

Answer for the junior members of the Royal College of Surgeons, of Edinburgh, to the Memorial of Dr James Gregory / [John Bell].

Contributors

Gregory James, 1753-1821.

Bell John, 1763-1820.

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Publication/Creation

Edinburgh : printed for Peter Hill, 1800.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a7pd4npf>

Provider

Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh

License and attribution

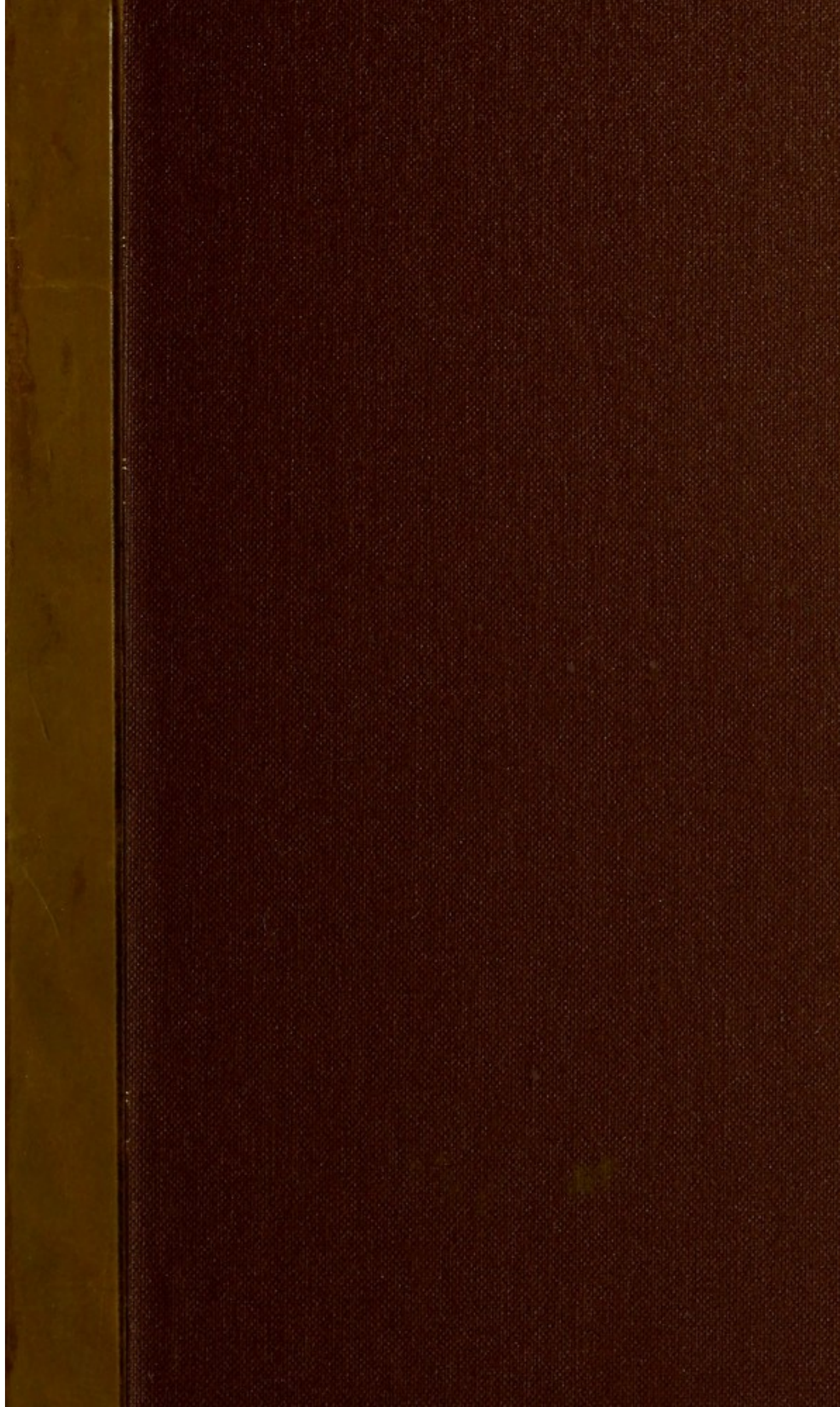
This material has been provided by This material has been provided by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. The original may be consulted at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. where the originals may be consulted.

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>





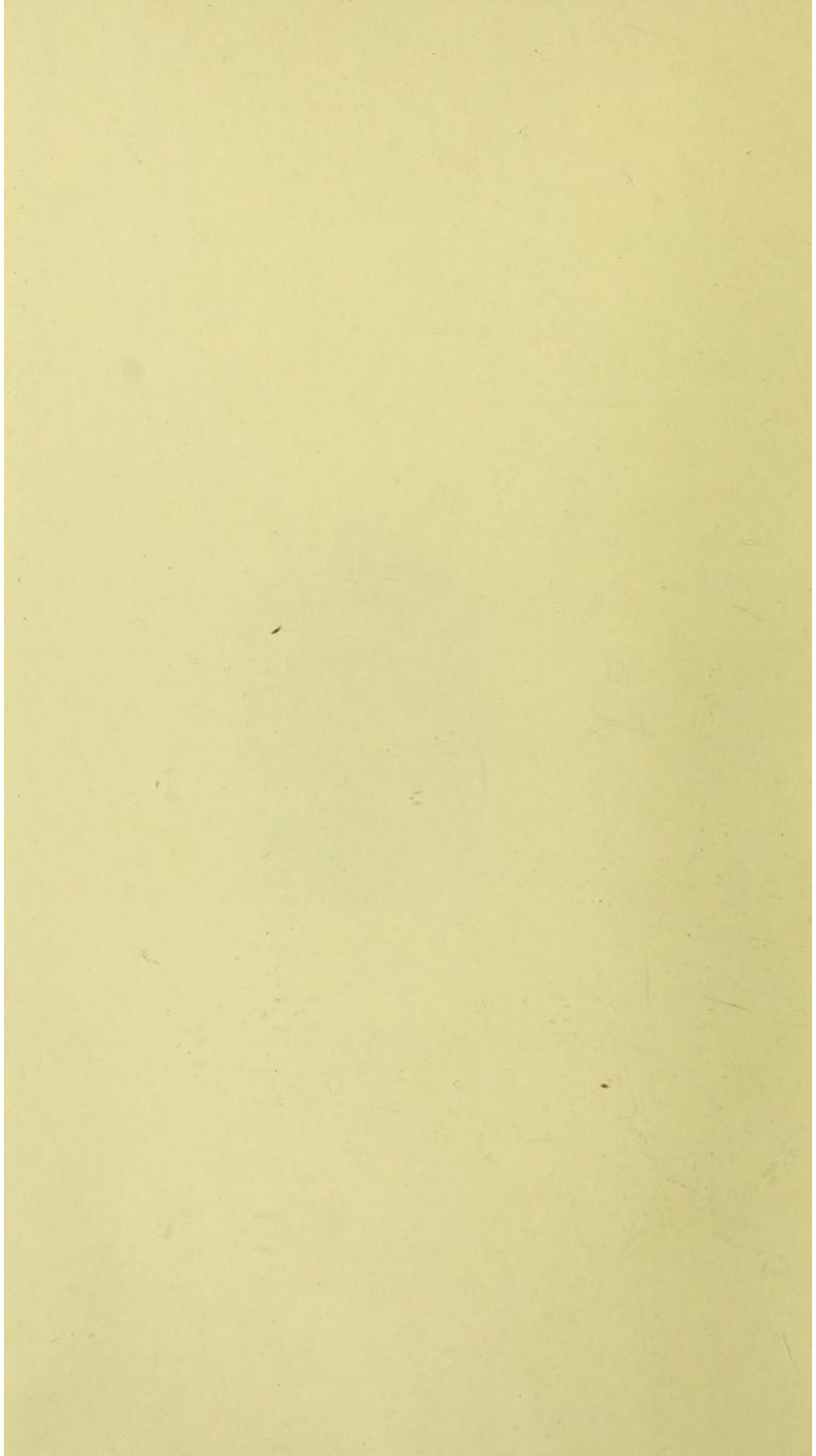
E8.27

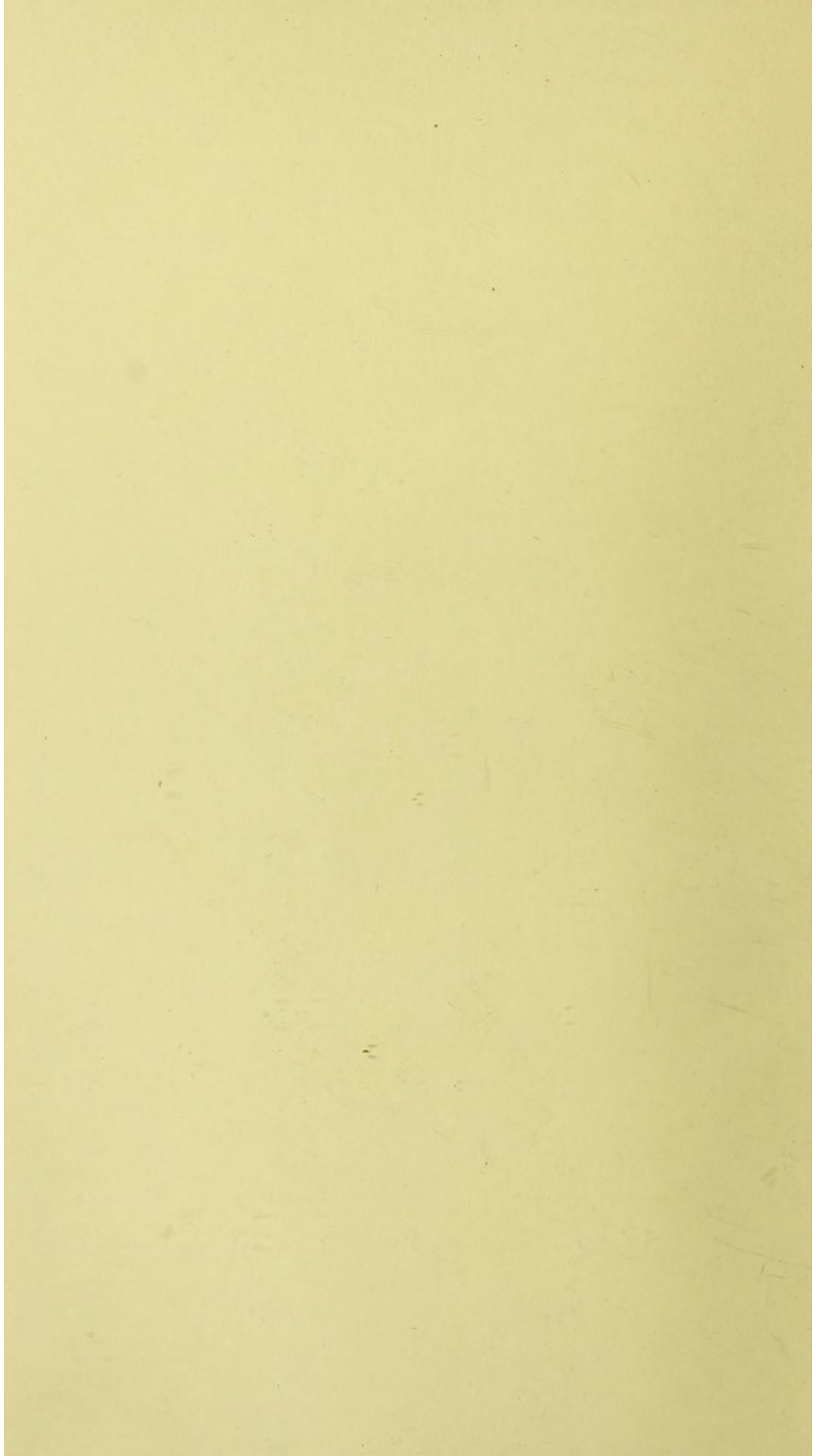
R24830



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

<https://archive.org/details/b21689799>





ANSWER
FOR
THE JUNIOR MEMBERS
OF
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,
OF
EDINBURGH,

TO
THE MEMORIAL
OF
DR JAMES GREGORY,
PROFESSOR OF THE PRACTICE OF PHYSIC IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,
—PHYSICIAN TO THE KING FOR SCOTLAND,—AND ONE OF THE MA-
NAGERS OF THE ROYAL INFIRMARY OF THIS CITY.

Vester porro labor facundior.
———Petit hic plus temporis atque olei plus,
Namque oblita modi millesima pagina surgit
Omnibus, et crescit multa damnoſa papyro.
Sic ingens rerum numerus jubet atque operum lex.

13107H
COLL. REG.
MED. EDIN.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED FOR PETER HILL, EDINBURGH:
AND
CADELL & DAVIES,—AND LONGMAN & REES, LONDON,
By J. Pillans & Sons,—and by Ruthven & Sons.

1800.

THE JOURNAL OF THE

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE following request was presented to MR BELL, as the oldest
of the Junior Surgeons.

August 9. 1800.

*At a MEETING of the JUNIOR MEMBERS of the ROYAL COL-
LEGE of SURGEONS, it was Resolved,*

*That Mr John Bell be requested to draw up an Answer to Dr Gre-
gory's Memorial, to be presented to the Managers of the Royal Infirmary
at their first meeting, for the purpose of doing away those gross misrep-
sentations of the character and conduct of the Younger Surgeons, contain-
ed in the said Memorial.*

*That the manner in which this Memorial shall be drawn up, shall be
left entirely to Mr Bell's discretion and good sense, subject only to their
revisal before it be presented.*

By appointment of the Meeting,

WALTER HARKNESS.

AFTER the Royal College of Surgeons had decided on this interest-
ing Professional Question, Mr Bell thought proper to address the
following Letter to each of the Gentlemen who had done him the
honour of appointing him to perform this duty.

S I R,

*HAVING now finished the task which you, along
with some other Gentlemen of the College, did me the honour to assign me, I
have taken from my scrutore, the letter in which your general request is con-
veyed, and I find that it was the design of the Gentlemen associated on*

that occasion, that the *Answer to Dr Gregory's Memorial*, and to the "gross misrepresentations of the character and conduct of the Younger Surgeons," should be presented before the first meeting of the Managers of the Royal Infirmary.

Several meetings of the Managers have passed over since I undertook this unpleasant task. The opinion of the Profession has been publicly and strongly expressed. The constitutional point has been decided by repeated votes of the Royal College of Surgeons; and I cannot but suppose your resolutions somewhat affected by the change of circumstances. The first alarm and confusion has subsided, and it is not natural for you to obtrude your name upon the public, for the mere purpose of resenting the indignities done to the Profession.

Your privileges, as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, are now ascertained, both by the votes of the College, and by the genteel and liberal conduct of the Managers. Here, then, my delegated office must naturally cease; and nothing remains but to return thanks for the honour you designed me, of acknowledging any Memorial I might be able to compose.

I find, upon looking over my papers, that I have composed a Memorial, too long and too adventurous for the occasion, and am now to decide, according to the dictates of my own discretion and prudence, whether it shall ever see the light. Much is due to our insulted Profession, and something to my own private character, which stands pledged, in some degree, for an Answer to one of the most wanton, daring, and illiberal attacks, that ever was made upon any Profession.

Far from supporting myself with your name, I shall do nothing but with the advice and consent of my private friends; the sentiments expressed in your letter, persuade me that I am engaged in no dishonourable cause; and in a right and honest cause I have no personal fear. Although it was at your request I undertook this un-

*gracious task, I beg you will be under no uneasiness about my safety.
Honour me, Sir, once more with your confidence, so far as to be-
lieve, that should I publish, the things I shall say without the autho-
rity of your name, will not dishonour our common Profession.*

With all possible respect and duty, I remain,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

JOHN BELL.

My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the matter of the
estate of the late John Smith, deceased, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper
authorities for their consideration.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. H. Smith

John H. Smith, Esq.,
New York City.

JOHN H. SMITH, Esq.,
New York City.

ADDRESS

ON THE PART OF THE YOUNG SURGEONS,

TO

THE HONOURABLE THE MANAGERS OF THE ROYAL INFIRMARY
OF THIS CITY.

*Quid iste fert tumultus—et quid omnium
Vultus in unum me truces.*

WITHOUT the consciousness of any fault, without the will to offend, or any occasion of offending, we find ourselves called before that tribunal, from which there is no appeal. We are accused, in terms peculiarly rude and disrespectful, of faults discreditable to our profession, and ruinous to a most noble charity; and we are accused in presence of our fellow-citizens, by whom we should be received with affection and confidence. This is no private cause: professional men, in all parts of the world, will judge us; for they are not refused the pleasure of reading the brilliant memorial. The former companions of our studies will wonder what is become of our boasted school; they will wonder to see the manners, the learning, too, of the city they once lived in, so changed; they will be shocked, to see young men humbled and tamed to chastisement like this.

We are members of a public body; and a public body of men, even of the lowest order, will demand respect: but when the cause of a profession, and of science, is involved,

what wise man would proceed to public accusation, without caution and delicacy bordering on fear. This gentleman has violated all the decencies and proprieties of life; as if he had belonged to a condition of life in which they were not valued, or to a profession in which they were unknown. He mocks at all dignity, at all semblance of science, at all professional skill, faith, honesty, or honour; and we and our cruelties are his constant theme. Never was a memorial, so triumphantly insulting, addressed to a college, to a profession, to any general body of men. When we heard of this memorial we had presentiments of no pleasing nature; when we opened the volume, those forebodings were awfully fulfilled.

That such a memorial should, on such an occasion, be sent abroad to the world by the first professor of our medical school, is ominous to learning. The sentiments, the design, the language of this memorial, are such as set us free from all restraint; at least from the restraint of concealing the want of candour or goodness in the author, the want even of skill to work his work of unkindness and cruelty. Your institution is misrepresented, your surgeons reviled, and our profession most cruelly traduced, with this only extenuation, that the liberal author has not even spared his own. And this memorial is full of things which we will not, nor cannot repeat: yet needs not the author be in any fear, that he shall want readers to rehearse and praise his lively exploits against the cruel trade of surgery. The man who traduces a profession, like him who reviles religion, or adds to national prejudices wit, or the semblance of wit, has a powerful influence over certain minds. The author's simi-

les and facetious tales are familiar to the ear, and congenial with the taste and genius of those who will most readily repeat them. The simile of Daniel in the lions den, the learned ox, or the unrelenting Jew, will, we doubt not, be remembered, when the memorial and the memorialist have fallen into oblivion.

“ Ah ! who could fail, that shot with shafts like these.”

To you, Gentlemen, the managers of this noble charity, to our profession, to the companions of our former studies, and to our fellow-citizens, we address this defence. Would we could learn the opinions of impartial men, that we might make the public feeling the just measure of our resentment, or that we could attain that impartiality which parties can never feel. But when a man enters publicly into a cause, where his interests and passions, and most of all, his good name are in danger ; he is upon a troubled sea, whose billows will not be restrained ! who shall say, “ Thus far shalt thou go.” No safety then is left, “ but to beware of entrance into quarrels ; but, being in, bear thyself so that the opposer may beware of thee.”

You are the delegates of the public, and the guardians of this noble charity ; to you we appeal : you know how we are insulted ; you will allow retaliation, though you should not approve revenge. We must repel insults hitherto unknown in other professions, and ruinous in ours ; but we hope always to remember, that we are in the presence of those for whom we have a habitual well-founded respect.

These expressions may seem cold and merely respectful ; but the public knows with what dignity you have fulfilled your duties, with how much delicacy you have conducted

yourselves towards us and our interests, and the interest of the public school of medicine. Warmer sentiments we might express with truth: but we stand upon our defence, we are accused, and the language of truth and sincere attachment might be construed into adulation; and the language of adulation would be imputed to us as the sign of guilt or fear.

Of what fear, of what guilt should we be accused? Of neglecting those professional attainments which are to be our sole support in the difficulties and struggles of life? of being dead to the common charities of our nature? No, Gentlemen, we will not condescend to plead to such a charge: in your school, under your own eye, have we been educated in that profession which inspires humane sentiments: worthless, indeed, would that mind be, which could witness all the varieties of human wretchedness, without learning to have pity and compassion. These are sentiments which, once raised in the mind, do not easily expire. There is an inward pleasure and self-gratulation attending these best propensities of our nature, which no man, who has once known them, would forego: they grow continually, and increase in strength. The callous feelings of our profession are mentioned only by those whose prejudices we can most easily excuse.

Our professional talents, our education, our duties, and the endeavours we have made to fulfil them, we submit willingly to the public judgment; but to these accusations we cannot plead. Better we were ignorant of our profession, than wanting in those feelings which should accompany us into every house of mourning; especially into that asylum where the widow, the fatherless, and the poor are brought

in time of sickness. In the vestibule of your hospital is set up the bust of its founder, honoured with the name of Benefactor to his Country, and there we read, in the simple words of scripture, the prayer of the distressed, "As you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me." Wherever we turn, it is towards objects of compassion: we must improve in those kind and natural offices, and that inward sentiment, which sanctifies even the harshness of our severest duties. We are not, we cannot be insensible to the sufferings of our fellow-creatures: we pretend to no finer feelings than nature has implanted in every common breast; "but we are accustomed to see people, once the gay and the happy, sunk in deep, retired distress: sometimes devoted to a certain, but painful and lingering death; sometimes struggling with bodily anguish, or the still fiercer tortures of the mind *." We venerate the miseries of our fellow-creatures, and the profession that brings relief; and we revere the man, who, while he speaks to us of our duties, recalls the best feelings of our nature.

We are represented as unfeeling, cruel men; claiming that privilege which a humane person would abhor. We are represented saying, in the words of the unrelenting Jew, "This is my bond; I stand upon my bond:" though your institution may be disgraced by our misconduct, and charity plainly abused, yet the hospital is ours; this is our privilege, we will maintain the validity of our agreement; our bond is our privilege, "we stand upon our bond." No, Gentlemen, this house is no property of ours, nor of yours; it is the liberal bequest of the affluent and the happy, to those who

* Dr Gregory, the Father's Duties of a Physician.

are poor and in distress. The inhabitants of this city are not the revolving mob of a commercial capital : in our more limited and regular society, every man is known and has his station, and feels and judges for the honour of his native place ; and never, perhaps, was there an appeal so rude on so affecting a subject. The inhabitants of this city have laboured for more than fifty years to establish a happy and safe asylum for poverty and sickness : from year to year there are new calls on their generosity, and they are not displeased, since, under your care, this hospital has been a blessing to the country, and its pride. But now, as if a physician were to run through the circle of a sick man's friends, and to tell them, that he were falling a victim to the ignorance of unprincipled, uneducated men ; the inhabitants of this city are told, that unheard-of cruelties are practised on the poor ; that the chief duties of your hospital are administered by very young men, incapable, inexperienced, ignorant in their profession ; who make a trade of blood, who have bought their right with a piece of money, who say, like the cruel Jew, " We will have the bond ; we stand upon the bond ! "

The scene, which is most falsely represented, is fifty years of cool deliberate devastation, the rights of humanity violated, a great charity wantonly, aye wantonly abused. It is a scene, which no inhabitant of this city can contemplate without horror, nor believe without deep feelings of resentment.

Why has he done this ? Is not Dr Gregory one of your number, having every access to your meetings, with every private opportunity of presenting his thoughts and enforcing what he thinks good ? Is he not the hereditary Professor of

the Practice of Physic in this city, whose slightest word could command attention? Why has he not done this deed of charity in the privacy of your meetings, and gained, without ostentation, the sincere approbation of good men? why has he tortured the public mind with needless relations of fictitious or of real misery? But he who can heap unfeelingly jest on jest, and sport with the respectability of a profession, and with the sacredness of misery, need not reply! He hath no feeling for his brother; "he is glad at calamity, and hateth the poor."

Why has he done this? Has his mind been thus keenly touched, almost disordered, at the miseries of his fellow-creatures? No, no! his strong sensibilities we hold but lightly: He never passed a sleepless night, reflecting what was to be done on the morrow; never witnessed the severities of the surgeon; never strained hard his breath, nor involuntarily clenched his hands at the sight of another's agony; nor blanched with fear, nor felt the palpitations of anxiety, in the midst of an eventful operation? Let a man feel the things he can feel, and his sensibilities will be applauded. This sensibility is not of the right stamp: he coolly collects his jests, when he would be witty; and as coolly strains out a lamentation, when he would be thought humane. "Is it not monstrous, that this player here, but in a fiction, in a dream of passion, could force his soul so to his own conceit, that, from this working, all his visage wanned, tears in his eyes, distraction in his aspect, a broken voice, and his whole function suiting with forms to his conceit? and all for nothing, for Hecuba: what's Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba, that he should weep?"

This Gentleman, who is pleased to take us and our private matters, and you and your hospital, and the poor of this city, into his care---has resolved to display talents, and feelings, and proofs, and reasonings which should astonish the world; and he has so succeeded, that we cannot envy him his success. Abilities, we now perceive, should be reckoned, not the essentials of a profession, but its ornaments and its safeguards, to fence it round from the attacks of malice and reproach. But his talents are of a peculiar kind. He boasts of those chiefly which have no relation to the art of medicine, or the affairs of life! which are useless to his profession, dangerous to science, terrible to all but his enemies, and invariably fatal to every good cause he has the cruelty to espouse!

Of this aggressor against us and our profession we will speak freely, not uncharitably; "for though we have some grace, yet have we some revenge." There never was a time, when it was more necessary for men, in high and responsible stations, to be an example to youth, to repress licentiousness, and to maintain their own dignified station. We appeal to you, Gentlemen, to the world, and especially to our profession: what must be now the conversation of our fellow-citizens, of our friends, of our apprentices, of the pupils of this school! If there were disorders in your hospital, it would not have been unworthy of the first man in this city, to have stepped forward, with a generous disregard of personal interests, to explain the cause in a private memorial, respectful, sensible, and truly humane. If there were no directors of this hospital, to receive advice, with will and power to enforce every needful reform: If advice was disregarded, charity still abused, and the poor

neglected in their sickness,---such offences would have been a theme to win golden opinions of all kinds of people. But strict morality should have been the sole motive for the accusation; and serious, affecting pleadings, should have supported the charge: severity should seem painful; impartiality, good faith, and pure, unblemished honour, should shine through every public exertion in a public cause.

To you, Gentlemen, this is but a Memorial, which you are bound to neglect, which you cannot but despise; but to us it is a formal indictment; not of imprudence or ignorance, but of professional murders. The young surgeon is still compared with the vindictive Jew, who stands for law, who claims his bond, the very forfeit of his bond! But when it was the pleasure of this severe judge to place himself in the seat of justice, "He should have thought of that mercy, which droppeth as the gentle dew from heaven, twice blessed; it blesteth him that gives, and him that takes."

Is this the advocate for charity and mercy? Where are those pleadings, which should win the heart, and delude the judgement? He has published a volume, who should have presented to you only a few pages: his denunciations are against a profession, which he should have regarded as part of his own: he has said things which tend only to discord, when he should have assumed the blessed office of a mediator; and has divided the surgeons and the managers, the young and the old, whose honour it is to be joined: he has gathered jests to provoke the skittish fancy, when he should have composed serious and affecting pleadings, which might reach the heart: he has not respected the feelings of his fellow-citizens, but has brought home unusual, and sad

impressions, to the breast of every thinking and feeling man : faults he has taken a pleasure in representing as crimes. The errors of your institution he has not spoken of in the mild spirit of charity, like one desirous of reform ; but as if he were come from another world, to tell the secrets of the prison-house ; or as if, inspired with enthusiasm, he were relating revolutionary horrors, and cruelties which could not be concealed.

In the national councils of the Germans, as we are informed by Tacitus, when they were to consider how any important matter was to be carried, they entered into council, and discussed the question twice : once drunk, that it might not want spirit ; and once sober, that it might not want wisdom. But this author seems to be in a permanent condition of dispensing with the first part of the Teutonic ordinance, and he disregards the second. He has forsaken the ceremonial of the north, for the more congenial practice of the Mallay, who, when revolving any desperate achievement, “ when his mind is overcast with that gloomy spirit which presages some horrid attempt*,” takes opium, and when he feels himself infuriated with the dose, draws his kris, and running out into the streets of the city, spares no unfortunate soul that stands in his way.

* “ Not having in me the perfect spirit of prophecy, *but only that imperfect gloomy kind of it* which is common in this country, and well known by the name of the second sight, I cannot foresee distinctly what my reward will be for *all my wisdom, and virtue, and self-denial, and delicacy, towards the angry Knights of the Scalpel ;* and for all the pains that I have taken to shew, that, though they are no better, they are no worse than others of the medical profession.”

SECTION I.

REVIEW OF THE MEMORIAL OF DR GREGORY.

Totum muneris hoc tui est,
Quod monstror digito prætereuntium.

If Addison's definition of taste be true, that it is "the faculty of the soul which discerns the beauties of an author with pleasure, and the imperfections with dislike," we must confess, that in reading over this memorial, we seem to have lost the better half of this fine faculty of the soul; but the other half of the faculty, as is usual with the grosser senses, has received an increase of strength. To pursue the metaphor of this ingenious, and liberal scholar, we shall read this memorial, as he recommends to us, "aloud, that we may distinguish, if we may be allowed the expression, the specific qualities of the author." This word specific, as it applies to a medical memorial of so peculiar a nature, is of happy import: we do not mean to say, that specific necessarily implies malignant; as we say specific acrimonies, specific poisons. Beauties may with the strictest propriety be named specific: we will then proceed to taste the specific beauties of our author.

We read this memorial with that intense and unremitting rapidity which its peculiar nature requires; and before we were aware of any specific effects, had received its full influence. The first sensations were indescribable. We felt such a confusion of ideas, as no laws of criticism, nor any thing we had ever felt before, could explain; the effect was

so specific, that we impute it, with a safe conscience, to some supernatural power. It is not the groups moving to and fro, the fantastic and monstrous combinations, the rapid succession of unusual objects, the turbulence of the whole scene, that perturbs the imagination. There is an irresistible vertical commotion of sensations and ideas, producing a degree of confusion which no ordinary head can withstand. We are sensible this must be a specific quality of the author; we can impute this quality to no other cause, but his deep learning: perhaps he has even ventured on Alchemical and Cabalistical studies: it is some influence, similar to that which was practised, in former days, by a great Arabian physician on the Caliph of Bagdat.

“ This physician, who was celebrated for his skill in the occult sciences, took the Caliph into a private chamber of his palace, which had windows looking to the city; and while all his courtiers stood around him, he made the prince plunge his head into a tub of water. The Caliph, in a moment, found himself naked and destitute, in a strange country, where he betook himself to the meanest employments for support. He married, and had a family of children, and fell into great poverty, and had lived seven long years in this condition, when one day, as he was walking on the sea shore, with his axe and ropes in his hand, thinking how he should earn food for his children, he became disconsolate, and threw himself into the sea. The moment he did so, recovering his former person again, he found himself standing before the tub of water, surrounded by his courtiers! He seized the physician by the beard, accused him of what he had done to him, and related his long and melan-

choly life to the astonished courtiers, who could not persuade the Caliph, that they had never moved, and that he had but plunged his head into the tub of this wonderful magician." Our sensations have been sudden and surprising as those of the Caliph; we have felt as if deprived, and plunged, by magical influence, into another state of being; hewing of wood, and drawing of water in some unknown country; wandering disconsolate on the sea shore, thinking of our former condition, with the axe and bundle of ropes in our hand, to help us to gain our bread. Such were our first sensations on reading this memorial.

Willing to give his memorial all the effects of a regular drama, the author first marks out some very principal characters; then assigns to the managers, and the royal college, their places on the stage; and then assembles a suitable chorus to dance round them, to hear the narrative of the drama, and to accompany its several scenes, with such natural and pathetic reflections as arise out of the incidents of the fable. When this chorus first appears upon the stage*, we find it consist, of "lawyers and wig makers,—shoe makers and tailors,—milliners,—cooks,—fiddlers,—dancing-masters,—postillions, and physicians." Dr Gregory chooses to fill the stage, because, as Bayes observes, "Heroic things never sound well, except when the stage is full." All the moralities of life are thus collected into one focus: the assemblage of trades and callings gives the author an opportunity of drawing various brilliant illustrations from the language and customs of their respective occupations. Like the Greek chorus, his never leaves the stage; nor does our

author himself ever depart from their natural sentiments and expressions : It is the preponderancy of this chorus that gives such admirable unity and consistency to the piece. We cannot recollect, that in the whole of the narrative or episode, (as there are many episodes) of this drama, he has one reflexion unbecoming this illustrious assembly of personages.

Nor would we insinuate that the chorus is any way imperfect. It is unlimited in respect of number, as, at a certain period, it was on the Athenian stage. Although our author introduces, at first, "only the lawyers, wigmakers, shoemakers, and tailors, milliners, cooks, and fiddlers, dancing-masters, postilions, and physicians ;" yet does he, at an after period *, introduce among them "the grocers, fiddlers, painters, and tailors respectively ;" and, at last, with no small solemnity, he ushers in "the tanners, the butchers, the melancholy ox, and his Newfoundland dog !" who, albeit unused to such a presence, performs his part with unexceptionable gravity, and seems to regard himself as no ordinary person's dog †.

That the dog should be introduced, merely to group with the tanner, the ox, and the butcher, or to speak his part in the chorus, did not seem likely ; yet we could not account otherwise for his appearance upon the stage, till we recollected the adventure of Alcibiades's dog ; for Alcibiades

* Page 71.

† Vous Seul—

Viendrez régler les droits et l'état d'Appollon ;

Mais vous qui raffinez sur les écrits des autres,

De quel œil pensez-vous qu'on regard le votres ?

Il n'est rien en ces temps, à couvert de vos coups.

Mais savez-vous aussi comme on parle de vous ?

courted popularity in Athens with all kinds of expedients, and walked the streets with so disorderly an air, that the more discerning were used to say, "that youth, who walks the streets so carelessly, must either be a fool or a very great man." After all the more natural expedients were exhausted, Alcibiades became afraid, lest the loungers of the porticoes and statuary shops should want something to say of him. Having a beautiful spaniel, he cut off the faithful creature's tail, that they might wonder at Alcibiades and his dog.

There is no specific quality of our author, or rather no phenomenon of his great mind, so awful to those who stand in the condition of culprits before him, as the facility with which he brings the gigantic force of his abilities, the several radiations of his unlimited knowledge in logic, law, and metaphysics to bear upon the question. It is especially awful, to see the power with which he works and turns the most ponderous engines of the law; "for he knows, and is well aware likewise, that the general principles of good logical reasoning are, and must be, at all times, the same, and on all subjects whatever; for example, the same in Scotch law at present, as in Greek mathematics 2000 years ago. And likewise he knows that, except in mathematical science, there is no subject of reasoning, in which the real use and strict application of the principles of logic have been so well exemplified, and so much attended to, as in law." "These preliminaries I have premised (says the memorialist, *i. e.* the premises, being as it were premised,) before I state logically that argument which I cannot *state legally*! Why for a ducat! for want of knowledge of the law."---* Yet he

proceeds to give proof of that concentration of abilities, and that natural relation, and alliance, and union of all the sciences, which the world will admire, and which we are bound to feel, and to lament. Nothing from this moment occupied our minds but fear: we witnessed the grounds, laws, and ordinances, and ultimate general principles of sound logical reasoning laid down; the syllogisms were mentioned: we saw a solemnity of preparation which might appal the bravest.

Knowing us to be ignorant (as God knows we are,) of many of these things, and wishing that we might undergo his operations with decent fortitude, he, first, in character of chief logician, teaches us to frame a syllogism, and tells us how it is composed of two parts or propositions, the major and the minor proposition; just like an axe and its handle, or a bow-string and a bow; proving, that in the hands of a good logician, who knows how to fit the major and the minor parts into one another, and to draw the bow-string, it is as sudden in its operation as the engine of a Turkish mute.

Next, like one who delights in cruelties, he is in haste to demonstrate the force of his engine: he twists a syllogism round the neck of the young surgeon, and with a few dextrous pulls makes all the blood of his body rise to his face! and proves to a demonstration, that except one (which we may be pardoned mentioning) there is not in the power of the law, another engine so formidable, and of so torturing a nature as this same syllogism, as old as the Greek mathematics, and as cruel as the "*Criminal Law of Scotland.*"

Next, though he had, from modesty, disclaimed all legal knowledge, he demonstrates this perfect learning in the law,

by showing how this law engine, the simple fyllogism, may not only stop a man's succession and inheritance, but his breath. To prove this, he describes next a form of the engine, familiar in all countries, which is called Libel in England, and Indictment in Scotland. But this is a fyllogism of such a ponderous form, that it takes at least fifteen able men to work the levers. Of this engine too, he conveys to us a perfect idea, by converting the simple scholastic fyllogism into the great logical law fyllogism, or Libel.

"In nostros fabricata est machina muros."

He teaches, with great accuracy, how to frame the INDICTMENT; and the form he chooses is peculiarly suited to all colleges. It is an Indictment for murder against the Royal College of Surgeons, erected by King James, and most imprudently supported by successive acts of Council, and confirmed by an act of William and Mary: the members of which college, to the infinite harm and danger of the king's lieges lives, "have increased, are increasing, and ought to be diminished *." It is an indictment for a series, succession, and perpetuity of murders! not of simple homicide, but with malice prepense, and formal murderous documented conspiracies! betwixt said Royal College, and certain managers of the Royal Infirmary. And besides the formal, and main libel, it is regularly proven, that said College have employed only the youngest, most awkward, and unskilful of their number, to perpetrate said atrocities. The major and the minor propositions he has made so clearly, that he has left nothing for the law to decide, except the fate of the culprits, whether

* Memorial, p. 6.

they shall be hung, like Robbers of the Wolga, alive on high gibbets ; or put into cages, as our rarer monsters are, to be shown for the comfort and perfect satisfaction of “ the sick poor.”

The notes of the learned gentleman’s pleadings on this cause are such compleat specimens of technical oratory, that we cannot refrain from indulging the public with a few extracts. We are sensible, that so small an impression of his original notes was thrown off, that we expect, by printing them again, to gratify thousands ; and we are careful to preserve those words in italics which were printed so in the original copy.

“ What that *badness* is to which I here allude, which I have already in some measure explained, and which I undertake to prove and establish by the most decisive evidence, &c.”

“ The *badness* in question is not like the *badness* of a mercantile transaction, implying or consisting in *loss* where *profit* was expected ; it is no kind of pecuniary loss by a disadvantageous or *foolish* bargain. It is *badness* relative to something of much higher importance and more interesting concern, which never can be appretiated in money ; and which, if *with-held or impaired*, cannot be compensated by money ; it is *badness* relative to that assistance which ought to be given to numberless individuals, poor and unhappy, in their utmost need, when health and life are at stake with them ; *that* health and *that* life their little all !”

“ The mere want of medical assistance is in many cases so *bad*, as to imply, almost certainly, very pernicious, if not fatal consequences. In such cases, *to with-hold it* voluntarily, would be almost as criminal as to suffer a wretch to perish

by *with-holding* food from him. To procure it in some measure, *but less good* than might be procured, is an approach *to that evil to the sick*, or a *degree of it*, implying *some degree of the same criminality* in those who *do so*."

"I am not to consider the duty of a Physician, to abstain from giving his patient what he knows *will hurt or kill him*; which would be *little less* than an attempt to *commit wilful murder*: nor am I to consider the duty of the Managers of an hospital, not to employ such *murderous physicians* in it, or surgeons so unskilful, that it would be better for a poor man to remain unassisted with a spreading ulcer or a dangerous wound undressed, or a broken leg unset, *than to come under their care*. In the very notion of medical or *chirurgical assistance*, I conceived there is implied the expectation and *chance of some good*. Accustomed, as we are in this country, to a great deal of that kind of assistance, whenever we need it, we should think the total want of it a most grievous evil; we should consider *that* very small share of it which we could get in some other countries, nay, in some parts of our own, as something *very bad*."

"Though I trust it is not necessary, yet as I should be sorry, even for a moment, to be misunderstood *on so delicate a point*, I think it right to premise, that, in reasoning about what is *good or bad, best or worst*, in respect of medical assistance, I mean only what is *more or less good, most or least good*. I must not be understood to *suppose, or insinuate*, that any medical assistance is *positively bad*, as being *worse than none*; so that it would have been better for the patients not to *have had it*, but to have remained without the half of such physicians or surgeons."

“It is *incumbent* on me therefore to shew, that, as Managers of the Hospital, we are guardians of the health and lives of the sick poor admitted *into it* ; and that, in this view, we have the strongest interest and most *cogent* reasons for wishing to enforce our *legal chartered right* ; and for demanding, that a *transaction* inconsistent with that right, and *cruelly bad for the sick poor*, shall be *annulled*.”

“This I take to be the equity of the case.”

“The *goodness* or *badness* therefore which I am to consider, are only different *degrees of goodness* ; but the difference may be very great ; and that *is bad* which is *less good* than what we know may be obtained, either in point of medicines, or of medical and chirurgical attendants.

“If, in one night, all the surgeons of Edinburgh were removed to a better world ! where it is to be hoped they will all arrive in due time ! &c.”

The specific qualities of the author's language can never be sufficiently admired, nor fully tasted, but in large doses---*usque ad nauseam*. His variety, not only of language, but of matter, is infinite ; “for his mind possesses unlimited powers of *inglutition*, and his ideas adhere to each other with such tenacity, that whenever his memory is stimulated by any powerful interrogatory, it not only discharges a full answer to the individual question, but likewise a prodigious flood of collateral knowledge, derived from such copious and repeated infusions, as no common skull would be capable of containing.” The author is full of profound sciences, and his language naturally tastes of his learning. It must be as difficult to amalgamate the language of various, and perhaps discordant sciences, as the tongues of different nations ; the

mingling of terms always produces a curdly stile, full of knots and conglomerations; the struggle, to make writing at once learned and intelligible, costs your Literati many a pang; and is the reason why we remain contented in that state of ignorance, which the author is not insensible of. He takes, indeed, very unhandsome advantages of us on that score.

Among the specific qualities of every author, the stile is always the most prominent; and usually it is, like the manners and exteriors of behaviour, attractive and pleasing, or repulsive and harsh, according to the education and disposition of the individual. But our much-admired author enjoys the advantage over all that we are conversant with, of possessing every variety of stile, so that no taste, however capricious, can leave his banquet unsatisfied. Sometimes his stile has all the fervor of an orator; sometimes the dry and logical forms of the special pleader; sometimes all the profoundness of a philosopher: sometimes he bursts out into the levities of a mountebank: sometimes the most amiable simplicity and naivety prevails; now the coruscations and meteors of genius flash upon you, now it is total opacity and thick darkness; and ever and anon, the learning, the syllogisms, and the law arguments, fall loud and heavy like the Cyclops hammers: sometimes all the words burst out in a torrent! all the sciences seem struggling to get vent at once! and the stream runs knotty, curdly, and tumbling through many a page. But what strikes us more than all, is a perpetual bubbling, not so much resembling the rich working of the well-ripened grape, as the frothy briskness of more familiar beverage. The effervescent ima-

gination of our author, like highly inflammable fluids, is subject to violent and visible ebullitions! Like æther put under the receiver of an air pump, it bubbles and evaporates more and more, as the recipient is exhausted; while the process produces actual cold, such as congeals the surrounding bodies*.

Various causes incline us to set forth the peculiar and specific beauties of this memorial: the subject, the manner, the language, and the author himself are all memorable: It is now particularly read in this city, and indeed wherever medicine is known; and it is so permanently connected with our profession, that we are concerned lest its beauties should not be fully understood. What a disgrace would it be to our school, were the greatest work of our first medical professor to be less perfectly enjoyed, for want of some slight comment! We owe him this mark of respect: He has been pleased to illustrate our trade of surgery, with very brilliant and felicitous comparisons; and such splendentia et vehementia burst upon us every new leaf we turn over, that the specific beauties of the memorial do, in our opinion, exceed all report, tho' report has not been unkind to the author.

The specific wit of this author is easy, pleasant, familiar; "he does love, like Bayes, to write familiarly;" and his

* N. B. The cold produced by the evaporation of æther and other inflammable fluids, was discovered by the celebrated Dr William Cullen; so that the present professor of physic can only be said to have improved upon the beautiful experiment of his predecessor. But the perfect emptiness of the receiver, the unremitting and furious manner in which he handles the air-pump, and the perpetual ebullition of words, makes the experiment very amusing.—Dr Cullen had no opportunity of trying the experiment in this form.

sentimental delicacy is now so well known, that it is proposed to gather the *Facetiæ Gregorianæ*, and join them in form of appendix to that book of jests, which has fixed the character of the English nation for humour and pleasantry! A book much admired among young men of fortune, captains in the army, and gentlemen on the travelling lay. The appendix, we are persuaded, will not disgrace the original work: the author has, in the pleasant memorial now under revifal, outdone all his former witty tales: Of the elegance with which he writes the English language, we have just given such specimens as must surely satisfy the most rigorous critic; but Latin he writes still more fluently, and fluency is every thing in telling of tales.

Latin to him's no more difficile
Than to a blackbird 'tis to whistle.

The reason why we mention this, is, that we have heard, that the author proposes to translate both the original book of Jest, and his own Appendix, into Latin, for the use of the German Literati; yet we do not entirely approve of increasing the notorious preponderancy of German literature (commonly connected with loose moral and religious principles,) by so vast an addition to their present stock*.

Though the memorial is now a common property to all the world, it is particularly addressed to his fellow-citizens and fellow-soldiers; for he is a soldier, “in red, tremen-

* Are not the Germans already possessed of the most delectable stories of Monchausen? they have the *Facetiæ Nocodemi Frischlini Balingensis*; the *Facetiæ Bebellii*; the *Facetiæ Selectæ Poglii Florentini oratoris*; the *Querelæ Ventriculi* of Van Swalve, the *Pica Nasi*, and especially the jokes and puns of Alphonfus, king of Arragon, and the prognostications of Jacob

dous, and hirsute in gold." His memorial has been distributed by tuck of drum, to all the officers of this corps. Much of the wit is addressed to them, and all of it is at least level to the plainest understanding. VULFENIUS jokes thus with his fellow-foldiers :

" In saying this, I mean no disrespect to the Surgeons, either professionally or personally. Any *one* of them may be a very good surgeon ; any *two or three* of them (bating only the chance of personal animosity and systematic irreconcilable differences of opinion) may make an excellent consultation, such as any physician, or any one of themselves, or any man of sense, though not of the medical profession, would be perfectly *content* with, if his own life or *limbs*, or those of the persons dearest to him, *were at stake* ; and *all of them* taken together, (with only two or three months instruction *from a clever drill serjeant*,) I am convinced would make an admirable platoon ; such *as would do credit to the first regiment of Royal Edinburgh Volunteers !!* But how such a platoon can ever serve the proper purpose of a consultation ! or any good purpose, &c."

Dixeris hæc inter varicosos Centuriones,

Continuo crassum ridet, VULFENIUS INGENS.

To invent, not occasional illustrations and ornaments, but a style and manner wholly adapted to the lowest taste

Henrichmann. But among the various titles which have been in use, we do not believe our author will find one which will better suit his intended appendix than the following, "*Facetiæ Facietiarum, hoc est joco-Seriorum, fasciculus novus de peditu ejusque speciebus.*" When the appendix is clapped upon the original work, they will stick together, as the Copper Captain says, "like two pounds of Butter."

and capacity, bespeaks a strong genius in this way of writing ! This too is among the specific qualities of our author. When, for example, the poverty and wretched condition of the patients in the Royal Infirmary, their looped and windowed nakedness, is to be described ; how would a man of real feeling venture to express his apprehensions ? No matter how, the Memorialist expresses himself in animated terms ; he does not say, as cold as charity ! as naked as worms ! as poor as rats ! Such simple metaphors, he was sensible, would neither have touched the ear nor impressed the imagination. He dilates these metaphorical expressions into entire and most affecting similes. “ In all charitable, pious, and generous, and most Christian altercations about who should have the care of the sick poor in the Hospital, all considerations of what is good for them, are as much out of the question *as the due accommodation in point of board and lodging of the rats and mice, who might get admission into the Infirmary, and chuse to fix their quarters in it ; this, if it were not very striking, and disgusting, and shocking, it would be very ludicrous to observe* *.”

Is it possible to speak more contemptuously of these poor, bare, unaccommodated creatures ? Easily ! the Memorialist never gets so low in base comparisons, but he is able to get lower. He ventures to tell the world,

D

* Page 58. We sometimes see things, notwithstanding the indirect negative of the author, at once striking, disgusting, shocking, and—very ludicrous.

that these unhappy people enter into this asylum of the wretched, only to be sold into the hands of those, whose hearts are merciless! whose trade is blood! who have purchased them and their limbs and lives! who, fifty years ago, or their predecessors for them, gave five hundred pounds for the profit of amputating their limbs, and who will, in spite of all opposition, exact the forfeit of their bond. "The patients (says the Memorialist) in the Royal Infirmary are not the property of the Managers, nor of the surgeons either; nor can they ever be made property, or *sold or bartered* as if they were; nor can the Managers ever acquire a right of disposing even of *a single limb* of a poor man admitted into the Hospital *to the highest bidder among the surgeons*, or to any bidder, on any other principle or consideration, or for any other purpose, but for the *utmost benefit which can be procured* for that poor man, according to the best of their judgement *."

But, being in search of low and mean comparisons, he has indeed reached the base note of humility, in comparing his fellow-creatures and the sale of them with the disposal of the city-dung. "They must," (meaning the Managers of the Royal Infirmary), "they must have had a right to advertise the Hospital in the newspapers, to be sold or let to the highest bidder; *just as the magistrates of Edinburgh, trustees for the common good of the city, advertise, to sell or let, for a certain term of years, the dung of the streets.*"

If the breach of a moral obligation were to be illustrated, from what professions or rank in life should illustrations be naturally sought for? Surely from among those with whom such breach of moral obligation is most frequent, and in the trade most allied, in the imagination of the Memorialist, with that of surgery. “ I shall (says the Memorialist) *take a very supposable contract*, between the corporation of *butchers* and that of the *tanners* in Edinburgh. I shall suppose, that, “ in order to preserve an equality among the tanners of Edinburgh,” (an object, by the bye, of *fully* as much importance to the public, as preserving an equality amongst the surgeons), and for other weighty reasons them thereto specially moving, the tanners paid the butchers L. 500 down; in return for which, the butchers stipulated, and bound themselves under a heavy penalty, besides performance of the condition, *that all the tanners in Edinburgh, or all of them who chose, by rotation*, for two months at a time, should have *the hides of all the bullocks* admitted into the *shambles*, and slaughtered there, at *a certain price*, either fixed in money, or varying in a settled proportion according to the price of grain!!!”

“ If an ox, at the moment when he is admitted into the shambles, were minutely informed of the contract in question, *or were allowed to peruse it at his leisure*, and if he could speak! he might as well save himself the trouble; neither he nor the ablest counsel *that he could employ*,” &c. &c.

Can any thing be imagined more moving, than the peaceable, unprotected, melancholy ox, thus bewailing his ill fortune? a sentimental ox, too, able to read, and feel, and speak for himself? Is there a creature, wet or dry, by sea or by land, in all Æsop's dominions, that could read through such a contract without tears in his eyes? This apostrophe of the ox might beguile even the hardened surgeon into lamentation! Oh! for the melancholy Jacques to moralise on the condition of the ox weeping over this contract! "The wretched animal heaved forth such groans, that their discharge did stretch his leathern coat, almost to bursting, and his big round tears coursed one another down his innocent nose in piteous chace."

Next comes the surgeon himself, brandishing his knife, accoutred as the Jew of Shakespeare, and endued with more than Jewish malice. "If I ever should meet with such a MONSTER, I should think I saw a *real living Shylock*, displaying his scales, whetting his knife, and *insisting on cutting a pound of flesh from the breast of his miserable debtor*, because it was the forfeit contained in his bond. But even the imagination of *Shakespeare* could conceive nothing so horrible as *a whole college or corporation of Shylocks*, each of them brandishing his whetted knife, and claiming his right, in his turn, to cut his pound of flesh from the breasts of those whom a rigorous contract had put in their power, and maintaining that this bloody right was indefeasible, and must be transmitted unimpaired to their successors through all generations."

No ; Shakespeare never imagined a college of *Sbylocks*, and is blamed for imagining one : But this is not Shakespeare's Jew : Omitting all the peculiarities of habitual depravity, and national malignancy, and untamed savageness of nature, all the horrid traits which give consistency to the character, the Memorialist leaves nothing of the Jew but the mere thirst for blood ; yet compares him with those men whose profession is charity. And why does he make this comparison ? why does he reproach us from time to time with the unrelenting Jew ? It is because he is conscious there is neither truth nor honour in this accusation : “ for though the author's charity exceeds not ; yet after seven and forty years of life, he has seen nothing in human nature that should make him think such a character and conduct *possible*.” This is the full and true apology for repeating, with such perseverance, the comparison of the unrelenting Jew.

Another specific quality of our author is his humanity and delicacy ! he would not have the profession ruined by making public his real opinion of surgery and surgeons : yet would he not for the world trust himself alone with one surgeon, or in company with many. He has acted in this respect with a degree of precaution by no means congenial with his usual habits : Such a perfect horror has he at the unnecessary presence of surgeons, even at a public table, that he has resisted sollicitations of a very pressing kind for twenty years, and never has ventured within reach of a knife and fork, much less of a scalpel. He certainly has impressed his imagination strongly with

his own favourite simile of the Jew whetting his knife : It seems also probable that he has imbibed from that aristocratic Court-Physician, Hoffman, a degree of professional hatred, a taint of the true *Odium Medicum*, which he has not sufficient discretion to conceal. Hoffman writes in the following terms of the relation of Physician and Surgeon : " *Medicus sit taciturnus ; magis decet scribere quam dicere ; medicus nimiam familiaritatem cum chirurgo non ineat.*" " For these reasons, (says the Memorialist), and some others which it is needless to mention, I never would be a member of any of the Surgeons clubs or societies, Esculapian, Gymnastic, Harveyan, or Cock-a-bendie Clubs, never, though often strongly invited more than twenty years ago, was present as a visitor at any of *their* clubs, never heard any of *their* orations, not even that one which was an eulogium on my own father !"

Although we find many proud suggestions in this courtly code of Hoffman, we find no such prohibitions. We think that the oration which praised the Memorialist's father might have been sanctified by that praise ; the poorest oration on so affecting an occasion should have been valued like the ill-executed portrait of a departed friend. But there are specific qualities in our author to account even for this : " He has peculiar talents for quarreling with his professional brethren ;" " he is the most vindictive man alive ;" " he has a strong tincture of that passion which approaches the nearest to the genuine

Odium Theologicum ;” his wit and affections are equally fervent, “ pariter pietate jociſque egregius.”

The act of appearing before the public is uſually accompanied with afflicting ſtruggles of natural, unaffected timidity ; but by a veteran author, ſenſations of this kind are ſoon forgotten. Of all the amiable qualities of an author, modeſty is that which our Memorialiſt chiefly admires ; but the practice he is, like ourſelves, obliged to decline. “ His modeſty’s a candle to his merit ; it ſhines itſelf, and ſhews his merit alſo * :” He loves and praiſes in others that delicacy which he dare not practice : He was reſolved to burſt in upon a profeſſion, the character and conſtitution of which he did not underſtand : Tho’ ignorant of ſurgery, or the œconomy of Hoſpitals, he was reſolute in writing about them, to ſhake off, by one great and virtuous effort, his natural modeſty, and determined in writing his confeſſions of ignorance with all the confidence of demonſtrations and proofs. He ſet himſelf down to this great work, without any invocation to that Goddeſs, whoſe help he chiefly needed ; and felt an inſpiration beyond his beſt hopes ;—confidence and preſumption grew upon him ſo naturally, that at laſt, full of enthuaſm, he exclaims, in tranſports of ſelf-approbation, “ Who is this Draweanſir of medical literature, who ſets all his profeſſional brethren at defiance, and treats their opinions, and controverſies, and obſer-

* Memorial, p. 242.

vations, with such contemptuous freedom? Is he an empiric or a dogmatist? What are his dogmas? The questions are very pertinent, and may be easily answered." The Memorialist's answer is long and satisfactory, yet we cannot but consider the answer of Bayes himself to the same question, as infinitely more decisive and comprehensive.

"Pray, Mr Bayes, who is this Drawcanfir?"

"Why, Sir, a fierce hero, that snubs up kings, baffles armies, and does what he pleases, without regard to numbers, good manners, or justice."

When we reflect with what earnestness the Memorialist praises modesty in others, and how reluctantly he assumes this ferocious title of Drawcanfir, we are delighted to observe the spirit with which he supports the full energy of the original.—He declares of the whole College of Surgeons, that they are mad, aye, as mad as Orlando Furioso at full moon †: That they are drunk, outrageously drunk with *Belladonna*, *learning*, and *whisky*: "For learning is a fountain too intoxicating to be tasted, except by those who have breath to drink deep and powerfully; the smallest taste produces more dismal consequences than the most plenteous draughts: "and in

† "Let us suppose that, in consequence of this Memorial, every individual member of the Collège of Surgeons shall, to his own share, make forty times more noise than Orlando Furioso did at full moon when he was maddest, and shall continue in that unparalleled state of uproar for twenty years without ceasing.

"I can see no great harm in all that noise, and no harm at all to any but those who make it; it cannot *injure our cause*."

some constitutions," (alluding not to himself surely, who professes to drink deep, but to shallow milk-sop puny drinkers), the effects of a small particle of it are more *ridiculous* than *dangerous*, the patient only *prattling foolishly*, and *acting absurdly in a thousand ways*, but not becoming *mischievous* or *outrageous**. In other constitutions, the effects of a small mouthful of that unlucky fruit are much more alarming than those of *deadly nightshade*, or the *strongest Scotch whisky*! the patient not only *talks*, and *writes*, and *acts absurdly*, and sometimes outrageously, but *quarrels implacably with all who differ from him in opinion*, especially with his own professional brethren."

Which of these is the favourite stimulant of the Professor, we do not know; but surely he owes his inspiration to some such powers: first, he imagines a Shylock, and then he imagines what Shakespeare could not imagine, a whole College of Shylocks; next, he imagines an Orlando Furioso, and then a whole College of Orlando Furiolos; next, he imagines a man intoxicated with learning, and then he sees in his eery moods a whole College of Orlando Furiolos, drunk with Learning, Belladonna, and Whisky!

Once more we laud and praise our favourite Author for that bold and brilliant imagination, with which he turns and works his machinery before our eyes, like a flaming Eidophysicon, or perpetual Panorama, not

* We are sorry the Author has not yet favoured us with definitions of MISCHIEF and OUTRAGE! Had he done so, we might have been able to guess whether he had feasted full of this deleterious fruit, or been unfortunate enough to taste only that small particle which seems to damage the ENCEPHALON so essentially.

of ordinary and natural scenes, but of a new and magic world, where, as the facetious Peter singeth,

“ Where ev’ry thing we see appear
Seems to exclaim, “ What bus’ness have we here ?”

Here you see the Royal College of Surgeons in the figure of mad dogs *! Here the venerable president and whole court of Session hunting like a pack of beagles †! Here the University, students and professors, are compared with a hive of drones; the young drones sitting hearkening to the hum of the old drones! Here the exportation of sixty doctors in a year is compared with the exportation of wool, hemp, iron, and deal-boards, and cattle, and sheep, and other marketable commodities ‡! Here the administration of bark and wine is compared with transubstantiation and the Lord’s Supper; the Royal College of Surgeons with “ four and twenty fiddlers all in a row;” and the King, Lords, and Commons in Parliament assembled, with their speakers, committees, and debates, are compared “ with the occasional, tremendous, and useless explosions of a fire-damp in a Newcastle coal-pit!” But, when he comes

* “ To prevent mistakes, I beg it may be observed, that this is metaphorical, and not meant as an invitation to them *literally to eat one another*; for that is the very last thing that I should wish them *to do*. On the contrary, if I thought my advice could have any weight *upon* them, I should take the liberty strongly to *caution* them *all* against even *biting* one another, on any *account or pretence whatever*, especially during their present state of exasperation and acrimony; for I have good reason to think, that even the Ormskirk Medicine and the salt water would not prevent the fatal effects of the bite; I mean its effects on the *biter*, not on the *bitten*. Of this danger, which at present perhaps they little dream of, they will soon be sensible, if they will consider with due attention the following aphorism of Hippocrates:

Κακπαδοκην ποτ’ ἰχθῦνα κακῇ δακνῶν, ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτὴ
Κατθανε γινωσκμένη αἵματος ἰσβολῶν.—Page 242.

† Page 242.

‡ Page 69.

to pass his last important figure before the speculum, he stands on tiptoe, stretches his neck, and bawls out in the true Savoyard dialect, "Here, gentlemen, you shall see Jonathan Dawplucker, with his four fell hands plucking me as bare as a fish." "This now is * Jonathan against Jonathan;—Dawplucker against Dawplucker; mask versus mask; diamond cut diamond; fight dog fight bear!" Pull baker pull devil:—which is the last glance of this magic lanthorn, now exhibiting *gratis*, in all the principal towns in these kingdoms, to the infinite delight and amusement of all ranks of people.

We have reason to believe that the public, and the Honourable the Managers of the Royal Infirmary, have enjoyed this exhibition with general approbation and pleasure: But these lively things have been particularly addressed to us; and we, of course, have not failed to taste the specific qualities of the author, with peculiar poignancy. It will easily be observed, that all the ornamental parts of this piece, are in a very lively and original style. To have composed a few ornaments and enrichments of this kind, but to carry through a volume of three hundred pages, such a profusion of wit, spirit, and classical allusion, attracts our particular admiration, and affords us a fine opportunity for displaying our disposition, and, if we may be allowed to say so, our talent for praise.

E 2

* We transcribe the *ipsissima verba* of the author.

In this meridian blaze of genius, loth as we are to speak even of the slightest blemish, we cannot avoid remarking one slight speck. It proceeds indeed from imitating this unlucky character of Drawcansir too closely, and from doing his will without the smallest regard to numbers, good manners, or justice: this begets a certain rusticity and impetuoufness of manner, but, however unpleasant it may be to others, it can be nothing but agreeable to us; we esteem it as the rough crust that hides the gem: a fine varnished mind may have flaws in it, but this is no counterfeit! Yet tho' we love these honest blunt manners, there be men weak enough to dislike that openness of conduct, which argues every thing found within; wherefore, if the author of this Memorial could allow for once a multitudinous consultation of young surgeons, nondum expiatis uncta cruoribus, we should perhaps pronounce for once unanimously upon a very delicate case. We presume in the meanwhile to advise the Memorialist, to retire for a few weeks to that hospital which the Spectator long ago founded, for the recovery of slighter deviations from good manners. The Spectator, who pretended to cure the distempers of the general body, was glad, like lesser quacks, to have certificates of his skill, and among others he produces the following from Frank —.

“ The memorial of Frank F——, Sheweth *,

“ That he put himself into the Infirmary, in regard he is sensible of a certain sort of rustic mirth, which renders him unfit for polite conversation.

* Spectator, No. 429.

“ That he intends to prepare himself by abstinence and thin diet to be one of the company.

“ That at present he comes into a room, as if he were an express from abroad.

“ That he has chosen an apartment with a matted antichamber, to practise motion without being heard.

“ That he bows, talks, drinks, eats, and helps himself before a glass, to learn to act with moderation.

“ That by reason of luxuriant health, he is oppressive to persons of composed behaviour.

“ That he is also weaning himself from his cane.

“ That when he has learnt to live without his said cane, he will wait on the company.”

This boisterousness of manner is the only slight blemish we ever could discover amidst this blaze of excellencies. Nor could we have divested ourselves of the suspicion, that the very flattering attention of the author to us in particular had biased our judgement, were it not that his character is drawn with a master-hand, and by one who could not be deceived! by himself. If the character we are presently to transcribe give the lie to any one of the handsome things we have said of the Author, may our right hands forget their cunning.

Since the days of Cæsar, or of Cicero, the prince of egotists, it has been the privilege of great men to relate their own great actions. Nor hath the custom in these latter times fallen into disuse. Has not Rousseau committed to posterity the ever-memorable confessions of his juvenile vices, thefts, and immoralities; his vagrant boyish years, miserable manhood, and persecuted old

age ! such loves, and visions, and egaremens du cœur et de l'esprit, as make feeling men question whether he had a heart or a soul. Did not his fervent disciple Madame Roland indite also her birth and fortunes, her readings of Plutarch, her engravings of watch-cases, her first lively sensations, her first delicate confessions, and all her political career, to that final apotheosis which Dr Gregory wishes to all his enemies, a consummation which, in those wild and whirling times, seems to await all the sons and daughters of genius. Has not the grave and reverend Franklin, the north star of the new world, delivered down to future times the authentic history of "his first deviations from the plan of moral rectitude ;" and all his adventures from the wild untamed period of his apprenticeship and flight from his friends, to that in which he was so bold as to tell the first Minister of a Great Prince, that "he would make his master a little King," and so powerful as to keep his word, by revolutionising half the world ! But now ! every miss, and every madam !

Madam Roland,

Madam Bulkely,

Madam Badely,

Madam Robison,

Madam Godwin,

thinks it advantageous for posterity that her memorabilia should be preserved. Lackington comes last of all, and relates how he learnt his trade : and many an important anecdote does he tell of shoe-making, and psalm-singing ; and bookselling, and conventicling ; and court-

ship, and hymns, and spiritual songs ; till at last he is become a mighty man among the elect, and likely to see accomplished the most inspiring and prognosticating rhythm of London bells, which seemed to say, " Welcome, Lackington, Lord Mayor of London."

A laudable custom might perhaps have fallen into disuse, had not our Author with a noble disregard of consequences resolved to write his own life. He touches, with a most liberal and ingenuous freedom, on many slight failings which he should not have dared to mention ; and, by a sort of *felo-de-se*, cheats time, that severe justicer of all that is terrible in his award. He performs, in the following not ignoble manner, his own apotheosis.

CHARACTER OF DR GREGORY,
By Himself.

" And who, it will naturally be asked, is this Draw-canfir, who sets all his professional brethren at defiance, and treats their opinions, and controversies, and observations, with such contemptuous freedom ? Is he an empiric or a dogmatist ? What are his dogmas ?" The questions are very pertinent, and may easily be answered, thus :

" He neither is, nor ever was, nor ever will be, either an empiric or a dogmatist. He would have been a keen dogmatist, but that he found at least ninety-nine in the hundred of medical dogmas were *false*, and many of them *stark nonsense* ! He would have been a determined empiric, but that he found at least ninety-nine in the hundred of empirical *facts* ! *were as false* ! and more than that proportion of their remedies *as insignificant, and as*

dangerous, as any of the dogmas of their opponents. Of course he now *lives a sad outcast from both parties*, just like a man excommunicated as an Atheist by a congregation of fanatics, and expelled as a fanatic by a royal academy of Atheists. He is made of *the same stuff*, and *put together in the same manner as other men!* and of course, in all probability, is neither wiser nor better than they are †."

"Far from being *more placid and tractable*, he is more *irascible and obstinate than most men!!!* and if he had ever engaged in medical disputes, would probably have been as *violent*, as *absurd*, as *implacable*, and as *ridiculous*, as any of his predecessors or contemporaries. He has such a *genius for quarreling* with his professional brethren, that, without even the pretence of any difference in medical opinions, and purely on account of certain differences in *morality*, he has quarreled with some of them *irreconcilably*, and refused ever again to consult with them; first telling them, in the plainest possible terms, the reasons of that unalterable resolution; just to prevent any misunderstanding, or the repetition of such scenes as we read of in Gil Blas. He knows accordingly that some of his professional brethren *would be glad to see him hanged*; and he would not remain very long inconsolable, if the apotheosis of some of them were performed, or if they should perform it themselves, in that ignoble manner*. He has taught the theory

† We deny his major, but yet grant the conclusion upon other premises.

* This is the full and lively description of what the author has defined the true odium medicum, which in malignity far exceeds the odium theologicum, hitherto esteemed the most dreadful of the Neuroses or diseases of deranged sensation.

and practice of physic in the University of Edinburgh for four and twenty years!!! without once throwing out a tub to amuse the whale. He never thought he had ingenuity enough to make such a tub! or dexterity enough to manage any of the numberless ready-made tubs! which were floating around him. He observed, *to his great comfort*, that he had no occasion TO TAKE THAT TROUBLE; as the whale has always found some tub to amuse itself withal, *and has never yet shewn the smallest inclination* either to *swallow or overset him and his little bark*. As he never did, nor ever intends *to do it any harm*, he is not in the least *afraid of the whale*. He has not had wisdom enough to keep himself out of all disputes and controversies, even in science; and in those wherein he has engaged, he has been *abundantly acrimonious*; as his opponents (probably) will be ready to certify on oath; or if they should not, it is of little consequence; the fact may be established without their help, or in spite of them †. But, hitherto, notwithstanding all temptations and provocations, and plenty of bad examples, he has escaped the folly of any medical disputes or controversies; not by any superiority of understanding, for he knows that men, much wiser and abler, and more learned than he is, have fallen into that folly; but *by his strong sense of ridicule, which on that point was to him irresistible*. From his earliest youth, he was admitted *behind the curtain*, and *let into the SECRET OF THE MEDICAL DRAMA*. Having acquired a little notion of *some other sciences*, and of science

† We are ready to testify.

in general, before he engaged in the study of phyfic, he was from the first both *mortified and entertained with the contrast which he saw*. He soon perceived, that, with respect to phyfic, each successive age had much more trouble to unlearn the bad, than to learn the good, of those who went before it, and still more to distinguish between the good and the bad which itself produced. After two and thirty of the best years of his life, spent in learning, in teaching, and in practising phyfic, he has found much to confirm, and nothing to shake that *unfavourable opinion of his own profession, and of a vast majority of those who have taught and practised it ! ! ! Being a great philosopher," &c.*

" A car-man having much ado to pass with a load of cheese at Temple-Bar, where a stop was occasioned by a man standing in the pillory ; he riding close up asked what it was that was written upon the person's head ; they told him it was a paper to signify his crime, that he stood for forgery. " Aye, (says he), and what is forgery ? " They answered, that it was counterfeiting another's hand, with an intent to cheat people. To which the car-man replied, looking up at the offender, " Ah ! pox take you !—this comes now of your reading and writing."

We are sensible how much the Memorialist delights in a story, and have quoted this from the jest-book, which he is to enrich with his valuable appendix. We know that the meanness of the book from which it may be taken, will be no objection with the learned Memorialist ; he is above all trifling ceremonies, and is sensible that

we offer this little story, not for its excellency, but as a grateful acknowledgement for the fine things he has been pleased to say of us and our profession. It is, we are sensible, but a poor vulgar story, yet we hope the Professor will accept it graciously, as the Duchess did the lapful of nuts, which Sancho's wife sent her; or perhaps we might apologise for the meanness of our offering, as Sancho himself did when, being made governor of Barrataria, he sent his master a string of glister-pipes, saying, "Master of mine, it shall go hard with me but I shall find something in this Government to send to you, but at present I know not what to send, except some clyster-pipes, which are very curiously turned and mounted in our island."

The Author having enumerated the peculiarities of his life, learning, and natural temper, and the SPECIFIC QUALITIES of his style, we are almost ashamed to have been at the superfluous toil of illustrating in detail peculiarities, so briefly and liberally expressed in his masterly sketch. The evidence of a man's own voluntary deposition, is, to use one of the Author's most elegant expressions, irrefragable. Yea, "it is in this respect, we do not scruple to say, of higher authority than Euclid, or even the axioms of Geometry. These obtain belief, only because they were found to be true; but the controversial works of the Memorialist * must be believed whether they be true or not, and the more false this character is supposed to be, the

* This is taken verbatim from the quarto Memorial, page 243, where he gibes at Jonathan Dawplucker.

truer and stronger is the evidence." This is the authenticated character of the celebrated author, whose chief work in respect of wit, composition, and elegance of style, we are now reviewing; an Author distinguished in the literary and polemical world; the fifteenth in a direct line of a Dynasty of Professors †.

No wonder that little men crouch under the hereditary sceptre, wielded by his gigantic arm: Destined for higher matters than to drudge and toil in the ordinary affairs of life, he looks down, like one of the philosophers of the flying island, with contempt and pity on the provinces which he passes over: like the inhabitants of that land of science, he has one eye turned upwards to the heavens, while the other looks inwards upon his own great mind, and contemplates, with ineffable delight, the continual working of the intellectual operations, coiling, and recoiling! And to give vent to his great conceptions, he is happily possessed of that powerful engine, which, being filled with all the words of all the languages, requires but a few turns of its handles to make a book. Born in Brobdignag, and educated in Laputa, he despises us as contemptible beings, inferior in size of intellects, and in bulk of body? He steps over and over us, in all the pride of his gigantic stature, and lifts aside the lappets of his

† We mention this on the same authority. He is the Fifteenth hereditary professor in a direct line; every year this is mentioned publicly at lecture; and we think it right to allow the author this apology for some very extravagant sentiments concerning his own importance.

Vos, O Patricius sanguis, quos vivere fas est
Occipite cæco.

coat, to let us pass unhurt beneath the stride of his colossal limbs. How happy for the poor of this city, and how consolatory for the Managers, that a man such as this has been pleased to take this Hospital under his charge. He has put forth his hand to save the ark; but we have to lament, that he has done so with more zeal than reverence, and has attired himself in that garb which David the son of Jesse assumed, when he clambered about the high-priest's gate. He dances before your ark in the very fashion in which that wise king danced and prophesied, when he was reproved by the aristocratic daughter of Saul.

“Sae in the gude book are we tald,
Afore the haly Ark;
The guid king David in the days of auld,
Danced like a wud-thing in his fark.”

It is with reluctance we have criticised this unparalleled Memorial, and gone “through all the laughable and loathsome familiarities of the author's style.” It is not, alas! the short affecting representation of one, pleading for charity! it is a volume which will remain an indelible stain on its Author's reputation! which even those who wish well to the cause he has espoused will read with astonishment and regret! which you the Managers of the Hospital must have perused with sentiments which the dignity of your station will not allow you to express. If this be a pleading in behalf of

charity, it is one which we can oppose without shame, nor shall we be less esteemed by our profession, or the world, for resenting insults of so extraordinary nature, that even before we had been able to read the Memorial, we heard from all hands how much we were insulted : every company was amused with the jests of this licentious Paper, and every jest struck deep at the respectability of the younger surgeons.

This gentleman, whose genius (he says himself) is strong for quarreling, whose temper is irascible, who boasts that his resentments are eternal, who wishes those with whom he quarrels nothing but the most ignoble apotheosis, has indulged those propensities at the expence of many sacred and honourable duties. A man ennobled by being charged with the support of a great University should feel himself above the reach of private quarrels : his duty is to the general body : while his UNIVERSITY, his COLLEGE, is not insulted, he should be insensible to all injuries which are peculiar to himself.

This gentleman, celebrated for his learning and abilities, has made love to a most ungracious office. Under the pretence of philanthropy, he has injured that profession for ever, of which it was hoped he would form a chief support : In the name of humanity he has declared to all men, that in the science, from which they expect help in the time of their sore distress, there is nothing serious : Us and our department of this profession he has treated with the severity of satire, the malignity of persecution, and the levity of a She-

ridan or an O'Kief; for he affects to be the judge and satirist of all other professions, and the tyrant of his own. With the dignity of a professor to support, he has stooped from his respected station, to snatch at a transient applause! Some degree of resentment he could not expect to escape, some kinds of resentment he will affect to boast of; but how will he avoid the most mortifying of all praise, the praise and laughter of fools? What, would he say, were the ritrattos of some of his finished scenes, "The Surgeon's Progress," "The consultation of the Dog's Paw," "The Cruel Jew, with his knife and scales," or "Daniel sitting in the lions den," to be transposed from his glowing page to the windows of the print-shop? What if that ruinous tale, concerning the chief doctrine of this medical school, were to become the favourite jest of his pupils; of those young men who should sit with reverence and submission to hear him teach seriously a serious profession, and to pronounce with deliberation on the falseness of its doctrines? He has, he tells, been employed in teaching for many years, but he has now "grown wanton, and gives proof to every eye, whoe'er was edified, himself was not."

The seriously-insulting language, in which he addresses us the younger surgeons, is such, we will venture to say, as never was used to gentlemen in public or in private. There are levities not unsuitable to the subject, which we might have enjoyed; there are deep and affecting sentiments connected with this subject, in which we could have partaken; the severities

of real wit, or the remonstrances of a high-minded honourable man, we could have excused; but cold, insulting, contemptuous language, is what no men of spirit will suffer, what no man of just sentiments would use. “*They will have* (says the Memorialist) *abundance of time to cool.*”—“Our proofs are such as are not irresistible: yet they have taken away all probability, tho’ not all possibility of a troublesome litigation.”—“If they think collectively or individually! that they are able to refute any of my general propositions, they are welcome to *try to do so.*”—“We apprehend from their former conduct, that they will oppose on this occasion that alteration, *which I think* essential to the good of the Hospital.”—“Whence so damnable a heresy can have proceeded, I know not: and I do not care either to hazard any conjectures about the cause of it, or to set about confuting such heretics.”

“If those we have to deal with are tainted with this heresy, we must expect them to act accordingly; *and we shall have so much the more trouble with them.*”

“They, and the counsel learned in the law whom they may chuse to employ, will *endeavour to make the most of these arguments*, as it is plain that nothing else can avail them.”—“But we have no reason to suppose the whole College of Surgeons, or any individual among them, will on this, or any occasion, speak or act like madmen,” *i. e.* “oppose what I think essential to the good of the Hospital *.”

* Is not this a very peculiar kind of insanity, that this gentleman, who has nothing to do with surgery, who is ignorant of operations, and unacquainted with surgeons, who has no interest in the surgical department in this Hospi-

" But if there be any facts or circumstances, which, on mature deliberation, they wish to have as publicly known as this paper will be, LET THEM GIVE ME AUTHENTIC INFORMATION !

We know not how this gentleman came to think of addressing language of this kind to men as capable as himself of representing to the public the principles of their profession, as capable of judging impartially and honestly for the interests of a public charity ! Nor can we imagine where, among the diplomatic records, in Imperial Ukase, or in Turkish Firman, the Author found precedent for this august style ! but well we know, that nothing has been promulgated by Paul, Emperor of all the Russias, in his present perturbed state of mind, more supreme than this declaration : it is not even excelled by that flash of a disordered mind, which Mr M'Kenzie has represented in one of his characters, " Yes, Sir, but the Sultan and I would never have allowed it *."

The levity of our reply has a natural correspondence with the licentiousness of this Memorial. We are writing in self-defence, and not in the cause of public charity ; yet we hope we are not insensible to generous emotions, nor

tal should not only instruct the College of Surgeons, but instruct them in surgery, and the conduct of the surgical wards, should imagine his interest in this to be stronger than theirs, his judgement to be sounder, or his humane feelings more sincerely interested. That such a person should say, " That alteration which I think essential to the good of the Hospital," is very presumptuous ; but that he should upbraid those, with having lost their reason, who do not assent to his opinions, is like the man who, when his eyes reel with intoxication, swears that the house is going round, the chairs and tables moving, and the people about him tipsy. " Drunk, very drunk."

* " Why, yes, Sir, the Sultan and I ; do you know me ? I am the Cham of Tartary."

impenetrable to reproof. There have been men in this University, before whom we could have bowed down with reverence. We shall quote the words of an OLD PROFESSOR, who felt that there was something important in his office, something serious in life; who felt for the dignity of his profession, the calamities of human nature, and the sufferings of the poor: We shall quote the gracious, dignified, manly sentiments of the Memorialist's father, a man so esteemed, that in these times we hardly know to whom we should transfer the regard his character and writings inspire. We call on one who will speak to him, "*possim crematos excitare mortuos.*"

"There are some peculiar circumstances in the profession of a physician, which should naturally dispose him to look beyond the present scene of things, and engage his heart on the side of religion. He has many opportunities of seeing people, once the gay and the happy, sunk in deep retired distress; sometimes devoted to a certain but painful and lingering death; sometimes struggling with bodily anguish, or the still fiercer tortures of a distracted mind. Such afflictive scenes, one should suppose, might soften any heart, not dead to every feeling of humanity, and make it reverence that religion which alone can support the soul in the most complicated distresses; that religion which teaches to enjoy life with cheerfulness, and to resign it with dignity."

Serious duties will beget serious thoughts, but they must be long familiar in the mind before they can be thus happily expressed. One plain word of this good old man marks a feeling mind more than all the effusions of

Insensibility that Sterne ever contrived ; his fervent expressions represent a feeling which must have sunk down into his mind. " He had many opportunities of seeing the gay and the happy sink in deep retired distress ! " Such were the sentiments of the truly liberal and gentlemanly old man, who once filled that chair which his son now occupies ! who, in composing this most valuable book, on the Duties of a Physician, on the moralities and decencies of life, thought, good easy man, full surely, he was leaving a legacy to his son. With sober reason, and manly dignity, did he support his professional honours.

—————" Direct me to
 A quip or merry turn in all he wrote ;
 And I consent you take it for your text,
 Your only text, till sides and benches fail.
 No ; he was serious in a serious cause,
 And understood too well the weighty terms
 That he had ta'en in charge. He would not stoop
 To conquer those by jocular exploits,
 Whom truth and soberness assail'd in vain."

We praise the dead that are dead, more than the living that are yet alive, and wonder how they can be remembered without affecting recollections rising in the mind, accompanied with a strong sense of present duties. When a father's name is mentioned, it should be with deep sentiments of reverence, tenderness, and affection ; and this should diffuse a melancholy and plaintive tone through those passages where such a name was remembered. Even when a Cullen dies, his faults should die with him, while that only which is worthy of praise

(as much is worthy of praise in what he has done for our profession) should be alone remembered. To be ungrateful to those who are gone, is not like a man of learning and science, who hopes for reverence from future ages. To all men of science it is mortifying and discouraging to see this; to see, within a few short years of his death, that man, whose liberalities and charities were long felt in this city, quite forgotten! That physician, whose doctrines have almost created this school, (for he, after Monro the father, is its second founder), mentioned with contempt, in his own school, and from the very chair he filled so honourably!—"A tub to amuse the whale!" Could Cullen indeed say this? Cullen, the proud and jealous author of a doctrine which had enslaved the medical world, could he declare that doctrine to be a cheat? It is not to be believed: a regard for consistency and decency, a regard for the sacred office he professed, a regard for his own lasting reputation, which stood on this sole point; respect for his predecessors, and justice, and honour, towards those who were to succeed him in his office, must have restrained him, even in the presence of a friend: vanity must have restrained him, if no better sentiment dwelt in his mind †.

† "There must be a Tub to amuse the whale," said Dr Cullen to my father. Dr Cullen's answer was that of a man of genius, who thoroughly understood his own profession, and the situation in which he was placed. It conveyed more knowledge of human nature than I have been able to find in a great and very popular work on the Theory of Physic, which has been more highly extolled than any that has been published in my time, and which seems to "*have been composed in sober earnest.*"

The work now for the first time entitled, *The Tale of a Tub*, is the doctrine of the celebrated Cullen; and it is told, on authority more convin-

How will the enemies and rivals of this school rejoice, and serious men lament, and thousands, who practise according to the doctrines of Cullen, grieve to hear of this wanton aggression?—to hear his successor, his immediate successor, pronounce, even from that chair where he sat many an anxious day to teach this doctrine, pronounce, that “the dogmas of medicine are stark nonsense;” “its facts, nay, its very facts, lies;” and “the chief doctrine of the school a cheat?” What will the world think, when they hear this gentleman commend the greatest Professor of this school for that dereliction of his own doctrine, which degrades him from the rank of science, and for that hypocrisy, which crowns his name and memory with dishonour?

Diis depellentibus agnam percute.

You, Gentlemen, the Managers of the Royal Infirmary, to whom we address this remonstrance, you remember the venerable Cullen, when he sat as one of your number. You well remember, that tho’ he was a liberal, yet was he a serious man. You will not affect to understand his doctrines; but you have witnessed their influence, and the enthusiasm they inspired. He made profelytes of all the world; and even now, that the life and spirit of

cing than the demonstrations of Euclid, &c. that it is an imposition, a mere experiment on the credulity of the world! The *situation in which he was placed*, was that of playing the hypocrite through all his life; a situation, however honourable to a man of genius, very distressing to a man of honour. The popular work on the Theory of Physic is that of Dr Darwin, whose name should never be mentioned but with respect. We beg leave to suggest, that perhaps it is popular, because it is written in sober earnest. Dr Gregory has gone far lengths in practising upon his own peculiar and favourite doctrine, “that a thing cannot be popular if written in earnest.”

that doctrine is gone, its remains are consecrated. To know his theories, to repeat his definitions, to profess to be the admirer and defender of Cullen, has always been in this University the sole and sure passport to Medical honours. Nor has this regimen and academic discipline relaxed of late years: To these dogmas, true or untrue, is every young man obliged to yield assent, "mouth, honour, breath, which the poor heart would fain deny, but dare not." In what light must this enforced obedience appear, now, when the doctrine is declared to be a tale! a very cheat?

The medical school of this city has, like an individual, enemies, and envious ones; and it has its quarrels, too! well supported, envious feuds, which have lasted for fifty years. Could no such enemies be found to trample upon the chief doctrines of this school, and traduce the memory of its second founder? If there be in our profession that contemptible craft and mystery which will not bear the light; if medicine be indeed, what scoffers have reported our holy religion to be, an invention to cheat the world; if our Colleges are the temples of lying gods, could none be found to reveal the unholy mystery, but these, the very children of the High-Priests, bred behind the altar, who have crawled up by night to devour the rich offerings given to Baal? Now that their own order is untrue, there is no need to strew ashes before the altar, to trace the prints of their footsteps. There needs no Daniel come to judge them †.

† I was very early, says the Memorialist, *admitted behind the curtain*, and understood the mystery, and was diverted with the "young drones, sitting listening to the hum of the old drones."

If the Cullenian doctrine be false, why reproach us with our once easy faith? But the world is given to change, and that, too, will be reformed! If the author of that doctrine knew it to be untrue, why shock us with the tale of his duplicity, and make us feel that we are the fools of his cunning? Why is this blurted out in the face of the credulous world?—Is it to shew how well this old Professor knew the mystery of his trade? Or is it the apology of his successor for neglecting those serious and important duties which belong to his office? Or is it to remind us that those puerile fabrications are all unworthy of that soaring mind, which ranges through the mysteries of law, logic, and metaphysics, and whose piercing eye, and keen style, “anatomises the soul of Judas Johnstone, a vile miscreant,” and of Jonathan Dawplucker, and the younger surgeons? Much as those achievements may imply of acute genius, they are far below the hereditary dignity of a Professor, whose exertions in behalf of science are due to the public, for they are bought with high offices and emoluments, and with titles and honours which should not be tarnished.

Dr Gregory, if he have high abilities, is responsible for the abuse of the talents with which Heaven has blessed him; and he needs not be told, that “every state and station in life implies certain moral duties*,” which it should be our chief honour and pleasure to perform. His better judgement may revolt against the task of framing doctrines in a science so distressingly uncertain in its prin-

* Gregory's Memorial, passim.

ciples as medicine is : His genius and learning may enable him to perform other and more important services to that science : His uncontrouled spirit may incline him to despise the counsel, and be indifferent to the good wishes of those whose profession he treats with so little delicacy. Yet we beg leave to assure this gentleman, that while we are sincerely zealous for the honour of that school where we first perceived the dawn of science, we wish him nothing but the most honourable employments, befitting his station in the University ; such as will wipe away the remembrance of this rude assault, and number him once more among those whom we respect and honour.

If there ever was a time when the office of a teacher was important, it is now, when debate has taken place of science, and philosophy of religion. Coarse familiarities, and unmannerly jests, will not win the favour of pupils, nor impress any sentiments which are not to be feared ; while the sedate carriage, the manly sentiments, the stern reproofs, of an old Professor, beget both love and reverence.

“ In colleges and halls, in ancient days,
 When learning, virtue, piety, and truth,
 Were precious, and inculcated with care,
 There dwelt a sage, called Discipline. His head,
 Not yet by time completely silver'd o'er,
 Bespoke him past the bounds of freakish youth ;
 His eye was meek and gentle, and a smile
 Play'd on his lips ; and in his speech was heard
 Paternal sweetness, dignity, and love.
 The occupation dearest to his heart
 Was to encourage goodness. He would stroke

The head of modest and ingenuous worth,
 That blush'd at its own praise ; and prefs the youth
 Close to his side, that pleas'd him. Learning grew
 Beneath his care, a thriving vigorous plant ;
 The mind was well inform'd, the passions held
 Subordinate, and diligence was choice.
 If e'er it chanc'd, as sometimes chance it must,
 That one among so many overleap'd
 The limits of controul, his gentle eye
 Grew stern, and darted a severe rebuke ;
 His frown was full of terror, and his voice
 Shook the delinquent with such fits of awe,
 As left him not, till penitence had won
 Lost favour back again, and clos'd the breach.
 But Discipline, a faithful servant long,
 Declin'd at length into the vale of years ;
 A palsy struck his arm ; his sparkling eye
 Was quench'd in rheums of age ; his voice, unstrung,
 Grew tremulous, and mov'd derision more
 Than reverence, in perverse rebellious youth.
 So colleges and halls neglected much
 Their good old friend ; and Discipline at length,
 O'erlook'd and unemployed, fell sick and died.
 Then Study languish'd, Emulation slept,
 And virtue fled. The schools became a scene
 Of solemn farce, where Ignorance on stilts,
 His cap well lined with logic not his own,
 With parrot tongue perform'd the scholar's part,
 Proceeding soon a graduated dunce.
 Then compromise had place, and scrutiny
 Became stone-blind, precedence went in truck,
 And he was competent whose purse was so."

The head of modest and ingenuous worth,
That shudd' at its own praise; and gave the youth
Close to his side, that pleas'd him. Learning grew
Beneath his care, a thriving vigorous plant;
The mind was well inform'd, the passions held
In subordination, and diligence was chose;
If ever it chanc'd, as sometimes chance it must,
That one among to many overleas'd
The limits of control, his gentle eye
Gave fears, and fasten'd a fever's stroke;
His brow was full of terror, and his voice
Shook the dominant with such fits of awe,
As left him not till penitence had won
To flatter back again, and clos'd the breach.
But Discipline, a faithful servant long,
Declin'd at length into the vale of years;
A pally struck his arm, his sparkling eye
Was quench'd in rheums of age; his voice, unstring'd,
Grew tremulous, and mov'd decision more
Than reverence, in perverse rebellious youth.
No college and halls need'd more
Their good old friend; and Discipline at length
O' school and academy, fell sick and dead.
From study languish'd. Emulation sleep'd
And virtue fled. The school became a scene
Of sloth and ease, where ignorance so still
Laid cap and sword with logic and the own
With parrot tongue, repeating the teacher's tale,
And making some a graduated dunce,
And others compromise his place and station;
Whom some blind prejudice was in track,
And he was contempt which gave him loss

SECTION II.

OF THE NATURE OF THAT CONNECTION WHICH
ESSENTIALLY SUBSISTS BETWIXT HOSPITALS
AND SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE.

“He that is first in his own cause seemeth just, but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him,”

“Is a contract more *tolerable*, more *tenable*, or *less* cruel, *less* unjust, *less* absurd, which, without expressing in words that hateful condition, necessarily implies it in fact.”

From the voluminous memorial addressed, not to the Managers of the Infirmary, but to the World, we have copied this summary libel against the Managers, the Surgeons, the institution itself, and all who have been concerned in the conduct of it for fifty years. It is, on the grounds of this libel, that the former managers, nay the noble and liberal founder himself, are convicted of treason and perjury, of selling the privileges of this house to surgeons. They are accused of an itching palm; they are convicted of soiling their hands with a bribe! and “a bribe is broad English, for a reward given to pervert the judgement *.”

* That the author should choose to distinguish this expression as “broad English,” is rather singular. It is indeed broad English, but in the midst of

We will not condescend to retort this uncivil language, nor say of this memorial, that it is *intolerable, unjust, cruel, and hateful*. It is indeed written in a very peculiar stile, but that can be easily explained, if not pardoned ; it proceeds from a very natural cause. “ He thinks himself obliged, in the conduct of this argument, to take nothing for granted that can admit of proof ; and especially, to take nothing for granted that is favourable to his own cause ; but to imagine

his Memorial, not much to be distinguished as particularly broad. It is broad English we willingly confess, but by no means a specimen of that sound, logical reasoning, which we thought the Memorialist as proud of, as of writing broad. The Memorialist says, the five hundred pounds, given by the Royal College of Surgeons, is “ logice, a bribe or gratification ;—a reward to pervert the judgment.” In our poor opinion, a bribe is not a reward, for it is given before : it is an inducement to perverse actions, in spite of judgment and conscience ; that the judgment remains unperverted, makes the chief criminality of the Bribee.

But we observe our Memorialist, with the rapidity of true genius, distorting many of his definitions into very intricate anagrams and rebuses ; we could amuse a Senatus Academicus for a whole winter evening with anagrammatic definitions out of the Professor’s Memorial. Can any performance of the kind be more ingenious than the Professor’s definition of an Iota.

Definition of an Iota,

By Dr GREGORY, Professor of Physic, and Practitioner in Law, Logic, Metaphysics, and Philology.

“ Thus, for example, the *Homoiousions* and the *Homoioiutions* of the Greek church persecuted one another with the most unrelenting hatred, far worse than ever subsisted between Mahometans and Christians, though they differed only by one letter, and that one the smallest letter of the Greek alphabet ; so very, very, very, very small, that the name of it has, even in our language, become proverbial, to denote the smallest possible or conceivable object of the human understanding !”

and conceive, argue and set forth, whatever might be maintained by the younger surgeons, or in their name, by counsel learned in the law ; with whom it is a point of honour, and indeed of *professional and moral duty*, to give up no argument, however *unpopular, ungracious, or shocking!*"---This is the theory of his whole volume ; it is the very heart of his mystery : much honour may it be to him, that he has invented a theory so new in the profession of the law, and he has illustrated his theory by a specimen of consummate practice. We trust the discovery will be accepted by the profession as an expiatory sacrifice for the burlesque informations, indictments, and pleadings of this amateur in legal knowledge.

Having thus graciously constituted himself patron of the Royal College of Surgeons ; regarding that society as an elymofinary institution, a sort of appendix to his profession, which he is called upon to defend without fee or reward, he proceeds, in the execution of that *ferocious moral duty*, self-ivnented, and which he delights to perform. He plays the lawyer's part for those who are perhaps little pleased with this retrograde logic, and who have but a slender confidence in his knowledge of the law. He proceeds to contrive every unpopular, ungracious, shocking argument, with such alacrity and spirit, as indicates the most favourable talents and dispositions. He opens our cause in *forma pauperis*, and we would not violate the character he has been pleased to assign us ; poor even in thanks, we can offer no other reward than the honour of this generous exertion in our behalf : the fame of the pleading is all his own : without " the tongues of either [of the Erskines," he has executed a department of the law

in which both their tongues would have faltered and failed them.

Ingenium velox, audacia perditā, fermo

Promptus, et Iſeo torrentior : Ede quid illum

Esſe putes.

Sixty years ago, when the interests of the Royal College, and what is more important, the interests of science, and of medical schools, were ill understood, a memorial was composed in behalf of the Royal College of Surgeons, by some person or persons, not only void of humanity, but of cunning, to conceal contemptible designs, and mainly ignorant of the interests of that society for which the memorial was composed. Such is the memorial which Dr Gregory has had the happiness (for to him it must be a great happiness,) of finding out, and he has hung it up as the *corpus delicti*, the subject-matter of impeachment. The contract unfortunately, (though we should suppose innocently enough, for the Royal College) records a donation on their part of five hundred pounds ; and, by a vicious and perverse logic, the acquiring of this piece of money is represented as the sole object and design of the Managers: to retain this L. 500 is represented as the chief wish of their successors: while the privilege granted in return to the royal college is represented to be that “ of all the members of that college, the youngest and the oldest, the good and the bad, the worse and the worst, cutting and operating upon their fellow-creatures, whose limbs and bodies (but that was couched in metaphor,) were sold to the highest bidder, like the dung of the city, the ox to the shambles, or the ox’s skin to the tan-pit.”

This is the sum of the argument, and these the gracious

terms in which it is expressed. And from the period in which our voluntary counsel, learned in logic at least, if not in humanities and in the law, discovers this memorial, his genius seems to gain new vigour ; his unpopular, ungracious, and shocking arguments, run with a fuller current ; he utters nothing but the most pathetic lamentations about the bribe ! the corruption ! the injustice and cruelties to the sick poor ! the *pactum illicitum* ! the daily murders ! the FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS.

“ Felix orator quoque maximus et jaculator

Cantat bene *.

The mock pleadings upon this *pactum illicitum* have been dilated into a tedious volume, but they are pleadings which do no discredit to the theory of this ferocious moral duty. They are unpopular, ungracious, and shocking ; they need no reply. Never will we allow the connection, the liberal connection of the Royal College with this Royal Infirmary, to be regarded in this degrading point of view. We plead none of those ungracious and shocking arguments ; we claim not our bond ; we claim not the 500*l*. ; we will never maintain the validity of any contract inconsistent with the public good. If we appeal to you, Gentlemen, it is in reason, conscience, and honour ; we stand upon the universal principles of science, and the constitution of our profession : those are rights which we will never relinquish, and cannot be ashamed to claim.

* If the Memorialist would, at our request, have the goodness to make out the Etymology of *Canting*, with the same felicitous spirit of investigation that he has made out the definition of an Iota, he would gratify the whole literary world.

It is never to be forgotten in this controversy, that in place of partial and selfish interests, we are speaking of medical science and medical institutions; a College, an Infirmary, and a public school of Practice. We are come to issue now on points important to all ranks and degrees of men; we are debating about the right education of surgeons, and the general safety of the public: we are disputing about the training of young men, not to a philosophical, but to a practical art; we are reasoning upon the principles of a profession, the essential and inviolable connection betwixt colleges and medical schools, and the relation of those institutions to the public good. Whatever may have been the opinions of former generations, we have our own; we hope they are not less humane and liberal than those of former ages; and we appeal to you, Gentlemen, in a happy period, when science is improved, and charity is universally felt to be a public duty.

Of all arts, medicine, as it is the most uncertain, is that which requires, more than any other, to be taught by example. To read in books, the characters, signs, and definitions of disease, will go but a little way towards forming a physician: that critical eye, that skillful touch, by which we distinguish disease, are acquired only by use and practice. To become skilful, a man must live among the sick: he must have lively feelings, and a sympathizing nature; his mind and senses must be deeply impressed with the character of every peculiar kind of suffering; he must have that inward sympathy with the distresses of his fellow-creature, which fills the mind with sincere and affectionate interest. What can more aggravate sickness, than to tell the long tale of misery to one who merely listens, who betrays no touch of compassion,

whose cold and formal inquiries imply no interest, and end with a prescription in form. Such a man never learnt his profession, will never learn it: he has no feelings towards his individual patients, and can have no enthusiasm towards his general duty. In our profession, young men should have instilled into their minds that sympathy with the sufferings of their patient, and that keen spirit of investigation should be roused in them, which refines every sense, and quickens the intellect.

To be initiated into our profession, is not merely to be taught the principles of Chemistry, and the Anatomy of the human body; but it is to be interested in the investigations into the nature of disease; to feel an interest in the fate of each patient; to form apprehensions for his safety which perhaps he himself does not feel; to be impressed with the remembrance of former cases, where the same disorder was attended with danger; to be alarmed by changes of voice, pulse, and countenance, which make no impression even on the patient's friends. This is the true initiation into our profession; and he, who is once full of these sympathies, takes an interest in every case, and studies with unremitting diligence. Where can those impressions come so home to the mind, as in a great hospital? What period so favourable as that of youth?

Every young man, whether he be a surgeon, or a physician, should be accustomed to the forms of swellings, inflammations, ulcers, wounds, luxations, fractures, and all the consequences of outward disease or injury; and he should be familiar with the symptoms of fever, the appearance of eruptions, the variations of the pulse, the

affections of the breathing, and those changes in the complexion and features, which accompany disease; he should know the signs of safety, and danger! of life, and death.

In every country in Europe, where medicine and surgery are taught, and real charity and philanthropy are known, the hospitals are the avowed schools of practice. Nor is it more important, that the poor should be cared for with humanity, skill, and charity, than that those institutions should serve this chief end, of breeding well-instructed physicians and surgeons, fitted to officiate, and to excel in the various departments of private life: for still in private life, they officiate to the rich and to the poor!

But how are colleges and hospitals to be connected with each other? How shall we join the theoretical with the practical part of a medical school, preserving, at the same time, that good faith and natural duty which exists betwixt man and man? How, without violating the inborn and essential rights of our fellow-creature, shall we expose him a spectacle of distress, and an example of the various methods of curing disease? How shall we dare to bring out our fellow-creature naked, and lay him upon a table, amidst hundreds of spectators, writhing under the pains of an operation! suppressing his cries, because he feels, (even the lowest man must feel at such a moment,) that his nature is degraded? Yet even this must be done!

In medicine, as in religion, in administering to the disorders of the body as to the infirmities of the mind, we are bound to make every decent and respectful provision for the poor. Ours is a profession which relates not to the care of riches or reputation, but of life itself; and it is with no

small precaution that men are received into it. By the care with which teachers are chosen to instruct youth, by those decent solemnities with which young men are received into their profession, and assimilated with their respectable and elder brethren; by those oaths of secrecy, fidelity, and honour, by which they are initiated,—the public has good assurance, that none are received who are not in some degree worthy of the important charge.

It is for this cause, that colleges of medicine and surgery are essentially connected with hospitals, and acknowledged as the highest professional authority in every well-ordered state. What is a *College*? as it relates to you and to your Infirmary? A COLLEGE is a CONSTITUTIONAL BARRIER AGAINST THE INTRUSION OF IGNORANT, UNWORTHY, OR UNPRINCIPLED MEN, INTO A PROFESSION WHICH SHOULD BE EVER SACRED; and this barrier is the safeguard of the poor!---

A rich man may select a surgeon, honoured and respected in his profession; he may have for his friend a man of learning, and consummate skill; but he may, on the other hand, give his faith and confidence, entrust his health, and the health of his family, to an impostor: The highest characters in the kingdom stick their names, this blessed day, much honoured appendages! to the bills of an advertising Quack.

The poor man, though destitute of all means, and in the most calamitous situation, thrown unfriended, and unaccompanied into a public hospital, runs no such danger; he has not leave, nor will, to ruin his health, by such imprudent choice. No, he goes into an hospital, submits himself to the care, perhaps to the operations of the attending surgeon; but

he is in the hands of one who, though unknown to him, has regularly studied and practised his profession ; who has given public proofs of his skill ; who is a member of a Royal College ; a man actually employed in families of distinction ; responsible with all that he holds precious, his character and professional reputation, for the fate of even the poorest creature that is put under his care.

Invidious as it may seem, it is now become our duty, and a sacred one, to defend that College to which we owe our education, and the rank we hold in our profession, and we will boldly compare it with other institutions. Does this College perform its constitutional office ? Is it a fence and safeguard, to prevent the intrusion of ignorant, unprincipled men ? Is it jealous of improper persons entering into an honourable profession ? or are its rules such as to ensure to the public, to the rich, and to the poor, a succession of respectable and able surgeons ?

A young man designing to enter into our profession, comes under the protection and guidance of the College, is united with it, and becomes a provisional member of that body at fifteen years of age. In general, he lives in the house of a surgeon, and for five years is present at his operations ; accompanies him in his visits to persons of a certain class ; and of the lower people he takes a more particular charge. While he does drudgeries which are not without their use, he attends the university, and has those opportunities of practice, which young men of the best fortune, coming from a distance, cannot obtain. He often becomes a dresser in the hospital ; officiates as a clerk there ; fulfills his apprenticeship, and in a great measure compleats his studies. If rich,

he goes abroad, but, if better opportunities are denied him, he enters into the army, and returns, after some years spent not unusefully, to the actual practice of his profession.

He then seeks to establish himself in his native city; when neither the manner of conducting business is new to him, nor the rules and practice of that hospital of which he is to become a constitutional surgeon. He gives in his name to the President of the Royal College, is examined three several times touching his professional knowledge. He is received as a surgeon, attends the hospital, is present for several years at every consultation, and every operation, and is assistant to his own particular friend.

It is thus that the College performs its constitutional functions, and the young man who is received into it is admitted to all the rights and privileges of a one fairly and honourably educated. He has been known at the College from his infancy; his birth and parentage, his studies and moral character, his views and expectations in life, are all known. He has grown up to those years in which his abilities and judgement should be matured. He pays the sum of two hundred pounds, which puts him on a rank with any profession of this city, and proves that he has had opportunities of a respectable education. He is not, as in London, the licentiate of a corporation, admitted for fifteen pounds! but is, by a solemn act of admission, declared competent to all the duties of his profession; is received as a MEMBER of the ROYAL COLLEGE of SURGEONS, and is compeer with every man who sits at that board: There is not, in his profession of surgery, any higher dignity to which he should aspire.

Humanity, Gentlemen, is the imposing plea of this me-

morialist ; yet you know well, that, sooner or later, every young man must begin the practice of that profession for which he is destined. Allow this most indecent argument, that the first operations of the young surgeon are murders ! such murders will assuredly be somewhere performed ; and never can the operations of the younger surgeons be more safely attempted, than under the character of members of the Royal College ! in a public and well-regulated school ! under the observance and criticism of their fellow-members, assisted, and supported, and controuled, by the presence of numbers ; in an open area too, where all the world is free to pronounce judgment on his merits !---If the desire of reputation, or the fear of shame ; the malignancy of enemies, who cannot be excluded from operations, or the praise of friends, who will group around him ; if fame, fortune, and his own happiness being at stake, will not induce the young surgeon to apply to his profession, and become excellent, there is reason to despair.

Is even the university itself ! the university, whose parchments convey all the titles and honours of medicine, empowering the holder to practise all kinds of operations, more faithful to its charge ? No ! a medical school receives men of all descriptions ; young and thoughtless men : and the professors know not whence they come, nor whither they go. Their names are inscribed in the Album, but to whom are they known ? who advises them in their studies ? or inquires into their course of life ? A university does not, after the years of probation, assimilate its pupils ; but each walks off his several way, the young man of genius, and the graduated dunce, equally privileged, equally unnoticed.

Is a College of Physicians so constituted, as to give the world assurance of well educated men? No: a College of Physicians is a corporate body, but no school; it is a society which is forced to receive documents of every kind. In its chancery all bills are good! degrees of very various denominations have an equal value! Every man who is resolved to practise must be received: it is true, he must hold a degree from some university, professing to be a school of medicine; but these are often testimonials of such a kind, as to require no severe apprenticeship, nor weary service, nor any waste of midnight oil! They are purchased at so slight a price, "that all the land is littered with the fry."

Perhaps, Gentlemen, you are now informed, for the first time, of the order of our college; and relieved from those conscientious fears, which the clamours of the high and low vulgar must have excited in your minds. You are sensible, that no man is permitted to operate in your hospital, who has not been carefully bred to surgery; who has not been, from his boyish years, a member of the college, and continually under your own eye. This is the constitution of our profession; the design of our charter; the theory of that essential connection, which subsists, and must always subsist, betwixt the Royal College of Surgeons and the Hospital of this city: a connection honourable to those two bodies, advantageous to science, and so much for the public good that none but a rash speculator would wish to see it dissolved.

Our college stands as a barrier betwixt the sick poor of this city and the intrusion of ignorant men. We have been the pupils of this college; we are now its members and sworn supporters! To it, and to our profession, we owe a common

allegiance. You will not be offended, nor will our fellow-citizens be displeased, that, being thus called before the public, we go through the degrading duty of self-defence, with a degree of resentment, and answer one, of many pamphlets, with that spirit which becomes our time of life.

Gentlemen, we stop now, to address you in language unusual, but respectful: in language unthought of by that rude, impetuous memorialist, who has burst in upon our profession, regardless of all order, and mainly ignorant of that science, and that ancient society and school of surgery, whose constitution, imperfect as it is, we are sworn to defend; whose narrow limits and authorities it is our duty to enlarge. He feels none of those delicacies, with which we require to be treated: he suspects not that we have rights, which it will be no dishonour to claim.

You are the guardians of a great and important charity, and it well becomes you to stand up in your place, to claim your rights: you cannot but have rights; and we feel, with pleasure, that you have used them with discretion and honour. This is an important question, in which you are unhappily engaged: from the shape it has now assumed, it will be always remembered; and in its consequences, good or bad, it will be felt for ages. You are publicly called to a sort of honourable arbitration betwixt contending parties: you will resist all claims incompatible with charity, for that is your duty, your sacred duty; and you will resist all partial unworthy views, all improper designs upon a public property, and the inheritance of a national school! for that your honour is pledged: You have not sworn it, but you are bound by nobler ties; to those ties, to your just senti-

ments, we trust with confidence : your honour is our bond !
our only bond !

What our College is, and how we are bound in allegiance and duty, you must now feel : it was the scene of our early education, and your Infirmary, the place which we frequented, and still frequent as the practical school ; ever since our minds were turned to our profession, our thoughts have centered here. There are privileges which it is an honour to claim, and a virtue to defend : this is not a question of pure morality ; it is the bursting jealousies of a jealous profession ; it is the whirlwind of passions and contending interests ; it is the plea of humanity joined with the crooked policies and wiles of designing men. We see unceasing efforts, tale upon tale, pamphlet upon pamphlet, and proofs on proofs ! the whole medical world stirred up in commotion, to work the work of those who, for the widow's, or the poor man's cause ! would ne'er have passed one sleepless night.

It is the peculiar happiness of this country to have a public College of Surgery, which has enjoyed its charter for three hundred years. It has that connexion with the hospital which the interests of the public require : it has a constitution which no wise man would touch, but with a wary hand. If it have gone into disorder, (as all human institutions are by lapse of time subject to change,) where shall we find a calm, reflecting, disinterested mind, to renew its principles ? where shall we seek for analogies to correct its practice ? If the analogies be sought in the great hospitals of a manufacturing or commercial city, what do we find there ? Individual charities, unconnected with a general school. We

find in such a city, an hospital erected by private subscription, the property of wealthy merchants, or manufacturers; perhaps the bequest of some single person! There is no College of Surgeons, nor any school with which such hospital should be joined; no young men to be taught their profession; no liberal scheme of education to be fulfilled; no purpose to serve, but the individual good of the poor within its walls. How, in the name of wonder, should hospital surgeons be procured in such a city? By election only. There is no barrier to prevent the intrusion of ignorant men; there is no evidence of professional skill but good conduct; no proof, but election, of a man being fit for the important charge. How should the managers, the proprietors rather *, of such a charity, proceed in their office? Their candidates are not always natives of the city; they have not grown up under their care; they are not connected with the hospital; they are not known as members of a college: While studying for their degrees, they have made surgery the least part of their care! the very men who, in this school, have neglected surgery, go into those cities, to solicit promotion, or to practise for bread.

This College has subsisted for three hundred years. Your memorialist has not condescended to inform you, that it is the oldest in Europe, and the only College of Surgery in these kingdoms. That it, as well as the University, is a part, a much neglected part, of the public school. He has not thought fit to remind you, that this hospital is erected by no private subscription; is no bequest of any rich or

* It is often a share in a subscription that gives the privilege of election. How much the privilege is abused, what unseemly scenes disgrace these humane elections we need hardly mention.

generous individual ; it is subject to no petty regulations of proprietors or founders. Ours is a national hospital, and as it is united with the College of Surgeons, it is a national school. We look for no precedent to limit the benefits of this institution ! Shall we deliver up, as the Memorialist requires, this national school, as a property to three individual men ? No : it is a cold-blooded treason, which we are sworn to resist : The blow has been struck at the dignity of our profession too openly, to make any deep or dangerous wound.

You are legislating for a great hospital ; for a public school ; for a most important profession, connected with the legislation of the country, and represented in the government of this city. The jealousies of a jealous profession, the petty interests of a corporation, the crooked and wily policy of designing men, you will regard with contempt ; nor will you ever consent to convert the honours and dignities of a college, and the benefits of a public school, into a private individual property, peculiar to a few. You are legislating for a department of the medical profession, always important, and becoming every day more worthy of protection :---you are legislating for a department of our profession, which exists only within your walls, since within those walls are received, persons whose situation in life exposes them to various accidents and diseases, which call for surgical assistance, and are unknown to those of a higher rank. Surgery is to be seen and practised only in hospitals ; and the constitution for an hospital should be that of a noble and liberal school. We disclaim for ourselves every partial or selfish wish : but should any member of our society think to substitute his own individual importance to

the dignity of the college, or take upon himself and his friends the administration and duties of such a school, we should boldly proclaim him a traitor to the school, and to the college! He steals the precious diadem from the shelf, to put it in his pocket.---

We have explained certain principles, which no one will be so adventurous as to deny, that there is an interest higher than that of the managers, the college, or even the sick poor: in the GENERAL IMPROVEMENT OF SCIENCE, the sick poor, the managers, and the whole country, and generations yet unborn, have an interest. For the improvement of science, it is important that every hospital be a public school: for the security of the sick poor, it is essential that there be some constitutional barrier against the intrusion of ignorant men: and for the common security of the sick poor, and the promotion of science, it is right that two institutions, the most important in our profession, the Infirmary and the College of Surgeons, be constitutionally joined.

If, in all this voluminous memorial, there be one other constitutional question, it is this, "What is the difference betwixt hospital practice and private practice? Why, since in a college there must be a variety of talents; since among the *bad* there must be some *good*, since among these good there must be a few excellent,---why not elect the most approved good surgeons to officiate in the practical school? Why should not the managers of an hospital choose surgeons for their general family, the poor of the city, as a private

gentleman selects the person to whom he will intrust the lives of his wife, and children, and servants?

There are certain individual distinctions, even in a liberal and learned profession, which, independently of learning or real professional skill, bespeak confidence, and attach man to man: were it not so, one man of overbearing abilities might annihilate his profession. Yet these are qualities, which the constitution of a profession cannot recognize! In the army, for example, there are officers distinguished as sincere, benevolent, brave, and generous; pleasant companions, and faithful friends: one is remarkable for courage; another is an excellent engineer; another draws like an artist, and is thoroughly acquainted with the topography of every country in Europe. Yet each of those, whether subaltern or captain, is known only by his rank, is promoted by seniority according to the constitution of his calling, and is responsible merely for the duties of his appointed station. It appears then, that there are even professional excellencies which the constitution of a profession does not recognize.

In the sea service, a midshipman and a lieutenant undergo various trials of professional learning, in mathematics, navigation, and tactics. They are obliged to give proofs also of practical knowledge. A young midshipman is questioned how he would work a ship into a particular harbour? what sail he would set to double a particular reef of rocks or head-land? how he would navigate his vessel through the Categat, from a port in the Baltic to the Humber? Upon these trials he may be rejected, but being received as a lieutenant, he is held competent to all the duties of his sta-

tion, and is responsible for them with his life ! for the care of the watch, for the look-out, for the safety of the ship, and the lives of a thousand men, which are from night to night committed to his care.

The essential duties of a profession are those only, which the public rules and institutes of that profession can recognize ; and a surgeon, like an officer, should be received in a public character, and to a public charge in common with his fellow surgeons. He should be received early, if he have studied well ; late, if he have studied ill : he should be rejected, if he have quite neglected his studies : He should be received on the grounds of public testimonials, according to the constitution of his calling ; not by partial elections, where the greatest share of patronage often lights on the least deserving.

To the simple professional character thus ascertained, is often added that factitious character which is usually acquired at the expence of real professional skill ; of this sad truth the world is now well convinced ; and the memorial which we are now reviewing is a lasting proof, that splendid or specious talents do not imply the soundest judgement. It is the factitious character that opens the way to public employment and professional honours : In what does it consist ? in suavity of manners, a specious carriage, an agreeable person, a pleasing address, a facetious conversation, a thorough knowledge of the politics and courtliness of high life. A splendid establishment, a gaudy carriage, family connections, and the solicitation of friends, are chief distinctions in our profession. And will the Memorialist, a philosopher, and a liberal one, speak of these as specific quali-

ties, which ascertain a man's professional skill? We hope, for the credit of bare unsophisticated nature, that the honest and feeling heart, the thinking head, and the steady hand! the open liberal hand, which drops its alms while it is assuaging pain! is not more frequent in the gilded chariot, than in the humble walks of life; where men drag along the burden of their duties, and crawl even on their lower extremities in the pristine manner.

The Memorialist looks down with unwise contempt on our lower order, without reflecting, that those duties are often the most honourable which are lowly and humble. When the priests of Gaudma, in the kingdom of Ava, are initiated into their holy duties, they are thus instructed by the high priest: "Thou shalt turn to use such things as men cast away; and thou shalt search for healing qualities in simples, in which no virtue is supposed to exist; sweet and sour, milk and honey, sugar and syrups." "But the first and principal duty in our holy function, consists in procuring maintenance by perambulation; by laborious, incessant motion of the muscles of the legs. You must seek sustenance by continual motion *"

The slow progress of a virtuous man is among the sad disgusting pictures which the Roman satyrist gives of the follies, vices, and miseries of the luxurious city, and our Memorialist has been so unwise as to repeat the lines, "*Non facile emergunt quorum virtutibus obstat res angusta domi.*" It is of us he speaks: we thank him for the compliment, and shall strive to do away the reproach.

To what qualities of the head, or hand, or heart, does

* Syme's Account of the Embassy to the Kingdom of Ava.

this philosophical Memorialist adjudge the prize? Is it to liberal accomplishments, deep professional studies, splendid abilities, or even the report of happy operations? By no means. It is his "indisputable general principle," That great employment is the mark of public esteem! that public esteem is the test of merit! that an accumulation of all the gains of a profession, is synonymous with the acquisition of all the learning of the science! and to finish the climax of public virtue with the words of the preacher, "that riches is wisdom!"

"It is *probable*, (says Dr Gregory,) that those are best qualified for such a trust who, after a complete and regular education in their profession, have had the advantage of many years experience, both in private practice and in this infirmary, *and who actually have at this time great employment, and public esteem and confidence.*"

"Of course, I earnestly wish that *two or three such men* were appointed ordinary surgeons to the hospital. Perhaps they *will not thank me for this suggestion*, which may seem to reduce them to the unpleasant dilemma! of either declining to do what is right! and what is expected of them! or else doing what *is very disagreeable and inconvenient to themselves*. I certainly have no wish to *give offence* to any of them, and I am sensible that I touch a very *delicate point* *."

"It is not, however, *so embarrassing* as, at first sight, it may

* The direct logical opposition of what is right, and what is expected of these gentlemen, with what they are willing to do, is a singular compliment. We wish this gentleman had been as delicate of giving offence to the younger surgeons, as to those who actually have at this time great employment, and public esteem and confidence!

appear. Any such surgeons who give their services in the hospital on a new system, will have, and, what is better, will deserve, great credit with the public for doing so; more especially as it must *be plain to every body* that they can have no motive but honest zeal for the public good, when they undertake such a *laborious duty*. Any salary that the Infirmary may be supposed to give to its surgeons could be *no object to such men*; it could not even be an adequate compensation for the time which they must employ in the hospital."

We are very thankful, that while we cool, (for it is on this occasion the memorialist tells us "we shall have time to cool,") our places will be occupied by honourable men: and we are happy to reflect that he has in his eye great men, to whom rewards, at least pecuniary rewards, are no object: we are pleased with the ingenious delicacy with which he designates and marks out particular surgeons so precisely, as to require apologies on his part: we are charmed with the manner in which he apologises for "his offence," "his indelicate offence," yet still avoids the odious circumstance of names: and we are no less charmed with the gallantry with which he leads his three "embarrassed" favourites onwards to their blushing honours; the oldest, the richest, the best employed surgeons, and yet loath to become the pensioned operators of this hospital, and grieved to think of assuming the invidious distinction of "being the first surgeons of the hospital and the city *."

* There never was a piece of hypocrisy equal to this—first, we declare that we believe there is no young man who would not be gratified with any salary which men, so liberal as the managers of the Infirmary, could think of offering to a respectable profession. Let us next enquire whether such salary would be an object to an old and established surgeon: allow us to illus-

From this expression, of becoming the first surgeons of the hospital, and of this city, we perceive that the Memorialist is master of every nook and angle of this perplexed demonstration; and though a mere philosopher in the abstract, “indispensible, general principle,” and a mere enthusiast in what belongs to charity and the sick poor! “is yet able, when the wind’s in the east, look you, to know a hawk from a hand-saw,---but the saying’s musty.”

Thus, Gentlemen, we have thought good to intimate to you, in that figurative language which the Memorialist himself delights in, that when a professional question, including such important objects, is discussed, there will arise a whirlwind of passions and interests, in which even you will be involved. We have that respect for you and your high office, that while we express our attachment and duty to you, we warn you of this truth.

You have before you, the constitutional principles by which the sick poor are guarded from the intrusion of ignorant, uneducated surgeons, into a public hospital. You are competent to judge, whether the factitious character, which without having any relation to professional skill, directs, or misguides rather, the choice of private individuals, should be the rule of your conduct! Whether you, the guardians of a

trate this by a pure hypothesis, not by a fact. Suppose his Grace the DUKE of BUCCLEUGH wished to have a surgeon of fifty years of age, well employed, &c. &c. to attend his household; or suppose a surgeon, fifty years of age, or upwards, wished to attend his Grace the DUKE of BUCCLEUGH’s household! would he, if it were not too delicate a subject to mention, write down in his letter to his Grace any sum exceeding 50l. a year? If the Memorialist be acquainted with any gentleman who can answer this question, either directly or hypothetically, we shall probably find, in the next quarto memorial, some calculation about the proper salary for the hospital surgeons.

public and national institute, should be guided in your choice of surgeons by partial affections, or by the public laws, such as custom, and the constitution of our profession, have appointed for the mutual connections of the hospital, and the public school? Whether you will make your council-room the scene of contentions, cabals, and solicitation; and degrade yourselves from your present high and dignified office, of conducting, upon simple principles, a noble institution, to become the arbiters of professional feuds, and party quarrels? We look towards you with respect, with attachment, with expectation. A scene of contention is opened, which every good man must think of, with sorrow for the past, and apprehension for the future! That period will surely come, in which all parties will desire sincerely the interposition of honourable and independent men as umpires in this cause.

We have on this point one word more to say: your Memorialist has discovered, among the reliquiæ of the iron chest, a memorial in which the expression which he takes a pleasure in ridiculing, has no small relation to their present state of warfare; the expression is this, "But if an exclusive company of six*, have this privilege, it will have the most pernicious consequences upon the whole nation!" The expression is compleatly ludicrous: these little angry quarrellers about privileges imagine their charter a Magna Charta, or Bill of Rights, affecting not their own little interests, but *the whole nation!* Nevertheless, what they say represents truly their apprehension of ruinous consequences to their profession and to themselves; and we, their successors, are inoculated with the old leaven; we taste of the stock! we

* The Memorialist wishes to have an exclusive company of three only.

have apprehensions, not for the whole kingdom indeed, but for our profession : we are persuaded that his exclusive company of three, like the old monopoly of six, will have no happy effects, either on science or on charity ; and we have, moreover, reason to believe, that in the event of the election of three surgeons, old, well employed, &c. &c. &c. your council-room would be more nearly allied than your Memorialist is aware, to one of his own happy and most brilliant similes. “ There we should see the contention of the ins and outs, and loaves and fishes, and should hear explosions as loud, as useless, and as pernicious, as those of the fire damp in Newcastle coal-pits.

OF THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE CONNECTION
BETWIXT THE ROYAL INFIRMARY AND
THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

We have endeavoured to explain the general principles of policy, which connect hospitals with colleges, as constituent parts of a medical school. This constitution of our profession has been matured by time, and provides equally for the right education of surgeons, and the safety of the poor. The barrier which is thus set up against uneducated and worthless men, is for the poor as well as for the rich ; and either the poor have no reason to complain, or the rich are to be pitied, in being exposed to ignorant men, and made liberally to reward those, who are not fit to practise, even where their advice is charity. In the order appointed by the constitution of our profession, there is sense, huma-

nity, and reason : in all well-policed countries, the arrangements are the same : and as a country improves in civilization, and men think more liberally for the general welfare, these opportunities of teaching and practice, in hospitals, are enlarged.

We know no single fact that should, for a moment, suspend our natural resolution of assuming those as the principles on which your hospital and our college are joined. When such a connection grows up slowly to maturity, we have reason to believe that the connection results from natural policy, mutual advantage, and a common sense of the benefits derived to all parties. And when we enquire into the history of this connection, we find it not involved in traditions and vague reports, but fairly detailed, in a contract laid upon your table by the Memorialist, where the principles of the connection are recorded. This connection had an honourable commencement, and, far from affording grounds for a general libel, it contains no terms, but what are creditable to the managers, to the surgeons, to the hospital, and to that science, in behalf of which all parties in this dispute are duly interested, except one.

It is no wonder, that in the infancy of our medical school, the good of the infirmary, and the constitutional importance of the College of Surgeons, and the interests of science, and the natural connections of those institutions, were ill understood. This is indeed the cause of the interests of the college and of the infirmary being mentioned, in this memorial, as opposite to each other, and of a contract being necessary to bind those interests which were naturally joined.

By this contract, the College of Surgeons sacrificed to

the Royal Infirmary, an hospital, which they had begun to institute, and which they regarded as the best means of educating their apprentices : and let it be remembered, that in those days apprentices were the only students in Edinburgh, the surgeons of the Royal College the sole teachers ; and that the school of medicine, which is now the chief ornament of our city, did not exist. The surgeons had consolidated the college into the form of a practical school ; they had accumulated funds, more than equal to the erecting of their hospital ; they had concentrated a patronage, which they could always command, and which was sufficient to support it. They were ready to enter upon a course of public practice, and that would have been followed with a course of public teaching.

We are loth to remind you, how much was given up at this time ; but it was for a noble purpose. It was to support the general hospital of the country, that the Royal College gave up its funds, its patronage, its patients, the assistance of its members, and its rights as a college, over the only surgical charity, consenting to forego all the happy opportunities and prospects connected with a distinct and peculiar school of surgery. It is with the most liberal thoughts and wishes, that we now proceed to consider the value of these bequests : we are challenged to the proof !

First, A sum of money was paid to the managers. It sounds meanly, indeed, compared with the “ thousands which the Memorialist offers so freely to the College of Surgeons, for the promotion of their scheme of universal brotherly love ;” but in those days 500 pounds was more valuable than now. This money, given with the best intentions, is counted like the thirty pieces of silver ; it is represented as the price of blood,

and the Memorialist laments, in pathetic terms, that the liberal hand of Drummond, our great founder, should have been foiled with the bribe; he also is accused of having an itching palm. We revere the name of Drummond, but far from imputing this to him as a crime, we believe that he would not, even for a charitable cause, have accepted a bribe. He reflected, we believe, not on the value of this piece of money, but on the advantage to his darling institution, of uniting, with that influence which the managers naturally possessed, the interests and good offices of the Royal College. Well, money was required; we gave five hundred pounds, and at the time that sum was not despised by liberal men.

Secondly, What the surgeons thus directly contributed, was the least part of what they gave. The surgeons of Edinburgh constitute no inconsiderable part of society. They have been always regarded by their fellow-citizens, and have a degree of influence on the public mind. They are received, as their education entitles them, into every family; they have the confidence and affections of their patients; they are received on the equal footing of companions, and friends; they command the sources of public charity at the fountain head, and have continued to pour the full tide thro' this channel for 50 years. We think we may assume it as a truth, that as they helped to raise, they have, in a remarkable manner, contributed to support this institution: and were these deeds to draw again, the managers of the infirmary could not act more honestly and wisely, than thus to strike deep their roots, and spread leaders through the various parts of society, by means of a profession naturally at-

tached to their institution, and naturally zealous in behalf of charity.

Thirdly, What next did the managers of this Infirmary gain by the SURGEONS HOSPITAL being thus placed in one of their wards? They gained a connection with the Royal College of Surgeons; they won the unlimited approbation of the public, and the whole patronage of the city. The Royal College of Surgeons supporting this institution, expressed the sense of the profession, and commanded the confidence individually of all their fellow-citizens. The surgeons, by performing all their operations in your theatre, added splendour to the institution: it may be easily imagined, at a period when operations were rare, and public operations quite unknown, how much this circumstance must have attracted general observation; for though medical surgery, and the treatment of disease, are really more important, yet operations in which there is a necessary inhumanity, and immediate danger! where the suffering is great, and the issue uncertain! where the public hears of the life, or death of every patient! excite a lively interest in the public mind.

Had this splendid part of our profession, the desperate operations, the wonderful cures, (obvious, and striking to the senses, of the most ordinary person,) been performed in another hospital; it is much to be doubted, whether the Royal Infirmary would ever have grown up to be, as it is this day, an honour to our country.

Every thing which quickens the growth of an infant institution, should be honourably acknowledged.---Let it be remembered, then, that at this time there was no public school;

that when the hospital had gained this connection with the Royal College, in place of one or two permanent surgeons, going their sluggish rounds, with their apprentices attending them, there was a rotation of surgeons, many of them performing their operations with dexterity, exceeding that of any two or three individuals the managers could have appointed; there were groups of young men walking the wards, paying fees to the hospital, and by their reports concerning the operations, a department of the profession new to the public, giving a marked and peculiar character to the charity.

Here then was a powerful interest and expectation created by the new appearance of an actual school of practice; here were all the surgeons, and all their pupils, each surgeon trying to distinguish himself by the various ways in which he acquitted himself in difficult cases; and by the neatness and dexterity of his operations: while the public was encouraged with reports, from all quarters, of the thriving and happy state of the institution.

Fourthly, But the noblest institution would excite little interest, were its wards filled with mere sores and fevers, and not with those interesting cases of disease, which come from distant parts, and are recommended to the care of particular surgeons in town. This also is a duty which the College have always fulfilled: but to be sensible of the liberal spirit in which this duty has been performed, to be sensible also, that a surgeon operating in the Infirmary is plainly performing his own private operations in public for the public good, we must trace the history of some individual case.

When a poor man arrives from the highlands with a dangerous tumor, or a boy with a white swelling of the knee, or

a woman with a cancerous breast ; such patient comes recommended to the care of a surgeon in this city, and the family or the country surgeon who write letters in favour of the patient, expect that surgeon to take the case under his particular care. The surgeon declines performing the operation himself, and is sensible of no breach of faith in conveying that patient to the Royal Infirmary ; for there he is himself one of the regular surgeons ; he goes along with his patient, hears the opinions of his fellow-surgeons, takes his share in the consultation, and in that infirmary (though not the actual operator for that month) he operates in his turn. There, in the public area, in presence of the students, for the general benefit of society, the operation, if necessary, is performed by the surgeon with all conveniences, accommodation, advice, and assistance, and not the worse performed for being done in public, under the direction and criticism of his fellow-surgeons ; not privately, where faults may be concealed, but openly, and at the risk of his reputation.

Surgical diseases, tumors, luxations, and other accidents, are thus usually commended to the care of some individual surgeon : of the important cases in surgery arriving from distant parts, there is not one of ten that is not admitted upon the direct recommendation and testimony of some surgeon of this city. Very commonly the surgeon appoints a day for the poor man going to the waiting room of the Infirmary, attends him at the appointed hour, carries him into the consulting room, and there personally recommends him to the care of the attending surgeon, explains the case, gives his own opinion, and continues to take an interest in the patient's fate.

Much has the Memorialist declaimed about the young surgeons requiring the forfeit of this bond! But is it not their duty to seek improvement in their profession? to seek occasions of attending the poor? Not all the eloquence, nor all the threats of the Memorialist, will prevent the young surgeon from taking these first and modest steps in his professional career: it is as much his duty to claim the privilege of officiating in the hospital, as it is of every man to stand candidate in a public election! It is as much the privilege of the managers of this hospital to appoint the youngest surgeons to attend there, as it is the privilege of a Lord Chief Justice to appoint the youngest lawyer to plead for the pannel in a case of life and death.

From these facts, the following conclusions may, we trust, be deduced in perfect consistency with "the principles of good, sound, logical reasoning." That almost every patient, admitted into your hospital with a dangerous surgical disease, is the private patient of some individual surgeon of this city; and it would be his duty to operate on that patient in private, were there not a public hospital, prepared for the reception of such a patient, of which he were himself a constituent member.

That it would be wrong in any surgeon to operate in private, when he has the privilege of operating in a great hospital, with all the conveniencies of a public charity, and the advice and assistance of his fellow-surgeons; it would be ungenerous to withhold public instruction, while it were in his power to operate in the public area of the hospital, though at the risk of his own character.

The custom of each member of the Royal College of Sur-

geon's carrying his own particular patient to the Royal Infirmary, and operating there, would occasion a very indecent and improper confusion ; but while the present custom prevails of each surgeon taking the charge for two months ! each performs an equal number of operations ! he actually takes a part in the consultation, and virtually operates upon his own patient.

The established and inviolable privilege which every surgeon claims of thus virtually operating on his own patients in the Royal Infirmary, is of the utmost importance to the cause of humanity and charity, and is especially conducive to the safety of the poor of this city. We leave you, Gentlemen, to judge how dangerous it would be, were every young surgeon induced, by any harsh measure of yours, to operate in private ! How many rash, precipitate operations, might be performed, which, under the correction and controul of public consultations in your hospital, are delayed, prevented, or better directed.

No regulation of yours, and far less any arguments which the Memorialist can use, will prevent young men from taking an interest in their profession, or hinder them from judging it right, when received as members of a Royal College, and entrusted with patients from a distance, to operate on them.

This is not, like London, a great commercial city, where man, more solitary than in a desert, falls into misery the moment he falls into disease ; and starves, and sickens, and dies unknown. There, thousands, helpless, unprotected, without a soul to direct them, throw themselves into hospitals for relief : those abodes of misery are filled with men of substance and property suddenly deprived of support, with cri-

minals, with strangers, with denizens of the city, with abandoned men, who come from the dark alleys, and unknown lurking holes of that overgrown capital ! The poisoned, the diseased, the drowned, the murdered, and the murderers ! But in this country, our patients are at home ; not a shivering creature is laid down in your house, but he has some person to look after his little necessities, and recommend him to some one of the surgeons. Let your clerks inspect the files, and tell you who they are that recommend the surgical patients to your charity.

Each surgeon in Edinburgh, consenting, in place of operating on his own individual patients, to operate two months in his turn, is no *pactum illicitum*. That the surgeons of this city should say to the managers of the Royal Infirmary, “ We will continue to operate on the patients recommended to our particular care,” is not claiming the ferocious privilege, which the Memorialist has thought fit to compare with the claims of the unrelenting Jew. The privilege of each individual surgeon, require no proof of historical deductions, ascertained by a moth-worn parchment ; it results from no inhuman claim, founded most inhumanely upon a charitable donation of money which indeed was not his to give : it results from his own unceasing exertions to support your infirmary, and is less a privilege than a duty towards those patients, who are particularly given to his own private charge.

These are the patients, this is the line of practice, which the Memorialist thinks to assign over to one or two surgeons, elected at his suggestion, or rather by his *congée d’eleer* : for he has directed your choice, named the man, made his apologies, and left you to “ think as he could wish, and act

as he could require." Alas ! it is manifest, that, with all his philosophy, he knows little of the human mind, who thinks it possible to prevent young men from taking an interest in their profession, from esteeming themselves capable of performing the ordinary operations, or from operating on those patients who are particularly commended to their care, by letters, entreaties, and the attachment of the good people themselves. Does this Memorialist believe, that we will suffer our patients to lie in an hospital, where we have no influence nor interest ; where we meet with nothing but insults ; where we are told " we shall have time to cool ;" where the operations we should perform, are to be done, not by our fellows and compeers, but by the three first surgeons of the city ; superior to us, not in professional acquirements, but in that accumulation of the gains and emoluments of our profession, which is so often obtained by means which good men despise ?

Gentlemen, we will tell you one distressing truth : If a surgeon cannot perform his duty to the hospital, and his public operations, without being assailed by the rude and boisterous criticism of one confessedly ignorant of surgery, a stranger to operations, and virtually the enemy of every cause he has the cruelty to espouse ; it will be no wonder if young men shrink back from their public duties, and retire, to perform their operations in that privacy, where they are assisted by none but friends, and judged by those only who are real judges of what is commendable.

An independent surgical hospital must always be a prosperous popular institution ; and to prove to you how much our predecessors have yielded, we must endeavour to show

you, to what a state our own peculiar hospital would have arrived, even in a few years! What might not such an institution have done, in the course of half a century, for the honour of surgery? A surgical hospital, being once erected and established, is the place to which workmen, and all the lower ranks of people, must be carried in every emergency. They are conveyed there in a mangled, and apparently dying condition; and are seen, in a little while, walking out, restored to health and strength. The operations of a surgical hospital awaken the sympathy of all ranks of people, and surgical cures are demonstrations of superior skill, which even the vulgar are willing to confess. More important cures may be performed in a medical hospital, and more genius may be required there; yet a surgical infirmary fixes the attention of all ranks; its cures make a more lively impression; the great and the little vulgar see and feel the direct and obvious benefits of such an institution: we may presume, then, that had a surgical hospital been erected by the Royal College of Surgeons, it would have stood unrivalled.

“ Again, says the Memorialist, this surgical hospital is put “ in direct opposition with our institution!” No, Gentlemen, we will represent, truly and impartially, the humane and very happy consequences resulting, not from an opposite, but a separate hospital! which, were your funds equal to the undertaking, we should think it our duty this day to advise. There are innumerable distresses resulting from the present combination of the medical and surgical institutes, and one especially which never can be done away. Our surgical hospital is in the highest, and not the most lofty, nor pleasant apartments of

the hospital. Every man, whose limbs are fractured and lacerated, must be carried up many flights of stairs : our operations are performed where patients, expecting the time of their own operations, are stupified with the cries of those who are suffering operations. Our surgical wards, sometimes neglected by students, are often crowded with the idle and curious, with those who are indifferent to surgery ; and they flow in upon us, chiefly when the cases are interesting, and patients ill able to bear the din, not of the regular students of surgery, but of a whole university of students. Surgery is not regarded as a particular study, but a piece of idle curiosity, and students come to see, rather than to be informed : the studies of surgery and medicine are not duly divided. Worse than all, our patients are exposed to infections from the medical wards, and especially to a disease, the hospital sore, which seizes all those who have even the smallest incisions practised upon them : It infects all the ulcers, changes the slightest sores into gangrenes ; and this disease, which is frequent, in exact proportion to the size of an hospital, is so peculiar, that it is named HOSPITAL GANGRENE. It is like a plague, it rages twice a year in such a degree, that the nurses even are infected ; the slightest scratch in their fingers turns out a most formidable sore, and at certain seasons no operations can be safely performed.

Had the surgeons completed their plan of a distinct institution, we should have seen a far different order of things : the building of a small hospital would have been easily accomplished, and for so limited an institution, its resources would have been great : the wards large and well aired ; the patients comparatively few ; their diet nourishing and gene-

rous ; the house healthy, and free from infectious disease. This hospital being the theatre of all the great operations in the city, would have been reputed a surgical school inferior to none : The surgeons, sensible of the number of pupils gathering round them, would have begun to instruct them in the operations of surgery, and in those parts of anatomy which relate to operations : and not in surgery and anatomy only, but in the diseases which require operations, and in the infections, gangrenes, and fevers, which those who have suffered operations are exposed to.

Thus surgery would have been distinguished from medicine, and the students would have felt the equal importance of both. Students, whatever their future destination, would have spent at least one year in this important study : many, who now leave the University quite ignorant of this profession, would, by seeing the splendid state of the surgical hospital, be induced to attend its operations and its teachers. Such a school being attached to the Royal College of Surgeons, the profession itself would have assumed a more important aspect ! surgical operations and practice would have been improved ! The members of this college would have applied with particular ardour, both to their own profession and to general science. We think we may, with all possible modesty, put these down as the important consequences of such an institution ; and have little reason to doubt, that the surgeons would have become enthusiasts in their profession, and surely they would have been faithful guardians of their own hospital.

But this object is lost, and we will not torture you with expressions of regret. Yet should Providence so order it,

that this country, increasing in population, riches, and all good and charitable dispositions, should require a more extensive charity, we beseech you, when that period arrives, as most likely it will arrive, to revolve these considerations in your mind.

If the interests of the Infirmary and the College run in true parallel with each other, a division would be fatal to both ! and, indeed, we are sensible, that your Hospital never has been in greater danger than at this moment ; for, should the Royal Infirmary lose its connection with the College of Surgeons, it would lose its surgical patients, it would lose its numerous surgeons and their pupils, it would lose the splendour of operations, and all that part of the profession which makes the most sensible impression on the public mind : The well-frequented Hospital would degenerate into a melancholy, silent place, more like a workhouse than a Medical School : a lean and starved apothecary would sit like an apparition in his corner, while a solitary physician walked his daily rounds ; the grass might grow in your courts, and the centry's steps resound as he paced backwards and forwards.

Nor is it to be denied, Gentlemen, that the consequences would be equally fatal to our profession, were it in your power to give away the fair inheritance and natural privileges of a College to one man, or to a few ; to one family, or, as the old Memorial says, to an exclusive company of surgeons. You would then indeed destroy, as Dr Gregory argues triumphantly, the equality among the surgeons of this city, not by rewarding the excellence of one or two men, but by forcing many, perhaps more able men, to for-

fake their profession in despair ! or, far worse, to seek promotion in it by cabal, solicitation, and the cultivation of petty interests, in place of making honest and independent endeavours at excellence.

The principles which we have laid down, explain the relations of the Royal College of Surgeons to the surrounding political bodies. The college, as the natural head of the profession, is a barrier against the intrusion of unworthy or uneducated men : As connected with your hospital, it is a practical school, which is to educate a succession of surgeons, to support and perpetuate the profession : As connected with the constitution and general policy of the state, it is represented in the town council, and is a constituent member of government. Separate the college from the infirmary, and it is no longer a practical school ; take away its privileges as a school, and you take away the motives and reasons on account of which it is connected with the general policy of the country : leave nothing but its connections with the town council, and you leave nothing which should make our society worthy of the respectable name of a College : having lost its connection with science, we believe it would look there in vain for any means of preserving its dignity.

Little as it may alarm the Memorialist to think that he is endangering the honour of a profession by his public Memorial, you, we are well assured, will pause upon the eve of taking away its most important rights. We have argued fully and we hope fairly, on the subject ; and believe we may reply to this Gentleman, without any shame, in the words of his favourite Jew ; “ You call me misbeliever, cut-throat-dog,

and spit upon my Jewish gaberdine, and all for use of that which is my own."

OF THE ESSENTIAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONNECTION OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF EDINBURGH WITH THE ROYAL INFIRMARY.

You may easily imagine, Gentlemen, how invaluable a benefit it is to our profession, to have a practical school, since the university itself was imperfect, until it had attained a connection with this hospital. It is necessary that young physicians be made familiar with the symptoms of fever, the appearances of eruptions, the varieties of the pulse, the affections of respiration, the changes of the eye, complexion, and countenance, and all the visible characters of inward disease : and it becomes the duty of the medical professor to teach practically, not only the genuine practice, but the various theories of medicine. For the performing of these duties, Clinical Wards are appointed : this is the department of your hospital which we now proceed to explain ; and we hope, that no expression of ours will be interpreted as disrespectful to that department of teaching and practice which we consider as peculiarly honourable to those who fulfil the duty, as the most useful part of that course of education, which has made this school of medicine esteemed above any in Europe.

The period was most honourable to the patrons and managers of this charity, and ever to be remembered, when, indifferent to vulgar prejudice, and undismayed by popular

clamour, they permitted this very important department of public teaching to be assimilated with their hospital. The university had no proper hospital, no accumulated funds, no patronage to bestow; they had every thing to ask of your liberality, and nothing to give in return, but that benefit which would accrue to humanity and science, from this new mode of instruction. Regardless of every thing, but the general interests of science, you received within your walls a department which could bring along with it nothing but public odium; with most commendable liberality, you established the clinical professors in privileges fully equal to those claimed by the Royal College of Surgeons: you allotted them also wards, superior in every respect to those of the surgeons.

As for experiments in surgery, we know of none; it is a department of practice too plain and simple not to have settled principles: the rules of our science ascertain, with tolerable precision, where an operation is necessary. When a white swelling is plainly incurable, it is no experiment to cut off the limb, and there is but one way in which the operation can be performed! but it is an experiment, and a bold one too, when arsenic is given to cure that slight intermitting fever which bark and wine will positively cure.

It is unquestionably true, that the teaching and demonstrating by experiment the best and most approved practice, must be, upon the whole, advantageous to the sick; yet the making professed trial of every practice is not so! it is only on the presumption of general good, that, in this instance, experiments, which must be a partial evil, are allowed. We unequivocally approve, in the practice of the medical pro-

feſſion, a latitude which we dare not admit in our own : we unequivocally declare, that we think a clinical ward the moſt uſeful part of a medical inſtitute ; yet there are many, above the rank of the vulgar, who will be always doubtful whether your delegated powers, as managers of a public charity, extend thus omnipotently over the lives of your fellow-creatures.

The univerſity could never, by any public nor private exertion, by its influence, its riches, or the report of its good intentions, and the benefit intended to ſcience, have erected this moſt neceſſary part of the medical ſchool. A diſtinct Clinical Hoſpital is a thing quite unknown ; ſuch an undertaking never was attempted : though a laudable inſtitution, a Clinical Hoſpital muſt be ſhrouded from the public eye. A Clinical Hoſpital, erected with the avowed deſign of receiving deſperate and forlorn caſes ! of practiſing experiments ! of teaching the profeſſion to young phyſicians ! of proving the hypotheſes of medicine ! and trying, by experience, the efficacy of drugs, will never paſs upon the world for a mere charity. Such an inſtitution would be looked upon with jealousy by the rich, and by the poor with horror. Thoſe who entered, by ſad neceſſity, into ſuch a hoſpital, would believe themſelves every way loſt ; and thoſe who died, would be thought to have ſuffered. Gentlemen, it is to your liberal conſtructions of the deſign of ſuch an inſtitution, and to your regard for ſcience and the general intereſts of humanity, that we owe the benefits of the Clinical Wards and Lectures. Your motives for allowing this dangerous innovation, were pure and open. No buſy ſearcher into the records of your Infirmary can prove, on

this occasion, a pactum illicitum ! a present of money ! an actual reward for the perversion of the judgment ! a logical, or a real bribe ! No, the university had nothing to give, and every thing to gain.

So it happened, however, that Clinical Wards were appointed, and lectures on the cases of the patients were given in your hospital ; a thing unknown in London, or in other schools ! and books of experiments, under the undisguised name of CLINICAL EXPERIMENTS, were published by the Professors of the university, and trials of new medicines, and new methods of cure, made on the good people of this city : for what end ? not for the instruction of our own native surgeons, but for the instruction of young men, convened by the celebrity of the school, from all parts of the world.

What then is the nature of this new department, ingrafted thus upon the original constitution of this hospital ? What unbought privileges have the professors of the university acquired ?---They, without any exertion to erect a school, have found one in your wards ! and without the invidious name of Clinical Hospital, they have a safe place where they can make experiments, as dangerous, as long continued, as expensive as they please ! without a new institution to support, they receive the fees of the numerous pupils, and without adding to the funds of the house, (since those pupils pay to the infirmary no more than the ordinary fees,) they have possession of wards, larger and better appointed than those allotted to our surgical department : Without their purpose being observed, they can go into the waiting-room, and mark out the most dangerous diseases as the subjects for

their practice. Sometimes when patients, having uncommon diseases, are received by the ordinary physicians, they are reclaimed by the Clinical Professors, the rightful lords of the manor ! At one time fevers, at another palsies, at another time hydrogies or convulsions, are in request ! The Hospital itself, and all its patients, are at the command of the clinical professors ! they walk in among these patients ! look at them ! hang their nosological labels and tallies round their necks ! and send them to their own wards, there to prick off the lines of the prevailing doctrines upon their bodies.

Let us now apply to this department of the practical school, the observations and criticisms of your enterprising Memorialist. "The surgeons," says he, "succeed each other "in rapid succession every two months." It is true, but where the surgeon is changed, his assistant usually succeeds him ! Each surgeon begins to attend the infirmary a month before his term of duty arrives, and he does not cease to attend till those upon whom he has performed any great operation, are well. Though the surgeon is changed every two months, the patients are permanent ; the practice is steady, rational, and consistent ; numbers of surgeons are in constant attendance in the consultation room, to assist the attending surgeon with their advice ; he often appeals to them, and there seldom passes a day in which he does not bring patients with various complaints into the consulting room ; either to consult about their cases when they are received, to remark, to his fellow-surgeons, any remarkable changes in their diseases, or to show their condition before they are discharged.

But in the Clinical Ward, the physician in attendance is always alone and unassisted; his office is indeed of such a nature as will not allow of advice or assistance. Each winter two physicians take charge of these wards, and each attends but a little more than two months. The first physician comes out in November, fills his wards, affords his diseases, writes notes and regular reports of his patients' complaints; completes his experiments, lectures on their cases, and then empties these wards, by delivering his patients over to the ordinary physicians, or by actually dismissing them from the house. Is it not happy for these poor people, that they have not the sensibilities and delicacies of people bred in the higher ranks of life? This is a kind of teaching, in which the demonstrator chalks his lines and diagrams on the board, till, having demonstrated too much at once, his lines become perplexed! but he takes his sponge, and wipes all clear for some new demonstration.

These being professed experiments, it is not usual for the second professor to complete the experiments, or pursue the practice of the first. The wards which are opened in November are emptied in January, in February they are filled again! Then come new patients, new cases, new experiments, new doctrines, and a new Professor! all these things are changed, and "the WHALE" finds itself sporting in a fresh element, with NEW TUBS of all forms and dimensions, floating around it.

Now we are naturally called upon to remember one cruel reflection, which does no honour to the Memorialist's head nor heart. It seems as if it were the very business of his ponderous volume to represent the younger surgeons as void of

education or talents, incapable even of the most ordinary duties; he represents them as almost incapable of learning their profession, and yet trying to learn. The words "*young, inexperienced, and bad,*" are inseparable through his Memorial! The language he uses must bring distressing feelings home to the minds of those who have been accustomed to trust in our professional knowledge, and to commit their health, and that of their family, to our care.

He knows little, indeed, of our common profession, who is not sensible, that *experience* is less necessary in surgery, than in medical practice, and in operations not at all. An operation is a dissection, which he who is able to perform, is able to perform! Far from learning by experience, a surgeon must be perfect in operations before he presume to touch the knife. But the Memorialist is so ignorant in our profession, that he applies to it the rules and canons of his own: he believes that, surgery, like medicine, is an uncertain and speculative science! he believes, that in our profession, what is wise and learned to-day, may be wrong and ignorant to-morrow! that our profession is learnt by experience, and not by study! and, finally, that old surgeons only can excel: though, if this were true, ours would be a profession in which no man could excel, since the grey head of wisdom is generally accompanied with a shaking and faltering hand.

But if experience be required, in what station should it be more desirable, than in conducting a clinical ward; where good sense, prudence, discretion, and professional knowledge are all needful? It is the part of the hospital to which the most hopeless and desperate cases are conveyed; the stage of perpetual experiments; the scene upon which the public eye

is fixed ; the department of your institution, where popular prejudices are most to be feared. It is the school, too, where the physician not only practises on his fellow-creatures, but instructs, at once, hundreds of young men, and extends the errors or benefits of his own practice to distant times and countries.

Where, in all the circle of medical teaching, in schools, colleges, or hospitals, is there a more important charge ? Let the Memorialist remember by which of the professors these duties are fulfilled ! and learn to speak discreetly of us, though we are young men !

It happens that, at this very time, the chairs of this university are filled with young men, very young men. Dr Gregory himself, but a young man, boasts of having occupied a most important station in it for twenty-four years. " He is an old Professor of the theory, and of the practice, of medicine ; and consultations, to the amount of some thousands, have passed through his hands." The Professorships of chemistry, anatomy, midwifery, and materia medica, are filled with men, younger than the youngest of those whom this gentleman thinks fit to describe as young and inexperienced surgeons ! To those gentlemen we mean no disrespect, we wish them all honour and happiness ; not with the cold civility and ceremony, which a public occasion like this may seem to require ; we wish them success, from a sincere love of our profession, and attachment to that school where we received our education : we hope that they will prove, by their conduct and diligence, that young men are as capable of serious and important duties, as those who are advanced in years. To distinguish any of these gentlemen, might

seem unjust to others ; yet we cannot refrain from observing, that the youngest of these professors, the professors of *materia medica*, and chemistry, do honour to the university ; the one, a popular lecturer on a popular science ; the other, an able teacher, a liberal and a learned one.

We are almost ashamed, Gentlemen, to use an argument which is level to all capacities, which no well-designing person could neglect, in which we shall be anticipated by every man of an impartial and liberal mind. While the school-fellows of our early years are supporting the interests and dignity of the first medical school in the world ! WE, MAY PRESUME, THAT WE ARE ABLE, IN OUR PROFESSION, TO ADMINISTER TO THE POOR ! TO PRACTISE THE HUMBLE, BUT RESPECTABLE DUTIES, OF HOSPITAL SURGEONS ! TO DRESS SORES, AND TO AMPUTATE LIMBS !

SECTION III.

VINDICATION OF THE CHARACTER OF THE YOUNGER SURGEONS.

Cur timeam, dubitemve locum defendere? quamvis!

“**I**S it the fault of a youth of four and twenty, just beginning the practice of his profession, that he has not all the skill, and useful experience, and manual dexterity, of *a surgeon fifty years of age!* who has had *very extensive practice for twenty years?*”

“It is the fault of that *execrable system* established by a *fordid bargain*, which gives to every such youth, who is a Fellow of the *Royal College of Surgeons*, that right of attendance in the Hospital!”

“It is, I know, apprehended by several of our number, that the surgeons will strongly oppose, on this occasion, that alteration *with respect to the attendance of the Hospital, which I think essential to the good of this Hospital!* if so, it will give us but the more trouble!”

“But they must, before they can *gain their cause*, prove that a poor man, when received sick into the Royal Infirmary, with respect to *health, and life, and limb!* is no more than an ox! when admitted to the shambles! and the skin! of an ox! when thrown into the tan-pit!”

What kind of catechising call you this?—Where did the learned gentleman hear, or how came he to delight in expressions like these? “That a sick man, in respect of health, and life, and limb, is no better than an ox admitted to the shambles, and the skin of an ox thrown into the tan-pit!” It is an expression either so defective in respect of grammar, or so new to our ear, or so foreign, at least, to the usual language of polite conversation, or ordinary composition, that we are uncertain what it means; and the sense that does glimmer through these homely expressions, is of such a kind as deprives us of all desire to scan it more narrowly. Nor can we have the smallest wish to vindicate our rights and professional reputation, or “gain our cause by the use of the same language, with which our profession, our reputation, our cause, and the cause of every man who respects the decencies of life, has been assailed. Were these the only weapons allowed in this ordeal, we should at once acknowledge this gentleman as undisputed master of the field.

We are surprised at the warmth with which the Memorialist expresses his tender feelings, where he could not feel. He never entered a surgical ward, nor saw an operation. If he had even for once seen the sufferings of a fellow-creature protracted, or life itself endangered by ignorance, we could have pardoned all the extravagance of his reflections, even while we felt their untruth.

Faults there may be in the arrangement of your Hospital; in our conduct there may be errors; and we wish this Memorialist had known something really wrong,

that he might not have trusted thus to imagination alone.

*Hoc fatius, quam si dicas sub iudice, vidi
Quod non vidisti.*

A stranger, perhaps, to those feelings, and certainly a stranger to those cruel operations, and the reputed cruel men who practise them, he feigns all the sympathies of the most tender nature! while his bewildered imagination glances with all the frenzy, but without the inspiration of a poet, from heaven to earth, and from earth to heaven. How can such feelings exist without a cause? are they consistent with the language of this Memorial, or the most unnatural and cruel design of depriving young men of your confidence, of the confidence even of their private friends?—are they consistent with this forged tale of injuries to the sick poor, with which the public ear is abused, and which fills the mind of every man of real humanity with horror? The Memorialist, forgetting the duties of a medical manager, imputes all that is wrong to our misconduct, to the misconduct of the younger surgeons.

We hold very light the feelings of that man who knows not how to spare the feelings of the humane and charitable, for to them truly is this Memorial addressed. Nor can we much respect his faith and honour, who, while he urges you to elect surgeons, writes a libel, an indiscriminate libel, against the younger surgeons; though they alone are fit for the laborious duties of a public charity, and are best able to perform operations: They have, in regular succession, done (unassisted

by their older brethren) the duties of your Hospital for twenty years :—laborious and difficult duties !—and how full of responsibility, this gentleman has made us feel most sensibly.

Conscious of the atrocity of his representations, he acknowledges, and repeatedly avows his ignorance ! a superfluous document, God knows ! and to us a slender consolation. His ignorance ! after what he has published against us, what could his confessions of ignorance avail ? We know his ignorance ; we could have proved, had he ventured to deny it, a degree of ignorance which, in the character he has thought fit to assume, is criminal. But to you, the Managers of this Hospital, to the humane and charitable, whose best feelings have been wounded by his representations, it must be a happiness to know, that the man who condemns your institution, reviles your surgeons, and represents their operations as murders, as a succession of murders, committed upon the privilege of an illicit bond ! in the spirit of the vindictive Jew !—is utterly ignorant of your surgeons, your operations, your wards ! He cares not who knows it, he tells it, he records it with his own hand.

This is not, what you supposed, a thinking, feeling man, seriously oppressed with his sorrowful thoughts ; seriously unhappy for the condition of the poor and the destitute ! But a vain-glorious boastful man, forgetting all the dignities of his station, and descending from his high place, to snatch at a character for fine feeling, fine writing, fine morals, and for the reputation of noble, generous,

and open dispositions. We shall not say he has gone out for wool, and come home a thorn ;—but he has gained a name, which, we believe, it will not be easy to lose.

He must write boldly who takes no care about the truth of his allegations ; and your Memorialist thinks good to take his facts on credit, as he does his feelings. He knows no surgeons ; he has seen no operations ; he never entered the wards where those daily cruelties are perpetrated. Is it not strange, that one whose spirit was so perturbed with those sad visions, that it could not rest, never ventured to look actually upon the impressive scene ! He never went into the den to take his favourite sketch of Daniel, or of one sitting like Daniel, with all the fear, but without the faith of the prophet ! No, imagination in the work he designed, was more useful than truth ! He never entered into your theatre on that day which is a Sabbath of peace and ease to all the world, except your unhappy subjects ; because, in his moral, as in some religious systems, faith and knowledge are directly opposed. He avoids knowledge, lest it should taint his faith ; and says within himself, “ We trust we have a good conscience.”—This is the man who insults our profession, and flanders the younger surgeons. In the plenitude of that fierce character which he has assumed, he “ does his pleasure, without regard to numbers, good manners, or justice,” and “ makes his ignorance his wantonness.”

As we turn over the pages of this Memorial, we find periodical protestations of ignorance, which we hope and trust

arise from periodical paroxysms of remorse ; sometimes, we fear, of pride ; for always, as the Memorialist protests his ignorance of surgeons and surgery, he vaunts his skill in law and metaphysics, and in that right, sound logical reasoning, which was the same in Greek mathematics, two thousand years ago, that it now is in Scotch law. We say, periodical protestations, and we are entirely persuaded that this, since it cannot be the ignorance of a dull man, is systematic, philosophical ignorance. He follows the precept of the celebrated Adam Smith, who says, there is no way of learning a science equal to that of sitting fairly down and writing about it. The hint is good ; the use the Professor has made of it is admirable ! His metaphysical investigations of cause and effect, are a tolerable specimen, and his present Memorial a superlative proof, of that success which may be expected from pursuing this plan. Yet we beg leave humbly to suggest, that the circumstances of reading, thinking, studying, and inquiring, are essential parts of the process recommended by Dr Smith ; that, though not literally expressed, they must be logically implied. Perhaps the Memorialist has, on the present occasion, neglected those trifling ceremonies, which may be the reason why, in the affair of surgery, he has written so much, and learned so little, and why he will probably persevere in piling quartos upon quartos, every page of which will prove that the simple act of writing—writing—will not do.

Little as we are acquainted with any of those philoso-

phical expedients, or with the language or reasoning of Greek mathematics or Scotch law; we cannot but perceive, that there is something particular in making ignorance an argument for confidence; that there is something unusually bold in a Professor acknowledging the most profound ignorance in an important branch of his own profession! while in logic, law, and metaphysics, he boldly claims the palm. Is there not, also, something original and striking, in supposing this sound logical reasoning, as old as the Greeks, as strong as the law, to have no manner of relation to facts? This is so contrary to the received opinions of logicians both of the present day and of the last two thousand years, that the author's logic and metaphysics must be as completely original as the manner in which they are applied.

But perhaps it is the reasoning only that your true metaphysician delights in: from its having no relation to facts, that it continues the same for thousands of years: and perhaps it is from the absolute independence of this metaphysical Aura, on every thing except the cerebral coruscations of the individual operator, that the pleasure and titillation of the work is so irresistibly fascinating. In this respect, indeed! in the individual pleasure produced by these operations there is a littleness; but in the indescribable dilatation and inflation, as it were, of the mind, which the science produces, and in the mighty achievements accomplished by skilful operators, it is a noble one. Your metaphysician does not creep about "in the pristine form, on his posterior extremities," after

the little affairs of this world; he delights in discoveries; he launches bold and fearless upon the trackless ocean, far from the land, not even regarding the stars.

Gentlemen, you are plain men of sense and honour, conversant with the business and duties of life. Rejecting those contemptible pretensions to law, logic, and metaphysics, those syllogisms, indictments, and burlesque pleadings! you will return to the plain simple question; for, all that the Memorialist affects, you must in reality feel. The occasions are many and natural of expressing our respect for you and for your office. You are the representatives of the humane and generous, who have founded, and who continue to support this noble charity; the poor and the rich, the givers and the receivers, must both regard you with perfect confidence; and you are answerable to the Giver of all support and comfort, and to your own consciences, for the faithful discharge of every duty.

When there is a public charge against your administration, or those who are in duty under you, you are bound, by every motive, to inquire into the truth. It is not the desultory Memorial of Dr Gregory that will give you any lasting distress; but the same doubts have long since been impressed upon the public mind, and common rumour has long reported your Hospital in very free terms. Inquire: by all means inquire: but remember always in your inquiries, the words, the sentiments, the passions, the party-spirit, expressed by this Memorialist. It is not the direct assertions, but the tendency of this Memorial, that you are bound to regard.

You are now, for the first time, informed, that there are two parties among the surgeons in this city. Why are you told this? Is it your concern? Parties in philosophy, in politics, in professions, in religion, and also in morals, are not disavowed; but in the universal sentiment of philanthropy and charity, in that feeling, without which a man is degraded from his nature! who, before your Memorialist, has dared to say, that there are parties?

Who, but your Memorialist, would dare to say, that a surgeon, if any disastrous event should befall him, requiring surgical assistance and a capital operation, would (if he were forced to receive that assistance from some of his professional brethren) give himself up for lost? The sentiment, thank God, is new to us; and we hope it will ever be remembered by whom it was first deliberately expressed. It was by the person who declares his enmities irrevocable, and his hatred so cruel, that he could hear with pleasure of his opponent's death.

If there be such a man, we shall not ask whether he be fit to practise, or even to live. "We would not wish to see the man"* capable of enjoying his opponent's death. We will not so far degrade ourselves as to deny the charge: We acquit even our forest enemies of thoughts so unnatural; nor will we even accuse this most unthinking man of a deliberate sentiment like this: But he has, to the utter danger of his reputation for sense and good-

* "I would not wish to see that man," &c. meaning the surgeon who would claim his privilege of attending the Infirmary. Vid. Memorial.

ness, pursued too far a jest, unworthy of his abilities, implying a sentiment he will be glad to disavow. We invite this gentleman to disavow the sentiment. There is a measure in our resentment; we will not allow ourselves to judge him by his own rash expressions: it is time for us to say in favour of one, whose conduct we cannot but despise, that though he may have a light and giddy head, we are sure he has an honest heart.

You are told, there are parties among the surgeons. You are also told, that there is an office of trust and confidence, that of permanent surgeon to your Hospital, which would make the man who could possess himself of it the first surgeon of this city. Could men, advanced in years, confident in the number of their friends; could politic, cunning, and rapacious men, seeing so great an object within their reach, restrain their desire to possess the office within any other bounds than their influence and power? Could those secret cravings fail to be disclosed from time to time, in murmurings against the surgical department of your Infirmary, and in invidious malignant reports of the incapacity of the younger surgeons? men not so much inferior perhaps in abilities or reputation, as in riches or friends? Do not wonder at these ill reports! Even for such a cause is the general ear rankly abused; particular men are threatened: the taking of this department into their own hands has been, for fifteen, perhaps for fifty years, a constant subject of threatening on the part of the old, and of resistance on that of the young surgeons! Inquire, it is just, right,

and necessary that you should inquire : on the truth of this assertion we peril our cause.

Behold, then, the honourable cause into which you are to be seduced as parties ! This gentleman, in a Memorial addressed to you, informs you that there are parties ! Look, then, to your own honour, and reflect on the impartial and steady conduct the world will expect from those in your high station. If he inform you there are two parties, you may be assured there is one. And the party he seems most familiar with appear to have employed their evenings and idle hours, like the artizans of Athens *, in playing a play : “ Bottom and Snug are the chief contrivers of the scene, and it is called Bottom’s Dream, because it is bottomless.” —“ Snug enacts the lion’s part ;” and considering that we, who are mere spectators, might be in perilous fear, “ as there is not a more fearful wild-fowl than your lion living, he plainly names his name, and puts half his face through the Lion’s neck, and speaks thus, or to the following effect :” “ I would intreat you not to fear nor to tremble ; my life for yours. If you think I came here as a lion, it were pity of my life ; no, I am no such thing ; *I am a man as other men are ; I am Snug the joiner †.*”

“ A very gentle beast, and of a good conscience.”

Now, it is to be hoped that Snug, Flute, and Bottom,

* Midsummer Night’s Dream.

† “ He is made of the same stuff with other men, and put together in the same manner !” —Vid. Memorial, God knows where !

having got out the humour of their play, will return quietly to their respective trades.

“Is it the fault of a youth of four and twenty years of age, that he has not all the skill and manual dexterity of a surgeon fifty years of age?” Yes, truly! youth, and spirits, and courage, are on his side. He has clear senses, and a steady hand. He is not used to blanch at the sight of danger, nor does his heart beat quick even when he sees his reputation in manifest hazard, and the life of his fellow-creature in his hands. He wants none of those natural qualifications which good writers have described as forming the character of a bold and dextrous surgeon. Yet this enterprising Memorialist, in opposition to sense, authority, and the convictions of his own mind, declares young surgeons incapable of operations, and protests that it is to the scandal of surgery, that the operations of your Hospital are performed by youths of four and twenty years of age! This, he says, is the execrable effect of a sordid bargain! The schedule of this pactum illicitum he requires you to tear! to return the price of blood! and proceed straightway to the election of three surgeons, rich, well employed, who crawl no longer on their posterior extremities in the pristine form! and who are full fifty years of age.

We dare not offer advice; for, though we know well the errors and the benefits of your present system, we are parties, and we are “but four and twenty years of age!”—a time of life at which, though a Professor may support the dignities of the first University in Europe, a surgeon is unable to judge of plain matters, or perform those few

operations, five or six in number, which he has seen performed every week of his life. In this fore strait, what shall we do? Shall we seek to oppose authority to authority? Shall we oppose even Celsus to this formidable impugnator, this Askapart, this Drawcanfir of Medical Literature? Shall we expose the shade of the venerable ROMAN, who wrote with such elegant simplicity, to the fury of this dissector of souls? Celsus says in one place, "*Esse autem Chirurgus debet adolescens, aut certe adolescentiæ propior; manu strenua, stabili, nec unquam intremiscente, eaque non minus sinistra quam dextra promptus; acie oculorum acri claraque; animo intrepidus immisericors.*"

We have ventured to deliver this opinion, but we chuse to leave it on the authority of Celsus. We willingly make allowance for the premature genius of the Grecian and Roman youth; nor shall we dispute what was with them the precise period of adolescence, at what time their youth was allowed to hang up the bulla among the household puppets, to put on the robe of manhood, "*totamque impune permeare faburram.*" We save Celsus's reputation for accuracy, and our own also, by referring the point to Dr Gregory himself; and we doubt not that certain recollections will incline him to fix the period at which a young man may enter into life, put on the gown, and even assume an important public charge as early as the twenty-fourth year*.

So it is, however, that the eagle eye and fearless mind,

* We would not willingly insult Dr Gregory with recollections of any kind; but since he is so severe upon youth, we cannot refrain from asking

and the strenuous hand that never shakes nor trembles, have been usually ascribed to youth, and reckoned among the chief endowments of a surgeon. By our old master in Chirurgery, Clowes, these qualities have been most fervently praised; and the words of Celsus he has paraphrased in a manner that would do no dishonour to the memory of Zacharias Boyd himself:

“His fingers must be long, and his hands without quaking,
Stedfast to hold without trembling or shaking.”

CLOWES.

To lard authority upon authority is bad œconomy, when a few sterling words will serve. We submit the classical and comical, of Celsus and of Clowes, to the revival of Dr Gregory, who is known to have a pretty hand at criticism, especially in poetical composition. Celsus will not reproach him with his criticism however excruciating! he may at his pleasure correct Celsus into *Canitiæ propior*. A just and necessary tribute to philology and to private friendship: but we stick to Clowes, because he is our countryman, and hope Dr Gregory will always be pleased to remember, that shortly after the fiftieth year, and before the head is adorned

at what period he was installed Professor? and whether he was not as much a youth at twenty-four years of age, as most of his contemporaries?

Stemmata quid faciunt?—

Nobilitas sola est atque unica virtus.

—Tumes alto Druforum sanguine, tanquam

Feceris ipse aliquid propter quod nobilis esses.

But we will not insult him with more recollections, even of his favourite classics.

with the grey hairs of experience, the shaking and the quaking is begun*.

“Is a youth of four and twenty to blame who has not manual dexterity?” Yes, much to blame; none can be more culpable than he who neglects to learn the mechanical part of his profession, especially when it is one which relates to the life and health of friends and fellow-creatures. The profession of the young surgeon takes its name from manual dexterity, which it is his first great duty to acquire. A man of our profession has in the end to attain to the knowledge of a learned science; but he has first to acquire mechanical dexterity; and when yet a boy, he is, by the care of his friends, put under the superintendence of a master, who can best teach him that mechanical trade.

Medicine and surgery differ less than this learned Memorialist would have the world believe. Medicine is all science indeed, but he forgets that the profession of a surgeon requires, according to his own confession, a thorough knowledge of that very science which forms the sole education of a Physician! so that surgery comprehends both science and art: and that part of our profession which is the most important to our success, and to the lives of our friends, is the most sure.

* There are many other inimitable things in Clowes:

“He must be circumspect, and seek to avoid all slander,
Not too cautious for money, but a reasonable demander.”

But these and many other old-fashioned sentiments having no relation to Philology, and being very unfit tributes to private friendship, we willingly omit.

Medicine, then, is altogether an uncertain science, while surgery is, in its most important part, an art, and a sure one! Let the physician boast, if he will, that his science consists in deep and speculative learning, that it is the profession of genius, that every man is his own sole teacher, that he walks in the paths of his own high and lofty speculations, nor follows, "with stupid pace and flow, the constant gingle of his leader's bells." We are not ashamed to avow, that a young man who is to be a surgeon will do well to follow his master, to observe his operations; and, even in the meanest drudgeries, to put his hand to the work, learning the mechanical part of surgery! and remembering always, that tho' the mechanical parts of the profession do by no means preclude more elevated and intellectual studies, surgery is and ever must be a mechanical trade. While a young man submits to those drudgeries which lead, by slow progressive steps, to mechanical dexterity, he is doing humanity the best service.

We are not insensible that there are some who would make a young man discontented with such labour; and that he himself, when his mind begins to ripen, will begin to despise those servile occupations. But as he advances in life, he will learn to set a value on those apparently useless employments of his early years, when he finds himself not less capable of cultivating his mind; and capable also of doing those things with ease, which, from want of early habit, men of learning and real diligence cannot with all their endeavours attain to. If there be a fault in general education, it is the sending out from our Universities mere speculative men.

Well,—the youth who has attained the age of four and twenty, has, in our profession of surgery, with a little reading, reflection, good sense, and actual experience, learned at least the mechanical part of his trade ; while the physician has to study a science so uncertain, that, after half a lifetime spent in learning and teaching it, the first Professor, the Hereditary Professor of both Theory and Practice, voluntarily declares that it is all vanity. If these most unaccountable confessions be extorted by serious conviction, we have every reason, although it were ten times more humble, to be contented with our own humble trade.

A physician has to struggle with the souls and ghosts, and unessential forms of diseased Phænomena, as they are styled, and therefore is he learned in Metaphysics, which, as Sancho says of sleep, “ is a blessed contrivance, that covers a man all over like a cloak.”—A surgeon, having to do with something more palpable and material, learns to feel and distinguish outward diseases, and to dissect bodies, which if he have learned faithfully, he may be allowed to practise his operations and the mechanical part of his profession without let or hindrance, albeit he know not how to sharpen and point those syllogisms, with which learned physicians dissect your miscreant souls.

“ Is a youth of four and twenty to blame who has not the *useful experience* and manual dexterity of an old surgeon ?” Yes, much to blame ; for his skill and manual dexterity have no connection with experience, and nothing can surprise us more than to find a professed logi-

cian confounding two distinct ideas, that of an expert operator ! with an experienced surgeon. A man may be an experienced surgeon, without being an expert operator ; a man may be an expert operator, without being an experienced surgeon ; to be both at once is the lot of a very few. To be an experienced surgeon is no doubt the privilege of years, but to be an expert operator is in the power of almost every man bred to our profession ; or if it be a peculiar talent, it is the peculiar privilege of youth ; since the man who is not a bold and dextrous surgeon in his youth, will never become so when advanced in years. The talent of performing operations may be acquired ; to learn to operate is a mere lesson ; the young man gives demonstration, the moment he lifts the surgical knife, whether he have been careful to learn his operations ; nor will any experience make that man an operator who is unacquainted with anatomy, and unused to hold the knife.

Experience relates to diseases, not to operations. Will experience teach a man how to perform correctly the incisions of lithotomy, amputation, hernia, or trepan ? Experience, if it could teach a man either to perform at first, or afterwards to correct, the forms and cuts of these operations, might teach him to invent the whole science.

The celebrated Pascal is reported to have given early marks of surprising genius, and, among many others, this is one :—His father was a man of letters, whose house was much frequented by philosophers, and especially by mathematicians. The boy, when no more than twelve years of age, showed a great desire to pursue this

branch of science; a passion which his father opposed, wishing him rather to apply to languages and belles-lettres. But still the boy teased him to know "what was mathematics,"—and he told him, "it meant the art of making correct figures, and discovering their several proportions and relations to one another." But the boy, though so simple as to ask what mathematics meant, had such a force of natural genius, that, without books or masters, upon the mere grounds of this definition, he, with the help of forks, and burnt corks, etched and figured upon the plaster of his room the most perplexed demonstrations of Euclid. It was neither modesty, nor want of ability, that prevented him from going through the whole, but merely the accident of his father coming in upon him before he had got farther than the thirty-second proposition *, and interrupting his discoveries by giving him a master to teach him.

The operations of surgery are learnt by demonstration, and are by no means more difficult to invent than the Elements of Mathematics. Yet we cannot recollect during our greener years the least tendency to invent surgery, or discover new operations. We fear that our youths would be ill able to invent the incisions of lithotomy, or even the double incision of amputation. These are things which experience would be long of teaching; and before the discoveries were brought to any practical degree of perfection, the individual discoverers would probably be well advan-

* Il étoit déjà parvenu jusqu'à la trente-deuxieme proposition du premier livre d'Euclide, lorsque son pere le surprit dans cet exercice.

ced towards their fiftieth year ; and ere the knife were fleshed, the shaking and quaking would be begun.

Surely the Memorialist will not have the heart to dispute with us, when we maintain only the humility of our trade, and the plainness of our duties. He will not deny, that the applying of rollers, the curing of ulcers, and the stitching and uniting of wounds, and all the ordinary duties of the surgeon, may easily be learned during the years of bondage. “ But, the great operations, the lithotomies and amputations, which are daily business in a great Hospital, require old and experienced surgeons !” Let us then examine, along with the author, this operation of lithotomy, the *chef-d’œuvre* of surgical skill.

“ They all know, (says the Memorialist), they all know well, the nicety and danger of this operation in many respects ! For example, that in thrusting in *a curious kind of knife, like a pointed scoop, with a very sharp cutting edge*, into the bladder, if the operator misses the proper direction, by *half a quarter of an inch* ! instead of making an opening into the bladder, through which the stone *may* be extracted, he *will* perforate the nearest bowel, *thereby* inflicting a mortal wound. They all know that this misfortune has happened in unskilful hands.” — True, this is the very catholic truth : They all know it, acknowledge it, and believe the driving in of this scoop to be mortal in unskilful hands ; but the question is, Which are the dextrous and skilful hands ? Whether will the old or the young operators be most apt to miss the right direction by half a quarter of an inch ?

Whether EXPERIENCE will enable an operator to avoid perpetrating this mortal wound?

To learn by experience, is to learn by occasional mistakes and errors ! but the error here, of half a quarter of an inch, occasions a mortal wound ; which is a plain objection to a man, young or old, learning by experience ! or, in other terms, going sometimes right and sometimes wrong ; sometimes making a safe, sometimes a mortal wound ; sometimes cutting a man for the stone, and sometimes cutting him for no stone at all ; and making, nevertheless, a mortal wound. We confess we have no great prejudice in favour of experience as the right and honest way of learning to cut for the stone.

In the true, legitimate definition of cutting for the stone, there is no mention of this formidable scoop : Lithotomy is defined an incision such as allows the extraction of the stone, made in one determined and limited direction, avoiding those parts, the wounding of which would make an inconvenient, dangerous, or mortal wound. Is there, in this case, any organic disease, any affection of the parts, except the pain, dreadful and excruciating indeed, from the delicate bladder contracting round the rough stone ? Is there any tumour, any disorder or disfiguring of the urethra or bladder, any distortion or anomalous appearance of any kind, which experience might help us to understand ? No, nothing is required towards performing the incisions of lithotomy safely, except a knowledge of the natural parts. The bladder is found, the prostate gland natural, the bulb and the membranous parts of the urethra are always the same ; the marks for the course of

our incisions are constant and invariable ; nothing is required but the knowledge of the parts, unless it be that this operation requires, more than any other, the manus strenua, stabilis, nec unquam intremiscens ; animus intrepidus immisericors.

Nothing can more surprise us than to find a gentleman proud of his logical reasoning, capable of confounding the opposite ideas of EXPERIMENT and EXPERIENCE ! We perceive, however, that even with men of the finest metaphysical talents, a slight inaccuracy of the ear may lead to a serious error of the judgement. In medicine, experiment is made for the sake of preventing the cruel necessity of experience. Experience implies danger to our fellow-creature ; experiment is a trial made on the dead, to prevent the dangers of acquiring knowledge by experience ! that is, by the distresses and misfortunes of our fellow-creature. Experience in surgery is trying operations, and learning and practising them on the living body ! and surely the author cannot forget, that the system he execrates is that of young surgeons (for none but young surgeons need such lessons) acquiring experience by operating on the living body. Experiment is trying and repeating operations on the dead body ! and surely the Memorialist will not forbid this conscientious and innocent way of learning their profession to those whom he endeavours to deprive of all other means of instruction.

When we learn by experiment ! we first perform our incisions, then dissect the body, and cannot fail to discover whether the form of our incisions be such as to injure the vital parts or cause a mortal wound. But when we learn by

experience ! the danger of our patient is the first fruit of our experience ; his death is the proof that we have made this mortal wound ; and our patient is dead without even the slightest benefit accruing to those who survive : for when the dead body is opened, in place of the clean incision of an experiment, we see nothing but suppurations, gangrenes, and total confusion of parts.

Experience, then, it would appear, is such as the proverb reports it, dear bought both to wise men and fools. It is by no means desirable for the lieges, rich or poor, that either young or old surgeons should be pupils of this school solely ; much of a man's knowledge, and all his talents for operations, must be acquired by experiment ! before this experience be begun. We are accused of resembling the vindictive Jew, yet we abhor the thought of practising surgical operations on any but the dead body ; and we leave the Memorialist to explain, in his next Memoir, how operations, and mainly this operation of cutting for the stone, may be honestly learned by experience ; that is, by repeated trials on the living body. We also leave the Memorialist to chuse, " not when he is to cut for the stone, which is a trifle, but to be cut, which is enough to frighten the devil himself, if he had got a stone in his bladder ;" we leave him to chuse the man with the sharp scoop, or the man that could do it without the scoop*.

* " So thought the Most Honourable the Calves Head Club ; and in their grand climax of toasts, on the 30th of January, first drank, as in duty bound, The Man in the Mask ;"—and next, with enthusiasm and rapture, " The Man who would have done it without the Mask."——*Memorial*, p. 242:

“ When a young surgeon is just going to begin the practice of his profession, can he have all the skill of a surgeon fifty years of age ?” No, surely, he cannot be both a youth of four and twenty, and a wealthy, well-employed, well-respected man of fifty years of age. He may not have much experience in diseases, but he cannot fail to be skilful in operations. He is just come from that school where operations are explained ; he has seen and practised dissections ; he has seen and has performed operations on the dead body ; he has better marks for conducting his incisions, than the old surgeon who has learned operations perhaps only by description, or by observing the motions of the hand and instruments while others have been cutting for the stone.—And the Memorialist, although he says that the attendance of every youth of four and twenty years of age is a disgrace to your Hospital, and “ bad, and worse than bad, and worse than the worst, for the sick poor ;” yet does he confess, that such surgeons are in possession of all the experience this great school of surgery affords, for they have conducted the Hospital for twenty years !

Forgetting for a moment the cause he had undertaken to plead, the Memorialist has told us of the old surgeons having forsaken their duties for twenty years. Have they been learning anatomy ? No, forgetting it. Have they been engaged in performing operations ? No, not one. In what does this fitness consist ? in the shaking and the quaking :—In what does their experience, their dexterity, their practice consist ? “ In fitting on the ten thousand blisters, destined, time immemorial, and pre-ordain-

ed for the patient backs of the lieges of this city," whose "stupidity and cullibility" the author celebrates in terms never to be forgotten *.

Operations, though far the least important part of surgery, deeply interest the public mind, and usurp a place in our profession which does not belong to them. The man who performs operations dextrously rises in the public estimation, not because every inhabitant of a city is in daily fear (like a foldier on dangerous service) of some cruel accident, requiring an operation ; but because the man, who is the most capable, in this the most difficult part of our profession, is esteemed capable of performing his ordinary and humble duties in the most perfect manner.

This talent of performing operations may be acquired in one of two ways : by experience, by reading descriptions of the parts in books of anatomy and surgery ; or by experiment, by actual frequent dissection of the parts of the human body, so as to be familiar with every dangerous part, on which an operation may be performed. The former was the method of the old, the latter is peculiar to the modern school.

There was a time, nor is the period long elapsed, when the physicians were anatomists, and instructed the surgeons how to operate ; and surgeons, unacquainted with the practice of dissection, read the principles of surgery, and the descriptions of the human body, in the books of the physicians. Ruisch, Morgagni, Albinus, Haller, were such

* Vid. Memorial, God knows where !

physicians, and our profession looked up to them with that reverence which their talents, severe studies, and real professional superiority deserved. A surgeon in those days, trusting little to his own actual knowledge, followed, *step by step*, in performing his operations, the directions of the most approved author. It cannot be impertinent to remind the Memorialist of the period in which this Hospital was established, when all our surgeons were of this antique school.

Suppose a surgeon of those times to have ventured once in his life, to raise a dead body from the grave, and hid it in his chamber, with the design of performing first lithotomy upon the corpse, and then in succession the other operations. He takes out *his sharp scoop* ! and his forceps from his repositories, locks his chamber-door, listens whether there be any one near, uncovers and ties up his subject, and listens again. Unused to dissection, he knows neither the membranous part of the urethra, nor the bulb, nor the prostate gland. He looks for the description of all these parts in his anatomical book ; and takes up a surgical one to direct him *in the steps of the operation*. He lays before him the ponderous volume of Heister, (honest Lawrence Heister, the pillar of surgery !), where sense distils through Teutonic Latin, slowly, drop by drop ! He turns his staff the wrong way, that he may learn the *tour de maitre*, or cunning turn ! He cuts as he finds it directed, half an inch to this side, or half a quarter of an inch to that side ; not according to his knowledge of the parts, but according to his manner of translating a sentence or a word,

upon which the correctness of his incision depends. He reads a sentence, cuts a cut, and reads, and cuts, and reads again. Thus he proceeds step by step; and when he has at last discovered whereabouts his staff or directory lies, he, after some trifling mistakes, fixes the point of his "sharp scoop" in the groove of the staff, and drives it into the bladder "blindfold," as our Professor of Anatomy very justly observes, making that horrid thrust among the viscera, which, if it deviated "half a quarter of an inch!" and, if his patient were not immortal! would make a mortal wound.

This is the manner of the old school: the operator completes his incisions as much in the dark as any Professor could desire; and turning from the book to the subject, and from the subject to the book, goes through a lesson not much more profitable than that of a certain gentleman, who, in studying a very innocent, polite accomplishment, caused no small disturbance. He became a lodger in the upper floor of some quiet good people, who, soon after his arrival, being suddenly alarmed with most unaccountable noises, which shook the tenement to its foundations, the whole family, young and old, rushed up stairs, and stood panting with anxiety at the door of their lodger's chamber. The bouncing still continued, and shook the house, and the very stairs on which they stood. At last they ventured to peep through the chinks of the door, and saw their lodger, a tall, well-grown gentleman, in his waistcoat, with a great volume laid open before him, reading a sentence, and then caper-

ing very furiously !—in short—learning to dance by book !

Though sensibility and fine feelings may prevent a physician from being a party or a spectator in operations, yet he should be better versed in the history of surgery, than to give this contemptible description of an operation, which, from its boldness and wonderful success, should interest every man who takes a real concern in the sufferings of his fellow-creatures. The Memorialist shews his ignorance, not in supplicating terms, as if requesting information, he always speaks the language of reproach. “ They know” and “ they know well,” are by no means appeals to superior judgement : But we regard rather the wants of the Memorialist, than the language in which they are expressed, and will dole out to him some information concerning this sharp scoop.

In the earliest times, lithotomy was performed ; but in boys only, where the stone could be reached with the finger, pressed forwards, and presented at the perineum, and cut upon with the knife ! Lithotomy in those grown in years, was an operation too dangerous to be attempted by men of reputation : Miscarriages were so much more frequent than success, that it was dangerous even to the profession ; so that Hippocrates exacted a promise from his pupils, and made them swear that they would never attempt to cut for the stone.

We indeed find the operation of lithotomy actually practised on men grown in years, by Joannes de Romanis*, an Italian physician ; but with an apparatus of instruments

* Anno 1520.

so terrific, that it was named the Apparatus Major. It was not on account of the numbers or cruel form of the cutting instruments then used, that his operation was named the Apparatus Major; but because he and his contemporaries were still afraid to cut for the stone. They were afraid to wound any membranous part: They respected as a great rule of surgery, that aphorism of Hippocrates, which declares the wounds of membranes to be mortal: They were afraid to cut the bladder itself with the knife; they cut the urethra only. Under pretence of dilating, they tore open the neck of the bladder, and the conductors, wedges, and other blunt instruments with which they forced the neck of the bladder, filled the pouch which hung before the operator, and constituted the apparatus major.

It was their principle to dilate the neck of the bladder, but not to cut it. The laceration was dreadful; the operation lasted a full hour; the cries of the patient, at every turning of these dilators, were lamentable; and gangrene of the parts almost inevitably ensued. This same scoop was then much blunter, but not more innocent than it is now. It was used merely as a wedge to dilate the neck of the bladder, and burst up the ring or stricture of the prostate gland which surrounds it. But often the urethra and neck of the bladder were separated from each other by the pushing of this blunt wedge, scoop, or gorget, as it is now called; and then the death of the patient was more inevitable, than if, being sharp, it had been driven deep among the bowels.

Amidst this devastation and tearing of the parts, (for

this mode of operating was practised during a hundred and fifty years), appeared Frere Jacques of Beaufort in Burgundy, a mendicant friar of the lowest order. He was said to belong to the third order of St Francis, a brotherhood of monks so contemptible that they could not read. He travelled through the towns of France, living a severe abstemious life, assuming every outward mark of sanctity, humility, and charity. Operations he performed by the peculiar favour and appointment of Heaven. He subsisted on soups and herbs, and accepted only of that trifle of money which was necessary to mend his shoes, and sharpen his instruments, which were very homely and in ill repair. But where, or from whom, he had really learnt those operations, were secrets too important to his own good fortune, ever to be disclosed.

This man arrived at last in Paris, after having travelled through the provinces of France *. The certificates and the letters he brought from the magistrates of cities and provincial towns, availed him less than those exteriors of sanctity and charity he knew so well how to assume. The same enthusiasm always supported him. His influence was such as the magistrates of cities durst not always oppose; the populace flocked round him, and even the higher ranks, and the learned, regarded him as one sent from heaven. His operations he performed with a courage bordering on rashness. He never failed (for how should such a man fail?) to cut out the stone. But, having made that exhibition of skill, he took no charge of his patient, no shame, whatever misfor-

* Anno 1697.

tunes might ensue. His business, he said, was to extract the stone. He left his patient to his fate, to live or die, and boldly appealed to heaven for his success.

In France, it has been long the custom to perform operations, and especially that of lithotomy, only in spring and autumn, when hundreds are collected in the great hospitals of Paris. The theatre was for a certain number of days inundated with blood. Twenty were often cut for the stone in one morning. The operations were performed by the professed lithotomists of the two great hospitals, la Charité and the Hotel Dieu. Then as now, science and politics were in that city so confounded, that no man could rise in our profession, without the favour of the great. Solicitation was the chief study of your great operators, and Frere Jacques spared no pains. He paid his addresses to the nobility, and followed the Court to Versailles and Fontainebleau. The priests were his natural partizans, for he was a priest; the physicians were his supporters, because they hated the surgeons; the people shouted after him, because—he came from heaven.

After various adventures and unwearied solicitations, after being driven out of the city, and returning again protected by the Court, Frere Jacques appeared once more in Paris. The magistrates, the colleges, and the partizans of both factions, were convened in the Arch-Bishop's palace, where, after warm and uneasy debates, the magistrates resolved, that he should be allowed to operate in the great hospitals; and our countrymen then on their travels in France have given, in their

public letters, very affecting relations of what he performed. He used no other apparatus than a knife and a round staff. He introduced the staff into the bladder, to guide that incision, (or that plunge rather with a dagger-shaped knife), with which he made his way into the bladder; the stone he extracted to the astonishment of all beholders. He struck this dagger-shaped knife so boldly, that often he transfixed the bladder, and made a mortal wound. He wished that the stone might be large, because, of extracting the largest stone, he had no fear: And so unlimited were his incisions, such was the rudeness with which he plunged this dagger, that the very size of the stone was a protection to the upper part of the bladder and to the bowels beyond it.

Those skilled in operations were awe-struck, and felt a thrilling horror when they saw this ignorant bold man plunge his dagger deep into the hip, searching even with the point of his knife for the stone: while those who knew not the danger of such a wound expressed nothing but surprise and satisfaction at the ease with which it extracted the stone. He often cut twenty patients in a morning; and such was the concourse of all ranks and professions to see his operations, that sentries were posted at the gates of the hospital, to prevent disorder.

The same fearless operations he had performed in various cities; and had, with all the address of an impostor, procured testimonials of his successes even from the magistrates. But he had left his patients to the care of that providence which had inspired him with the gift of performing operations! and they died. Letters

came posting from all parts of France, retracting those testimonials which had so remarkably contributed to his success.—His patients in Paris began to die. Frere Jacques, elated with praise while it lasted, could not withstand this disgrace;—yet one artifice more he could not refrain from trying: He accused the monks of La Charité, men consecrated to the humane duties of that Hospital, of deliberately poisoning his patients, and mangling anew those wounds which he had made correctly. This was a sure prelude of his flight. His patients in the Hotel Dieu also began to die, seven or eight in a day. He disappeared, after being supported for a while by that enthusiasm which “outruns the pauser reason.”

In a few months, then, this turbulent scene was at an end, and Frere Jacques is mentioned always in the history of our art, because to such a man, so ignorant, bold, and superstitious, do we owe that very operation of Lithotomy which we now perform. His audacity broke the spell; and the Aphorism of Hippocrates, which declares the wounds of membranous parts mortal, was no longer regarded. Dilatation was no longer thought the safest way of operating; the dilating instruments of the Apparatus Major were laid aside; his operations proved that it was safer to operate by incision, where surgeons were accustomed only to tear,—in short, that it was safe to CUT for the STONE.

When this tragical operation, performed with a dagger-like knife, was to be reduced to some practicable form, the help of surgeons and of correct anatomists

was required. Then the Academy of Surgery appointed a certain number of their members as a permanent committee. Frere Jacques performed his operation on six dead bodies in their presence. The subjects were dissected by Mr Mery. The irregularity of his incisions (and they were fatally irregular) was marked, the dangers of his occasional deviations ascertained, and the operation so reformed, that it is practised at this day according to the rules and principles established by those anatomists a hundred years ago.

Though this rude and bold operator shewed that it was possible to cut for the stone, it remained for Mery, Marechal, Raw, and Cheselden, the greatest anatomists of that age, to shew how it might be done safely. By dissection was this operation of Lithotomy established; according to the anatomy of the parts must it always be performed; and by anatomy, and proofs drawn from it, have surgeons always decided on the merits of whatever new operations have been proposed.

When cutting for the stone was a distinct profession, and the office of pensioned Lithotomist to princes and Cities was given according to the public voice, trials of skill were not unfrequent. Commissaries were appointed on occasions of this kind by the Royal Academy of Surgery; dead bodies were laid upon the dissecting-table of the Hotel Dieu; the operations were performed by the contending parties; the parts dissected by the most skilful anatomists; the reports were signed by the Academicians, and various documents of this kind are

registered in their memoirs, and constitute the chief authorities in our profession.

It chanced that about fifty years after the time of Frere Jacques, there arose another innovator, Frere Come, a quack and a priest, characters in those days often combined. He disputed the place of pensioned Lithotomist with a man of real talents and learning, Mr Le Cat, surgeon of Rouen in Normandy. On this occasion, the conclave of lithotomists was again assembled. The arbitrators and judges were fifteen in number ; they met in the month of February, and broke up in the month of March *, and from day to day their reports were regularly carried to the king ! for still the nobility took an interest in those bloody quarrels. But the principals were absent : Le Cat was at home in Normandy ; he was sulky and would not come. Frere Come had, we may suppose, boys to cut for the rupture at the fairs in Germany, and he could not come : certain regimental surgeons were therefore appointed to represent the adverse parties, and proceeded as Proxies to cut for the stone. Here sat the judges ; there stood the gallant representative of Le Cat, and on the other side stood the representative of Frere Come, each with the knife in his hand. Here stood one secretary, reading the aphorisms of Le Cat, and his military champion, cutting sentence by sentence, step by step, coup pour coup ; while on the other side stood a priest, chaunting aloud

* Anno 1755.

the rubric of Frere Come's book over another corpse, his representative nicking and cutting with the bistoury cachée of Frere Come. These were the true and leal knights of the scalpel, standing forth in complete steel to defend their respective lords. This ordeal lasted for twenty days: the dead and wounded were equal on both sides.

We reflect that we are explaining those matters to a Professor of Physic, who has every thing to learn, and have therefore related, rather diffusely, the preliminary history of the Scoop. The Scoop, like the bayonet, is a weapon which suits pieces of all kinds and calibres, and is in universal use. The Scoop, as we have just related, has been used blunt and sharp for two hundred years. When Joannes de Romanis performed lithotomy by dilatation, or rather by laceration, this scoop was a *dilator*, and a chief instrument in the Apparatus Major. When Frere Jaques taught surgeons to cut boldly with the knife, and Mery and Raw taught them to cut safely, this same scoop served to direct the forceps; then it became a *conductor*. When Sir Cæsar Hawkins taught surgeons to perform that incision blindly with the sharpened side of this scoop, which should be performed skilfully with the knife, he sharpened the edge, and named it the *Cutting Conductor*, or *Gorget*. He thus enabled ignorant men to thrust a sharp scoop into the bladder, who never could have reached it with the knife, and to cut parts which they could not dissect.

This is the scoop which the Memorialist speaks of in terms of just contempt. By this sharp scoop being run in along a grooved staff, that incision (the most critical in the operation) is conducted by a groove which should be guided by the eye, and by the feeling. The breadth of the scoop is varied according to the caprice of a workman, and yet it is the measure of that incision which should be proportioned, not merely to the size of the patient, but to the exigencies of the case. This sharp scoop has annihilated the profession of Lithotomist, and delivered the operation into very ignorant hands; it excludes all superiority of skill, without precluding any possible danger; for by "the deviation of half a quarter of an inch, it makes a mortal wound." This scoop makes the operation so blindly mechanical, that the best surgeon is almost on a level with the worst, and no man can be responsible for its deviations.

Our Professor of Anatomy says, that "the operation may be done, as it is now done, blindfold;" it is indeed a plunge in the dark, and it gives us infinite pleasure that we can entirely agree with the Memorialist in this one thing, his abhorrence of this murderous scoop. In this libel we have pleaded on his side, and endeavoured to "show cause." But before he return our compliment, and signify his concurrence with us, he had best consult some of his elderly counsellors. We are sure he must have written unpremeditatedly and unadvisedly about this scoop! it is more necessary to his best friends than he is aware of: Take their scoop from them, and their

well-grooved conductor ! put a knife and a staff into their hands, what could they perform ?

This operation of lithotomy is one which experience will never teach, which must be performed according to the anatomy of the parts, *even by those who plunge the scoop*. The forms of the incision cannot change, so that it is a piece of professional dexterity, in which a young man, after having learnt it correctly, cannot greatly improve. It is the operation which requires youth and courage, the steady hand and the fearless mind ; and a young man just dismissed from the schools, well studied in anatomy, and ambitious of performing operations, will acquit himself with a degree of dexterity and spirit, which he cannot have when he has forsaken the Hospital and the public operations, to follow after the gains of private practice. Then the traces of anatomy are worn out from his memory ; the passion for performing operations has expired ; his mind has subsided into that listlessness, and his habits into that cold and formal routine of practice, which the Memorialist himself has noticed : He begins to glide quietly down the stream, without even the desire of distinguishing what remains of life by one bold exertion or active virtue ; he shuns all hazard of his reputation, and is wrapt up in that sordid passion which marks old age, which is the foulest blot in our profession, and eats up every virtue.

“ In the country of Laputa, there are born every year two or three immortals, distinguished by a spot in the

middle of the forehead, which is first red or purple, and grows black slowly. They are capable, till the fiftieth year, of performing all the usual duties of society ; at that time they become feeble and imbecil, lose their teeth and their hair : the diseases they are subject to still continue ; in talking they forget the common appellation of things ; they eat and drink whatever is presented to them without hesitation ; they are deaf, like old Barfiliai, to the voice of singing men and singing women ; they forget the names of their nearest relations and kindred, but they are carefully fed and clothed by them, and led abroad in sunshine weather for air and exercise ; they live for ever, but by the law they are excused from all exercises of civil offices, and especially excluded from any public charge." Your Memorialist has been pleased to take us under his peculiar care, and has reversed in our favour the laws of Laputa, and such is his paternal tenderness that he is at this moment making interest with all public and private societies, to hinder us from encountering the dangers and distresses of this toilsome life, till the speck of immortality be fairly blackened in our foreheads, and the shaking and the quaking be begun.

We have explained thus fully the operation of cutting for the stone, because it is the chief work of the surgeon. But if the same reasoning do not apply correctly to every other operation, our logic is contemptible, and has no manner of affinity with the reasoning of the Greek mathematicians. The chief operations of an hospital are, Lithotomy, Hernia, Trepan, Amputation, Hydrocele, and the

Extirpation of Tumours. The occasion of performing those operations returns from week to week, and no man inclined to learn his profession can want opportunities in your Hospital of seeing these operations performed. But the performing of them, far from requiring experience, is the very drudgery of our profession; nor is any young man received into the army or navy who is not capable of performing the operations of Hernia, Amputation, and Trepan. Shall we, then, who have been bred in your Hospital, who are trained to surgery, who have served under the surgeons of this Hospital and city, who have assisted at operations, and performed them with our own hands! shall we, who have by our services and diligence obtained the name of Surgeons, and entered into our profession with better prospects, be degraded below the condition of mates? Yet such will be the condition of the Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons, the moment your Institution is given into the hands of those men who are gaping for preferment and gain of every kind; who are torturing government with solicitations, with beggarly petitions in the form of MEMORIALS, desiring to be ELECTED SURGEONS-GENERAL to SCOTLAND! Should we ever have the happiness of perusing those patriotic productions, those royal and courtly memorials, we have no doubt to find them excel in elegance even those which are now addressed to the Managers of the Royal Infirmary.

The great operations of surgery are but five or six in number; they depend not on experience! a man of the

plainest intellects can perceive that they depend on the anatomy of the parts. What does Hernia require? a knowledge of the anatomy of the Peritoneum, of the form and appearance of the Herniary Sac, of the condition and appearance of that Ring or opening through which the bowels are protruded, and, finally, the appearance of the gut itself.

What is required towards performing the operation of Trepan carefully, steadily, and slowly too? (for slowness is required): Surely nothing is more easy than twirling the Trepan! But nothing can be more doubtful than the propriety of operating dextrously, that is to say, rapidly, where hurry or precipitation must do harm. This operation, then, requires no particular dexterity of hand, but merely a knowledge of the anatomy and irregularities of the Skull, Dura Mater, and Brain.

In the Extirpation of Tumours, what is required! What would experience enable the most fearless operator to do? Nothing but mischief! Experience will not teach a physician the nature of any internal disease, unless he know the structure of the diseased bowels! Experience will enable no man to judge whether the Extirpation of a Tumour be dangerous or safe; nor will experience direct the surgeon how, or with what precautions, to extirpate a dangerous tumour, unless he understand thoroughly the Vessels, Nerves, and even the less important parts with which it is connected. The precautions taken in extirpating tumours, and in performing all irregular operations, are the precautions not of an experienced, but of a well-instructed man:—A patient of good sense would think himself in imminent danger under the care of one

who remembered unfortunate accidents, but who, from want of knowledge, were unable to prevent them. But he would believe himself safe under the care of a man of foresight, who, though he had never done, nor seen others do a mischief, knew the structure of the parts which he were about to operate upon, and had both judgement and knowledge to prevent harm. The irregular operations of surgery then, and especially the treatment or extirpation of tumours in various parts of the body, requires a perfect knowledge of the anatomy of all parts of the body, that the surgeon, who attempts any operation, may foresee the dangers, avoid the great vessels, and cut with safety.

But, gentlemen, while we feel our own responsibility, we cannot but reflect on yours, and it is with infinite concern that we see the faults which this daring writer has ascribed to the younger surgeons imputed to you as crimes; for this unfeeling impugnator addresses himself not to you, but to the public, proclaims the execrable system and sordid bargain as a public crime, to be expiated only by such a public trial as this. He does not scruple to say, that you, or your more criminal predecessors, forfeiting all public trust, honour, and confidence, have committed treason against the poor, and have sold, by a most inhuman contract, the limbs and lives of your fellow-citizens: that your surgeons are young, rash, cruel, unskilful: that you are guilty of the same treason in continuing this execrable system: That to be privileged to do so, you would need to prove, "that a poor man, when received sick into your Hospital, with respect to health, and life, and limb, is no better than an ox, and the hide of an ox."

The world knows not the heated imagination from which those accusations proceed ; but we who do, find much reason to question, whether in his most serious and reflecting moments, (if indeed he has the misfortune to reflect at any time on his conduct),—he judges more correctly of the real dangers, than of the real merits, of a surgical operation.

To those ignorant of our profession, it is matter of daily surprise, that the patient on whom an operation has been ill performed recovers sometimes more easily than a patient on whom an operation has been performed by the most skilful hand. What can this mean ? Are the terms ill and good improperly applied to operations ? Are the best judges deceived when they say, an operation has been well performed ? No, surely ; but the high or the low vulgar do not know this, that a bad operation is but an awkward operation, which, tho' fatal to the surgeon's reputation, is not dangerous to the patient's life. The Memorialist never saw an operation ; and we are at some loss to guess what an ignorant person may imagine to be the consequences of an ill-performed operation ; but we, who have seen many operations, both good and bad, have seen none of those murders, which the Memorialist has more than hinted at.

Some men there are who have such uncouth manners, ungraceful persons, and ungainly postures ; who go through their operations with such irregular and ambiguous motions of the head and hand ; that, when they begin their work, in place of following willingly with your eye, you feel your spirits hurried with anxiety and expectation !

Perplexed, perturbed, unable to guess at their design, you cannot look upon their operation without suffering a very painful sympathy with the patient. But are these to be construed into marks of ignorance? or is this awkwardness accompanied with real danger to the patient? Is he allowed to die of hæmorrhagy? are the incisions so irregular, or the parts so mangled, that they will not adhere? or are his sufferings so prolonged as to drive him into present delirium? No; we on the contrary find all the sterling sense, all the essential knowledge, all the dexterity necessary to success even in an awkward man, in one who has not those talents, or tricks, which amuse a set of barren spectators, and incline them (especially those who measure dexterity by the stop-watch) to say, "He is a dextrous operator?" The apish tricks, and whirling agility of a charlatan we can never approve: We should be sorry to see such manners introduced into a serious profession: We observe plain blunt men go through their duties deliberately, steadily, and safely: We reserve our approbation for those who understand well the essentials of their profession, and can easily pardon that awkwardness which is hurtful only to the operator, which even injures him only in the opinion of the less discerning.

When a Professor instructs his pupils in the operations of surgery, does he teach them only the forms and outside flourishes, the *steps* of an operation, as they are called? Or when a surgeon of the Old School wishes to renew his lessons in surgery, does he come up to town, "like Scrub, to learn from brother Martin, the last new flourish of the knives?" No; his teacher in-

structs him in the essentials of his profession, in the anatomy of the parts! He traces the nerves and blood-vessels along with him, observing when, and by what misconduct they may be wounded. He dissects the glands with him, in order to explain where they lie; how they are connected; by what disorders they are enlarged; and how they may be most safely extirpated. He teaches him how to extirpate a tumor; to amputate a limb; to cut down to the roots of a confirmed and spreading disease; and to operate for the stone without plunging the sharp scoop into the bowels, and making a mortal wound. To every pupil he teaches faithfully the essentials of each operation, leaving him to perform it, "after whatever flourish his nature may give him to."

These same flourishes constitute what is called the address of a dextrous operator. Yet no person of good sense would despise the sober talents of a plain blunt man; nor prefer the gaudy affectation of a quack or oculist, to the sagacious head, and coarse but skilful hand, of a Sandie Wood. The Memorialist tells us, he saw once the bloodless operation of Baron Wenzell! there we are sure, he saw a laced ruffle and a sapphire ring:—But he never had the good fortune to see the bold operations of a John Hunter, a Pott, a Dease, (the great lithotomist), or of Mr Wood, the protector and encourager of his younger brethren. They were not nice, delicate, and pretty operators; they were all, without one exception, unaffected plain, blunt, men.

Gentlemen, we need hardly say, that to perform operations is the peculiar province of young surgeons. That our education is now improved, and surgery become a

more important object of study : that no young man wants opportunities of attending lectures, and of performing operations and dissections, on the dead body : that in our college we have not one, but many, who are skilful in anatomy ; not one, but many, who have studied operations. Insensible to any selfish fear inconsistent with our duties, we have, with due humility and diligence, studied our profession, and often, before operating in your Hospital, have been at pains to perform our operations on the dead body. We have always entered upon our duties in your Hospital with reverence, because the lives of our fellow-creatures are concerned ; we have endeavoured to fulfil them with sincerity and good faith, for the sake of the peace and happiness of our own minds : There we feel no misgiving ; and had the unjust and cruel representations of the Memorialist been confined to those who are to judge of these matters, we should have read his accusations with indifference, nor have saved his Memorial from falling into that neglect, to which it seems to be condemned by an impartial public. We affirm, in spite of his most illiberal reflections, that there have been operations performed in your Hospital, which would have done honour to any school in surgery ! That there have been operations of delicate and difficult dissection successfully performed by your younger surgeons, which the surgeons of the old school would not have touched with a finger.

Nor do we think it very honourable to your Memorialist, that amidst all the affectation of liberality so conspicuous in his volume, there is not one word

that can be construed into a sense honourable to young surgeons : that he affects to conceal particular faults, for no apparent purpose but to involve us all in one general accusation : that he affects ignorance of many bold and dextrous operations, which even the lowest of his fellow-citizens have heard the report of. He has spoken publicly what must be publicly refuted. We are associated to repel indecencies which shock the feelings of all good men, but injure us only. It is not the bitterness of our wrath, nor the severity of our censures, that he will feel ; the public is his tribunal, as it is ours. Let him enquire into the public mind, if he find consolation there, we too may pardon him.

Here end our proofs. We are indeed young surgeons ! The very head and front of our offending has this extent, no more ! but if we are not to be driven from society, we must be allowed to have some share in our profession. The merit of experience and observation is denied us. Operations, it is declared, we are unable to perform. If we want judgement in the common duties of our profession ; if we want skill for its most ordinary operations ; if we want ability to perform deliberately, and assisted by our brethren, the ordinary offices of an Hospital, who will receive us in private life ? If we want spirit to resent the insolencies of this Memorial, what will become of us ?

Yet we hardly know how we are entitled to express our particular resentment, since we are not sure that we are entitled to arrogate to ourselves any remarkable proportion of this gentleman's abuse ! He makes no

partial distinctions, spares no trade, nor profession, nor state, nor stage of life ! All sciences, arts, and learning, he equally knows and despises ; and this torrent of abuse is rolled forth with a precipitancy of utterance, which excludes all reflection, and a turbulence of language which defies all criticism ! What kind of writing must that be, which deprives its author of the most natural of all claims to indulgence,—the desire of doing good ?

We are fearful, lest while we feel and resent his conduct, we should seem rude to you, and regardless of that profession, which we are sworn to honour and defend. To you, gentlemen, as a public body, we owe all possible respect ; as representatives of the humane and charitable, and administrators of the first hospital in this city, we profess reverence and duty to you. We have been educated to surgery under your own eye ; in your own school, have we learnt our operations, and received those important parts of education, of which we have a grateful remembrance : there, too, we have been early impressed with sentiments suited to our station, and by modest diligence and labour we hope so to fulfil our duties now and always, as to set ourselves above the reproaches of this Memorialist. We are naturally attached to that branch of our profession, which suits with the natural intrepidity of youth. We endeavour to cherish in our minds an affectionate regard for our fellow-creatures ; we hope we carry with us sentiments not unworthy of our profession into every house of mourning, “ for we are accustomed to see people, once the gay and the happy, sunk in deep retired distress, sometimes struggling with

bodily anguish, sometimes devoted to a lingering and painful death."

Of the Memorialist we shall also take our leave, tho' in terms less fervent or respectful. The ceremonial of taking leave must be complied with: his talents, his professional reputation, his literary achievements, his station in the University, require all due observance. "His genius for quarrelling with his professional brethren" is the natural subject of our valedictory address; the share of this very peculiar talent, which he has been pleased to bestow on us and our private matters, ensures to him this last mark of our regard.

Conscious that he had said such things as young men of spirit could never endure, he has taken precautions not unworthy of his genius; and tried, by a curious anticipation, to take off the effect of our just reproaches*. The public and avowed disapprobation of a whole college, he has imputed to the resentment of one man, who, though he once stood forth in self-defence when his own reputation was attacked by anonymous pamphlets, had no quarrel with the Memorialist, whom he never feared nor hated! nor hates nor fears.

* "Perhaps the formidable Janus-headed Jonathan Dawplucker, Esq. notwithstanding his former kindness to me, and all the civil and kind things which I have said of him and his books, will officiate as high-priest, and from his two mouths will thunder forth the direful sentence, and with his own four hands begin the sacrifice, by plucking me as bare as a fish. This I shall consider as a very great honour, and a particular favour; for it will complete the evidence of all that I wish to establish, and *give to the Managers of this Infirmary, and to the Public, a just notion of the inveterate rancour of medical hatred.*" These are the terms in which the Memorialist threatens (not to use any coarser expression) the oldest of the young surgeons, whose natural duty it was to stand forward in the general cause.

Our Memorialist, ill contented with this great exertion of his peculiar talent ! sensible of an imperfection in his work, while he has attained only to a general quarrel, fastens his quarrel at last on this person, and persecutes him with such praise as his nature will allow him to bestow. He calls him the head of our party ! a cunning compliment : he calls him the Junius and the Janus of medical literature ! an ironical compliment : he describes him as the most turbulent man of a turbulent society ! a selfish compliment ; since it reminds us of that boasted accomplishment in which the Memorialist himself never was excelled, and recalls the memory of his own quarrels, numberless and nameless, Lordly †, Literary, and Obstetrical ! Metaphysical, Polemical, Surgical, and Moral too ! for how can such a man, when he quarrels with all good men, escape quarreling sometimes “ on a moral cause ? ” But we leave the unwearied Memorialist to complete the work he delights in, and finish the particular quarrel he has so happily begun.

Yet why should we be displeased with any slight contrivance, which saves the Memorialist from the perplexity of naming the real favourer and protector of the younger surgeons ;—a man, whose liberal conduct and unaffected goodness, whose professional talents, whose generous dispositions, we admire affectionately ; who seems, as the poet says, “ to have put a soft heart in a rough case, that it might wear through the world.”

Mr Alexander Wood, surgeon, has, unsolicited, attended

† The Memorialist insinuates, that his quarrels are only professional quarrels ; but tho' he cajoles the bar, he quarrels with the bench.

our operations. He has always assisted and encouraged, by his presence and counsel, the young men of his own profession, and is said, out of his own free and generous nature, to have assisted Dr Cullen ! to place a physician, a youth of four and twenty ! in one of the chairs of the first University in Europe. Him we honour as Father of our College, as the oldest of our profession in this city, and as the generous protector of every young surgeon : Nor shall we ever envy that man his private feelings, who differs from him on a moral cause. That the public may have no doubt whom we consider as the head of our party, and the protector of the young surgeons, we transcribe with pleasure the dedication prefixed by one of our number to a book published some years ago. It expresses our sentiments, and, we believe, the universal sentiment of our fellow-citizens.

THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY PRESENTED

TO

A L E X A N D E R W O O D,

S U R G E O N,

WHOSE ABILITIES, AND SKILL, AND DISINTERESTED CONDUCT,

HAVE RAISED HIM, BY COMMON CONSENT,

TO THE FIRST RANK IN A MOST USEFUL PROFESSION,

CONDUCTING HIM IN HONOUR TO THAT PERIOD OF LIFE,

IN WHICH HE MUST FEEL, WITH PLEASURE,

HOW COMPLETELY HE ENJOYS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PUBLIC,

AND THE ESTEEM OF ALL GOOD MEN.

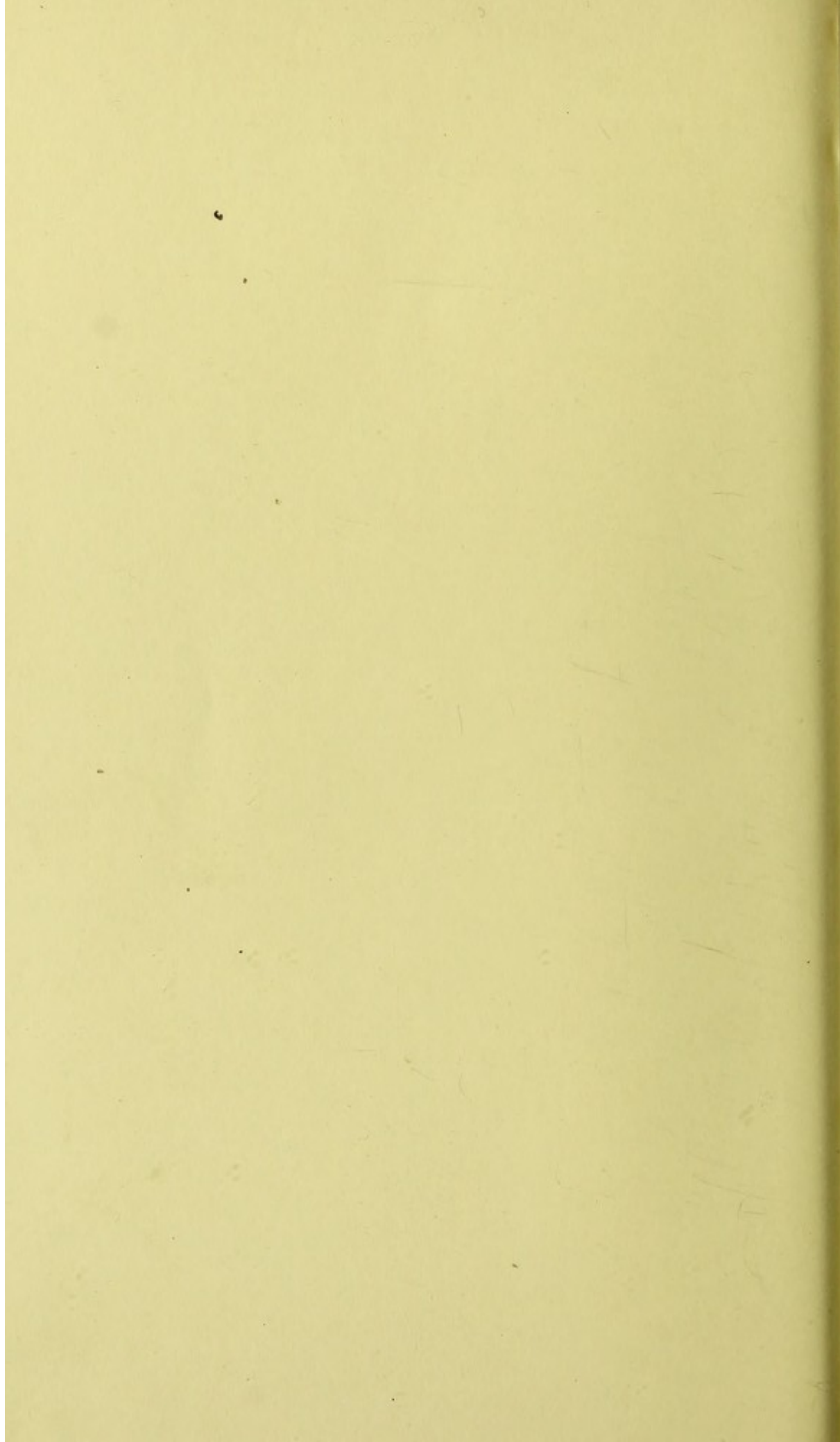
When Dr Gregory shall have attained the highest station in a most useful profession, and shall have won the

confidence and esteem of all good men, we shall be happy to subscribe ourselves with a degree of respect and reverence, which at present we cannot affect to feel. Meanwhile we leave him to enjoy the honour of differing from this worthy man : He claims this honour ! and let the world take note, “ it is for a moral cause.”

F I N I S.

J. PILLANS AND SONS, PRINTERS,
NORTH COLLEGE-STREET. }





RB 30.8.1990

