Preliminary Lectures

Gentlemen

My design here is to explain the Practice of Physic, which is the art of preserving health, prolonging Life & Curing Diseases.

For Which Branch I hope that all your former Colledges & other Branches of Medicine have sufficiently prepared you. –

I shall first then as is the Custon give you some Preliminary Lectures. –
The Utility of this art has never been called in question or doubted of, For what can be more usefull than that art which teaches to preserve health, by Preventing and Curing Diseases. –

Much Wit indeed, & criticism has at all times & in all ages, been exerted against our profession, but that has always been chiefly aimed at certain ignorant Physicians Professors in the art, more than at y^e. [the] Science of Physick itself. Some of its professors are Gentlemen of Honour, Modesty, candour, integrity & cet. [et cetera] but in this as in other Societys of men, these do not make the most numerous part, of it. Others again have professed this art to cloak ignorance, & cover their [I] their poverty. – Physicians are much Raged against, thus in a dramatic performance, they are always treated as solemn coxcombs & fools, but this is levell’d at Particular persons Professors of the art, & not at Physicians in general. –

If a Gentelman is for studying a liberal art he cannot choose a better than y^e. [that] of Physick, which is one of y^e. most liberal arts y^e. can be professed.

In order to understand aright y^e. Practice of Physick, a knowledge of y^e. natural arts is necessary, such as Mathematics, Mechanics, natural Phylosophy, Metaphysicks & also the other Branches of Medicine, as Anatomy, Chymistry, Materia Medica, & there is an absolute necessity for an aquaintance w^ [with] y^e. Latine, Greek, & French Languages.

No Art requires a more liberal accomplishmment than that of Physick. –

This Art has flourished most in y^e. British Dominions, where it has been more regarded than in any other places of the Universe. –

Besides the utility of this art to mankind, it 1st. [first] presents us w^ an ample feild for improvement and 2dly. [secondly] furnishes us w^ an extensive feild for [II] exerting our humanity, Charity & cet. it is an excellent Subject for y^e. Human mind to work upon. To do mearly as one man should do to another, also to display his good nature, patience, honesty, & Charity towards his Brethren of Mankind. –

Physicians have often been considered as hard hearted, for this reason. Because they have so often & so many oppertunities of Considering & being involved in human misery, that at last they grow insensible to any Human affection, but this Supposition is often false & ill grounded, yet on the other hand a Physician ought not to be too tender hearted, as it will be both much to his own prejudice, & his patients hurt.

Medicine has by some been divided into two parts. – 1st. An Art for preserving y^e. Health of Mankind,