

TRICKOLOGY  
OR, A  
LETTER  
OF  
ADVICE  
TO A  
*Student of Medicine.*

---

*Vivitur ex rapto ———  
Pelli leonina deficiente assuenda vulpina.  
Si mundus vult decipi, decipiatur.  
——— Ridentem dicere verum  
Quid vetat? ———*

---



---

EDINBURGH,

Printed in the Year M. DCC. XXIII.

LETTER

OF

ADVANCE

FOR

ADVANCE



ADVANCE



TRICKOLOGY,

OR, A

LETTER of Advice, &c.

SIR,

I Have frequently observed your rare Qualifications, which made me inquisitive into your Conduct, whereby I find you have applied to the Study of *Medicine*, with Design to make it your Profession and Business; which I very much applaud, because of your singular Dispositions to do well, extraordinary Application to find Objects,

A 2

and

and your frank Conversation: Which fine Accomplishments must render you notorious and conspicuous to Men of Sence, and inevitably advance your Fortune.

Having practised in Medicine of a long Time, I observe Physicians have been deficient in the Division of Medicine into five Parts. A miserable Oversight! There is a sixth, to wit, *Trickology*, which a Greek would name *Technology*, a Part by far more witty and lucrative than all the other five; which, tho' I could never attain to put in Practice, (for you know the best of Wits are incapable of some Arts) yet being of a communicative Temper, and that I may not be altogether wanting to you in an Affair of so much Importance to your Education, Interest and Reputation, I offer you a few scatter'd Thoughts on this Subject, with all possible Care and Ingenuity: Which solid and friendly Advices I am confident you'll sweetly relish and greedily imbibe, when I reflect on your undaunted Forwardness on Frugality, the  
Affluenc-

Affluence of your Talk, and the outshining Brightness of your Wit, together with your unparallel'd Conduct, which bring all your laudable Attempts to a profitable Issue. In the *First* Place, I advise you in your Travels (mind I do not say with the weaker Sort, *Studies*) chiefly to observe all the Rarities and peculiar Customs, and be much in Company to collect Plenty of surprising Stories whether true or false, whereby your Conversation thereafter shall bewitch the itching Ears of the Credulous. For which Purpose also I enjoin you not to reside long in one Place, nor to confine to an University, further than to acquire some Terms of Art, so as not to mangle them in the Pronunciation; with some Diagnosticks and Set-Forms of Receipts for simple Diseases, which I must own rarely occur; but believe me the Receipts shall pass for good Coin.

As to complicated Diseases, which happen by far more frequently, it must be confess'd there's no possible managing of them, without Knowledge of Institutions,

stitutions, Anatomy, animal Oeconomy, Aetiology, Indications, *Materia Medica*, Method of Cure, the Quantity of Medicaments, and proper Time of Administration. But this being a severe and laborious Study, I don't recommend it to you, because I know your *Ingenium* leads you to easy, speedy and compendious Courses. And since your ultimate Intent may be effectuated by Means more accessible and entertaining, it is in vain to thwart your Genius. You see how handsomly the Stock-jobbers have traded without Trade, and how quickly they have dispatcht their Affairs without Toil or Travel; how luckily they have jobbed, and how wittily they have dispos'd of, and settled their Stocks, which effectually illustrates the Possibility of expeding Business without Observance of ordinary Rules. But seeing of these, the Causes of Diseases, and the Virtues of Remedies, are most frequently on the Carpet, it is expedient you have these Words ready at Hand, a Wind, a Blood, Obstruction and Sowness of Blood.

Blood. And sometimes turn to the *Pro-cataractick*, that is, the Occasion of the Disease; but beware you meddle not with the continent Cause. For the Virtues of Remedies the following Vocables are, *Specifick*, *Carminative*, *Minorative*, *Cephalick*, *Stomachick*, *Splenick*, *Hepatick*, *Diuretick*, *Diaphoretick*, *Emetick*, *Narcotick*, *Hypnotick*, *Paregorick*. So much for *Icks*. Now for *Gogs*, *Pbleg-magog*, *Cholagog*, *Melanagog*, *Hydragog*, *Panchymagog*, *Menagog*, *Hamagog*. The *Anti's* also are very ornamental in Discourse; such as, *Antipleuritick*, *Antinephritick*, *Antiartbritick*, *Anticterick*. But with more than ordinary Virtuoso's, *Antielmintick*, *Antiphthifick*, *Antiloimick*, *Antipyretick*, *Scelotyrbick*, *Spasmodick*, *Beckick*, *Antiecliptick*, *Lithontriptick*, *Ophthalmick*, *Otagick*, *Toxick*, *Tonick*, *Topick*. There are many other *Gogs*, *Icks* and *Antis*; but these, to save you Time and Pains, are more than sufficient for accomplishing your Design. Thus you'll be thought learned with little or no Reading, and make a Figure among  
Cy-

Cyphers. *The Purblind is a King among the blind.* We find by Experience that Bunglers in all Trades work Wonders. As for the Names of Diseases, you may securely reduce all to Scurvy, Decay, Fever and Vapours; and, when upon critical Learning, derive *Agrimony*, from that it agrees with many, &c. In the Cure assume all, for if you engage not with full Assurance, you shall be deem'd quite insufficient; and pretend confidently to *Arcanums, Nostrums, Panaceas*, and *Catholicons* to sweeten the Blood; among which have a special Regard to *Sophia Chirurgorum*, to which the *Paracelsians* ascrib'd miraculous Qualities. Multiply your Patients, and magnify your Success, tho' you be scarce of the former, and most unlucky in the latter.

By which easy and accessible Means you are not incumber'd with the Pedantry of Learning. It is a senseless Mistake, and daily contradicted by Experience, That it is necessary to be a good Scholar, in order to be a rich Physician. But such



such is the different Casts of Men's Heads, that some others think that Medicine is the most difficult of Arts, and unattainable without a great many Parts of Learning, and daily Study and Application. Be you none of these pensive melancholick Bodies; you'll find the modish Wits, and most conversant Practitioners, ridicule Theory, as inaccessible and unprofitable. Get hold of some Quirks and Niceties, tho but pertaining to the Appendages of Medicine, by the displaying of which, yourself and others too shall apprehend you are more learn'd than Doctors. As I take the Matter, Learning is no more necessary to make you succesful, than Arithmetick is to one that would be rich. As the best Arithmeticians do not always multiply, so it often happens that the Quack is rewarded beyond the Doctor. Many gain considerably by this Profession, who do not understand, and disdain to read learned Books. Mean Time it is expedient that you furnish out your Shelves with a large Collection of Books, which  
 you

you may safely buy by Weight. It is no Matter what they contain, provided they be well bound, siz'd and gilded, and beware you don't fally them with your Fingers, nay not with your Breath. Nevertheless it shall ingratiate, that you have a few rare and curious Authors for a Shew, tho it be not possible for you to penetrate into the Meaning of one Line. Depend on't, that Medicine is invisible to all who have not applied to the Study of it, tho' all conceited People nibble at it. Light Heads, because they know nothing, think they know all Things; for they cannot imagine that others button or connect their Thoughts, otherwise than after the Manner they themselves do. I won't fatigue you with the Latin Adage of it. It is an admirable Expedient to consult Indexes: This is a most compendious Way; for *Authors are to be used as Lobsters, you must look for the best Meat in the Tails, and lay the Bodies back again in the Dish.*

In the *Second Place*, as to Conversation, your Inclinations, I know, lead you

you to extraordinary Frankness: You'll be in the Right not to wait for Invitations, as do the Lazy: Be at Pains to inform your self of the Meetings of great and opulent Men, and be sure at any Rate to thrust into their Company. You'll do no Good with the inferior Rank, they are not worth your While. Slip no Opportunities to display your Abilities as a Bon-companion, and your Capacities in your Occupation as a Non-such; for the Unthinking choose Physicians by their own Fancies, not by the Approbation of learned Men, and competent Judges.

Strive stoutly to be Speaker to the House, and make yourself necessary and useful in all Affairs, and never stick at Falshood and Disingenuity: A Story of Importance, or for Divertisement, tho never so false, is always very taking; and there you'll readily hear some Person's Disease mentioned; which describe at large, and with Confidence take in hand to cure. Don't you see every where covetous Knaves live on credulous Fools?

Fools? It is ten to one but there shall be an Account of some Person lately fallen sick, to whom repair with furious Speed, to prevent the Doctors (for they go not uncalled) and then inform the Patient of the Sincerity of your Friendship, and Anxiety for his Preservation, and the Speed you have made. But if you find the Patient distrust your Skill, be careful to divert him from employing the Doctor of the Country, and persuade to call some distant Physician. Thus you'll have the Physician of the Country slighted, your Reward enlarg'd, your Employment more frequent, the other being more inaccessible because of Distance. And it is little Matter how costly it be to the Patient, since it is no-wise expensive to you. Yea, tho' a Doctor is employ'd, see to possess the Patient with Apprehensions of your better Qualifications, which will be by some readily believed, and the Doctor shall be dismiss'd, especially if what has been apply'd has not given sudden Relief. Yet it is eligible first of all to extort an

In-

Invitation from some of the Friends, for then you have a Coprincipal. Be persuaded of it, that to be incessantly active after this Manner, shall prove much more beneficial than Reading and Meditation. Make as always on Expedition, *You shall be equalized to the industrious Bee, which at the same Time feeds, works and diverts itself.* You may say (as in the Fable) with the Horse-Turds floating together with Apples, *O how we Apples swim, quoth the Turds?* Or with the Fly on the Horse-Buttock, *What a Rate do I drive at?* Or with the Musician, that fancy'd he was an Organist, when he only drew the Bellows. Yea, over and above you shall be called **THE DOCTOR**, tho' truly you be nothing more than an *Abecedarian*.

Knock down the Reputation of Doctors, and you shall infallibly raise your own; so it be with Wit, no Matter with how little Justice: *A Criticism between just and unjust is but the Needle-work of idle Brains.* It is always good to be in a Road of Thriving; observe how opulent

lent they become, and how these have attained to the Character of monstrous Wits and prodigious Genius's, who build on such prudential and thrifty Foundations. You may confidently censure and prefer yourself to those whose approv'd Writings you are not capable to interpret, and tho' you have not so much real Learning *as would cover a Sixpence in the Bottom of a Bason*, or as to distinguish betwixt Axunge and exungulate. If the Doctor be older than you, whisper he is superannuated; if younger, say he is unexperienced. It is not so artful for a Man to have Merit as it is to know how to bring himself into Play. There be many Persons that cannot play well, yet can nimbly pack the Cards.

The *Os magna sonaturum*, which *Horace* makes an inestimable Qualification, may teach you not to stint your Words which cost nothing. Contrary to some out of the Way *Muto's*, who use a concise and natural Expression without Grace, Air or Ornament: They will  
not

not afford you a Word more than is significant to be intelligible, which is *as poor and niggardly, as it would be to set down no more Meat than your Company shall be sure to eat up.* You may do your Business as does the Drum, it makes a great Noise, but look into it, there is nothing; so beware they do not introspect you.

Another Piece of lucky Conduct is to insinuate into the Favour of trafficking and popular Priests, which may be most easily purchast without one Grain of Religion. The Wisdom of the Serpent has the Precedency of the Innocency of the Dove. They'll depretiate and depress your Opponents most authentically and faithfully, yea and combine against them, tho' five hundred Skins should pay for it, and they'll sound aloud your Praises to the utmost Corners of *Zion*. I can assure you their Approbation shall signify more than that of a College of Physicians: They know well how to procure you Augmentations. Implicite Faith is of a Catholick Extent,  
and

and Policy is reform'd Prudence, and still Orthodox when on the right Side.

It will prove of masculine Consequence to add to these former the Concurrence and Co-operation of the female Witlings. These have an incurable Itch to intermeddle with their secret and profound Gins. They'll subvert the most solid and lasting Foundations by their Influence on silly People, tho' often to their own Loss, for they can look no further than to Humour, or the present Conveniency; but by these well managed you shall have Perquisites in Plenty.

Moreover you'll find it expedient to negotiate with the Governors of *Gotham*; they cannot miss to influence their Pupils, and these are very numerous. The Nod of a pretending Fop easily down-weighs the Applause of Judges competent. Take Care to have your Factors and Brokers every where, but let them not seem to trade; and do as did the Ape with the Cat's Foot, which he borrow'd to take the Chestnut out of the Fire. This I perceive you incline to observe;



serve ; it is Praise-worthy. No Doubt many witty Men have copied after Brutes. The Crane clysters itself with Salt-water by the Bill.

When you can slip into Practice with a Doctor by Hook or Crook, take up with the *Major-domo* ; repudiate what the Doctor advised, tho' it be a Mixture made of twenty Ingredients, it shall be believ'd that you well know all the Ingredients, their Quantities and Virtues, and condemn and reprobate all the Druggs in the Country, except those used by yourself, and substitute other Things, whether frivolous or hurtful, were it but to interrupt the Doctor's Success. Besides, Contradiction makes Wit to shine. If the Event prove fatal, you are not seen in it ; but if prosperous, proclaim that the Cure was your's, which is a currant Wile of officious Meddlers, to the Ruin of the Patients in the first Case, and to the Reproach of the Physician in the other : Yet in such Circumstances you'll do well to regulate your Activity, by the Facility and Difficulty

culty of the Disease, lest you mistake the Cue, and if you can by Prognosticks discern that the Disease is very dangerous, remove, on pretence of greater Necessity, and never return, untill you be informed of Hopes of Recovery, and then make all Haste imaginable. But if the Disease be certainly insuperable, suffer the Doctor to be called *imprimis*, but mind always to distinguish betwixt rich and poor.

I know a Man of Craft, an incomparable Practitioner, an original Genius, to kidnap Letters, Receipts and Errand-goers, whereby he has quickly eas'd the Sick and remov'd Diseases. A piece of Vigilancy and Kindness could never be recompens'd by the Patients.

You may safely detract from the most accomplished with the unlearned, yea confidently averr he has mistaken the Disease, even tho' he has cur'd it, and say, because it is not there, it was not there: But first take Care your credulous Companions be unacquainted with him, or incline to disparage him, or keen to promote

promote your Fame and Interest. Thus, not long ago, a Doctor cured a Patient labouring of a Tumefaction, with Distention, of Belly, Breast, Face, Hands, both Legs retaining the Pit; attended with an intense Thirst, Paucity of Urine, and Difficulty of Breathing, which for Contradiction, or thro' Ignorance, the Practitioners said was no Dropsy, whereby they made Profit, and gain'd Credit; and the Cure was ascribed to them.

There's another Wile you may have sometimes Occasion for, when the Doctor misses the Cure of a Disease, tho' *per se* irrecoverable, it is an excellent Conduct to disseminate, that you, or some of your Patients, labour of the very same Disease, you may come to find no little Luck in this Cast.

In the *Third Place*, I am at a Stand how to advise you about Religion, whether Deism or Hypocrisy; I cannot tell whether is most in Fashion, but these two are the only golden ones, and both are sustained compatible with Christianity; only the most polite *Neoterick Sapientos* are those of the former: Therefore it is my Advice you disdain those *early Prejudices, the narrow Notions of Virtue and Piety*; know it is better to be a Wit than a good Christian. I am not yet convinced that a serious Sense of Religion is necessary to enrich a Physician, because it shall never make

a good Trickologist. It hath been found by Experience, *that the smallest Quantity of Religion, like a single Drop of Malt-liquor in Claret, will muddy and discompose the brightest Genius.* Religion supposes Death, Judgment, Heaven, Hell, Sacraments, the Word and Worship of GOD, and twenty other Punctilio's, which taken seriously, are an insufferable Check to Wit, Thrift and Free-thinking. But suppose Religion, you shall by Trickology do more for the Souls of your Patients than twenty Divines by Theology: You'll accelerate the Felicities of the good, and lessen the Miseries of the bad, by putting an End to their Transgressions: Show your Parts by Contempt of Religion, unless you submit to pass for an Insipid, or to be hooted at by the Wits. Religious is a scandalous Epithet of a Physician, but Atheistical is catching, *Ubi tres Medici, duo Athei*, affect Atheism, and tho' you be short of Invention, the infernal Philosopher with his Skill and Will shall be ready at hand for your Assistance, so you shall be esteemed more profound and accomplish'd than those who think with the Vulgar; but *in loco* avast, wise Pilots turn their Sails according to the Wind, which is very practicable. A Man now a-days is call'd religious, if he is but not impious, and honest, if he is not a Thief.

By these few and easy Prescriptions, managed by your superlative Genius, you shall necessarily,

cessarily, and in a short Time, arrive at the just Reward of a most profound Wit, and an inestimable Practitioner, even to shine in that Character, and then I think you'll own me to be your Benefactor, for that I shorten your Road. I don't enjoin you tedious Studies, nor severe Morals; what I recommend is exactly congenial to your Temper, and believe me you shall find your Account in it; depend on't such Conduct shall palliate a Practice repugnant to Reason, Experience, Authority, and universal Consent, yea tho' the Event prove fatal; such is the Stupidity of the many and great Beasts of the People. Thus before Detection of your Insufficiency, you shall make Money, and then the Money shall support both Person and Reputation. Consult *Boccalini's* Way of Thriving.

Give me Leave to tell you, you won't do well to take Advice from Dr. *Timothy Goodman*, he would renverse all these fine Qualifications, and give every one of them a bad Denomination: He'll call all your Dispositions deceitful, your Application, fishing of Patients, your Conversation forcing of a Trade, your Wit Knavery, your Frugality Avarice, your Talk Loquacity, your Conduct scurrilous, your Stories Lies, your Intent base, your Means fordid, your Abilities Vanities, your Assurance Impudence, your Performances pernicious, your Visits beggarly Intrusion, your Friendship Flat-

Flattery, your Speed Precipitancy, your Prudence Impudence, your Airs Buffoonry and Pageantry, your Foundations undermining, your Priests officious Meddlers, your Religion Blasphemy, your Contradictions Nonsense or Imposture, your Detractions malicious or greedy, your Kidnapping a Piece of Villainy peculiar to a finish'd Skellum, or consummated Scoundrel, your Vigilance Selfishness, your Courteousness Guile, your Success fortuitous, and your Genius damn'd; and that 'tis inconsistent that one who understands the very Elements, Principles or Foundations of Medicine, can be an Atheist.

Moreover he'll tell you, That 'tis declared by the Statutes of Physicians, that such Practitioners are Villains, Impostors and Malefactors, and not to be treated with Privileges and Immunities in Cities, and that a Doctor must not visit where another is called, without his Allowance, and that when he makes a Visit uncall'd, or gives Advice unsought, he must receive no Reward; and that Physicians should be modest, studious and conscientious; and that *Hippocrates* says, *Physicians are not much exercised in Talk.*

But I tell you, Modesty is Melancholy, Study is Pedantry, and Honesty is a starving Notion. Be assur'd of it, that it is much more lucrative to act the Quack than to act the Doctor, for the Doctor must sacredly observe a  
great

great many pinching Principles and Statutes; all which the Quack doth wisely repudiate, as lazy, supercilious and unprofitable. Do but pretend, and you shall be sustain'd, tho' all Mankind acknowledge that no Society, no not that of the meanest Artificers, can subsist without their peculiar Laws; yet the necessary Observance of Physicians Statutes fram'd for the Preservation of Life and Health, Blessings preferable to all sublunary, is not regarded, neither are the pernicious Effects of Indistinction discerned but by very few, so you may transgress them all *pro re nata*, and go unpunish'd *ad vitam*.

Take Care however to manage with an undiscoverable Dexterity, otherwise you are undone; for, besides the Ruin of Fame, it may happen, upon Discovery, that a formal Complaint be made to Judges competent: Mind that 'tis incumbent on the Physicians of a Country to undeceive, by detecting such Impostors; yet you'll find it easy to make the unthinking construct a Man invidious who makes such Discoveries, for they know nothing of Rules and Laws made, to be observed by Physicians for the Benefit of the Sick, and conceited Men will prefer their own private Choices, Fancies and Politicks to the concerted and deliberate Constitutions of Judges competent and establish'd; for they can see no further than the first Consequent.

I give

✓ I give you but short Hints, knowing well the exuberant Fertility of your unparallelable Invention to improve upon, and enlarge each of these Advices, and to fabricate a thousand such polite Devices, which makes me confident that you'll approve of *Trickology*, and allow that I have prov'd to a Demonstration, that it is the best Part of Medicine, wherein I acknowledge I ow Assistance to my nearest Neighbour: It is infallibly the shortest Climax or Gradation whereby to ascend to Splendor and Wealth.

I would have interlarded this Epistle with many authentick *Laconisms*, such as,

----- *Abite pudor, verumque fidesque;*  
*In vestrum subeantque locum fraudesque, dolique,*  
*Insidiaeque, & vis & amor sceleratus habendi.*

but I know it would be superfluous to inculcate so good and wholesome Advices, to which you are so prone and eager; neither do I judge it convenient to fatigue you with a Dictionary, lest such pedantick Conceits should divert you from your substantial Concerns. Go on and prosper, and, if you please, believe that I am,

S I R,

Your most humble Servant.

----- *Si quid novisti rectius istis,*  
*Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum.*



7. W.  
30. 131

