Instant relief to the asthmatic, or those afflicted with shortness of breath; being an essay on the nature of the lungs and their several disorders, and the only possible and certain means of cure proposed and demonstrated. With the places of sale of the remedy / From a MS. of the late Dr. Lucas.

Contributors

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ASTHMATIC,

OR

Those afflicted with SHORTNESS OF BREATH.

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An Effay on the Nature of the LUNGS and their feveral Diforders, and the only POSSI-BLE and CERTAIN MEANS of CURE propofed and demonstrated.

WITH

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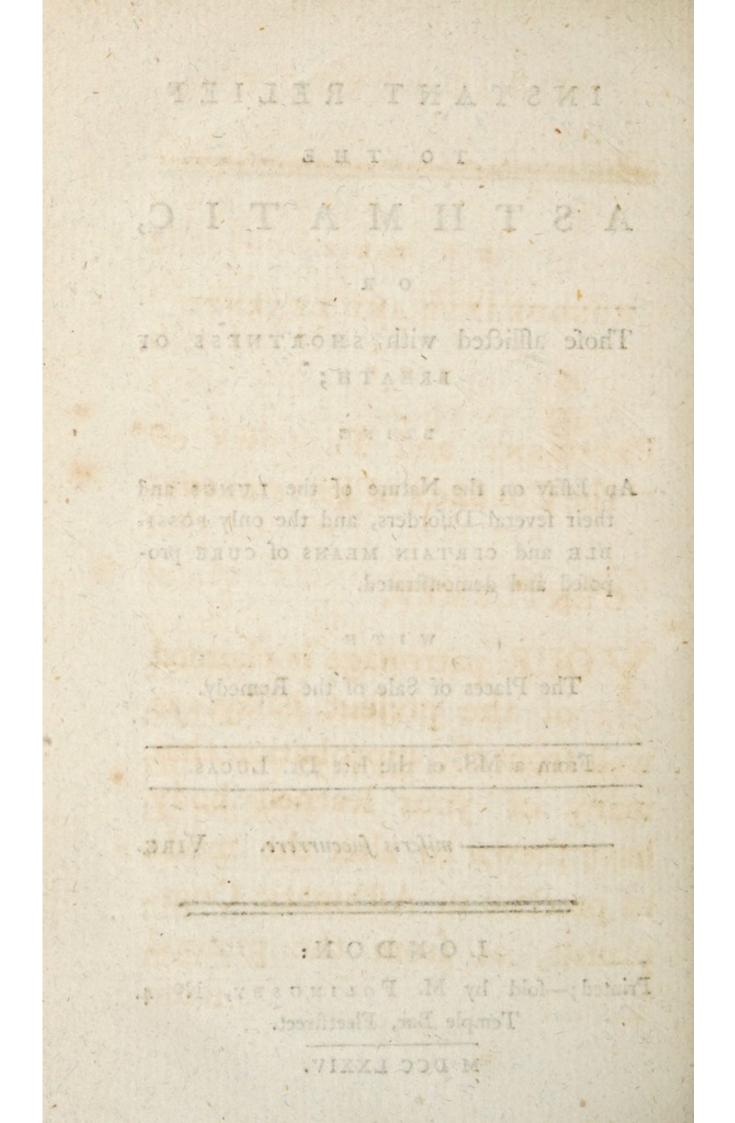
From a MS. of the late Dr. LUCAS.

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LONDON:

Printed;-fold by M. FOLINGSBY, Nº 4. Temple Bar, Fleetstreet.

M DCC LXXIV.



TOTHE

DEDIONTO

HONOURABLE AND LEARNED

THE

PRESIDENT and FELLOWS of the College of Physicians.

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GENTLEMEN,

YOUR patronage is claimed of the prefent Effay, as well from the approbation that many of your learned body have fhewn to alter the mode of practice in Afthmatic Complaints, as from the general fenfe

DEDICATION.

sense of the greatest practitioners in Europe, who all agree that the lungs being the organs of respiration, ætherial remedies bid the faireft for cure of their diforders. If the late celebrated Dr. Lucas, whofe medicinal knowledge is univerfally allowed, was not abfolutely the author of this treatife, yet his placing it among his most valuable MSS. and his administring frequently this very remedy to his afthmatic patients (the recipe for which was annexed to the MS. itfelf) are convincing proofs how much he approved of it :--fenfo Hence

DEDICATION.

Hence the editor, who affumes no further than an extensive chymical knowledge, thinks himfelf highly justifiable to publish this medicine to the world, under fuch a fanction; not to mention the numerous instances in which it has been efficacious, proving upon every experiment perfectly fuccesful.

Your countenance, gentlemen, to a part of practice fo highly interesting to the health of numbers in this nation, whose climate is fo peculiarly obnoxious to Asthmatic Complaints, will give another proof of

Your molt obedient

DEDICATION.

of your applauded impartiality and extreme philanthrophy.

thinks

Gentlemen,

not to mention the numerous

experiment perfectly fuccelsful.

With the most profound veneration and respect,

Your most obedient

refling to the health

Your countenance, gentle-

obnoxious to Afflugiatic Com-

plaints, will give another proof

ol And most humble fervant,

THE EDITOR.

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INSTANT RELIEF

TO THE

ASTHMATIC, &c.

T is an obfervation among the learned, that there is fearcely any thing new under the fun, any thing new under the fun, and that every improvement in arts and feience is nothing more than the revival of what, in other places or ages, were perfectly known. The great Sir Ifaac Newton is faid to have borrowed his firft hints of the laws of gravity from the wifeft of mankind, as Pope fliles him, Lord Bacon: And if any humble comparison will bear with those exalted characters in A

the prefent chymical improvement, the learned Boerhaave and Mead gave rife thereto, from the frequent mention in their works of volatilifed applications in diforders of the lungs. The fame thing may be thought of at times by different perfons, without each knowing of or receiving any hint from the other, fo that each may equally claim the merits of the invention : And though in this inftance the author has tried many and expensive proceffes, as well from the balfams as from acids, yet he could find none of them (except the prefent) containing the active power of the one dulcified, with the falubrity of the other, stand the criterions of true efficacy in fuch diforders. Volatile falt of acids, neverthelefs, was known to the ancients, as well as many judicious moderns of chymical knowledge, and if it does not declare the originality of the invention in the author, albeit he prefers the health of mankind, and the love of truth, to the applause and emoluments of using other lefs efficacious applications, although they have

have been difcovered only by himfelf, in the variety of proceffes he attempted to find a remedy for a violent afthmatic complaint he had long laboured under, and to his infinite fatisfaction, upon the failure of every other medicine, he has recovered perfectly his former ftate of health, by the ufe of this volatile effence for a time.

mind what the aboveniert.

PREJUDICES are eafily caught, and with difficulty removed ; and a late remedy advertifed to be fold at Charing Crofs and other places, as well as the inefficacy of a balfamic æther, with a troublefome apparatus now on fale, may justly cause doubts of every thing offered on the fame principle; but one ftrong argument in favour of : what is now propofed is, That though the former of the abovementioned remedies, called the afthmatic effluvia, gave eafe, in fome measure, for the moment, (though it caufed a drynefs in the throat afterwards, which is the very bane of this malady); and the fame inftant eafe in fome cafes that are not obfinate, but yield even to A 2 the the elaflicity of the parts when forced in drawing in common air, may be allowed to the latter; yet the pernicious compofition of the one, and the evident futility of the other, though founded on right principles, gave the author an opportunity of difcovering what they both aimed at: acknowledging himfelf indebted to them for reviving in his mind what the abovementioned great phyficians had agreed to in this particular mode of cure.

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To underftand well and to ftudy any one difeafe, its progreffion, its operations, its different ftages, and the action of various remedies on it, is the moft certain means of difcovering the caufe and the cure: And who can have fo *practical* an opportunity of doing this as the afflicted party himfelf? efpecially when defpair, at finding the advice of fo many efteemed phyficians and fo many applauded medicines tried in vain, induced him to make himfelf mafter of the fubject, as far as anatomy and chymiftry would admit, and, by experimental trials, to judge of the effects of fuch and fuch applications. I fay, fuch a perfon, with a common fhare of understanding, has a *real*, others only a *general*, *hypothetical* knowledge of the diforder;—and this is the author's cafe.

AWARE of the affertion, that no general remedy can be calculated for every conflitution, (which is certainly true in regard to all inward applications), it must be premifed, that inward applications are here fet down as almost useles, not to fay pernicious, and then the observation no longer holds good; becaufe nothing is wanted but a free play of the lungs, and that there be no stoppage of the natural air from them; confequently any remedy that will affift the admiffion of this air and caufe their free play, must be general and fuitable to all conflitutions, as it only removes the obstructions, and leaves nature and nutritives to repair those corporeal flocks which any part afflicted for a length of time must feel.

SECTION

A 3

As this effay is not intended for the faculty, for whom the author has fo much deference as to fuppose the fimple mention of this remedy will impress a conviction of its utility, but chiefly defigned for fuch perfons of understanding as do not choose to take any thing material to health on the mere ipse dixit of another, in order that they may judge for themfelves, let not the world suppose that the omiffion of technical terms are arguments of ignorance and demerit; for they are purpofely avoided ;-being convinced that there is no character more frivolous than a fcientific man difplaying his pedantry, and miftaking words for reafon. But, prior to the entering into the particular merits of the remedy now recommended, as well as to demonstrate its effects, let us first view the nature and fituation of the lungs, as immediately the feat of those difeases for which it may be faid to be a panacea.

any part afflicted for a length of sing that

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SECTION

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SECTION I.

THE trunk of the human body is divided into two feparate cavities: The upper part of which is called the *thorax*, or *cheft*;—the lungs are fituate therein, and are called by anatomifts *one* of the noble parts;—they confift of two lobes, which have no direct communication with each other, being in feparate and diffinct bags, formed by a membrane, receding in two parts lower down, fo as to form the *pericardium* that contains the heart.

THE lungs are composed of vessels and nerves that have each their several functions: Of which—

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THE veins feem intended only for the fupport and nourifhment of the lungs them-felves; and—

THE arteries receive and return the mass of blood that circulates through them before it goes into the other parts of the body:—

THE lymphatic veffels are distributed on the furface of the lungs, and imbibe a lymph or moisture, which is conveyed by certain ducts to the mass of blood :---

THE nerves are very fmall branches that give them elafticity in refpiration :---

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THE air veffels are exquisitely small and finely constructed branches that communicate with the windpipe, so as at every inspiration to be filled with air :--

THE interstices of the veffels, or fubstance of the lungs, which is called the cellular membrane, are composed of fibres neither vascular

E 13]

THE windpipe, called in Latin afpera arteria, is the principal organ of refpiration; it is composed of cartilagenous or griftly and fleshy rings alternately, and its infide is lined with a thin pellucid matter, supplied by an infinite number of finall glands, and is exquisitely fenfible:—

THE use and office of the lungs are material for our existance; and nature, that does nothing in vain, has formed them for wise purposes. The blood circulated through them, after the reception of fresh chyle, is prepared by throwing off all the noxious matter imbibed by the air which is received by the lungs; and this matter, if returned, is incompatible with life, as is evident, from the maladies occasioned by the retention of any part of it; hence, they not only throw off all exuberances, by means of finall ducts passing from the the pulmonary arteries to the air veffels, but also receive and purify a quantity of air necessary to be mixed with the fluids.

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SECTION II.

THE diforders peculiar to the lungs may be fimply confidered under confumptions and afthmas, or difficulty of breathing, notwithstanding the various names used by phyficians to distinguish different stages of the fame diforder, and their respective characteristics; and though the distinction is now made between afthmatic complaints and confumptions, yet they are often the cause and confequence of each other.

THE natural caufes may be fought for in the original formation of the body, which predifposes us to diforders in these parts; for in perfons of a delicate make, the veffels of the lungs are fometimes too fine and weak to refift the force of the blood flowing with rapidity through the organs of respiration, and confequently caufe a rupture thereof, and fpitting of blood, &c .- The acrimony of the fluids. are not lefs the caufe when it is fo violent as to corrode the veffels; and at particular ages of our life, we are most liable to a heat or fervour of the blood that occasions. confumptions; but above all, these diforders more commonly originate from a cold, the principal foundation of many other. complaints. In this climate we are particularly obnoxious to colds from its inftability; it is produced often unknown to us, but are certainly fudden transitions from one extreme to the other; for as warmth relaxes the fkin, opens the pores, and thereby increases perspirations, sudden cold obstinately closing the pores, returns the perspirable THE

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perfpirable matter into the mais of blood, and being of an ætherial kind, nature endeavours to throw it off through the lungs, which often becomes the feat of the diforder by fuch efforts.

THIS perspirable matter which nature intended to get rid of, being foreign to the mass of blood, is productive of fevers; but nature still using her endeavours to difcharge it, particularly through the pores of the head and cheft, caufes those convulfive motions we call fneezing and coughing, and when it defcends to the air veffels it produces what we call a tickling cough; fo that the acrimony of this lymph. in fevere colds contaminates all the juices of the body, and confequently inflammation follows, by which, fuperfluous mucus or phlegm is requifite to be expectorated or fpit up, to prevent fuffocation; --- and a continuance for any time of this phlegm destroys the vessels of the lungs, becoming by degrees corrupted and diffolved in matter or pus, which is, literally fpeaking,

Speaking, a confumption, or wasting of the parts.

[18]

It is before obferved, that the lungs are divided into two parts, which have no direct communication with each other, fo that when one is corrupted and wafting, the other may ftill retain itfelf free from thofe effects, at leaft till the diforder gets to fuch a head as to affect every part of the body; and not only fo, but every veffel and branch performs its office in fome meafure independent of the reft, and never ceafes to receive and return its portion of air, till it is totally deftroyed: This is the reafon of confumptive perfons living fo long, and declining or wafting by fuch infenfible degrees.

WHEN both lungs are affected confiderably, and in part deftroyed, the diforder may be well deemed incurable; but, as we know, that very feldom both lobes are affected in the first stage of the diforder, we have only to stop the progress

PROLETING.

of it and prevent the increase of putrefaction, which can be in a great measure affisted by cleansing or taking off all corrupted matter, or whatever tends to it, from the parts; but at the fame time, this application will only give a temporary relief or check to the diforder, unlefs it is accompanied at the time of difcharge with healing balfamic qualities, antifeptic in their nature, to deftroy the acrimony of the fluids, and thereby not only preferve the found parts, but also help nature to regenerate those that are destroyed, or at least give ftronger faculties of exertion to the parts already whole, to answer other deficiencies. romoved before a cure can be'e

CONSUMPTIONS are here the more enlarged upon, as, in effect, they are the certain confequence of continued afthmas, or fhortnefs of breath, as well as often the primary caufe of it: For, when a perfon is faid to die of an afthmatic diforder, it is more properly a fuffocation, from the quantity of phlegm and corrupt matter being being fo corroded on the lungs, that nature is not ftrong enough to difcharge it :--Obftructions of all kinds that caufe fhortnefs of breath of themfelves, tend to putrefaction, and tinge the lungs with their noxious qualities.

F 20]

ASTHMAS are either continued or by fits, and difficulty of breathing fometimes appears not, except in its remote effects, in the lungs; fuch as morbid affections of other parts of the organs of refpiration, as, in the contraction of the windpipe, the mufcles, &c. yet they are all, in fact, occafioned by obftructions that fhould be removed before a cure can be expected.

THUS I have in general confidered the diforders for which it is hoped to offer relief, as, giving breath to those unhappy perfons expiring for want of it should be our first and ultimate intention.

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SECTION III.

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THE method of treating afthmatic complaints have heretofore been in one common-place way, by inward applications only, which, like all other beaten tracts, has been implicitly followed by the generality; for no matter how round-about the mode is, if it happens to be first entered upon by any great name, which would even give fanction to abfurdity; from whence, if any junior has the temerity to deviate, the ordeal trial he has to go through renders his merit truly confpicuous, fhould it come off with approbation. It is a bold affertion to fay, that the practice of fo many years has been quite wrong, yet, being fupported indirectly by fuch great authorities, one B Carty may,

may, without prefumption, affirm it. The great Boerhaave, in many parts of his works, hints at effluvias or volatile applications to the parts, and Dr. Mead, our learned countryman, advifes the ufe of an effevia raifed from falubrious and balfamic medicines thrown upon live coals; and gives as a reason, the long journey that medicines taken in at the ftomach have to come to the lungs; for it is a vulgar error to fuppofe that any medicines in going to the ftomach comes to the lungs, except after having been feparated and fubtilized by the body; and the groffer parts being difcharged by the anus, or in excrement, and the more refined parts becoming chyle, entering the lacteal veffels and going through the mais of blood; on the contrary, the least drop or bit in the mouth going down the wrong way, as it is vulgarly called, is ftrongly repulsed by nature.

THE tedious procefs, and the extreme length of time, in the effects of a medicine taken, at the stomach, before it can carry

[22]

carry any of its properties to the parts, is a ftrong argument against the expectation of a cure from inward applications; but when we reflect on the immende quantity of medicines requisite to be taken inwardly to convey any of their minute particles or relief that can be felt, as it meets with formany means in its paffage of lofing ins properties, and in fact retains fo fmall a comparative proportion of ætherial parts, we should scarcely ever think of adminiftering a medicine through that channel, as we know full well how inefficacious any remedy becomes when used in an extreme, not to mention how pernicious its effects in that cafe are on the ftomach, fo as to be a bane inftead of an antidote, and renders the remedy worfe than the difeafe.

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effect; hence it almost amounts to an

By medicines, I would not be underflood to mean nutritives of any kind, which gradually affift and ftrengthen nature, all admit their fervice to the human body in length of time; but they cannot be claffed as cures, where the violence of 1E the

the diforders requires inftant activity in the application on the parts affected.

of a cure from impariat applications; but

IT fhould also be confidered, that the diforders which demulcents or healing medicines inwardly are required to cure, are not fituated in the blood veffels, but in the air veffels of the lungs, which have no communication with the arteries, but by means of veffels fo exquifitely fmall as to admit nothing except of the ætherial kind. And what medicine, in nature, that dare be admitted inwardly, contains fo much of its properties as to have any effect, when fubtilized by the body into its effluvia ?-Balfams, we are fure, won't do it, and acids cannot be admitted inwardly in any degree to have effect; hence it almost amounts to an impoffibility to convey any remedy with efficacy to the lungs through the ftomach, or alimentary passage; neither can any thing folid or liquid be communicated through the windpipe: with as much propriety might we administer medicines

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at the stomach to a patient afflicted with a violent tooth-ach; for though they might produce good effects in length of time, yet he must be patient indeed who could indure the pain in waiting for the event :--- From whence common fense points out to us the only probable, nay poffible, means of conveying any remedy immediately to the part affected, and ftriking at the root of all diforders incidental thereto, that is, by means of a volatilized matter, or ætherial effence, carried along with the air which we breathe directly to the parts :---Any kind of æther might be communicated in that manner, which phyficians in general are not unacquainted with; but what good effects can be expected from volatilized remedies in general, which, in their ætherial parts, retain no other good or bad qualities than common air, confequently is no more than an increase of air to the parts, which at the best could only give the fame momentary cafe that: the afthmatic patient receives by opening his mouth wide, and ftretching his cheft, to

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take

take in the greater quantity of air at that respiration?

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might produce good effects in length of THE balfams, which are the first things that prefent themfelves to us, from their, healing properties in inward applications, are found, by every chymical process, abfolutely to retain little or none of their properties in evaporation. This known fact, and the multiplicity of diforders incidental to the human body, have prevented the more judicious part of phyficians from fpending their time in attempting to differer what was generally thought impracticable : and perhaps this prefent diffeovery would have remained as yet a fecret, had not neceffity, the mother of invention, and pain, which. few can bear patiently, fimulated the author in a purfuit upon for rational a foundation, when, as before obferved, every other method and remedy he had tried in vain. The very mention of a vola-: tile acid falt dulcified, carries a conviction of its efficacy to all those who know they active properties of acids in general, and the 3.263

him the happy relief the author had for long fought for in vain :--

ACIDS are the greatest antifeptics, or preventatives of corruption, in nature, and at the fame time of antifpafinodic and attenuating qualities; they are more capable of retention of their qualities in volatilization. than any thing known in medicine, for the properties confifts in their volatile parts, which, when evaporated leaves very few properties, more than common water, behind. The only process of collecting these volatile properties in their perfection, and, within a compass, fit for use at all times, is, by extracting a falt from a combination of the strongest acids, which is one of the most tedious, difficult, and expensive processes in chymistry, and indeed very few chymists can go through it at all; but, this falt of iuelf, would be too powerful and overacting, were it not for an addition of molifying medicines of healing properties. The method of administering it directly to the B 4 lungs

lungs is extremely fimple, not requiring any kind of apparatus; but only on opening the bottle and applying it to the mouth, by fuddenly drawing in the breath, the æther is attracted thereby, and inftantly acts on the parts.

at the land

IF it may be admitted to make fubdivifions of the feveral cafes in which this excellent remedy is certainly effectual, which numerous inftances have demonftrated beyond a doubt, as well as from the obfervations of the learned in fimilar cafes—

Afthmas, floortnefs of breath, from whatever caufe, phlegm, and obstructions, or matter of any kind, on the lungs, coughs are the principal of those maladies that are fure to find relief from the tests of nature, reason and experience :---

Aτ the inftant of drawing in this effluvia by fuction, from its fubtile and attenuating qualities it feparates and divides vides the tough phlegm, and caufes immediate expectoration; confequently thefe obftructions, which are the caufe of the ftoppage of the air veffels, and preventing them performing their functions of taking in fufficient portions of air, being removed at the time, must give eafe by caufing free refpiration till another collection of phlegm, &c. requires a fecond application :--

and other constraints and

IF it was no other than the happinefs of eafe for fome little time, every now and then repeated, thofe who know the mifery of the want of breath would think it a happy difcovery for them; but reafon here muft tell us, that it is not only *inflant* relief that may be expected, but of courfe, by repetition of the remedy, all kind of foreign matter muft be removed, for it is impoffible there fhould collect in an hour as much phlegm, &c. as would be difcharged in a few moments ufing.

again out of antisas aldered WHERE

WHERE the windpipe and air veffels are affected with morbid contractions, &c. and caufe flortnefs of breathing, the penetrating qualities of this falt opens every part and relaxes them fo, as by degrees, to relieve them from their former contracted ftate :--

Tortons his name

IF the lungs fhould be fo touched by a continuance of acrimonious particles on the parts, and fo far contaminated as to turn to matter or *pus*, which fuppurate from them, this, like all other exuberances, are indiferiminately difebarged, and the lungs cleanfed, which, of itfelf, muft go a great length towards the completion of a cure; but befides cleanfing, it actually heals the ulcerated parts; from its fubtile penetrating particles it acts as an antidote on the feed of the *animalculæ* lodged in the parts, which generate to corruption :--

NATURE endeavours to throw off every foreign matter, and in colds, the flux of acrid perfpirable matter to the lungs being ing in a greater quantity than nature has power to difcharge or carry off by the air, is, by the use of this effluvia affifted, as the air is increased to the parts, and the entrance of the air veffels opened, fo as to admit the greater natural difcharge of exuberances. off off no gains mores

caufe lofs of appetite; for there are few

In the midit of thefe excellent effects this remedy has no inflammatory quality, which many other applications poffers, that otherwife would bid fair to produce in fome measure the fame happy effects; and by this one confequence, all their virtues are counterbalanced. die and a buoD-

the Roppage of invitation in interes en.

COLDS are the commencement of inflammations in every part of the thorax, or cheft and head, &c. in particular. This ætherial effence is extremely cooling in its nature, and by being used immediately, upon colds affecting the head or throat, would infallibly prevent those fatal confequences by neglecting them, as the acrimony of the fluids is inftantly checked by drawing bluorft

in the effluvia by the mouth or nofe. This is more evident from the effects that the ufe of it has on perfons after *Inebricty*: The fumes of the over-night's liquor are not only diffipated by ufing this effluvia in the morning, but it exhales the noxious vapours remaining on the ftomach, which caufe lofs of appetite; for there are few things more proper to increase it, as part of its volatility enters the ftomach and gives it a free elafticity, the fure fign of health, and what gives a true relifh to our food.

COUGHS are alfo filenced thereby by the ftoppage of irritation in nature's endeavours to throw off what is foreign to it.

by this one confequence, all their virtues

THE afflicted change their climate, and retire to breath freer and purer air, where they undoubtedly live eafier and in lefs pain; and perhaps, in time, the courfe of nature may be fo far changed as to recover them. But, as before has been fufficiently explained, it requires that the air fhould fhould be alfo impregnated with falubrious qualities, to infure fuccefs in cure: Therefore, this effluvia has the advantage of having all the effects of a free pure air that the change of climate gives, with the additional properties that makes it equally requifite and beneficial in all places.

aby the greatelf authomies in inchicinal

ALTHOUGH some obstinate disorders do not yield on its application in once or twice using only, yet they must be ignorant and rafh indeed who will pass a judgement without giving it a fair trial; and the perfeverance in its use for a few days will convince the most incredulous, who are unacquainted with the nature and properties of acid falts, or who will not liften to the reason above offered of its extraordinary efficacy in all fuch diforders. Without further enumerating the benefit to be affuredly expected from thence, it is fubmitted to the man of fense to judge how far it may be beneficial to the confumptive and afthinatic apple that the molition

made from honey; called weath A perio

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This medicine cannot be termed a quackno/trum, —the author pretends to no patent, —no fecret, —as any able chymift may find a remedy to answer the purpose, —for he honeftly tells the world his process, and submits it to the faculty and judicious, who cannot gainfay what is fo well established by the greatest authorities in medicinal knowledge; namely, The properties of dulcified acids and effluvias in general, in diforders analogous to those above mentioned.

without giving it a fait trial ; faud the per-

It may be thought neceffary to hint what kind of regimen is beft for the afthmatic; but I shall only observe, in point of food, that the avoiding falt meats is requifite, leaving it to the patient to use such aliments as his circumstances permit, or agreeable to his constitution. In regard to liquors, it is of more consequence to consider them; but, in a word, the best, most wholesome, and falubrious composition, is that elegant drink, properly made from honey, called *mead*. A perfon, fon, by using it constantly, without any wines or drams, would contribute to preferve his health and conftitution beyond any thing that can be conceived. Observing a quantity lately advertised to be fold, I had the good fortune to become a purchafer of fome, and found it equal to any Champaign in its effects on the fpirits, divefted of any pernicious confequences. This mead was the only I ever could find properly manufactured. And the true reason that it is so little in use is, that fo few have receipts proper for it : It is superior infinitely to any kind of wine, either as a beverage, or medicinally; and I would ftrongly recommend the afthmatic in particular, and those of delicate constitutions, to use it constantly.

THIS

THIS valuable *Etherial Effence*, trulprepared, is to be had at the follow ing places, in bottles of 5 s. 3 d. 10 s. 6 d and *One Guinea* each; but the larger the bottle the ftronger the æther, and more efficacious in its effects

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At No. 44, in Threadneedle Street; No. 103, in Bifliopfgate Within; The bar of the Silver Crofs, Charing Crofs; And, at No. 11. Wild Court, Wild Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

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