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APPENDIX

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IN concluding the history of the articles of the *Materia Medica*, I have thought it proper to present a view of that arrangement in which they are associated, according to their natural characters. In classing these substances on this principle, they have usually been comprised under the three leading divisions of Mineral, Vegetable, and Animal Substances. The first of these divisions, however, is either not sufficiently comprehensive, or too great an extension must be given to the signification of the term applied to the class, so as to bring under it substances which cannot be referred to either of the others, and which, at the same time, cannot be regarded as belonging to what is strictly denominated the Mineral Kingdom.

A more correct division, therefore, is, into the two great Classes of Unorganized Substances, and of Substances which are the Products of Organization, the latter comprising the vegetable and animal products, while the former may include all the other articles of the *Materia Medica*. The substances belonging to the first,

may be subdivided according to their chemical relations ; those belonging to the second, according to their natural affinities. Thus, under the one will be placed the orders of Salts, Earths, Inflammables, Metals, Waters, and Airs. Under the other, both Vegetable and Animal Substances may be arranged according to the usual classes of the Linnæan System. With regard to vegetables, some have indeed preferred associating them as they belong to the natural families or orders of plants ; for as in these the arrangement is founded not on arbitrary characters, but on similarity of structure and organization, those substances, it has been imagined, will be brought together, which are possessed of similar powers. But this system of natural classification is still so defective, that this has been hitherto very imperfectly attained, and, under the same order, plants of the most discordant qualities are placed. There is therefore no advantage in departing from the more usual arrangement.

There are some substances, such as the vegetable acids, which may be placed under either general division. They are strictly products of operations depending on organization : they can also, however, be formed by artificial processes ; and from their chemical constitution, I have not hesitated to associate them with the substances to which they appear to have the most strict relation.