An Account of Three Books.

I. *The* Royal Pharmacopæa, Galeno-Chymical, *according to the Practiſe of the moſt eminent and learned Phyſitians of* France, *and publiſhed with their ſeveral approbations. By* Moſes Charras, *the Kings chief Operator in his Royal Garden of Plants. In* Engliſh.

THe diligent and Ingenious Anthor having ſome years ſince received Order and Directions from Monſieur *Anthony d'Aquine*, primary Phyſician to the *French* King, for compoſing a *Galeno-Chymical Pharmacopæa*: his Induſtrious purſuance of the ſame from year to year, hath at length produced this Work. The greater part of the Contents whereof, although well known to moſt learned Phyſicians; yet becauſe there are alſo amongſt them many uncommon Experiments, and all made with great accurateneſs, and deliver'd with equal perſpicuity: it doth therefore very well deſerve the following account.

It is divided into Four Parts. The firſt is of *Pharmacy* in general. As of the Names and Principles of Chymical Pharmacy. The choice and preparation of Medicines, as Lotion, Purgation, Trituration, Cribration, Infuſion, Humectation and Immerſion, Nutrition, Diſſolution, Fermentation, Digeſtion, Circulation, Cohobation, and the reſt. Together with the ſeveral degrees of Fire, and kinds of Furnaces, Lutes, Veſſels, &c.

The Second Part treateth of *Galenical* Preparations and Compoſitions, in two Books. In the firſt, of Internals, as Juices, Infuſions and Decoctions, Julaps, Apozemes, Emulſions, Potions, Gargariſms, and the reſt. In the ſecond Book, of Externals, as Oils by Expreſſion, Infuſion and Decoction, Balſams, Embalming of dead Bodies, &c.

The Third Part treateth of Chymical Preparations, in three Books. In the firſt, of Vegetals. And firſt of Deſtillation, as of Roots, of moiſt and cold Herbs, of bitter

Herbs, of Antiſcorbuticks, of Flowers, Odoriferous Waters, Ardent Spirits, Seeds, Berries, Grains and Pulſe; Woods, Soot, Wine, Spirit of Wine (where alſo of Spirit of Wine Tartariz'd) of Tartar, Vinegar, Sugar, Manna and Gums. Then of Tinctures, Elixirs, Extracts, Reſins, Salts, Tartar cryſtalliz'd, Chalybiate, Emetick, Vitrioliz'd, Foliated; of Volatile Salt of Tartar, and of Sal Volatile Oleoſum. In the ſecond Book, of Animal Prepara ions. As of Humane Skull, Blood and Urine; Of Vipers, Harts-Horn, Toads, Frogs, River Crabs, Storks, Honey, Wax, and Earthworms, Cantharides, Ants, the Peacock and Caſtor. In the third, of Mineral Preparations; as of Earths and Boles, Waters, Lime, Lapidis *Judaici*, Lincis, of the Blood-ſtone, Cryſtal, Coral, Pearls, Talk, Common and Sea-Salt, dulcify'd Spirit of Salt, Nitre, Sal Polychreſtes, Spirit of Nitre, Aqua fortis, Aqua Regia, Alum, Salt Armoniack, the Urinous Spirit of Salt Armoniack, the acid Spirit, Vitriol, Monſieur *la Faveur's* Stipt ck Water, Sulphur of Vitriol, dulcify'd Spirit of Vitriol, Salt of Vitriol; Sulphur, Lac Sulphuris, Spirit and Salt of Sulphur, Arſenick, Ambergreeſe, Amber. Of Metals, as ſeveral ways of calcining and refining of Gold; and of its Tinctures. Refining, Cryſtals, and Tincture of Silver. The Infernal Stone. Crocus, Sal, *& Tinctura Martis*, *Vitriolum & Spiritus Veneris*. *Saccharum*, *Spiritus & Balſamus Saturni*. *Flores Jovis*, *Bezoardicum Joviale*, *&c.* The Cinaber, and ſeveral Precipitates and Sublimates of *Mercury*, *&c.* The Icy Liquor, Emetick Powder, Philoſophick Spirit, and other preparations of *Antimony*.

The Fourth Part contains ſeveral particular Receipts, taken out of good Authors, with others communicated by divers Learned Perſons.

The Work is illuſtrated by ſeveral Copper Plates.

II. Decameron Phyſiologicum: *Or, Ten Dialogues of Natural Philoſophy. To which is added (they are the Authors words) the proportion of a ſtreight Line, equal to half the Arch of a Quadrant.* *By* Thomas Hobbs *of* Malmsbury.

I Am not more certain of the Authors being a learned Man, than I am of his miſtakes in ſeveral Particulars of this Book Yet my buſineſs is not here to diſpute it, but to give a juſt account of it, which is as follows.

The firſt Dialogue is of the Original of Natural Philoſophy; which (from the Authority of *Diodorus Siculus*) he aſcribes to the Aſtronomers of *Æthiopia*: Many of whoſe Poſterity (their only Diſciples) were tranſplanted into *Ægypt*, (whence *Pythagoras*, &c. fetched their Philoſophy into *Greece*) and *Aſſyria*, and were by the *Hebrews* there called *Chaldies*, or *Chaldim*, corruptly, as he conjectures, from *Chuſdim*, as that from *Chuſdim*, as being a Race of *Æthiopians*; for *Æthiopia* and the Land of *Chus* are the ſame. But he conceives, That the firſt Studiers of Natural Philoſophy commonly ſo called, were the *Greeks*: That the ſeveral Sects hereof were the occaſion of Hereſies in the Primitive Church; And this and the Scriptures together of the School-men. Whereto he ſubjoyns his thoughts of the nature of Body, defineing it, a thing that hath Being in it ſelf without the help of Senſe.

The ſecond is of the Principles and Method of Natural Philoſophy: Wherein he neglecteth all Cauſes, but Motion, the univerſal Efficient. This he defines to be, Change of Place. Place to be, the ſpace wherein a Body is contain'd; or, The Image of a Body. Time, the Image of Motion. To which he ſubjoyneth ſome Propoſitions.

The Third is of *Vacuum*, which he denyeth from ſeveral, by him ſuppoſed Arguments. Aſſerteth, That the ſpace above the *Mercury* in the *Barometre*, is fill'd with Air. And that in working upon the Pneumatick Engine, there is never any Air pumped out.

The fourth is, of the Syſtem of the World. Wherein he

he endeavours (chiefly from the Doctrine of *Copernicus*, *Kepler* and *Galileo*) to explicate the Cauſe of the motion of the Earth about the Sun, of the Moon about the Earth, and both about their own Centres. Why the Æquinoctial and Solſtitial Points, are not always in the ſame point of the Ecliptick of the Fixt Stars. Noting, from the ſame Authors, that the Æquinoctial Points proceed from Weſt to Eaſt, every Hundred years, one Degree or very near; which is 36000 years for one whole Revolution. And laſtly, why the Diſtance betwixt the Æquinoctial and the Solſtice is not always the ſame.

The fifth is, Of the Motions of Water and Air. Wherein he ſpeaks his ſenſe of Tides, and their variations; deducing them partly from the Motions both of the Earth and Moon; & partly from the ſituation of the Sea in reſpect of the Land. Of the Cauſe of Clouds, *&c.* Of Springs; noting a miſtake of *Julius Scaliger* about a River in *Savoy*, and thence of the Original of Springs.

The ſixth is, of the Cauſes and Effects of Heat and Cold: Where he ſpeaks his opinion of the nature of Fire and Ice. The Inflammability of Gun-powder; of Thunder and Lightning; which, he ſaith, will not burn.

The ſeventh is, of Hard and Soft, and of the Atomes, that fly in the Air. Wherein he alſo ſpeaks, what he thinks, of ſuch Bodies as are generally conceived to be petrified: of Elaſticity, and of contagious Air.

The eighth is, of Gravity and Gravitation: Wherein he poſitively denies, That Oyl poured upon Quickſilver in a bended Siphon (only in at one arm of the Siphon) will cauſe the Quickſilver in that Arm to deſcend. He doubts not, but that the *Species* of heavy, hard, opaque and Diaphanous, were all made ſo at the Creation. In the end, explains a Scheme ſhewing the Degrees of the Inclinatory Needle in paſſing from one Pole to another.

The ninth is, of the Loadſtone and its Poles. Where, of the Magnetick Attraction: The Touching of Needles: The Variation of the Compaſs, and of that Variation: The reſt is offer'd, as a Confutation of the Book called *Longitude found.*

Aſſerting,

Aſſerting, contrary to that Book, The Poles of the Earth, and the Magnetick Poles to be the ſame.

The laſt is, of Tranſparence and Refraction. Where he aſſerteth, That no Body, which was not Tranſparent from the Creation, can be made ſo by Humane Art. That Refraction is dependent upon Hardneſs in Conjunction with Gravity. And concludes with his Opinion of the Power of the Earth to produce living Creatures.

To theſe Dialogues, the Author ſubjoyns a ſuppoſed Demonſtration of a ſtreight Line, equal to the Arch of a Quadrant.

III. *Mechanick Exerciſes: Or, the Doctrine of Handy-Works. Began* Jan. 1. *proſecuted in two other Eſſays,* February 1. *and* March 1. 1677. *And intended to be continued monthly. By* Joſeph Moxon, *Hydrographer to the King.*

THE Authors Undertaking, to ſet down what is already known, being good; and not unlikely to give occaſion to others to conſider of further Improvements in theſe Matters: it may not be thought improper, that the ſame, once for all, be here repreſented.

The Author, as he ſaith in his Preface, having for many years been converſant in Handy-Works, eſpecially Smithery, Founding, Drawing, Joynery, Turning, Engraving, Printing of Books and Pictures, making of Globes, Maps, Mathematical Inſtruments; and being willing publickly to communicate his knowledg herein; hath in his firſt Eſſay begun with Smithery, as comprehending with the Black-Smiths Trade, all other handy-crafts, uſing either forge or file, from the Anchor-Smith to the Watch-maker: Which will be an Introduction to moſt other handycrafts, as having a dependance upon this. And firſt, he gives Account of the ſeveral Parts, Kinds and Uſes of the Smiths Forge, Anvil, Tongues, Hammer and Sledg, Vice, Hand-Vice, Pliars, Drill and Drill-Bow, Skrew-Plate and its Taps. Then of Forging and the ſeveral Heats to be given: Of brazing and ſoldering. The ſeveral ſorts of Iron and their proper Uſes. And laſtly, of Filing, and the ſeveral ſorts of Files.

In

In the ſecond Eſſay, of the making of Hinges, Locks and Keys: The manner of Riveting, making of Screws and Nuts. And particularly, of cutting Wormes upon great Screws.

In the third Eſſay, of the making of Jacks, Bullet-molds, Twiſting of Iron, Caſe-hardening. Some Tools not before deſcrib'd. The ſeveral ſorts of Steel; the manner of ſoftning, hardning and tempering the ſame.

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