

philosophy ; and some of them insisted that a knowledge of astronomy, and astrology, too, were necessary previous to the understanding of the art of healing. Those who understood only how to restore the sick to health, they branded with the name of empirics. They introduced into practice abundance of compound medicines, consisting of so many ingredients, that it was scarcely possible, for common people, to know which it was that wrought a cure. Abundance of exotics, neither the nature, nor the name of which, their own countrymen understood. Of chemicals such as they neither had skill, nor fortune, nor time to prepare ; yea, and of dangerous ones, such as they could not use, without hazarding life, but by the advice of a Physician, and thus both their honor and gain were secured, a vast majority of mankind being utterly cut off from helping, either themselves, or their neighbours, or once daring to attempt it. Yet there has not been wanting, from time to time, some lovers of mankind, who have endeavoured, ( even contrary to their own interest,) to reduce Physic to its ancient standard ; who have laboured to explode out of it all hypothesis and fine spun theories, and make it a plain and intelligible thing, as it was in the beginning, having no more mystery in it than this, " such a medicine removes such a pain."

They have demonstrably shown, that neither the knowledge of astronomy, astrology, natural philosophy, or even anatomy, is absolutely necessary to the quick and effectual cure of most diseases incident to the human body. Nor yet any chemical, or exotic medicine, but a simple plant, or root, duly applied, so that every man of common sense ( in ordinary cases,) may prescribe for himself or for his neighbour, and be very secure from doing harm, even where he can do no good. Even to the last age there was something of this kind done, particularly by Doctor Sydenham, and in the present by his pupil, Doctor Dover, who has pointed out simple remedies for many disorders. And some may be found in the writings of the learned and ingenious Doctor Cheyne, who, doubtless would have communicated many more, but for the melancholy reason he gave to one of his friends who pressed him with some passages in his works, which too much countenanced the modern practice. " O sir, we must do something to oblige the faculty, or they will tear us in pieces."

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