

## CANDID CONFESSION OF DR. REESE.



Dr. Reese, of London, was Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Author of a Dictionary of Popular Medicine, "Medical Guide,"—"Chemical Guide,"—Corresponding Member of the Society of Practical Medicine of Paris, &c.

THE Charter of the Royal College of Physicians, is found to contain a singular licence, which is, permission to any one, and every one, to practice the healing art by the use of herbs only. Now we consider this as ample permission as man would require; for poor must be the resources of that physician's mind, and very narrow his knowledge of medical botany, who could not, from the vegetable kingdom alone, cure most of the diseases of the human frame: even the specific of mercury, if we are driven to the necessity of a substitute, might probably be rivalled in some of these productions of nature. We know not whether we have most reason to hail the discovery of mercury as a blessing, or regard it as a curse, since the diseases it entails are as numerous as those which it cures. Our best informed Dentists declare that they can clearly witness the progress of the use of mercury in the increasing diseases and decay of the teeth. There are serious objections, also, to the use of other articles of the metallic world: antimony, iron, and arsenic, are dangerous remedies in the hands of the ignorant, and mankind, perhaps in the aggregate, would be benefitted by their expulsion from medical practice.

As Dr. Reese has not enumerated the diseases which mercury has entailed on mankind, I will endeavour to state some of them. If calomel, which is one of the mildest preparations of mercury, be given to a patient, who should take the slightest cold, either the muscles of the face, or the intestines suffer. To either of these it yields all its stimulating powers, and induces on one or the other, a high degree of inflammation, which terminates, frequently, not only in the destruction of the muscles, but the bones of the face, or the mortification of the intestines. Palsy, palpitation, rheumatism, lingering hectic, and chronic complaints of almost every description, are also brought on by the use of this most destructive article, calomel. I have known persons, who have taken one dose only, who were so well be-