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THE  
P R E F A C E.

*H*AVING for several years endeavoured to render the Art of Physick as plain and easie as the nature of it would allow; by separating practice and experience from the vain fictions of a sort of men, whose business it is, to make every part of it obscure and mysterious. I thought among other things, the reducing the London Dispensatory to the practice of the present times, and the adding to it such medicines as are frequently used; would be a work very acceptable to those, that have not time or opportunity to peruse the prescriptions of the London Physicians: To which end I carefully viewed the files of some London Apothecaries, and the bills of the most eminent Physicians, and reviewed the best modern Authors.

Now by this Treatise young Physicians may know what Medicines are used, and so prescribe accordingly; whereas, before the Apothecaries were wont to discover, and ridicule raw Practitioners for their obsolete and unfashionable Prescriptions; and commonly upon reading such bills would say, This or that Doctor was a Novice in Practice.

And Apothecaries in the Country may by this Dispensatory provide Medicines that are agreeable to the present practice, and so save the patient the trouble, (besides the loss of time) in sending to London for some Medicines, prescribed by London Physicians, as oft as they are called into the Countrey, or advised with by letter in extraordinary cases: Tho I know some of them

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in great Towns especially, are well furnished with all things necessary.

But (which is most considerable) tis probable, that many of the Simples and Compounds that are rejected and out of use, either never had really the virtues assigned them; or by a long tract of time, the diseases for which they were used are now altered, and some of them worn out; and that others succeed which require other Medicines and Methods of cure. As to the virtues of each Composition, I have set down briefly those that I thought did peculiarly belong to the Medicine.

Lastly, I have added a Table of diseases.

Reader Farewel,

From the Angel and  
Crown in Basing-  
Lane, London.

John Pechy.

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