

The method of treating gun-shot wounds / by John Ranby.

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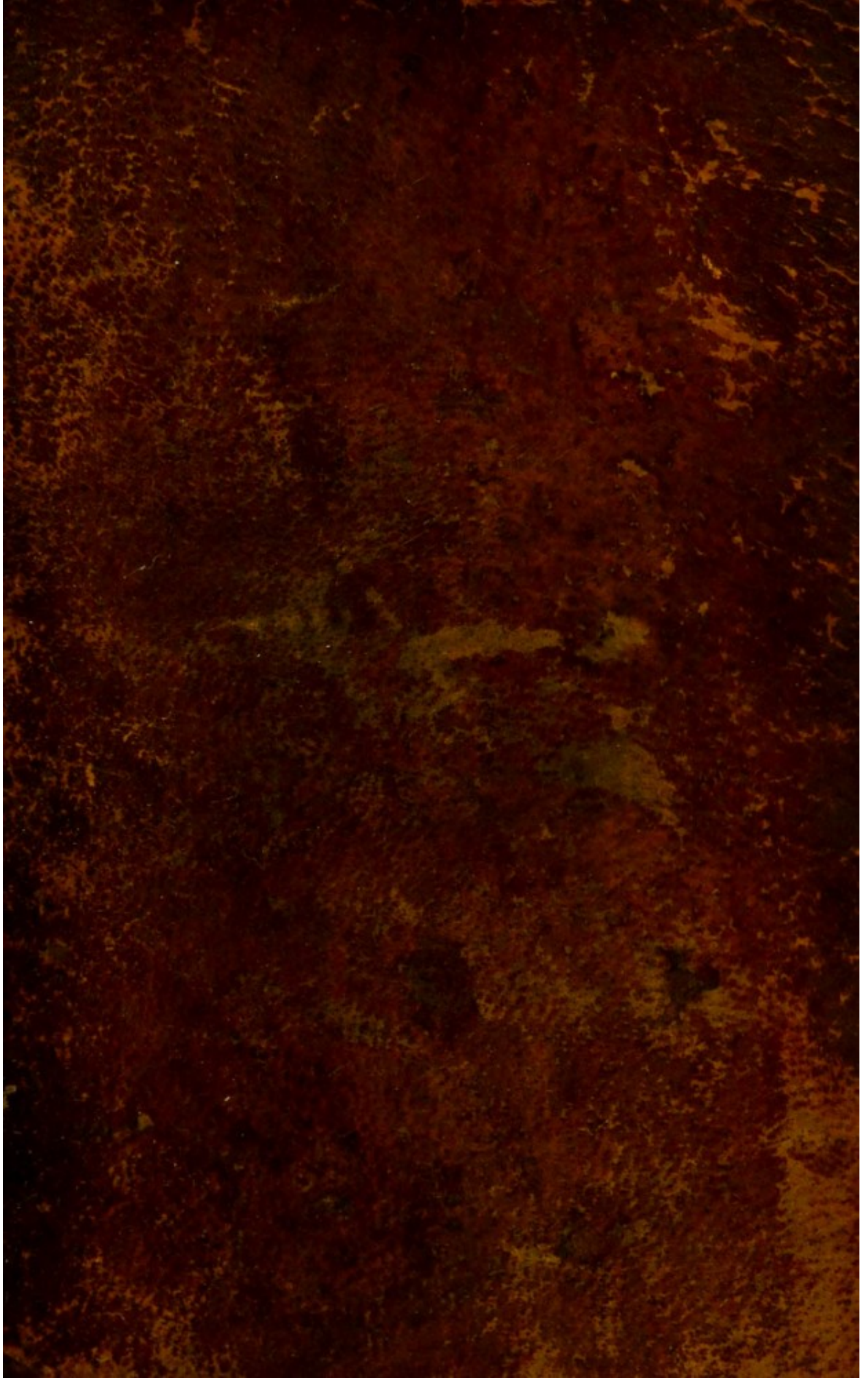
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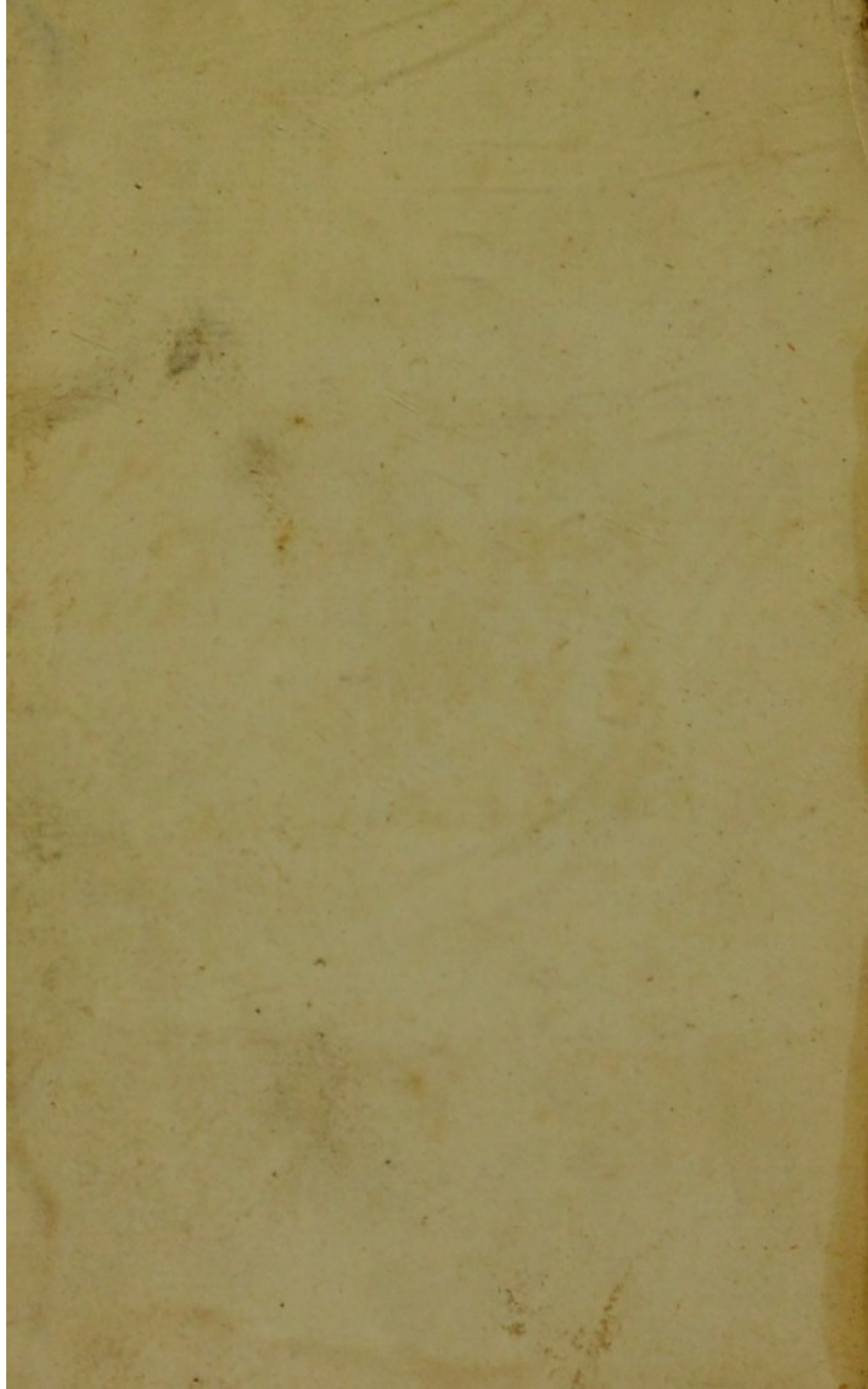
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THE
M E T H O D
OF TREATING
GUN-SHOT WOUNDS.

THE

METHOD

OF TEACHING

ARITHMETIC

THE
M E T H O D

OF TREATING
GUN-SHOT WOUNDS.

THIRD EDITION.

By JOHN RANBY,

Principal Serjeant-Surgeon to His MAJESTY, &c.

L O N D O N:

Printed for T. LOWNDES, N^o 77, in *Fleet-street*.

1781.

THE HISTORY

OF THE

ROYAL

ACADEMY

OF SCIENCES

AND

ARTS

1700

TO THE

K I N G.

S I R,

PERMIT me, in
all possible humility,
to approach Your royal
presence ; not with a
panegyric on Your great
actions, but with my
sentiments on an interest-
ing, though less exalted,
subject.

A 3

May

DEDICATION.

May I be allowed, Sir, to say, that the unwearied care taken by Your MAJESTY of the gallant sufferers at the signal battle of *Dettingen*, is often considered by me with that just admiration and respect, which such goodness naturally excites. The state and condition of every individual, afflicted either with

DEDICATION.

with sickness or wounds,
incurred in that engage-
ment, was very particu-
larly enquired into by
Your MAJESTY every
morning; a condescen-
sion which had so happy
an effect, that all possible
ease and convenience were
procured to the distressed.
Such was Your Majesty's
concern for Your soldiers
of every rank, at a time
when the world might

DEDICATION.

have naturally expected to see Your sollicitude confined to the person of Your own illustrious offspring; who was then actually labouring under the painful effects of a courage inseparable from the high blood from which he descends. I beg leave, Sir, on this occasion, to declare, that the trust placed in me, by Your MAJESTY, filled
my

DEDICATION.

my mind with a satisfaction which was never exceeded by any thing but the joy I afterwards felt on His Royal Highness's recovery.

Induced by the consideration of the remarkable attention and tenderness which Your Majesty thus showed towards every suffering person in Your army, I flatter myself,

DEDICATION.

self, that a plain and easy method of relieving incidents, which unavoidably attend even victorious arms, will prove no unacceptable offering to Your Majesty. Should my design in publishing the following treatise, and my duty herein, humbly expressed, be agreeable to Your Majesty, I shall obtain the full accomplishment of
my

DEDICATION.

my wishes ; it being the
greatest ambition that
can enter my heart, to
be allowed the honour,
upon this occasion, to
subscribe myself,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

and most faithful,

Subject and Servant,

John Ranby.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

John R. ...

[1]

THE
M E T H O D
OF TREATING
GUN-SHOT WOUNDS.

THOUGH it might seem very reasonable to have supposed, that no Surgeon, who was well versed in his profession, could have been much at a loss in the management of Gun-shot Wounds; yet, either from the want of due attention, or from the prejudice of custom, it has been found, that they have frequently declined exerting their own respective abilities on
5 these

these occasions; and have acquiesced too implicitly in methods of practice, which neither reason nor experience sufficiently authorized.

In regard to the following pages, upon this very interesting subject, it is to be observed, that the substance of them was penned in a camp, and communicated, in an epistolary correspondence, to some particular friends in England, while I had the honour of attending his Majesty to the army in Germany. I had then no thoughts of offering these sentiments to the public; but some very worthy gentlemen, both in Physic and Surgery, frequently insinuating the use they might be
of

of to young practitioners, I could not help being influenced by their suggestions, which must always command from me the greatest deference. I collected, therefore, my scattered papers, and without attempting any critical exactness of stile, or observing any strict regularity of method, I endeavoured to communicate at large the result of much experience, which the nature of my employment necessarily presented to me.

I have purposely avoided entering into any hypothetical reasonings on the subject; and have also declined drawing any quotations from the several authors who have wrote
upon

4 *The Method of treating*

upon it; not through an arrogant self-sufficiency, and a presumption, that there is nothing in them worthy to be cited; but a method of that nature would carry me beyond the bounds I had fixed to myself: At the same time it could be of no moment in regard to the principal design of this treatise; which was, to recommend plentiful bleeding very early in the treatment of Gun-shot wounds; to advise, likewise, the application of light, easy, dressings to them; and, particularly, to introduce the signal use of the Bark.

In regard to the first accidents, caused by a musket or pistol-ball, the most immediate considerations
are,

are, to extract the ball or any other extraneous body which may have lodged in the wounded part; and to stop the hæmorrhage, if there is an effusion of blood from the rupture of some considerable artery.

As to the first, the extraction of the ball; it is frequently necessary to enlarge the wound, in order to answer this purpose; and if the ball has gone quite through, both orifices are to be dilated (provided the situation of the part wounded will admit of it's being done with safety); and particular care is to be taken to preserve both openings, especially that which is the most depending.

In order to get at the ball, or any other foreign matter, I would advise probing to be used as sparingly as possible: having constantly experienced, through the whole course of my attendance in these cases, that such a conduct is highly detrimental to the patient. And this must evidently appear to any one, who will only consider the nature of the symptoms attendant on penetrating wounds of the breast or belly, either from a bullet or sharp instrument: the thrusting in a probe to parts under such circumstances, being unavoidably a fresh stab on every repetition of such practice. In wounds of the joints, likewise, poking into them must be equally condemned;

as

as it can never be used without very mischievous and pernicious consequences. And, indeed, where probing is necessary, I would always prefer the finger, as the best and truest probe, where it is practicable to do so. That nature is contented with a little, is an axiom, which not only respects the retrenching of superfluities, in regard of the common exigencies of life; but may also be extended to the management, which these kinds of wounds, generally speaking, stand in need of.

If a ball, or any other foreign body, happens to be lodged near the orifice, or can be perceived by the finger to lie under the skin,

though at some distance from the mouth of the wound; in the first case 'tis requisite immediately to remove such extraneous matter: and, on the other occasion, to cut upon it and take it out. But, when it is sunk deep, and lies absolutely beyond the reach of the finger, I could never bring myself to thrust a pair of long forceps the Lord knows where, with scarce any probability of success.

To put this matter in as clear a light as possible, we will suppose a ball to be lodged in any part, beyond the reach of the finger; entirely out of the way of being marked by the external touch. Now it will appear
evident,

evident, upon the least reflection, that thrusting, first, a long probe, in quest of the bullet; and then, as has been practised likewise, a longer pair of forceps, either with or without teeth, into a wound of that kind, though with a sort of certainty to extract it, must either contuse, or irritate and inflame, the parts to a great degree: and, consequently, do as much and perchance more mischief, than the ball did at first, by forcing it's passage such a length of way. And should they at the same time lay hold of any nerve, artery, or even common membrane of a muscle, together with the ball, (which I think must scarce ever fail of being the case) what shocking

consequences would attend such a proceeding! Nor would attempts of this sort be less injurious, in case a bullet should happen to be lodged in the cavity of the belly, or breast: whereas lead, 'tis well known, will lie a long time in several parts of the body, without any material hurt, or even inconveniency.

A great number of instances have occurred to me, where balls have been quietly lodged in several parts of the body; 'till after many years, they have worked themselves a passage towards the surface, and were very easily extracted: and several very lately, where balls have been left behind: three particularly, wherein
the

GUN-SHOT WOUNDS. II

the ordinary Surgeons were concerned. One of the wounded was a foreigner of very great distinction; another a commanding officer, of singular honour and humanity, in our own army. The first received a shot in the breast from a musket; the other was wounded in the upper part of the thigh with a pistol-ball. The repeated attempts made in searching for the bullets gave to both great pain; and brought on, in the former, a series of very untoward inflammatory symptoms. But that sort of treatment being at length desisted from, and the track of the ball, which went under the pectoral muscle, laid open about three inches, a foundation was begun for a cure,

which was soon after effectually completed. Various were the opinions of the foreign Surgeons concerning the management of this case. Some pretended to an infallible cure by injections: others proposed great advantage, by applying a certain machine, and thereby pressing the part. But the last determination preferred the knife to all other expedients. After bleeding twice in the arm, the wound healed: and the ball remains behind, without the least disagreeable sensation, or any inconvenience: as the bullet did likewise in regard of the other gentleman, whose fore regularly healed; though not without bleeding, and the use of the Bark.

The like affair happened to a Captain of Dragoons, a person of great worth, who was shot in the upper part of the breast with a musket-bullet, which lodged itself under the scapula. The unsuccessful essay, in poking for the ball, produced a fever. But, by giving over probing, and by restraining the feverish symptoms, the wound healed, and no more was heard of the ball.

In case the wound be occasioned by a musket or pistol-shot, and of course but small, it will be necessary to dilate it without delay, provided the nature of the part (as was before observed)

observed) will admit of this with safety; for in wounds near a joint, or in very membranous or tendinous parts, the knife, as well as forceps, should be put under some restraint; nor should any more opening be made, than what is absolutely requisite for the free discharge of the matter lodged within. Wounds in the joints are always dangerous, from whatever cause they proceed, whether from a bullet, or any cutting instrument: and membranous or tendinous parts, whatever sense of feeling they may be allowed, are yet known, past dispute, to suffer much from their being thus exposed to the impressions of the air.

I could

I could produce many instances of balls going through muscular parts, and the wounds being healed with very little trouble. And I have known wounds of the scull, from a broad-sword, (where both tables have been cut through, and a considerable piece loosened) which after being suffered to bleed for several hours, did well; nor were attended, or at least very seldom, with any feverish complaint, a circumstance which I am apt to attribute to the great quantity of blood lost immediately after the parts had been injured.

A Colonel

A Colonel of Dragoons received a cut, from a broad-sword, on the fore part of the head, upon the edge of the hairy scalp, about four inches in length. This wound divided both tables of the scull, a piece of which, of about an inch broad, and very near two inches long, was quite loosened from the main bone. He had two or three more cuts on the head, a wound on one side of the belly, made by a musket-ball, that went aslant the lower part of the belly, through the abdominal muscles, and carried in a piece of his fash along with it; and some more cuts and stabs in other places of the body. This young gentleman, thus early displaying

playing undoubted proofs of great intrepidity, lay, under these wounds, without any Chirurgical help, 'till the next day. He must, considering the nature of his wounds, and that he received the greatest share of them in the heat of action, indisputably have lost a considerable quantity of blood. Neither the least attack of a fever, nor the appearance of any bad symptom, was, from first to last, any interruption to the cure: in the course of which several shivers of bones were, from time to time, discharged from the wound in the head.

A Lieutenant of Horse, possessed of many engaging qualities, received
a cut

a cut in the head, just as his horse, which was shot, was falling. It had taken the skin, part of the temporal muscle, and a portion of the outer table of the scull, as big as a crown-piece, quite off. He had besides two very large wounds on the back part of the head, which laid the bone bare. These he received as he lay upon the ground: and was left on the field of battle for many hours. Yet he recovered, without any supervening accident, in as short a time, as the nature of the case could possibly admit of. The immediate loss of a great quantity of blood, when the hurt is first received, oftentimes prevents, no doubt, the symptoms, that would otherwise accrue, and paves the

the way for these favourable issues on such occasions*.

Whenever the wound is attended with a great effusion of blood, from the rupture of some considerable artery, it will be absolutely necessary, with all imaginable dispatch, to restrain the bleeding with the needle; and, at the same time, to be particularly careful that your hold be not elusive. From the rupture, I say, of some considerable artery:

* Though the two preceding cases do not, strictly speaking, belong to this subject; yet I have inserted them, out of a good number: in order to point out the great use of immediate bleeding on such like accidents.

for

for the bleedings from the smaller ones, in all contused wounds, are of real service, by unloading the clogged parts, cutting off the main sources of customary inflammations, and by that means either totally preventing a fever, or at least rendering it a symptom of no threatening tendency; an event, on which, in an especial manner, depends the future laudable digestion. As for styptic applications, there is no trusting to any of them, where the larger arteries are concerned. Besides, all such rather retard, than promote, the cure. For, by obstructing the discharge of the sanies, which in all large wounds precedes digestion, the digestion is of course suspended,

ded, while the pent-up sanies becomes a constant additional fuel to the fever.

Where the wounded person has not suffered any great loss of blood, it will be adviseable to open a vein immediately, and take from the arm a good large quantity: and to repeat bleeding, as circumstances may require, the second, and even the third, day. Repeated bleedings in the beginning draw after them many advantages. They prevent a good deal of pain and inflammation, lessen any feverish assaults, forward the digestion, and seldom fail to obviate imposthumations, and a long train of complicated symptoms, that are wont

otherwise to interrupt the cure, miserably harrasses the poor patient, and too often endanger his life. And even where the feverish symptoms run high, and there is almost a certainty that matter is forming, bleeding, in that state, is very frequently of great advantage; the matter will be made the sooner for it, and the quantity of it will be less. The following instance, as well as the two preceding cases, I think, in some measure, demonstrates the necessity of bleeding freely as soon as possible.

A young gentleman, a Cornet of Dragoons, was wounded by a musket-bullet just below the knee, on the
inside.

inside. The ball had made a great laceration in the skin, and laid the membranes bare about four inches in length. I did not see him, 'till two days after the injury. He was then very feverish, quite parched up with thirst, and had a full pulse, with great pain, swelling, and inflammation all round the joint. I ordered immediate bleeding, a cooling regimen, made use of a fomentation, dressed the wound with digestive warmed, and laid the bread and milk pultice over the whole; prescribing an emollient clyster, and an opiate. The next day his pain rather increased: wherefore he was let blood a second, and after that, a third, time. Six days were now elapsed

when a *miliary* eruption seized him, with frequent bleedings at the nose, and a *diarrhœa*, which lasted about ten days. Mean while, matter was formed in several places about the knee; which, on being let out, flowed in prodigious quantities. The fever declining, the Bark was given him: but, as that, though joined with an opiate, ran through him, it was judged necessary to lay it aside. Notwithstanding he was now very weak and low, it was thought, in a consultation, that the only chance, which remained of his surviving, was the cutting off his leg. The operation was accordingly performed, but without success.—Upon examining the knee, there appeared
several

several cells, full of matter communicating with the joint; which had in many places eroded the cartilages of both the great bones.

For the first twelve days it will be proper to observe a cooling regimen, both in respect of the medicines, that may be prescribed, and the diet requisite for the support of nature. It is absolutely necessary, likewise, that the body be constantly kept open. Unless, therefore, Nature does this office of herself, a stool should be every day procured, either by emollient clysters, or some gentle laxative taken at the mouth; and whenever there is much pain in the wounded parts, immediate recourse

must be had to the sovereign, and almost divine, powers of opium.

In respect to external applications, whatever is of a hot, spirituous nature, I find remarkably injurious on these occasions; and what no wounded part can in any degree bear. Let the first dressing be with digestive, or lint moistened, with a little oil, and a very light bandage made, if it can be readily got, with thin flannel; the next with a digestive warmed, and over it the bread and milk pultice, mixed with a sufficient quantity of oil to keep it moist: and, where there is great tension, and the wound large, a fomentation should be used. This
course

course is to be continued, 'till the fore is clean, and then it is to be healed according to art.

This method will commonly promote a constant, easy perspiration, abate the pain, very much facilitate the digestion, and remove all apprehensions of any approaching inflammation. What induces me to moisten the lint with oil, is the ease that is procured to a contused wound from such an application, in comparison of one of an absorbent, drying, disposition: which, instead of giving free liberty to the sanious blood to discharge itself, and, consequently, preventing an inflammation, by unloading the

part, would possibly obstruct the mouths of the capillary vessels, and hinder nature from getting rid of that incumbrance, which 'tis observable she very much affects to throw off. I must add here, that tents are never to be made use of where they can be possibly avoided.

Should an inflammation seize any part, through the lodgment of a bullet, or any other foreign body, that could with safety have been more immediately extracted; all attempts of dislodging such extraneous matter should be postponed, 'till the swelling has in some measure subsided, and the inflammatory disposition of the fibres is nearly vanished:
unless

unless the ball, or other extraneous body, lies at no great distance from the orifice; and there is, on that account, a certainty of removing this incumbrance without any material trouble to the patient.

If a wound be of such a desperate nature, as to require amputation, (which is always the case, when it happens in any principal joint) it would certainly be of consequence, could the operation be performed on the spot, even in the field of battle: least by deferring it an inflammation, which one may very reasonably expect, should obstruct a work, that ought rarely to be entered upon during the continuance of so calamitous a cir-

a circumstance. The neglecting this critical juncture of taking off a limb, frequently reduces the patient to so low a state, and subjects the blood and juices to such an alteration, as must unavoidably render the subsequent operation, if not entirely unsuccessful, at least exceedingly dubious. And in wounds, even where no amputation is required, 'tis equally adviseable not to defer the care necessary to be taken of them: lest, by the parts being exposed to the air, there might arise a series of very dangerous symptoms.

In order to make that practicable, which I here advise, I could wish to be indulged in offering a
scheme,

scheme, which might, I think, be put in execution with all the facility imaginable. It is this: When the army is forming for an engagement, let the Surgeons, with their respective mates, of the three or four regiments, that are posted next each other, collect themselves into a body, (the same method being observed throughout the whole line) and take their station in the rear, according to the command of the General. Here let the wounded be put under their immediate care and management. By this means they will be enabled mutually to assist each other, and to perform their duty both with more exactness, and dispatch.

Now

Now let any person of common humanity reflect on the consequences naturally flowing from this manner of treating the wounded on the spot; having first formed an idea of poor creatures being actually conveying, though with all conceivable tenderness, from place to place, under the extreme misery of large, lacerated wounds, bleeding arteries, or fractured limbs; and this abrupt, preposterous, removal attended with the most fatal symptoms, of which there was not, perhaps, at first, the least appearance, or apprehension. I am apt to think such a one will not hesitate a moment in preferring this my scheme to that scene of terrible distress,

distress, which I look upon as one of the most moving that can be presented to the human eye.

Wounds that border on any considerable artery, are very apt to bleed afresh upon motion, or the return of a free circulation of the blood into the part, which was interrupted at first by the violence of the injury offered it : and this is almost always the case, when the slough begins to separate. For which reason, one should never attempt to remove it by force ; but wait with patience, 'till there be a perfect separation of this slough : nor be in the leastwise shocked at the accident of arteries thus opening themselves, which a
very

very moderate experience will convince one to be most inevitable. The patient frequently gives warning of what is coming upon him, by complaining of great weight and fulness in the limb, which are ever accompanied with more or less pulsation in it: an infallible prognostic of the consequences. Let the wound afflict whatsoever part, if these complaints attend it, I instantly injoin bleeding, and the Bark.

I have known several instances of persons losing their lives from the starting of an artery, before the Surgeon could reach them; particularly, where an amputation has preceded. And I dare affirm, the quantity

tity of blood lost, especially in the case last mentioned, has not amounted to twelve ounces: I do not know how to account for this otherwise, than by the drain which had been made from the mass of blood both before, and during the operation, whence a sudden gush (though but a moderate one) of blood, after the great quantity already lost, gives a check to the circulation, and causes immediate death. This reflection, I think, ought to be a lesson of instruction to every practitioner, to be particularly intent on the faithful discharge of his duty in regard to tying the vessels.

The method I have prescribed to myself in penning this small treatise,
leads

leads me in this place to speak of the Bark: a medicine, which no human eloquence can deck with panegyric, proportionable to it's virtues. Of such incomparable benefit it is to mankind!

I have for a long time been successful, from the liberal use of this noble drug, in large sores of every kind: and have often experienced, that, in those painful circumstances, it would procure rest, if given in large doses, when even *opium* had been taken without any manner of effect.

Though I am aware, that a very ingenious Surgeon recommends the
Bark

Bark * against hæmorrhages in external wounds in general; yet the prescribing it in Gun-Shot Wounds, in the manner I introduced it, in the campaign of forty-three, is a practice, as I conceive, no where left us on record. And this I did with extraordinary success: of which I shall give some few of the many examples, that occurred to me in practice.

In all large wounds, especially those made by a cannon-ball, there is constantly a great laceration of the parts endued with an exquisite sensation. These are ever attended with

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* See Phil. Transf. No. 426.

an excruciating pain, and a discharge of a gleet matter; which, if not restrained, proves often of the worst consequence, by reducing the patient almost to a skeleton: there being no possibility of receiving a supply of nourishment proportioned to the discharge. In this unhappy state, the Bark (in doses of a drachm each, and repeated every three hours; or oftener, if the stomach will bear it) with surprizing efficacy repairs the breach made in the constitution, by this terrible havock. In whatever form it be administered, whether in tincture, extract, or resin, we must ever have an eye to the proportion. For the prescribing it in less quantity is one reason why our expectations are

are

are often frustrated, and the medicine brought unreasonably into disgrace: the failure, in point of success, being generally owing to some irregularity in the giving of it, either by under-doing it, or not sufficiently persisting in it's use. Nor need we be under apprehensions of any mischievous effects from so liberal a dispensation of it, should it really disappoint us in our views. For I can sacredly aver, that, even in such cases, I never, in my whole practice, met with a single instance of it's leaving behind it the least trace of any hurtful quality. *Elixir of vitriol*, taken three times a day, in a glass of water, I find to be of singular benefit; and to prove a very good assistant to

the virtues of the Bark. And, if the body be costive, to each dose of the Bark I add four or five grains of *rhubarb*, 'till that inconveniency is remedied. Should the Bark run off by more than four or five successive stools, I take care to check this effect of it, by ordering a few drops of *laudanum*, or two spoonfuls of the *diascordium* mixture along with it, every time it is given.

Where the fore discharges a considerable quantity of gleety matter, is flabby, looks pale and glossy, (which appearances are often consequent to a loss of substance) the Bark continually relieves the pain, that is predominant in this case, and quite
changes

changes the complexion of the wound. And, though the patient has a dry tongue, great heat, a quick, low, pulse, and a head hardly clear; yet, even in this situation, I have known the Bark to do miracles. Nor (I freely own, when the necessity for it is evident from symptoms) have I, in administering it, the least attention to the quickness of the pulse. And in wounds, where, upon every dressing, there has been an oozing from the capillary arteries, like water squeezed from a sponge, subjecting, of course, the patient to no little hazard; I have frequently remarked the Bark, by thickening the matter, and lessening it's quantity, to procure the most surprizing good effects.

However, I would not be understood to insinuate, that the Bark will stop the bleeding of any considerable artery. Nevertheless, though this efficacious property is not to be expected from it, the vitiated texture and state of the blood (which, from too great a degree of fluidity, forces thus it's way through the arterial passages) will be altered more effectually from the exhibition of it, than from any thing I know in the whole *Materia Medica*. From whence, I think, is plainly pointed out to us the basis, we are to erect our future superstructure upon. The Bark, on these occasions, I constantly advise, together with *opiates*, more or less, in

in proportion to the urgency of the supervening symptoms.

Nor is the virtue of this medicine less conspicuous in those extended sores, which are very frequently consequent to amputations. If it be taken from the fourth day after an operation of that kind, in the manner above directed, I can with the strictest truth aver, that it will not only greatly forward the healing the stump; but, likewise, give an effectual check to those profuse sweats, which are apt to accompany patients under such circumstances.

I must not close these hints without taking notice of its peculiar

efficacy also in venereal sores, particularly buboes. It is no uncommon thing for these to remain obstinate sores, though the malignity or venomous taint in the habit has been perfectly extirpated, by a proper mercurial course. Now, in this situation, and where the sore is become foul, and it's lips hard, with a gleety discharge, of such an acrimonious nature, as to erode the neighbouring parts; this drug, by it's specific property, will scarce ever miss promoting the healing of the ulcer. Whereas, on the contrary, the pursuing a mercurial course, answers no other end, than that of reducing the patient; and daily rendering the bad condition of the malady considerably worse.

So

So that, though I do not assert the Bark is an adequate remedy for a venereal sore, yet, in the desperate state I have mentioned, it will become a powerful auxiliary; and give the finishing stroke to those perverse remains of the disorder; which, without its assistance, would persist to undermine the constitution, and not end but in the destruction of the patient.

In order to exemplify the method laid down in the preceding pages, relative to Gun-shot Wounds, I shall begin by giving a detail of a very extraordinary case, that centered in the person of a young prince, no less distinguished for his martial prowess, than high birth. This illustrious personage

personage received a wound from a grape-shot, discharged from a cannon, which went quite through the calf of his leg. It entered on the outside, close to the *fibula*; a little above where the *gastrocnemius* muscle begins to grow tendinous. Part of this muscle, together with the common membrane, that invests all the muscles of the leg, appeared jagged at the mouth of the wound: which was so exceedingly wide, that I believe it's orifice might have very well admitted a large hen-egg. The shot made it's exit close by the *tibia*: nor were the dimensions of this orifice a jot less considerable, than what I have been reciting of the other. It had drove the extremities
of

of some of the muscles, which it had tore asunder in it's passage, quite out of the wound : which, as no considerable artery was burst, bled rather more, than what is usual for this sort of wounds to do at first ; especially, as I had not omitted the necessary precaution of taking away from the arm, in the field of action, very little less than twenty ounces of blood. I applied a very easy, light, dressing ; and just supplied bandage enough to keep it on the part. That night was not passed without much inquietude. Next morning things were so circumstanced, that there was an unavoidable necessity for removing him to some distance from that situation. Accordingly, he was conveyed

conveyed in a coach, under great uneasiness (though through no fault of the vehicle) about fifteen *English* miles to quarters: which, though sufficiently remote from any hostile alarms, were, nevertheless, but very indifferent ones; and, in no degree suitable either to his high quality, or the circumstances his early valour had laid him under. Some few hours after the fatigue of the journey, I repeated the bleeding, and gave directions for an emollient clyster: ordering at the same time, some *Gascoign's* powder to be taken every four hours, with a proportionable addition of *nitre*. The nature of the wound considered, the quiet he enjoyed that night far exceeded
my

my expectations. Notwithstanding which, the next evening, I bled him for the third time, and repeated the clyster. To the fores I applied warm digestive, and wrapped the whole limb in a bread and milk pultice, in which was just oil enough to prevent it's growing dry. A bloody ichor, which is a constant fore-runner of matter, and, in the beginning, carries with it a good prognostic, made now a plentiful discharge. The swelling was not very great, and the inflammation but little. Care was taken to keep the body open, and the course of the cooling powders continued to the fifth day. He had now some complaints of a little heat: but, as those were vey tranfient, and

and he afterwards tolerably easy, they were not much attended to. I think this day, the King's Physician, Dr. Werlhoff, made him the first visit. It was judged proper to go on with the cooling regimen prescribed, both as to his medicines, and diet. The wound now began to make a good, and regular, discharge of matter: no ways exceeding in quantity what is expected from fores of that nature. There was no abscess, no lodgment of matter, nor any extraneous body, from the beginning to the end, to obstruct our endeavours; though the swelling was rather somewhat increased, as was likewise the discharge, on the eighth day. To-
wards

wards noon he complained of being chilly; and was soon after attacked with a severe shivering, which continued harrassing him for the space of four or five hours. Then succeeded a heat, which did not in the least abate during the greatest part of the night. Towards the return of morning he began to fall into a sweat, that soon became profuse. We attended very early, and agreed to give him better than a drachm of the Bark in a dose every two hours. But, as this gave him several stools in a short time, we added to every dose three drops of *laudanum*, 'till that effect of it was prevented. I must remark, that the sweat had been on him, when the Bark was first

first prescribed, about three hours. When the sweat, which continued about twelve hours, was entirely off, he took *elixir of vitriol* twice or thrice a day. From this period, there was an abatement both of the swelling, and of the discharge: nor had we the least return of any feverish appearances. On the twelfth day a slough came away in one intire piece, without either force or pain, near the whole length of the *tendo Achillis*. The Bark we thought proper to continue for some time. The wound, indeed, healed but slowly: which I conceive to be altogether owing to his being constantly on his legs, and scarce ever without his boots on. There is no
great

great matter of stiffness now remaining in the limb: not even so much as one would naturally suppose must be necessarily consequent to a wound among a cluster of muscles; where the fibres, that ought to be loose and free, are too much confined and restrained by the unavoidable adhesion of the parts that were wounded.

I have been a little more circumstantial in my relation of this case, than, perhaps, was absolutely requisite. But, as the behaviour of my royal patient on that day was carried to the highest pitch of heroism; all the world, animated with any degree of virtue, or honour,

were attentive to the event, and became deeply interested in his recovery: an event, which I esteem the happiest of my life. And the more so, as a confidence, even to an excess, was reposed on the little abilities I am master of: which, indeed, were employed with unwearied diligence, not only through a motive of duty, but of inclination, arising from an inviolable attachment to his great, and engaging, qualities.— I must observe, that the success I met with in the foregoing case was, no doubt, to be attributed to the plentiful bleeding in the beginning, and the free use of the Bark. And here I must add, what was accidentally omitted to be remarked amongst the other

other directions for administering the Bark, that the success of this medicine will be generally much secured by bleeding and gentle purging before the use of it. It is observable, likewise, that when the two or three first doses of the Bark occasion three or four stools, this evacuation is of advantage to the patient, and makes the success of this powerful medicine more certain; but where the stools are more numerous, it will be necessary, by the means before directed, to restrain them. But, to proceed,

A General Officer in our own army (whose singular good properties in domestic life are not less

laid the bread and milk pultice over the whole; did not omit bleeding, and enjoined the cooling regimen: which method was pursued for two or three days; when the discharge, inflammation, and pain increased, with a quick pulse, and a general uneasiness. These appearances determined me to repeat the bleeding, and to administer the Bark: the benefits from which were soon very evident, by an abatement of the heat, and a lessening of the discharge. A very inconsiderable portion of matter now ouzed from the more depending orifice. It almost all came out of the upper mouth of the wound. There was nothing I so much wished the accomplishment

of, as to have these two orifices laid into one. But as the ball, the whole length of it's passage, had formed a bony arch, of no small thickness, and the texture of the part besides was very membranous; I desisted from the attempt for the present: contenting myself with the hopes, that the matter would very soon find it's way to the lower orifice. Things thus circumstanced, I put a sindon through the wound, of a very fine piece of Holland cloth, moistened in digestive, which with great ease I changed every dressing: and persisted in this method for seven or eight days, 'till the matter, not much in quantity, was determined to the opening below. When this

was

was effected, I laid the findon aside. The cure henceforward was no ways retarded by any manner of lodgment; which, indeed, before was very inconsiderable. Numberless small shivers of bone were constantly brought out with the findon; which, at the same time, put the matter on making it's exit along with it at the inferior orifice. Not long after, I discontinued the application of the pultice, and desisted from the use of the Bark: but, pain increasing, I found myself under a necessity of recurring to both again; and I did so the next dressing, which was that same evening. For I never failed, particularly as it was very hot and sultry, to dress wounds of this sort

twice a day. Upon our decampment from this place, my attendance on this Gentleman was of course interrupted for four or five days: after which time he followed the army by water. The fatigue, he underwent by this removal, brought on a slight inflammation, augmented the pain, and increased the discharge of matter. I then determined with myself, as soon as these symptoms should cease, and the present ruffle be a little over, to lay both orifices into one. This, accordingly, I did, still continuing the use both of the Bark, and pultice. Every thing appeared now with a good aspect. But, as the season of the year began to advance, and there was no possibility of
of

of his accompanying the army with any tolerable conveniency, or without prejudicing his health, I advised him to repair to *England*: which counsel, though not without some reluctance, he shortly after put in execution. He went on in the course of the Bark for some months after his arrival at *London*: nor did he ever return to the use of it, when it had been at any time intermitted, without finding himself relieved by it's singular virtues.

The next instance I shall bring, of the great efficacy of the Bark, will be that of a Major of Horse, whose foot was shot off by a cannon-ball, except just where it hung, suspended

suspended only by a piece of skin. The first Surgeon he met with cut that skin asunder, and applied his dressings: but, upon motion, and the return of a free circulation, the limb bled a-fresh. The Surgeon of the Troop, in attending him, proposed taking off the remaining part of the leg; which advice was immediately complied with. But, I do not know by what means, a large portion of the muscles, robbed of the skin, was left naked; which, on the least motion imaginable, or accidental touch, even of the softest substance, caused a most exquisite pain. And, if I remember right, the great artery was the only vessel, that was regularly tied. Round the raw

stump was rolled a fillet more than ordinarily tight. Such was the method of dressing made use of on that occasion. This brave, though unfortunate, officer, lay the rest of the day, and all the subsequent night, in a waggon, which had scarce any covering, miserably exposed to the inclemency of the rain, that poured from the Heavens in continual floods. The next day, after dinner, he applied for my assistance. On my attending him, he complained of great pain in the stump, and a pulsation in it, that was utterly intolerable. I immediately set about opening it, removed that circular band, which, from it's tightness, had rendered those naked muscles very full and turgid,

turgid, and brought on a considerable swelling above the knee. Upon removing this band, the blood rushed out from several arteries, and particularly from one that was very important. When, after a great deal of anguish to the patient, and no small trouble and perplexity to myself, I had fortunately tied the vessels, I applied a very light and soft dressing; and over all a flannel cap, (which I would ever recommend) with no more rolling, than what just assisted in keeping on the dressing. I directed besides, a course of *testaceous* powders with some *nitre*, and ordered some drops of *laudanum* to be taken occasionally, as the necessity might offer itself of procuring sleep. In spite

spite of all my endeavours he got no rest that night, nor the succeeding day and night. His pulse was very quick and low, his tongue dry, and he was somewhat inclined to a *delirium*: the stump discovering a great tendency to bleed. This was his situation, when I gave him the Bark, having first bled him about ten ounces. Every dose, almost of this, as his body was apt to be costive, I accompanied with a few grains of *rhubarb*. He also took thrice a day twenty drops of *elixir of vitriol* in a glass of water. This regulation he was under both before, and some months after, his return to *England*. He is possessed, at present, of a tolerably good share of health: but, through

through the shortness and tenderness of the stump, and it's being very much subjected to crack, he but seldom, as yet, can enjoy the use of his wooden leg. I can venture to affirm, that he took at least five pounds of the Bark. The omissions hinted at in the above relation, might probably be owing to the almost continual alarms from *Hussars*, during the operation.

I cannot but mention here, what I have often remarked to be the case in amputated limbs, especially in the leg and thigh: where the habit of body has been previously bad, or else made so, by deferring the operation, and very commonly in scorbutick
constitutions.

constitutions. The fore, for the first eight or ten days after taking off the limb, shall promise all imaginable success: from which time it frequently begins to gleet prodigiously, looks pale, glossy, and flabby; and, this gleet, if not checked, in a little while runs the patient out of the world. In exigencies of this kind the Bark hardly ever fails to procure relief; and works an apparent change in a very short space of time: sometimes in twelve hours. This I can attest for absolute truth, in the case of a very worthy gentleman, about fifty miles from *London*, who broke his leg by a fall from his horse. I took it off the second day from the accident, and, after

after the first dressing, resigned him to the care of his neighbouring Surgeons: not in the least afterwards suspecting, but that every thing was succeeding agreeable to our wishes. But the scene was quite reversed. For, about sixteen days after, I received a letter from the gentlemen who had the management of him, intimating, that a small artery, near the skin, bled very freely, on their removing the dressings. In answer, I advised a vein to be opened in the arm, and the Bark to be taken instantly. But, as the symptom of the arterial opening ceased, and the patient was without any sign of a fever, my advice of trying the Bark was postponed. The seven and
twentieth

twentieth day, another Surgeon, eminent in the profession, and myself were hurried out of town to his assistance. On our arrival, we found him very much emaciated, a great gleet incessantly ouzing from the stump: which, on the removal of the dressings, bled from every pore, like water pressed from a sponge. We immediately gave him the Bark, and repeated it every two hours. The next morning the discharge was considerably lessened, nor was there the least appearance of bleeding. If he accidentally at any time neglected taking it, only for a day, or even lessened the doses, the wound plainly pointed out the omission by the change of it's complexion. He

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persisted

persisted in the method of taking the Bark every two or three hours, 'till he came to town: when it was thought proper to give him a larger respite. He now enjoys a perfect state of health, and has done so, ever since the stump was healed. But, before this was accomplished, he took near nine pounds of the Bark.

In the case, I shall next recount, the reader will very readily perceive the inconveniencies and obstructions of cure, that succeeded a strong antipathy to the Bark.

A gentleman deservedly esteemed, being surrounded by the enemy, and
fighting

fighting his way, singly, through several squadrons of *French* Horse, was shot in the back with a pistol, the ball entered by the lower edge of the *scapula*, (a small portion of which it broke off) and came out just below the short ribs on the opposite side. I have often wondered, how the bullet could pass over the *vertebræ* of the back without hurting them: which, in the subject before us, it indisputably did. Bleeding and the cooling regimen were prescribed him: and the wound was properly dilated. Every thing was now in so good a way, that he walked abroad several times: though, I must confess, not altogether with my consent. One of the orifices healed in a short

time: and so the other seemed disposed to do, had the closing of it been judged consistent with the patient's safety. But, some very indifferent symptoms arising, it was adviseable by all means to keep it open. For on the twelfth day he grew very feverish, and spit a little blood: which determined me to bleed him freely, and to continue the cooling course of medicines; to which I would willingly have joined the Bark: but he absolutely refused to listen to that proposal. The next day, I found him not at all better; so repeated the bleeding. That evening, notwithstanding, he discharged a great quantity of blood, both from his stomach and lungs; whereupon
I opened

I opened a vein for the third time. He still continued to turn a deaf ear to all I could say in recommendation of the Bark. However, at length, he was induced to take some extract of it; which immediately wrought an apparent amendment in him. But his averfion to this drug was of fuch an obftinate nature, that he foon defifted from the ufe of it, even in this form. The veffels perfifting to open, and the blood frequently to rufh out, I was forced to recur fo often to the expedient of the lancet, that I really grew weary of keeping an account of my operations on thofe emergent occafions. Thefe evacuations neceffarily reduced him to a very low ebb: and yet his antipathy

to the Bark remained in him as inveterate as ever. It was from the consideration of these incidents, that I was resolved to keep the wound open; which was not effected without some difficulty. In this uncertain state I was obliged to leave him: but, as the bleeding often returned, there was as often a necessity of taking away blood. About a month after he came to me at *Mentz*, in such a debilitated condition, that I could scarce ever hope to see him more. From thence he immediately set forward for *England*; where, on his arrival, he put himself under the care of a Physician and Surgeon, (both eminently distinguished in their respective professions) who were altogether

together at a loss how to account for the extraordinary circumstances of his case. However, the symptoms frequently returning, the lancet was as often made use of. At length he was prevailed upon to take the Bark, with *opiates*; which abated the bleeding, though they did not entirely prevent it. As his Physician had observed, that the vessels, for the most part, made a freer discharge after bleeding in the arm, he was determined to open a vein in the foot. Upon repeating this operation, and accompanying the Bark with the *royal styptic*, those symptoms in a very little time entirely left him. It is very just I should, on this occasion, communicate to the reader a remark,

which the same Physician, in his extensive practice, has frequently made in respect of hæmorrhages issuing either from the nose or lungs: *viz.* that bleeding in the foot has proved of great efficacy towards stopping those discharges, when taking blood from the arm has not afforded any manner of check to them. But to return. From that time the patient began to get the better of his disorders; and at present, though far from being re-established in his former health and strength, yet, he enjoys a greater portion of both, than I once could imagine would have ever come to his share. These gentlemen attempted, as I had done, to keep the wound running; but that, they

they perceived, was attended with no little difficulty; and, therefore, they laid aside all thoughts of striving to accomplish that expedient, and left the sore thenceforward at full liberty to heal.

It has ever seemed very mysterious to me, from what cause this series of surprizing symptoms could spring. Had there been but one orifice, it would then have been evident, that they would have been owing to the ball's remaining in the body. Indeed, as pistols are generally charged with a brace of balls, 'tis possible they might have both entered at the same orifice; one finding it's way out again, the other lodging in the
cavity

78 *The Method of treating*
cavity of the breast; though this,
I think, is highly improbable.

The reader will draw what conclusions he pleases from the following case with respect to the use of the Bark. An *Austrian* officer, who had his hand miserably shattered by a cannon-ball, was, by some accident, left in a wood near the field of battle, destitute of any manner of help, from *Thursday* (the day of action) 'till the *Sunday* following; when he was brought to *Hanau*. The next morning, I was carried to see him, and to assist in taking off his arm. On viewing it, I found it mortified almost to the elbow, with a great swelling and inflammation

quite up to the shoulder. As it was by no means adviseable to attempt an amputation in such circumstances, I propos'd giving him the Bark; which, being no ways objected to, he enter'd upon immediately. The next day he was rather better: but, on the third, was evidently so. The inflammation was less, the swelling began to subside, and the edges of the mortification were separating. This success, from the Bark, was matter of great surprize to the Surgeons who attend'd him: the practice of administering it on these occasions being altogether new to them, and unprecedented. As to the Physician, he was not unapprized of it's use in mortifications. The arm was fo-
mented

mented and wrapped up in the oatmeal and stale-beer pultice with *theriaca*: and the dreadful symptoms, that forbid the operation, were now so much abated, that his Surgeons did not at all hesitate to take it off. But this was done to very little purpose; for three or four days after the amputation (his jaw being fixed by a convulsive attack, and his countenance greatly distorted) he expired.

I have seen two more instances of persons being seized with this sort of convulsion, who both died. And (what adds to the melancholy circumstances) though they laboured under an impotency of speech, yet
their

GUN-SHOT WOUNDS. 81

their senses were no ways impaired. I believe this convulsive symptom not to be uncommon in Gun-Shot Wounds; nor indeed in any other, where there is a considerable laceration of parts thick interwoven with membranes.

Now, though I have the highest ideas imaginable of the virtues of the Bark on occasions, similar to those I have been describing; yet, I conceive it but equitable to give likewise an instance or two where it was not attended with its accustomed success. The preceding case may, perhaps, be thought to leave the matter doubtful as to any benefit received by it: and from what I shall
next

next relate, it will be very certain, that the taking of it produced no advantage whatever. A proper judgment, in these matters, is ever to be formed by comparing events; and weighing, with the greatest exactness, the good effects against those that have been of a contrary nature. By this means we shall be enabled, like judicious pilots, to shape our course aright; nor touch upon a sand a second time, that had once endangered the vessel. Whatever favourable conceptions the reader may entertain of the Bark, from the foregoing relations, they must result from the artless recital of real matter of fact, and experience.

A General of the *Hanoverian* forces, an officer of established merit, of about seventy years of age, had his ankle, with the neighbouring parts, all terribly shattered by a cannon-bullet, and lay under the management of his own Surgeon. My assistance was applied for, the third evening after the accident. On examining the wound, I judged it a case that plainly required an immediate amputation. Accordingly, at the solicitations of the gentleman, who attended him, I instantly cut off the leg. That night he rested tolerably well: and, on the next dressing, every thing seemed to carry so good a face, that I began now, notwithstanding

standing his advanced age, and the circumstances of the operation's not being performed sooner, to indulge some hopes of a favourable issue in the affair. The King's Physician, likewise, paid him regular visits. My rule was to see him every third or fourth dressing. But, as he was about the sixteenth day attacked by a *diarrhœa*, (which is no obstruction to the giving of the Bark, provided each dose be accompanied with three or four drops of *laudanum*) I was requested to give my attendance at that morning's dressing. I must own, the unexpected alteration, I found wrought in him, perfectly surprized me. The stump look'd pale, and the flesh was beginning to
quit

quit the ends of the bone: which symptom, even in youth, affords but a very indifferent prognostic, and, in old age, I believe, seldom fails to prove fatal. However, we dressed the sore with pledgets of digestive, being first dipped in *oil of turpentine* warm, and agreed to his taking the Bark. From this time he grew worse and worse, 'till he breathed his last. I shall not interrupt the reader in making what reflections he pleases on this exact narrative. But I must not omit to do justice to the doctor, by declaring, that the Bark could not stand in any one's opinion in higher esteem, than in his.

The reader will easily recollect, that wherever, in the foregoing relations, I have made mention of dressings, they were from the first of a soft, easy, supple nature, such as lint moistened with oil, or pledgets of digestive; and the bandage light: hot, dry, and spirituous applications being what I never found to answer the expected success, but, on the contrary, productive frequently of great inconveniences. And, I confess, the hopes I had of familiarizing these to the young practitioner, was one main motive for my thus launching at once into the publick, intirely unconcerned for the plainness of the dress, in which my thoughts appear.

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As to the Bark, the instances I have brought in support of it's efficacy plainly demonstrate, I think, it's specific properties, on the invasion of those symptoms which I have so frequently made mention of in the course of this treatise. And I flatter myself, that, for the future, this powerful production of *Peru* will in such cases be held in proper esteem by every person, divested of partiality and prejudices, into whose hands this well-intended sketch of mine may happen to fall. In a word, I solemnly protest (what I promised in my introductory part of this small essay) that I have given an historical account of no Chirurgical process,

but what is, in every respect, and circumstance, according to the best of my remembrance, exactly conformable to truth.

A P P E N D I X.

The following particulars having been formerly put together by order of His Royal Highness the Duke of CUMBERLAND, as directions to the Regimental-Surgeons, they are added in this place on account of the connection they have with the subject that has preceded.

IT cannot be denied, that it is absolutely necessary to establish an hospital in every country where an army is situated; but every gentleman who has made a campaign must have observed, that those soldiers who have been admitted into the

hospital have remained there, uselefs to the army, during the greateft part if not the whole feafon; and are commonly called Malingerers.—For this reafon none ought to be fent thither for flight complaints; but fuch only whole cafes are dangerous, or where the conveniences of an hospital are abfolutely neceffary for the recovery of the patient.

Neither can any one that has attended an army, be ignorant what difficulties are thrown in the way of the perfon, who is appointed to fix and have the direktion of an hospital.—Amongft others, is the want of room; an inconvenience which obliges him to crowd the
place

place with twice the number it ought to contain. And, whenever numbers of sick are put into such confined places, the want of a free circulation of fresh air, together with the carelessness of the patients themselves, seldom fail of changing common fevers, and slight fevers attendant upon wounds, into those of a malignant nature; which, when once begun, spread through the whole hospital, few escaping the contagion. So that, by this miserable confinement, abundance of valuable lives are lost, which might otherwise be saved, if proper and mature precautions were taken to prevent their being exposed to such extreme dangers. Therefore, whenever the confining persons to

an hospital can be avoided, it should; as it often may be, immediately after a battle, by the care of the Regimental-Surgeons.

This rule may be particularly proper in regard to the management of venereal cases; for as the campaigns are generally made in the summer, when the pores are open and the perspiration free, recent cases may be, and no doubt often are, cured, and the soldier kept either in the camp or quarters. Mercury used in small quantities internally, or moderate mercurial frictions made on the legs, in proportion to the strength of the patient, will both forward, and often compleat, the
cure;

cure; observing, if the mouth should be affected, to let the patient take some gentle purge, and desist from the mercurial course 'till that effect of the Mercury is gone off.

I would likewise advise, that the patient should drink daily a quart or three pints of a strong decoction of sarsaparilla; *viz.* four ounces of sarsa to make a quart of the decoction, which will greatly forward the cure, and agrees very well with a mercurial course. This method pursued, seldom fails of curing all the lesser tribe of venereal complaints, as buboes, slight shankers, phimoses, paraphimoses; and certainly does not shake the constitution as a salivation too often

often does. It will prevent, likewise, those of the worse kind from getting such root in the habit, as might endanger the recovery of the patient; so that, during the campaign, no hazard, or any ill consequence, is to be feared from it. On the contrary, the patient may often do his duty; but it is to be observed, that temperance must be enjoined as a part of military discipline.

As to soldiers afflicted with ruptures, many of whom are discharged on that account, which is undoubtedly a hurt to the service.—To remedy this inconvenience, I would recommend to your R----- H-----, that every soldier afflicted with that complaint, and whose rupture is capable

capable

capable of being reduced, may be supplied with a well-fitted trufs; after which, that soldier will be able to do his duty, or to go through any other labour with as much ease to himself as if he had not that complaint. The expence of a trufs is under twenty shillings.

The paragraph relating to ruptures was particularly recommended by H. R. H. as several of the soldiers had undergone a very severe, and painful experiment, under the cure of one Ramsay, a Rupture-Monger at that time, whose pretences were as much encouraged, and his cures as strongly vouched, as those of a Rupture-Monger of a later date,

and with the like success; for after having an hospital formed for him, on purpose for the reception of ruptured patients, which was done in the last war, in Flanders, at the desire of a very principal officer in the army; and after a variety of experiments had been tried, the general want of success, and the dangerous severities which the patient suffered, made it necessary to discharge this Pretender from his new employment. After this was done, the truss was again recurred to, which is still, and ever must be, the only remedy that can be honestly and judiciously used for a rupture.

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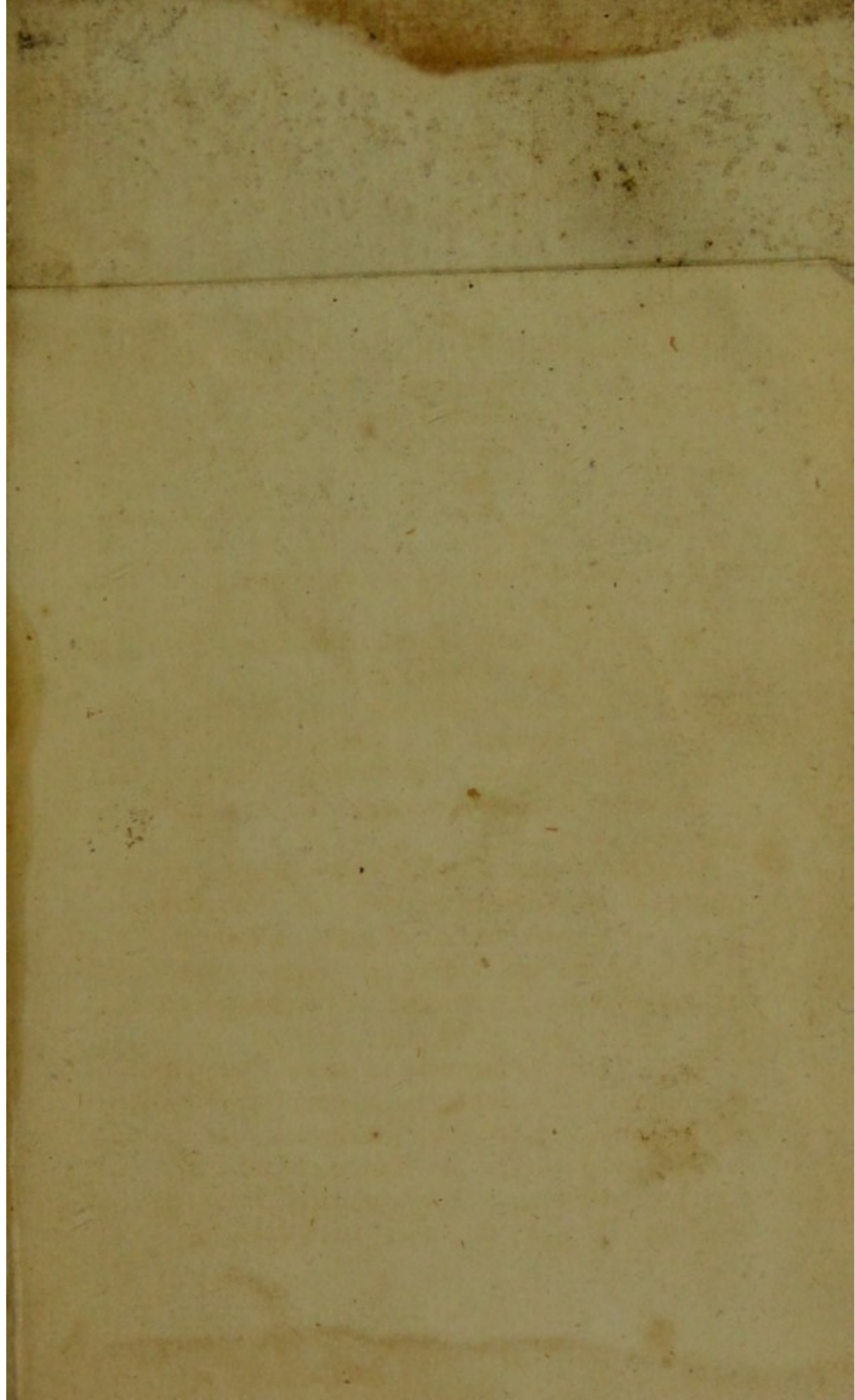
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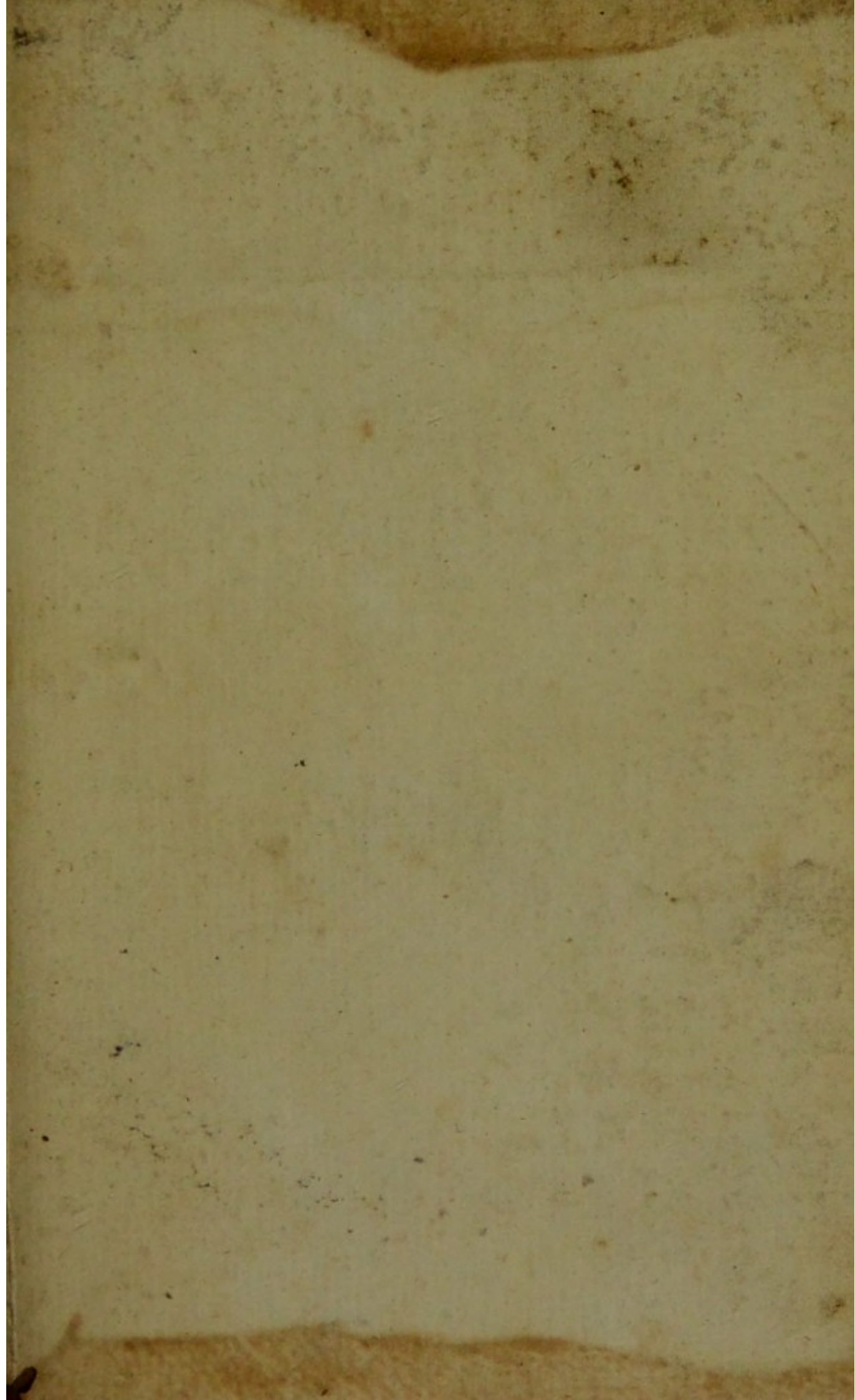
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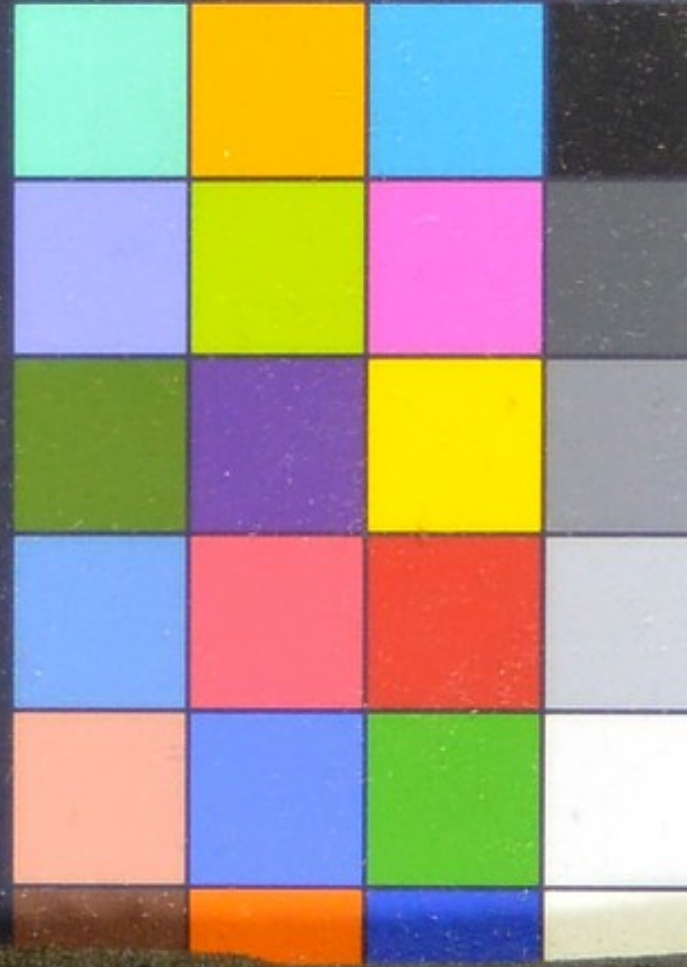
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