

An expostulatory address to John Ranby Esq. ... occasioned by his Treatise on gunshot-wounds, and his narrative of the Earl of Orford's last illness / By a physician [i.e. J.J].

Contributors

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A N
Expostulatory Address

T O

JOHN RANBY Esq;

Principal SERJEANT SURGEON to
HIS MAJESTY, and F. R. S.

Occasioned by his

TREATISE on Gunshot-Wounds,

AND HIS

NARRATIVE of the Earl of ORFORD'S
Last Illness.

With REMARKS on his Adviser, &c.

By a PHYSICIAN.

*Quod autem spectat ad Historiam Mor-
borum, si quis rem accuratius per-
pendat, facile videbit, scribentem ad
multò plura animum debere adver-
tere, quàm vulgò existimatur.*

Sydenham.

L O N D O N :

Printed for M. COOPER, at the *Globe* in
Pater-Noster-Row. 1745.
(Price One Shilling.)

Expository Address

21 R.

I am ever tender of the Honor of our Island, and under some Apprehensions at present, that Foreigners will judge of our Learning in general, from the Abilities of those among us, who by their distinguished Stations, ought to have the greatest Share; I have determined with myself, to examine your late Performances in the most candid manner, and observe how far you seem to me, unequal to the Task you have imposed upon yourself, in the different Capacities of an Author and Surgeon; that the World may know the Opinion we have of you at home.

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AS I am ever tender of the Honour of our Island, and under some Apprehensions at present, that Foreigners will judge of our Learning in general, from the Abilities of those among us, who, by their distinguished Stations, ought to have the greatest Share ; I have determined with myself, to examine your late Performances in the most candid manner, and observe how far you seem to me, unequal to the Task you have imposed upon yourself, in the different Capacities of an Author and Surgeon ; that the World may know the Opinion we have of you at home.

This was not undertaken, 'till after I had waited a good while, in hopes that some more able Pen would

perform this Duty to our Country and Profession. - An *Epistle* indeed, to *John Ranby Esq; &c.* has been published, which I was at first tempted to believe, you yourself had under-written, (like *Bayes* in the *Rehearsal*) to set off your Narrative: but after perusing it with some Attention, I made no scruple to ascribe the whole to that extraordinary Genius, whose Dissertation on Lithontriptic Medicines, is so cordially recommended in the one and twentieth Page: tho' I must confess the Orthography seems a little too slavishly correct, to be the Work of that profound Author. You have had an *Adviser* too, whose Soundness of Argument, Delicacy of Re-proof, and Purity of Language, I shall have occasion to observe in the Sequel.

Let us begin then with the Dedication of your Treatise on Gunshot Wounds: an elevated Encomium!
but

but the Subject taught you to soar. What pity is it, the Compliment should be so palpable! So much of the same Consistence with *Poins's* Wit, according to *Falstaff*; *as thick as Tewkesbury Mustard*. I grant however it is very much in the Strain of a Courtier; and the Conclusion a Masterpiece of polite Obsequiousness; *That you will obtain the full Accomplishment of your Wishes, if your Treatise shall prove agreeable to his Majesty*. So that if *his Majesty* likes your Performance, you do not so much as wish it may be useful to the young Practitioner: Ingenuous Mr. *Ranby*! I believe you from the bottom of my Soul.—But how shall we reconcile this Declaration with that in Page 3. where you affirm the *Aim and Scope you proposed to yourself in the following Pages, was only to do that, which every Man of Probity and Humanity,*

manity, would look upon as inseparable from his Duty, &c.

You need not fear that the Reader will impute your declining Quotation, to your Arrogance and Self-sufficiency; because there are Reasons much more obvious for your Silence on that Particular: tho' I cannot help thinking your Plan would have been as beneficial to Mankind, had you reduced the whole of it to that single Sentence in which you recommend plentiful Bleeding very early in Gunshot Wounds, light easy Dressings, and above all, a signal Use of the Bark. I say, an Advertisement to this Effect, subscribed by *John Ranby Esq; &c.* would have conduced altogether as much, to the Improvement of our Profession; and I dare say, more to your Credit, than all you have wrote. Nay, and perhaps have as effectually answered that other material Motive of yours,—*To incite others*

others of more considerable Abilities, to give a detail of their correct Sentiments, and successful Practice in this Point---and why not of their unsuccessful Practice? Is that of no Consequence to be known, for the Improvement of Medicine?

You say, you cannot conceive the Necessity of arming young Men with that number of Instruments, the List of which you set down in your Preface: Surely, Sir, this is making very free with the Surgeons in the Army, as well as their Directors: else, why arming young Men? Is any Surgeon in the Service so young, as to use Instruments he has no Occasion for; merely because they are in his Possession? As for an unmercifully long Forceps, I am as much averse as you are to thrust it the Lord knows where: but am far from thinking a long Forceps altogether unnecessary. That it may be mischievous in the Hand of one who thrusts it,

it, he *does not know where*; I am ready to allow: and heartily applaud your Caution in these Circumstances. But why, in the name of Wonder! would you exclude a long Probe from the Surgeon's Chest? May not a long Probe be used in a Wound two Inches deep, as well as in one that penetrates ten? and have not you often met with Cases, where a short one would be of no service? Methinks, Sir, the Care and Superintendancy of your intimate Acquaintance, would have been a greater Obligation, had they revised your Sheets *before they went to the Press*, than it was, in correcting them as they came from it.

We come now to the Body of your Work, in which, I shall pass over a great many of those original Observations and Flowers of Expression so peculiar to Mr. *Ranby*, and confine myself to a few Instances of the most egregious among them.

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