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## REV. JOHN WESLEY ON THE ANCIENT PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.



THE healing art was brought into use in a very natural and simple manner. In the earliest age of the world, mankind, by various experiments, or accidents, discovered that certain plants, roots and barks, possessed medical properties. These were found sufficient to remove their diseases. The application of these remedies, were plain and easy; but in process of time, they began to make a profession of medicine, and to strip of its simplicity, they began to enquire into the operation of remedies, and how they performed such cures. They explored the human frame in all its parts; the nature of the blood, the structure of the brain, heart, lungs, stomach, bowels, &c. with the springs of the several animal functions. They explored the several kinds of animal and mineral, as well as vegetable substances. And hence the whole order of Physic was subverted and founded upon hypothesis. They formed theories of diseases and their cures; and substituted these in place of experiments. As theories increased, simple medicines were more and more disregarded, and disused, till in a course of years, the greater part of them were forgotten; at least among the more polite nations. In the room of these, abundance of new ones were introduced by reasoning, speculating men, and those more and more difficult to be applied, as being more remote from common observation. Hence rules for these, and medical books, were immensely multiplied; till at length, physic became an abstruse science, quite out of the reach of ordinary men. Physicians now began to be held in admiration, as persons who were something more than human. And profit attended their employ, as well as honor: so that they had now two weighty reasons for keeping the bulk of mankind at a distance, that they might not pry into the mysteries of their profession. To this end they increased those difficulties, by design, which were in a manner, by accident. They filled their writings with abundance of technical terms, utterly unintelligible to plain men. They affected to deliver their rules; and to reason upon them, in an abstruse and philosophical manner. They represented the critical knowledge of anatomy as natural