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SUMMARY: Dedicatory epistle to Oxford in George Baker's 1599 publication *The Practice of the New and Old Physic*, a second edition under a new title of Baker's 1576 *The New Jewel of Health*. The dedication in this second edition is very similar to Baker's earlier dedication in the 1576 edition to Anne, Countess of Oxford, who had died in 1588. At the time of the second edition, Baker was physician to the Queen.

To the right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of  
England, my singular good Lord

It is written, right honourable and my singular good Lord, that Philip, King of Macedonia, rejoiced greatly when his son Alexander was born because his empire should not lack a governor after his death, but herein he rejoiced much more, that his son was born in the time of Aristotle, that learned philosopher, by whom he was taught and instructed ten years. And in like manner it fareth now with me as with the King of Macedonia, and no less is my joy than the delight of that mighty prince. Herein I do rejoice, that this work of distillation is now finished to the profit of my county, wherein great study and long labour hath been earnestly bestowed. But I rejoice much more that it is finished in the time of you, my honourable and good Lord, to whose learned view and favourable protection I offer this book as a due testimony of my serviceable heart and as some fruits of my poor painful study and practice, wishing that it were in value countervailable to the worthiness of your so honourable expectation, so as every line, in respect of my love, might supply a million of gold, albeit you have no need of gold, abounding honourably in all riches. For what is it to have lands and houses, to abound in silver and gold, to be decked with pearls and diamonds, yea, to possess the whole world and lack health, the principal jewel? Not without cause therefore, Agamemnon, the wise and famous captain of the Greeks, did highly esteem and reward Machaon and Podalirius, by whose cunning skill in chirurgery thousands worthy Greeks were saved alive and healed which else had died and perished. But why do I here name Agamemnon or the Greeks whenas no age can be without physic, no person can live without chirurgery, no country can miss these noble mysteries? Wherefore I at this time, to pleasure my country and friends, have published this work under your honourable protection, that it may more easily be defended against sycophants and fault-finders because your wit, learning and authority hath great force and strength in repressing the curious crakes of the envious and bleating babes of Momus' charm.

Your Honour's forever to command,  
George Baker