PREFACE.

At a period when every branch of useful science has been cultivated and extended, it is lamentable to observe, that the diseases of the most valuable of our domestic animals have obtained so little of the attention of the enlightened investigation of the causes of the diseases to which animal existence is liable; and that the maladies to which they are subject have seldom been thought worthy the notice of any one above the most prejudiced and illiterate. To wipe this reproach from the annals of medicine, has induced me to lay the following sheets before the public, the treatment recommended in them being the result of long practice and much experience in various parts of
Europe. Ancient prescriptions and the false pride of the medical faculty are the two-fold causes which have for so long a period deprived our domestic animals of the benefit of regular medical assistance. Cattle have been treated in every country for centuries back either by their own attendants, or by men pretty nearly upon a level with those in point of education, who, having learned how to perform some frivolous and simple operation, have undertaken the hazardous task of treating their maladies in general. These, however, with the barber-surgeons of less enlightened times, have, like spectres and ghosts, vanished at the approach of modern light. But still it is surprising in this discerning age, when a liberal education is universally acknowledged to be absolutely necessary to the acquisition of medical science, that an illiterate farrier should be trusted with the cure of the different diseases of horses and other animals, which require an equal knowledge of physiology, anatomy, and medicine, with that of the human practitioner.
The animal economy, in its manifold relations, is often the same in men as it is in beasts, and governed by the same laws; but the great difficulty in the treatment of the diseases of brutes, is the ascertaining the real symptoms, causes and seat of the disorder; arising from their inability to describe their feelings; and hence the consequent uncertainty of their pathology. The whole stock of medical knowledge of many eminent practitioners, (farriers and grooms) usually consist in a certain number of receipts derived from various sources, and which they are continually ringing in the ears of their employers in all cases, whether right or wrong; and so sincerely are they attached to their particular nostrums, that they are totally incapable of being improved by advice, or even experience.

To obviate this, it was many years ago thought advisable in France, Germany, Spain, and other parts of the world, for the general propagation of veterinary knowledge, and rear-
ing a sufficient number of persons properly qualified in that line, to erect public schools expressly dedicated to that purpose.

In this country of late we have seen the necessity of adopting the same salutary measure. And the rapid progress we have made since the first establishment of the institution, in the general diffusion of the veterinary knowledge, has shewn its utility.*

There is undoubtedly no profession in which greater qualifications are required than in the veterinary study. The more liberal nature has

* When speaking of this institution we ought not to forget the superior merit of the truly ingenious professor Coleman, author of that valuable work entitled, "Observations on the Structure, Economy, and Diseases of the Foot of the Horse, and on the Principles of Shoeing," to whom the public, in general, and more particularly the cavalry regiments, are greatly indebted for his indefatigable exertions; and, indeed, it is to him alone that we owe that superior improvement which distinguishes this country from every other of the world.
been in her gifts, and the more carefully the first impressions have been cultivated by rational education, by so much the better will a man be fitted for the practice of it. Youth, firmness, dexterity, sound judgment, humanity, and a perfect knowledge of anatomy, are the qualifications which may be considered as necessary for a veterinary surgeon. The bodies of quadrupeds being the subject of this operation, it becomes indispensably necessary to be perfectly acquainted with the external and internal construction of the machines on which he is to work. It is, therefore, necessary for him to dissect, trace, and inspect, the several parts of animals with the nicest observation, and attend the most ingenious and instructive lectures in anatomy, that he may be the better fitted for the exercise of his profession. It is only with care and assiduity that we can become sufficiently acquainted with the frame to attempt any operation that is required. Upon this very essential point, the young student must spare no pains, nor even let slip an oppor-
tunity, of dissecting whenever it may present itself. Besides anatomical knowledge, which can alone be acquired by these means, he will reap another and very considerable advantage from it; the practice of frequent dissections will make the use of the knife easy and familiar, so that when he is obliged to apply it upon living subjects, it will be done with greater dexterity, and consequently much more to his own satisfaction as well as to those that are spectators. But the study of anatomy does not stop here: it is not enough that we should know the names, situation, and connection of the several parts of the animal frame, but we must also learn their respective powers, uses, &c.

The next point, and not of less importance than the former, to those who would become good veterinary surgeons, is a knowledge of the powers and proprieties of medicines. The various substances of the materia medica, the different classes of the vegetable, mineral, and
animal kingdoms, so far as they relate to physic, supply all the several applications used in veterinary surgery. If, therefore, we are ignorant of the qualities of these substances, the result will be, we shall commit the greatest mistakes in the use of them. Nothing therefore can be more necessary than a knowledge of the materia medica, from which we learn the art of mixing the several articles of drugs together, so as to produce combinations capable of effecting what cannot be done by any solid or fluid substance singly. And I must repeat that this art is of the utmost importance to the veterinary practitioner, as, without an acquaintance with it, all his knowledge of the animal economy will be of little avail; for as medicines are the weapons he has to encounter diseases with, success may reasonably be expected as he uses them with more or less dexterity; he, therefore, must be thoroughly acquainted with all the substances employed, and by experiments ascertain their several effects on the horse and other animals, so as to form a materia medica
of his own; using every means of ascertaining the doses requisite in different internal diseases, and avoiding also the too common error of ordering substances to be mixed with each other that are naturally at variance. Above all, he should avoid a multitude of ingredients in his prescriptions, even though all may be presumed to promote the object in view, and should form an accurate judgment of the powers and susceptibility of the animal, and weigh these against the degree of activity which may belong to the medicine he professes to administer.

But in order to succeed in this science, the practitioner must be well versed in veterinary physiology likewise; for if he is ignorant of this, how shall he be able to determine (when any of the functions of the animal economy are interrupted or destroyed by contusions, wounds, or other accidents) the particular part on which the injury has fallen; physiology, therefore, is of infinite use to a surgeon in in-
indicating the diagnostic signs of the injuries the internal parts may have suffered, by which he may be led, not only to form his judgment with precision, but also to distinguish where the remedy should be applied, if the case be within the assistance of his art.

Having enumerated the qualifications indispensably necessary in a good veterinary surgeon, and having also observed that the physiology of the horse, and the useful nosological descriptions, had been totally omitted in works of the ancient writers on farriery, whilst obsolete prescriptions and terms were very considerable, I shall now beg leave to say, that in the present sheets I thought I could not do a more acceptable office than to make a total reformation of all the old erroneous and useless prescriptions and obsolete names formerly given to the diseases of horses and other animals; in this view I have considered them according to the most approved nosological ar-
rangement, and clearly enumerated their symptoms and distinctions.

The present work was originally intended as a memorandum for my own assistance in practice; but some amateurs of the modern practice of the veterinary art assuring me that such a collection of facts would form a considerable vade mecum to practitioners, and would be useful to the public at large, I have been induced to publish it, in order to produce (if possible) a reformation of the many errors in the old system of farriery; for which purpose much of my time and attention have been employed, and I trust, that upon examination these pages will be found worthy the patronage of all persons who are concerned in the preservation, management, and improvement of domestic animals, and that it will also be found useful to those who wish to make the veterinary art their more immediate study.

Among its many improvements however I
am conscious of its defects, it wanting perhaps both that polished diction and lucid arrangement which ought to distinguish works of this kind, and which I can only hope to atone for by the exhibition of the well attested facts and practical knowledge which I hope it will be found to contain.