

**A letter addressed by permission to the Right Honourable Lord Wrottesley,
President of the Royal Society, concerning lithotomy / by Thomas
Gutteridge.**

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A LETTER

ADDRESSED BY PERMISSION

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LORD WROTTESLEY,

PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

CONCERNING

LITHOTOMY,

BY

THOMAS GUTTERIDGE,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.



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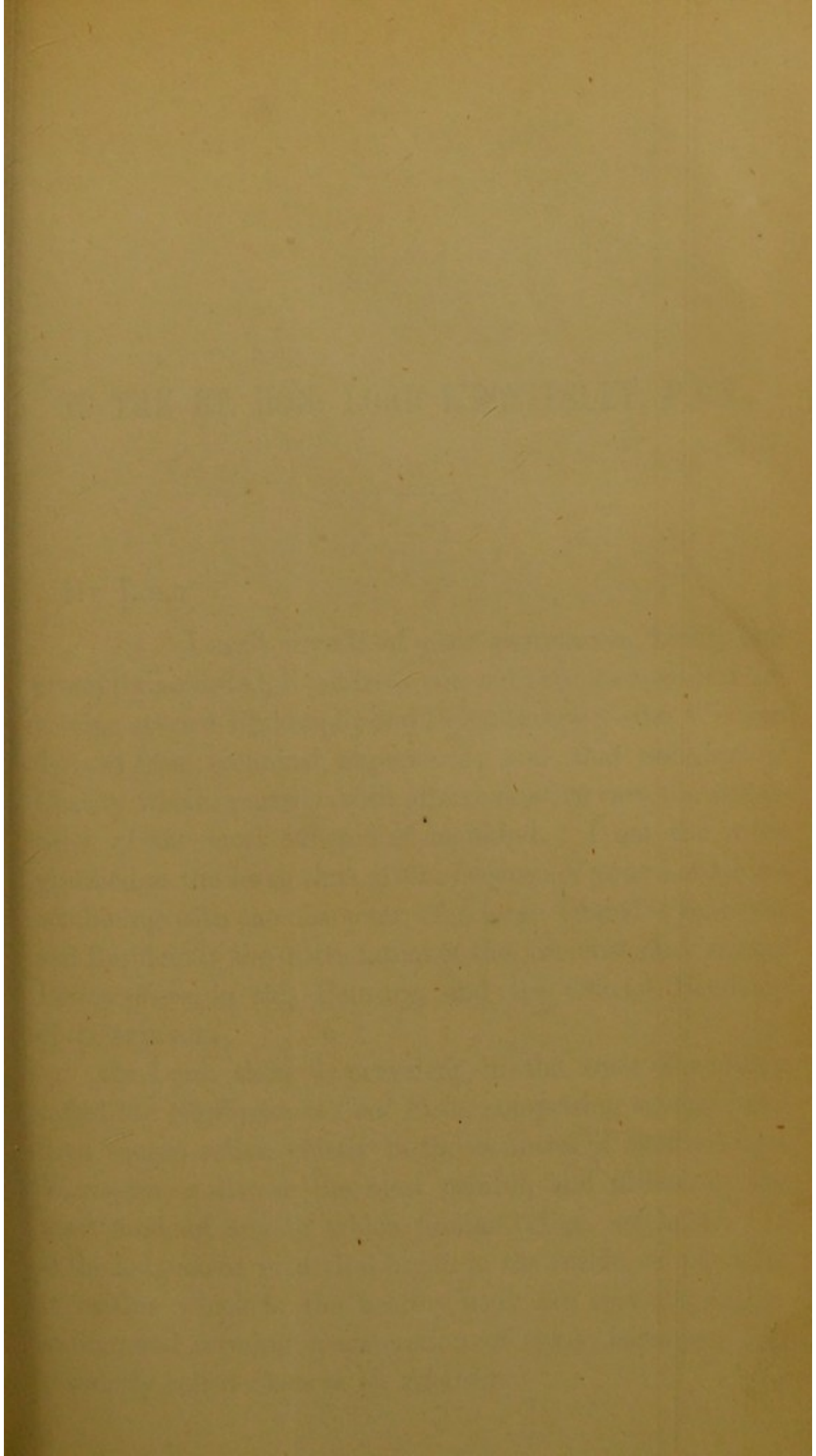
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TO THE HON. LORD WHITBREAD, BARR.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the Act relating to the duties on spirits, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. M. [Signature]

TO THE RT. HON. LORD WROTTESLEY, P.R.S.,

MY LORD,

I avail myself of your permission, kindly and promptly accorded, to address you publicly on a subject involving at once Philosophy and Philanthropy;—the Wisdom derived from technical experience; and that enlightened Charity which regards with discriminative care the necessities of the most afflicted of mankind. I am the more gratified at the leave thus given, because of your Lordship's combining with the character of a large landed Proprietor and Resident in the district, that of the foremost rank among Philosophers in this Country, and the Official Headship of its SCIENCE.

My Lord, there is prevalent in the tract of country called the *Staffordshire Coal Field*, comprising several hundred square miles, chiefly in the counties of Stafford and Worcester, a disease the most painful, and ultimately the most fatal, of any to which human beings are liable. It is the lodgement in a vital organ in the inside, of particles of matter which in the healthy body are cast out, aggregating, and forming a concretion of stony hardness, and popularly called *Stone in the Bladder*.

This awful disease is known by historical records to have been experienced in almost every age and every clime. For its relief means have been discovered, how at first it is impossible to divine,—whereby the human body was cut open alive, by a process of frightful severity, and the Stone drawn forth. Sometimes the sufferer survived, and regained perfect health: such result was hailed as a prodigy of success. For more than two thousand years has this process been the resource of the afflicted; and the only effectual means acknowledged, whereby the Science of Medicine could alleviate the sufferer's pangs.

In the ages intervening between the Decline of the Roman Empire and the Revival of Letters, in the 15th Century, History is silent, or at least unheard, on the subject of this particular process. There did however arise in France, at the close of that period, a project for the removal of Stone, wherein the living body was opened, not as anciently at the breech, but in the lower region of the belly. In our own country this method was employed by the Chirurgeons of those days, alternately with the debased and cruel one of the time, and so continued to be, until the commencement of the last century. About that time there appeared, also in France, an itinerant Friar, who, rejecting both methods, revived the ancient process, but with a modification, and with mechanical appliances, which secured success far beyond the common amount. He was not, indeed, the first inventor of it; but certainly the one that brought it into vogue. Let it suffice to say that the method was essentially new, and adapted to the adult as well as to the young, a respect in which the ancient method fell short.

This singular genius, by name *Jacobus de Beaulieu*,—or, more commonly, *Frere Jacques*—so benevolent, so devoted, and so indefatigable, must not have his name

suppressed in any writing relating to Lithotomy. Every vicissitude of which this operation seems capable, he experimentally proved: the most brilliant successes and dismal reverses characterised his matchless career of *four thousand five hundred cases*, and an European fame never before equalled. Wonderfully dexterous and intrepid, yet frugal and self-denying from religious principle, he redeemed the vow that kept him ever on the confines of poverty: and when at length he died in a good old age, deserved, as much as saint or martyr ever did do, the grateful remembrance of Mankind, and the *requiescat* of Posterity.

The feats of this person, at first so obscure and illiterate, having more resemblance to sleight of hand than to the deliberate and rationalized manœuvres of the trained surgeon, attracted public notice. The Learned, the People, the Court, were struck with astonishment at his cures; for the severity of the disease, the frequency of its occurrence, and the dread of the then accepted operation for its horrible torture and mortal result, rendered the subject one of engrossing interest, beyond anything which it is possible for us, in this country, and in our own times, adequately to conceive. Royal Commissioners were delegated to investigate the Friar's proceedings, and to report their discoveries; while foreign countries, and among them very conspicuously our own, watched with anxious solicitude the result. A new and unprecedented operation being thus established in public confidence, it became an object to extend its benefits to sufferers everywhere. In Holland, the distinguished Surgeon, RAW, appears to have apprehended aright the Empiric's method, and to have imitated his process with even more fortunate issues. He is reputed to have operated upon three thousand persons, and to have cured a larger proportion of them than was ever known before: and yet,

with a selfishness and reserve, contrasting most execrably with the artlessness and candour of the benevolent Friar, he refused to impart his exact procedure to any, even of his most favoured pupils, and carried his secret with him to the grave.

The clue to this labyrinth being thus lost through the inhuman apathy of one who had been himself rewarded in his life-time with wealth and honours, thousands of lives were sacrificed in practical guesses at the true way of getting safely at the stone. In England, the greatest surgeon of his time—CHESELDEN—tried with the help of hearsay accounts to recover the track of RAW ; but so much at fault were the observers of RAW's action, so absolutely in the dark as to the real working of his hand, that his mistaken Imitator, excellent anatomist as he was, saw four out of his ten patients expire.

In this dolorous emergency and forlorn extremity, the English surgeon, distinguished ever by a tenderly compassionate disposition, allied with high endowments of mind and rich acquirements of knowledge, applied himself to the study of the subject ; and, taking as his basis the method reported to him of the poor unpretending Friar, devised, in no long time, and with at least one great modification afterwards, that method which all countries at once hailed with delight ; and in gratitude and honour to the Discoverer called, and continue to call to this day, the ENGLISH OPERATION.

By a fatality marvellous to contemplate, this accomplished man, admired and beloved by the wise and the good, and associated in familiar intercourse with the Worthies of England's Augustan age, gave to the world, along with his other scientific writings, an account of this his all-famous operation, so meagre, and so obscure, as soon to become

ambiguous to his contemporaries, and to his successors, even unintelligible on some of its chief points. With no description of his instruments, with no model of them preserved, with no drawing of his manipulation, and no reliable account of his general manner, we were brought nearly to the state of incertitude in which we were formerly left by RAW; the great saving consideration being, that CHESELDEN's method of operating had been so candidly imparted to those about him, as to render the oral tradition more to be depended upon, than even his own written record.

For nearly a Century, the vices of the exploded method which existed antecedently to the appearance of the French Friar, infected the performance of this operation: and not till Sir ASTLEY COOPER, to whom Surgery is under unspeakable obligations, devised the corrective, did Lithotomy emerge from the darkness in which it had been shrouded so long.

Stranger however it is, that even now there should exist no standard of authority on all, or even most, of the chief points, to which the Surgeons of this or any other country defer. Treatises there are many, very many, yet so characterized by diversity of opinion as to make their perusal far less likely to produce conviction and confidence, than vacillation and distrust. Even the observation of the Practice of surgeons most successful during the last thirty years, is keenly debated; and different conclusions demanded concerning common and patent facts. Scarcely has the hand of the great LISTON stiffened in death, than a dispute arises as to *the way in which he held his knife*; and arguments and proofs urged with deplorable acrimony, to support conflicting statements and justify opposite views.

It is melancholy to see a surgical procedure transcending all others in importance,—one invested with an interest

beyond any other for antiquity and historical associations, and one, moreover, concerning which more has been written, said, and done, than on all the rest of Surgery besides, thus indeterminately stated ;—it is melancholy, I cannot but say, that there is no work of established authority which comprises the principles of theory and practice in this department of the Healing Art.

On the continent of Europe, the diversity of opinion seems quite as great: I can believe it even greater. Whence this discordancy—this contrariety of tenets, in a matter wherein many facts are of unchangeable character, and the conditions comprehended within the range of the Senses, and the scope of Natural Philosophy?

My Lord, I believe I can answer the question here propounded,—propounded by the subject in its broad relations, although endited by myself. It comes chiefly from the *looseness of terms*, so far as they are employed ; and in particular, from the vague manner in which the facts of anatomical structure, of mechanical appliance, and manual action, are described:—in short, it comes from the *imperfection of language*.

To abstain from refining on the departmental arrangements of medical practice, and to employ the simplest words for stating my purpose; the *make* of the body is the Anatomist's concern ; the *disorder of health* it is the Physician's task to discover and to rectify ; while, in cases needing the *help of the hand* for their relief, the appropriate minister is the Surgeon. In the case of Lithotomy, above all others, these several requisites must be combined and centred in one and the same person.

Such a thing as a mass of hard matter existing in a vital organ, as for instance *stone in the bladder*, cannot be dealt with, except by its removal by mechanical means, from

the animal system. According to all experience, and certainly with extremely few exceptions, a stone in the bladder, once formed, must go on increasing, until it produces dreadful distress, and at last kills. The *extraction* of the stone, therefore, is indispensable to the relief of suffering, and the preservation of life.

Within the present century, mechanical means have been devised for the destruction of the stone, by breaking it to pieces in the inside, and reducing it to such small fragments as may pass away with the current of water, by the natural channel. Great success has attended this method: and yet, such are its difficulties and attendant evils, especially the pain and even danger to life, inseparable from it, that only a small proportion of cases can be prudently brought under its operation. It is then an incontrovertible fact, that the ingenious and clever reduction of the stone to dust, within the living body, can never be hoped for as the general means of relief; and that consequently the necessity for the Cutting Operation can never be absolutely superseded. *Lithotomy*, therefore, will continue to be, what it has been for thousands of years, the only resource in the larger number of cases wherein human beings suffer from this most painful of all maladies.

My Lord, I have been called upon in the course of professional duty to treat this disease by the performance of Lithotomy on a large number of persons, mostly in the Staffordshire Coal Field. The sufferers have been of all ages, and almost all of them the very poor. The result far exceeds the usual proportion of success; and, taken in connection with the condition of the sufferers, and the circumstances in which the Operator was placed, constitutes a remarkable epoch in the history of this most interesting and celebrated operation. *I have operated upon one hundred persons, and have failed to cure only four.*

When it is considered that Lithotomy was once justly regarded as the terrible alternative of precarious life or agonizing death;—that survival necessarily involved a previous infliction, the most severe that human nature could endure; and that failure happened in half the instances in which it was attempted, and was accompanied with torments only less distressing to the sympathizing Surgeon than to the sufferer himself;—when it is remembered that under better auspices, successes, occasionally great, were alternated by failures proportionately disastrous;—that CHESELDEN, at one time, lost four out of ten, and afterwards saved thirty in succession;—that the average of cures in the Hospitals of England, during the present Century, may be fairly stated as four out of five cases; and the results in private practice, the true statistics of which can never be accurately known, exhibit a still more startling discrepancy;—when the diversity of proportion (still speaking of private practice) ranges from a curative result of ninety-six per cent., as in my own case; to that of twelve instances that I could count, within my own personal knowledge, wherein attempts by different Surgeons acting under a false persuasion of the ease with which the operation could be performed, were followed by an unbroken series of deaths;—when these things are duly pondered, it cannot fail to be allowed, however difficult it may be to explain the reason why, that a felicitous issue depends less upon the *circumstances* under which Lithotomy is performed, than upon the *manner in which the Surgeon executes it*.

The happy results of my own experience, so far surpassing as they do the usual ones, form a great justification for believing myself capable of bringing some of the disputed points to a decisive issue. The early study of Lithotomy in one of the best schools in this kingdom, where I enjoyed unusual opportunities of witnessing both

good and bad operations; and afterwards, in the unfortunate cases, of investigating most fully the causes of failure, originated a habit of contemplation, which, with subsequent researches, enabled me to frame a theory, which it is not presumptuous to say is a sound one, seeing that the *speculations have been established by the most extraordinary successes in practice*. I confidently believe that History furnishes no parallel to the execution of a speculative scheme of this perilous nature, wherein a commencing series of thirty-four persons, of all ages and conditions, were put through this process without a single death. Yet such was indeed the case. Of the four who died of the whole hundred I have treated, one sank from causes quite apart from the operation; he having lived to the nineteenth day, and being nearly cured. Another, the sixty-sixth of the series, sank, after thirteen days, from bleeding, ascribable to deficient restorative power. The third, a man of broken health, and on whom I had refused, half a year before, to operate at all, and yet towards whom I felt bound, on grounds of humanity alone, to extend my best help, declaredly in opposition to a manifest improbability of success, and prudent regard to my own reputation. And the fourth, a child, in whom the relief from the operation was so complete as to render him able, the whole day after his deliverance, to amuse himself as when in health, and then, mysteriously, in twelve hours after, expired.

These four very questionable exceptions to uniform success in the practice of Lithotomy, derogate from the credit of my method as a perfect one, the less when there is taken into account the collective circumstances in which I myself have been placed. The active career of fourteen years, following upon the meditative period of the previous twenty-one, was chequered by events as much varied and

distractive of mind, as perhaps ever before occurred to any individual. Not in "academic shades and learned halls" were the feats of the earlier third of this series accomplished: by no "travelling fellowship" of a wealthy and famous University was this long pilgrimage made—this region of science practically explored: not in the *otium cum dignitate* of pecuniary competency and learned ease did I cogitate: not in the course of prosperous and lucrative practice were these surgical exploits done: but under conditions most fearfully the opposite of "divine oblivion of low-thoughted care."

Debarred^a access to the great provincial Infirmary in which my noviciate was passed, and which was the *Alma Mater* I regarded with filial respect;—refused entrance thereto, although I possessed a strong personal claim, had exhibited unusual proofs of competency, and acquired a legal right;—debarred by a system so unprincipled as to compel me to lay bare its corruptions with unshrinking hand, and to cover with confusion, if not with shame, the perpetrators of the outrage and the fraud; I was left to exercise my professional calling in the private chambers of sickness. My operations were, many of them, performed in the cheerless hovels of the poor. The assistance of a Staff of faithful and devoted colleagues, for aid and counsel, was never mine. The superb equipments of a well-furnished Hospital were not at my command. The store of comforts, in the shape of delicate food and experienced nursing, which render recovery from illness a sort of luxury, I myself had often to supply. A House of reception for cases of extreme wretchedness I supported by providing every requisite at my own expense. And lastly, I may aver, that considerations of duty to the fellow-creatures entrusted to my care—a sense of high

honour that I was bound, at whatever sacrifice, to carry them through—entailed upon me not seldom, in addition to inevitable toil and ceaseless anxiety for their well-doing, severe exercises of self-denial.

These things are mentioned, not for the purpose of parading them, but of claiming credit for my method of operating, as a sound one, because successful amidst influences which must have unfitted me, or any man not accustomed to look up and to look on, by destroying his equanimity;—thereby absolutely disabling him from the performance of a process wherein profound knowledge and the most matured skill would fail to save, unless their possessor were likewise imperturbably composed and serene.

The method I have acquired I desire to promulgate. It has no pretension to mysterious peculiarity: it is simple in its parts, and clearly demonstrable. There is nothing in it of knack or trick. The mechanical means include several improvements, contrived by myself, on the instruments ordinarily in use. While calculated to diminish to the lowest point the risk of miscarriage during their employment, they yet are each one of them wholly subservient to the governing mind. There is no affected complication on which reliance is placed for superseding manual skill. My operation consists of a due combination of *incisions of parts ascertained by extended experience to be capable of being safely severed, and of implements with which the successive stages may be most surely, and with least danger, accomplished.* I have, if I understand myself aright, eliminated *order, simplicity, and precision,* out of a chaos of elements—discordant notions and diverse practices that have long existed, and which still prevail.

Holding in abhorrence the example of RAW, I have ever

been both ready and solicitous to impart my method to my professional brethren, and have always felt their presence at my operations at once an assistance and a compliment. I should do them injustice, as well as put a painful constraint upon my own impulses, were I not to record the kind sympathy I have received at their hands; and their generous efforts to multiply my opportunities, and facilitate my pursuits.

The attempt to learn Lithotomy by observation alone, is almost as unavailing as hoping to rival a musical performer by seeing him play. *The sharpest eyes in Europe were employed for years in watching RAW'S manœuvre, and yet with no result but an illusive idea.* While Humanity grieves, and HIPPOCRATES himself might burn with indignation, and crimson with shame, that Medicine should ever have had for a minister one, of whom it may be said, by no extravagant figure of speech, that he died; not of Stone in the Bladder, but with Stone in the Heart; *my* resolve is, that no effort shall be wanting with me to make the knowledge I possess available wherever human suffering exists, and to diminish, to the lowest amount, the perils of this dangerous operation.

My Lord, the way in which publication has been made in past times of projects conducive through scientific means to the benefit of mankind, has been almost exclusively by Public Bodies or by Royal influence. In England, this has been done in a very especial manner by the ROYAL SOCIETY, and with a success worthy of its high renown. In later times it has been done either by autographic Essays, or the pervading channels of periodical Magazines. In the case of Lithotomy such means are insufficient. *That the French knew a hundred and thirty years ago:* not trusting to any narrative, however true

and complete, they sent their most distinguished man of science on an Embassy to this country, with almost State credentials and formalities, to learn CHESELDEN'S method. So long ago did the enlightened of that country—earnest ever in the solution of this great problem—perceive that the conveyance of knowledge on this subject to be perfect, must be, not oral, written, or graphic only, or all of them put together, but *demonstrative, and transmissible as it were from hand to hand*.

I feel assured that the method I practice *can* be made clearly intelligible, I will not say to the “meanest capacity,” but that it can be imparted to the instructed, and can be perpetuated with all the definite and legible exposition of a mathematical demonstration. I desire it to be very especially borne in mind that I do not pretend to teach *Lithotomy made easy*: what I engage to make known is, the means by which I have been able to attain my own successes; and to inculcate the rules for making *Lithotomy*, comparatively with the method of others, *safe*. To divest the operation of dangers inherent in it, and inseparable from it, I do not affect. I do not underestimate those dangers, nor do I disregard its difficulties: rather, I lay emphasis upon them as being real, more and more as I contemplate Lithotomy; and for that reason provide to the utmost of my power for surmounting the difficulties and diminishing the risks of what I declare to be indeed the hazardous and eventful enterprise it has ever been regarded.

The particular means of doing this are, firstly, a full and clear statement of the process of safely making way into the bladder, and of the manner of drawing the stone forth. This, printed and circulated throughout the civilised world, would disseminate the principles I have to

impart. The distributing copies of my Instruments would give a more unmistakeable idea of them than any verbal description or graphical representation, accompanied, as I wish they should be, by *Sun-pictures*, for the sake of their unerring truthfulness of representation, of the several stages of the process. Then the Demonstration, while my powers are matured, and before they become impaired, of the manner in which I use the instruments, made before parties desirous of full satisfaction on the subject, would go far to complete the promulgation. Such Evidences in the shape of narrative, and geometrical plans and models (recourse being ever capable of being made to unchanging anatomical relations of parts), would ensure for this operation an enduring Memorial almost as indestructible as the hieroglyphics of Egypt, the tablets of Nineveh, or the Astronomical diagrams of ancient days "graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever."

For the execution of this design large pecuniary means are indispensable. The very writing of the account would require some considerable period of time, during which, seclusion from other pursuits would be necessary. The preparation of the Sun-pictures would occupy much time, and must in some instances await special opportunity. The multiplication of copies would be costly, and when done could not be expected to make a profitable return. In this country, works of science never *pay*, unless associated with the gainful pursuits of manufactures or commerce. The forty per Cent. deducted from the selling price by Publishers is also a most serious discouragement. The providing specimens of my Instruments to be lodged in the Capitals and Universities of this country, and the Capitals of nations abroad, would also involve a considerable outlay of money; and the distribution of them along

with the printed account, and any supplementary form of illustration that might be deemed useful, would be further expensive.

I look at France—sensitive, ingenious, intellectual, chivalrous France—and there find its ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, ever zealous and active in the promotion of Knowledge. For hundreds of years has that distinguished Body directed its energies to the furtherance of projects involving philosophical research and public benefit. For those objects Royal countenance was never withheld, and National riches never wanting. Of all the matters that have experienced its solicitude and received its aid, none is more remarkable than the means of relieving this awful malady. So truly national was this Operation deemed, that its Practice was made the subject of a State appointment, and the holder of the office designated *Lithotomist to the King*. To France then, as the precursor in this enquiry, and to its Imperial Chief—all-observant of whatever relates to humanity and to civilization, and who, when resident in this country, deigned to evince a curious interest in this very operation—is it especially due to requite her exertions with the result of a process which she originated, and which we have elaborated and matured. By no means can the welfare of the two countries be more worthily promoted than by a free interchange of the fruits of humane and scientific research. *War* may have its amenities, its generous episodes, which redeem in some sort the reproach cast upon Humanity in Christian Lands: this was shown in the ever-memorable instance that occurred when Hostility was raging with internecine fury between nations, for centuries foes, but now, happily, not more neighbours than friends. The EMPEROR NAPOLEON THE FIRST, with a magnanimity which raised him above

even the glory of his mighty Conquests, and entitled him truly to the appellation of GREAT, conferred the highest mark of honour he could bestow on the great Chemist of the Age—SIR HUMPHREY DAVY—a famous predecessor of your Lordship in the high office you hold. By no surer bond can the amity of the two Nations be consolidated than honourable rivalry in doing good. *Peace* has its victories as well as *War*. Henceforward be the strife who shall conquer most on behalf of Humanity; and who endeavour most to exalt an alliance of Peoples, and community of interests, into a confederacy for reciprocal benefit and the aggrandizement of both!

In England, far-sighted men, whether Inventors or Projectors, have mostly been left to pursue their discoveries, or broach their views, without external aid. It seems to have been, in this Country, settled that the Sons of Science should find a bleak abode, and be required to undergo the proof of hardihood by making their journey in the “cold shade;” working out their enterprise in search of far-distant truths by their own strength, and labouring unassisted and alone. In England it is that Material Wealth, joined with the Legal, the Ecclesiastical, and the Military professions, make up the Legislative Body; to the neglect of the Scientific, and especially the Medical Faculty, the most universally philanthropic, not the least learned, and the one alone absolutely unendowed. DEBRETT does not contain an instance of a member of the Medical Profession as such raised to the Peerage, while Modern France boasts her Barons DUBOIS, LARREY, CORVISART, LOUIS, ALIBERT, DUPUYTREN, HEURTELOUP, and others. In this Ennobled Brotherhood might well be included CUVIER, the Comparative Anatomist, whose inferential process—*ex pede Herculem*—proved such a thorough insight into the Animal

Organization of the Antediluvian—nay, the pre-Adamite World, as almost to make it be believed that he was privy to the Councils of Creation.

The great names of English Philosophy, with scarcely an exception, are enrolled among Nature's Nobility alone. That Sublime Sagacity which made BACON an imperishable name, and the latter-age counterpart of the Wisest of Men, did indeed irradiate the highest place beneath the Crown; while the trammels of office formed the means of disclosing that frailty in him which made the only spot on the Sun of his majestic fame. HARVEY, whose profound discoveries will have eternized his name and borne it to remotest ages with that of the Father of Physic, took rank exclusively among the Demi-divine Intelligences that have illumined mankind. NEWTON, as the guerdon of whose peerless victories in the fields of Boundless Space, a dukedom would have been but a vulgar distinction, and a palace a poor reward, will be remembered with increasing reverence when CHURCHILL shall be confounded with the Heroes of Troy. HUNTER, whose developement of the Animal System does honour to the *New Philosophy*; and whose exposition of the Laws of Life, places him beside the Discoverer of the Law of the Material Universe, will ever receive the homage of Mankind as a Contemplative genius of Nature from an all but celestial eminence. FRANKLIN, who, proving that the Theft of PROMETHEUS might not be a fable, drew down from sky to earth the Bolts of JOVE; and haply, with prophetic ken, descried the annihilation of time and space, in the transmission of thought with the speed of light, left the *Old Country* to dwell far beyond *Ultima Thule* and the Watery Waste. DAVY, whose achievements realize more than Arabian Alchymists ever dreamed, and made the desiderated transmutation of metals into gold,

worthless by comparison with the wizard touch with which he made *all* metals reducible to his will; was, *elevated* must I say? no, rather distinguished by the *lowest* rank in the Patrician Order. While WATT, in obscurity, and even penury, with a few apothecaries' vials and his tea kettle made his garret, lightened only by the beams of his genius, the Laboratory whence issued a power mightier than Archimedes ever fancied, and almost capable of effecting what the Syracusan needed another Earth to work with to antagonize this, died plain JAMES. A man whom not the wealth of the Indies could have rewarded for his services to his Country and his kind, and of whose glorious fame as the gems of Golconda could but have dimmed the sheen, left the Peerage unhonoured, by passing un-Titled into the brightest constellation of the intellectual heavens.

England, so profuse of largesses to her Military Champions, is scarcely just to her Literary and Scientific Conquerors. More than frugal—frigid even—towards her Intellectual Chiefs, she awards them posthumous fame, a historical eternity, a statue, and a sepulchre. And while to *Valour* she gives the triumph-wreath, the golden bowl, the knightly helm and sceptred pall, too often forgets, that, with the Votaries of *Philosophy*, life has its inexorable exigencies,—the passing hour its stern demands. France—martial France—wise by experience, takes to her aid in the administration of her laws, and the supply of the wants of her Polity, *all* the talent she can conciliate:—rewards and honours are the portion of her Explorators of the unknown regions of Mind. With a spirit liberal beyond the example of commercial and half-unfeudalized England, she not only composes her National Council of the Princes of the Realm, the Lords of the Soil, the great Soldiers of the Empire, and Sages of the Law, but strengthens her power, and

dorns her Senate, with her Giants in Literature and Taladins of Science.

My Lord, it is by a happy coincidence that I am enabled to bring this subject before the Public, in this part of the Kingdom, under the circumstances best calculated to ensure its due appreciation, and to obtain for it the most effectual support. In the first place, the prevalence of this dire affliction is very remarkable in this peculiar geological tract of country. Without committing myself to exact proportions, I believe that in no equal space in the British Islands, is Stone in the Bladder of such frequent occurrence as it is here. Again, the exhaustless Wealth of this portion of the Realm, in respect of its Mineral Treasures, which, indeed, transcend in value the gold and the silver of Mexico and Peru, is accompanied with a patriotic spirit, and disposition to munificence, on the part of its Proprietary, worthy of this, the richest spot, perhaps, on the face of the earth. Further, the project advanced in the preceding pages, comes recommended to the Great Owners of the Land, and to the generous and public-spirited Iron Masters in particular, by every guarantee that the subject admits of, as a just, expedient, and feasible measure. They have witnessed for themselves, in many instances, insupportable anguish changed to health and happiness by God's blessing on the work of my hands; and lives, valuable to the Community, delivered from mortal thrall, again free to enrich their Employers, and benefit their Country, by the fruits of vigorous labour. Further still, the highest Intellectual Authorities in this country, as well as in France, have for centuries sustained the view I have given of the high national importance of this singular operation. The *Philosophical Transactions* of that ROYAL SOCIETY of which your Lordship is, by common acclaim, acknowledged to be

the most worthy PRESIDENT, abound with testimonies that this Surgical Process is entitled to a distinguished place in General Science. Under these collective circumstances, then, I ask frankly and fearlessly to be enabled to accomplish a world-wide good;—to disseminate universally those principles which I have discovered, and hope to establish and perpetuate;—an object, indeed, which no single human being *could* be expected to attempt by his own exclusive means; and yet, nevertheless, one of which an *individual must be the exponent*, however assisted by collateral aid.

To be further explicit as to what it is proposed to effect:—it is to allay that dreadful apprehension of the wretched Sufferer, with which he formerly surrendered himself to a barbarous and cruel process, through which alone he could hope for riddance from the plague of his life, and that by torture ineffable, and the greatest danger of being killed;—it is to make his submission to the means of relief no longer an approach to a dismal fate, where *Life and Death were evenly poised, yet with the fearful preponderance of the loathsome and life-long infirmity which often remained as a consequence of the operation*;—it is to give a well-grounded hope of speedy and comparative painless deliverance from his distress by the ministrations of an enlightened and merciful Surgery; and that too, with a likelihood advancing towards certainty, of ensuring, not only the *salvation of his life, but also the recovery of every power and feeling that constitute perfect health*. In a season of peace and great commercial prosperity, such an effort as is needed for this purpose, on the part of those who share the teeming opulence of this favoured district, will be a task at once easy and pleasant; while the Cosmopolitan spirit that regards all Mankind as of kin, would give to Foreign Nations, and especially to our Neighbour and

Ally, a proof of universal goodwill, alike honourable to the Humanity of the Age, and contributory to the true glory of the English Name.

The question may arise, wherefore do I address myself on a subject of National interest to a local quarter, rather than to the Crown or the Parliament. I trust sufficient reasons have been given for relying very especially in the first instance upon local aid. However congenial the promotion of a scheme of Mercy at once so sacred and august, might be to the disposition of the Royal Personage whose virtues dignify his station beside the Throne, and render him justly to be regarded as the Macænas of his country,—however worthy these fruits of a life's labour may be of the care of the Father of our future Kings—we feel the time has yet to come when the influence of his exalted position can be most effectually used to promote the object abroad.

Of the ultimate approbation of Parliament there can be little doubt. More than a century ago it voted a large sum of money for a supposed cure of this terrible disease. The case on which the grant was made was a solitary one, and one in which an illusion was afterwards discovered: the remedy so dearly purchased soon became, as a general cure for stone, an exploded nostrum. Nevertheless, the growing interest manifested in Parliament on all that relates to the amelioration of the condition of the afflicted poor, strengthens the hope that the Legislature will promote this philanthropic object; and lessen the contrast that at present exists in its enormous expenditure for modes of *destruction*, as distinguished from the means of *conservation*, of the lives of human beings.

To close this lengthened trespass on your Lordship's attention, I desire to assure you, with all the humility

compatible with self-consciousness of that character which the Roman Orator said to Cæsar, "*Homines enim deos nulla re proprius accedunt quam salutem hominibus dando,*" that I feel supported in my expectation of being able to accomplish what I have proposed, by the consideration of what I have already done: that I look with confidence and exultation to the prospect of being regarded in future times as one who fixed the floating opinions of two hundred years on a matter of extreme importance; who made it an object worthy of a noble ambition to be remembered as a benefactor to his race; and to have his works committed to posterity as the Exposition of the principles of CHESELDEN—illustrious and venerable name!

My Lord,

I am your devoted servant,

THOMAS GUTTERIDGE

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons

43, Calthorpe Street,

Birmingham, May 1st, 1857.