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**T**HE Knowledge of Simple Druggs is a Study so agreeable, and so exalted in its own Nature, that it has been the Pursuit of the finest Genius's in all Ages: Several Princes have apply'd themselves to it with a great deal of Satisfaction to their own Minds, and Improvement to the Publick, as Mesue, Matthiolus, &c. to whom we are oblig'd for the first Essays of Medicine, which is an indispensable Knowledge to all who are concern'd in Composition, especially Apothecaries; for which Reason they ought to begin with this Study, before they undertake Pharmacy, else they can never prepare any Thing with Exactness, which is the Occasion of so many gross Errors that attend the Business, to the great Prejudice of the Patient; for they ought to know as well as the Druggist, from whence every Drugg comes, because different Climates encrease or lessen much their Virtues. They ought to distinguish them by their Names, their Figures, their Substance, their Touch or Feeling, their Weight or Lightness, their Colour, their Smell, their Taste, and take particular Care that those which come from foreign Countries be not counterfeited or adulterated: For the Merchants, thro' whose Hands they pass, are sometimes too covetous of extravagant Gain, so that they sophisticate and counterfeit so well, that it is a hard Matter to discover the Cheat if we have not been very conversant, or well acquainted with those Druggs before. Druggists and Grocers themselves are sometimes the first deceiv'd in buying great Quantities of false Druggs for good ones, and selling 'em so again; for which Reason it is very necessary that they shou'd be well skill'd in the Knowledge of the True from the False, which is gain'd by a continued Trade in them, and a Frequency of seeing them. A Druggist ought to apply himself as much as possible to get Druggs at the first Hand, and to know the Places of their Growth, and their true natural History: For most Books that have been writ hitherto, have told us nothing but Fables on this Head.

The Publick will find themselves much indebted to Monsieur Pomet, for the great Number of curious and useful Remarks they will meet with in this  
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General History of Druggs; which is further enrich'd by the Discoveries of a great many Things that before were in the Dark, but since brought to Light, by the Labour and Industry of him, and the more accurate Lemery: But Interest we see prevails upon Curiosity, since we meet with very few Merchants that will imploy any Part of their Time to instruct themselves in these Affairs, which they are not perswaded are any ways necessary to their Business.

Besides this Work is not only useful to those who profess Physick, and who will put nothing in the Composition of Medicines that they prescribe, but choice Druggs; but likewise it is serviceable to Students in Pharmacy, to Druggists and Apothecaries, who may improve themselves by what they will find in this Work, from whence they may learn to make a right Judgment of what is true or false in the Use or Trade of Druggs; since People that compose Medicines ought to know that what they buy will answer the Ends they propose: Besides there are several Artists and Trades-Men, who make use of Druggs, and whom it is necessary, and of great Importance to the Publick that they should not be cheated or impos'd on, as Surgeons, Goldsmiths, Painters, Dyers, Farriers, &c.

I am perswaded that those who read this Work will be satisfied, that they never saw one Treatise of Druggs so compleat; for here is not only collected what may be found scatter'd in a great many Authors, but a great many Things that were unknown before Pomet's General History of Druggs, or at least very few of them were ever taken Notice of by any former Author; for he acknowledges to have Abundance of Materials given him by Mr. Tournefort, and several others of his Friends, who made it their Business to assist him with all the new Discoveries they cou'd meet with. And tho' this Work is not swell'd into many Volumes of much larger Size than the two present are, yet they contain twice as much as is in Pomet, besides the Additions that are necessary to the Text from Lemery; which considering the Number of Figures, and the neat Performance of them, which are nothing inferiour to the Originals, renders this one of the cheapest Books that has appear'd of latter Tears, and been consulted for the Good of the Publick, many of the Figures being brought into one Plate, on Purpose to prevent the Book from Swelling to too large, and too exorbitant a Price, so to destroy the Usefulness of the Design, and the Sale of the Book together.

All the Druggs herein mention'd have either their proper Latin Names, or the Names given them by the Country from whence they are brought, with their Etymology where most pertinent, their Description and History taken from Mr. Lemery's Universal Treatise of Simple Druggs; the judicious Author whereof has endeavour'd to inform himself both from ancient and modern Authors, and the Relations of several Travellers, of whatever cou'd be known

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concerning the Substances and Principles of which each Drugg is compos'd, and its Quality, and as succinct as possible, to give any Idea of the Thing treated of, that might be satisfactory. Now all Druggs are taken from Animals, Vegetables, and Minerals, their Parts and what proceeds from thence; as their Hair, Nails, Horns, Milk, Blood, and Excrements: Under Vegetables are comprehended Trees, Shrubs and other Plants, with what comes from thence; as Roots, Barks, Flowers, Fruits, Seeds, Mushromes, Mosses, Gums, Rosins, Pitches, Turpentine and Balsams. Under Minerals are understood Minerals, Metals, Marchasites, Stones, Earths and Bitumens.

All Animals, according to the most probable and most received Opinions come from Eggs, and are there enclos'd, as it were, in Abridgment, 'till the Seed of the Male penetrate their Covering, and stretches them sufficiently that they are ready for Hatching them: There enters into their Vessels a chylous Juice, which being push'd forwards by the Spirits, circulates thro' the whole Habit of the little Body, nourishes and dilates by little and little, which makes what we call Growth. This Circulation, repeated several times, makes the nutritious Juices so refined and attenuated, that they gain a red Colour, and are converted into what we call Blood. This natural Operation has a great Resemblance to several Chymical Operations, by which, in attenuating and dissolving the sulphureous or oily Substances, we can make a red Colour, which notwithstanding has a great deal of Difference: For Example: If we boil in a Matrafs one Part of Chyle or Milk, with two Parts of Oil of Tartar, per Deliquium, the white Liquor will become red, because the Salt of Tartar being rarified, dissolves and exalts the unctuous Part of the Milk, and reduces it into a Kind of Blood. If we boil together in Water one Part of common Sulphur, and three Parts of Salt of Tartar, the white or yellowish Liquor that was before acquires a red Colour according to the Quantity of the Sulphur dissolv'd. If we digest upon the Fire Flower of Sulphur in Spirit of Turpentine, the Liquor gains a red Colour.

The Circulations that are made perpetually in Animals, exalt so much their Substances, and render them so dispos'd for Motion, that the Principles which arise from thence are almost wholly volatile: But indeed these Principles are not equally volatile in all Animals: For Example: Fish afford less volatile Salts than terrestrial Animals. The Scorpion, the Crab, and the Eel, yield less than the Viper, Earth-worms and Snails, afford less than Serpents, Ivory less than Hart's-horn; and so of the rest.

The different Degrees of Volatility that are in Animal Substances give 'em different Virtues one from the other; so those which have very volatile Salts, are usually reckon'd Cephalick and Diaphoretick; as the Viper, Human Skull, Hart's-horn, Goat's-Blood, Elk-Claw, because the Matter being  
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*beated in the Viscera, push forth their Salts into the Brain, and by the Pores of the Body. Those whose Substances are lese volatile have an aperitive Virtue, such as is to be met withal in Hog-lice, Craw-fish, because the Salts of these Animals being heavier, are more inclinable to precipitate and open the urinary Passages.*

*Every Plant arises from its Seed, and is confin'd in Miniature as in an Egg, after the same Manner as Animals; the Earth becomes a Matrix to the Seed, it softens it and extends the Bark, opens the Pores, and by a nitrous Fluid it is penetrated and unshath'd from the Husk, so that the Parts of the little Plant are stretch'd, that were before wound or lock'd up together confusedly, and then this small Plant begins to appear upon the Surface of the Earth, and the nutritious Juice or Sap circulates in the Fibres that do the Office of the Veins, Arteries, and Nerves; they dilate, extend, and grow to a certain determinate Size, limited and appointed by the great Author of Nature.*

*A Plant draws its principal Nutrition by the Root, because the Pores thereof are better dispos'd than others, for receiving in the Juice from the Earth. It is remarkable, that if the Root of a small Plant is continued in the Seed, it is to be met withal at Top, and the Stalk at the Botrom, as it happens very frequent, that the Juice which enters by the Root, and which is driven by the Heat of the Sun, makes a half Turn from the Stalk, and mounts upwards according to its determinate End. This Juice, in Circulating in the Vessels of the Plant, purifies it self, is rarify'd, exalted, and brought to Perfection after the same Manner as the Chyle and the Blood acquire their Perfection by Circulation. Then the more exalted and spirituons Parts of the Juice, which may be call'd the Animal Spirits of the Plant, are employ'd upon the Flowers and Fruits; the less subtle Parts supply Nourishment for the Stalk, the Branches, and the Leaves, the grosser Parts still congeal or coagulate into Gums, Rosins and Balsams: Those that are the grossest of all, produce an external Bark, Moss, and several Excrescences. Tho' all the Plants of the Earth receive their Nutrition from one and the same Spring, they notwithstanding every one of them acquire different Qualities, occasion'd from the Diversity of Fermentations and other natural Elaborations, that are produc'd by the Texture or Disposition of their different Fibres. We may distinguish Rosins from Gums, in that Rosins are much fatter, and that they dissolve consequently much easier in Oil.*

*The Origine of Minerals is different from those of Vegetables and Animals; this proceeds from the Congelation of acid or saline Waters, charg'd with such Matter as will dissolve in the Earth. Metals are produc'd from a greater Degree of Concoction, a longer Digestion and closer Union of the Minerals,*  
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which is separated or divided from the grosser Parts in the Mines, after the same Manner as Gold and Silver separate themselves from their Metals in the Cupel. All Mines are not in a State or Condition of producing Metals, for it is necessary there shou'd be a Disposition and natural Heat capable of raising extraordinary Fermentations and Eleborations; and high Mountains are usually the properest Places for these Productions, because the Heat therein contain'd is more regular and exact than others.

It is not Chance only that conducts us to the Discovery of metallick Mines, but those who apply themselves that Way observe or take Notice of several Circumstances, which direct them to the Places where they may be found: For Example; When on a Mountain, or in the Clifts and Breaches of Rocks they meet with Marchasites, and small heavy Stones of a Mineral Kind, or that they perceive on the Surface of the Earth several Mineral Veins, these are Signs that there is something to be found that is likely to answer their Expectations, and that they may be assured of Success.

When in certain Streams or Rivulets there is seen a Sort of Sand of little Pieces of the Marchasite of some Mineral, this is a Sign that there is some Metallick Mine near the Place; for these Metallick Bits being wash'd off, and convey'd by the Current of the Water that flows usually from the Bottom of some Hill; so that it runs back again towards the Fountain Head, insomuch that if you pursue these small Pieces of Marchasite, they will bring you to the Place where the Mine is.

When the Aspect or Figure of a Mountain is rough and wild, the Earth is barren, naked, and without any Kind of Plants, or that only some particular Kinds are produced, which are almost wither'd and dry; these are Signs that there are Mines in this Mountain, because the great Barrenness of the Surface was occasion'd by nothing else but the Mineral Vapours, which consume the Roots of the Plants; tho' it does not always happen that Mineral Places are barren, there being very many that are cover'd with great Variety of Herbs. When we see a very clear Water flow from a Mountain that has a Mineral Taste, it is a Sign that the Place abounds with some Kind of Metal or Mineral; for those Sort of Places are usually supply'd with a great deal of Water, which give great Disturbance to the Workmen, it being necessary to drain off the Water before you can search for the Metal.

When we are very certain, by several Signs or Observations, that any Hill or Mountain contains in it some Mine of Metal, we begin to sink or dig a Pit at the lower Part or Foot of the Hill, in order as the Miners call it to carry the Level, whereby the Waters may run off of their own accord, and without the Assistance of Engines, and thereby they may be able to come at the Deep, where the largest and richest Part of the Metal lies. We must take Notice, that

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*the Metallick Matter being as yet Flint in the Mine, divides it self into several Veins or Channels, that represent the several Branches of Trees, or the Arms of a River. Metals differ from other Minerals in being more malleable, whereof there are seven, to wit, Gold, Silver, Iron, Tin, Copper, Lead and Quicksilver; the last is not malleable, but will amalgamate with any of the others, and therefore is by some call'd a Half Metal, tho' others believe it to be the Seed of all Metals.*

*The Astrologers and Aichymists joyn in their Opinions herein, and affirm this as an uncontestable Truth, that there is a great Correspondence between the seven Metals and the seven Planets in their Influences, which flow the one from the other, and serve reciprocally for their Nutrition. And tho' this Opinion is without any Foundation, it has nevertheless many Followers, notwithstanding their finest Reasonings are but gratis dicta; for excepting the Sun and Moon, there is not the least Shadow of a Probability, how any of the rest shou'd communicate any Influence to any Thing that grows upon this terraqueous Globe, especially subterraneous Bodies, where neither the Sun nor Moon seems to have any Dominion.*

*A great many Physicians and Apothecaries think it sufficient to answer the Ends of their Profession, that they know the most common Druggs in Use, without giving themselves any further Trouble: But nothing is a greater Obstruction to the Progress and Advancement of Medicine than such a lazy Notion, which gives a Check to all Enquiries into the Secrets of Nature, and prevents the Discovery of an infinite Number of excellent Medicines that are unknown to us. We see that every Age has brought to light some new Druggs, and we had never known the chief Part of the best Medicines in Use amongst us at this Day, if the Chymists had not brought them out of the Fire, from such Metals and Minerals as the Ancients believed not only useles in Physick, but pernicious to Health. How shou'd we have met with the Bark, Ipecacuana, &c. which produce such extraordinary Effects, if the Botanists had not carried their Enquiries into the New World? And the Materia Medica had never been so copious as it is now, if those who have made so many valuable Discoveries had contented themselves with such Druggs only as served their Predecessors. We likewise see that such Physicians as practise Physick with the most Success, are such as have apply'd themselves most to the Knowledge of Druggs; as we have an eminent Instance in Monsieur Fagon, first Physician to the French King; and some of our own Nation, who are, and have been, the greatest Ornaments to the Profession of Physick, as well as the Study of Botany, as Dr. Morison, Dr. Grew, Dr. Sloane, Dr. Woodward, Mr. Petiver, and others: Therefore all those who apply themselves to the Composition of Medicine, ought seriously to enquire into the Knowledge of Druggs, and to penetrate into their se-*  
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cret Virtues; it being certain there is not one of them that has not in it some specifick Quality for the Cure of Diseases. 'Tis pity there are few Persons whose Leisure and Fortune will give 'em an Opportunity of applying all their Time to this Business; but I am perswaded that any Physician or Apothecary that wou'd use a little Industry this Way might, in the Course of his Life, discover the particular Virtues of one Drugg; and this wou'd, in Time, enrich the Practise of Physick; with a great many more Simple Medicines that are surer, safer, and more efficacious then those we use at this Day.

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