

Appendix 5.5: Review in *The New Annual Register* (1789)

[p. 276]

“The Botanic Garden, Part II. containing the Loves of the Plants, a Poem,” is a performance singularly novel, entertaining, and instructive. The general design of it is “to enlist Imagination under the banner of Science, and to lead her votaries from the looser analogies, which dress out the imagery of poetry, to the stricter ones, which form the ratiocination of philosophy. The particular design is to induce the ingenious to cultivate the knowledge of botany; by introducing them to the vestibule of that delightful science, and recommending to their attention the immortal works of the celebrated Swedish naturalist, Linnæus.”¹ The publication of the first part of this work which is to treat of the œconomy of vegetables, is deferred to another year, for the purpose of repeating some experiments. In the part now before us, the sexual system of Linnæus is explained, with the remarkable properties of many particular plants. It was with uncommon pleasure that we followed the author through the cantos of this agreeable poem, which is rendered exceedingly interesting by lively descriptions, beautiful allusions both to classic fable, and to modern persons, manners and inventions, and a great variety of collateral, poetical ornaments. The author likewise, hath discovered his learning, judgment, and taste, in the notes which are subjoined to this

[p. 277]

poem; and in different prose interludes which he hath introduced between the cantos.

¹ This quotation, and the paraphrases in the next two sentences, are taken from *LOTP*, Advertisement.