

PREFACE.

THIS Treatise, on a more limited scale, was originally designed to afford an outline of the Course of Lectures I deliver on Materia Medica and Pharmacy. Having changed the plan of arrangement of these Lectures, its republication appeared to me unnecessary, and it was only in consequence of the continued demand for it, after the impression had been exhausted, that I was induced again to publish it, extending it at the same time, as no longer subservient merely to its first design, so as to form a System which should include the principles and the more important facts belonging to these departments of Medical Science.

The arrangement of the Materia Medica which I have followed, is that in which the individual substances are connected by their medicinal relations, an arrangement which has some important advantages, and which presents its objects under a scientific form. The processes of Pharmacy I have considered in the order in which they

are delivered by the Edinburgh College, an order with which that observed by the other Colleges nearly corresponds. In the preceding edition I had given a translation of the processes of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, adding those only of more importance peculiar to the London and Dublin Pharmacopœias. In this edition I have thought it preferable to render this part of the work more complete, by inserting translations of the processes of all the Pharmacopœias; and by giving them in a smaller type and on a fuller page, I have been enabled to do so, as well as to make a number of other additions, without any enlargement of size.

In an Appendix to the history of the Materia Medica, I have given a view of that arrangement, in which the substances belonging to it are classed according to their natural affinities. This, besides affording a contrast with the classification according to their medicinal powers, will be of some advantage to those attending my Lectures, and enable them to derive more assistance from the present publication as a text book, as it presents an outline of the arrangement of the course.

EDINBURGH, Nov. 1. 1813.