

INTRODUCTION.

If the animals domesticated by man be essentially necessary to his comfort and convenience, no apology need be offered for attempting to reduce into a system the arts of preserving them in health, and of removing their diseases; both of which must be founded on an intimate acquaintance with the structure, functions, and economy of the bodies of these animals: and which acquirements, therefore, form the ground-work. The position which any nation occupies in the scale of civilisation is exactly determinable by the industry of its people—the constitution of the human mind—the constitution of the human body—is of that character to render activity necessary for health, and to make repose destructive to every energy. The mutual dependence of mind and body renders it essential that an equal burthen should be thrown upon each. There is a beautiful balance between the intellectual and physical forces, which, if disturbed, leads to irregularities which are diseases. The mind we call immaterial. The body is essentially material; yet this material mass is quickened into motion by the influences of certain physical forces which hold a position—not well defined—between gross matters and the “spark of life.” Light, heat, elec-

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