

A candid review of Jesse Foot's Observations on the new opinions of John Hunter, in his late treatise on the venereal disease, ending with the subject of gonorrhoea / by John Peake.

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A
CANDID REVIEW

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JESSE FOOT'S
OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

NEW OPINIONS

O F

JOHN HUNTER,

IN HIS LATE TREATISE

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE,

ENDING WITH THE SUBJECT OF GONORRHOEA.

By JOHN PEAKE, SURGEON.

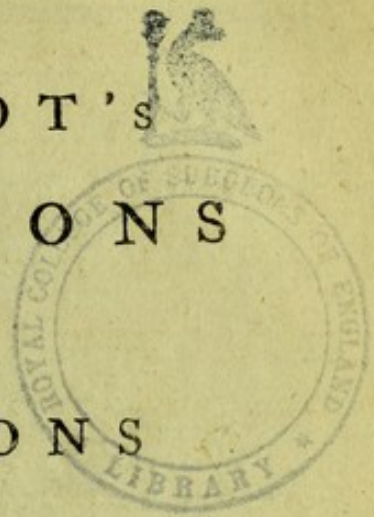
L O N D O N :

SOLD BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD;

J. MURRAY, FLEET-STREET; AND T. AND

J. EGERTON, WHITEHALL.

M, DCC, LXXXVIII.



CANDID REVIEW

OF THE
LIFE OF
JOHN WATSON

BY
JOHN WATSON

AND
A HISTORY OF THE
LIFE OF JOHN WATSON

BY JOHN WATSON

LONDON

PRINTED BY J. WATSON

fects : with what success, will rest with the Reader to determine. If approved of, I shall be gratified ; if the contrary, regret my lost labour : but be it as it may, my endeavours were dictated by philanthropy, and the result is at the Public's service. Personal prejudice has had no influence ; so far from it, that I declare, from the slight knowledge I have of Mr. FOOT, I should rather desire, than refuse his friendship. But I would purchase no man's good opinion at the expence of truth.

FOR the sake of the cause I have undertaken, I am sorry that the nature of my avocations allow me so little leisure to attend to the subject, in the manner it merits ; but I flatter myself, that I have gone so far, as to fully refute Mr. FOOT's assertions, and give the general outlines of Mr. HUNTER's
 practice

practice on Gonorrhœa. But should the former be hereafter disposed to controvert the facts established in the subsequent pages, I shall be ready to meet him in the field of argument. As the present is, I submit it to the world, and have only to beg, that whenever Mr. Foot's dwarf is taken in hand, mine may be permitted to be its companion.

HAY-MARKET, }
January 31, 1788. }

Verses written on Mr Brand and
Mr Peakes Pamphlets in defence
of J. Hunter against Mr Foots
observations on "His new Opinions
of the Venereal Disease".

When Hunter first his Book produced,
His readers were his minions,
Each glaring Error they excused
Nor canvassed his Opinions.

But Foot with critic skill perused,
and warn'd the rising Youth,
He saw great authors much abused,
and more of whim than truth.

Then Hunter let his puppets fly,
A motley, mungrel band.

Peake Druggist to her Majesty,
and bandage making Brand

Such weak Opponents Foot disdain
and owns them very small

For Peake he knows has little Brain,

And Brand has none at all

And Brand has none at all.

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CANDID REVIEW, &c.

INTRODUCTION.

ACKNOWLEDGING it with Mr. Foot, to be the duty of every professional man to combat such opinions in science, as are either not founded in truth; or would be pernicious in practice: yet prejudice against an individual ought not to influence our judgment. Every new opinion offered on rational grounds, deserves the candid attention of that practitioner, who is emulous to alleviate the sufferings, of his fellow-creatures; and the opinions of one so justly celebrated as Mr. Hunter, and so deservedly raised to the summit of his profession, surely demand a more than common attention: they call for a deliberate and dispassionate enquiry. Few men are hardy enough to place them-

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selves in the perilous situation of an author, especially those in affluent circumstances, without the innate satisfaction, of having either fully effected their wishes, or at least of offering a boon, that will prove acceptable to the public. In Mr. Foot's Observations on Mr. Hunter's Treatise on the Venereal Disease, I am sorry that he should have permitted prejudice to influence his remarks, so much, as to substitute personality for argument, sarcasm for reasoning, and used a language so repugnant to his profession. I doubt not his abilities as a surgeon, but condemn the prostitution of them to such an end; and regret, that he should have sacrificed his candour and good sense at the shrine of resentment. Free myself from any bias, and revering equally, the names of Pott, and Hunter, as much as he does the former; from the obligations I owe them, for a share of whatever professional knowledge I may have acquired, I neither have, nor ever mean to inlist under any medical party banner. Truth is my object; I shall cheerfully embrace it, from whatever quarter it may come, and it is only to discover that desideratum, that I have animadverted on Mr. Foot's errors, avoiding, as much as possible, all

all declamation, and exercising, I hope, that share of candour towards him, which I plead to be due to every author; stating his arguments fully, and neither mutilating, or misapplying his reasoning; not that I purpose attending to every minute misrepresentation, any more than is necessary to defend Mr. Hunter's general doctrines; and to shew Mr. Foot's Observations in that light, which impartial truth requires: for, on maturely attending to Mr. Hunter's work, I confess myself much benefited; and I am so far from conceiving his Opinions calculated to mislead, that I hope to prove, in the course of my remarks, the validity of my assertion, that it contains a fund of useful information, not to be met with any where else. However, I wish to enter a *caveat* against being understood either implicitly to defend the whole of Mr. Hunter's Opinions, (for some of them, I am aware, require the test of experience) or blindly condemn Mr. Foot's in *toto*; for no two men's ideas can be so assimilated, or their practice so entirely consonant to each other, as to have only one *rationale*.

S Y M P A T H Y.

I AM inclined to commence my Defence with this Word, (*a*) from the strong hopes Mr. Foot seems to entertain of his objections being insurmountable; and the positiveness with which he delivers himself, may possibly lead some individuals, to mistake confidence for truth; though the force of his objections, if they have any weight, rests on the application of the word, by defining it a corporeal effect from a mental cause, as likewise the affection that one person feels for the condition of another, or the quality of being affected by the affection of another; that is, *Pity*. But this is not the case; and I will endeavour, without adverting to the incongruity of his explanation, to prove this bantling, or adopted child of his, illegitimate. His reason for this limited definition, is evidently intended to answer his own purpose: for the etymology of the word admits a much more copious signification, being derived from $\sigma\upsilon\upsilon$, with, and $\pi\alpha\theta\omicron\varsigma$, affection, passion, suf-

(*a*) See Mr. Foot, page 48, 49, and 109.

(*b*) Lib. I. de locis affectis.

suffering, or disease. (b) *Galen* defines it, *Morbus, affectio corporis infirma*; and if Mr. Foot had consulted either *Scapula's*, or *Schrevelius's* Lexicons, he would have found ample information, and a contradistinction to his partial, or limited definition. It is there said, *Philosophi et Medici, definiunt duorum naturalem, quandam conjunctionem, & concordiam, ex similitudine, vel generis, vel naturæ, vel temperamenti, vel morum, vel aliarum rerum conciliatam. MEDICIS AUTEM, peculiariter significat affectionem partis alicujus, non per se, ac propriè, sed per consensum, & societatem alterius laborantis.*

Were I to search for authorities, I fancy they would extend much beyond the limits of my present performance. Those I have adduced, will be deemed, I hope sufficient, when connected with the following facts, which must strike the sense of every observer, and bring conviction home. The effluvia of agreeable or pungent applications, applied to the nose, will often communicate vigour to the whole system. Cold water thrown upon any part of the body that is warm, produces an immediate and general contraction,

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tion, of all the vessels and pores. Some particular sounds will set the teeth on edge, whilst others will raise the soul to extasy. (c) Ask a generous citizen, if the sight or smell of grateful food does not make the saliva flow into his mouth? And this particular affection is still more manifest, from various instances of diseases, complained of in one part, though the cause is in a very remote one, as a deranged or furcharged stomach produces pain in the head; and pain in the uterus, testicles, bladder, or kidneys, sickness in the stomach. After amputation, likewise, of the leg, or arm, individuals will frequently complain of pain in the excised or amputated part. (d) A bruise on the *os sacrum* brings on a suppression of urine, as likewise a paralysis of the lower limbs: and are not the whole train of hypochondriac and hysterical symptoms deducible from this cause? To what other can they? These sensations shew this origin, and fully establish the existence,

(c) See Motherby's Medical Dictionary, for Sympathy, and Cyclopædia.

(d) See Dr. James Crawford on Sympathy, in the 2d Part of the Vth Volume of the Edinburgh Medical Essays and Observations.

istence of a sympathetic affection in our bodies, independent of our will, or the influence of external objects; therefore, perfectly distinct from condolence, or pity: (*e*) and as all feeling arises from the brain and nerves, the above facts, I hope, will have their due weight, and operate with candid minds to conviction, in evincing, that every part of the body hath this affection with the whole: that it is, speaking professionally, a morbid and partial affection of the body, arising from a local disease. (*f*)

(*e*) From this it evidently appears, that Mr. Foot's train of symptoms from irritation rather depend on Sympathy. See Mr. Foot, p. 49.

(*f*) See Kirkland on Sympathy.

OF THE VENEREAL POISON.

WHAT induced Mr. Foot to prefer the word *animal* to *morbid* poison, is to me inexplicable. One would suppose, what was offered as an improvement by him, would at least elucidate, but unfortunately it confounds, his explanation being equally applicable to the variolous, and every other animal poison that can act upon us. Indeed one would never have looked for an objection to such intelligible language as Mr. Hunter delivers himself in, in the 9th page, for he conveys a clear idea of his sentiments that strictly apply to the venereal poison.

OF THE FIRST ORIGIN OF THE POISON.

TO place what may, and ought perhaps to be deemed an omission, as an argument of its non-existence, is extending it beyond its just limits, pursuing a line of conduct Mr. Foot condemns in Mr. Hunter, and taking an advantage, that cool reasoning

ing does not justify. (*g*) The alarm which the disease first excited among mankind, the numberless wild conjectures as to its cause, it gave rise to, the absurd treatment of it by medical men, from the want of a *rationale* respecting its nature and consequent cure, all unite as much against as for any argument. Regular practitioners despairing, from the inefficacy of the means, they were then acquainted with, left the cure to empirics and visionary pretenders. I should therefore, (as I am conscious Mr. Foot cannot be ignorant of it,) have supposed, had not his assertion been so pointed, that he was not in earnest in declaring to us, that Mr. Hunter had neglected, giving the history of the disease, (*b*) from a mean, or interested design; I could have wished not to have degraded Mr. Foot, so much as to suppose it. It is true, such vague, contradictory, obsolete, and illusive authorities, open a field, for a warm imagination to display itself; and we might by animated reveries, have our fancies pleased, though our judgments could not be informed: for writers, acting under the influence of fear, superstition, and gross ignorance, were

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(*g*) See Mr. Foot, p. 12.(*b*) *Idem*, p. 8.

ill calculated, to describe such a Proteus systematically; that cameleon like they would have you to believe, was daily changing its aspect. Yet Mr. Foot may be assured, I am induced to shew him the fallacy of his argument, and on what a baseless fabric he has erected his triumph, not from any hostile views, or the little malignant satisfaction of a victory; but from a friendly motive, hoping the example will instil a principle of candour into his future protests.

Mr. Foot observes, (*i*) "That the first author that can be traced on this disease, was Nicolaus Leonicensus of Verona, *anno* 1497;" but a little attention to the subject, (*k*) would have informed him, that he was of Vicenza; and that Joseph Grundbeck, or Grundpeck, of Berkhausen, a German physician, and Alexander Benedict of Verona, both wrote on the subject the preceding year. Mr. Foot further observes, in the same page, that no mention is made of a gonorrhœa (*l*) before

(*i*) See Mr. Foot, p. 9. (*k*) See Astruc, 32.

(*l*) I take it for granted, he means a virulent gonorrhœa, because a simple is noticed by the first writers, and may justly be supposed to have been almost coeval with our existence.

before Johannis Baptista Montanus, in 1550; but here he is equally unfortunate, for James a Bathencourt, wrote particularly, on a *gonorrhœa virulenta*, anno 1527, and Paracelsus, anno 1536; the one consequently, twenty-three years, the other, fourteen before his date. Having traced it then within thirty-one years of the Venereal Disease's existence by general consent, I am more justified in supposing, from these circumstances, that it appeared, *ab origine*, than Mr. Foot is, in fixing it to anno 1550. Indeed Astruc himself, says, (*m*) "That he would not have it inferred, that it did not appear, long before this period, because not described, as a symptom of the disease;" though, it is but just to acknowledge, that he is rather inclined to think it not, an original symptom. One circumstance strikes me, which I beg leave to remark, though I do not state it as an argument, notwithstanding it has some weight with me: might not writers, under the influence I have before alluded to, easily mistake this symptom, for a *gonorrhœa simplex*, aggravated, as they would infer, by this peculiar disease of the system,

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and

(*m*) See Astruc, p. 98.

and not conceive it a mark of the venereal malady, till time, and reflection, connected with its general appearance, might point out its origin. (*n*) Beside, if no gonorrhœa, or disease of the urethra, was mentioned, at its first appearance, it makes nothing for Mr. Foot's cause; he might as justly, as he tells Mr. Hunter, draw conclusions from a dream, as from the omission; ulcers in the genitals, are spoke of long before the disease is said to have existed, and they are described in the pudenda, amongst the earliest writers; (*p*) indeed without the existence of a gonorrhœa or chancre, how could the disease, be communicated so generally? For I will venture to assert, that a man shall have connection, with a woman labouring under the lues venerea, admitting that she has no discharge, or ulcer in her parts, with impunity, and *vice versa*. Now, whether the one, or the other exists, is indifferent, as he attempts not to deny, that the virus in both is alike, and he has proved, from the
 very

(*n*) See Foot, p. 10, 11, 12, and 13.

(*p*) Astruc, p. 95.

very authority, he condemns Mr. Hunter for quoting, that the disease sometimes, cures itself, without medical assistance; though he ridicules the idea, in his subsequent remarks. However, I beg my reader's attention to this point, and hope, it will be admitted as an answer to Mr. Foot's objections, unless, in future supported, by better reasoning and authority, than we have hitherto met with: to tell us, that, Cook (*q*) only speaks of the symptoms of a confirmed lues, and that nature here effected a cure, is going beyond what Mr. Hunter ever asserted, (*r*) or almost any man, but himself, believed. From the slipperiness of the ground on which Mr. Foot was treading, it should have made him more cautious, in his assertions, and less dictatorial in his manner; and having, so early, pointed out his misconceptions, will give me with my readers, as well as Mr. Foot, some credit, when I assert, that others, equally striking, offer themselves, which necessity, not their force, obliges me to overlook, lest my Reply, connected with Mr. Foot's Observations, should exceed, even the performance

(*q*) Foot, p. 11.

(*r*) Hunter, p. 14.

formance we are contending about, though my reasoning may be applied as a general answer to his reiterated objections.

OF GONORRHOEA.

“**M**R. HUNTER says, when an irritating matter of any kind, is applied to a secreting surface, it increases that secretion, and changes it from its natural state, (whatever that be,) to some other, which in the present disease is a *pus*.” (*s*) To this Mr. Foot objects; will have it increased *mucus*, (*t*) and threatens us, with all the authority that he can raise; yet like the mountain in labour bringing forth a mouse; the host dwindles down, to a solitary quotation from Mr. Pott, who he forces into a controversy that he never dreamed of. I doubt not but the dignity of Mr. Pott’s mind, will naturally lead him, to think liberally of others, who differ from him in speculative opinions, conscious that any single authority, however respectable, must be considered as questionable; and

(*s*) Hunter, p. 29.

(*t*) Foot, p. 16, 17, and 18.

and though I venerate Mr. Pott, as much as any man living, for his quickness of perception, clearness of judgment, and great indisputable professional abilities, yet the names of Dr. Hunter, Cullen, Mr. Sharpe, Gataker, and if my memory fails me not, Mr. Cruickshanks, all deservedly high in the profession, must more than poise, the evidence of one individual, however respectable. But authorities apart, why did not Mr. Foot, adduce experiments, to shew us the fallacy of Mr. Hunter's reasoning, and give us facts, instead of assertions, to form our opinions on? This one would suppose, from his outset, he intended, but his silence induces us to suppose, he was incapable of effecting it; yet, though a tacit acknowledgement, I would beg leave to be indulged with a few words on this subject, in order to illustrate some phenomena in the disease, which I shall have occasion hereafter to speak of; although I do not mean to treat so distinctly on the subject, as it deserves, it would lead me, into too large a field, any further than is applicable to the present contest; and I am the more induced to it, from his professions, lest I should be thought, to have shrunk
from

from the enquiry. I can readily concur with him, (u) “ That matter is formed, from a solution of continuity, or destruction of parts,” in an abscess, yet the same cause is not necessary towards the cure, unless nature, to complete this process, must destroy her own works, which would be an arraignment of that general axiom, that her operations are simple, and always for the best. I would rather say, that *pus* is continued to be supplied, till the parts are regenerated, from the blood, lymph and juices, which necessarily circulate through the part; and though the venereal poison or *pus* applied to the parts susceptible of its action, generally produces inflammation, which is accompanied with a peculiar specific mode of action, on the parts, differing from all others attending inflammation, though its degree of virulence is not to be estimated, either from the present symptoms, or the continuance of the discharge, these depend more on circumstances in the habit, *that is*, a greater or less disposition, to be acted upon by irritation, especially this specific one, than the extent of the inflammation: for inflammation is not absolutely necessary, as just observed,

either

(u) See Foot, p. 18.

either to its formation, or continuance. If this is the case, matter may as easily be formed, from the application of a morbid stimulus to a secreting surface, as by the erosion, and necessary destruction of parts, for though in gonorrhœa, there is no true suppurative inflammation, neither is there in the small-pox, yet if the venereal irritation is excited by the application of the morbid poison, the specific action ensues, and the disease is produced. If this does not account for it, how is it? By what process, does increased *mucus* become infectious? Because, if fever and inflammation were always necessary to the formation of *pus*, they should continue as long as *pus* is supplied, till the cure is effected, (x) which is contrary to fact. *Mucus*, we know, in a natural healthy state, is bland and perfectly innoxious, and though from irritation, or relaxation in its secreting parts, the quantity may be greatly increased, as in the fluor albus or simple gleet, as well as by the application of sternutatories, and in defluxions from catarrhs, so as to produce disease; yet the several discharges are not infectious,

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(x) Foot, page 17.

though the acrimony, particularly of the first, may bring on temporary inconvenience, so will an irritating injection to the urethra, yet both will subside of themselves: in fact, if it was simply increased *mucus*, it would make more against, than for Mr. Foot's argument, as it would not only prove the possibility, but the certainty of a gonorrhœa curing itself, so that his assertions either prove too much or nothing at all, either way equally unfavourable to his cause. He further observes, (*y*) that no person ever felt irritation in the urethra, without looking for, and expecting matter. (*z*) This is as novel, as, I had almost said, absurd. Pray, does spasm, or strictures in the urethra, or even a dysury, necessarily produce matter? Yet they severally produce irritation. This is one amongst the numberless instances we meet with, where we have to regret that Mr. Foot, in the heat of his prejudice, neglects the aid of cool reason. He is not more fortunate where he says, (*a*) "If without any infectious imputation, what Mr. Hunter calls a simple gonorrhœa makes its appearance, and if it has followed almost immediate connection, here more discharge is instantaneously produced
from

(*y*) Foot, p. 18. (*z*) Hunter, p. 32. (*a*) Foot, p. 18 and 19.

from less irritation, and no *virus*—what was the process to form this *pus*?" Before he asks the question, it would have been but just to shew us, where Mr. Hunter called this discharge from a gleet *pus*, because till he does that, I beg the reader to withhold his belief. Mr. Hunter says, "(b) A gleet differs from a gonorrhœa, first in this, that though a consequence of it, it is perfectly innocent with respect to infection. Secondly, when it is a true gleet, it is generally different in some of the constituent parts of the discharge, which consists of globular bodies floating or wrapt in a slimy *mucus*, instead of a *serum*." Now to an unbiassed mind, can these words be tortured to such an idea? Is *pus* even mentioned? However, I have here, as I have done before, given Mr. Foot the question, to make the most of; that the reader may see the fallacy, as well as unfitness, of his Observations; and if he will be at the trouble of comparing Mr. Hunter's words with Mr. Foot's quotations, he will seldom or ever find the latter correct; the sense is frequently perverted; for though Mr. Foot says so positively, that Mr. Hunter calls the discharge

from a simple gleet and a virulent gonorrhœa, by the unqualified appellation of *pus*, yet I have shewn the former to be erroneous; and if we refer to page 11 of Mr. Hunter, or to page 29, as quoted at the commencement of this reply on gonorrhœa, they militate against the assertion: Mr. Hunter says a *pus*, or united with *pus*, or some such secretion; but this does not convey such a decisive opinion as I have granted. Mr. Foot goes on exulting in his self-conceited victory, and tells us, that (c) “ in the simple gonorrhœa, unfortunately for Mr. Hunter, no irritating matter was applied, that either he or I know of, yet the discharge appears to be the same; for who at sight can make the distinction?” Here, as if mishap was connected with his undertaking, his very manner of relating the fact, destroys his reasoning, for it is given by writers as a distinguishing mark between the simple and virulent gonorrhœa, that the former comes on immediately after copulation, and is, as Mr. Foot has mentioned, at once violent; the latter some days after, and gradually: the simple gleet frequently arises from relaxation following

lowing an over, or too long protracted exertion of the natural tone in erection, too free an evacuation, or muscular violence, for it does not always depend upon connection. These facts, when connected with the peculiar circumstances of the case, will generally enable a judicious practitioner to form a pretty accurate opinion, since it is not necessary to depend alone on the sight, though that will often direct us, for the natural secretion from the urethra is limpid, and should an increased one in a great measure, but a gonorrhœa is ever coloured.

I hope I have sufficiently proved, who (*d*) kicks the beam; but confess myself at a loss to find out any cause, but the determined one of finding fault, for such a waste of words: if I was disposed to follow Mr. Foot's example, I might ask him, (I am sure on better grounds,) on what he builds his Herculean objections? But I would not wish to mortify him unnecessarily, his fabric seems too baseless.

OF

OF THE TIME BETWEEN THE APPLICATION
AND EFFECT OF THE VENEREAL POISON.

I WOULD beg the reader to peruse this section of Mr. Hunter's, where, though he gives us the different periods of its appearance, from six hours to six weeks, on the most credible testimony, yet he confesses, that he believes, it seldom or never lies perfectly quiet so long; but, as if nothing would satisfy Mr. Foot, though evidently incapable of opposing Mr. Hunter, either by facts, or fair reasoning, yet he shews a reluctance to give up, doubts what he cannot overturn, (d) and tells us, that he has never heard, or seen, that the inflammatory state did take place for a considerable time before the discharge, but that if it did, it would be a satisfactory reason, for calling the discharge *pus*. From this remark, I cannot help thinking, what, for Mr. Foot's sake, I hope is not founded, that his practice and information must be very circumscribed: for it is a point I think that few will differ with me in, who
have

(d) Foot, page 25.

have seen any thing of the disease, when I assert, that irritation always takes place prior to the discharge, though the immediate time of its appearance depends on, perhaps, some unknown constitutional cause. In the concession at the close of his section, (e) Mr. Foot has not considered how much he has granted; his heat has thrown him off his guard, and proved how *mal-a-propos* the charge of inconsistency comes from him, against Mr. Hunter. He tells us, that if the inflammatory state took place prior to the discharge, Mr. Hunter was perfectly right in calling it *pus*: yet how can Mr. Foot reconcile this single circumstance to his string of enquiries, pages 18 and 19? Where is the solution of the parts from whence this *pus* was formed? By what process was what he has heretofore called *mucus*, converted into *pus*? Where was the fever and inflammation? Are they dwindled into simple irritation? This is certainly a dereliction of his theory.

OF

(e) Foot, page 25.

OF THE COMMON FINAL INTENTION OF SUP-
 PURATION NOT ANSWERING IN THE PRE-
 SENT DISEASE. (f)

THE last section offered nothing to answer, this little more than a reference to Mr. Hunter will refute, and shew how much Mr. Foot has kept his word, (in page 27) where he assures us, that he will never misconstrue any of his ideas, as he would not accept a triumph on such grounds. Increased secretion from irritation, on secreting surfaces, is an established fact, but (g) the allusion to a mote in the eye, only a metaphorical expression, meant to elucidate his doctrine, to which Mr. Foot's fanciful objection has no actual affinity; for the eye itself is a non-secreting surface, where, if the venereal matter acts, an ulcer is the consequence, which, as has been before remarked, may continue, unless the specific action is put an end to until its destruction is effected.

But

(f) Foot, page 27.

(g) Foot, page 28.

But further, I think there is a strict propriety in the reasoning: can a better theory be advanced, for women escaping so much oftener than our sex, from the venereal contagion, than that the irritation excited, increasing the natural secretion of the parts, washes off the virus, before the venereal action takes place?—

The supposition of a person attacked with a cold, is answered by the reasoning in Mr. Foot's second quotation, page 29, from Mr. Hunter: but I shall add, the nasal irritation is from an acrid *serum*, or lymph, the same that produces a catarrh. The time of the increased secretion's appearance depends on circumstances; but the diaphanous, as well as when like the usual secretion, only in increased quantity, are clearly from their appearance *mucus*; they possess not the characteristic marks of matter. In page 29, Mr. Foot agrees, "That it is specific irritation that produceth an increased secretion;" but says, "that this secretion will be, both in quality and quantity, generally in proportion to the influence of the specific stimulus, on the surface of the urethra;" and adds, "that the

secreted *mucus* must therefore be considered as a symptom, and not the cause." Whether this last remark is given as a proof of Mr. Foot's surgical acumen, I shall leave to himself to declare : but the influence of the specific irritation depends, as I have before observed, on the greater or less disposition of the habit to be acted upon by the venereal irritation, and not on any distinct quality in the poison. (b) Mr. Foot's asserting that Mr. Hunter has given us the unqualified assurance, that all gonorrhœas cure themselves, is erroneous, as will be proved in the chapter on the cure of a gonorrhœa.(i) But to his observation, that he will defy Mr. Hunter to prove that a gonorrhœa cannot be continued by the application of fresh matter, I would beg of him to prove that it can ; I think he ought at least to have attempted it, to support appearances. Our reason rather opposes the supposition, because we know that irritation long continued, lessens the susceptibility of a part, otherwise the matter passing over the surface of the urethra, would render our endeavours to effect a cure abortive, unless we could keep the passage constantly sheathed.

Has

(b) Foot, page 32.

(i) Foot, page 33.

Has Mr. Foot proved, that the two paragraphs, page 35, militate against each other? I am decidedly of opinion he has not: but as I shall have occasion hereafter to speak more largely on *gonorrhœa*, under its cure, I hope the past reasoning will apply sufficiently here: the first strengthens my argument, the latter shall be attended to. Mr. Foot has no cause of exultation, for Mr. Hunter could have no idea of a compromise, by saying, "that the transition from a healthy, to a diseased secretion, is easily produced." Neither did he ever assert, that inflammation was actually necessary, though generally attendant on the formation of venereal *pus*; but if he even had, Mr. Foot, on recollecting his own lapse under the article of *pus*, page 22 and 35, as well as in other parts, will be led, I dare say, to commiserate with him, with a fellow-feeling.

OF THE MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS, AND
THEIR ORDER OF APPEARANCE. (k)

WHY Mr. Foot makes a mystery, where none exists, I leave to himself to explain : shall only insist on Mr. Hunter's being permitted to speak for himself, and we shall then have the symptoms of the venereal disease narrated without a reference to any hypothesis, just as they occur ; for Mr. Hunter is known to form his opinions on experiments, and not conjecture : but in different habits, or even the same, at different periods, there will be a *Lusus Naturæ* ; and whoever refers back to our past observations, will readily conceive the possibility of those varieties of inflammation, preceding at some, and following at others, the discharge, though, as I before asserted, irritation is always first.

OF

(k) Foot, pages 39 and 40.

OF THE DISCHARGE.

HERE Mr. Foot echoes Mr. Hunter's opinion: but, as if recollecting that the reader might take his words in their literal sense, and not possess that share of acumen, as to consider, "that praise was only censure in disguise," Mr. Foot throws off the mask, and perverts Mr. Hunter's words to his own purposes; and because the latter says, to save appearances, (1) "I could even allow," Mr. Foot tells us, that Mr. Hunter advises the practice; but I hope, with candid minds such conduct will meet with the contempt it merits. Was Mr. Foot to be treated in kind, he would readily see the injustice. However, lest my abhorrence of the measure might be construed, like Mr. Foot's illiberality, to the weakness of my cause, I beg leave to reply, that the man cannot complete his connection, if he loses the power of erection; therefore no fear. But admitting he had the ability to continue it, after it ceased, his pride would not permit him; for he

(1) Foot, page 41.

he must possess but a small share of that ambition which actuates our sex, in performing this duty well, to persist, after he has lost his vigour, the criterion by which the ladies judge of the strength of a man's habit, and the warmth of his affection for them. I would ask Mr. Foot, if it was himself, would he wish to become so contemptible in their estimation? I will venture to answer for him, not; and whilst the erection continues, there need be no apprehension of a morbid secretion. In this opinion I am satisfied he will join me. The objections in page 42, &c. are answered under the article of *pus*; yet was I disposed to evade Mr. Foot's remarks, I might say, that Mr. Hunter does not call the discharge *pus*, (*m*) but a *pus*, or united with *pus*, or some such secretion: yet I am so satisfied myself, that it is matter in a virulent *gonorrhœa*, that I am ready to defend the opinion against Mr. Foot, and every authority he can bring.

OF

OF THE CHORDE.

NICE venereal distinctions in theory, that have no influence on practice, are never worth contending about ; and I find nothing to answer in pages 44, 45, 46 or 47. In 48 and 49, Mr. Foot wishes to convince us, that the word *irritation* is more just and expressive than *sympathy*, but I think to very little purpose ; for even the cases, or effects of local injury he adduces, are more applicable to sympathy than irritation. To prove that they militate against his definition, I have only to adduce the latter, where he says, (n) “ that irritation is applied to affections of the various parts of an individual only, independent of another.” To reconcile this explanation with the tenor of Mr. Foot’s reasoning, requires more ingenuity than I think he possesses ; for I may observe by him as he does by Mr. Hunter, that he is deficient in the very essence of that which constitutes a successful skeptic, for where is that halcyon smoothness

(n) Foot, page 49.

ness of language to charm us? Where the dissembling and persuasive argument, that affimulates illusion to truth? However, to shew my assertions are founded, I would beg to be indulged with the opportunity of defining irritation in its indisputable medical sense. As an essential property of all animal bodies, it is a species of stimulus, and that part is defined irritable, which contracts, or becomes shorter, on being touched, or pricked: the degree of irritability is estimated by the proportionate violence of the touch, which certainly implies a local action, from the immediate application of a stimulus to some particular part. Thus a blister, applied to the skin, vesciates it by its stimulus, and produces by that means irritation, and subsequent inflammation; but the stranguary which frequently follows, is from sympathy. This affection does not exist in all parts of the body alike, nor is the degree to be deduced from the immediate sensibility of the part, for those most sensible are not the soonest irritated; more depends on the construction of the part, than the part itself. This makes me suppose, that Mr. Foot is hardly in earnest in his assertions; for I presume, no man
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but himself would have called a painful sensation, in a remote part, and unconnected with the immediate local action of the stimulus, irritation.

SWELLED TESTICLE.

(o) FROM the vaulting and high promising language Mr. Foot sets off with, it leads one naturally to expect something more than declamation, and an idle repetition of words without meaning. But we must judge of a centinel by his actions; and if Mr. Foot really means to keep his word, and only oppose opinions that are injurious in their effects, in a rational, solid, and candid manner, I shall be happy in being relieved from my unpleasant office, and think myself under obligations to him for the exertion of those talents he possesses, in either detecting error, or pointing out any useful improvement: but till then, I must continue my remarks. Indeed, my fears forbode an illusive hope, for whoever reads Mr. Hunter's observations on the swelled testicle, will find

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(o) See Foot, p. 50.

him, I think, systematic ; and if so, to what end has Mr. Foot given us near two pages of unfounded censure ? (*p*) The observation on the late appearance of the affection of the testicle, bears some semblance to argument, and shall have its weight. I will meet him fairly. He rests his opposition on the attack coming on, after the patient conceives himself well, and particularly requests his reader's attention, that there is nothing to sympathize with. But can Mr. Foot say, that the disposition had not taken place, prior to this favourable aspect ? Is the patient a sufficient judge ? Nay, I would ask Mr. Foot himself, if he, or the most experienced surgeon is competent at all times to speak positively on the immediate cessation of the symptoms to the absolute non-existence of any of the venereal *virus* in the system, (much less of this disposition) yet unless this point can be decidedly established, his argument has no force, and every day's experience shews us the fallacy of such a criterion ; for a gonorrhœa shall apparently go off for many days, and return again, without any known cause. Constitutional circumstances, mode
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of living, may, nay do often act, though we are not always acquainted with the immediate one. Some other disease in the system coming on, as a fever, &c. (*q*) may suspend the venereal action, or that power may exist, which causes such a difference, at different periods, as to the time between the absorption of the poison, and the appearance of the venereal symptoms. If the disease, as Mr. Foot says, is not from sympathy, because there is nothing to sympathize with, how can it be from irritation? Mr. Foot's arguments must destroy their own force: that it is not from *virus* conveyed to the testicle, is highly probable, from the same symptoms following, as Mr. Hunter observes, every kind of irritation, whether from strictures, injections, or bougies, &c. (*r*) The suddenness of the attack, and its changing often from one side to the other so quickly, is a further proof of sympathy. Now, if the whole of the urethra was affected, to the prostate gland,

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(*q*) Hunter, page 3, elucidates this matter by a case in point.

(*r*) I am now attending one who had been advised to the use of an injudicious injection, which caused this very effect, and a high degree of irritation along the whole course of the urethra, accompanied with a bloody discharge.

we might easily conceive it to arise from the action of venereal matter running on to the testicle ; yet even then it might not be from *virus* translated to it, but from irritation at the *caput gallinaginis*, only the ready communication by the *vas deferens* would render it probable : but no immediate conveyance can be proved from the usual seat of a gonorrhœa in the urethra to the testicle, notwithstanding the attack occurs as frequently at this time as any other, though there may be to the groin, which clearly accounts for this sympathetic affection. This likewise shews, why the testicle is not often irritated by a gonorrhœa, in its highest state of irritation, and why the inguinal glands sympathize more frequently than the testicle with the gonorrhœa. That the epididymis is not often first affected, I appeal to the profession ; and the want of communication proves the improbability of the *virus* being conveyed to it. Besides, as I just observed, the poison must pass on to the prostate gland before it can be translated to the testicle. Now, no one acquainted with the nature of those parts, will suppose, that the *virus* can pass along, without manifesting itself
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by such symptoms as are peculiar to the morbid action of those parts : but admitting it otherwise, it would rather shew that some cause had suspended this tendency to a sympathetic affection, than that it was from *virus* conveyed after irritation had altogether ceased in the urethra ; especially when we consider, that it is the body of the testicle almost invariably, that is first attacked with a fullness, tenderness to the touch, &c. *En passant*, let me intreat the reader to compare page 54 with 55, of Mr. Foot, and see what a perfect unison prevails in his opinions. In page 54 we are told, “ that when the patient conceives himself quite well, there is nothing for the testicle to sympathize with ; there is no pain, no inflammation, no irritation in the urethra, to provoke a sympathy in any other part.”

Afterwards, that “ the swelled testicle must be produced from irritation in the urethra, or from *virus* conveyed to the testicle : but lastly, that it is incapable of being affected, without the immediate action of *virus*, and that the symptoms prove it :” so that the testicle is capable of sympathizing, then not : and again, “ if the symptoms in the
urethra

urethra ceased, on the testicle being affected, the swelling might be said to originate from irritation without *virus*, or from sympathy." This is generally the case, and I defy Mr. Foot to deny it. The absurdity of these counter paragraphs might have excused me from replying ; but I am willing to give Mr. Foot more than his due, rather than weaken his arguments, that truth may manifest itself, for I have only noted them, as I wish to do his diction in page 57, as evidences of his fallibility, that they may teach him more candour in his language, when speaking of Mr. Hunter, than he has shewn in his writings. The frivolous appeal, at the conclusion of this section, to Mr. Hunter's honour, is best answered, by referring to his treatment of the swelled testicle.

(s) As I do not mean to copy either the false wit, or the illiberal personality of Mr. Foot, conceiving them inconsistent with a disputant, or the gentleman, shall therefore pass over the section of the " swelling of the glands from sympathy," perceiving nothing deserving of an answer,

OF

OF THE DISEASES OF THE LYMPHATICS IN
A GONORRHOEA. (t)

CAN candour justify Mr. Foot in mutilating Mr. Hunter's arguments, and transposing his words? The latter says, (u) "Another symptom which sometimes takes place in gonorrhœa, is a hard chord leading from the prepuce along the back of the penis, and often directing its course to one of the groins, and affecting the glands. There is most commonly a swelling in the prepuce at the part, where the chord takes its rise. This happens sometimes when there is an excoriation and discharge from the prepuce or glans, which may be called a venereal gonorrhœa of those parts. Both the swelling in the groin, and the hard chord, we have reason to suppose, arise from the absorption of *pus*, and therefore are the first steps towards a *lues venerea*; but as that form of the disease seldom happens from a gonorrhœa, I shall not take any further notice of it in this place:" when he proceeds nearly in Mr. Foot's words, as in the latter quotation.

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(t) Foot, page 60.

(u) Hunter, page 59.

The intention of this perversion was apparently to form a pretext for writing; and in the dearth of argument, Mr. Foot created a shadow, that he might, Quixote like, hereafter have the pleasure of encountering it, which I envy him not; but to humour his wishes, will extend my remarks a little further. "The symptoms of a gonorrhœa," Mr. Foot says, "are held in contempt by Mr. Hunter: that he "is eager at all times to repeat to us, that the discharge is harmless that flows from a gonorrhœa, and that his doubts of bad consequences are all at an end," &c. Now, is not the quotation from Mr. Hunter above, a flat contradiction to Mr. Foot's assertion, of the discharge being harmless? Does not the former point out the above effects as sometimes following a gonorrhœa? Does he not declare them as the first symptoms of an approaching *lues venerea*? Has he not dedicated some chapters of his work to its cure? Then, how can Mr. Foot assert against truth, that the discharge from a gonorrhœa is perfectly innoxious? Is it because Mr. Hunter has said, "attacking secreting surfaces, it sometimes ceases spontaneously, and that the inflammation can only act a certain time?"

Yet

Yet he never tells us that this favourable event is so frequent as to justify our neglecting a gonorrhœa, but fully refutes the supposition by his practice ; and Mr. Hunter further says, (x) “ that the matter acting on a now secreting surface, and producing an ulcer or chancre, the parts so affected are capable of continuing this mode of action for ever ;” and as to the suppuration of the glands, particularly the inguinal ones, Mr. Hunter is so far from saying that they are not infected with the poison, that he declares (y) “ he suspects, when they inflame from the absorption of matter, they generally suppurate.” To Mr. Foot’s string of *ifs*, I answer, let him prove the assertions from Mr. Hunter by candid quotations, and I will then reply to what he deems exceptional. Mr. Hunter doubts their always being venereal, (though he does not say they are never) because they do well, with the common treatment of inflammation, without mercury. He likewise says, (z) “ that as far as his trials extend, wounds are but indifferent absorbing surfaces.” He supposes

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(u) Hunter, p. 35. (x) Idem, p. 51, and 58.

(y) Hunter, p. 19, and 36.

the discharge from the wound washes off the *virus*, before its action takes place. Mr. Hunter could never have imagined that his idea of wounds being but bad absorbing surfaces, would be applied to the small-pox; because there is no analogy, there being no ulcer till the inflammation excited by the insertion of the variolous matter produces suppuration, the action of which on the part is visible before the constitution is affected: besides, he has before obviated the objection, by remarking, "that any kind of irritating matter, applied to those parts of the body susceptible of irritation, changes them from the healthy state to the specific morbid nature of the irritating cause." I would just ask Mr. Foot, before I proceed to the next section, whether folly, personal enmity, or candour, dictated the absurd information in page 63? It is too gross to gain belief, and how can we reconcile it to past or future declarations? Such illiberality requires the patience of an Anchorite to read; it is too much, to meet with abuse instead of argument.

SHORT RECAPITULATION OF THE VARIETIES
OF THE SYMPTOMS.

HERE I must congratulate Mr. Foot on the acquisition of his intuitive prescience, his singular second sight, that led him to the perception of what has been obvious to every reader; for Mr. Hunter, when permitted to speak for himself, without the polishing hand of Mr. Foot, is not so inconsistent as the latter would have us to believe, but causes the shaft to recoil on his opponent, for in the very paragraph before this quoted, Mr. Hunter says, (z) “ In general, the inflammation in the urethra does not extend beyond an inch or two from the orifice.” Now, this only, independent of numberless parts where he makes use of the words *specific distance*, fully proves that he only alludes to the usual seat of a gonorrhœa in the urethra: that the sense is not definite, for he in no instance declares it absolutely, nor any regular uniformity of symptoms; indeed it would not be possible for him, but in this section recapitulates a

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(z) Hunter, p. 60.

few of the most material or common varieties ; and I am well assured Mr. Foot is not so emulous of fame, as to contradict Mr. Hunter's narrative.

OF THE CURE OF THE GONORRHOEA.

WE are now come to the point to which our past reasoning has had some reference ; and to adopt Mr. Foot's language, I shall consider myself as counsel, the public, however incongruous, both judge and jury in the present cause at issue ; and as our indefeasible right, insist on my client being permitted to speak for himself, or rather I for him, in his language. Truth calls for the adoption of that admirable maxim of the no less admirable and justly celebrated Lord Mansfield, *Audi alteram partem*. But before I proceed, I must beg my reader's attention to Mr. Foot's Observations from page 65 to 85, both as to manner and substance.

The hope that my readers will candidly weigh the merits of the question between

us, and consider how far our opinions are consonant to truth and sound practice, before they give their verdict, has been the sole wish that urged me to the present undertaking, and nothing personal; for I am neither wedded to any man's opinions, nor have I the most distant desire, if I possessed the power, of misleading any man's judgment. I only wish to weigh every notion without prejudice or favour, whether Mr. Hunter's or Mr. Foot's; for I declare, I should be as happy to coincide, if my judgment would permit me, with the latter as the former; but when I see opinions opposed for opposition sake, I cannot help feeling myself interested in parrying their effects; and as Mr. Hunter's ideas, though frequently singular and different from other men's, are generally founded on experiments, and as he has thrown more light on the animal œconomy than any man before him, his doctrines delivered in the present Treatise surely demand the exertion of our candour and cool enquiry, until we are satisfied, either by our own observations, of their force, or by more solid reasoning than Mr. Hunter has advanced in their
favour,

favour, that they are injurious or impracticable; but not by empty declamation, mere *ipse dixits*, or by pretending to shew the fallacy of Mr. Hunter's reasoning from mutilated scraps. To expect an immediate adoption of any theory, would be absurd, and might be injurious; it is better that it should be canvassed dispassionately, yet it is to be regretted that some individuals are too timid, or indolent, whilst others, slaves to old customs or practices, deem every improvement an innovation of the sacred Palladium of antiquity; but their numbers are not now formidable, the rust of prejudice wears off, and we are enabled in our present enlightened days, to put a just and not exaggerated value on their labours; for truth, though long obscured, will ultimately prevail; and Mr. Hunter, I hope, before he finishes his earthly career, will be enabled, in spite of the envy of modern Zoilus's, to say with Ovid,

*Jamque opus exegi, quod nec Jovis ira, nec ignes,
Nec poterit ferrum, nec edax abolere vetustas :
Cum volet illa dies, quæ nil nisi corporis hujus
Jus habet, incerti spatium mihi finiat ævi, &c.*

I beg

I beg my readers' indulgence, for this digression ; but the more I enter, the more I find myself interested in the business ; though to tread the ground over again, after what I have said on gonorrhœa, will not be expected of me : but as Mr. Hunter tells us, we have no specific for a gonorrhœa, it is fortunate, that time will *frequently* (is clearly understood from his past reasoning and present deductions) cure itself. However Mr. Foot may be disposed to quarrel with Mr. Hunter for this opinion, I confess myself obliged to him for the suggestion ; the hope held out, I am sure, was dictated by philanthropy and fostered by benevolence : and could we instil the belief of the possibility of such a favourable issue into our patients, though not founded strictly in truth, it would conduce to their benefit, by appeasing their fears, and inspiring them with greater confidence in the means recommended. As to the spontaneous cure of a gonorrhœa, I must confess myself incompetent to give a decision ; further experience must enable me to yield a full concurrence, so far as my observations extend, or if two cases can warrant a decided opinion, I am then competent to second Mr. Hunter's declaration, from the small
share

share of medical help very often necessary. I sincerely subscribe to the idea, that it may sometimes happen, and that this is Mr. Hunter's opinion, is evident from his general reasoning (*a*) and treatment; his practice is calculated to establish the fact; and he allows that art accelerates the cure; that very troublesome effects sometimes follow it, (*c*) the inflammation extending beyond its usual bounds, along the whole course of the urethra, to the bladder and even the kidneys; the glands likewise of the urethra inflame and often suppurate, and he suspects that Cowper's glands sometimes do the same.---- That a (*d*) gonorrhœa will often continue an amazing length of time, the parts being so habituated to this irritation as hardly to be affected by it; and that by this means sooner or later, as circumstances influence, the cure is effected, though not always the consequences. (*e*)—(*f*) That it is very seldom that the constitution is tainted by a gonorrhœa, yet that it sometimes does, and the patient is attacked with a lues venerea. I deemed it necessary to give this summary of
Mr.

(*a*) Hunter, p. 69.

(*b*) Idem, p. 60.

(*c*) Idem, p. 38.

(*d*) Idem, p. 69, & 109.

(*e*) Idem, p. 15, 16, & 59.

Mr. Hunter's practice, as a counter-part to Mr. Foot's assertions, to shew their fallacy, before I proceeded to the latter's objections. My reasons, besides these given before, for believing the possibility of the spontaneous cure of the gonorrhœa, and the incompatibility of the living principle of the disease continuing in this, any more than in others, the same action; for when it shifts its influence, and produces new effects, and is ramified, as Mr. Foot says, page 69, into all the venereal symptoms that were ever known, it is then, after the constitution is affected, a lues venerea, and no longer a gonorrhœa. What still further confirms me in the belief, are the various and almost contradictory means adopted by individuals for its cure; and whether this end is attempted by local or general remedies, let them be as opposite as they will, the event is nearly alike: and though mercury is allowed to be a specific in the lues venerea, a gonorrhœa may generally be cured without it; and when given internally, it can have no effect on a local disease of the urethra, when the constitution is not contaminated: nay, many practitioners have deemed it rather injurious than

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beneficial.

beneficial. And further, the inflammation always ceasing of itself, nearly as soon without artificial aid, as with, (if general) let the means be what they may, for this diseased action, as I have said before, cannot continue its influence, but must cease of itself (*f*). Yet it is not to be inferred, that because the inflammation has ceased, that the danger is always over, for the discharge, as I have observed, under the article of *pus*, is capable of being supplied after such cessation, or we could not reconcile it with the conjecture of its being conveyed in this form, to the South-Sea Islands: (*g*) nor is the event declared by Mr. Hunter, to be so frequent or regular as to justify us, in the neglect of the necessary means to destroy its action. What at once overturns the assertion, is his remarking, that the matter from a gonorrhœa and chancre are alike, and that the latter is the symptom of an approaching lues venerea. The possibility of the fact Mr. Foot admits, when he says, that “after the urethra is insensible to the irritation of the *virus*, it is capable of shifting its influence:” but with Mr. Foot’s leave, there must be an
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(*f*) Hunter, p. 35.

(*g*) Idem, p. 14.

idiosyncrasy or pre-disposing cause in the habit ; it is not a fixed routine, after the susceptibility of one part is destroyed, to remove to another: but in Mr. Foot's granting this insensibility, I appeal to dispassionate minds, if it does not strengthen the probability of Mr. Hunter's opinion being well founded ; and it is further supported by the testimony of one of his (*b*) opponents, who says, that he has seen many instances where water drunk for a considerable time has cured the clap, or gonorrhœa, full as well as any medicine whatever ; though I think it will call for the faith of a zealot to attribute any specific influence to water,

After what has been proved from Mr. Hunter, independent of the last section Mr. Foot animadverted on, of the possible effects of a gonorrhœa, would any man but himself have been so wild as to say, the hope held out warranted, because it might happen the omission of the means in our power to destroy the disease, and that the attempt would be a prejudication of Mr. Hunter's honour.

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(b) Dr. Swediaur.

From Mr. Foot's desultory manner of treating this subject, I am reduced to the necessity of frequently recurring to the same thing; but as I have before observed, Mr. Hunter could not be so absurd as to say, unconditionally, that the disease would tire itself out, and yet dictate the mode of cure necessary to be adopted. Yet such is the idea Mr. Foot would palm upon us; he seems more desirous of rendering Mr. Hunter ridiculous, than himself respectable, and endeavours to amuse us with wit, (but not sterling attic wit) where he cannot be argumentative. His reasoning in his heat, overturns unfortunately his deductions, as I have before proved; and where he strives to destroy, he strengthens Mr. Hunter's theory, as in the direful effects sometimes following a gonorrhœa, (*i*) "which can only be prevented by those remedies of art, whose application destroys the stimulating power of the *virus*, and put an end to all irritation." Now, this is only presenting us with Mr. Hunter's idea in a different dress, for he says, (*k*) "the only thing necessary to be done for the cure, is to destroy the disposition and specific mode of action in the solids of the parts; and as that is changed,

(*i*) Foot, page 69.

(*k*) Hunter, page 69,

changed, the poisonous quality of the matter produced will also be destroyed."

I have a pleasure in acquiescing with Mr Foot in the opinion, that a prophylactic, I believe, will prevent the venereal action from taking place; so does Mr. Hunter, (page 378): but I cannot agree unconditionally, that the same is expedient at all times, and in all constitutions, after the irritation has taken place, and runs high; or that it ought to be continued, though possibly it sometimes may, yet the instances must be so rare, as to call for the discrimination of a practitioner's judgement to direct when, for no definite rule can be laid down. I have seen instances, where, I am clear, a mercurial injection (and that from Mr. Foot's subsequent remarks, seems to be the prophylactic hinted at) has been extremely injurious, by increasing the irritation, and consequently the specific action of the venereal poison, and producing thereby a stronger disposition to absorption. But by adopting in those instances the sedative or quieting plan, relief has been obtained, and a favourable issue followed.

I am

I am happy in acceding with Mr. Foot, to Mr. Hunter's opinion, (*l*) that irritation acting on a susceptible part, tends to lessen its susceptibility; though I differ with the former in its consequences, satisfied, that in time, on the cessation of the stimulus, it recovers its sensibility, and that some pleasures are increased by repetition.—I wish for Mr. Foot's sake, as well as mine, that he had omitted those invidious and partial quotations, (*m*) which his reasons do not justify; nor do they make any thing to his cause, and only gratify a disposition that ought not to be indulged. Our opinions should be formed from a man's general views, or reasoning, and not from detached sentences. I have already given a just narration of Mr. Hunter's theory, which might serve as an answer to Mr. Foot's objections; I shall however add, though naturally averse to the practice, an extract or two from himself, by way of specimen, to convince him of the injustice of the measure.

(*n*) He says, the application of the remedies (of art) destroy the stimulating power
of

(*l*) Foot, p. 71. (*m*) Idem, from p. 74 to 78.

(*n*) Idem, p. 69.

of the *virus*, and put an end to all irritation: thus, is the immediate attack removed, and the future evils guarded against and prevented.

(*o*) Here is a *virus* of a specific quality, and which is only temporarily local; and although it produces its first effects by irritation, yet it does not cease to act when irritation can no longer be supported.

Now, the cessation of the irritation is the cure in the first, but not in the second extract. (*p*) Again, the great variety of injections given, and every inflammation getting well during their cure, are strong corroborating circumstances in favour of the opinion, that they all tend to one end.

(*q*) I say that a mercurial injection is a specific in the cure of a gonorrhœa.

Does then the term injection, in Mr. Foot's idea, convey a specific charm? His imagination to me seems his *ignis fatuus*.

Was

Was I here disposed to follow his practice, I might ask him, the *modus operandi* of his remedies, and *cui bono* his reasoning but the task is really too painful to pursue.

Mr. Foot's aim seems to be, to confound rather than elucidate; for Mr. Hunter's system is not to be learned from mutilated quotations: but, if the reader adds the following words, between the first and second citation (page 80) of Mr. Foot, "(r) for I have already observed, that some people are very susceptible of this irritation, who are as it were insensible to others; and on the contrary, many are easily affected by common inflammation, who are insensible to this;" he will readily perceive the drift, scope, force, and propriety of his reasoning, with the fitness of his practice thereto. But I repeat it again, to form a just idea of Mr. Hunter, *rationale*, and of the fallacy of the light held out, the reader must refer to the original work, before he forms his opinions; for was I to make the quotations necessary from Mr. Hunter, to obviate Mr. Foot's remarks, I should

advises us to let the gonorrhœa tire itself out ; when he positively speaks of the inflammation, (u) “ which if great, and of the irritable kind, no violence is to be used in the cure, for it will only increase the symptoms, unless we knew that the great degree of inflammation arose entirely from a susceptibility of this irritation, and that there was no general irritability in the constitution, which seldom can be ascertained. In cases where the symptoms run high, nothing should be done that may tend to stop the discharge, either by internal or external means, as that does not put an end to the inflammation. The constitution is to be altered, if possible, by remedies adapted to each disposition, with a view to alter the actions of the parts arising from such dispositions, and reduce the disease to its simple form,” when the cure may be proceeded to without interruption, or the necessity, as Mr. Foot pathetically laments, of being shut out from the most alluring enjoyments.

(u) Hunter, p. 71.

OF LOCAL APPLICATIONS, &c. (x)

THE quotation given here is amongst the fairest, though the sense is somewhat impaired by the omission of *universally*, (y) which should have been placed after, "but certainly this is not the case;" yet it may have been casual, therefore venial. The avidity with which he seizes the remark, "of every such complaint curing itself in time," (z) would lead one to suppose, that he forgot the last stand that he made, and, in the eagerness to catch at this phantom, had forgot the following explanation, (a) "I think, however, that it appears from practice, that an injection will often have almost an immediate effect upon the symptoms, therefore they must have some power;" and further, (b) "as many injections immediately, or at least soon after the application, remove the symptoms, and prevent the formation of matter, &c."

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If

(x) Foot, p. 86.

(y) Hunter, p. 74.

(z) Foot, p. 87.

(a) Hunter, p. 76.

(b) Hunter, 77.

If I err not, this proof of delinquency shews a determined resolution to cavil at every thing Mr. Hunter says, for here are two pages of useless declamation, a repetition of what has been more than once attended to before, and as frequently answered, so as really to become irksome : I shall only once more remark, that mercury is not a specific for a gonorrhœa, as we can cure the complaint without it. From the tenour of Mr. Foot's Observations, one would be tempted to suppose that he has but one form, or remedy, for all venereal complaints, constitutions, ages, and circumstances ; so that his, if infallible, must be a specific. But unfortunately for him, these are not the days of credulity, and the want of consistency in him, weakens one's faith, especially after an avowed incapacity to comprehend the merits of the work in question. (c) (d) He says, Mr. Hunter assumes such a system as he knows nothing *simile aut secundum* to it. I am unwilling to irritate his feelings, by urging this matter so much as his conduct towards Mr. Hunter deserves ; my sympathy is raised for his situation :

(c) Foot, p. 81, 83, & 95.

(d) Idem, p. 89.

ation : shall therefore leave him to reconcile the absurdity of pretending to censure what he does not comprehend ; the confession is the greatest, and I might add the only mark of candour we have hitherto met with ; and though it weakens the evidence of his remarks, and excites our concern, that a professional man should have so wasted his time, and misapplied his talents, yet some degree of resentment is united with our pity, to see him still persist in holding out such partial, imperfect, and mutilated quotations, that if we took his word, might be said to countenance his assertions, and prove Mr. Hunter's theory, not only the most abstruse, but the most complex and absurd that ever was fostered by man. However, justice requires us to advert to the original work, that by comparing the extracts with Mr. Hunter, the conduct of Mr. Foot may be exposed in a suitable light.

In the present section there is an ample scope for animadversion ; and it may not be amiss to put (e) Mr. Foot in mind, that
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(e) Foot, p. 94.

there is in general no ulcer in a gonorrhœa, therefore no analogy. Mr. Hunter's reasons for forming this opinion, are given in the quotation in part, and more fully in the paragraph following that cited; and in a note to page 36, so as to save me the trouble of noticing them here. The motive is not on account of the noxious effects of the discharge on the part, but by removing it, the medicines are allowed to come in contact with the inflamed surface, and thereby lessen the disposition to absorption. Besides, Mr. Hunter never says that the neighbouring parts are exempt, or that the matter cannot act by lodging on the surface of the urethra in its passage, so as to increase and possibly extend its specific action, which the frequent application of the injection will obviate, as cleanliness does the Erysipelatous affection, that attacks the neighbouring parts of old ulcers.

Mr. Foot observes, (*f*) " that he is at a loss to determine which of the five words, *but, probably, seldom, happen, and believe,*
Mr.

(*f*) Foot, page 95.

Mr. Hunter is the most indebted to." The remarking this invidious attack may be thought ill natured in me at the first view, and an exception to my declaration of avoiding every thing personal; but a little reflection will obviate the supposition, though I acknowledge it was not worth a reply, for every reader will naturally deem their adoption a mark of diffidence or modesty, a virtue that would not have disgraced even Mr. Foot, but would have taught him to deliver his dogmas in a tone more consistent with his talents, situation, and former (g) professions, and have instilled such a share of candour as to permit Mr. Hunter to deliver his own sentiments without his polishing hand. I have before objected to this liberty he takes, of marring Mr. Hunter's opinion, though I can allow it might for once have been casual; but that the repetition should, is rather improbable. He further adds, "they are his coat of armour." Now this shews him a discrete warrior, for none but madmen heedlessly throw off their armour, and neglect their guard, in an engagement: does not every
swordsmen

swordsmen endeavour to parry his adversary's attack, whilst he is watching to make a home thrust himself? And however the contrary conduct may please Mr. Foot's singularity, he would find few to agree with him; for such a conduct could not arise from true courage, but would be temerity in the extreme. To drop the metaphor, we are in reasonings to judge of the propriety of a measure from the force, justness, and cogency of the arguments advanced, rather than by the positiveness with which they are delivered.

I am glad Mr. Foot (*b*) now confesses what has been before remarked, that he is incapable of extricating us out of the chaos he has himself created, and obliged us to recur to Mr. Hunter for the clue of his own Observations. What a misfortune, that he does not possess the power of elucidating subjects so well as he does of confounding them! On his own account (*i*) he has to regret, that in expanding the leaves before us, he has exchanged

(*b*) Foot, p. 95.

(*i*) Idem, p. 98.

or forfeited the title of a reputable practitioner, for that of a feeble, illiberal critic, in attacking opinions he professes not to understand, and reducing himself to the consequent necessity of disingenuously stating Mr. Hunter's arguments, to support the shadow of reasoning, and of substituting sarcasms instead of facts, endeavouring thereby to lessen the merit of Mr. Hunter's performance, condemning the Treatise as inutile. However, notwithstanding Mr. Foot's *fiat*, I shall not scruple to aver with confidence, and fear not being supported by the testimony of better judges than either of us, that it abounds with more useful information, conveys a better theory of the disease, and a superior *rationale* of the action of remedies, than any we are acquainted with, the method of cure being treated of on that extended scale as does credit to the enlarged views and genius of its Author. It is true, there is nothing for the quack, but the judicious practitioner may receive considerable benefit; though, since it is a human frailty to err, we are not to expect perfection. There may be some trivial opinions, that when tried by the test of ex-

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perience,

perience; may be overturned, though nothing that Mr. Foot has hitherto advanced is capable of weakening their evidence, nor is any idea advanced that does not deserve our serious consideration.

OF THE TREATMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION
IN THE CURE OF THE GONORRHOEA.

(k) **T**HE objection stated after the quotation from Mr. Hunter, is, that no further notice being taken of this, he presumes that the whole venereal concern was at an end; yet the only instance where he ever saw a gonorrhœa disappear in this manner, the consequence was, that the patient endured the most confirmed *lues venerea* that he ever saw. Though I doubt not the fact, yet it is no exception, nor does it weaken Mr. Hunter's evidence; on the contrary, it is a confirmation of his subsequent words, (l) "In others I have seen all the symptoms of the gonorrhœa stop
by

(k) Foot, p. 98.

(l) Hunter, p. 85.

by the coming on of a fever, and return again when it went off." (m) "Although a fever does not always cure a gonorrhœa, yet as it may, nothing should be done while the fever lasts; and if it continues after the fever is gone, it is then to be treated according to the symptoms." But Mr. Foot says, the issue of his patient proves directly the reverse of Mr. Hunter's opinion, (n) "that no two actions can take place in the same constitution at the same time;" yet unfortunately for him, the latter says, (o) "the *lues* and the *small-pox* may exist together;" that is, parts of the body may have been contaminated by the venereal poison, and the small-pox may take place, and both may appear together, but not in the same parts; that he supposes a fever produces the suspension, or cure of a gonorrhœa;" and Mr. Foot unaccountably admits, that perhaps he is right; but immediately after, as though he had repented of the concession, and was perplexed, or as if halting between belief and doubt, asks, "Does Mr. Hunter pretend to say,
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(m) Hunter, p. 85.

(n) Idem, p. 2.

(o) Idem, p. 2.

that the *virus* was dormant whilst it was absorbing from the urethra into the habit? The question is worded in such a questionable manner as hardly to deserve an answer; it betrays an unpardonable want of attention: but least it should be thought I was quibbling about expressions rather than replying to facts, or what might be supposed was Mr. Foot's meaning, I shall not shrink from the assertion, that here the latter disease destroyed the local action of the gonorrhœa. Even the case related by Mr. Foot proves the suspension, though after the fever ceased it might recover its action, and absorption then taking place, would produce the *lues venerea*; indeed, if not put an end to, would not the relaxed or enfeebled habit which ensues after fevers, predispose to such an event?

Mr. Foot says, (*p*) "that a mercurial injection is a specific in the cure of a gonorrhœa." Though I have replied to this question before, I must add, that I am so confident of the impropriety of using a mercurial injection indiscriminately, that I
 stake

stake my credit on the justness of a contrary practice. Wherever there is either this extreme susceptibility in the parts, a pre-disposition to a very high degree of the specific action, or the irritable inflammation, as Mr. Hunter calls it, is present, a quieting, rather than irritating plan, cannot be inculcated too often for the patient's good; and this disposition of the parts or system may very often be discovered from the patient's account, either from some former infection, or the violence and peculiarity of the present symptoms; yet I readily agree with Mr. Foot, that frequently his practice may be eligible, and as far as my experience leads, always successful, if made use of as a prophylactic, though it deserves not the name of a specific in a gonorrhœa, as other remedies are equally advantageous: and when Mr. Foot says, under every circumstance, (g) "that the cure is only made more difficult and important from procrastination, by permitting the *virus* to extend its ill effects, and by widening the inflammatory surface," I am induced to ask him, if such serious consequences arise from
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(g) Foot, p. 101.

its omission for a short time, how it is we are enabled to cure a gonorrhœa without the aid of mercury?

(r) OF THE TREATMENT OF OCCASIONAL SYMPTOMS OF GONORRHOEA.

MR. FOOT seems to misconceive the opinion given by Mr. Hunter, who recommends the remedies immediately applicable to these accidental symptoms, as adjuncts or appendages to his plan, without considering them as venereal, because equally liable to occur from any other irritation. (s) Mr. Foot's observations on electricity, I can cordially second, as strictly conformable to my own ideas.

(r) Foot, p. 102.

(s) Idem, p. 104.

OF THE TREATMENT OF THE AFFECTIONS
OF THE BLADDER.

AFTER the quotation from Mr. Hunter, Mr. Foot adds, (t) “ but with me it is more than conjecture. This is one of the local evils out of many more, not to mention those that arise from absorption, that will most certainly succeed from neglected gonorrhœa, or from such as are abandoned to their own cure.”

It is almost needless in me to repeat again, that Mr. Hunter, from his practice, teaches us not to depend on what may happen, but recommends the most approved method of cure ; then why repeat the circumstance so often? It cannot be forgot, what has been so frequently answered, nor will the invariable adoption of a mercurial injection under all circumstances, from the first, secure us any more against this attack, than cure it alone ; especially, if de-
pending

(t) Foot, p. 105.

pending on the absorption of the poison; because it cannot, if we were to admit it to be a specific, reach the cause. I have tried it, and am so far from conceiving it calculated either universally to prevent or cure, that I have seen it take place under the practice, and strongly suspect that it sometimes aggravates the disease, whereas a sedative anodyne plan immediately gives relief.

OF THE TREATMENT OF THE SWELLED
TESTICLE.

(u) **I** PERFECTLY agree with Mr. Foot, that let men alone who set off upon a wrong theory, and they will entangle themselves; for the truth that he has effected this prediction, I appeal to the candid reader, and adduce the evidence of past facts.

The paragraphs before us are disingenuously stated, and mutilated with the same
invidious

(u) Foot, p. 108.

invidious view as those before remarked; but if we take the whole of the paragraphs, they tend to explain themselves; indeed we should attend to each entire section, to see the scope of Mr. Hunter's reasoning. In page 58 he says, "the swelling of the testicle has several peculiarities; it is often quick in its increase, and not being of the true inflammatory disposition, it requires less time for the removal of the inflammation and tumefaction than when proceeding from other causes." The same remark is made in page 92; yet the different periods of time in which the hardness ceases, depend often on the treatment, but more on the constitution than the nature of the *virus*. After the repeated liberties taken with Mr. Hunter's words, which I have pointed out, the declaration from Mr. Foot, that (*u*) "if he were invidiously to seek for contradictions, he should despair of coming ever to a conclusion," is not, I think, singularly opportune; for if the assertion was well supported, why has he so studiously endeavoured to misrepresent? Facts and declarations are against each other; and I

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(*u*) Foot, p. 108.

defy Mr. Foot to reconcile his conduct with his professions in page 32, where he says, " I trust that my readers will not attribute any quotations that I make to a desire of trespassing on their patience, or of swelling this pamphlet; nor am I ambitious, however highly I respect the talents of Mr. Hunter in general, of idly ingrafting into my humble performance what so particularly belongs here to him. But that Mr. Hunter may not have a wrong construction put upon his meaning by me, it is as necessary to my character and to his own, as to the cause of truth."

I have now gone through the First Part of Mr. Foot's (x) Observations, and as far, it may be presumed, as he will wish me, or at least as becomes necessary on the present subject: for if I have been successful, my Reply will shew the inutility of his Observations on the Gonorrhœa, and enable the reader to form a pretty correct judgement of the remaining parts of his performance, the present being a prototype of the others; and if otherwise, that I have failed of my
end,

(x) Foot, p. 109.

end, it is more than enough of a fruitless essay. The illiberality of the language, I must once more repeat, is such as no error (either real or supposed) of Mr. Hunter's could justify; nor can I conceive what affinity there can exist between a gonorrhœa and a pack of cards, flight of hand tricks, a sober game of whist, a horse race, a jockey, or the whistling of a groom, &c. These are idle conceits, and betray a depraved taste. Nor can I reconcile, either to delicacy or propriety, that solace or consummate vanity with which he encircles himself on his present Essay; he might at least have waited till an impartial Public had decided on its merits. If the laudable love of fame, or really the desire of opposing any injurious innovations, had been his motive, he ought to have divested himself of prejudice, to have been cool, dispassionate, and argumentative, instead of being intemperate and abusive. Against the authority of *Johnson* on Sympathy, I have given sufficient testimony to overturn his single opinion; and it can therefore be no breach of charity to suppose, that he might not attend to the full extent or meaning of one word, when we

know that there are a many in our language which are not to be found in him: and I doubt not, that whenever a new lexicon comes out, that it will fully establish the construction given by medical Authors; and as neither *South* nor *Locke* were either of them lexiographers or professional men, their authorities cannot be decisive (y).

If I have uttered any expressions in the course of my Reply, repugnant to decency and personal respect, I beg my Reader's forgiveness, assuring him that it was foreign from my intention: for, however I have succeeded, I have been sedulous in avoiding the error, and am certain, that I have sacrificed sometimes a share of the force of my argument to the wish of obviating it; though it is impossible not to feel an interest in what one has undertaken to defend; and, unfortunately, I cannot at all times command a stoical apathy: so that I may with all my care, have, unfortunately,

(y) To the authorities already given on *Sympathy*, I beg leave to recommend to the candid attention of unprejudiced minds, an ingenious Treatise wrote by *Dr. Seguin Henry Jackson*, which I had not the pleasure of meeting with till my present Essay was nearly printed off.

fortunately, expressed my disapprobation of the glaring disingenuity which I have so frequently pointed out, in rather too strong colouring.

On Mr. Foot's account, I have to regret the necessity, and really *sympathize* with him for his situation, that no friendly monitor was near to point out this *Charybdis* to him, but permit him to waste his time, and run the risque of forfeiting his friends by such an ill-judged measure.

F I N I S.

I have been thinking of you
and of my friends to whom I have to
report and of the things
concerning them.

On Mr. Hart's account I have to report
the matter and really I am sure
that he is right. It is very
important to me to know the
truth in this matter and I
shall be glad to hear of
it.

