

PREFACE.

MY official situation, for some years, in one of our great Public Hospitals (Guy's) having enabled me to pay particular attention to the medical department of Surgery, as conducted by some of our first Surgeons and Physicians, I was induced, at the solicitation of my Bookseller, to attempt a Manual of Chirurgical Pharmacy, and to comprise in it such select formulæ as I had seen more immediately employed, or which I conceived more essentially necessary with the object of my undertaking. These Formulæ I have given under the title of *Pharmacopœia Chirurgica*; not with any idea of superseding a work of the same title and character; but as being a term familiar to the medical world at large, and very expressive of my purpose.

In selecting my materials I have not scrupled to consult all our best Pharmacopœias; as well those of

our London and Edinburgh Colleges; as likewise such as have been edited for the particular use of our chief hospitals.

I believe I may venture to affirm, that I have only given such Formulæ as I have seen repeatedly compounded and employed, unless otherwise expressed. I have endeavoured to render each formula as concise and clear as possible, both as to the mode of preparing it, and the intention of employing it, by short practical notes and illustrations, afforded as well by my own observations as by the practice and experience of others.

If it be objected to me, that I have neglected to notice several modern applications for the cure of many important diseases in Surgery, applications by some considered almost as specifics, it is from my aversion to this very term in the cure of all disease, and from my disappointment in experiencing their failure, when brought into practice under my own cognizance, that I have omitted them; for, I believe no well informed Surgeon or Physician will now scarcely venture to talk about specifics; and the influence which many, or all such

new applications, excite over the human frame, may be readily understood upon some general principle.

Under this head I might notice Galvanism; Electricity; several of the vegetabilia, denominated Narcotics; many of the saline mineral substances; with a number of others which have been internally administered, or externally employed.

Under the head of Bougies I have omitted to notice the gold and silver probes for ascertaining the nature and character of Stricture in the Urethra, as recommended by Mr. Charles Bell. I, however, think them an ingenious contrivance, with which every Surgeon should be furnished.

In consequence of my distance from the press, several errors and omissions will be found in the course of the Work; these I have endeavoured to correct and supply by an exact list of Errata, and by a short Appendix, which I trust will, in some measure, excuse for such deficiency and neglect.

From the circumstance that much of my Work was struck off previous to the London College having an-

nounced their intention of re-publishing their Pharmacopœia, I have been necessarily obliged to retain the names and appellations of their former one—where any individual article, however, occurring in the *Materia Medica*, is offered as serving any general surgical intention, I have given it from the first, under the character both of the Edinburgh and London Pharmacopœia, in order to render the difference of names as familiar as possible. I have likewise added an Index of the old and new names; also a general Index of the several formulæ adopted by our London College, as well to meet the wishes and intentions of that learned body, as to promote any general improvements connected with Medical and Chirurgical Science.