

*A practical treatise on various diseases of the Abdominal Viscera*, by CHRISTOPHER ROBERT PEMBERTON, M.D., F.R.S. Fellow of the College of Physicians, Physician extraordinary to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, Physician to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, and late one of the Physicians to St. George's Hospital.—Fourth Edition, revised and corrected. London. G. & W. Nicol, pp. 201, 1820.

The title of this handsome little volume would alone deserve our attention, if the high credit of its author, as a Professional man, did not sufficiently warrant our notice; but when we come to examine its contents, the comparative exiguity of the book vanishes under the conviction of its extensive usefulness. In delivering our general opinion of this work, we cannot but recall to mind a reflexion which we took occasion to make sometime ago, when speaking of M. Brodie's treatise, originating in the conviction that the healing art is in a great degree indebted of its present flourishing state, to the taste which our contemporaries have shown for researches on particular and separate subjects. The difficulty of including most of the diseases under the same physiological and theoretical themes, had compelled the ancients to have recourse to principles derived from the philosophical opinions of the day, and in this manner, the science of medicine has inevitably experienced the vicissitudes of ages and the variety of the opinions prevailing in different nations. But in the present century, a new direction has been imparted to genius, which by obeying its natural propensities, has been directed to investigations which had previously been mere objects of amusement or speculation. Thus the study of Pathology has opened the path to subsequent and repeated discoveries, in the knowledge of diseased organization, and hence again the attention has become directed to their numberless varieties,