

PREFACE.

DR LEWIS published the first edition of his *New Dispensatory* in 1754. The principal part of that work was a commentary upon the London and Edinburgh Pharmacopœias, of both of which it contained a complete and accurate translation. A concise system of the Theory and Practice of Pharmacy was prefixed as an introduction; and directions for extemporaneous prescription, with many elegant examples, and a collection of efficacious, but cheap remedies, for the use of the poor, were added as an appendix.

The manner in which the whole was executed, placed Dr LEWIS at the head of the reformers of Chemical Pharmacy; for he contributed more than any of his predecessors to improve that science, both by the judicious criticism with which he combated the erroneous opinions then prevalent, and by the actual and important additions he made to that branch of our knowledge. He was justly rewarded by the decided approbation of the public. During his lifetime many editions were published, each succeeding one receiving the improvements which the

advancement of the sciences connected with Pharmacy suggested.

After the death of Dr LEWIS, Dr WEBSTER, and Dr DUNCAN *senior* successively contributed to maintain the reputation of the work, by taking advantage of the discoveries made in natural history and chemistry, and by making those alterations which new editions of the Pharmacopœias, on which it was founded, rendered necessary. From the place of their publication, and to distinguish them from the original work of Dr LEWIS, which was still reprinted in London without alteration, these improved editions were entitled *The EDINBURGH New Dispensatory*.

When the Edinburgh College were preparing to publish a new edition of their Pharmacopœia in 1800, the booksellers who purchased the copy-right of that work were desirous that it should be accompanied by a corresponding Dispensatory. Indeed, since the year 1788, when my Father revised it, it had undergone no material alteration, although it has been often reprinted with the name of another editor. During that period, the progress of chemistry, pharmacy, and natural history, has been so great as to render a complete reform absolutely necessary.

This, to the best of my abilities, I attempted in the first edition, which I published in 1803, and, if I may judge from the sale of the work, not altogether unsuccessfully. For, although the impression was very large, in the course of fourteen years it has gone

through eight editions, and is now published for the ninth time. These frequent editions have enabled me, on the one hand, to prevent the work from ever falling very materially behind the state of the science ; but, on the other hand, the very short time allowed me to prepare each for the press, compared with the size of the volume, the multiplicity of objects which it embraces, and the very rapid progress and unsettled state of chemistry, have hitherto prevented me from giving it that degree of perfection which I have always wished it to possess. On most occasions I have had recourse to original sources of information ; and when I have sometimes borrowed from other compilers like myself, I have always taken care to be assured of their accuracy. I may also, as a proof of my anxiety to render this work worthy of the favourable reception with which it has met, advert to the numerous experiments which I have made, either to settle points upon which the best authorities were at variance, or to investigate substances which were imperfectly understood.

The additions, improvements and corrections in the present edition are considerable. To notice all of them, from the manner in which they are dispersed throughout every part of the work, would far exceed the limits of a preface. The most important have originated in the alterations and corrections introduced by the Edinburgh College into the new edition of their Pharmacopœia, of which the present

Dispensatory contains an accurate translation, and to which the commentaries have been adapted.

In all the editions the plan and arrangement adopted by Dr LEWIS have been followed. The work is divided into three parts. The first contains Elements of Pharmacy; the second the *Materia Medica*; and the last, the Preparations and Compositions.

The *first* of these is entirely new, nothing being retained but the title. It is divided into two sections. The first contains a very concise account of some of the general doctrines of *Chemistry*, and of the properties of all simple bodies, and the generic characters of compound bodies. In the second part, the *Operations of Pharmacy*, and the necessary apparatus, are described; and an Appendix is added, containing many very useful tables.

The *second* and *third parts* contain translations of the Pharmacopœias of the Colleges of Edinburgh, Dublin, and London; with a commentary, more or less full, as the nature of the article seemed to require. In the dictionary of *Materia Medica*, I have adopted the nomenclature of the Edinburgh College, or rather of natural history, in preference to the officinal names hitherto employed. To the systematic name of each article are subjoined its synonymes in the different Pharmacopœias, and the designations of the parts used in medicine; then the class and order of natural bodies to which it belongs; and if a vegetable, the exact number of its genus and spe-

cies, according to the excellent edition of LINNÆUS'S *Species Plantarum*, published at Berlin by Professor WILLDENOW.

In consequence of the plan which I adopted, of confining this Dispensatory to the articles contained in the British Pharmacopœias, I was obliged to omit several substances in use as popular remedies, as well as those which are now obsolete, but frequently occurring in old medical authors, and such as have acquired reputation in other countries, or are even fashionable at home, but not yet sanctioned by any of our Colleges. The necessary information respecting these, along with short Elements of Therapeutics, and the Principles of Extemporaneous Prescription, illustrated by examples, I intend to publish separately, as an Appendix to the Edinburgh New Dispensatory.

A volume to the second edition of *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, published by Professor
 W. H. W. Rouse, in the year 1880, and which I adopted
 in the first edition of the *Journal*, I was obliged to omit
 several articles of great interest, and such as
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