THE PREFACE.

THE utility of a collection of this kind, will render an apo*logy for its publication* unneceſſary. Mr. *Gibſon*'s diſpenſatory publiſhed thirty years ago, is too prolix, and not managed with due accuracy and preciſion. Virtues are there aſcribed to medicines, which have no foundation in fact, and foreign matter is ſo interwoven, as if the book was intended, to be recommended by its bulk. I may add, that the art of preſcribing has of late been reduced to great ſimplicity, and many are the improvements that have been made in this

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this particular, ſince the regular phyſician has vouchſafed to communicate his aſſiſtance. We purpoſe to avail ourſelves thereof, and to reject every pompous ſarrago, by whatſoever name, or title dignifyed. Simplicity as to the intention, and number of ingredients; and efficacy with regard to the virtue of the whole, can only make a medicine for man, or horſe, truly valuable. We have therefore rejected all operoſe and incoherent compoſitions, all orvietans, armans, and preſervatives againſt malignant, or epidemical diſorders; the unmeaſurable length of which is wholly owing to the ambition, and ignorance of their compilers, who have jumbled together a great variety of ingredients, and accumulate many of ſimilar virtues, that the moſt efficacious may have the better chance to be of the number.

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As our intention is to be as conciſe as poſſible, we ſhall avoid the uſual diſpenſatory method of deſcribing and accounting for ſeperately, the efficacy of every medicinal ſimple, whether *vegetable*, *animal*, or *mineral*; as alſo, the different proceſſes of every chymical, or galenical preparation, with the inſtructions for making them: All this we look on as intirely unneceſſary, and *ſerving only to ſwell the* book; *theſe* forms being generally too operoſe to make, and are ſo readily purchaſed much cheaper than they can be prepared by individuals. Not that any will be omitted which are eaſily made, and which will ſave expence in the preparation.

We have endeavour'd to avoid the extreams of ſuperfluity, and penury; both in regard to the intention, as well as to the application of the remedy; (though

(though to gratify ſome of our readers, we may perhaps ſometimes be thought too redundant;) being naturally averſe to the multiplying of forms; creating any unneceſſary expence, and particularly of overloading the animal with nauſceous doſes: But we hope alſo to have kept clear of the other extream, and not to have been ſo difficient, as to direct but one form, to anſwer the various ſymptoms and indications of a diſeaſe in its different ſtages; where undoubtedly different intentions muſt be purſued.

SOME pains has been taken to make this collection as perfect as poſſible; and though there are few Gentlemen who have not a receipt book by them; yet are they frequently at a loſs to diſtinguiſh the due application of each remedy; a circumſtance indeed of no ſmall conſequence, and which we have particularly endeavour'd to point out

out by a commentary ſubjoined to each article: and if the reader ſhould find ſomething of more conſequence than we have promiſed, we hope, he will not be diſpleaſed.

We ſubmit the whole to his candour and judgment, and hope that our good intentions will in ſome meaſure atone for any inaccuracy, or errors; and having already experienced the indulgence of the publick, in the kind reception of our Gentleman's Farriery, (which has paſſed ſeveral editions in a few years,) with the utmoſt defference, we ſubmit to an impartial tribunal.

P. S. Among other miſtakes in the printing, the reader 'tis hoped, will be kind enough to correct thoſe of punctuation, which the Author's diſtance from the preſs render'd, in ſome meaſure, unavoidable.

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