VIRTUES

OF

BRITISH HERBS.

[Price One Shilling and Sixpence.]

VIRTUES
OF
BRITISH HERBS.

WITH THE

HISTORY, DESCRIPTION, and FIGURES, of the ſeveral Kinds;

An Account of the DISEASES they will cure;

The Method of giving them; and Management of the Patients in each Diſeaſe:

CONTAINING THE CURES OF

CONSUMPTIONS by COLTSFOOT Tea,	COLICS by Leaves of CHAMOMILE, And
HECTIC FEVERS by the DAISY,	AGUES by its Flowers.

A Recommendation of the BIDENS CERNUA to ſupply the Place of the CEYLON ACMELLA, ſo celebrated in the Gravel; but not to be had with us.

And a CASE, with all its Circumſtances and Symptoms, of the HOOPING-COUGH, cured by a Tea of the freſh Root of ELECAMPANE.

The WHOLE illuſtrating that important Truth,

That the PLANTS of our own Country will cure all its DISEASES.

To which are added,

CAUTIONS againſt the Two OTHONNAS, deſtructive of Sheep.

A WORK intended to be uſeful to the Sick, and to their Friends; to private Families; and to the Charitable, who would help their Neighbours.

No. I.——To be continued Occaſionally, as new Virtues are diſcovered in PLANTS; or neglected or doubtful ones aſcertained by Experience.

By JOHN HILL, M. D.
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LONDON:

Printed for R. BALDWIN, in Pater-noſter-Row; J. RIDLEY, in St. James's-Street; J. NOURSE, T. BECKET, P. ELMSLY, J. CAMPBELL, in the Strand; and T. DAVIES, in Ruſſel-Street, Covent-Garden.

M.DCC.LXX.

5.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Author having read a great deal, and ſeen ſomething, of the Virtues of Plants of our own Growth, intends here, to the beſt of his abilities, to be uſeful: recounting all that is juſtly attributed to theſe Plants by reſpected Authors; and confirming, by authentic caſes, whatever has been repeated within his own experience.

Having lately written a Hiſtory of the Britiſh Plants in a ſuccinct manner, and in the Latin language; intended principally for the uſe of

Phyſicians, he propoſes here to deliver the Accounts of their Virtues, and Rules for adminiſtering them; fitted for general ſervice, and in our own tongue: and to lay down the whole more at large, than was needful to thoſe who were already acquainted with the practice of Phyſic.

The firſt care will be to acquaint the Reader perfectly with the Plant that is recommended to be uſed: and to prevent all occaſion of error, a Figure and Hiſtory will be given, not only of the right kind, but of all others of the ſame Name, and general Nature; which might be miſtaken for it, tho' they have no particular virtue, or perhaps even contrary qualities.

Next, the Diſeaſe in which the Herb thus known with certainty may be ſerviceable, will be ſo explained, that all error in that article may be alſo avoided.

And

And the laſt care will be to direct in what manner the ſalutary Plant may beſt be uſed.

Beſide the Engliſh Name of every Herb, there is here given the Latin one: and this it is earneſtly recommended to all perſons, to accuſtom themſelves to uſe. There is great and uſeful knowledge eaſily to be acquired on this ſubject; it ſhould be propagated univerſally: and this way alone it can be done. The Engliſh Names of Herbs are equivocal: the ſame word is often uſed by our authors as a Name for many different Plants. In the Latin all is certain. As our own Names can be only uſeful in our own country; when we uſe a Latin one the whole world knows what we ſpeak of: and by the arrangement here, (when the Tables of Method relating to it, are publiſhed,) as all Plants of a like kind are placed together, and their diſtinguiſhing characters are given, all will be found with eaſe.

Lungwort is equally the Name, of a kind of *Hawkweed*, of a ſort of *Moſs*, and of a Plant approaching to the nature of *Hound's-tongue*: and when an Herb is directed under that Name, no one can tell which of all theſe is meant. In Latin their Names are as different as their Nature; and in uſing them, there can be no miſtake. A thouſand inſtances of this might be produced; but one is as good as a thouſand.

It will be happy, if, by theſe means, the knowledge of Plants alſo become more general. The ſtudy of them is pleaſant; and the exerciſe of it healthful. He who ſeeks the Herb for his cure, will often find it half effected by the walk: and when he is acquainted with the uſeful kinds, may be more than his own phyſician.

This knowledge is not to be ſought for in the old Herbals; they contain but a ſmall part of it: and what they hold is locked up in obſcurity.

obſcurity. They are exceſſive in their praiſes; and in ſaying too much, they ſay nothing. All virtues are, in a manner, attributed to all Plants; and 'tis the ſkill alone of a Phyſician that can ſeparate, in thoſe that have any, which is the true. Turn to the Herbals of Gerard Parkinſon, or the more antient Turner, and you ſhall find, in many inſtances, virtues of the moſt exalted kind related of Herbs, which, if you were to eat daily as ſallads, would cauſe no alteration in the body.

But we are not to conclude from this that Herbs do not poſſeſs real virtues. Many of them do; and of kinds ſo eminent, that phyſic would be but a poor art without them. To diſtinguiſh theſe, and to teach perſons not bred to phyſic to apply them, is the good intended in this Publication; and even beyond the bounds of written leſſons, ſuch opportunities, as the Author of it has, to promote this intended utility, will never be withheld.

If any entertain a doubt concerning the Plant they would uſe, after comparing it with the Figure and Deſcription, the Gardener at *Bayſwater* ſhall give a ſample of it, for aſking; and they may command the farther Opinion and Directions of the Author when they pleaſe.

St. James's Street,
May 1, 1770.

J. HILL.

VIRTUES

VIRTUES

OF

BRITISH HERBS.

HERBS

Which have a radiated Flower, growing in a divided Cup.

1. OTHONNA.

SEGGROM.

The Cup is deeply divided into a number of long, flat Teeth.

1. OTHON-

1. OTHONNA INTEGRIFOLIA.

MOUNTAIN RAGWORT.

The Leaves are undivided.

This is a Weed of our high Paſture Grounds, but not common; it ſcarce exceeds Eight Inches in height; it grows upright; and has no Branches.

The Leaves are pale, thick, and downy.

The Flowers are of a light yellow; they grow in a Cluſter at the Top of the Stalk, and have a Circle of narrow Leaves under them.

They blow in July.

Beſide the Virtues which are known in Plants, it will be uſeful to give Cautions of their Danger. Careful farmers ſay this hurts their ſheep: their wool grows looſe on eating it. Taken inwardly it is an acrid, and a dangerous purge. There is a kind, ſcarce differing from this, which manifeſts the ſame ill qualities, in Switzerland.

We

Othonna integrifolia.
Mountain Ragwort.

Othonna palustris.
Marsh Flebane.

We have in this, and the ſucceeding Plant, a ſtriking inſtance of the value of Latin names. Othonna, or Cineraria, belongs to both theſe; and each has, under either of them, a juſt diſtinction by its ſecond name, Integrifolia, and Paluſtris. The name Othonna belongs to no Britiſh Plant beſide; and will be underſtood, not only here, but in all nations. Whereas the name Seggrom, which is diſtinctly and truly the name of theſe Plants, is in our language applied alſo to the common Ragwort, an Herb of our Paſtures, and to Groundſell, a Weed of our Gardens: and, to encreaſe the confuſion, to neither of theſe; for cuſtom calls one Ragwort, and the other Fleabane. Many words would be needful to explain theſe equivocal expreſſions, if uſed in directing the Plants for Medicine; and perhaps then it would not be done well: but the Latin name removes all doubt at once; it belongs to nothing elſe, and it is known univerſally; nor will any future innovation, however ſupported, change it in

the

the judicious mind; or prevent the Plant being diſtinctly and perfectly known, by all perſons, under this denomination.

2. OTHONNA PALUSTRIS.

MARSH FLEABANE.

The Leaves are deeply cut.

This is an inhabitant of our marſhes, toward the ſea: a perennial Plant.

It grows to a Yard high, but with few Branches.

The Leaves are of a freſh green; very ſmooth, and delicate.

The Flowers are yellow, large, and not unhandſome.

They blow in Auguſt.

Its qualities too much reſemble thoſe of the preceding kind. Cattle, brought from other places, into ſome lands belonging to myſelf, near Whitleſea, in the Iſle of Ely, have fallen into diſeaſes on eating it. Thoſe bred where it grows are obſerved not to touch it.

HERBS

HERBS

Which have a radiated Flower, growing in a Cup, formed of one row of diſtinct Scales.

1. BIDENS.

HEMP AGRIMONY.

The Scales which compoſe the Cup are hollowed.

1. BIDENS CERNUA.

DROOPING HEMP AGRIMONY.

The Leaves embrace the Stalk at their baſe.

This is a common Plant about the ditches in Ireland; but ſcarce with us.

It has a branching reddiſh Stalk of about Two Feet high.

The

The Leaves are of a deep, dull green, and ſmooth.

The Flowers are of a dead yellow: they hang their heads; but the Tufts of Seed that follow ſtand upright.

It is an Annual; it flowers in July, and till the froſt kills it.

This is one of the very many Britiſh Plants, concerning the Virtues of which we are perfectly ignorant. No one has yet tried it: but there are reaſons to ſuppoſe its qualities are eminent. Cattle are not fond of it. This often is a mark of great medicinal virtues, as well as ſometimes of miſchievous powers.

The ſmell is ſtrong, and ſingular. The taſte is ſharp and biting, with a little bitterneſs.

There is a Plant, of Ceylon, called Acmella, a kind of Verbeſina, diſtinguiſhed beyond all things in the cure of the Gravel. This has its very taſte and ſmell, and flavour; and Chymiſtry

has

has ſhewn their near reſemblance. A careful ſucceſſor of Nebelius made this trial. 'Tis pity ſome one has not, in like manner, examined into its qualities in medicine. 'Tis one of the Herbs to be recommended to the practiſing phyſicians; and will not want its place among thoſe to be examined by the Author of theſe obſervations.

If there could want more proof of the propriety, nay the neceſſity, of ſpeaking of Plants under their Latin names, we have it here again before us. This Herb is recommended to the practiſers of phyſic, for trial, in a great and terrible, and yet a very common diſeaſe. If we ſhould give it only its Engliſh name, Hemp Agrimony, that is alſo the name of Eupatorium, a Plant as different from this as two Plants well can be from one another; and that in taſte, in ſmell, and virtues, as well as in their form: for the other Herb, called Hemp Agrimony in Engliſh, is a purge.

Two perſons, in two places, uſing the different Herbs under the ſame name, could never confirm, or ſo much as believe, each other's accounts: and there is no way to truth in medicine, but by theſe mutual trials. But when we call the Herb by its diſtinct Latin name, Bidens, it is impoſſible this error ſhould have place; or any, when we apply farther to its ſecond name, and its Deſcription, and Figure here.

2. TUSSILAGO.

COLTSFOOT.

The Scales which compoſe the Cup are flat.

1. TUSSILAGO FARFARA.

COMMON COLTSFOOT.

The Leaves are hearted.

This low Herb ſpreads its Roots in damp and clayey grounds, from which the Flowers riſe early

in

Pa. 4 TUSSILAGO

Character Genericus

BIDENS

Character Generi

Tussilago Farfara.

Common Coltsfoot

Bidens

in Spring, before the Leaves appear; and fade and are quite gone by that time these have attained their natural size: a thing that looked so singular to our ancestors, they called the Plant, The Son before the Father.

The Stalk is seven Inches high, leafless, but hung about with skinny films; and on its top there stands only one Flower.

The Leaves, which are in their perfection when this part is quite gone, are roundish, and notched; as broad as one's hand; of a pale green; white and downy underneath; and of a tough, firm substance.

The Flower is lemon-coloured, and large.

The Root is perennial, and the Leaves are to be had till Winter. These are the part which contain its great virtue. They have a soft and mucilaginous but somewhat bitter taste.

They are good in the Gravel, and Inflammations of the Kidneys: but their great virtue is in diseases of the Breast; in Asthmas par-

ticularly, and in Conſumptions. The beſt way of taking it is in decoction; for it does not ſo fully or well communicate its virtues to ſpirit. The way to have them beſt is this:

Clip ſmall a quantity of the Leaves freſh gathered; put them into an earthen pipkin, and pour upon them as much boiling water as will cover them. Let this ſtand all night. In the morning boil it a few minutes, and put in as much honey as will ſweeten it. A half-pint baſin of this ſhould be drank warm three times a day.

The patient ſhould alſo have ſome Leaves dried and cut ſmall, and ſmoke them as tobacco. This is a practice as old as the time of the Romans, and preſent experience ſhews it right and excellent.

Few things will do ſo much toward curing a Conſumption as Coltsfoot, uſed conſtantly theſe two ways.

Here

Here let us ſtop a moment, and adore the goodneſs of the Divine Providence, which makes the beſt things the moſt common! The Seggroms, which can do only miſchief, are found but in a few places: this, ſo full of excellence, grows at our doors, and we tread it every where under our feet.

RADIATED HERBS,

WITH A

DOUBLE CUP.

HERBS

Which have a radiated Flower, growing in a Cup, compoſed of two Ranges of Scales.

1. BELLIS.

DAISY.

The Cup is rounded, and its Scales are equal.

1. BELLIS PERENNIS.

LITTLE DAISY.

One Flower only grows upon a Stalk.

This is the univerſal ornament of our paſtures; a Perennial; flowering all the Summer.

Its leafleſs Stalk is three Inches high.

The

BELLIS

Character Genericus

Bellis Perennis

Little Daisy

The Leaves, which grow from the Root, are oblong, ſmooth, and of a deep green.

Its Flowers, in their wildeſt and moſt ſimple ſtate, are very pretty in their mixture of red and white; but when the gardener beſtows culture on them, few things return it better: we ſee them grow double, large, full, quilled, and proliferous; young Flowers ſurrounding the older.

This is another Herb which Nature has made common, becauſe it may be uſeful.—The Daiſy has great, but neglected qualities; worthy of a ſerious attention.

Its Leaves contain its virtues. Their taſte is that of Coltsfoot, but more mucilaginous; and without all bitterneſs.

It is excellent againſt Hectic Fevers; and internal Inflammation, of whatever kind; and in which ever of the Viſcera.

An infuſion of it ſhould be made as of the Coltsfoot, and juſt once boiled. It ſhould then

be drank in the ſame manner, with an equal quantity of milk.

Aſſes milk has ten times its effect if this be taken with it.

2. ANTHEMIS.

CHAMÆMILE.

The Cup is rounded, but the Scales are of unequal length.

1. ANTHEMIS NOBILIS.

SWEET-SCENTED CHAMÆMILE.

The Leaves are three times divided, and the diviſions are narrow.

This ſweet Plant grows wild with us, on damp heaths, and by waters; and has much greater virtues there than in our gardens.

'Tis a Perennial, ſcarce riſing Five or Six Inches from the ground.

The

ANTHEMIS

Character Genericus

Anthemis nobilis. 1

Sweet Chamæmile.

2 Anthemis fœtida.

Stinking Mayweed.

3 Anthemis Arvensis

Corn Chamæmile

Anthemis Tinctoria?

Oxeye. 4

The Leaves are of a deep green, fragrant, and cut into very fine diviſions.

The Flowers are large and white.

Nature offers them to us ſingle; and in that ſtate they have the greateſt virtue; becauſe thoſe yellow Threads which fill their center poſſeſs it highly: but 'tis the unlucky cuſtom to uſe them double from the gardens.

They blow in July and Auguſt.

All parts of this excellent Plant are full of virtue. The Leaves, given in infuſion, cure Colics; and diſpel wind from the Stomach; and are excellent againſt Indigeſtion.

The Flowers are a fine and noble bitter. Few things are equal to them in ſtrengthening the Stomach, and creating an appetite, as well as aſſiſting digeſtion. But more than this, they will cure Agues. I have known them do it after the Bark has failed.

The beſt way of taking the Leaves is in a ſtrong kind of Tea, in which way even the

the Colic that attends the Gravel yields to them.

When given to ſtrengthen the Stomach, a Tea made ſtrong of the ſingle Flowers of the Wild Chamæmile is beſt; and thoſe who have not made it from ſuch Flowers know leſs than half its virtue.

For Agues, the ſame kind of Flowers ſhould be dried and powdered, and a ſcruple taken once in four hours; and this repeated for four days.

An oil, diſtilled from theſe Flowers, is excellent in Colics; and, what is very ſingular, it is blue.

2. ANTHEMIS COTULA.

STINKING MAYWEED.

The center of the Flower riſes, and the diviſions of the Leaves ſwell in the middle.

 This

Anthemis Maritima

Sea Chamæmile

This offenſive Plant is common in plowed lands; an annual Weed that, by its abundance, often robs the crops of their beſt nouriſhment.

It grows to a Foot high, branched and ſpreading.

The Stalk is ruddy.

The Leaves are of a deep and blackiſh green, and of an ill ſmell.

The Flowers are white, with a high yellow diſk, pointed at top.

It flowers in May and June.

The Flowers have the virtue of thoſe of Chamæmile, but in a very inferior degree, and are leſs agreeable.

The Leaves operate by urine, and ſometimes by ſtool; but both ways roughly and diſagreeably. 'Tis ſtrange that Hoffman thought the Leaves more emollient than thoſe of Chamæmile. Experience ſhews otherwiſe.

3. ANTHE-

3. ANTHEMIS ARVENSIS.

CORN CHAMÆMILE.

The center of the Flower rifes: the Leaves are thin as hairs.

This is the commoneft Weed on our ditch banks.

It grows to a Foot and half high, wild and fpreading.

The Stalk is red, and brittle.

The Leaves are of a dead pale green.

The Flowers are large, and white.

They blow in June, and laft till Winter kills the Plant.

The qualities are thofe of the Sweet Chamæmile, but in a flight degree.

4. ANTHEMIS TINCTORIA.

OXEYE CHAMÆMILE.

The Leaves are deep cut, and their parts are dented.

This

This is a Perennial, native only of our northern counties; but there, it is a paſture Weed not uncommon.

The Stalk is ruddy, two Foot high, and branchy.

The Leaves are gloſſy, of a freſh, pale green, and a little downy underneath.

The Flowers are of a gold yellow, large, and very handſome.

They blow in June.

The Flowers contain the virtue of the Plant. They promote urine, and have often cured the Jaundice. They are to be dried, and carefully powdered. A dram is to be taken twice a day.

They are uſeful alſo in manufacture; for they afford a yellow for the dyers.

5. ANTHEMIS MARITIMA.
SEA CHAMÆMILE.

The Leaves are thick and fleſhy, and the Cups are downy.

This

This is an inhabitant of our damp grounds; toward the ſea; a very pretty creeping Plant.

The Stalk is crimſon, branchy, and ſix Inches long; but it ſcarce riſes from the ground.

The Leaves are of a freſh, bluiſh green, and dotted.

The Flowers are ſmall, and white, with a yellow diſk.

They blow in June.

Their virtues are thoſe of Chamæmile; but ſlight and trifling.

Thoſe who live about the ſea coaſts, where it is common, uſe an infuſion of the Flowers, for Agues; but the powder of the right kind is far better.

HERBS

Which have a radiated Flower, growing in a Cup, formed of many ranges of ſcaly Films.

1. INULA.

ELFWORT.

The Cup is wide, the Scales ſtand looſe, and the lower range is leafy.

1. INULA HELENIUM.

ELECAMPANE.

The Leaves are vaſt, rugged, long; and hoary underneath.

This

This is a native of our meadow grounds; and from its virtues is become common in our gardens.

It is a robuſt and ſtately Plant; a Perennial; with a firm and handſome appearance. It grows to four Foot high.

The Stalk is thick, ruddy, and branched a little.

The Leaves are of a dull, faint green.

The Flowers are large, and yellow.

They blow in July and Auguſt.

The Root, which is long and large, contains the virtues of the Plant: and few have greater.

It has a fragrant, very agreeable ſmell, and a ſpicy, ſharp, and ſomewhat bitteriſh taſte. It has long been famous for the cure of all diſeaſes of the Breaſt; and it has great virtues in malignant fevers: but it has more, and thoſe more diſtinguiſhable than theſe: in ſtrengthening the Stomach, and that way aſſiſting digeſtion, not in the way of bitters, but as a warm, invigorating,


Pa. 10 INULA
Tab. 8
a..
Character Genericus
2
Inula dysenterica.
Middle Fleabane.
1
Inula Helenium.
Elecampane.
Inula pulicaria. 3.
Small Fleabane.
4
Inula Crithmoides
Golden Sampiris?

rating, animating medicine, it has not its equal: and it cures the Chin-Cough in children, when all elſe fails.

But 'twere vain to expect theſe virtues in the dried Root, ſold at druggiſts; baked, ground in a mill, and, tho' cheap enough in itſelf, yet mixed with flour, to make it cheaper. In that ſtate it has little either of taſte, ſmell, or virtue. The garden muſt ſupply it freſh to thoſe who would know its real value. There, as it riſes freely from Nature, it is full of all theſe excellent qualities. The taſte and ſmell, compared with the dry, will abundantly ſhew this, before we feel its virtues.

The way of taking it is this:

Slice the freſh Root thin; and to a quarter of a pound of it pour three pints of boiling water. After ſtanding all night, boil it a few moments; and, when cold, ſtrain it off.

To a pint of this add a quarter of a pint of mountain wine; if 'tis to be given to a grown perſon, for diſorders of the Stomach: and let a full wine glaſs be drank three times a day.

When it is intended for the Chin-Cough, half the quantity of the Root will be ſufficient. It need only be infuſed, not boiled: and inſtead of the wine, add a quarter of a pound of honey; and give two table-ſpoonfuls, four times a day.

Nor will the virtues of this Root, in curing this kind of Cough, appear at all ſtrange to thoſe who, practiſing rational phyſic, trace up diſeaſes to their cauſe.

The Chin-Cough is not of the nature of thoſe Coughs which follow Colds; it has not the ſame origin, nor is it ſeated in the ſame place. A tough and ſouriſh phlegm, lodged on the coats of the Stomach, and adhering to them,

is the cauſe. Nature at once ſhews this; and points out the way to the cure; by childrens vomiting up ſuch phlegm after their violent fits of coughing in this way; and always finding relief from it.

Now, of all medicines yet known, Elecampane Root, when freſh and full of virtue, warms, ſtrengthens, and invigorates the Stomach the beſt: and by that cures the diſeaſe, and prevents its return.

This is not a new; but only a neglected doctrine: Walſchmid and Dolæus, great and excellent writers, tho' too little read at preſent, confirm it with reaſons; and by repeated obſervations.

Receive an inſtance of it here, at home:

Miſs * * * * * * *, of Soho, was brought to me, reduced almoſt to death by this diſeaſe. She coughed by fits for a length of time ſcarce

credible; and that with diſtracting efforts, and a ſound that tore the hearts of all who ſaw, and heard her.

The nurſe had given her Cup Moſs; and the apothecary moſaic gold; in vain. They had fed her with fried mice, (according to a boaſted family receipt) to loathing: but that could be to no purpoſe. A phyſician of great worth had followed Sydenham faithfully, and the poor infant had been bled and purged till no ſtrength remained; except in the diſeaſe: which grew ſtill worſe as ſhe grew weaker.

'Twas in this ſtate I ſaw the poor, the emaciated little creature, when I directed the Elecampane Root.

She firſt took a very gentle vomit, a few grains of Ipecacuanha. The efforts this occaſioned were nothing; compared but to an ordinary fit of coughing.

A few

A few drops of Lettuce wine composed her for the night; and next day she began to take the infusion, as here directed to be made, with honey; and only of half the strength: two ounces of the Root being used to three pints of water, and that without the boiling.

From the time she began this she used no other drink; and from that time she gradually recovered.

Her body was, in the mean while, kept open; not by purges; for they irritate; but by glysters: and she became so well, the servants here could not believe 'twas the same child, tho' brought by the same person.

What infinite good may arise from this easy remedy being once made universally known! 'Tis so innocent that none need fear to administer it. And if in any case circumstances rise which

require particular advice, ſuch as I can give, they always may command who want it.

2. INULA DYSENTERICA.

MIDDLE FLEABANE.

The Stalk is woolly; and the Leaves are oblong, and clammy.

This is an ugly and ill-looking annual Weed, frequent on waſte grounds and by way-ſides.

It grows to a Foot high, with a few Branches.

The Leaves are pale, and whitiſh; and ſtick to the Fingers on touching them.

The Flowers are of a light yellow.

They blow in Auguſt.

One ſcarce would think any thing reſembling Elecampane in ſmell, could be diſguſtful: but this, tho' with the real flavour of it, is highly ſo: and in its taſte is acrid and forbidding.

3. INULA PULICARIA.

SMALL FLEABANE.

The Rays of the Flower are very ſhort: the Leaves are ſhort and waved.

This is another ill-looking annual Weed, frequent in wet waſte places.

It grows to eight Inches high; but commonly lies, in part, upon the ground.

The Stalk is of a ruddy brown.

The Leaves are ſhort, ſmall, and of a dull, dead green.

The Flowers are ſmall, very poor, and of a dirty yellow.

They blow in Auguſt.

The ſmell of this and the former are ſuppoſed hateful to inſects, and the juice deſtructive of them.

4. INULA CRITHMOIDES.

GOLDEN SAMPIRE.

The Leaves are three pointed.

This beautiful perennial Plant is the ornament of our ſea marſhes.

It grows to a Yard high, with many Branches.

The Leaves are of a blue green; thick, fleſhy, and juicy.

The Flowers are of a gold yellow.

They blow in June.

II.

CHRYSANTHEMUM.

CORN MARYGOLD.

The Cup is elliptic, and its Scales ſtand cloſe; the inner range of them is thin.

1. CHRY-


Pa. 12
CHRYSANTHEMUM
Tab. 9
Character Genericus
Chrysanthemum Segetum.
1
2
Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum

1. CHRYSANTHEMUM SEGETUM.

CORN MARYGOLD.

The Root Leaves are oblong, and deep dented.

This very beautiful Plant is an Annual, native of our corn fields.

It grows to two Foot high, with many ſpreading Branches.

The Leaves are gloſſy, and of a blue green.

The Flowers are large, and of a gold yellow.

They blow in Auguſt.

2. CHRYSANTHEMUM LEUCANTHEMUM.

GREAT DAISY.

This is a biennial Plant; an ornament of our paſture grounds, as the other of corn fields, in

Autumn; but no way related to the Little Daiſy of our meadows, in character or virtues: only in name.

It grows to two Foot high, with few Branches.

The Leaves are of a deep, dead green, and ſmooth.

The Flowers are vaſt, and of a milky white.

They blow in Auguſt.

The taſte of this Plant is ſharp and acrid: and it has no ſmell. Its virtues have not been enough enquired into. It is a ſharp and pungent diuretic; cleanſing the kidneys: but many and careful trials ſhould be made of it before 'tis freely uſed. An infuſion contains all its virtue; and has the heat of Cardamoms, or Cubebs. Any boiling weakens it.

III.

ASTER.

STARWORT.

The Cup is conic; the Scales of it are leafy; and their points ſtand out.

ASTER

ASTER

Aster Tripolium.
Sea Starwort.

ASTER TRIPOLIUM.

SEA STARWORT.

The Leaves are narrow; and the Flowers are many.

Multitudinous as the kinds of Aſters are, with which the warm parts of Europe, and, moſt of all, America, have filled our gardens; this is the only one that graces our fields.

It is a Perennial; native of our damp grounds near the ſea, and great rivers: a handſome Plant, of a Yard high.

The Stalk is ruddy, and branched.

The Leaves are ſmooth, and of a very fine green.

The Flowers are numerous, large, and blue.

They blow in Auguſt.

Of its virtues nothing is known.

IV. MATRI-

IV.

MATRICARIA.

FEVERFEW.

The Cup is rounded: and its Scales are very numerous, and very narrow.

1. MATRICARIA PARTHENIUM.

COMMON FEVERFEW.

The Leaves are cut down to the Stalk, in broad and flashed divisions.

This is a Weed of our waste grounds; and is no where so frequent as about farm-houses: a perennial, bushy Plant.

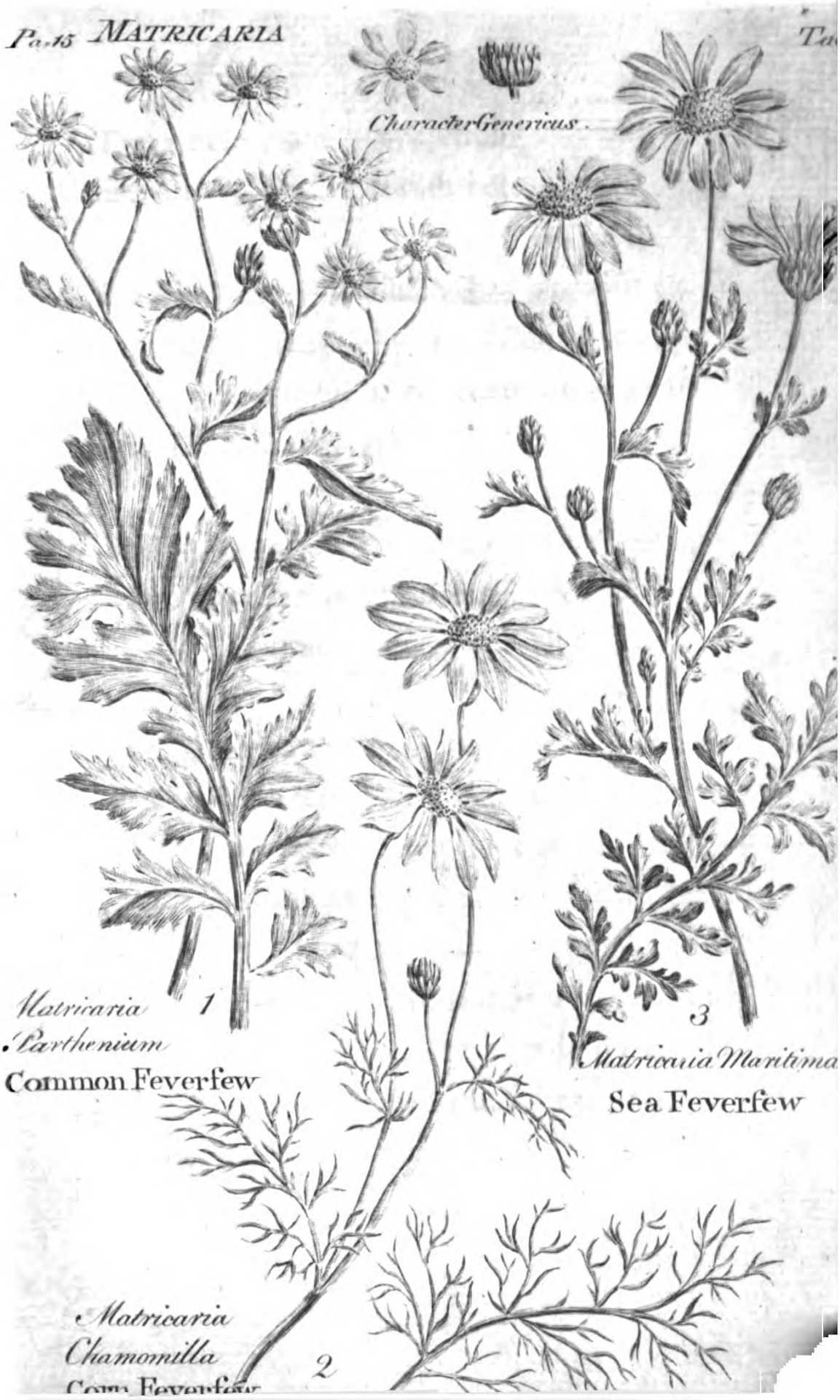
It grows to two Foot high, with a pale Stalk, and many Branches.

The Leaves are of a faded yellowish green.

The Flowers are very numerous, and white.

They blow in June.

The


Pa. 15 MATRICARIA
Ta
Character Genericus.
Matricaria Parthenium
1
Common Feverfew
3
Matricaria Maritima
Sea Feverfew
Matricaria Chamomilla
2
Corn Feverfew

The whole Plant has a ſtrong and very particular ſmell, and a bitteriſh taſte.

Provident Nature, which has placed it every where at our doors, has doubtleſs given to it theſe ſtriking qualities, to invite us to its uſe; which is indeed very great.

In diſorders ariſing from obſtruction of evacuations peculiar to the female ſex, its virtues are beyond all praiſe; and above all value.

Steel given on theſe occaſions tears the conſtitution; and, for a little preſent good, ſometimes entails a laſting ſeries of diſorders. The chymical preparations of Steel are yet by many degrees more hurtful than its ſimple ſelf: and we have here an innocent Herb, incapable of harm, ready at hand, that will do all the good that can be expected from them; without the poſſibility of miſchief.

The

The fact is the ſame in a thouſand other inſtances; for our own Herbs are as full of virtue, as deſtitute of miſchief: and I do, in Chriſtian truth, believe, tho' 'tis a very bold concluſion, that more good has been done in the world by Herbs; than miſchief by chymical preparations.

For the uſe of this no medical art is needed: the Leaves are to be ſtripped off, and boiling water poured on them. A ſtrong tea is to be thus made of Feverfew; and it is to be drank by half-pint baſins. Three in a day will be ſufficient.

A lady of great worth and virtue, the mother of the late Sir William Bowyer, told me, that having in the younger part of her life a very terrible and almoſt conſtant Head-Ach, fixed in one ſmall ſpot, and raging at times almoſt to diſtraction; and which the neighbouring Dr. Thorold, of Uxbridge, very eminent in his

profeſſion,

profeſſion, had by all uſual, and ſome unuſual means, attempted in vain to remove; ſhe was at length perfectly cured by a maid ſervant, who had ſeen the effects of this Herb once before.

The lady drank the tea of it conſtantly, and plentifully; and applied the ſoft, warm leaves, of which the tea was made, to the part of the head where the pain was ſeated: the complaint ceaſed, together with its cauſe; and never returned.

If any who ſuffer the ſame pain think more advice than this is needful, tho' indeed it is not, they may apply for it freely. They will make me happy in giving me the means of being uſeful to my fellow-creatures.

2. MATRI-

2. MATRICARIA CHAMOMILLA.

CORN FEVERFEW.

The Leaves are cut into many parts, as fine as threads.

This is an annual Weed, hateful to farmers: but it has virtues that may recompenſe all the damage it can do among the corn.

It grows to a Foot and half high.

The Stalk is ſlender, pale, and branchy.

The Leaves are pale green; and they have no ſmell.

The Flowers are large, and white; with a high yellow diſk.

They blow in July.

Theſe have the virtues of the Flowers of Chamæmile, but with more cordial warmth. For thoſe who have cold and weak ſtomachs ſcarce any thing is equal to them. They are beſt taken in the way of tea.

3. MATRI-

3. MATRICARIA MARITIMA.

SEA FEVERFEW.

The Leaves ſwell up, and are thick; and they are compoſed of many parts, which are again cut down to the rib.

This is a ſea-ſide perennial Plant, frequent in Cornwall.

It grows to eight Inches high, upright, and branchy.

The Stalk is thick, and ruddy.

The Leaves are of a dull green; hollow underneath, and riſing on the upper ſide.

The Flowers are white, with a low yellow diſk.

They blow in Auguſt.

The candid Reader has thus, laid before him, a Specimen of a Method, by which it is propoſed, to learn; to aſcertain; and then to make public, The Virtues of the Plants of Britain.

Where nothing is known, nothing is aſcribed to them: where many things have been ſaid; ſuch alone are mentioned here as have been proved by experience; where there is a probability of virtue; it is propoſed for trial; and reaſons are given for the opinion: and where danger threatens; that is alſo mentioned.

Upon this plan, tho' the obſervations of many are requiſite; the means of them are rendered eaſy: and the cauſe truly deſerves them. There are in England, on a free conjecture, fifteen hundred Plants which promiſe, by their taſte and ſmell, conſiderable virtues: of theſe more than a thouſand remain yet to be tried. And every advance is ſomething to the general good; ſo it be made with accuracy.

The

The firſt thing, to this purpoſe, muſt be to know, and perfectly to aſcertain the Plant itſelf, to others: and in the method here employed 'tis hoped this is not difficult. The general heads of the characters, and deſcriptions of the parts, are plain at leaſt, and obvious: and the ſuperadded diſtinctions, which mark the gradations next under them, 'tis hoped are evident. Thoſe which diſtinguiſh kind from kind, and Plant from Plant in the ſame kind, are eaſier yet, and cannot be miſtaken: and herein lies the reality of knowledge.

Thus every one knows what a radiated Flower is; for every one has ſeen a Sun-flower, or a Marygold: when therefore he ſees ſuch a Flower, whoſe Cup has only one row of Scales, he ſees here, that two kinds of Plants only, have that character; and looking to the next diſtinction, he ſees, that if thoſe Scales are flat, the Plant is Coltsfoot; if they be hollowed,

it is Bidens. This is ſhort and eaſy: more is not needful; and the Plant can never be miſtaken.

Thus he will be led to know every Herb he finds; by referring it to ſuch characters: thoſe whoſe virtues are unknown, as well as thoſe we are better acquainted with; for all are here: and all are neceſſary to be known; not only for diſtinction from each other; but that all may have virtues.

There is a plain neceſſity alſo of knowing all the Plants of the ſame name or kind with that in uſe; becauſe the greateſt errors may be fallen into by uſing one of theſe kinds for another.

Nightſhade, for inſtance, is a name of many Plants; all of one general kind; but of moſt different virtues. There is one whoſe proper doſe is two ounces; another that can make

great

great alterations in the body by a quarter of a grain; and one whoſe roots, and ſeveral whoſe fruits, are eaten at table: therefore he who ſhould ſay, give Nightſhade in ſuch a caſe, would preſcribe under a dangerous name; till all theſe were known aſunder.

Hence alſo appears their folly (for it deſerves no better name) who would adviſe men to ſeek the virtues of Herbs merely by their forms, or characters.

We ſee, in this ſmall ſpecimen, that, among radiated Plants, one is ſtomachic, another pectoral, a third a powerful diuretic; and ſo on: yet are no Plants more naturally or juſtly joined in character than thoſe with radiated Flowers. And even, beſide all this variety of virtues; the Doronicum and ſome others of this kind are poiſonous. It is experience, not the forms of Plants, muſt lead us to the truth: but that, unleſs we are accurate, is uſeleſs.

The

The Author of theſe carefully conſidered Pages hopes, by their means, to make that accuracy eaſy, and familiar. God has given him many bleſſings; the Public are the means thro' which he has received them; and this is the return which piety and gratitude demand. For once the motive will not be miſtaken: for thoſe who ſee the nature and price of the preſent Publication, will not ſuppoſe 'tis dictated by intereſt.

FINIS.

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I N D E X,

A N D

DIRECTIONS *to the* BINDER.