Meeting at the College, after they had given their Advice to a large Confluence of Patients, for a more particular Information, having lately met with some Reflections on the Dispensary. They gave me the Reasons, which mov'd them to make the first Subscription to their Repository of Medicines.

1. That the Apothecaries had often Reproach the Physicians, that the Poor were left to their Care, and that they neglected the Pharmaceutical Part, or the Preparations of Remedies, which was now lodg'd in themselves.

I was convinc'd that the Dispensary is the greatest Relief to the Poor, who have the best advice, and the best Physick at a very small Expence.

The Physicians are frequently considering the Drugs, and as carefully viewing the common Preparations, improving them, and adding others, which they judge more useful to the various intentions of their Art.

2. The Citizens very often Complain to their Physicians of the very chargeable Bills of the Apothecaries, and declare their Jealousie of a Combination in the multiplying Medicines, and Doses, beyond the Exigence of the Disease.

The Dispensary gives relief to the First, by affording theirs almost at the First Cost, 15 or 18 in 20 Cheaper than they are paid for in the Bill, at Christmas. And the Dispensary Physicians being under no Engagements with the Apothecaries, Cure their Patients with One, or a few Prescriptions, in less difficult Disorders: with no more, than are necessary in the more dangerous Distempers, carefully avoiding (all Medicines acting on Nature with more or less violence) the more hazardous Extreme. The Charge is under 10 or 20 Shillings in a Fever or Small Pox, instead of so many Pounds. Many others require not Physick of more than Three or Four Shillings, which by the Craft of subdividing into Boles, and Powders, and Draughts are in the Sum total of a Bill Four or Five Pounds, the Rates to be supported by the very hard Names, with which they are Dignify'd for this purpose.

## The Preface to the Reader.

3. *The Third Reason respects the Physicians. They have been many Years under the dread of the Apothecaries power, who avowedly own, they Command in all the Families, and can bring in, or turn out, whom they please. They observe, they Govern as a Tyrant his Subjects, make them obedient by the grievous Taxes they are forc't to Pay. The People from the exorbitant Payments to them, dare not consult a Physician, unless at the last extremity of a Disease.*

*The Physicians would govern their Patients, only by their own Reason. They have the Liberty of having very cheap Physick, instead of very dear, and consulting them at the beginning of a Distemper, secure from an Expence which shall at any time surprize.*

*They would prevent their own Ruine, chiefly from their best Success. This has been hitherto the Case of the Faculty. If they Conquered a Distemper, the Remedy (tho' not the manner of using it) becomes the Apothecaries Nostrum, to be Sold out to every one, and their Successors: And the Doctor left at leisure to invent more, to remain with him during the Cure of one Patient, like the Ephemera, which lives but one Day.*

*Thus the Dispensary complies with the Two Proposals of the Apothecaries, removes the Peoples Complaints and Jealousy of a Cheat put on them by all Physicians, and gives the license to him of using his own Method and Prescript, to his Patients advantage and his own.*

*The Apothecary cannot with any ingenuity complain, that he is injured. For as he seizes on the Advising part, as a Dependency, he would annex to the Shop Trade: The other from the Example brings them both together to the better Service of the Publick. If the Apothecary proves an Ambodexter, feels the Pulse with one Hand, and makes Medicines with the other; Why may not the College please the People with the same Dexterity? Unless (which is reasonable, where Health and Life are taken care of) the Apothecary will wholly Practice the Judicial part, and leave the Ministerial of making Medicines to the Physician.*

*But I have heard the Dispensary impeacht with the barbarous Design of destroying the Apothecaries Company. They Scorn the ridiculous Imputation, and declare the greatest Esteem of those of that Society, who, like the Gentleman near the College, Moribus antiquis, are as Eminent for their Care in preparing the best Medicines, as their Integrity and Modesty in not invading the Profession, or abusing and destroying the People.*

*The*

## The Preface to the Reader.

*The Apothecaries destroy themselves by their Numbers, multiplying from a Thousand to as many more in the space of Eight Years, without any Prospect of checking the superfluous Increase.*

*They must therefore accuse the unhappy Conduct of their Company, who would not foresee, and are now insensible of its fatal Consequences.*

*They avow with assurance, that they have or will take the Practice of Physick into their own Hands, only reserve Five or Six Great Men, to take on themselves the Odium of the Deaths of their Customers. The Surgeons fare not better than the Faculty, They are reserv'd for the Difficult Cases, are rob'd of all the more common; by success in which, they can only acquire Skill and Dexterity for the more Important. The Poor are undone in every Sickness, and destroyed in the subsequent, deter'd from applying to any Relief. The Dispensary pretends to preserve those, who are at present more numerous than the Apothecaries.*

*It will be the Alma Mater to the Physicians from the Two Universities: who will be able to Exercise the Learning they had acquir'd there.*

*The other Objection I have often heard from the more unobserving People, or whose Memory may not serve them well, that the Apothecaries sell us Cheap. It's granted, if they will. But do not they by their own and the Doctor's Artifices in dividing, sell an Electuary of 12 Pence (the most Cordial and most us'd in Feavers) in Boles for 12 Half Crowns: A Julep of the same Value, put into little Glasses, for almost as much. A bitter or other Decoction, which may be Boyl'd at Home in Silver, or cleaner Vessels, then in the Shop, of Two or Three Pence, brought in little Doses, at 10 or 12 Shillings. We will not quarrel their 11 Pence in the Shilling Profit, would only prevent the return of it 40 times in 24 Hours many days following, when the Patients advantage is the least part of the Design of the mincing and subdividing.*

*The Last and Vilest Objection is, that the subscribers to the Dispensary are not as Eminent, as the Physicians their Favourites. It's own'd they can make Famous or Infamous, by a few Cabals and Visits in all Quarters of the Town. But is there any part of Physick, even Poetry, which these Gentlemen cannot pretend to, as well as the other, who distrust their own Merit, by courting their Favour, and putting themselves into their Service, and plying them, as Porters a Shop of the larger Business.*

*I could not, till after a long Discourse penetrate into the more abstruse and secret design of the Dispensary. 'Twas own'd at last by those*

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## The Preface to the Reader.

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*the most proper Judges, that the People in the more common and usual Illnesses, recover easily by the Strength of Nature, or one or two proper Directions. In these a great, but useless Expence must pay the Attendance of the Apothecary, who has no gratuity given him, but must satisfy himself by the number of things, he can prevail on the Sick to take.*

*In the other Diseases with Danger, when Nature is weak or raging, and has only one Crisis (of its own choosing chiefly) by which it can be sav'd; and many hot or cooling Doses, unhappily given, or diverting the Crisis by one tampering, brings certain Destruction. By this unfortunate, but in vogue management, 'twas asserted, that the far greater Numbers are Kill'd and Destroy'd by Physick, who would undisturb'd have surely recover'd without Any.*

*The Dispensary Practise will in a little time demonstrate, that the Remedy to this Pernicious Practise can be only had from it self, secure from the Infection of this Inhumane Craft of growing Rich. Others therefore, who resolve to continue in the Old Mode and Fashion, and will have the Apothecary to please himself in the Price and Number of the Medicines they take, need not express any Resentment to the Dispensary, which only proposes a Method in all respects more Commodious for them.*

*They may expect that this will be Debated between the Physicians of the Apothecaries Party and the Peoples, the one Side relying on the receiv'd Maxim, si Populus decipi vult, decipiat, the other, on the Magna Charta of all Communities, Salus Populi Suprema Lex esto.*

*When it shall become Sensible, how much the Publick is impos'd on in the Expence in Sicknes and in Life it self. The Laws which now Punish Offenders, who by Support or Discipline might have been diverted, will at last interpose the Cure of more Latent, and more enormous Crimes. The Faculty will have the Protection it Demands, after the performance of its Part, of all the stipulated Conditions. The Dispensary will have the publick regard, or observe its Enemies some times Punished with Fines, more than the Hundred Marks, or the other more Severe, the loss of Life, from Medicines in the exorbitant Quantity, as destructive as Poyson.*

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### Advertisement.

**C**hristian Thoughts: Being Meditations on the Four Last Things, viz. Death, Judgment, Heaven, Hell, with suitable Prayers. By the Author of *The Duties of the Closet*. Will be Published in a short time. Printed for *Tho: Speed*, in *Exchange Alley*, where all the Author's other Books are Sold.

A LETTER.

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*A Letter from a Merchant in London,  
to a Dispensary Physician.*

S I R,

I reflected often after my recovery from my Feaver on the method reviv'd by the *Dispensary Physicians*, of treating their *Patients* with a few *Medicines* (not almost hourly every day, as is the present mode of the Town) but as you observe the effect of the *last*, and the apparent exigence of the *Disease*. This *Caution* gave me a greater confidence in your *Art*, and was improv'd by the assurance I had of the *Medicines* being faithfully prepar'd and dispenc't at the *College*: the expence of which was less during my confinement, than I have had formerly exacted in one day. How often have I thought of the strict command you gave, that I should after my *restless nights*, remain *undisturb'd* till almost *Noon*, and of the repose and refreshment I never fail'd of during the morning. You demanded the *first view* of me, before I was ruffled by any *intrusion*, especially by those who from a groundless pretence to skill disturb by *vain enquiries*, or terrifie by random *Prognosticks*, the entertainment for the mind during the inquietude of the night following.

When you allow'd me to sit up and receive my Friends, I had one day the conversation of my Relations, who had consulted you, They entertain'd me with this new *Revolution* in Physick, and the generous design of the *Dispensary*, with which they declar'd themselves extremely satisfi'd. They told me that this *Contest* between the *Honest Physicians* of the Dispensary (thus it seems you are distinguisht, tho the word has lately lost its *value*) and the *Apothecaries* on the other side, supported by their *Confederates* the *Anti-College Physicians*, was as much the common Discourse abroad, as the

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difference of the two *Companies*, the *Bank* and their *Antagonists*, or the great *Factions*, which divide the Nation. 'Twas not very easie to us, to find out, upon what reasons and pretences this *Controversy* began, and is now carried on with so much *heat* and *animosity*.

But we, who had been advis'd by you, and had us'd the *College Remedies*, could more easily discover the true causes of this *Separation*, than the *Citizens*, who yet ly under great *Errours* and *Prejudices* in this *Affair*.

The case I presume (and it was the *Opinion* of the whole *Company*) may be stated in these few particulars.

That the *Honest Physician* is oblig'd by the *Trust* repos'd in him by his *Patient*, and his *Interest* in the *Success*, to take *Care*, that the *Medicines* are *effectual* and *Dispenc't* with the utmost *Fidelity*. For if the *Instruments* he uses are not good, the effect of his *Advice* is lost, and by a mistake in *Weight* or *Measure* the *Life* of the *Patient* destroy'd.

The *Apothecary* neglects his *duty* to the *Physician* and the *Sick*: Is rarely in his *Shop*, prepares few *Medicines*, but buys them abroad under great uncertainties, and trusts raw un-experienc'd *Apprentices* to select the *Ingredients* and measure the *Proportion* in the *Prescript*.

The *people*, who are not acquainted with the *Dispensary*, of two *Evils*, as thy think, choose the least. They believe, that, by using the *Apothecary*, they save the *Physicians Fee*, tho the *Medicines* excessively rated, and brought in little parcels to be taken often, rise to a greater sum, ( by three in four in most cases ) than both the *Advice* and *Physick* necessary in most *Distempers*.

The *Associate Party* of the *College* often feeling the *Apothecaries* power in the *Families*, readily come in, or are forced to serve under them, on condition they forward with all their *Arts* the *Increase* of the *Bill*, and raise their *Ability* to advise to an equal pitch with their own: By both which the *Apothecaries Interest* is more confirm'd and improv'd.

Your *Design* therefore is, to revive the former *Practice* of *Physick*, particularly that of *Dr. Lower* and *Dr. Sydenham*, who had much greater success with fewer *Remedies*, then are now upon these different projects forc'd upon the *people*: or rather to expose to publick view, the *methods*,  
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the *Physicians* at this time and the *Apothecaries*, use to themselves and *Friends*, of avoiding carefully the excess, by which the most *innocent* things, when *Nature* is disorder'd, become *destructive*.

You design to convince the *People* by their experience, that the most useful and *effectual* remedies are of no great price.

The *Publick* will soon become sensible that the *Expence* in almost all *Diseases* of each day will be of one, two, or three Shillings, instead of so many pounds, at the usual rates of the modern management, and that their *Distempers* will sooner yeild to a few well prepar'd College Medicines, than to the common decay'd, vitious, and adulterate of the Shops, and that the *Physician's* Reward and the *Expence* of what he advises, comes far short of the *Sum Total* of a long *Bill*.

Your *Dispensary* therefore cannot fail of the *Universal* approbation, especially when the *people* shall reflect, that in many cases they have us'd themselves, the *method* you recommend: preparing in their Houses the *white Decoction*, *purging Infusions* of *Rhubarb*, and *Sena*: or using the common *Cordial Waters*, *Spirits* and *Tinctures*, bought of the *Druggist*, *Chymist*, or *Whole-sale-Shop*.

But when its use shall become more *publick*, your generous *Charity* and regard to *Mankind*, will be loudly applauded; and the advantage from it to this City allowed to be of greater extent, than all the *Royal* and munificent *Hospitals* in *Europe*.

We could take this *short view* of the present and the future state of *Physick* (which is obvious to every one, who will consider his own Interest, or not be very unwilling to be inform'd) but because it is an *Affair* of the greatest concern of our Life: Your *Friends* oblig'd me to consult you, and report to them your *Opinion* of the greivous *Distemper* and the ~~most~~ <sup>most</sup> probable *methods* of *curing* it, with an unanimous resolution to support and encourage a *Design*, by which all *Conditions* of *Men* are equally oblig'd.

You prepar'd me to receive the *dismal Account* of the *barbarous treatment* of the *Sick*, by a *Preliminary Postulatum*, which no reasonable Person can refuse to allow, that the *Zeal* and Concern the *Dispensary Physicians* express to relieve

the Publick, ought not to be less, than is justly expected by every particular, when he commits his Health and Life to the Care and Integrity of his *Physician*.

I am afraid, my memory has not retain'd the whole, your information consisting of so many parts : But these have made on me too great an Impression, to be easily forgotten.

That we are more *impos'd* on, than any other *Nation* in the *World*, in all the *Arts*, which relate to *Health* and *Life*.

That the common and most useful *Remedies* are put on the people at a rate in the most fifty times, in many other one hundred times more, than their *intrinsic* value.

That the exorbitant *Expense* ruins the *Poor*, deters them and the *Wealthy* from a just care of their *Health*, to avoid the oppressive *treatment* in subsequent *Diseases*.

That to *hide* these *Exactions* from the people, the *Apothecaries* allow none to practice with them, but those *Physicians* who betray their *Profession*, countenance the use of a vast quantity of *Physick*, destructive to *Health*, and support the exorbitant rates in the *Bill*.

That the *Physicians* are by them brought into all the *Families*, even those, in which the *Publick* is greatly concern'd, whose most distinguishing *Character* is taken from their *Zeal* to *serve* their *Interest*.

*Writing well* is the *Language* for writing a very long *Prescription* ; so much of it is for the *Patient*, the larger part is the *Bribe* or gratuity to these *New Solicitors*, who cannot fail, when they assume the power to govern and command (in the *Physick business*) all their *Customers*.

The esteem of the *Profession* is sunk by the Scandal of all the *Deaths* in the *Town* thrown on the *Physicians*, who are rarely consulted, but when the *Case* is made *desperate* by the *Apothecary*. The *Patient* therefore takes the *Prognostick* of *Death* from the change of *Advice*, and is depriv'd of that *Assurance*, which is the greatest support in *Sickness*, as in *War*, from the opinion of the *Generals* Conduct from former *Success*, and in all other the greatest *Affairs*.

That the *Study of the Art* is neglected, because the *Diseases* are by ill treatment forc'd into *unnatural Symptoms*, and to differ from all these, your *Authors* treat of. There are in all the *Books of Physick* no *Cases of Distempers* manag'd by an *Apothecary*, by almost one common random method, your *Writers* having been careful in this particular to conceal the *Infamy* of the *People* and your *Profession*.

You perceiv'd my *Surprize*, and prevented my *Reflection* on the *College*, that they had not long since interpos'd to prevent the *ruine* of the *People* and *themselves*, by presenting me with the *Papers* publish'd by the *President* and *Censors*, and that lately concerning the *Dispensary*, subscrib'd by more than forty of the first *Contributors*. You pointed to me the *Paragraphs* which justify, and support all the *Articles of Impeachment*. The account of the erection of the *Dispensary* at the desire of the *City* must silence even the *Apothecaries*, as well as the unwary *Opposers*, whose *interest* is procur'd by it. I observ'd its now almost *ten years* since, that a *Committee* of the *Honest* part of the *College* had expos'd these *Grievances* to the *Lord Mayor* and *Count of Aldermen*, and had afterward at several times convinc'd them of the necessity of removing the *oppression* the *Publick* had long felt and complain'd of. It was concluded, that the *Physicians* should rate the price of the *Medicines* in his *Prescription*. This was haughtily rejected by the *Company*. At the meeting in their *Hall* some months after, a small number of the *younger Apothecaries* offering to comply with it, were compell'd with *Threats* of the worst usage in their *Society*, to retract and withdraw their promise. The *Committee* of the *Aldermen* and *Commons* propos'd: (the *Apothecary* thus flying of from that as necessary as reasonable *Proposal*) That the *College* would provide a *Repository of Medicines*, which will have and may justly claim (especially after twenty thousand *Bills* made up there) their *Regard* and *Protection*.

The *Governours* of our *Hospitals*, who give their *charity* in directing the *charity* of the *Founders* in their *respective Houses*, where the health of some *Hundreds* is provided for, cannot observe the calamities of many *Thousands* without concern, and their *Endeavour* to promote their *relief*: Must we not conclude our selves *Parties* and *Accessaries* to the

the ruine of the *Poor*, who beside the *pain* and *dread* of the *event* of the *Disease*, are under the fear of *spending* their *whole Substance*, in one sickness, and being absolutely undone? They are often *relasht* from the *Distemper* by the *strength* of *Nature* and their *Constitution*, and under the fear of *Arrests* or in *Prison* for a *Bill* of the then *useless Physick* above their *Ability* to *discharge*. The condition of the *Wealthy* is equally *piteable*, and as much wants *redress*. The *Ship* cast on the *Shoar* is fill'd not with *design* to *save* but *plunder*: More *Art* shewen to *raise* the *Bill*, than to *recover* the *sick Person*. *Declining Nature* loaded *hour* after *hour*, the *complaining* or *refusing Stomach* forc'd to submit by *cramming* in more, and *Life* overcome by *Surfets* of too many *Courses* of *Boles* and *Fuleps*.

The *Laws* of the last *Age* foresaw and provided against these *vile abuses*, but our *Laws* are subject to the same *Dis-eases* with our selves, or are falln into the *Infirmity* of old *Age*, to be *regardless* of others concerns, as they are neglected by them. 'Tis true, the *Magistrate* worthily shews his care of the *publick* in little things, adjusting the *Measures* and *Scales*, and the orderly enquiry into the goodness of the common *Liquors*.

I suggested to you, and you allow'd it, that the *Faculty* could not want the *Art* of relieving it self: but you reminded me, that one *Party* turns its *Force* against the *other*, and like a *vitious Composition* of *Ingredients* of *opposite qualities*, had no *Power* or *Vertue* to subdue the *Epidemick Malignity*.

Its allow'd, that from one *Aburdity* admitted, many others inevitably follow, as one *Cause* produces many *Effects*.

The great *Increase* of *Apothecaries* is evidently the cause of all the present *Grievances* to the *Profession* of *Physick*, to *Themselves* and the *People*.

They are become one *Thousand*, including the *Partners*, more then ten to one *Physician*. The regulated *Cities* abroad allow no more, then can readily make up the *Physicians* *Directions*, in the other proportion of one to ten.

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The consequence of so great and disproportionate a number is not to be avoided, that *nine Hundred* of them cannot possibly keep good Medicines in their *Shops*. For most of the *Compositions*, and many of the *Simples* often *mov'd* in little *quantities*, are subject to *evaporate* their most active parts, to corrupt in a little time, and become *vappid*, or *sour*, or rotten and *stinking*. Who will believe, that the *simple Waters*, *Tinctures*, *Spirits*, *Powders* of *volatile parts*, *Syrups*, *Electuaries*, &c. can wait and keep well, till they have their turn to be us'd, when the *Shops* are as numerous as the *Sick*. There must be a *quick vent* and *expencc* and *use* of all *perishable* wares. They must be thrown away and supplied a new, if the *Customer* cannot be *impos'd* on. But that *experiment* shall be sooner made, then a new *Preparation*.

This the *Gentlemen* soon observe in a *Tavern*, where the *Draught* is not great for want of *Customers*: and the *Ladies* see much *antiquated Ware* in the *Mercers Shop* not often *visited*.

Their number obliges 'em in imitation of *Hawkers*, to be always visiting the *Families* to recommend the *taking Trade* in all the easiest *Cases*, and in other cases to *quicken* the use of the *Boles* and *Draughts*. They are rarely seen attending the business of the *Shop*. The *Prescript* of the *Doctor* and *Apothecary* himself is left to be made up by the *raw heedless Boy*, not presumed yet to have *Discretion* equal to his *Master*, whose utmost care is *required* and *depended* on, where the *Patients Life* is lost by almost every mistake. For the *violent*, *Vomitivc*, *Corrosive*, *Chymical Liquours* or *Powders* may be taken down instead of the *Cordials* of the same *Colours*. Can the *Boy* bring his mind to a *steadiness* to number the drops of *Laudanum* or the *violent Acids*, or to weigh to half a grain *Opium* or *Elaterium*? Shall the *Boy* judge, that the languishing *Patient*, he never saw, must dy by the *Apozeme* boyl'd in the *Pott* after *this* or *that other Decoction*, or that a *Copper Vessel* with a rising *rust* of *Verdegrise* shall make *poysonous* or *vomitivc* the next *Preparation*?

The honest *Apothecaries* lament the difficulties which by the exorbitant numbers are brought on the *People* and *Themselves*: That their *Medicines* cannot be *vented* while they are good and fit for use.

That

That the *Scent, Palate, Stomach* of the *Sick* must condemn the corrupted *stinking Dose*, before he can lay it aside. That they are then put on the difficult task of justifying a *sour* or *musty Draught*, by arguing against the Senses of the *Sick* and *Attendants*. That they and their *Servants* are basely us'd as *Porters*, (which gave the Motto, *Opiferque per urbem Dicor*) sent forward and backward to *fetch and carry* the *Boles* and *Glasses*: that they have not leisure in their *Shops* to prepare and compound any thing, but buy abroad in the hurry of posting up and down, what e're they can have at the *Wholesale*.

That they are forc'd to advise against their *Conscience*, commanded by the *Nurses* and the *People* to own themselves as skillful as other *Apothecaries*, (who undertake any thing,) that they may not forfeit their present and future business.

That to *live themselves* they must endanger the *Life* of their *Customer*, and give oftentimes more than they would use *themselves* under the same *Circumstance*. They reflect with *Horror* at first, that they violate the *Laws* of their *Country*, are subject to legal *Fines*, and adjudged *Felons*, if they mistake the *Vertue* or *Dose* of the *Medicine*. That they are oblig'd to set *exorbitant prizes* to the *Poor* and *Servants*, that the *Wealthy* may not discern the *difference*, and desire in that *case*, not to be *rais'd* so very far above the *level* with them. They are brought into the sad condition of the *French King*, who wantonly made his *Meals* on the *raw limbs* of his *poor Subjects*, as you may read the *absurd description* in the *uniform Heroick Poem King Arthur*.

The odd *confusion* of their *business* perplexes them: to be one hour wiping the *blistered* part, and clapping on *Melilote*, then in another *Family* giving a *Glyster*: in the next to consider, what to advise in a *Malignant Fever*, and in the *Convulsions* of a *Child* in another. The last must be done, by the basest *perfidiousness* of *stealing* off the *File* this or that other *Physicians* *Bill*, they imagine may happen to hit the *Case*, and save him the trouble of seeing the *Patient*.

'Tis obvious, the prodigious number of *Apothecaries*, who in a few years will naturally increase to more than twice as many, and so forward in a double proportion, will necessarily oblige them to improve the greater vent of *Physick*, and the *higher prizes*. They will not be wanting in the perpetual *incroachment* on the *Faculty*. They will be always plying in at the *Families*, to raise and support their Interest, against every thing which is not agreeable to it. They will assume the *cures* of many *Thousands* yearly, who would have been sooner well without *Physick*, to maintain the Title of *Dr.* given after a strict examination of the *Nurse* and the *Attendants*, who first salute them with it, and a *Licence to Practice*. They will struggle first with their own *Fraternity*, then the *Members* of the *College*, except their *Tools* the *Confederates*, while they gratify them, and write as well as can reasonably be expected, till another is known to practice a more profitable way of prescribing.

They will not bear or commend any method of Cure, but where *Physick* is ordered every *Hour*, and the management decently prolong'd, especially if the *Customer* is pleas'd with always mending.

They cannot suffer any *Character* of a *Physician* to pass without an *Allay* and *Antidote*, who will not justify his *Practice*, and all his *Medicines* with the *Air*, and the assurance of a common *Knight* of the *Post*, and take the death of the *Patient* on himself. Any *Citizen* who will give himself the trouble of thinking, will easily hence discern the reason of the perpetual *Dissensions* of the *College*. When one party would raise its reputation by serving the *Publick* faithfully, the other strenuously oppose all *Projects* of that kind, to merit the favour of the *Apothecaries*.

The *Apostates* from their own *Profession* are not to be inform'd, that the *Dignity* of the *Faculty* must sink, when the *Physician* is forc'd to delude the *People*, by applauding the unskillful or pernicious *Treatment*, and for his *Fee* has all the reproaches of the *House* and *Funeral*, when he dares not inform, that the *Patient* had the *fatal stroke* already given him, that the *Medicines* had not their *vertue*, that the usual mistake of the *Apprentice* in the change for another, or wrong proportion was the true cause of a now violent, not

natural Death, when he rarely treats a *Distemper* at its beginning, commonly the only time to interpose between Nature and the *Disease* to any purpose: But is call'd in to no purpose in the end, when all is in confusion, the vigour of Nature spent, or oppress'd possibly with as many *Doses*, as you can number *Hours* in 8 or 10 Days. When he is chiefly impoly'd in worn out and vitiated *Constitutions*, as a *Botcher* or *Cobler*, when Mr. *Tompion* or any other eminent *Artist* would reject such a job of work with scorn.

When I went abroad to return the *Visits* to my *Friends*, and was recommending the *Advantages* of the *Dispensary*, and the *Integrity* of the *Physicians*, who are the *subscribers* to it, you will not easily imagine, how surprising it was to me, that many express'd a *Prejudice* to it, without desiring to understand the design of it. A n table *Company* round a *Tea-table*, had been exclaiming, I perceiv'd, a great while against it, and concluded, that they'd go the old way, and expect till it came more in *Fashion*. That since they did not certainly know, how many had been kill'd by the *Apothecary's* ill advice or *Errors* in the *Doses* of *Physick*, they were easie enough not to find out new occasions of trouble. That every *Fee* to the *Doctor* on many accidents in the *Year*, went to the *Heart*: that the *Bill* at *Christmas*, tho' long enough to spoil the *diversions* of the *Season*, give but one, though a pretty strong *Fit*; which went off as soon as they could forget it, and came not again till the *Year* after. That they would not let the *Servant* go to fetch the things, when they could make the *Apothecary* do it, and rather their *Maids* should prattle at home with them, than gossip hours abroad at their *Shops*. I could only reply, that they themselves approv'd of the design of the *Dispensary*, when they us'd the *Purging Salts*, *Pearl Juleps*, *Harts-horn Decoction*, or the *Elixirs* and *Spirits* for the *Vapours*, which their *Physicians* formerly had communicated to them, and which they bought off the *Druggist* at no great expence. It was allow'd, but extorted from one of the *Company* with a visible concern in every Face, that the taking of that *Tax* had necessarily brought on others, and that they paid dearly for those and other *Domestick Preparations*, if the *Distemper* requir'd *Foreign Assistance*, and the *Medicines unknown* to the *Family*.

In the other *visits*, I made that day, I was startled at many *scandalous Reports* of the same form and contrivance industriously spread abroad against the *Subscribers* to, and the present management of the *Dispensary*. The first I contemn'd as *malicious* and *senceless Imposthures*: They had too much *Poetry* in 'em to pass for *truth*. The other part appear'd *ridiculously* little, and very easily *refuted*. That their *Physick* is as dear as the *Apothecary's*, when we experience the *difference* of 18 or 19 in 20. That their *goodness* is justify'd by the *Subscribers* care in the choice of every *Drug*, which they buy at the highest *prizes*. And their *Reputation* is answerable for every *Accident* or *Defect*. That they have not *Servants* sufficient, when they can easily *increase* the *Number* from 3 or 4 to 10: and the want of *Hands*, supposes the *growing* business equal to *defray* the *Charge* of more. These *Reflections* are for the most part very *awkwardly* made, there wanting the *Assurance* and *self perswasion* and *concern*, which becomes a *Satyr*. If the *subscribers* have not the *University Education* or *Capacity*, for their *Employment*, they may consult the *Apothecary's* list of the *College*, and find out better, if they can. If they destroy all their *Patients*, and the *Apothecaries* and their *Confederates* never fail of *success*, the want of *Advocates* will prevent the *tryal* and *nonfute* the *Debate*. If the *remedies* are not good, the *abus'd* *People* will readily and seasonably *complain*. If they have no *business*, the *Dispensary* can have none, and will be only a *Collection* of *Pots* and *Glasses*, and the *Servants* sufficient to shew the *useless Repository*.

The *People* will in a little time apprehend, that their *Interest*, in relation to *Health*, and *Expence*, is the *subject* of the *Controversy*, and that every one is both *Judge* and *Party*, and has power to give a *definitive sentence*, as far as himself is concern'd. Here is no *Law* to be enacted by *Majority* of *Voices*, or any *Restraint* to be put on the *Liberty* of any *particular person*. He need not express a *childish dread*, as if to be *Kidnapt* away, and us'd in the most terrible manner all his *life*, and never more to be *Master* of himself.

But the *Apothecaries* complain with no *Decorum*, and the worst *grace* imaginable. You (to please the *People*) make your selves as like the *Apothecaries*, as you can, with the only difference of a *Print* from a *Copper plate*, where the figures are exactly the same, only look a different way. You are become *Doctor-Apothecary*, and they have been these 40 years *Apothecary-Doctors*. You restore the ancient and cautious *Pract.ice* by providing effectual *Remedies*, and preventing many *deadly mistakes*. The *Apothecary* leaves his concern to the *wholesale* trade and his *Boy*, is always abroad giving advice. Can any two things be more alike in the outward *feature* and *appearance*? Can they be justly *displeas'd* with you, who give your care and countenance to the trade of making *Medicines*? As the *Apothecary* in return puts a value upon yours, in pleasing himself with the *Pract.ice* of *Physick*. They reply, They are forc't to it by the *importunity* of the *People*, so are you by the same *importunity* to send your *Prescript* to the *College*, by those, who like a good *Medicine*, at the *Intrinsic* value. They are afraid the *Dispensary* will in time *ruine* the *Apothecaries Trade*, who are industriously every day *destroying* your *Profession*. You are invaded with *vast Numbers*, like a *Russian Army*, who *slay* without *Quarter*, reserving only a few *slaves* to be cut of, if they bear not their *Chains* easily, or *scruple* any work they are *put upon*.

In other *Conversations* I had better success: I had *perswaded* not a few to consult those of the *Society* they *esteem'd*, at the *approach* of the *Spring*. I have had their *thanks* with large *Accounts* of the difference of the *old* and *new Pract.ice* of *Physick*. So many *Converts* in my *Neighbourhood* brought on me the *resentment* of my former *Apothecary*. He *expostulated* with me the *ill consequence* to their *Trade* with the most *bitter* and *envenom'd Reflections* on the *Dispensary*, and the *Promoters* of it. You shall judge from his manner of *arguing* the *Case*. We do *govern* and *command* all the *Families* in the *City*. They believe us in every thing, to the *advancement* of our *Trade*, and the *lessening* the *College Interest*. When the *Men* are abroad, or not in the *sick Chamber*

Chamber, we can recommend what *Physician* we please and *decry* the opposite Party. Do you believe we will spare one of them? Here he took out *hastily* of his Pocket the *scandalous List* Printed at the *desire* of the *Master* and *Wardens* of the *Apothecaries Company*, where our *honest Physicians* are *distinguish'd* by *Marks* from their *honest Slaves*, which being *promiscuous* in the *College* order, he blundered thrice, and shew'd me for *Killains*, those of their own *Confederacy*. But after some time he recover'd and told me, they were resolv'd to maintain the *reputation* of what they had *hitherto* done, as well as their *Advantages* over the *College* for the future. Many years since there has not been more than five *Physicians*, who have been rais'd but by *servi*ng us. They are call'd by us *Topping Physicians*, because we put 'em on the *People*, as we please. You may observe, there are now in the *Town* of several *Sortments* and *different Abilities*, who pass by our *Artifices* for the *greatest Men*. Has not one risen considerably by our *Favour*, who has employ'd much of his time in writing 3 *Folio Poems*, which have been *exploded* by his *Brother Poets* and *Physicians* for the *vilest bombast*, which is now meant by *lofty Poetry*, every expression relating to *Physick* or *Philosophy* prov'd in *Print* to be *triflingly absurd* or *false*, and judg'd so even by us? Do not several of the *College* come over to us, and *betray* all that passes there? The rest are *afraid*, and dare not be *honest* and *just* to their *Patients*, fearing to incur our *displeasure*? Will we, think you, pardon him, who cures a *Feaver*, at the rate of 1 or 2 *pounds*, when our *Friends*, will raise the *Bill* for us to 10, 20 or 40? He that brings in the *Fidler* to the *Company*, will make him play what *Tunes* and as often as he pleases. What does the *Dispensary* pretend to impose on the *Publick*, that we are not *useful* out of our *Shops*, who give *Glysters*, dress *Blisters*, and *Bleed* when its easie, and like to have no *ill consequence*. I would not farther concern my self, but only put him in mind, that one *Sex* was accommodated *without them*, and that the other was properly the business of the *Surgeon*, who attends to these and the greater *Cases* of *Surgery* abroad with-  
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out impediment to any part of his *Profession*. Besides, that the *Blisters* often inflam'd or corroded with the *Acrimony* of the *Humours*, or wanting to be drawn to *evacuate* more freely, required more then the common treatment of the *Melilote Plaister*.

You had, I remember, made me very sensible, how much that *excellent* and most useful Art of *Surgery* was invaded by those bold *Pretenders* to every thing they do not understand. They *Bleed* without suspecting the *Nerve* or *Artery* may ly in the way. They apply to *Inflammations* or other *Tumours*, and keep in the *putrid* matter till the *Sinuous*, *Fistula*, or *rotten bone* gives pain loud enough, to call the *Surgeon*.

Having had various *Fortune* abroad, I remembred I was in the Evening to meet a select Company of *Merchants*, and other Eminent Citizens. I determin'd to ask their *assistance* and *council*. I shew'd them all your *Papers*, and laid before 'em in all the *Informations* relating to the *College*, and our own immediate Interest. Some were discouring of the *Treaties* abroad, and the common danger of our *Liberty* and *Property* from another sort of Invader. But at mine and our *Friends* request who were there, we came to debate of our more immediate concern, leaving the other to the *Physicians*, proper in those *Cases*. I was desired by them to give you a farther trouble, that you would remove the common *opprobrium* on the *Profession*, that it wants certainty and acts often by *conjecture*: And that more scandalous, that the *Apothecary* by seeing the Patient and you at the Bed-side is able to give *Physick* himself. And (after our Assertion of the cheapness of the best *Medicines*, and some contests about it) that you would, as in our *Papers* for sale by the *Candle*, give a pretty near *Estimate* of the *value* of every *Preparation* and *Composition* or *Simple* now us'd in *Physick*.

We must wait for this *Account*, upon which the whole *Controversy* depends, but the *Company* would not doubt of the *easie prizes* of the most effectual *Remedies*, (as are fit for the use of that *Prince* now the regard of all *Europe*) many of us having us'd of several kinds, of which  
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the Dose was of no great value. After having lamented the miserable Condition of the Poor, and the vile treatment of all others these last 40 years, they were pleas'd they had now a prospect of better and more humane usage. They resolv'd, they would make all their Acquaintance sensible of the generous design of the Dispensary, and engage 'em to the most industrious publication of its use, the only Panacea to the many Calamities of the sick. That they would not doubt to convince the most hitherto obstinate or heedless opposers of it. That the Apothecary must be oblig'd to keep his Shop, that all his Medicines may be made at home, and dispenc't with his own hand, or under his careful inspection. That his Apprentice may be employ'd in the Shop to learn his Trade, and to be taken of from the giddy ambition of aping a Profession a little too far remov'd from his. That our Servants shall be constantly sent for the Physick, the Directions being left at our Houses by the proper hand, that each of us sending our Porters, the hurry and confusion may be taken off from the Apothecary and his Servants, by which, many Patients Physick being convey'd at one time, the deadly Accidents which now frequently happen, may be avoided. Our Messenger will find the Shop sedately forwarding their important affair, every one will wait the mixture for his Master, by which the possibility of a mistake will be prevented.

The College will be safe from the temptations they now ly under, and from being in so large numbers debauch't from their vertue, and their indispensable duty to their Patient, which branches into every distinct regard of his Welfare. And, whereas the present one Thousand have 2 or 3 Apprentices each, which multiplying in the same Proportion, must raise the prizes of Physick, and the Quantity and the Industry of giving more, to the ruine at last of their credit with the People, there is no other method even to preserve themselves. The Families will then, as formerly, make choice of a Physician from the visible success of his Art, and not with the greatest degree of stupidity, ask the Apothecary to bring one. Since from their numbers they are forc't

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to make the greatest profit of every Patient, which strong *Byass* naturally inclines him to a *Physician* most useful in that case. 'Twas resolv'd, after your answer of the prizes, to oblige the *Physician* to rate the *Prescription* sent to the *Apothecary* at the fairest Profit, to be paid at farthest after the *Recovery*: And to prevent the sipping of *Cordials* and *Pearl Juleps*, as *Usquebaugh* at the *Coffee-house*, upon every little humour of taking, promoted by the casual visit, and encourag'd by the mean and vile custom of going upon *Tick* till *Christmas*. A modest *Gentleman* gave his Assent with some doubt of success, that he would at home propose these considerations to the best advantage he could.

Another, who sees through the Town, demanded what hope there may be to repell the confidence of the Men of the *Bottle*, and *Wit* and *Banter*, which admire only the childish wantonness of *Thought*, and the pretty *Deviations* from good sense, and therefore Character the Men of their *Parts* and *Dress* into the publick Esteem. They were left to their *Fortune* and *Experience* of others more discerning, and concluded, that the *Signature* ought to be taken from other affairs of equal concern and importance. The ablest *Pilot*, is put into the Ship, to be sail'd out or brought into Port. The *Gravity*, *Learning*, *Application* of a *Judge* is observ'd, when a *Cause* of *Life* or *Estate* is heard before him. We shall then raise our *Hope* of *Recovery*, from the manner our *Cases* will be weigh'd and consider'd, before the *Verdict* and *Judgment* shall be given. When you shan't be brought in *durante bene placito* of the *Apothecary*, *Visitants* or the *Physick Brokers* abroad; and shall not be chang'd and shifted as often as the *Symptom*, upon the different *Projects* of particular *Interests*. We shall know, who merits our gratitude and applause, and shall put down that *Infamous Custom* of accusing the *Physician* almost in the *Burial Ticket*. A Practice too vile to be expos'd, to impute the *misfortune* to the honest industry of the *Physician*, when he has not been consulted till the extremity, after many days dosing by our selves and *visitants*, and the *Apothecary*, not a lowing the fair *Inquest* of *Dissection*, which would discover the *Passages*

sages of the *Heart* stoppt, the *Ulcers* or *Gangrenes* of the *Viscera*. We were agreed to controul our *Families*, and perswade our *Friends* to the same *Resolutions*: and were about to part, when one of our *Society*, who had been silent some time, exprest himself with some Heat, from the *Relation* he had to some of the *Faculty*. Let us not loose this only opportunity of raising the reputation of one of the most *useful* and *learned* *Professions*, when our *Interest* is *inseparable* from theirs. Shall we look on unconcern'd, when the *Faculty* and our selves are *enslav'd* and *opprest* by the number of the *Apothecaries*, who were originally their *Servants*. What is the *Mystery* but a *Mechanick* and *Handycraft* Trade. They act nothing, but by the *ordinance* and *Directions* of the *Physician*. The *Medicines*, the *Shops* are furnish'd with, are all from their *Appointment*. The *Drugs* are *powder'd*, *boyl'd*, *distill'd*, and *mixt* together only by their order. What *Books* or *Languages* are understood and consider'd by them, but the *publick Dispensatory* or *Receit Book*? The *Cook*, *Confectioner* or *Perfumer* have as much pretence to *learning*, or the *knowledge* of the *uses* of what they *prepare*. Have not our *Servants* the skill to make up all our *domestick* collections of *Receits*, which are many of them the same with theirs? The *under Servants* to the *Chymists* *Laboratory*, while he *cleanses* the *Glasses*, and *attends* the *Fires*, speedily discerns the *Mechanick* part of making the *Spirits*, the *Tincture*, the *Salts*: Tho the *Design* and *Process* were given by the incomparable *Mr. Boyle*, or the *Faculty*, and the *uses* only known to the *sagacious Physician*.

We pleas'd our selves at Parting, with the *great reputation* that *worthy Gentleman* had given to our *Country* with the *learned* of all *Nations*, which will last with that late *Discovery* of the *Circulation*.

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T H E

*Physicians Answer to the  
foregoing Letter.*

S I R,

**I** Perceive you lay the *greatest stress* on the *last Enquiry* of the *low prizes* of *Medicines*, because you observe that the *large Bills* of the *Apothecary* are the best *argument* with the *People* of his *Ability* to advise, and while they believe, the *Disease* is treated very much by *Guess*, and on *Conjectures*, they are not very *solicitous*, who throws the *Dice* for their *Lives*. But you would rather make choice of *one*, who has made that his *only business*, has studied and practis'd all the *Artifices* of making them *run* to his *purpose*, than any common *Hand*. But you will not deny, that every *Art* has the *means* to attain its *end*. This is obvious in every *Manufacture* which is made better and worse according to the *capacity* and *skill* of the *Artificer*. There are other *Arts* whose *subject* is *perishable* from *Causes* above the power and controul of the *Art*, which *Events* are not justly *imputable* to the *Artist*, if he is not visibly *deficient* in his *Skill* and *Address*. *Navigation* is perform'd by *Rules*, which will conduct a *Ship* the *Voyage* to the *Port* design'd. But violent *Storms*, and *Rocks* undiscover'd, the *springing* of a *Plank*, or weakness of the *Fabrick* may loose the *Ship*, tho not the *reputation* of the *Master*. The *Husbandman* and *Gardiner* act by the *instruction* of their *Arts* with prospect of *success*, unless extreme *Rains*, or *Drowth*, or *Blasts* destroy their *Hopes*. The *Physician* pretends to know with as much *certainty*, how *Animal Life* may be preserv'd, and by what means *endanger'd*, as they the *Health* and *growth* of the *Vegetables* they are conversant with. You may make an *Estimate*, to what proportion *Animal Life* is capable of being prolong'd, by observing that the *Periods* of the *Lives* of many *Quadrupeds* and *Birds* are suppos'd to be distinctly known.

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That of *Man* is the longest *Period*, and from *Galen's* observation that of the *Britains* of his time. This is particularly remarkable in *Man*, that he is form'd *not only to live to great Age* in all the *habitable Climates* of the *Earth*. If in *Navigation* the *Vessel* is necessarily mov'd by the *Tide* and *Wind*, turn'd and govern'd by the *Rudder* to a certain *Course*. The *Powers* of the *Body* act as *Mechanically* and by the *natural necessity* in *Health*: So in the various appearances of *Diseases*, the *Humours* are by a *natural tendency* mov'd to be alter'd or *separated*. These different *methods* of *Nature* constitute so many *Species* of *Distempers*, which are truly *defin'd* and *describ'd* from the known *alterations* and *symptomes* in all the *Stages* of their *Course*.

We have the most certain experiences of their *Cures* from the observation of all *Ages*. Even these (as *Celsus* divides them) which are the more latent, as sudden *Pestilences* and malignant *Feavers*, discover the ways, by which *Nature* expels the *malignity*. All other *Distempers* are from our selves, of our own making, by *Intemperance*, *Luxury*, and the gratifications of our *Senses*, or are from the same causes *ex traduce* deliver'd down to us. Their force and power to corrupt our *Constitutions* is demonstrated, by the common observation, that all the *Families* of the *Rich* (whose *Wealth* is not so valuable as they imagine) are in few *Years* *extinct*, and the *Recruits* of them made from *labour*, *Industry* and *Temperance*, which refine and purge the *Humours* to their natural purity and vigour.

You cannot doubt the *efficacy* of the *Instruments* us'd in *Physick*, when in many cases the *Rich Cordials* given improperly, or in large quantities, act as *Poysons*, and then, in a little longer time, as visible destroy: when the over dosing the *vinous* or other *Spirits* fire and inflame the blood and spirits, when *Opiates* are able to stop their motions, and the *Barke* can check the ferment of a *Feaver*, which cannot be cur'd but by the expulsion of the venom. The effects of its *Vomits*, *Purgers*, *Diaphoreticks* are own'd by the vulgar experience. The late but surer force of *Labour*, *Temperance*, *Rest* have been formerly own'd in the most *obstinate Diseases*. They are now *rejected*, as the most *nauseous Physick*, and the most *difficult methods* to be comply'd with. I need not acquaint

quaint you with the *Mineral Waters*, which as the *Apozemes* formerly us'd, are able to cool, dilute, and purify the blood, after it has been heated and corrupted by the modish living of some years before.

Nature discovers to the *Physician* its surest methods of dismissing the most common *Feavers* by bleeding, *Sweats* or discharging the grosser humours by other ways, which it chooses according to the circumstances of every Disease.

In the more difficult, where it is the more oppressed, it gives *Indications* or *Signs*, how it would be assisted or directed, at least our *Magazines* of observations cannot fail to furnish in all the cases parallel to them.

But if the Patient is overheated and surfeited by too many Medicines, if the *Salutary Looseness* be stopt too soon, the humours fixt by *Opiates* or the *Barke*, its imputable to the *Adviser*, but not to the *Art*, which has given the strictest cautions upon the like *Conjunctures*. Its not a *Reproach* to the *Art*, if there are wanting *Remedies* equal to the rage or violence of some *Diseases*, which will not wait the effect, or are above the force of any known *Drug*, which can be brought to oppose them; any more, then to the *Statfeman*, *General*, *Councillour*, when he cannot always warrant Success.

When after the steady use of *Liquors*, which give a briskness to, but inflame the *Spirits*, spend the strength of the blood, by heating it, and give *Life* a pleasanter but quicker motion, the *Liver* and the other parts shall be made scirrhus and abcess't, the *Omentum* made rotten, and *Fibres* of all the Body flaccid, shall the *Art* be accus'd, that it cannot keep the *Machine* a going, where every wheel is broken?

That the tendencies and events of the *Symptomes*, and the *Issue* of the Disease may be known, and a probable *Prognostick* given, is own'd by the forwardness of the common *People* to give their *Opinions*. How often have you believ'd the presumptuous *Valuer* of himself, who doubts every ones knowledge but his own, when he has assur'd you, that if he had come sooner, the *Patient* should not have dy'd, and that another would expire the next day, if his *Advice* had been then wanting? The writers of *Government* prove the *Maximes* of *State*, from the receiv'd *Axioms* of *Physick*. That one part overnourish't starves and enervates the other. That when every

every part disregards the interest of the whole, its dissolution is as certain, as when every part is vitiated in a shatter'd Constitution.

If therefore a *Physician* is suppos'd to have learnt, whatever has been observ'd, of the different affections and disorders from *Childhood* in all the advances to *old Age*, of the *Sexes* in all their *Circumstances*: how the *Seasons*, *Climates* alter us, and what changes are made by all sorts of *Diet*: to have noted the use and site of all parts of the *Body* by *Anatomy*: the virtues of *Medicines* by the trials *Chymistry* affords, but especially the *Histories* of the almost innumerable *Diseases* given by our *Authors*, their *Causes*, their *Access*, *Progress*, and *Events*, the *Consequence* of all *methods* and all *Medicines*: when he frequently reflects on them, and compares them nicely with the case under his care, you will not oppose to him a *Rival*, who has not had a *Philosophical Education*, or the *Knowledge* of any *Language*, in which *Physick* is treated. When you have determin'd, what time is requir'd, to collect from *many Writers* whatsoever is useful to the *safe* and *successful practice* of *Physick*; I would desire you to *state* the years, in which any thing certain can be acquir'd from the *Prescripts* of the *Art*, without the *Reasons* given or any *Register* of the *success*. You will not permit your *Servant* to keep your *Accounts* by *Memory*, or think that the *Rules* of *Physick* are less *numerous*, or of less *moment*, than the *particulars* of his *Receipts* and *Payments*. When *Nature*, *ipsa suis pottens opibus, nihil indiga nostri*, throws of the common *Disorders* of its self, and is able to bear (an argument of its strength) any *sort* of *Physick* given at random and at *hazard*; the *Apothecary* plies the *Patient* with *Medicines* he does not want, to pay the trouble of *Attending*, magnifies the *Disease* and his *skill*, and robs the *Rich* of the *knowledge* of the *goodness* of his *Constitution*. In these the most *usual Illnesses* the *Physician* shews his *Art* by prognosticating, with *Integrity*, the assur'd *success*; which is a richer *Cordial*, than the *Shops* afford, and merits his *Reward*, like the *Statesman*, when the *Publick* is in perfect *tranquillity*. But when there shall be *Nodus vindice dignus*, when in the *Crisis dubiis trepidat victoria* pennis, when the experienc't *Physician* will doubt, whether *Nature* acts to its own *preservation*, or wants  
the

the Assistance of Art, will examine the effect of one *Medicine*, before he *risques* the use of others to the same or other purposes: The ignorant and the less fearful Adviser will not loose the opportunity of filling the Patient and the Chamber, with the certain prospect of his own advantage. These are the Cases, in which all the severest and most just observations of the present and of former Ages must be consulted. The least errour make the *Feaver* deadly, tho not be discovered, but by the most consummate Artists. They only can discern, when *Nature* attack't in all parts, the *spirits* wasted, and the *blood* exhausted, is easily overborn by an *Active Cordial*, or which diverts it from its only method of expelling the *Disease*. If it endeavours one *Crisis*, which the Medicines contradict, it has not time or power to resume it. The *Head* receives the *Humours*: which were moving to the *Bowels* or the *Pores*: Or the inflaming *Alexipharmic* by its agitation mixes agen the matter, which was prepared to be separated, and ejected. The People indeed are satisfi'd with the Apothecaries Skill, who hears sometimes the Physicians discourse upon the Distemper. Will you imagine, he designs to give the surest Instructions to his Scholar, who will set up as Master in the Art the next Hour, with sufficient instructions to act in his stead? But he makes up the Note and sees the operation: The Instrument maker will not pretend to use them, as the Surgeon, or to cut for the Stone, tho he made the Knife and the Forceps. I will, after you have well consider'd it, desire your opinion, whether, if you practice Physick, you could communicate a Specifick very efficacious Medicine to the Apothecary, which he would instantly make up for every Customer in the same, or as he imagines, not much differing Cases. Will any Merchant, or any Artificer expose the Secret of his Business to every one, who would desire to use it to his own profit? But we cannot discover our Secrets, to any but our own Profession, which is the manner of applying the Medicine to the latent exigence of the Disease. Some Feavers will go off being only left undisturb'd. Water is the Richest Cordial in others, and the high Rich Composition procures to others a certain Malignity. Will you value the Surgeon from the tipping or ornaments of his Instruments, or from his Judgment and Steadiness

diness of his *Hand* in the use of them? The most common and simple may have a better effect, then from the most pompous *Apparatus*, as our *Wines* and the vulgar *Nourishments* are allow'd to be more wholesome, without the hurtful *Artifices* of the *Sellar* or *Cookery*.

The few of our *Costly Ingredients*, have been kept in use to cover the *fraud* of vast *Exaction*, or as they have crept into *Mode* and *Fashion*, but especially because we please ourselves, that they are peculiarly design'd for the use of the *Grand Monde*, while we pity the *little People*, who, we imagine, cannot live without them. But *Providence* has otherwise provided in its great *Hospital* the *World*. We are all upon the *level* there. *Sickness*, as well as *Death*, lays aside the *markes* of *Distinction*. The *Poor* do not want so much as the *Rich*, but may have the most valued simple *Remedies*, and the best *Chymical* or *Galenical Preparations* at an *Expence*, they or their *Patrons* with an easie charity may bear.

To demonstrate this the more clearly, we will first remove the *Rubbish* and lay before you the *Simples* of the greatest *Vertue*, and the best and most useful *Preparations*, supported not only by the best tryals of *Chymistry*, but constant *experience*.

*Gold*, the great *Idol* of *Mankind*, must be rejected, as useless: while it makes the *World* restless and anxious to obtain it, it has it self no active parts or energy to procure any effect. Its not *dissolvable* by any *Humour* in the *Body*. Nothing there can alter, it or be alter'd by it. The compact, heavy, sluggish parts resist the impression of every *Animal Agent*, which on the other side are secure from any power it has. The *Golden Pill* in the *twisting* of the *Bowels* by its weight only may open the *Passage*, but it costs you only for the use of it, having lost no *grains* of its worth. The *Leaf Gold* on *Boles*, or *Electuaries*, or *Pills* divert the mind from the *Tast*, only by the pleasure of seeing it, but it adds nothing to their *vertue*, and only a trifle to the *expence*. The *leaf* may ly on the mouths of the vessels *undissolv'd*, and it prevents the *dissolving* of purging and alterative *Pills*, if well gilded, unless to your good Fortune, that the *Cover* happens to be *broken* in swallowing.

*Bezoar* is a stony Concretion of an Animal, *despis'd* and *rejected* by most *Physicians*, who think on what they advise. If it be well powder'd, it may pass out better, then the larger Stones of the Kidney and Bladder. It has indeed the use of the *Philosophers* stone, procures *Gold* or much *Silver*, to every thing, where it is a part, as in *Gascon's Powder*: it adds to the Dose only the value of *two Pence*, but rises the Bill even to the pleasure of paying a great Sum, that they were thought worthy of it. The very name of *Bezoardick* makes the cheapest *Boles* and *Juleps*, pass of at any price, which shall be put upon them. The large round *Pearl* looks well on a Healthy Skin, but the History which tells us, that *Cleopatra* drank one very large in a health to *Anthony*, does not instruct us, that her *Health* was improv'd by it. The *Pearl Juleps* have their value from the *Cordial water* and *white Sugar*, and are put upon the Infatuated People promiscuously in all the *Constitutions* and very different *Complaints*. They may take it plentifully for the future, if the *lowness* of the price does not destroy its *Cordialness*, being only 3 Pence or 4 in the Dose.

*Ambergrise* and *Musk* are offensive to many from the name as well as scent, they corrupt the *blood* and the *spirits*, and by altering the *Breath* make the use in *Perfumes* more necessary. The *Confections* and *Waters* are more wholesome without them, and they are therefore omitted by express order. Tho', where they are not, by a *Magical power*, they make a cheap *Cordial* sell as high, as if it had been vitiated by them.

We leave the *Diamonds* and *Rubies* to these, we are not concern'd with our other *precious Stones*, as we call 'em, cost very little, and are worth nothing.

The *Hyacinth*, *Smaragd*, *Topaz*, finely powder'd, are as useful as *glass* well prepar'd. But the famous *Confection* of *Hyacinth* sells only two pence in the Dose. This is true in *Oyl* of *Cinamon*, or the other *Chymical Oyls*, which are given but to *few drops* at a time, to be esteem'd at the most inconsiderable price in so small a quantity. The celebrated *Balm* of *Gilead* is taken in *Drops* with *Sugar*, or mixt with *Cordial Powders* to be form'd into *Pills*. All these *Drops* will rise to about a *Farthing* each.

*Cochineal* promises to impart its colour to the *blood*, and dismiss the paleness of the *Cheeks*, but we borrow it from the *Dyers*, at much less cost than the former.

But I divert you from the more pleasant prospect of the *Gardens*, *Fields*, *Woods* and *Rivers*, which plentifully afford us, of our own product, the most effectual and certain relief. Their value in the small Quantities us'd at one time are below any *Coin* we have, and the cooking or preparing subdivided into small Proportions, will not amount to much more.

The *Flowers*, *Fruits* and *Seeds*, the *Leaf*, the *Root*, the *Wood* and *Bark* are distill'd simply, or with *Water* or *Spirit of Wine*, beaten with *Sugar* into *Conserves*, or boyl'd into *Syrups*, compound the *Powders*, *Trochs* and *Pills*, or with *Water* or *Wine* make the *Decoction* or *Apozemes*.

The *Conserves Antepileptick* or *Cardiac* in the *Dose* are of the price of a *Farthing* or two.

The *Syrups stomachical* or *Diuretick*, not much more.

The *Powders Corroborative*, or *Bezoartick* or *Antipestifential*, are not more than a *Penny* in the *Scruple*, or half *Dram*.

The famous *Gascon Powder*, without *Bezoar*, claims but a little more in the *Dose* than 3 or 4 *Pence*.

The *Cordial waters*, *Cephalick*, *Epileptick* or *Antihysterical*, because they are distilled from *spirit of Wine*, and are therefore used in small Quantities, are not dearer than a *Glass of Wine*, or the little one of *Ratafia*. But the *Ingredients*, better chosen or singly infus'd in a proper simple distilled *Water*, would prove more *Alexiterial*, and deserve the title of *High Rich Cordial*, at a less expence. When you have tasted of the former *Cordials*, a *spoonful* in your *Friends Chamber*, have you not felt in your *Stomach* the tumult of such a *Rabble* of the *Spices*, which being broyl'd by the *fire* disturb you an hour after, and make you pity his *Condition* under the often repeated *Doses*?

The *Apozemes Hepatick* or *Splenetic*, or *Diuretick*, or *Sudorifick* are made at 2 d. 4 d. or 6 d. the *Quart* in *Spring water*, which if divided and sent into little *Glasses* rise beyond the price of *Burgundy*.

You may hence judge of our *Oyls, Oynments and Playsters*. The *Surgeon* rewarded for his Skill and his Care, does not put you in mind of the cost, he has been put to, thro' the whole Cure.

You are well acquainted with the prices of all the *Drugs* imported from abroad, as they are most of the *hot spicy Nature*, their *Dose* can be but small and the price *proportionable*. If many are absurdly joyn'd together, the *Quantity* of each is so much less. The great *Cordial*, the *Treacle*, made of Sixty, most *foreign Drugs*, does not claim a Penny, every time you use it.

You may judge of the *ease Expence* of what we advise in sickness by another *View*, that of the *various Operations*.

The famous *Vomitive*, a Penny, the *Tartar Emetic* esteem'd the better, not a *Farthing*, that of the *Salt* no more: the *Oxymel* for that purpose the value of the first.

There are many sorts of *Pills* for the *Head, Stomach, Bowels* of different force, they all agree in the price of a Penny. The *Alterative, Nephritick, Antihysterical Pills* made of cheap *Powders*, with the *Gums* dissolv'd, or a *Syrup*, are valuable only for the success.

I need not inform you how easily the *Filings* of *Steel*, or open'd by an *Acid* or the *Fire*, are procur'd. If you *infuse* them in *Wine* or *distill'd Waters*, with the *bitter Plants*, or boyl it with *Sugar* to a *Syrup*, You readily estimate the *Expence* of a *Quart*.

All the *Tribe* of the *Ecphracticks*, or *Deobstruents* and *Aperitives*, either *vegetable* or *mineral*, the other *Incrassating* or *Astringent* agree in their great use, tho' of contrary effects, and in the almost *inexpressible cheapness*.

It must be own'd, that the *Purges* of *Rhubarb*, &c. are otherwise to be priz'd, but that *Remedy* is us'd but once in the *Day*, and not hastily repeated, and excludes all others: the *Mode* brings in an *Hyprotick*, which *detains* the *inwardly separated Humours*, and *binds* the *Bowels* many days after.

Out of these *Drugs* many kinds of *Chymical Medicines* are prepar'd, at the expence of only *Fire*, and the use of the *Glasses*, in great *Quantities*.

If you pay for Spirit of Harts-horn, *sal Armoniac*, *sal vol Oleos*, the volatile Salts, the Tinctures of Castor, Amber, Saffron, Myrrh, or any of the compound Elixirs, the Acid Spirits of Niter, Sulphur, Vitriol, or their Antagonists the fixt Salts of Tartar, Wormwood, or the associated vitriolate Tartar, and the other Digestives: One Shilling or two, or in the other as many Pence, the Ounce, you will with the water, the Vehicle, after many days using them, compute the expence of your every days Physick. The Porter who drinks a Cup of the stronger Ale, instead of many of the smaller, prudently saves his Time and his Pocket, and is at a greater charge than the Patient.

If in a Feaver or Small-pox, &c. the Physician cools the Blood, and temperates the Heat, shall the Apozeme of almost the sallet Herbs, with the cheap sweetning Powders, and the cheaper *sal Prunel*, &c. And a Julep of the simple waters, made to taste a little of a Cordial water, raise the cost higher, then the common supports in our Health.

If the Blood and Spirits are oppress'd in the malignant, shall the Treacle, Mithridate and Diascordinm, with the Aromatics, Alexiterial Roots, or the Cordial Species, or the volatile Salts or Castor, or even Bezoar, be esteem'd from the any other Topick then their effect of sweating or raising the Heat of the Blood: especially if the Patient be not incessantly ply'd, and the Physician will have the common care of observing, when he has done enough for one day, and will give the Patient a little Rest, before he sets him another Task: Unless he orders on more Cordials, to produce the Fee to himself, more than any advantage to the Sick.

If the Feaver truly intermits, and has no malignity, or deadly Consequence to be fear'd from stopping the Ferment, you may use the Bark only prepar'd, by being powder'd, which you know costs no more than the Wine you drink it with.

I have heard you extoll from your Experience in Colical and Nephritick Pains, the wonderful force of Opiates. 'Tis true, that Plant has no equal among the Vegetables, nor does any metal or mineral pretend to rival it. But the richest Preparation, either solid or liquid, this great Ano-

*dynē* raises no *inquietude* upon any other Circumstance. The poorest may have this *Nepenthe*, as well as the richest, from a small *Charity*, which will give the *Donour*, the *Ease* it procures to the Patients *Pain*.

Is it not therefore *demonstrated*, that in *sickness* no *Constitution* can bear the use of more than 2 or 3 *Shillings* value in a *Day*. The dearest *Cordial Waters* and *Alexiterial Powders*, cannot in that time be us'd above that price, without inflaming the *blood* and *spirits* into a *Delirium* and *Phrensy*, or forcing our common *putrid Feavers* to *Malignant* and *Pestilential Symptoms*.

The milder *Diaphoreticks* and *Diureticks* or *Alteratives*, do not pretend to be rated with the other, but in our most common *Feavers*, these assist *Nature*, and the others *destroy* it.

Where's then the *Mystery* of raising the *Bill* to *one, two, three* or *four Pounds* each day of its continuance? By a new invented or much improv'd *Artifice* of raising the *part* equal to the *whole*, and sending in the *Apozeme* or *Julep* divided into little *Parcels*, which your *Family* would as well bottle out into smaller *glasses*, at the rate of the whole *Mixture*.

The *Electuary* shall be sold at good profit by the *Apothecary* at half a *Crown*. But the *Boles* out of this *Electuary* in a snipt Paper are full as much each of them, tho' that affords to *Children* twenty *Boles*.

But the *Contrivance* lately brought into *Practice* of giving in a parcht *Mouth*, and fur'd *Throat*, and *nauseating stomach*, an ill tasted *Bole*, when the *languishing* and *loathing Patient* can swallow nothing but *Liquids*, has been reserv'd for this *Age* of ours, and can last no longer. This *Bole* of a *fulsome Conserve* or *Treacle* is to be taken every *third, fourth, or sixth hour*, which dispells all *Rest* and *Composedness*, the great *Restorers*, by the *Torments*, and *struggles* of forcing it into the *stuff't Throat* and *Stomach*, which rises against it.

There's a little *Julep* ready to wash it down and reward him for his *trouble*. When the *Bole* cannot easily, be taken down, its impertinently half mixt in a *spoon* in the *Chamber*, which should have been brought well compounded, only

ly so many *distinct Articles* in the *Bill* are to be preserv'd. This is of the greatest *Consequence* to the *Apothecary*, because the *Town* has been us'd to pay 2 s. 6 d. for each *Bole*, and not much less for the little *Draught*, to cleans the mouth after it. This *Advice* was therefore given to a *Physician* at his first entrance on the *Stage*, that he should order a *Bole*, with a *Draught* every fourth hour, which, however it far'd with the *Patient*, would recommend him to the *Apothecaries*, and thence *publick esteem* for that service.

The honest *Physician* mixes the *Bole* and *Julep* together, that the *feeble restless Patient* may drink his *Cordial* to revive or compose him, without the disturbance of taking it at twice, and with difficulty the other way.

I presume you will allow the *Corollary*, that by much *Physick* divided into little *parcels*, rated so high, the *Apothecary* has in the reward of his *Attendance* (which by the *Physician* is often excus'd) much greater *Fees*, often *trebly* or *quadruply* more then the *Faculty*. You will not therefore be surpriz'd, if it be asserted, that in a *Bill* of ten *Pounds* nine are the reward of his *Advice* and *Attendance*, and in all the other *sums* proportionably.

The *People* must accuse their own *Conduct*, who never gratifying the *Apothecarys* visit, oblige him in the *Case*, where one *Medicine* removes the *Distemper*, to bring in for every 3 or 4 *Hours*, and several *Days*, as much as will answer one of the *Ends* he proposes to himself. Can he thus neglected by his *Customers*, with safety to himself advise the *Waters*, *Milk*, *Temperance*, *Repose*, *Exercise* or a *peculiar Diet*, or the *Country Air*, by which obstinate *Diseases* are cur'd: But to the reproach of the *Compositions* of the *Shop*.

But what *Redress* can be expected to all these *Grievances*?

There must be certain *Rates* set to all the *Medicines*, with the greatest encouragement to the *Apothecary* to prepare them *faithfully*.

They must bring their number by the most proper *Methods* to be equal to the *occasion* the *City* has of using their *Preparations*.

The former *Antiquated* Methods must be reviv'd, by which the *People* were easie, without the present either *suspicious* or *complaints*.

The *Physicians* lay under no *temptations* to impose on the *Publick*. They advis'd at their *Houses* in the *Chronical* or less dangerous *disorders*, and distinguish't in their visits the differences of the *Condition* of the *Persons* and *Diseases*; arriv'd to a *Reputation*, not by the basest Arts, but their care and the merit of their *Success*.

## THE END.

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