

Tentamen medicinale: or, an enquiry into the differences between the dispensarians and apothecarys. Wherein the latter are prov'd capable of a skilful composition of medicines ... To which are added, some proposals to prevent their future increase / By an Apothecary.

Contributors

Apothecary.

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Tentamen Medicinale:

O R, A N
E N Q U I R Y
I N T O T H E
D I F F E R E N C E S

Between the
Dispensarians and Apothecarys.

W H E R E I N
The latter are prov'd capable of a Skilful
Composition of Medicines, and a Ra-
tional Practice of Physick.

To which are added, Some PROPOSALS to
prevent their Future Increase.

By an Apothecary.

*Hinc semper Ulysses
Criminibus terrere novis : hinc spargere Voces
In Vulgum ambiguas, & querere conscius arma.*

Virg. Æneid.

*Inventum Medicina meum est ; Opiferq; per Orbem
Dicor ; & Herbarum Subjecta Potentia nobis.*

Ovid. Metam.

L O N D O N,
Printed, and sold by John Nutt near Station-
ers Hall. 1704.

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THE
P R E F A C E.

HOW, *to talk like an Apothecary*, became proverbial, I can no more tell, than know what People mean when they say so ; but to *write like one*, is not so common, I'm certain, as to deserve it : For notwithstanding their Profession may afford them as many Opportunities of indulging such a Humour, as most ; yet above

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all they seem to be free from that foolish and popular Itch. But how much soever in this I may have broke an old Custom, and perhaps a very good one too ; yet I would not willingly shew my self so fond of Innovations, as not by the Formality of a Preface to tell the World why I have done so.

The Principal Reasons then that put me upon this Undertaking, were to vindicate the Apothecarys from those unjust Reproaches which of late have been cast upon them, by such whose private Interest has induc'd to be their Enemies, I mean the *Dispensarians*, and to remove those infamous Obloquies

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quies which the Profession lies under by the Admission of several into it, almost altogether unqualified.

The Insinuations of the Dispensarians, that the Apothecarys are so illiterate and unskilful, as not to be capable of their own proper Business, I thought, were so apparently false, as to have needed no pains at all to prove them so. But seeing this Ebullition of Malice and Ill-nature, notwithstanding the free Vent which has a long time been given it, still to continue, and rather heighten than decrease; the Press teeming afresh with invective and abusive Libels against them, by which some cre-

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dulous Persons may perhaps be impos'd upon, and unjustly prejudic'd ; and seeing none else appear in their own defence, I thought it high time for some body to do it, especially when they began to be insulted for their Silence. How well I have acquitted my self of the Undertaking, and how far it may be successful for the End it was design'd, I must leave to the Judgment and Candor of others. I am very sensible several of the Profession might be much more capable to have undertook it ; but seeing for some Reasons, to which I am a Stranger, they hitherto have declined, I hope 'twill the more easily be excus'd 'tis no better done now. I have

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have throughout, as far as I am able, brought every thing to the Light, not only the more effectually to expose the Injustice and Unreasonableness of the Aspersions cast upon them by the Dispensarians; but likewise the better to distinguish and detect all those who have crouded in amongst them, not at all qualified, and by whose means the Credit and Reputation of the Profession, in general, has extreamly suffer'd. I think I have very evidently demonstrated, that an Apothecary, who has first been duly instructed in the Languages, has all the Advantages, if not greater, than any one can have as a Physician, thoroughly to qualify

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lify himself, not only in the Knowledge of all those things which are necessary to the Business of Pharmacy, and what relates to a skilful Preparation and Composition of Medicines; but likewise a rational Administration of them to the Sick for the Cure of Distempers; and proved that the Imputations of Extortion and Oppression, urg'd against them in general, are scandalously false and groundless.

Something in this nature, I think, has already been done, but not by any of the Profession, whose Appearance in their own Vindication has so long been expected, that their Silence

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lence has given too much ground for Reflection, as if 'twas a tacit Acknowledgment of the Truth of what has been charg'd upon them. Something was done some time ago in their behalf by a Physician ; but it had such a Mixture of Personal Reflections in it, that it seem'd rather to gratify some private Pique, than to do them really any Service : And very lately there has something appear'd against Dr. *Pitt*, call'd, *The Censor Censur'd* ; which I had not seen before the writing of this ; where I have took notice of some Passages of the *Doctor's Antidote*, which I find there animadverted upon ; but in such a different manner, that I think I may let mine pass, without

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without the danger of being accus'd for writing the same over again, or copying after another. When I first saw that, I hop'd what I had here done would have been needless; but upon reading it, I found it so full of Recriminations, and so remote from what I insisted upon, and what I judg'd most material to the Purpose, that I resolv'd again to venture my own into the Light; but what Fate it may there meet with, I am not so certain of, as that it will find a great many Enemies, I heartily wish I could say, not among my own Profession.

I not at all question being severely dealt with by some, for
using

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using so much Freedom with the Character of a Physician, and of being charged to have reflected upon their whole College; but of such Persons I would only beg the Patience to consider, who most detracts from and degrades the Dignity of any Character, they who under the shelter of it descend to base and unworthy Practices, or one who publickly writes against, and exposes them; I cannot but think any impartial Judge would readily give it against the former. I'll own, I have endeavour'd to prove that the Apothecarys may be accomplish'd in all those things which are necessary to a good Physician, and in the Practice of
Phyick

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Phyſick bring them into Competition with the Phyſicians themſelves. But what then? If it be nothing but what is true, which I think I have proved, what reaſon can any one have to be uneaſy at my ſaying ſo? 'Tis not the Phyſicians, as ſo, that I write againſt, or have I any where reflected upon the College, but only againſt a Diſſenting Party of them, who would fain perſuade People that the Apothecarys are ſo notoriously ignorant and illitirate, as not to be fit for their own Buſineſs. I would readily pay as much Deference and Reſpect to the Character of a Phyſician, as any one; but at the ſame time be no more afraid

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afraid to stand up in opposition against such, when I am satisfied Truth is on my side, than any other. If therefore 'tis plain that a Party under that Character have dealt unjustly in any respect, I cannot think a Person ought to be abridg'd of the Liberty of telling them publickly of it ; especially when 'tis in his own Defence, and he is so nearly concern'd, as every Apothecary in this case is : And that the Dispensarians have dealt very unfairly and unjustly with the Apothecarys, I think I have made it so manifest, as to leave no manner of room to question it.

As

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As for what relates to Dr. *Pitt*, I was thinking indeed to have left it out, by considering it likely to be but of very little advantage to what I had appear'd in behalf of, to expose a Person, who has taken so much Pains already to make himself the Jest and Ridicule of all that know either him or his Writings ; but seeing the old Gentleman still so tenacious and perverse as to continue in his wonted Railleries, I was very willing to contribute what I could towards so good a Work, as the bringing of the Doctor to Reason, I look'd upon to be, not knowing but something or other in this might conduce to such a happy Effect. However, should
my

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Endeavours miscarry, I hope none will blame me for my good Intentions.

What a Noise and Bustle this new Sect of Medicine-Mongers (the *Dispensarians*) and their Projects, have made of late, there's scarce any body ignorant, and how prejudicial they are like to be to the Interest of the College of Physicians in general, as well as to the Publick Good ; which I question not but in time will induce those of the College, who out of a better Principle refuse to subscribe to them, to exert their utmost Endeavours to put a stop to such infamous and pernicious Proceedings, and
to

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to restore the Practice of Physick to its proper and wonted Channel : For besides the unspeakable Injury which from thence may accrue to the Publick, they cannot well be unmindful how much it detracts from that just Esteem and Reputation which their College has always stood eminently possess'd of in the World, by the defection of so many of their Members, who plainly out of no other Ends but their own private Interests, have very unworthily degenerated into a Faction ; not only thereby justly forfeiting the Honour of being so related to them ; but likewise introducing such Innovations into the Practice of
Physick,

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Physick, as are likely to be much more inconvenient and prejudicial than any of those things which they pretend to reform.

And that which makes a timely regard to these Proceedings on their behalf likewise the more necessary, is, because the Persons assuming to act in the Name of the whole College, the better to shelter themselves from that just Contempt which otherwise they might draw upon them, not only sink that Esteem and Deference which the World always entertain'd of, and paid to them; but likewise the more easily impose upon the Unthinking and Credulous, who may not so readily see the bottom of the Fallacy, by which all the

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Miscarriages and Mischiefs occasioned by them, are likely to be charg'd in general upon their College, and they will stand liable to be reproach'd for the others Faults and Misdemeanors.

Besides this Dispensary Faction is now grown so bold and daring, not only in the Name of the College openly to invade the Rights and Privileges of another Profession, but likewise scandalously to asperse and insult all those, who disdaining to cringe so much beneath the Dignity of their Characters, refuse to be concern'd with them ; of which unmannerly Treatment several Instances may be found up and down in their Writings of late ; but especially their Secretary
Dr.

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Dr. Pitt, with as much Rancour and Malice as his declining Years are able to furnish him, in his *Antidote* particuiarly, tells the World, that they confederate with the Apothecarys to write long Bills, and with a Multiplicity of Medicines ruin the Sick their Patients, and in one place is so abusive to call them *Ignorant* and *Knaveish*, with several other malicious Invectives so notoriously scandalous and affronting, that 'tis almost a Miracle to see them put up with so much Patience; especially from one who at the same time dares write himself a Member of them. But whilst I am accusing others of Ill-manners, 'twould be very blamable to run into the same Fault my self; and to those who

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logue of the Subscribers to the Dispensary, and tells us the Design of printing that List was to shew that the Undertaking had the *Sanction* of a *College Act*, when there are not half the Members concerned in it. I thought the Majority should rather have deserv'd that Denomination, and consequently the Subscribers to the Dispensaries look'd upon as the Schismatics, and as acting in opposition to the general Consent of the College ; unless he can prove that 'tis the admission of several new Members since the printing of his List, which make the Majority appear on the other side in that Catalogue, which we find in the foremention'd Place, and which is indeed publish'd much since the other ; but I believe

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lieve it may very easily be proved, that the Dispensary Party, tho' they once were very numerous in the College, yet now Peoples Eyes begin to be a little open, and something see into the real Drift of their Projects, they are so much weakned, as to make but a very inconsiderable Party to what they did at first ; and several that are of their number, now they find the Intreague likely to be ineffectual, and that they have been Losers by engaging themselves in it, begin to be very submissive to those whom they have publickly and unjustly injur'd, and to court the Renewal of that Friendship which they formerly had with their Benefactors the Apothecarys.

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In several places I have call'd the Dispensarians, the Dispensary *Faction*, which perhaps by some may be thought a little harsh and unbecoming; but for my excuse, I hope I need only put them in mind of a Passage or two in the *Dispensary Poem* (if I may be allow'd the Privilege of using a Name given them by one of their own Fraternity) where the Author, Dr. Garth, who himself is a Subscriber to the Dispensaries, has in the first *Canto* these Words:

But now those great Enquiries are no more,
And *Faction* sculks where Learning shone
before.

The drooping Sciences neglected pine,
And *Pearls* Beams with fading Lustre shine.

And

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And towards the Conclusion of
the same *Canto*,

Tell the bleak Fury what new Project reigns
Among the *Homicides* of *Warwick-lane* ;
And what th' Event, unless she straight
enclines
To blast their Hopes, and baffle their
Designs.

Wherein I think 'tis very plain,
both by the Word *Faction* in the
former, and the *Homicides* in the
latter Lines, must be meant the
Dispensarians; that if any body
find themselves dispos'd to be
offended, because I have taken
the freedom to call them a *Faction*,
I hope they'll qualify their
Resentments by remembering
that I have no where call'd them
Homicides, tho' one of their own
Party has so publickly done it,
whose Example and Authority
in

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in that case might be, I think, a sufficient Excuse, if I had.

As to the other Reason which induc'd me to this Undertaking, *viz.* to remove those Prejudices and Inconveniencies which arise from the Admission of several Persons into the Profession hardly at all qualified for it. It must be owned there are more than a few crouded in among the Apothecarys, who are by their Ignorance and Illiterateness both a Scandal to the Profession, and an Abuse and Oppression to the Publick, who are either not able or careful enough to distinguish them. By this Imposition several Persons with too much reason have taken up a Prejudice against the Profession in general, and have

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have almost been persuaded to think all of them so, whereby those of real Merit and Learning unhappily suffer by that Disesteem and Contempt which is due only to some of them. This likewise gives too great an occasion for the Reproaches and Calumnies of those who are their Enemies, and enable the Dispensarians to carry on their Projects with the better colour.

'Twas highly needful therefore that the Publick in this matter should be disabus'd, and the Profession clear'd from that Scandal which lies upon it on this account. I have therefore, according to the best of my Capacity, laid those things so plainly open which are absolutely necessary

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sary to an Apothecary, and without a knowledge of which no one can be so, that almost any one may be a Judge whether a Person is so qualify'd or not. Whoever will be at the pains of a diligent Examination, might certainly, without much difficulty, distinguish a Person of Learning and Ingenuity from a meer empty Pretender, who tho' he may be as full of Words, and hard ones too, perhaps, as the former, yet he can never be able to talk of Matters of which he is ignorant, without such an Incongruity and Confusion, that may be sufficient to detect him. Let a Person pretend to never so much Knowledge and Skill in the Practice of Physick, or in Pharmacy only, and tho' he may tell strange Stories
of

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of the manner of his Improvements in such Knowledge; yet if he be uninstructed in the Grounds and Rudiments of Philosophy, and is unacquainted with the Mechanism and Operations of Nature, he is no better than a *Cheat* and an *Impostor*. Some I know very well, altogether Strangers to these things, yet find ways to insinuate themselves into Business, and by some means or other persuade People into a Belief of their great Knowledge and Judgment, even almost to Infatuation. But from what I have said upon this Subject, any one who is but willing to bring it to the Test of an unbiass'd Reason, may easily gather enough to enable him to distinguish such from those who are truly Learned and Skilful.

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Tentamen Medicinale :

O R,

An Enquiry into the Differences between the Dispensarians and the Apothecaries.

AS the Enjoyment of Health is undoubtedly one of the greatest Blessings this World can afford ; so the utmost Care and Diligence ought to be exerted for the Procuring and Preservation of it. It is a Jewel so inestimable, that too much cannot be given to purchase it ; the best of Riches being a sound and healthful Constitution of Body.

'Tis this Consideration that in all Ages has excited several Persons to the diligent Study of Physick; but 'till latter Times, it has remained a rude and unpolish'd Science; when several Persons, eminent for their Penetration, have devoted themselves with such Application to the Study of Nature, that by the several Discoveries made by them in Anatomy, and other Parts of Natural Philosophy, the Practice of Physick has received very considerable Advances, become much more useful and beneficial to Mankind, and very much raised its Credit in the World.

But the Advantages which might be received from these late Improvements, are extreamly lessen'd by a Number of ignorant illiterate Pretenders, who impose themselves on several People for skilful and knowing Physicians.

This has occasion'd a great many Broils and Contentions among Practitioners; but notwithstanding the Authority of the College of Physicians, these Imposters have not yet been

been supprest; but still almost daily increase, not only to the Prejudice of Physicians themselves, but to the unspeakable Injury of other People, who thro' Inadvertency or Ignorance imploy them.

But these are all pass'd by, and nothing now so much disgusts the worthy Members of the *Faculty*, as the Apothecarys incroaching (*as they call it*) on their Practice, by prescribing and giving Medicines, without calling for their Assistance; and this it is which has given Birth to so many Heats and Contentions between the College of Physicians and the Apothecarys, with which the World has already been made too too much acquainted; besides, the Accounts hitherto given of the Grounds and Reasons of these Differences, have been by such Hands, that they cannot well be expected to be otherwise than as we find them, which are *very partial*.

It is rare indeed for a Person who acts or writes for a Party, to which his own Interest nearly engages him, to be otherwise. But tho' I confess

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my self by Profession oblig'd to be a Well-wisher to one of the Partys engaged in the Contest, and that too which (in the following Pages) I shall endeavour, as far as Truth is on their side, to vindicate, but no further; yet I hope the Matter in dispute shall be so fairly and impartially stated, as to leave no room for such a Reflection.

I would not willingly fall short of any one in paying a just Deference to real Worth and Learning, where, by that small Knowledge I have of such things, I can discern them; nor likewise in shewing a just Resentment against meer Pretence and Ignorance, where it is visible.

As far therefore as is known to be Matter of Fact on both sides, I would bring it above-board, that every thing may stand or fall according to its Merit. Learning and Ingenuity in themselves are not either to be the more valu'd or disesteem'd according to the Person who is the Possessor of them; but their intrinsic Value is in all the same, that they deserve as
just

just Commendations and Acknowledgments in an Apothecary as a Physician; as likewise does Ignorance and unjust Dealing in a Physician deserve as publickly to be condemn'd as in an Apothecary; for the Character of the one can no more authorize what is in it self criminal, than that of the other detract from what is really meritorious.

To set Matters in a clearer Light, let us look into the Original and Growth of the Apothecarys; enquire into the Reasons thereof, and thence trace their Proceedings down to our present Times, by which we shall be the better enabled to guess at the true Grounds of the present Differences between the Physicians and them.

'Tis very well known there was no such thing as a Company of *them* in the Beginning of King *James* the First's Reign; but what Drugs and Medicines were then in use, were sold in common by the *Grocers*; and as for the preparing and compounding them, that the Physicians principally took care of themselves.

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But this growing too servile and laborious a Business, and no other means being likely to be found out for easing themselves of it; but by lopping off a considerable Branch from the Company of *Grocers*, who had mostly been brought up that way, and constituting them a Company by themselves, wholly to be employ'd in the Business of Pharmacy, in selling of Drugs, and preparing and compounding of Medicines, according to the Physicians Orders and Directions.

In order to this, they obtain'd a *Charter* for them, to the number of a hundred and fourteen; and accordingly they apply'd themselves to their new Business with such an Industry, as quickly to make considerable Improvements in it, which so much increas'd their Success and Reputation, as soon enlarg'd their Employ, and made a great Addition to their Numbers, which in some measure has continu'd to this present Time, and is that which now gives such an Uneasiness to the College of Physicians.

How

How much they have been found serviceable and beneficial to the Publick, ever since their Beginning, their numerous Increase, I think, may pass for a sufficient Demonstration; for had they not been found so, they never would have met with that Encouragement, which has undoubtedly been the Occasion of it. But how serviceable they formerly have been, or whether they have been at all so, or no, is not so much to my present Purpose to inquire into, as their Usefulness *now*, and what Disadvantages would ensue from the suppressing of them, which I shall undertake before I have done, and endeavour to prove, That by the present Opportunitys they have of accomplishing themselves with all parts of Learning necessary to a good Physician, they may be more useful by far, both to Rich and Poor, than any one who practises only as a Physician.

To the Purpose then: 'Tis the present Number of the Apothecarys, and the great Imploy and Encouragement they meet with from all sorts of

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People,

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People, that now so much disturbs *these Physicians*: They find the Prosperity of the Apothecarys is inconsistent with their Interest, and runs counter to their Practice, which now is mightily sunk and decreas'd; therefore to remedy this, they would fain undo all that their Predecessors for the Good of the Publick (tho' perhaps unawares) have done; that is, they would reduce the present Apothecarys to Grocers again, or at least defraud them of their Trade, because they find it prejudicial to their own Employ, or more profitable than their now decaying Practice.

To effect this several Methods have been attempted, and their own Constitution has strangely been weakned by Broils and Divisions about Methods how to undermine and ruin their Neighbours. The Feuds and Animositys which this has stir'd up among the College of Physicians, has very unhappily expos'd them to the World, and taken up too much room in that Poem call'd, *The Dispensary*. In short, it has made such a Breach among

mong them, that now the opposite Partys are grown as much at variance and enmity with one another, as with those accounted their common Enemies, the Apothecarys.

Their Master Project has been the Dispensary, tho' erected under another Pretence: These are publick Shops built in *imitation* of those of the Apothecarys, tho' but by a dissenting Part of the College (most of which being either Persons of little or no Practice, or such as have their chief Dependance at Court, and great Families, or upon publick Places in Hospitals, or having considerable Estates, are either above, or careless of the common Practice) under a very pretty pretence of relieving the sick Poor.

But in a little time have their Proceedings unravel'd the Mystery of their Designs: For had it been with no other Intent than to relieve the sick Poor, what occasion had they to deny their Advice and Bills to several, unless they would buy their Medicines at their Shops? Or at least use
all

all the Arguments they could to persuade them to do so; a Method very foreign surely from their pretended Design of relieving the Poor, and which affords as just Suspicion of their intending to make *themselves* the Objects of their own Charity: A pretty way indeed to get a Penny.

By their Management of things 'tis plain their chief Aim was to engross the Apothecarys Trade, as much as they could, to themselves. Their publick Shops have been advertis'd in the News-Papers, and Books, like M-----s Bills, dispers'd about to tell the World *what Wonders they had and could perform, and for how little Profit.* At the same time maliciously inveighing against the Apothecarys, tho' *now* of their Fraternity. But their greatest Champion Dr. Pitt has took such prodigious Pains to show his Choller and Ill-nature against them, that he has at the same time discover'd himself to be notoriously ignorant in the Business of Pharmacy; but especially where he pretends to assign the several Prices of Medicines, by over-rating

rating some as much as he undervalues others. His Book of the *Crafts and Frauds of Physick* is an eminent Piece indeed, and worthy only a Dispensary Physician. However, after all, the Apothecarys have the Pleasure and Advantage of seeing their Designs prove abortive, and their chief Enterprize baffled.

Whether it be Matter of Fact, or only Rumor, that the Dispensary Doctors (monopolizing the Apothecary's Trade) insinuated themselves into the Concern of supplying the Shipping with Medicines, a Business always belonging to the Apothecarys: Whether this be so or no, I say, I shall not dispute; and that they had the Mortification to have their Medicines brought back, and return'd again upon their hands, as meer Rubbish, and unfit for use: A notable Proof of their Fidelity, as well as extraordinary Skill in Pharmacy, indeed! And that upon complaint of this, the worthy *Dispensary-Doctor-Apothecarys* were discharged of their Office, and left to the relieving the sick

sick Poor at home again, instead of k----- the Poor Sick, that should be imploy'd in their Country's Service abroad; and the Care of supplying the Ships given to the *Legitimate* Apothecarys, the only Persons likely to be qualified for such Business.

If it was not thus, why have they not cleared themselves of such a scandalous Imputation, before they begun to bespatter the Apothecarys? Unless they think such a Crime in themselves *venial*, being but Juniors in the Business, and never having served an Apprenticeship to it, and very rarely giving themselves the trouble of inspecting and being conversant with Drugs, and the Preparation and Composition of Medicines; especially so much as the Apothecarys, whose sole Imploy it is: For there is a vast Difference between the writing only a formal Prescription, and the Preparation and Composition of the things themselves. But seeing, I say, they were but Youngsters in the Art, 'twas pity the first Slip, tho' an egregious one, was not overlook'd.

But

But not to insist upon these things, let us turn to the Dispensarys printed Bills, and see what account they give of themselves there, and their Adversarys the Apothecarys.

The first that has made any noise, I think, was the *Crafts and Frauds of Physick expos'd*, in which there's a great deal of pains taken to persuade the World into a good Opinion of their Undertaking, and to defame and calumniate the Apothecarys; but it being fill'd with so much Rancour and Ill-nature, and containing in it so many Evidences of the Doctor's Ignorance, and of the Liberty he allows himself of saying almost any thing his own ill Humour prompts him to; and it being already sufficiently expos'd by others, I shall take no further notice of it, but leave it as a very good Satyr upon its own Author.

The next is the *Antidote, or Preservative for Health and Life*: Bless me! that a Man should fill above twenty Sheets of Paper, and yet they have nothing in them! It seems indeed a Paradox;

14 *Tentamen Medicinale.*

Paradox ; but 'tis, I fancy, not insolvable ; for I dare affirm there is nothing to be found from one end to the other of the Book, that at all agrees with the Title, or in the least proves what he there pretends to. What is there, I would fain know, in the whole Book, that teaches us how to *preserve Health or Life*, or is likely to *restore Physick to its Sincerity and Perfection* ? One might read it a thousand times over, before he can be taught by it, *how to distinguish the useful from the pernicious Medicines, the natural from the artificial Deaths.* (By the way, I wonder what is meant by *Artificial Deaths* ? 'Tis not those, surely, whom these Doctors kill *secundum Artem.*) Nor is in the least proved the *Necessity of reviving the former constant Practice of Physicians preparing and improving their most valued Medicines, and the Apothecarys delivering in their Shops the common general Remedies.* If the Doctor had promis'd too in the Title-Page, to prove that there is a *World in the Moon*, and no Apothecarys

carys in it, the Reader could not be e'er the more disappointed; for he might have found as pertinent and satisfactory Arguments upon that Head, as any other which he has undertook to make good: For the Book in general is nothing else but a confus'd Ramble of malicious Invectives against the Apothecarys, that the Sense is thereby so often interrupted (for I suppose the Doctor had some Meaning when he wrote it) and render'd so incoherent, that it is almost unintelligible. But what can be expected from one whose *Spleen* is higher than his *Brains*?

It seems to me very strange, to see such a Book as this come into the World, stuff'd from one end to t'other with hardly any thing but malicious and groundless Aspersions, and yet passed by in Silence, and unregarded; especially since it nearly concerns so many as it does, most sensibly affecting them in their Reputation and Livelihoods. Surely every one does not plead guilty to it: But how should the World think otherwise, when

when they see no Appearance made against it? But perhaps I'm the only Person that has thought any thing with Dr. Pitt's Name in the Title (since his *Crafts and Frauds*, &c.) worth the reading; but however since I have done so, I'll now venture a little further, by telling the World my Thoughts on't too.

To begin then with *analysing* the Doctor's *Antidote*. In the Preface he gives us an Account of the Dispensarys, and at the Beginning tells us, *The Profession of Physick is very useful to Mankind, and one of the most-Learned Professions: Without the Languages the best Authors in the Art cannot be read, nor the very Terms, even in the Translations into the Modern Languages, understood.* This is undoubtedly very true; but what then? Unless the Doctor can prove the Apothecarys cannot be Learned enough to read the best Authors in the Art, this will prove nothing at all against them; but the Advantages and Opportunities of learning and understanding the Languages are alike to all,

all, that an Apothecary may make as great Progress in them as a Physician; and several who have been industrious among them, have been, and are good Schollars (better perhaps than several of the *Dispensary Doctors*, especially in those things which more properly belong to the Profession of Physick) and capable of reading the best Authors: Therefore, according to the Doctor's own Reasoning, they have arrived to one great Qualification toward the making them good Practitioners.

What the Doctor tells us a little after, is what he often insists upon, viz. *That formerly the Preparation and delivering of Medicines was a part of the Grocers Trade; but at last the Apothecarys were separated from them, that they might entirely apply themselves to an Affair of so great importance.* Allowing the *Apothecarys* to have been ignorant and unskilful in those Days (as it is not common to find a Profession otherwise than rude and unpolite in its Infancy) yet that does not in the least argue, that they are all so
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now;

now; and it certainly cannot but be thought very strange if they should, so many Opportunitys as they have had ever since of improving themselves: Which the Doctor himself seems to allow, when he says, *they were sepeparated from the Grocers, that they might entirely apply themselves to an Affair of so great importance: Intimating, that they might qualify and improve themselves more in the Art of Pharmacy.*

A little below, in the same Page, the Doctor complains of their extraordinary Increase since, from one hundred and fourteen to near a thousand; and the effect of it he tells us is, *their incroaching upon the Physicians, and exacting extravagantly upon the Sick their Customers.* As to the Charge of *extravagant Exactions*, if it be true of any, I do not know who will go about to justify them; and the Doctor may take his Course with them, if he pleases to call them to an Account for't; but to charge it, without restriction upon all, is very unjust. As to their numerous Increase, it's no wonder

wonder at all that it disoblige the Doctor; but I think it a very good Sign that they have been very serviceable to the Publick: For had not People found Benefit by them, they never would have imploy'd them, and had no body employed them, it cannot possibly be thought they would have multiply'd so much ever since their Beginning. There's hardly any body would be so fond of a Trade, that was not so promising as to afford a Probability of getting a good Livelihood by it: But that the Apothecarys have been so prosperous ever since, they are oblig'd to none so much as to the Physicians themselves, *viz.* for putting it into their Power to make themselves as capable of the Practice of Physick as the Doctors, and consequently of rivaling them in their Business and Profits.

A little after, *They* (speaking of the Apothecarys) *are now become Physicians, and the heedless senseless Boy at home good enough for an Apothecary.* The first indeed is too true for the

Doctor, and the latter only a Return of his wonted Railery ; but as far as he knows, the Epithets of senseless and heedless to the Boy, may be as unjust, as the Title of S. R. S. by himself is undeserved. But why, I wonder, should he be so splenetick against the poor Boys ! For since the Doctors themselves are now become Apothecarys too, the Charge may be fairly turn'd against them ; for I don't think they drudge at the Cookery of their Medicines themselves in their Dispensarys, but likewise leave that, as well as their *Brother* Apothecarys, to their heedless senseless Boys ; and then pray, where's the Difference between the Apothecarys Boys and the Dispensary Boys ? I fancy if the Case was to be try'd fairly between them, the Precedence would be given to the former.

What follows, that *the Decoctions and Juleps are put into small Glasses, and the Electuaries transform'd into ten or twenty Boles* ; is another extravagant Stretch of the Doctor's : But when such things are divided, as
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sometimes perhaps they may be, into distinct Doses, and sent apart, there's a very good Reason for doing so, tho' not what the Doctor would insinuate, to lengthen the Bill. The Apothecarys, who are most apt to be blam'd for the Miscarriages of their Patients, are generally more vigilant and careful in orderly administering to them their Physick, and (not coming in a hurry to fetch a Guinea, and be gone) very often find their Patients negligent in the taking their Medicines; but especially in punctually observing their Directions, and taking them in due Quantities, and at the appointed Times; by which means the Patient is frequently eluded of his Health, and the Apothecary suffers in his Reputation: And in case of Opiates, Catharticks, and such like Medicines, which exactly ought to be given in their due Quantities, the Patient, or Attendance who gives them, may sometimes make very fatal Mistakes. Both which great Inconveniencies can be remedy'd no better way, than by the Apothecary's dividing the Do-

ses himself, and sending them apart; except the Doctor would have him go with his Measures and Weights every time, to distribute the Doses as they are to be taken; but then his senseless heedless Boy will be left at home again alone, which is one great thing offends the Doctor.

How pleasant it is, a little after, to find him very angry because the Apothecary is too good a Husband for him, and gets up before him? *and by his impertinent Care ruins the Sick with his officious Visits in the Morning.* Good lack a day! *Risum teneatis? Cum Canem caedes, facile est invenire Baculum.*

Where the Doctor goes on exclaiming against the *Antidispendary Physicians and Apothecarys confederating together, to write long Bills, and stifle the Patient with Dose upon Dose, and the Tricks of the Apothecarys to change the Physicians, &c.* is so much of a piece with other of his malicious Insinuations, that 'tis not worth taking notice of.

But now *Finis coronat Opus*; according to Custom, at the Conclusion
of

of the Bill, we have an Account how these Grievances are to be remedy'd: If any one will repair to *St. Martins-Lane Westminster*, to *St. Peters-Ally in Cornhil*, or to the *Physicians College in Warlick-Lane*, on such Days and Hours the Doctors are to be spoke with, and there you may have Advice *gratis*, Phyfick at very reasonable Rates; and what not? Here's a great deal of stir, and a long *O Yes!* made to call all those that have got any Mony to buy withal; but the Charity is unluckily forgotten, for here's no Invitation for the Poor to come and have Medicines for nothing. Well! woe be to the Tooth-Drawers, Corn-Cutters, and Pimple-Scowerers; and all the Tribe of Medicaftors in *More-fields* and *Salisbury-Court*.

And now as to the Book it self, 'tis such an incoherent Medly, that I protest, I can hardly pick enough out of any one Place to know what the Meaning or Design of it is; but in the whole it seems to be a Piece of envious Raillery against the Apothecarys in general, only here and there

a small Interval to shew a little of his own Learning and Philosophy. As to his several Charges level'd against the Apothecarys in general, as all along they are (as alike true of them all) almost every one may be a Witness to their Falshood. I do not know indeed what a Licence the Doctor may allow himself in the stretching a Figure, and making a few in a Company stand for a Thousand; 'tis almost a Miracle, as the World goes now a-days, if there be no Block-heads, no Extortioners, among so many as there are of the Apothecarys; especially when so much lesser a Number (as that in *Warwick-Lane*) affords such a Plenty of both. But what then? must all of them therefore be so, because some are? I can't think the Doctor himself is so uncharitable, nay, so inhumane, as to think it.

I confess his Charge (*P. 10.*) is too true, were it duly limited; I have been too much a Witness of it: *That Youngsters shall instantly pretend to more Knowledge, Judgment, and miraculous Cures,*

Cures, than all the Experienc'd Practicers; that all the College are nothing, when compar'd with themselves; that they cure by their own Inventions, never heard of or practis'd before: They defy all Examinations and Approbations of the Society, ridicule the Improvements from Lectures of Anatomy, of the Nature of Diseases, &c. But tho' this is true of some, all therefore to be accused, would be very hard and unjust: However, I wonder the Doctor should take notice of such things as these, unless it be to shew his Zeal in finding fault; for such Persons at the same time, with their Impudence, highly proclaim their own Ignorance, and thereby become their own Lam-poons.

He exclaims against the Apothecarys (P. 13.) for, *under pretence of advising without a Fee, crowding the Patient with a needless Glut of Medicines, &c.* which is again of the old stamp. But afterwards in P. 16. where he falls to beslaving their Medicines, he forgets surely that they are made according to the Prescriptions of the College

College (of which he has the Honour to be an *unworthy Member*) in the Publick Dispensatorys, except he's at War with them too; and then 'tis no wonder that the Apothecarys can't escape his Wrath, when he quarrels with his own Faculty.

He goes on, *As it is a Scandal to the Art of Physick to be supposed to treat all Diseases with meer Bezoar and Pearl only, 'tis an Affront to the Munificence of Nature, that it has produced nothing of any Value, but Pearl and Bezoar.* Admirable! But is this a just and fair Representation of Matter of Fact, and like a *Fellow and Censor of the College of Physicians, and of the Royal Society*? I dare be positive that the Doctor never knew any one Patient in his Life, that was treated with nothing else but Bezoar and Pearl. However, to degrade those two things (unjustly insinuating, or ignorantly supposing them to be the Apothecarys chief Materials) he tell us, *Mr. Boyle from one Ounce of Pearl distilled but a few Drops of a poor weak Spirit, the remaining Part was a dead unactive Earth.*

Earth. If the Doctor has found this in any of Mr. Boyle's Works, I wish he had quoted the Place where; for I should wonder to find any such Expressions in his Writings, as *dead unactive Earth*; for I fancy he was more of a Philosopher than to think any Earth *active* or *alive*. But supposing Mr. Boyle has try'd the Experiment, and it has answer'd as the Doctor informs us; according to Mr. Boyle's own Philosophy, it makes nothing at all for what the Doctor aims at, to prove it no Cordial. Perhaps he thinks nothing is so, but spirituous Liquors; tho' when he's in the humor, he mightily exclaims against *Brandy*, and *hot Juleps*, and *Punches*, as sometimes he's pleased to call those which have spirituous Liquors in them.

There are few Bodys that discover their Qualitys, 'till wrought upon by proper and suitable Agents: That tho' *Pearl*, when wrought upon by Fire, yielded little or nothing of what we call Spirit; yet when in the Stomach, and mixed with the Juices there,

there, it may have the same effect as what we attribute to a Cordial. Mr. Boyle often tells us in his *Sceptical Chymist*, and backs his Assertions by very convincing Experiments, that the different Qualitys and Affections of Bodys depend upon the different Texture and Configuration of their constituent Particles; and that by the force of Fire, those Principles we usually call Chymical, are often transmuted, produced *de novo*, and sometimes quite destroy'd. Why may we not then reasonably suppose Fire to be an improper Agent to work upon Pearl, in order to inform us what will be the Effect of it in the Stomach, which is vastly different. The same Bodys wrought upon by different Agents, may afford very different Effects, as likewise the same Agents upon different Bodys *: So that *Pearl*

* *Phyfica causarum vaga & incerta, & pro modo subjecti mobilia complectitur; causarum constantiam non assequitur. Verulam. de Aug. Scient. lib. 3. cap. 4.*

Limus ut hic durefcit, & hæc ut cera liquefcit, uno eodemq; igne.

actuated by Fire in a Retort, yields little or no Spirit; yet 'tis not improbable, but when mixed with the Juices of the Stomach, it may eventually, tho' not immediately, prove a Cordial: Nay, I think 'tis highly reasonable to suppose it should do so; for when the Sulphurous and Balsamick Parts of the Blood are kindled in a great measure, and gone off in a Fever, the sharp and pungent Particles of the remaining Mass soon begin to discover themselves, by irritating the Membranes and nervous Parts; especially in the Stomach, where by the Structure of the Glands in its Coats, they are adapted to Secretion; whence Inquietudes, Tremors, and Convulsions, presage imminent Death, by dissipating and wasting the few remaining Spirits, if not timely prevented by suitable Remedys. But if *Pearl*, by its Alkaline Salt, or any other Quality with which it abounds, so encounters these acid and sharp Particles of the Blood, that affect the *Genus Nervosum* with such threatening Symptoms, so as to sheath or break
off

off their Points, and thereby soften and dulcify the remaining Mass, I think it cannot but be owned as proper a Medicine as at such times can be given, and in effect be much more a Cordial than any spirituous Liquors, which would be apt only to irritate the Nerves into quicker Vibrations, accelerate the Blood's Circulation, and consequently heighten the Fever; and that *Pearl*, or any other *Testaceous* Pouders, will so correct such Acidities or Sharpness in any Liquor, the Experiment of putting them into a little Vinegar, or other acid Liquor, will easily convince us.

The *Extortions* the Doctor complains of, (*P. 20.*) if any Apothecarys can be so unreasonable, I think 'tis a pity they were not called to an account for it, and some way or other severely dealt with; there are many of them, I'm sure, will not justify such Practices: Therefore they in general ought no more to be censur'd for it, than the R. S. be thought e'er the worse of, because the Doctor is a Member of it.

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The repeated Declamations (P. 21.) against the common Medicines of the Shops, in a Quarrel with the Apothecarys, are very unjust and unreasonable; for the Apothecarys are oblig'd to make such, by the Physicians own Prescriptions in their Publick Dispensatorys: Therefore *their* bad Compositions let them answer for themselves. But I say again, 'tis no wonder the Doctor is so hard upon others, when his own Faculty is so severely dealt with: For further, (P. 36.) he calls the *Physicians* themselves *Knaveish and Ignorant, having raised the Peoples Expectations of great Cures from the Juleps, altho' no Cures have been wrought by them in most of the Distempers.*

By the way, we may see what an Aversion the Doctor has against these Juleps, that he crys them down in the Physicians Hands as well as in the Apothecarys; but the Reason why he is so averse to them, is very plain, because he imagines (tho' falsely) that they go a great way in making up the Apothecarys Profits: And by his mentioning very often
Juleps

Juleps given by them, he seems to think they hardly understand the making up their Medicines in any other form; so that to bring down the Credit of them, would go a great way towards the gaining his End, viz. to ruin the Apothecary's Trade: 'Tis pity indeed the Doctor did not know better.

Afterwards he takes a great deal of Pains, and spends several Pages, to prove the Inefficacy or Prejudice of the College of Physicians; forgetting surely, at the same time, how much the Apothecarys have the advantage of the Physicians, in remedying such an Inconvenience, by substituting others in their room: For 'tis much easier for a private Person, in his own Practice, to order and prepare what Medicines he pleases, either by making *Tinctures*, *Decoctions*, or Poudering of the Simples themselves (which the Doctor himself commends for the best Method of preparing Medicines) than for one of a Publick College or Society, who by being above the Servitude of preparing Medicines himself,

self, is oblig'd to write to the Shops where they are made up, according to the publick Prescriptions, that he can prescribe for his Patient nothing but what is there in common to be had: But a private Person who prepares and compounds his Medicines himself, as an Apothecary does (for the Doctor's Charge of buying them of the Wholesale Men, is a Mistake) when he meets with a Case somewhat singular, and would administer some Medicine which is not common, and what he judges to be peculiarly proper in that case; then he has his Materials about him, can, without going out of his Business, set about it, and prepare it himself: Which is one very great Advantage the Physicians altogether want, and cannot be supply'd with in their Dispensarys, let them pretend what they will.

From the 50th Page, and onward, the Doctor enters into a long Detail of the Vertues of several Simples and Compound Medicines, telling us wherein they are useful, and when not; but prejudicial, and injurious:

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But he has not proved, by the way, that an Apothecary could have told the World all this as well as himself; tho', I think, it had as good be let alone than done no better; for the Doctor's Accounts are so broken and interrupted, that sometimes a thing is dropt by the halves, and other times the same thing over and over again, *usque ad nauseam*.

The Digressions of the Nature and Elasticity of the Air, and the Natural Powers throwing off some Distempers without the help of Medicine, are as much demonstrative of what the Doctor does not know, as of what he knows; and as for his declaiming against the Multiplicity of Medicines, the Cause is very plain, because the Apothecarys have the greatest share in giving them; and it's so much a-kin to the old Cant of the common Bills of being *cured with a very few Medicines, abundance of Safety, and no Business hinder'd*, that any body may see through it. But there is a great deal of reason to suspect, that could he get into as much
Business

Business as several Apothecaries have, his Philosophy would soon be changed, and he would find very few Distempers which the natural Powers would be able to throw off, without a little of his Help.

The Qualifications laid down (P. 90.) as necessary to a Physician, are nothing but what an Apothecary may easily be accomplish'd with; and all that are so much as fitted for their own Business, as skilful Compounders of Medicines, are so.

The Accusation of the Apothecaries confederating with the young Physicians, to bring them into Business, if true, is highly blameable; but that 'tis in general so with all, is false, and ought not therefore to be charged without Restriction.

Hence not finding any thing new in the way worth taking notice of, 'till P. 120. where we shall find two material Articles against the Apothecaries; one is for charging the Physicians with *Ignorance in Drugs*: which is with a great deal of Reason. The other is the same return'd upon the

36 *Tentamen Medicinale.*

Apothecarys, especially as to their Ignorance in *Plants* and *Chymistry*. Tho' every Man's private Trade will not perhaps afford the making all the Chymical Preparations himself; yet if he's industrious, or at all qualified for his Business, as to the compounding *Galenical* Medicines, he may have Opportunitys by seeing at the Hall, and his own Reading and Observation, to understand enough for his Business, and a great deal more than most of the Dispensary Gentlemen know of such things.

As to *Plants* and *Drugs*, the Doctor affirms, that *the very Names of them would be unknown, were it not for now and then using them in their Compositions*; which, unless we have recourse to the Doctor's Figurative way of writing, is notoriously false; for some Apothecarys have made such a Progress in Botany, that several Physicians have been oblig'd to them for their Assistance in such things. For instance, Mr. Doody, Mr. Petiver, now both of *London*, Mr. Bouchier of *Barham Wood*, and Mr. Dale of *Braintry* in

in *Essex*, all Apothecarys; the latter of which has not only signaliz'd himself for his great Knowledge in Botany, but in other Parts likewise of Natural Philosophy, of which his *Pharmacologia*, not long since publish'd in *Latin*, is a famous Instance, besides several Papers scatter'd up and down in the Philosophical Transactions. These, with several others, are Men so eminent in the Learned World, that the Doctor shews himself to have been a great Stranger there, not frequently to have met with them. A very worthy Person, Mr. Ray, frequently mentions them with a great deal of Honour and Respect in his Writings, and owns how much he has been oblig'd to them for their Assistance, especially in his Preface to his *Synopsis Stirpium Brittanicarum*. How then can the Doctor impose such a Falshood upon the World? to say, *so much as the very Names of Drugs and Plants would be unknown to them, &c.* Surely he can't be so ignorant of the several set herbarizing Days of the Apothecarys, where the younger sort,

viz. the Apprentices, are constantly train'd up in the Knowledge of Plants; but I suppose, knowing little thereof himself, he thinks all the World equally deficient therein. Besides, they are all *Grocers* still with him, and ever will be perhaps, tho' they may know a great deal more than himself.

The *Brandy* and *Hot Juleps*, the Doctor makes such a stir about, and here again (*P.* 147.) largely insists on, are false Insinuations, as if the Apothecarys were such notorious Blockheads, as always to be in the Extrems, either parching their Patients with *Hot Brandys* and *Punches* (as sometimes he calls them too) or else starving them with cold insipid simple Waters. In short, the Doctor all along much more shews his Goodwill than Ability to find fault; for after all the puther and stir he makes, his Proofs come to no more than *mentiris Bellarmine*.

His assigning 2 s. 8 d. as the Apothecarys usual Price for a little Draught of 5 or 6 Spoonfuls, 'tis false,

false, except there be any in the Trade as extravagant in their Prices, as the Doctor is in his Accusations and Calumnies: His repeated, Charge likewise, of giving Medicines every Hour, is just as true.

But 'tis time to give over pursuing this Labyrinth of Inconsistencies any further, for fear I should weary my Reader as much as my self; for such a Jargon was certainly never before seen in Print, especially by an *M. D.* and what not. 'Tis a Piece really worthy of none but its own Author. Let us pass over therefore to the 260th Page, for all the way thither we shall find nothing but *idem per idem*, a Continuation of the Doctor's Candor and Humanity, as well as of his Learning and Ingenuity: But here he's so obliging to the Apothecarys, tho' his inveterate Enemies, that it would be unjust as well as ungrateful not to take notice of it. He tells us, that *Dr. Sydenham and Dr. Willis, with many others, owned that they learned more (affidendo Lectis) from their Patients Discourses.* What the Com-

paritive Particle *more* does here, I can't tell; for here is no Consequent to make up the Comparison follows (but Incoherence is not perhaps thought a Fault by the Doctor, he's so fond of it throughout his whole Book) but if he means, more than by reading, or any other Method, then the Apothecarys, by oftner being with the Patients than the Physicians generally are, have a great advantage over them in qualifying themselves for the Practice of Physick, and for that reason likely to make the best Physicians.

But to counter-balance the great Favour the Doctor in this has done them (tho' I believe undesignedly) here in the same Page he brings in a terrible Clause against them; for *not understanding the Languages of Diseases, and the natural Motions, they can't deliver themselves in Terms which the Physician understands, nor apprehend the Questions which the Physicians may offer to them.* Hey dey! the Apothecary such a Fool, that he can neither understand another, nor talk intelligibly himself:

himself: This is Dr. *Pitt* all over. If the Extensiveness of the Doctor's Capacity might be judg'd of by the Learning and Ingenuity of his Writings, I'm apt to think indeed an Apothecary may deliver himself in such Terms to him, tho' proper and intelligible, which he cannot understand: And if the Questions likewise a Physician may offer to an Apothecary, should be as incoherent and impertinent as this Book of his, I don't know then too, but the Apothecary might be at a loss to apprehend him. But without these Suppositions, the Doctor's Charge is as false as his Insinuations of the Apothecarys Ignorance are malicious. Had he any where left us a Specimen of such a singular Modesty, as this Book is of his Folly and Ignorance, I should fancy when he wrote it, he concluded no body would read it, or believe what he says in it: How else can he imagine that any one would think the Apothecarys to be such notorious Blockheads, as not to understand a Physician when he asks him a Question? unless he supposes all Physicians

ficians to talk as he writes ; and if so indeed, there is some reason to fear he may be puzzled. I question not but there are several Apothecarys in Town, who both understand the Languages of Diseases, and Physicians too, as well as any of the Dispensary Doctors, if they talk but intelligibly and not like Dr. *Pitt*. Some of them I know are ignorant beyond Description ; but, as I have said before, must all therefore be so ? That a Doctor, and Censor of the College of Physicians of *London*, Fellow of the Royal Society, one of the Physicians of *St. Bartholomew's Hospital*, and what not, to write after this manner ! *veh Pudori !*

And now I would fain ask any one, if they can imagine of what use such a Book as this can be, or what should be the Design of it, (if they can think there was any in it) unless to serve the By-ends of a private Party, by maliciously and falsely aspersing those who seem to oppose it ? except any body can think it such a Pleasure and Satisfaction to the Doctor to vent
his

his Choller and Ill-nature, that he did it only to indulge and gratify his own Humour, tho' at the hazard of his Reputation: Which would neither be an unreasonable or an unmannerly Reflection; for there is such a mixture of both of them throughout his whole Book, that it does not deserve, nay it hardly leaves any room to be otherwise thought of; but with any impartial Judge much more likely to prejudice than vindicate the Cause it aims to defend. But had it not been so severe, to his *own* thinking, on the Party 'tis level'd against, it might perhaps have been much more so in *reality*; so that the Doctor, to indulge an Ill-humor, has very much spoil'd his Cause, or rather, made a bad one a great deal worse.

But the old Gentleman being with this pretty well out of Breath, in comes fresh Recruits upon the poor Apothecarys, enforc'd with all the Artillery of the Law, with which they are resolved to batter them to Atoms. Mr. *William Rose* is the Man to be begun with, and the College accor-

accordingly sue him for Male-Practice at the Queens-Bench, and there obtained a Judgment against him. However he got his Case brought before the House of Lords, which after it was there debated by Counsel, was given on his side, whereby the Judgment obtained against him in the Queens Bench, was revers'd.

Notwithstanding which, some Person (by his great Zeal to the Cause manifesting himself to be of the Dispensary Party) has not spared printing his Reflections on the most Honourable House of Lords in that Case; tho' in those very Reflections he mightily inveighs against the Apothecarys for their Ill-manners.

These Reflections (or Observations, as he for Modesty's sake rather chuses to call them) seem indeed to be quite of another Piece than that which we have just now examined; for as that seem'd almost altogether without Thought or Coherence, the Author of these has not only given us some Instances of his Ability in that nature, but likewise of the Fruitfulness
of

of his Invention too ; to which he has here given such a Loofe, as sometimes extremely to exceed the Truth, by charging the Apothecarys with fuch things, as neither he nor all his Collegues can ever prove upon them ; nay fuch, that almost every body may be a Witness to their Falshood.

But let us turn to the Book it felf, where there's fcarce a Page which does not contain fomething in it contrary to Truth, either by positive Affertions, or cunning Infnuations, artificially drest in ambiguous Expreffions ; yet I fhall confine my felf to take notice of but a few things which are moft material, feveral Charges here, being spoke to already in the foregoing Remarks upon Dr. *Pitt's* Antidote.

In *P.* 14. our Anonymous Obfervator tells us the Reasons, why the Dispensary Phyficians fomewhat deviated from their firft Defign of only relieving the Poor with their Medicines from the Dispensarys, by advifing them fometimes to many *Rich* and *Noble Perfons*. No doubt but in a little time they would find Rea-
sons

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sions too, to vindicate all those Practices which they so much accuse and blame the Apothecarys with, was the Business but once pretty well fallen into their Hands.

First, Because the Physicians prescribing for them, were assured, that the Medicines there were undoubtedly the Best.

Secondly, Because many excellent Remedys are there repositied, which have never yet been trusted in the Apothecarys Shops.

As for the Conceit these Gentlemen have of their own Medicines, let them enjoy it as long as they please; but they neither can assure themselves, or prove it to any body else, that their Medicines are the best. I know not how any one, without Violence to their own Reason, can imagine how the Physicians can make better Medicines than the Apothecarys, when those have had almost as many Months Education in such things, as the others have had Hours.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, *Because the Physician was not obliged to prostitute his Honour and Conscience, by overloading his Patient to oblige a craving Apothecary, or run the risque of being undermin'd in his Reputation by slanderous Suggestions, for not submitting to be the Apothecary's Under-Pick-Pocket.*

When a Physician has got a Guinea for his Visit, I believe it seldom much concerns his *Honour* or *Conscience*, how the Apothecary shall get a single Shilling for his Medicines. Above all things in the World, I wonder how these Gentlemen can make such a stir about *Honour*, *Conscience* and *Charity*, that can pocket a Guinea, and sometimes a great deal more, for nothing but a Visit; and yet be so clamorous against the Apothecary for Extortions and Oppressions, who for five times their Trouble, besides their Medicines, have not many times a fifth part of that Money: Let who will be Judge

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Judge then, which of these two are the greatest *Pick-Pockets*!

Lastly, *Because he could serve his Patient Quantity for Quantity, and Quality for Quality, fifteen Shillings in the Pound cheaper than any where else; which is a Thrift the greatest man that does not love to be cheated, need not be ashamed of.*

Which is an Assertion any one of common Modesty would *be ashamed of*; for I'm certain were the Dispensary-men oblig'd to take no Fees, and make their Medicines up as faithfully, and sell them at the same Prices as the Apothecarys do, they would quickly be brought to walk on foot, to ease themselves the Charge of a pompous Retinue. Pray which is the most moderate and honest Man, he that sends ten Shillings worth of Physick in a day to a Patient, at eleven Pence *per Shilling Profit* (according to the *Vulgar Talk*, which is excessive) or he
who

who sends but two Shillings worth a day, and gets but Two Pence by it, (which is as low a Computation on the other hand) and takes twenty Shillings or more for his Visits besides? Which of these two are the greatest Extortioners, and Oppressors? and which would the Publick most suffer by?

In the next Page (15.) he charges the Apothecarys with *corrupting and sophisticating of Medicines, substituting one thing for another; intolerable Exactions, &c.* In such a large Number, as near a Thousand, 'tis almost as strange there should be no Knaves, as that they should all be so: They must undeniably be owned such of whom this Charge is true. If the Doctor (or whatever he was, that wrote these Observations, for he has with a great deal of Prudence concealed his Name) has any better Grounds for saying this, than his bare gueffing 'tis possible, or what else his Good-will to asperse them, may suggest, I'm apt to think they would find no Favour from his hands; but he would
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invent some feverer Methods to deal with them than with his Pen. But that such notorious Crimes as these, with others that fill up the same Page, should be level'd against all of them, without distinction, is very hard and unjust; and to use his own Words in another place, *is such a bare-fac'd and groundless Calumny, as becomes the Front of none but a Dispensary Doctor.*

Where our Observator says, (*P.17.*) *that the Apothecarys have given the World a Specimen of their Ingenuity, as well as Good-manners, in pretending to judge of the Price of Medicines, of which they neither know the Ingredients nor Composition; and consequently cannot judge of their intrinsick Value, &c.* may be as directly applicable to those of the Dispensary, who pretend to prize the Apothecarys Medicines, as any thing can be; especially their Associate Dr. Pitt, concerning his Book of the *Crafts and Frauds of Physick*. For one of the Dispensary can no more judge of the Value of Medicines, which an Apothecary compounds for his own use, than an Apothecary can

can of those that are made up in the Dispensarys.

Afterwards (P. 19.) *for insolently opposing the calling a Physician till the Patient is reduced to the last Extremity, and then imposing a Creature of their own*: Which is likewise as unjust as the rest; for there's very few, if any, but had rather have a Physician concerned, than be employed alone, for many Reasons, and without confederating with them too (as he would often falsely insinuate) unless it be one of the Dispensary indeed; and then I don't know what Reason any Man can have (if it is in his Power to prevent it) to bring in one that does what he can to eat his Bread out of his Mouth, and defraud him of his Employ and Livelihood.

It would be a gross Absurdity (P. 23.) to suppose that Physicians, who had the sole Exercise of the Faculty in their hands by Law, should petition to let others into the Exercise of their Part, which was so well secured to themselves. It would be a Gross Absurdity indeed, in any one who is acquainted with

the Temper of these Gentlemen, to suppose they would do any thing contrary to their own Interest. But this Project (one of the best perhaps the College of Physicians ever set about, tho' fatal enough since to their own Interest) 'tis not unlikely had its Birth from Causes, which here perhaps it may not be very pleasing to mention: But undoubtedly a Physician, when he came to his Patient in his Coach only to feel his Pulse, made a much more considerable Figure, than when with Phials and Galipots in his Pocket; and it could not but be much more pleasing to take a Guinea for only a Visit, than less for the same Trouble, and their Medicines besides.

Afterwards speaking of *Rose* (P.27.) *We have not pickt out this Case to show the Conscience and Skill of the Apothecarys; but have taken it because it is the Case upon which the Question is raised; tho' we have many hundred more as extravagant, some of which may come hereafter to be try'd. What Question, pray, is raised upon it? If it be, Whether*

Whether or no the Apothecarys are Men of Fidelity and Learning enough to be intrusted with the Practice of Physick? all the Skill the Doctor has, can't prove it in the Negative, especially if his Logick furnishes him with no better Arguments, than that, because Mr. *Rose* has been proved a Man unskilful and dishonest, and excluded from it, therefore all of them are so, and consequently ought to undergo the same Prohibition. A very cogent Proof truly!

It is not Mr. *Rose* here, that I have to do with, or pretend to vindicate; but to show the Injustice of aspersing every one of the Profession with his Crimes. If he be guilty of what is laid to his Charge, of Extortion and Oppression, every honest Apothecary would be glad to see him receive a just Punishment for them, and be made an Example to prevent the same for the future, by deterring all those whose Principles do not teach them better, from the like Extravagancies, and bringing thereby a Scandal upon the Profession. If the Doctor knows

a hundred more guilty of the same Extravagance, let him produce them, if he can; he'll as much oblige the Apothecarys by doing so, as gratify his own Revenge.

I wonder how in the next Page he can so lovingly put the Quack and Apothecary together, by saying, *the ignorant Quacks and Apothecarys in those Days were not so numerous as at present*, and yet be such an inveterate Enemy to the Apothecarys himself. Besides, is that fair and just, to asperse one Person with another's Crimes, only because he was his Contemporary? Tho' he does not affirm it, yet he would insinuate as much. The same may be as justly retorted upon the College of Physicians, for they too were not so numerous in *those Days*; but now the World abounds with ignorant Quacks.

By the promiscuous Use (P. 30.) of the Grocer and the Apothecary, dangerous Mistakes were made, thro' the Unskilfulness of those that often took upon them to compound from the Prescriptions of Physicians, without a sufficient Acquaintance

quaintance of the Manner and Method of making Medicines, which were sometimes refer'd to by very short Directions in Physicians Bills, upon supposition, that constant Use had made them familiar. Which very much helps to confirm what I shall hereafter endeavour to prove, that the Physicians Directions in their Bills, or Dispensatory, are not sufficient to instruct any one in the true Composition of Medicines there prescribed, unless he first be thoroughly acquainted with the Nature and Qualitys of simple Bodys, and qualify'd with most Parts of Knowledge necessary to one, as a Physician. From whence may justly be infer'd, that he who is accomplish'd for a good Apothecary, is upon the Borders of making a good Physician. But more of this by and by.

An Apothecary does not, any more than himself, suppose that *the weighing, pounding, sifting and mixing of Drugs, is sufficient to make any one a Judge of their Use.* But unless he had proved an Apothecary, as so, is not

capable of learning their Uses, and has no other way to do it, than by weighing them, &c. it not at all concludes but he may understand them as well as himself, or any other of his Collegues. Nay before I have done, I hope to make it evident, that an Apothecary has the greatest and almost only Advantages of perfecting himself in the Knowledge of the whole *Materia Medica*, and likewise of being vers'd in *Natural Philosophy*, in order to qualify him for a *Rational Practice of Physick*: And if any one pretends to be so without knowing any thing of the *Movements of Nature*, or being acquainted with the *Animal System*, and able to account for all the *Vital Actions*, and whatever may impede them, &c. as he goes on afterwards in the same place, I'll own he's as incapable of a *Rational Practice of Physick*, as most of the Dispensary Doctors are of a skilful Composition of Medicines, which I'm apt to think is in the Superlative Degree.

As for these and other Requisites, that are necessary for a Rational Practice

Practice of Physick, I shall presently come to enquire into, in order to see how far an Apothecary may be accomplisht with them.

Where he afterwards insists upon the Difficulty of being a good Physician, to those who have had several Advantages by Education, he goes on (*P. 33.*) *How much more must it be so, for those whose Education has left them wholly illiterate, and destitute of those means that are necessary for the forming a right Judgment where it may be given? Let then any indifferent Person judge, whether one that from his Youth has been instituted in the Knowledge of Natural Bodies, and exercis'd in the Analysis of all sorts of them, whether Animal, Vegetative or Mineral, or one that is only used to weigh, break to peices some few of them in a Mortar, and mix them together by the Directions of the former, be best qualified, &c.* Can any thing in the World be more diametrically opposite to Truth, than what by this he seems to insinuate, as if all Physicians from their Youth had been instituted in the Knowledge of
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Natural Bodies, and exercis'd in their Analysis, and the Apothecary only to weigh and break them to pieces according to the former Directions? He must certainly by this discover either a Hardiness in saying any thing which his luxurious Fancy suggests, or a notorious Ignorance in the Business of an Apothecary, the latter of which 'twould be the most charitable to think, tho' perhaps not with the most reason: But it may be, he may know no better, than that the weighing, and breaking a few Drugs in a Mortar, is all that belongs to the Trade of an Apothecary; but I can assure him for his better Information, that the Knowledge of Natural Bodies, and especially the Analysis of them, which he ascribes to the Physician, is principally the Apothecary's Province, concerning which, besides what has been already said to that purpose, if he'll have but a little Patience, I shall make it evident, that an Apothecary has by far the advantage of being instructed in such things, and the Physician almost excluded,

cluded, and consequently more ignorant of them.

The World (P. 36.) would think us mad, if we should seriously ask them, Who lays the greater Tax upon the People, the Apothecary, who will not let the poorest Wretch have any thing, without an extravagant Gain; or the Dispensary Physician, who gives his Advice gratis? The World may with a great deal of Reason think any one mad, who accounts the bare asking a thing a sufficient Proof of it. If it be true that the Apothecarys will not let the poorest Wretch have any thing without an extravagant Gain; or that as many are not reliev'd from the Apothecarys Shops, as the Dispensarys, why has he not proved it? But if it is not true, why does he ask such a Question? unless he thinks the World so mad, as by such means to be bubbled into the Belief of a Lie. By this we may easily see what Hardships they are drove to, who engage themselves in opposition to Truth, to support a bad Cause. There's hardly any one but may witness to the
charitable

charitable Offices of several Apothecarys, and how much they contribute to the Relief of the Sick Poor; witness their charitable Supply of the Work-house in *Bishopsgate-street* with Medicines at the Expence of the publick Stock; which alone perhaps may be more than what we have such a Noise about from the Dispensary, tho' they have not yet had the Vanity to tell the World of it in Print. Their Shops are scatter'd up and down in all Parts wheresoever the Poor are; but there's but three of these Dispensarys in the whole Town, that some must be oblig'd to go a Mile or two thither for their Advice and Physick, when perhaps they might have it within a few doors of the former, which is such a great Inconvenience, that there are by far more relieved from the Apothecarys in general, than the Dispensarys; and is so publickly known, that they are not necessitated, were they so ostentaceous, to print Books of it, which these charitable Gentlemen are oblig'd to do, before their Good Works can be heard of.

To

To conclude, he tells us in the Plural Number, (P. 38.) *We expect the Clamours of the Apothecarys, and that they should tell the World that they are Masters of our whole Practice, by having our Bills upon their Files.* He's very much in the right of the former part, that the World shall be told several Apothecarys are better Masters of the Practice of Physick than many of the Dispensary Doctors; but not as he would fallly and maliciously insinuate, by their Bills, forsooth; no, they have better ways to qualify themselves in that nature, than himself perhaps has ever been acquainted with; which I shall endeavour to prove before I have done, against the most strenuous Arguments he can bring to the contrary.

That what is said is the Malice of a few People only, who want Business. For the truth of which we need appeal to no further than the Dispensary-men, and their own Writings.

That it will be hard to ruin a great number of Families, who subsist by Practice as Apothecarys. So 'twill be thought,

thought by any one who is not of the same extensive Charity as the Relievers of the Sick Poor in Warwick-Lane.

But if it does appear to the Publick, that this Practice is a Cheat, contrary to Law, contrary to Reason, contrary to the Health of their Bodies, and contrary to the Interest of their Purses; that the Apothecarys sophisticate Medicines; frequently substitute one thing for another injudiciously; and that they are Oppressors in their Bills, &c. When it does appear to be thus, then, good Mr. Observator, draw your Conclusions as fast as you please; but 'till then, *Siste Gradum*; for what has been yet said does not in the least prove it: But that the contrary of most of these Particulars are true, we shall presently see how far it may be proved; and that the Apothecarys Practice is more serviceable to the Publick, than this Dispensary Invention is, or ever can be. As for the Knavery and Ignorance of some Apothecarys, 'tis unjust, I say again, to charge it upon all of them; for I dare undertake to
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find as many Knaves and Blockheads in *Warwick-Lane*, as he can among the Apothecarys.

Afterwards he grows mighty obliging, and protests, if the Apothecarys (or the Physicians whom they honour) are able to show us any Injustice done in these Observations on their Case, we are as ready to retract it as publickly as we have done it, and therefore challenge them to shew it. As for the Case of Mr. Rose, I say, I have nothing to do with it; I did not engage my self in his Quarrel by undertaking of this, but only to defend the Truth, and the Apothecarys, as far as they have it on their side, but no further: For in any thing wherein they are not justifiable, I am so far from vindicating them, that the Sequel of this Discourse will, I fear, rather condemn a great many of them. Therefore as for any Injustice done in this present Case, which the Observator challenges any body to shew, as far as it respects Mr. Rose I do not meddle with it: The Judgment obtained against him at the Queens Bench might be very just upon
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on him; but 'tis not that which is principally insisted upon, but the Apothecarys in general stand aspers'd with his Crimes, and he treated all along as their proper Representative. Because he has been convicted of Ignorance or Extortion, therefore all the rest are inveigh'd against for a parcel of Blockheads, Knaves and Extortioners. If all these or worse Crimes (if worse can be) are true of Mr. Rose, he might with as much Reason be set up for a Standard of Honesty, as this Gentleman for one of Truth and Justice: And yet with what Assurance he appeals to the World, to shew wherein he has been unfair in his Representation! when every one that is prejudic'd cannot but see how much he has traduc'd several Persons of unspotted Reputations, by most scandalously and falsely aspersing them with this Man's Crimes, only because he was one of their Profession. Several Apothecarys are Persons of approved Fidelity and Learning, and are able to give the World sufficient Testimonies of their Skill and Abilities,

ties, not only in Pharmacy, but likewise in a rational Cure of Distempers. Our Observator therefore is guilty of the highest Injustice imaginable, in his Representations of this Case, because he has not confin'd his Accusations to the Person only concerned, but by transferring his Crimes, and charging them without any Grounds or manner of Proof, upon all the rest of the same Profession, he has falsely insinuated to the World, that all the Apothecarys are Knaves and Block-heads. This, I hope, will be taken for an Acceptation of his Challenge, and for such a fair Performance of what is there demanded, that if he does not as publicly retract these Aspersions, as he has vented them, he'll not only stand self-condemn'd for a Liar, but lie under the just Censure of others for a malicious and scandalous Traducer.

And now to remove the Prejudices which some perhaps may upon these Insinuations have taken up against the Trade of an Apothecary

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(since none of them, tho' perhaps better qualify'd, have yet medl'd with it) I shall endeavour to vindicate their present Practice, by proving how they may be thoroughly qualified for it, not only as to the Business of Pharmacy, but likewise a rational Cure of Distempers.

I took notice before, that there was no such thing as a Company of Apothecarys in the City of London, in the beginning of King James the First's Reign; but what Drugs and Medicines were then usually sold, were by the Grocers: But the Physicians finding many Inconveniencies in having such things from those whose other Business diverted them from the great Care and Diligence which that alone required, obtained a Charter for part of them to constitute a Company by themselves, wholly to be employ'd in the Care of Drugs, and what other Medicines the *Physicians* should at any time order them to prepare. When Matters were brought to this, at first, undoubtedly the *Apothecarys* must needs be awkward and unskilful

unskilful in their new Employ, as not having served any Apprenticeship to it, but in common with other Business, which might perhaps engage most of their Time; and then they might very well be content to keep behind their Counters, and wait only the *Physicians Orders* (as the *Dispensary Doctors* now would have them) especially when no body call'd them from thence. But quickly the Case grew otherwise, (which surely the *College* was very short-sighted not to foresee) the Business of selling Sugar and Plumbs now being excluded, and every thing that might interrupt them in their new Business, they were at leisure to imploy their whole Time in *Pharmacy*, and apply themselves to the Study of those things which might be serviceable to them in that Art, as *Botany*, *Chymistry*, and all Parts of *Natural Philosophy*. Nothing now hinders them from trying Experiments in order to examine the Principles and Affections of those Bodies that were made the Subject of their Labours, and thence deduce

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Rational Methods for the Preparation and Composition of their Medicines: And thus they came to be compleat Masters of their Trade, and thoroughly qualified for good *Apothecarys*.

* What a famous Author says of the State of Physick, may here very well be applied to *Pharmacy*, viz. “ That
“ Necessity invented, Experience
“ perfected it. At first it was rude
“ and illiterate; but in time, by the
“ help of fresh Observations, im-
“ proved by Reason, it became po-
“ lite and learned.

But those, whose Industry had brought thus far, 'tis very strange if they should not go a little further by taking notice of the Operations and Effects of their Medicines, where they were order'd to administer them by the *Physicians*. And tho' the *Apo-*

* *Neceffitas Medicinam invenit, Experientia perfecit: Quæ quidem prima Ætate rudis erat ac ftupida; progressu vero temporis, accidentibus indies novis Observationibus, fibiq; mutuo facem preferentibus, cuncta presertim regente ac moderante Rationis lumine, liberalis facta est & erudita.*

thecary

thecary should always confine himself to his own Shop, as these *Dispensary Doctors* would have him, and receive their Bills by the hands of a Servant, prepare and compound the Medicines there order'd, and send them again in the same manner, without ever going to see the Patient himself; yet he would be stupidly careless never to ask after the Operations and Effects of his Medicines, by the Servant sent to him: So that only by this means, 'tis strange if he can't gather something that may improve him in the Knowledge of the Vertues of Medicines, and by hearing of the Alterations and Effects they had upon the Patient, learn something of the Nature of Diseases too, and how and what will cure them; or at least so much as would excite his Curiosity to inform himself further by reading the best Authors upon such Subjects, which he may easily do, if he has but learnt before he came to Apprentice the *Latin* and *Greek* Tongues, especially the former: But unless he has

done that, he is altogether unfit for so much as an *Apothecary*.

But this is supposing the worst, that the *Apothecary* never comes at the Patient himself, as the *Doctors* would have it; but to his Comfort, and the *Doctor's* Mortification, the Patient will have it otherways; for he's not look'd upon now as a *Grocer*, but is call'd upon by the Patient himself, to answer some Questions or other relating to his Distemper, and the *Doctor's* Prescriptions. So that thus the *Apothecary* comes upon equal Grounds with the *Doctor*; nay much better, and has much greater Advantages, and more Opportunities to improve himself in the *Language of Diseases* (to use *Dr. Pitt's* Rhetorick) by being much oftner with the Patient, and allowing himself to stay longer with him than the *Physicians* usually do. And now he has the Theory in one Hand and Practice in the other: He may read the best Authors at home, the same perhaps the *Doctors* themselves do; and then here's his Patient.

Patient, (or the *Doctor's* rather) to take notice of on the other hand, * to observe whether the Symptoms, Degrees, Differences and Alterations of such and such Distempers be agreeable to the Notions he has form'd of them in his Reading, and what Effects such and such Medicines have in such certain Cases: And thus he comes gradually to a competent Understanding in the Nature and Cure of Distempers †.

Thus People finding that several *Apothecarys* are as capable of prescribing them Physick as many of the *Doctors*, do therefore for several Reasons chuse rather to imploy them alone; as first, there's the Expence of an unreasonable Fee saved; then they find themselves more carefully and constantly attended than the

* Longarum Observationum Præsidio instructa mens sagax, potissimam curandorum Hominum Rationem assequitur. *Baglivi de Praxi Medica. lib. 1. cap. 1.*

† Non ex probabili quadam Hypothesi Remedia adhibens, sed ab Artis Divinæ præscriptis longo usu comprobatis. *Baglivi, ibid.*

Physicians do generally allow themselves the trouble of; and again (notwithstanding the *Doctor's* Insinuations to the contrary) they find themselves less burthen'd with many Doses of Physick, than when the *Physicians* prescribe for them; except it be here and there one by chance, as malicious and inveterate against the *Apothecarys* as Doctor *Pitt*, who for that Reason only will forbear ordering what is really necessary for the Patient, on purpose to defraud the *Apothecary* as much as he can of his Profit: So, because for these Reasons several will not make use of the *Physicians* at all, a dissenting Part of the *College* have now with so much Heat and Malice took Arms against the *Apothecarys*, and would, were it in their Power, raise a terrible Persecution against them. But I hope, should e'er these Matters come under Consideration of the Legislative Power, the Good and Advantage of the Publick (for the Pretence of these *Doctors* aiming at That, is manifestly only to gloss over their real Designs of advancing

vancing their own private Ends) will I question not, out-ballance the Interest of a private Party; for were the *Apothecarys* dealt with as these *Doctors* would unreasonably have them, it might not only tend to the Ruin of several of them and their Families, but be an unspeakable Prejudice to other People, who, by a long Use and Experience of the Skillfulness of some *Apothecarys*, would not without a great deal of Dissatisfaction be deprived of the Relief and Benefit they have so long received by them.

If the *Doctors* often upbraiding the *Apothecarys* with their having formerly been but *Grocers*, be only to put them in mind of the Obligation they then confer'd upon them in making them otherwise, Thanks is the only Return, I think, they can expect; for 'twould be unreasonable to require any further Proofs of their Gratitude for what was done for their Forefathers in Ages past; unless, because they made them, then, *Apothecarys* of *Grocers*, they would, now, have the
Apothe

carys make them so of *Doctors*, for want of other Business.

Those who are of the Trade now, are such as have served an Apprenticeship to it, and were, or at least ought to have been so well educated first, as to have been capable of qualifying themselves thoroughly for the Practice of Physick: And therefore being frequently call'd upon to advise and administer Physick themselves, what would the *Doctors* have them do? send away their Patients to the *Dispensarys*, and so ruin themselves and their Families, by denying the Trade which they were brought up to, and all to gratify the Humor of a few peevish *Dissenting Doctors*.

They tell the World, the *Apothecarys* are ignorant in the *Materia Medica*, and understand not the Nature of *Simples*, and therefore incapable of preparing and mixing them. Indeed when the *Apothecarys* were *Grocers*, they might be so, and so the Charge very true; but now 'tis otherwise, and several have improv'd themselves in
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all Parts of Learning necessary to the Art of *Pharmacy*; witness those before-nam'd, besides many others. But such Opportunities every one may have, that 'tis his own fault if he be not so qualified. Every one has eight Years in his Apprenticeship, by his own Observation to acquaint himself with Drugs and Plants, by the frequent use of them in the Shops; besides often visiting the Markets and Physick-Gardens; and several set Days in the Summer the Company have to go into the Country, on purpose to take acquaintance with all the *Vegetable Tribes*, the Seniors and more experienc'd instructing the Juniors. Then there is an Elaboratory at their own Hall, open to all the Company, where they may see all the necessary Processes of the Chymical Preparations, by which the different Natures, Principles and Affections of Bodies are laid open, thereby learning how to adapt them to the Constitution of their Patients, and Nature of their Diseases.

In short, as the State of Physick stands now a-days, if any *Apothecary* will be but careful and industrious, he may have all the Opportunities that are needful, thoroughly to acquaint himself with the whole System of Nature. And then to apply those things which he reads of, by Observation and Experience, and render them serviceable for the Investigation of the several Causes of Diseases, and prescribing and adapting to them proper Remedies; besides the help of many good practical Authors, as *Willis*, *Sydenham*, *Morton*, and several others, their own daily Business furnishes them with many Opportunities in this kind.

But here perhaps it may be objected, that to the understanding of these things there is more Time to be spent than can be had in an *Apprenticeship*. To which I answer, that a Youth who is industrious and diligent, may in the greatest hurry of Business most Men have, find Intervals enough, in eight Years time, to make a sufficient Progress in this sort of Know-

Knowledge, and which may in the whole be more time than many in the Universities allow themselves.

But 'tis very well known, that Reading a great deal is not the only or likeliest way to obtain much Knowledge; but an Acquaintance with a few good Books is sufficient, if the little that is there read be but well digested and understood. * But this is more particularly true in the Study of Physick, than in many other things; because in that there is such a Necessity for Observation and Experience, that 'tis impossible to make any considerable Progress without them, and rightly understand and improve what is read †: So that a Person by a quarter of an hours

* *Lectio Librorum tumultuaria mentem hebetat; Doctorum Virorum Conversatione conjuncta, atq; Experimentorum usu, eandem fecundat ac perfecit. Baglivi de Prax. Med. l. 1. c. 7.*

† *Legendo non proficies, nisi lecta intelligas; intellectis vero ne assensum præbeas, nisi prius sedulo examinaveris verane sint an secus--- Ratio enim nisi Studia dirigat, Studia Rationem non solum non proficient, sed hebetabunt, & a recto operandi scopo avertent. Bagl. ibid.*

Reading

78 *Tentamen Medicinale.*

Reading may find Employ enough for his Thoughts a whole Day, (especially in some things) which he may exercise without incommoding his Business in the Shop; where he may often have the pleasure of experiencing the Truth of what he has met with in his Studies; and by the Observations of some Bodies operating upon one another, which he often meets with in the Preparation and mixing of his Medicines, and the Effects they have upon such and such Constitutions and Distempers, in his administering them to Patients, he may deduce many profitable and instructing Conclusions, of which the young Student at the University has but little Advantage.

These, I think, are the principal Objections that have yet appeared in Print against the *Apothecarys*, which with some perhaps may not have needed any Answer; but considering how many it has and may prejudice against the Trade, I hope it may be the more readily excused, that 'tis now done by no better hand, since
those

those that are better qualified seem to decline it.

And now I am got thus far, as much as I can to acquit my self of what I have undertaken, I would enter into as rigorous an Examination as the Matter will possibly allow of, by enquiring what are those Qualifications, without which no one can be tolerably capable of *Practising Physick*; which if I can prove to be only such as an *Apothecary* may attain to, as well as another, I hope every body will be so favourable to own, that I have made good what I have undertook to prove, viz. *That an Apothecary may be qualified for a Rational Practice of Physick, or, may be a good Physician.*

The

The proper Imploy of a *Physician* almost every one knows, * *is to find out and apply such Remedies as are most likely to repair and restore Health, when lost.* Whence 'tis absolutely necessary, that he be,

First, One who understands the Structure and Constitution of Human Bodies in a State of Health, and consequently skilful in Anatomy †.

* *Medici est invenire & rite usurpari Remedia, reparandæ ac restituendæ Valetudini amissæ mixime convenientia. Sylv.*

† *Constat, fieri non posse, ut Medicus opportunu facta determinet, nisi noverit naturalem Hominis habitudinem, i. e. nisi integram Scientiam de Homine fuerit nactus. Hinc absq; Physiologiæ, & Anatomies studio, non est ut quisquam sese Medicum jactet; horum quippe Occupatio est tota inrimando artificio quo Divinus Plastes Humana Corpora concinnavit, in quot partes distribuerit, qua Dispositione, quo ordine, qua organica Structura earum singulas donarit, quibus & cujus crasis Humoribus irriguas voluerit, quibus Actionibus & Usibus singulas destinarit. Gulielm. in Prælect. pro Theor. Medica.*

Secondly,

Secondly, Skilful in the Investigation of Diseases, in finding out their Seat and Causes, when the Body is distemper'd: And,

Thirdly, Well acquainted with the Nature and Vertues of all those things of which the *Materia Medica* is composed; that is, whatsoever is used and accounted as Medicinal.

To begin then with the first, 'tis manifest that one who is unacquainted with the Body in a healthful State, must likewise be a Stranger to it when distemper'd: For he that understands not the Structure and Situation of the solid Parts, and the Nature and Constitution of the Fluids in a Natural State, can never be able to find out the Seat and Cause of their Distempers, or know how to take proper Methods, and apply suitable Remedies, to alter and repair them when preternatural and unhealthful. When a Physician is sent for, he first considers his Patient's Age, Sex and Constitution, and then by the Symptoms

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and

and other Circumstances, judges of the Seat and Cause of the Distemper, before he can rationally proscribe any thing for its Cure. But this he can never do, unless he first knows how the Body is in a State of Health, and thence learn how such and such Parts or Humors are possible to be injur'd or distemper'd by such certain Causes; and when he knows this, then his way is plain before him, and he can proscribe suitable Medicines for restoring them to their due Texture and Crasis.

Whence appears the Necessity of his being a good Anatomist, but more especially skilful in the Nature of the Fluids; (for as to the Articulation of the Bones, the particular Situations, Motions and Uses of the Cartilagenous and Muscular Parts, they more immediately fall under the Surgeons Consideration) but it particularly belongs to a Physician, to know the Site and Offices of the *Viscera*, to understand the Nature, Motions, Alterations and Uses of the Juices they are destin'd to prepare; to be acquainted

acquainted with the different Structure of the Glands, and the manner of their Secretions, and to know how and by what Causes they may be distemper'd: He ought to understand the Elasticity * or Springiness of the Fibres and nervous Parts, and the *Æquilibrium* necessary to be maintained between them and the Resistance of the circulating Fluids, to preserve the Vital Actions entire and regular.

He must be acquainted how the Food is elaborated in the Stomach, and turned to Chyle, the Alterations it receives in its Passage thro' the Intestines by the *Bile* and *Pancreatick* Juices, its Percolation thro' the *Lacteals* in the *Mesentery*, and its Ascent by the *Thoracick* Duct, and Mixture with the Blood; and then from that, how, and in what Parts, thro' which it circulates, are prepared all the different Juices that are necessary to carry on the Work of Nutrition, and keep in motion all the secret Wheels

* Vide *Baglivi*, de Fibra Motrice, & *Bellini*, de Villi Contractili.

and Springs of Nature. * The Lord Bacon tells us, " That the Composition of a Man's Body is so delicate and fine, that like an exquisite high-strain'd Musical Instrument, it's easily put out of Tune; and that it is therefore the Business of a Physician, so to order it as to keep its Harmony.

When a Physician has laid a good Foundation in the Knowledge of these things, then he proceeds regularly to Pathology, which is the second Step, and consists in the Investigation of the several Causes of Distempers, and in a Knowledge of all those things which may induce them, and disturb the Animal Oeconomy, by disordering the Vital Actions, and perverting

* *Varia ista & subtilis Corporis Humani Compositio & Fabrica effecit, ut sit instar Organi Musici, operosi & exquisiti, quod Harmonia facile excedit,——Atq; in eo constat plane Medici officium, ut sciat Humani Corporis Lyram, ita tendere & pulsare, ut reddatur consensus minime discors & insuavis. Verulam. de Augm. Scient. l. 4. c. 2.*

the

the due Crasis and Temperament of the Humours. But,

*Innumeris objecta malis, & mille cadendi
Prona modis humana fuit Gens undiq;
Telis
Cincta necis-----*

All those Bodies we are conversant with, are sometimes apt to injure and discompose us ; those very Elements, (if I may so call them) of which we are formed, often are at War with us, attack our crazy Compositions, and easily disunite and resolve them into their first Principles ; * the very Air which we breath, and the Food with which we refresh our selves, may insensibly conveigh into us the Arrows of Death ; and all those things Physicians call Non-naturals,

* Egimus nempe Aere, quem respiremus, & Cibo quo reficiamur, & Calore quo foveamur ; cogimur Laborem alternare quiete, vigiliamq; somno ; subjicimur externorum, quæ nos circumdant injuriis, animiq; Passionum : tota deniq; rerum creatarum universitas, nobis vel favit, vel officit.
Gulielm. Prælect. pro Theor. Med.

as Exercise, Sleep, Passions of the Mind, and the like, may easily by a little Intemperance in the Use of them, so alter the Humors of our Bodies, as to implant in them the Seeds of many fatal Diseases. But nothing injures us more than the Alterations and Intemperance of the Air, and any Irregularities or noxious Qualities in our Diet; the great Variety of which does certainly very much weaken and prejudice our Constitutions. The famous Author before-mentioned, the Lord Bacon, tells us, there are no Bodies in Nature more compounded than is that of Man.

“ * Herbs and Plants are nourished
 “ with Water and Earth, other Ani-
 “ mals of these with their Fruits;

* Non inveniatur inter Corpora Naturalia, aliquod tam multipliciter compositum, quam *Humanum*. Vidimus Plantas ex Terra & Aqua nutrirī, Animalia ex Herbis & Fructibus: *Hominem* vero ex carnibus ipsorum Animalium — ex Herbis, Granis, Fructibus & Liquoribus variis, non sine multiplici commixtione & preparatione horum Corporum, priusquam Homini sint in Cibus. *Vernam. de Augm. Scient. l. 4. c. 2.*

“ but.

“ but Man with a Mixture of them
“ all. Whence every one that pre-
tends to be a Physician, must needs
understand the Nature and Constitu-
tion of the Air, and the manner of
its affecting our Bodies, either as be-
neficial or injurious; the Vertues and
Qualities of those things which are
made use of for Food; and know
what Effects, Exercise, Sleep, the
Passions of the Mind, &c. have upon
our Humors, either temperately us'd,
or otherwise. For whoever is a Stran-
ger to these things, can never tho-
roughly understand the Nature and
Causes of Diseases, and tell how such
Alterations or Qualities in the Air,
or Irregularities in Diet, &c. can
distemper the Body, and produce
them; * and much more proscribe
any thing rationally for their Cure.

* Quocirca nisi horum omnium Effectus in hu-
mana Corpora, qua propitii, qua noxii, apte in-
ternoscantur a Medico; qua, quæso, ratione, aut
optimum vitæ Regimen prescribere; aut si quæ
contingunt, in pravo usu, Læsiones, poterit deter-
minare? *Guliel. pro Theor. Med.*

Which likewise brings us to the third and last Proposition, *viz.*

That a Physician must be acquainted with the Nature and Virtues of all those things of which the *Materia Medica* is composed; that is, whatsoever is accounted Medicinal: Which, from what has been already said, I think, wants no Proof, but must be owned undeniable; for he that knows not the Qualities and Virtues of Medicines, how can he tell what will be their Operations and Effects, when given to a Patient? Neither is it a superficial Knowledge only that is sufficient, as the knowing that this thing purges, that sweats, another goes off by Urine, and the like; but a thorough Understanding in the Principles and Affections of Bodies, as simple, and what Changes and Alterations they effect upon one another in a Mixture, and what determinate Qualities will result from them in a Composition, and then how different Constitutions and other Circum-

Circumstances may differently determine their Operations and Effects upon the Body. And this makes it necessary, not only to understand Pharmacy, as it relates to *Galenical* Medicines; but likewise Chymical, which indeed are the Bases of the other: And when he is once come to the Knowledge of these things, then he may arm himself with such Variety of Medicines, as to be able to encounter a Distemper in whatsoever Form it appears, and make his Boast with the Poet,

*Et quoniam variant Morbi, variabimus
Artes :*

Mille Mali Species, mille Salutis erant.

Thus we see what a laborious Province every one who would be a good Physician engages himself in. He must travel thro' the whole Field of Nature, to take acquaintance with her chief Productions, and trace her Footsteps and manner of Operation throughout her whole Order of Beings. He must in short be a good Philosopher: *Ubi Philosophus desinit,
incipit*

incipit Medicus. And to talk of a Physician without Philosophy, is really as absurd as of a Super-structure without a Foundation *: They have such a natural Connexion and mutual Dependence upon one another, that they are altogether inseparable. Nay we are told, † “ That the whole Business of a Physician is a continued Course of Philosophizing: And Physick without it degenerates into base Empiricism.

For two Reasons I have the more enlarged upon these Particulars, one because I would avoid deserving to be thought partial, by omitting any thing that is essential to a Physician, which I think I have not: The other, that hereby I might have an Opportunity of convincing those (if they are

* *Artem Medicam deniq; videmus, si a naturali Philosophia destituatur, Empiricorum praxi haud multum præstare.——Medicina in Philosophia non fundata res infirma est. Verulam. de Aug. Scient. l. 4. c. 2.*

† *Constantissime tamen asserendum, Medentium opus nil aliud esse, quam perpetuum, sed vere ac solide philosophari. Guliel. cont. Empir. Sect.*

not wilfully blind) of their Folly, nay, I think I may say Madness, who who will intrust with their Lives almost any illiterate ignorant Person, that has nothing but the Impudence to pretend; before one who has all the Reason to be thought skilful and learned in the Profession: * Nay some are so supine to hazard their Mony and Lives with almost any Old Woman, that can tell them but some strange Story: How many receive their Passports into another World after this manner? Certainly would they but consider those Qualifications which we have here found necessary for a Physician, they must strangely impose upon themselves, to think that a Mechanick, or one not so well taught, can be capable of them: But *Populus vult decipi, & decipiantur.*

* Quin ea est Hominum Credulitas, ut sæpe numero Agyrtam, docto Medico præponant.—— Sit itaq; ut Impostor Palmam, Virtus Censuram referat. *Bacon.*

To return then to the Business. The next thing I have to do, is to prove how an Apothecary may arrive to the Knowledge of all those things, which are found necessary to a Physician. In the first place then, to begin with Anatomy, so far as is needful, may be attained without much difficulty. For as I before mentioned, there are some things which do not so particularly belong to a Physician, to enquire into as a Surgeon (for here I would not be understood to plead for an Apothecary's pretending to Surgery ; for that I look upon to be very foreign, especially as to the Practical Part of it, from the other Branches of Physick ; tho' some I know, by their pretending to that too, plainly shew how little in reality they understand of their proper Business) but it chiefly concerns a Physician to be acquainted with the Natures of the several Fluids, and the particular Texture and Cohesion of their Particles ; the Force and Springiness of the Fibres, which principally constitute those Conduits thro'

thro' which they circulate, and the like. But this is not to be learnt so much by being often present at Dissections, and frequently inspecting the Parts themselves (tho' these too are necessary) as by a few careful and well manag'd Experiments, and a diligent weighing and considering in our Minds the various Symptoms of those Diseases, which upon Dissection are found to proceed from the Dyscrasy of some certain Fluid, or Distemper of some of the solid Parts.

Thus for instance, in a Dropsy, the inspecting and examining the several Parts of a Body dead of it, may give us as much Light into the Nature and Causes of this Distemper, as of most ; but that alone is not sufficient by a great deal to unravel its more abstruse Causes, and convey to any one such an Idea of the Disease, as to enable him thence to deduce a right Method of Cure. By this indeed he may see what Parts are preternatural, and what not, and may inform himself where the Disease is principally seated. But it must be by a diligent
and

and an assiduous Application of our Thoughts to the Consideration of the Symptoms and Circumstances of the Diseased, when living, by which we must trace out the first Causes of the Distemper, and thence deduce a rational Method of Cure*: For it may often happen, that the same Distemper, in Persons of different Constitutions and manner of living, may proceed from different Causes; so that there is undoubtedly required a different Management for their Remedy†. Thus the Temper of the Air, Diet, and Manner of Living, must be enquired into, in order to find out whence that Atony or Flaccidity in the solid Parts, and such a Dyscrasy in the Humors, with which we find this Distemper is accompa-

* Idq; fidenter assero, quod si non investigandis Morborum Causis, sedulo non perpendamus, respiciamusq; ad Causam procatarepticam, de Curatione eorundum nunquam bene separandum. *Baglivi de Praxi Med, l. 2. c. 9.*

† Advertendum est graviter errare Medicos, qui putant nonnullos Morbos ab iisdem Causis semper productos, & eandem Methodum medendi semper expoicentes. *Bagliv. ibid.*

ny'd, does proceed ; whether it be from an unhealthful Air or Diet, or any Intemperance in Eating, Drinking, Exercise, or any other Cause likely to produce such an Effect ; the Consideration of which, compar'd with the Constitution of the Patient, will carry one much further, towards a regular Method of Cure, than all the Assistance that can be had from frequent Dissections, tho' that is helpful, as it may discover the Parts principally affected but little further. The Truth of this *Baglivi* largely discourses of in several Chapters of his Book *de Praxi Medica*, where the Reader that would be further satisfied, may turn at leisure.

How far Reading may be made use of for the understanding Anatomy, the Advantages on both sides are the same. There are Plenty of Books writ upon that Subject, by very Eminent and Learned Persons, which are in common to all that will be at the Charge of buying, and the Pains of studying them, and from whence undoubtedly a great deal of Knowledge may

may be gained. There's hardly any Part of the Body, either Solid or Fluid, that some skilful Anatomist or other has not made particular Searches into, and oblig'd the World with what Observations and Discoveries they have made in them. For instance, *Willis*, *Steno* and *Ridley* of the Brain; the Immortal *Harvy* first, and since him *Lower*, of the Heart and Blood's Circulation; *Glisson* of the Stomach and Guts, and of the Liver; *De Graaf* and *Brunnrus* of the Pancreas; *Bellini* of the Use and Structure of the Reins, *Malpigi* of the Spleen, and all the *Viscera*; *Wharton* of the Glands; *Nuck* of the Lymphaducts, and several other Persons, who have very much enrich'd the Commonwealth of Physick, by their happy Discoveries in some Part or other, besides several Systems of Anatomy by *Bartholine*, *Diemebroeck*, *Blancard*, and others; but especially one by our Countryman Dr. *Gibson*, in *English*; which, tho' an Epitomy, yet 'tis such a Collection out of the best Modern Anatomists, and gives such succinct

succinct and accurate Descriptions of the Parts and their Actions and Uses, that 'tis alone almost sufficient for this End; not to mention that Ingenious *Compendium* of Dr. Keil's.

But as the Doctrine of Secretions, Offices of the *Viscera*, and Nature of the Fluids, are by a Physician particularly to be enquired into; there's one Author that I before named, whose way of Reasoning about these things is so clear and demonstrative, that there's no need of going any further than those Books of his, were they read with Diligence and Application, to be thoroughly instructed in the Theory of Diseases, and Medicine too.

Those who have Mathematical Learning enough (which a diligent Apothecary may have) may turn to his *Opuscula* inscribed to Dr. Pitcairne, and *Baglivi de Fibra Motrice*; where several things may be learnt very useful to understand the Animal Oeconomy, and Motion of the Fluids; and necessary both in the Theory and Practice of Physick; as the due Pro-
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portion that's necessary to be maintained between the contractile Force of the Fibres, and the Resistance of the circulating Fluids in a State of Health : How the *Equilibrium* between these two contrary Powers being lost, do proceed various Distempers ; (with several Indications to know which is in the fault) and by what means That may again be restored, in order to their Cure : And several other things, which are all handled in such a manner, as not to fall short of Demonstration. Dr. *Pitcairne*, in his *Dissertations*, has so nobly embellish'd the Theory of Physick, as many very useful things may be learnt from them, relating to the Blood's Circulation, Digestion in the Stomach, and Secretion. There is likewise a very late Author, Dr. *Mead*, who has been so happy in the same way of Reasoning, in his *Essays upon Poysons*, that an attentive Reader may borrow several Hints from him, very serviceable to instruct him in the Nature of the Animal Fluids ; how from the various Texture and Cohesion of
their

their Globules, may arise very different Degrees of Fluidity and Impulse; and how from the Introduction of a very small Portion of Matter, that is foreign and disagreeable to their Constitutions, may proceed very strange and remarkable Alterations.

Thus we see how an Apothecary may arrive to the first step towards being a Physician, *viz.* a Knowledge of the Body in a State of Health. In the next place then let us see how he may proceed to the Knowledge of those things which may injure and distemper it, and by what means they do it.

The Air, as that which is most principally concerned, claims our first Consideration. This, that it is necessary to Life, almost every one knows; but how it is so, perhaps not many: It has so great an Influence upon several of the Vital Actions, that there's not a Possibility of living without it: We find to be deprived of it but a very little time, puts a stop to all the Wheels of the Animal Machine. A Physician there-

fore is undeniably oblig'd to understand how it is that this Element is so serviceable, and concurs to help forward and keep in Motion all the Springs of Nature, before he can know in what manner such certain Qualities, Changes and Alterations in it does affect the Animal Oeconomy, and distemper it.

The Air is such a principal Ingredient in the World's Composition, that there's few or none of the *Phænomena* of Nature to be solved without having recourse to it, that it has obliged all Philosophers particularly to enquire into the Nature and Constitution of it. Hence in most of their Writings we have large Accounts of their Thoughts concerning it; but since the latter Improvements of Physick, this Part of Philosophy has been more especially cultivated, that we find in most Modern Physical Authors, frequent Discourses concerning its Effects upon Human Bodys, both in a State of Health, and distemper'd; that 'tis almost impossible heedfully to study their Writings, without learn-

learning so much as is necessary of the Nature of it.

Some have undertook to shew, in what manner it is useful in one respect, and some, in another; and how such certain Qualities and Alterations in it do produce such certain Diseases. Some teach us how the Air is useful and necessary to promote the Blood's Circulation, and how its Colour and Texture is altered by it*; assigning some Parts of it more particularly necessary to Life, and calling it therefore the *Pabulum Vitæ*, or Food of Life†: Others in accounting for several Diseases, and their various Symptoms, Degrees and Periods, have largely treated of its different Qualities and Affections, and what Changes it undergoes throughout all

* *Needham*, de Formato Fætu, cap. 7.

Lower, de Corde, cap. 3.

Willis, de Accensione Sanguinis.

Ent, Apologia pro Circulatione Sanguinis, contra *Parisanum*.

† *Mayow*, Tractatus quinq; Medico-Physici; especially the two first, de Spiritu Nitro-aereo, and de Respiratione.

the Seasons of the Year; and how some Distempers are influenc'd by those Changes*. But more especially those who have wrote of contagious Diseases, or such as are peculiar to some particular Clime or Season †.

Those who have wrote the Natural History of some Countries, generally have spent a great deal of their Labour in examining the Constitution of the Air peculiar to those Climes, and to give an account of those Diseases, which there they have observed to be endemious, generally assigning their Causes to the Constitution of that Air.

But this brings the Enquiry still something further; for as almost every Climes has its peculiar Diseases, as

* *Willis, de Febribus, de Scorbuto.*

Cole, de Febribus intermittentibus, and his Medico-Physical Essay on Apoplexies.

Morton, Pyretologia, seu Exercitationes de Febribus, de Variolis, de Morbillis.

Sydenham, de Febribus.

† *Diembroeck, de Peste.*

Charleton, de Scorbuto.

England, Consumptions ; and in it, *Essex* and *Kent*, Agues ; *France*, the Cholick ; several of the *American* Islands, Fluxes ; and the *Northern* Countries the Scurvy ; all proceeding in a great measure from the different Temperaments of Air : But because that likewise depends very much upon the Variety of Minerals, and other Bodies, with which the Earth is plentifully furnished, emitting and saturating the Atmosphere with very different *Effluvia*, some affecting and distempering the Body one way, and some another : That here's further required to be known the Nature of those subterraneous Bodies, from whence these various Steams exhale. But this likewise (not to mention those Helps which some Chymical Experiments and Preparations, upon these Bodies, afford us) may easily be attained to by studying several Pieces of Natural History, which are not difficult to be met with ; but especially those of *Oxford* and *Staffordshire* by the elaborate Dr. *Plot*.

But the Honourable Mr. Boyle has performed so much on this account, that there's little need of going any further than his Writings, to be thoroughly with these things; and all that can be contained under this Head concerning the Causes of Distempers. He by his indefatigable Experiments and Observations has brought this Part of Philosophy almost to a Perfection: He has demonstrated the Gravitation of the Atmosphere, and the Effects it has upon Bodies, solving thereby several *Phænomena*, which were before inexplicable: He has discoursed at large of the Nature and Elasticity of the Air, its true Force, and several other Qualities, as Heat, Cold, Moisture, Dryness, and the like, all along applying them to the Improvements of Physick, both as to its Theory and Practice, and teaching us how they may affect Human Bodies, and produce several Distempers in them. With all which any one may easily make himself acquainted by reading his Works; but particularly his History of the
Air,

Air, and that Chapter of its Salubrity and Infalubrity.

Besides, since his Time, we have several Papers, by others, scatter'd up and down in the *Philosophical Transactions*, relating to its Usefulness, or Prejudice some way or other to Human Bodies. By all which Helps, any one who is industrious and studious, may easily attain to the second Requisite, *viz. the Investigation of the several Causes of Diseases.*

What relates to those other Particulars which may occasion Diseases, as unwholesome Diets, Intemperance in Eating or Drinking, Exercise, Passions of the Mind, &c. there's little need of insisting any longer upon them; for from what has been already said, 'tis, I think, manifest, that every one who understands the Animal Oeconomy, and knows how all those are serviceable to the Body in a State of Health, must likewise know how by any vitious Qualities, or Intemperance in the use of them, they may alter and distemper it.

In the last place then, as to the *Materia Medica*, and the *Virtues* of those things which are used and accounted as *Medicinal*. Here the Apothecary must certainly be owned to have all the Opportunities and Advantages of improving himself, that can possibly be had. His proper Trade obliges him to be daily conversant with those things, and almost always imploy'd about them; and the bare Preparation and Composition of a Medicine (of some especially) may to a heedful Compounder discover several of the Qualities and Affections of the Ingredients, and what Virtues the whole Compound may in a great measure be endued with. However he has the Privilege of reading and studying several Learned Pieces, that treat of Botamy, and other Parts of the *Materia Medica*, and thereby fully acquaint himself with the Nature and Virtues of Plants, and whatever else is used as Medicinal, as *Ray's Historia Plantarum*, with other Pieces of his, *Dale's Manuductio ad Materiam Medicam*, and several others which

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'tis needless to name, and of which many of the Authors have been Apothecarys, notwithstanding they were once *Grocers*. The frequent Use of them in his Trade supplies him with many Opportunities of acquainting himself with the different Phases of Plants, and their several Parts, as Roots, Leaves, Flowers and Seeds; besides, as was before mentioned, his frequent visiting the Physick Markets and Gardens, where his Business sometimes calls him, and the Fields, where those of the Trade have certain Days appropriated for that End.

And thus far he goes on equally (at least) with the Physician himself; but an Apothecary may still advance further, by visiting the Laboratories, where he may see the Principles of Bodies laid open by the Fire, and their Affections and Operations upon one another, in their several Preparations, and thereby deduce not only a rational Method of compounding them, but likewise discover a great deal of their Virtues, in order to apply them for the Cure of several Distempers,

Distempers, which I believe a Physician is very rarely at the trouble of, nor understands any further than what his Books have taught him. But there's no need of enlarging upon this Part, there has been so much spoke of it already in the foregoing Pages.

Thus we see the Opportunities an Apothecary has of attaining to every thing that is necessary to qualify any one for a good Physician, and in several things how much he has the advantage of a College Education. By Dissection, Reading, and Observation (all which he has the Privilege of, but particularly the latter) he learns so much of Anatomy as is necessary, and comes to understand the Animal Oeconomy, and all the Vital Actions, and how, and by what means they may be distemper'd; and then how to take suitable Methods, and adapt proper Remedies for their Cure.

But where now, I would fain know? Is the Apothecary excluded from being thoroughly qualify'd in
any

any of those things that are necessary for a good Physician? I think 'tis fairly proved, that he may attain to them all, and in many things how great Privileges he has beyond a Physician, supposing both of them come to Practice themselves: But should we consider the Physician only as a Student at the University, and the Apothecary as an Apprentice, then the latter must be owned on all hands to have still greater Advantages. As to Anatomy, the Student may perhaps sometimes have the Opportunity of seeing a Dissection, and hearing Anatomical Lectures; but the Apothecary oftner, and now and then such Bodies, as he has known some time to have labour'd under some particular Distemper, accompany'd with some uncommon Symptoms, by which he may learn something of the Seat, Cause and Nature of the Distemper, that may be serviceable to him in prescribing suitable Remedies in the like Case another time: For there may be more learnt from the Dissection of one morbid Body than ten sound ones,
(as

(as those of Malefactors generally are, that are dissected at the Colleges) especially by those who have been acquainted before with its Diseases; so that that part of Anatomy which is the most serviceable to a Physician, an Apothecary has by far the greater Opportunities of learning.

But as to the practical, which is the most necessary and instructing part of Physick, the Apothecary has almost the only Advantages of, whilst the young Student is excluded; for he has scarce any thing else but his Books, and almost all he learns is from an *Ipse dixit*, what others tell him they have seen and observed; whilst the Apothecary, not debar'd from the same Privilege in his Business, has frequent Opportunities of regulating and confirming those Notions he receives in Reading by *Autopsy* and Experience: He has Nature's own Volumes to turn over, and learns from her, as well as from her Commentators: He may join the Theory and Practice together, by comparing his Books with his Patients; but the Student can't
do

do so, not having any Patients to compare with his Books. After a Student has commenc'd Doctor at the University, he has still an Apprenticeship to serve by the Patient's Bed-side, to see whether he has made no no false Conclusions, and taken up wrong Notions of things in his Reading; but the Apothecary, by serving eight Years to it already, and all that time seen the Operations and Effects of Medicines given by another Hand, has learnt how to use and apply them by that time he comes to practise himself; but the young Doctor, for want of these Opportunities, is still to learn, that the beginning of his Practice is little better than trying Experiments with his Patients, and sometimes perhaps to the Cost of their Lives: Then pray which of these two are the fittest for Physicians?

Now whether or no all this is sufficient to make good what I undertook to prove, viz. *That an Apothecary might be qualified for a Rational Practice of Physick*, I willingly submit to
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an impartial Judgment. I think I have left out nothing at all which is material in the Character of a Physician, and that 'tis clearly proved, how an Apothecary may thoroughly accomplish himself with all those Requisites, and consequently that *an Apothecary may be a good Physician.*

But where then is the Reason and Justice of aspersing them for Persons altogether unqualified for such a Profession, because they were originally *Grocers*, and now perhaps some of them *Blockheads*? As great Disadvantages, I'm apt to think, might be urg'd against the College of Physicians, especially the latter. I wonder why by the Reverse of the same way Reasoning, they do not improve the Fiction so far, as to set up themselves for Demigods, as descending from *Chiron* or *Apollo*.

However the Case is now alter'd, and we find the Apothecarys have the better on't in many respects, but especially as to the learning their Business, and qualifying themselves for the Practice of Physick. What tho' they

they were formerly *Grocers*? They are not so now; and tho' there may be several ignorant and unskilful among them, yet they are not all so. But such now are their Advantages, that 'tis altogether their own faults, if they are not good Physicians, as well as accomplish'd in the Art of Pharmacy; now they have served an eight Years Apprenticeship to it, have qualify'd themselves for the Practice of Physick, and are daily call'd upon to do so. But if they must be restrained from it, what must they do? How must they imploy themselves? By what means must they live? 'Tis certainly a great Unhappiness for a Person to spend his Time, Labour and Mony, to qualify himself to get a Livelihood, and then to be debar'd from doing it, only because there may be some croud'd into the Business, ignorant and unqualify'd for it. But this surely will never be urg'd as a Reason, for fear of its doing any Mischief to their own Faculty.

But what then can it possibly be imagined to be, that these Doctors
I aim

aim at, who would so furiously persecute the Apothecarys? If it was, as they pretend, out of their great Zeal for the Publick Good, I believe almost every body could have put them into a much likelier Method to compass such a Design: If it was to prevent Peoples being impos'd upon by Extortions, Ignorance and bad Medicines, why did they not take such Methods as would effectually suppress the Number of ignorant illiterate Quacks, that swarm almost every where, not only to the great Injury of common People, by often robbing them of their Mony and Lives, but to the great Prejudice of Physicians too, by impudently thrusting themselves upon such Patients as are able to gratify a Doctor with a Guinea a Visit: Not to mention those Ambodexters, who write themselves Surgeons, and yet keep Apothecarys Shops, who by being train'd up to little else besides *Gamboge* and *Mercury*, treat all their Patients as if they were pox'd? At least, why did they not do what would be most likely to effect

effect these things? And to prevent Peoples being impos'd upon with bad Medicines, why did they not pull down their own Dispensaries? Had the common Good been purely their Design, they would certainly have begun nearer home; for the Sins of *Warwick-lane*, as well as some other Parts of the Town, cry aloud for Reformation.

But the Storm blows over all these, and only the Apothecarys are to be level'd at; here certainly then must be something else in the case. When the Physicians were Apothecarys, they could then afford to visit for small Fees, having the Profit of their Physick in a great measure themselves; but (for very good Reasons undoubtedly, to their thinking) unadvisedly giving the Business of Pharmacy into other hands, the Fees have been thereupon excessively raised, and those whom they made Apothecarys, in time coming to be more and more skilful, began to be imployed in their room, to save such an extravagant Expence; and thus the Business

ness is fallen so much into their hands, that some of the poor Doctors have much ado to keep Coach upon Wheels, and therefore would fain be Apothecarys again; to effect which, they have erected their Shops, and printed Books to asperse and villify the Apothecarys, telling the World they were but Grocers, and know hardly any thing at all; but are *Extortioners*, ignorant in the Composition of Medicines, and know nothing at all of the Cure of Distempers. But if People will come to their Shops, all these Inconveniences shall be removed, they shall be kindly used, have Physick cheap, Medicines very good, and Advice for nothing. But who cannot see thro' all this Cant?

----*Quid non mortalia Pectora cogit*
Auri sacra Fames----

'Tis the Golden Sand at bottom they fish for. Most People grudge to give a Guinea for a Doctor's Bill, when they can have as good Advice for nothing, where they must fetch their Medi-

Medicines; therefore now they would
again have things in *statu quo*, and de-
scend to be Apothecarys, to bring
them that are so back to *Grocers*;
tho' 'twas at first by their own Ma-
nagement altogether, that those were
set up who would rival them in their
Business, by making themselves as
capable of it: But since it has so hap-
pened, and they have served the
Publick unawares, I hope they
have seen their Mistake too late to
recall it.

And now let us see what can rea-
sonably be supposed would be the
consequence of dealing with the A-
pothecarys according to the most fa-
vourable Methods (which I suppose
would be *the shortest way*) these
Gentlemen seem to aim at. Suppose
they should only be restrain'd from
visiting the Sick, and administering
any Medicine without a Physician's
Advice, and be obliged to keep con-
stantly at home, and there only pre-
pare and compound Medicines ac-
cording to their Orders; what then
would follow? Why undoubtedly

most People, especially the poorer sort, would hazard it to the last Extremity, before they would be at the Expence of sending for and Feeing a Physician, and paying the Apothecary for their Medicines besides; upon which account, for want of timely means, many Persons may lose their Lives.

Again, 'tis known that very short Delays in some Cases are extreamly dangerous, and some People living at considerable distance from a Physician, or at least such a one as they know and can confide in: So that it may be a considerable time before he can be sent for, that this way again several may be lost for want of timely Assistance.

Another necessary Consequence, and great Inconvenience would be, some Persons have had such convincing Proofs of some Apothecarys Skill and Fidelity in their Business, that, without a great deal of unwillingness, they would not be brought to imploy and take a Stranger's Advice; and how far but a little Prejudice

dice against either Physician or Medicine, may contribute to render the Endeavours ineffectual, almost every one knows who is but slightly acquainted with the Practice of Physick.

But what effect would this have upon those things which these Doctors principally complain of, as *Extortions, unreasonable Prizes, bad and sophisticated Medicines*, and the like? Why certainly it would be one of the most effectual ways to make room for such a Charge, as could possibly be found out: For by these Doctors talk we are to suppose, that should the proscribing Business altogether fall into their Hands, the Patient should not be crouded with such a Glut of Medicines, and They can find out when the *Natural Powers* are able to throw off a Distemper without the help of any Physick at all; that by this means the Quantitys of Medicines used would be so much abridg'd, that the Apothecary would necessarily be under the Temptation of making himself amends by raising the Prices of

his Medicines, or sophisticating and substituting those that are cheap in the room of the dear ones, on the one hand; or else he'll be in danger of impoverishing himself and his Family on the other. But this Pretence of abridging the Number of Medicines, is only a Feint, to draw People from the Apothecarys Shops to their Dispensaries, by persuading them they shall be cured with a very few from thence; but a careful Physician would no more deny the Patient those Medicines which he judges might be serviceable to him for some By-end, than an honest Apothecary would croud more upon him than is needful for his private Gain.

But the Dispensary Proceedings will still allow of a more rigorous Construction; nay they seem to bespeak it; for in almost plain Words they tell the World, that the Apothecarys are not fit for so much as their own Trades, and the right Composition of Medicines; and therefore to oblige People, and substitute better in their room, they themselves
have

have built Shops, and have condescended to turn Apothecarys, (a hopeful Amends indeed!) So that by this means they would have the Apothecarys quite turn'd out of their Impleys, and have nothing at all left to get a Living by, really an exemplary Piece of Humanity! and yet they are not ashamed at the same time to Chriften their Projects with the Name of Charitable, and for the Relief of those that are indigent. The Apothecarys indeed seem such a Nuisance to these Dispensary-men, that 'tis probable they would not spare a considerable Cost for the Ruin of them, at the same time taking the Opportunity of trumping their Expences, in a mischievous Design, upon the World, for Works of Charity.

But should their Designs be effected, and the Apothecarys Trade ruin'd, what can be imagin'd would be the consequence of it, or who in the end would be at all the better for it? The Number of Doctors would without doubt increase in time as much as
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the Apothecarys have done, from whence might arise the same, if not greater Inconveniencies, as * those which are now so much complain'd of from the Apothecarys: But if the same did not follow from their Numbers, yet as they were but Men, and can therefore pretend no more than others to be exempted from the Power of Temptation, 'tis not impossible but some of them may be so charm'd with the Pleasure of getting Mony, that they may fall into such Methods of doing it, as may be more injurious to the Publick than can now be proved of the Apothecarys; and there's certainly a great deal of Reason to fear such a wicked Spirit may grow up amongst them, when it has took such deep Rooting, as their Proceedings testify, already; but especially when there will be none to rival them in their Business, and when they may proceed as they please, without controul.

* Vid. *Rose's Case*, p. 24.

But allowing this to be bare Surmise, and of which there can be no certainty, tho' there is a great deal of Grounds for such a Suspicion (enough, I hope, to prevent such a thing being ever try'd) the suppressing of the Apothecarys would unavoidably occasion the Ruin of several of them. Some indeed may have Estates sufficient to maintain them, without their Trades ; but the greatest part of them perhaps have not, what then must they do to keep themselves and their Families ? Why they may work at Day-Labour, go for Soldiers, be H-----, or any thing, as long as it is out of a charitable Design ; that is, to give these Dispensary Gentlemen, who, not deserving to be imploy'd, have little or nothing to do, an Opportunity of getting into Business, and laying up fine Estates.

Another necessary Consequence of suppressing the Apothecarys, would be the putting a great stop to the Improvements of Physick. 'Tis very plain (to any but *Dr. Pitt* and his worthy

worthy Associates) how much they have since their Rise contributed their share this way, and what great Advantages have accrued to the Learned World from their Labours, and Discoverys, especially as to Botany, and other Parts of the *Materia Medica*; and from those Opportunities their daily Employ now furnish them with, what further Advances in the Knowledge of these things may not be expected from them? Physick, 'tis true, has receiv'd very great Improvements from this present Age (how far it may be justly attributed to the Labours of several Apothecarys, I shall not here dispute, having before insisted upon it) but undoubtedly there are several *Desiderata* still left for the Disquisition and Labour of the Ingenious, to raise that Noble Science still nearer to a Perfection, and make it more useful to Mankind. Too many Hands therefore cannot be employ'd in such a Work; but to restrain the Apothecarys from their Trades, or limit them, at least so far as these Doctors would have them, all the
Help

Help from that side would be cut off.

But they have done enough perhaps for these Doctors; they have imploy'd their Time, their Labour and their Mony; have extreamly improved their Business, considerably enlarged the *Materia Medica*, and brought the Art of Pharmacy almost to a Perfection; by which these have got some Insight into their Business, and supposing it advantageous and profitable, for want of other Imploy, would now turn Apothecarys themselves, and thrust the other out for a Pack of Blockheads and illiterate *Grocers*; but we have found them otherwise, and the Insinuations of the Doctors against them, malicious, false and groundless.

Thus we see not only all those Pretences of the Dispensary Physicians, come to nothing, but likewise that greater Inconveniencies and Prejudices would arise, were their Designs effected; Mischiefe would only shift its Scenes, and the Extortioners, the ignorant Pretenders, and the like, would

would only be removed from *Black Friars* to *Warwick-Lane*.

In order therefore to clear the Way towards some better Method of redressing those Grievances, complain'd of amongst the Apothecarys, let us take a little more time to enquire what those Qualifications are which are absolutely necessary to an Apothecary, limited as these Doctors would have him, only to the Preparation and Composition of Medicines. By which means we may be able to give a near Guess at those which are qualified for their Business, and those which are not, and by what means the latter in time may be excluded, and consequently their Numbers lessened, and those Inconveniencies proceeding from thence removed.

All the common Shop Medicines are made up according to the Prescriptions of the College of Physicians in their Publick *Dispensatorys*. But there's no further Direction to very few of them, than just to take such Quantities of such Ingredients,
and

and mix them together *S. A.* and that's all the Directions they have. Now I never knew a Physician come to an Apothecary's to oversee and direct (could he do it) the Composition of any Medicine, and explain the Mystery of those two Letters, that the artificial Management is altogether left to himself. I would fain know then if any Person who's ignorant of the Principles and Vertues of Simples, can be capable so to prepare and mix them, that the Composition shall be endued with such determinate and certain Qualities: For the Vertues of many simple Ingredients may be either exalted, alter'd, or quite destroyed, according to the different manner only of mixing them with the other Ingredients of the same Composition. For in several of the *lesser* Compound Medicines it often happens, that the Particles of one Ingredient may be so different to those of another, that they cannot be put together without some *Luctus* or Fermentation (if I may so call it)
in

in which the Figure and Texture of some of them may be so alter'd as to afford quite different Qualities.

There's a Necessity therefore that an Apothecary should understand how two or more Ingredients endu'd with such and such Vertues, shall operate upon one another in their Mixture, and after what means it comes about; that from their Mixture there may result new and very different Qualities; for otherwise he can never be able so to order them, that the whole Process shall be genuine and regular, and every Step of it conduce to help forward his main Design, but will be directed but by a blind Chance, and the Virtues of his Medicines meerly fortuitous and accidental, and therefore no Ways to be depended upon, or used with safety.

Mr. Boyle discourses largely of this in his *Usefulness of Experimental Philosophy**, telling us, that *Qualities*

* *Usefulness of Experimental Philosophy*, c. 8.

sometimes result from a Composition, which was in none of the Ingredients. All which makes the Art of an Apothecary very difficult and intricate. He tell us again in the same Chapter, that *several Bodies seeming to be homogenous, are of very different and contrary Qualities*; instancing in *Rhubarb*, part of which is purging, and part of it astringent.

That whole Piece of Mr. Boyle's of the *Usefulness of Experimental Philosophy*, is so pertinent to this purpose, especially the eighth Chapter, which he wholly spends upon its Usefulness to the Therapeutick Part of Physick; where any one who shall think it worth his Pains to turn to it, may find such an Affinity between Natural Philosophy, and a skilful Preparation and Composition of Medicines, that they are unseparable, and that 'tis impossible to be skilful in one, without being a Proficient in the other: 'Tis by That he assures us we must be taught to discover Qualities of Simples, and their constituent Principles, without which we can never

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be dexterous in preparing and compounding them; for 'tis not the *Elaborateness* he expressly tells us, but the *Skilfulness of Preparations that produces Noble Medicines.*

Thus we see an Apothecary is obliged thoroughly to understand the constituent Principles, Vertues and Operations of those Bodies his Business is conversant about, to know what is meant by Spirit, Oil, Salt, &c. and wherein they differ from one another, and be able to account for all the chief *Phænomena* that occur in their several Preparations; else he can neither know how to separate and produce them from other Bodies when required, or when needful, how to mix them.

In *Distillations, Sublimations*, and all the Operations performed by Fire, the Artist must understand the different Compage and Texture of Bodies, and know what Degrees of Heat is required to separate and raise one Body, and what another, and produce such and such Effects upon them. In some things too intense a Heat may
destroy

destroy those Principles with it was designed to sepearate, and in other things a low one may not be sufficient to raise what was intended. The Compage of some Bodies may be so close, as not presently to yield to a sepearation, but first require a tedious Digestion, and others again so loose, as easily to disunite with a very small Force; all which every Operator must be well acquainted with.

In *Elixations* and *Extractions* there's sometimes Variety of Ingredients, and of very different Kinds, as Herbs, Roots, Seeds, Resins, Gums, and the like; the Texture and Cohesion of whose Parts are very different, and therefore require various Methods to open and disunite them: But where it happens that there is but one *Menstruum* allowed, for instance, Spirit of Wine; the *College Dispensatorys* seldom give any further Directions, than to put such Quantities of such Ingredients into so much of such a Liquor, and then to be decanted, filtred, &c. But what can a Person

do in this case, that knows nothing of the Nature of each Ingredient? He perhaps weighs the Quantities, and puts them together in the *Menstruum*: But what then? Some of the Ingredients may be of so loose a Texture, or so agreeable to that of the *Menstruum*, that they may presently open and incorporate with it, and so clog up its Pores, that it will not be able to extract any thing from the rest of the Ingredients, but leave them almost untouch'd; so that he has not a Composition of the whole, but only the Virtues of some one, or part of them; which for want of being temper'd or corrected by the other, may prove a very noxious Medicine, or at least have quite different Effects upon a Patient, than what was design'd when given. 'Twould be almost incredible, should I tell what notorious Blunders I have seen committed in this nature, for want of a right Knowledge of these things, by those too of an uncommon Fame in their Business. But a skilful Artist, as an Apothecary ought to be, and
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one who understands these things, can so order all the Ingredients of any Medicine, that every one shall yield its due Proportion, and contribute its share towards the whole Composition.

Several other things might be instanced in, to shew the Necessity of an Apothecarys being thoroughly acquainted with the Principles, Virtues and Affections of Bodies, and how thro' Ignorance in these things, may often happen very dangerous and fatal Mistakes. But this I hope is sufficient.

Thus then we find the Business of an Apothecary, consider'd only as a skilful Compounder of Medicines, requires very little less Labour and Learning than that of a good Physician. He, as well as the other, must be acquainted with the Methods and Operations of Nature in most of her Productions, and as dexterously and carefully imitate her in putting together and mixing such Bodies as are suitable to effect such certain Alterations upon one another, in order to

produce a good Medicine ; as the Physician, in the Application of proper Remedies, for the Cure of a Distemper. He must as thoroughly understand the Nature and Constitution of the Air, before he can know what Influence it may have upon some certain Medicines, either as to the improving or destroying them, of both which there are frequent Instances ; as the other to know how it may be beneficial or injurious to Human Bodies, either as to the Cause or Cure of Distempers. That in short, before any one can be a skilful Apothecary, he must be upon the Borders of being a good Physician, and it may as properly be said, the one must begin where the Philosopher ends, as well as the other.

The Improvement of all this to the Purpose design'd, is not, I think, very difficult, were all those who now profess themselves Apothecaries, and follow it as such, to be brought to this Standard ; and those who shou'd be found deficient in these things, which are proved absolutely
neces-

necessary to a thorough understand'ing of the Business, to be suppress'd at least 'till further qualified; we should find their Number, I'm apt to think, considerably abridg'd. Which Method, tho' perhaps it may be somewhat difficult to put in practice, yet it would not be attended with near such Inconveniencies on several accounts, as the Suppression of them all: For that (notwithstanding 'tis proposed by a Party who set up for charitable, and who would fain be thought very solicitous for the Publick Good) is a Method which will admit of scarce any better Appellation than barbarous, and which is no ways agreeable to those who have imprest upon them the least Shadow of Humanity.

Suppose all of the Profession were by some Law obliged to stand this Test; and that none should be permitted to follow it as Master or Director, so much as in the Composition of one single Medicine, that should not be first found perfectly accomplish'd in all those things that are ne-

cessary thereto; and that by this means half of them should be found unqualified, and consequently debar'd from following it, either as to the Composition or Administration of any Medicine, without the Direction or Supervisal of some other who's found capable of it; by this all or most of the Trade might be some way or other provided for. For those who should not be found capable of being Masters themselves, might find Employ under others, who should be so, at least a great many of them; for the Business of some would undoubtedly increase, by the addition of what others lose, and would therefore require more Hands to carry it on: And which likewise would go a great way towards preventing those extraordinary Prices, which some, either for want of Honesty, or thro' Necessity, are apt to set upon their Physick. For the Employ of those that are left, would be so much increas'd by the addition of what others had, that they would not be under that necessity of selling their
Medicines

Medicines at such dear Rates, as now perhaps some of them do.

But supposing this not a sufficient Provision for several who may have Families, and therefore upon that account not easily practicable, without the Ruin of a great many of them, (tho' certainly that should rather be chosen, than the reducing them all to such Hardships, which would inevitably be the Consequence of our *charitable Dispensarians* Project) yet to prevent their Increase for the future, and by degrees to lessen their Number, might, I imagine, without much difficulty be effected, *viz.*

First, By instituting such a Law as would effectually prevent all those from being admitted as Apprentices to the Trade, who are not first qualified by a Knowledge of the *Latin* and *Greek* Tongues.

Secondly, That for the better initiating and training up all those that are admitted in the Knowledge of those things that are
neces-

necessary to the Art of Pharmacy, and the Preparation and Composition of Medicines, there be publick Lectures at the Hall (by some Person who may be qualified, and deputed by the Company for that purpose) concerning the Principles and Virtues of all those Bodies of which the *Materia Medica* is composed.

Thirdly, That all the Processes of their Preparations be taught there in like manner: And

Fourthly, That every Apprentice at the End of his Time shall undergo such an Examination as shall be thought sufficient to know whether he has attained to the Knowledge of all those things that are requisite to be learnt; and if it be found he has not, that he be debar'd from publickly following of the Trade 'till further qualified.

There's nothing of moment, that I know of, can be objected against any of these Particulars; but how
great

great Advantages, not only the State of Physick, but all Mankind, would receive by their being put in force, every one may easily judge. As for the enforcing such a Law mentioned in the first, 'twould be an easy matter for those in whose Power alone it is, effectually to do it, whene'er they please to take it into consideration, which the Regard they bare to the common Good, and to redress those growing Mischiefs, which proceed from a Neglect of it, will undoubtedly in a little time put them upon.

As to there being something in that nature already observed by the Company (tho' how slightly 'tis regarded, any one may be convinc'd by the Number of Illiterates that are crouded into the Trade.) 'Tis true when a Lad is brought to the Hall to be taken Apprentice, he's required to construe a Verse or two in the Latin Testament: But what then? Tho' he be very deficient in the Language, yet he may perhaps make a shift to blunder o'er a Verse or two there: But however, either by the Negligence, Ignorance,
or

or Knavery of those who commonly superintend that Matter, there are frequently such admitted, as know nothing at all of That, which is a notorious Scandal to a Profession, which almost every one knows requires a perfect Knowledg in it: So far, I mean, to be as able to read an Author in that Language, as in their Mother Tongue; for I would not be thought to plead for their being Criticks in it.

As to the Methods proposed in the Second and Third, they are no ways difficult, if once set about in earnest; but as to any further particularizing how such a thing may be best effected, I leave to those of more Leisure and Ability, and whom it more nearly concerns.

Then, as to a strict and due Observance of the Last, it would be attended with no Inconvencies on any hand, but in a little time would effectually raise the Credit and Reputation of the Profession, and make it much more serviceable to Mankind; for by these means no ignorant or illiterate
Persons

Persons could croud in amongst them, by whose unskilful and preposterous Practices several suffer both in their Lives and Estates.

Such Proceedings would likewise mightily conduce to the Encouragement and Advancement of Learning; for then there would be a Necessity of it to all those who like the Profession so well to chuse it: For it would not only keep the Youth longer at School, and thereby prevent them coming to it so very young as some do, before they can be tolerably thought fit for such a troublesome and difficult Business; but when they are once at it, it would oblige them likewise to the more Diligence in qualifying themselves against the End of their Apprenticeship, least for their Deficiency or Neglect they should lose the Advantage of their Servitude, and be debar'd from following their Trade. But as Matters stand now-a-days, when the Blockhead and Illiterate is equally prefer'd with the Skilful and Learned, it cannot be expected that much Pains will be taken in pursuit
of

of that which is like to do them but little Service.

By a Law likewise sufficient to enforce a due Observance of these things, and what would be effectual to prevent any one that is not thus qualified, from compounding, administering and selling any Medicines, the whole Herd of Medicaſtors would ſoon be baniſhed; not only thoſe who harrangue the Mob from Stages and on Horſeback, and croud almoſt every Place with their Bills; but likewise thoſe Impoſtors of higher Rank (and conſequently the more dangerous) thoſe Blockheads of the firſt Magnitude, Men of Bluſter and Buſineſs in the World, who cheat by Authority, and kill *S. A.* Theſe likewise muſt ſuffer their juſt Fate with the reſt of their Kindred Quacks.

'Twould certainly raiſe Reſentment to the height in any one who in the leaſt values Ingenuity and Learning, to ſee ſome Perſons, to whom 'tis an Honour to be call'd of the Fraternity, arrogantly inſult over the reſt for an univerſal Pack of Fools, when

when at the same time they themselves know hardly any thing of the Theory of their Business, and are so notoriously ignorant, as not to be able to read a *Recipe* in the Dispensatory, or a Physician's Bill, any further than what they have learned, like a Carrier's Horse, by a constant Wont to the Road; an unusual Word puts them to the Nonplus, and sometimes occasions dangerous Mistakes. This to my knowledge is true of some, who notwithstanding they have found means to insinuate themselves into considerable Business, and heap up Riches, thereby becoming the Idol of the unthinking Croud: Notwithstanding this, I say, and their being bouy'd up with a Flush of Prosperity, were they to be brought to such a Trial as has here been proposed,

-----*Movet Cornicula Risum*
Furtivis nudata Coloribus-----

I question not but they would suffer the Daw's Fate, when stript of her
stolen

stolen Plumes, afford a publick Laughter.

But it may perhaps still be objected against putting such a Method as this into practice, that it rarely happens in such Cases, where Examinations are impos'd previous to the admission of Persons into an Employ, that some means or other are often found out, for those which are not duly qualified to be admitted. It may indeed happen that there may be employ'd in such Affairs, Persons who will prostitute their Consciences to Gain and Interest, and thereby render the Design ineffectual; but should such be employ'd here, the Injunction of some Penalty, as the loss of their Freedom to the Trade, or to be fined a Sum of Mony, upon Conviction of such Dealings, may, I think, remove all such Fears.

How great a Necessity there is for such a Regulation as this, any one may easily make himself Judge, by looking over the Qualifications before laid down as necessary to an Apothecary, and considering the
Number

Number of them now, who are almost altogether Strangers to them, there's not only a Necessity of it in respect of the Common Good, but likewise for the Credit and Reputation of the Profession it self, it being altogether the Admission of so many Ignorant into it, to which is owing its present Decay, and the lessening of those Advantages which otherwise the Publick might have received by it. But were such Methods as these once set on foot, and corroborated by some coercive Law, it would certainly, in time most effectually wipe off all those Obloquies which are now cast upon it, and thoroughly put a stop to those Mischiefs which many People may insensibly receive from some of them. For thus no Medicines could be used or vended in the Shops, but what are skilfully prepar'd and compounded, and consequently the Mischiefs arriving from bad ones removed, which are greater than many may be aware of. And again, the Apothecarys might upon occasion be

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substituted in the room of a Physician, by those who best esteem, and can afford to imploy them (not, by these means, to insist upon their being likely to be the best Physicians) but for those who cannot afford to be at the Expence of the excessive Fees, which our present *Esculapians* seem to require as their due, they may be very happy on this account, and with as much, if not more Safety and Advantage, make use of an Apothecary.

Of how great moment and concern such a Reformation is among the Practitioners of Physick, every one that sets any value upon Life and Health, cannot certainly be ignorant; but 'tis as rare to find those who are in Health very solicitous in providing against Sicknes, as Death: We are for putting both these Hours far from us, tho' when the Torments of a severe Distemper once seize us, then perhaps nothing is thought too much to purchase but a short Respite of Ease.

'Tis

'Tis certainly a great Unhappiness, that in a Country where such Laws are in force for the Defence of every Man's proper Goods and Estate, that the Breach of them returns with the greatest loss upon the Transgressor; where every one is so anxiously careful to maintain what he can call his own, that he'll hazard any thing before he'll suffer his Rights and Prerogative to be intrench'd upon, and where so much as every Mechanick Trade is secur'd from all those that are not legally qualified for it; where all things of much lesser concern are so well provided for: It must be, I say, a great Unhappiness to lie open and unguarded in our dearest and most valuable Enjoyments, our Health and Life. These are suffer'd to be publickly invaded by any impudent and ignorant Pretender; these are expos'd to every Assault, and any one may attack us here; every Renegado, every Bankrupt has the Privilege of making a Physician's Character

rafter his *Assylum*; every profligate Voluptuary, and every blind Enthusiaft equally pretend to the Gift of Healing. Would we but confider how a Rational Practice of Phyfick is a Concern that requires all the help that Learning and a tedious Study can contribute, and what a laborious Toil every one has to go thro', to be qualified for fo difficult a Work as the Cure of Diftempers, we fhould certainly, if we fet any manner of Value upon our Health and Lives, think it as great Misfortune as could poffibly befall us, for any illiterate Pretender to have the liberty to try his Experiments upon us: Yet as Matters now ftand, this muft frequently be the Cafe of feveral; for here's no diftinction made between real Merit and Learning, and meer Pretence and Ignorance; but the latter in this refpect has the fame Pretensions as the former. Is it not Matter of Shame likewise, as well as Lamentation, that among a People of refined Civility and Govern-

Government, where all the Privileges and Immunities of Life are so carefully provided for, and so powerfully secured; yet in the chiefest Blessing of all, Life it self, we are at the Mercy of every bold Aggressor. This indeed is secured from open and violent Attempts, but altogether unguarded against those lurking, unheeded, and consequently more dangerous Enemies, improper and noxious Medicines, prepar'd and administred by the Hands of the Ignorant and Unskilful. But certainly such a publick and almost daily growing Mischief as this is, will sometimes be thought worthy the Consideration of those in whom alone is lodg'd the Power of redressing it.

I have no more to say, but to conclude with the Words of a Famous Author (frequently quoted in the foregoing Pages) to this purpose.

Neminem vestrum esse Arbitror, qui hujusce Argumenti, quale sit Momentum & Dignitas non agnoscat: agitur quippe de Mediis, quibus Hominum vitam tue-
amur

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1. For the purpose of the present, read the following: