

II.

Dr. John Hancocke; *Febrifugum Magnum of Common Water*—the best Cure for Fevers and probably for the Plague, London, 1723.

John Hancocke, D.D., Rector of St. Margaret's, Lothbury, London, Prebendary of Canterbury and Chaplain to his Grace, the Duke of Bedford, discovered that in common water, whether "pump or well or river water so it be clear and sweet" there was the great desideratum of Archibald Pitcairne, "a medicine to be desired which will speedily remove the rarescence of the blood and reduce its motion without evil symptoms following." He published his discovery in a little book which I now give to the Academy. I have recently given some account²⁵ of the Reverend Doctor's theory and practice, and I do not here repeat it.

III.

We now reach a work which is still believed in, and looked upon as a very oracle—"Buchan's Domestic Medicine". William Buchan was a Roxburghshire man, who, as a boy, set up in his native village, Ancram, as a doctor. He was sent to Edinburgh to study for the ministry but preferred the study of medicine. He took out his degree of M.D. and practised for a time in Yorkshire, then he returned to Edinburgh where he secured a large practice. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, and there he published in 1769 the first edition of his famous *Domestic Medicine*—the first work of the kind in the British Isles. This has seen very many editions, 19 in the author's lifetime, and has been translated into most of the modern civilized languages. Disappointed in his hope of succeeding John Gregory in the Chair of Medicine at Edinburgh, he removed to London, where he acquired a good practice which he held till his death in 1805.

My edition is the 14th and was printed at Boston, 1793, by Joseph Bumstead. Dr. Buchan complains that, although his book was never intended to supersede the use of a physician, the "jealousies and fears of the Faculty have prompted many of them to treat this work in a manner altogether unbecoming the professors of a liberal science . . ."; and "this illiberal treatment of the Faculty is not the only thing of which the author has cause to complain. By some of them his book has been served up mangled and mutilated . . . purchasers are misled." In his Preface to this edition he says that the book has produced effects beyond his expectations—"many of the most hurtful prejudices which seemed to be quite unsurmountable have, in a great measure, yielded to better information. Of this a stronger instance cannot be given than the inoculation for the small pox. Few mothers, some years ago, would submit to have