A brief account of the flexible metallic bougies, for the cure of strictures in the urethra, and for the evacuation of the urinary bladder. To which are added, extracts of letters from some of the most eminent medical practitioners / by W. Smyth.

#### Contributors

Smith William fl., 1802. Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

#### **Publication/Creation**

London : Sold by J. Johnson, T. Boosey, J. Bell, and by W. Smyth, 1802.

#### **Persistent URL**

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### BRIEF ACCOUNT

#### OF THE

# FLEXIBLE METALLIC BOUGIES,

FOR THE CURE OF

STRICTURES IN THE URETHRA,

AND FOR THE

EVACUATION OF THE URINARY BLADDER; BY W. SMYTH, THE INVENTOR AND SOLE PROPRIETOR.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

Extracts of Letters from some of the most eminent Medical Practitioners.

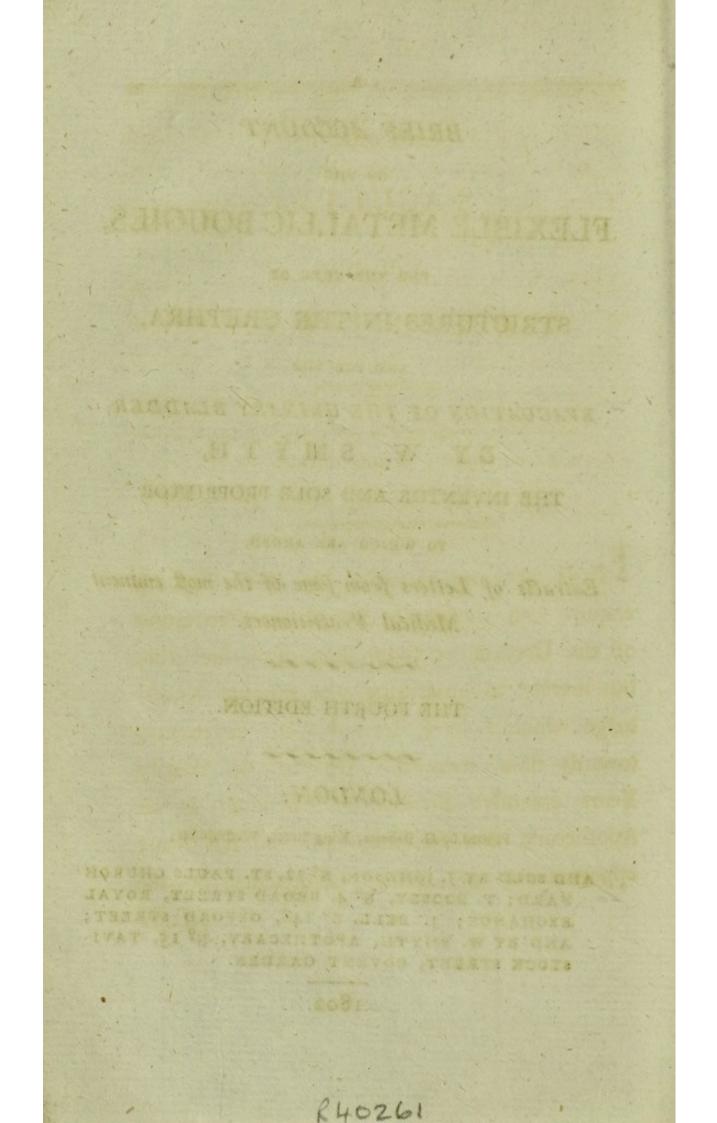
THE FOURTH EDITION.

#### LONDON:

Printed by G. Roberts, King Street, Weftminfter;

AND SOLD BY J. JOHNSON, Nº 72, ST. PAULS CHURCH YARD; T. BOOSEY, Nº 4, BROAD STREET, ROYAL EXCHANGE; J. BELL, Nº 148, OXFORD STREET; AND BY W. SMYTH, APOTHECARY, Nº 15, TAVI-STOCK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1802.



# TO THE

# FACULTY,

AND THE

PUBLIC.

Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum.

HOR,

T is not my intention, in this place, to enquire into the caufes from which Strictures of the Urethra, or fuppreffion of Urine arife, but merely to contribute that mite of Knowledge which I have derived from experience, towards their removal. Upwards of Twenty Years extensive Practice in London, as an Apothecary, &c. &c. hath afforded me many opportunities of feeing Complaints in the A Urinary Urinary Paffage: and it was my own misfortune fome time ago, to be afflicted with a very fevere Stricture, attended frequently with a fuppreffion of Urine, for which I could find no relief in the means recommended by my Medical friends. It is faid that "neceffity is the Mother of Invention," and to this circumftance alone, perhaps, are we indebted for the Inftrument now fubmitted to your infpection, by the use of which I obtained a speedy and perfect cure.

THE Bougies generally ufed, fince the Practice of Monf. DARAN has been followed, have in difficult cafes been found defective: Various attempts have been made, as well by Medical men as others, to remedy that defect; but I have had the good fortune to find in the Mineral Kingdom, those Materials for the Composition of a Bougie, which fully answer the purpose; and I am encouraged to hope that my discovery will be found beneficial to mankind in general, especially as it is allowed by fome of the most eminent Practitioners in Town and and Country, to be a great improvement in this branch of the Healing Art,—to whom reference may be had, if required.

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AND it also affords me peculiar fatisfaction to obferve to the community at large, that I have already brought to perfection Two kinds of Bougies, formed of this inimitable Composition, which I flatter myfelf in every refpect will be found by comparison, superior to any that are at present in use.-The first of these are SOLID, but at the fame time they are as flexible as those made of common Plaster, and are possessed of ftrength and firmnefs enough, to overcome any obstruction that ought to yield to preffure. They are also of so smooth a furface, that they may be introduced with eafe, and fo durable, that one cafe, containing TWELVE folid Bougies of different fizes, with a little care not to bruife them\*, will last a Surgeon in full Practice, for

\* This caution is very neceffary to be attended to, as from No. 5 to No. 12 inclusively are made hollow, for the purpofe

A 2

for many years.—The *fecond* are Hollow, and of fizes fimilar to the folid ones, furnished with a ftilet, or wire, of the fame Metal, for cafes where it is judged proper to let them remain in the Bladder; but in strictures requiring greater force than can be exerted with these Bougies, as they are confiderably foster than the Silver Catheter, a temporary Brass, or Iron wire, will give them sufficient strength for their introduction.

THESE Bougies, both *folid* and *hollow*, will take any degree of curvature\* that may be thought neceffary by the operator previous to their introduction, without being injured thereby; and

purpose of giving them lightness and flexibility, and if bruised they cannot be repaired, but are nevertheless to be confidered folid, in opposition to the Hollow Bougies, or Catheters.

\* For the SHAPE of the Male Catheter, and the beft mode of introducing it into the Bladder, vide Mr. WARE'S Paper in the MEMOIRS of the Medical Society of London, Vol. II. P. 336.

and as they are not poffeffed of the irritating quality of the common Bougies, they may be continued in the Paffage any length of time without danger of breaking\*, or giving the least pain; this I affert from my own knowledge, having worn one of the larger fizes, in fome measure for the fake of the experiment, eight or nine hours at a time. They cannot be affected by the warmth of the parts to which they are applied; nor acted upon by the Stricture, as frequently happens, particularly in the Spafmodic contraction of the Urethra; nor by the Urine, which is always the cafe, when the Plaster Bougie, or Elastic Gum Catheter is used. They may be had of any fize, or degree of flexibility; and when tarnifhed. they may be re-polifhed with a piece of fhamoy. leather and a little whiting. They are of a conical

\* The Mafs, or Compound of which thefe Bougies are formed, is nearly equal in tenacity to Silver, conconfequently there can be no danger of their breaking in the Urethra, where there is very little or no force required..

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conical form, and their action is purely mechanical.

For the fupply of Surgeons in diftant Countries, and for the Surgeons of the Army and Navy, or our diftant Colonies, it may be obferved, that *thefe Bougies* are in no way injured by keeping any length of time, or by the changes of temperature in any Climate, a quality which is fo eminently advantageous, that whofoever has trufted to the Wax, or other Flexible Bougies in those fituations, will not fail to appreciate these Inftruments; as the former are univerfally known to become brittle by keeping, or by the influence of Hot Climates; and are therefore found by every day's experience to be totally useles in the Surgeon's Medicine Cheft.

PERHAPS it may not be improper to inform the Public, and in particular the Patient, who is not fuppofed to be of the Medical profession, that that there are feveral difeafes of the Urethra, arifing from different caufes, differing in their nature, and requiring a different mode of treatment. In all cafes, prudence will direct him to confult a Surgeon; but if he fhould be fo circumftanced as to find it inconvenient to do fo, thefe Bougies being moftly applicable to *Strictures*, the following fymptoms confequent upon that Diforder, fhould be attended to.

WHEN the Urethra is affected by Stricture, there is generally a little running, and a finall quantity of matter will be voided before the Urine. There is a frequent defire to make water, which will fometimes come away in a fpiral or double ftream, or by drops, with confiderable pain and ftraining, and a finall degree of tendernefs may commonly be found in that part of the Urethra where the Stricture is feated; but the beft Criterion is the introduction of the Bougie.

TAKE one of the finaller fizes of the folid Bougies, and draw it between the finger and thumb

thumb to feel whether it be perfectly fmooth; if that be the cafe, then take a little fweet oil and rub it all over, that it may pass the easier. The Patient may either stand, or fit in a chair inclining backwards, or lie in bed with his knees drawn up, which latter pofition is preferable to any other. He may then take hold of the Penis, near the Glans, with one hand, and extend it gently, that the Urethra may not be wrinkled, and with the other, introduce the tound end of the Bougie, which should be traced with his finger externally\*, in order to keep it in a right line with the Urethra, and it will then meet with no impediment but what is occafioned by the Difeafe. When it meets with any refistance, the Patient may turn it round gently with his finger and thumb feveral times

\* The experienced Practitioner need not be told, that in many cafes of Stricture, it may be neceffary to introduce the fore finger of the left hand, well oiled, into the rectum, in order to facilitate the Paffage of the Bougie into the Bladder. times, and as he turns it, prefs it a little forwards, and continue fo to do, until he pafs the obstruction, which is all that in this cafe is neceffary. This Bougie should remain fome time in the paffage, more or lefs, according to circumftances, and when withdrawn, another of a fize larger be introduced, continuing the fame operation once or twice a day, and gradually encreafing the Bougie to the fize thought proper; but the larger the Bougie, and the longer the Urethra is kept diftended, the more likely is the cure to be radical. Sometimes a few drops of blood will follow the use of the Bougie, owing to the preffure of its fides against the fpongy fubstance of the Urethra, that is generally inflamed and full of blood, and the discharge of which gives wonderful relief. By perfevering in this manner daily, for about a month or fix weeks, with a temperate Regimen, the obstruction will be removed, the inflammation abated, ulcers healed, the running ftopped; and I may venture to fay from my own knowledge and experience, confirmed by the

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the observation of other Practitioners, that in every case of Stricture, where the Urethra has not been previously injured by the improper use of the Caustic, or other Bougies, these will always prove successful. It frequently happens that there are two or three strictures in the Urethra at one time, fituated at a little distance from each other; but they are all to be treated in the same manner, by passing the Bougie from one obstruction to the other.

WHEN the Patient judges himfelf to be well, it will be advifeable to defift gradually, wearing the Bougie at first only an hour or two in a day, and then an hour, two or three times a week, after which it may be entirely difused. But if any Gleet still remain, or any Obstruction threaten to return, it will be proper to use the Bougie an hour once or twice a week for some time longer, and occasionally by way of prevention. The Patient should not walk or sleep with it in the passage, nor wear it at any time longer than he can properly attend to it.

AND

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AND if the fame pliable metal should be found useful in other parts of Surgery, or if thefe Bougies and Catheters are thought to be capable of 'further improvement, I shall be happy to receive the directions of any Gentleman who will honour me with his commands.

W. SMYTH.

Tavistock Street, London, 1A January, 1799.

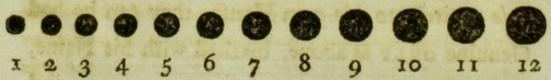
THESE Bougies, Solid for the Cure of Strictures in the Urethra, and Hollow for the evacuation of the Urinary Bladder, having, on account of their fuperior fmoothnefs, firmnefs, and pliability, obtained the approbation of fome of the first Medical Characters in the Kingdom; and as W. SMYTH, Apothecary, &c. of Tavifock Street, Covent Garden, London, the INVENTOR and Sole Proprietor, in order to prevent imposition, has confined their Manufacture and Sale entirely to his own House, they can be had Genuine ONLY as above, marked with his Name, and

B 2

and numbered according to their fize, at the following Prices to the Faculty, &c. and a proper allowance made to Dealers,—for ready Money.

#### LIST OF PRICES.

	1
A Cafe containing twelve folid Bougies, of different	**
fizes* I II	6
A Single Bougie of any fize, or degree of flexibility o 3	0
A Cafe containing two Bougies, of different fizes,	
one within the other o 7	0
A Cafe containing three Bougies, of different fizes,	
one within the other o 10	6
A Cafe containing four Bougies, of different fizes,	
one within the other 0 14	0
A Cafe containing fix Bougies, of different fizes,	
with a fmaller one within each 2 2	0
A Hollow Bougie, or Male Catheter, of any fize, or	
degree of flexibility o 5	0
A Cafe containing two Hollow Bougies, of different	
fizes, one within the other 0 10	6
A Caf	e
They are Ten Inches in length, and each at the fmall end, all	hour
balf the circumference of these Impressions.	



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### ( 13 )

A Cafe containing three Hollow Bougies, of different £ s. d.
fizes, one within the other 0 15 6
A Hollow Bougie, with lateral rings, and fcrew
ftopper, intended to lie in the Bladder 0 8 0
A Hollow Bougie, with lateral rings, fcrew ftopper,
and ftilet 0 10 6
A Hollow Bougie of any fize, with a folid one
within it
A Hollow Bougie of any fize, with two Bougies
within it 0 12 0
A Female Catheter of any fize, or degree of flex-
ibility
A Cafe containing two Female Catheters, of different
fizes, one within the other 0 10 6
A Cafe containing three Female Catheters, of
different fizes, one within the other $-$ - 0 15 $\delta$
A Female Catheter, with lateral rings, and a fcrew
ftopper, intended to lie in the bladder 0 8 0
A Female Catheter, with lateral rings, a fcrew
ftopper, and ftilet 0 10 6
A Flexible Tube, for the introduction of the Cauftic
Bougie* 5 0
A Flexible
* Mr. JOHN HOWARD, in his " Supplement to Practical Observations on
" the Natural History and Cure of Lues Venerea, Page 26," having men-

description

tioned this Tube or Camula, I think it incumbent on me, to give fome

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A Flexible Tube, for the introduction of the Plaster	£	5.	d.
Bougie	0	3	0
A Flexible Tube, for the introduction of the Plaster			4
Bougie, with a ftilet*	0	5	•
A Cafe containing twelve Flexible Tubes, with a			
Metallic Bougic within each	2	14	•
A Single Flexible Tube, of any fize, with a Metallic			
Bougie within it	•	5	0
A Flexible Tube, of any fize, for fiftulous ulcers in		12	t
the Urethra	•	3	0
A Flexible Tube, of any fize, for fiftulous Ulcers in			
the Urethra, with a flilet	•	5	0
	-	1	

#### A Bougie

defeription of it here, for the fatisfaction of those who may be disposed to make use of such an instrument, for the defence of the Urethra.—It is a cylinder of about eight inches long, and may be had of any fize, furnished with a stilet, in the manner of a Catheter, fitted exactly to the extremity of the Tube, and is so sounded off, as to form a blunt end, which may be passed up to the Stricture with great ease; the stilet may then be withdrawn, leaving the Camula behind, through which the Caustic Bougie may be introduced, armed in any way the Operator thinks best.

\* Or for the introduction of the Plafter Bougie, armed with Cauftic, in the manner recommended by Mr. WHATELY, in his "Obfervations on "Mr. HOME'S Treatment of Strictures in the Urethra, Page 67." As this Tube will be elongated by moving backwards and forwards, the wire belonging to it will require fometimes to be drawn between the fingers and thumb to keep it of a proper length. The fame obfervation will hold good with refpect to the Tube for the introduction of the Cauftie Bougie, and the Catheters,

### ( 15 )

Annal band in maline walling through the	s. d.
A Bougie of any fize, with a Catheter within it - o	80
A Catheter of any fize, with a Bougie within it - o	8 0
A Tube of any fize, for the Elastic Gum Bottle - o	300
A Syringe, with a Flexible Tube for throwing Oil,	full
&c. into the Bladder o	50
A Flexible Tube of any fize, for throwing Oil, &c.	ndr
into the Rectum o	30
A Flexible Bougie of any fize, for the Rectum o	50
A Probe for Gunshot wounds, according to its fize,	194
from one Shilling to o	50
A Paper Bougie Cafe, according to its fize, empty,	578.
from one Shilling to o	20
A Deal Packing Cafe, for Country Orders, accord-	1111
ing to its fize, from one Shilling to o	20

### OBSERVATIONS.

10

03

GENTLEMEN in the Country are requefted to give their Orders in the Words of the Lift of Prices; and when difpatch is neceffary, to fend them direct to the Proprietor himfelf, as they will then be executed without delay, and prevent the miftakes and difappointment fometimes occafioned occafioned by their paffing through different hands: and those who have not a correspondent in London to refer to for payment, are respectfully informed, that if a Bank Note is inclosed, the difference will be returned to them with the Bougies. Surgeons in the Army, Navy, Hospitals, &c. may complete their fets, by only fending for the particular numbers that are wanted.—The Hollow Bougies, or Catheters, are made to the exact dimensions of the *folid* ones, and may be had according to their numbers.

Mr. SMYTH is forry to be under the neceffity of informing GENTLEMEN, that when he applies the Bougie for them, or anfwers Letters of confultation (which must be post paid) he expects a gratuity adequate to his time and trouble.

AT Home in the Morning, from Ten to Twelve;—and in the Afternoon, from Four to Six o'Clock.

#### EXTRACTS.

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# EXTRACTS.

FROM the numerous *unfolicited* expressions of approbation Mr. SMYTH has received, it may not be improper to take the following *Extracts*, which alone are fufficient to stamp a value on the Invention.

EXTRACT of a Letter from JOHN BIRCH, Efq. Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hofpital, and Surgeon Extraordinary to the PRINCE of WALES, to the Inventor and Proprietor of the Flexible Metallic Bougies.

" I наvе made ufe of the Metallic Bougies
" you favoured me with, on feveral occafions,
" and am fo well pleafed with the Invention,
" that I have no hefitation in faying I think
" they will be highly ufeful in many Cafes of
" Stricture. No fingle remedy is applicable to
" all occafions, and by the prefent fashionable
c " experimental

" experimental practice, there will, I apprehend be many Cafes to which no relief can be given.

" I WISH you all the fuccefs your Ingenuity deferves, and recommend you to be cautious in what manner you advertife them, left a valuable Difcovery fhould meet the contempt of empirical impofitions."

Spring Gardens, London, 1799.

EXTRACT from the Medical and Phyfical Journal, Vol. II. P. 85.

" GOOD BOUGIES and CATHETERS have long been a defideratum, in the treatment of ftrictures in the Urethra, and for evacuating the Urinary Bladder.

"W. Sмутн, of Taviftock Street, Covent Garden, has lately difcovered a Metallic Compofition, which unites the flexible property of Lead to the white luftre of Silver. From this excellent composition, Mr. Sмутн manufactures his Metallic Bougies, folid and hollow, as

character and in 23

# " as well as his flexible Metallic Catheters, for "males and females. He recommends them "with a degree of modefty deferving much praife, for the Cure of Strictures only; while he very properly remarks, that a temperate "regimen ought to be obferved during their ufe."

EXTRACT of a Letter from ANTH. CARLISLE, Efq. Surgeon to the Weftminfter Hofpital; to the Editors of the Medical and Phyfical Journal . on the use of Bougies, Vol. III. P. 291.

" THE Bougies made of Plafter, fpread on " linen, and rolled up, have not the abforbing " property of the two former (Leather and " Catgut) and the Wax, &c. foon becomes fo " foft by the heat of the body as to render them " incapable of a due degree of refiftance. Mr. " SMYTH, Chemift, &c. of Taviftock Street, " Covent Garden, has lately contrived a com-" pound metal, out of which he makes Bougies " of all forms and fizes; the degree of flexi-" bility of the Metal, and the polifh it bears, " C 2 " are

### ( 19 )

" are admirable qualities for the manufacture of "Bougies. Where mechanical force is pre-"ferred, or the dilatation of a Stricture by a " conical Bougie, or where the paffage is fo " narrow as not to admit any other fubftance " from the comparative want of refiftance, thefe " Metallic Bougies are, in my effimation, de-" cidedly the beft. They are alfo well adapted " for examining the Paffage to afcertain the " feat, &c. of Stricture. For clearing the " Canal previoufly to the introduction of a " Cauftic Bougie, and for dilating the opening " after a certain degree of ulceration has been " excited by Cauftic, thefe Inftruments will be " found preferable to moft others."

Soho Square, London, 1800.

EXTRACT from the Medical and Chirurgical Review, Vol. VII. P. 96.

"WE mentioned in a curfory way, a fhort time ago, the Invention of Flexible Metallic Bougies and Catheters, by Mr. Sмутн, Apothecary,

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" Apothecary, of Taviftock Street. Having " fince had an opportunity of examining them, " and of witneffing their application, we are " enabled to fpeak more decidedly of their " merits. They appear to be equally flexible " with the common Plaster Bougie, without " the inconvenience of being readily broken, " or yielding too much, from the heat of the " parts to which they are applied. At the fame " time, they poffels fufficient firmnels for any " degree of force, which it can be proper to " make use of, in overcoming an obstruction " mechanically; and they are readily fusceptible " of a very high polifh. When these properties " are confidered, together with their durability, " as with moderate care they may laft for many " years, we have no doubt they will be con-" fidered as an important and valuable difcovery."

EXTRACT of a Letter from WILLIAM CHAM-BERLAINE, Efq. Surgeon, (formerly of Jamaica) to the Inventor and Proprietor of the Flexible Metallic Bougies.

" I HAVE

" I HAVE great pleafure in flating to you " that I have found your Flexible Metallic " Bougies anfwer my purpole in feveral cafes " of Stricture, where a common Bougie was of " no avail. I fhall beg leave to mention one " cafe in particular, as I enjoyed much gratifi-" cation from the fuccels attending a fingle " application.

" HERE Mr. C. relates a Cafe of Stricture, " attended with fuppreffion of Urine, where he " could not pafs a common Bougie into the " Bladder, but introduced with eafe, a Metallic " Bougie bent into the fhape of a Catheter, " which in a few minutes produced the defired " effect. A Phyfician (Dr. Marshall) who was " called in upon the occafion, expressed much " fatisfaction at his rejection of the Cauftic " Bougie, (which had been recommended by a " young Practitioner as the only means of " relief) and the adoption of one whofe applica-" tion is not attended with any danger, and " but very little pain to the Patient." He then concludes 3717

concludes with faying, "I would recommend "it to you, for the fake of humanity, to ufe "your beft endeavours to make the FLEXIBLE METALLIC BOUGIES known in the WEST "INDIES, where Urethral Obstructions are very

" common among the NEGROES. The unfitnels " of the common Bougies (from their being " foftened by the heat of the climate) and the " durability of the FLEXIBLE METALLIC " BOUGIES, (which may be used a thousand " times without being injured) would make " them a valuable acquisition to Gentlemen of " the Profession, and particularly on the Plan-" tations."

Aylesbury Street, Clerkenwell, 1800.

EXTRACT of a Letter from JOHN MORGAN, Efq. one of the Surgeons to the Ipfwich Public Difpenfary, to the Inventor and Proprietor of the Flexible Metallic Bougies.

" I AM much obliged to you for the cor-" rectnefs with which you executed the Orders " from " from the Ipfwich Public Difpenfary, and the " Suffolk Society of Surgeons. Your Flexible " Metallic Bougies were much commended, " and I wifh you all the fuccefs your Invention " deferves."

Ipfwich, 1801.

EXTRACT of a Letter from W. BLAIR, Efq. Surgeon of the Lock Hofpital, to the Editors of the London Medical Review and Magazine, Vol. IV. P. 209.

Mr. BLAIR, in his reflections on the ufe of Cauftic Subfrances, and Metallic Bougies in Strictures of the Urethra, after fpeaking of the "mild and happy effects that have often "enfued from the ufe of the Cauftic, when "the common means had proved ufelefs; and "that permanent benefit has been received from "it in two or three weeks, although the Plafter Bougie had been previoufly employed, even for years together, without making any progrefs towards a Cure." He adds, "After "all, " all, however, it must be granted by the "warmest advocates for this treatment, that "where the Bougie is capable of dilating the "Urethra to its natural fize, it is to be preferred, "as more fimple and lefs alarming; in general "too, the latter is not fo painful in its application "as the Cauftic;" admitting at once the fuperiority of the Flexible Metallic Bougies, as they are capable in a few weeks of dilating the Urethra to its natural fize, attended with very little pain in the application, and certainly no danger, which cannot with truth be faid of the Cauftic Bougie in the hands of the most expert and experienced Surgeon.

EXTRACT from Mr. WILKINSON'S Treatife on Gonorrhæa, P. 143.

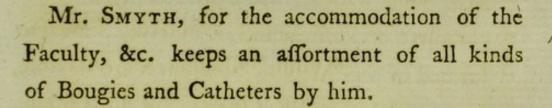
" Мг. Sмутн, a Practitioner, in Taviftock
" Street, has revived, with confiderable im" provement, the Metallic Sounds and Catheter;
" thefe are very flexible, and eafily accom" modate themfelves to the curvature of the
D " Urethra,

" Urethra. In cafes where the refiftance shall be fo great as to render the introduction of a cat-gut Bougie extremely difficult, these may with advantage be employed."

Soho Square, London, 1801.

EXTRACT from MOTHERBY'S Medical Dictionary, Fifth Edition, P. 164.

"Mr. SMYTH, Apothecary, of Taviftock-"Street, has difcovered a Metallic composition, "of which he forms *Bougies* which are allowed "to poffefs properties that thefe Inftruments "have long wanted, in order to make them "complete and efficacious in Practice. *Bougies* "formed of this Metallic Subftance, are flexible, "have a highly polifhed furface, of a filver hue, and poffefs a fufficient degree of firmnefs for "any force requifite for the paffing them in "cures of the Urethra. Indeed the fhort time which they have been employed, has con-"vinced Practitioners that they exceed any *Bougies* which have yet been invented, and "are " are capable of fucceeding in all cafes where the " ufe of fuch an Inftrument becomes neceffary. " They are made either Solid or Hollow, and " anfwer extremely well as Catheters, as they " not only pafs into the bladder with eafe, " but may alfo be fuffered to continue there " for any convenient fpace of time, and hence " become productive of moft effential benefit. " Catheters (Female) are alfo made of the fame " compofition."



Printed by G. Roberts, King Street, Weftminfter.

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