

## **Cases of diseased prepuce and scrotum / [William Wadd].**

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**CASES IN SURGERY.**

CASES  
DISSECTED PREPARED  
AND  
SCROTUM  
CASES IN SURGERY.

ILLUSTRATED WITH ENGRAVINGS

BY  
WILLIAM WADD, ESQ.

ASSISTANT SURGEON TO THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR THE VENEREAL DISEASES

LONDON:  
Printed by J. G. ALLEN, 10, ABchurch Lane, near St. Dunstons Church.  
1841.

**CASES**  
OF  
**DISEASED PREPUCE**  
AND  
**SCROTUM.**

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*ILLUSTRATED WITH ETCHINGS.*

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BY  
**WILLIAM WADD, ESQ.**

**SURGEON EXTRAORDINARY TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT.**

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**London:**

**PRINTED FOR J. CALLOW, CROWN COURT, PRINCES STREET, SOHO;**

**BY SMITH AND DAVY, QUEEN STREET, SEVEN DIALS.**

**1817.**



# CASES

## DISEASES

### DISEASED PREPUCE

AND

### PREPUCE AND SCROTUM

### SCROTUM.

The first part of this work, which is published in part, is illustrated with etchings, and is equally confined to the internal diseases of the organ. I shall now proceed to describe some external diseases of the same parts.

BY

WILLIAM WADD, ESQ.

The author of this work is a gentleman of the highest rank and standing in the medical profession, and is distinguished by his high attainments in his native language, the English. He is also a gentleman of the highest rank and standing in the medical profession, and is distinguished by his high attainments in his native language, the English. He is also a gentleman of the highest rank and standing in the medical profession, and is distinguished by his high attainments in his native language, the English.

1817.

# DISEASES

OF THE

## PREPUCE AND SCROTUM.

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**T**HE first part of this work already published, is principally confined to the internal diseases of the urinary organs. I shall now proceed to describe some external diseases of the same parts.

The prepuce, or fore-skin, it is well known, is a prolongation of the cutaneous covering of the penis, continued over the glans, without adhering to it. Its length varies in different individuals; sometimes it is produced considerably beyond the glans, and its orifice is then generally small. Its external surface offers the same structure and appearance as the common integuments, and is smooth or wrinkled, according to the state of the penis. The inner surface is in contact with the glans, to which it has a membranous attachment below, termed the frenum.



On the inside, the basis of the prepuce is attached to the base of the glans, behind which it is reflected so as to line the small channel. Its apex, or the extreme point at which it begins to be reflected, forms a round opening of sufficient magnitude, in general, to allow the part to be drawn entirely back behind the glans. In some cases this cannot be done, from a contraction of the skin, which will be presently described.

The external and internal surface of the prepuce, is a continuation of the common integuments; between these two surfaces is a stratum of very loose cellular substance, perfectly free from fat. The laxity of this cellular texture is such, that, when the prepuce is withdrawn as far as possible, the two surfaces are both external and expanded on that part of the penis which is posterior to the glans; the integuments of the penis being at the same time drawn towards the pubes.

Probably the use of the prepuce is to protect the delicate thin skin of the glans in animals who have no artificial clothing, and of course in man, in his savage state. That it is not necessary for the purposes of the organ of which it makes a part, is evident by the variety in its natural figure, and by the frequency of circumcision. On this account, any impediment it may offer to the natural functions, ought to be speedily removed.



But however unimportant this covering of the glans penis, or præputium, may seem, it is frequently, from malformation or disease, the cause of much inconvenience, to the functions of that organ, and sometimes of very serious impediment to the ordinary functions of the bladder.

In a work therefore, intended to represent most of the diseases which may be relieved by the surgeon, those of the prepuce naturally fall under this division.

Turner, though he includes the diseases of the prepuce among those of the skin, found it necessary to devote a chapter to two complaints peculiar to this part, namely, *Phymosis*, and *Paraphymosis*.

Phymosis is a contraction of the orifice of the prepuce, which prevents its being retracted or withdrawn, in the manner before described. It is sometimes congenital, and the inconvenience arising from it, is now so well understood, that the difficulty of voiding the urine, occasioned by this state of the parts, is generally remedied by operation, before the patient attains the age of puberty; where this has been neglected, diseases of the urethra and bladder have been the consequence.

Paraphymosis is a condition of the prepuce, in which it is already retracted, but cannot be returned to its original form. In this case it produces the effect of a ligature round



the basis of the glans, and is on that account by some called *Periphymosis*.

When the Phymosis is complete, no part of the glans, nor even the orifice of the urethra can be discovered. This occurs sometimes in advanced age, apparently from a gradual shrinking of the penis; after which, the projecting orifice of the prepuce contracts to such a degree, as to hinder the water from passing, even after it has escaped from the urethra. Hence the whole cavity of the prepuce becomes filled with urine, a small quantity of which constantly covering the glans, deposits a calculous crust, assuming the figure of that part.

When the prepuce is thin, a division of the part with a Phymosis knife, or curved bistoury, generally gives relief. When the prepuce is thicker, some have proposed an operation similar to that for the hare-lip, in order to obviate the deformity, from a separation of the two lamina of the skin; but as the part is not exposed to view, this appears unnecessary.

Others prefer circumcision; compressing as much of the prepuce as is necessary within the blades of the forceps, and cutting it off with one stroke of the knife. In hot climates, where the inhabitants are most exposed to the inconvenience of morbid secretions from this part, Christians as well as Jews, submit to this operation, according to an



observation of Guido de Cauliaco, “ Propterea quod non congregantur sordities in radis balani et calefacerent ipsum.”

Another and more complicated operation has been recommended, and performed with success. It is thus described by a modern author;—“ About the sixth of an inch of the outer cutis is to be divided from within outward; so that the point of the knife shall be seen passing out, and dividing about one-sixth of the outer cutis: and this is all of the outer cutis that needs to be divided. This will naturally enable as much of the cutis as is divided, to be slid back; when only the duplicature will present itself: as much as does present itself must be divided in the same manner. This will allow fresh undivided duplicature to present itself, which is also to be divided after the same manner; and so on, till the whole is thus divided, and till the whole can be slid back behind the glans penis, leaving it completely denudated.”

Fallopious proposes a gradual dilatation, without any incision, which in some cases may succeed.

When Phymosis has existed a long time, adhesions take place between the glans and the prepuce, which cannot always be separated.

Sometimes, if the pus formed between the prepuce and glans cannot escape by the orifice, ulceration takes



place through the prepuce, by which the glans protrudes, and the lower part of the prepuce is thrown to one side, resembling the finger of a glove, open at its extremity.

The congenital Phymosis in children, sometimes goes off in adult age, the prepuce enlarging in greater proportion than the glans. An operation should not therefore be advised, unless other circumstances require it, though to judge by my own experience, this natural cure of the constriction, is of rare occurrence.

Formerly surgeons relied a good deal on the efficacy of "stups of warm claret," and purging a patient according to his strength. "In grown people thus afflicted," says one writer, "the cure must be set upon by bleeding and purging, as also by vomiting, from one of which you will gain more ground, than by half a dozen purges." Turner, in his usual way, mixing up a little morality in his lecture, remarks, "if the parts are seized with a gangrene, it behoves you to stop the farther progress so soon as you possibly can, and save all that may be of that noble instrument of generation, whatever way the disease has been contracted; for though the patient may have made ill use of it heretofore, yet may he live to see his folly, and employ it better hereafter."

When the prepuce swells from active disease, the whole of the skin of the penis is drawn forward, projecting in

some instances, more than two or three inches beyond the glans, and forming a kind of neck, where the outer skin terminates in the inner.

A watery effusion into the cellular substance, frequently opposes a mechanical obstruction to the functions of the urethra. Inflammation, terminating in suppuration of the cellular membrane, will produce the same effect; each creating considerable distention, and distortion of the part.

An operation performed under these unfavorable circumstances, frequently ends in sloughing of the part.

To illustrate these observations, a representation is given of the different appearances of the prepuce, from the common congenital mal-formation, to the most disfigured outline of disease. The former of these, though among the common occurrences of practice, is important, as an exemplification of remote effects on the urethra and bladder.









N° 2



N° 3



W Wadd f. 1817.

London Pub<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1. 1817, by J. Callow Crown G<sup>t</sup> Princes St<sup>h</sup> Soho.



## PLATE I.

**REPRESENTS** the prepuce in three different forms.

**No. 1.** The contracted prepuce of an adult.

**No. 2.** The constriction it produces when drawn over a part of the glans.

**No. 3.** Represents a Paraphymosis, in which the prepuce is contracted round the base of the glans. A state in which the glans penis, cum preputio ejus, is in danger of being lost, unless the ligature formed by the prepuce, be speedily removed.

In the following case, contraction of the prepuce was the probable cause of diseased bladder.

## CASE.

A man, aged sixty-three, born with Phymosis, consulted me for a discharge from under the fore-skin, which he had experienced frequently before, but not in so great a degree. It yielded to common remedies. I then proposed dividing his very contracted prepuce, as the means of preventing a return of the complaint, and to remove a difficulty he complained of in voiding his urine. This,



he said, had been advised many years before, by the then Surgeon-General Gunning; and although satisfied of the propriety of the operation, as he had earlier in life refused to submit, he was determined to encounter all the contingent inconveniences to the end of his days. This occurred shortly after, when an opportunity was afforded me of examining the urethra and bladder, the latter was greatly diseased.

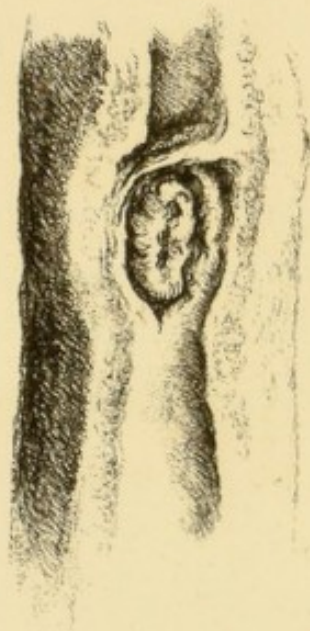
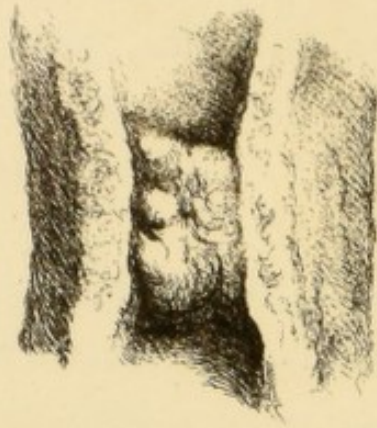
From the constant irritation kept up in the urethra, it might have been expected that strictures would have been found; but the only alteration of structure was in the coats of the bladder, which were thickened and ulcerated.

This case is selected from many of a similar kind; but my object is not to publish cases, farther than as they are necessary to elucidate the plates.

It ought to be observed, that in many of the subjects with diseased bladder, mentioned in the former part of the work, this state of prepuce existed, though perhaps in none, in a sufficient degree as to be considered the sole cause of the disease.



Plate. 2



W. Waud. f. 11. 17

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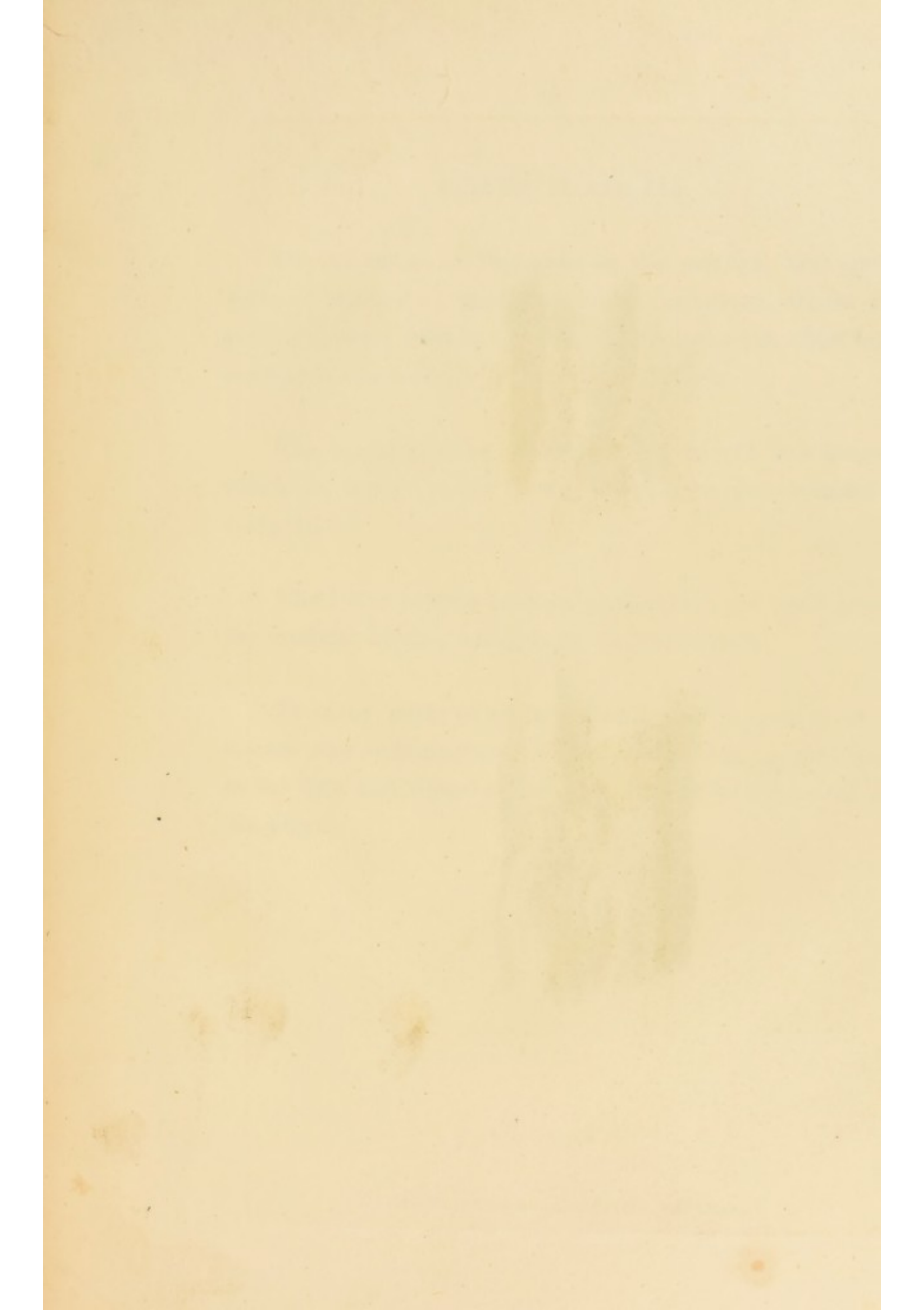
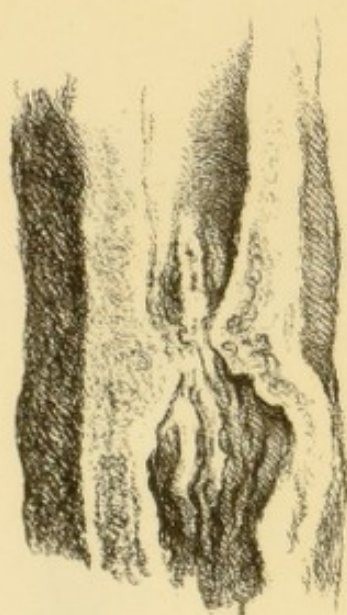
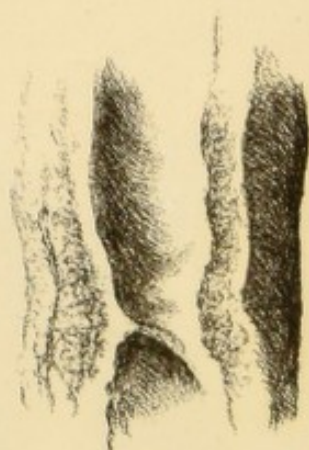




Plate. 3.



W Wadd. f. 1817

London. Pub. Aug. 1. 1817. by L. Callow Crown. C. Prince St. Soho.

## PLATE II AND III.

OF the effects of Phymosis on the urethra, four specimens of disease in that membrane are given, where the general history affords no other probable cause, than long continued resistance to its expulsiory power.

The upper portion of urethra in plate II. is a fungus, which in former times would have been denominated a caruncle.

The lower portion exhibits a membranous band across the urethra, behind which is an oval ulceration.

In many parts of these urethræ, were appearances of disease and inflammation, which not producing alteration in the form and figure of the part, cannot be delineated by the pencil.

PLATE III and III

Of the effects of Typhoid on the urethra, four species of disease in that organ are given, where the general history affords a better reliable cause than long continued resistance to its resistive power.

The upper portion of the urethra is a fungus which in former times would have been designated a carcinoma.

The lower portion exhibits a carcinoma, but not the urethra, which is an old ulceration.

In many parts of the urethra, there are symptoms of disease and inflammation, which can only be noticed in the form and figure of the part, could be determined by the pencil.





Plate. 4.



W Wood f. 1817.

London Pub. Aug. 1. 1817. by L. C. Row Crown C. Princes St. Soho.





*W. Wadd f. 1817.*



## PLATE IV AND V.

REPRESENT the state of the fore-skin, where urine each time it was voided, filling the cavity, and partly resting on the glans, gradually induced a deposition of calculous matter on that organ. The natural opening was obliterated by inflammation, and the urine could only escape with difficulty through ulcerations on the side and under part. Here circumcision was necessary, and when performed, exposed a margin of fungus and calculous incrustation; the latter was easily removed, and the fungus afterwards by the application of caustic.

This is the only case of the kind, of which I happen to have taken a drawing, though I have met with many of much greater extent, where warts have been confined in a similar way,

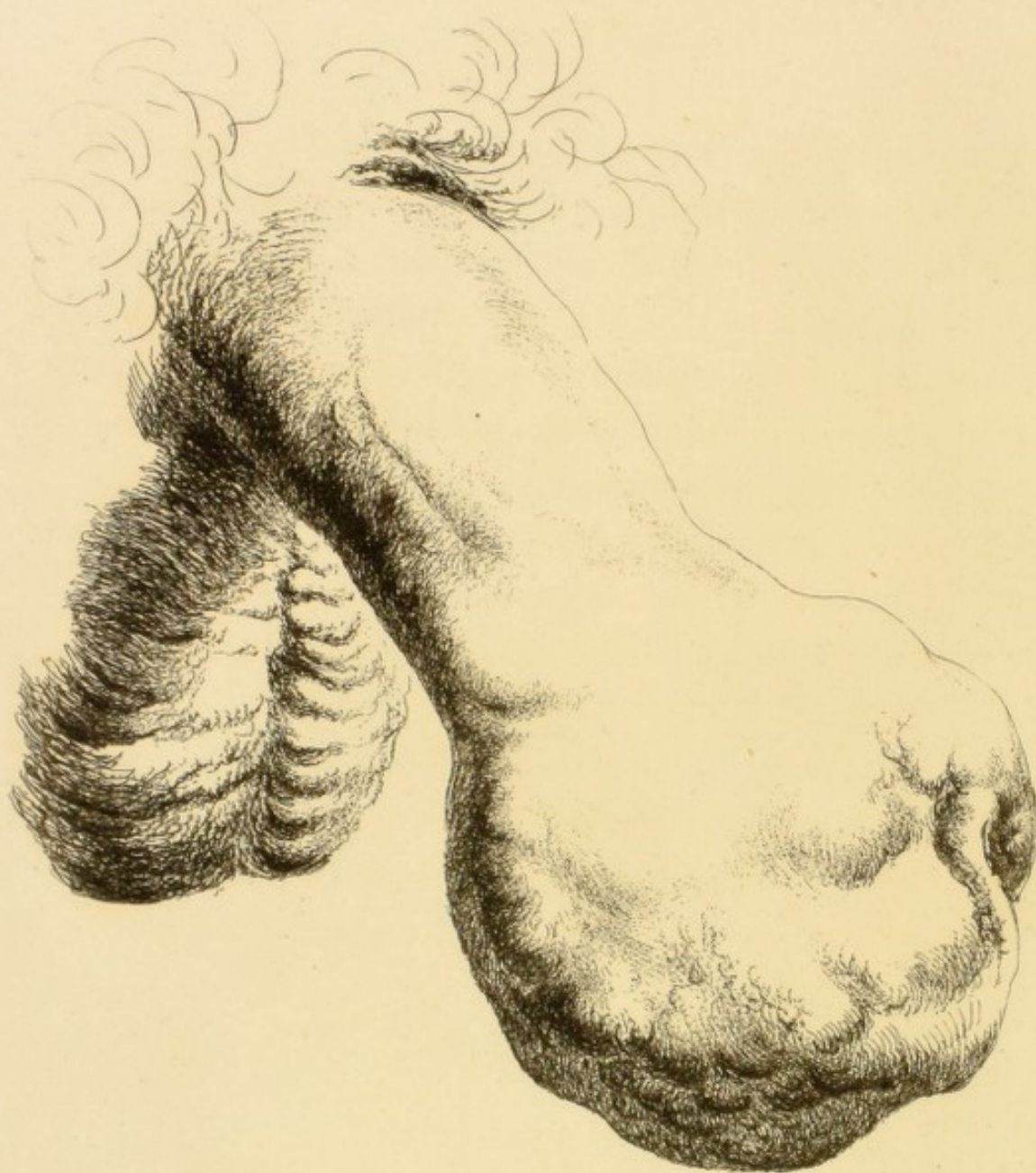
## PLATE IV and V.

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 performed, exposed a margin of fungus and ulcers  
 in the latter was easily removed, and the fungus  
 afterwards by the application of caustic.

This is the only case of the kind, of which I happen  
 to have taken a dissection. I have not seen any of  
 much greater extent, though several have been treated in a  
 similar way.







W. Wadd. f. 1817.

## PLATE VI.

REPRESENTS an abscess between the two layers of skin, to a very considerable extent, from phlegmonoid inflammation, in a person fifty years of age. A thickening of the under part of the prepuce came on without any known cause. A surgeon of great eminence, who was consulted, advised a stimulating application to be rubbed on the part; this had been incautiously persevered in, without further advice from that gentleman, or any other professional person, till the parts became as here drawn. The puncture of a lancet let out the contents of an abscess, and the inflammation soon after subsided.

This is, perhaps, as great a derangement of the part from so simple a cause, as can be produced; the prepuce and the abscess it contained, being of a larger volume than the penis itself.









W. Wadd f. 1817

## PLATE VII.

Among the diseases affecting the prepuce, Cancer is occasionally met with; of which the annexed plate represents a fatal instance.

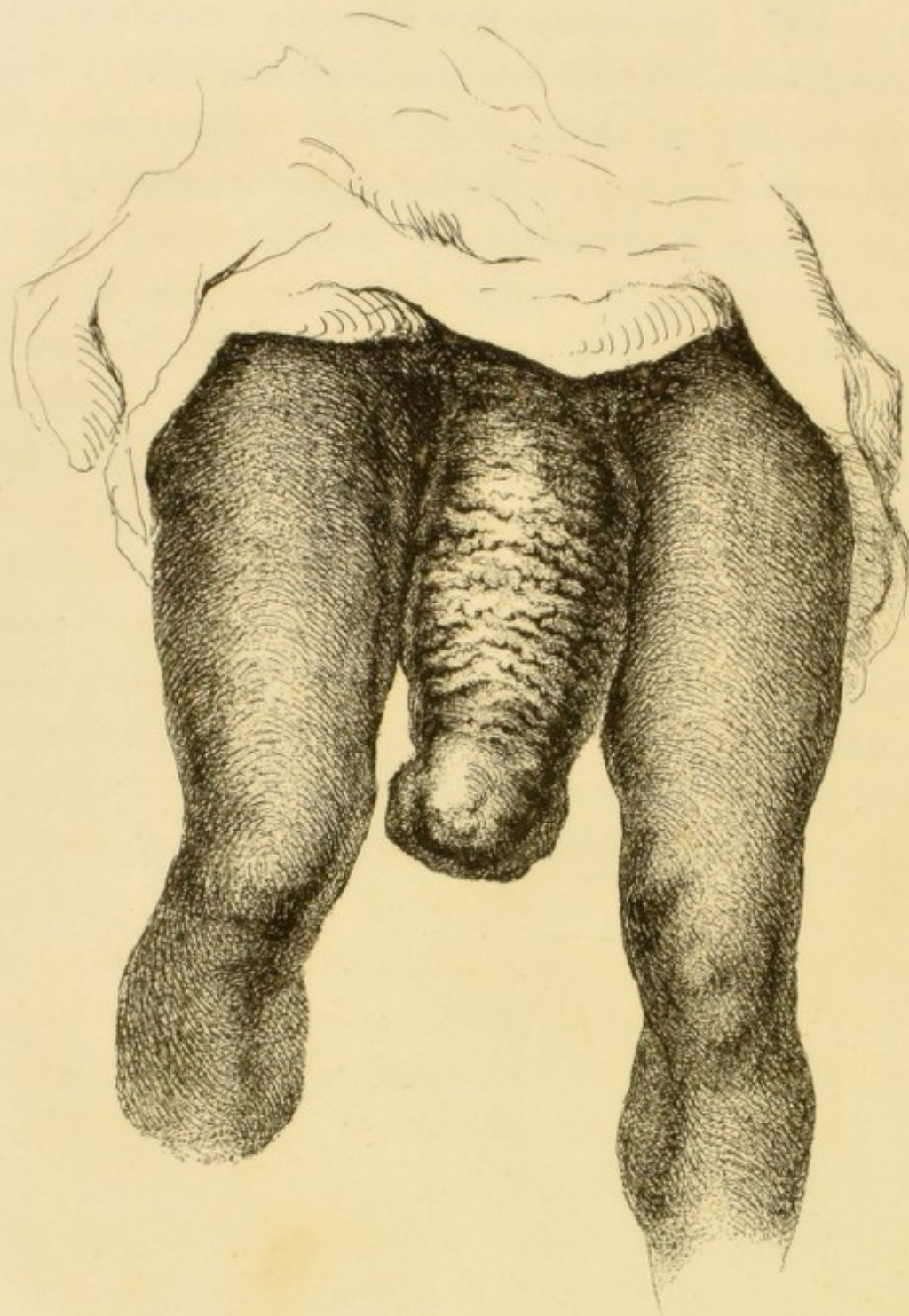
Here were many of the characteristics of carcinoma. A sordid, sanious, fœtid discharge. The erosions betwixt the fungi bled from time to time, and the serrated, indurated, retorted edge, presented the external marks of Cancer.

Many apparently trifling diseases of these parts, whether arising from mal-formation, or want of cleanliness, derive their importance from their situation. Of this class are herpetic affections of the skin, and ulceration from the lodgements of the mucous secretion, between the contracted prepuce and the penis. These, when remarked with sufficient accuracy, may be always distinguished from Syphilis. It is not so easy to describe them by an appropriate character. Till Mr. Hunter's time there was no difficulty, because they were all called venereal. A celebrated French author said formerly, "*On peut assurer que quand trente mille hommes combattent en bataille rangée contre des troupes égales en nombre, il y a environ Vingt mille Vérolés de chaque côté;*"—but Grand Verole, Lues, and Pox, are now obsolete terms. Writers have been ashamed to confound what Mr. Hunter separated with



so much accuracy; and by slow degrees the true venereal ulcer has been tolerably well ascertained. But a new language has been introduced, and threatens to confound all other distinctions. We had long been accustomed to the word proteiform, which proved a most convenient salvo, till Mr. Hunter shewed the uniformity of nature, in this as in all other causes and effects. Pseudo-Syphilis now removes us a single step, and no more, in our labyrinth; but what is much worse, it proves an apology for resting, instead of proceeding and marking our way. Mr. Hunter, though he gave no names to the other numerous complaints of this organ; yet described them with accuracy, so that when we meet with them, we recognize what we have seen in his writings. If we are still at a loss for names, there is reason to believe most of them may be found in Celsus; see his chapter, *De obscænarum partium vitiis*. Such is not, however, the case with the two following.





W Wadd. f. 1815



## PLATE VIII.

An enlargement of the integuments covering the genitals, we are informed by Dr. Titley, has spread of late with unexampled rapidity through the West Indies, and that even a considerable number of the white population are among the sufferers. There is no reason that I can find, to suppose the disease more frequent now than formerly, excepting in proportion to the increased population and wealth of the islands. From the first, diseases of all kind must be more frequent; from the latter, they are better attended to, and discriminated.

It is stated as no uncommon occurrence, to see the scrotum many feet in diameter, and weighing from fifty to one hundred pounds. Such facts are recorded by Mr. Werner, Dr. Brodbelt of Jamaica, and Monsieur Larrey in his account of the Sarcocoele of Egypt. This disease, is only another form of the Elephantiasis of the moderns, and when seated in the leg has been called the Barbadoes, or Cochin Leg, as it has appeared in the East or West Indies. It is of rare occurrence in European practice. The most remarkable instance met with in this country, was in 1799, in the person of a black man, under the care of the late Sir Charles Blicke, who requested me to make the drawing from which this etching is now copied. He was a native of Africa, twenty-five years of age, and being useless

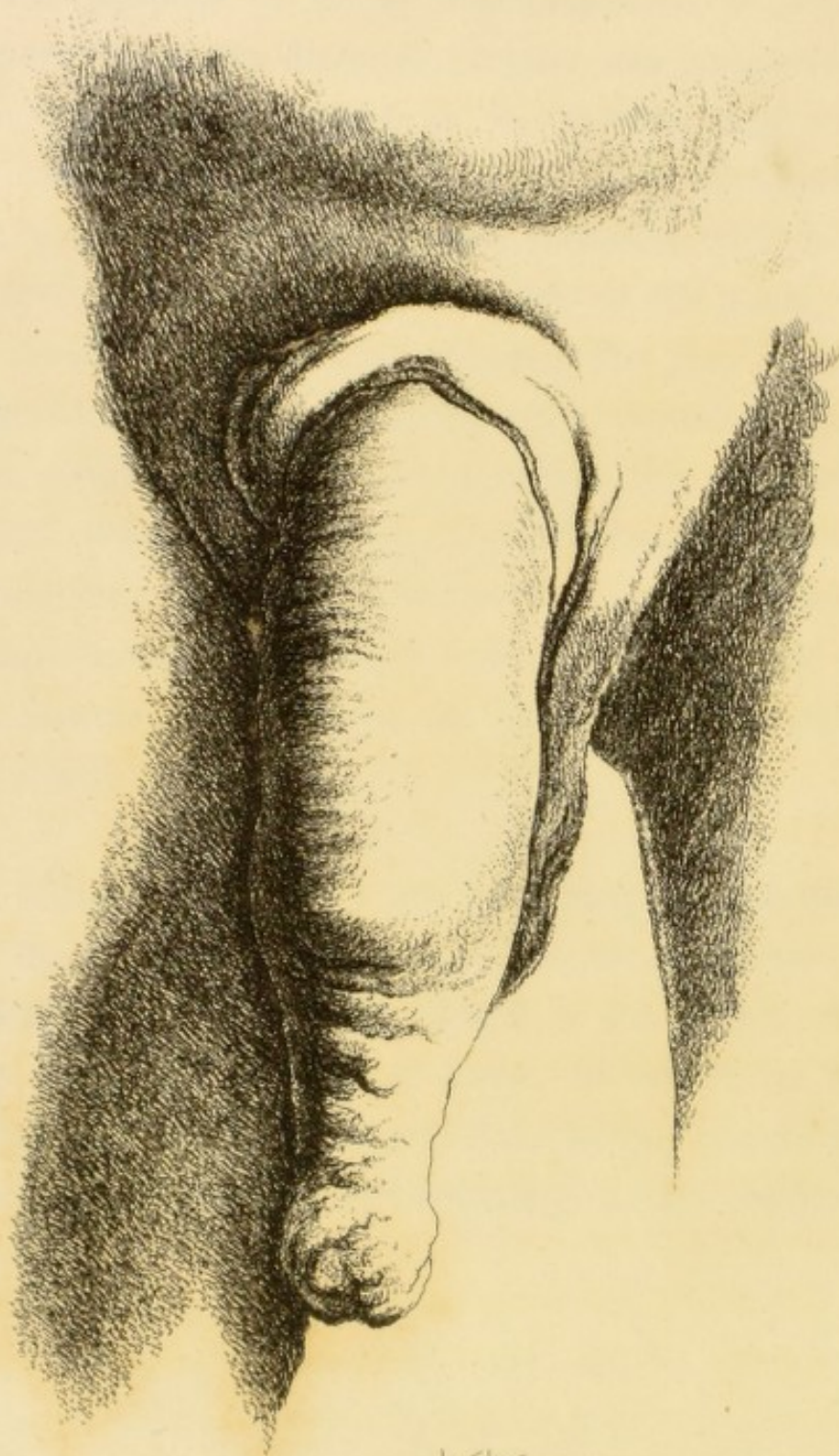


to his master, was sent from the West Indies to England, for the purpose of being disencumbered of his burthen. Amputation of the diseased prepuce was proposed; but the operation was delayed, from the novelty and curiosity of the case, and the vessel leaving the port of London sooner than was expected, the patient returned with his disease. It was confined to the integuments of the penis, and from the success said to have attended the removal of similar enormities in the West Indies, it is probable he might have been relieved by an operation; but the opinions on that subject vary considerably, and England does not furnish a sufficient number of histories, for fair inductions. In the present instance, the length from the pubes to the extremity, was fourteen inches, and the circumference twelve inches and a half.

Hillary and Hendy are both very full on this subject, but the best account of the disease is contained in Dr. Caddell's Thesis. Mons. Alard of Paris, has also given a very valuable number of cases, in which he traces the disease in almost every part of the body. His work contains invaluable facts, but unfortunately he is confused in the name.







W. Wood f. 1817.

## PLATE IX.

I have called this last case, Elephantiasis of the moderns, because it now appears, that in the Elephantiasis of Aretæus, the whole of the genitals diminish. This disease is rarely seen but in the southern regions. I have here copied a drawing where this peculiarity is marked in the prepuce and pubes of an adult. The shrinking of the penis, a diminution or wasting of the testicle, and total want of hair on the pubes, form a curious contrast to the preceding case.

The reader will remark too, that the shrinking of the penis gives an apparent elongation to the prepuce, as was noticed in aged subjects.

Aretæus, is allowed to be the first author who notices this disease, and his description has been copied by every subsequent writer, till our own days. For the most part, it is admitted to be correct. If it is deficient in the parts under consideration, it should be remembered, that the author acknowledges his fear of contagion, which probably prevented his closer examination: nor is it unlikely, that when he speaks of the salaciousness of these unhappy creatures, he only relates a vulgar error.

Dr. Adams was the first to detect this error. His



long residence in Madeira, afforded him ample means of ascertaining the fact; and speaking of what he there saw, he observes, "the above cases are sufficient to shew, what was afterwards proved by an accurate and general examination, that when the disease attacks a male subject before the age of puberty, he never acquires that state; and that such as are affected later in life, gradually lose the power of procreation, as far as can be judged by the changes which take place in their organs."

A case of this kind lately occurred in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and is related in the *Medico-Chirur. Trans.* Vol. VI. I did not see it, but the following is the description given by Mr. Lawrence—"The condition of the generative organs, corresponded with the description of Dr. Adams, just alluded to. Not only had their developement been arrested from the time when the disease broke out, but they had actually undergone diminution and decay. The scrotum was shrivelled, and seemed empty; the testes could with difficulty be felt; they were soft, and about the size of small horse beans."

The prepuce has been known to be considerably elongated among the inhabitants of India, by a weight attached to it, from a superstitious opinion of some immorality attending every erection.



## DISEASES OF THE SCROTUM.

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**MR. POTT** was the first surgeon who called the attention of practitioners, to a disease of the scrotum peculiar to chimney-sweepers, and now generally known as the Chimney-sweeper's Cancer. This complaint has been attributed to the soot lodging in the rugæ of the skin, and when suffered to run into ulceration has been considered incurable.

A small tubercle, or wart, is the usual commencement of the disease, which, after a short time, shews all the malignancy of Cancer. There are, however, deviations in the progress of the soot-wart; one of the most common of which is, its assuming the character of horn. A hard excrescence, resembling the spur of a cock, is of very frequent occurrence; sometimes it increases to such a size as to have all the external appearances of common horn, and differing only in brittleness and solidity.

I cannot learn from those Gentlemen who have devoted their lives to chemistry, that soot contains any peculiarly noxious properties. Its composition is now pretty generally known to be a sublimation of the gasses, ammonia, and bitumen. It is therefore probable, that the accumulation of a foreign substance in the rugæ of that part, may at first occasion a slight ulceration, and afterwards a callosity, which last may increase, as the cause continues to operate. Unfortunately, we rarely see these cases soon enough to ascertain their early progress.





Plate. 10.



W W

*London Pubd Aug<sup>1</sup> 1817 by J. Collier. Crown C. Dineen & Co.*

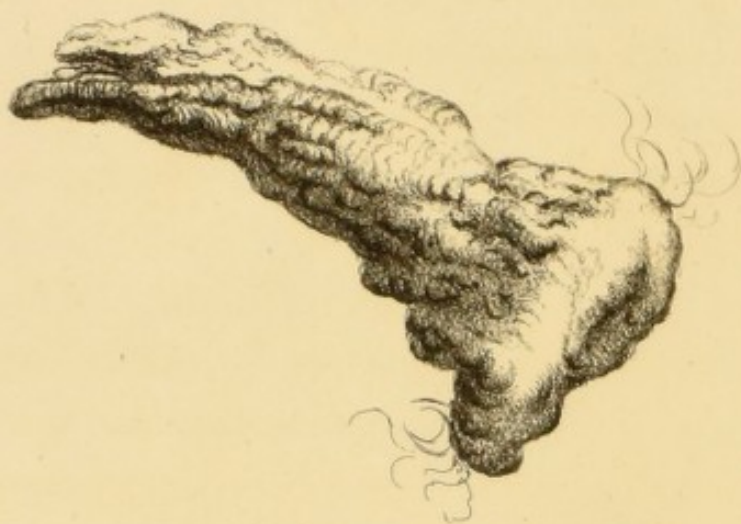
## PLATE X.

It does not appear that of those exposed to this action of soot, any age is exempt from attack. The annexed plate represents the prepuce of a boy fifteen years of age; enlarged, hardened and chapped, a state I have witnessed even in younger subjects. This shews, also, the neck-like appearance, where the outer skin of the prepuce terminates in the inner. The horn at the lower part of the plate, taken from the scrotum of the same boy, is selected as a specimen of one of the varieties of the soot-wart, alluded to.









W W

## PLATE XI.

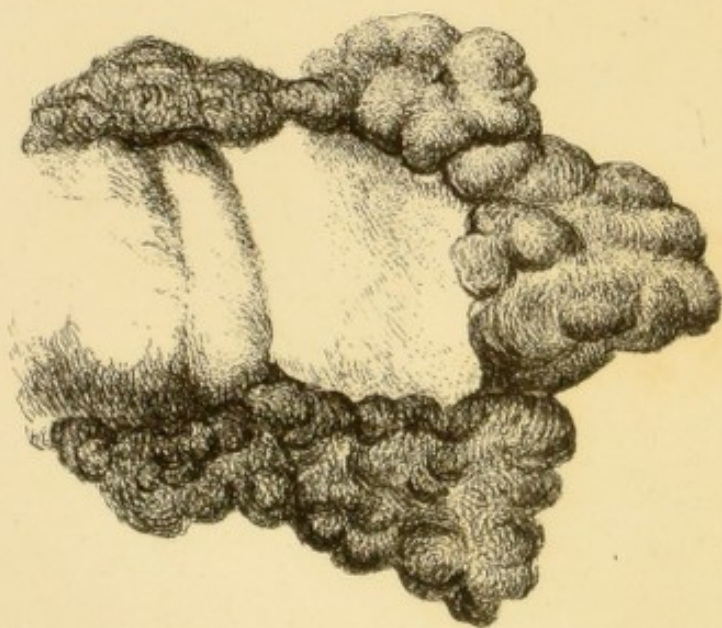
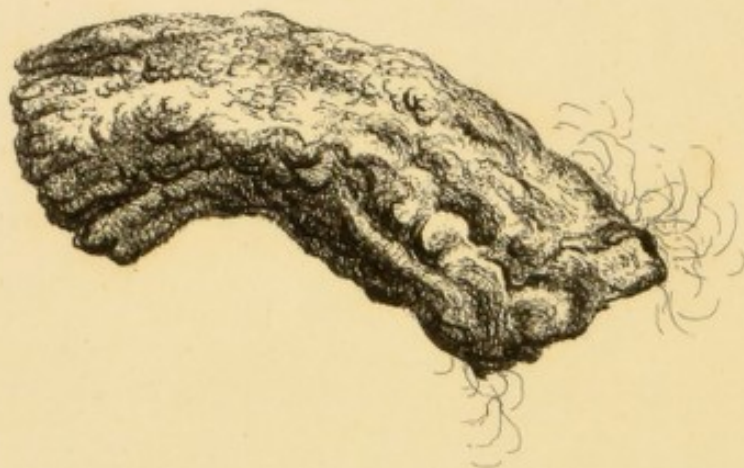
Is a drawing of a similar excrescence, taken from the scrotum of a chimney-sweeper, forty years of age. Its first appearance was as a small horse-bean under the skin, which in the course of a month became hard and rough, and then continued to elongate, till the end of a year, when it was taken away.

About three years afterwards, a tumor appeared in another part of the scrotum, which increased to the size of a nutmeg, and then threw out an excrescence, from a small ulceration on the upper part of it. This was also removed, and is shewn in the lower part of the plate. It resembles what Mr. Hunter described as capable of producing a succession of cuticular processes, by which the growth of horn has been accounted for.









W Wadd. f. 1217



## PLATE XII.

Is another, and the largest of these excrescences. It was taken from the scrotum of a man about thirty years of age. He was a dealer in soot, and though not living in continual contact with it, yet sufficiently exposed to its influence, to become subject to the Soot-wart. This excrescence was easily removed, with very little hæmorrhage at the time, but in three hours afterward, a very profuse bleeding came on, which requiring the application of ligatures, retarded the cure.

The structure of this substance consisted of longitudinal fibres, firm and strong, such as could not be broken, and resisted a knife or sharp instrument, as much as the horn of an animal.

Nor is the scrotum the only part, in which the irritation of soot alters the character of cutaneous tumors. The lower drawing in plate XII., exhibits the form of some hard excrescences from the glans penis of a man who was grievously afflicted with Cancer-scroti. At first they were similar to common warts. When I saw them, they were like hardened mulberries, insensible to any application, and so interwoven with the substance of the penis, as to render useless every attempt at removing them, short of amputation.

These productions seem to be elongated warts. They illustrate the fact, that diseased actions sometime produce substances in parts, similar to what nature gives to others in a healthy state.

The cause of the horny appearance, and slow progress, is to be sought in the structure of the parts, and the usual provisions of nature, by which we find most incurable local diseases are slow in their progress, sometimes in the destruction of the cuticle preceding ulceration, and at others, in the spreading of ulceration itself. Of the former, the scirrhus preceding the common carcinoma is an illustration; of the latter, the comparatively slow progress of most venereal ulcers. The cuticle itself, it is well known, is incapable of ulceration, and is only separated by the destruction of the parts beneath. To prevent this as long as possible in the disease we are now considering, the cuticle thickens and hardens into horn. In consequence of which, it is not easily dislodged when matter forms beneath, but only cracks into fissures, preserving itself as long as possible, for the protection of the parts under it.



HORNS have been found to grow from various parts of the body. In the *Gazette de Santé* of Lyons, is an account of a young woman, who had two growing on her arm: one on the middle of the radius of the right arm, three inches in length, and nearly the same in circumference; the other lower, and not quite so large.

The forehead has been very frequently ornamented with horns. *Homines Cornuti*, having been described from the earliest periods. Some have supposed these to be formed of the substance of the hair, asserting that hair is horn split into threads. It is certain that the chemical properties of cuticle, horn, nail, and hair, are the same.

Zacutus, de Praxi. Medic. gives an account of a cornuted man, who would not part with his horn, “ which was supposed to have been occasioned by his mother looking at the picture of an unicorn. Many pleasantries, on this subject, are to be found in foreign journals; and our own country has produced some remarkable instances, of which, Mary Davis, and Margaret Vergh Gryfith, perhaps are the most remarkable.













