

PREFACE.

THIS New Edition of the Domestic Medicine, comes before the public with fresh claims upon their attention. It has undergone a thorough revision, with considerable additions and improvements. The little obsolete or irrelevant matter, scattered here and there in the preceding edition, has been expunged, and its place supplied with information of a more useful and more recent nature, which it was deemed essentially necessary not to omit, in order that a book so familiar to all ranks of society, might keep pace with the various improvements and opinions which have taken place of late years in medical science.

In addition to the variety of new and interesting subjects above alluded to, numerous prescriptions, in English, with the Latin translation, selected from the practice of eminent medical practitioners, have been added, though in such a manner as *not to interfere* with the text of the author, *being appended* at the bottom of the page, where they *are referred* from the body of the work. It ought, *however*, to have been previously mentioned, that, with the *introduction* of the prescriptions, and some additional histories of disease, an important alteration has been made in the distribution of the original matter, in order to give it more an appearance of method, conformable with modern nosological arrangement.

To the diseases of children, which, instead of commencing the work, as in the older, and still in the spurious editions extant, stand towards the end, is added much valuable medical instruction. The diseases of women are treated of at large, as well as those which occur during pregnancy; to these is added the management of lying-in women, as well as the necessary treatment to be adopted during the process of a natural labour, than which a more useful feature, for various assignable and obvious reasons, could not possibly have been introduced into a work that professes to treat of Domestic Medicine in a simple and comprehensive manner.

The dietetic, or that branch of medicine which has the regulation of diet for object, either in health or disease, as will readily be perceived, is placed at the commencement of the work; then follow the various diseases, nearly in the same succession as first laid down by the author.

Another most important feature to those already mentioned, will be found in the toxicological, or that part which treats of the different classes of poisons, (mineral, vegetable, aerial, and animal,) a subject every person ought, in some measure, to be acquainted with; as these deleterious substances are not unfrequently taken by accident, as well as designedly; and their effects are often so sudden and violent, as not to admit of delay, or allow time to procure the assistance of medical men.

The surgical department of this popular work has also experienced several very useful additions and alterations.

Under the head of casualties will be found many useful directions how to proceed in all cases of suspended animation, with the treatment laid down by the ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY, as well as that recommended by writers in every department of medical jurisprudence, for the restoration of life.

The Appendix has also undergone some considerable improvement. To the list of drugs, with their lowest and greatest doses, has been added, the medicinal properties of each; thus presenting to the reader, at one view, the respective article, its virtues, with the smallest and largest quantity of it that may be taken at one time. The prescriptions of the author have also been slightly touched, without, however, causing them to vary much from their original form.

The additions, with the notes introduced in the preceding edition of this work, by the late Dr. A. P. Buchan, (1813) the highly respected and much lamented son of the Author, will be distinguished from those of the present edition, by the initials of his name. And the reason given for these additions, cannot be better explained than in his (Dr. A. P. Buchan's) own words: "Of some complaints," says he, "hitherto omitted, I know it was my father's intention to have inserted an account in a future edition. From notes found among his papers, combined with the result of my own observations, I have drawn up a history of the symptoms, and most approved treatment of CHOREA or ST. VITUS'S DANCE, FISTULA IN ANO and a peculiar kind of epidemic sore throat, named the mumps, which occasionally makes its appearance in this country, at distant intervals of time.

"Various affections of the lungs, comprised under the general denomination of consumption, too frequently prove fatal to the youth of this country, at an age when life is, for many reasons, peculiarly valuable. The remarks which I have ventured to introduce, on the means of detecting and counteracting the early tendencies to this complaint, originated in some apprehensions entertained concerning my own health at a former period of life, and they have since been matured by most extensive experience.

"It is not unreasonable to suppose, that the extensive circulation of so popular a work, must have had some influence on the state of public opinion. This influence may, I think, be distinctly traced in the generally improved treatment of children, respecting their clothing and diet, and the consequent amelioration of their health. Nor let it be forgotten, that the utility of those noble, and now flourishing charities, the HUMANE SOCIETY, for the recovery of persons apparently drowned; an institution for teaching the DEAF and DUMB to read and speak; and a school for the INDIGENT BLIND, was pointed out, and their establishment strongly recommended on the score of humanity, more than forty years ago, in the early editions of the Domestic Medicine."

The instances, if not without a parallel in the annals of literature, are, at least, extremely rare, of a work on the science of medicine having attained its twenty-second Edition of a series of large impressions. The Editor of the present Edition, by every possi

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J. S. F.

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